

15 February 2024

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Tēnā koe Lance Lavery

I refer to your email of 21 December 2023 in which you request the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

*'I am writing to lodge a formal request under the Official Information Act 1982, concerning the "Trans-Tasman Roadmap to 2035." This document is pivotal in illustrating the collaborative efforts between New Zealand and Australia and is crucial for public understanding of our joint strategic objectives and their implications.*

*In accordance with the provisions of the Act, I respectfully seek the following information:*

- 1. The complete and most recent version of the "Trans-Tasman Roadmap to 2035," along with comprehensive updates on its implementation from its commencement to the present.*
- 2. Official records from the annual Leaders' Meetings after the roadmap's initiation, including minutes, executive summaries, or key outcomes relevant to the roadmap's progression and future directions.*
- 3. Detailed descriptions of collaborative initiatives and projects undertaken by New Zealand and Australia, specifically those focusing on sustainable economic growth and climate change mitigation.*
- 4. Documentation that highlights the integration of Indigenous Peoples' interests within the roadmap's framework, underlining their active participation in relevant policy-making processes.*
- 5. Evaluative reports or studies assessing the impact of the roadmap on the Pacific region, focusing on its contribution to fostering regional peace, stability, prosperity, and resilience.'*

In response to the first part of your request for the complete and most recent version of the "Trans-Tasman Roadmap to 2035". This document is publicly available on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the Ministry) website via the below link. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information requested is publicly available:

<https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Trade-agreements/Australia-NZ-CER/Trans-Tasman-Roadmap-to-2035.pdf>

The remainder of part one of your request for *comprehensive updates on its implementation from its commencement to the present*, is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

Regarding part two of your request we have interpreted this to be for:

*Official records from the Australia New Zealand Leaders Meeting held in Wellington on the 26 July 2023 after the roadmap's initiation, including minutes, executive summaries, or key outcomes relevant to the roadmap's progression and future directions.*

There are three pieces of information in scope of this part of your request.

The first is the joint statement released after the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum. This is publicly available on the Ministry's website via the below link. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the OIA, as the information requested is publicly available:

<https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Trade-agreements/Australia-NZ-CER/Joint-Statement-ANZLM-2023.pdf>

The remaining two pieces of information in scope of your request are the document titled 'FORMAL MESSAGE: AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND LEADERS MEETING 2023' and a File Note relating to the Forum. Please find these documents attached. We have withheld some information under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis.

Regarding part three of your request, for descriptions of collaborative initiatives and projects undertaken by New Zealand and Australia. We have identified the following 4 documents as being in scope:

- Document 1 – FORMAL MESSAGE: AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND CER MINISTERIAL 2023;
- Document 2 – File Note – Closer Economic Relations Trade Min meeting Adelaide 2023;
- Document 3 – Sustainable and Inclusive Trade Declaration; and
- Document 4 – Joint Statement: Australia-New Zealand Leaders' Meeting 2023.

We have withheld some of the information in these documents under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis.

Regarding part four of your request, for documentation that highlights the integration of Indigenous Peoples' interests within the roadmap's framework, the information relevant to this

part of your request is on pages 34 through 38 of the attached documents. We have withheld some information under the following sections of the OIA:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis; and
- 9(2)(a): to protect individuals' privacy.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9 of the OIA, we have identified no public interest in releasing the information that would override the reasons for withholding it.

The fifth part of your request, for evaluative reports or studies assessing the impact of the roadmap on the Pacific region, focusing on its contribution to fostering regional peace, stability, prosperity, and resilience, is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Therefore, our response to your request (with your personal information removed) may be published on the Ministry website: [www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/](http://www.mfat.govt.nz/en/about-us/contact-us/official-information-act-responses/)

If you have any questions about this decision, you can contact us by email at: [DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz). You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision by contacting [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sarah Corbett  
for Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade