

19 May 2026

Ref: OIAD-6197

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your request addressed to both the Department of Conservation and the Minister of Conservation, received on 20 March 2026, in which you asked and stated:

Please provide the following information regarding the Tukituki Water Security Project in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982:

- 1. Has an application for a land exchange report been lodged under s 33 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024?*
- 2. If so, please confirm the date of lodgement and whether (and on what date) the application has been deemed complete under s 34 FTAA, and provide a copy of the application;*
- 3. If not, please advise on the most recent indication from Tukituki Water Security Limited, Water Holdings Hawkes Bay Limited, their representative, or any related entity as to when the application(s) will be lodged.*
- 4. Please provide all information relating to the Tukituki Water Security Project that has been received or prepared by the Department of Conservation or Minister of Conservation since 30 October 2025.*

Please provide a response to questions 1, 2 and 3 as soon as possible with a response to question 4 to follow later if necessary.

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

On 17 April 2026, we responded to parts 1 – 3 of your request and informed you that we were extending part 4 of your request by 20 working days to 20 May 2026.

We are now in a position to respond to part 4 of your request. Thank you for your patience while we processed the final part of your request for all information relating to Tukituki Water Security Project (TWSP) that has been received or prepared by the Department of Conservation since 30 October 2025 to 20 March 2026 (the date of your request).

Please note that TWSP's final land exchange application form, and the land exchange overview report are available on the Fast-track website here: [Land exchange application | https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/tukituki-water-security/land-exchange-application](https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/tukituki-water-security/land-exchange-application). As such, we are refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA, as this information is publicly available. We have noted in the Document schedule **below** where these documents that were attached to emails have been removed.

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents, listed as Items 01 to 52 in the **following** Document schedule and **attached** as Appendix A, subject to information being withheld due to being out of scope or being under one or more of the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

- personal contact details of officials, 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,
- advice subject to legal privilege, under section 9(2)(h) – to maintain legal professional privilege, and
- information, under section 9(2)(k) – to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.

Please note I have also decided that legally privileged correspondence is withheld in full to maintain legal professional privilege, under section 9(2)(h) of the OIA. This correspondence is also not listed in the Document schedule to remove any risk of inadvertent waiver of privilege. Further, inclusion of exchanges involving legal representatives discussing issues connected to the TWSP (amongst the documents released (in full or part)), as part of the Department's response to part 4 of your request, should not be considered or constituted as a waiver of legal advice which any of the parties, including the Department, may have obtained concerning the issues canvassed.

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 document(s) may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā

s 9(2)(a)



Lynn Hansberry
Acting Director, Regulatory Systems
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

Document schedule

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	31 October 2025	Email: Teams Meeting to Discuss Crown Marginal Strip Options for TWS Project	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
2	7 November 2025	Emails: Tukituki Water Security Project – Preliminary Land Exchange Application (s33 of FTAA)	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
3	10 November 2025	Emails: Tukituki Water Security Ltd – CMS	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
4	17 November 2017	Email attachment: Marginal Strips SOP	Released in full
5	Not dated	Email attachment: Conservation – s16 – Exchange – SL1313 – flow process	Released in full
6	24 November 2025	Emails: Tukituki Water Security Project – Preliminary Land Exchange Application (s33 of FTAA)	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
7	26 November 2025	Emails: Tukituki Water Security Project – Preliminary Land Exchange Application (s33 of FTAA) FEE PAYMENT	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(b)(ii)
8	22 August 2025	Attachment: Tax Invoice 22/08/25 Dept_1800020526_2026.pdf	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii)
9	27 November 2025	Emails: Lex process catch up	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
10	27 November 2025	Emails: Tukituki Water Security Project – Preliminary Land Exchange Application (s33 of FTAA) FEE PAYMENT	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(b)(ii)
11	Not dated	Email attachment: New Customer Form – Fast-Track – signed 5 August 2025	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(b)(ii)
12	27 November 2025	Emails: Tukituki Water Security Ltd – Preliminary Land Exchange Application – Meeting on Feedback	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(k)

13	28 November 2025	Email: Tukituki Water Security Ltd – Land Exchange Application FTAA	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
14	Not dated	Email attachment: Land Exchange application form signed 28 November 2025	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
15	Not dated	Email attachment: Land Exchange Application Information Schedule	Released in full
16	28 November 2025	Email attachment: Mitchell Daysh Tukituki Water Security Limited: Exchange of Land Overview Report	Released in full
17	28 November 2025	Emails: Tukituki Water Security Project – Preliminary Land Exchange Application (s33 of FTAA) FEE PAYMENT	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
18	28 November 2025	Email: Philip McKay shared the folder 00 External Sharing – TWSL FTAA Land Exchange Application Attachments” with you	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
19	30 November 2025	Emails: Tukituki Water Security Ltd – Land Exchange Application FTAA (Note the attachments are not included here as they have been provided as part of an earlier email of 28 November 2025 (Items 14 to 16 above))	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
20	2 December 2025	Emails: Tukituki Water Security Project – Preliminary Land Exchange Application (s33 of FTAA) FEE PAYMENT	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(b)(ii)
21	1 December 2025	Email attachment: EPA Tax Invoice number 2753	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii)
22	1 December 2025	Email attachment: EPA Tax Invoice number 6493	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii)
23	2 December 2025	Email: Land exchange application – Tukituki	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
24	2 December 2025	Email attachment: Written notice of application receipt to Panel Convener – Tukituki	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)

25	2 December 2025	Emails: Land exchange application – Tukituki	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
26	2 December 2025	Email: Tukituki has formally lodged – tasks set out in this email	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
27	2 December 2025	Email: Tukituki land exchange application receipt	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
28	2 December 2025	Email attachment: Acknowledgement letter for land exchange application – Tukituki	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
29	3 December 2025	Emails: Tukituki land exchange application – scope query	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
30	3 December 2025	Emails: Tukituki land exchange application – scope query	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
31	4 December 2025	Emails: Tukituki land exchange application – scope query	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
32	8 December 2025	Emails: Tukituki land exchange application – scope query	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
33	16 December 2025	Emails: Tukituki completeness check	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
34	16 December 2025	Emails: Tukituki completeness check	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
35	19 December 2025	Emails: Tukituki completeness check	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
36	6 January 2026	Emails: Tukituki completeness check	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
37	23 December 2025	Email attachment: The Property Group, Makaroro River Marginal Strips Advice	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
38	8 January 2026	Email: TWSL Withdrawal of FTAA Land Exchange Application	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)

39	8 January 2026	Email attachment: Mitchell Daysh, TWSL Withdrawal of FTAA Land Exchange Application	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
40	9 January 2026	Emails: Land exchange application – Tukituki	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
41	9 January 2026	Emails: TWSL Withdrawal of FTAA Land Exchange Application	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
42	12 January 2026	Emails: Tukituki completeness check	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
43	9 February 2026	Emails: Tukituki completeness check	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
44	11 February 2026	Email: TWSL – FTAA Land Exchange Meeting	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
45	17 February 2026	Email: TWSL	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
46	16 March 2026	Email: Philip McKay shared the folder 00 – External Sharing – TWSL FTAA Relodged Land Exchange with you	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
47	16 March 2026	Email: Tukituki Water Security Ltd – Land Exchange Application FTAA Relodged. (Note the attachments to this email have been removed as they are publicly available on the Fast-track website.)	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
48	18 March 2026	Emails: Tukituki Water Security Ltd – Land Exchange Application FTAA Relodged	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
49	19 March 2026	Emails: Land exchange – Tukituki	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
50	20 March 2026	Emails: Levy fee waiver – Tukituki Water Security Ltd	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
51	20 March 2026	Email attachment: Mitchell Daysh, Land Exchange Application Levy Waiver and Fee Refund	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(b)(ii)

52	24 March 2026	Emails: Tukituki freshwater expertise	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
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