

8 September 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Official Information Act Request: EECA Events costing over 10K

Thank you for your email on Friday 11 August 2023 in which you requested information under the Official Information Act 1982. You requested:

A list of all events the authority has held or had some responsibility for hosting that cost in excess of \$10,000 over the past year? Can the total cost for each of these events please be provided, along with a breakdown of what contributed to the costs? It would be helpful to also know the business purpose or justification for each event as well.

EECA has interpreted the request as: all events EECA has held/co-hosted, costing over \$10,000.00 between Thursday 11 August 2022 – Friday 11 August 2023. This does not include events that we have sponsored, nor “business as usual” events, such as training for staff.

EECA has held two events that fall within scope of your response as outlined below.

Event One: EECA Day – 29 November 2022

Breakdown of costs:

Item	Cost
Venue hire, catering etc	\$9,218.00
Guest Speakers & their travel costs	\$7,961.81
Total Costs	\$17,179.81

Background:

EECA Day is an internal training and interactive organisational day focused on thought provoking speakers covering a range of topics relevant to EECA’s functions, organisational priorities and performance improvement, team building, internal networking and relationship building. EECA has three offices: Wellington (Head office), Auckland and Christchurch. Therefore, EECA Day also provides a valuable opportunity for teams with staff split across different offices to connect and conduct their own team planning. We hosted three guest speakers (one online) who shared their experiences and insights which allowed attendees to think of new ways of looking at issues and solutions to them. EECA Day was attended by approximately 100 EECA Staff.

Event Two: Clean and Clever Energy Forum – 4-5 May 2023

Breakdown of costs:

Item	Cost
Seminar costs (venue hire, name tags etc)	\$36,576.00
Travel costs for EECA Staff supporting the event and Speakers	\$14,441.74
Total Costs	\$51,017.74

Background:

The Clean and Clever Energy Forum (formerly known as Large Energy Users Forum) is EECA’s flagship event for large energy-using businesses and public sector organisations. This was a two-day event held in the Grand Millennium Hotel, Auckland on 4-5 May 2023. This event included 60-70 of Aotearoa’s largest energy using organisations, including a mix of senior business leaders and public sector representatives. Around 130 people were expected to attend and 116 people attended (with 98 of those attending both days)

EECA’s focus for the event was leadership and learning, with a strong focus on energy efficiency and decarbonisation of energy.

The forum provided a safe space for our clients to share learnings and best practice on energy and emissions management and provided an opportunity to recognise success. The conference allowed guests to hear from successful business leaders, network and see first-hand the projects of several innovative businesses via site visits.

Keynote speakers included:

- Hon James Shaw, Minister for Climate Change
- Hon Dr Megan Woods, Minister of Energy & Resources
- Mike Fuge, Chief Executive, Contact Energy.

Other attendees included senior leaders, energy and sustainability managers from New Zealand's largest energy users and emitters across a variety of industries, along with public sector organisations. EECA has provided long-running support for these organisations to improve their energy management capability, consider switching to renewable energy options, and plan for a lower emissions future.

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 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



Andrew Caseley
EECA Chief Executive