The Treasury

New Zealand Aluminium Smelters (NZAS) Information Release September 2013

Release Document

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

Certain information in this document has been withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- [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 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
- [8] 9(2)(h) to maintain professional legal privilege

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Official Information Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [3] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(f)(iv).

In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

From: [4] (MIN) [4] @parliament.govt.nz]

Sent: Monday, 25 March 2013 9:48 a.m.

To: John Crawford

Cc: Chris White; ^MOF: Andrew Craig

Subject: FW: Tiwai Pt

Hi John,

Please see below the email that Peter McCardle received over the weekend in relation to discussions on Tiwai.

Thanks,

[4]

From: Peter McCardle (MIN)

Sent: Monday, March 25, 2013 9:42 AM

To: [4] (MIN) Subject: FW: Tiwai Pt

For you to forward to John Crawford.

[4]

Peter McCardle.

From: Chris Wikaira [mailto:ChrisW@brg.co.nz]

Sent: Sunday, March 24, 2013 6:48 PM

To: Peter McCardle (MIN)

Subject: Tiwai Pt

Hi Peter

A heads up. You may or may not be aware that things between Meridian and Pacific Aluminium have taken an unexpected turn over the last few days.

In recent weeks relations have improved out of sight and negotiations on the power contract issue have been going much better with a lot of a good faith and good will apparent from both sides.

However, on Thursday Meridian gave Pacific Aluminium until 0900 tomorrow (Monday) – effectively two working days – to accept the offer as it currently stands or they would withdraw it. After responding that an out of the blue ultimatum like this was both unworkable and unfair Meridian extended the deadline until Tuesday morning.. Meridian also advises it will have to make some sort of market announcement to this effect – so the issue could be public this week which is not ideal from our perspective. Please let me know if you wish to see the correspondence of the last few days.

Pacific Aluminium was taken aback by this announcement. They still want to keep negotiating as do not believe the remaining gap between the two parties is as big as Meridian seems to think it is and wants to keep negotiating. Pacific Aluminium believes a commercial solution is still possible even with Meridian significantly reducing the amount of electricity it will supply the smelter.

Please give me a call if you need any more info.

Cheers

Wikaira

[1]