

27 September 2023

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-13501

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 30 August 2023 requesting the following information relating to the Ōtaki to north of Levin Highway under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I have outlined your questions and my responses below.

1: Waka Kotahi has based its decision on the fact that there was no existing bridlepaths or effect on horse riding facilities and so they will not need to accommodate horse riders as a user group of the SUP. Can we have the research and community engagement that lead to this position. Also the maps and evidence that determines that there were no horse access routes or disruption to business for horse riders. Also the maps and evidence that prove what cycle and walking tracks and trails along the corridor are being cut off, which seems, if using the same logic, to be the reason you are providing a path for cycling and walking.

In response to the question of effects on existing horse-riding facilities, the map of existing equestrian facilities in the project area is provided in the document *Ō2NL Map Equestrian* enclosed.

The remainder of this part of your request has been refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the information requested is already publicly available. I have outlined below where the information can be found.

In Resource Management Act (RMA) consent application documents:

- Supporting information and Assessment of Effects on the Environment
www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/o2nl-proposed-new-highway/consent-applications/Vol-2-Supporting-Information-and-Assessment-of-Effects-on-the-Environment-2022101-v2.pdf

In particular refer to Part E, Consideration of alternatives, Part F, Consultation and engagement, and Part G, Assessment of effects on the environment.

- Final technical assessment E – Social impact
www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/o2nl-proposed-new-highway/consent-applications/Vol-4-Final-Technical-Assessment-E-Social-Impact-Assessment.pdf

Further documents issued during the consent process, and published on the Environment Court website:

- Section 198D Report of Helen Anderson – Planning, Kāpiti Coast District Council and Horowhenua District Council Section 198D report:
<https://environmentcourt.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/Report-of-Helen-Anderson-s.198D-Planning-Report-HDC-KCDC-Ō2NL-Notice-of-Requirement-FINAL-28-April-2023.pdf>
Please note that any queries on this report should be directed to HDC or KCDC.
- Statement of evidence of Joanne Patricia Healy on behalf of Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency – Social Impact
<https://environmentcourt.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/26.-Evidence-of-Ms-Jo-Healy-Social-Impacts.PDF>
- Joint Statement of Social Impact Experts
<https://environmentcourt.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/2023-07-24-Ō2NL-JWS-Social-Impact.pdf>

In response to the query regarding walking and cycling, in addition to the above documents refer to the following:

- Ōtaki to north of Levin highway project – Final technical assessment A – Transport
www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/o2nl-proposed-new-highway/consent-applications/Vol-4-Final-Technical-Assessment-A-Transport.pdf
In particular, the assessment of the current transport network and its problems.

2: Can we have the specific wording used by NZTA about the purpose of a SUP and what positive impacts are expected from the SUP ie: community connections (what communities or recreations) and emissions reduction targets that you hope to meet.

The shared path definition used by Waka Kotahi is as defined in section 11.1A of the Land Transport (Road User) Rule 2004. This can be found at
www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2004/0427/latest/DLM2510854.html

Positive effects of the walking and cycling facility are published in:

- Non-Technical Summary – Notices of Requirement for a Designation and Application for Resource Consents: Supporting Information and Assessment of Effects on the Environment
www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/o2nl-proposed-new-highway/consent-applications/non-technical-summary-supporting-information-and-assessment-of-effects-on-the-environment.pdf
- Assessment of Effects on the Environment www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/o2nl-proposed-new-highway/consent-applications/Vol-2-Supporting-Information-and-Assessment-of-Effects-on-the-Environment-2022101-v2.pdf
In particular, refer Operational social impacts, section 46.2
- Final technical assessment E – Social impact www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/o2nl-proposed-new-highway/consent-applications/Vol-4-Final-Technical-Assessment-E-Social-Impact-Assessment.pdf

Your request for emissions reduction targets expected to relate to the shared path use is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.

However, wider consideration of embodied and enabled greenhouse gas emissions can be found in the Ōtaki to north of Levin Detailed Business Case www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/o2nl-proposed-new-highway/technical-reports/O2NL-Final-DBC-board-endorsed-August-2022.pdf

3: The document sent to us on Thursday 17th “For court assisted mediation” mentions a “Social impact Assessment” that has been done by the district council, can we please have this document and also the list of who in the community was involved/engaged in the process. Specifically engagement with the horse riding community.

This part of your request has also been refused under section 18(d) of the Act as it is publicly available. This can be found in the *Joint Statement of Social Impact Experts* at <https://environmentcourt.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/2023-07-24-O2NL-JWS-Social-Impact.pdf>

Please note that the screening map of equestrian facilities referred to on page 4 of this report has been provided in response to Question 1 above.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse parts of 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 matter further with Waka Kotahi, you are welcome to contact the Ministerial Services team by email at official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Josh Driscoll
Manager, Ministerial Services – Transport Services