



Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee

Minute of Decision

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Options to Streamline the Reclassification of Conservation Portfolio Stewardship Land: Public Consultation

Portfolio Conservation

On 28 October 2021, the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in April 2021, the Cabinet Business Committee (CBC) agreed in principle that the Conservation Act 1987 be amended to improve the process of reclassifying conservation portfolio stewardship land and invited the Minister of Conservation to report back to Cabinet on proposed amendments [CBC-21-MIN-0045];
- 2 **noted** that a Conservation (Stewardship Land Reclassification) Amendment Bill is expected to be introduced in mid-2022, with legislation passed in late-2022;
- 3 **noted** that the Minister of Conservation intends to initiate public consultation and release a public discussion document to support legislative changes to streamline the process for reclassifying and disposing of stewardship land, covering the following policy areas:
 - 3.1 improving consistency of the public notification and submission processes;
 - 3.2 enabling the national panels to carry out the public notification and submission process;
 - 3.3 clarifying responsibilities for making recommendations to reclassify stewardship land to national park;
 - 3.4 removing the statutory step to declare all stewardship land to be held for conservation purposes before it can be reclassified or disposed of;
 - 3.5 enabling the Minister of Conservation to direct the proceeds of sale of stewardship land to the Department of Conservation (DOC);
 - 3.6 clarifying the status of concessions on reclassified stewardship land;
- 4 **approved** public consultation and the release of the public discussion document attached to the paper under ENV-21-SUB-0060 (subject to minor edits and design changes) to support streamlining the legislative process for reclassifying and disposing of stewardship land;

- 5 **noted** that the Minister of Conservation will report back to the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee with recommended amendments to legislation following public consultation;
- 6 **noted** that:
- 6.1 in April 2021 CBC agreed to establish two independent expert national panels to make recommendations to the Minister of Conservation on the reclassification of stewardship land [CBC-21-MIN-0045]
- 6.2 the work of the national panels has been paused while DOC and Ngāi Tahu seek to resolve Ngāi Tahu concerns regarding the appointment of the national panels;
- 7 S9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]

Vivien Meek
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon David Parker (Chair)
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Michael Wood
Hon Kiri Allan
Rino Tirikatene, MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for ENV

Released by the Minister of Conservation