

OC230954

7 December 2023

Tēnā koe

I refer to your email to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, dated 3 November 2023, which was transferred to the Ministry of Transport on 9 November 2023, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

“New Zealand’s principal freight shipping routes. (... what are New Zealand’s major shipping routes to our trading partners)”

One document falls within the scope of your request. This is listed in the document schedule below, which outlines how the document you requested has been treated under the Act.

Doc no.	Title/subject line	Response
1	Movement of container ships that visited New Zealand in 2021, <i>Aotearoa Freight and Supply Chain Strategy</i>	Refused under 18(d). This information is located on page 23 of the Aotearoa Freight and Supply Chain Strategy. This is publicly available on the Ministry of Transport’s website here: Aotearoa Freight and Supply Chain Strategy

As per the table above, I am refusing one document under the following section of the Act:

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

In addition, we are able to provide information that addresses your question regarding New Zealand’s main shipping routes. This information is attached with this letter in Annex 1. Note, this information has been collated by the Ministry of Transport to address your question and is not located in a specific document for release.

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, Freight and Supply Chain

Annex 1: Information on New Zealand shipping routes with trading partners

Container shipping routes

In 2021, almost 90% of voyages connected New Zealand to Australia, Asia, Oceania and the Americas through eight key routes. The remaining 12% of voyages include additional combinations of these destinations (e.g. Australia-New Zealand-Northern America-Oceania) including one voyage that connected all the way to Western Europe. However, these routes are not the common pattern typical of container ship services that repeat for an extended period of time.

The eight key shipping routes are outlined in Table 1 below. Note that the data refers only to container ships. In addition, it considers only container ships that visited New Zealand in 2021 more than once.

Table 1: Top routes that account for almost 90% of NZ-NZ ship voyages in 2021

Route	Ships	Voyages	Voyages %	Cumulative %
Australia-New Zealand-Southeastern Asia	32	128	24%	24%
Australia-New Zealand	29	119	22%	46%
Australia-Eastern Asia-New Zealand	22	63	12%	58%
New Zealand-Oceania	8	54	10%	68%
Latin America-New Zealand-Northern America	11	48	9%	77%
Australia-New Zealand-Oceania	4	20	4%	81%
Eastern Asia-New Zealand	10	20	4%	85%
New Zealand-Southeastern Asia	8	18	3%	88%

The top eight routes do share ships since a ship can do different types of voyages. For this reason, a single ship may be counted more than once in Table 1. Every voyage, on the other hand, is connected to a unique route.

Comparison of voyages via Australia

Australia is an important stop for container ship schedules including New Zealand as it is our closest set of feeder hubs. Around two thirds of New Zealand voyages completed in 2021 went via Australia (refer to Table 2). Australia is especially important for New Zealand's connections to the major transshipment hubs of Southeastern Asia.

Table 2: Voyages via Australia

	Voyages	Percent %
Via Australia	326	66%
Not via Australia	166	34%

Via Australia



Not via Australia

