



21 July 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0837

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Official Information Act request relating to stewardship land, public conservation land, world heritage land, and crown land disposal or reclassification

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 22 June 2026. You requested:

"Pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982, I request copies of Cabinet-level material relating to:

- *stewardship land reclassification;*
- *public conservation land reclassification;*
- *Crown land disposal programmes;*
- *Crown land restructuring;*
- *World Heritage land management;*
- *Te Wāhipounamu World Heritage Area;*
- *Pāmu Farms of New Zealand land restructuring or disposal.*

Time period: 1 January 2018 to present.

Please provide:

- [1]. *Cabinet papers.*
- [2]. *Cabinet committee papers.*
- [3]. *Cabinet minutes.*
- [4]. *Briefings to Ministers.*
- [5]. *Aide-memoires.*
- [6]. *Reports, recommendations, memoranda, and decision papers.*
- [7]. *Correspondence between Ministers, ministerial offices, government agencies, Crown entities, and consultants relating to these matters.*
- [8]. *Any legal advice, risk assessments, or briefing material concerning:*

- *conservation legislation;*
- *Treaty obligations;*
- *World Heritage obligations;*
- *public law obligations; and*
- *judicial review risks.*

I have numbered the parts of your request for ease of reference.

On 6 July 2026 DPMC transferred the following parts of your request relating to:

- *stewardship land reclassification, public conservation land reclassification, World Heritage land management, and Te Wāhipounamu World Heritage Area* from 27 November 2023 to 22 June 2026 to the Minister of Conservation
- *Pāmu Farms of New Zealand land restructuring or disposal* from 27 November 2023 to 22 June 2026 to the Minister for State Owned Enterprises.

In addition, DPMC also informed you that you will hear directly from the Treasury and the Department of Conservation, as you submitted similar requests directly to them. I refer you to that correspondence for any further detail regarding the transfer of your request.

DPMC does not hold any information in scope of parts [1] to [3], and parts [5] to [8] of your request relating to *Crown land disposal programmes* and *Crown land restructuring* from 1 January 2018 to 22 June 2026. We consulted with Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) to determine whether it holds the requested information but have been unable to establish that it does. Accordingly, these parts of your request are refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held by DPMC, and we have no grounds for believing the information is held by another agency subject to the Act. If you wish to contact LINZ to discuss their role or what information they may hold, you can make a request for official information directly to LINZ by emailing customersupport@linz.govt.nz.

Information to be withheld

Identified as relevant to part [4] of your request are some briefings provided by the DPMC Policy Advisory Group to the Prime Minister. These briefings are provided to the Prime Minister in confidence to support him in his role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet. These briefings are withheld in their entirety under the following sections of the Act:

- s9(2)(f)(ii), to maintain collective and individual ministerial responsibility
- s9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials
- s9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion
- s9(2)(h), to maintain legal professional privilege.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

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