



**Te Tari Ture
o te Karauna**
Crown Law

11 September 2025

Official information request regarding Cabinet Paper: *Progressing the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) (Customary Marine Title) Amendment Bill*

Our Ref: OIA-2526022

1. We refer to your official information request to Te Tari Whakatau dated 5 August 2025 regarding the Cabinet Paper *Progressing the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) (Customary Marine Title) Amendment Bill*.
2. Te Tari Whakatau transferred part of your request to Crown Law for response on 19 August 2025, specifically:

all advice from agencies to ministers in advance of and alongside progressing this amendment (Broadly speaking - the advice - to any and all ministers and from all agencies - that presaged and informed the cabinet paper)
3. We have interpreted your request to be seeking all advice given by Crown Law to ministers (either directly or via Government agencies) on this topic.
4. We have identified 30 instances of advice provided by Crown Law that fall within the scope of your request. This includes formal letters of advice, email advice and Crown Law comments on draft briefings, Cabinet papers and other documents.
5. We have reviewed all the documents identified and noted that they are all privileged as they contain legal advice. We have therefore decided to refuse your request under section 9(2)(h) of the Official Information Act 1982 to maintain legal professional privilege. We are satisfied that the public interest in maintaining legal privilege is not outweighed by any other considerations that render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

Proactive release

6. Please note that we may publish this response (with your personal details redacted), and any related documents, on Crown Law's website if we decide proactive release of this information is or may be in the public interest. If you have any concerns about this, please let us know within 10 working days of the date of this letter.

Right to complain to the Ombudsman

7. 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.
8. If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact oya@crownlaw.govt.nz.

Yours faithfully

Crown Law