

# Meeting Memo

## Meeting with the Minister for Hunting and Fishing

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

<b>Meeting date/time</b>	25/03/2025, 8.00am – 8.30am
<b>Meeting location</b>	The Office of the Minister of Conservation, 4.5L, Executive Wing The Beehive
<b>Attachments</b>	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.

Out of scope



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.

**MEMO ENDS**

**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.

Out of scope



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