

13 October 2022

By Email: p.williams@ministers.govt.nz
d.parker@ministers.govt.nz

Minister of Conservation
Minister of Oceans and Fisheries
The Beehive
Pipitea
Wellington 6011

Dear Minister Williams and Minister Parker,

CONSULTATION PERIOD - REVITALISING THE GULF: GOVERNMENT ACTION ON THE SEA CHANGE PLAN

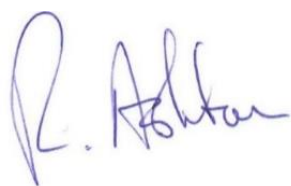
1. We act for the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council.
2. We write to request that the consultation period for the Department of Conservation's (**DOC**) marine protection proposals for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, which presently closes on 28 October 2022, be extended to align with the consultation period for the intimately connected Fisheries Plan on which Fisheries New Zealand (**FNZ**) intend to consult from mid-November 2022 to mid-February 2023.
3. As you are aware, the Sea Change plan was an integrated plan which brought together complementary actions in fisheries management, marine protection, and the control of land-based pollution. The integrated and complementary nature of Sea Change is what enabled the plan to achieve support across diverse sector interests. A piecemeal consultation process, which separates public engagement on the fisheries management and marine protection responses, risks undermining the integration that is needed to achieve public buy in, and successfully revitalise the Hauraki Gulf. Additionally, a fundamental principle of proper consultation is that consultees have adequate information to provide meaningful responses. This cannot be said to be the case when the critical detail of the Fisheries Plan has yet to be released for public consultation while feedback is sought on closely related marine protection proposals.
4. Aligning the consultation period through to mid-February 2023 for the marine protection proposals with consultation on the Fisheries Plan is therefore appropriate to facilitate proper holistic public engagement with *Revitalising the Gulf: Government action on the Sea Change Plan*. Having contemporaneous consultation periods appears to have been the intent of FNZ and DOC earlier in the year, but with FNZ's intended consultation dates slipping to later in the year a misalignment has emerged. We note that having consultation

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on the marine protection proposals running through to mid-February 2023 does not affect the publicly available timeline for the Conservation Law Reform, which has the Hauraki Gulf marine protection Bill introduced to the House in 2024.

5. We thank you for your consideration of this request and look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully
BROOKFIELDS

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Ashton', written in a cursive style.

Andrew Green / Rowan Ashton
Partner / Senior Associate

Direct dial: +64 9 979 2172
email: green@brookfields.co.nz