



CABINET OFFICE

20 March 2024



Ref: OIA OIA-2023/24-0669

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request: Letter from Minister Jones regarding Trans Tasman Resources

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 14 March 2024. You requested:

“The formal letter Minister Shane Jones signed stating that he would stand aside from the Trans Tasman Resources mining project.”

Information to be withheld

The Cabinet Office, on behalf of the Prime Minister, supports Ministers in identifying and managing conflicts of interest that may in relation to their portfolios or other ministerial responsibilities.

Successive Ombudsmen have long held the view that Cabinet Office communications with and advice to Minister is inherently confidential. It is in the public interest that the Cabinet Office can obtain and assess information about conflicts of interest and provide advice to Ministers on how to resolve them. Ministers are encouraged to seek advice from the Secretary of the Cabinet on a confidential basis. Details regarding conflicts of interest are not generally disclosed, to ensure the confidentiality of Cabinet proceedings, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs and, in some cases, to protect personal privacy.

The Cabinet Office holds information relevant to your request. However, I have decided to withhold that information in full under the following sections of the Act:

1. section 9(2)(ba)(ii), to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would damage the public interest
2. section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials.
3. section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion

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In making my decision, in accordance with section 9(1) of the Act I have considered whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the need to withhold the information, and I have concluded that it does not.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā



Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet