

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

14 May 2025

[REDACTED]

#### **Official information request relating to the Ara Hikoi ki Aotea – Great Barrier Island connectivity project**

On 11 April 2025, you requested “...information under the Official Information Act 1982 concerning discoveries we have recently made about the Ara Hikoi ki Aotea – Great Barrier Island connectivity project. We specifically request all information, reporting, mapping and communications (written and electronic) relating to the Okupe/Okupu to Kaitoke Lane project held by Herenga ā Nuku board and employees, the Minister and/or Associate Minister for Agriculture, and any government department, associated with the project.”.

On 15 April 2025, we advised that “...we can only provide information that is held by Herenga ā Nuku in our official capacity. We do not hold, and cannot provide, official information held by other agencies, only those agencies can do so. Please note that the Minister of Agriculture, Hon Todd McClay, is our responsible Minister, and as such receives high-level reports from Herenga ā Nuku. However other than any information that may have been provided to Minister McClay as part of this reporting, the Minister has not had any association with the project that we are aware of.”

Our letter suggested that you clarify your request, by amending your information request as follows:

“...all information, reporting, mapping and communications (written and electronic) relating to the Okupe/Okupu to Kaitoke Lane project held by Herenga ā Nuku.”

We also advised that “As part of the project, we have had some communications with the Department of Conservation (and the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee), Aotea Great Barrier Local Board and Auckland Council, as well as MPI. Any communications that we hold will be released as part of the request”

We provided contacts for Auckland Council, the Department of Conservation and the Ministry for Primary Industries should you wish to request official information held by any of these agencies.

On 16 April, you responded that *"We won't be amending our request, as we appreciate and trust you can only reply with all pertinent information in your possession at Herenga ā Nuku, and comply with the Official Information Act."*

*"But thank you for the recommendation we extend the request to other relevant agencies. We can begin this as a separate request whilst you are preparing your files for handover."*

The information you have requested can be downloaded at <https://bit.ly/oia-okupu>

Any redactions we have made are under section 9(2)(a) unless otherwise noted in the released information.

Please note that our policy is to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://www.herengaanuku.govt.nz/our-work/about/disclosure/official-information-act-responses>, with your personal information removed.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response 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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Douglas'.

Kirsti Douglas, National Operations Manager