

10 September 2024

Rhys Hurley
rhys@taxpayers.org.nz

REF: OIA-16157

Dear Rhys

Request made under the Official Information Act 1982

Thank you for your email of 13 August 2024 in which you clarified your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to be for the following information:

Spending on discrete, standalone works of art that have served no practical purpose (i.e. with regards to road safety, structural integrity, etc).

Additionally for a specific project can we ask for the information on the poi monument on the highway to Lake Tekapo, specifically the total spending and a cost breakdown of the total project.

As you were advised in our email to you on 13 August 2024, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) would need to manually search for and compile information on all projects that are part of the 2021-2024 National Land Transport Programme period to determine if each project involved an 'artwork' component in order to respond to the first aspect of your request.

As the information requested is not stored in a way that is readily accessible and cannot be made available without substantial collation and research, your request for this information is refused under section 18(f) of the Act. I have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to your request would allow us to respond, as required by section 18(A) of the Act, however I have determined that in either case, doing so would interfere with the regular functions of NZTA, and would not be a valuable use of resource.

Regarding your specific request, the SH08-SH79-SH80 MacKenzie Basin Improvement project (the project) included three packages (Pukaki, Mt Burgess and Tekapo) and was implemented to provide safety and access improvements, including safe stopping areas, increased capacity at existing rest areas, and new rest areas at scenic locations, as well as tourist information.

With an increasing number of self-drive tourists, there are higher expectations to provide safe places to pull over, safe access points and a forgiving road environment to allow tourists national and international to share the road with cyclists and freight. Dog Kennel Corner was one of the areas benefitting from improvements, including the construction of the artwork Ka Tiritiri o te Moana Mahi Toi.

The project and artworks were funded as part of a Regional Investment Opportunities package and administered by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment through Kānoa (the Regional Economic Development and Investment Unit).

Professional and designer fees for the project artworks in the package, including interpretative panels, were \$270,000. The artwork installation, including transport and construction, was \$440,000 (\$390,000 for Tekapo and \$50,000 for Burke's Pass).

Under section 28 of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision on your request. The contact details for the Ombudsman can be located at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

In line with NZTA policy, this response will soon be published on our website, with personal information removed.

If you would like to discuss this reply with NZTA, please contact Ministerial Services by email at official.correspondence@nzta.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Wiles', is positioned above the printed name.

Peter Wiles
National Manager Infrastructure Delivery