

[REDACTED]

6 November 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: Official Information Act Request: EECA funding for BetterNZ Trust**

Thank you for your email on Friday 13 October 2023 in which you requested information under the Official Information Act 1982. You requested:

- *How much funding has Better NZ (or any of its campaigns) received from the EECA?*
- *How many separate times have EECA funded Better NZ (or any of its campaigns) what was the amount, purpose and date of each set of funding?*
- *Has Better NZ applied for any funding from EECA that has not yet been approved?*
- *Was it disclosed to EECA Steve West, the founder of the Better NZ Trust, has a financial interest in EV charging through the company which he founded, ChargeNet which he is a shareholder in?*
- *Does the EECA have a process to follow when considering whether or not to fund organisations that have partaken in political campaigning in the past? If so, how will this campaigning by Better NZ impact their ability to receive funding from EECA in the future? Can you rule it out?*

Please refer to *Appendix A* for EECA's response to your questions.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. Our response to your request will be published shortly at <https://www.eeca.govt.nz/about/news-and-corporate/official-information/> with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely



Dr Marcos Pelenur  
EECA Chief Executive

## Appendix A

1. How much funding has Better NZ (or any of its campaigns) received from the EECA? and

2. How many separate times have EECA funded Better NZ (or any of its campaigns) what was the amount, purpose and date of each set of funding?

Financial year	Funding Amount	Purpose
2015/2016	\$5,000.00	<b>Event sponsorship</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EV Advocate, Chelsea Sexton, participated in BetterNZ's <i>Leading the Charge</i> tip-to-tail EV Road trip in 2016. This covered roads from Cape Reinga to the Bluff and included displays, public rides and charging.</li> </ul>
2016/2017	\$153,625.29	<b>Event sponsorship and broader support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EECA sponsored a range of community-related events and outreach, run by Better NZ, aimed at introducing and promoting consideration of EVs across New Zealand as part of our low-emissions transport work programme.</li> <li>This included Better NZ's annual <i>Leading the Charge</i> EV Road Trip event.</li> </ul>
2017/2018	\$564.00	
2017/2018	\$60,121.88	<b>Community Outreach Programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better NZ were co-funded to deliver a Community Outreach Programme that included approx. 48 community events that offered first-hand experiences and test drives of EVs to help encourage uptake.</li> <li>The test drive programme was extended through to mid 2020.</li> <li>While \$255,000 was assigned to these projects, the actual spend was \$204,824 due to lower-than-expected event costs and disruptions from COVID-19 to events.</li> </ul>
2018/2019	\$99,174.43	
2019/2020	\$45,527.57	
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>\$364,013.17</b>	

\* EECA has not provided financial, or non-financial, support to Better NZ since June 2020.

3. Has Better NZ applied for any funding from EECA that has not yet been approved? No.

***4. Was it disclosed to EECA that Steve West, the founder of the Better NZ Trust, has a financial interest in EV charging through the company which he founded, ChargeNet which he is a shareholder in?***

EECA ran an open Request for Proposal (RFP) process via the Government Electronic Tender Service (GETS) for the EV Community Outreach programme in 2017/18. Better NZ Trust was one of four proposals and was awarded the contract based on its scoring against the initiative's evaluation criteria:

- a) Technical merit (Fit-for-purpose): 30%
- b) Capability to Deliver: 50%, and
- c) Value for Money: 20%

The four evaluation panel members scored BetterNZ's proposal an average score of 80.75/100, which outscored the runner up by 27.87 average points per evaluation criteria. In addition, the evaluation panel noted that BetterNZ had a proven track record for delivery, had strong established relationships with owners/suppliers and their proposal demonstrated strong value for money.

No conflicts were formally declared in the above noted RFP process. Likewise, there is no record in our files of any informal disclosure before or after the RFP process.

***5. Does the EECA have a process to follow when considering whether or not to fund organisations that have partaken in political campaigning in the past? If so, how will this campaigning by Better NZ impact their ability to receive funding from EECA in the future? Can you rule it out?***

In a RFP procurement process, applicants are asked to declare any conflicts of interest. The applicant is asked to use their judgement to declare any conflicts.

Any actual or perceived conflict is taken into account by EECA in awarding any programme funding. This will continue to be the case when considering any future funding applications from organisations.