

18 December 2023

[REDACTED]  
Greymouth Star

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (the Department), received on 21 November 2023, in which you asked for:

*...any reports, briefings, and presentations by the Department of Conservation on its plan to withdraw within five years from the active management of its visitor assets in the Franz Josef Glacier Valley, including the maintenance of the special purpose road to the glacier car park and the contingencies it is planning for the eventual abandonment of tracks, bridges, and other structures it currently maintains.*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

The Department has not prepared information about withdrawal from its visitor assets in the Franz Josef Glacier Valley. An internal briefing about “Westland Tai Poutini National Park Visitor Planning and Franz Josef Glacier Valley Access Road Future Options” has been prepared. This is released to you in full.

The briefing about road options was prepared by the Department’s Director of Heritage and Visitors and the Te Tai Poutini Western South Island Regional Director, for two Deputy Directors-General of the Department (Regional Operations, and Biodiversity, Heritage and Visitors).

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	5 October 2023	DDG Briefing – Franz Josef Valley Options	Released in full

In addition I draw your attention to the information previously provided to you end June 2023:

- ***Franz Josef Glacier Road River Protection Review***, which addresses all river protection works associated with the Franz Josef Glacier Road under management of DOC.

- **Waiiau River Valley Hazard Assessment**, which is technical advice about asset resilience in the Franz Josef Valley relative to the Waiiau (Waiho) River and debris flows (not specific to the glacier valley road access).

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and the attached document will be published on the Department's website.



Nāku noa, nā



Mark Davies  
Regional Operations Director, Western South Island  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*