

[REDACTED]

7 November 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re: Official Information Act Request: Last Five emails chains with media**

Thank you for your email on 17 October in which you requested information under the Official Information Act 1982. You requested:

*I also request the last five email chains you've had with media.*

This was requested following [REDACTED] request regarding EECA funding to BetterNZ.

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

Some information is being withheld pursuant to the following sections of the Act:

- Phone numbers under 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

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**

## Olivia De Gregorio

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**From:** Julie Coyne  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 October 2023 2:42 pm  
**To:** John Gauldie  
**Cc:** Kate Barlow  
**Subject:** RE: Workshop at JS Ewers in Nelson

Hi John  
Thanks for your email  
I'm ccing Kate for you  
Thanks  
Julie

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**From:** John Gauldie <editor@hortnz.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 2:38 PM  
**To:** Julie Coyne <Julie.Coyne@eeca.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Workshop at JS Ewers in Nelson

Hi Julie, thanks. Could you please send me Kate's contact details? I haven't heard from her.

Cheers  
John

**John Gauldie** | [Horticulture New Zealand](#)

**Editor – The Orchardist and NZGrower**

T: 9(2)(a)

M: 9(2)(a)

Level 4, Kiwi Wealth House, 20 Ballance St, Wellington 6011  
PO Box 10232, Wellington 6140

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**From:** Julie Coyne <[Julie.Coyne@eeca.govt.nz](mailto:Julie.Coyne@eeca.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2023 4:12 PM  
**To:** John Gauldie <[editor@hortnz.co.nz](mailto:editor@hortnz.co.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Workshop at JS Ewers in Nelson

Thanks John  
I've just messaged Kate Barlow who is the PR Manager here  
I'm not sure who phoned you, but Kate normally deals with anything related to media.  
As I'm not in tomorrow I've sent Kate your contact details and asked her to reach out to you  
I'm back in the office on Monday, hopefully it will all be sorted by then, but let me know if it isn't  
Thanks  
Julie

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**From:** John Gauldie <[editor@hortnz.co.nz](mailto:editor@hortnz.co.nz)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 12, 2023 3:53 PM  
**To:** Julie Coyne <[Julie.Coyne@eeca.govt.nz](mailto:Julie.Coyne@eeca.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Workshop at JS Ewers in Nelson

Hi Julie,

Good to speak to you just now. My details below. It's regarding the workshop for growers at JS Ewers (relating to GIDI fund). Thanks for putting me in touch with someone who can assist us with this article in NZGrower magazine.

Thanks  
John

**John Gauldie** | [Horticulture New Zealand](#)

**Editor - The Orchardist and NZGrower**

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## Olivia De Gregorio

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**From:** Kate Barlow  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 September 2023 2:35 pm  
**To:** Charlie Mitchell  
**Subject:** RE: Media query: State sector decarbonisation fund

Hi Charlie,

Thanks for getting in touch. Hope this helps.

Cheers,  
Kate Barlow  
9(2)(a)

EECA response:

- The Government's State Sector Decarbonisation Fund (SSDF) supports reducing emissions across the State sector and has made significant progress.
- It has supported a total of 124 priority projects with \$215.150 million in co-funding since it began. These projects are estimated to reduce emissions by 945,699 tonnes over a ten-year period.
- The Government's goal is to phase out coal-fired boilers from the public sector, with a focus on removing the largest and most active by the end of 2025, and this is on track apart from one outlier - the NZ Defence Burnham coal boiler.
- Delays are not unique, large infrastructure projects can be delayed or re-forecasted throughout the delivery process, often due to supply chain issues, increases to costs, or other issues. EECA provides support to help resolve operational issues to ensure project completion. EECA is continuing to engage with Corrections on delays to the Invercargill Prison coal boiler project to reach a resolution.

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**From:** Kate Barlow  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2023 9:58 AM  
**To:** Charlie Mitchell <[charlie.mitchell@stuff.co.nz](mailto:charlie.mitchell@stuff.co.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Media query: State sector decarbonisation fund

Thanks Charlie. Yes, 'll come back to you.

Cheers,  
Kate

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**From:** Charlie Mitchell <[charlie.mitchell@stuff.co.nz](mailto:charlie.mitchell@stuff.co.nz)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 21, 2023 9:41 AM  
**To:** Kate Barlow <[Kate.Barlow@eeca.govt.nz](mailto:Kate.Barlow@eeca.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Media query: State sector decarbonisation fund

You don't often get email from [charlie.mitchell@stuff.co.nz](mailto:charlie.mitchell@stuff.co.nz). [Learn why this is important](#)

Kia ora,

We're publishing a story this weekend about the State sector decarbonisation fund, based in part on OIA docs I received this week.

We'll be reporting on the estimated cost overruns involving the Burnham military camp boiler replacement. I understand the initial cost (of which the fund contributed around \$3.84m) rose to nearly \$40m, and the boiler will keep operating in some form until 2029, well past the Government's 2025 target.

I also understand the EECA is not contributing more funding.

We'll also mention an issue with the Invercargill prison boiler replacement and the fact Corrections reallocated its share of the cost away from the project.

The docs I have are pretty clear about the issues, but I have a few questions for the EECA, although let me know if they are better addressed elsewhere:

- Is the Invercargill prison boiler replacement still expected to be completed by 2025?
- Given these two issues, is it fair to say the Government's target to remove all coal boilers from the state sector by 2025 won't be achieved?
- And finally, can I get a general statement about the programme? It appears that these two projects are outliers and most are going ahead as expected, but I just want to confirm this.

If you could please get back to me by around 2pm tomorrow, it would be much appreciated.

Charlie

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**Charlie Mitchell**

Journalist

E [charlie.mitchell@stuff.co.nz](mailto:charlie.mitchell@stuff.co.nz)

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## Olivia De Gregorio

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**From:** Steve Hodgson <shodgson@energyinst.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 September 2023 5:08 am  
**To:** Kate Barlow  
**Subject:** Re: GIDI - a magazine article?

Thanks Kate - not so positive this time.

But, nevermind - I now know EECA and can try again. Early next year?

Regards

Steve Hodgson  
NEW

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**From:** Kate Barlow <Kate.Barlow@eeca.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** 25 September 2023 04:43  
**To:** Steve Hodgson <shodgson@energyinst.org>  
**Subject:** RE: GIDI - a magazine article?

Hi Steve,

My apologies – I have checked in. The timing of this publication and the point we are at in the electoral cycle means we won't be able to help on this occasion.

Please feel free to get back in touch in the future if you are working on any related issues. And you are very welcome of course to have a peruse of our website.

Best regards,  
Kate

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**From:** Steve Hodgson <shodgson@energyinst.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 20, 2023 11:10 PM  
**To:** Kate Barlow <Kate.Barlow@eeca.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Re: GIDI - a magazine article?

You don't often get email from [shodgson@energyinst.org](mailto:shodgson@energyinst.org). [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Kate - fast and positive reponse - thanks

That was just a short summary of my interest, but it does almost cover it. I could add that information on projected carbon savings, and their significance in the bigger picture, would be useful if you could source this.

But I (and our readers, I expect) are equally interested in some technical details of two or three projects - is there anything new here? I know it is still relatively early days.

Deadline - we are covering Australasia in our issues to be published during October. Would you be able to meet a deadline of 16 October for publication in the following week?



Regards

Steve Hodgson  
NEW

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From: Kate Barlow <[Kate.Barlow@eeca.govt.nz](mailto:Kate.Barlow@eeca.govt.nz)>  
Sent: 19 September 2023 22:27  
To: Steve Hodgson <[shodgson@energyinst.org](mailto:shodgson@energyinst.org)>  
Subject: RE: GIDI - a magazine article?

Hi Steve,

Thanks so much for your email!

That's great. Do you want us just to provide some info re your points below, or feel free to send additional questions?

And can I please check your deadline?

Best,  
Kate

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From: Steve Hodgson <[shodgson@energyinst.org](mailto:shodgson@energyinst.org)>  
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 5:03 AM  
To: Kate Barlow <[Kate.Barlow@eeca.govt.nz](mailto:Kate.Barlow@eeca.govt.nz)>  
Subject: GIDI - a magazine article?

You don't often get email from [shodgson@energyinst.org](mailto:shodgson@energyinst.org). [Learn why this is important](#)

Kate

I tried to send the message below in your media enquiries form, but it wouldn't send. Didn't want to accept a UK-based phone number, I think.

Here is the message (below). Can I consider it delivered to where it needs to go?

Thanks  
Steve Hodgson  
NEW

9(2)(a)

Hi

I have been reading about your GIDI - decarbonising industry - project, including steel production. It reminds me of projects that we used run in the UK. Might someone there be interested in preparing an article on the project for publication in *New Energy World* - the weekly online magazine from the (London-based but international in outlook) Energy Institute?

Something on the fund and how it works, with information on two or three case study projects? (I like to think that much of this material already exists; just needs to be put in magazine article format, around 1500 words.)

Our readers are professionals from all branches of the energy industry - who I think would like to see how NZ is doing this work.

Please do let me know.

Regards

Steve Hodgson - Editor-at-large *New Energy World*

<https://knowledge.energyinst.org/new-energy-world>



## New Energy World

Read New Energy World, your window on the energy transition as it unfolds.

[knowledge.energyinst.org](https://knowledge.energyinst.org)



## Olivia De Gregorio

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**From:** Kate Barlow  
**Sent:** Thursday, 28 September 2023 5:09 pm  
**To:** sally.rae@alliedpress.co.nz  
**Subject:** EECA: New report outlines potential for Otago to be the first region in New Zealand to fully decarbonise from industrial energy use

Kia ora Sally Rae

Thanks so much for the chat – especially on a day off. As promised, here is a bit of info about our newly published Otago focused RETA – a really fantastic programme that aims to develop and share a well-informed, coordinated approach to support decarbonisation by understanding unique region-specific opportunities and barriers. You can also find a link to the PR here: [New report outlines potential for Otago to be the first region in New Zealand to fully decarbonise from industrial energy use | EECA](#)

If you would like more comment on the report and its recommendations – just let me know, I'm very happy to put you in touch with Nicki Sutherland who heads up our business team. And of course, as we chatted about Business South are happy to provide comment too about where they see benefit and how it aligns with their work.

Hope the lambing goes well and thanks again!

Best regards,  
Kate

**28.09.23**

Media release

### **New report outlines potential for Otago to be the first region in New Zealand to fully decarbonise from industrial energy use**

Momentum is building to push more fossil fuels out of the energy system with new recommendations, published today by EECA (the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority), aimed at helping Otago industry quickly thrive in a low-emissions economy.

The Otago Regional Energy Transition Accelerator (RETA) report is the result of months of collaboration between government, Business South, Transpower, Aurora, OtagoNet, local biomass suppliers and forest owners, energy solutions businesses and medium to large industrial energy users.

The report looks at how the region can work collectively and share information across both the demand and supply sides of energy, to support the uptake of renewable energy among local process heat users for things like food and beverage production, laundries and concrete manufacturers.

“Building on the success of its neighbouring regions, Otago is in a great position when it comes to adopting clean energy and clever technologies. It’s well placed to be the first region in the country to completely decarbonise industrial process heat,” said EECA Group Manager Business, Nicki Sutherland.

“The region has a small carbon emission profile, and businesses are encouraged to commit now. Streamlining efforts will make a number of steps easier – particularly unlocking supply chains to meet the demand for biomass raw material and electricity infrastructure.

“We also know there is a growing demand from both New Zealanders and export markets for lower-carbon products and services, and programmes like RETA will help map a pathway.”

Also central to the recommendations is a focus on businesses choosing the optimal fuel source for their industrial process; considerations should include boiler age; location; and regional characteristics.

“Demand reduction and thermal efficiency are key parts of the RETA process and enable and help fuel switching decisions,” said Sutherland.

“There will be savings from this alone, which will make fuel switching easier and cheaper later. But the Otago RETA has a greater level of focus on the fuel switching decision, due to the higher capital and fuel intensity of this decision.”

Otago is a forestry-rich region and biomass will play a role as a renewable fuel with RETA modelling suggesting about 86% of the region’s energy supply could be met by biomass alongside electricity.

One Dunedin business leaning into decarbonisation is Preens Apparelmaster and Linenmaster. The company recently received co-funding of \$1.1 million through round 5 of the Government Investment in Decarbonising Industry (GIDI) Fund, to switch from diesel to electricity at its Dunedin site.

Managing Director at Preens Apparelmaster and Linenmaster Rick Wellington said the opportunity to collaborate across the region has already been valuable.

“Networking opportunities and hearing from some industry experts have provided a clearer picture of how, as a region, we can work together to make the transition to decarbonise as smooth as possible,” said Wellington.

Aurora Energy General Manager Asset Management and Planning Glenn Coates said RETA increases transparency and enables energy users and suppliers to have a more coordinated and efficient plan.

“There are trade-offs between biomass and electricity and the RETA report has been helpful from that perspective. It’s lifting knowledge between key stakeholders, feasibility and finding out what customers want early,” said Coates.

Mike Collins, Chief Executive of Business South said support and initiatives like RETA that are available to businesses encourage working together and highlight the power of collaboration.

“Working together we can continue to make strides to our sustainable and regenerative goals and are keen to direct Otago businesses to available evidence and insight – like what is in RETA and sector leaders who can help,” said Collins.

Read the full Otago RETA: [Regional Energy Transition Accelerator | EECA](#)

## **ENDS**

### **Notes to editors:**

Process heat is the energy used as heat mainly by the industrial and commercial sectors for industrial processes, manufacturing, and warming spaces. Some process heat emissions can be reduced by redesigning the underlying processes, but decarbonising the remaining heat demand will require switching from fossil fuels to low-emission fuels, such as wood fuels in boilers or electricity in electric boilers or heat pumps.

### **Media contact:**

Kate Barlow  
Manager, Communications

Ngā mihi

**Kate Barlow**

Manager, Communications and Content



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P +64 4 470 2200 · Mobile: 9(2)(a)

## Olivia De Gregorio

---

**From:** Kate Barlow  
**Sent:** Thursday, 28 September 2023 5:20 pm  
**To:** gavin.evans@freemanmedia.co.nz  
**Subject:** EECA: New report outlines potential for Otago to be the first region in New Zealand to fully decarbonise from industrial energy use

Kia ora Gavin,

Sharing the PR for our new RETA report for Otago, below and on our website [here](#). I know that the team have covered this programme in the past and may be interested in our most recent piece of work.

Best,  
Kate

**28.09.23**

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### Media contact:

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### Kate Barlow

Manager, Communications and Content



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