



Office of Hon Bill English

MP for Clutha-Southland
Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Finance
Minister for Infrastructure

13 DEC 2011

Fabrizio
fyi-request-52-47852abb@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Fabrizio

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 17 November 2011. You requested the following:

- a) *Did you asked [sic] for briefings to the Treasury or other entities in order to find out the current status of the issue? [the amount of New Zealand land in foreign ownership]*
- b) *If you did so, could make them available to the public?*
- c) *If you did not so, is there any sort of material you are using to deal with this subject?"*

Information Publicly Available

The following information is covered by your request and is publicly available on the Treasury website:

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
1.	27 July 2010	Treasury Report T2010/1360: Advice on the Aggregation of Farmland by Foreign Investors.	http://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/informationreleases/overseasinvestment/review2009

The document provides information about the land area approved for sale to overseas investors under the Overseas Investment Act 2005 (refer to the Annex of the document). As the document points out, it is not possible to tell how much land is in foreign ownership because the Act's screening regime does not cover all land sales and because there is no system for recording when foreign-owned land is returned to New Zealand ownership. I understand that you have also received information from Land Information New Zealand explaining that it does not hold data on the total area of land owned by overseas persons.

Accordingly, I have refused your request under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act – the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

In addition, some relevant information has been removed from documents listed in the above table and should continue to be withheld under the Official Information Act, on the grounds described in the documents.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

This fully covers the information you requested.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely



Hon Bill English
Minister of Finance