

4 October 2024

s9(2)(a)

REF: OIA-16273

Dear s9(2)(a)

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 27 August 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

All information and correspondence created and worked on by NZTA and its contractors relating to the proposed four-lane highway alternative Brynderwyns route since November 2023. This includes all options for a new bypass being considered by NZTA as part of phase 2 of the Northland Expressway.

To provide some context to your request, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) is currently working at pace to deliver an alternative to the Brynderwyn Hills as a Road of National Significance (RoNS). A number of options are being considered for routes through the area and as yet a decision has not been made for the preferred route. As a RoNS, the route will be a four-laned, grade-separated highway.

The Government has approved in principle an accelerated delivery strategy. An investment case, including work previously undertaken in the 2017 business case, will be presented to the NZTA Board and Cabinet for approval later this year. Further information will be provided once Cabinet has considered this. Route alignment and timelines will be confirmed as the project progresses and the design work is completed.

A copy of the 2017 business case can be found on the NZTA website at www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/whangarei-to-auckland/SH1-Auckland-to-Whangarei-programme-business-case.pdf

There are also various pieces of advice published on our website relating to the RoNS, including the work to deliver an alternative to the Brynderwyn Hills, which you may be interested in. These can be found at www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act/official-information-act-responses/

To allow NZTA to explore all options for an alternative route and ensure that all advice is shared freely, I am withholding the information you have requested under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act. This section

allows for the withholding of information to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between public sector officials in the course of their duty.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold 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 Kaity Alexander, Media Manager, by email to kaity.alexander@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