

5 November 2024

  
Radio NZ  


REF: OIA-16404

Dear 

**Request made under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 11 September 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *How many (if any) resources consents have been breached in relation to the construction of the Te Ahu a Turanga motorway*
- *If any resource consents were breached please provide the name of what they were*
- *Have any wetland been damaged or native animals killed as a result of the roading project?*
- *Any correspondence, aide memoire or reports relating to cost escalations to do with the project during its construction*

In your email of 24 September 2024, you clarified the timeframe of your request to be the last 12 months and that any correspondence, aides memoire or reports relating to cost escalations during the project construction are those provided to the Minister of Transport or the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) Board.

I have numbered each part of your request for convenience and will answer each in turn.

- 1. How many (if any) resources consents have been breached in relation to the construction of the Te Ahu a Turanga motorway**
- 2. If any resource consents were breached please provide the name of what they were?**

There are 12 resource consents that authorise the construction and operation of Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Project. There are approximately 87 conditions that apply to these consents. The Regional Council has assessed compliance against these conditions 5115 times and confirmed full compliance 98 percent of the time. The Council has identified minor technical non-compliances 1.7 percent of instances, for example if records of monitoring and maintenance activities relating to erosion and sediment control devices were not provided to Councils within 72 hours of being requested. There are 0.3 percent instances where the Council has identified moderate non-

compliance, which includes where erosion and sediment control devices are not maintained regularly enough.

There are two instances of high-risk non-compliance. The first was against resource consent ATH-2020203343, Consent Condition ES6, and involved a site-specific erosion and sediment control plan not being certified by Horizons Regional Council before works commenced. The second was against resource consent ATH-2021204914, Consent Condition 2, where a dewatering pipe was not installed at the location shown on the plans provided to the Council. This pipe has since been relocated to the required location.

**3. Have any wetland been damaged or native animals killed as a result of the roading project?**

Te Ahu a Turanga: Manawatū Tararua Highway project has resource consents that authorises the removal of 4.97ha of wetland. The total wetland removal to date is within this consented limit. The project's response to this loss of wetland is to restore and enhance 6.55ha with native vegetation and fencing to exclude stock from nearby farms entering them.

Approximately 3020 fish (including tuna, bullies and koura) have needed to be relocated during stream works needed to construct the road. Of this number, approximately 250 fish did not survive their relocation. One eel was accidentally killed as part of this process. No other native animals have died as a result of construction activities on the project.

**4. Any correspondence, aide memoire or reports relating to cost escalations to do with the project during its construction reported to either the Transport Minister or the NZTA board.**

The following documents in the appended document schedule fall within the scope of the fourth bullet of your request and are enclosed.

Certain information in Document 6 has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Documents 2 and 5 are being withheld in full under section 9(2)(h) of the Act to maintain legal privilege.

Documents 3 and 4 in the document schedule is being withheld in full 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 public service agency 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. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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 Andrew Knackstedt, Senior Manager Media, by email to [andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz](mailto:andrew.knackstedt@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Wiles', enclosed within a faint, light-colored rectangular border.

**Peter Wiles**  
National Manager, Infrastructure Delivery

## OIA-16404 Document Schedule

Ref	Document	Date	Description
1.	Excerpt from 07. Q3 performance report 2023-24 June 2024	18 June 2024	Released in full.
2.	Excerpt from 11. Litigation and open investigations report November 2023	8 November 2023	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(h) of the Act.
3.	11.3 Te Ahu a Turanga PLA May 2024	16 May 2024	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(j) of the Act.
4.	11.3.2 Attachment 2 - Price Level Adjustment Breakdown May 2024	16 May 2024	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(j) of the Act.
5.	Excerpt from 12. Litigation and open investigations report February 2024	21 February 2024	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(h) of the Act.
6.	BRI-3047 Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū Taranua site visit May 2024	13 May 2024	Certain information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
7.	Excerpt from 03.1 Minutes for approval NZTA Board 16 May 2024	16 May 2024	Released in full.