

5 August 2025

File Ref: OIA 50485



Tēnā koe 

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your information request dated 18 July 2025. You asked for the following information:

“This is a request for official information under the Official Information Act 1982 in relation to public funding and agency involvement in the Antarctic Maramataka research project referenced in a July 16, 2025 article published by The Conversation.

We request the following information:

- *The **total amount of public funding** committed to or spent on this project to date, broken down by agency or fund (e.g. Rutherford Discovery Fellowship, Mātauranga Māori Research Fund, Marsden Fund).*
- *A list or description of **objectives, deliverables, or expected outcomes** associated with the funding, including any research outputs, public engagement, or educational materials.*
- *Any assessments, memos or decision documents used by funding agencies when approving this research, particularly in relation to:*
- *The scientific relevance of applying Maramataka frameworks in Antarctica*
- *Expected contribution to climate science, public policy, or Māori development outcomes*
- *Justification for funding travel and logistics to Antarctica*
- *Any internal or ministerial **communications, briefings, or updates** related to the research project, particularly if the project's public presentation was discussed in advance”.*

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

We have conducted a search of Te Puni Kokiri funding. I can confirm that no funding has been identified as having been committed to or spent on the Antarctica Maramataka research project. As we hold no information in scope of your request, your request is refused in full under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist, or despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

I trust my response satisfies your request.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that Te Puni Kōkiri publishes some of its OIA responses on its website, after the response is sent to the requester. The responses published are those that are considered to have a high level of public interest. We will not publish your name, address or contact details.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact us at uia@tpk.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi,



Grace Smit
Hautū, Te Puni Rohe | Deputy Secretary, Regions