



CABINET OFFICE

12 April 2024



Ref: OIA-2023/24-0658

Tēnā koe [redacted]

Official Information Act request: Correspondence regarding Shane Jones standing aside from Trans Tasman Resources Limited

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 14 March 2024. You requested:

Copies of all correspondence including but not limited to emails, letters, text messages, Whatsapp, Signal, Telegram sent or received regarding Shane Jones standing aside from anything Trans Tasman Resources Limited (TTRL)

Information being released

I have decided to release one email relevant to your request – one aspect of the document has been withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the Act (to protect the privacy of individuals).

Information to be withheld

There is additional information covered by your request that I have decided to withhold in full. That information comprises emails between Hon Jones' office and the Cabinet Office, emails between the Policy Advisory Group and the Cabinet Office, and Internal Cabinet Office emails (dated between 19 February – 14 March 2024).

The Cabinet Office, on behalf of the Prime Minister, supports Ministers in identifying and managing conflicts of interest that may arise in relation to their portfolios or other ministerial responsibilities.

Successive Ombudsmen have long held the view that Cabinet Office advice to Ministers is inherently confidential. It is in the public interest that the Cabinet Office can obtain and assess information about conflicts of interest and provide advice to Ministers on how to resolve them. Ministers are encouraged to seek advice from the Secretary of the Cabinet on a confidential basis. Details regarding conflicts of interest are not generally disclosed, in order to ensure the confidentiality of Cabinet proceedings, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs and in some cases to protect personal privacy.

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CABINET OFFICE, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, WELLINGTON 6011, NEW ZEALAND

Telephone: +64 (4) 830 5010. Email: CabinetOffice@dpmc.govt.nz

www.dpmc.govt.nz

I am therefore withholding the information described above under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(ba)(ii), to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would damage the public interest;
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials; and
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers or officials in the course of their duty.

In making my decision, in accordance with section 9(1) of the Act I have considered whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the need to withhold the information, and I have concluded that it does not.

Every year the Cabinet Office proactively releases some information about the management of ministerial conflicts in accordance with an agreement with the Office of the Ombudsman. This information covers transfers of responsibility and arrangements not to receive papers. These annual releases are published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website at: [Annual Ministers' interests releases | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#)

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā



Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

From: [Rose Goss \[DPMC\]](#)
To: [Rachel Hayward \[DPMC\]](#); [Nicola Purvis \[DPMC\]](#)
Subject: Hon Jones
Date: Wednesday, 13 March 2024 4:20:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

[Exclusive: Minister Shane Jones says he has 'stood aside' from controversial Taranaki seabed mining project | Newshub](#)



Rose Goss (she/her)
Senior Legal and Constitutional Advisor
Cabinet Office, Executive Wing,
Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6011, New Zealand

DDI: Section 9(2)(a)

The Cabinet Office is a business unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982