

Hon Rachel Brooking

Minister for Oceans and Fisheries
Minister for Food Safety
Associate Minister for the Environment
Associate Minister of Immigration



22 August 2023

MIN23-0341

Hauraki Gulf Alliance
By email: benn@legasea.co.nz

Tēnā koe Hauraki Gulf Alliance,

Thank you for your correspondence of 27 April 2023 regarding preventative action to limit the dispersal of *Caulerpa* in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I appreciate your concern about the potential impact this invasive species could have on our marine environment. Biosecurity New Zealand is working closely with mana whenua, the Department of Conservation, local community, Thames Coromandel District Council and Auckland and Waikato Regional Councils to minimise its spread.

I agree that an integrated approach to protecting and managing the Hauraki Gulf is critical. This is the approach embodied in the Government's *Revitalising the Gulf* strategy.

Implementing the strategy will provide opportunities to address the biosecurity risks from activities which might spread *Caulerpa*. I am aware that Biosecurity New Zealand officials are engaging with stakeholders to explore whether further measures would be appropriate as part of the *Caulerpa* response.

The management of bottom contact fishing methods is an area of focus for the Hauraki Gulf and there are active processes in train, through implementation of the *Revitalising the Gulf* strategy and the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan, to consider the best way forward. The *Caulerpa* response and Controlled Area Notices will continue to be considered as these management processes progress.

Thank you for taking the time to write to me on this important topic.

Nāku noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Brooking'.

Hon Rachel Brooking
Minister for Oceans and Fisheries

CC: *Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister for Biosecurity*