

Our reference: 2026 129
Enquiries to: Service@es.govt.nz



25 September 2026

Jodie Bruning
Jodie@bruning.net.nz

Dear Jodie

Official Information Request regarding the datacentre development at Makarewa

I refer to your official information request dated 29 August 2026 to the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport for information related to the Datagrid NZ Partnership Limited development at Makarewa. The Ministry forwarded Part B of your request, where relevant, to Environment Southland

Your request was as follows:

Please provide substantive advice, assessments, briefings, reports, commissioned research and relevant correspondence held by MCERT or its predecessor agencies concerning the Makarewa Datagrid development, addressing the following matters:

- 1 *National public-interest assessment: ...*
- 2 *Electricity-system capacity: ...*
- 3 *Groundwater and aquifer capacity: Any hydrogeological assessment, advice or analysis held, received, commissioned or relied upon by MCERT concerning groundwater abstraction associated with the Makarewa development, including:*
 - *aquifer capacity and recharge;*
 - *cumulative abstraction;*
 - *long-term sustainability;*
 - *drought or low-recharge conditions;*
 - *effects upon other users or connected water bodies; and*
 - *whether existing regulatory requirements provide for adequate assessment of cumulative aquifer effects for developments of this scale.*
- 4 *Land and alternative uses: ...*
- 5 *Ownership and controlling interests: ...*
- 6 *Electricity supplier and equity ownership: ...*
- 7 *Public participation and non-notification: Any advice, assessment or correspondence held by MCERT concerning the decision that the Makarewa Datagrid resource-consent applications could proceed without public notification, including any consideration of whether the scale,*

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national significance, cumulative resource demands or wider infrastructure implications of the project warranted broader public participation.

8. *Local-authority capability and central-government support:*
9. *Where matters material to assessment of the Makarewa development fell outside the statutory responsibilities, expertise or assessment capacity of the relevant regional or local authorities...*
10. *Fast-track versus ordinary consenting: ...*
11. *Integrated assessment: ...*

We have decided to refuse your request under sections 17(d), 17(e) and 17(g) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 on the basis that the documentation does not exist or, to the extent that Environment Southland is aware of such information, it is publicly available here: www.es.govt.nz/datagrid

As Part B of your request was forwarded from the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport I must assume that the documentation does not exist with central government either.

With regard to the points in Part B of your request:

With regard to questions 1,2,4,5,6,8,9,10,11:

Environment Southland has no documentation on these questions, other than that already publicly available through the Datagrid application documents on the Environment Southland website.

Question 3

Information about the water abstractions is publicly available through the Datagrid application documents on the Environment Southland website.

Question 7

The s95-95G Recommending Report APP-20252550 document is publicly available on the Environment Southland website lays out the matters that were considered in notification and affected party determinations for the resource consent application.

Question 9

There are matters that are outside the regulatory role of Environment Southland, such as with regard to electricity network capacity. We do not hold information regarding decisions taken by central government agencies with regard to the electricity network. I recommend that you forward your enquiry to the Electricity Authority (email: info@ea.govt.nz).

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.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact the organisation at service@es.govt.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'H' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Hayley Fitchett
General Manager Strategy and Regulation