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

26 August 2026

Ref: OIA-2026/27-0085

[redacted]

Tēnā koe [redacted],

Official Information Act request relating to the Government's decision to reject calls for a ban on the public sale and/or use of fireworks

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 30 July 2026. You requested:

> *"Copies of the following information held by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet relating to the Government's decision to reject calls for a ban on the public sale and/or use of fireworks:*
>
> *1. All Cabinet papers, Cabinet committee papers, memoranda, briefings and other documents considered by Cabinet or any Cabinet committee in relation to the Government's response to the Petitions Committee's recommendation.*
> *2. Copies of any Cabinet or Cabinet committee minutes, decisions, or records of decisions relating to the Government's position on the recommendation.*
> *3. Any correspondence between DPMC and the Prime Minister's Office, ministers' offices, or government departments and agencies concerning the Government's response to the recommendation."*

On 3 August 2026 DPMC transferred parts one and two of your request to the Minister for the Environment. This response covers part three of your request. DPMC has interpreted part three of your request to be referring to the recommendation to the Government from the Petitions Committee that the public sale and private use of fireworks be banned.

Information being released

I have decided to release the documents listed below, subject to information being withheld as noted. The relevant grounds under which information has been withheld are:

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	7 and 3 July 2026	Email sent to a DPMC staff member from a Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport staff member Attachments: • *[1] Cabinet paper: Government Response to the Report of the Petitions Committee on Requests to ban the public sale of fireworks* • *[2] Government Response to Report of the Petitions Committee*	Release, some information withheld under section 9(2)(a). Attachment [2] is refused under section 18(d). Attachment [1] is in scope of parts one and two of this request, which were transferred to the Minister for the Environment.
2	9 and 4 June 2026	Emails from a Ministry for the Environment staff member to other government departments, including	Release.

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

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
		DPMC Attachments: • *[3] Draft Cabinet paper: Government Response to the Report of the Petitions Committee on Requests to ban the public sale of fireworks* • *[4] Draft Government Response to Report of the Petitions Committee*	Attachment [4] is refused under section 18(d). Attachment [3] is in scope of parts one and two of this request, which were transferred to the Minister for the Environment.

I have decided to release the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of individuals. Some information is not in scope of your request and is marked accordingly.

Information publicly available

The following information is also in scope of your request (see *attachments [2] and [4]*) and is publicly available at the following links:

Date	Document description	Website address
28 July 2026	Government Response to Report of the Petitions Committee	bills.parliament.nz/v/4/6f10d96b-16fa-4432-4db6-08deec2d133c?lang=en

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the document listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the Act – the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

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

Out of scope

From: Glenn Wigley <Glenn.Wigley@mcert.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 07 July 2026 14:23:54
To: Lisa Daniell [DPMC] <Lisa.Daniell@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: FYI - Ministerial Consultation (LEG) - Government response on three petitions requesting a ban on fireworks

You don't often get email from glenn.wigley@mcert.govt.nz. Learn why this is important

[UNCLASSIFIED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

From: Environment Portfolio <Environment.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 3 July 2026 8:55 am
To: Sarah Kenward <Sarah.Kenward@mcert.govt.nz>; Timothy Bennetts <Tim.Bennetts@mcert.govt.nz>; Glenn Wigley <Glenn.Wigley@mcert.govt.nz>
Subject: FYI - Ministerial Consultation (LEG) - Government response on three petitions requesting a ban on fireworks

Some people who received this message don't often get email from environment.portfolio@parliament.govt.nz. Learn why this is important

Now with new emails

From: Environment Portfolio <Environment.Portfolio@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 3 July 2026 8:42 am
To: Sarah Kenward <sarah.kenward@mfe.govt.nz>; Tim Bennetts <tim.bennetts@mfe.govt.nz>; Glenn Wigley <glenn.wigley@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: FYI - Ministerial Consultation (LEG) - Government response on three petitions requesting a ban on fireworks

Hi Sarah and Team

FYI – attached is the cab paper and govt response that's gone out for min consult this week - for lodging 16 July for LEG 23 July.

You'll see this is the initial version with the more fulsome rationale.

We'll send an invite for officials to support at LEG 23 July.

Cheers
Nick

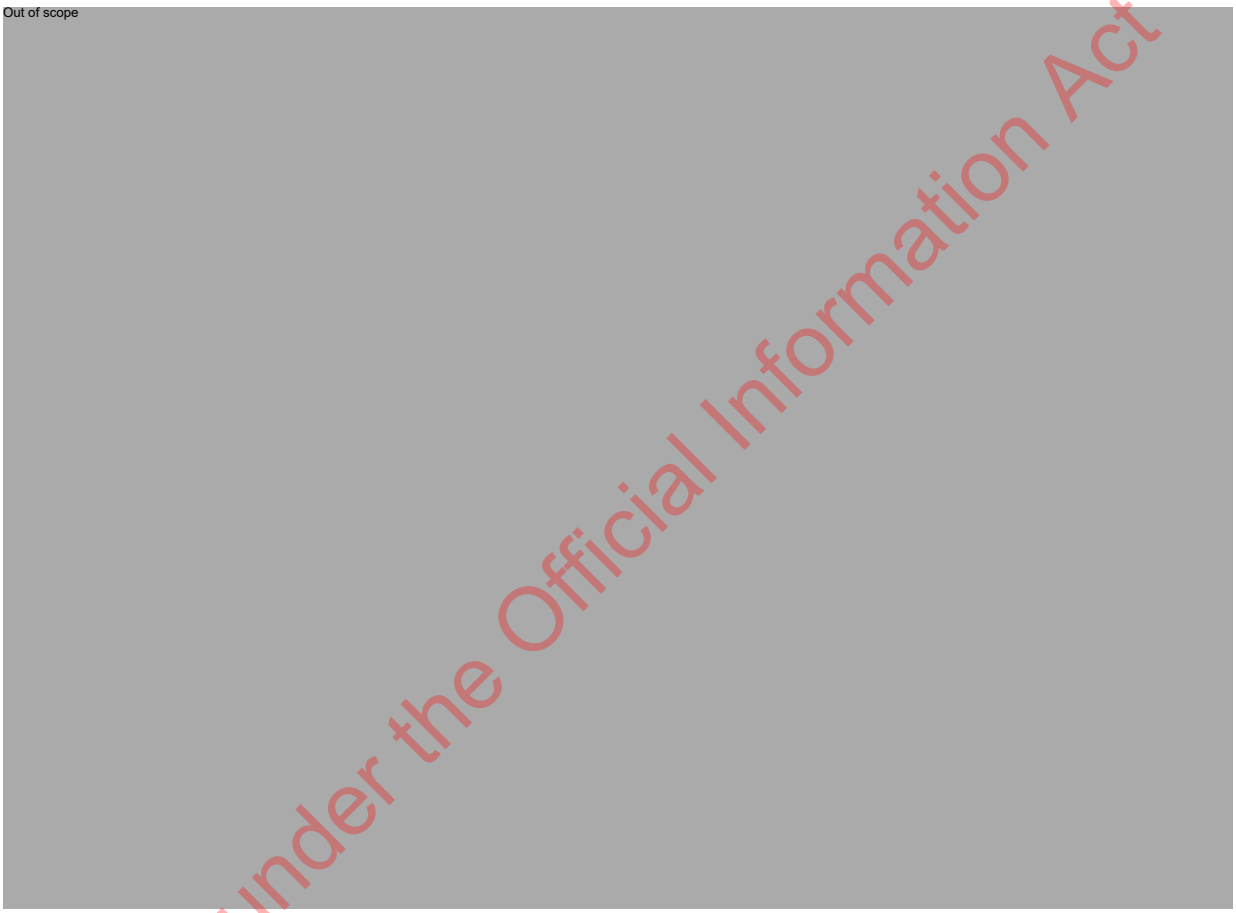
Nicholas Smith
Private Secretary – Environment | Office of Hon Nicola Grigg
Minister for the Environment | Minister of State for Trade and Investment
Minister for Women | Associate Minister for ACC | MP for Selwyn

Mobile: s9(2)(a) Email: nicholas.smith@parliament.govt.nz Website: www.beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Disclaimer: The information in this email (including attachments) is confidential and may be legally privileged. If an addressing or transmission error has misdirected this email, please notify the author by replying to this email and destroy the message. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure, copying or distribution is prohibited and may be unlawful.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982





Released under the Official Information Act 1982

From: Cody Lim <Cody.Lim@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 June 2026 10:59 am
To: Rachel McLennan [DPMC] <Rachel.McLennan@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Consultation – Draft Cabinet paper and Government response (Petitions Committee report on the ban on public sale of fireworks)

> You don't often get email from cody.lim@mfe.govt.nz. Learn why this is important

Kia ora Rachel

I received an automatically reply from Omar this morning. Forwarding this to you for your information, or action if required. Thanks!

Cody

From: Cody Lim <Cody.Lim@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 June 2026 10:52 am
To: bchandler@doc.govt.nz; Richard Ward [EXTERNAL] (DIA) <richard.ward@dia.govt.nz>; Rowan.Burns@dia.govt.nz; omar.aziz@dpmc.govt.nz; Nita.Zodgekar@mbie.govt.nz; Stephanie.Chee5@mbie.govt.nz; Gavin.Romayne@mpi.govt.nz; directorofpublichealth@health.govt.nz; Suz Halligan [EXTERNAL] (HEALTH) <Suz.Halligan@health.govt.nz>; shay.neilson@mbie.govt.nz; AMurphy@doc.govt.nz
Cc: Sarah Kenward <Sarah.Kenward@mfe.govt.nz>; Tim Bennetts <Tim.Bennetts@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Consultation – Draft Cabinet paper and Government response (Petitions Committee report on the ban on public sale of fireworks)

Kia ora koutou

Thank you to those who have gotten in touch, and those who have offered to help send this to the relevant people in your organisation.

Just a reminder to let us have your comments, if you have any, by 10 June.

Thanks a lot!

Cody

Cody Lim (He/Him)
Project Manager | Kaiwhakahaere Kaupapa

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao
environment.govt.nz

From: Cody Lim <Cody.Lim@mfe.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2026 3:17 pm
To: bchandler@doc.govt.nz; Richard Ward [EXTERNAL] (DIA) <richard.ward@dia.govt.nz>; Rowan.Burns@dia.govt.nz; omar.aziz@dpmc.govt.nz; Nita.Zodgekar@mbie.govt.nz; Stephanie.Chee5@mbie.govt.nz; Gavin.Romayne@mpi.govt.nz; directorofpublichealth@health.govt.nz; Suz Halligan [EXTERNAL] (HEALTH) <Suz.Halligan@health.govt.nz>
Cc: Sarah Kenward <Sarah.Kenward@mfe.govt.nz>; Tim Bennetts <Tim.Bennetts@mfe.govt.nz>
Subject: Consultation – Draft Cabinet paper and Government response (Petitions Committee report on the ban on public sale of fireworks)

Kia ora koutou

Please find attached for your feedback:

1. Draft Cabinet paper seeking agreement to the Government's response to the Petitions

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Committee report on the ban on public sale of fireworks
2. Draft Government response to the Petitions Committee report

In April 2026, the Petitions Committee reported on a petition to ban the public sale of fireworks [Final report (Three petition requesting a ban on fireworks)]. The Government is required to respond.

The Minister for the Environment has agreed to maintain the status quo (i.e. no ban on public sale of fireworks). Officials are preparing the attached Cabinet paper and Government response to give effect to this.

We are working towards LEG on 23 July (or 2 July if we are able to progress more quickly), with Ministerial consultation planned for mid-June.

We would appreciate any comments by **10 June 2026**.

We recognise that you may not be the most appropriate contact for this topic, as we are using existing points of contact. We would greatly appreciate your assistance in forwarding this to the relevant person within your agency.

Thank you.

Cody

Cody Lim (He/Him)
Project Manager | Kaiwhakahaere Kaupapa

Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao
environment.govt.nz



Released under the Official Information Act 1982