

26 September 2024

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

I write in response to your request dated 29 August 2024 for information under the Official Information Act (1982):

“Under the OIA can you please request information regarding climate adaptation and flood risk for Kāinga Ora housing in Auckland. Outside of making space for water what programs are in place to ensure Kāinga Ora housing is flood resilient? I'm specifically requesting information related to climate adaptation and flood resilience for Kāinga Ora (not related to coastal climate adaptation).”

In October 2022, Kāinga Ora adopted an Environment Strategy, which sets our four key environmental outcomes:

- Avoid producing emissions or making decisions that result in others producing emissions. Including transitioning our Housing, Infrastructure and Operations to net zero emissions.
- Use resources effectively and efficiently particularly minimising water consumed, waste produced, and materials used, supporting the transition towards a circular economy.
- Enhance the natural environment restoring mana and mauri of the whenua and awa recognising that if the whenua is not healthy, every dimension of whanau wellbeing suffers.
- Mitigate climate change risks to minimise negative climate outcomes for our homes, customers and communities, including defending whare and whenua.

Following the adoption of this strategy, Kāinga Ora has embedded climate change risk management into our decision-making. This approach to decision-making is used to determine the extent of hazard assessment required at each phase of the investment lifecycle when Kāinga Ora makes investment decisions.

Furthermore, the Kāinga Ora Flood Risk Management Programme covers our activities in Auckland and across New Zealand. The work included in this programme covers:

- Quantitative assessment of flood risk across the national housing portfolio.
- Developing organisational flood risk appetite statements, management approaches, risk thresholds and associated actions.
- Supporting broader implementation of pre-existing interim guidance on flood risk management and aligning this with work underway on national risk appetite and assessment.
- Supporting Kāinga Ora recovery from the 2023 Auckland Floods and applying learnings from this work to the organisation's approach to flood risk management across the country.

Kāinga Ora, through its large-scale projects, is also leading the largest urban regeneration ever undertaken in New Zealand. This significant programme of work will transform suburbs

and communities and meet Auckland's critical need for more high-quality housing. Through these projects there has been substantial upgrades to waste and stormwater infrastructure, which will make these communities more resilient.

If you wish to discuss these issues in more detail, you can contact Alex Baker, Director – Sustainability, at alex.baker@kaingaora.govt.nz. Further information that may be of interest to you can also be found on our website at:

- <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/en/NZ/urban-development-and-social-housing/sustainability-at-kainga-ora/>
- <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/en/NZ/urban-development-and-social-housing/industry-hub/building-resilient-communities/>.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. There is Information about how to make a complaint at <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz> or by freephone on [0800 802 602](tel:0800802602).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rachel Kelly
Manager Government Relations