

OC220634

22 August 2022

s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

I refer to your email dated 25 July 2022, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“a copy of all briefings, advice or reports that the Ministry of Transport has provided to the Minister of Transport on the future of the revenue system work programme.”

The three briefings sent to you in response to the request of 20 April 2022 fall within the scope of this request and have also been made available online. I am refusing your request for a copy of these documents under the following section of the Act:

18(d) the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

These documents are available here: <https://www.transport.govt.nz/area-of-interest/revenue/future-of-the-transport-revenue-system/>

Further to this, two weekly reports to the Minister of Transport have also contained information about the Future of the Revenue System work programme. These are:

- 10 December 2021 – Weekly Report to the Minister of Transport
- 23 June 2022 – Weekly Report to the Minister of Transport

The relevant extracts from these reports are provided in Annex 1. The full weekly report documents contain other content outside the scope of this request.

With regard to the extracts, I note that the ‘next steps’ section in the 23 June 2022 Weekly Report update regarding a meeting with the Minister has not yet happened.

Some information within the documents released online has been redacted for the following reasons under the Act:

9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons

- 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
- 9(2)(b)(ii) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

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 website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Nāku noa, nā



Marian Willberg
Manager, Demand Management and Revenue

Annex 1 – Weekly Report extracts

10 Dec 2022 - Weekly Report to the Minister of Transport

Future of the Revenue System project	
<p>This work considers what the future state of the transport revenue system should look like over the long term to ensure it is fit for purpose and can meet future requirements, which could be quite different to the current system. A new, or renewed system is likely to be in place by 2030.</p> <p>A Terms of Reference for the Future of the Revenue System has been drafted that sets out the scope and approach to phase one of this work. Phase one takes us to the end of 2023 and covers developing the purpose and intent of the revenue system, developing options for Ministerial feedback, and planning for public engagement.</p> <p>We are also working with the Treasury and Waka Kotahi on a Revenue Review to ensure we can manage demands on the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) in the short to medium term. The Revenue Review will focus on how the funding should be used and maximising revenue going into the NLTF over the next 10 years. This work will be useful as one input into the Future of the Revenue System project.</p> <p><i>Responsibility: Marian Willberg, Manager, Demand Management and Revenue</i></p>	<p>Next Steps:</p> <p>We will send you the Terms of Reference and prepare a short briefing early in the New Year to test your level of comfort with the scope and direction of work.</p>

23 June 2022 - Weekly Report to the Minister of Transport

Future of the Revenue System project	
<p>The longer-term Future of the Revenue System project is well into detailed planning of the work programme and setting the approach we want to take.</p> <p>We have had initial conversations with key agencies to test our ‘case for change’ and outline the project phasing. We’ve had feedback from Treasury, Waka Kotahi, Te Waihanga Infrastructure Commission, Housing and Urban Development, and Department of Internal Affairs (in particular the Infrastructure Funding and Financing project team) and KiwiRail. Key points made include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The need to explain the current system and develop an easily understood problem definition, so that people understand the need for the work and a first principles approach.• We will need to explore the connections to other sectors/systems – especially in relation to the wider tax landscape.• We will need to offer a picture of the future transport system and what it is we will need to pay for over the next 10 to 30 years.• The work should reflect a good understanding of the needs of, and pressures on, local government – with engagement at an appropriate and perhaps more practical stage of the process.• Stakeholder engagement over the next 18 months will need to be done well, as it is important for transparency and to make sure views are included, even prior to the wider public engagement process. <p>The initial policy work will outline the current system, and issues and challenges we will be facing over the next few decades. This, plus a scan of approaches taken overseas, will provide a useful basis for discussions with key stakeholders.</p> <p>Developing an Approach to Stakeholder Engagement</p>	<p>Next Steps:</p> <p>We can meet with you to discuss the detailed work programme and key stakeholder engagement plan once these are completed over the next few weeks.</p>

We are developing a stakeholder engagement plan that will work alongside the policy development phase of the work. As part of this, we have recently signed a contract with Koi Tū: The Centre for Informed Futures to undertake two deliberative consultation pilots. Koi Tū are a think tank and research centre based at the University of Auckland run by Sir Peter Gluckman and Dr Anne Bardsley. This pilot will involve both a moderated survey and a smaller version of a mini-public to gauge public and stakeholder views on 'who should pay for what' within the future land transport system.

We are still planning for wider public consultation from 2024 – the approach to which will also be shaped by the deliberative consultation pilots and policy work engagement.

These pilots and the policy work under development will also inform the key pieces of advice to you - these will be about the purposes and principles of a future revenue system, and then options for a future system.

Initial public-facing information about the project is due to go up on the Ministry's website soon. This will outline the intent and the three major phases of the work (Policy and options development, wider consultation from 2024, implementation from 2027). The Terms of Reference will also be published, as advised in recent Official Information Act responses. We will provide your Office with this material.

Responsibility: Marian Willberg, Manager, Demand Management and Revenue