

18 September 2020

Phil Pennington
Reporter
Radio NZ
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OIA-6983

Dear Phil

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

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

- *Economic Analysis HILAB by Mark Cruden*
- *Any executive or board response or actions following on from and related to that Cruden analysis*

The following document fall within the scope of the first part of your request and is enclosed:

- Attachment 1: Economic Assessment HiLab

Also enclosed are the following documents which will provide further context to your request:

- Attachment 2: Pavement Economic Evaluation
- Attachment 3: VAC Paper Huntly Pavements
- Attachment 4: Huntly Economics Review

To provide some context to the documents we are supplying to you, the 2020 HiLab Economic Assessment (Attachment 1) shows that the HiLab and Foam Bitumen options have comparable capital costs whilst the structural AC options considered were in the region of 70 – 90% more expensive.

The 2014 Economic Assessment (Attachment 2) was commissioned to evaluate the economic merits of two pavements configurations being considered for use on the Huntly Section of the Waikato Expressway. The economic analysis concluded that the HiLab pavement-based option provided economic benefits over the cement modified granular pavement option.

These options were considered by the State Highway Value Add Committee (Attachment 3). The committee approved the request to specify the HiLab design methodology for the Huntly Section of Waikato Expressway subject to completion of the Peer Review of the Economics by Road Science (Attachment 4).

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has undertaken a robust review and approval process around the use of HiLab which shows it as an economic and robust pavement design option.

Regarding the second part of your request for '*executive or board response or actions*', I am refusing this under section 18(e) of the Act as the documents alleged to contain the information requested do not exist.

Certain information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(i) of the Act. Section 9(2)(a) allows for the withholding of information to protect the privacy of individuals. Section 9(2)(i) allows for the withholding of information to allow an organisation to undertake commercial activities without commercial disadvantage or prejudice.

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 ask the Ombudsman to review my decision refuse part of this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, please contact Andy Knackstedt, Senior Manager, Media, by email to andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hansby', is positioned below the 'Yours sincerely' text.

Jack Hansby

Acting Senior Manager, Operational Policy, Planning & Performance