

18 June 2019

Anne Gibson  
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REF: OIA-5159

Dear Anne

**Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of Monday, 20 May 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*I'm keen for an update on the tram project in Auckland and would like this request regarded as an Official Information Act inquiry to attempt to get as much as possible.*

*I want to know what phase this project is at.*

*Is it at the procurement phase yet and if not, when will that begin?*

*What is going on right now re the project?*

*Is it still being planned or advancing?*

*What expressions of interest have been lodged so far and who from to do that?*

*Are tenders being let for it yet and if not, when will that occur?*

*Can I see a copy of the scoping documents, please?*

*I'd like to see planning documents.*

*I'd like to see documents on building and resource consents if they're lodged?*

*What is the super fund doing - is it passive or active in this?*

I will answer the first 4 questions together:

- 1. I want to know what phase this project is at.**
- 2. Is it at the procurement phase yet and if not, when will that begin?**
- 3. What is going on right now re the project?**
- 4. Is it still being planned or advancing?**

Auckland Light Rail is made up of two separate lines: the City Centre to Māngere line and the City Centre to North West line.

Investigations for the City Centre to North West line are at a very early stage, and still requires a lot of work to develop a business case. Factors that will be considered as part of a business case assessment include:

- how best to support growth and desired land use outcomes for the North West area
- opportunities and constraints provided by the current State Highway 16 corridor
- integration with and opportunities provided by the wider proposed transport network

An indicative business case (IBC) for the City Centre to Māngere light rail line has been developed and shared with our project partners, including the Ministry of Transport and Treasury, for review and feedback. We are unable to release the IBC to you yet, as it is not finalised, and it is still under active consideration. Parts of the indicative business case will be made publicly available, with appropriate redactions, after necessary decisions have been made.

Further work is required to progress the IBC to a detailed business case (DBC), including the completion of the Ministry of Transport/Treasury review and key decisions from the NZ Transport Agency's Board.

Alongside this, NZ Infra, being a joint venture of New Zealand Super Fund and CDPQ Infra, have presented an unsolicited proposal to fund, design, build and operate light rail in Auckland, based on a public-public investment model. The Minister for Transport has sought further advice from the Ministry of Transport and the Treasury on this proposal, and the outcome of that advice will be released in due course. The project team has been supporting this review.

Until that time, , key decisions arising from the IBC cannot be submitted to the Transport Agency's Board for endorsement as it would be inappropriate to consider it in isolation.

**5. What expressions of interest have been lodged so far and who from to do that?**

No expressions of interest have been received as none have been requested yet. Early market engagement was done last year but no expression of interest process was initiated then or since.

**6. Are tenders being let for it yet and if not, when will that occur?**

No tenders have been let. A tender process was planned late last year for planning and engineering, as well as legal services, but this was deferred because of the Ministry of Transport and Treasury reviews.

**7. Can I see a copy of the scoping documents, please?**

**8. I'd like to see planning documents.**

As discussed with you, we have looked to provide key documents. The documents in scope of your request and the decision I have made on their release are outlined in the table below:

	<b>Title</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1.	City Centre to Mangere LRT Business Case Scope	Release in part	Some information withheld under 9(2)(j) of the Act
2.	MoT Proposed Approach for Auckland's Rapid Transit Network Programme	Release in part	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(ba)(i), 9(2)(i), and 9(2)(j) of the Act.

**Key to withholding grounds:**

- 9(2)(ba)(i): the release of this information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied
- 9(2)(i): to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities
- 9(2)(j): to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)

**9. I'd like to see documents on building and resource consents if they're lodged?**

No resource or building consent applications have been prepared or lodged with regards to Auckland Light Rail.

**10. What is the super fund doing - is it passive or active in this?**

The Minister for Transport has sought further advice from the Ministry of Transport and the Treasury on the unsolicited proposal from NZ Infra (the NZ Super Fund and CDPQ Infra joint venture), and the outcome of that advice will be released in due course.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold some information and to refuse parts of this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

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](mailto:andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz) or by phone on (04) 894 6100.

Yours sincerely



**Carl Devlin**  
Head of Light Rail