
CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
TE POU ATAWHAI TAIAO O AOTEAROA

24 January 2014

Hon Dr Nick Smith
Minister of Conservation
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

Proposed Kauri National Park

I am writing to convey the outcome of the New Zealand Conservation Authority's consideration of the proposal to establish a Kauri National Park, at its meeting on 12 December 2013.

The Authority resolved to receive the report of the Investigating Committee (attached) and confirmed that the areas comprising Waipoua Forest, parts of the Kawerua Conservation Area, Kawerua Marginal Strip No. 1, Gorrie Scenic Reserve, Donnelly's Crossing Scenic Reserve, Marlborough Road Scenic Reserve, Katui Scenic Reserve, Trounson Kauri Park Scenic Reserve and Trounson Addition Scenic Reserve contain the values required for national park status.

There are two issues, however, that are outside the mandate of the Authority, and require your urgent attention. They are: (i) the concerns of Te Roroa Manawhenua Trust; and, (ii) the health of the forest.

The Authority also noted two other issues that had been identified in the report that require further assessment: (i) the need for a more robust social, cultural, recreational and economic implications analysis; and, (ii) the two outstanding Treaty claims relating to the area.

This decision was subsequently referred to the Northland Conservation Board for advice and Te Roroa Manawhenua Trust for comment. The Northland Conservation Board concurs with the Authority's resolution, and agreed to provide advice as requested. They also support further meetings to progress the proposal. The chair of the Trust has advised me that the Te Roroa Manawhenua Trust remains opposed to the proposal at this time. My perception is that this is primarily due to a lack of understanding of the implications of a change to national park status by both the Trust and Te

Roroa generally, the Te Roroa aspiration for co-governance if a national park were to be established (although what the Te Roroa expectations of co-governance are have not been articulated), , and lack of resourcing for Te Roroa to achieve meaningful input. I am advised that you are meeting with the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Trust in early February where these matters can be discussed.

As Convenor of the Investigating Committee, the Authority has delegated to me the power to convey the Authority's decision to you, together with the advice of the Board and the comments of Te Roroa. We look forward to your response.

Naku noa, na

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yvonne Sharp'.

Yvonne Sharp
Convenor, NZCA Kauri National Park Investigation Committee