



**Office of Hon Damien O'Connor
MP for West Coast-Tasman**

Minister of Corrections
Minister of Tourism

Minister for Rural Affairs
Associate Minister of Health

23 OCT 2007

29 OCT 2007

Kenn Landaus

NELSON

Dear Kenn

In response to your recent letters and emails relating to your long-standing claims for reparation for economic loss and deprivation of statutory rights following the transfer of ownership of pounamu from the Crown to Ngai Tahu, I have received a formal response from the Associate Minister of Energy.

I understand that Mr Smillie is no longer a government employee and that the response by Crown Law officials failed to reach you, my apologies for that.

I have always acknowledged that the on-going situation has been extremely difficult for you but there is no change in Crown Mineral's position. There is the option of a legal challenge.

With respect to your mining licence bond I have been advised that the release of the bond is imminent. The delay has apparently been caused by officials waiting to receive advice regarding site rehabilitation.

I fully understand the stress this situation has caused you and your family and feel frustrated at being unable to assist in bringing about a satisfactory resolution of the issues. It has been the coincidental timing of this process that has disadvantaged you, with your claims coinciding with a major change in Government policy.

I continue to offer you my support but cannot intervene and change legal processes.

Yours sincerely

Damien O'Connor
MP West Coast-Tasman