

File: PAS-12-01

15 March 2013

Dear Sir/Madam.

**Akaroa Marine Reserve Application**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Minister of Conservation to advise that he has completed his consideration of the Akaroa Marine Reserve application and the objections and submissions received concerning it. It was assessed against the criteria set out in section 5(6)(a) – (e) and also section 5(9) of the Marine Reserves Act 1971.

The Minister has decided that the impacts on adjoining land holders, on navigation and on commercial fishers would not amount to undue interference; that the impacts on recreational users would not be undue or adverse; and that declaring a marine reserve would not otherwise be contrary to the public interest. Accordingly he has decided not to uphold objections made under these criteria.

The Minister has also decided, in terms of section 5(9) that to declare a marine reserve will be in the best interests of scientific study, will be for the benefit of the public and that it is expedient that the area be declared to be a marine reserve. He has, however, decided that it is appropriate in the circumstances to make a boundary adjustment to take account of customary fishing and recreational interests. This will entail reducing the size of the reserve by approximately 55 hectares in the area closest to Onuku marae.

The Minister will now seek concurrence from the Minister of Transport and the Minister for Primary Industries before then making a recommendation to the Governor-General that an Order in Council be made declaring the area a marine reserve.

Thank you for your input into the proposal.

Yours sincerely



Mike Cuddihy  
Conservator  
Canterbury Conservancy