

ENQ-37503-S1R8V3

Date 27th November 2019.

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Via: ██████████@greenpeace.org

Official Information Act Request

Dear ██████████

I refer to the request which was included in your letter to me of 4 November 2019.

You have asked for 'all documents relating to this decision be provided as soon as possible under the Official Information Act.'

As you have explained in your letter, the decision referred to in your request is 'the decision not to bundle' the following applications: the publically notified application by OMV for marine discharge consent (EEZ100018), and the application by OMV to drill exploratory oil and gas wells in the Great South Basin (EEZ200009).

Your request has been treated as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

I have attached to this letter the documents that are in scope of your request. Note that some of these documents have been previously provided to your organisation, and are being provided again as they are within the scope of your OIA request. The documents are provided in the following appendices:

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|------------|---|
| Appendix A | The sign off sheet, memo and record of consideration on the joint processing and decision making |
| Appendix B | Email correspondence with the OMV GSB Ltd (EEZ2100018) Decision-Making Committee (DMC) members seeking confirmation the DMC has all information it requires prior to the joint processing decision, and providing a copy of the joint processing decision |
| Appendix C | Internal administrative emails regarding the decision sign off |
| Appendix D | The decision release plan for OMV GSB Ltd (EEZ100018) |
| Appendix E | Internal administrative emails regarding the release of the section 44 decision and examples of the form letter and email sent to submitters on the OMV GSB Ltd marine discharge consent (EEZ100018) notifying them of the section 44 decision. |

Some information has been withheld from these documents under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons. Ten email chains have also been withheld under section 9(2)(h) of the OIA, to maintain legal professional privilege.

As required by section 9(1) of the OIA, I have considered the public interest in making this information available. I believe that the public interest does not outweigh the reasons for withholding the information.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Your letter also notes that you have not received a response from either myself or the DMC on the decision whether to hold a hearing on OMV GSB Ltd's application (EEZ200009) to drill exploratory oil and gas wells in the Great South Basin.

As I explained to you in my letter of 12 September 2019, the decision making committee (DMC) has the responsibility for deciding whether a hearing is necessary or desirable. The DMC issued a minute (*M2 – Minute of the Decision-making Committee – 5 November 2019*) in response to your request for a public hearing. The minute, which was emailed to you on 6 November 2019, is also attached to this letter.

Yours sincerely



Dr Allan Freeth
Chief Executive
Environmental Protection Authority