DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

10 June 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0727
Ref: OIA-2025/26-0777

[redacted]

Tēnā koe [redacted],

Official Information Act request relating to Australia-New Zealand Climate and Finance Ministers' relationship

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, which was received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 14 May 2026. You requested:

> *"… information relating to the Australia–New Zealand Climate and Finance Ministers' ("2+2") implementation architecture referenced in Treasury document T2024/152, including the statement:*
>
> *'Establishing three agency level working groups on overall 2+2 policy implementation, sustainable finance, and net-zero government (i.e. including decarbonising public services, sustainable procurement, disclosures and working with the Pacific).'*
>
> *I request:*
>
> 1. *Any Terms of Reference, governance documents, implementation frameworks, membership lists, reporting structures, or briefing material relating to the three agency-level working groups established in connection with the Australia–New Zealand 2+2 process.*
> 2. *Any records identifying:*
>   a. *the lead and participating agencies for the groups;*
>   b. *whether DPMC coordinated, oversaw, participated in, or reported on the groups;*
>   c. *and any reporting lines to Ministers, Cabinet, Cabinet Committees, or wider all-of-government coordination processes.*
> 3. *Any briefing material, meeting minutes, or implementation updates held by DPMC that discuss whether the above groups considered matters relating to low-emissions fuel transition, including sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), aviation decarbonisation, sustainable procurement, or associated trans-Tasman coordination issues.*
>
> *For clarity, I am primarily seeking material relating to governance, coordination, implementation, and oversight structures rather than technical engineering or commercial feasibility analysis.*
>
> *I request material from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025."*

Executive Wing, Parliament Buildings, Wellington, New Zealand 6011
☎ 64 4 817 9698 www.dpmc.govt.nz

Partial transfer of your request to the Ministry for the Environment

On the 28 May 2026 you were advised that parts [1] and [2] of your request were transferred to the Ministry for the Environment (MfE). You will hear from MfE directly in regard to any information they may hold that is relevant to those parts of your request.

Your subsequent correspondence with us

After receiving the partial transfer notification**,** you contacted us on 29 May 2026:

> *"Thank you for your letter dated 28 May 2026 transferring parts [1] and [2] of my request to the Ministry for the Environment under section 14(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act.*
>
> *I note that my request was specifically directed at governance, coordination, implementation, oversight, and reporting structures relating to the Australia–New Zealand Climate and Finance Ministers' ("2+2") process, including whether DPMC coordinated, oversaw, participated in, or reported on those arrangements.*
> *The released material already publicly available appears to indicate that DPMC held a broader all-of-government coordination role extending beyond a narrow Ministry for the Environment policy function.*
>
> *For example, Treasury document T2024/152 — which was identified and linked by the Ministry for the Environment in response to a related request lodged by my colleague Heather Campbell — references:*
>
> > *"Establishing three agency level working groups on overall 2+2 policy implementation, sustainable finance, and net-zero government (i.e. including decarbonising public services, sustainable procurement, disclosures and working with the Pacific)."*
>
> *More significantly, material released by the Ministry for the Environment on 6 May 2026 in response to Heather Campbell's request records:*
>
> > *"The New Zealand Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) is leading an all of Government process on the recommendations, with a view to further Trans-Tasman discussions, and ultimately developing an announcement on any agreed initiatives for the 2026 ANZLM."*
>
> *The same released material also records extensive cross-agency circulation involving DPMC, Treasury, MBIE, NZTE, GCSB and other agencies in relation to economic security, trade, climate and strategic coordination matters.*
>
> *In addition, ministerial diary releases show repeated engagement between DPMC and Ministers involved in the relevant portfolios during the implementation period, including Climate Change and Energy matters. Examples include:*
> - *"Meet: Advisor, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet" — Hon Simon Watts diary, 28 February 2024.*
> - *"Meet: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet" — Hon Simon Watts diary, 8 September 2025 (Climate Change and Energy).*
> - *"Meet: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet" — Hon Simon Watts diary, 5 March 2026 (Energy).*
> - *Multiple meetings between the Prime Minister and DPMC officials during August 2024 and May 2025.*

Taken together, these records appear to support the proposition that DPMC was involved in central coordination and all-of-government implementation processes associated with the broader Australia–New Zealand economic, climate, and strategic coordination framework.

I also note that this is not the first occasion on which requests specifically directed at DPMC's role in cross-agency coordination or whole-of-government oversight have been transferred elsewhere.

For example, in response to my 17 February 2026 request relating to "Marsden Point and related cross-agency coordination", DPMC transferred the request to MBIE on the basis that the information was "more closely connected" to MBIE's functions.

Subsequently, DPMC stated that "MBIE is the lead agency for most work related to Marsden Point, while DPMC's involvement is primarily in the context of critical infrastructure".

Similarly, on 13 March 2026, DPMC transferred a request lodged by Heather Campbell relating to "cross-agency coordination or Cabinet-level consideration of domestic renewable or low-emission liquid fuel production capability" to the Minister for Energy, despite the request specifically seeking information regarding whole-of-government coordination and Cabinet-level consideration.

Against that background and given the explicit released reference to "DPMC leading an all of Government process", I consider there is a reasonable basis to seek clarification regarding the extent of DPMC's own holdings and involvement in the governance and implementation arrangements referenced in my request.

Accordingly, it is not immediately apparent why requests relating to:

- *governance structures,*
- *implementation frameworks,*
- *reporting lines,*
- *participating agencies,*
- *and all-of-government coordination processes*

would be considered "more closely connected" to the Ministry for the Environment than to DPMC itself.

Given the subsequently released material referenced above — particularly the explicit reference to "DPMC leading an all of Government process" — I would also welcome consideration of whether the contextual basis for earlier transfer and refusal decisions relating to cross-agency coordination, whole-of-government oversight, and strategic infrastructure matters may warrant review.
I would therefore appreciate clarification as to:

1. *whether DPMC holds material responsive to parts [1] and [2] of my request;*
2. *whether DPMC conducted any searches before determining the material was more closely connected to MfE;*
3. *and whether DPMC retains any governance, coordination, reporting, Cabinet, implementation, or oversight material relating to the all-of-government process referenced in the released documents above.*

Our response to your requests

Please note this response covers part [3] of your original request and your follow up request.

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) material you reference in your follow-up request refers to an "*all of Government process on the recommendations".* This process refers to engagement being undertaken between New Zealand government agencies and the Australia-New Zealand Leadership Forum (ANZLF). DPMC is the steward of the relationship with the ANZLF and is leading coordination of agencies on the work on a series of initiatives to advance economic collaboration across the Tasman. These may include economic security, trade, climate, and strategic coordination matters.

As the Prime Minister's Department, it is standard for DPMC to meet with the Prime Minister on a regular basis. Additionally, in the course of carrying out DPMC's core functions, it is also standard that DPMC staff may meet with other Ministers across their portfolios as required.

Information to be refused

In relation to parts [1], [2] and [3] of your original request, as it relates to information held by DPMC; we do not hold any relevant material and therefore your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.

In relation to part [2] of your follow-up request, when a request under the Act is received by DPMC, it is triaged by our Ministerial Services Team. During the triage process, searches are completed of our Information Management Systems, including for previous requests completed on the topic or of a similar nature. If nothing is identified, or the topic is not part of DPMC's portfolio responsibilities, we are obligated to try and identify if the topic sits better with any other government agency or organisation.

I have provided an excerpt below from page 18 of the Ombudsman guidelines at the following link which you may find useful:

https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/sites/default/files/2022-07/The OIA for agencies August 2019 %281%29.pdf.

> ***The obligation to transfer***
> *An agency **must** transfer a request to another agency if some or all of the information requested:*
> - *is not held by the agency, but is believed by the person dealing with the request to be held by another agency; or*
> - *is believed by the person dealing with the request to be more closely connected with the functions of another agency.*
>
> *This is not a discretion, but a mandatory requirement in circumstances where the person dealing with the request has a genuine belief that the information is either held by another agency, or more closely connected with its functions.*

In relation to part [3] of your follow-up request, as highlighted above, engagement with the ANZLF, other than thematic crossover, is unrelated to the 2+2 process.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the DPMC website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā



Alan Cassidy
Deputy Chief Executive
Corporate