

16 July 2026

By email: S9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe S9(2)(a)

Your request

Thank you for your request, received on 22 May 2026, under the Official Information Act 1982 (Act) for the following information:

- *all correspondence between the Electricity Authority and Transpower New Zealand Limited concerning the Lake Pukaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project within the last year.*
- *all Electricity Authority documents that discuss Transpower's role or position in relation to the Lake Pukaki Hydro Storage and Dam Resilience Works project within the last year.*

Our response

The Electricity Authority Te Mana Hiko (Authority) has identified 15 documents within scope of your request. These documents have been collated by searching the records of key leaders and staff members involved in the Authority's comments to the Fast Track Expert Panel and our engagement with Transpower.

I have included a table as Attachment 1 which sets out the documents identified and whether they are being released or not. Some documents are withheld in full or in part under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(g)(i), to protect the expression of free and frank opinions
- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons
- section 18(d), as the information is publicly available

I am satisfied, in terms of section 9(1) of the Act, that the need to withhold the information referred to above is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

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.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, the Authority may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All personal data, including your name and contact details, will be removed before publication.

If you'd like to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact us by emailing oia@ea.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Airihi Mahuika', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Airihi Mahuika
GM Legal, Monitoring and Compliance

Attachment 1: Table of documents in scope

Item No	Date	Document Type	Title	Release (withholding grounds noted where applicable)
1	9 April 2026	Email & attachments	Email from Transpower to Authority, attaching Transpower comments to the Expert Panel	<i>Partial withholding – some information withheld under 9(2)(a). Publicly-available attachments withheld under 18(d)</i>
2	8 April 2026	Email & attachments	Email from Transpower to Authority, attaching draft of Transpower comments to the Expert Panel	<i>Partial withholding – drafts provided in confidence, withheld under 9(2)(g)(i)</i>
3	9 April 2026	Email & attachment	Email from Authority to Transpower, attaching Authority comments to the Expert Panel	<i>Partial withholding – some information withheld under 9(2)(a). Publicly-available attachments withheld under 18(d)</i>
4	10 April 2026	Email	Email from Transpower to Authority discussing Authority comments	<i>Partial withholding – some information withheld under 9(2)(a)</i>
5	13 May 2026	Email	Email from Authority to Transpower discussing impact of fast-track application on SOSFIP	<i>Partial withholding – some information withheld under 9(2)(a)</i>
6	27 & 30 March 2026	Email	Emails between Authority and Transpower discussing the fast-track process	<i>Partial withholding – some information out of scope, and some withheld under 9(2)(a)</i>
7	10-17 March 2026	Email	Emails between Authority and Transpower discussing expert panel minutes	<i>Partial withholding - publicly available documents withheld under 18(d), and some information withheld under 9(2)(a)</i>
8	12 December 2025	Email	Emails between Authority and Transpower discussing approach to fast track process	<i>Partial withholding under 9(2)(g)(i) and 9(2)(a), some information is out of scope</i>
9	20 April 2026	Report	GM Report Wholesale and Supply – May 2026	<i>Partial withholding under 9(2)(g)(i), and some information is out of scope</i>
10	9 March 2025	Email & attachments	Authority emails re preparation of comments to Expert Panel, with Expert Panel info attached	<i>Email withheld in full under 9(2)(g)(i). Attachments withheld in full under s18(d)</i>

Item No	Date	Document Type	Title	Release (withholding grounds noted where applicable)
11	14 April 2026	Email & attachment	Authority emails preparing for Authority & Transpower Chief Executives meeting, with attachment	<i>Partial withholding under 9(2)(g)(i) and 9(2)(a), and some information is out of scope</i>
12	15 December 2025	Email	Internal emails discussing Authority's approach to the fast track process	<i>Withheld in full under 9(2)(g)(i)</i>
13	13 April 2025	Email	Authority emails providing Chief Executive with notes for her meeting with Transpower Chief Executive	<i>Partial withholding under 9(2)(a), and some information is out of scope</i>
14		Draft	Draft document - Comment to the Fast-track expert panel provided to the Board for feedback on 2 April 2026	<i>Withheld in full under 9(2)(g)(i)</i>
15		Draft	Draft response to further questions from the Fast-track expert panel provided to the Board for feedback on 15 May 2026	<i>Withheld in full under 9(2)(g)(i)</i>