

Hon Damien O'Connor

MP for West Coast-Tasman

Minister of Agriculture

Minister for Biosecurity

Minister for Land Information

Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Associate Minister of Transport



Darran Ponter
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Nadine Taylor
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Dear Darran and Nadine

COMMERCIAL IN CONFIDENCE

Thank you for your letter of 26 July 2023 to Hon David Parker, Minister of Transport and myself regarding support for vessels out of port areas.

My apologies for the delay in replying. I am responding to your correspondence as the issue you raise falls within my portfolio responsibilities as the Associate Minister of Transport.

Firstly, can I acknowledge and thank you both, and your people, for your constructive engagement on this issue. I support central and local government and industry partners continuing to discuss these types of challenges together.

As you are aware, Maritime NZ has been leading work to develop advice on potential options for emergency ocean response capabilities, the development of which has been supported by engagement with sector stakeholders. A number of jurisdictions, not just New Zealand, are exploring the challenges associated with having sufficient access to these specialist capabilities.

Please be assured that I have been briefed on this issue, understand the concerns and risks raised and will continue to engage with officials.

Preliminary advice has been received which is being considered, and I have agreed for Maritime NZ to continue its work to further and scope the options which will include some commercial-in-confidence considerations.

We anticipate further advice to be received later this year, after the election. Any options would be subject to funding.

Following reception of this advice, I would be happy to discuss the options with relevant councils and work with you on a solution, if there is an interest to do so. Otherwise, I have asked officials to keep you updated.

Yours sincerely



Hon Damien O'Connor
Associate Minister of Transport