

29 October 2024

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-16586

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 1 October 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I am requesting information as to if and when you intend to introduce Road Tolls onto any of Hawkes Bay major roads???. If so, when please?

The Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (GPS) 2024 requires NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) to consider alternative funding and financing options, including assessment of Roads of National Significance (RoNS) projects for tolling. During this phase, NZTA will be undertaking tolling assessments to support this process.

In relation to Hawke's Bay, as the Hawke's Bay Expressway project is a RoNS, it is being considered for tolling. Analysis of possible tolling schemes is currently underway and will be completed before the end of 2024.

For context, following the completion of a tolling assessment, NZTA may then make a recommendation to the NZTA Board regarding whether or not to toll the road and a preferred toll rate. Please note that undertaking an assessment of tolling suitability does not always mean NZTA will propose tolling the road. If a tolling proposal is endorsed by the NZTA Board, approval will be sought from the Minister of Transport for NZTA to undertake public consultation.

As it stands, there is no current intention to toll any roads in Hawke's Bay and as outlined above, a number of steps would need to be completed before such an intention would be realised. Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act because the information requested is not held by NZTA and there are no grounds for believing the information is held by another government department or local authority.

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, by email to official.correspondence@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