

Hon David Parker BCom, LLB

Attorney-General

Associate Minister of Finance

Minister for Economic Development

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Trade and Export Growth



22 December 2017

Mayor Phil Goff
phil.goff@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Dear Phil

I appreciate the constructive working environment between our respective officials working on hosting the 36th America's Cup in Auckland. I believe continuing this work in this constructive manner is essential if we are to reach an agreement as between ourselves and with Emirates Team New Zealand.

I recognise that your officials have at times found government interactions and views frustrating. The role of Government is to advocate on behalf of, and get the best deal for all parties involved, in particular taxpayers.

With this in mind, I believe it would be remiss to take the Wynyard Point option off the table without fully exploring its potential. We should leave no stone unturned.

To this end, I have been a little frustrated by some of the unwarranted claims that have been made around the cost of the Point option. One example of this is the mentioned \$100 million required to relocate Stolthaven tanks. My understanding is that this is the cost to move and remediate all the Stolthaven facilities on Wynyard Point, which we are both aware that neither the Council nor central government are advocating.

I understand that your officials are proposing to lodge the consent for the Wynyard basin on 15 January 2018. I would encourage you to consider delaying this to later in January.

It is very important to ensure that the application is high quality and well socialised prior to lodgement, regardless of the option. Lodgement by 15 January is in my view premature and risks also causing a backlash from other stakeholders, including mana whenua.

As you will be aware, our officials are working together on the risk mitigations required under both the Point and the Basin options. There is the potential that as part of this work they develop a way that makes the Point option viable and cheaper than the Basin option, with no additional timetable risk. If this is the case, and I fully accept that this is by no means a given, this could lead to a better and lower cost outcome for New Zealand and Auckland.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter further with you.

I wish you a relaxing and refreshing festive season.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Parker', written in a cursive style.

Hon David Parker
Minister for Economic Development

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

From: Phil Goff
To: Hon David Parker
Subject: America's Cup
Date: Sunday, 31 December 2017 5:17:17 p.m.

Hi David.

Happy New Year and hope you are having a decent break. It's going to be a big year for all of us so next week will be the last chance for not thinking too much about politics!

Thanks for your email of 22 December re the America's Cup base location.

9(2)(j)

9(2)(j)

On the second point about you needing until the end of January, I am advised that while we intend to lodge the application on 15 January, the key date is notifying the application which has to be done by 30 January. Each day that goes by after that increases the risk of not getting the consents and construction completed on time for the arrival of the first teams in mid 2019.

9(2)(j)

If there is a substantive reason from your side about holding notification back beyond 30 January I am happy to discuss that further.

The Officials Steering Group is meeting on 10 January and we could if you wish meet with officials that afternoon and you could cross examine them on any aspect of the proposal.

Please let me know if that date works for you, if not some time after that. Officials have their head around all the detail so working through any issue with them makes sense. Equally happy to have a private discussion with you at any time.

Let me know what you want to do from here and we can get together to crunch the issues and make a decision.

Regards Phil Goff

Sent from my iPhone

20 January 2018

Mayor Phil Goff

<Phil.Goff@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz>

Dear Phil,

As you are aware, my officials have been further investigating the feasibility of the Wynyard Point location housing more of the syndicate bases needed for Auckland's potential hosting of the 36th America's Cup.

You will recall that your officials rejected this possibility, stating this was in large part because of hazardous substance concerns arising from the adjacent tank farms to the north and south of the area currently leased to ASB as a car park.

We wanted to ensure that this option is fully investigated, as it has the potential to save tens of millions of dollars, while substantially avoiding the Halsey wharf intrusion into the harbour. The obvious environmental benefits of preserving harbour open space would also make consenting the desired works easier.

We have made significant progress in co-operation with Stolthaven 9(2)(i)

9(2)(i)

My officials have also been in dialogue with Stolthaven, who have also been helpful. They have in writing stated a willingness to move off the southern tank farm site 9(2)(i). While those terms are not finalised, they appear affordable and practical. This would largely resolve HSNO issues. It would also remove an issue under the Basin option (which includes bases on the side of Wynyard Point) around how to move the transfer pipeline.

The overall construction cost savings to New Zealand from this option are substantial and were previously estimated by Panuku to run into tens of millions of dollars 9(2)(i)

The Wynyard Point option has the potential to create a positive legacy for Auckland (and New Zealand) by bringing forward the regeneration of Wynyard Wharf, creating open spaces once the event concludes, while also protecting open space in the harbour. It provides hosting options for future defences of the Cup and other events.

9(2)(j)

9(2)(j)

My officials appreciate that Panuku has made available their consultants to help evaluate the Point option. It is essential that your and my officials now work together to fully and urgently explore remaining issues around the Wynyard Point option.

I'm advised that we should then be able to have a substantive conversation about the options by the end of next week.

Yours sincerely,

Hon David Parker
Minister for Economic Development

22 January 2018

Hon David Parker
Minister for Economic Development
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

BY EMAIL

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 20 January, regarding the work underway to explore the feasibility of the Wynyard Point location for the 2021 America's Cup defence in Auckland.

I agree with your comment in the Herald on 16 January that while it may not work out it is certainly worth looking at further, particularly in light of Stolthaven's new offer, which appears different to that which was conveyed to council officers late last year. If it reduces costs and the size of the Halsey Street wharf extension those are definite positives, though time constraints and the views of Emirates Team New Zealand also need to be factored in.

I have an open mind on this, and I have asked the Chief Executive of Auckland Council and Panuku to work with MBIE officials to help evaluate it, and other outstanding issues in relation to Wynyard Point.

I have now seen Stolthaven's recent email to MBIE. There are clearly still some uncertainties and issues that need to be worked through with them, and our officials, before their final position can be determined. Officials are meeting tomorrow with Stolthaven.

Council and Panuku officers have consistently advised me that the time pressures we face in terms of securing a viable venue for the 2021 defence are acute. There is no scope for delay if we are to complete the consenting and other processes necessary meet Emirates Team New Zealand's timelines for commencing base construction.

It is therefore critical that we conclude the feasibility work around the Wynyard Point option as quickly as possible; and reach an agreed position on a preferred venue for the defence as the basis for us moving forward in a joined-up way.

A joined-up approach – including in our discussions with external stakeholders like Stolthaven – is necessary to deliver the best economic, environmental, legacy and reputational outcomes for Auckland and New Zealand.

I share your view fully that our decision-making must be informed by coherent and comprehensive advice from our officials and other key stakeholders. MBIE and Council

officials have been working together in the Joint Executive Steering Group for months now. However, information does not always appear to have been presented to both of us in a timely or consistent manner.

In my email and phone message in late December, I suggested that you and I meet with relevant Council and MBIE officials to ensure that all available information was presented to us, and to provide an opportunity to robustly test officials' planning assumptions and conclusions.

While this was not possible then, I believe that a meeting, which also includes Emirates Team New Zealand, is important to provide us with an opportunity to examine outstanding issues around Wynyard Point, with all of relevant players around the table. Ideally, such a meeting would also provide us the basis for agreeing a joined-up process and timeline for finalising our preferred option.

I understand that you are travelling from tomorrow until the end of this week, but if you agree my office will work with yours and ETNZ, to convene such a meeting as soon as possible next week.

In the meantime, I am advised by Council Officers that it would be prudent given the time pressures we are under, to progress the current resource consent and procurement processes for Wynyard Basin. This maintains this as a viable option, should it not be possible to progress the Wynyard Point option.

All the best for your upcoming travel.

Yours sincerely,



Phil Goff
Mayor of Auckland