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

25 August 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0832

[redacted]

Tēnā koe [redacted],

Official Information Act request for research and communications relating to dry year energy risk

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 19 June 2026. You requested:

> *"… access to any research or communications, in any form, produced or received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet pertaining to dry year energy risk.*
>
> *This includes, but is not limited to, briefings, briefing documents, advice, emails, text messages, letters, meeting minutes, and messages exchanged via communication applications such as WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, Microsoft Teams, and Slack.*
>
> *Specifically, we seek information relating to:*
> - *dry year energy/electricity risk*
> - *the quantum of the issue*
> - *any analysis that surrounds the problem definition and proposed solutions"*

Request refined, extended, and partially transferred

On 30 June 2026, you refined your request to cover:

> *"research and communications from 01 July 2024 onward."*

On 24 July 2026, we extended the time limit for responding to your request by 19 working days under section 15A of the Act because consultations were necessary prior to reaching a decision on your request.

On 21 August 2026, we informed you that part of your request had been transferred to the Minister for Energy, Hon Simeon Brown, under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. The transfer related to documents identified by DPMC as potentially relevant to your request that were more closely connected to the Minister's functions.

We note that the topic of your request is more closely connected to the functions of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), which is the lead policy agency responsible for electricity market and energy security matters. DPMC would ordinarily transfer your request to MBIE under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. However, as your request was sent to MBIE directly we instead refer you to MBIE's response.

The present response covers only DPMC-held documents related to research about dry year energy risk, created or received during the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2026 (the date DPMC received the refinement of your request), and which would not be covered by the forthcoming response from MBIE.

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Information to be withheld

Identified as relevant to 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:

- 9(2)(f)(ii), to maintain collective and individual ministerial responsibility
- 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials
- 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

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