

**Government Response to  
Report of Primary Production Committee  
on  
Petition of Clive Edward Barker:  
Legislation to allow commercial trout farming**

**Presented to the House of Representatives**

**In accordance with Standing Order 256**

# Government response to Report of Primary Production Committee on Petition of Clive Edward Barker: Legislation to allow commercial trout farming

## Introduction

- 1 The Government has carefully considered the Primary Production Committee's (the Committee) report on Petition 2017/135 of Clive Edward Barker (the petition) that requested "Parliament review present legislation on trout farming."
- 2 The Government responds to the Committee's report on petition 2017/135 as follows, in accordance with Standing Order 252.

## The Committee's recommendations and government response

- 3 **Recommendation:** That the Government give serious consideration to commercialising trout farming.
- 4 **Response:** The Government considers that, in principle, commercial trout farming could provide economic and employment benefits, particularly in the regions. Any ensuing risks to the wild fishery could potentially also be managed. However, there has also been limited recent analysis of the benefits of commercial trout farming and its potential impact on the recreational fishery. Further work would be required, including a clear plan to mitigate any potential risks.
- 5 Broad consultation would be required to ensure that any future reform incorporates diverse views and achieves adequate buy-in, given the strong views for and against any changes to the status quo, including the significance of this issue to many iwi.
- 6 This would require a substantial process to assess the benefits and risks, and mitigations developed and costed (including where any additional compliance and monitoring costs would be borne).
- 7 The Government's current aquaculture priority is implementing the 2019 Aquaculture Strategy (the Aquaculture Strategy). The Aquaculture Strategy aims to:
  - maximise the value of existing aquaculture farms through innovation, enabling the industry to become more productive, efficient and sustainable;
  - support the growth of high-value land-based aquaculture; and
  - develop and implement a world-leading framework for open ocean aquaculture (OOA) management, which can facilitate future growth of the aquaculture industry.

- 8 In addition to implementing the Aquaculture Strategy, the Government is also progressing a programme of regulatory reform in the marine space, including the Fisheries Change Programme and a review of the Resource Management Act. This is a comprehensive work package, which requires significant human and financial resourcing.
- 9 Undertaking an additional programme of trout reform would require the Government to either slow or stop priority actions set out in the Aquaculture Strategy. The Government considers that significant economic and employment benefits can be realised for New Zealand through the implementation of the Aquaculture Strategy. The Aquaculture Strategy does not include consideration of commercialisation of trout farming. On that basis, the Government does not propose to consider the merits of commercialisation of trout farming at this time but remains open to doing so in future once implementation of the strategy is more advanced.

### **Conclusion**

- 10 A review of legislation preventing trout farming is not a priority for the Government at this time. Significant economic and employment gains can be made through the current actions set out in the 2019 Aquaculture Strategy. The Government does not propose to consider the merits of commercial trout farming at this time but remains open to doing so in future once implementation of the strategy is more advanced.