

Our Ref DOIA 25-001

24 July 2024

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Response to your official information request

Thank you for your official information request received on 28 June 2024, asking about:

"the role of complex systems thinking in policy, and specifically whether policy is written with an understanding of the interconnection between land, soil, climate, water, biodiversity - with one or more of these themes being discussed with relevance to any other one or more of these themes (i.e. impact of land use on the climate and water).

The time period for this information request is from 1 January 2022 until 31 October 2023.

Q1 – Policy Documents and Communications: *Any policies, cabinet papers, briefs, public consultation documents, reports (for example long term insight briefings or other publicly available reports), and aide-mémoires to Chief Executive, ELT, ministers, or other agencies that discuss or reference:*

- a. *"complex systems" or "complexity"? This might include any mention of concepts such as emergence, non-linearity, interconnectivity, self-organisation, adaptation, dynamics, feedback loops, within these documents?*
- b. *the connection between land use (including agriculture, horticulture & forestry), soil, climate change, biodiversity, and water? This might include any mention of concepts such as "complex system".*

Q2 – Definition and Frameworks: *Does your agency consider 'land use' as a complex system within these documents?*

Q3 – Impact Assessments: *Any quantitative data, research findings, or analyses conducted by or available to your agency that assess the impact of land use, soil, climate, biodiversity, or water policies, collectively or individually, on policy for land use, soil, climate, biodiversity, or water within New Zealand?*

Q4 – Monitoring and Evaluation: *Information on the mechanisms in place for monitoring and evaluating the impact of policy associated with land use, climate*

adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity, soil or water, on land, climate, biodiversity, soil or water?

Q5 – Effectiveness of Policy: *Do you have a matrix to assess the success of policy, specifically related to any policy relevant to the above questions? Or how do you determine policy success?*

Q6 – Policy Implementation: *Any evidence of policies that have been implemented which have resulted in specific levers, interventions, obligations, or requirements in practice? These could be represented in policies, cabinet papers, briefs, public consultation documents, and aide-mémoires.*

Q7 – Future Initiatives: *Any upcoming initiatives, policy changes, or strategic directions aimed at looking at land use, climate change adaptation/mitigation, biodiversity, and water as part of a complex or interconnected policy system, or using a complex systems framework? If not, why?"*

The only document we have that is in scope is our Long-Term Insights Briefing, co-written with the Department of Conservation. This is publicly available and can be accessed here: [Long-term Insights Briefing](#)

Kate MacDonald, one of our Policy Directors, would be happy to meet with you to further discuss the topic and its possible applications in future policymaking. She can be reached on kmacdonald@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 30 August 2024

Nāku noa, nā



Amanda Moran
Head of Strategy, Policy and Ministerials