

16 November 2023

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 31 October 2023 in which you asked:

*What is the proposed date for the notification of the issuing of concessions for Whakapapa and Turoa ski fields?*

*If no date has been confirmed what discussions have been undertaken on the concession process and dates for notification?*

When DOC receives a concession application, public notification is determined in line with section 17SC of the Conservation Act.

The concession process for ski fields at Mt Ruapehu will be complex, and most likely require a publicly notified consultation process. As we have not yet received a concession application for either Whakapapa or Tūroa ski fields, we do not have a proposed date for notifying that application.

DOC is currently working through the timelines to understand how a concession process could be managed, if a concession application is received. This includes regular discussions with other Crown agencies, our Treaty partners, and stakeholders.

More generally, there are some statutory timeframes that apply when DOC receives an application to use Public Conservation Land for commercial purposes, and public notification is required. For example, section 49(2)(b)(ii) of the Conservation Act, requires that public notification for a concession process must be for at least 20 working days, to allow time for submissions or objections to be made.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of this response by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā

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Rachael Jordan  
Principal Advisor, Regulatory Services  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*