



7 July 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0791

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Official Information Act request relating to communications and advice about LNG importation

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 3 June 2026, and subsequently refined on 14 June. Your refined request is for:

"[...] lobbying correspondence relating to Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) importation and terminal infrastructure in New Zealand, held by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the Office of the Minister for Energy, the Office of the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, Regional Development, and Resources, the Office of Internet Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office

For the purposes of this request, lobbying means any communication initiated by or on behalf of a company, industry body, or professional lobbying representative that sought to influence government policy, decisions, procurement, legislation, or regulatory settings on LNG importation and/or gas sector regulation.

I am also requesting any communication or briefing notes on the conflict of interest with Greymouth Petroleum, (including Greymouth Petroleum Mining Group Limited and all subsidiaries) given their substantial donations to the National Party, ACT party and NZFirst party.

I am seeking all lobbying communications between the following companies and organisations and their representatives, and:

- *The Prime Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon*
- *The Prime Minister's Chief of Staff and senior political advisers, including the Chief Policy Advisor including Matt Burgess, former Chief Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister*
- *The Chief Executive of DPMC*
- *The Minister for Energy, Hon Simon Watts, and his Chief of Staff and senior advisers*
- *The Minister for Resources, Hon Shane Jones, and his Chief of Staff and senior advisers*

And energy companies

- *Energy Resources Aotearoa (formerly PEPANZ)*
- *GMP Environmental Limited and Greymouth Petroleum, including Greymouth Petroleum Mining Group Limited and all subsidiaries*
- *Todd Energy*
- *OMV New Zealand Limited*

- Beach Energy
- New Zealand Oil & Gas
- Genesis Energy
- Contact Energy
- Methanex New Zealand
- Powerco
- Mobil Oil New Zealand Limited
- First Gas
- Høegh Evi, including any New Zealand based representatives or agents
- Hibiscus Petroleum, including any New Zealand based representatives or agents
- Any other company not on this list that tendered for 32691089 LNG Import Facility Services - Registrations of Interest and Accelerated Delivery Solution

And lobbying and public affairs firms acting on behalf of any of the above

- Sefton Group
- Hawker Britton
- Anacta Strategies
- Johnston Associates
- Heather Roy Consulting
- The Aotearoa Project
- Barton Consulting
- MartinJenkins
- Peat and Associates
- Any other public affairs, government relations, or lobbying firm or individual consultant engaged by any of the above on LNG or gas policy, identified in the course of searching records

I would like all lobbying communications from the above, including:

- Emails, letters, and any written communications.
- Notes of meetings, phone calls, or other engagements including diary entries.
- Any briefing notes or records that summarise or reference communications with the above parties

This request explicitly includes private email accounts, personal mobile devices where those were used to conduct, receive, or respond to lobbying communications on LNG or gas policy.

Date to be covered: 1 October 2023 (when lobbying began as reported by the NZ media) to the date this request is received.

Where information responsive to this request is held by another agency, I request that my request be transferred to those agencies under section 14 of the Act rather than withheld.

The proposed LNG import facility represents estimated public expenditure of between \$1 billion and \$2.7 billion. As New Zealand has no mandatory lobbying register. OIA requests of this kind are the only tool available to the public to scrutinise the relationship between industry lobbying and government decision making on this matter. I ask that any decisions to withhold information be made with that public interest clearly weighed."

Transfers considered but not required

Under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act, I would ordinarily have transferred the relevant parts of your request to the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon; the Minister for Energy, Hon Simon Watts; and the Minister for Resources, Hon Shane Jones. However, as you have already submitted your request directly to those Ministers, I instead refer you to their forthcoming responses.

Ben King has been Chief Executive of DPMC since 8 April 2024. Before Mr King's appointment, Rebecca Kitteridge was Acting Chief Executive from March 2023. For the relevant period of Ms Kitteridge's tenure, from 1 October 2023 to 7 April 2024, DPMC has relied on information held in its information management systems. As all DPMC staff are required to comply with the Public Records Act 2005, I consider this satisfies DPMC's obligation to undertake reasonable searches.

For your awareness, DPMC does not hold a list of companies that tendered for "32691089 LNG Import Facility Services – Registrations of Interest and Accelerated Delivery Solution." Accordingly, our searches have been limited to the companies, organisations, and any representatives specifically named in your request.

The present response therefore covers communications or advice sent or received by the Chief Executive of DPMC, where these are:

- from any of the companies listed in your request
- about LNG importation and/or infrastructure; and
- dated between 1 October 2023 and 14 June 2026.

In addition, the present response also covers any communications or advice from the Cabinet Office to Ministers about any "conflict of interest with Greymouth Petroleum" during the relevant time period.

Information to be refused

Searches of DPMC's information management systems for information sent or received by the former Chief Executive, Rebecca Kitteridge, as well as of current Chief Executive Ben King's emails, have returned no relevant records.

The Cabinet Office interpreted that part of your request relating to conflicts of interest as being for communications or briefing notes on conflicts of interest about Greymouth Petroleum (including Greymouth Petroleum Mining Group Limited and all subsidiaries) arising out of their donations to the parties listed. It holds no information relevant to that request.

Given the above, I am refusing your request to DPMC under section 18(e) of the Act – the information sought does not exist.

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



Janine Smith
DCE, Policy and Delivery Unit

Proactively Released