



OIA16-0019

12 FEB 2016

Linda Grammer & Anna Murphy  
linda.grammer@gmail.com

Dear Linda Grammer & Anna Murphy

### OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request on 22 January 2016 relating to information about the NES-PF submissions.

The following information is released to you under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA):

1. "how many submitters (out of the total # of submissions) actually supported MPI specific proposal 6.4 (to allow GE trees and override local councils precautionary and prohibitive GE/GMO policies/rules/provisions in local plans)"?

356 unique submissions were received, 22 of which were in support of the proposal to allow the use of genetically modified tree stock where approval for deployment had been given by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996. In addition, 15,662 submissions were received through the Greenpeace website primarily opposing the provision, with 14 of these submissions modified to indicate support for the provision.

2. "who those submitters are"

Submissions and submitter details are publicly available on the MPI website at <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/proposed-national-environmental-standard-for-plantation-forestry/submissions/>. Therefore this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the OIA as the information is already publicly available. Where the submitter's details are unavailable this is because they have been withheld at the submitter's request under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.

MPI is satisfied that in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make the information available. You have the right under section 28(3) of the OIA to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our decision to withhold information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Anderson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Stuart Anderson  
Director Spatial, Forestry & Land Management