

13 February 2019

Todd Niall
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Fairfax Media
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REF: OIA-4619

Dear Todd

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 14 January 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Could I please get both the most recent, and the most substantial reports by NZTA, which review the Farebox Recovery Policy. This review was referred to in a November 2017 ministerial briefing paper by NZTA's then CEO.

The review of the national farebox recovery policy commenced in the second half of 2018 and is still underway. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act because the information requested does not exist.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

However, I can advise that while not within the scope of your request, the following advice regarding interim arrangements for developing regional farebox recovery (FBR) policies was sent to councils in September 2018 via the Local Government NZ's Transport Special Interest Group:

In the meantime, the underlying principles of the current FBR policy are still relevant in terms of developing fare policies at a regional level, i.e.:

- *Fares will continue to play an important role in helping cover the cost of PT (along with regional and national subsidies).*
- *FBR policies should be consistent with other related central and local government policies and plans.*
- *There may be flow-on impacts to the wider PT system from fare structure/pricing that should be recognised.*
- *FBR should not be the only driver in setting fare levels (i.e. during annual fare reviews), but be part of a wider assessment.*

If you would like to discuss this reply with the NZ Transport Agency, please contact Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Manager Media, by email to Andrew.Knackstedt@NZTA.govt.nz or by phone on 04 894 6285

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Barbara Tebbs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Barbara Tebbs

Senior Manager, Regulatory and Transport Policy