



9 February 2016

Hon. Nathan Guy
Minister for Primary Industries
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Minister

Proposed Separation of South Island Eel Stocks

I am heartened that the Government is continuing to respond to my 2013 report on longfin eels. In my 2014 update report, I acknowledged the establishment of an independent review panel, and the announcement of a package of proposed measures aimed at improving the sustainability of the longfin eel population.

I am writing in response to the MPI discussion paper on one of these proposed measures – the separation of the management of longfin and shortfin eels in the South Island. I strongly support the proposal – option one in the discussion paper. This will allow for changes to the total allowable catch for longfins in the South Island as well as the North Island.

I note that there will be further consultation regarding a review of catch limits and will be following that process closely. It is vital that this review be undertaken with special regard to the unique characteristics of this vulnerable species.

The New Zealand longfin eel is indeed an extraordinary creature and it is imperative we do all we can to ensure its survival.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jan Wright
Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment