

**From:** FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca  
**Subject: RE** : Caves and Karst at Davie Bay.  
**Date:** 23 December 2009 23:33:09 GMT  
**To:** fletch@hughes.net  
**Cc:** premier@gov.bc.ca, AL.Minister@gov.bc.ca, ENV.Minister@gov.bc.ca, EMPR.Minister@gov.bc.ca, Nicholas.Simons.MLA@leg.bc.ca, Scott.Fraser.MLA@leg.bc.ca, Ross.Douglas@gov.bc.ca

File: 280-30  
Ref: 167379

To Richard Fletcher  
Friends of Davie Bay  
Email: [fletch@hughes.net](mailto:fletch@hughes.net)

Dear Mr Fletcher:

Thank you for your email of November 23, 2009, regarding the karst on Texada Island. As the Minister responsible for Crown land tenuring through the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB), I am pleased to respond on behalf of government.

Jurisdiction over industrial and construction minerals is shared by the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources (MEMPR) and ILMB. Lehigh Hanson Materials Ltd. (LHM) currently holds a mineral lease issued by MEMPR over the area. This mineral lease allows LHM to use the limestone deposit for industrial purposes. LHM recently applied to use the deposit within their lease for construction purposes (i.e. crushed aggregate). Aggregate tenuring is managed by ILMB. All mining activity, regardless of the end use, requires an approved mining plan. MEMPR is currently reviewing LHM's mining plan, and the impact upon the karst and other features is part of the review process.

An assessment of the proposed quarry area on the karst was recently completed by an expert from the Ministry of Forests and Range. The most important karst area is around Stromberg and Grow Op Creeks. This area has caves, swallets, springs, shafts and other features. Under LHM's proposed management plan, the area around the karst will never be mined.

ILMB has established a map reserve over this area to ensure that these karst features are protected. The Reserve is located in the centre of District Lot 589, and covers 7 hectares. Since you wrote your letter, LHM has offered to remove all of District Lot 589 (35 ha in size) from their application to ILMB. This will add a buffer of 28 ha around the Reserve further ensuring that the karst will remain protected. Staff are working with LHM to explore long-term management options over the area.

ILMB is committed to the protection of this geological feature. If you require further information please contact Ross Douglas, Section Head, South Coast Service Centre, ILMB Surrey at 604-586-4429.

Sincerely,

Pat Bell  
Minister

pc: Honourable Gordon Campbell, Premier  
Honourable Steve Thomson, Minister of Agriculture and Lands  
Honourable Barry Penner, Minister of Environment  
Honourable Blair Lekstrom, Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources  
Nicholas Simons, MLA (Powell River-Sunshine Coast)  
Scott Fraser, MLA (Alberni-Pacific Rim)  
Ross Douglas, Section Head, Crown Land and Resources, ILMB, Surrey

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Fletcher [<mailto:fletch@hughes.net>]

Sent: Monday, November 23, 2009 8:26 AM

To: Minister, FOR FOR:EX; Penner, Barry ENV:EX; Lekstrom.MLA, Blair LASS:EX

Cc: OfficeofthePremier, Office PREM:EX; Thomson.MLA, Steve LASS:EX; Nicholas Simons;  
[S.Fraser@leg.bc.ca](mailto:S.Fraser@leg.bc.ca); [sislerr@tc.gc.ca](mailto:sislerr@tc.gc.ca); Christie, Karen L EAO:EX; Cowgill, Andrea N ILMB:EX; PAUL  
GRIFFITHS; Peak Editor; [LPynn@vancouver.sun.com](mailto:LPynn@vancouver.sun.com)

Subject: Caves and Karst at Davie Bay.

Dear Sirs,

I would be grateful if you could review this submission for a full cave and karst assessment in the Davie Bay area.

Thank you.

Richard Fletcher  
Friends of Dave Bay.  
<http://daviebay.com/>