

20 January 2023

Georgina Campbell
Wellington issues reporter
NZ Herald
georgina.campbell@nzme.govt.nz

REF: OIA-11647

Dear Georgina

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 5 December 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

How many properties does Waka Kotahi intend to acquire for the Ōtaki to North of Levin road?

What is the budget for this, or how much does Waka Kotahi expect this to cost?

How many properties has Waka Kotahi already acquired and how much did they cost?

Can you please provide a breakdown of the sort of properties which have and will be acquired? Residential? Farmland?

Can you please provide an explanation of how the process of acquiring properties works. Can you please include details of how long owners have to move out of their properties and how a fair price is negotiated?

I will respond to your questions in turn.

How many properties does Waka Kotahi intend to acquire for the Ōtaki to North of Levin road?

The Crown requires the purchase of 175 properties impacted by the submitted designation alignment.

What is the budget for this, or how much does Waka Kotahi expect this to cost?

I am withholding this information under section 9(2)(j) of the Act, to enable Waka Kotahi to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations on behalf of the Crown. 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.

How many properties has Waka Kotahi already acquired and how much did they cost?

A total of 64 properties have already been acquired by the Crown on the alignment, at a cost of \$78,954,347.

Can you please provide a breakdown of the sort of properties which have and will be acquired? Residential? Farmland?

There are 69 lifestyle, 13 residential, 54 farm, and 39 other properties that are within the designation alignment that need to be purchased.

Can you please provide an explanation of how the process of acquiring properties works. Can you please include details of how long owners have to move out of their properties and how a fair price is negotiated?

Waka Kotahi, as the agency responsible for delivering Ōtaki to North of Levin, has engaged Toitū Te Whenua - Land Information New Zealand accredited suppliers to negotiate with the owners to purchase the land required on behalf of the Crown in accordance with Public Works Act 1981. More details of the process can be found at <https://www.linz.govt.nz/guidance/crown-property/acquisitions-public-works>

Since 2018, when shortlisted corridors and then a preferred 300m-wide corridor was announced, the Ōtaki to North of Levin new highway team have been working to give property owners more certainty about the location of the new highway. In August 2020, we announced the draft preferred alignment, followed by the refined draft preferred alignment in March 2021 and the preferred alignment in December 2021. We are committed to continuing to work closely with property owners and keeping them up to date as the project progresses.

As this information is publicly available, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act.

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.

In line with Waka Kotahi policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact Blair Cunningham, Media Manager, by email at blair.cunningham@nzta.govt.nz

Yours sincerely



Robyn Elston
National Manager System Design