

Dear,

I refer to your official information request we received on 24 November 2024 requesting the following:

“Please regard this email as an Official information request of all relevant information held by KDC in relation to revised bridge site, timeframes, the budget as approved by NZTA/Waka Kotahi and what steps if any are being taken to reapply for consent from ECan”.

“Could you please include in the OIA request a breakdown of what has been paid to the consultants BECA to date”.

Release of information

The information you have requested is attached and as below.

A very large volume of information (in particular correspondence with agents working on Council’s behalf) relating to the revised bridge site is already held by Council, which would require substantial effort and time to collate and provide, and it is suspected that this information - much of which is very technical and detailed - would not be very helpful to you.

It is believed that the following and the attached correspondence with NZTA provides the key information regarding the current status of the project.

Three main workstreams are currently underway:

- *Negotiation to acquire the land required for the construction of the new road that would connect the new bridge to the Clarence Valley Road (being undertaken by The Property Group Ltd). The land owners have expressed strong opposition to the project and have declined Council’s initial offer of compensation for the land.*
- *An independent review of the preferred contractor’s offered price for the construction of this road (being undertaken by Bond CM Ltd) in response to a request for this from NZTA. Though it was initially hoped that it would be completed earlier, it is now expected that this review will be completed in mid-December. Should this review conclude that the offered price does not represent fair value options to obtain a price that does represent fair value will have to be explored.*
- *Preparation of applications for the resource consent required for the project (being undertaken by PlaNZ Ltd, with technical support from others). Lodgement of applications with ECan currently expected to be in late January 2025.*

Whilst it would be hoped that the applications for ECan consents could be processed quickly without the need for a hearing, at this point it is suspected that the owners of the land required for the road would be deemed affected parties and would oppose, making a hearing necessary, probably delaying a decision for at least a further 2 to 3 months.

Other relevant information is:

- *There are significant uncertainties and interconnections in respect of the three workstreams above and the funding of the project by NZTA. NZTA wants there to be a clear unobstructed path forward for the project before agreeing to increasing or extending their financial support, and we don't yet have that.*
- *Council's application to central government for the project to be included in those that would be referred to a panel for consideration of it being fast tracked under the Fast Track Approvals Bill currently before parliament was declined.*
- *\$1.509 million had been spent on BECA on this project up to the time that KDC ceased to use them in August 2023. In total \$2.44 million has to date been spent on the project. A chart indicating the likely rough breakdown of expenditure on project is also attached.*

Publication of responses to LGOIMA requests

Please note: our LGOIMA responses may be published on the Kaikōura District Council website a month after they have been responded to, with requesters' personal details withheld. If you have any concerns about this please contact the Official Information team on officialinformation@kaikoura.govt.nz

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Will Doughty
Chief Executive Officer