

16 December 2009

Hon Gerry Brownlee
Minister of Energy & Resources
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Executive Wing
Parliament Buildings

Hon David Parker
Labour MP

Shadow Attorney-General,
Associate Finance Spokesperson,
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Dear Hon Brownlee

Invitation to Mt Aspiring National Park – 18 to 21 December 2009

I am aware that your stock take of NZ mineral resources in the conservation estate includes consideration of the north eastern parts of the Mount Aspiring National Park.

This part of the Park includes the Young and Wilkin river catchments. In my opinion it is essential for you to visit these parts of the park before taking any decision to allow money to be wasted on mineral exploration in this area, and which would lead to pressure to mine in these areas.

A physical inspection of this area is every bit as important as consideration of written reports. To experience the wonder of the ecology and scenery in these pristine parts of NZ would be a timely reminder of our country's duty to protect our National Parks for their intrinsic worth.

I am aware that your duties as Leader of The House prevent you being there during the Parliamentary year. The house rises on Wednesday 16 December.

Accordingly, it is my pleasure to invite you to accompany me on the Gillespie Pass Circuit walk during the following days. Your proposed itinerary is:

Thursday fly to Wanaka.

Friday drive to Makarora (approx 30 mins), and walk up the Young River to Young hut.

Saturday we cross the Gillespie Pass to the DOC hut by the Siberia Stream.

Sunday we do a day walk from the hut to Lake Crucible – this small lake is fed by ice falls and water from glaciers above and is worth a visit.

Monday we walk out down the Wilkin River back to Makarora (this can be shortened by a jet boat down the Wilkin)

More information is available from:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/otago/wanaka-area/gillespie-pass-circuit/>

I am able to supply all gear. Please allow an hour in Wanaka to get the right sized boots if you do not have your own.

I would be pleased if you can accept this invitation.

Yours sincerely

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

Hon David Parker