

17 November 2023

[REDACTED]
Greymouth Star

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 17 October 2023, in which you asked for:

*Please may I have any briefings from the past six months to the previous (outgoing) Conservation Minister on:
No new mines
The stewardship land review*

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

For context, please note that the two drafts of the No New Mines on Conservation Land Cabinet paper covered by this request (items 1 and 3) are not the same as the final paper considered and agreed to by Cabinet. The final version considered by Cabinet will be proactively released shortly and made available on the DOC website. Note also that Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu was not involved in the drafting of this Cabinet paper.

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed in Table 1 below, 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,
- commercially sensitive information, under section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information,
- advice still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials,
- free and frank expression under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs,

- advice subject to legal privilege, under section 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege,
- commercially sensitive information, under section 9(2)(i) - to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities, and
- confidential information, under section 9(2)(j) – to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

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.



Nāku noa, nā



Sam Thomas
Director Policy
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Table 1 - Schedule of documents

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	17 May 2023	23-B-0204 – Briefing – No New Mines on Conservation Land - Cabinet paper for your feedback	Released in part.
2	26 May 2023	23-B-0233 – Briefing – No New Mines on Conservation Land: Updated Cabinet paper for your feedback	Released in part.
3	26 May 2023	23-B-0233 - Attachment A - Revised draft Cabinet paper	Released in part.
4	9 June 2023	23-B-0177 - Briefing - Stewardship Land extension of National Panel Member appointments May 2023	Released in part.
5	23 June 2023	23-B-0281 - Briefing - Stewardship Land Reclassification National Panel appointments 2023 – APH Paper	Released in part.
6	6 July 2023	23-B-0289 - Briefing - Stewardship Land Extension of Ngāi Tahu Agreement	Released in part.
7	9 August 2023	23-B-0362 - Briefing - Stewardship land - letters to reappoint National Panel members	Released in part.