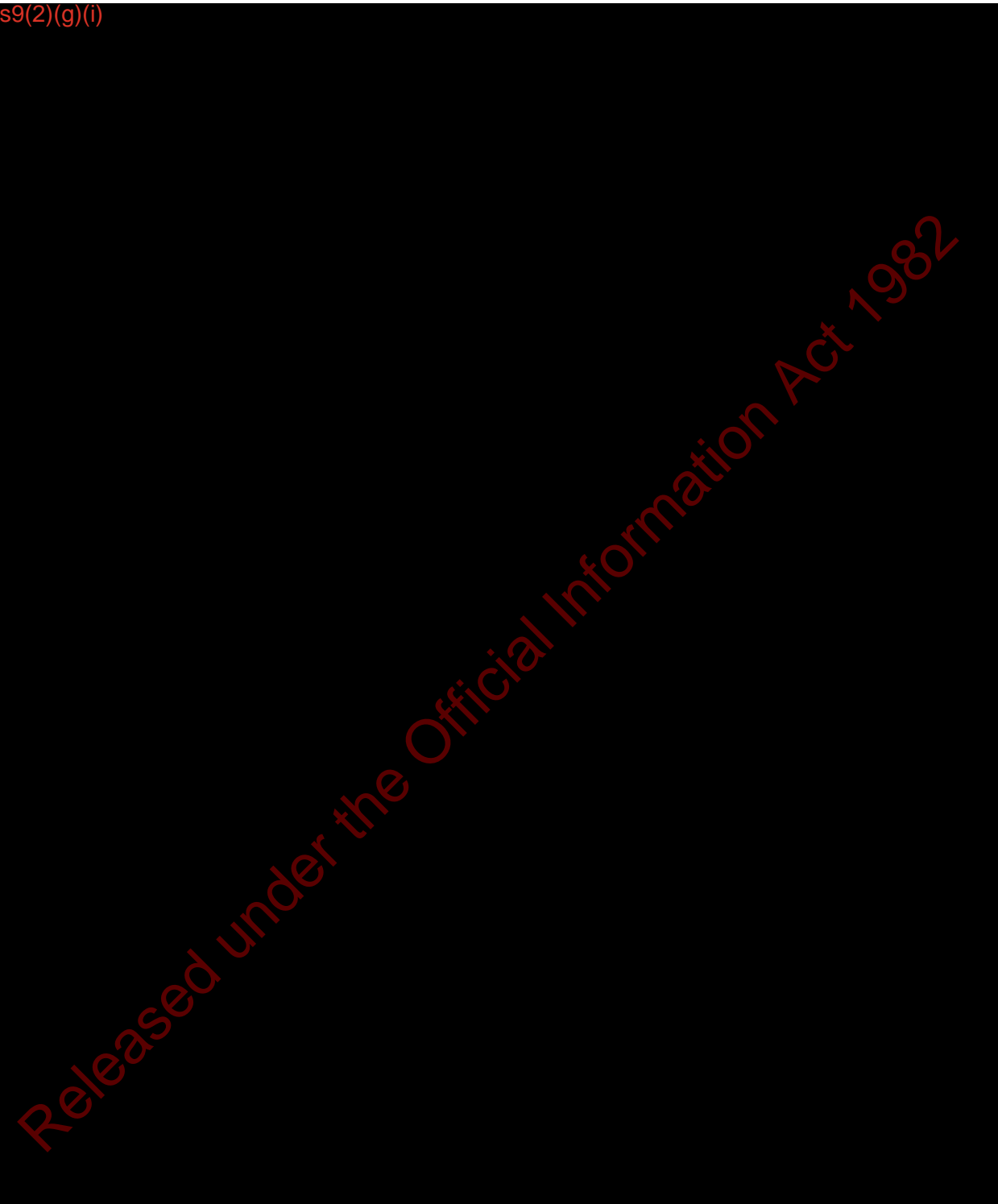


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Material for HOSI workshop on 11/12/2024

s9(2)(g)(i)

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Context: Definition of HOSI

- A 'Herd of Special Interest' consist of two statutory instruments:
 - A. A Gazette notification made by the responsible Minister specifying
 - a) the species of game animal,
 - b) the area of PCL where they will formally have HOSI status,
 - c) why the Minister considers the animals to be of special interest to hunters,
 - d) what the expected benefits are of managing the animals for hunting purposes,
 - e) the date from which the notice takes effect.
 - B. A Herd Management Plan that set out "objectives and strategies for the management of the herd to achieve the expected benefits" specified in the Gazette notice.
- Practically speaking, the Herd Management Plan is the core of a HOSI, since it will determine what management actions will be taken and what the HOSI will look like in practice.
- The Act (s 18) also specifies the Minister's powers for the for the purpose of managing herds of special interest in line with these statutory instruments. The powers are to:
 - a) issue hunting permits for HOIS animals, determining the conditions of such permits, how they will be allocated (e.g. ballot), when and how permits may be revoked etc
 - b) carry out or authorise animal control operations for managing and controlling the size of the population
 - c) carry out monitoring, surveys and other assessments of HOSI animals and the means of managing them:
 - d) promote standards (including behavioural and industry standards) for game animal hunting and game animal management and prepare publications relating to HOSI animals and their management, and
 - e) capture, convey, or liberate HOSI animals.

Context: HOSI "overriding considerations"

- The GAC Act specifies that a HOSI Herd Management Plan "must be consistent with the overriding considerations". The overriding considerations are defined in the GAC Act as follows:
 - f) the welfare and management of public conservation land and resources generally:
 - g) any statement of general policy that is made, or has effect as if it were made, under [the Conservation Act, the National Parks Act, the Reserves Act or the Wildlife Act] viz. Conservation and National Park General Policies.
 - h) any conservation management strategy or conservation management plan

Material for HOSI workshop on 11/12/2024

- i) any national park management plan
- j) any wild animal control plan made under section 5 of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977:
- k) any pest management strategy, pest management plan, pathway management plan, or operational plan made under the Biosecurity Act 1993

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Memo: Herds of Special Interest update

To	Minister for Hunting and Fishing	Date submitted	15 November 2024
GS tracking #	24-B-0582	DocCM	DOC- 7813168
Security Level	Sensitive		
From	Sam Thomas, Director Policy, s9(2)(a)		
Subject	Herds of Special Interest update		
Attachments	Out of scope		

Out of scope

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Out of scope

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Out of scope

National Parks Act requirements

20. For a wapiti HOSI to be established under existing legislation, the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) may, depending on scale and scope, need to make a determination that the requirement to exterminate introduced species as far as possible (s 4(2)(b) of the National Parks Act 1980) should not apply to the HOSI animals.
21. If all parties to the litigation reached agreement to the conditions for managing the wapiti area, we would need to decide whether an exemption from the s 4(2)(b) of the National Parks Act would be needed, to enable the HOSI.
22. s9(2)(g)(i)

Legislative reform is necessary to provide certainty to a decision-maker in respect of a wapiti HOSI

23. Given the above context, legislative change would be needed to provide certainty that a HOSI can be established within a National Park. A wapiti HOSI could potentially provide increased certainty around the ongoing management arrangements of wapiti, compared to the current arrangements.
24. This is most likely to be delivered through an amendment to the GAC Act that would provide an exception for a wapiti HOSI from the s 4(2)(b) requirement. DOC is undertaking policy work to establish the options for primary legislative change, including whether further amendments might be necessary or warranted to facilitate the delivery of a wapiti (or other) HOSI through the GAC Act.
25. Any amendment bill would need to be narrowly scoped and straightforward to allow it to be passed this term, since timelines would be very constrained. The most likely route to deliver a wapiti HOSI this term would be to develop an HMP as part of the legislative process to be considered and enacted by Parliament. This would be different to the statutory process set out in the GAC Act, and be driven by Government, not stakeholders. DOC will provide further advice in February on legislative options and risks, which will become clearer as the negotiations with Forest and Bird continue.

Risk assessment – Aronga tūraru

26. Out of scope

Out of scope

27. If you decide to direct DOC to progress work on a legislative amendment in February 2025, there is a chance that Forest & Bird would seek to progress its judicial review proceedings. However, this would not prevent Parliament making changes to legislation.

28. s9(2)(g)(i)

29. While the most likely legislative option to enable the wapiti HOSI would be small, its impact is also likely to be controversial. s9(2)(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

30. Out of scope

Fiordland National Park as a UNESCO World Heritage Area

31. Fiordland National Park falls within the UNESCO World Heritage Area (WHA) “Te Wahipounamu South West New Zealand” established under the World Heritage Convention (to which New Zealand is a signatory). The Minister of Conservation is the Minister responsible.
32. An assessment of effects of an activity against world heritage area values is required before a decision is made to progress work. This will need to be considered in the context of any HOSI process and discussed with the Minister of Conservation.
33. Forest & Bird has previously noted that they intend write to UNESCO and request that the area is inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger (LoWHID). Properties are inscribed on the LoWHID when they are considered by UNESCO’s World Heritage Committee to be under threat and in need of corrective action.
34. If the World Heritage Committee determines that New Zealand is not adequately protecting the World Heritage Area, there could have impacts on New Zealand’s international reputation with political and economic consequences.
35. However, it is possible that a HOSI could be considered compatible with the WHA status if it can be shown that it leads to better conservation outcomes. We will undertake further analysis on this point.

Next steps – Ngā tāwhaitanga

36. Noting you are yet to make decisions, there is an indicative timeline to progress the HOSI and potential legislative change at Annex two. DOC will provide further updates and advice on the development of the proposals including initial financial information over the next two months. As part of this, we will keep you informed of progress

regarding the discussions with Forest and Bird and FWF on the management of the Wapiti Area.

37. We anticipate that two draft proposals will be submitted for your consideration in February 2025. We will provide detailed briefing on your options around a potential legislative process to enable a Wapiti HOSI, consultation requirements, long-term costs for DOC and others, and draft HOSI proposals.

38. Out of scope

39. You will need to make firm decisions in February 2025 on progressing the HOSI and any legislative change to enable delivery this term. This would need to include a decision on how and when to announce your next steps.

40. DOC also recommends that you meet with the Minister of Conservation at this point. This would be to discuss the likely ongoing resourcing requirements for implementing HOSI and any necessary conservation budget reprioritisation; the implications of legislative change that would affect the National Parks Act; and the implications for New Zealand's obligations under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.

41. Should you decide to progress HOSI at this point, DOC officials will initiate the relevant statutory or legislative processes. You will be able to input to the development of the proposals as the draft management plan is refined. The next major decision points would be

Out of scope

- b) For wapiti, through legislation: August 2025, Cabinet decision to consult or to introduce draft Bill and HOSI management plan.

ENDS

Out of scope

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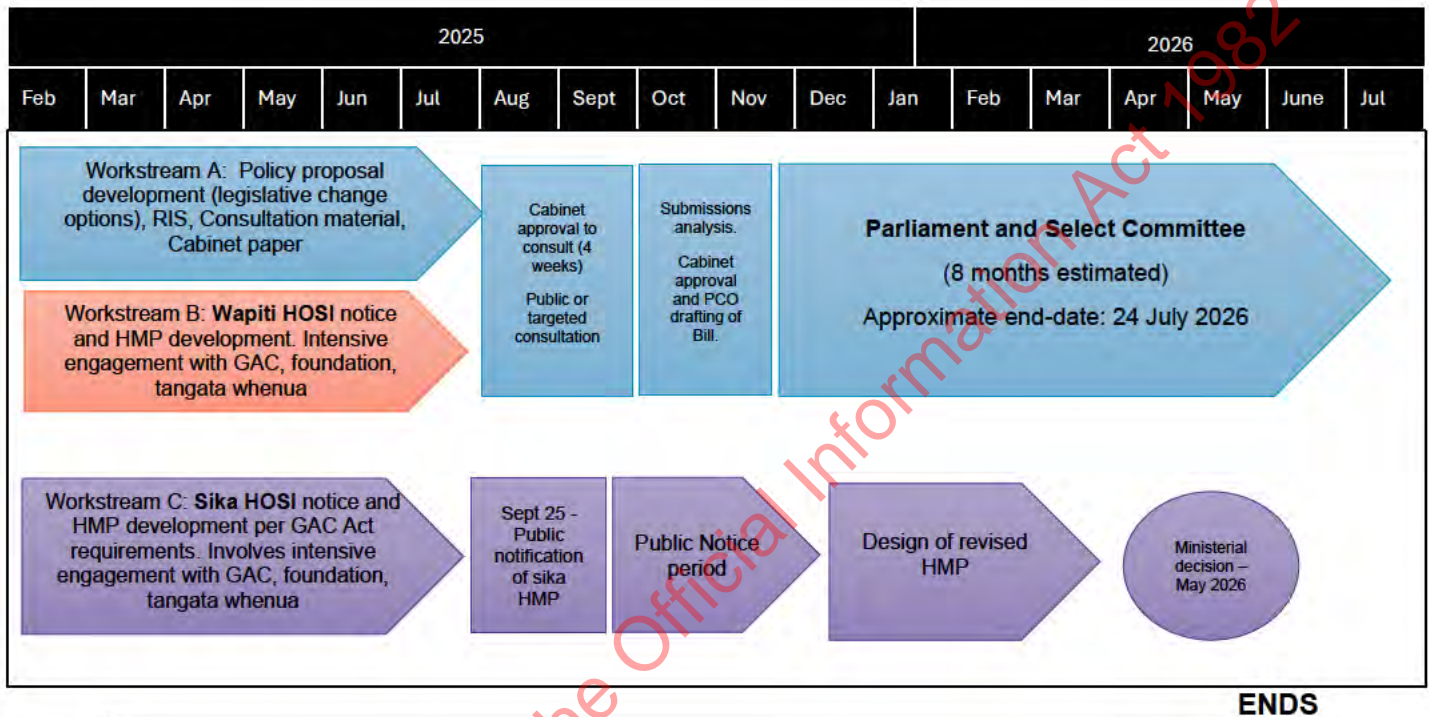
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Annex two – Indicative timeline for delivery of sika and wapiti HOSI

This indicative timeline assumes that – in order to save time and enable a wapiti HOSI to be delivered this parliamentary term - the wapiti HOSI would be developed as part of a legislative amendment (workstream B below).

This would mean the wapiti HOSI would be considered and enacted by Parliament, rather than following the statutory process for developing a HOSI laid out in the GAC Act. This would be a different process than for sika (workstream C below) which would follow the statutory process specified in the GAC Act.



Memo: Confirming timeline and next steps for Herds of Special Interest

To	Minister for Hunting and Fishing	Date submitted	13 December 2024
GS tracking #	24-B-0632	DocCM	DOC-7836729
Security Level	Sensitive		
From	Sam Thomas, Director Policy, s9(2)(a)		
Subject	Confirming timeline and next steps for Herds of Special Interest		
Attachments	N/A		

Purpose – Te aronga

1. This item confirms your request to take forward legislation to amend the Game Animal Council Act (the GAC Act) through Budget Night urgency and identifies next steps.

Background and context – Te horopaki

2. At the 2 December Minister's meeting you confirmed your preference to progress legislative amendments to the GAC Act via urgency on Budget Night.
3. This legislation will provide technical clarification on the relationship between provisions to introduce a HOSI under the GAC Act, and certain requirements under the National Parks Act 1980. Given this interaction, we recommend you speak to Minister of Conservation (MOC) ahead of lodging a Cabinet Paper to inform him of your intentions.
4. To pass a Bill through Budget Night urgency, you will need agreement from the Leader of the House (LoH). The LoH's agreement should be included in your legislative bids submission. Cabinet will discuss its view on the legislative programme at the end of January 2025. The draft Bill will need to have cleared Cabinet by mid-April 2025.
5. You have indicated you will speak to the LoH prior to the end of the year to discuss including this Bill in the Budget Night process. Following this conversation officials will prepare a letter to seek formal approval for this process from the LoH.

Sequencing of advice and timeframes

6. You have indicated you wish to begin the statutory consultation process for the sika Herd Management Plan (HMP) early in the new year while simultaneously seeking legislative change to allow for a wapiti HOSI, and to progress a wapiti HMP subsequently. To meet tight timelines, we anticipate that we will split decisions on sika and wapiti HOSI into two papers:
 - a) Initial evaluation of the draft wapiti proposal, including costs and funding options. The paper will also include a draft Cabinet Paper to progress legislative change for Ministerial and agency consultation. Substantive assessment of wapiti proposal will follow Budget 2025. (See timeline below)

- b) Evaluation of the draft sika proposal, including costs and funding options. This will provide the option to begin the statutory process for the sika Herd Management Plan (HMP). (See timeline below).

7. Indicative key milestones are set out below:

Milestone	Date
Briefing on Legislative Bids sent to your office	17 January 2025
Cabinet discusses legislative programme for 2025 Parliamentary Session	End January 2025
Briefing and draft Cabinet Paper on wapiti proposal and GAC Act amendment to your office	W/C 20 January 2025
Ministerial/Agency Consultation	W/C 27 January 2025
ECO Committee	12 February 2025
Briefing seeking approval to begin sika HMP statutory consultation	14 February 2025
LEG Committee	10 April 2025
Budget Night	TBC May 2025

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Risk assessment – Aronga tūraru

10. As previously noted, there are risks in choosing this approach. This includes losing time to pass both wapiti and sika HOSI this term if the Bill falls out of the Budget Night package at late stage and a different parliamentary slot is needed to pass under urgency. We also expect a high level of scrutiny on the decision-making process after the legislation has passed. The public will have no opportunity to comment on proposals under this process, and stakeholders may question the proposals and the use of the Budget Night urgency process.
11. We note that changing legislation through a standard legislative and policy process would still allow delivery of both HOSI this term [memo 24-B-0582 refers]. This process will not be as fast as the Budget Night process but would mitigate some of the risks highlighted above.

Next steps – Ngā tāwhaitanga

12. We will provide a more fulsome briefing on the Budget Night process in early 2025.
13. We will also provide a letter for you to send to the LoH on the use of the Budget Night process in January 2025.

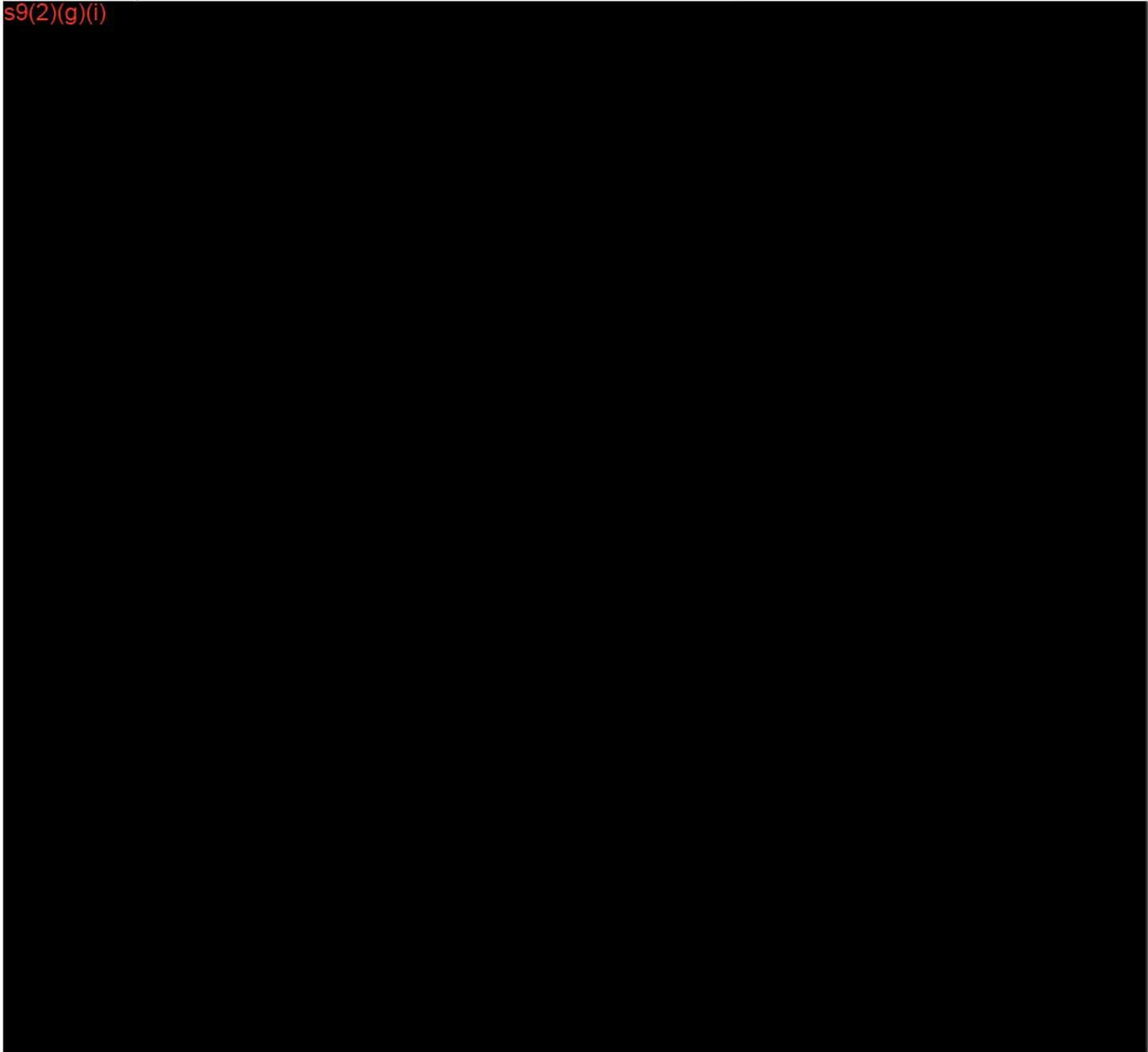
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Item 4 - HOSI bill expanded scope rationale

This document is withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty

To Ben, Sam, Jonty

s9(2)(g)(i)



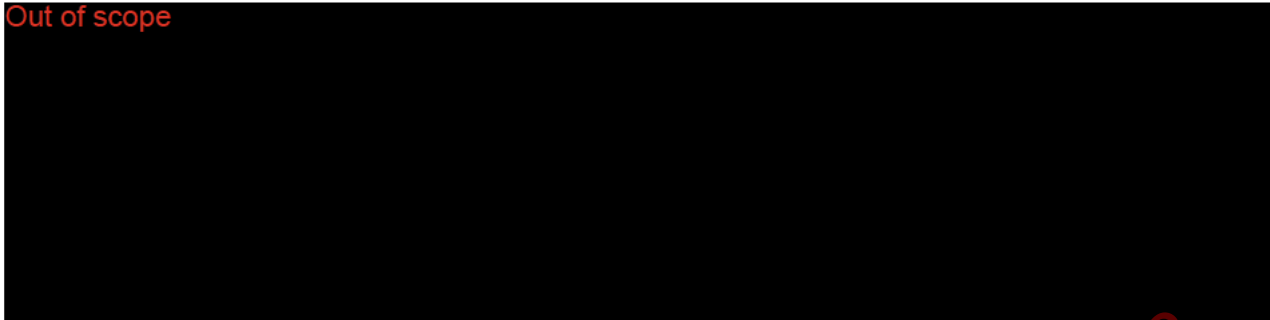
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IN CONFIDENCE
NOT GOVERNMENT POLICY

Update Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) work programme

Out of scope



2. This note also updates you on the Minister's preference to use Budget Night Urgency should he need to pass legislation to amend the Game Animal Council Act (the GAC Act) to provide greater certainty for HOSI in National Parks.

Out of scope



5. We are also clarifying the relationship between the GAC and National Parks Acts to provide greater certainty for the designation of a HOSI in a National Park. This could be resolved by a determination from the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) or through changes to Legislation via the GAC Act. This issue interacts with the ongoing legal challenge from Forest and Bird (F&B) against the existing wapiti community agreement. This is covered in the second half of this paper.

Out of scope



IN CONFIDENCE
NOT GOVERNMENT POLICY

Progressing a wapiti HOSI may require legislative change

10. A wapiti HOSI could proceed in a National Park without legislative change, provided the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) determines such a HOSI is compatible with legislation covering National Parks. Legislation change is needed to provide certainty that a wapiti (or other) HOSI can function in a National Park without the need for a determination from the NZCA. The Minister intends to proceed with this legislation under Budget Night urgency.
11. The Minister will need to lodge a Cabinet paper in early February 2025 (see *Table 3 below*) to proceed with Budget Night legislation. Officials recently provided a memo outlining the timing and risks with this approach to the Minister [memo 24-B-0632 refers]. We will provide fuller advice on this approach, and the potential for proceeding without legislative change in a paper in January.
12. We suggest the Minister discusses his approach with the Minister of Conservation prior to lodging a Cabinet Paper, as this legislative amendment will allow the GAC Act to override provisions in the National Parks Act. This recommendation will be included in the Legislative Bids briefing (due to the Minister's Office on 17 January 2025).

Out of scope



IN CONFIDENCE
NOT GOVERNMENT POLICY

35. Decisions will be needed from the Minister by late January 2025 if we are to meet deadlines to amend legislation to secure a wapiti HOSI under his preferred approach of Budget Night Urgency (see *Table 3*).
36. The outcomes from a wapiti HOSI could be delivered via the existing community agreement in Fiordland National Park. We also understand there is an emerging view that a wapiti HOSI is generally acceptable. However, it is unlikely we will have full clarity on the direction of legal case by January 2025.
37. The advice provided to the Minister in January will traverse the relative merits and risks of advancing either option. If we do not have a clear indication, we are likely to recommend continuing work to amend the GAC Act through Budget Night legislation. Should this change and a determination become more likely the Minister is able to halt the change to Legislation at any time up to introduction.

Table 3: Milestones for meeting Budget Night Legislation

Milestone	Date
Briefing on Legislative Bids sent to Minister's office – to include letter to Leader of the House seeking to use Urgent Budget Night process, and letter to MOC to clarify relationship of legislation with National Parks Act and to suggest meeting	17 January 2025
Cabinet discusses legislative programme for 2025 Parliamentary Session	End January 2025
Cover briefing and draft Cabinet Paper on wapiti proposal and GAC act amendment to office	W/C 20 January 2025
Ministerial/Agency Consultation	W/C 27 January 2025
ECO Committee	12 February 2025
Briefing seeking approval to begin sika HMP statutory consultation	14 February 2025
LEG Committee	10 April 2025
Budget Night	TBC May 2025

Out of scope



Briefing: Hunting and Fishing Portfolio - Initial Briefing and Immediate Decisions

To	Minister for Hunting and Fishing	Date submitted	24 January 2025
Action sought	Decisions on progressing urgent matters that relate to critical Cabinet or policy timeframes to support delivery of Government priorities.	Priority	Very High
Reference	25-B-0011	DocCM	DOC-7863279
Security Level	Sensitive – BUDGET		
Risk Assessment	High Time sensitive decisions are required.	Timeframe	Urgent: Legislative bids need to be submitted by 29 January.
Attachments	Appendix 1 – Briefing for Incoming Minister for Hunting and Fishing		
Contacts			
Name and position			Phone
Ruth Isaac, Deputy Director-General, Policy and Regulatory services			s9(2)(a)
Stephanie Rowe, Deputy Director-General, Biodiversity, Heritage and Visitors			

Executive summary – Whakarāpopoto ā kaiwhakahaere

1. Out of scope

2.

3. The immediate decisions needed are:

- to submit the Hunting and Fishing Legislative Bids for 2025 (briefing 24-B-0615 refers), with or without changes. The Cabinet Office deadline is 29 January;
- whether to continue to progress urgent Budget night legislation to clarify that Herds of Special Interest may be designated in national parks. This requires the agreement of the Leader of the House. A Cabinet paper seeking policy decisions would need to be lodged for discussion at ECO on 19 February; and

4. Out of scope

4.

5.

We recommend that you ... (Ngā tohutohu)

Out of scope

4.

Indicate whether you want to continue to progress urgent Budget night legislation to clarify that Herds of Special Interest may be designated in national parks.

Yes / No

Out of scope



Date: 24 / 01 / 2025

Ruth Isaac
**Deputy Director-General, Policy and
Regulatory Services**

Date: 27 / 1 / 25

Hon James Meager
Minister for Hunting and Fishing

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Purpose – Te aronga

1. The Briefing for the Incoming Minister (BIM) is attached to this briefing that provides broader background on the portfolio, your responsibilities, and key relationships. The Department of Conservation is the lead advisor for the Government in this portfolio.
2. This paper also seeks your direction on items in your Hunting and Fishing portfolio that require immediate decisions so that Cabinet, external deadlines, or current policy delivery timeframes, can be met (if these align with your priorities).
3. A first portfolio meeting with officials is provisionally scheduled for 29 January, but we are ready to meet with you earlier if you wish. DOC will provide further context at this meeting.

Background and context – Te horopaki

4. The Hunting and Fishing Portfolio was introduced by this Government. Hunting and fishing matters were previously the responsibility of the Minister of Conservation. Vote Conservation funds delivery of the portfolio.
5. The previous Minister for Hunting and Fishing established four main priorities for the portfolio, building on pre-election policy manifestos, which are discussed in more detail in the BIM. Those priorities are:
 - managing game animals as valued introduced species to ensure numbers are best managed for each region's individual interests;
 - supporting Fish and Game New Zealand (Fish and Game) and the Game Animal Council (GAC);
 - introducing Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) to balance hunting and conservation objectives; and
 - increasing hunting access on public conservation land.
6. Over the last few months, DOC has provided advice on next steps to take these priorities forward and the previous Minister had provided direction on his preferences. Some of the next steps require externally driven timeframes to be met. Others are to meet preferences for how policy outcomes should be delivered by the end of term, some of which require you to agree next steps with your ministerial colleagues.

There are issues which require your immediate attention if you wish to progress these portfolio priorities

Portfolio Legislative Bids are due with Cabinet Office by 29 January

7.



8.

- Game Animal Council Act Amendments Bill legislative bid;



9. The order of these legislative bids reflects the priority order preferred by the previous Minister. Minister McClay's preference was to escalate the Game Animal Council Act Amendments Bill to first priority on the basis of his preferred route to progress this

legislation under urgency on Budget night 2025. This route and timing are linked to making a technical legislative change to support the subsequent establishment of Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) (paragraphs 12-21 discuss this further).

10. As discussed below, the previous Minister intended to discuss his desire to seek Budget night legislation with the Leader of the House, and to advise the Minister of Conservation, ahead of legislative bids being submitted.

11. **Out of scope**

Legislative change to support the introduction of Herds of Special Interest (HOSI)

12. Minister McClay was progressing work on two HOSI for **sika** and **wapiti**. Work on a third HOSI for **tahr** is currently paused. These are the three herds of specific interest to hunters as candidates for HOSI, specified in National's plan for hunting and fishing.
13. Under a HOSI, animals within a specific geographical area of public conservation land can be managed to provide for hunting outcomes, whilst also providing conservation benefits. There are currently no designated HOSI in New Zealand. The BIM provides further information, and DOC will provide additional briefing as needed.
14. The Game Animal Council Act 2013 (GAC) allows the Minister to designate HOSI, including in national parks. HOSI are then managed for hunting purposes under a herd management plan (HMP). HOSI HMPs must be consistent with relevant conservation management plans and national park management plans.

Application of National Parks Act principles has created uncertainty as to the ability for HOSI to be designated within a National Park

15. The National Parks Act 1980 (the NP Act) sets out principles to be applied in national parks. The principles include the statement that "*introduced... animals shall as far as possible be exterminated*" in national parks except where the New Zealand Conservation Authority determines otherwise.
16. In 2024, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand (Forest & Bird) instigated a legal challenge to an existing community agreement between DOC and the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation in Fiordland National Park on the basis that the Agreement sought to 'manage' wapiti rather than 'exterminate' them, as required by the National Parks Act.
17. The legal challenge has been paused while further work is undertaken by the parties. However, the challenge highlights the legal uncertainty surrounding any proposal to 'manage' wapiti numbers in a national park, which would be the outcome sought from a wapiti HOSI. Without addressing the legal uncertainty there remains a risk of challenge to the designation of a HOSI.

Current process to deliver legislative change

18. Minister McClay was considering introducing legislation to remove the ambiguity between the NP Act and the HOSI provisions in the GAC Act. This would be a small clarification to provide certainty that HOSI can be designated in national parks as intended. As previously noted, Minister McClay planned to take this legislation under urgency on Budget night and DOC has been working at pace to support this. Work on the statutory process to introduce a wapiti HOSI would follow Royal Assent (memo 24-B-0632 refers).

19. **A decision to continue to progress this legislation through Budget night urgency is needed:** this requires agreement from the Leader of the House. DOC does not know whether this agreement had been secured by Minister McClay.
20. Timelines are very tight. We are ready to provide a full briefing and draft Cabinet Paper seeking Cabinet agreement to policy decisions towards the drafting of a Bill. If you wish to progress this, the paper would need to be lodged by 12 February (following Ministerial consultation) for discussion at ECO on the 19 February, to meet Budget night deadlines.
21. There are alternative routes to deliver the same legislation and support HOSI delivery by the end of this term (memo 24-B-0582 refers). DOC can discuss these options with you and provide additional briefing as needed.

Out of scope



Out of scope

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Out of scope

ENDS

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Item 7 - 24-B-0615 - Briefing - Proposed LEG bids for the 2025 Hunting and Fishing Legislative Programme - DOC-7858367

This document is withheld in full under section 18(a) of the Official Information Act by virtue of section 9(2)(f)(iv) as the information is under active consideration.



Briefing: Next steps on wapiti HOSI process

To	Minister for Hunting and Fishing	Date submitted	30 January 2025
Action sought	Agree to proceed with Budget night legislation to enable a wapiti HOSI Consider attached draft Cabinet Paper	Priority	Very High
Reference	24-B-0643	DocCM	DOC- 7868834
Security Level	BUDGET SENSITIVE		
Risk Assessment	High A decision is needed urgently on proceeding to Cabinet so we can meet deadlines for Budget night legislation. s9(2)(g)(i)	Timeframe	4 February 2025
Attachments	Attachment A – Draft Cabinet paper - Amendments to the Game Animal Council Act 2013 to clarify the provision for herds of special interest in national parks		
Contacts			
Name and position			Phone
Sam Thomas, Director, Policy			s9(2)(a)
Nicola Molloy, Policy Manager, Hunting, Fishing and Economic Development			

Executive summary – Whakarāpopoto ā kaiwhakahaere

1. A Herd of Special Interest (HOSI) allows animals within a specific geographical area of public conservation land to be managed to provide for hunting outcomes, whilst also providing conservation benefits. The National Party manifesto signalled an intent to introduce three HOSI, one for sika, one for wapiti and one for tahr (work on tahr is currently paused). There are currently no designated HOSI in New Zealand.
2. This briefing outlines the implications for and seeks your agreement to lodge the attached Cabinet paper seeking approval to **draft legislation to remove legal uncertainty around the introduction of a HOSI in a national park.**
3. Progressing this legislative change would provide the most certainty that you can introduce a HOSI for wapiti this term. You have indicated that you wish to progress this under Budget night urgency, and we understand that you have spoken with the Leader of the House. Your legislative bids for 2025 have been submitted on this basis.
4. We seek your feedback by 4 February 2025 in advance of a short Ministerial consultation. Given the significant links with the conservation portfolio (specifically with the National Parks Act 1980 and responsibilities for UNESCO World Heritage Areas), we suggest you speak with the Minister of Conservation before wider Ministers.
5. Lodging the attached Cabinet paper by 13 February for discussion at the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO) on 19 February would enable us to meet deadlines to support your preferred approach of seeking introduction at Budget 2025.

Out of scope

We recommend that you ... (Ngā tohutohu)

		Decision
a)	Agree to progress development of a wapiti HOSI in Fiordland National Park and seek Cabinet agreement to introduce legislation via Budget night urgency to clarify the relationship between the Game Animal Council Act 2013 and section 4 of the National Parks Act 1980.	Yes / No
b)	Agree to consider the attached draft Cabinet Paper and provide feedback by 4 February 2025 to enable lodgement on 13 February 2025.	Yes / No
c)	Note Ministerial Consultation will need to run from 5 – 10 February which is shorter than the standard timeframe.	Noted ✓
d)	Agree to meet with the Minister of Conservation prior to other Ministers during the Ministerial consultation period regarding your legislative bids and the implications for his portfolio.	Yes / No


Date: 30/01/2025

Sam Thomas
Director, Policy

Date: 2/2/25

Hon James Meager
Minister for Hunting and Fishing

Purpose – Te aronga

1. This paper;

 - b. seeks your views on how to proceed with the establishment of a wapiti HOSI in Fiordland National Park.
2. A draft Cabinet Paper is attached for your consideration if you decide to seek Cabinet agreement to progress legislation via Budget night urgency.

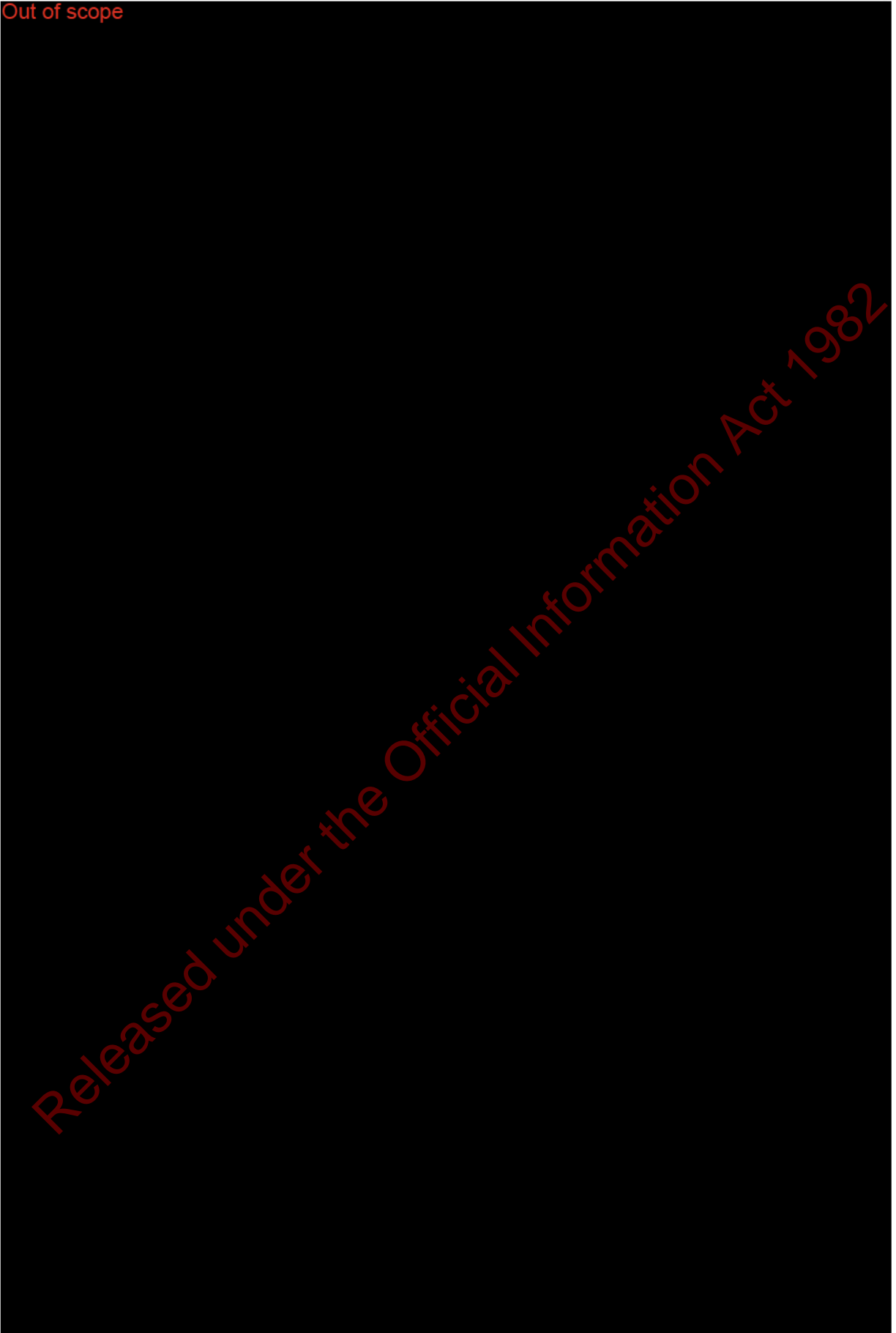
Background and context – Te horopaki

3. You have indicated that you wish to progress with legislation under urgency on Budget night to amend the Game Animal Council Act 2013 (the GAC Act) to give certainty on the status of a HOSI in a national park. You have submitted a Legislative bid to Cabinet seeking its agreement that this proposal can proceed under urgency (24-B-0165 refers).
4. You will need Cabinet's agreement by 19 February to draft legislation, in order to provide enough time to lodge the Bill for Budget night.
5. We recommended that you discuss this proposal and other legislative bids with the Minister of Conservation during the Ministerial consultation period of 5-10 February to explain how they would interact with his portfolio.

Out of scope



Out of scope



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Out of scope

You have options for managing wapiti in Fiordland

Progressing a wapiti HOSI via a determination from the NZCA carries uncertainty...

22. You could instruct DOC to proceed to develop a HOSI under current legislative settings. We would need to commence work on the statutory process as soon as possible to deliver this by the end of the parliamentary term.
23. Once the HOSI HMP has been developed (estimated time 12 months) you could then decide whether to seek a determination from the NZCA. A successful determination from the NZCA is not guaranteed.
24. Since Forest and Bird have stated that it considers a determination from the NZCA would be necessary, there is a risk of a legal challenge to the HOSI process if a determination is not sought. It is unclear how large this risk is or how likely such a challenge would be successful.
25. DOC does not consider this a viable option to give certainty for a wapiti HOSI. We do not believe discussions with Forest and Bird have progressed far enough yet to ensure a successful outcome if a determination were to be sought from NZCA. We will have a better understanding of this over the next couple of months as discussions progress.

... introducing legislation to clarify the relationship between the NP Act and the GAC Act would provide much greater certainty.

26. **DOC considers legislative amendment is the best option to provide certainty that a wapiti HOSI can be designated this parliamentary term without legal challenge.** Legislation would give the Government greater clarity on the process to designate a HOSI in a national park in the future and support the National Party's manifesto commitment.
27. The policy intent of a legislative amendment would be to clarify the interaction between the Game Animal Council Act 2013 (the GAC Act), HOSI provisions and section 4 of the National Parks Act 1980, making it clear that a HOSI can be designated in a national park as intended, without the need for a determination from the NZCA.
28. **DOC recommends a proposed change to legislation should apply to HOSI in national parks generally, and not just to wapiti.** This would be consistent with the objective of making these pieces of legislation work together coherently. Removing the need for an NZCA determination is also consistent with separate Government proposals (led by the Minister of Conservation) which would limit the decision-making role of the NZCA.

A community agreement is also an option, but will not meet the National Party's manifesto objectives

29. Another option would be to pursue development of a new community agreement following conclusion of negotiations between parties in the legal case. If this was your preference you could discuss this with the Director-General of Conservation who has the power to enter into such agreements under s53 of the Conservation Act 1987.
30. Note, however, that while it may be possible to develop a new community agreement that is acceptable to both Forest and Bird and FWF, a community agreement cannot have hunting outcomes as its primary purpose (as opposed to a HOSI which would be focused on hunting outcomes). It would also not deliver your manifesto commitment to introduce a HOSI for wapiti.

You need to lodge a Cabinet Paper by 13 February if you wish to proceed with Budget night legislation

31. You have indicated that you wish to progress legislative change via Budget night urgency. Budget 2025 is released on 22 May. We recommend having a draft Bill ready for Budget night as early as possible to allow for Easter recess and for any slippages in a busy Cabinet schedule around this time.
32. To meet this timeframe, we suggest that your Cabinet paper should be lodged no later than 13 February for discussion at the Cabinet Economic Committee (ECO) on 19 February.

33. s9(2)(g)(i)

DOC recommends any legislative amendment is narrowly scoped

34. We recommend that the policy intent of any legislative amendment is narrowly scoped to include only what is necessary to provide clarity that a HOSI can be designated in a national park as intended, and without the need for a determination from the NZCA. A narrowly scoped bill is more appropriate for introduction at Budget 2025 and will reinforce that you do not intend to amend the NP Act, or dilute conservation outcomes.
35. The primary change needed would provide that:
 - a. The National Parks Act requirement set out in section 4 (2)(b) to exterminate introduced animals as far as possible, unless the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) determines otherwise, does not apply to animals that are part of a herd designated as a herd of special interest under section 16 of the Game Animal Council Act 2013.

Legislation will not address all issues associated with the introduction of HOSI

36. These amendments will improve coherence between the GAC Act and the NP Act. However, further work is needed to support introduction of other HOSI and to address broader issues arising from this change as outlined below.

Fiordland National Park as a UNESCO World Heritage Area

37. Fiordland National Park falls within the UNESCO World Heritage Area "Te Wahipounamu South West New Zealand" established under the World Heritage Convention (to which New Zealand is a signatory). The Minister of Conservation is the Minister responsible for these international obligations.
38. To be compliant with New Zealand's World Heritage Convention obligations, an assessment of environmental impact on the values of the World Heritage Area is expected before a decision is made on a HOSI within a World Heritage Area. DOC will prepare this during the development of the HOSI Herd Management Plan (HMP), which is where specific impacts are identified and mitigation options are assessed.
39. Forest and Bird previously advised it would request UNESCO's World Heritage Committee to consider Te Wahipounamu to be under threat and inscribe it on the List of World Heritage in Danger on the basis of the current FWF community agreement.
40. DOC does not consider this proposed legislative change would constitute a reduction in protection afforded to Te Wahipounamu World Heritage Area. However, there is a risk that Forest and Bird will decide to write to the World Heritage Committee if legislation is announced. Should this eventuate, we do not consider this poses a significant risk of further action from the Committee, given the absence of a specific HOSI proposal at this stage.

41. If UNESCO's World Heritage Committee considered the World Heritage Area to be under threat following the development of the HOSI HMP, it could implement measures under the Convention including: additional reporting, a UN mission to investigate, or inscribing the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger. This could have political and economic consequences and may affect New Zealand's status as a partner of choice on the international stage.
42. We suggest you discuss this matter with the Minister of Conservation, as Minister responsible, prior to the introduction of a wapiti HOSI.

s9(2)(f)(iv)

DOC officials have prepared a draft Cabinet Paper to support the option of legislative change through Budget Night urgency

44. The Cabinet paper:

- a. seeks Cabinet's agreement to delegate to you the ability to determine the specific legislative amendments required to provide legal certainty of the designation and operation of HOSI in national parks;
- b. notes there may be fiscal implications associated with the subsequent designation of HOSI; and
- c. explains the potential risk to the region's classification as a UNESCO World Heritage Area.

You have indicated you wish legislation to be passed under urgency at Budget 2025.

45. Cabinet will discuss its legislative programme at the end of January 2025. This discussion will include agreeing which bills should be taken forward under urgency (briefing 24-B-0615 refers).
46. You have indicated your preference and submitted a legislative bid to take this Bill through under urgency on Budget night. We understand you have spoken with the Leader of the House, whose agreement is needed.
47. We require your feedback on this paper by 4 February so that Agency and Ministerial consultation can be completed in time to lodge the paper by 13 February for discussion at ECO on 19 February.

Risk assessment – Aronga tūraru

48. Passing this Bill under urgency is likely to raise concerns from certain stakeholders over the lack of consultation. Conservation stakeholders may be concerned that the legislation indicates a shift from a conservation to a hunting focus. The legislation would clarify the interaction between the NP Act and GAC Act.
49. DOC would fulfil its obligations with respect to assessing the protections for Te Wahipounamu World Heritage Area as part of the statutory process to establish a wapiti HOSI (i.e. the Herd Management Plan process, which includes consultation). However, there is still a risk that Forest and Bird recommend the World Heritage Committee inscribe the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger as a result of a

legislative amendment. We do not consider the World Heritage Committee would undertake further actions at this stage, given the absence of a specific HOSI proposal.

50. The possibility of Forest and Bird reaching out to the Committee may be exacerbated by the (presently paused) Forest and Bird litigation against the existing community agreement. DOC will seek to handle conversations with Forest and Bird sensitively as discussions on the legal case are ongoing.
51. Perception risks can be managed through appropriate communications material, and DOC officials will work closely with your office to prepare these.
52. Further perception risks around what a wapiti HOSI may end up looking like will be managed through the HOSI development process. Communications can note that there will be an opportunity for key stakeholders and the public to input during this process.

Treaty principles (section 4) – Ngā mātapono Tiriti (section 4)

53. Progressing legislation to override sections of the NP Act without prior engagement will likely be viewed negatively by many hapū/iwi, who may view it as a breach of Treaty principles (e.g. the principles of partnership and reasonable cooperation).
54. Some hapū/iwi may have a specific interest in proposals that override sections of the NP Act, or appear as though the Government is looking to weaken environmental protections.
55. Budget night legislation is treated as Budget sensitive, limiting the ability to engage with Treaty Partners. On completion of legislative amendments, the subsequent statutory process to develop a HMP for wapiti in Fiordland would require engagement and consultation, including with hapū/iwi.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Consultation – Kōrero whakawhiti

56. As this change is being proposed as part of Budget 2025 and subject to Budget sensitivity, we have not consulted widely on this paper.
57. We have discussed the Budget night legislation process with the Treasury, PCO, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Office of the Leader of the House.

s9(2)(f)(iv)

s9(2)(h)

Key milestones are set out here:

Milestone	Date
Minister provides feedback on draft Cabinet paper directing any changes to be made prior to wider Ministerial consultation	4 February (if possible, earlier)
Wider ministerial consultation (managed by Minister's office)	5 – 10 February (4 working days)
Revision of Cabinet paper following wider Ministerial consultation	11 February
Minister approves final version of Cabinet paper for lodgement	12 February
Lodgement for ECO	13 February
ECO consideration	19 February
LEG Committee	10 April
Budget Night	TBC May

63. We recommend a discussion with the Minister of Conservation prior to other Ministers during the Ministerial Consultation period to discuss implications of your legislation on the NP Act and on the region's UNESCO status.

ENDS

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In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Hunting and Fishing

Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Amendments to the Game Animal Council Act 2013 to clarify the provision for Herds of Special Interest in national parks**Proposal**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to progress amendments to the Game Animal Council Act 2013 (the Game Animal Act) to provide certainty for designation of Herds of Special Interest¹ in national parks.

Relation to government priorities

- 2 The Hunting and Fishing portfolio is a new portfolio. It seeks, amongst other things, to progress the Government's commitment to designate Herds of Special Interest, increase access to public land for hunting, and recognise valued introduced species.

Executive Summary

- 3 The Hunting and Fishing portfolio was created to recognise and progress the interests of hunters and fishers. Introducing Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) is a cornerstone commitment of the portfolio.
- 4 HOSI are a management tool under the Game Animal Council Act that enable certain herds of game animals (deer, tahr, chamois and wild pigs) to be managed for hunting purposes on public conservation land. HOSI are the only tool available to specifically recognise outcomes of importance to hunters, such as the number and quality of animals within a specific herd. HOSI have the potential to provide recreational and economic benefits to regions and achieve important conservation outcomes.
- 5 There are currently no HOSI, despite an estimated 195,000 hunters in New Zealand.² Hunting provides important benefits to our primary industries by controlling the impact of wild animals on farm and forestry land and can support the Department of Conservation (DOC) in achieving conservation outcomes, including in national parks.
- 6 This Government is committed to progressing three HOSI: for wapiti, tahr and sika. Other herds may also be suitable candidates for HOSI in the future but are not prioritised at this time.
- 7 HOSI would enable me, as Minister of Hunting and Fishing, to designate a herd that has significant value to hunters, in a specific area of public conservation land, so that it can be managed for hunting purposes while also ensuring conservation values continue to be protected.

¹ A "Herd of Special Interest" is a herd of game animals on public conservation land that has been designated by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing to be managed for hunting, under the Game Animal Council Act 2013.

² NZ Mountain Safety Council, A Hunter's Tale, A deep dive into hunting incidents in New Zealand (2017)

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- 8 While hunting already occurs in national parks, with important conservation benefits, the current default position in the National Parks Act 1980 is that introduced species - including valued introduced species such as deer – must be exterminated as far as possible.
- 9 This creates significant uncertainty and ambiguity, since it isn't possible to both exterminate a herd of game animals and simultaneously manage it for hunting purposes. Management of game animals under a HOSI would seek to maintain a stable and healthy population of animals for hunting, while ensuring conservation objectives are met.
- 10 This ambiguity has led to both process and legal uncertainties surrounding the designation of HOSI for hunting under the Game Animal Council Act 2013 in national parks. These uncertainties are evidenced by the recent litigation taken by Forest and Bird against the community agreement between the Director-General of Conservation and the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation – an agreement which manages Fiordland National Park where wapiti reside for both hunting and conservation outcomes.
- 11 Both wapiti and tahr (two of three species the Government committed to progress HOSI for) are found in national parks. I am proposing the Game Animal Council Act be amended to provide certainty that HOSI can be designated in national parks as intended, while ensuring conservation values are upheld.
- 12 The amendments will be technical in nature and seek to give effect to Parliament's original intent that the Minister should be able to designate HOSI in national parks. I ask that Cabinet delegate authority to me to determine the specific amendments required.
- 13 Given the technical nature of amendments, I am proposing legislation be passed under urgency as part of Budget 2025.
- 14 Once amendments are passed, I am proposing to progress our commitments to introduce HOSI through the statutory process set out in the Game Animal Council Act, including for wapiti in Fiordland National Park. I note that Fiordland National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Area, and that New Zealand has specific duties that need to be met to retain this important status. New Zealand's duties will be worked through as part of the statutory process to designate a specific HOSI.
- 15 I expect the amendments will be supported by the hunting community. There may be some pushback from conservation groups, who may perceive this change as allowing more non-native wild animals in national parks. However, it is important to recognise that hunting and controlling deer and tahr in national parks already occurs; the amendments I am proposing are intended to clarify the law. Designation of a specific HOSI will go through appropriate public consultation.
- 16 There are no financial implications from this proposed legislative change. I expect any additional costs that arise from designating future Herds of Special Interest to be covered through reprioritisation or through appropriate third-party funding mechanisms.

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Hunting provides important economic, recreational, wild animal management and conservation benefits for New Zealand

HOSI can enhance recreational and economic benefits from hunting

- 17 Over 30,000 hunters obtain permits each year to hunt on public conservation land, with the total number of hunters in New Zealand being about 195,000. A study in 2019 found hunting provided around \$100 million in economic value to New Zealand, particularly in regional New Zealand.
- 18 HOSI are a management tool under the Game Animal Council Act. This tool enables the Government to designate a herd that has significant value to hunters, in a specific area of public conservation land, so that it can be managed for hunting purposes while ensuring conservation values continue to be protected. Currently, no HOSI exist.
- 19 HOSI allow herds to be managed specifically to encourage development of animals for hunting purposes, including providing sought after trophies. The introduction of HOSI will support improved experiences for those seeking both a high-quality hunting experience and a high-quality trophy to take home. Incentivising more hunting also has benefits for primary industries like agriculture and forestry insofar as it helps manage wild animal populations more effectively.
- 20 The designation of HOSI in combination with the growth of our existing commercial hunting sector will help boost New Zealand's profile as a hunting destination. This could support the Government's goal of growing economic output from our resources by, among other things, increasing tourism numbers.³
- 21 HOSI can also help support conservation outcomes through the management of populations and the pressure they can impose on native flora and fauna. Hunters often provide wider conservation benefits through associated activities including predator trapping, monitoring and track and hut maintenance. Such activities in partnership with DOC have an associated fiscal benefit, by reducing the need for Crown investment in these areas.

Legal uncertainty challenges the effective designation of HOSI

- 22 Current legislation creates ambiguity in two areas:
 - a. whether recreational hunting through a HOSI, which manages deer numbers, is consistent with the National Parks Act 1980, which requires the extermination of introduced species in a national park "as far as possible"; and
 - b. the need to obtain a determination from New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) – rather than Ministers – to allow a HOSI in a national park if it is inconsistent with the above requirement.
- 23 Under the Game Animal Council Act, to designate a HOSI, the Minister must "have regard" to the status of the land as a national park and be consistent with the "overriding considerations" under the National Parks Act.

³ International hunters on public conservation land numbered 520 in 2017 before peaking in 2019 at 710, COVID-19 had a profound impact on international hunter numbers, which have now recovered to number 642 in 2024.

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- 24 Section 4 of the National Parks Act states that *national parks shall be preserved as far as possible in their natural state; and except where the [New Zealand Conservation] Authority otherwise determines, ... the introducedanimals shall as far as possible be exterminated.*
- 25 The NZCA may determine that animals need not be exterminated “as far as possible” where, for example, conservation outcomes are still being achieved. However, it is not clear that the NZCA would make this determination with respect to a HOSI in a national park given the legal ambiguity.

Application of the National Parks Act principles has created uncertainty about the designation of HOSI within a national park

- 26 In 2024, Forest and Bird instigated a legal challenge to the existing community agreement between the Department of Conservation and the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation concerning the management of wapiti in Fiordland National Park. The community agreement is important to DOC, as it provides significant conservation benefits to the area and allows the Department to deploy its resources to wider challenges. Forest and Bird’s challenge asserts that ongoing management of the herd in line with the agreement is inconsistent with the National Parks Act requirement to ‘exterminate introduced species as far as possible’.
- 27 This has created uncertainty around potential HOSI designation processes as well, since it would not be possible to both ‘exterminate’ a herd of game animals while also managing it for hunting purposes (on an ongoing basis) under a HOSI. Management of game animals under a HOSI would seek to maintain a stable and healthy population of animals for hunting, while ensuring conservation objectives are met.
- 28 The legal challenge has been paused while further work is undertaken by the parties. However, the challenge highlights the legal uncertainty surrounding any proposal to ‘manage’ wapiti numbers in the National Park, which would be the outcome sought from a wapiti HOSI. Without addressing the legal uncertainty, there remains a risk of challenge to the designation of a HOSI.

I propose to remove the legal uncertainty surrounding HOSI in national parks, while ensuring important conservation outcomes are upheld

- 29 I am seeking Cabinet agreement to delegate decisions to me to determine the specific technical amendments that will be required to clarify the law and remove any legal ambiguity.
- 30 The intention of the technical amendments to the Game Animal Council Act 2013 would be that, by default, the National Parks Act requirement in section 4(2)(b) to exterminate introduced animals as far as possible does not apply to animals that are part of a herd designated as a HOSI under section 16 of the Game Animal Council Act 2013. This would negate the requirement for the NZCA to make a determination that animals that are part of a HOSI need not be exterminated “as far as possible”.
- 31 The intended role of the NZCA following the proposed amendments would reflect a position that significant policy settings, such as approving the General Policy for National Parks, should be decided by Ministers, which is consistent with the existing

IN C O N F I D E N C E

role of the Minister of Conservation in approving the General Policy for Conservation. The Minister of Conservation is also currently consulting on wider changes to the conservation management system, including moving some other decision-making functions to Ministers from the NZCA.

- 32 I do not propose changes to the National Parks Act 1980, or any amendment that would dilute existing conservation outcomes. Under an appropriately designed HOSI that is consistent with statutory management plans for the area, existing conservation outcomes can be achieved in national parks while providing for hunting. I consider this is consistent with the intent of Parliament at the time HOSI were provided for in the Game Animal Council Act.

I propose amendments proceed as part of Budget 2025

- 33 I propose the amendment Bill (the Bill) proceeds under urgency as part of Budget 2025. I consider the matters dealt with by the Bill to be technical in nature and are necessary to bring certainty and efficiency to executing the intent of Parliament. This intent is that HOSI should be able to operate in national parks, with appropriate conservation protections provided for.
- 34 Once passed into law, I propose to progress the development of HOSI through the statutory process set out in the Game Animal Council Act.

Some HOSI will operate in World Heritage Areas

- 35 As noted above, my intention is to progress a HOSI for wapiti in the Fiordland National Park, which is in the UNESCO World Heritage Area (WHA) of Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand. As part of our World Heritage obligations, the statutory process to establish a HOSI will consider any potential impacts on the site and propose and consult on mitigation options to ensure we continue to fulfil our international obligations.

Cost-of-living Implications

- 36 The animals killed under a HOSI can be processed for personal consumption or sale (under a concession provided under the Conservation Act, provided food safety requirements are met), thus reducing the cost of food for individuals/families and communities.

Financial Implications

- 37 There are no financial implications from this proposed legislative change. I expect any additional costs that arise from designating future herds of special interest to be covered through reprioritisation within DOC's baseline, or through appropriate third-party funding mechanisms.

Legislative Implications

- 38 Refer above.

IN CONFIDENCE**Impact Analysis****Regulatory Impact Statement**

- 39 The Ministry for Regulation has determined that this proposal is exempt from the requirement to provide a Regulatory Impact Statement on the grounds that it has no or only minor economic, social, or environmental impacts.

Climate Implications of Policy Assessment

- 40 The Climate Implications of Policy Assessment (CIPA) team has been consulted and confirms that the CIPA requirements do not apply to this policy proposal, as the threshold for significance is not met.

Population Implications

- 41 There are no population implications associated with this paper.

Human Rights

- 42 There are no human rights implications associated with this paper.

Use of external Resources

- 43 A policy contractor was engaged to support the development of policy, this paper, and the associated regulatory impact statement. The contractor was engaged for 3 months. External resource was required due to the extremely tight timeframes associated with developing the policy and associated Cabinet paper, and the lack of internal capacity and experience of DOC staff.
- 44 External resource is not expected to be required beyond the submission of this paper.

Consultation

- 45 Consultation has occurred with the Treasury, Parliamentary Counsel Office, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, The Ministry for Primary Industries and the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has also been informed.
- 46 Consultation with entities external to government has not occurred given the timeframes associated with progressing policy changes. The legal challenge by Forest and Bird indicate the amendments may be controversial. However, the proposed amendments provide certainty that a HOSI can be established in a national park as intended, without NZCA determination. In establishing a specific HOSI there is a statutory process during which public consultation is required.

Communications

- 47 I intend to release a statement following the passing of the Bill to notify the hunting community, and other interested parties, that the law relating to the operation of HOSI in national parks has been clarified to provide certainty and to ensure conservation outcomes will be upheld.

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Proactive Release

48 I intend to release the Cabinet paper proactively once the Bill has passed.

Recommendations

The Minister for Hunting and Fishing recommends that the Committee:

- 1 **note** wild animal hunting is important to regional economies, the wellbeing of primary industries and the attainment of conservation outcomes
- 2 **note** the Game Animal Council Act 2013 enables the Minister to designate herds of special interest for hunting
- 3 **note** my intention to establish new Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) under the Game Animal Council Act 2013, including for species that exist in national parks
- 4 **note** that hunting deer in national parks already occurs with important conservation benefits, and that the Department of Conservation has an existing community agreement with the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation to hunt deer in Fiordland National Park
- 5 **note** the interface between the Game Animal Council Act 2013 and the National Parks Act 1980 creates uncertainty as to the designation and operation of Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) for hunting in national parks
- 6 **agree** to delegate authority, to the Minister of Hunting and Fishing, to approve necessary technical amendments to the Game Animal Council Act 2013 to remove legal uncertainty, and clarify that the National Parks Act 1980 requirement set out in section 4 (2)(b) to exterminate introduced animals “as far as possible”, unless the New Zealand Conservation Authority determines otherwise, does not apply to animals that are part of a herd designated as a Herd of Special Interest under section 16 of the Game Animal Council Act 2013
- 7 **note** that, given the technical nature of the amendments, I intend to propose that legislation be progressed as part of Budget 2025 urgency
- 8 **note** I intend to progress development of a HOSI for wapiti in Fiordland National Park which is in a World Heritage Area for which New Zealand has duties to ensure the identification, protection, conservation and transmission to future generations of the cultural and natural heritage situated on its territory
- 9 **note** I consider a HOSI can be developed, publicly consulted on, and operationalised to ensure our World Heritage duties continue to be met.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon James Meager
Minister for Hunting and Fishing

From: [Patrick West-Oram](#)
To: Kayla.Wilson@parliament.govt.nz
Cc: [Peter Galvin](#); [Nicola Molloy \(Policy Manager\)](#); [Sam Thomas](#); [Ben Reddix](#); [Lars Ivarsson](#); [Government Services](#)
Subject: 25-B-035 Email advice request - Hunting and Fishing Portfolio Cabinet Papers
Date: Tuesday, 11 February 2025 11:20:00 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Kia ora Kayla,

As requested please see advice below on these two cabinet papers. I will send the CORM you requested separately;

25-B-0035 Email Advice on Hunting and Fishing Portfolio Cabinet Papers

-

Please see below bullet points to send to MOC summarising the two recent Cabinet Papers he received as part of Ministerial consultation (both of which are from MHF).

Amendments to the Game Animal Council Act 2013 to clarify the provision for Herds of Special Interest in national parks

- This Cabinet Paper seeks agreement for the Minister for Hunting and Fishing (MHF) to commission drafting of a Bill to amend the Game Animal Council (GAC) Act 2013. This amendment is made as part of the Government's priority to introduce two Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) this parliamentary term.
- You will have an interest in how the proposed amendments interact with:
 - The National Parks Act 1980 and the role of the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA)
 - The potential impact of HOSI on Fiordland National Park's status as part of the *Te Wahipounamu - South West New Zealand* UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Introducing HOSI for wapiti, sika and tahr is a key commitment in National's Plan for Hunting and Fishing, and a priority for the Minister for Hunting and Fishing. HOSIs are intended to enable the management of a herd of game animals for hunting purposes, while ensuring conservation values are protected.
- The Minister is proposing to introduce this legislation under urgency at Budget 2025. We expect that this may take some conservation stakeholders by surprise. This may result in increased contact with you or the Minister for Hunting and Fishing to question why they were not involved in a consultation process.
- DOC considers this legislative change will remove existing risks of legal challenge and provide greater certainty for managing introduced species with associated conservation benefits in National Parks.

The National Parks Act and the Role of the NZCA

- The Cabinet paper proposes a small legislative amendment to the Game Animal Council Act 2013 to clarify that the National Parks Act requirement to 'exterminate introduced animals as far as possible' does not apply to animals managed as a Herd of Special Interest (HOSI). As a result, no determination from the NZCA would be necessary to allow a HOSI in a national park. The introduction of this legislative amendment will progress work to potentially introduce a HOSI for wapiti deer (North American elk) in Fiordland National Park.
- HOSI can be designated under the Game Animal Council Act 2013 by the responsible Minister, including in national parks. However, the National Parks Act 1980 states that introduced animals (including game animals) must be 'exterminated as far as possible', unless the NZCA makes a determination otherwise. This has created ambiguity, because it isn't possible to both exterminate a herd of game animals while simultaneously managing it for hunting purposes. This is evidenced by a recent legal case (currently paused), brought by Forest and Bird, concerning an existing community agreement between the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation and DOC to manage wapiti in Fiordland National Park for both hunting and conservation reasons.
- The proposed amendment would clarify that these provisions in the National Parks Act would not apply to animals under any future HOSI established in a National Park. However, the Minister does not intend to make changes to the National Parks Act 1980 or dilute conservation outcomes.
- A herd considered for designation as a HOSI would need to undergo the statutory process set out in the Game Animal Council Act to establish a Herd Management Plan (HMP) before it can be introduced. This Herd Management Plan must be consistent with 'overriding considerations', including national park management plans and general policies, and would be subject to consultation as set out in the statutory process.
- A reduced role for the NZCA, by removing their role in making a determination, follows a similar objective to your proposals, currently being consulted on, to make wider changes to the conservation management system. As you are aware, this includes moving other decision-making functions away from NZCA.

Fiordland National Park as a part of Te Wahipounamu - South West New Zealand

- As Minister responsible for UNESCO World Heritage Areas (WHA), you may wish to

consider that the introduction of a HOSI in Fiordland National Park must be accompanied by an impact assessment against the region's Statement of Universal Value (SOUV) to ensure it will not damage the region or its status as a WHA. Officials will conduct a thorough assessment during the statutory process to designate a HOSI, which will also be publicly consulted on. DOC does not believe this will present an issue. It is officials' opinion that a HOSI in Fiordland National Park is consistent with the SOUV.

Out of scope

Patrick West-Oram | Principal Policy Advisor ([he/him](#))

Hunting, Fishing and Economic Development
Policy and Regulatory Services Group
Department of Conservation—*Te Papa Atawhai*

s9(2)(a)

Please note I work 0.9 and finish at 3pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai - Conservation House

18 - 32 Manners Street | Wellington | 6011
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www.doc.govt.nz



Memo for CORM-1500: Response to letter from Minister James Meager

To	Minister of Conservation	Date submitted	12 February 2025	Security Level	In Confidence
From	Sam Thomas, Director, Policy, s9(2)(a)				
Attachments	Attachment A – draft response for CORM-1500				

Purpose – Te aronga

1. This paper provides you with further information on the Minister for Hunting and Fishing's legislative bids and broader work programme. A letter accepting his request for a meeting is at Attachment A.

Background and context – Te horopaki

2. The new Minister for Hunting and Fishing, Hon. James Meager, recently sent you a letter explaining his bids for the 2025 legislative agenda. As some of these bids overlap with areas within your portfolio, he suggested a meeting to discuss these matters. There are other issues of interest you may also wish to explore in a meeting.

The Minister for Hunting and Fishing has three legislative bids

Game Animal Council Act Amendment Bill

3. This bid relates to the Cabinet paper you recently received for Ministerial consultation titled: "Amendments to the Game Animal Council Act 2013 to clarify the provision for Herds of Special Interest in national parks."
4. A Herd of Special Interest (HOSI) allows a herd of animals on public land, including national parks, to be managed specifically for hunting outcomes while preserving conservation outcomes. No HOSI have been introduced to date.
5. DOC considers this legislative change will remove existing risks of legal challenge and provide greater certainty for managing introduced species with associated conservation benefits in National Parks.
6. Minister Meager intends to take this legislation under urgency on Budget night. We expect that this may take some conservation stakeholders by surprise. This may result in increased contact with you or the Minister for Hunting and Fishing to question why they were not involved in a consultation process.
7. You have two portfolio interests in this legislation.
 - **National Parks Act 1980.** The proposed legislative amendment would clarify that the National Parks Act requirement to 'exterminate introduced animals as far as possible' does not apply to animals that are part of a HOSI. This would negate the need for a determination from the New Zealand Conservation Authority to establish a HOSI in a national park. There is no intention to amend the National Parks Act itself, or dilute conservation outcomes.

- This amendment would support National's Hunting and Fishing manifesto commitment to introduce HOSI for sika, wapiti and tahr (the latter two being largely in national parks). An amendment would enable development and consultation of HOSI in a national park to progress without uncertainty around whether the process could be legally challenged.
- **Implications for UNESCO World Heritage Status:** The wapiti deer herd sits within Fiordland National Park, which is within the *Te Wahipounamu - South West New Zealand* World Heritage Area. As per our international agreements, we must assess likely impacts of a HOSI against the area's Statement of Universal Value (SOUV) prior to establishing a HOSI. This assessment will take place during the statutory design process to establish a HOSI for the wapiti herd, which will include public notification and statutory consultation.
- We do not believe this assessment will raise any issues of concern as the role of hunters in supporting conservation outcomes is already noted in the SOUV.

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Annex A: Letter from the Minister of Conservation to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing

Attached as a separate document

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Meeting Memo

Meeting of Ministers of Conservation and for Hunting and Fishing

To	Minister for Hunting and Fishing	Date Submitted	24 March 2025
Reference	25-M-0014	DocCM	7881375
Security Level	In Confidence		

Meeting date/time	25/03/2025, 8.00am – 8.30am
Meeting location	The Office of the Minister of Conservation, 4.5L, Executive Wing The Beehive
Attachments	Attachment A: Talking Points Attachment B: Q&A's

Key contacts			
Name	Organisation	Role	Cell phone
Ruth Isaac	Department of Conservation (DOC)	DOC Meeting Support, Deputy Director-General, Policy and Regulatory Services	s9(2)(a)
Stephanie Rowe	DOC	DOC Meeting Support, Deputy Director-General, Biodiversity Heritage and Visitors	
Ben Reddiex	DOC	DOC Meeting Support, Director, National Programmes	
Sam Thomas	DOC	DOC Meeting Support, Director, Policy	

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- *Provisions which override the National Parks Act* – DOC has now received a draft legislation for your proposed amendment to the Game Animal Council (GAC) Act 2013 to provide certainty that a Herd of Special Interest (HOSI) can be established in a National Park. It would mean HOSI animals will not be subject to the National Parks Act requirement to “exterminate introduced animals as far as possible.” The MOC may be concerned about how conservation stakeholders will react to this change. You will be able to explain that no changes will be made to the National Parks Act, and that conservation outcomes are protected through the GAC Act. Stakeholders will also be involved in the statutory discussion process.
- *Fiordland National Park as a part of the Te Wahipounamu - South West New Zealand World Heritage Area (WHA)* – As Minister responsible for New Zealand’s World Heritage responsibilities, the MOC may seek reassurance that a HOSI (if progressed) for wapiti deer will not impact the region’s status as a WHA. It is possible stakeholders may raise concerns after your legislative amendment becomes public. A full assessment of potential impacts from a HOSI would be conducted during the statutory consultation period, which will include discussion with stakeholders. Any potential impacts would be considered in the final design of a HOSI. Given the proposed outcomes sought by a HOSI, we believe it is unlikely that there is any significant risk of the HOSI affecting the WHA status of the region.

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Attachment A: Talking Points

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Attachment B: Questions & Answers

Question 1: The Game Animal Council Act amendment Bill will override portions of the National Parks Act. How can you be sure that conservation outcomes will not be lost with this change?

Answer

- The proposal will not reduce conservation protections or enable HOSIs to be set up where not appropriate.
- The proposal will not amend the National Parks Act, only the Game Animal Council Act.
- For a HOSI to be set up in a national park, it would still have to be consistent with all other National Parks Act requirements and management plans.
- This amendment would simply mean that the animals can be managed rather than exterminated, as intended and as is currently the case.

Question 1b (potential follow up): What are the next steps of this work?

Answer

- DOC has received draft legislation for my proposed amendment. Subject to resourcing I plan to return to Cabinet shortly for approval to introduce the legislation.
- If I agree to progress the Herd Management Plan process, stakeholders will have the opportunity to feed into the design during consultation.
- This process should be finished by May 2026, with both HOSIs introduced before the end of this Parliamentary term.
- This will include feedback from, among others, the Minister for Primary Industries, the NZCA, the Game Animal Council and others who may have an interest such as the local council and local iwi. I will keep you informed as these conversations continue.


Question 2: I want to be sure a HOSI in Fiordland National Park will not impact the region's status as a World Heritage Area. Are you content that the risks here are limited?

Answer

- I do not believe further action is needed during the legislative change process.
- A full analysis of impacts will be conducted as part of the statutory consultation process. The final design of the HOSI will take account of these conversations, including how we manage any potential impacts.
- The Statement of Universal Value for *Te Wahipounamu - South West New Zealand* includes reference to the role that hunters play in managing the size and impact of the wapiti herd.
- The introduction of a HOSI confirms the status of hunting activity in the region. My officials and I will work with the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation to ensure these standards are upheld.
- There will be a public notice period outlining the final design of the HOSI

	beginning at the end of this year. This will be an opportunity to demonstrate how we will protect the region's status through the introduction of a HOSI.
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Meeting Memo

Meeting with the Minister for Hunting and Fishing

To	Minister of Conservation	Date submitted	24 March 2025
Reference	25-M-0014	DocCM	DOC-7881377
Security Level	In Confidence		

Meeting date/time	25/03/2025, 8.00am – 8.30am
Meeting location	The Office of the Minister of Conservation, 4.5L, Executive Wing The Beehive
Attachments	Attachment A: Talking Points Attachment B: Q&A's Attachment C: Access Charter for Recreational Hunting and Fishing on Public Conservation Land and Waters

Key contacts			
Name	Organisation	Role	Cell phone
Ruth Isaac	Department of Conservation (DOC)	DOC Meeting Support, Deputy Director-General, Policy and Regulatory Services	s9(2)(a)
Stephanie Rowe	DOC	DOC Meeting Support, Deputy Director-General, Biodiversity Heritage and Visitors	
Ben Reddix	DOC	DOC Meeting Support, Director, National Programmes	
Sam Thomas	DOC	DOC Meeting Support, Director, Policy	

1. This memo supports your meeting with the Minister for Hunting and Fishing (MHF). This meeting is a good opportunity to discuss aligning objectives for the hunting and fishing and conservation portfolios, MHF's legislative bids, and how future work may overlap. As all funding for the Hunting and Fishing portfolio is from Vote Conservation, which you control, you may wish to discuss how to make use of

available resources.

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9. There are areas of MHF's work programme which overlap with areas under your portfolio. You may wish to raise the following matters in the meeting:

- *Provisions which override the National Parks Act* – MHF's proposed legislative amendment to the Game Animal Council Act is designed to provide certainty that a Herd of Special Interest (HOSI) can be established in Fiordland National Park. It would mean HOSI animals will not be subject to the National Parks Act requirement to "exterminate introduced animals as far as possible." You may wish to emphasise that you wish to be kept updated about this work programme and consulted where appropriate.

- *Fiordland National Park as a part of the Te Wahipounamu - South West New Zealand World Heritage Area (WHA)* – The wapiti deer herd proposed for a future HOSI sits within Te Wahipounamu – South West New Zealand. Under our international agreements, New Zealand must assess potential impacts on a WHA before making changes to the region. As Minister responsible for New Zealand's WHAs you may wish to emphasise that you expect to be consulted on any substantial work done relating to WHAs.
- *Conservation benefits of HOSI and hunting and fishing in general* – Hunters and anglers play a role in supporting DOC's conservation work. You may wish to discuss this with the MHF and seek his views on how he proposes to progress conservation outcomes with the portfolio.
- *Valued Introduced Species (VIS)* – MHF intends to undertake work on how to better recognise and manage "valued introduced species" (i.e. game animals and sport fish) on public conservation land. You may wish to say that you would like to be involved in any future work undertaken in this area. The scope of this work is currently unclear and DOC has limited resources available to progress this in this term of Government.

10. The MHF is likely to raise the following matters with you:

- *Access to public conservation land for hunters and anglers* - The previous Minister for Hunting and Fishing published the *Access Charter for Recreational Hunting and Fishing on Public Conservation Land and Waters (Attachment C)*. The MHF has committed to continue this work. He may be interested to hear about ongoing work regarding the *Future Visitor Network* programme and how the charging for access to public land work will impact hunters and anglers.
- *Conservation Act Amendment Bill* – You may wish to discuss how this reform work will make it quicker and easier to process concessions related to hunting and fishing.
- *The Wildlife Act Review* – There are provisions in the Wildlife Act review which impact the treatment of game birds and sports fish. The MHF may wish to discuss this matter with you.
- *Operational Overlaps between the two Portfolios* – Parts of the hunting sector hold concerns about the potential impact of predator control operations on hunting opportunities. A current example is the Predator Free Rakiura project, where DOC and Zero Invasive Predators are engaging with hunting sector representatives with the aim of minimising disruption to white-tailed deer hunting during the delivery of predator control and removal work. DOC works on these types of issues frequently, often engaging with stakeholders that have a variety of views on both predator control and deer management.

11. DOC notes that policy resources for the Conservation and the Hunting and Fishing Portfolio are shared and fully engaged. If significant new work programmes emerge, this would necessitate further resourcing discussions to agree priorities across the portfolios.

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Attachment A: Talking points

Legislative amendments which will override elements of the National Parks Act

- **When developing herds of special interest (HOSI) to be set up in National Parks, it is important we strike the right balance between hunting benefits and conservation outcomes.**
 - I expect to be kept informed and consulted on HOSI proposals as they develop to ensure that national park values are appropriately protected.

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Briefing: HOSI amendment bill Cabinet paper

To	Minister for Hunting and Fishing	Date submitted	11 April 2025
Action sought	Agree to provide feedback on attached draft Cabinet paper by 28 April for lodgement on 1 May.	Priority	High
Reference	25-B-0156	DocCM	DOC-10234204
Security Level	In Confidence	Timeframe	28 April 2025
Risk Assessment	Medium Risk of challenge to HOSI in national parks if amendment Bill is not progressed.		
Attachments	Attachment A – Draft Cabinet paper - <i>Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction</i>		

Contacts	
Name and position	Phone
Sam Thomas, Director Policy	s9(2)(a)

Purpose – Te aronga

1. This briefing provides a draft Cabinet paper (at Attachment A) for your feedback and for wider Ministerial consultation. The Cabinet paper seeks approval to introduce a Bill to amend the Game Animal Council Act 2013 (GAC Act) to clarify provisions around Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) in national parks.

Background and context – Te horopaki

2. On 19 February, you received Cabinet agreement to develop an Amendment Bill to address legal uncertainty around HOSI in national parks.
3. The background for this reform is the Government's intention to develop a HOSI for wapiti deer in Fiordland National Park (and possibly HOSI in other national parks), and the uncertainty that was caused by a recent legal challenge from Forest & Bird to current wapiti management in the park.
4. The purpose of the draft amendment Bill is to clarify that if the Minister designates a Herd of Special Interest (HOSI) in a national park, the requirement in the National Parks Act 1980 to exterminate introduced animals does not apply to that herd. There is

also therefore no need for the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) to provide an exemption from the National Parks Act requirement.

Risks, implications, and consultation

5. Progressing this Bill will help prevent risk of legal challenge due to the National Parks Act requirement to exterminate introduced animals, if a HOSI is designated in a national park.
6. Addressing this risk is especially relevant for the development of a potential wapiti HOSI in Fiordland National Park, since a recent legal challenge around wapiti management in the park has raised questions around the National Parks Act requirement to exterminate introduced animals. Progressing this Bill will provide certainty on this matter to the stakeholders engaged in the process to develop a wapiti HOSI.
7. Separately, there is a risk that some conservation stakeholders will react negatively to this Bill and view it as reducing conservation protections. This risk can be managed via clear communications noting that HOSI can only be set up where it is consistent with conservation management objectives (e.g., relevant national park management plans and policies).

Financial implications - Te hiraunga pūtea

8. There are no financial implications associated with this paper.

Next steps – Ngā tāwhaitanga

9. The immediate next steps are for you to consider the draft Cabinet paper at Attachment A, circulate for wider Ministerial consultation, and provide any feedback to officials by 28 April. Officials will then amend the Cabinet paper in line with the feedback received and lodge the paper on 1 May for consideration by Cabinet Legislation Committee.

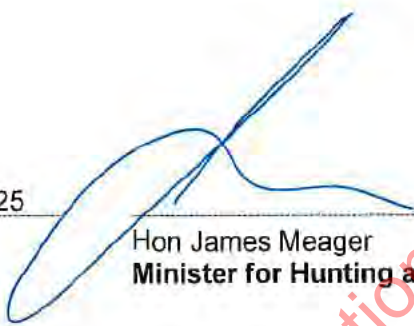
15 – 28 April	Minister considers Cabinet paper and circulates for wider Ministerial and government caucus consultation.
28 – 30 April	Officials amend Cabinet paper following Ministerial consultation and confirms with the Minister's office that the paper is ready to be lodged the following day.
1 May	Officials lodge Cabinet paper (10 am deadline)
8 May	Cabinet Legislation Committee (LEG)
12 May	Cabinet confirmation of LEG decision
~20 May	Minister introduces Bill to the House for First Reading. Bill is referred to Environment Select Committee.

10. DOC will provide talking points to support your attendance at Cabinet Legislative Committee on 8 May, and officials will be available to support your attendance and answer questions as required.
11. If Cabinet agrees to introduce the Bill, DOC can support your office with material for any press releases or announcements you may wish to make.
12. DOC can also provide speech notes for your introduction of the Bill to the House and First Reading. Our understanding is that you intend to seek introduction of the Bill in the week of the 12 May, most likely with first reading on 20 May.

We recommend that you ... (Ngā tohutohu)

		Decision
a)	Agree to consider the attached Cabinet paper and provide feedback (including any feedback received from wider Ministerial and government caucus consultation) by 28 April 2025 to enable lodgement on 1 May 2025.	Yes / No

Date: 11/04/2025

Sam Thomas
Director Policy

 Hon James Meager
Minister for Hunting and Fishing

Date: 14/04/25

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Office of the Minister for Hunting and Fishing

Cabinet Legislation Committee

Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks approval for the introduction of the Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill.

Policy

- 2 The Bill seeks to clarify the legal ability to designate and operationalise a Herd of Special Interest within a national park. Developing and designating Herds of Special Interest (HOSI) is a top priority in the Hunting and Fishing portfolio. HOSI are a management tool under the Game Animal Council Act that enable certain herds of game animals (deer, tahr, chamois and wild pigs) to be managed for hunting purposes on public conservation land.
- 3 On 19 February 2025, Cabinet Economic Policy Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Minister of Hunting and Fishing to approve drafting of an amendment to the Game Animal Council Act 2013 (GAC act). The purpose of the amendment is to remove legal uncertainty and clarify that the National Parks Act 1980 requirement to “exterminate” introduced animals “as far as possible” does not apply to animals that are part of a herd designated as a HOSI. Cabinet confirmed this decision on 24 February 2025 [CAB-25-MIN-0036 refers].
- 4 Although the GAC Act allows HOSI to be designated in national parks, the current default position in the National Parks Act 1980 is that introduced species - including valued introduced species such as deer – must be exterminated as far as possible, except where the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) determines otherwise.
- 5 This creates uncertainty, since it is not possible to both exterminate a herd of game animals and simultaneously manage it for hunting purposes. Management of game animals under a HOSI would seek to maintain a stable and healthy population of animals for hunting, while ensuring conservation objectives are met.
- 6 This Bill will remove legal uncertainty and clearly affirm Parliament’s intention that HOSI can operate in national parks where this is consistent with conservation outcomes. It will also clarify that where the Minister has designated a HOSI consistent with the requirements in the GAC Act, there is no requirement for an additional decision by the NZCA.
- 7 The Bill does not set up or implement a HOSI. The effect of this Bill is that there will be clarity and certainty concerning the process to develop and designate a HOSI in a

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national park, when it is initiated under the Game Animal Council Act. It would also remove the risk of a potential legal challenge.

- 8 Although this is a small Bill that will not have any direct impacts, the Bill may nevertheless be controversial with some conservation stakeholders who may perceive this as a weakening of conservation protections relative to HOSI.
- 9 However, I consider that such perceptions can easily be addressed: First, by pointing out that the GAC Act makes it clear that HOSI can only be set up where it is compatible with existing conservation and national park management plans; and second, by underscoring that an increase in hunter-led management as a result of HOSI designation will bring direct conservation benefits by reducing overall animal numbers to more sustainable levels. Importantly, hunting of deer already occurs in national parks; the Department of Conservation currently has a Community Agreement with the Wapiti Foundation for the ongoing management of wapiti deer in Fiordland National Park.
- 10 It is also important to note that this Bill does not impact on the statutory process to develop a HOSI under the GAC Act. That process will develop a herd management plan with specified management objectives and methods and show how they align with conservation objectives for the area. Both key stakeholders and the public will have an opportunity to input and comment during this process before final Ministerial decisions.

Impact analysis

- 11 The Ministry for Regulation has determined that this proposal is exempt from the requirement to provide a Regulatory Impact Statement on the grounds that it has no or only minor economic, social, or environmental impacts.

Compliance

- 12 The Bill complies with each of the following:
 - 12.1 the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;
 - 12.2 the rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993 [TBC confirmation from MoJ and BORA vetting]
 - 12.3 the disclosure statement requirements (a disclosure statement has been prepared and is attached to this paper as an appendix).
 - 12.4 the principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020
 - 12.5 relevant international standards and obligations
 - 12.6 the Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition), which are maintained by the Legislation Design and Advisory Committee

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Consultation**Relevant Government Departments or Other Bodies**

- 13 [TBC following end of agency and Ministerial consultation] Relevant government agencies were consulted during policy development. Agencies consulted included: the Treasury, Parliamentary Counsel Office, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has also been informed. Agencies raised no concerns with this paper [TBC]

The Government Caucus and Other Parties Represented in Parliament

- 14 [TBC] Consultation has occurred with both coalition partners, no issues were raised with this paper. [TBC]

Binding on the Crown

- 15 The Game Animal Council Act 2013 is binding on the Crown. The draft Bill does not include provisions that would change this.

Creating new agencies or amending law relating to existing agencies.

- 16 This Bill will not create a new agency or amend any law relating to an existing agency.

Allocation of decision-making powers

- 17 This Bill does not involve the allocation of decision-making powers between the executive, the courts, and tribunals.

Associated regulations

- 18 No regulations are required to bring this Bill into operation.

Other instruments

- 19 This Bill does not include any provision empowering the making of other instruments that are deemed to be legislative instruments or disallowable instruments.

Definition of Minister/department

- 20 This Bill does not contain a definition of Minister, department (or equivalent government agency), or chief executive of a department (or equivalent position).

Commencement of legislation

- 21 This Bill is proposed to come into effect on the day after the date of Royal assent.

Parliamentary stages

- 22 The Bill should be introduced to the House in the week of May 12 and should be passed before the end of 2025.

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- 23 The Bill is proposed to be referred to the Environment Select Committee following introduction to the House.

Proactive Release

- 24 I intend to proactively release this paper and the associated policy Cabinet paper (ECO-25-SUB-0011) within a month after this Bill has been introduced to the House.

Recommendations

I recommend that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 note that the Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill holds a category 4 priority on the 2025 Legislation Programme (to be passed by the end of 2025 if possible);
- 2 note that the Bill will clarify that the National Parks Act 1980 section 4(2)(b) requirement to exterminate introduced animals “as far as possible” unless the New Zealand Conservation Authority determines otherwise does not apply to animals that are part of a herd designated as a Herd of Special Interest under section 16 of the Game Animal Council Act 2013;
- 3 approve the Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill for introduction, subject to the final approval of the government caucus and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;
- 4 agree that the Bill be introduced in the week of 12 May 2025;
- 5 agree that the government propose that the Bill be:
 - 5.1 referred to the Environment Select Committee for consideration;
 - 5.2 enacted before the end of 2025.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon James Meager

Minister for Hunting and Fishing

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28/04/2025 [Draft]

Email advice to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing on questions raised around HOSI legislative amendment process.

Q1: Can we amend the title to be to just **Game Animal Council Amendment Bill**?

1. DOC can instruct PCO to change the title, but we do not consider this would have the intended effect of broadening the scope of the Bill. This is because the clauses in the Bill and the General Policy Statement would still define the scope alongside the title.
 - The general scope of the Bill could only be expanded now by returning to Cabinet for further policy approvals. The current narrow scope of the Bill means that the statutory process to develop HOSI won't be affected by the Bill, and therefore the two processes can run simultaneously without issue. If the scope is expanded, DOC will provide advice on potential implications for the statutory process.
2. The current draft title of the Bill follows standard naming conventions used by PCO. We understand a contextual heading is typically added in parenthesis to the title of an amendment Bill when the amendment Bill is about a specific matter - i.e., *Principal Act (Subject Matter) Amendment Bill* – and that more general titles are typically used when the Bill is broader and amend many different parts of the principal Act.
3. Deviating from the standard naming convention would be unusual, but we understand possible. If the Minister still prefers a different name for the Bill, we can instruct PCO to change it to Game Animal Council Amendment Bill.

Q2: Can we amend the General Policy Statement in the Bill to include the 'valued introduced species' terminology?

4. Yes. DOC has instructed PCO to change the second sentence in GPS to say "The Bill ensures that there is no requirement to exterminate **valued introduced species** that have been designated as herds of special interest." This is in line with the policy rationale expressed in the Cabinet policy paper. We will ensure this change is made before lodgement.

Q3: Can you clarify the relationship between s19(1) and (2) of the GAC Act? Is there greater discretion under s19(2), and what is the Minister's role under (1) compared to (2)?

5. Section 19(1) states that the Minister must make a herd management plan for any herd of special interest. This section corresponds with s 16(1)(c) which requires the Minister to have regard to a herd management plan that has first been made under s 19. A HOSI cannot be designated if a herd management plan has not been made. A herd management plan is a mandatory requirement for a HOSI.
6. Section 19(2) states that if the Minister wants to put forward an initial proposal for a new HOSI (like the way the Sika and Wapiti Foundations developed proposals) the Minister **may** also make a HMP to go with that proposal.
7. Whether or not a proposal includes a draft HMP doesn't change the requirements in 19(1) and 16(1)(c) that a HOSI needs to have a HMP in place before it can ultimately be designated by the Minister.
8. In practice, section 19(2) has little additional effect to s 19(1). The only time it would be relevant would be if a) the Minister themselves wanted to develop an initial proposal and b) the Minister had a strong desire that the proposal include a worked-up herd management plan from the start. This is currently a discretionary requirement.

28/04/2025 [Draft]

9. This hypothetical scenario is very unlikely however, since if the Minister did want to develop a HMP to go with the proposal, they would still need to follow the process for developing a HMP (including consultation and public notification) specified by the GAC Act – and therefore they would not be saving any time by developing a HMP to go with their initial proposal.
10. The relationship between 19(1) and (2) appears to be the result of changes made to the Game Animal Council Act during select committee.
11. An effect of making 19(2) mandatory (changing “may” to “must”) would be to make it more difficult for a Minister to propose a new HOSI – since the Minister could only do so if he made a herd management first, in every case.
12. DOC does not recommend seeking an amendment to this section.

Q4: Would it be possible to amend section 19(2) during select committee?

13. Amending section 19(2) or other sections relating to HMPs would likely be considered outside the scope of the Bill.
14. Select committees can only recommend amendments that are relevant to the subject matter of the bill, that are consistent with the bill’s principles and objects, and otherwise conform to the Standing Orders and practices of the House ([S.O. 300\(1\)](#)).
15. The Clerk of the select committee will provide advice on whether a proposed amendment is in scope of a bill, and the chairperson of the select committee is responsible for ruling on the admissibility of amendments.
16. If the select committee wants to make substantial amendments that may be outside of the scope of a bill, the Parliament Business Committee can determine that a select committee’s powers are to be extended so that it can recommend amendments that would otherwise be out of scope. This is generally initiated by the select committee by writing to the Business Committee.

Q5: Do we need to ensure this legislative change applies retrospectively to current HOSI proposals?

17. There is no need to provide for this legislative change to apply retrospectively to HOSI proposals. Initial HOSI proposals (like the ones you have received from the Wapiti and Sika foundations) are not impacted by this legislative change in any way.
18. Similarly, there is no need to have this legislative change apply retrospectively to the statutory process to develop a HOSI (e.g., a potential wapiti HOSI in Fiordland National Park).
19. This is because the proposed amendment is not needed to ensure that a HOSI can be developed and set up. The Game Animal Council Act already allows HOSI to be developed and implemented in national parks. Instead, the proposed amendment will ensure that once a HOSI is developed and stood up in a national park, there will not then be a risk of a legal challenge to the way that HOSI is being managed on the basis that the National Parks Act requires all introduced animals to be exterminated.
20. Further, the legislative amendment will have been completed before any HMP is due to be finalised and agreed by the Minister. If you decide to progress the development of a wapiti HMP, it can run in parallel with the legislative amendment to clarify the GAC Act.

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Office of the Minister for Hunting and Fishing

Cabinet Legislation Committee

Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Proposal

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- 3 On 19 February 2025, Cabinet Economic Policy Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Minister of Hunting and Fishing to approve drafting of an amendment to the Game Animal Council Act 2013 (GAC act). The purpose of the amendment is to remove legal uncertainty and clarify that the National Parks Act 1980 requirement to “exterminate” introduced animals “as far as possible” does not apply to animals that are part of a herd designated as a HOSI. Cabinet confirmed this decision on 24 February 2025 [CAB-25-MIN-0036 refers].
- 4 Although the GAC Act allows HOSI to be designated in national parks, the current default position in the National Parks Act 1980 is that introduced species - including valued introduced species such as deer – must be exterminated as far as possible, except where the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) determines otherwise.
- 5 This creates uncertainty, since it is not possible to both exterminate a herd of game animals and simultaneously manage it for hunting purposes. Management of game animals under a HOSI would seek to maintain a stable and healthy population of animals for hunting, while ensuring conservation objectives are met.
- 6 This Bill will remove legal uncertainty and clearly affirm Parliament’s intention that HOSI can operate in national parks where this is consistent with conservation outcomes. It will also clarify that where the Minister has designated a HOSI consistent with the requirements in the GAC Act, there is no requirement for an additional decision by the NZCA.
- 7 The Bill does not set up or implement a HOSI. The effect of this Bill is that there will be clarity and certainty concerning the process to develop and designate a HOSI in a

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national park, when it is initiated under the Game Animal Council Act. It would also remove the risk of a potential legal challenge.

- 8 Although this is a small Bill that will not have any direct impacts, the Bill may nevertheless be controversial with some conservation stakeholders who may perceive this as a weakening of conservation protections relative to HOSI.
- 9 However, I consider that such perceptions can easily be addressed: First, by pointing out that the GAC Act makes it clear that HOSI can only be set up where it is compatible with existing conservation and national park management plans; and second, by underscoring that an increase in hunter-led management as a result of HOSI designation will bring direct conservation benefits by reducing overall animal numbers to more sustainable levels. Importantly, hunting of deer already occurs in national parks; the Department of Conservation currently has a Community Agreement with the Wapiti Foundation for the ongoing management of wapiti deer in Fiordland National Park.
- 10 It is also important to note that this Bill does not impact on the statutory process to develop a HOSI under the GAC Act. That process will develop a herd management plan with specified management objectives and methods and show how they align with conservation objectives for the area. Herd management plans also need to be consistent with relevant plans and strategies made under the Biosecurity Act 1993. Both key stakeholders and the public will have an opportunity to input and comment during this process before final Ministerial decisions.

Impact analysis

- 11 The Ministry for Regulation has determined that this proposal is exempt from the requirement to provide a Regulatory Impact Statement on the grounds that it has no or only minor economic, social, or environmental impacts.

Compliance

- 12 The Bill complies with each of the following:
 - 12.1 the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;
 - 12.2 the rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993 (NZBORA vetting is in progress);
 - 12.3 the disclosure statement requirements (a disclosure statement has been prepared and is attached to this paper as an appendix);
 - 12.4 the principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020;
 - 12.5 relevant international standards and obligations;
 - 12.6 the Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition), which are maintained by the Legislation Design and Advisory Committee;

IN C O N F I D E N C E

IN C O N F I D E N C E**Consultation****Relevant Government Departments or Other Bodies**

- 13 Relevant government agencies were consulted during policy development. Agencies consulted included: The Ministry for Primary Industries, The Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment, The Ministry for the Environment and the Treasury. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has also been informed. Agencies raised no concerns with this paper.

The Government Caucus and Other Parties Represented in Parliament

- 14 Consultation has occurred with both coalition partners, no issues were raised with this paper.

Binding on the Crown

- 15 The Game Animal Council Act 2013 is binding on the Crown. The draft Bill does not include provisions that would change this.

Creating new agencies or amending law relating to existing agencies.

- 16 This Bill will not create a new agency or amend any law relating to an existing agency.

Allocation of decision-making powers

- 17 This Bill does not involve the allocation of decision-making powers between the executive, the courts, and tribunals.

Associated regulations

- 18 No regulations are required to bring this Bill into operation.

Other instruments

- 19 This Bill does not include any provision empowering the making of other instruments that are deemed to be legislative instruments or disallowable instruments.

Definition of Minister/department

- 20 This Bill does not contain a definition of Minister, department (or equivalent government agency), or chief executive of a department (or equivalent position).

Commencement of legislation

- 21 This Bill is proposed to come into effect on the day after the date of Royal assent.

Parliamentary stages

- 22 The Bill should be introduced to the House in the week of 12 May 2025 and should be passed before the end of 2025.

IN C O N F I D E N C E

IN C O N F I D E N C E

- 23 The Bill is proposed to be referred to the Environment Select Committee following introduction to the House.

Proactive Release

- 24 I intend to proactively release this paper and the associated policy Cabinet paper (ECO-25-SUB-0011) within a month after this Bill has been introduced to the House.

Recommendations

I recommend that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 note that the Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill holds a category 4 priority on the 2025 Legislation Programme (to be passed by the end of 2025 if possible);
- 2 note that the Bill will clarify that the National Parks Act 1980 section 4(2)(b) requirement to exterminate introduced animals “as far as possible” unless the New Zealand Conservation Authority determines otherwise does not apply to animals that are part of a herd designated as a Herd of Special Interest under section 16 of the Game Animal Council Act 2013;
- 3 approve the Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill for introduction, subject to the final approval of the government caucus and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;
- 4 agree that the Bill be introduced in the week of 12 May 2025;
- 5 agree that the government propose that the Bill be:
 - 5.1 referred to the Environment Select Committee for consideration;
 - 5.2 enacted before the end of 2025.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon James Meager

Minister for Hunting and Fishing

IN C O N F I D E N C E

Cabinet Paper Talking Points: Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

To	Minister for Hunting and Fishing		
Committee	Cabinet Legislation Committee		
Date of meeting	8 May 2025		
Reference	25-K-0013	DocCM	DOC-10295189
Minister lead	Minister for Hunting and Fishing		
DOC Contact/s	Sam Thomas, Director Policy, s9(2)(a)		
Security Level	In Confidence		

Purpose – Te aronga

1. You are taking a paper to the Cabinet Legislation Committee (LEG) on 8 May 2025 titled “Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction”
2. This memo provides suggested talking points and Q&As to support your attendance at LEG.

Cabinet paper

3. The Cabinet paper seeks agreement to introduce a Bill that would amend the Game Animal Council Act 2013 for the purpose of clarifying that animals that are part of a Herd of Special Interest (HOSI) are not subject to the National Parks Act 1980 requirement to exterminate introduced animals. Policy approvals were provided by Cabinet on 24 February.

Talking points are attached to this paper

4. Appendix 1 contains suggested talking points, and Appendix 2 contains a list of Q&As on topics that Cabinet colleagues may raise. There are 18 items being considered by LEG on 8 May, so it is unlikely there will be sufficient time to discuss papers in detail.

Next steps – Ngā tāwhaitanga

5. Your Cabinet paper will be considered by LEG on 8 February at 9.30-10am.
6. DOC officials will be present in the lobby outside the Cabinet Committee room and can be called upon to answer technical questions if needed. Officials can also meet you ahead of the meeting to discuss should you find this useful.

ENDS

Appendix 1: Talking points

This Bill will address legal risk around Herds of Special Interest in national parks

- On 24 February, Cabinet agreed to the policy intent for this Bill - which is to clarify that if the Minister designates a Herd of Special Interest (HOSI) in a national park – the National Parks Act requirement to exterminate introduced animals will not apply to those HOSI animals.
- To be clear: the Game Animal Council Act already allows the Minister to designate HOSI in national parks. But current legislation does not align well: you cannot manage animals for hunting purposes while also seeking to ‘exterminate’ them.
- This draft bill is limited in scope and straightforward. It adds two paragraphs to the Game Animal Council Act 2013:
 - a) One paragraph says that that if a Herd of Special Interest is designated in a national park, the National Parks Act requirement to exterminate introduced animals does not apply to those animals, and
 - b) One paragraph clarifies (to avoid doubt) that the National Parks Act does not limit the Minister’s ability to designate a HOSI.

This Bill does not establish a HOSI

- The Bill does not establish a HOSI. The process to develop a HOSI is a separate statutory process that will not be directly impacted by this Bill.
- I intend to initiate that separate process to develop a wapiti HOSI as soon as possible.
- This Bill will provide certainty that if a HOSI is developed and duly designated in a national park, there will not be a risk of challenge on the basis of the National Parks Act requirement to exterminate introduced animals.

- This is needed because a recent legal challenge from Forest & Bird against DOC has created uncertainty around the Minister's ability to designate HOSI in national parks.
- Forest & Bird have pointed to a provision in the National Parks Act that says introduced animals (like game animals) in national parks need to be 'exterminated as far as possible' unless the New Zealand Conservation Authority determines otherwise.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Appendix 2: Questions and Answers

Question 1: What are the economic benefits of HOSI?	
Answer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At a national level, designation of HOSI will raise New Zealand's profile as a hunting destination and help drive an increase in hunting tourism. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This will help boost our hunting guide industry – an industry that is estimated to generate over \$100M in direct investment and employ around 530 people. • More directly, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation undertakes significant conservation and animal control on behalf of the Department of Conservation. A HOSI designation would provide long-term certainty for the Foundation that they can continue to undertake this work.
Question 2: What is the legal challenge around wapiti in Fiordland National Park?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC and the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation have been working together to manage the effects of deer and undertake animal control activities in Fiordland National Park since the 2005. • The Foundation is effectively subcontracted by DOC via a so-called "community agreement". This agreement enables the Foundation to undertake management activities in the wapiti area of the National Park. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Foundation's work is mostly self-funding via meat sales and hunting ballot fees, and it has been successful in managing animal numbers to acceptable levels.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest & Bird's challenge asserts that ongoing management of the herd in line with the agreement is inconsistent with the National Parks Act requirement to 'exterminate introduced species as far as possible'. • DOC does not share this view. But this highlights the uncertainties that might plague a HOSI designation and interfere with success.
Question 3: Will this Bill reduce conservation protections?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Game Animal Council Act includes robust conservation safeguards, and this Bill does not remove any of these protections. • The GAC Act makes it clear that HOSI management must be consistent with conservation outcomes for the area they are set up in. • This means that for a HOSI to be set up in a national park, it would still have to be consistent with all other National Parks Act requirements and management plans. • This amendment would simply mean that the animals can be managed rather than exterminated, as intended.
Question 4: What are the Conservation benefits of HOSI?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designating HOSI will enable the hunting community to take a larger role in conservation management – and the more volunteer hunters we have willing to work to control game animals on public conservation land, the better. • More specifically, HOSI management will have important conservation benefits because it will ensure the herd size is kept at a level that doesn't undermine conservation values.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be monitoring requirements included in HOSI Herd Management Plans to ensure biodiversity outcomes alongside hunting outcomes.
Question 5: What other HOSI might be set up in national parks?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to wapiti, there are at least two potential candidates for HOSI that exist in national parks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Himalayan tahr is one of the species we've publicly identified for potential HOSI designation, and their feral range overlaps with three national parks (Aoraki/Mt Cook, Westland Tai Poutini and Mt Aspiring National Park). ○ Whitetail deer on Stewart Island/Rakiura National Park has also been raised as a potential candidate. There may be other herds in national parks that could be suitable for HOSI designation as well – and I'm keen to engage with the hunting community to hear their proposals.
Question 6: How will World Heritage Area status be impacted?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Bill will not have any impact on World Heritage Status or our international obligations. • If a HOSI is developed for a herd that is within a World Heritage Area (like wapiti in Fiordland) officials will undertake an assessment of the likely impacts and consider whether it impacts the values for which the World Heritage Area was designated.
Question 7: Will meat from HOSI be subject to biosecurity testing?	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunters are not required to test meat they hunt for themselves.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meat from HOSI that is recovered and sold for consumption may be tested under the Biosecurity Act 1993 (BSA) as part of disease prevention and control programmes. Meat recovered from HOSI may also be tested under the Animal Products Act 1999 (APA) to ensure that food safety standards are met. • Typically, testing occurs in the field (BSA) or at meat processing and storage sites (BSA and APA) by qualified individuals. This will be reflected in concessions for Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO) which is required to recover meat for sale from public conservation lands. This will continue to apply for HOSI.
<p>Question 8: Will all carcasses of shot HOSI shot be removed? How will biosecurity risks around this be managed?</p>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is expected that hunting of HOSI species will follow routine hunting practices. This means not all carcasses will be removed. Biosecurity risks include spread of diseases due to other animals coming into contact with or consuming carcasses, and water leaching. However, actual risk is minimal due to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the disease-free or low prevalence status of New Zealand from many transmissible deer diseases (e.g. Foot and Mouth Disease, Chronic Wasting Disease); b) the inability of disease-causing organisms to survive in the environment; and c) the low likelihood of farmed animals coming into direct contact with carcasses. • DOC, alongside government and industry stakeholders, will continue to educate with and advocate for good biosecurity processes already undertaken by New Zealand hunters.

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Appendix 3: Copy of Recommendations

The Minister for Hunting and Fishing recommends that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 note that the Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill holds a category 4 priority on the 2025 Legislation Programme (to be passed by the end of 2025 if possible);
- 2 note that the Bill will clarify that the National Parks Act 1980 section 4(2)(b) requirement to exterminate introduced animals “as far as possible” unless the New Zealand Conservation Authority determines otherwise does not apply to animals that are part of a herd designated as a Herd of Special Interest under section 16 of the Game Animal Council Act 2013;
- 3 approve the Game Animal Council (Herds of Special Interest) Amendment Bill for introduction, subject to the final approval of the government caucus and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;
- 4 agree that the Bill be introduced in the week of 12 May 2025;
- 5 agree that the government propose that the Bill be:
 - 5.1 referred to the Environment Select Committee for consideration;
 - 5.2 enacted before the end of 2025.


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From: [Lars Ivarsson](#)
To: [Patrick West-Oram](#); [Ben Reddiex](#); [Sam Thomas](#); [Nicola Molloy \(Policy Manager\)](#)
Cc: [Tim Bamford](#)
Subject: RE: Status update for MHF on Budget Night process [sensitive]
Date: Tuesday, 10 December 2024 9:31:00 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Kia ora koutou

My two cents:

s9(2)(g)(i)



Ngā mihi,

Lars Ivarsson | Senior Policy Advisor | Department of Conservation

From: Patrick West-Oram <pwestoram@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 10 December 2024 8:58 am
To: Ben Reddiex <breddiex@doc.govt.nz>; Sam Thomas <samthomas@doc.govt.nz>; Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>; Lars Ivarsson <livarsson@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Tim Bamford <tbamford@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Status update for MHF on Budget Night process [sensitive]

Thanks Ben, read your comments all very clear thanks.

I take your point yes. I ran out of time to properly finesse what that para says (wanted to give you and Sam something to react to). Perhaps I could reframe to say something like 'DOC believes there is time to run a standard parliamentary process [briefing xxx refers] which would have fewer delivery risks that the Budget Night approach'. Grateful for a steer on yours and Sam's preference is here

Thanks for the note on whether we are doing a status report! I will check.

From: Ben Reddiex <breddiex@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 10 December 2024 6:43 am
To: Patrick West-Oram <pwestoram@doc.govt.nz>; Sam Thomas <samthomas@doc.govt.nz>; Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>; Lars Ivarsson <livarsson@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Tim Bamford <tbamford@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Status update for MHF on Budget Night process [sensitive]

Thanks Patrick. Comments in the document now. I strongly disagree with the 'contrary recommendation' when the whole paper is around what the Minister has asked...see my comments within. I can talk later today if needed.

Cheers
Ben

From: Patrick West-Oram <pwestoram@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 9 December 2024 4:29 pm
To: Sam Thomas <samthomas@doc.govt.nz>; Ben Reddiex <breddiex@doc.govt.nz>; Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>; Lars Ivarsson <livarsson@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Status update for MHF on Budget Night process [sensitive]

Hi all,

As discussed at the Director's catch up I have drafted a status update for MHF to confirm his steer on the HOSI leg change. [Weekly status report for the Minister format and guidance - DOC-2728361.docx](#)

We realised today that we have not given him sight of DOC's view on this approach so I have put in a couple of paragraphs to explain why, ideally, we wouldn't follow this process. Grateful for views on that.

Also grateful for views on whether Ruth and Steph need to be across this item or if you are both happy to clear.

Deadline is first thing Wednesday (8am) so please could you provide comments tomorrow, ideally before 2pm so I can action them before I log off (it's my short day). If not [@Lars Ivarsson](#) please could you action anything.

Thanks,
Patrick

Patrick West-Oram | Principal Policy Advisor

Hunting, Fishing and Economic Development
Policy and Regulatory Services Group
Department of Conservation—*Te Papa Atawhai*
DDI: s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

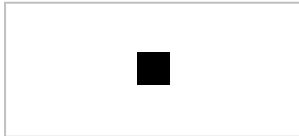
Please note I work 0.9 and finish at 3pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai - Conservation House

18 - 32 Manners Street | Wellington | 6011

PO Box 10420 | Wellington | 6143

www.doc.govt.nz



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From: [Lars Ivarsson](#)
To: [Samuel Eccles](#); [Patrick West-Oram](#); [Ryan McLean](#)
Cc: [Nicola Molloy \(Policy Manager\)](#)
Subject: RE: For your review: HOSI leg scope note to directors
Date: Wednesday, 18 December 2024 3:56:00 pm

That's a great formulation, thank you for that Sam!

From: Samuel Eccles <seccles@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 December 2024 2:13 pm
To: Patrick West-Oram <pwestoram@doc.govt.nz>; Ryan McLean <rymclean@doc.govt.nz>; Lars Ivarsson <livarsson@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: For your review: HOSI leg scope note to directors

Kia ora Lars,

s9(2)(h)



From: Samuel Eccles
Sent: Wednesday, 18 December 2024 11:47 am
To: Patrick West-Oram <pwestoram@doc.govt.nz>; Ryan McLean <rymclean@doc.govt.nz>; Lars Ivarsson <livarsson@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: For your review: HOSI leg scope note to directors

Hi Lars,

s9(2)(h)



From: Patrick West-Oram <pwestoram@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 December 2024 10:45 am
To: Ryan McLean <rymclean@doc.govt.nz>; Lars Ivarsson <livarsson@doc.govt.nz>; Samuel Eccles <seccles@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: For your review: HOSI leg scope note to directors

Yeah no comments from me Lars, very nice drafting

From: Ryan McLean <rymclean@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 December 2024 10:31 am
To: Lars Ivarsson <livarsson@doc.govt.nz>; Samuel Eccles <seccles@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Patrick West-Oram <pwestoram@doc.govt.nz>; Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: For your review: HOSI leg scope note to directors

That looks good to me and particularly like being able cut and paste into the Cabinet paper and RIS (anything that makes my life easier is welcome ... because it's all about me!).

From: Lars Ivarsson <livarsson@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 December 2024 10:17 am
To: Samuel Eccles <seccles@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Ryan McLean <rymclean@doc.govt.nz>; Patrick West-Oram <pwestoram@doc.govt.nz>; Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: For your review: HOSI leg scope note to directors

Kia ora Sam and co!

s9(2)(h)



s9(2)(h)



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s9(2)(h)

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From: [Samuel Eccles](#)
To: [Tim Bamford](#)
Subject: s9(2)(h)
Date: Wednesday, 18 December 2024 12:04:08 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Hi Tim,

I think this is something the MOC needs to be across also, not just the MHF – not sure how this is being communicated.

From: Samuel Eccles
Sent: Tuesday, 17 December 2024 4:44 pm
To: Tim Bamford <tbamford@doc.govt.nz>; Ben Reddiex <breddiex@doc.govt.nz>

s9(2)(h)



From: Tim Bamford <tbamford@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 17 December 2024 4:13 pm
To: Samuel Eccles <seccles@doc.govt.nz>; Ben Reddiex <breddiex@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: s9(2)(h)

This is a very good summary, thanks Sam.

s9(2)(g)(i)



Ta, Tim

From: Samuel Eccles <seccles@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 17 December 2024 3:04 pm

To: Tim Bamford <tbamford@doc.govt.nz>; Ben Reddiex <breddiex@doc.govt.nz>

s9(2)(h)



s9(2)(h)

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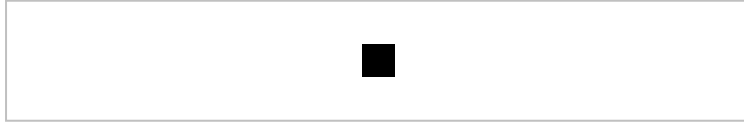
Sam Eccles ([he](#))

Senior solicitor

s9(2)(a)

Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

Conservation House Wellington | Whare Kaupapa Atawhai



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From: [Nicola Molloy \(Policy Manager\)](#)
To: [Lars Ivarsson](#); [Manon Roehrig](#)
Cc: [Patrick West-Oram](#)
Subject: RE: Revised HOSI Leg bid
Date: Tuesday, 28 January 2025 5:14:34 pm

On priority ordering – discussed with Megan. Short answer is not sure if no longer on budget night - but on balance we felt retain GAC as 1 and F&G as 2. This would be for him to make a political judgement though...

From: Lars Ivarsson <livarsson@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 January 2025 3:09 pm
To: Manon Roehrig <mroehrig@doc.govt.nz>; Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Patrick West-Oram <pwestoram@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Revised HOSI Leg bid

Hi Manon, Nicola

I have updated this leg bid and changed the priority from 3 (priority to pass before end of 2025) to 4 (to pass before end of 2025 if possible) to reflect new non-Budget night timing – see attached.

I am unsure if that changes 19.2; viz “note that the Game Animal Council Act Amendment Bill ranks 1 within the bids from my Hunting and Fishing portfolio;” - @Manon, what is the priority of the Fish & Game one?

Cheers
Lars

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From: [Samuel Eccles](#)
To: [Tim Bamford](#)

s9(2)(h)



From: Tim Bamford <tbamford@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 29 January 2025 8:07 am
To: Samuel Eccles <seccles@doc.govt.nz>

s9(2)(h)



From: Samuel Eccles <seccles@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 January 2025 5:55 pm
To: Tim Bamford <tbamford@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Jonty Somers <jsomers@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Legal - GAC Act amendment - drafting instructions - DOC-7840551 (12)

Hi Tim

Here is where I've got to with the drafting instructions.

s9(2)(h)



s9(2)(h)



Sam

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From: [Megan Robinson](#)
To: [Lars Ivarsson](#)
Cc: [Nicola Molloy \(Policy Manager\)](#); [Patrick West-Oram](#); [Sam Thomas](#)
Subject: RE: Updated draft Cabinet paper - HOSI
Date: Tuesday, 4 February 2025 11:24:58 am

Thank you, really appreciate the quick turnaround.

Thanks,
Megan



Megan Robinson
Private Secretary (Hunting and Fishing) | Office of Hon James Meager
Minister for the South Island
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Minister for Youth
Associate Minister of Transport
Phone **s9(2)(a)**
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Lars Ivarsson <livarsson@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 4 February 2025 10:47 AM
To: Megan Robinson <Megan.Robinson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>; Patrick West-Oram <pwestoram@doc.govt.nz>; Sam Thomas <samthomas@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Updated draft Cabinet paper - HOSI

Kia ora Megan

We have updated the draft Cabinet paper as requested. We have (at paragraph 29 and 30 in the attached) used the suggested wording in your email below to clarify that:

- The intention is to amend the Game Animal Council Act to make it clear that section 4(2)(b) of the National Parks Act (the requirement to 'exterminate introduced animals as far as possible') does not apply to animals covered by a HOSI.
- Paragraph 31 further clarifies that no change will be made to the National Parks Act itself, as this amendment Bill only relates to Herds of Special Interest – not wild animal management in national parks in general.

Clarification regarding decision recommendation

- We understand the Minister asked why the recommendation is to delegate authority to him determine the specific technical amendments rather than presenting the proposed amendments in more detail in the paper.
- This approach gives the Minister and DOC officials flexibility in developing detailed drafting instructions to Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO). This means the Minister will not need to go back to Cabinet and seek approval if minor changes to the drafting instructions are required.
- This type of delegation to an individual Minister for the legislative drafting is fairly standard (following Cabinet agreement on the policy intent itself) and will save time if minor changes are needed.
- Major changes (i.e., to the agreed policy intent) would need to go back to Cabinet for approval, as is

also standard.

Let us know if further changes to the draft Cabinet paper are required and we'll get back to you asap!

Ngā mihi,

Lars Ivarsson | Senior Policy Advisor | Department of Conservation

From: Patrick West-Oram <pwestoram@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 4 February 2025 9:46 am
To: Megan Robinson <Megan.Robinson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>; Lars Ivarsson <livarsson@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Updated draft Cabinet paper - HOSI

Thanks Megan, we are on it. Will be with you ahead of your midday call with the Minister.

Patrick

From: Megan Robinson <Megan.Robinson@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 4 February 2025 9:21 am
To: Patrick West-Oram <pwestoram@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Updated draft Cabinet paper - HOSI

Mōrena Patrick,

I think [29] is still unclear about what is actually being sought. Are we seeking to amend 4(2)(b) so that there is no longer a requirement to exterminate introduced animals as far as possible, and management in line with conservation values is possible, as well as remove the NZCA determination power;

Or

Are we seeking to amend by removing the ability for NZCA to make a determination a replacing to be a decision of the Minister, and leaving 4(2)(b) itself alone?

It is unclear to me, and therefore it may be unclear to colleagues, and I won't have an answer.

Is this the intention:

[29] I am seeking Cabinet agreement to delegate decisions to me to determine the specific technical amendments that will be required to clarify the law and remove any legal ambiguity.

[30] The intention of the technical amendments would be that, by default, the National Parks Act requirement in section 4(2)(b) to exterminate introduced animals as far as possible does not apply to animals that are part of a herd designated as a Herd of Special Interest under section 16 of the Game Animal Council Act 2013. This would negate the requirement for the NZCA to make a determination that animals need not be exterminated "as far as possible".

Ngā mihi,
Megan



Megan Robinson
Private Secretary (Hunting and Fishing) | Office of Hon James Meager
Minister for the South Island
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Minister for Youth
Associate Minister of Transport
Phone s9(2)(a)
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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From: [Patrick West-Oram](#)
To: [Nicola Molloy \(Policy Manager\)](#); [Lars Ivarsson](#); [Samuel Eccles](#); [David Owen](#); [Sam Thomas](#); [Ben Reddiex](#)
Cc: [Manon Roehrig](#)
Subject: Follow questions on Leg Bids [sensitive]
Date: Wednesday, 19 February 2025 2:18:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
Importance: High

Hi all,

Amy Orr from PCO just rang me and asked some follow up questions on the GAC Act amendment with respect to Budget Night.

s9(2)(g)(i)



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s9(2)(g)(i)

Sam/Ben – given very tight timelines please could you confirm ASAP if you wish to sign out a response.

Manon – fyi as you did the leg bids.

Thanks,
Patrick

Patrick West-Oram | Principal Policy Advisor ([he/him](#))

Hunting, Fishing and Economic Development
Policy and Regulatory Services Group
Department of Conservation—*Te Papa Atawhai*

DDI: s9(2)(a)

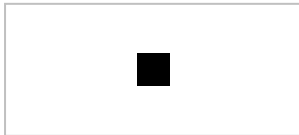
Please note I work 0.9 and finish at 3pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai - Conservation House

18 - 32 Manners Street | Wellington | 6011

PO Box 10420 | Wellington | 6143

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From: [Lars Ivarsson](#)
To: [Ben Reddix](#); [Sam Thomas](#); [Nicola Molloy \(Policy Manager\)](#); [Patrick West-Oram](#)
Cc: [Samuel Eccles](#)
Subject: FW: PCO-26269 FW: Drafting instructions - amendment to the Game Animal Council Act 2013
Date: Friday, 21 March 2025 9:51:00 am
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[Game Animal Council Herds of Special Interest Am-v3.0.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Kia ora Sam and Ben

We've now received the first draft of the GAC Act Amendment Bill (attached) and it appears to be spot on what we needed.

- Jonty and Sam E are happy with the draft (I agree as well); it is straightforward and does what we have asked in the instructions.

s9(2)(h)



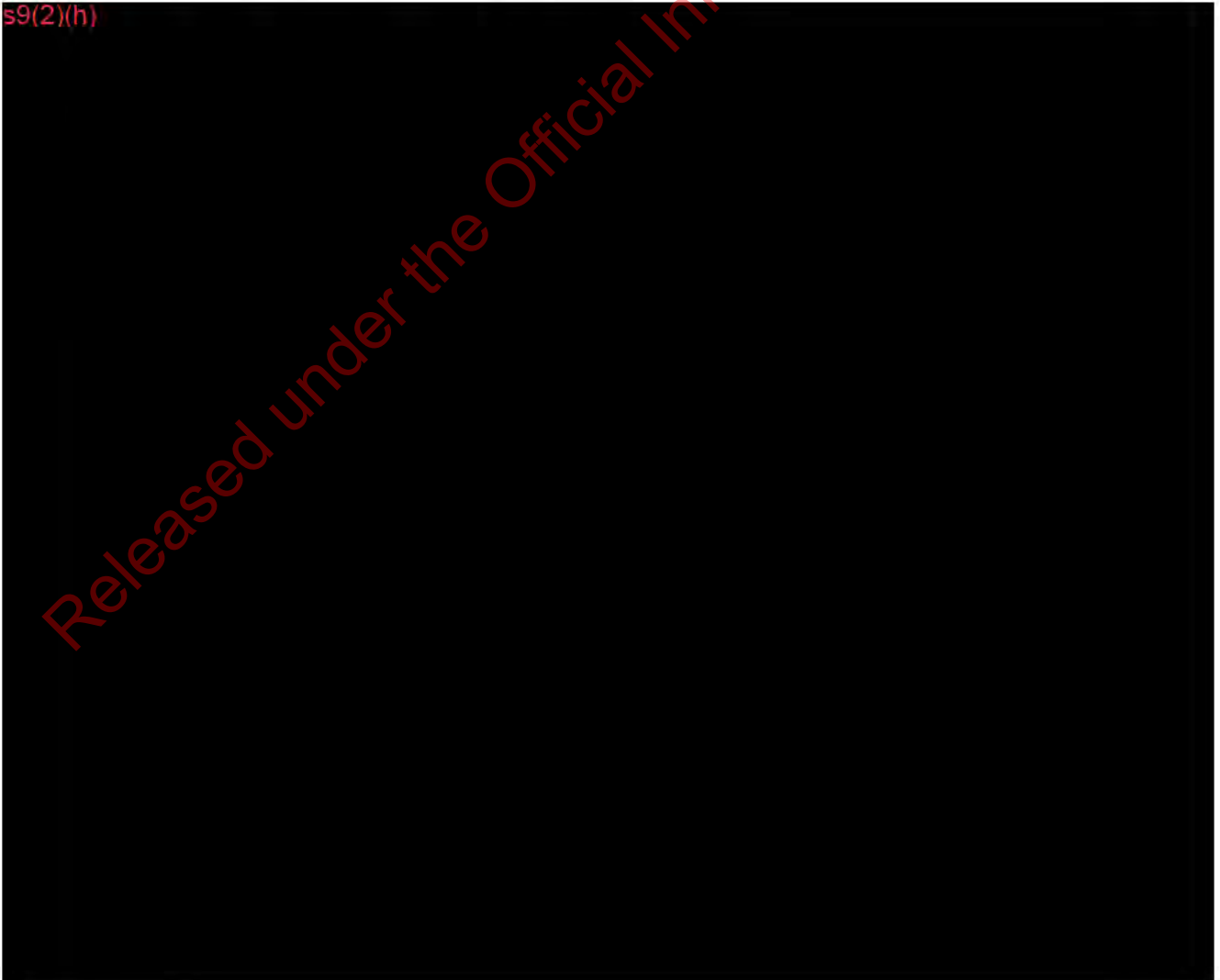
Next steps

- Now that we have a first draft in hand we will proceed with getting it to MoI for a BORA vet, writing up disclosure statements etc, so everything is lined up to **lodge the draft Bill on 1 May** for LEG consideration on 8 May. I understand this timing has been confirmed with the Minister's advisor.

Ngā mihi,

Lars Ivarsson | Senior Policy Advisor | Department of Conservation

s9(2)(h)



[LEGAL PRIVILEGE (IN-CONFIDENCE)]

s9(2)(h)

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b5(2)(f)

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So our original timeline stays – so we need draft Bill next week to be able to keep this 😊

Ngā mihi,

Lars Ivarsson | Senior Policy Advisor | Department of Conservation

From: Samuel Eccles <seccles@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 10 March 2025 4:05 pm

To: Lars Ivarsson <livarsson@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: PCO-26269 FW: Drafting instructions - amendment to the Game Animal Council Act 2013

Lars?

s9(2)(h)



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Ngā mihi
Sam

LEGAL PRIVILEGE [IN-CONFIDENCE]

s9(2)(h)

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Sam Eccles ([he](#))
Senior solicitor

s9(2)(a)

Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai
Conservation House Wellington | Whare Kaupapa Atawhai



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s9(2)(h)



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From: [Nicola Molloy \(Policy Manager\)](#)
To: [Megan Robinson](#); [Ben Reddix](#); [Sam Thomas](#)
Cc: [Stephanie Rowe](#); [Ruth Isaac](#); [Fiona Weightman](#); [Government Services](#); [Kelley Reeve](#); [Patrick West-Oram](#); [Lars Ivarsson](#)
Subject: RE: Draft - Quarterly plan - Q2 2025
Date: Monday, 24 March 2025 3:45:55 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Hi Megan

Thanks. No comments on the text below.

I'm sure your discussing with Louis, but flagging that – while Cabinet has provided policy approvals – an announcement in early April would come before a Cabinet decision to introduce the legislation (paper due to LEG on 8 May).

If we are tracking for early April, it would be helpful to turn quickly to how the Minister wishes to communicate an announcement with the public and key stakeholders involved.

Nicola

From: Megan Robinson <Megan.Robinson@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 21 March 2025 4:16 pm
To: Ben Reddix <breddix@doc.govt.nz>; Sam Thomas <samthomas@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>; Stephanie Rowe <sjrowe@doc.govt.nz>; Ruth Isaac <risaac@doc.govt.nz>; Fiona Weightman <fweightman@doc.govt.nz>; Government Services <GovernmentServices@doc.govt.nz>; Kelley Reeve <kreeve@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Draft - Quarterly plan - Q2 2025

Kia ora koutou,

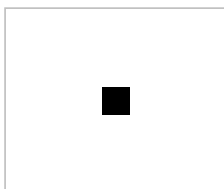
As part of the Q2 announcement from the Prime Minister in early April, the Prime Minister's Office would like to put in the following line on HOSI:

Introduce legislation to enable the designation of herds of special interest to raise our international profile as a hunting destination and help support an increase in hunting tourism.

If you could please confirm there are no factual issues with the statement proposed – if so, please indicate as soon as possible and **no later than Tuesday 25 March**.

You may wish to raise this at the Officials meeting on Monday in respect of comms announcements for HOSI when talking to the Sika HOSI proposal agenda item.

Nga mihi,
Megan



Megan Robinson
 Private Secretary (Hunting and Fishing) | Office of Hon James Meager
 Minister for the South Island
 Minister for Hunting and Fishing
 Minister for Youth
 Associate Minister of Transport
 Phone **s9(2)(a)**
 Private Bag 16041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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From: [Megan Robinson](#)
To: [Lars Ivarsson](#)
Cc: [Nicola Molloy \(Policy Manager\)](#); [Patrick West-Oram](#)
Subject: RE: Info for HOSI Leg Cab paper
Date: Wednesday, 2 April 2025 10:40:52 am
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

Hi Lars,

Responses in red below.

Thanks,
 Megan



Megan Robinson
 Private Secretary (Hunting and Fishing) | Office of Hon James Meager
 Minister for the South Island
 Minister for Hunting and Fishing
 Minister for Youth
 Associate Minister of Transport
 Phone: s9(2)(a)
 Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Lars Ivarsson <livarsson@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 1 April 2025 4:49 PM
To: Megan Robinson <Megan.Robinson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>; Patrick West-Oram <pwestoram@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Info for HOSI Leg Cab paper

Kia ora Megan

We need some info from the office on a couple of points to write up the HOSI Leg cabinet paper. I think this would mostly be questions for Louis, viz:

- Which select committee the Bill is proposed to be referred to.
 - We believe Environment Select Committee would be appropriate – do you agree? **Yes, Environment**
- What priority the Bill holds on the 2025 Legislation Programme.
 - We understand the Bill received priority category 4 – is that correct? **Correct**
- What day the Bill is intended to be introduced to the House for First Reading
 - We understand the intention is to introduce on the 15th of May – is this correct? **Best to say 'Week of 12 May'**

Not super urgent, but if we can have this information by next week, we'll make sure it is included in the draft Cab paper!

Ngā mihi,

Lars Ivarsson (PhD)
 Senior Policy Advisor | Policy and Regulatory Services
 Department of Conservation—*Te Papa Atawhai*
 Phone: s9(2)(a)



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From: [Ben Reddiex](#)
To: [Nicola Molloy \(Policy Manager\)](#); [Sam Thomas](#); [Lars Ivarsson](#); [Patrick West-Oram](#)
Cc: [Tim Bamford](#); [Samuel Eccles](#)
Subject: s9(2)(g)(i)
Date: Sunday, 13 April 2025 7:18:17 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)

Hi Sam, Nicola, Lars & Patrick

s9(2)(g)(i)

What do you think? Would be good to get final confirmation of the announcement as well (date).

Cheers

Ben

From: Megan Robinson <Megan.Robinson@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 21 March 2025 4:16 pm
To: Ben Reddiex <breddiex@doc.govt.nz>; Sam Thomas <samthomas@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>; Stephanie Rowe <sjrowe@doc.govt.nz>; Ruth Isaac <risaac@doc.govt.nz>; Fiona Weightman <fweightman@doc.govt.nz>; Government Services <GovernmentServices@doc.govt.nz>; Kelley Reeve <kreeve@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Draft - Quarterly plan - Q2 2025

Kia ora koutou,

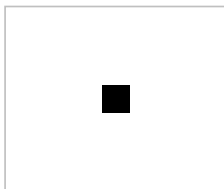
As part of the Q2 announcement from the Prime Minister in early April, the Prime Minister's Office would like to put in the following line on HOSI:

Introduce legislation to enable the designation of herds of special interest to raise our international profile as a hunting destination and help support an increase in hunting tourism.

If you could please confirm there are no factual issues with the statement proposed – if so, please indicate as soon as possible and **no later than Tuesday 25 March**.

You may wish to raise this at the Officials meeting on Monday in respect of comms announcements for HOSI when talking to the Sika HOSI proposal agenda item.

Ngā mihi,
Megan



Megan Robinson
Private Secretary (Hunting and Fishing) | Office of Hon James Meager
 Minister for the South Island
 Minister for Hunting and Fishing
 Minister for Youth
 Associate Minister of Transport
 Phone: s9(2)(a)
 Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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From: [Megan Robinson](#)
To: [Lars Ivarsson](#)
Cc: [Nicola Molloy \(Policy Manager\)](#); [Sam Thomas](#); [Ben Reddiex](#)
Subject: FW: 25-B-0156 - Briefing - HOSI amendment bill Cabinet paper
Date: Tuesday, 15 April 2025 10:12:47 am
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)
[Game Animal Council \(Herds of Special Interest\) Amendment Bill.pdf](#)

Mōrena koutou,

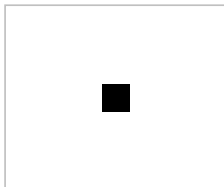
Further to my email below. Louis is sending out the attached documents for Ministerial consultation today – you will note I have amended the dates to say week of 12 May for introduction as per my email below, if you can please make sure to update this on your end ahead of lodging the paper into CabNet.

The Minister was happy for the Cabinet paper and draft bill to go out for consultation; however, he raised a few questions around the Bill as below –

Can we change the title to just Game Animal Council Amendment Bill? That will widen the scope and leave room for further amends to valued introduced species at select committee (subject to what process needs to be followed for amends to legislation post-Cabinet). It may need a clause which clarifies this applies to any HOSI designated after the commencement of the bill, regardless of when the process for designation started (want to prevent legal challenges to sika and Wapiti which will start the statutory process before the bill is passed, and if there are claims of it needing to apply retrospectively I want it to be clear to the courts it applies to any HOSI designated after commencement).

Any advice re the above, can be worked through over this consultation period.

Thanks,
Megan



Megan Robinson
Private Secretary (Hunting and Fishing) | Office of Hon James Meager
 Minister for the South Island
 Minister for Hunting and Fishing
 Minister for Youth
 Associate Minister of Transport
 Phone [69\(2\)\(a\)](#)
 Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Megan Robinson <Megan.Robinson@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 14 April 2025 1:15 pm
To: Lars Ivarsson <livarsson@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Ben Reddiex <breddiex@doc.govt.nz>; Sam Thomas <samthomas@doc.govt.nz>; Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: 25-B-0156 - Briefing - HOSI amendment bill Cabinet paper

Kia ora Lars,

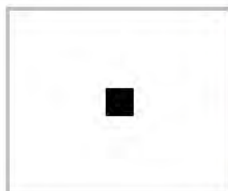
Thank you for sharing – I have amended the briefing and cabinet paper to say intend to introduce the bill **week of 12 May** and noted in the briefing that the first reading may be 20 May. I understand from Louis we need to introduce the bill in the house and give 3 days' notice before the first reading.

We have been asked if we can add to the bill something to mention **valued introduced species** it was suggested perhaps in the second para of the General policy statement we could add “exterminate

game animals of special interest to hunters or valued introduced species” – noting this might be something we work on during the consultation phase. I’ll defer to you on how this might be done, noting it would need to go through PCO.

I’ll be in touch further with any additional comments from the Minister ahead of this going out for Ministerial consultation.

Thanks,
Megan



Megan Robinson
Private Secretary (Hunting and Fishing) | Office of Hon James Meager
Minister for the South Island
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Minister for Youth
Associate Minister of Transport
Phone s9(2)(a)
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Lars Ivarsson <livarsson@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 11 April 2025 4:21 PM

To: Megan Robinson <Megan.Robinson@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>; Patrick West-Oram <pwestoram@doc.govt.nz>; Samuel Eccles <seccles@doc.govt.nz>; Government Services <GovernmentServices@doc.govt.nz>; Sam Thomas <samthomas@doc.govt.nz>; Ben Reddiex <breddiex@doc.govt.nz>; Ewan Delany <edelany@doc.govt.nz>; Stephanie Rowe <sjrowe@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: 25-B-0156 - Briefing - HOSI amendment bill Cabinet paper

Kia ora Megan

Please find attached the draft Cabinet paper and cover briefing for the upcoming HOSI amendment bill. The draft Bill is attached as well (note that it is subject to final PCO quality checks).

Let me know any questions and I’ll get back to you asap!

Ngā mihi,

Lars Ivarsson (PhD)
Senior Policy Advisor | Policy and Regulatory Services
Department of Conservation—Te Papa Atawhai
Phone s9(2)(a)



From: [Megan Robinson](#)
To: [Lars Ivarsson](#)
Cc: [Nicola Molloy \(Policy Manager\)](#); [Sam Thomas](#); [Sarah Campin-Fordham](#)
Subject: RE: Updated Cabinet paper and draft Bill
Date: Wednesday, 30 April 2025 9:48:52 am

Kia ora Lars,

Great – thank you.

I have printed out the updated versions and highlighted the amendments in the papers and will put these to the Minister today to confirm. Noting he may wish to discuss matters, such as the Bill title at Officials today.

I will come back to you as soon as I can today.

Ngā mihi,
Megan



Megan Robinson
Private Secretary (Hunting and Fishing) | Office of Hon James Meager
Minister for the South Island
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Minister for Youth
Associate Minister of Transport
Phone **s9(2)(a)**
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

From: Lars Ivarsson <livarsson@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 30 April 2025 9:12 AM
To: Megan Robinson <Megan.Robinson@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Nicola Molloy (Policy Manager) <nimolloy@doc.govt.nz>; Sam Thomas <samthomas@doc.govt.nz>; Sarah Campin-Fordham <scampin@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Updated Cabinet paper and draft Bill

Kia ora Megan

- Attached is the updated version of the Cabinet paper and draft Bill following agency and Ministerial consultation.
- Once it's confirmed the Minister is happy with the paper and bill, we will tell PCO to please finalise the Bill for lodgement tomorrow morning (the earlier we can get confirmation today so we can get back to PCO, the better)
 - The only substantial change to the Cabinet paper (aside from the introduction date being week of the 12th) is an addition of a sentence in paragraph 10 saying "Herd management plans also need be consistent with relevant plans and strategies made under the Biosecurity Act 1993."
 - This was added following feedback from MPI that requested clarity on interaction with the Biosecurity Act. We considered this a reasonable technical clarification to make.

Ngā mihi,

Lars Ivarsson | Senior Policy Advisor | Department of Conservation

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