



## Office of Hon Steven Joyce

Minister for Economic Development

Minister of Science and Innovation

Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills and Employment

Associate Minister of Finance

- 3 JUL 2014

Graham McKerracher  
Council Communications and Marketing Manager  
Dunedin City Council  
50 The Octagon, Dunedin  
PO Box 5045, Moray Place, Dunedin 9058, New Zealand

Dear Mr McKerracher,

### **Request for information under the Official Information Act 1982**

Thank you for your email of 7 May 2014 requesting information regarding AgResearch's Future Footprint proposal.

You requested the following under the Official Information Act 1982:

#### **Part One**

- i) Could you please provide any correspondence between AgResearch, or any of its Board and yourself (as Minister) or your Office, updating what is happening with the Future Footprint Proposal, what needs to happen before a decision is made and the likely timeframes for the project to start.
- ii) Could you also provide any correspondence between AgResearch and yourself (as Minister) or your Office, or MBIE about stakeholder engagement. Specifically who was been consulted and the dates of the consultations.

#### **Part Two**

- i) Could you please provide the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment's review of the Future Footprint (FFP) Business Case and the consultation it carried out with the Ministry of Primary Industries and the Crown Monitoring Unit of Treasury as described in a briefing note you supplied in response in an earlier OIA request to me.
- ii) Could you please provide a copy of the PwC review of the FFP Business case.
- iii) Could you please provide all correspondence from AgResearch which a) specifies staff losses, and or efforts made to ensure staff do not leave? and b) any documentation of the benefits of co-location, balanced against that negative aspects re the loss of skilled staff.
- iv) It is clear that MBIE officials have been concerned about staff losses from the very beginning of the FFP in 2012. Please provide all MBIE assessments of likely staff losses caused by the implementation of the Future Footprint Proposal.
- v) We are now aware that the FFP proposal is not cost neutral to the Government. Please provide the April 2013 Cabinet minute discussing the Future Footprint Proposal and any associated documents. Please also provide any documents that were created as a result of those discussions.

- vi) Could you please provide any correspondence, memos, briefing notes or emails, to or from you (as the Minister) outlining why the FFP Business Case didn't comply with Treasury's Best Business Practice and any correspondence, memos, briefing notes or emails explaining why it was exempt. This anomaly was highlighted by BERL in its analysis of the short version of the FFP Business Case.
- vii) It has been suggested the sale of under utilised assets was going to be paid as a dividend to the Crown which will now have to be forgone for FFP to occur. Could you please provide any correspondence, memos, briefing notes or emails informing you (as the Minister) on this matter?

The documents in scope that are being released to you are as follows:

Could you please provide any correspondence between AgResearch, or any of its Board and yourself (as Minister) or your Office, updating what is happening with the Future Footprint Proposal, what needs to happen before a decision is made and the likely timeframes for the project to start

Document Title	
Email: AgResearch briefing for the Minister, 18 June 2012  Attachments: Briefing for the Minister, 18 June 2012	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
Email: FW: AgResearch Future Footprint Business Case  Attachments: [untitled.pdf]; 2012-31 <sup>st</sup> -October-AgResearch-Future-Footprint-Business-Case-Final.pdf  Email: Letter to Dunedin Mayor, 4 September 2013	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.  I have withheld the final Business Case attachment, under section 18(d) of the Act. Please note, the final business case is available at: <a href="http://www.agresearch.co.nz/news/Lists/news/Attachments/100/Future%20Footprint%20Business%20Case.pdf">http://www.agresearch.co.nz/news/Lists/news/Attachments/100/Future%20Footprint%20Business%20Case.pdf</a>
Email: Timeline, 19 September 2013	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
Email: Letter to Minister Joyce, 24 September 2013  Attachment: Ltr to Minister Joyce 24 September 2013 FINAL	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
Email: Aide memoir on FFP, 1 November 2013  Attachments: FFP summary brief; Past and upcoming stakeholder engagement summary 1 November 2013	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.  I have also withheld commercially prejudicial information under section 9(2)(b)(ii).

Email: AgResearch FFP Presentation, 23 April 2013	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
Attachment: PowerPoint presentation	I have also withheld commercially prejudicial information under section 9(2)(b)(ii).
Letter: Future Footprint, 16 April 2013	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

Could you also provide any correspondence between AgResearch and yourself (as Minister) or your Office, or MBIE, about stakeholder engagement. Specifically who was been consulted and the dates of the consultations.

Document Title	
Email: AgResearch Future Footprint Business Case , 8 January 2013	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
Email: Briefing of the Labour Caucus, 6 August 2013	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
Email: Re: Mobile number below, 13 August 2013	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
Email chain: AgR Dunedin update, 16 August 2013	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
Email: Re: Future Footprint, 30 August 2013	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
Email: Re: Letter to Dunedin Mayor, 4 September 2013  Attachment: From Dunedin City Mayor, David Cull 29 August 2013	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
Email: Letter to Dunedin Mayor, 4 September 2013  Attachment: Ltr DCC Mayor August 2013 Final	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
Email: Correspondence with Dunedin City Mayor, 6 September 2013  Attachments: Paul Orders Letter 29 April 2013; Dave Cull Letter, 31 July 2013; Dave Cull Letter, 29 April 2013; Paul Orders letter, 31 July 2013; Dave Cull Letter, 2 September 2013	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

<p>Email: Letter from Mayor Cull received yesterday, 12 September 2013</p> <p>Attachment: Letter to Sam Robinson AgResearch Chair 11 September 2013</p>	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p>
<p>Email: RE: Further Feedback from the Minister, 13 September 2013</p>	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p>
<p>Email: AgResearch meeting with David Cull 23 September, 18 September 2013</p>	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p>
<p>Email: Statements of support, 30 Sept 2013</p> <p>Attachments: Extract from FF proposal Jul 13; Food-HQ Media Release Final; Beef + Lamb New Zealand Chairman's Update; Opinion editorial from Dr Tim Mackle</p>	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p>
<p>Email: Re: Future Footprint meetings/consultations in the South, 13 October 2013</p>	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p> <p>I have also withheld commercially prejudicial information under section 9(2)(b)(ii) and opinions under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.</p>
<p>Email: Southern Engagement, 5 December 2013</p>	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p>
<p>Email chain: Update from AgResearch on Future Footprint, 12 December 2013</p>	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p> <p>I have also withheld commercially prejudicial information under section 9(2)(b)(ii).</p>
<p>Email: Re: Invitation to Southern Texel Breeders re: Invermay, 11 February 2014</p>	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p>
<p>Email: AgResearch upcoming stakeholder activity, 20 February 2014</p>	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p>
<p>Email: AgResearch upcoming stakeholder activity, 24 February 2014</p>	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p>
<p>Email: Gore Meeting, 13 March 2014</p>	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p>
<p>Email chain: FW: Letter to Sam Robinson from Mayor Dave Cull of Dunedin, 21 March 2014</p> <p>Attachment: Letter to Sam Robinson</p>	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p>

Email: AgResearch – further MP briefings, 24 March 2014	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
Email: Letter going out to Gore attendees, 16 April 2014  Attachments: Letter text only.	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

Could you please provide the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment's review of the Future Footprint (FFP) Business Case and the consultation it carried out with the Ministry of Primary Industries and the Crown Monitoring Unit of Treasury as described in a briefing note you supplied in response in an earlier OIA request to me.

I have previously provided to you the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment's review of the Future Footprint business case on 26 February 2013. The document is named:

- MBIE Science and Innovation Briefing: AgResearch – Future Footprint, 20 December 2012.

I have released the following correspondence:

Document Title	
FF Business case (295259) , email 28/9/12	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.  I have withheld the attachment, being draft documents, in full under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act. Please note, the final business case is available at:  <a href="http://www.agresearch.co.nz/news/Lists/news/Attachments/100/Future%20Footprint%20Business%20Case.pdf">http://www.agresearch.co.nz/news/Lists/news/Attachments/100/Future%20Footprint%20Business%20Case.pdf</a>
290867.1.msg, email 5/10/12	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), which allows information to be withheld when "the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons...".  I have withheld the attachment, a draft version of the business case, in full under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act.
Future Footprint Business Case (293415), email 24/10/12	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.  I have withheld the attachment, a draft version of the business case, in full under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act.
FW- AgResearch Future Footprint Business Case (318396), email 1/11/12	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.  I have withheld the final Business Case attachment, under section 18(d) of the Act.
FW- AgResearch Future Footprint Business Case (318391), email 6/11/12	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.  I have withheld the final Business Case attachment, under section 18(d) of the Act.

	The attachment 'untitled.pdf' is as released above.
Future Footprint (318669) , email 12/12/12	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p> <p>I have withheld the final Business Case attachment, under section 18(d) of the Act.</p> <p>In the second attachment, I have withheld the draft briefing text under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act. As noted above, the final briefing has been previously released to you.</p>
Future Footprint (318670) , email 12/12/12	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p> <p>I have withheld the final Business Case attachment, under section 18(d) of the Act.</p> <p>In the second attachment, I have withheld the draft briefing text under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act. As noted above, the final briefing has been previously released to you.</p>
AgResearch – Future Footprint Business Case, email 19/12/12	I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. I have also withheld commercially prejudicial information under section 9(2)(b)(ii).
Draft cab paper (335157), email 19/12/12	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p> <p>I have withheld the attachments, being a draft Cabinet paper, in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.</p>
Lincoln hub / AgResearch Future Footprint [MSI-MSI.FID80871] (373848) , email 1/03/13	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p> <p>I have withheld the attachments, being a draft Cabinet paper, in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.</p>
RE- How did your CBC Paper go? (375801) , email 7/03/13	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p> <p>I have withheld the attachments, being a draft Cabinet paper, in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.</p>
FW- Final Cabinet paper - Innovation and Science Hubs in New Zealand and AgResearch Limited's Future Footprint Plans (382566), email 19/03/13	<p>I have withheld personal information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.</p> <p>I have withheld the attachments, being a draft Cabinet paper, in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.</p>

Could you please provide a copy of the PwC review of the FFP Business case.

I have released the document, 'AgResearch - Advice and support for the Future Footprint Business case (5 December 2012)' with commercial prejudicial information withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act.



Could you please provide all correspondence from AgResearch which a) specifies staff losses, and or efforts made to ensure staff do not leave? and b) any documentation of the benefits of co-location, balanced against that negative aspects re the loss of skilled staff.

All information requested has been previously released to you on 26 February or is publically available therefore I refuse your request under Section 18(d) of the Act.

I refer you to the AgResearch Future Footprint business case, the MBIE Briefing 'Genomics Research in the Agricultural sector' (14 October 2013) and AgResearch's document titled 'Managing staff risk through the Future Footprint programme' (31 October 2013).

It is clear that MBIE officials have been concerned about staff losses from the very beginning of the FFP in 2012. Please provide all MBIE assessments of likely staff losses caused by the implementation of the Future Footprint Proposal.

MBIE has not assessed what staff losses are likely to be losses caused by the implementation of the Future Footprint Proposal.

The information does not exist and therefore I refuse your request under Section 18(e) of Act.

We are now aware that the FFP proposal is not cost neutral to the Government. Please provide the April 2013 Cabinet minute discussing the Future Footprint Proposal and any associated documents. Please also provide any documents that were created as a result of those discussions.

No such documents exist. Therefore, I refuse your request under Section 18(e) of Act.

However, I have provided a copy of EGI Min (13) 5/5: Innovation and Science Hubs in New Zealand and AgResearch Limited's Future Footprint Plans which is dated March 2013.

You have requested any documents associated with the minute. The minute refers to AgResearch's Future Footprint business case. A public version of this document which withholds commercially sensitive information is provided at:

<http://www.agresearch.co.nz/news/Lists/news/Attachments/100/Future%20Footprint%20Business%20Case.pdf>

You have requested any documents that were created as a result of Cabinet discussions. No such documents exist. Therefore I refuse your request under Section 18(e) of the Act.

Could you please provide any correspondence, memos, briefing notes or emails, to or from you (as the Minister) outlining why the FFP Business Case didn't comply with Treasury's Best Business Practice and any correspondence, memos, briefing notes or emails explaining why it was exempt. This anomaly was highlighted by BERL in its analysis of the short version of the FFP Business Case.

No such documents exist. Therefore, I refuse your request under Section 18(e) of Act. I refer you to the PwC review that considered the business case to have 'addressed the requirements of the Treasury's Better Business guidelines'.

It has been suggested the sale of under-utilised assets was going to be paid as a dividend to the Crown which will now have to be forgone for FFP to occur. Could you please provide any correspondence, mernos, briefing notes or emails informing you (as the Minister) on this matter?

The lead document that documents the proceeds of asset sales in the Future Footprint Plan and alternative strategies is the Future Footprint Plan business case, 31 October 2012. A public version of this document which withholds commercially sensitive information is provided at:

<http://www.agresearch.co.nz/news/Lists/news/Attachments/100/Future%20Footprint%20Business%20Case.pdf>

The following briefings are within the scope of this request:

- MBIE Science and Innovation Briefing: Meeting with AgResearch, 12 December 2012.
- MBIE Science and Innovation Briefing: AgResearch – Future Footprint, 20 December 2012.

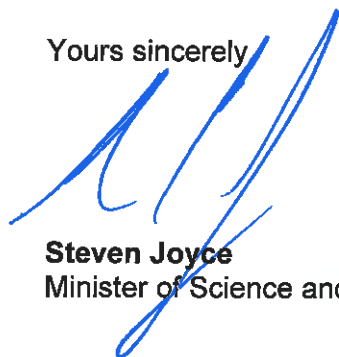
These briefings were released to you on 26 February 2013.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my decision by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act.

The Ombudsman  
PO Box 10-152  
WELLINGTON 6143

Thank you for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely



**Steven Joyce**  
Minister of Science and Innovation