

# 6. Administration

## ***Objective***

***To effectively administer the park in accordance with relevant legislation and planning instruments.***

The park is administered primarily under the National Parks Act 1980, but is also subject to other Acts, the General Policy for National Parks, other General Policies, and also to the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy.

Management of the park requires a range of administrative activities that enable the Department to carry out its legislative obligations and to implement this management plan and strategies. This plan is a statutory document and the Department is subject to its philosophy and provisions.

The Department has put in place a Quality Conservation Management (QCM) system that improves the way it carries out its functions and manages land it administers. The QCM system has been introduced in stages, the first of which applied to structures and set specific standards for the design and construction of all structures built by the Department. All the Department's activities, from planning to pest control, have a set of QCM guidelines that must be followed and standards that must be met. This plan will be implemented within the framework of the evolving QCM system.

## **Compliance and law enforcement**

National parks are set aside for all New Zealanders and visitors to this country. The Department manages national parks on behalf of all New Zealanders but it is important that visitors to a park share in the management responsibility and adhere to the purpose and principles that that park is managed under. The National Parks Act 1980 includes a list of offences which warrant legal prosecution. Conservation officers and Departmental compliance and law enforcement officers carry out responsibilities in respect to offences in the park. Offences are first discouraged through compliance education. If offences do occur, these can be pursued through law enforcement.

## **Unformed roads**

The formed and unformed legal roads running into the park are administered by the local council and can present management problems by enabling activities that are not permitted in the adjacent park. On the formed legal road at Kerr Bay the principal issue is management of weeds (Douglas fir), dogs and pets. Unformed legal roads can be used for parking, camping and similar activities and the Department has no legal ability to control this. Prevention of such activities on unformed roads is desirable.

The General Policy for National Parks (19.5) states that unformed roads "*should be closed and the land incorporated in the park except where they are essential as legal access to other lands*". The unformed extension of the Black Valley road on the eastern shore of the lake does not provide legal access to any other lands or properties. It should therefore be transferred to the Department and incorporated into the park in accordance with General Policy, following liaison with the Tasman District Council in whom the unformed road is vested.

## **Additions to the park**

Much of the park adjoins other conservation areas. In future, land adjacent to the national park which meets the criteria for national park status could become available. In such cases, the Department should seek to add that land to the Nelson Lakes National Park through the process dictated by the National Parks Act 1980.

## **By-laws**

In terms of the National Parks Act 1980, the Minister may make by-laws for park management that are not inconsistent with the management plan. This park has a set of existing by-laws (the Nelson Lakes National Park By-laws 1981) which require revision in line with this management plan. This management plan will also require a number of new by-laws to be passed in order to give effect to the implementation statements.

## **Fish and Game Council**

Because of the special relationship between the Department and the New Zealand Fish and Game Council in terms of the Conservation Act 1987, regard must be had to the Nelson/Marlborough Sports Fish and Game Management Plan in the management of sports fish (trout) and game birds in the park. However, the Department will recommend that the Minister exercise his/her discretion, in terms of section 26ZM of the Conservation Act 1987, to prohibit the release of trout and other exotic aquatic organisms into streams where they have not previously been released, or do not already exist.

## **Communications**

The Department relies on radio communication within the park and may require the installation of repeater stations to enhance communication systems for staff and public safety. In constructing any such structures, the Department will need to follow the guidelines for building structures as set out in section 3.1, Natural Features.

## **Helicopter use**

The Department often utilises helicopters for park management purposes. Helicopter overflight can have a significant adverse effect on the experiences of some visitors. In order to minimise these effects, the Department should seek to carry out activities requiring helicopter support at times of the day or year when visitors are least likely to be disturbed by the noise and visual impacts.

## **Memorials**

The General Policy allows for memorials such as plaques to be attached to structures such as huts in the park, where they are appropriate, and for the construction of monuments, but only where these are for people or events of exceptional importance.

## **Staff and management facilities**

The park visitor centre, staff houses, and the workshop areas are on park land. As a result, some routine activities require special exemptions (such as having a private vegetable garden) and routine visitor activities (such as bringing a pet into the carpark) can be in contravention of the National Parks Act 1980. The situation arises from the

time when the park was administered directly by a park board and this land needed to have a National Park status in order that the Board could manage it. The problem could be alleviated by setting aside these areas as government purpose reserves or under some other more appropriate status, through an Act of Parliament.

### **Areas of restricted use**

Some of the land, including much of the peninsula, was gifted to the park with particular restrictions on its use, sale or naming of facilities (Appendix 1). These restrictions, which include the naming of Gibbs Walk and the Blechynden Shelter at Kerr Bay, must continue to be recognised.

### ***Implementation***

- 6.0.1 Compliance and law enforcement activities in the park will be carried out in accordance with the National Parks Act 1980 and other relevant Acts.***
- 6.0.2 The addition of public land adjacent to the park which meets the necessary criteria will be sought if and when it becomes available.***
- 6.0.3 Stopping of the unformed extension of Black Valley Road on the eastern shore of the lake and its inclusion within the park will be sought.***
- 6.0.4 Local by-laws will be sought from Tasman District Council to assist in control of pets, particularly on the section of Black Valley Road that lies within the park.***
- 6.0.5 The amendment or passing of any new by-laws necessary to implement restrictions, as noted within this management plan, will be provided for.***
- 6.0.6 The Department will liaise with the Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council in the management of sports fish and game birds in the park.***
- 6.0.7 The Department will recommend that the Minister exercise his/her discretion in terms of section 26ZM of the Conservation Act to prohibit the release of trout and other exotic aquatic organisms where they have not previously been released, or they do not already exist.***
- 6.0.8 The Department will allow for the construction of communication facilities for Departmental use and ensure that they comply with the relevant considerations listed in section 3.1 Natural Features, regarding minimising impacts on landscape values.***
- 6.0.9 The impacts on visitors of helicopter use by the Department will be minimised, where possible, by timing flights to avoid high use periods or by avoiding over-flying areas where visitors are likely to have high sensitivity.***
- 6.0.10 Memorials of a monument type will be permitted only where the historical association of the site, individual or event is of exceptional importance, consistent with the General Policy.***
- 6.0.11 Where appropriate, benefactors of the park may be commemorated by unintrusive plaques on facilities such as huts, shelters and footbridges.***
- 6.0.12 Areas used for private or administrative purposes may be transferred from the national park to another more appropriate land status through an Act of Parliament.***

**6.0.13 Particular restrictions on the use of areas gifted to the park, as shown in Appendix 1, will continue to be recognised.**

**6.0.14 Vegetables and nonspreading shrubs and flowers may be planted for domestic purposes within the curtilage of staff houses.**

CMS REFERENCES:

Compliance, p225

Classification of Areas

Administered by the Department, p129

Community Liaison, p357