

10 September 2024

██████████
████████████████████

REF: OIA-16183

Dear ██████████

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 15 August 2024 requesting the following information regarding the He Tohu Huarahi Māori bilingual traffic signs consultation under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I will respond to your questions in turn as follows:

- 1. why has there been no update?*
- 2. if there has been an update, why is (a) it difficult to find and (b) not included on the landing page on NZTA's website? Or the overall landing page on NZTA's website?*

No decisions have been made following the He Tohu Huarahi Māori bilingual traffic signs consultation. The next steps on the bilingual signage project are awaiting consideration from the Minister of Transport.

- 3. what was the process of the consultation analysis? (I'm thinking of a flowchart showing what was going to happen and when once all the submissions were received, but whatever you actually have is fine) Was the planned consultation process overwhelmed by events (e.g. more submissions than expected, the change in government, whatever else)?*
- 4. if a consultation report was prepared, can we have it please? e.g. this one from the consultation for the first tranche of signs*

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) analysed the submissions received and prepared a summary of submissions. This was provided to the previous Associate Minister of Transport along with a briefing containing recommendations for consideration and a draft amended Traffic Control Devices (TCD) Rule. We did not receive a decision before the change of government.

Our consultation analysis involved collating submissions into a spreadsheet and submissions were coded based on key themes. We then summarised the key themes and indicated levels of support, and we recorded suggestions or proposals for changes. These were reported in the summary of submissions.

The summary of submissions is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act as it is necessary to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

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.

5. is the Minister slow-walking this because I did find a news article from back in February saying a decision was "soon"? If the Minister is slow-walking the release of the consultation analysis materials, what communications between NZTA and the Minister regarding the release exist? If they exist, can we have them? If they don't exist, why hasn't NZTA complained about not being able to release the analysis to the public?

No communications have occurred between NZTA and the Minister of Transport regarding consultation analysis materials for the package of signs, or the release of that information.

The only provision of advice to the Minister regarding the proposed package of signs is contained in the Briefing to the Incoming Minister which is available on our website at:

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/briefing-for-incoming-minister/briefing-to-the-incoming-minister-2023.pdf>

Information in the scope of your request is contained on page 29 in the above document.

6. are there internal draft or appendix style reports in addition to the expected summary of submissions? can we have those too?

A briefing regarding submissions, and related attachments, was sent to the previous Associate Minister of Transport. These are also withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act as it is necessary to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold part of this information. 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 us by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Amy Moorhead
National Manager, Policy