

# 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

Pahia Turia  
Chair  
Te Ohu Kaimoana

s 9(2)(a)

E te rangatira, tēnā koe,

## **Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary Bill**

My warm regards to you and your Board.

We have heard the ongoing concerns you have expressed on behalf of mandated iwi organisations in relation to the proposed sanctuary. Particularly that iwi consider the proposed sanctuary does not adequately protect the rights guaranteed in the 1992 Fisheries Deed of Settlement.

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.

My colleagues and I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and members of your Board next year to hear your views on marine protection more broadly.

I have also written to the chairs of Ngāti Kuri and Te Aupōuri to let them know about the Government's decision in relation to the Bill.

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