

Our Ref DOIA 24-296

30 May 2024

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Response to your official information request

Thank you for your official information request received on 3 May 2024 for information regarding former Corrections land at Mount Crawford. Please find our responses to your questions below.

1. *Are there current discussions underway between LINZ and PNBST on the former prison land? If so please give details.*

Yes, Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) is engaging with Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (PNBST) regarding their 'right of first refusal' in relation to the land known as Mount Crawford.

2. *If there are current discussions, what scale of project do they relate to? Is it still hundreds of dwellings? If not, roughly how many dwellings are under discussion (e.g. 1-15; 15-30; 30-50; 50-100; 100-200; more than 200)?*

LINZ is responsible for the disposal of the land only. LINZ is not engaging with anyone, including PNBST, regarding establishing any dwellings on this site.

3. *If not housing, what kind of Consideration is under discussion?*

LINZ is engaging with PNBST on the potential change of ownership of the land through their right of first refusal.

4. *If there are current discussions, has there been discussion about the development possibly seeking fast-track approval under the coming fast-track legislation? Please provide dates of meetings and all correspondence relating to these meetings.*

As noted in previous answers, current discussions are regarding a change of ownership only. Therefore, I must refuse this request under section 18(e) of Official Information Act 1982 as this information does not exist.

5. *Is Ian Cassels of the Wellington Company involved in any way, directly or indirectly, in the LINZ-PNBST discussions/plans and if so in what way?*

Ian Cassels is not engaged in any discussions with LINZ and PNBST regarding the right of first refusal process for this site.

6. *When were the most recent discussions between LINZ and PNBST representatives and what was the purpose of that meeting?*

The most recent meeting with LINZ and PNBST representatives regarding the right of first refusal process for the land at Mount Crawford was held on 9 May 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to make introductions and take PNBST representatives through the high-level process.

As you are aware from your Official Information Act request dated 4 April 2024 (DOIA 24-269 refers), LINZ and PNBST are members of an iwi-Crown working group looking at the future governance and administrative arrangements for the proposed reserve at Watts Peninsula. The Working Group has met at least monthly since November 2023.

7. *When approximately does LINZ anticipate decisions being made about PNBST and the former prison land?*

We cannot advise approximate timeframes at this early stage of discussions.

8. *Please provide the planned timetable of the LINZ-PNBST-prison land process? Who are the decision makers which entities and which Ministers.*

As noted in the previous answer, no timetable for the disposal process is currently in place. Therefore, I must refuse this request under section 18(e) of Official Information Act 1982 as this information does not exist.

The LINZ Crown Property team (acting as 'the vendor agency') must ensure it meets all the requirements of the disposals process as set out in legislation and regulations. This team would be responsible for preparing a draft right of first refusal offer that would be presented to PNBST.

LINZ's Assessment – Clearances team has a regulatory role in ensuring requirements are met before exercising its statutory decision powers relating to approving the disposal of any Crown-owned land. This team, who act under delegation from the Minister for Land Information and the Chief Executive of LINZ, would be responsible for approving any draft right of first refusal offer before it is presented to PNBST.

The Minister for Land Information, as the Minister of Lands, and the Chief Executive of Toitū Te Whenua have statutory powers under the Public Works Act 1981 when dealing with land held by the Crown for public works.

PNBST will have their own internal decision-making processes which LINZ cannot comment on.

9. *Is there a deadline by which RFR decisions must be made on the prison land and if so when is that and what are the factors determining the cutoff date?*

A summary of the Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) claims settlement right of first refusal is [here on the LINZ website](#)¹. This information states that:

“The expiry date of an RFR offer must be at least 1 month after the trustees receive notice of the offer. However, a shorter expiry date of at least 10 business days after the trustees receive notice of the offer applies for any subsequent offers where the expiry date of the earlier offer was not more than 6 months before the expiry of the later offer.”

An offer has not been presented to PNBST therefore there is no current deadline or expiry date.

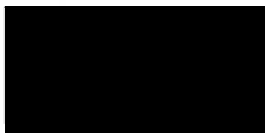
You can read more about [rights of first refusal](#)² and the [disposal process](#)³ on the LINZ website.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact ministerialsupport@linz.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.

Please note, this response letter outlining our decision on your request, **with your personal details withheld**, and any attached documentation will be published on the Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand website. This is likely to be published by 28 June 2024.

Nāku noa, nā



Sonya Wikitera
Head of Crown Property

¹ <https://www.linz.govt.nz/resources/guide/port-nicholson-block-taranaki-whanui-ki-te-upoko-o-te-ika-claims-settlement-right-first-refusal>

² <https://www.linz.govt.nz/guidance/crown-property/treaty-settlements/right-first-refusal-rfr>

³ <https://www.linz.govt.nz/resources/regulatory/standard-disposal-land-held-public-work-linzs15000>