

12 May 2023

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-12329

Dear [REDACTED]

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

Thank you for your email of 28 March 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *How many years has your agency been affiliated with Toitū?*
2. *How much does it cost your agency to maintain certification, including fees from Toitū and costs related to meeting these requirements?*
  - a. *If different, what were the initial up-front costs to achieve compliance with certification standards and achieve certification in the first place?*
3. *Does the agency plan to achieve CarbonZero/Carbon Positive certification, and if so, why, and under what timeframe?*
  - a. *If not, why?*
4. *Has the agency considered other certification/auditors, or in-house auditing of their climate emissions as an alternative to Toitū?*

On 4 April 2023, you additionally asked:

5. *Please provide copy of any contracts signed, any other applicable conditions or criteria your agency must abide by as part of accreditation.*

**1. How many years has your agency been affiliated with Toitū?**

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has participated in the Toitū carbonreduce programme since March 2020.

**2. How much does it cost your agency to maintain certification, including fees from Toitū and costs related to meeting these requirements?**

The following fees have been paid to maintain our Toitū carbonreduce certification:

Year one (2019/2020): \$17,025  
Year two (2020/2021): \$21,175  
Year three (2021/2022): \$21,055

Please note, we have not yet been billed for the 2022/2023 financial year.

While most activities related to achieving carbonreduce certification for our corporate related emissions have been achieved through our 'business as usual' activities and funded through our baseline, the following additional costs were related to maintaining certification since Waka Kotahi joined the Toitū carbonreduce programme in March 2020:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Contractor costs to support corporate sustainability/administration/data activities	\$52,392
Re-usable bowls for the cafeteria	\$917
Waste Audit	\$600
External services to assess staff commuting emissions – data capture and measurement	\$28,000

**3. Does the agency plan to achieve CarbonZero/Carbon Positive certification, and if so, why, and under what timeframe?**

Waka Kotahi does not currently plan to sign up to the Toitū net carbonzero or climate positive certification programmes.

**3a. If not, why?**

Waka Kotahi has chosen to complete the Toitū Envirocare carbonreduce certification programme for the reporting years from 2019 to 2023. Certification has provided Waka Kotahi with the independent verification of our emissions, and the support required to achieve the requirements of the Carbon Neutral Government Programme. Because Waka Kotahi is committed to the Carbon Neutral Government Programme, which aims to make a number of organisations within the public sector carbon neutral from 2025, we do not feel that additional certification from Toitū Environcare is required.

**4. Has the agency considered other certification/auditors, or in-house auditing of their climate emissions as an alternative to Toitū?**

Waka Kotahi is committed to the Carbon Neutral Government Programme, which requires all Crown agencies to report independently verified emissions, gross emissions reduction targets and reduction plans from the 2022/23 financial year onwards.

It is intended that Waka Kotahi will review the market for certification and verification services ahead of our existing agreement with Toitū Envirocare expiring in May 2024.

A requirement of the Carbon Neutral Government Programme is that agency's greenhouse gas emissions inventory must be verified by an independent third-party organisation. Accordingly, in-house auditing is not a viable option.

You can read more about the Carbon Neutral Government Programme at: [www.environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/climate-change/carbon-neutral-government-programme/about-carbon-neutral-government-programme/](http://www.environment.govt.nz/what-government-is-doing/areas-of-work/climate-change/carbon-neutral-government-programme/about-carbon-neutral-government-programme/)

**5. Please provide copy of any contracts signed, any other applicable conditions or criteria your agency must abide by as part of accreditation.**

The following documents fall within the scope of this part of your request and are enclosed:

- Attachment 1: Toitū carbonreduce contract 2020.pdf
- Attachment 2: Waka Kotahi Toitū Envirocare Contract Renewal Variation 2021.pdf
- Attachment 3: Toitū EnvirocareContract Extension 2023.pdf

Certain information has been withheld from the above documents under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased 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.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold some information. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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 Ministerial Services by email to [official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Jake Rance**

Senior Manager, Business Support