

OC250717

26 August 2025

Tēnā koe

I refer to your request dated 6 August 2025 that was partially transferred to the Ministry of Transport from the New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) seeking the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- “1. All written correspondence (including emails, letters, meeting minutes, and internal memos) between Tesla and Ministry of Transport, or any of their representatives, relating to the Clean Car Discount scheme.*
- 2. This request covers the period from 1 January 2020 to 31 October 2023, or to the most recent date of record available.”*

There are five email chains in scope of your request that are enclosed. The document schedule attached as Annex 1 outlines how the documents requested have been treated under the Act. Certain information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons and refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

With regard to the information that has been withheld under section 9 of the Act, I am satisfied that the reasons for withholding the information at this time are not outweighed by public interest considerations that would make it desirable to make the information available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

The Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in our reply to you may be published on the Ministry's website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Nāku noa, nā



Nick Paterson
Manager, Environment

transport.govt.nz | hei-arataki.nz

Annex 1: Document Schedule

Doc #	Date	Title of Document	Decision on request
1	19/09/2024	Email from: Nick Paterson to [Name Withheld] Subject: RE: query regarding proactive release	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a).
2	11/07/2024	Email from: Nick Paterson to [Name Withheld] Subject: RE Letter from Tesla to Ministry of Transport	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a). The letter referenced in this correspondence is refused under section 18(d) as it is publicly available here (see page 47): https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Proactive-Release-Clean-Car-Standard-5-September-2024-amended-v2.pdf
3	10/06/2024	Email from: Nick Paterson to [Name Withheld] Subject: RE: Clean Car Standard review	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a).
4	2/09/2022	Email from: [Name Withheld] to Tarien Knoetze Subject: Re: Legally Privileged – Draft Clean Vehicle Standard regulations - consultation	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a). The draft regulations are refused under section 18(d). The 2022 Regulations are publicly available here: https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2022/0285/18.0/LMS773853.html
5	10/08/2022	Email from: [Name Withheld] to Tarien Knoetze Subject: Re: Ministry of Transport – Clean Vehicle Standard regulations	Released with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a).

Amber Dickson

From: Nick Paterson
Sent: Thursday, 19 September 2024 10:47 am
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: query regarding proactive release

Hi s 9(2)(a)

Apologies for the delay as I have been on sick leave. I have double checked this and with the exception of some minor formatting changes it is the same paper (can confirm the text is the same).

Cheers

Nick

Nick Paterson

T: s 9(2)(a) E: n.paterson@transport.govt.nz | www.transport.govt.nz



TE MANATŪ WAKA
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Hāpaitia ana ngā tāngata o Aotearoa kia eke
Enabling New Zealanders to flourish

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2024 5:15 PM
To: Nick Paterson <N.Paterson@transport.govt.nz>
Subject: query regarding proactive release

Hi Nick,

Can you confirm that the Cabinet paper released in this proactive release is the version that went to Cabinet?

<https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Outcome-of-the-review-of-the-Clean-Car-Importer-Standard-11-June-2024-Redacted.pdf>

--
s 9(2)(a)

Amber Dickson

From: Nick Paterson
Sent: Thursday, 11 July 2024 4:32 pm
To: s 9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Letter from Tesla to Ministry of Transport

Hi s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your feedback that you provided on the Clean Car Standard. As you may be aware the Government has made decisions following the review.

These decisions are now publicly available. The detail of the decisions are in the recs of the proactively released Cabinet paper (which I can confirm is now government policy).

The proactively released Cabinet paper, together with the relevant briefing, RIS and CIPA, is available [here](#).

Cheers

Nick

Nick Paterson

T: s 9(2)(a) | E: n.paterson@transport.govt.nz | www.transport.govt.nz



Hāpaitia ana ngā tāngata o Aotearoa kia eke
Enabling New Zealanders to flourish

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, June 13, 2024 4:28 PM
To: Nick Paterson <N.Paterson@transport.govt.nz>
Cc: Sigurd Magnusson <S.Magnusson@transport.govt.nz>
Subject: Letter from Tesla to Ministry of Transport

Hi Nick,

Please find attached a letter from Tesla concerning the Clean Car Standard.

Regards,

--
s 9(2)(a)

The letter referenced above is refused under section 18(d) as it is publicly available here (see page 47): <https://www.transport.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Proactive-Release-Clean-Car-Standard-5-September-2024-amended-v2.pdf>

Amber Dickson

From: Nick Paterson
Sent: Monday, 10 June 2024 3:05 pm
To: s 9(2)(a)
Cc: Gayelene Wright
Subject: RE: Clean Car Standard review

Hi s 9(2)(a)

We were directed to consult specifically with those bodies with respect to the review. If there are changes proposed by the Minister, as a result of the review, it would be a decision of Cabinet on whether to publicly consult on those changes.

Kind regards

Nick

Nick Paterson

T s 9(2)(a) | E: n.paterson@transport.govt.nz | www.transport.govt.nz



TE MANATŪ WAKA
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Hāpaitia ana ngā tāngata o Aotearoa kia eke
Enabling New Zealanders to flourish

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 2:50 PM
To: Nick Paterson <N.Paterson@transport.govt.nz>
Cc: Gayelene Wright <g.wright@transport.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Clean Car Standard review

Thank Nick,

For clarity, have you been directed to consult industry bodies or only those specific industry bodies? I note Drive Electric, which is an industry body, isn't on the list.

Will there be public consultation on any changes to the standards proposed as a result of the review?

Regards

s 9(2)(a)

On Mon, Jun 10, 2024 at 1:47 PM Nick Paterson <N.Paterson@transport.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email. Yes, I am the manager for the Environment team at the Ministry of Transport which is responsible for the Clean Car Standard review. Stakeholder engagement for these reviews is at the direction of the Minister of Transport. The Minister of Transport directed the Ministry to consult industry

bodies (i.e. MIA, VIA, and MTA) and also AA with respect to this review. The Ministry has not consulted directly with vehicle manufacturers as part of this review.

Kind regards

Nick

Nick Paterson ([he / his / Mr](#))

Manager – Environment

Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport

T: [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) | E: n.paterson@transport.govt.nz | www.transport.govt.nz



TE MANATŪ WAKA
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Hāpaitia ana ngā tāngata o Aotearoa ki te eke
Enabling New Zealanders to flourish

From: [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 1:20 PM
To: Nick Paterson <N.Paterson@transport.govt.nz>
Subject: Clean Car Standard review

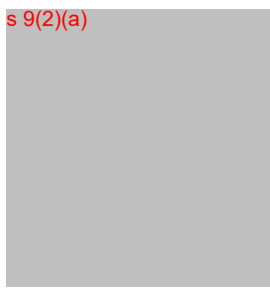
Hi Nick,

I'm handling New Zealand Government relations for Tesla, and I'm told you are the point of contact for the Clean Car Standard review, is that correct?

Are there comms or other material you're sharing with stakeholders about the review? Is there a deadline that you would like to receive comment by?

Regards

--
s 9(2)(a)



RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Amber Dickson

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 2 September 2022 12:31 pm
To: Tarien Knoetze
Subject: Re: Legally Privileged - Draft Clean Vehicle Standard regulations - consultation
Attachments: image001.png

Hi Tarien,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these draft regulations.

Tesla has no comments.

Regards,

s 9(2)(a)

On Tue, 16 Aug 2022, 10:40 am Tarien Knoetze, <T.Knoetze@transport.govt.nz> wrote:

Good morning

Thank you for responding to the Ministry of Transport confirming your agreement to the conditions on which we will share the draft Clean Vehicle Standard regulations with you. To confirm, you have agreed to receive the draft regulations on the following conditions:

1. The draft is received on a confidential basis
2. The draft is legally privileged, and legal privilege is not waived by the sharing of the draft with you (being a named individual)
3. The draft will not be shared within, or beyond, your organisation, other than to the named individuals
4. The draft will only be discussed between the named individuals
5. If at any stage a request is made to your organisation for the draft, you will immediately contact the Ministry of Transport and take such reasonable steps as required to consult with us before responding to the request.

Please provide any comments on the draft regulations to me by **5pm Friday 2 September 2022**. We appreciate your assistance in working within condensed timeframes. The timeframes are necessary to ensure that the regulations are in force by 1 December 2022.

Kind regards

Tarien Knoetze ([she/her](#))

Kaiwhakaneke Āwhina | Programme Assistant COVID-19 Response

Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport

M: [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) | E: t.knoetze@transport.govt.nz | transport.govt.nz



Te Manatū Waka is a COVID-19 vaccinated workplace. To meet our workplace safety requirements you will be asked to provide proof of vaccination when you visit our offices

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Wellington (Head Office) | Ground Floor, 3 Queens Wharf | PO Box 3175 | Wellington 6011 | NEW ZEALAND | Tel: +64 4 439 9000 |

Auckland | NZ Government Auckland Policy Office | 45 Queen Street | PO Box 106238 | Auckland City | Auckland 1143 | NEW ZEALAND | Tel: +64 4 439 9000 |

Disclaimer: This email is only intended to be read by the named recipient. It may contain information which is confidential, proprietary or the subject of legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you must delete this email and may not use any information contained in it. Legal privilege is not waived because you have read this email.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

The Draft Regulations referenced are refused under section 18(d). The 2022 Regulations are publicly available here: <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2022/0285/18.0/LMS773853.html>

Amber Dickson

From: s 9(2)(a)
Sent: Wednesday, 10 August 2022 1:42 pm
To: Tarien Knoetze
Subject: Re: Ministry of Transport - Clean Vehicle Standard regulations

Kia ora Tarien

Thanks for reaching out.

I appreciate the offer and happily give an unconditional assurance of confidentiality per your conditions.

The named individuals in my organisation are:

s 9(2)(a)

Thanks

s 9(2)(a)

On 10 Aug 2022, at 10:26 am, Tarien Knoetze <T.Knoetze@transport.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora s 9(2)(a)

You will be aware that the Ministry of Transport is working on regulations to support the implementation of the Clean Vehicle Standard. The regulations will be made pursuant to section 167C of the Land Transport Act 1998. We would like to share a draft version of the regulations with you, in confidence, to gather your feedback on their workability and clarity.

The Attorney-General's protocol on the release of draft legislation requires that we release the regulations on a strictly confidential basis. To ensure that the regulations remain confidential and subject to legal privilege, we will provide the regulations to a limited group of people – no more than 4 to 5 people within your organisation on a need to know basis.

If you wish to receive the confidential draft regulations, could you please provide the names (and e-mails) of the people ("named individuals") from within your organisation that will be selected to review the regulations. We will also need confirmation that each of those people have read and agreed to the following conditions:

- (i) The draft is received on a confidential basis
- (ii) The draft is legally privileged, and legal privilege is not waived by the sharing of the draft with your named representatives
- (iii) The draft will not be shared within, or beyond, your organisation, other than to the named individuals
- (iv) The draft will only be discussed between the named individuals

(v) If at any stage a request is made to your organisation for the draft, you will immediately contact the Ministry of Transport and take such reasonable steps as required to consult with us before responding to the request.

Before confirming that you will receive the draft, please have regard to any legal obligations your organisation may have around disclosure or making information public. Please let us know if you will be unable to keep the draft confidential given any specific obligations on your organisation.

Please respond by **Friday 12 August 2022**. We will look to provide the draft regulations (presuming confirmation of the above) on or around Monday 15 August 2022.

Kind regards

Tarien Knoetze ([she/her](#))

Kaiwhakaneke Āwhina | Programme Assistant COVID-19 Response

Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport

M: [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#) | E: t.knoetze@transport.govt.nz | transport.govt.nz

<image001.png>

Te Manatū Waka is a COVID-19 vaccinated workplace. To meet our workplace safety requirements you will be asked to provide proof of vaccination when you visit our offices

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Wellington (Head Office) | Ground Floor, 3 Queens Wharf | PO Box 3175 | Wellington 6011 | NEW ZEALAND | Tel: +64 4 439 9000 |

Auckland | NZ Government Auckland Policy Office | 45 Queen Street | PO Box 106238 | Auckland City | Auckland 1143 | NEW ZEALAND | Tel: +64 4 439 9000 |

Disclaimer: This email is only intended to be read by the named recipient. It may contain information which is confidential, proprietary or the subject of legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you must delete this email and may not use any information contained in it. Legal privilege is not waived because you have read this email.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.