

29 August 2023



REF: OIA-13297

Dear 

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 7 August 2023 to Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *The costings & modelling behind the estimated price range for the Auckland Harbour crossing road and light rail tunnels*
- *The findings from the public consultation on the options for Auckland Harbour crossings*

Your request was transferred to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency for response on 8 August 2023, as the information you have requested is more closely associated with the functions of Waka Kotahi.

Work on the Indicative Business Case is evaluating a number of options for the Waitematā Harbour Connections (WHC) project and is ongoing. Further investigation on the estimated cost ranges for the project and its components is in progress as part of this work. All information on those costings and the modelling behind them is therefore subject to change and refinement as ongoing work to finalise the business case is completed. A preferred option for the project will be presented to Cabinet in 2024, together with cost estimates.

I am therefore withholding the costing and modelling information requested under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.

With respect to the findings from public consultation, Waka Kotahi has published the engagement summary on its website at: <https://nzta.govt.nz/projects/waitemata-harbour-connections/community-engagement/>. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

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 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 us by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robyn Elston', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robyn Elston
National Manager System Design