

**PRESS RELEASE - Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura
Government Response to Kaikōura Marine Strategy**

Te Korowai welcomed the Prime Minister John Key's announcement on Government's agreement to implement the Kaikōura Marine Strategy, Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura.

Te Korowai Chair Larnce Wichman said "We are very grateful to Nick Smith for going into bat for us on this and to Colin King our local MP who has supported us throughout. We knew it was a big thing to ask for special legislation, but it was the only way to preserve the integrity of the Strategy as agreed with the community. All of the legal changes need to be implemented at once so that the gifts and gains of the different sectors are respected. Of course the legal aspects are only half the story, and we will be working with people locally on implementation for decades to come. Right now though it's time to celebrate and then to work to see the special legislation safely through Parliament."

Wichman acknowledged the work of Forest and Bird, particularly Kaikoura local Barry Dunnett, in initiating steps to protect the Kaikoura coast in 1992 with its application for a marine reserve. He spoke of the leadership of the local iwi Ngati Kuri the process. Of particular note was the role of Sir Mark Solomon in gaining Government support for creating the Te Korowai process that extended the work to dealing with all the issues surrounding the marine environment at Kaikoura. He also thanked the many people who had participated in the journey so far, providing information, making submissions, participating in discussion and caring for the Kaikōura Marine environment. He said "without the funding from DOC, Ministry for the Environment, KDC, the Canterbury Community

Trust and Ecan we could not have had the professional support to get us to where we are today. The staff of DOC, KDC, Ecan, Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry for Primary Industries have supported Te Korowai with advice, information, practical services and with patience and good humour. Local fishers, commercial, cultural and recreational, environmental groups, researchers and ordinary Kaikoura people have supported us with their advice, knowledge and good will.”

Te Korowai facilitator, Peter Lawless says the 9-year process of bringing the community together in agreement has been a significant challenge and he believes the community will welcome the Te Korowai leadership and resolution of marine issues.

“This acceptance by Government is a huge thing for us. It validates all the hard work and the compromises and commitments to looking after our environment.”

The philosophy underpinning Te Korowai was adapted from the Fiordland Guardians, where, in 1995, a group of commercial and recreational fishers, Ngāi Tahu, charter boat and tourism operators, environmentalists, marine scientists and community representatives came together to address the escalating pressures on the marine environment.

“We have tried to learn from their lessons,” says Peter Lawless.

“The two places are very different - Fiordland is huge, remote and sparsely populated and Kaikōura is small, productive and intensively used by a million people a year. The underlying processes are the same but the issues and outcomes are quite different.”

Te Korowai is working alongside and with the Kaikōura Zone Committee.

“The Committee is focused on the land and freshwater while we focus on the sea,” says Lawless.

“The two go hand in hand and we are looking forward to working further with the Kaikōura District Council and Environment Canterbury in creating integrated plans for land and sea.”

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