

31 July 2020

Charlie Mitchell
National Correspondent
Stuff
Charlie.Mitchell@stuff.co.nz

REF: OIA-6866

Dear Charlie

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 7 July 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- This is a request for the following information under the terms of the Official Information Act.*
- What was the agency's total greenhouse gas footprint in the most recent year in which records exist (if such records exist)? Please provide a breakdown of those emissions if they are available.*
 - Does the agency have a policy of requiring employees and/or contractors to offset work-related emissions, eg domestic or international flights?*
 - Does the agency have an emissions reduction plan, or emissions reduction targets, either in place or in development? If so, please provide details of the plan and/or targets.*

I will answer each part of your request in turn below:

What was the agency's total greenhouse gas footprint in the most recent year in which records exist (if such records exist)? Please provide a breakdown of those emissions if they are available.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency released Toitū Te Taiao (our Sustainability Action Plan) in April 2020. Toitū Te Taiao sets out our vision for a low carbon, safe and healthy land transport system by 2050. Reducing corporate emissions is one of four challenges identified in Toitū Te Taiao and we have established a work programme to address this.

We currently capture carbon emission data for business related travel and fleet vehicles emissions. Waka Kotahi will capture emissions from other corporate or internally focused activities in the future.

The following table shows the tonnes of CO₂ emissions for Waka Kotahi business related travel and fleet vehicle emissions for the last two financial years. The majority of our business-related travel are domestic flights which can be attributed to the nationwide scope of our work. During the COVID-19 Lockdown and the period immediately following this, we saw a significant reduction in our business travel which we are looking to continue moving forward.

Measure - Tonnes of CO ₂ equivalent	Jul 18 - Jun 19	Jul 19 - Jun 20
Fuel from Waka Kotahi fleet vehicle emissions	468.78	430.53
Flights - air travel	4556.39	3079.34
Taxi and Rental cars	109.6	91.76
Claimed Mileage	20.54	18.82
Total Tonnes of CO₂ equivalent	5155.31	3620.45

Does the agency have a policy of requiring employees and/or contractors to offset work-related emissions, eg domestic or international flights?

Waka Kotahi does not currently have a policy to offset work-related emissions, we are waiting on clear guidance from Treasury on this. In the interim we remain focussed on reducing absolute emissions resulting from Waka Kotahi corporate activities.

Does the agency have an emissions reduction plan, or emissions reduction targets, either in place or in development? If so, please provide details of the plan and/or targets.

Waka Kotahi is looking at our own corporate practices and culture, through Toitū Te Taiao, the most significant items we are focusing on are:

- Reducing our own business travel emissions which will have a positive impact on our carbon footprint and our people's wellbeing. We adapted how we worked during the COVID-19 lockdown, and we want to build on what we have learned and lock in a durable shift in travel behaviour.
- Growing our electric vehicle fleet and its usage. We are on track to transition to a fully electric vehicle fleet, where practical, by 2025.
- Taking stock of our energy and resource use. We want to use more sustainable products and services and help our staff understand the small steps we can all take to reduce our office waste, including energy and rubbish.
- Making sustainability everyone's business in Waka Kotahi by creating an internal culture where people can easily learn about sustainability and share their ideas for how we can do things differently.

We have recently committed to the Toitū Envirocare Carbon Reduction programme which will guide our work. Toitū Envirocare will audit and certify our carbon footprint and support our carbon reduction programme.

If you would like to discuss this reply with the 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



Lizette Marais

Senior Manager, Business Support