

# Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan

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# Preface

The management plan for Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park has been reviewed in accordance with the procedures set out in Section 47 of the National Parks Act 1980. This is a statutory document and provides for the management of Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park in accordance with the National Parks Act, the *General Policy for National Parks* (1983) and the *Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy* (2000). This is the second review of the original plan published in accordance with the National Parks Act 1952.

A management plan contains detailed objectives and policies for the effective management of the Park but does not override the provisions of primary legislation and general policy. The purpose of this plan is to express the overall management intentions for Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park for the next ten years.

This management plan has been prepared by the Canterbury Conservancy of the Department of Conservation and the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board, in consultation with the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy, representatives from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and other interested groups and individuals.

The plan acknowledges mana whenua and tāngata whenua status of Ngāi Tahu over their ancestral lands and waters within the Park. It acknowledges the Crown's relationship with and obligations to Ngāi Tahu under section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, provisions of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 and the Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement 1997. Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 requires the Department to so interpret and administer the National Parks Act 1980 as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi except where there is clearly an inconsistency between the provisions of the Act and the principles of the Treaty in which case the provisions of the Act apply. The plan integrates these acknowledgements at all levels.

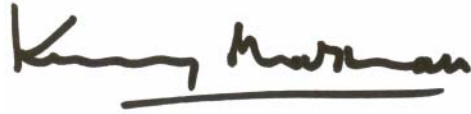
Public notice of the intention to review the plan was given on 5 December 1998 and the public were invited to make submissions on the management of the Park. As a result 27 submissions were received within the required time-frame and were considered in preparation of the draft management plan.

The draft plan was then notified on 29 September and again on 19 December 2001. Six months were allowed for public submissions. A total of 96 submissions were received and 47 submitters were heard in support of their submissions. These submissions were taken into account in the development of the revised draft submitted to the conservation board for its consideration before its referral to the New Zealand Conservation Authority for approval.

Aoraki Mount Cook National Park is home to New Zealand's highest mountain, which is also highly significant to Ngāi Tahu as their most sacred mountain. It is a Park of dramatic landscape, harsh alpine conditions and many moods, a magnet to recreationalists and tourists alike for a century in the past and assuredly many centuries into the future. The challenge for management, addressed in this Plan, is to achieve a balance between preserving the values of this Park for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use and enjoyment of future generations while enabling those living now to experience its natural character and raw magnificence to the fullest.

The plan will be effective for ten years from the date of approval but may be reviewed or amended at any time as a result of increased knowledge or changes in circumstance.

This plan was approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority on the 12th day of August 2004.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kerry Marshall". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Kerry Marshall  
Chairman, New Zealand Conservation Authority



## *How to use this plan*

This management plan provides for the management of Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park. The plan provides a legislative context and background section for the Park from which objectives, policies and methods have been developed.

Each park policy is numbered and has a corresponding explanation. Where a method is required to implement a policy, the number of the method matches the policy.

When using the management plan it is important to read and consider the plan and its provisions as a whole. Various objectives and policies may influence the interpretation of other parts of the plan.

Amongst other things, the plan provides guidance to assist park managers in the day-to-day management of the Park. Where additional information that may assist decision making is available, the information is referenced in the text. A full list of references is included at the end of this document.

