

17 April 2026

Ref: OIA 26054



Tēnā koe 

I refer to your request for official information about the Sunfield Masterplan community development which was transferred by Auckland Council to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on 20 March 2026:

**2. Watercare's fast-track submission** Watercare's full submission to the fast-track consenting panel for the Sunfield application, including any covering correspondence that identified evidence Watercare was unable to assess within the timeframe allowed.

**4. Council's formal response to the fast-track panel** All written submissions, responses, and correspondence sent by Auckland Council or any council-controlled organisation to the fast-track approvals panel in relation to the Sunfield application.

The information you requested is available on the [Sunfield application page](#) on the Fast-track website. Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 18(d) of the OIA – that the information requested is publicly available. More details are provided below.

Watercare provided comments on the application under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). Those comments were filed as part of Auckland Council's comments, and also separately (although they are identical). A full copy of Watercare's comments (both as Annexure 5 to Auckland Council's comments, and separately), is available to view here on the application page: [Comments from invited parties](#).

Auckland Council also provided comments on the draft conditions under section 70 of the Act, and within those comments it mentioned Watercare several times. Those comments are available here: [Draft decision and conditions](#).

Auckland Council had input into several steps throughout the process. All Minutes that detail any requests or extra steps, and the responses, are available here: [Correspondence](#).

We do not hold any information that suggests Watercare was not able to assess the project within the time allowed. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information is not held by the EPA, and we do not believe it is held by any other department or agency.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Preece', is positioned below the Māori phrase.

Richard Preece  
**Acting General Manager, Climate, Land and Oceans**