

Invitation Evaluation – Minister of Conservation

Name of requestor and reference #	24-I-0096 Lucy Baragwanath, Hauraki Gulf Forum - INVTP-630		
Due to Office	30 July 2024		
Priority <small>[How important is it for the Minister to attend?]</small>	Low	Medium	High
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Type of audience <small>[What is the nature of the people and/or organisations attending?]</small>	Private individual	Public/Media	Iwi
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	NGO	Business	Other
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nature of meeting <small>[Is the meeting public, political, private, and will the media be involved?]</small> <small>Note: DOC will not provide meeting advice for political meetings.</small>	Standard meeting	Event/Visit	Political
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meeting purpose	<p>The Hauraki Gulf Forum wishes to discuss with you its four priorities for the restoration of the Hauraki Gulf. In particular the Forum seeks your support to advocate for protecting 30% of the Gulf in marine protected areas by 2030. The Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill and the Government's response to the exotic seaweed <i>Caulerpa</i> are likely to be key topics of discussion.</p>		
Recommendation	<p>We recommend that you accept the request to meet. The Hauraki Gulf Forum is an important DOC stakeholder. The Forum leadership sought to engage directly with you soon after your appointment as Minister of Conservation (23-I-0015 and CORM-1113 refer), and subsequently invited you to attend the Forum's meeting on 4 March 2024 which you had to decline. We are aware that you have had informal contact with Nicola Macdonald (Co-Chair Tangata Whenua).</p> <p>As the Minister responsible for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000, and as one of the three Ministers represented on the Forum, the Forum is especially interested in engaging with you.</p> <p>You are represented on the Forum by Alex Rogers. He was formerly the Forum's CEO/Executive Officer and</p>		

	<p>since May 2024 is DOC's Director Regional Operations Auckland.</p> <p>The Forum leadership would be willing to meet with you in Auckland, Wellington or at another venue to suit your schedule.</p>
<p>Minister/SPS/Advisor/Press Sec comment</p>	<p><i>[For office use only – Office comment / Further actions requested / Calendar conflicts i.e. House leave request required]</i></p> <p>Accept / Decline</p> <p><i>Comment:</i></p> <p><i>[i.e. alternative actions / decline for now but wrap into future regional visits etc]</i></p>
<p>Opportunities</p>	<p>The Forum and the Hauraki Gulf are very relevant to your Conservation portfolio. The relationship is also very important for progressing DOC's priorities in the Gulf.</p> <p>We expect that the meeting will primarily be about seeking support from you to address four priorities that the Forum has adopted for the Hauraki Gulf. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing the spread of exotic Caulerpa and eradicating it from the Gulf. • Banning bottom contact fishing methods in the Gulf, such as trawling. • Establishing 30% of the Gulf as marine protected areas by 2030. • Funding a survey of the RMS Niagara wreck to assess how much oil may still remain in it and undertake a risk assessment. <p>They will also be seeking an assurance that the Hauraki Gulf is an important area of focus for the Government.</p> <p>The Forum is very interested in the progress of the Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill, for which you are the responsible Minister. The Forum lodged a submission on the Bill and appeared before the Select Committee. You have indicated publicly your support for progressing the Bill.</p> <p>The Forum has advocated for a more urgent and joined up response to the threat to the Gulf posed by the invasive seaweed exotic <i>Caulerpa</i>. Nicola Macdonald is a Co-Chair of the newly established Exotic Caulerpa National Advisory Group. Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) is the lead agency for the biosecurity response to exotic Caulerpa. DOC is working collaboratively with BNZ on the response, as appropriate.</p>

<p>Risks to consider</p>	<p>We have not identified any significant risks from you accepting the request to meet.</p> <p>You are not the lead Minister for three of the four priorities the Forum has identified, being the response to the invasive seaweed exotic <i>Caulerpa</i> (lead is Minister of Biosecurity), the proposals for bottom fishing access zones (trawl corridors) in the Gulf (lead is Minister for Oceans and Fisheries) and the risk posed by a potential sudden release of oil from the wreck of the RMS Niagara (lead is Associate Minister of Transport).</p> <p>DOC can provide you with advice and talking points on likely topics the Forum will raise if you choose to meet with them.</p> <p>Under the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act you appoint the six representatives of the tangata whenua of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands. The terms of the representatives all expired on 15 March 2024. You have appointed five of the six representatives (24-B-0030 and 24-B-0207 refer) and we have submitted a paper for you to take to APH for the sixth appointment (24-B-0316 refers). The length of time it has taken for the appointments could be raised at the meeting.</p>
<p>Background information</p>	<p>We administer the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 under which the Forum is constituted. The Forum does not itself undertake operational activities but rather its role is to foster collaboration and integrated management of the Hauraki Gulf.</p> <p>The Forum comprises 21 members, three of whom are representatives of central Government Ministers (Conservation, Fisheries and Māori Development).</p> <p>The remaining membership comprises twelve local government representatives and six representatives of the tangata whenua of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands. There are 29 iwi with interests in the Hauraki Gulf and its catchment.</p> <p>DOC has a close working relationship with the Forum through its leadership. We attend the quarterly meetings of the Forum.</p> <p>We meet regularly with the Forum's CEO/Executive Officer. The author of the letter to you, Lucy Baragwanath, has recently taken up this role. Nicola Macdonald, Co-Chair Tangata Whenua of the Forum is also the Chair of the Auckland Conservation Board and CEO for Ngāti Manuhiri, so we engage with her regularly. The other Co-Chair is Toby Adams, Mayor of Hauraki District Council.</p>

	<p>All three may potentially attend a meeting with you.</p>
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The members of the Forum are listed at this link:

<https://gulfjournal.org.nz/the-hauraki-gulf-forum/>