

23rd June 2019

Dear Prime Minister,

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Hector's and Maui Dolphins

For my birthday I got a ticket from my parents to go and watch and swim with the Hector's Dolphins in Akaroa on the Banks Peninsula.

There aren't many of them and they are special because they are only in New Zealand. The people on the boat told us there are less than 10,000 left. There won't be many lefts if any, in the future because they don't have many babies and they are being killed off by the fishermen. The water is very murky and the dolphins, and other animals can't see the nets. Other dolphins use sonar to find things and get out of the way but the Hector's

dolphins don't use sonar at the time so they get caught. We heard that one fisherman caught and killed five Hector's dolphins in one net and one day.

When I came home I tried to find out more about the Hector's dolphins. They are not the only little dolphins in New Zealand being killed. On the Greenpeace site they said that there were only 50 Maui dolphins left. That is less than two of the classes at my school! And since February, when I went to Akaroa, 10 Maui and Hector's dolphins have been killed because of nets and oil exploration. That is nearly half my class. I was sad and upset by this. I think it's wrong and unfair that a few people are

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killing all these special and rare dolphins. It should not be allowed. In Christchurch those poor people were killed. It was wrong, that man shouldn't have had that gun in the first place. You banned the guns, which I agree with, because then there will be no more people killed in the future. But what about the dolphins? Aren't they special too? Don't they need protecting too? I think they do. When the last one dies, there will be no more, like the Moa, and you will be sorry for it then, but it will be too late. Every year money is spent saving the special New Zealand birds, why don't you save the Hector's and Maui dolphins too? Because they are part of New Zealand just like the birds.

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Can you please ban the nets and stop the fishing that is killing the Hector's and Maui dolphins and other animals in the sea.

Other countries have banned these nets, so please please can we ban them now. Also they cause a lot of pollution in the ocean that kills lots of other animals too. We shouldn't use them anymore. It is better to go and watch the dolphins than kill them, if the dolphins are gone then no one can go and see them. I want to take my children to see the Hector's dolphins swimming free and safe.

If you can ban the guns, you can ban the nets too. Please can you do it now!

(5)

Thank you,

Muskaan Hammar sai (Lower Hutt)

P.S. I'm taller than an adult Hector's
Dolphin and I'm only 9. They are
so small and need us to protect
them.