



Office of Hon Dr Nick Smith

MP for Nelson

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Climate Change Issues

Minister for ACC

ENV 4564

21 JUN 2010

Michael Gunson
162D Queens Drive
Lyll Bay
WELLINGTON 6022

Dear Mr Gunson

Thank you for your letter of 13 March 2010, addressed to Mai Chen and copied to Hon Tariana Turia, regarding the Whangamata Marina and foreign ownership of land. I am replying on behalf of Hon Turia as some of the issues you raise fall within my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for the Environment.

With reference to your issues with the Whangamata Marina I think it is important to remember that this matter has been through a full and substantive process of hearings and determinations, including hearings at the Environment Court and High Court. The appropriateness of the development was considered in all of these processes. I do not believe that looking into these matters again would provide anything more than a retrospective insight into the process, and there would be no opportunity to re-litigate the resource consents obtained.

If you are concerned about the future development of the Whangamata area then I suggest you become involved any plan changes for the area which Thames Coromandel District Council and Environment Waikato propose or process. District and Regional Plans set out the rules for what can happen in an area, and therefore one of the best ways to get involved in resource management issues is through plan development processes. I encourage you to liaise with Thames Coromandel District Council and Environment Waikato on future matters to do with the management of the Whangamata Area.

Further information on plan changes and how to make a submission can be found in the Ministry for the Environment publication *'Making a Submission on a Proposed Plan or Plan Change'* (copy enclosed).

Yours sincerely

Sgn. Hon Nick Smith

Hon Dr Nick Smith
Minister for the Environment

CC Hon Tariana Turia Co-Leader of the Maori Party