

21 August 2026

s 9(2)(a)

Your request

Thank you for your request, received on 19 June 2026, under the Official Information Act 1982 (Act) for the following information:

I request access to any research or communications, in any form, produced or received by the New Zealand Electricity Authority pertaining to dry year energy risk.

This includes, but is not limited to, briefings, briefing documents, advice, emails, text messages, letters, meeting minutes, and messages exchanged via communication applications such as WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, Microsoft Teams, and Slack.

Specifically, we seek information relating to:

- *dry year energy/electricity risk*
- *the quantum of the issue*
- *any analysis that surrounds the problem definition and proposed solutions*

Due to the size and the likely outcome of refusing your request due to substantial collation, we subsequently worked with you to refine your request to: *Any briefing or other official advice that went to the Minister's office concerning Dry Year Risk.*

Our response

The Electricity Authority Te Mana Hiko (Authority) has identified and is releasing 1 document within scope of your request. We have withheld some personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

We also note that the Authority is proposing to publish an options paper on dry year energy risk later this year.

I am satisfied, in terms of section 9(1) of the Act, that the need to withhold the information referred to above is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, the Authority may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All personal data, including your name and contact details, will be removed before publication.

If you'd like to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact us by emailing oiia@ea.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Airihi Mahuika". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Airihi Mahuika
GM Legal, Monitoring and Compliance