

OIA23-0210

20 July 2023

Camryn Brown
fyi-request-22518-0fc18dbd@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Camryn Brown

Thank you for your email 20 April 2023 requesting information relating to the Forestry Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following:

Please provide all relevant documentation, communication, and meeting minutes relating to the period of time that MPI has been unable to process ETS applications due to the staged rollout of the Tupu-ake system that demonstrate (a) the start of the period during which application submission is impossible, (b) the estimated end of that period, and (c) the decision to have such a period and its justification(s).

My intent is to understand the extent to which MPI planned this "outage" and believed it to be acceptable. I'm interested in any and all discussions relating to whether to have an outage or not, all of the options considered and their pros/cons, and so on. Please also include any documentation of consultation undertaken.

On 2 May 2023 you refined your request to:

I am happy to amend by request from "all such material" to "the minimum such material as necessary to address my stated intent". I expect that the Tupu-ake project manager should have sufficient information readily available in project planning, approval, and status update material.

On 25 May 2023 MPI extended the time limit to respond to your request to 17 July 2023. I apologise for the delay in my reply.

MPI has identified a number of Board minutes, Board updates and a Board memorandum, which are considered in scope of your request. The information contained in those documents is redacted in its entirety under the following sections of the OIA:

- 9(2)(j) – to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations, (including commercial and industrial negotiations).
- 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.

Once the relevant commercial contract periods have ended MPI may consider the release of these documents.

In summary, a Programme Board was set up as part of the establishment of the Tupu-ake IT system delivery programme to provide oversight and governance. The Programme Board is comprised of senior officials from the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Environmental Protection Authority and external agencies.

The original programme delivery plan was to deliver the majority of system functionality by 1 January 2023. Complications that resulted in delays in the system build and delivery of features meant a programme reset was required in early 2022. This reset provided a re-evaluation of the priorities of the system and Te Uru Rākau - New Zealand Forest Service's (Forest Service) ability to meet legislative timeframes under the original plan.

Through a series of Board meetings from early February to April 2022, the Board were presented with options for the ongoing provision of forestry transactions in the ETS within the new system. After consideration, in May 2022 the Programme Board decided to proceed with the progressive rollout of Tupu-ake focused on a prioritised delivery of critical requirements in Tupu-ake.

The Forest Service is enhancing services for ETS forestry participants by continually delivering additional features and functionality to Tupu-ake, the next release of Tupu-ake is scheduled for early August 2023.

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz.

Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Oliver Hendrickson
Director Forestry & Land Management