



16 January 2017

Hon Nathan Guy MP  
Minister for Primary Industries  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Dear Minister

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**RE Drought-like conditions in Northland**

I am writing to express my growing unease about the extended dry which is affecting farmers in the Northland electorate. The latest soil moisture deficit map for Northland shows that most of the region has a soil moisture deficit of at least 130mm.

If we do not get significant steady rain, and soon, this could become the fifth-drought in nine years. As you will know, out of 608,121 hectares of farmland in Northland, barely 1.3%, or 7,795 hectares is irrigated. Until irrigation comes forward we are reliant upon the sky to deliver water and concerns here are mounting.

This is why I am asking you, as the Minister for Primary Industries, to visit Northland with me so that you can see first-hand just how dry it is. My hope is that this may put in train the motions needed for an adverse events declaration and to stress the importance of water storage to Northland's primary industries.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely

**Rt Hon Winston Peters MP**  
Leader of New Zealand First  
Member of Parliament for Northland



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