

27 November 2024

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-16686

Dear [REDACTED]

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

Thank you for your email of 15 October 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*[...] information showing when the residents of Wright Road, Aongatete Road, Dawson Road, Seeka Packhouse Aongatete, Morton Estate Winery and affected SH2 driveways were directly consulted/communicated/contacted, regarding median barriers being installed across their road intersections?*

NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) engaged broadly with the community regarding the Waihi and Ōmokoroa safety improvement projects including option 4A, which was the proposal to install median barriers. There was no specific consultation activity planned or carried out for the residents of Wright or Dawson roads. Rather the residents of these roads were kept informed of these projects, as the community usually would be, through public engagement channels.

NZTA follows international guidelines for best practice consultation and engagement and provide a range of ways members of the public can learn about our projects, participate in consultation, and give feedback about our proposals. For this project, this included several open days and drop-in sessions which were widely publicised, online consultation tools, displays and newsletters, presentations to local councils and relevant organisations, and information provided to media, on social media and our website. Project contact details are available so interested parties can contact us directly. Throughout the lifetime of this project there has been multiple rounds of engagement and consultation activity as documented in our summary document that you have attached.

While there was no consultation activity targeted specifically for Wright Road residents, NZTA's activities covered all aspects of the wider project, and provided opportunities for all residents in the area to learn about the project and give feedback about specific aspects of it, for example, the proposed safety interventions near their home or business. Our project team engaged directly with the businesses on SH2 and with residents/property owners near the roundabouts who were impacted by construction.

NZTA also engaged with business owners, including the winery, regarding the median barriers. In March 2022, an invitation to meet was sent to businesses and residents near the Morton Road roundabout including the winery. This meeting was intended to discuss roundabout design and included information about the median barriers. This session was cancelled due to COVID restrictions, and a zoom meeting was held instead. I understand Morton estate winery did not attend.

Seeka was invited to the stakeholder workshop on Wednesday 17 February at the Katikati War Memorial Hall, which included information on the median barriers as well as other aspects of the safety improvements along this corridor.

As with residents, NZTA considered that all businesses in this area would have been well aware of the changes proposed due to the extensive engagement the project team had with the community.

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](mailto:official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Wiles', is positioned above the printed name.

**Peter Wiles**

National Manager, infrastructure delivery