

Bill Day  
Interim Chair  
Milford Opportunities Project Ministerial Advisory Committee

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Bill

### **Finalised MOP Committee Terms of Reference and feedback on progress update**

Thank you for stepping in as interim Milford Opportunities Project (MOP) Advisory Committee Chair.

We would like to take this opportunity to address several outstanding matters raised in earlier correspondence from the MOP Chair to the Ministerial Group. These are suggested amendments to the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the MOP Establishment Committee and the Committee's progress update.

We appreciate feedback on the earlier draft of the TOR. The Ministerial Group is comfortable with your proposed edits and has finalised the TOR with three minor revisions:

- Paragraph 14 - Clarification that the development of enabling components concerning recommendations in the Masterplan is subject to prior approval from the Ministerial Group that assessments identify recommendations as feasible to progress.
- Paragraph 24 – The addition of environment and conservation to the list of required attributes for skills-based members of the Committee.
- Paragraph 53 – Clarification that agency representation at Committee meetings will be in an ex-officio capacity, regardless of who the attendee is. We appreciate the importance of continuity at Board meetings. Any change to agency representation at Board meetings would only result from unavoidable circumstances.

Please forward the finalised TOR to your Committee colleagues. Please also ensure that the TOR is made publicly available through the Milford Opportunities Project website.

Thank you for the Committee's recent progress update. It is good to see an outline of the MOP Unit's work programme, particularly in relation to the importance of developing the relationship with Ngāi Tahu and progressing critical policy issues.

It has become apparent to Ministers that Cabinet decisions are required on substantial first order policy issues before much of the detailed feasibility work can progress. There are strong

interdependencies across key recommendations and workstreams in the Masterplan. Given this, appropriate phasing of the MOP Unit's work programme is essential towards ensuring the overall success of the project. It is also important to ensure that any decisions or progress concerning the Unit's work programme do not predetermine outcomes of decisions by the Ministerial Group.

We consider progress on the critical policy issues is key to maintaining momentum on the feasibility testing and ascertaining the scale and pace of the changes in Milford Sound Piopiotahi. For this reason, we request the Committee focuses the MOP Unit's work programme on developing policy options on access, charging international visitors, governance, and concessions by December 2023. These policy options will be informed by evidence and engagement. We are pleased that this suggested approach is consistent with priority work areas identified in your most recent letter to us.

Other workstreams, such as infrastructure development, commercial revenue modelling and consideration of closing the aerodrome and banning cruise ships should be deferred until after primary policy considerations as stated above have been addressed

Pending our diary commitments, we would like to meet with you in the coming month to discuss the forward work programme of the unit, key areas of focus and the June Cabinet paper. We consider that the upcoming Cabinet paper should cover detailed options analysis in relation to access, charging, concessions, and governance issues as noted above.

Completion of the high-level work programme is an exciting and significant milestone, and we look forward to further progress over the coming months.

Nāku noa nā

Hon Willow-Jean Prime  
**Minister of Conservation**

Hon Peeni Henare  
**Minister of Tourism**

Hon Kiritapu Allan  
**Associate Minister of Transport**

cc:

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