

08 March 2021

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 09 February 2021 in which you asked for:

“With respect, can DOC please release information sent and received by Mark Davies, director for Western South Island, about the Mikonui mine. This information should include, but not be limited to, reports, meeting minutes, briefings and correspondence, including with DOC head office and the minister’s office. The timeframe of my request is the date of Newsroom’s last story, September 30 2020, and today’s date. Please provide the information in an electronically searchable format and include all attachments.”

The information you have requested is released in full and tabled below.

Please note that in the information released in an email from Nicole Kunzmann to Joy Cowan, dated Friday 23 October 2020, made reference to a document (6475674). This document was only in draft format.

Shortly after this document was drafted, and prior to the Board meeting on the 6 November, where the document was to have been presented, a formal letter was received from the Board, about the Mikonui mine (refer attachment A - letter to the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board letter dated 29 October 2020). This resulted in the draft document being superseded with a presentation on the Mikonui mine (refer attachment B.) to the full Board by Operations Manager, Nicole Kunzmann at their meeting on 6 November 2020.

Attachment	Date	Document description	Decision
A.	29.10.20 to 14.01.21	All relevant emails from Mark Davies relating to the Mikonui mine for the period 29 October 2020 to 20 November 2020.	Released in part
B.	06.11.20	Powerpoint presentation to West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board	Released in full



I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people.

I have decided to withhold the Tai Poutini West Coast Conservation Board paper (draft document – 6475674 – as outlined above), under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act– free and frank opinion.

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

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

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

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Davies', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Mark Davies
Director Operations Te Tai Poutini Western South Island
Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation