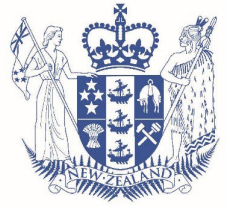


Hon Penny Simmonds

Minister for the Environment
Minister for Vocational Education
Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment



PS-COR1491

1 September 2025

Michael McCartney
Chief Executive
Horizons Regional Council
michael.mccartney@horizons.govt.nz

Dear Michael

You may be aware that earlier this year, Hon Chris Bishop received a letter from a group of Santoft area farmers raising concerns about delays in obtaining replacement irrigation and groundwater extraction consents from Horizons Regional Council.

Minister Hoggard and I recently met with the farmers to better understand their concerns and the steps they have taken to progressing their applications for replacement consents.

I am now seeking to understand from Horizons Regional Council why there have been delays, and what needs to be done to achieve a timely solution for the affected farmers, particularly given the government's commitment to helping the primary sector grow New Zealand's economy.

I would like to meet on Tuesday 9 September, 3:15 - 4:00pm, at Parliament, alongside Minister McClay and Minister Hoggard, to hear from Horizons Regional Council. I would also appreciate being provided with a brief outline of what has occurred to date by email by Thursday 4 September 2025.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Simmonds', with a large, stylized initial 'P'.

Hon Penny Simmonds
Minister for the Environment

Cc: Hon Todd McClay - Minister for Agriculture

Cc: Hon Andrew Hoggard - Associate Minister for the Environment