

28 August 2020

Phil Pennington
Journalist
Radio NZ
phil.pennington@rnz.co.nz

REF: OIA-6815

Dear Phil

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your request of 24 June 2020 for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) regarding the Ara Tūhono – Pūhoi to Warkworth SH1 motorway project.

On 3 July 2020 you clarified your request. Your specific questions and Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's responses are outlined below.

1. *any and all communications, including reports and emails, from “the individual” your statement refers to, with NZTA, about these safety concerns on the viaducts.*

Documents in scope of Question 1 and their release status are outlined in the Document Schedule attached to this letter. Please note that some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. Information out of scope has also been redacted.

2. *pls advise the relevant qualifications of this individual to make claims about viaduct design.*

The qualifications are:

- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Engineering
- Bachelor of Engineering.
- 30 years' structural design experience.

3. *pls advise if this ‘former employee’ was former, at the time s/he made these claims.*

The individual discusses his employment on slide 21 of Attachment 3.

4. *NZTA says these claims came from an ex-employee of a consultant. Is TA aware if the employee was currently employed at the time of making the claims either to NZTA or to the consortium?*

This information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of individual persons.

5. And is it aware if the person's employment was affected because of these claims? Has TA sought to determine if their employment was affected because of these claims?

The individual discusses his employment on slide 21 of Attachment 3.

6. The 'concerns' or 'claims' as made to TA, if they were made in writing.

Please refer to my response to Question 1.

7. The NZTA review of these, as it noted it had got done by an independent specialist bridge engineer, which must be in writing or it would not count – but if aspects of it are verbal, pls provide those too.

Please refer to the Document Schedule for Question 7. Please note that some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

8. The original peer review(s) done of the design of the panels – or at least the part of it that relates directly to the concerns or claims above re their strength and durability.

Please refer to the Document Schedule for Question 8. Please note that some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. Information out of scope has also been redacted.

9. Any evidence of independent accredited testing of the panels to NZ Standards, and the results showing they passed.

Please refer to the Document Schedule for Question 9. Please note that some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. Information out of scope has also been redacted.

10. At least 3 bits of evidence to prove this viaduct panel design is used overseas in similar applications (i.e. viaducts with similar spans and loadings).

Please refer to Attachment 4.

11. RNZ also requests TA provide evidence showing its reviewer of the claims, and the contractor's reviewer of the claims, was suitably qualified and experienced to do this review.

Qualifications of the individual who carried out Waka Kotahi's review (Attachment 4) are:

- Chartered Engineer
- Fellow of Engineering NZ
- PhD
- 25 years' bridge design experience.

Qualifications of the two individuals who carried out the Precast Panel Review review (Attachment 12) are as follows:

Individual One:

- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Engineering
- Bachelor of Engineering.
- 30 years' structural design experience.

Individual Two:

- PhD
- Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) (Hons) Bachelor of Commerce
- Fellow, Engineers Australia, CPEng EngExec
- 24 years' bridge design experience.

Qualifications of the two individuals who carried out the Precast Panel load testing results (Attachment 14) are as follows:

Individual One:

- Chartered Structural Engineer
- Member of Engineers Australia, CPEng, National Engineers Register
- Masters in Civil and Architectural Engineering
- 15 years' structural engineering experience.

Individual Two:

- Chartered Professional Engineer
- Member of Engineering NZ
- Member of the Institution of Structural Engineers (MIStructE) & Chartered Structural Engineer (CEng UK)
- BE(Hons) in Civil Engineering
- 24 years' construction and structural engineering experience.

For other reviewers' qualifications, please refer to Attachments 5 – 8, and Attachment 11.

12. any substantive report on these claims, from NX2 to NZTA; or vice versa.

This information is refused under section 18(e) as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.

13. pls provide the review/s and relevant associated materials done re the claims, by the "independent specialist bridge engineer".

Please refer to my response to Question 7.

14. the results of any testing so done. If no such tests were done, pls make this clear.

Please refer to my response to Question 9.

15. any briefings or reports on this matter given to any external entity, such as but not confined to a Minister, through the reporting channels NZTA maintains.

This information is refused under section 18(e) as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or cannot be found.

16. Pls provide evidence the NX2 review was not done by the same reviewer NZTA used.

Please refer to Attachments for Questions 7, 8 and 9.

17. Pls advise when these panels will be installed. The entire project is well behind time. Pls advise if checking these claims added to delays and by what amount of days; and if it has added to costs; and what these amount to.

This information is refused under section 18(d) as it is publicly available on Waka Kotahi's website at <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/media-releases/new-completion-date-for-puhoi-to-warkworth-motorway/> .

Some of the information was also provided to you Andy Knackstedt, Senior Manager Media, in his email of 25 June 2020 to you.

With respect to the information that has been withheld, I do not consider there are any other factors which would render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman about the information that was withheld under this request. More information about the Ombudsman is available online at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, 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 'A. Thackwray', written in a cursive style.

Andy Thackwray
Senior Manager, Project Delivery

OIA-6815 Document Schedule

Ref	Document	Date	Description	Release status
Question 1. Emails and reports form the individual				Attachments 1-15 are released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of individual persons. Information out of scope has also been redacted.
1.	RE Welded rebar	2 – 13 March 2020	Emails with attachments	
2.	RE Photos 12 March	13 March – 19 May 2020	Emails with attachments	
3.	RE Query P2W Viaducts	8 May – 14 June 2020	Emails with attachments (includes the report provided to Waka Kotahi)	
Question 7. Waka Kotahi Review				
4.	RE Confidential Query	21 May 2020	Emails between Waka Kotahi and ROAD LAB	
Question 8. Original review				
5.	Puhoi PS1.pdf	2 May 2018	Puhoi Producer Statement – PS1 – Design by Permanent Works Designer (Beca & Tonkin + Taylor JV)	
6.	Okahu PS1.pdf	2 May 2018	Okahu Producer Statement – PS1 – Design by Permanent Works Designer (Beca & Tonkin + Taylor JV)	
7.	Puhoi PS2.pdf	30 May 2018	Puhoi Producer Statement – PS2 – Design Review by independent Peer Reviewer (AECOM)	
8.	Okahu PS2.pdf	30 May 2018	Okahu Producer Statement – PS2 – Design Review by independent Peer Reviewer (AECOM)	
9.	Puhoi P2Wk Review Record.pdf	27 November 2018	Review record of the design by TA/TAS showing no comments	
10.	Okahu P2Wk Review Record.pdf	27 November 2018	Review record of the design by TA/TAS showing no comments	
11.	Peer Review of Precast Panel Planks, Okahu and Puhoi Viaducts.Pdf	19 March 2020	Independent Peer Review of Precast Panel Planks by CASE	

12.	411786_Puhoi-Warkworth_Viaduct-Precast-Panel-Review_2020-03-27.pdf	27 March 2020	1 st report (draft) by Mott McDonald "Okahu & Puhoi Viaduct Decks System Review" by Mott McDonald	
13.	411786 Independent Review of Risks associated with temporary nature of Precast Deck System 2020-04-16.pdf	14 April 2020	2 nd report (risk assessment) by Mott McDonald "Independent Review of Risks associated with temporary nature of Precast Deck System" by Mott McDonald	
Question 9. Testing				
14.	411786 NX2 Puhoi Viaduct_Review of precast panel load testing results_rev B.pdf	6 July 2020	3 rd report (final) by Mott McDonald "Review of precast panel load testing results" by Mott McDonald	
15.	RE MM report – review of precast panel load testing result.pdf	8 July 2020	Review by Permanent Designer (Beca & Tonkin + Taylor JV) of the implications of the panel deflection as per MM's recommendation	