



5 April 2006

To Whom It May Concern

**HAAST RIVER SAFARI - NEW ZEALAND TOURIM INDUSTRY AWARDS**

Dear Sir/Madam

Haast River Safari has held a concession with the Department of Conservation for boat tours in the heart of Te Wahipounamu *South West New Zealand* World Heritage Area since 21 February 2004. The operation is a clever package that showcases the Haast Valley and has strong interpretive and conservation messages.

Haast River Safari has developed and maintained a strong relationship with the Department at both a local and Conservancy Office level. Haast River Safari have regularly met with staff to discuss how best to manage the effects of their growing operation on other users of the river and walking tracks in the area. Haast River Safari has sought the appropriate variations to their concession as the business has grown.

The department has showcased Haast River Safari as a successful concessionaire benefiting conservation and the community. If you have any questions please telephone me on 03 755 5558

I wish Haast River Safari every success in the New Zealand Tourism Industry Awards.

Yours sincerely

*Ian Wightwick*  
Ian Wightwick  
Community Relations (Concessions)  
for Conservator