

15 July 2021

Steven Walton  
Reporter  
Stuff  
[steve.walton@stuff.govt.nz](mailto:steve.walton@stuff.govt.nz)

REF: OIA-8295

Dear Steve

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

Thank you for your email of 15 June 2021 requesting information about the Ashburton Bridge and the second Ashburton Bridge under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). On 17 June 2021, we received clarification regarding the timeframe for each request as follows:

1. *I am requesting that Waka Kotahi/NZTA release all official information it holds regarding the Ashburton River bridge. (For complete transparency, I am referring to the bridge that was notably damaged and briefly closed during the May 2021 Canterbury floods).*
  - 1.a. *My request would cover any reports on the condition of the bridge, on future-proofing/upgrading the bridge – timeframe from 2016 to 14 June 2021*
  - 1.b. *specifically, correspondence to and from NZTA with any relation to the concerns about the bridge condition during the Canterbury Floods of 2021 – external correspondence about the existing bridge condition from 31 May 2021 to 14 June 2021.*
  
2. *I am requesting that Waka Kotahi/NZTA release all official information it holds regarding a second bridge over the Ashburton River.*
  - 2.a. *My request covers any reports about the viability, potential, or idea for a second bridge across the river. – timeframe from 2016 to 14 June 2021*
  - 2.b. *correspondence/meetings or notes about the viability, potential, or idea for a second bridge across the river. – timeframe from 2019 to 14 June 2021.*

The documents that fall within the scope of your request are detailed in the document schedule attached with this letter.

The release of the documents is subject to the following redactions made under:

- section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons
- section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information
- section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.

Information out of scope has also been redacted.

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 to withhold this information. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note, this response will also be published on the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency website: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act/media-official-information-act-oia-responses/>.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Media Manager, by email at [andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robyn Elston', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Robyn Elston**  
National Manager System Design

### OIA-8295 Document Schedule

Ref	Document	Date	Description
1.	ASHBURTON RIVER (HAKATERE) BRIDGE - 2018 Principal Inspection Report.pdf	2018	Personal information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
2.	SAPR - SC - Ashburton River Bridge (215B) APPROVED.pdf	2019	Personal information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.  Certain information is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act.
3.	ASHBURTON RIVER (HAKATERE) BRIDGE - Descriptive Inventory Report.pdf		Released in full.
4.	ASHBURTON RIVER (HAKATERE) BRIDGE - 2020 Principal Inspection Report	2020	Personal information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
5.	NZTA 3046 - SH1S Ashburton River Bridge Beam and Joint Repairs	2020	Released in full.
6.	Correspondence regarding concerns of the bridge	31 May 2021 – 15 June 2021	Personal information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.  Out of scope information has also been redacted.
7.	Correspondence and document regarding the business case of the second bridge over the Ashburton river	2019 – 2021	Personal information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.  Certain information is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act.  Certain information is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.