

Reference: 20190657



8 October 2019

s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 10 September 2019. You requested:

copies of all advice (excluding emails) that has been prepared by The Treasury for Ministers since November 2017 on rapid rail between Hamilton and Auckland.

Information being released

Please find enclosed the following documents:

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
1.	23 November 2018	Briefing for Cabinet Economic Development Committee 28 November 2018	Release in part

I have decided to release the relevant part of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons
- advice still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials
- names and contact details of junior officials and certain sensitive advice, under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions, and
- direct dial phone numbers of officials, under section 9(2)(k) – to prevent the disclosure of information for improper gain or improper advantage.

Some information has been redacted because it is not covered by the scope of your request. This is because the documents include matters outside your specific request.

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<https://treasury.govt.nz>

Direct dial phone numbers of officials have been redacted under section 9(2)(k) in order to reduce the possibility of staff being exposed to phishing and other scams. This is because information released under the OIA may end up in the public domain, for example, on websites including Treasury's website.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

Dieter Katz
Acting Manager, National Infrastructure Unit

OIA 20190657

Information for Release

1. [Briefing for Cabinet Economic Development Committee 28 11 2018 11 00 AM](#)

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**Treasury Report: Briefing for Cabinet Economic Development Committee
28 November 2018**

Date:	23 November 2018	Report No.:	T2018/3349
		File Number:	MS-5-3-DEV

Action Sought

	Action Sought	Deadline
Minister of Finance (Hon Grant Robertson)	Read prior to Cabinet DEV Committee meeting.	11:00 am, Wednesday 28 November 2018
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Dr David Clark)	Read prior to Cabinet DEV Committee meeting.	11:00 am, Wednesday 28 November 2018
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Dr David Parker)	Read prior to Cabinet DEV Committee meeting.	11:00 am, Wednesday 28 November 2018
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Dr Shane Jones)	Read prior to Cabinet DEV Committee meeting.	11:00 am, Wednesday 28 November 2018
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Dr James Shaw)	Read prior to Cabinet DEV Committee meeting.	11:00 am, Wednesday 28 November 2018

Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st Contact
Scott Russell	Analyst	s9(2)(k)	✓
Mark Holden	Senior Analyst	s9(2)(a)	

Actions for the Minister's Office Staff (if required)

Return the signed report to Treasury.

Note any feedback on the quality of the report

Enclosure: No

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Treasury Report: Briefing for Cabinet Economic Development Committee 28 November 2018

Executive Summary

The Treasury is aware of 11 items on the Cabinet Economic Development Committee agenda for Wednesday 28 November 2018. The table below provides Treasury comment and recommendations on each item, and identifies any relevant fiscal impacts.

DEV priority work programme items		
Description and analysis	Fiscal implications	Treasury Recommendation
Supporting the Hamilton to Auckland corridor through investment in rail		
<p>We support the proposal to provide \$0.300 mil for an indicative business case. We also note that seeking the further s9(2)(f)(iv) to do more detailed route design work for that case through the Budget process will ensure that the necessary work is completed to scope the business case costs before additional funding is committed.</p> <p>However, we also note that the paper assumes that rapid rail is the best option for catalysing growth along the Hamilton-Auckland corridor without providing any evidence to confirm this.</p> <p>A proper options analysis will need to be conducted as part of the business case process.</p>	<p>The paper seeks agreement to increase the Policy Advice and Related Outputs MCA within Vote Transport by \$0.300 mil for the 2018/19 year. This will be charged against the between-Budget operating contingency established as part of Budget 2018. A further s9(2)(f)(iv) will be sought as part of Budget 2019 for detailed route design work.</p>	<p>Support.</p> <p>You may wish to emphasise, however, that the scope of the business case needs to be clarified before being considered for Budget funding. You may also wish to point out that a robust options analysis needs to form part of the business case.</p>

Deleted - Not Relevant to Request

pages 3 to 6 not relevant to request

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Recommended Action

We recommend that you **read** this report prior to the Cabinet Economic Development Committee meeting at 11:00 AM on Wednesday 28 November 2018.

Mark Holden
Senior Analyst, Economic Strategy and Productivity

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT