

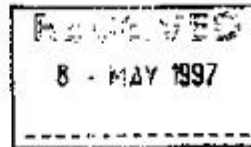


OFFICE OF HON. MAX BRADFORD

## Minister of Energy

06 MAY 1997

Damien O'Connor  
MP for West Coast/Tasman  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON



*Dear Damien*

Thank you for your letter of 11 April 1991 a mining licence for nephrite held by Mr Landaus.

Initially I must point out that a mining licence cannot be renewed. The Mining Act 1971 had a provision that conferred only a right of priority to have a new mining licence granted, not a right of renewal or a right to have another licence granted. (This right of priority has not been preserved under the Crown Minerals Act 1991.) \*

If existing mining licence holders wish to continue their mining operation following expiry of their privileges they are required to apply for a new mining permit under the Crown Minerals Act 1991. The process for applying for and allocation of mining permits is set out in the Minerals Programme for Minerals other than coal and petroleum. The Crown has a policy of not allowing prospecting, exploration or mining of pounamu in accordance with the Deed of "On Account" settlement made between the Crown and Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu on 14 June 1996. The policy is included in section 4.1.6 of the Minerals Programme for Minerals other than coal and petroleum. Consequently no permits will be granted to allow the prospecting, exploration or mining of pounamu, as defined in the Minerals Programme, within the rohe of Ngai Tahu and in the territorial sea adjacent.

You will appreciate then that the granting of a new mining permit to Mr Landaus to replace his existing mining licence would be contrary to current Government policy as clearly enunciated in the Minerals Programme and elsewhere.

Yours sincerely

Hon. Max Bradford  
Minister of Energy