

22 August 2023



Ashburton Guardian

██████████@theguardian.co.nz

REF: OIA-13118

Dear ██████████

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 17 July 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Any written communication since January 2023 between Waka Kotahi and any members of parliament, or their staff, regarding the Ashburton Bridge, or the proposed second bridge.*
- *Any written communication since January 2023 between Waka Kotahi and any Ashburton District councillors or council staff, regarding the Ashburton Bridge, or the proposed second bridge.*

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency undertook an email sweep to identify the information in scope of your request. The results of that search are provided in the attached document:

- RE: Ashburton-Tinwald Connectivity Business Case.

Some information in this document is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. 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.

Waka Kotahi also provided formal advice to the Minister of Transport to support the Minister meeting with the Council to discuss the project. I am refusing your request for this advice, *MIN-4079 Second Ashburton Bridge, 6 March 2023*, under section 18(d) of the Act, as the document is publicly available at: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/advice-provided-to-ministers/#>.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold some information and partially refuse your request. 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 Andy Knackstedt, Senior Manager Media, by email to 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