

Hon Eugenie Sage

Minister of Conservation

Minita mō Te Papa Atawhai

Minister for Land Information

Minita mō Toitū Te Whenua

Associate Minister for the Environment

Minita Tuarua mō Te Taiao



Paul Hughes

Via email: phughes@actrix.co.nz

Tēnā koe Paul

Thank you for your email dated 3 April 2019 which provides an update about the Project Kakariki land transfer proposal and raised concerns about the outcomes sought by the Department of Conservation at a recent forum relating to the future use of the Perkins Block Land in Paekakariki.

I have been advised that departmental staff attended a forum led by the Kapiti District Council about the future use of the Perkins Block on 4 December 2018. Departmental staff presented a number of interests and outcomes that were relevant to the department's functions, including the protection and enhancement of freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems and the provision of connectivity.

The department is not currently in a position to consider future management options for the Perkins Block, as the land has not yet been formally notified as surplus by the New Zealand Transport Agency and an assessment of the conservation values and benefits associated with the land has not yet been completed.

As part of any assessment, future management options will be investigated, including the option of Council or a third party managing the land via vesting or a control and management agreement.

These investigations will not be initiated until the land has been declared surplus, which I understand will not occur until after the Transmission Gully works have been completed.

In the meantime, a number of groups, including the Paekakariki community and Mana Whenua, will be working to develop a vision for the Perkins Block land. I recently met with the Chair of the Wellington Conservation Board who briefed me about this community/lwi-led project and the contribution that will make to better understanding of the values and future best use of the land.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'EM Sage'.

Hon. Eugenie Sage

Minister of Conservation