



14 May 2019



Dear 

Reference: OIA-2018/19-0556

Official Information Act request relating to the costs of putting out the Pigeon Valley fires

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 13 April 2019. You requested:

"I'd like to know what it took to put out the fires around Pigeon Valley, Tasman, this summer. Specifically:

- 1. what the response cost civil defense (and other responding organisations, if possible)*
- 2. how much fresh and marine water was used*
- 3. how much fuel was used by helicopters and other vehicles*
- 4. how many hectares of forest were destroyed*
- 5. the expected compensation to landowners for damage caused by the response."*

On 1 May 2019, we partially transferred part 1 of your request to several agencies, including New Zealand Police, Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ), the Tasman District Council and the Ministry for Primary Industries, and transferred parts 2, 3 and 4 of your request to FENZ in full. As noted in our letter, we can respond to part 1 and 5 of your request, as it applies to us.

At this stage, we are only able to estimate the costs for part 1 and 5 of your request, as at the time of your request. In terms of the costs to the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM), we estimate the response to have costed \$9,660.40. This does not include the time and expense built into the regular duties and functions carried out by MCDEM staff. In terms of expected compensation to landowners for damage caused during the fires we estimate this to be approximately \$1 million.

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.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Stuart-Black
Executive Director, Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management