

## **Appendix B - Relevant Provisions General Policy for National Parks**

*Section 44 of the National Parks Act 1980 provides for the adoption by the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority) of statements of general policy (General Policy) that give both direction and guidance to conservation managers and to communities on how to preserve and protect these special areas and the indigenous species in them. In particular, the purpose of this general policy is to implement the National Parks Act 1980 and to provide consistent national direction for the administration of national parks through conservation management strategies and national park management plans..... The national park management plan for a national park has to be consistent with the general policy for national parks. If a course of action is proposed or an issue arises on which a national park management plan is silent, the General Policy (as well as the National Parks Act 1980 and the relevant conservation management strategy) will still need to be taken into account for any direction or guidance it gives on the issue. Specifically the Department is required, subject to the National Parks Act 1980 and in accordance with the General Policy, and any conservation management strategy and national park management plan covering a national park, to 'administer and manage all national parks in such a manner as to secure to the public the fullest proper use and enjoyment of the parks consistent with the preservation of the natural and historic features in the protection and well-being of the native plants and animals'. (Section 43, National Parks Act 1980)*

*1(a) The policies in this General Policy will apply to all national parks.*

*1(d) The words 'will', 'should' and 'may' have the following meanings:*

- (i) policies where legislation provides no discretion for decision-making or a deliberate decision has been made by the Authority to direct decision-makers, state that a particular action or actions 'will' be undertaken;*
- (ii) policies that carry with them a strong expectation of outcome, without diminishing the constitutional role of the Minister and other decision-makers, state that a particular action or actions 'should' be undertaken;*
- (iii) policies intended to allow flexibility in decision-making, state that a particular action or actions 'may' be undertaken.*

### **8.6 Vehicles and other forms of transport**

*8.6(a) a national park management plan should specify where the use of vehicles and any other forms of transport may be allowed;*

- (i) consistent with the outcome planned for places; and*
- (ii) where adverse effects on national park values, including natural quiet, can be minimised.*

*8.6(f) Powered vehicles*

*powered vehicles should not be taken into or used in national parks except on roads formed and maintained for vehicle use, and on routes specifically approved for use by specified types of powered vehicle in a national park management plan*

## **10. Activities Requiring Specific Authorisation (not covered elsewhere, including tourism activities)**

*10.1(b) any application for a concession or other authorisation will comply with, or be consistent with, the purposes of the National Parks Act 1980, the statutory purposes of the place with the activity is located, the conservation management strategy and national park management plan*

### **10.3 Utilities and Roothing**

*The presence of utilities and development of new roads is generally inconsistent with the preservation of national parks in a natural state. It is considered that there is sufficient roading in existing national parks and that further roads are not desirable. The need for ongoing maintenance and potential upgrading of existing roading infrastructure is recognised. There may be circumstances when location of utilities within a national park will be unavoidable; but the adverse effects of any such utilities and access to them should be minor. No roads, tracks, or routes can be constructed and no building or machinery can be erected in a wilderness area within a national park.*

#### **Policies**

*10.3(a) Utilities may be provided for in a national park where:*

- (i) they cannot be reasonably be established in a location outside the national park or elsewhere in the national park where*

*the potential adverse effects would be significantly less;*

*(ii) they cannot reasonably use an existing structure or facility;*

*(iii) their provision, uses and the means of access to them is not inconsistent with the recreational uses and opportunities of the site; and*

*(iv) they have minimal impact on ecological values, scenery and natural features and on the qualities of solitude, remoteness, wilderness, peace and natural quiet.*

*10.3(b) Conservation management strategies and national park management plans should require that utilities be of a scale, design and colour that harmonises with the landscape and any seascape, and not have an adverse effect on the natural state of the national park.*

*10.3(c) The construction or extension of utilities should take into account cultural values and avoid detrimental effects on wahi tapu.*

*10.3(d) A lease granting an interest in land with exclusive possession for a utility should be considered only when exclusive possession is necessary for the protection of public safety or the physical security of the activity or for its competent operation.*

*10.3(e) Co-siting of telecommunications and associated facilities should be required, to reduce the adverse effects of the facilities and the access to them, unless applicants can demonstrate that this would be impracticable.*

*10.3(f) Utilities that are redundant should be removed from the national park for the purpose of minimising adverse effects on the landscape, and the site restored as far as possible to a natural state.*

*10.3(g) When new facilities are installed or existing facilities upgraded, equipment and technology that reduces visual and other environmental effects should be required.*

*10.3(h) No new roads will be made over or through a national park except with the consent of the Minister given in accordance with the national park management plan.*

*10.3(i) New or upgraded roads provided for in a national park management plan should have minimal effect on natural features and those undertaking the construction should take measures to mitigate any adverse effects, including:*

*(i) avoidance of fragmentation of habitats and ecosystems;*

*(ii) rehabilitation of surfaces of earthworks;*

*(iii) weed control; and*

*(iv) collection and treatment of storm water run-off.*