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10 April 2025

Hamish Waugh
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Manawātū District Council
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[DOC-10232327](#)

Tēnā koe Hamish

WA-219; MDC - Drainage Easement Concession, Pukepuke Lagoon

Thank you for your recent efforts to work with ourselves and iwi to understand, clarify and resolve the issues with the easement concession that you hold for the drains through Pukepuke Lagoon. I am pleased to inform you that based on your recent discussions and agreements with the Department and iwi, I have approved the suspension to be lifted, effective from the date of this letter.

The concession has been suspended for a number of years, the build-up of vegetation within the drains is impeding the proper functioning of the drains and increases the risk of flooding.

I understand that a mechanical clearance is required, and that this will need to happen in April which is outside the approved window stipulated in the concession (1 January to 31 March). Based on the results of the recent baseline monitoring which confirms there are no nesting birds within the concession area, I approve for the mechanical clearance of the drains to be done at some time between 01 April and 30 April 2025. The activity must otherwise comply with the conditions set out in the concession.

You have indicated you will apply for a variation to the concession that would enable you to fly a drone over the lagoon to get a better view of the open water areas within the lagoon. I can see the benefit of having this type of information available for better landscape scale planning. As there can be delays with processing of concession applications, pending receipt of said variation application I approve the flying of a drone to capture images that support the operation of this concession.

As the concession is no longer suspended your access into the Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area is allowed for via Schedule 1 3d, overriding the need for any further access permits.

We look forward to an ongoing working relationship with you and your team and hope to see iwi being fully involved in continuing environmental activities around the lagoon.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the concession, please contact Frances Walsh by email at fwalsh@doc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Moana Smith-Dunlop
Operations Manager Manawātū