

Our Ref DOIA 24-102

8 November 2023

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Response to your official information request

Thank you for your official information request received on 16 October 2023 seeking information related to railway land whose management was transferred to Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) via a Memorandum of Understanding between New Zealand Railways Corporation (NZRC) and LINZ in January 1999. Your request for information relates to a section of this land within the township of Opuā which you refer to as being "*in the locale of Opuā, specifically the wharf and its surroundings.*"

Answers to your questions are outlined below.

1) *As per the above info, NZRC transferred ownership of this section of land to LINZ in 1999.*

a) *What did LINZ do with this land?*

LINZ Response: This area of land was sold in April 1999 to Far North Holdings Limited, a Far North District Council controlled organisation.

b) *Who retains ownership of it now?*

LINZ Response: Far North Holdings Limited which is owned by the Far North District Council.

2) *Buildings at Opuā Wharf have been constructed over the old railway line.*

a) *Do you know why the railway line was not lifted before the buildings were constructed?*

LINZ Response: No. Our records do not contain any information regarding this.

b) *Do you know who owns the tracks that run underneath the buildings and onto the wharf?*

LINZ Response: The current owners of the land.

3) *Does LINZ have any other information on file relating to the transfer of ownership of this section of land?*

LINZ Response: We have undertaken an investigation to identify any files that would relate to the transfer of ownership of land. One file was identified (#10/1549) as mentioning Opuia however this is listed as being missing.

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's website. This is likely to be published by 22 December 2023.

Nāku noa, nā



Sonya Wikitera
Head of Crown Property

Proactive Release