



OIAD-4792

17 February 2025



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (the Department), received on 18 December 2024, in which you asked for:

‘All communications, reports, and memos from DOC regarding the latest Government funding injection to the Mount Ruapehu skifields and plans on what to do with the Whakapapa skifield.

Please include communications with Ministers and Ministerial offices.’

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

On 9 January 2025, you refined your request to all communications, reports, and memos from DOC within the timeframe of 1 October – 18 December 2024.

On 27 January 2025, we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 17 February 2025 due to consultations necessary to make a decision on the request.

Please note that while decisions have been made at Cabinet to provide funding to Whakapapa Holdings for ownership of the Whakapapa ski field, this is conditional on a concession being granted and the conditional deal being finalised.

We have determined that the documents outlined in *Table 1 – Schedule of documents* are within the scope of your request.

I am releasing the relevant parts of the documents listed in Table 1, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Act, as applicable:

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

- 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, 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 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 Act.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Stacey Wrenn
Chief Advisor Regulatory Modernisation
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Table 1 - Schedule of documents

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	4 November 2024	Email - Talking points for other Minister's Cabinet papers - ECO 6 November	Released in part.
1A	4 November 2024	Talking points for the Minister of Conservation at 6 November ECO Committee	Released in part.
2	8 November 2024	24-B-0574 - Email - Options relating to the sale of RAL's Whakapapa ski field	Released in part.
2A	8 November 2024	Attachment A: Talking points for Cabinet	Released in part.
3	14 November 2024	24-B-0586 – Memo - Next steps for Whakapapa ski field	Released in part.
3A	14 November 2024	Attachment A: Excerpt of previous advice on Cabinet paper (8 November 2024)	Released in part.
4	3 December 2024	24-B-0607 - Email advice - Options relating to the sale of RAL's Whakapapa ski field	Released in part.
5	3 December 2024	24-M-0149 - Meeting memo – Whakapapa ski field sale options	Released in part.
6	9 December 2024	24-K-0040 - Cabinet Paper Talking Points: Options relating to the sale of RAL's Whakapapa ski field	Released in part.