

The Treasury

Solid Energy Information Release

May 2013

Release Document

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Key to sections of the Official Information Act 1982 under which information has been withheld.

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- [1] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [2] 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information
- [3] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials
- [4] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [5] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice
- [6] 9(2)(j) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information; to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice; and to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [7] 9(2)(ba)(i) - to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied
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In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

From: Juston Anderson
Sent: Wednesday, 14 March 2012 11:58 a.m.
To: John Crawford; Andrew Blazey; [4]
Subject: Solid Energy opening offices in Auckland and Nelson
Attachments: Slevel6.3-c12031410430.pdf

See the attached correspondence from Dr Elder (which I only happened to see because it got captured by an OIA – [4] had you seen this?).

It says that Solid is relocating some of its Finance, Procurement and New Developments staff to Auckland (the CFO lives in Auckland) and has leased an office in Nelson “giving an option in recruiting technical staff ... supporting our West Coast operations” (which I interpret as meaning the office is currently empty, but they might fill it later).

Juston Anderson | Senior Analyst | The Treasury

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29 February 2012

RY12/179

Hon Gerry Brownlee
Minister for Earthquake Recovery
Parliament Buildings
Wellington



Dear Minister

Solid Energy Corporate Office

I want to alert you to some earthquake related changes Solid Energy is making to accommodate our staff.

Solid Energy has made and will stand by our commitment to Christchurch as our Corporate Office and to support the rebuild of the city in the coming years. The series of earthquakes has, however, impacted the ability of the business to meet some of its ambitious business objectives. It has become significantly more challenging to attract skilled New Zealand and international employees to grow the business in Christchurch.

There are also real concerns around retaining existing staff. Employees without emotional and family ties to Christchurch are very mobile in a relatively buoyant Australasian job market and there is a risk that turnover will increase and that the business won't be able to back-fill these roles within a reasonable timeframe.

During a downturn, these risks may have been manageable, but with the business moving through the MOM process, delivering on our business plans is critical during this time. Ultimately, a growing business can also support the rebuild in Christchurch far more effectively.

We have had to consider some creative solutions during these interesting times. One of the solutions we have implemented is to relocate some staff in our Finance, Procurement and New Developments teams to a small office in Greenlane, Auckland on a three-year lease. In addition we have recently acquired office space in Nelson, also on a three-year lease. The Nelson office gives us a location option, over and above Christchurch, in recruiting technical staff to work in the business supporting our West Coast operations. While our plans for this office predate the Canterbury earthquakes, the rationale has become even more compelling since February 2011.

We regard these steps as positive, proactive measures to help our company remain strong, with our headquarters in Christchurch.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

DR DON ELDER
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Hon. Tony Ryall, Minister for State Owned Enterprises
Hon Bill English, Finance Minister
Mayor Bob Parker, Christchurch City Council



Office of Hon Tony Ryall

Minister of Health
Minister for State Owned Enterprises

Ref: RY12/179

12 March, 2012

Dr Don Elder
Chief Executive Officer
Solid Energy New Zealand Ltd
PO Box 1303
CHRISTCHURCH 8140

Dear Dr Elder

The Minister for State Owned Enterprises, Hon Tony Ryall, has asked me to acknowledge, with thanks, your correspondence received on 5 March, 2012 regarding Solid Energy's Corporate Office.

The contents of your correspondence have been noted.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,

Private Secretary, State Owned Enterprises