

30 May 2025

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 3 May 2025, in which you asked for:

1. *A list of all applications for mining activities on conservation land from January 2024 to April 2025, including*
  - a) *Applicant names and company affiliations*
  - b) *Locations and types of conservation land involved*
  - c) *The status of each application (e.g. approved, declined, pending)*

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

We have identified a set of applications for mining-related activities on public conservation land that fall within the timeframe of your request. This includes applications for a range of permission types, including:

- Access Arrangements (AAs), which are required under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 before any person or company may enter conservation land for the purpose of undertaking mining-related activities.
- Authorities to Enter and Operate (AEOs), which are sub-authorities and approvals to carry out workplans under the conditions of the overarching Access Arrangement granted.
- Minimum Impact Activities (MIAs), which apply to lower-impact prospecting activities. Minimum impact activities are specifically defined in section 2 of the Crown Minerals Act.

Applications received during this period relate primarily to the activities of prospecting, exploration, or mining for gold, coal, gravel, or metallic minerals.

The majority of activity is concentrated in the West Coast region of the South Island, with other applications located in parts of Otago, Nelson/Tasman, Southland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Northland.

Some of the applications cover multiple public conservation lands. The types of public conservation land involved ranges from stewardship land to other categories of land held under the Conservation Act 1987, but excludes areas protected under Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act.

Each application undergoes an internal assessment process that may involve technical review, consultation with iwi and hapū, site inspections, and, in some cases, notification. At the point of this response, the applications identified included a mix of current, expired, pending, and withdrawn statuses.

Where no term start or end date is provided, this reflects that the permission has not yet been finalised or granted. These dates are only recorded once an application has been formally approved and entered into DOC's permission system.

A small number of applicants are individuals rather than companies. In these instances, DOC has withheld the names of individuals under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect privacy of natural persons. This is consistent with DOC's current practice, where individuals are generally listed on our public concessions register as "individual" rather than by name.

| Item | Date     | Document description                       | Decision                                 |
|------|----------|--|--|
| 1    | May 2025 | Mining Activities Data Jan 2024 – Apr 2025 | Partially withheld under section 9(2)(a) |

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

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please contact Senior Permissions Advisor, Ange Paget, by email to [apaget@doc.govt.nz](mailto:apaget@doc.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā



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