

10 February 2025

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 19 December 2024, in which you asked for:

Please provide us with:

- (a) electronic copies of all documents concerning our applications (including any internal DOC documents, and any letters, correspondence, or agendas or papers or presentations or minutes relating to any hui, with Ngāi Tahu) which have come into DOC's control;*
- (b) information regarding any conferences, meetings, discussions or hui with Ngāi Tahu where [REDACTED] applications were discussed (including dates, purpose, attendees, and matters discussed), since our most recent request. In this case, that was made on 25 October 2024.*

We make this request as a matter of fairness and natural justice in connection with our applications. We understand that DOC takes the view that it can only deal with this request under the Official Information Act 1982.

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

Several emails, letters, reports, a phone conversation and a text message are in scope of your request. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Even though your request is up to 19 December 2024, I have considered that the release of in scope information up to 20 December 2024 is appropriate, given that this is a key date when the draft MSTL reconsideration report and related information was forwarded to both yourself and Te Rūnanga for comment.

Regarding items 3-4 in the table below, an excerpt or summary of relevant information has been provided under section 16(1)(e) of the Act.

On 11 December 2024, at the meeting recorded in Item 3 in the table below, Ruth Isaac's (Deputy Director-General Policy and Regulatory Services) notes recorded that Te Rūnanga asked for an update on MSTL. Ruth Isaac responded that we were on track to deliver the draft reconsideration report that week (as it was due Friday 13 December 2024). No further comments were made.

On 13 December 2024, Ruth Isaac phoned Te Rūnanga to advise that the draft reconsideration report for comment would be delayed by a week. Te Rūnanga asked if that meant we would allow another week for responses. Ruth Isaac said we would consider that if needed. Ruth Isaac also called MSTL that day.

On 20 December 2024, Ruth Isaac sent a text message to Te Rūnanga advising that an email had been sent with the draft reconsideration report attached for comment (refer to email dated 20 December 2024 in Item 2 in the table below).

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	26/11/2024	Treaty Partner engagement with Ngāi Tahu (Te Rūnanga and Papatipu Rūnanga) on MSTL's reconsideration	Released in part – section 9(2)(a)
2	30/10/2024 to 20/12/2024	Correspondence between Ngāi Tahu and the Department	Released in part – section 9(2)(a)
3	11/12/2024	Excerpt and summary of DG Meeting brief	Released in part – section 16(1)(e)
4	19/12/2024	Excerpt from Minister of Conservation's update 24-B-0613 - DOC/ Ngāi Tahu engagements table	Released in part – section 16(1)(e)

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. Any information considered to be of a legal nature has been reviewed, and I have decided that the withholding of this information in full is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege under section 18(a) of the Act, by virtue of section 9(2)(h). In making this decision, I have considered 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 we will also provide a copy of this response and the attached material to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, following their request for a copy during the consultation process. Your personal information will be redacted.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anita', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Anita Murrell
Principal Advisor, Regulatory Authorisations
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai