

20 June 2024

[REDACTED]

Via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I write in reply to your Official Information Act request, received on 23 May 2024. You requested:

“any advice the Infrastructure Commission has given regarding work on a Waitematā Harbour Crossing (Possibly called Waitematā Harbour Connections).

I am seeking this from October 2023 to present, and am especially interested in any advice given this year.”

You subsequently clarified that your request is in relation to advice Te Waihanga has given to the Minister for Infrastructure.

### Information being released

Please find attached a series of extracts from the weekly reports that we provide to the Minister for Infrastructure<sup>1</sup>, which have information within scope of your request. A list of these extracts is provided at Annex 1. We have not taken the step, in each case, of providing the entire document with redactions – as this would involve a lot of redactions for information that is not in scope.

Parts of the extracts being released to you have been redacted for one or more of the following reasons:

- the information is out of scope
- s9(2)(f)(iv) – the information is being actively considered by Ministers and is therefore withheld to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

Other than these items, we have not provided briefings to the Minister within the timeframe of your request.

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<sup>1</sup> We proactively release these weekly reports on our website – although we haven’t published these ones yet.

However, as the extracts we have released to you indicate, the Minister of Transport is currently preparing a Cabinet paper on next steps for progressing the Waitematā Harbour Connections business case, and we have been providing input to the Ministry of Transport for development of this draft Cabinet paper. We understand that the Ministry of Transport is considering an approach for the release of this wider advice (briefings and Cabinet papers) and will respond to you on this.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and the enclosed documents may be published on Te Waihanga's website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision. You can find information about how to do this on the Ombudsman's website.

Yours sincerely



Barbara Tebbs  
**General Manager, Policy**

## Annex 1: Document schedule

Documents released			
Doc #	Date	Document	Section of the Act applied
1	2 May 2024	Extract from Te Waihanga's weekly report to the Minister for Infrastructure for the week beginning 6 May 2024	most of the extract is out of scope
2	9 May 2024	Extract from Te Waihanga's weekly report to the Minister for Infrastructure for the week beginning 13 May 2024	S9(2)(f)(iv)
3	23 May 2024	Extract from Te Waihanga's weekly report to the Minister for Infrastructure for the week beginning 27 May 2024	S9(2)(f)(iv)

From Te Waihanga’s weekly report to the Minister for Infrastructure for the week beginning 6 May 2024 [TW-2024-397]

3.1 Upcoming briefings and aides memoire for the Minister

We provide advice to the Minister on our work programme and our contribution to the government’s wider work programme – both proactively and in response to requests from him.

Topic and <a href="#">tracking number</a>	Date due to your office	What this advice covers	Deadline for Minister’s feedback
[REDACTED]			
Waitematā Harbour Connections IBC	6 May	The Ministry of Transport has invited us to contribute to a joint briefing (also with Tsy) to accompany a draft Cabinet paper on the Waitematā Harbour Connections Indicative Business Case	tbc
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

out of scope

From Te Waihanga’s weekly report to the Minister for Infrastructure for the week beginning 13 May 2024  
[TW-2024-401]

2.1 Next steps on the Waitematā Harbour Connections (WHC) work

We have provided input to a briefing led by the Ministry of Transport on next steps for this project. At the Minister of Transport’s request, this briefing outlines the views of the Ministry, Treasury and Te Waihanga, building on advice from Waka Kotahi to the Minister about proposed next steps.

Waka Kotahi has recommended to the Minister that the next Phase should involve:

- [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Our position, which is reflected in the Ministry’s briefing, is that: s9(2)(f)(iv)

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

We understand that the Minister of Transport will ask for this briefing to be relayed to you. [REDACTED]

The timeline for the Cabinet paper is not yet agreed, and more work is needed on it to reflect agencies’ positions. We will keep your office informed.

Andy Hagan, General Manager Delivery

*From Te Waihanga's weekly report to the Minister for Infrastructure for the week beginning 27 May 2024  
[TW-2024-410]*

## 2.3 Waitematā Harbour Connections

We have been working with Ministry of Transport, Treasury and NZTA | Waka Kotahi officials on a revised Cabinet paper on next steps for an alternative crossing for the Waitematā Harbour. The Minister of Transport has provided direction that,

[REDACTED]

s9(2)(f)(iv)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

We understand that the Minister of Transport will look to consult with you on these proposals before the Cabinet paper is lodged – which could be as soon as Thursday 30 May.

*Andy Hagan, General Manager Delivery; Barbara Tebbs, General Manager Policy*