

23 October 2024

s9(2)(a)

REF: OIA-16470

Dear s9(2)(a)

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 19 September 2024 requesting information regarding the proposed tolling of Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatu Taraua Highway (Te Ahu a Turanga) under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Each aspect of your request and my decision on each are outlined below.

Please provide all communication, including emails, letters, briefings, between yourselves and the Minister of Transport/his office that mentions or alludes to Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatu Taraua Highway and tolls since 27 November 2023.

The following document falls within the scope of your request and is enclosed:

- Attachment 1: NZT-9602 – Hon Simeon Brown to NZTA Board Chair, 16 July 2024

Certain information has been withheld from the attached under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. This section allows for the withholding of information to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons. Some other information falls outside the scope of your request and has been marked as such in the attached.

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.

No other communications or correspondence has been found which falls within the scope of your request.

Please note, the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 (GPS 2024) referenced in the attached letter is available on the Ministry of Transport's website at:
www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Government-Policy-Statement-on-land-transport-2024-FINAL.pdf.

I refer you to Section 5 of the GPS 2024 – Statement of Ministerial Expectations, which outlines the expectation of the Minister of Transport that NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) considers tolling for all new roads.

In addition to the above information provided in response to this request, I can advise the following two documents fall within scope and have been refused under section 18(d) of the Act as they are, or will soon be, publicly available:

- *Te Ahu a Turanga Tolling Assessment and Summary* available at www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/te-ahu-a-turanga/consultation/te-ahu-a-turanga-tolling-consultation.
- *BRI-3099 – Tolling Proposals* will be available at www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act/official-information-act-responses.
- *Excerpt from Weekly Report 5 July 2024* and *Excerpt from Weekly Report 2 September 2024* will also be available at www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/official-information-act/official-information-act-responses.

Additionally, in your response letter, if possible could you please advise if the Minister has provided direction regarding a potential use of tolls on this road.

I can confirm that NZTA has not received any formal direction regarding a potential toll on Te Ahu a Turanga. However, as per the Ministerial Expectations set out in the GPS 2024, NZTA is considering tolling new roads completed under GPS 2024.

You can find more information about the tolling consultation for Te Ahu a Turanga at: www.nzta.govt.nz/projects/te-ahu-a-turanga/consultation/te-ahu-a-turanga-tolling-consultation/

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to withhold some information and refuse some parts of your request. 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 the Ministerial Services team by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Robyn Elston
National Manager System Design