

29 April 2026

Ref: OIAD-6214

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 25 March 2026, in which you asked:

“..can I please request the release of all the attached advice.

Reply 8749 (2026) has been answered

Portfolio: Conservation (Hon Potaka)

Question: What advice, if any, has he received relating to voluntary carbon markets since June 2025; listed by title and date?

Reply: The list of advice I have received relating to voluntary carbon markets since June 2025 is attached.

Attachment - WPQ-8749 (2026)

Dept. Ref	Date to Minister	Title
CORM-1678	26 August 2025	Voluntary Nature Credit Market and pilot project update.
NA	11 September 2025	Status Report to the Minister of Conservation 77, week beginning 15 September 2025, Policy and research update on nature and carbon credits
BRF-7152 (MfE)	5 December 2025	Proposed government role to support the voluntary nature and carbon market to scale up
ADVB-96	9 December 2025	Voluntary Nature Credit Market - opportunities and risks for PCL and DOC
ADVB-149	18 February 2026	The Voluntary Nature and Carbon Market and the role of the Department of Conservation and public conservation land.
26-BRF-00206 (MfE)	27 February 2026	Voluntary Carbon Market Guidance (Policy Decisions)
26-BRF-00140 (MfE)	2 March 2026	Process and principles for voluntary market scheme endorsement

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

On 8 April 2026, we transferred the documents listed below to the Ministry for the Environment to respond to this part of your request - as they authored these documents:

- BRF-7152 (MfE) – Proposed government role to support the voluntary nature and carbon market to scale up,

- 26-BRF-00206 (MfE) – Voluntary Carbon Market Guidance (Policy Decisions), and
- 26- BRF-00140(MfE) – Process and principles for voluntary market scheme endorsement.

On 24 April 2026, the Department provided a decision letter regarding the remaining documents forming your request. This letter also noted the Department needed a bit more time to finalise the response for release.

With respect to the remaining documents forming your request, I have decided to:

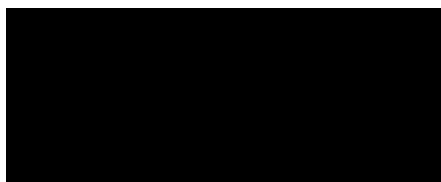
- release the relevant parts of the documents listed in the attached Schedule, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the OIA or for being out of scope, as applicable:
 - personal details and information, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
 - 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, and
 - advice still under consideration, under section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials; *and*
- withhold in full Briefing *ADVB-149 - The Voluntary Nature Credit Market and the role of the Department of Conservation and public conservation land* under section 9(f)(iv) of the OIA as the advice is under active consideration and withholding maintains the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

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 Official Information 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



James Johnson
Policy Manager
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

Schedule of documents

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	26 August 2025	CORM-1678 Briefing – Voluntary Nature Credit Market and pilot project update	Released in part
2	26 August 2025	CORM-1678 – Response letter	Released in part
3	11 September 2025	Extract – Status Report to the Minister of Conservation 77, week beginning 15 September, Policy and research update on nature and carbon credits	Released in part
4	9 December 2025	ADVB-96 – Voluntary Nature Credit Market – opportunities and risks for PCL and DOC	Released in part