

The Honourable Mr Simon Bridges
Minister for Energy and Resources
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160
New Zealand

4th June 2013

To the Honourable Mr Simon Bridges,

Re: Amendments to the Crown Minerals Bill

I am deeply concerned to learn that you stand accused of misleading Parliament over recent amendments to the Crown Minerals Bill to ban protest at sea.

Documents released under the Official Information Act show that on 4th September 2012 Minister Steven Joyce met with Shell's New Zealand chair Rob Jager and business advisor Chris Kilby as well as David Robinson from PEPANZ. At this meeting, Shell provided a paper expressing concern that there was '*insufficient legal authority*' to clamp down on offshore protests and that the Government '*has no teeth beyond 12 nautical miles to protect legitimate commercial activity*'.

The documents also show that you met with Shell on 14 February 2013, just two weeks before you took a Cabinet Paper on the protest changes to Cabinet. In that cabinet paper Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment officials specifically stated that '*the upstream oil and gas industry has sought a more robust government response to threats of, and actual, direct protest action*'.

On 31st March you announced amendments to ban protest at sea and denied both Select Committee and the public the opportunity to be consulted on these new laws.

In subsequent responses to written questions submitted on 10th April 2013 asking if any business or organisation from the industry asked for amendments to the Crown Minerals Bill to be drafted, you replied '*no*'. This seems unusual given the consultation with the oil industry leading up to these amendments.

Therefore, I request that you release, completely un-redacted, all minutes from the meeting between Shell NZ and yourself on 14th February, including all introductory emails and follow up correspondence. It is the only way that you can restore confidence that you have not misled Parliament or the public on this matter and assure us that you are dispatching your responsibility as Minister in the interests of all New Zealanders.

Yours sincerely,



Bunny McDiarmid
Executive Director
Greenpeace New Zealand Inc.