



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

21 November 2016

Dr Stanley Mulvany
PO Box 6071
Invercargill 9841

Dear Dr Mulvany

Thank you for your email of 7 November 2016 regarding your proposal for a 'Wild Rivers National Park' on the West Coast. Lou Sanson has asked me to reply to this.

I acknowledge your interest in protecting these rivers.

Under the National Parks Act 1980, the Department may investigate the feasibility of creating a new national park following a request to do so from the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA).

I can advise you that any proposal to create a new national park within the rohe of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu is unlikely to be supported due to concerns Ngāi Tahu have about such actions.

While the West Coast Te Tai o Poutini Conservation Management Strategy contains a policy to review the legal classification of public conservation lands containing significant freshwater ecosystems, the Department is currently undertaking a review process to determine the suitable re-classification of stewardship areas around the country, based on recommendations from Conservation Boards. With regard to the stewardship areas containing the river catchments of interest to you, I can advise the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board (the Board) did not consider any of them to be a priority for action. You may wish to discuss this with the Board.

I also note the Adams Wilderness Area, Upper Totara Ecological Area and the Doctor Hill Ecological Area, as well as a number of reserves, are within the region of concern to you. These land classifications provide additional protection under the Conservation Act 1987 and the Reserves Act 1977.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark Davies'.

Mark Davies
Director Operations
Western Soth Island

Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*
10 Sewell Street, Hokitika , 7810
Tel: 03 7569100 www.doc.govt.nz