

17 July 2023


Radio New Zealand


REF: OIA-12642

Dear 

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 9 May 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Regards the highway, open or still to open, from Puhoi to Wellsford, RNZ requests release in full and in fully searchable and copyable format:

1. *The two latest reports or documents or similar WK has, has access to, is aware of, about land instability that does or might affect any area in proximity to the road*
2. *The most substantive report or documents or similar that WK has, has access to, is aware of, about land instability that does or might affect any area in proximity to the road*
3. *Were the cuttings built steeper than originally planned (or planned at any time)?*
 - *Pls provide the most substantive record/s or documents or similar that show any reduction in the excavation requirements for P2W where this led to any actual change in how steep any of the road cuttings now are, or are planned to be*
 - *This would include substantive records that show a trail of design changes, what they are, and who asked for them and why, where these change the material impacts of the project/s on the topography*
 - *Pls provide at least one of the most substantive engineering reports that was key to adopting any such change to the cuttings*

I note the above information may not belong to WK, or have been generated by you. It may, for instance, be held or created by the joint venture, or subcontractors or professional services. Nonetheless, WK can reasonably be expected to have been told about any and all land stability issues; and any and all design changes that could affect it. This info is of public interest since this is a public-private project.

On 7 June 2023 this request was extended by 15 working days. On 28 June 2023, we advised you of our decision on your request and informed you that the two documents would be provided to you on or before 17 July 2023.

The following documents fall within the scope of parts 1 and 2 of your request and are enclosed:

- Attachment 1: Pūhoi to Warkworth, Technical Memo, N1A Remediation Options - Technical Review Comments, 4 April 2023
- Attachment 2: Pūhoi To Warkworth (P2Wk) – Landslide Risk Assessment, Geotechnical Review of Cut Slopes and Landslide Risks, 11 April 2023

As these reports date from April 2023, significant work has since been undertaken to address and remediate the issues documented.

N1A Remediation Options report

This report was produced for Waka Kotahi in response to preliminary options that had been proposed for remediation of a landslide at the location N1A at the northern end of the main alignment of the motorway. Since the date of this report, NX2¹ has developed a design solution that is now being implemented.

While works at this location are ongoing, concrete barriers are in place and a temporary traffic management plan has been instituted. These measures ensure the landslide poses no risk to the public travelling on the motorway.

The N1A solution, once constructed, will comply with all the works requirements including, required factors of safety, independent review and sign-off for the relevant safety and works completion tests, including the provision of design certification. These works are forecast to be completed in October 2023.

Certain information has been withheld from this report under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Landslide Risk Assessment report

This report was produced for NX2 to provide a geotechnical assessment of landslide risks for the motorway. The report highlights one high risk location which is the subject of the N1A Remediation Options report (Attachment 1) and another moderate to high risk location at Cut CS13. In respect of CS13 a section approximately 30m long x 4m wide was cut steeper than 2H:1V as a result of the creation of a cut off drain. The localised section of CS13 has since been reshaped to a compliant slope with an average gradient of 2.2H:1V to 2.3H:1V.

Certain information has been withheld from this report in accordance with the following provisions of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(b)(ii) – 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
- 9(2)(ba)(i) – to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment,

¹ NX2 is the Contractor responsible for designing, constructing, and maintaining the motorway under the Public Private Partnership arrangements

where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

Steepness of cuttings

In response to part 3 of your request, the cuttings along the route for Ara Tūhono Pūhoi to Warkworth have been excavated to the main earthworks profiles set by the motorway design. These profiles determine the form and shape of the cut slopes, which are as designed. Within the main earthworks profile, there are a few localised areas where formed faces are marginally steeper than the global value of 2:1, for example, at transitions from cut to fill, where natural features are incorporated within or about the wider slope, and at the boundary of rock/soil cut materials. At such locations, the resulting profile has been objectively assessed and determined as being compliant to the works requirements, for example the Cut CS13 as described above.

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 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 Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Media Manager, by email at andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Robertson
National Manager – Commercial Delivery