

Erica Wyatt

From: Joe Carr
Sent: Wednesday, 3 January 2024 11:52 am
To: nicole.rosie@nzta.govt.nz; info@ombudsman.govt.nz; sjones@ministers.govt.nz; enquiry@oag.parliament.nz
Cc: Louisa Gritt; Jonathan Gibbard; Geoff Crawford
Subject: OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST
Attachments: OIA Request NZTA 03 January 2024.docx

M. Nicole Rosie
CEO NZTA

Dear M. Rosie please find attached OIA information request pertaining to the SH 1 South Brynderwyns. To enable the compilation of the February 2024 Northland Regional Transport Committee agenda please also cc information to Louisa Gritt.

Yours faithfully

Joe Carr
Chair
Northland Regional Transport Committee

Cr Joe Carr

Chair Northland Regional Transport Committee

03 January 2024

M Nicole Rosie

CEO New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA)

Official Information Act request for information. Items requested are shown in bold.

The purpose of this request is to enable the Northland Regional Transport Committee to have sufficient information to meet the committee's statutory reporting and advisory requirements to the Northland Regional Council.

Most of this information has been requested previously from NZTA, but has not been provided by you. A copy of this letter has been sent to the Associate Minister of Finance Hon Shane Jones and to the Office of the Government Ombudsman and to the Office of the Auditor General for their information and assistance.

As the Northland Regional Transport Committee's next meeting is on 13 February 2024 and the information is of vital interest, the information is required urgently.

Information required

As previously requested from NZTA by email on 17/11/2023

Subject: Brynderwyns

Good morning Nicole

The elected members of the Northland Regional Transport Committee urgently request information pertaining to the recent NZTA Board's decision for an extensive work program on SH1 South side of the Brynderwyns.

- * An electronic copy of the full agenda item and decision, which I assume includes the full extent of the works that the Board has allegedly agreed to**
- * A list of reports that NZTA has on SH1 South Side of the Brynderwyns between the bridge by Atlas Quarry entrance and the Brynderwyns SH1 Summit.**
- * Executive summaries from the above reports, or where that is difficult the full report.**
- * The full Geotechnical Report that supports the NZTA Board's Agenda referred to above**
- * Previous advice that the Board has received pertaining to the Level of Stability of this section of SH1 and Waterfall Corner in particular.**

Nicole, the Transport Committee is concerned that our relationship with NZTA is significantly enhanced and we would like to meet with you possibly with our Members of Parliament.

Kind Regards Joe Carr

Chair Northland Regional Transport

Committee

RTC MEETING 2023 12 04

South Brynderwyns

Request made in person to M. Liz Maguire NZTA, the Executive Team Member in attendance at the 04 December 2023 Northland Regional Transport Committee meeting.

Enclosed:

The Regional Transport Committee for Northland (RTC) requests the following information regarding NZTA's intention to close SH1 Brynderwyns as part of a work package costing **\$180 M**. THIS will require 2 months of full road closure starting just after Waitangi Weekend 2023 and a further up to 10 months of 'traffic management'.

Please note that there has been no detailed reporting from NZTA to the Regional Transport Committee regarding this matter. The intended prolonged closure of SH1 Brynderwyns will be extremely disruptive and very costly to Northland. Northland Inc. assert that the daily cost will exceed \$2.8 million per day. 2 months @ 2.8 M/day = **\$170 M**.

The RTC is not stating that such a works program may not be required.

Please provide the following critical information:

- **The independent peer reviews of the geotechnic investigation reports and of the consequent engineering design that NZTA intends to proceed with. I.e. that includes a 10 metre bank cut back widening of the existing SH1 South Brynderwyns road.**
- **The evaluation of the risk to the stability to the under slopes of the road because of increased intrusion of water into the freshly cut up-slope batters that will be exposed as a consequence of these earthworks.**
- **The financial measures that NZTA/Government will implement to mitigate the economic costs to the transport industry and their clients and the tourist industry**
- **The options analysis for this work considered by the NZTA Board.**

SHOULD AN INDEPENDENT PEER REVIEW REFERRED TO IN THE FIRST BULLET POINT HAVE NOT BEEN COMPLETED, THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE FOR NORTHLAND REQUESTS ONE TO BE COMPLETED AS A MATTER OF EXTREME URGENCY AND PROVIDED TO THE RTC MEMBERS.

The Regional Transport Committee considers that this request for information is consistent with the level of information that NZTA should have, on its own volition, provided for inclusion in RTC Agendas.

We note and share the concerns expressed by the Ombudsman regarding the lack of public disclosure and transparency in TLA and Government decision making.

Yours faithfully

Joe Carr

RTC Chair

Ministerial Meeting at Kaiwaka on 10 October 2022 with Kaipara Mayor Craig Jepson, Whangarei Mayor & Deputy Mayor Vince Cocurullo and Phil Halse and Chair of Northland Regional Transport Committee Joe Carr, Willow Jean Prime MP for Northland and Steve Mutton NZTA staff.

I refer to the letter of 13 October 2023 from Transport Minister Hon David Parker following meeting with Northland leaders regarding the South Brynderwyns options.

“Having done the work you have commissioned, (RTC 4-lane South Brynderwyns option 4) you asked me as Minister of Transport to request Waka Kotahi to put early effort now into obtaining a preliminary Geotech report on this route. You note that if there are serious complications in ground conditions which are show stoppers, you would like to know this now.

And

I said I would support your request to Waka Kotahi for a preliminary Geotech report on the route, which I do.

NZTA staff member Steve Mutton confirmed to Minister Parker that the preliminary Geotech report walkover would be done the following week on the RTC 4-lane South Brynderwyns option 4 route.

Note NZTA staff have recently spent extensive time on the Atlas Quarry site where it is planned to dump the 150,000 cubic metres of cut to waste from NZTA’s current planned emergency works on the South-side of the Brynderwyns.

Please provide the following information:

The report from the *Waka Kotahi for a preliminary Geotech report on the above route as agreed to by Minister Parker.*

Confirmation that the NZTA dump site on the Atlas Quarry property will not compromise in any way the construction and viability of the RTC 4-lane South Brynderwyns option 4 route.

The NZTA preliminary Geotech report for the two bypass options identified by NZTA to the west of the Brynderwyns. The urgent need for this report was also discussed with Minister Parker, because if there were any 'show stoppers' on these NZTA Western Brynderwyn alignment options over the McCallum property to SH1 north of Brook Road then the fatally flawed Western options would need to be expunged. The implication of a fatal flaw in the Brynderwyns Western Bypass options is serious as it would mean the only other known 4-lane bypass option is the Eastern option through Atlas Quarry. Currently NZTA's faith in a viable Brynderwyns Western Bypass option is not shared by other roading engineers.

Yours faithfully

Joe Carr

Chair, Northland Regional Transport Committee