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24/07/2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Official Information Act Request: Dry Year Risk

Thank you for your email on 9 July 2026 in which you requested information under the Official Information Act 1982. In summary, you requested:

"Ministerial briefings or communications with other agencies evaluating solutions to dry-year risk, including comparative analysis of the LNG terminal proposal and alternatives, including the status quo".

In response to your request:

EECA has not undertaken any specific research or comparative analysis of options to address dry year risk, nor has it been consulted with from other agencies on this issue.

However, EECA's work relates indirectly to dry-year risk, insofar as we have a focus on reducing demand, improving the efficiency with which electricity is used, and lowering reliance on thermal generation.

We have provided below some examples of related work, that may be of interest to you:

- **Research into the potential of flexible energy use in NZ:** This research aimed to understand how much potential there is to shift when New Zealand households, businesses and industry use electricity, and what it would cost to unlock that potential. The report found that up to 1,800MW (megawatts) of demand across New Zealand, enough to lower electricity use at the busiest times by up to 25%, could be shifted away from peak times, without impacting lifestyles or business productivity. [Understanding flexible electricity potential | EECA](#)
- **Support for wood energy supply manufacturing facilities:** EECA is offering repayable grants to organisations seeking finance to develop final investment cases for wood energy supply manufacturing facilities. These repayable grants are designed to accelerate organisations who have already developed promising business cases to now develop the detailed information required for a final investment decision and commit to implementing the project. The goal is to contribute to New Zealand's opportunity in manufacturing greater volumes of sustainable, affordable, and reliable solid wood energy. This RFP is now closed

and successful applicants will be announced soon. [RFP+-
+investment+cases+for+wood+energy+manufacturing+facilities 20250911 \(7\).pdf](#)

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.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/about/news-and-corporate/official-information/> with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely



Murray Bell
Group Manager, Policy and Regulation