

From: Jane White
Sent: Wednesday, 1 April 2026 12:39 pm
To: Emily Young [EXTERNAL] (PARLIAMENT); Steve Mason [EXTERNAL] (Parliament)
Cc: Becky Prebble; Kirsty Flannagan
Subject: Next steps with Fletcher Building/Golden Bay

Importance: High

Hi Emily and Steve,

I wanted to provide an update on GB discussions and lay out a suggested way forward.

Robert Pigou (Dep CE, Kanoa) has had a chat with Thornton Williams at Fletchers. Thornton indicated the ^{9(2)(b)(ii)} Board decision cannot be shifted, noting Ministers have been aware of this situation for a while. Thornton also said they think the only realistic option is an exemption from the ETS but are open to discussing other options. Thornton is also going to give an update at the mid-April Board meeting.

In terms of where to from here, we recommend we get on with discussions with Fletcher Building to see if we can land on a preferred way forward. Once we have more clarity on what is required, we would aim to provide joint advice to Ministers (Watts, Jones, Willis, McClay) detailing what is needed to keep Golden Bay open, along with the associated risks and trade-offs. Ministers can then reach an agreement and take the deal to Cabinet once the details are settled.

Given the current context, we think it's best to set aside the ^{9(2)(b)(ii)} Board deadline for now. Ongoing conversations with Fletchers might make the Board more amenable to postponing their decision. We'll make it clear in these discussions that any proposal would need Cabinet approval, which would be sought after the budget moratorium.

To support discussions with Golden Bay, we plan to provide a briefing to MCC tomorrow outlining the key messages for our discussion with Golden Bay and what we propose to bring to the table (and acknowledge the 9am deadline – we will do our best to meet this). This is to ensure we have the Minister's cover in terms of what we can say. We would like to discuss this at officials on Tuesday.

If this general plan doesn't suit, we suggest the Minister contact the Fletcher Board chair directly to see if there's any possibility of delaying the Board's decision. Given the complexity, we don't believe a deal at the required level of detail can be achieved in time for the 20 April Cabinet deadline.

Please let me know your thoughts or if you have any questions. I'm happy to discuss further.

Kind regards,

Jane

Jane White she/her

Kaitohutohu Whakarae - Chief Advisor | Ministry for the Environment

Waea pūkoro: ^{9(2)(a)}

Īmēra: jane.white@mfe.govt.nz

Note I don't work on Tuesdays. For anything urgent please contact David.Mead@mfe.govt.nz.