

19 October 2023

T Murray
fyi-request-24299-c1c90e4e@requests.fyi.org.nz

REF: OIA-13748

Dear T Murray

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 2 October 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Could you please provide the policy and procedures for the management and/or protection of native animals within the Wellington Council region when upgrading and maintaining roading or determining new roading works.

As the information you have requested is available at online sources, I am required to refuse this request under section 18(d) of the Act as the information requested is publicly available.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency recognises the importance of native species and biodiversity and has recently developed guidelines to be used when undertaking ecological impact assessments of state highway projects. These guidelines are available on our website at:

<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/resources/ecological-impact-assessment-guidelines/Ecological-impact-assessment-guidelines.pdf>

Before a new state highway project begins construction, an ecological impact assessment (EclA) needs to be undertaken. Waka Kotahi and its contractors follow the aforementioned guidelines along with the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ) guideline – which can be accessed at <https://www.eianz.org/document/item/4447> – when undertaking EclAs. For maintenance work on the state highway network, our contractors are also required to follow an environmental plan and Appendix A in the EIANZ guideline outlines details about managing ecological risks, including to animal species.

Our policy on biodiversity, and case studies about ecological monitoring of animals, can be accessed at <https://nzta.govt.nz/roads-and-rail/highways-information-portal/technical-disciplines/environment-and-sustainability-in-our-operations/environmental-technical-areas/biodiversity/>.

These guidelines apply to all state highway projects and maintenance work throughout New Zealand, and not just in the Wellington region. For policies and guidelines regarding local roads within the Wellington region, we suggest that you contact Wellington City Council.

Further information about our environmental and social legislation and policy can be accessed on our website at <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/about-waka-kotahi-nz-transport-agency/environmental-and-social-responsibility/environmental-and-social-legislation-and-policy/>.

You may also be interested in visiting our Ecological resources webpage, which includes links to research reports, at <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/about-waka-kotahi-nz-transport-agency/environmental-and-social-responsibility/protecting-the-natural-environment/ecological-resources/>.

If you would like to discuss this reply with Waka Kotahi, please contact us by email to official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Vanessa Browne
National Manager, Programme and Standards