

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

Peter-Lucas Jones
Chair
Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri

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E te rangatira, tēnā koe,

Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary Bill

My warm regards to you and members of your rūnanga.

We have heard the clear message that iwi have ongoing concerns with the proposal to create a sanctuary in the Kermadec/Rangitāhua area. I am writing to advise 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 time and input Te Aupōuri has given over the years regarding the proposed sanctuary.

Next year my colleagues and I will be considering potential next steps. I would welcome the opportunity to meet 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