



1 September 2021

IN CONFIDENCE

Arihia Bennett  
Chair, Kāpuia - Ministerial Advisory Group  
By email: kapuia@dpmc.govt.nz

Tēnā koe, Arihia

Thank you for the constructive and useful feedback provided to Hon Andrew Little in your 30 July letter about the social cohesion public engagement process to date. I understand that Hon Andrew Little has since made you aware that we have extended the timeframe for the public online engagement until Friday 10 September. In light of the recent COVID-19 alert level settings this has been further extended to Friday 29 October 2021.

I acknowledge your concern that the timing and execution of the engagement process was not structured in a way that effectively engaged the widest range of people and communities. The feedback provided in your letter has formed the basis for changes we have made to the social cohesion engagement process. Our revised approach is centred on relationship building with communities and stakeholders and allows for opportunities to regularly test our thinking and approach. We look forward to presenting this in more detail at the Kāpuia meeting on 9 September.

Additionally, we are paying particular attention to hearing from communities and local leaders on what is the best way to engage. This includes considerations of geographic reach, the leadership of umbrella organisations, consultation timings and formats, accessibility of consultation materials and how to build in feedback loops to inform communities of the outcomes of their contributions.

While the continued presence of COVID-19 restrictions may lead to further changes to the timeline we would still like the opportunity to gain further feedback from you on the engagement plan moving forward.

With your ongoing guidance and support we believe that the additional engagement will be better received by the communities we wish to hear from.

Nāku noa, nā

Nic Blakeley  
Deputy Chief Executive, Strategy and Insights