

## Guidance for submitters

The proposed changes of status being recommended and suggested in relation to stewardship areas on the West Coast of the South Island of Aotearoa New Zealand were publicly notified on Monday 30 May 2022.

Two panels, a National Panel and a Ngāi Tahu Mana Whenua Panel, reviewed specific stewardship areas to provide their recommendations for conferring additional protection in some circumstances under the Conservation Act 1987 or changing the area to reserve or national park status based on the identified conservation and Ngāi Tahu values and interests.

In addition to this, some stewardship areas were found to have no, or very low, conservation values. It has been suggested that some of these areas are considered for disposal, while others have been identified to remain unchanged.

### **Notices required by statute**

Proposals to provide additional protection under the Conservation Act 1987 require public notification of the Minister of Conservation's (or her delegate's) intention to do so. These include recommendations to declare certain stewardship areas to be held as conservation parks or ecological, wildlife or amenity areas.

### **Notices not required by statute**

Conversely:

- proposals to change stewardship areas to reserve status do not require public notification; and
- proposals for additions to a national park, potential disposals and areas with two potential proposals are subject to additional steps and considerations before a final decision is made.

However, the Minister has decided to be consistent and seek public feedback on all proposed changes in this public notification.

## The notification

Public notification is being carried out consistent with section 49 of the Conservation Act 1987. The notice will:

- be published in a local newspaper and in a daily newspaper for Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin;
- be published on the Department of Conservation's (DOC's) website;
- provide for no less than 40 working days until submissions close;
- enable submissions to be completed and submitted online, by email and by post; and
- where required, provide a reasonable opportunity for a hearing if requested.

## Responding to the notification

Submissions responding to the public notification of the proposals being made for specific areas of stewardship land on the West Coast can be submitted online at [www.doc.govt.nz/stewardship-land-public-notification](http://www.doc.govt.nz/stewardship-land-public-notification) or can be posted to:

Stewardship Land Reclassification Project  
C/- Department of Conservation  
Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre  
Christchurch 8140.

**Attention: Anna Cameron**

Submissions will be accepted **until 5 pm on 26 July 2022**.

If you are not submitting online, your submission or objection should reference the relevant recommendation report and/or any relevant conservation values report. Copies of these reports are available at the local offices noted below.

For further information, please contact [stewardshiplandreclassification@doc.govt.nz](mailto:stewardshiplandreclassification@doc.govt.nz).

## Panel recommendations

The National Panel and the Ngāi Tahu Mana Whenua Panel have reviewed and provided recommendations for changes of status to stewardship areas. These recommendations include for the areas to:

- have additional protection conferred under the Conservation Act 1987; or
- be changed to reserve status; or
- be considered for national park status; or
- remain as stewardship land or, where applicable, be disposed of.

The proposed recommendations have been based on the expertise/experience of the panels, statutory and policy obligations, conservation value reports for each area, and site visits.

The National Panel considered feedback and commentary from the Ngāi Tahu Mana Whenua Panel in its deliberations, and this is provided in the recommendation reports.

## Recommendation reports

Conservation values reports for each stewardship land area have been prepared by technical staff from DOC with input from the Ngāi Tahu Mana Whenua Panel.

The proposed recommendations of the National Panel and Ngāi Tahu Mana Whenua Panel are contained in recommendation reports, which include justifications for the proposed new classifications. Each recommendation report may apply to more than one conservation area.

The conservation values report and respective recommendation report for each stewardship area are accessible when you submit online. These reports have also been compiled into a searchable table which, along with the reports and other supporting documents (the management planning and landscape reports), is available through the DOC website: [www.doc.govt.nz/stewardship-land-public-notification](http://www.doc.govt.nz/stewardship-land-public-notification).

## Access to reports at local offices

Hard copies of the conservation values and recommendation reports are available for review (but not removal) at the following offices.

- Haast Visitor Centre, State Highway 6, Okuru 7886
- Westland Tai Poutini National Park Visitor Centre, 69 Cron Street, Franz Josef / Waiiau 7886
- Paparoa National Park Visitor Centre, 4294 Coast Road Punakaiki, RD1 Runanga, West Coast 7873
- Hokitika Office, 10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810
- Westport Office, 72 Russell Street, Westport 7825
- Karamea Information and Resource Centre, 106 Bridge Street, Karamea 7893

Due to the amount of information contained in each report, no photocopying of the reports will be available.

## Submissions and objections

Keep your submissions and/or objections relevant to the proposal(s) being made.

Where there are two recommendations for the same stewardship area (one from the National Panel and one from the Ngāi Tahu Mana Whenua Panel), your comments on either or both recommendations are sought.

Submissions are seen as public documents. Your name, organisation (if applicable) and submission(s) are likely to be available to the media and the public. You may, however, request that we keep other personal details (such as your contact information) confidential. Please note this in your submission if desired.

## Privacy

DOC is likely to post your submission on its website. Once submitted, submitters' information is subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and may be released under that Act.

DOC will deal with any personal information you supply in your submission in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020. DOC will only use your contact details for the purposes of processing the submission (or, in exceptional circumstances, for other reasons permitted under the Privacy Act 2020).

Where your submission is made publicly available, your contact details will be removed **only** if you have indicated this as your preference in the submission form.

Under the Privacy Act 2020, you may request the right of access to, and correction of, your own personal information provided in your submission.

## Analysis of submissions

Feedback relating to the notices will be compiled and reviewed. This includes summarising the submissions received and the extent to which they should be allowed or accepted.

The information will be presented to the panels to inform their final recommendations and, along with any other necessary information, will be provided to the Minister. If the Panels wish, they are also able to view the submissions to help support their final deliberations following the notification period.

## Next steps

Hearing dates and timeframes will be notified separately on the DOC website and, where applicable, submitters will be advised individually.

In some cases, additional statutory requirements (including declaring land held for conservation purposes under section 7 of the Conservation Act 1987) and processes will be undertaken prior to an approved proposal being implemented. For example, official geographic names are subject to the relevant provisions and processes of the New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa) Act 2008.

If approved, any proposals for the potential disposal of identified areas will be followed by further work to consider whether such disposals are appropriate in the circumstances, including (but not limited to) checking if they are required for another government purpose or for undertaking any Treaty of Waitangi obligations, prior to being made available for sale.

If approved, any proposals for national park additions will be subject to recommendations from the New Zealand Conservation Authority and are likely to be followed by further work to consider whether such additions are appropriate in the circumstances, prior to the Minister of Conservation making a recommendation to the Governor-General for an Order in Council.