

3 June 2014

Erik Hagen
Chair,
Western Sahara Resource Watch

Dear Mr Hagan

RE: Ravensdown and Western Sahara

Thanks for your letter requesting comment from Ravensdown for a report which your organisation is producing in May.

I have been overseas and only just returned to respond to your letter. I apologise for the delay.

I acknowledge your concerns and the complexity of this long-running territorial dispute.

On international trading issues where differing perspectives are presented, the fertiliser industry is guided by the New Zealand Government.

The team at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade have the expertise to assess the changing diplomatic situation in places like Western Sahara. They have not recommended a ceasing of trade in phosphate rock sourced from Western Sahara.

Ravensdown has received no new specific guidance from MFAT on the subject of trading in resources from Western Sahara. At this time, our own legal advisors have not alerted us to any change in the UN's direction on trading in resources from Western Sahara.

I cannot answer your questions due to commercial sensitivity.

Please be assured that Ravensdown will continue to do what it can to urge our contracted supplier, OCP, to continue to operate in a responsible manner and note their [community development efforts](#) so far.

We will also encourage OCP to provide regular updates of their community engagement activities in the area of Western Sahara.

Thanks for your interest in Ravensdown

Yours sincerely,



Greg Campbell
Chief Executive Officer