



WAITAKI  
**WHITESTONE**  
ASPIRING GLOBAL  
**GEOPARK**  
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

# ASPIRING UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK APPLICATION 2019

**ANNEX 3**  
ENDORSEMENTS

# INTRODUCTION

This Annex contains a supporting letter from the New Zealand UNESCO commission as well as explicit endorsements from national, regional and local authorities, including government departments and regional councils. Also included are endorsements from partners and supporting organisations, Mayors of neighbouring districts and Waitaki businesses and associations.

## ENDORSEMENTS



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Mme Audrey Azoulay  
Director-General  
UNESCO  
7 Place de Fontenoy  
75352 Paris  
FRANCE

13 November 2019

Dear Mme Azoulay

### **Waitaki Whitestone Aspiring Global Geopark – New Zealand**

The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO is writing in support of the application by Waitaki Whitestone to become a UNESCO Global Geopark and to join the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

The area of the proposed Geopark covers 7214 km<sup>2</sup>, home to 22,000 people living in small communities and many areas of interest including metamorphic, sedimentary, and volcanic features, along with Cenozoic fossils. The Vanished World Centre has been a popular fossil park and trail for 17 years, drawing visitors of all ages.

If successful, Waitaki Whitestone will be New Zealand's first UNESCO Global Geopark and the only for Australasia, offering geographic balance to the present distribution of geoparks. The proposed Geopark is uniquely New Zealand in nature due to its firm foundation in Te Ao Māori (recognising the place of the people of the land).

In 2017, the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO established an independent Expert Advisory Panel (EAP) to encourage, support and advise New Zealand nominations for UNESCO Global Geopark status.

Chaired by Dr Geoff Hicks (Natural Sciences Commissioner, New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO), the other members are Dr Hamish Campbell (Emeritus Scientist, GNS Science), Dr Bruce Hayward (Geoheritage Consultant and Convenor of the New Zealand Geopreservation Inventory), David Bamford (Specialist and Consultant in tourism management, parks and recreation planning and small business development) and Holden Hohaia (General Manager Māori Development, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research).

The group unanimously recommended to the National Commission that it endorse Waitaki Whitestone Aspiring Global Geopark as a candidate for the UNESCO Global Geopark Network. It notes that the proposal has been developed in partnership with local iwi (Māori tribes).

The New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO wholeheartedly supports Waitaki Whitestone's bid to become a UNESCO Global Geopark.

Sincerely



Robyn Baker  
Chair New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO

12 October 2018

TO NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR UNESCO

Re UNESCO Global Geopark in NZ

It was my pleasure to accept the invitation back in 2004 to give my patronage to the inception of Vanished World Inc. based in Duntroon, Waitaki Valley and the associated Tourism Trail which was then established to highlight the geological heritage of the region.

A number of associations has informed my appreciation of the Waitaki region's significance which is now publicly recognised. Through family connections in the area, I have known of the Waitaki's features, and in the course of public duties and in my personal capacity I have visited the area on many occasions.

The long term geological research work of the University of Otago in the area is to be commended. Iwi have affirmed their *Mana Whenua*- identity- through support for the conservation of their ancient rock art sites and interpretation of them for public education and enjoyment. Many in the local community at large have been heavily committed to safeguarding the natural and cultural heritage of the area.

I support the proposed international recognition of the multifaceted geology, culture and history of Whitestone Waitaki as a worthy addition to the pantheon of UNESCO Geoparks. New Zealand has long been recognised for its iconic landscapes, seascapes, and geothermal wonders. Its textured geology of ancient sea beds, soils, and rivers adds character and fascination to the story of *Aotearoa*- the land of the long white cloud. The story deserves recognition through formal designation as a global geopark.

I have accepted the position of Patron of the newly established and proposed Geopark fully cognisant of its potential stature nationally and internationally. UNESCO geopark status would be very appropriate for the area.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Helen Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Helen" and the last name "Clark" clearly distinguishable.

Helen Clark

The Right Honourable Prime Minister of New Zealand 1999-2008

A1172273

2 November 2018

United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization  
UNESCO Global Geoparks  
7, Place de Fontenoy  
F-75732 Paris cedex 15  
France

To whom it may concern

**Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust application for UNESCO Global Geopark status**

On behalf of the Otago Regional Council, I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust's application for UNESCO Global Geopark Status.

The Otago region is the second largest region in New Zealand with 40% of the Waitaki district located within Otago.

Otago features a wide range of stunning geography, ecosystems and historic character. The Waitaki district is no exception as it is rich in geologic diversity and features, biodiversity, culture and history. The district, and its coastal urban centre of Oamaru, are important historic Otago settlements for both our Māori and European ancestors. Within Otago, the Māori iwi (tribe) associated within a defined takiwā (area) of the Waitaki district is Te Rūnanga o Moeraki.

***Whatungarongaro te tangata toitū te whenua***

*As man disappears from sight, the land remains*

**Māori proverb** speaking to the holistic values of Māori, and the importance of having respect for Papatuanuku, or Earth mother from which all living things originate.

Human activity has left its mark on the landscape. Māori archaeological sites, hydro lakes, tailings and bridges from the gold rush era, pastoral landscapes, and historical architecture all provide evidence of long, rich and varied human occupation through the Waitaki district.

The distinct 'Oamaru Whitestone' is a limestone that is associated with the Waitaki district and evident in many of our beautiful historic buildings, not just within the district but around New Zealand. The famous Moeraki Boulders/Te Kaihānaki are another natural geological attraction which have cultural significance and are valued by the people of the Waitaki district.

Oamaru features many beautiful and restored examples of Victorian architecture, showcasing the district's historic preference for using the Whitestone resource. This Victorian history and culture has enabled Oamaru to innovate itself as the Steampunk capital of New Zealand and attract many visitors.

**For our future**

70 Stafford St, Private Bag 1954, Dunedin 9054 | ph (03) 474 0827 or 0800 474 082 | [www.orc.govt.nz](http://www.orc.govt.nz)

I highlight these physical, social and historical attributes because it demonstrates that people who are connected to the Waitaki district understand the importance of integrated resource management and value its cultural history and the connection of people to the land and resources. The formation of the Vanished World experience around Duntroon is testament of the district's focus to educate the public of Waitaki's unique geology, science, conservation, culture and use associated with the districts physical resources.

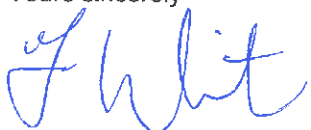
From a regulatory perspective, Otago Regional Council's overarching planning document for Otago is the Regional Policy Statement. It recognises that a thriving and healthy natural environment is vital to sustaining our communities' wellbeing. Importantly, the Whitestone Geopark Trust's activities contribute to achieving the RPS' first Objective:

*"Otago's resources are used sustainably to promote economic, social, and cultural wellbeing for its people and communities".*

The policies supporting this objective speak to economic wellbeing and integrated resource management. The Whitestone Geopark Trust's vision and actions directly and indirectly support many businesses in the Waitaki district and it has forged an important educational partnership with the University of Otago. The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark has, and will continue to, help turn these policies into action.

On behalf of the Otago Regional Council, I congratulate the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust and I look forward to the favourable consideration of its application UNESCO Global Geopark status. It will be a well-deserved reward for 17 years of vision, passion and hard work that so many people have contributed to the success of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark. I am confident Waitaki Whitestone Geopark will be a credit to the UNESCO global geopark community.

Yours sincerely



Tanya Winter

**Director Policy, Planning and Resource Management  
Otago Regional Council**

2 November 2018

The Trustees  
Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust  
1 Tees Street  
**Oamaru 9400**

To the Trustees

I am writing on behalf of Environment Canterbury, in support of your application for Waitaki Whitestone GeoPark to receive UNESCO Geopark status. Our priorities as a Council align closely with the biodiversity, cultural and educational benefits that UNESCO GeoPark status will bring to the Waitaki, through enhanced protection and access.

The Waitaki River forms the backbone running through the areas covered by both the Upper and Lower Waitaki Water Zone Committees, and work supported by these committees, and the local community, has already contributed to the GeoPark application. Environment Canterbury is excited by further opportunities for integration and alignment between ourselves and Waitaki District Council that this project will provide.

Having our Southern Zones and South Canterbury Office represented on the Waitaki Whitestone GeoPark Advisory Group demonstrates the close alignment we feel exists between the GeoPark project and our purpose as a Regional Council; to 'Facilitate sustainable development for the Canterbury region.'

We support your application for UNESCO Global Geopark status and welcome the benefits that an enhanced international profile will provide for New Zealand, for Canterbury and for the Waitaki district.

Yours sincerely



Steve Lowndes  
Chair

31 October 2019

*Office of the Mayor*

The Trustees Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust

It is with great pleasure that I express the support of the Waitaki District Council for UNESCO to recognize the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark as a UNESCO Global Geopark.

This is the culmination of many years' work by a group of volunteers and landowners in the Waitaki district, and something that we are proud to support. The Council has committed appreciable resources over the past year towards getting the application to this stage, and it has been a pleasure working with the good people at Vanished World and with Ngai Tahu as the original people of our land.

The Waitaki District Council has also committed funding in its ten-year plan, which will go towards ensuring that the sites, access, and protections are all appropriate for a UGG.

We have no doubt that Waitaki has the quality sites that a UNESCO Global Geopark requires, and our stories are many and varied. Amongst them are significant stories of national and international importance, and we are proud of our past. Our geology is equally as impressive and varied, and visitors are astounded at the quantity and quality of what we have.

So, it is without reservation that I express our Council's support for UNESCO to name the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark the first UNESCO Global Geopark in New Zealand. We will fly the UNESCO flag proudly, and I am confident that we will, in time, be seen to be a Geopark that should not be missed!

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely



Gary Kircher  
**Mayor for Waitaki**

*Whitestone Waitaki - naturally better*



2 November 2018

DOC-5609570

**Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust**  
**1 Tees Street**  
**Ōamaru**  
**New Zealand, 9400**

### **Letter of Support for Waitaki Whitestone Geopark (WWG)**

This letter is to express our support for the Trust's application "Waitaki Whitestone Geopark" for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Global Geopark status.

The Geopark will provide an enhanced international profile for New Zealand and will serve to increase not only geological research but also reach a wide cross-section of the community through its education and outreach programmes. The key themes of UNESCO Geoparks being Protection, Education and Sustainable Development are all areas of interest to the Department of Conservation (DOC).

The Geopark will help to develop a new generation of people who care for the planet and its people, and who will be motivated to address future challenges through understanding the land and ocean we live with. Several key locations of the park are on Public Conservation Land.

DOC supports the goals of the Geopark:

1. Increase the protection of and access to the geological, cultural and heritage sites within the Geopark
2. Enhance the identity and increase the social capital of the Waitaki district by providing a unifying platform for stories of our land, culture and heritage
3. Share the story of the WWG through education and by providing experiences and activities within the geopark, with a focus on youth engagement
4. Develop sustainable economic activity so that the Geopark remains viable and can deliver on its goals.

**Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai**  
Te Manahuna / Twizel District Office  
[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

DOC through Sally Jones the local Operations Manager has been actively involved on the Advisory Board, and a key priority for the Department will be to ensure the project appropriately incorporates conservation protection. Please contact Sally ([sajones@doc.govt.nz](mailto:sajones@doc.govt.nz)) if you would like to discuss any aspects of our support for this initiative.

Kind regards,



Annie Wallace  
Acting Operations Manager, Te Manahuna

**Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai**  
Te Manahuna / Twizel District Office  
[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

24<sup>th</sup> April 2018

Fergus Power  
Chief Executive  
Waitaki District Council  
20 Thames Street  
Private Bag 50058

Dear Fergus,

#### LETTER OF SUPPORT WAITAKI UNESCO GEOPARK STATUS

On behalf of Tourism New Zealand I would like to congratulate you on your work to date around your submission for Waitaki to become recognised as a UNESCO Geopark. In Tourism New Zealand's role to market New Zealand internationally as a visitor destination, we support the development and enhancement of operations and attractions which are likely to enhance the experience and satisfaction of international visitors to New Zealand.

UNESCO is an internationally renowned governing body and UNESCO status is a globally recognised brand. If you are successful in your application, Waitaki will be the first UNESCO Geopark in Australasia and this will provide a compelling promotional destination message that we could use in offshore marketing and media materials.

Among our target audience of 'Active Considerers' [offshore people actively considering a trip to New Zealand] a key draw card is our landscapes and people & place storytelling. Waitaki's UNESCO recognition would be a great addition to this.

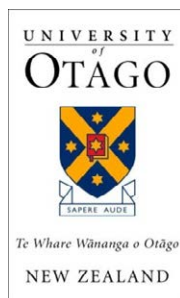
There is also a significant audience in China who are actively interested in Geoparks. China is a priority target market for Tourism New Zealand and the addition of a Geopark to the New Zealand destination story would present an opportunity to tap into market.

With these reasons in mind I am pleased to provide this letter of support. We wish you the very best of luck with your submission and are hopeful of the opportunity to help you share your destination story on the world stage.

Kind regards,



Lauren Vosper  
GM PR & Major Events



26 April 2018

New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO  
c/- New Zealand Ministry of Education  
PO Box 1666  
Wellington

Dear Commissioners,

### **Letter of Support**

The University of Otago is delighted to endorse the application of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark to become a member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Founded in 1869, the University of Otago was New Zealand's first university. We are looking forward to celebrating our 150th birthday in 2019, and to the involvement of wide sectors of our local and regional communities in our celebrations. The University opened in July 1871 with a staff of just three Professors, one to teach Classics and English Language and Literature, another having responsibility for Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, and the third to cover Mental and Moral Philosophy and Political Economy. The following year a Professor of Natural Science joined the staff, James Gow Black, who travelled widely across the Otago region, giving popular talks on his specialist areas of geology and chemistry to schools, miners and other members of the public. Lectures in Mining were given at the University from 1872, and in 1878 a School of Mines was established.

We have a nationally distinct approach to the provision of teaching, research and service that draws on our history, our vision as a research-led university with an international reputation for excellence, and a mission which is anchored in a number of core institutional values. As a national university operating in an international context, we attract a diverse range of students from throughout New Zealand and from over 100 nations around the world.

The vast majority of our more than 20,000 students commence their studies as undergraduates on our main Dunedin campus. However, we also operate significant health sciences campuses in Wellington and Christchurch, specialist facilities in Auckland and Invercargill, and satellite facilities elsewhere in New Zealand. We also deliver a number of programmes (mainly in postgraduate health sciences) via distance learning, both nationally and offshore.

Built on our heritage in mining and earth sciences, Otago University now hosts the National School of Surveying and has one of New Zealand's strongest and most highly regarded Departments of Geology. This Department is recognised internationally for the quality and

breadth of its research and its graduates, and for its strong links to the mining industry and to the special geology of the Otago-Southland region. The Department's research is linked strongly to the dynamic geology of New Zealand, with particular emphasis on process-related research tied to the "active" geology of the South Island, and to the evolution of our unique New Zealand biota.

The Geology Department has had a lengthy association with 'Vanished World', a geopark within the Waitaki district that has been operating for 17 years. As a result of this strong research and educational association with the current geopark, we are confident that the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark will be a success and also add significant opportunities for enhanced international collaboration in geoscience research and education.

The establishment of the Waitaki as a UNESCO Global Geopark will lead to a marked increase in numbers visiting the global geopark, and an increased opportunity for visitors to appreciate the unique geology of this area, and to engage in understanding of the geosciences, the complex landforms involved, and their interaction with biodiversity and sustainability.

We strongly recommend the Expert Advisory Panel and the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO to approve the application of the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark to join the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Blaikie  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)  
University of Otago

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)  
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15 November 2019

The Trustees  
Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust  
20 Thames Street  
Oamaru 9400

**LETTER OF SUPPORT - UNESCO GLOBAL GEOPARK ACCREDITATION**

Lincoln University is delighted to support the efforts of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark to gain UNESCO Global Geoparks accreditation.

Researchers and students at Lincoln University have had a long standing interest in the Waitaki Valley. This interest originates in the work of the Tussock Grasslands and Mountainlands Research Institute, and the leadership of past staff at Lincoln, including the late Professor Kevin O'Connor. Under the auspices of *the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB)*, in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Lincoln University produced a number of reports relating to environmental planning issues in the area. In an overview of this original research programme, and discussion of issues for planning in the Waitaki, O'Connor and others posited an approach to planning that considers natural and social systems together, to identify the opportunities and limits of natural resources and the objectives of the people and communities who use them.

Current research interest at Lincoln University is in the sustainable development of the Waitaki and linked to the activities of staff and students in the newly developed *Centre of Excellence: Sustainable Tourism for Regions, Landscapes and Communities*. The Centre devotes multi-disciplinary research to the conceptualisation, designing and testing of innovations with the greatest potential to help grow the value of tourism and enrich the tourist experience, while simultaneously restoring, protecting and enhancing the integrity of landscapes and ecosystems, and the social and cultural values of destination communities. The Waitaki Valley is one of the Centre's 'living regional research laboratories' providing opportunities for staff and students to test their ideas in a real world context.

Lincoln University's *Centre for Excellence: Sustainable Tourism for Regions, Landscapes and Communities* is confident that the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark will be a success - making an important contribution to the aspirations of the Global Geopark Network, while also having a positive impact on the local economy, natural landscapes, geo-heritage and diverse communities of the Waitaki.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Simmons' with '(c-sj)' written below it.

Professor David Simmons  
Head of Centre  
Sustainable Tourism for Regions, Landscapes and Communities  
Lincoln University, New Zealand



HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND  
POUHERE TAONGA

6 September 2019

Gary Kircher  
Mayor, Waitaki District Council,  
Private Bag 50058,  
Oamaru 9444  
[gkircher@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:gkircher@waitaki.govt.nz)

Fergus Power  
Chief Executive, Waitaki District Council  
Private Bag 50058,  
Oamaru 9444  
[fpower@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:fpower@waitaki.govt.nz)

Tena korua Gary and Fergus

### **Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga**

On behalf of the members of the Board and Māori Heritage Council we thank you for meeting us when we visited Oamaru two weeks ago. We were very impressed with the wide range of heritage properties and stories that exist within Waitaki and Oamaru. Your aspirations for the statuses of National Historic Landmark and UNESCO Global Geopark for Waitaki Whitestone caused us much thought and there has been much to reflect on.

The Oamaru Historic Area (Category 1 on the Rarangi Korero Heritage List 7064) has been approved by the Associate Minister of Arts, Culture and Heritage, Hon Grant Robertson, to be considered for acknowledgement as a National Historic Landmark, Ngā Manawhenua o Aotearoa me ōna Kōrero Tūturu. The purpose of the National Historic Landmark status is to promote the conservation of significant historical and cultural heritage through advice, capacity building, advocacy, regulation, ownership of selected properties and providing targeted incentive funding. It also requires engagement with heritage owners, iwi and hapū, heritage professionals, the public, councils and government on heritage. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga is committed to work with all of the interests associated with the Oamaru Historic Area, including the Waitaki District Council, to progress this work. In time the culmination of this work will be a recommendation to the Associate Minister seeking his agreement to the National Historic Landmark, Ngā Manawhenua o Aotearoa me ōna Kōrero Tūturu, for the outstanding national heritage value of the Oamaru Historic Area.

As mentioned at the time of our meeting, we were very impressed with the aspirations of the Waitaki District Council for the status of UNESCO Global Geopark for Waitaki Whitestone. As you are aware, UNESCO seeks to acknowledge single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. We believe that Waitaki Whitestone Geopark application meets the criteria for this internationally important status. You are blessed with diverse landscapes ranging from alpine areas to rolling downlands, braided river plains, sea cliffs, flat topped mesas, karst topography and prominent volcanic peaks, all of importance to what UNESCO Global Geopark looks to acknowledge.

We were quite taken by the potential of geo-gastronomy and see this as something unique that could be quite differentiating for the Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark proposal.

We believe that there would be very broad benefits including education, employment, tourism and economic growth. It is difficult for us to be in a position to quantify these benefits, but our experience across heritage properties from all of New Zealand suggests that they could be significant, particularly if connected to a national recognition such as National Historic Landmark and an international recognition such as the UNESCO Global Geopark.

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga is the owner, on behalf of the Crown, of two very important properties being Totara Estate and Clarks Mill that are within the geographical proposal of the Geopark. We see potential in the future development of these properties, along with Matanaka, another property that is just south of the proposal area, in line with the concepts that the Waitaki Whitestone Global Geopark proposes.

We are well aware of all that it takes to progress applications for such statuses as those aspired to by the Waitaki District Council and others and then to manage these in the future. We are committed to assist where we can with these matters, including where possible to progress, with and for you, opportunities to secure funding. The critical step here is regular communication and awareness of the progress sought and the requirements to realise.

Waitaki and Oamaru have a very unique opportunity that would be the envy of others throughout New Zealand. We wish you well for the important next steps; importantly we are committed to support your endeavours.

Nga mihi.



Marian L Hobbs  
Board Chair  
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Toanga



Andrew Coleman  
Chief Executive  
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga



30 October 2018

To whom it may concern

### **Letter of Support – Waitaki Whitestone Geopark**

Meridian is pleased to support Waitaki District Council's application to the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Meridian is one of New Zealand's largest companies. It is New Zealand's biggest renewable electricity generator producing around 30% of New Zealand's electricity. Meridian is committed to sustainability, taking inspiration from the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It is one of the few New Zealand companies listed on the Dow Jones Asia-Pacific Sustainability Index.

The Waitaki Hydro Power Scheme is located on the Waitaki River system within and adjacent to the northern boundary of the proposed Waitaki Whitestone Geopark. This is Meridian's largest renewable electricity generation asset consisting of six hydro power stations.

The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark application aligns with many of the activities (including partnerships) that Meridian participates in. This includes Meridian's:

1. Financial contribution to the activities of the Waitaki District Council as one of its largest rate payers.
2. Financial support of Vanishing World Inc and other aligned activities, through Meridian's *Power Up Community Fund*.
3. Financial sponsorship of the rock art conservation activities of Te Ana Ngāi Tahu Māori Rock Art.
4. Support of Alps2Ocean Cycle Trail, including hosting parts of the track network on its land.
5. Active participation in the management of Geosite12 (Waitaki River) through:
  - a. Managing river flows into the Geosite (the Lower Waitaki River)
  - b. Funding Environment Canterbury (regional government) to undertake river works within the Lower Waitaki River
  - c. Funding and participating in scientific research within the Lower Waitaki River.
6. Provision of visitors' facilities, including interpretation, at and around its generation sites.
7. Participation on the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Advisory Group.

Jeff Page  
Environmental Strategy Manager  
**Meridian Energy Limited**

287 to 293 Durham Street, Christchurch 8013,  
PO Box 2146, Christchurch 8140  
P. 03 357-9725 F. 03 357-9821 M. 021 241 0345  
[jeff.page@meridianenergy.co.nz](mailto:jeff.page@meridianenergy.co.nz)

7 November 2018



The Trustees  
Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust

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GNS Science, Te Pū Ao, is a Crown Research Institute and is New Zealand's leading provider of Earth, geoscience and isotope research and commercial services. Our purpose is to understand natural Earth system processes and resources, and to translate these into economic, environmental and social benefits for New Zealanders.

GNS Science supports the Trust's application to UNESCO for Global Geopark status. It will serve to increase the protection of and access to the geological, cultural and heritage sites within the Geopark, and promote interest in our geological story and in addressing the future environmental challenges we face as a nation.

As New Zealand's dedicated earth science research institute, one of GNS Science's core purposes is to increase New Zealand's resilience to natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides and tsunamis. The establishment of a UNESCO Global Geopark in the Waitaki district aligns with this purpose, as the Geopark's primary goals include engaging the public in understanding of earth science themes, increasing awareness of natural hazards and climate change, and making scientific knowledge accessible to everybody.

The Geopark will provide an avenue to deliver education and outreach services to the wider New Zealand and international visitor communities. It also shares with GNS Science common objectives around achieving mutual success through collaboration with iwi/Māori, partnering through our collaborators in research and commercial initiatives.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian Simpson'.

Ian Simpson  
Chief Executive



**Jacqui Dean**

Member of Parliament for Waitaki

The Trustees  
Waitaki Whitestone Geopark Trust  
20 Thames Street  
OAMARU 9400

4<sup>th</sup> November 2019

To The New Zealand Commission for UNESCO

I endorse the application of Waitaki Whitestone Geopark for a UNESCO Global Geopark status.

The Waitaki Geopark proposed is an exciting project. I have been given a personal tour of just some of the amazing geological features and landscapes included within the proposed Geopark, and fully and enthusiastically endorse their vision of increased protection and access to some very special geological culture and heritage sites on our very back door.

I hope you find favour with the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark application.

Kind regards

Hon Jacqui Dean  
MP for Waitaki



**Parliament Office** Parliament Buildings, Private Bag 18041, Wellington 6160 • 04 817 6670  
**Oamaru Office** 127 Thames St Oamaru 9400 • 03 434 7325  
jacqui.dean@parliament.govt.nz • waitaki.mp@parliament.govt.nz  
f JacquiDeanMP • jacquidean.co.nz

Authorised by Jacqui Dean MP, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.



# Hon Jenny Salesa

## MP for Manukau East

Minister for Building and Construction

Minister for Ethnic Communities

Associate Minister of Health

Associate Minister of Education

Associate Minister of Housing and Urban Development



**19 OCT 2018**

Fergus Power  
Chief Executive  
Waitaki District Council

[fpower@waitaki.govt.nz](mailto:fpower@waitaki.govt.nz)

Dear Fergus

The Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, has asked me to reply to your email of 11 September 2018 about the Waitaki Whitestone Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark, in my capacity as Minister responsible for relations with UNESCO. Thank you for including your detailed briefing paper.

I appreciate the innovative approach your council is taking to promote environmental sustainability by applying to UNESCO to have interlinked sites in the district accredited as a geopark. I trust that the establishment of a geopark will further enhance educational, tourist and scientific opportunities in your community, and offer an example of what is possible for other districts around New Zealand.

I understand you are progressing your application with assistance from the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO. I note you have applied to the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) for support.

I wish you all the very best with the PGF and UNESCO application processes.

Yours sincerely

**Hon Jenny Salesa**  
**Associate Minister of Education**

# Office of the Mayor



21 November 2019

Kei te rangatira, tēnā koe

## **Letter of support for Waitaki Whitestone Geopark**

I am writing to endorse the application of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark to become a member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark is ideally suited to be Aotearoa's first UNESCO Global Geopark. It exhibits multiple internationally-unique geological and associated features and is a highly attractive destination for travellers. The Geopark has excellent transport links to the north (Christchurch International Airport), the south (Dunedin International Airport), and to the west (Queenstown International Airport).

There is a rich diversity of existing tourism opportunities and infrastructure both within the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark, as well as the surrounding areas. Visitors to the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark will not only enjoy the depth and breadth of the geology, biodiversity, scientific education and human stories and interaction with that geology, but the tourism offerings available en route to and from the Geopark.

I note that members of the UNESCO Global Geopark Network collaborate to:

- preserve geological heritage for present and future generations
- inform the public about issues in the geological sciences and their relationship to the environment
- encourage and monitor sustainable development within the local community
- foster multi-cultural bridges for heritage and conservation and the maintenance of geological and cultural diversity
- stimulate research
- contribute actively within the Global Geoparks Network through joint initiatives
- contribute local articles to the Global Geoparks Network newsletters, books and other publications
- contribute to, and actively participate in, the International Geoparks Conference.

I am confident that the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark will acquit itself well with respect to all of the above.

Indigenous peoples' participation in the co-management of the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark (through appointment of Ngāi Tahu representation onto both the Governance and Advisory Group bodies), along with the inclusion of local community groups, University, Tourism New Zealand, GNS Science, museum, Regional Council, and local tourism operator representation, will assure the success of this proposed Geopark.

The proposed Geopark also accords fully with the region's aspiration to be a highly-attractive, sustainable tourism destination.

I urge the Expert Advisory Panel and the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO to approve the application of the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark to join the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aaron Hawkins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aaron Hawkins  
**Mayor of Dunedin**



1 November 2019

New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO  
c/- New Zealand Ministry of Education  
PO Box 1666  
Wellington

## Letter of Support

I write to endorse the application of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark to become a member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Currently, no Global Geopark operates within Australasia. The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark is ideally suited to be Aotearoa's first UNESCO Global Geopark. It exhibits multiple internationally unique geological and associated features, and is a highly attractive destination for travellers, with excellent transport links to the North (Christchurch International Airport), the South (Dunedin International Airport), and to the West (Queenstown International Airport). A rich diversity of existing tourism opportunities and infrastructure both within the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark and in surrounding districts and regions mean that visitors to the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark will not only enjoy the depth and breadth of the geology, biodiversity, scientific education and human stories and interaction with that geology, but the tourism offerings available en route to, and from, the Geopark.

We note that Geoparks that are members of the UNESCO Global Geopark Network collaborate as a global team to:

- preserve geological heritage for present and future generations
- inform the public about issues in the geological sciences and their relationship to the environment
- encourage and monitor sustainable development within the local community
- foster multi-cultural bridges for heritage and conservation and the maintenance of geological and cultural diversity
- stimulate research
- contribute actively within the Global Geoparks Network through joint initiatives (e.g. communication, publications, exchange of information, participation in meetings, and common projects)
- contribute local articles to the Global Geoparks Network Newsletters, books and other publications

1 Rosebank Terrace  
P O Box 25, Balclutha 9240, New Zealand  
**Telephone** + 64 3 4190200 **Fax** + 64 3 4183185  
**Email** [help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz](mailto:help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz)  
**Website** [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)



- contribute to and actively participate in the International Geoparks Conference usually organized every two years by the Global Geoparks Network, with the support of UNESCO.

We have confidence that the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark will acquit itself well with respect to all of the above. Indigenous peoples participation in the co-management of the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark (through appointment of Ngāi Tahu representation onto both the Governance and Advisory Group bodies), along with the inclusion of local community groups, University, Tourism New Zealand, GNS Science, museum, Regional Council, and local tourism operator representation will assure the success of this proposed Geopark.

The proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark accords fully with this region's aspiration to be a highly-attractive, sustainable tourism destination and we urge the Expert Advisory Panel and the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO to approve the application of the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark to join the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Yours faithfully



Bryan Cadogan  
**Clutha District Mayor**

1 Rosebank Terrace  
P O Box 25, Balclutha 9240, New Zealand  
**Telephone** + 64 3 4190200 **Fax** + 64 3 4183185  
**Email** help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz  
**Website** www.cluthadc.govt.nz



5 November 2019

New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO  
c/- New Zealand Ministry of Education  
PO Box 1666  
Wellington

Dear Commissioners

### Letter of Support

I write to endorse the application of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark to become a member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Currently, no Global Geopark operates within Australasia. The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark is ideally suited to be Aotearoa's first UNESCO Global Geopark. It exhibits multiple internationally unique geological and associated features and is a highly attractive destination for travellers, with excellent transport links to the North (Christchurch International Airport), the South (Dunedin International Airport), and to the West (Queenstown International Airport). A rich diversity of existing tourism opportunities and infrastructure both within the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark and in surrounding districts and regions mean that visitors to the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark will not only enjoy the depth and breadth of the geology, biodiversity, scientific education and human stories and interaction with geology, but the tourism offerings available en route to, and from, the Geopark.

We note that Geoparks that are members of the UNESCO Global Geopark Network collaborate as a global team to:

- Preserve geological heritage for present and future generations
- Inform the public about issues in the geological sciences and their relationship to the environment
- Encourage and monitor sustainable development within the local community
- Foster multi-cultural bridges for heritage and conservation and the maintenance of geological and cultural diversity
- Stimulate research
- Contribute actively within the Global Geoparks Network through joint initiatives (e.g. communication, publications, exchange of information, participation in meetings, and common projects)
- Contribute local articles to the Global Geoparks Network Newsletters, books and other publications
- Contribute to an actively participate in the International Geoparks Conference usually organized every two years by the Global Geoparks Network, with the support of UNESCO

We have confidence that the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark will acquit itself well with respect to all of the above. Indigenous peoples participation in the co-management of the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark (through appointment of Ngāi Tahu representation onto both the Governance and Advisory Group bodies), along with the inclusion of local community groups, University, Tourism New Zealand, GNS Science, museum, Regional Council and local tourism operator representation will assure the success of this proposed Geopark.

The proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark accords fully with this region's aspiration to be a highly-attractive, sustainable tourism destination and we urge the Expert Advisory Panel and the New Zealand Commission for UNESCO to approve the application of the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark to join the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Yours sincerely



Tim Cadogan  
Mayor, Central Otago District



Sanchia Jacobs  
Chief Executive Officer

9 November 2019

New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO  
c/- New Zealand Ministry of Education  
PO Box 1666  
Wellington

*OFFICE OF THE MAYOR*

### **Letter of Support**

On behalf of the Queenstown Lakes District Council, I write to endorse the application of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark to become a member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Currently, no Global Geopark operates within Australasia. The Waitaki Whitestone Geopark is ideally suited to be Aotearoa's first UNESCO Global Geopark. It exhibits multiple internationally unique geological and associated features, and is a destination of choice for travellers, with excellent transport links to the North (Christchurch International Airport), the South (Dunedin International Airport), and to the West (Queenstown International Airport).

A rich diversity of existing tourism opportunities and infrastructure both within the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark and in surrounding districts and regions mean that visitors to the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark will not only enjoy the depth and breadth of the geology, biodiversity, scientific education and human stories and interaction with that geology, but the world class offerings available in the adjoining regions.

We note that Geoparks that are members of the UNESCO Global Geopark Network collaborate as a global team to:

1. Preserve geological heritage for present and future generations;
2. Inform the public about issues in the geological sciences and their relationship to the environment;
3. Encourage and monitor sustainable development within the local community;
4. Foster multi-cultural bridges for heritage and conservation and the maintenance of geological and cultural diversity;
5. Stimulate research;
6. Contribute actively within the Global Geoparks Network through joint initiatives (e.g. communication, publications, exchange of information, participation in meetings, and common projects);
7. Contribute local articles to the Global Geoparks Network Newsletters, books and other publications;
8. Contribute to and actively participate in the International Geoparks Conference usually organized every two years by the Global Geoparks Network, with the support of UNESCO.

In respect of the above, we have confidence that the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark will be a positive contributor and guardian. Indigenous peoples participation in the co-management of the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark (through appointment of Ngāi Tahu representation onto both the Governance and Advisory Group bodies), along with the inclusion of local community groups, University, Tourism New

Zealand, GNS Science, museum, Regional Council, and local tourism operator representation will assure the success of this proposed Geopark.

The proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark accords fully with this region's aspiration to remain a sustainable tourism destination of outstanding natural beauty and we support the application of the Waitaki District Council to the New Zealand National Commission.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Boulton', with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Jim Boulton ONZM  
MAYOR



New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO  
c/- New Zealand Ministry of Education  
PO Box 1666  
Wellington

Dear Commissioners,

Re: Letter of Support

As Chair of the Waitaki Tourism Association, I am delighted to endorse the application of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark to become a member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Located in the centre of New Zealand's beautiful South Island and stretching from the Pacific Coast deep into the Southern Alps, the Waitaki District is one of New Zealand's fastest-growing travel destinations for both international and domestic visitors. Offering a wealth of unique experiences, from the historic and quirky town of Oamaru (considered by Lonely Planet to be "New Zealand's coolest town") to the wine-growing area of Kurow, and the world-famous coastal village of Moeraki with its iconic boulders and the historic town of Palmerston, the Waitaki District is a region that rewards a multiple-night visit.

The Waitaki Tourism Association is an independent organisation that unites all the myriad attractions and traveller-related services in the Waitaki District and offers a one-stop resource for visitors to learn about the range of accommodations, restaurants, activities and other worthwhile destinations our district has to offer. Our Association is excited at the prospect of the establishment of the Waitaki as a UNESCO Global Geopark. UNESCO endorsement would provide confidence to those considering the Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark that their visit will be an excellent experience. The proposed global geopark has the potential to be the "one waka" within which each tourism operator has a "place" and the opportunity to tell their story, all paddling in unison towards a common goal—the delivery of a world-class Global Geopark and tourism/educational experience for our visitors, no matter where they came from.

41 Towey Street Oamaru 9401 • +64 (3) 434 7939 • [www.penybryn.co.nz](http://www.penybryn.co.nz)





We urge the Expert Advisory Panel and the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO to approve the application of the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark to join the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Yours sincerely,

James Glucksman  
Chair  
Waitaki Tourism Association

41 Towey Street Oamaru 9401 ■ +64 (3) 434 7939 ■ [www.penybryn.co.nz](http://www.penybryn.co.nz)





New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO  
c/- New Zealand Ministry of Education  
PO Box 1666  
Wellington

Dear Commissioners

Letter of Support

The members of the Waitaki Valley Winegrowers Association are delighted to endorse the application of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark to become a member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Our wines are highly distinctive of their terroir. Located on the 45th Parallel South, the Waitaki Valley vineyards stretch along a 75 kilometre strip from the limestone escarpments above the village of Duntroon, up the south bank of the Waitaki River inland to the township of Omarama. This unique terroir combines the coastal breezes of the South Pacific with the dry, rain shadow cast by the Southern Alps. Typically the region enjoys hot, dry summers, cold winters and long dry autumns. These climatic characteristics overlay the complex geology of the Waitakian Limestones to produce distinctive wines highly reflective of their origin.

We pride ourselves on our wines taking their special character in part from the unique Waitaki limestone soils (as shown in our web site):

[cid:[03208BD9-2D96-4E06-9347-65588C8F65FB@waitakidc.govt.nz](mailto:03208BD9-2D96-4E06-9347-65588C8F65FB@waitakidc.govt.nz)]

There is little doubt that the establishment of the Waitaki as a UNESCO Global Geopark will lead to a marked increase in numbers visiting the global geopark, and a heightening of awareness of the interaction between the geology of this area and the products that we produce.

We urge the Expert Advisory Panel and the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO to approve the application of the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark to join the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Yours sincerely

A blue ink signature, appearing to be "AB", is written over the "Yours sincerely" text.

Andrew Ballantyne  
Chairman  
Waitaki Valley Winegrowers Association



24 April 2018

Dear Commissioners.

## LETTER OF SUPPORT

Whitestone Cheese is delighted to endorse the application of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark to become a member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Whitestone Cheese was founded in 1987 by my Father, Bob Berry, as a diversification during the 1980's rural downturn and a series of crippling droughts. His experience in livestock trading was quickly applied to cheese trading. The original factory was set up in Oamaru in a converted garage with milk sourced from local farms and one variety, Whitestone Farmhouse was launched. The business slowly grew as an extension of the farming operation until today's purpose-built factory was commissioned in 1998. In 2003, I joined the business and the farm was sold to concentrate on growing the exciting family enterprise. The factory now employs over 70 staff and includes a cheese shop and café and factory tours. I now oversee the business management, cheese making team and production.

We pride ourselves on our cheeses taking their special character in part from the unique Waitaki limestone soils (as shown in our web site [www.whitestonecheese.co.nz](http://www.whitestonecheese.co.nz)):

## ABOUT OUR CHEESE

[Home](#) » About Our Cheese

CLEAN WATER, RICH SOIL, QUALITY PASTURES, A TEMPERATE CLIMATE AND CONTENTED COWS ALL MAKE FOR PREMIUM MILK.

Whitestone's cheeses are named after regional place names in North Otago, this is to reflect the regional nature of our products. The flavours replicated are a result of our region's climate, water and soils, producing the grass which is then grazed upon - producing regional specific milk.

All of our cheeses are made using only natural ingredients and no artificial preservatives are added. We are true to the source of our raw grass feed milk and believe the natural flavours should be allowed to carry through. Therefore, minimal flavour enhancers are added – natural maple smoke being the greatest one we use.

Vegetarian microbial rennet is used in all of our cheeses.

When serving always let your cheese come up to room temperature to let the starter cultures wake up, produces a more pronounced flavour.

SERIOUSLY GOOD CHEESE *people*



We believe that the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark is ideally suited to be Aotearoa's first UNESCO Global Geopark. It exhibits multiple internationally unique geological and associated features, and is a highly attractive destination for travellers, with excellent transport links to the North (Christchurch International Airport), the South (Dunedin International Airport), and to the West (Queenstown International Airport). A rich diversity of existing tourism opportunities and infrastructure both within the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark and in surrounding districts mean that visitors to the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark will not only enjoy the depth and breadth of the geology, biodiversity, scientific education and human stories and interaction with that geology, but the tourism offerings available en route to, and from, the Geopark, including (of course), our magnificent cheeses.

I urge the Expert Advisory Panel and the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO to approve the application of the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark to join the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Yours sincerely

Simon Berry  
CEO & Director



riverstone kitchen

1431 State Highway 1 | RD 5H | Oamaru 9493 | New Zealand  
03 431 3505 | mail@riverstonekitchen.co.nz

New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO  
c/- New Zealand Ministry of Education  
PO Box 1666  
Wellington

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Commissioners,

**Letter of Support**

Riverstone Kitchen is happy to endorse the application of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark to become a member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

As a chef, I strongly believe in cooking with only the freshest, seasonal ingredients and I am passionate about local and ethically produced food. The fertile soils of the Waitaki are renowned for producing nationally-acknowledged produce, Jersey Benne potatoes, Brussel Sprouts, sunflower seeds and Kakanui soil-grown tomatoes. My own food ethos is reflected in the all-encompassing gardens that surround and define Riverstone Kitchen. Here we grow much of the produce we use, with the balance sourced directly from local suppliers, including Venison, Lamb, Pork, Beef and Salmon. To have such outstanding suppliers on our doorstep, means that all people should and can eat well.

The establishment of Waitaki as a UNESCO Global Geopark will lead to a marked increase in numbers visiting the global geopark, and local restaurants such as ours here at Riverstone Kitchen will play an important role. The high quality, local produce used to create dishes that visitors to our restaurant and the Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark will enjoy, will give them a unique experience of New Zealand, like no other.

We urge the Expert Advisory Panel and the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO to approve the application of the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark to join the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Yours sincerely

Bevan Smith  
Owner  
Riverstone Kitchen



Heliventures NZ Ltd  
PO Box 241  
Oamaru 9444  
Tel: 03 4313669  
E: [craig@heliventuresnz.com](mailto:craig@heliventuresnz.com)

New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO  
New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO  
c/- New Zealand Ministry of Education  
PO Box 1666  
Wellington

4<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Dear Commissioners

Letter of Support

Heliventures New Zealand Ltd is delighted to endorse the application of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark to become a member of the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Heliventures NZ Ltd was established in 2009 and has provided a professional commercial and agricultural aerial service since 2011. Craig McMillan the owner/operator manages the Oamaru Base which services North Otago, South Canterbury and the McKenzie Country. We also operate a remote base in Invercargill which services Southland and Stewart Island.

Heliventures offer a full range of agricultural and commercial services, from lifting to commercial transport. At Heliventures we pride ourselves in being one of the first operators in NZ to become AirCare accredited. This accreditation highlights Heliventures commitment to high safety standards, professionalism and efficiency in all aspects of our helicopter operation. Heliventures operate one Airbus AS350 B2 Squirrel and two MD-520N Notar helicopter from their base at the Oamaru Airport and three MD-520N Notar helicopters from Invercargill. Our helicopters are all finished with a leather interior and the Notar helicopters seat four passengers, while the B2 Squirrel seats six passengers.

The establishment of the Waitaki as a UNESCO Global Geopark will lead to a marked increase in numbers visiting the global geopark, and local restaurants such as Riverstone Kitchen will play an important role in exposing these visitors to the extraordinarily high quality of the produce used to create the dishes that visitors to the Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark will enjoy.

We have been introduced to the intention of the Waitaki Whitestone Geopark to seek nomination as an Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark, and we consider that the geology, geomorphology and existing tourist attractions of the Waitaki and the proposed geopark area provide a strong (and unique) platform for the establishment of a successful Global Geopark.

It is our intention to market helicopter tours of the Global Geopark as part of our tourism expansion plan.

We urge the Expert Advisory Panel and the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO to approve the application of the proposed Waitaki Whitestone UNESCO Global Geopark to join the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicki McMillan', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Nicki McMillan  
CEO - Heliventures New Zealand Ltd