

Tēnā koe

RE: Marine mammal permit for trial flights over Whakaroūpō/Lyttelton Harbour 26th and 27th May

Recently Maui63 applied to fly a drone over Whakaroūpō/Lyttelton Harbour to trial the technology for the use in the upcoming SailGP's Dolphin Protection Platform.

I acknowledge that in previous situations you have conducted trials of the drone in partnership with the Department that would otherwise have required a permit as the proposed activity would be in breach of Regulation 18(h) of the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992. In this instance, the activity you have proposed is not in partnership with the Department, but instead with SailGP.

However, I have discussed your application with technical advisors from the Marine Species team and in this instance the Department also wants to partner in these trials to understand if the technology you have developed will be suitable for use in marine mammal monitoring and mitigation plans for SailGP and other events similar in nature. As such, the Department requests that any information you gather from the trial flights on the 26th and 27th of May 2022 be shared with us. This information should include where possible:

- Sightings data for all marine mammals detected
- An assessment of the efficacy of the system in detecting and identifying marine mammals in the search area

In the future, where you are contracted by organisations to conduct flights over marine mammals, you will need to apply for a permit. Any new application for a marine mammal permit must be notified in the Gazette for a period of 28 days. As such, it is recommended that you get any application in at least two months in advance, to give Permissions staff time to process those applications. If you have any further questions related to Permissions, please contact Michael Dine at mdine@doc.govt.nz.

For the avoidance of doubt, this letter does not waive the requirement for you to hold a valid marine mammal permit for any future work that you conduct outside of the two trial flights on the 26th and 27th May 2022.

As part of this partnership, I ask that you act in accordance with the below:

- Advise if there is room for a DOC observer on the day.

Mahaanui District Office

mahaanui@doc.govt.nz

PO Box 11089, Sockburn 8443, Christchurch

www.doc.govt.nz

- Advise if you providing an opportunity for Ngāti Wheke to participate (their capacity allowing)
- If a marine mammal, group of marine mammals, or any other wildlife show obvious signs of alarm, agitation or disturbance you must increase the altitude to a level that ends the signs of alarm, agitation or disturbance
- This does not authorise filming of seals on land.
- This does not authorise filming of stranded whales and dolphins.
- This does not authorise use of a remotely piloted aircraft system in restricted CAA airspace
- I may nominate an observer and require the observer to be present for the duration or part of the duration of the trial
- Maui63 is responsible for the health and safety of persons involved in the work carried out under the authority of this letter and must indemnify the Minister and the Crown against all and any action, claim, injury, damage and loss, which may arise in any manner whatsoever from undertaking this activity.
- Maui63 shall ensure that a fire extinguisher in good working order is carried at all time that the drone is in use.

Nāku noa, nā



Kathy Hokamau
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