

From: Gordon George [mailto:georgeg.gg21@gmail.com]

Sent: Saturday, 3 February 2018 10:40 a.m.

To: 'Nicky Bradley' <nbradley@doc.govt.nz>; 'Michael Slater' <mslater@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: overdue OIR re reneged upon overall review of the WARO system

On the 11th of December DoC received a letter from the Foundation noting our concern at the departments misleading of hunters by way of reneging on the much stated (including to the high court) commitment to a wide review of the WARO system. Whilst the departments word clearly cannot be trusted, the letter also contained a range of requests subject to the provisions of the Official Information Act and required to be responded to in no more than 20 working days.

We received (21st Dec) a letter from Mike Slater which responded in part however I have no record of having received the responses to specific questions and time is long since up. As discussed with Nicky we noted the timing (Christmas) and staff leave issues and were happy to accept there may be some small delay. We are long past a small delay. Given our experiences through our successful court challenge during which the department generally failed (in one case by 12 months) to meet the 20 day time requirement we are concerned that old dismissive habits may have come back into favour or perhaps its simply symptomatic of a department that arrogantly believes it can ignore statutes, ignore commitments to others including the courts and ignore good faith dealings with others ?

The questions remaining outstanding from my letter of 10th December 2017 (to DoC on 11th Dec) were as follows:

We request the following please (to be considered as OIR requests):

- **The minutes/notes from the WARO operator only meetings which have recently occurred.**
- **Any communications notes, emails digital or otherwise regarding the promised WARO review**
- **Any communication, notes, emails digital or otherwise regarding the current permit renewal process**

I had also requested a response to a question asked many weeks before, perhaps it was again missed however it is still a request subject to the provisions of the OIR. The question is highlighted to clearly display it amongst the paragraphs clarifying the context i.e.

Then we found out through the recreational hunter networks that the next WARO review is underway. Some NZDA representatives had been invited and some GAC representatives but despite being a group representing 15 hunting clubs and having recently taken DoC to court over this very issue, we were “accidentally” left off the mailing list. That accident was resolved and my colleague Derrick Field attended the first of the meetings in Palmerston North. I was away tahr hunting and could not attend

All recreational hunter representatives thought they were attending a meeting to begin discussions on the wider review and prepared accordingly. Only to find out at the last minute that there was no wider review and that it was a preliminary discussion about a standard concession renewal process. There was a WARO operator only meeting with DoC and then a joint meeting immediately after. I have yet to receive a response to my questioning of the fairness of that.

We look forward to provision of the overdue responses within 7 working days otherwise the matter will be referred to the ombudsman.

It is sad that we have to resort to these style of dealings with DoC, we hoped for something more constructive and the wider review would have been a step in that direction but how can hunters trust you when you act with arrogance, dismissiveness and deceit. The foundation is growing, others share our concerns and our willingness to act.

Thank you

G George
President
Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation Inc