


13 April 2026

Ref: OIA 26021



Tēnā koe 

I refer to your request for official information received on 12 February 2026:

“...the total cost of the fast-track panel in charge of the Taranaki VTM project, broken down into categories of pay for personnel cost, fees, travel and accom, admin and etc. I'd also like to know any other sums paid in relation to setting up this panel or calling in expert evidence (costs to commission reports, etc).

Essentially, I'm trying to arrive at a number for the total cost of this application, and I'd like to have that cost broken down into whatever categories are appropriate”.

As we pointed out in the Environmental Protection Authority's (EPA) acknowledgement of receipt of your request for official information, we are unable to supply a final cost for the Taranaki VTM Fast-track project. The EPA is still receiving and processing invoices in relation to this project, and it will be some time before final costs will be available. Therefore, please find attached final costs invoiced to 31 January 2026.

I hope this information is helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via [ministerials@epa.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@epa.govt.nz)

We may publish your request and our response on our website, [www.epa.govt.nz](http://www.epa.govt.nz). We make OIA responses available so others can read more about the work we do and the questions we are asked. Any information that might identify you will be removed to protect your privacy.

Nāku noa nā



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