

19 November 2024

[REDACTED]

REF: OIA-16706

Dear [REDACTED]

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 17 October 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

This is an official information at request for all information about and correspondence regarding any costs and benefit analysis for the Mill road project. This includes but it's not limited to any discussion about whether and how to perform a cost and benefit analysis and what should be incorporated with a debt

The Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 (GPS) was released on 7 June 2024, and came into effect from 1 July. Expectations for the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) in the GPS, including for the Roads of National Significance, include but are not limited to a focus on the use of alternative delivery models, a broader range of funding options and financing models, more efficient business case processes, and maintaining tight control on project scope and cost by adopting a “no frills” approach.

At this time, NZTA has not developed a cost estimate or Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) for the Mill Road Stage 1 project for a scope that aligns with the expectations set out in the GPS. It is anticipated that this work will be completed in the coming months. This will include work on the benefit cost analysis aligned to procedures in NZTA’s Monetised Benefits and Costs Manual. Further information on the Manual can be found at: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/monetised-benefits-and-costs-manual>.

I am therefore refusing your request for this information under section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information does not exist, or despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

NZTA has previously reported historic BCRs for the project to the Select Committee. These historic BCRs can be found in response to question 234 at the following link:
https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/submissions-and-advice/document/54SCTIN_EVI_9e4bd7b7-5ccb-4d77-8c4b-08dc117448e5_TIN214/nzta-responses-to-written-questions-1-258.

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision to refuse this 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 us 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