

Official Information Act Request

Requester's details

Date: 30 May 2025

Name:

Organisation: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference number: ENQ-49410-X6J7D2

Tēnā koe

I refer to your request received on 27 May 2025:

- We request you provide us with all relevant information pertaining to the Taranaki VTN Fasttrack application relating to your assessments of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi.
- We request that you provide us with all relevant information pertaining to the Taranaki VTN Fasttrack application relating to your assessments connected to our iwi and hapū of Ngāruahine.
- We request that you provide us with all relevant information pertaining to taiao environmental impacts pertaining to the Taranaki VTN Fasttrack application.
- We request that you provide us with all relevant information pertaining to the associated resource consent processes within your mandate as relates to any or all of the legal obligations, including Treaty principles clauses and taiao environment aspects, of the Resource Management Act, the Crown Minerals Act, the EEZ Act, and any Treaty-Accords or associated Deeds of Recognition, Protocols, and Relationship Agreements from the Ngāruahine Deed of Settlement.

The information you have requested follows.

The Fast-track process operates across two agencies: the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). Each agency is responsible for specific aspects of the process based on their respective roles.

The MfE assesses referral applications and provides advice to the Minister for Infrastructure to inform his decisions on referral applications.

The EPA's Fast-track team provides administrative support for the substantive application process, including procedural advice and secretariat support to the panel convener and expert panels who make a decision on substantive applications. More information is here: [Process overview | Fast-track website](#).

The EPA's Fast-track team received a substantive application for the Taranaki VTM project on 23 April 2025 and deemed it to be complete on 15 May 2025.

On 29 May 2025 the EPA decided that the Taranaki VTM Project has no competing applications, and it will be passed to the Panel Convener for a panel to be appointed.

The EPA assesses substantive applications for completeness and for any competing applications. The EPA does not make assessments of Te Tiriti o Waitangi or assessments relating to any iwi or hapū, including that of Ngāruahine. These parts of your request are therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act (OIA) as the information does not exist.

Information pertaining to taiao environmental impacts is part of the substantive application. The substantive application is publicly available on the Fast-track website, via the following link: [Substantive application | Fast-track website](#). This part of your request is therefore refused under 18(d) of the OIA, as the information is publicly available.

To date, an expert panel has not been appointed to assess the substantive application. The Fast-track web page for this project, [Taranaki VTM | Fast-track website](#), will indicate when the panel is considering the application. We would encourage you to check for updates as the project progresses.

The initial application is on the MfE website and is publicly available here: [Taranaki VTM project | Ministry for the Environment](#).

On 28 May 2025, we requested clarification on the final part of your request:

- We request that you provide us with all relevant information pertaining to the associated resource consent processes within your mandate as relates to any or all of the legal obligations, including Treaty principles clauses and taiao environment aspects, of the Resource Management Act, the Crown Minerals Act, the EEZ Act, and any Treaty-Accords or associated Deeds of Recognition, Protocols, and Relationship Agreements from the Ngāruahine Deed of Settlement.

I appreciate the urgency of this matter. At this stage, I am advising the EPA will not be able to provide the remainder of this information to you by Friday 30 May 2025. Once we receive the response to our request for clarification, we can assess the information for release and respond in due course.

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

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via oi@fasttrack.govt.nz

We may publish your request and our response on our website, www.fasttrack.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



Michelle Ward
General Manager, Climate, Land and Oceans