



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	

Out of scope

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Released under the Official Information Act 1982

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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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MEMO ENDS

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?

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| Answer | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. |
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Question 1b (potential follow up): What are the next steps of this work?

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| Answer | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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. |
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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?

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| Answer | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <i>Te Wahipounamu - South West New Zealand</i> 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 |
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	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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