

**From:** [Jackie Smith](#)  
**To:** [Josh Driscoll](#)  
**Cc:** [Official Correspondence](#); [Leisa Coley](#)  
**Subject:** MINO-447 RESPONSE Mt Messenger protest/occupation update  
**Date:** Monday, 15 August 2022 3:29:22 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Kia ora Josh

As promised, below is an update for the Minister on the Mount Messenger protest/occupation.

- Early on Sunday morning, a small group of people entered the Mount Messenger Bypass project site in protest of construction works commencing.
- The protestors have set up camp beyond the security fencing (within the project site). The protestors have brought vehicles and tents to set up camp. Children have also been on site.
- Access to a private landowner's property is blocked, however the landowner is being allowed through.
- Local Police visited the site on Sunday afternoon. The local constable has talked with protestors who have asked for open lines of communication.
- Local Police understand there are at least 30 protestors taking shifts to attend the protest and having around 10 people onsite at a time.
- Local Police have visited the protestors again this morning. We are awaiting an update from that visit.
- Our helicopter operations planned for today have been cancelled because our workers cannot access the landing pad on the landowner's property. **s 6(c)**
- **s 9(2)(c)** and Ngati Tama have expressed their concerns about the protest. They do not support the protestors and would support efforts to trespass them. **s 9(2)(c)**
- Waka Kotahi is working with NZ Police to assess the situation and plan a response. These discussions are ongoing.
- Waka Kotahi is also working with LINZ to establish our legal position.

We will keep the office updated on developments in the coming days.

Ngā mihi,

**Jackie Smith** (she/her)

**Principal Advisor – Regulatory, Ministerial Services**

Te Waka Kotia | Engagement & Partnerships

**s 9(2)(a)**

**s 9(2)(a)**

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