




15 April 2025

Conservation House  
18-32 Manners Street  
Te Aro, Wellington, 6011  
doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-5002

Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 11 March 2025, regarding Wildlife Act 1958 authorities for New Zealand Transport Authority Waka Kotahi's (NZTA) roadworks projects in 2024. We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

On 31 March 2025 we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 15 April 2025 due to third party consultation.

## Response

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *Did DoC grant permissions under Section 53 of the Wildlife Act to NZTA Waka Kotahi for its works during the Brynderwyns and Mangamuka roadworks projects last year? If so, please also provide copies of the specifics of those permissions.*

No, DOC did not process any authorities under section 53 of the Wildlife Act 1958 (the Act) to NZTA for the Brynderwyns and Mangamuka roadworks projects in 2024.

2. *Were there any similar grants provided to NZTA Waka Kotahi for those two projects under Section 71 of the Wildlife Act? If so, please also provide copies of the specifics of those permissions.*

DOC granted consents under section 71 of the Act to NZTA for the Brynderwyns [113645-FAU refers] and Mangamuka [111521-FAU refers] roadworks projects.

I have attached a copy of the section 71 consent for 113645-FAU as Item 1, which has been released in full.

Copies of the section 71 consent and subsequent variation for 111521-FAU have been proactively released on the NZTA website here: [2250314-RMALUC-Redacted\\_compressed-1.pdf](#). This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(d), as the information is publicly available. For completeness, I have also released the species management plan and maps referred to as Schedules 6 and 7 respectively in the original consent [Items 2 and 3 refer].

3. *I note from the part of the Ecological report for the Brynderwyns, released last year in respect of Hochstetters frogs, that NZTA agreed to make a financial contribution of up to \$200,000 towards a project that increased the knowledge and understanding of Hochstetter frogs. What figure was finally determined and has this been paid?*

As part of their consent application for 113645-FAU, NZTA offered a financial contribution between \$100,000 and \$200,000 to be put towards a project that increases the knowledge and understanding of Hochstetter's frogs. As 113645-FAU was processed under the Severe Weather Emergency Order 2023, DOC could not include this offering as a condition of the consent, pursuant to clause 45(9).

Instead, the financial contribution offer was included in the consent as an Advice Note, advising that: "The proposed \$200,000 will serve to fund research providing greater understanding of Hochstetter's frogs, including the impacts of relocations and outcomes. Several potential uses for this fund are being considered and will be shared with NZTA following further technical input".

The funding has not yet been paid. NZTA and DOC are working together to finalise the payment and direct it to the appropriate project.

4. *What other offsets were agreed for specific species within the project areas for both the Brynderwyns and Mangamukas roadworks?*

There were no other offsets agreed for specific species within the project areas for either roadwork projects.

5. *What of those other offsets have been paid already or are still pending payment?*

Please refer to Question 4.

#### **Document Schedule**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	8 February 2024	113645-FAU Section 71 Consent.	Released in full.
2	21 April 2024	111521-FAU Section 71 Consent - Schedule 6 – Species Management Plan.	Released in part.
3	18 March 2024	111521-FAU Section 71 Consent - Schedule 7 – Maps.	Released in part.

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to personal contact details being withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA - to protect the privacy of natural persons.

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

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

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillippa Fox', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phillippa Fox  
Director Regulatory Authorisations  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*