

13 May 2026

Ref: OIA26-TW09

s9(2)(a)

Via email: s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request, received on 23 April 2026. Your request was as follows:

*"In media today Peter Nunns is quoted as saying that their modelling shows that flood risk damage is expected to greatly increase in future eg double on the West Coast. Could you please provide me with a link to the relevant report, which should include how much of this increased risk is due to climate change compared to increased assets in flood prone areas, and what are the climate change scenarios behind the modelling."*

## Interpretation

I have considered your request in accordance with the OIA.

Your request has been interpreted to be in respect of a technical report that the New Zealand Infrastructure Commission / Te Waihanga (the Commission) commissioned from Earth Sciences New Zealand Limited (ESNZ) estimating how flood losses to infrastructure change over time (the Report) that I referred to in the media.

## Context on the Report

The Report builds on a previous study undertaken by ESNZ for the Commission which estimated the present-day losses for multiple natural hazards on horizontal and vertical infrastructure (see [Estimating National-Scale Loss to Infrastructure from Natural Hazards](#)). The Report extends this work in three areas, namely it estimates:

- flood losses to private buildings;
- how flood losses will change over time under different climate change scenarios; and
- how flood losses vary across different regions and territorial authority areas within New Zealand.

The Report only considers how the current distribution of assets would be affected by future changes risk. It does not model future changes in asset distribution, such as increased assets in flood prone areas. The Report considers three climate scenarios based on the Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSP) set out in the sixth IPCC assessment report: medium (SSP2-4.5), high (SSP3-7.0) and very high (SSP5-8.5).

## Response and Decision

The Commission intends to publish the Report in full on its website ([www.tewaihanganga.govt.nz](http://www.tewaihanganga.govt.nz)) in early June 2026.

Accordingly, my decision is to refuse your request under section 18(d) of the OIA on the basis that the report will soon be made publicly available.

I trust this response addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my response.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Peter Nunns  
**General Manager, Strategy**