

31 January 2025

9(2)a

Tēnā koe 9(2)a

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 15 November 2024, in which you asked for:

*Please provide all relevant information, analysis, cost benefit analysis etc about the recent announcement of your intention to spend the visitors levy on setting up car parking charging trials.*

*Please also include:*

- 1) information to show the budget, any alternatives considered for spending this levy, and how it has been used by DOC over the last 10 years*
- 2) information to show any issues with car parking including analysis of why charging will affect the time it takes to park for example to look at the pancake rocks and other proposed trial destinations.*
- 3) any advice between DOC and its Minister, and or Cabinet and all internal or external communications with DOC staff, Ministerial Advisors, any other public servants or consultants including any views that caution charging for access to parking or for other conservation resources.*

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

On 28 November 2024 you clarified (or refined) your request, in relation to question 3, to:

*...please interpret my query as being in regard to introducing new charges for carparking as recently announced*

In May 2024, DOC advised the Minister of Conservation that DOC does not currently charge for any DOC-managed car parks, and that there was a solid case for implementing car park charges as a revenue generation and visitor management tool. The Minister agreed, and an International Visitor Levy (IVL) investment proposal was developed to pilot paid car parking at DOC car parks. Various car parks were considered for the pilot, and ultimately a three-site pilot was approved by the Minister of Conservation on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2024.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

*Please provide all relevant information, analysis, cost benefit analysis etc about the recent announcement of your intention to spend the visitors levy on setting up car parking charging trials.*

We have provided this information and analysis in our response to your three questions below.

*Please also include:*

1. *Information to show the budget, any alternatives considered for spending this levy, and how it has been used by DOC over the last 10 years*

Information relating to this is publicly available on the MBIE Website, here: [IVL annual performance reports | Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment](#)

Please note that the report for 2023/24 is currently being written and should be released soon on the MBIE website. Please note that because the levy was introduced in 2019 there is not yet 10 years to report on.

The table at the bottom of this letter references other documents that are relevant to your request, specifically items 1a, 1b and 2.

2. *Information to show any issues with car parking including analysis of why charging will affect the time it takes to park for example to look at the pancake rocks and other proposed trial destinations.*

The table below contains references to documents that are relevant to your request, specifically items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13a, 13b, 14 and 15.

3. *Any advice between DOC and its Minister, and or Cabinet and all internal or external communications with DOC staff, Ministerial Advisors, any other public servants or consultants including any views that caution charging for access to parking or for other conservation resources.*

The table below contains references to documents that are relevant to your request, specifically items 2, 8, 9, 13a, 13b, 16.

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, 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 still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials,
- commercially sensitive information, under section 9(2)(i) - to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities, and

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information 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 Official Information Act.

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

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please contact Joe Ellingham, Principal Commercial and Revenue Advisor, by email to [9\(2\)a](#)

Nāku noa, nā



Catherine Wilson  
Director Heritage and Visitors  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

**Table 1 - Schedule of documents**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
<i>Item no.</i>	<i>Full date of document</i>	<i>Name of document. If a series of emails refer to it as emails on the topic</i>	<i>Released in full / Released in part -</i>
1.a	11 September 2024	OIAD-4329 Response Letter to Requestor <a href="#">International Visitor Levy (IVL) - Advice to Minister of Conservation response letter</a>	Released in part – s9(2)(a)
1.b	21 September 2023	23-B-0418 - International Visitor Levy – Proposed investment projects <a href="#">International Visitor Levy (IVL) - Advice to Minister of Conservation attachment 1</a>	Released in part – s9(2)(a)
2	12 August 2024	Growing Third-Party Revenue for Conservation <a href="#">Growing third-party revenue for conservation - Cabinet paper, Cabinet committee minute and associated advice</a>	Released in part – s9(2)(a), s9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(g)(i)
3	31 July 2024	24-B-0342 - Briefing - International Visitor Levy investment proposal - car park charging pilot (Version 25 - 7 sites)	Released in part – s9(2)(a), s9(2)(i)
4	28 August 2024	Paid car parking pilot site profile – Mangatepopo Car Park Tongariro National Park	Released in part – s9(2)(i)
5	28 August 2024	Paid car parking pilot site profile – White Horse Hill Car Park Aoraki	Released in part – s9(2)(i)
6	28 August 2024	Paid car parking pilot site profile – Dolomite Point Car Parks, Punakaiki/Pancake Rocks	Released in part – s9(2)(i)
7	28 August 2024	24-B-0342 - Briefing - International Visitor Levy investment proposal - car park charging pilot (Version 33 - 3 sites)	Released in part – s9(2)(a), s9(2)(i)
8	9 September 2024	Email on critical issues for White Horse Hill	Released in full
9	16-17 September 2024	Emails from Ops Director on suitability of paid parking at Mangatepopo car park and other suggested sites.	Released in part – s9(2)(a), s9(2)(i)
10	23 September 2024	Carparking A3 for Minister of Conservation head of officials meeting in Parliament on 23 <sup>rd</sup> of September	Released in part – s9(2)(i), 9(2)(b)(ii)
11	8 October 2024	24-B-0498 Update on International Visitor Levy investment proposal - Carpark charging pilot – Funding was subsequently approved by the Minister.	Released in part – s9(2)(a), s9(2)(i), 9(2)(b)(ii)

12	22 October 2024	Paid car parking pilot - A3 - Franz Josef Valley	Released in part – s9(2)(i)
13.a	17 October 2024	Emails from SSI Ops Director and Wanaka team on Roys Peak issues and other options for paid parking in SSI region.	Released in part – s9(2)(a), s9(2)(i)
13.b	17 October 2024	SSI potential car parks - attachment from initial email	Released in part – s9(2)(i)
14	11 November 2024	Status Report MOC 43 – Item 2.1	Released in part – s9(2)(a), s9(2)(i)
15	2 December 2024	Paid car parking pilot - Detailed Business Case (DBC)	Released in part – s9(2)(a), s9(2)(i), 9(2)(b)(ii)
16	25 November 2024	Exploring Access Charging – Proactive Release <a href="#">Exploring charging for access to some public conservation and: Approval to consult - Cabinet paper and Cabinet committee minute</a>	Released in part – s9(2)(f)(iv)