

13 May 2024

██████████
Digital Reporter
TVNZ
████████████████████

REF: OIA-15150

Dear ██████████

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 15 April 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I'm writing to request information under the Official Information Act 1982, specifically information held by the NZ Transport Agency on geological considerations associated with the presence of an active fault near the proposed Long Tunnel option for SH1 in Wellington.

Given the fact that investigatory work is ongoing, I understand detailed information may not yet be available. I'd like to request any interim findings or preliminary reports related to the geological aspects of the Long Tunnel option. I would also appreciate information on the timeline for the completion of the investigation and when more detailed information will be available for public access.

Please provide the following information:

1. *Interim Geological Assessments and Risk Mitigation:*
 - *Any preliminary findings or reports regarding geological assessments conducted on the proposed route of the Long Tunnel option, specifically addressing the presence of the active fault line.*
 - *Preliminary information on risk mitigation measures proposed or considered to ensure the safety and stability of the twin tunnels in light of seismic activity associated with the fault line.*
 - *A map of the proposed routes the twin tunnels would take.*
2. *Environmental Impact Assessment:*
 - *Any preliminary assessments or considerations regarding the environmental impact of constructing the Long Tunnel option in proximity to the active fault line.*
 - *Early insights into potential environmental risks associated with tunnel construction, including effects on groundwater, soil stability, and habitat conservation.*

A long tunnel was considered and subsequently discounted by Let's Get Wellington Moving (LGWM) before getting into the detailed planning phase. As such, LGWM did not undertake detailed geological

or environmental impact assessments. I am therefore refusing your request for this information under section 18(e) of the Act as the documents alleged to contain the information do not exist, or despite reasonable efforts to locate them, cannot be found.

The Minister of Transport has since asked NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) to consider and provide advice on the long tunnel proposal, including technical feasibility. We expect to provide the Minister with advice on the technical feasibility and cost by the end of June 2024 and further communications will be provided once the Minister has considered this advice.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse this request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

In line with NZTA policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact Felix Marwick, Media Manager, by email to felix.marwick@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