

30 April 2024

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-15092

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 5 April 2024 to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. What Waka Kotahi/NZTA, have spent on repairing these barriers (SH 3 between Te Awamutu & Hamilton Airport) over since their install in 2016 & now April 2024.*
- 2. What budgetary -\$\$\$ -allocation was assigned to this repairing these barriers.*
- 3. Was the any thought to charging the vehicle owner in crashed into these barriers if is was deemed by law enforcement that they where intoxicated or driving recklessly, therefore have been fined for their actions.*
- 4. Do they have a policy on debris & vegetation extending out onto the road that could affect potential user.*
- 5. Do they have a policy around making the roads safer for cyclists to share with other vehicle users.*
- 6. Have they set a budget for 2024/25, to maintaining all forms of this thoroughfare.*

On 5 April 2024, DIA transferred this request to NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) for response under section 14(b) of the Act.

On 8 April 2024, we transferred question 3 of your request to the NZ Police for response under section 14 of the Act.

I will answer each part of your request in turn.

- 1. What Waka Kotahi/NZTA, have spent on repairing these barriers (SH 3 between Te Awamutu & Hamilton Airport) over since their install in 2016 & now April 2024.***

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) has funded \$153,000 in repairs to barriers in the section specified, between 2016 and April 2024.

2. What budgetary -\$\$\$ -allocation was assigned to this repairing these barriers.

As damage to barriers is difficult to predict, we do not have specific allocations for the State Highway 3 (SH3) barriers themselves. However, across the West Waikato Network Outcomes Contracts (NOC), we have allocated \$1.2 million for the 2023/24 financial year.

4. Do they have a policy on debris & vegetation extending out onto the road that could affect potential user.

Yes.

The NZTA policy for Operational Performance Measures (OPM) covers road maintenance. There are requirements to remove detritus when it meets a certain threshold and to maintain a vegetation envelope. This is monitored through auditing and the requirements of the policy have been met. In summary, NZTA pays contractors and suppliers to deliver a network that meets our requirements, and this includes the removal of debris and vegetation.

5. Do they have a policy around making the roads safer for cyclists to share with other vehicle users.

NZTA maintains the specification for the design, construction, and maintenance of cycling and shared path facilities, which are designed to keep cyclists safe. This can be found on the NZTA website here: www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/specification-for-design-construction-and-maintenance-of-cycling-and-shared-path-facilities/.

6. Have they set a budget for 2024/25, to maintaining all forms of this thoroughfare.

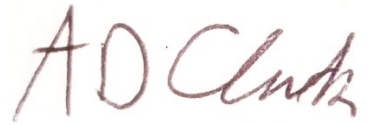
NZTA does not yet have set budgets for the 2024/25 financial year. The budgets for the 2024 - 2027 period are expected to be confirmed in September 2024, as part of the National Land Transport Programme process. However, the 2024/25 budgets could be agreed in June 2024.

We acknowledge that your expectations for vegetation control do not align with the level of service we are funded to provide. As we noted in our response to Barbara Kuriger MP's office in March 2024, our Network Outcomes Contractor, Fulton Hogan, sprays the area two or three times a year to meet the required level of vegetation control. We also indicated that an increase in funding for enhanced vegetation management was under consideration for the coming financial year, and this remains the case.

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 NZTA, please contact the Ministerial Services team, by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "AD Clark". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Andrew Clark
National Manager, Maintenance & Operations