



22 November 2024

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (the Department), received on 24 October 2024, in which you asked for:

1. Was consent granted by the Department of Conservation (DoC) for any work to be carried out on the Waoku Coach Road Track?
2. If consent was granted, please provide:
 - The date on which the consent was granted.
 - Copies of all documents, reports, and communications related to the decision to grant consent, including any advice or assessments provided by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.
 - Details of any conditions attached to the consent.
3. What steps were taken to assess the potential impacts of the work on the historic and cultural significance of the Waoku Coach Road Track prior to the consent being granted?
4. Under what authority DOC granted access to the historic site to be bulldozed? Who granted permission?
5. Were any concerns raised during the consent process about potential damage to the site? If so, how were these concerns addressed?
6. Has the Department of Conservation conducted or commissioned any post-work assessments on the condition of the site following the works? If so, please provide the results of these assessments.

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

The matter you refer to is currently under investigation by Heritage New Zealand – Pouhere Taonga and may result in legal action. Therefore, I regret that I am withholding the information you seek in accordance with sections 6 and 9 of the Official Information Act 1982;

• **Section 6. Conclusive reasons for withholding official information**

6. Good reason for withholding official information exists, for the purpose of section 5, if the making available of that information would be likely -

- (c) to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial;

And

- **Section 9. Other reasons for withholding official information**

9 (2)the withholding of the information is necessary to -

- (h) maintain legal professional privilege.

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) may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Sue Reed-Thomas
Regional Operations Director, Northern North Island
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai