

Hon Mike Butterick

Minister for Land Information
Associate Minister of Agriculture



AM26-1023

Peter Chrisp
Director-General
Department of Conservation
By email: landexchange@doc.govt.nz

Dear Peter,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the updated draft land exchange application report for Tukituki Water Security Ltd Project as part of my responsibilities as Associate Minister for Agriculture. The project has implications for the primary sector within the region.

I am pleased to see the updated draft report addresses the following concerns I raised in my previous letter:

- there will be direct improvements to the land through the implementation of a management plan before land exchange (that is, fencing the proposed boundary, conducting pest, animal, and plant control work, and completing restorative planting); and
- the report identifies and addresses the legal, financial, and health and safety risks associated with the project. Information provided on funding, governance, regulatory compliance, and risk management demonstrates that appropriate measures are in place to manage these matters.

I am generally supportive of the overall project and recognise future potential benefits to the region will include:

- improved access to recreational activities over time (for example, water sports and walking tracks), potentially enabling long-term economic activity which would benefit the region;
- greater support for flood mediation in times of large downpours (that is, reducing sediment and runoff into the river below), as well as the potential for forest fire use through the construction of the dam; and
- potential for increased horticulture (for example, fruit production) and introducing hydroelectricity in the region.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. I look forward to seeing the outcomes of this application and having another opportunity to review this project at the next stage.

Yours sincerely,

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Hon Mike Butterick
Associate Minister of Agriculture