

# OFFICE OF HON **Jim Anderton**

Minister of Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity, Minister of Fisheries, Minister of Forestry,  
Associate Minister of Health, Associate Minister for Tertiary Education, Minister responsible for Public Trust

JA 1552

18 OCT 2007

Raniera T (Sonny) Tau  
Co-Chairman  
Hokianga Accord  
P O Box 263  
KAIKOHE

Tēnā koe Sonny

Thank you for the invitation to participate in a panel discussion at the next meeting of the Hokianga Accord. The invitation was conveyed to me in a letter from you dated 8 October 2007. The meeting is set down for 9 November 2007 in Auckland.

The theme of the discussion is "*future fisheries management in light of the judicial review of the previous Minister of Fisheries' decisions for kahawai and subsequent High Court decision ... ..*" Even though I am not available on this day, I need to advise it would be inappropriate for me, as Minister of Fisheries, to publicly comment on a case that is *sub judice*. Given the High Court decision has been appealed to the Court of Appeal, the *sub judice* rule bars any comment that is likely to influence the matter.

I seek your understanding on my position in respect to your invitation.

Nāku noa, nā



Jim Anderton  
Minister of Fisheries

P.S. I am happy to receive any invitation to address the Hokianga Accord group on another, mutually acceptable occasion.

Warm regards,

