

7 March 2022

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## **RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST**

On 1 February 2022, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information regarding carbon neutrality. Our Ministerial Services team reached out to you to clarify the correct recipient of your request and on 4 February 2022, you confirmed it was for the Ministry.

I have outlined your specific requests and my responses to each below.

1. *Do you have a carbon neutral plan by 2025, and if so, what is the official wording of it?*

The Ministry presently does not have a carbon neutral plan in place but is proactively following guidance from the Ministry for the Environment. I must therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

2. *Do you have a carbon neutral team or committee? If so, how many are in this team, and are they trained/experts?*

The Ministry does not have a carbon neutral team or committee. At present, our Procurement team has oversight of work related to carbon neutrality; they are not trained experts in this field. The Ministry also has an informal Sustainability group that was established to identify ways of effecting sustainable practices into our offices, including identifying waste opportunities and energy efficient lighting. This group comprises four Ministry staff and they are likewise not trained experts. Because of the Ministry's small size, we tend to work closely and collaborate with agencies such as the Ministry for Environment and the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment, leveraging their capabilities and capacity for this important mahi.

3. *How much carbon do you emit/how are your carbon emissions measured?*

The Ministry has started building an inventory to quantify our emissions. This is part of a long-term work programme in which we expect to develop specific measures and set reduction targets by December 2022. I must therefore refuse this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

4. *When do you plan to phase out coal?*

The Ministry does not use coal.

5. *Have you transitioned to EVs and or/hybrids? Have you begun to downsize your fleet size?*

The Ministry currently has eight vehicles. Of these, seven are petrol and one is a hybrid (not an electric vehicle). It is anticipated that our petrol vehicles will be replaced with hybrids as they become due for replacement. At this time the Ministry has not begun to downsize its fleet and is currently assessing the usage of our fleet in order to determine whether downsizing would meet demand and usage.

6. *How far along are you in meeting the NABERSNZ rating requirement for large buildings?*

The Ministry does not currently have NABERSNZ ratings for the buildings it occupies. However, we are looking into this to ensure our buildings are compliant. This includes working in collaboration with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment as well as other agencies that we are in co-location offices with.

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter will be published on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' website. Your personal details will be removed, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you or your company.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: [ويا\\_requests@mpp.govt.nz](mailto:ويا_requests@mpp.govt.nz).

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

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