

Hon Penny Simmonds

Minister for Disability Issues
Minister for the Environment
Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills
Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment



21 December 2023

Harry Burkhardt
Chair
Ngāti Kuri Trust Board/ Te Manawa o Ngāti Kuri

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E te rangatira, tēnā koe,

Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary Bill

My warm regards to you and members of your Trust Board.

We have heard the clear message that iwi have ongoing concerns about establishing a sanctuary in the Kermadec/Rangitāhua area. I am writing to advise you that the Government intends to remove the Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary Bill from the Order Paper, which means the Bill will no longer be considered by Parliament.

I want to acknowledge the work that you and Ngāti Kuri have undertaken over the years in relation to the potential to create a sanctuary.

Next year my colleagues and I will be considering potential next steps. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you/ to hear your views.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Simmonds'.

Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for the Environment

Cc: Hon Shane Jones, Minister for Oceans and Fisheries
Hon Tama Potaka, Minister of Conservation, Minister for Māori Crown Relations:
Te Arawhiti