



## Office of Hon Tim Groser

Minister of Trade  
Minister of Conservation

Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Associate Minister for Climate Change Issues  
(International Negotiations)

- 5 MAY 2009

Bruce Hamilton  
Chair  
West Coast Marine Protection Forum  
PO Box 201  
WESTPORT

Dear Bruce

Please accept my apology for being unable to attend the meeting with you and your team on 27 April 2009. This was due to circumstances beyond my control.

I was disappointed to miss the meeting as I am supportive of and interested in the work of the forum in developing proposals for marine protected areas (MPAs) on the West Coast of the South Island.

My officials have briefed me on your presentation. The progress made by the forum to date is encouraging and I note the forum has identified nine areas for varying levels of marine protection, including marine reserves, in a way that broadly satisfies commercial and recreational fishing, Maori, tourism, conservation, and other interests.

Knowing how challenging it can be to draw together the many different interests, I congratulate you and the other members of the forum on your efforts.

I understand that you are due shortly to begin public consultation on a discussion document on the marine protection proposals. I wish you well with this consultation as I believe it is important to maintain momentum when engaging the community in planning proposals.

I note that the Papatipu Runanga have applied for some mataitai reserves along the West Coast, and that the forum intends to meet shortly with the Runanga to explore options for minimising any overlaps or conflicts with the MPA and mataitai processes. I support this approach and wish you well. I also note that you will have another opportunity to revisit any matters associated with these sites following public consultation. My colleague, the Minister of Fisheries, Hon Phil Heatley will be providing some material to you on the mataitai process.

I look forward to receiving a further progress report in due course, and wish the forum well in its continuing endeavours.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Groser', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Groser  
**Minister of Conservation**