

16 September 2024



REF: OIA-16213

Dear 

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 19 August 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *The most recent cost estimates for each Road of National Significance, and each Road of Regional Significance*
- *Any written advice Waka Kotahi has drafted on funding and financing transport projects, including advice to the Waka Kotahi Senior Management, the Waka Kotahi board, Transport Minister, or external agencies (e.g. MoT, Tsy, Infracom).*

You clarified the second part of your request on 23 August 2024 as follows:

Can we make the timeframe since May, and in terms of projects, just looking at the RoNS and RoRS.

In answer to the first part of your request, the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 (GPS) was released on 7 June 2024, and came into effect from 1 July. Expectations for the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) in the GPS, including for the Roads of National Significance, include but are not limited to a focus on the use of alternative delivery models, a broader range of funding options and financing models, more efficient business case processes, and maintaining tight control on project scope and cost by adopting a “no frills” approach.

At this time NZTA has not developed cost estimates for the following projects for a scope that aligns with the expectations set out in the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 (GPS):

- Hope Bypass
- Hawkes Bay Expressway
- Second Mt Victoria Tunnel and Basin Reserve Upgrade
- Takitimu North Link Stage 2
- North West Alternative Highway (SH16)
- Hamilton Southern Links

- Petone to Grenada Link Road and Cross Valley Link Road
- East West Link
- Mill Road (Stage 1)
- Tauriko West SH29
- Cambridge to Piarere
- Northland Corridor
- Belfast to Pegasus Motorway (and Woodend Bypass)

It is anticipated that updated estimates will be completed in the coming months once the scope of the project is refined and confirmed.

I am therefore refusing your request for this information under section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information does not exist, or despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

Due to the current status of commercial negotiations, I am withholding the cost estimates for the following projects under section 9(2)(j) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations):

- Papakura to Drury
- Penlink
- Ōtaki to north of Levin
- SH58 Safety Improvements Stage 2
- SH2 Melling Transport Improvements.
- Waihoehoe Road

Cost estimates for the remaining projects can be found in the table below:

Project	Cost Estimate (\$M)
Takitimu North Link Stage 1	\$884
SH1/29 Intersection Improvement	\$57
Canterbury Package Rural Intersections	\$45
Canterbury Package Halswell	\$61
Canterbury Package Rolleston Upgrade	\$202
Queenstown Package	\$250

The following documents fall in scope of part two of your request:

- Extract from CE Report, 16 May 2024
- GPS Readiness – Funding and Financing Board Paper and attachment, 16 May 2024
- GPS24 Scenario Modelling – Long Run Funding Gap analysis including financing options, July 2024

I am withholding these documents in full under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 9(2)(g)(i) – 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; and
- Section 9(2)(j) to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).

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 this information and refuse some parts of your request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA please Ministerial Services by email to official.correspondence@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