

*Te Runanga Papa Atawhai o
Tāmaki Makaurau*

Auckland Conservation Board

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority pursuant to Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act 1987



■ Kawau Cruise service
to Mansion House Bay,
Kawau Island



COVER PHOTO: Auckland Conservation Board members (from left to right Glenn Wilcox, Nathan Kennedy, Alec Hawke, Emma Eichbaum, Jane Jones, Lyn Mayes, Andrew Jeffs) at Kaipara.

Tāmaki Makaurau

Herenga waka

Herenga Tangata

He waka eke noa

Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka

ora te iwi

Whāia te iti kahurangi kite tuohu

koe me he maunga teitei.

Tāmaki of many lovers

Destination of waka

Destination of people

We share this journey

By sharing our resources

(foodbaskets) all the people are

sustained

Aspire to and reach for the

stars and lofty heights will be

achieved.

Photos supplied by Board members

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I

Foreword to Annual Report, Auckland Conservation Board, 2017–2018

Tēnā koutou e ngā rangatira e ngā whaea

During the report year, the Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland Conservation Board commenced a review of the implementation of the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) (2014–2024) and is preparing a separate report to the New Zealand Conservation Authority.

The CMS describes the conservation values present in Auckland and provides guidance for the Department of Conservation's work in the form of a vision, objectives, outcomes for places, policies, outputs, and milestones. It was developed by former Board members and became operative as I joined the Board in 2014. This has effectively meant that Board members inherited the strategy and were perhaps not familiar with the intent behind the deliverables.

As part of its statutory function, the Board has reviewed the Department's implementation over the first three years against CMS milestones. This has been a time-consuming but ultimately rewarding exercise for our Board which we anticipate will allow current and future Board members to better monitor progress.

The Department developed a 'traffic light' reporting approach, which reports progress against objectives and milestones in the CMS. However, the Board has

determined that individually and in combination the milestones do not adequately cover the range of objectives in the CMS or provide sufficient overview of the extent or effectiveness of CMS implementation across the region. For example, many milestones are met when a report is written, regardless of its findings, so the Department may be reporting success despite conservation losses.

As part of the review we agreed key focus areas, and what is important within these areas. We have identified milestones that need to be elevated and others downgraded. Since 2014 when the CMS was prepared, the landscape has inevitably changed. For example, we have seen effects of climate change, the spread of kauri dieback through our forests, and the onset of new diseases such as myrtle rust. The Auckland region now has 1.53 million people which is 32% of New Zealand's population and an increase from the 1.4 million mentioned in the CMS. This provides context to the challenges which the Department faces in delivering CMS outcomes for a continually increasing resident and visitor population.

We have identified eight principal areas within the strategy and have considered the first three years performance of the CMS milestones with respect to these.

In conducting this work, the breadth of experience and

expertise across our Board has been of immense value. Board members have individual expertise in marine science, biodiversity, statutory process, cultural redress, tourism and communications and collectively bring a wealth of experience to our hui.

In November 2017 we celebrated with Ngāti Manuhiri the delivery of the Te Hauturu-o-Toi Conservation Management Plan (CMP). The CMP is a significant component of Ngāti Manuhiri's Treaty settlement and from the Auckland Conservation Board's perspective the development of this Plan has been a major part of our work since 2014. The collaboration in developing, approving and implementing the plan has been and will continue to demonstrate the effectiveness of co-governance of the island.

Such co-governance arrangements are only provided for in Treaty settlements for the most special sites which are of utmost significance for iwi. The CMP is however just the beginning of the journey. The Department and Ngāti Manuhiri have responsibility for giving effect to the Plan. Not only will this CMP maintain a high level of protection for the reserve, but it also sets out measures to enhance and protect the cultural footprint of Ngāti Manuhiri. The successful partnership between the Board, the Department and Ngāti Manuhiri to prepare the plan bodes well for the future of the island.

One of the critical milestones within the CMS, and a Treaty settlement requirement, is the development of a CMP for the Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana inner motu of Rangitoto, Motutapu and Motuihe/Te Motu-a-Ihenga in consultation with Tūpuna Taonga o Tāmaki Makaurau Trust which represents the interests of ngā mana whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau. Progress has been delayed towards developing the Motu CMP, pending agreement among the key parties about management and the resourcing of the project.

Kauri dieback is one of the principal threats to our region. Members of the Board visited the Okura Bush walkway prior to its closure to see how the Department has worked to mitigate the disease. The Board wrote to the Minister and Auckland Council to support the closure of tracks to prevent further spread.

We have also continued to request action to mitigate the potential significant environmental hazard posed by the Niagara shipwreck to the outer Hauraki Gulf Islands.

Another major area of concern is how Auckland balances the growth of housing stock whilst protecting our conservation values. Accordingly, we have written to the Minister seeking an investigation into the high levels of sediment deposited in the Long Bay Okura Marine Reserve by new developments.

I appreciate the support given by Board members past and present and I acknowledge the work of Board members: Innes Logan and Jane Jones, whose terms can to an end in June. The work of the Board would not be possible without the Department of Conservation staff who support and administer the Board led by Director Operations Auckland Andrew Baucke and Statutory Manager John Galilee. My role as Chair is made much easier from having a dedicated and diligent Department team and I learn much from our weekly meetings.

I look forward to the coming year and delivering on the priorities which we have set out for the Board.

Ngā mihi maioha



Lyn Mayes
Chair



Priorities for the Board: July 2017–June 2018

	Deliverable	Progress report
Conservation Management Plan(s)	Progress the CMP for the inner motu islands.	This has not been achieved pending ongoing discussions between the Tūpuna Taonga o Tāmaki Makaurau Trust and the Department about resources.
	Continue to work with Ngāti Manuhiri to deliver the Hauturu/Little Barrier Island CMP.	CMP formally launched in November 2017. Partnership continues to deliver the CMP.
Marine protection	Support and promote initiatives to protect Maui dolphin, Brydes whale.	Department and MPI have initiated a review of the Hector's and Maui dolphin Threat Management Plan that provides an overarching framework to identify human-induced threats to the populations and strategies to mitigate those threats.
		Continue to monitor impact of ships and cruise liners on Brydes whale in the Hauraki Gulf.
	Continue to seek action to address the threat of oil from the Niagara shipwreck.	Letter written to Minister advising her of our concerns. Provided comment to media to raise the profile of the Niagara.
	Continue to seek progress of the marine protection measures proposed to government agencies, including DOC, through Sea Change process.	Received regular updates from the Department. Sea Change is still being considered by the government.
	Ensure that our marine reserves and conservation land are not compromised by the rapid housing development and construction taking place in the region.	Received briefing from Okura Great Park Society and wrote to Minister regarding the Board's concerns about sedimentation in Okura Estuary from housing developments. Visit by NZCA to the area.

	Deliverable	Progress report
Threatened species management	Continually monitor threatened species in Auckland region including New Zealand fairy tern; takahē and kakapo.	Board meetings held in Kaipara; Motutapu Island and at Auckland Zoo to see programmes to address threatened species.
	Support predator-free programme in Auckland region.	Briefings by Department operational staff on preserving predator free islands and plans to create new predator free areas in the region. Board informed of incursions on Tiritiri Matangi, Motutapu, Motuihe and Rangitoto Islands.
Protecting NZ flora: kauri dieback response	Prioritise acceleration programme for addressing kauri dieback in the Auckland region where there is the largest estate of kauri.	Board visit to Okura Bush. Letters to Minister and Auckland Council. Support for rāhui in Waitākere Ranges; Okura Bush and Hunua ranges.
	Ensuring there is an appropriate strategy to address myrtle rust and other disease impacting New Zealand flora.	Briefings by Department on action taken by DOC and MPI. Hauturu and Rangitoto Islands are survey sites for myrtle rust.
Raising the profile of the Board	Comment on key issues impacting the Auckland region.	Social commentary on Facebook. Letters to Auckland Council and government. Media responses.

Report on Meetings and Activity 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

The Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland Conservation Board is an independent statutory body appointed by the Minister of Conservation. It was established by section 6L of the Conservation Act 1987. The Board has the responsibility for overseeing the development and implementation of the conservation management strategy (CMS) and conservation management plans (CMPs) for its region. As well as providing for interaction between the public and the Department of Conservation at the regional level, the Board also acts as an advocate for the protection of conservation values. Its prime role is to advise the Department, and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA).

The functions of the Board are set out in Sections 6M of the Conservation Act 1987. Under section 6(O) of the Conservation Act 1987 conservation boards are required to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) with an annual report.

2. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland Conservation Board as at 30 June 2018 was:

Lyn Mayes, Albany
Company Director, Chair
30/06/2020

Jane Jones, Auckland
Consultant, Deputy Chair
30/06/2018

Emma Eichbaum, Newmarket
Director 30/06/2018

Alec Te Aroha Hawke, Orakei
Event Director 30/06/2019

Innes Logan, Huapai
Company Director 30/06/2018

Nathan Kennedy, Waihi
Marutūāhu rōpū
Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki
Makaurau 30/06/2020

Robin Taua-Gordon
Tāmaki Waiohua rōpū
Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki
Makaurau 30/06/2020

Glenn Wilcox, Pukekohe
Ngāti Whātua rōpū
Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki
Makaurau 30/06/2020

Rodney Ngawaka, Te Motu Aotea
Kaumatua, Treaty negotiator,
Trustee 30/06/2020

Zahra Champion, Kumeu
Scientist 30/06/2019


Andrew Jeffs, Auckland
Scientist 30/06/2019

Malcolm Page, Botany
Facilities Manager 30/06/2020

Carolyn (Lyn) Mayes is a company director and founder of Mad World in 2001 which is an environmental consultancy dedicated to building networks and collaboration to improve NZ's environmental performance through best practice best cost outcomes. She is a strong advocate for wider industry engagement in conservation programmes and her recreational interests include Olympic weightlifting. Lyn is a New Zealand Masters Olympic weightlifter holding national records in the sport and competing for New Zealand internationally.

Jane Jones is a scientist and consultant. She was a member of the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board 2011–2014, has been a decision-maker for the Environmental Protection Authority with respect to the EEZ, and has worked in many parts of government. Her interests are in marine environment protection, earth sciences, biodiversity and archaeology. Jane is spending much more time these days focusing on her archaeological and heritage research interests, and enjoys bush & beach walking and sailing whenever she can.

Alec Hawke is an event director and organises Māori cultural involvement for many events in Auckland. He is of Ngāti Whātua Ōrakei, Ngāti Whātua Runanga, Tainui and Ngāti Whātua Kaipara iwi.



Board members walking across from Motutapu Island to Rangitoto Island

Rodney Ngawaka is a treaty negotiator for Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai Ki Aotea and kaumatua/kaitiakitanga environmental advisor for the Ngātiwai Trust. He has represented iwi in many conservation programmes and is committed to iwi development. He is of Ngāti Rehua Ngāti Wai iwi.

Glenn Wilcox is the Ngāti Whātua appointee to the Board, an outcome of the Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Settlement. He was part of the Ngāti Whatua o Kaipara Treaty Negotiation team. Glenn is the deputy chair of the Independent Māori Statutory Board of Auckland, a trustee on the Rūnanga of Ngāti Whātua and Chairman of the Committee of Management for the Otakanini Topu Farm.

Nathan Kennedy is of Ngāti Whanaunga and Marutūāhu descent and was appointed to the Board as a representative for Marutūāhu. He has been the environment officer for Ngāti Whanaunga for the last 17 years,

and is a passionate advocate for iwi participation in environmental management. An historic geographer by background, Nathan has been heavily involved in the development and application of Māori cultural and environmental indicators. He is also a geo-spatial analyst, and has worked for the Crown Forestry Rental Trust over the last eight years providing GIS support and sites of significance mapping for the Hauraki and Te Rarawa Treaty of Waitangi claims, and for Auckland Council mapping tribal rohe.

Emma Eichbaum is an executive director at Kantar TNS, one of the world's largest market research agencies. She is an experienced researcher who works closely with clients in the tourism sector to help them understand how to grow the high value visitor market to New Zealand, and to continue to deliver outstanding visitor experiences. Her interests include travel and photography.

Innes Logan is the publisher of SPASIFIK an award-winning magazine with a Pacific and Māori focus. Prior to that he was a reporter, editor, publisher, director, photographer in mainstream media. His company Oceania Media provides communications for Pacific organisations. Innes aims to promote greater conservation awareness among Pacific people living in Aotearoa. He is a keen kayaker.

Dr Andrew Jeffs is a marine scientist with the University of Auckland with a strong interest in the sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment. He has an extensive knowledge of the New Zealand marine environment, especially in the Auckland region, through his scientific research, recreational activities and previously working for the Department of Conservation on coastal protection more than 25 years ago.

Dr Zahra Champion is a scientist with experience in the government sector and has a strong focus on research, innovation, commercialisation, policy and planning. She is passionate about science, innovation and business growth, with experience in presenting new ideas, gaining buy-in to these ideas and setting up rigorous frameworks to support their success.

Malcolm Page has held positions in parks operations, planning, policy and strategy, and has a range of management experience in recreation and access, heritage and landscape protection, ecological restoration, and environmental education and community engagement.

Robin Tauga-Gordon is the Waiohua Tāmaki rōpū appointee to the Board, and an educationalist passionate about sustainable, environmental education. She is currently working as environment and heritage officer for Te Kawerau a Maki. Robin works with stakeholders within the rohe to achieve outcomes while maintaining kaitiakitanga responsibilities to the area's heritage and environment. Her tribal affiliations are with Te Kawerau a Maki, Tainui and Te Rarawa.



3. ATTENDANCE

Individual Board members' attendance at Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland Conservation Board activities during 2017-18 is displayed in the table to the right.

The sub-committee appointed to co-govern the development of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island comprised Ross Aitken (seconded), Glenn Wilcox and Lyn Mayes. The sub-committee met with Department staff and Ngāti Manuhiri throughout the year.

MEETINGS, TRIPS & WORKSHOPS 2017-2018

- A 16 Aug 2017 meeting - Long Bay
- B 15 Nov 2017 meeting - Kaipara
- C 15 Nov 2017 field trip - Papakanui Split
- D 14 Feb 2018 meeting - Motutapu Island
- E 14 Feb 2018 field trip - Motutapu Island & Rangitoto Island
- F 16 May 2018 meeting - Auckland Zoo
- G Total Board attendance
- H Total Board field inspections
- I 17 Jan 2018 workshop - CMS Progress Review
- J 31 Jan 2018 field trip - Kauri dieback - Okura Bush



ATTENDED

	Mayes	Jones	Champion	Eichbaum	Hawke	Jeffs	Logan	Kennedy	Ngawaka	Page	Taua-Gordon	Wilcox
A	■		■		■	■	■	■		■	■	■
B	■	■		■	■	■		■		■		■
C	■	■		■	■	■		■		■		■
D	■	■		■		■		■		■	■	
E	■	■		■		■		■		■	■	
F	■	■		■		■	■	■		■	■	
G	4	3	1	3	3	4	2	4	0	4	2	2
H	2	2	0	2	1	2	0	2	0	2	1	1
I	■		■		■			■		■		
J	■						■					

4. BOARD DISTRICT

The Department of Conservation has a long-term vision:

New Zealand is the greatest living space on Earth

The Auckland Conservation Board aims to promote this through the delivery of the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy.

The Auckland Conservation Board's area of responsibility extends from the west coast to the east coast in the narrowest part of New Zealand. The entrance to the Kaipara Harbour marks the north western corner of the region and Mangawhai Heads the north eastern point. In the south west the boundary follows the north bank of the Waikato River and the south eastern boundary is on the Firth of Thames at Miranda. Public conservation lands also include the Hauraki Gulf Islands. The largest of these is Te Motu Aotea - Great Barrier Island, where about 60% of the land area is administered by the Department of Conservation. In 2016, The Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee was established comprising representatives from iwi and the Aotea/Great Barrier Island community. In 2016 the Minister for the Environment also announced plans for a Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary which will see the transfer of the Board's responsibility for the Kermadec Islands.

The Board's district is a unique one in that it comprises the highly urbanised environment of the Auckland metropolitan area with one third of New Zealand's population, as well as extensive rural areas and remote offshore islands. The Board recognises the importance of making conservation real for the 1.53 million people living in Auckland and delivering a first-class conservation experience for the five million domestic and international visitors to Auckland each year.

The Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland region encompasses areas of very significant European historical importance as well as areas of ecological, natural, and amenity value such as the Firth of Thames, Kaipara Harbour, Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island, Tiritiri Matangi and Motuora, the inner Gulf Islands, Mansion House and the coastal defence installations at Maungauika/North Head, Fort Takapuna and Stony Batter. The Board has held meetings at Home Bay, Motutapu Island and South Head, Kaipara in the report year.

The marine environment is an important part of the Board's district and areas of interest. The Board's policy jurisdiction includes the Cape Rodney to Okakari Point Marine Reserve (New Zealand's first marine reserve), Motu Manawa / Pollen Island Marine Reserve in the Waitematā Harbour, Long Bay-Okura Marine Reserve and Te Matuku Marine Reserve on Waiheke Island. Tawharanui, on the eastern coast of the Rodney district was gazetted in August 2011. The Board met at the Sir Peter Blake Marine Education and Recreation Centre, Long Bay-Okura Marine Reserve in August 2017.

UPDATE ON OUR ROHE

Te Hauturu-o-Toi/ Little Barrier Island

In November 2017 the Board celebrated with Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and the Department the formal delivery of the Te Hauturu-o-Toi CMP. The Board acknowledges the staff at the Department who have diligently managed the process and most importantly they thank Mook Hohneck, CEO Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and the Trust for their partnership, passion and humour.

The Conservation Management Plan is a significant component of Ngāti Manuhiri's Treaty settlement and from the Board's perspective the development of this Plan has been a major part of our work since 2014. The collaboration in developing, approving and implementing the plan has been and will continue to demonstrate the effectiveness of co-governance of the island. Such co-governance arrangements are only provided for in Treaty settlements for the most special sites which are of utmost significance for iwi.

Rangitahua – Kermadec Islands

Rangitahua - the Kermadecs are the most remote islands managed from Auckland. They present special management issues because of their distance off shore and ongoing volcanic activity. The



Board has approached the Te Hiku Conservation Board to discuss a transfer of responsibility to that Board. This process is ongoing.

Motutapu & Rangitoto Islands; Motuihe Island/ Te Motu-a-Ihenga

The Tāmaki Makaurau Motu CMP has been delayed pending consultation with the Tūpuna Taonga Trust by the Department to address key issues relating to resourcing. The Board visited the islands during the report year.

The Rangitoto Island Historic Conservation Trust is now renting out two baches which are proving popular as visitor numbers to the island continue to be high. The inclusion of the Rangitoto Summit Track as one of the Department's Great Short Walks has resulted in increased use of the track.

The Board were fortunate to see some of the 19 takahē on Motutapu Island during its visit to the Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp. The Board was also hosted by the Motutapu Restoration Trust and inspected their nursery facilities and planting areas.

Following its visit, the Board has raised concerns about poor land management and farming practices on Motutapu Island and a lack of available resources from the Department to act in the conservation interests of the island and the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

Aotea/Great Barrier Island

The Board's planned joint meeting with the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee was unfortunately cancelled during 2017.

The Board has provided letters of support for Aotea to be selected by the Department as one of the new Great Walks.

During the report year, there has been discord on the island with polarised views from the community about pest control/predator free status specifically around the Rakitū rat eradication project. The Board supported the Aotea Environmental Trust's expression of interest to be considered for funding from Predator Free NZ.

Three Aotea-based programmes received funding from the



Aotea/Great Barrier Island

Takahē on Motutapu Island

Department's community fund: The Windy Hill Rosalie Bay Catchment Trust, the Motu Kaikoura Trust and the Kotuku Peninsula Charitable Trust.

Kawau Island

The Department took the decision on Kawau Island not to log the old growth pine forest, except where individual trees need to be removed for public safety. The main driver for this decision was the estimated cost of restoring and managing the land post-harvest. The Board expressed its concern that it was not consulted on this matter.

Motuora Island

The island has a self-sustaining ecosystem that has re-established through community led restoration activities. The island remains a safe haven for North Island brown kiwi and is free of mammalian pests. The Motuora Restoration Society has renewed their lease for the nursery on the island.

Tiritiri Matangi Island

The island remains extremely popular with the public. The Department has established a

monitoring programme to assess the impacts of visitors on the natural values of the island and the quality of the visitor experience.

Browns Island (Motukorea) has reverted to management by Auckland Council, which owns the island, and will no longer be part of the Motu Plan.

Kauri dieback

The Auckland region and its islands are home to kauri some of the largest and oldest trees in the world. Since the CMS was written the threat to kauri from kauri dieback, which is an irreversible disease caused by a fungus-type organism has intensified.

The Board raised this threat to a standing item on its Board agenda in 2015 and supporting the kauri dieback mitigation programme, interventions and strategies is a priority for our Board.

The Board wrote in August 2017 to the chief executive of Auckland Council to offer its support to the joint work which is being conducted with the Department of Conservation, having voted at its August meeting to support taking decisions to close access to forests

which are free of the disease as well as forests where there is kauri dieback to prevent spread through human movement.

The installation of boardwalks and rerouting tracks away from kauri appear to be making a difference. We also support introducing "border security" style washing facilities to ensure compliance with the hygiene protocols. Closing forests in one region such as the Waitakere Ranges will put pressure on other forests including Okura Bush Scenic Reserve so the Board supports a cohesive Auckland region approach which needs to including a widespread public awareness campaign to articulate the reasons for action. The Board is very concerned that council, MPI and the DOC do not have a coordinated and consistent approach and has written to the Minister of Conservation seeking government intervention.

5. BOARD COMMITTEES

Active sub-committees at 30 June 2018 were as follows:

Communications

Emma Eichbaum, Zahra Champion, Alec Hawke, Lyn Mayes, Jane Jones

Concessions

Emma Eichbaum, Jane Jones, Alec Hawke, Robin Taua-Gordon

6. BOARD FUNCTIONS: SECTION 6M OF THE CONSERVATION ACT

SECTION 6M(1)(B) CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL

Te Hauturu o Toi Plan

The Board has learnt much through the process of developing the Hauturu CMP in partnership with Ngāti Manuhiri. The CMS does not reflect the deep engagement with iwi which comes through the development of a CMP. Developing a CMP requires conducting the work with a mātauranga Māori lens and moulding the approach within the statutory process.

The Board approached the Hauturu CMP in partnership with Ngāti Manuhiri and the Department by appointing a sub-committee. The sub-committee provided Ngāti Manuhiri with a small and consistent group of Board members with whom they worked over a three-year period and this was an important consideration

for the iwi. Having a small group of people was beneficial in that it facilitated consistency and ease of decision making. However, this approach was felt to disenfranchise other Board members from the process.

For future CMP development, the Board will appoint a sub-committee to deliver the detailed work programme but will ensure that the plan is brought back to the full Board regularly and that key decisions are taken as a Board. It is important that the appointed sub-committee can see the process through to ensure that our iwi partners have consistency and that knowledge is not lost and experience is harnessed. The three-year terms for Board members means that this is not always possible. To deliver the Hauturu CMP the Board co-opted its former Chair Ross Aitken to oversee the process.

Tāmaki Makaurau Motu CMP

One of the critical milestones within the CMS, and a Treaty settlement requirement, is the development of a CMP for the Hauraki Gulf/Tikapa Moana inner motu of Rangitoto, Motutapu and Motuihe/Te Motu-a-Ihenga in consultation with Tūpuna Taonga o Tāmaki Makaurau Trust, the Department and Auckland Council. Since the signing of the CMS, management of Motukorea (Browns) Island has reverted back to Auckland Council.

Progress has been delayed towards developing the Motu CMP pending agreement among the key parties about management and the resourcing of the project.

The Board has expressed serious concerns to the Department about achieving progress with the CMP acknowledging that developing a CMP for just one island (Te Hauturu-o-Toi) took three years to complete.

The Board has asked the Department and the Trust what is required to commence this process.

Progressing the Motu CMP offers a great opportunity for mana whenua for these motu and the Department to work together to develop an effective plan to ensure the best future for these important islands, in the same manner has occurred with the Te Hauturu-o-Toi CMP.

SECTION 6M(1)(C) CMS IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The Board reviewed DOC's implementation over the first three years against milestones contained in the CMS. The Department has developed a 'traffic light' reporting approach, which reports progress against objectives and milestones in the CMS. However, the Board has determined that individually and in combination the milestones do not adequately cover the range of objectives in the CMS, or provide sufficient overview of

the extent or effectiveness of CMS implementation across the region. For example, many milestones are met when a report is written, regardless of its findings, so the Department may be reporting success despite conservation losses.

The Board recommends that the Department reviews the recommendations of its summary report and commissions a comprehensive review of how the CMS is being implemented, reported and measured.

The Board recommends that a formal review is implemented and resourced to review DOC's implementation of the Act in what would be the first review by a Board after 30 years of operation of the Act. This will enable the Board to fulfil its powers under Section 6N of the Conservation Act.

Endangered species

The Board considers its role in monitoring endangered species in the Auckland conservancy to be a priority. This is one of DOC's many biodiversity-related tasks. In assessing DOC's efforts at prioritising and partnering for biodiversity the Office for the Auditor-General notes the difficult and complicated task the Department has in managing biodiversity, one that crosses geographical boundaries — between private and public land and waterways — and organisational boundaries at various levels of government and

outside government (Office of the Auditor-General, 2012). The report identified the need for significant improvements.

The Auckland region contains an exceptionally high diversity of birds including New Zealand's most endangered species listed in the CMS as being nationally critical:

- Parera grey duck
- White tern
- Kermadec white-faced storm petrel
- Takahē
- Kākāpo
- Tūruatu New Zealand shore plover
- Tara iti/New Zealand fairy tern

The Board has asked the Department to provide updates at each meeting on threatened species. The Board is particularly concerned about the plight of the critically endangered tara iti/New Zealand fairy tern which has a declining population of around 35–40 individuals. The CMS seeks an increase to 100 birds by 2021 which is unlikely to be achieved without radical intervention.

Numerous threats challenge many of these seabird populations, including vehicle use of beaches and dunes, introduced predators and habitat change induced by human activities. Among these threats of growing concern is climate change, with rising sea level and increasing storminess creating issues for our shore nesting species such as fairy tern and tūruatu/New Zealand shore plover.

For example, shore plover suffered a poor breeding season in summer of 2017–18 on Motutapu Island, with high tides coinciding with storm events surging across shore nesting sites.

The Board met at the Sir Peter Blake Marine Education and Recreation Centre to learn more about marine conservation.

The Board reviews all translocations at its quarterly meetings and in May 2018 took the opportunity once again to meet at Auckland Zoo to better understand the important role of the zoo in supporting our conservation efforts.

Auckland Zoo's Curator of Ectotherms & Birds, Richard Gibson, showed the Board around the conservation habitat including the rescue programme for Chesterfield skinks. The zoo has created an environment for these skinks to carefully replicate their natural West Coast micro-habitat and climate so that they can continue to display all their natural behaviours to help maximise their chances of survival once they are able to be returned to a safe area in the wild.

The conservation programme also includes a wētāpunga breed for release which translocates weta from Te Hauturu-o-Toi to other suitable islands.

Marine protection Maui dolphin

Maui dolphin are a subspecies of Hector's dolphin, the world's smallest dolphin, and it is believed

that there are fewer than 100 individuals left in the world. The west coastline of Auckland between the Manukau Harbour entrance and Port Waikato is the most common area where they are found. The Department and MPI have initiated a review of the Hector's and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan (TMP) noting that there may be new threats to contend with, e.g. from oil and gas industries, sand mining and disease. Toxoplasmosis has been indicated in some necropsies and could be significant. Seismic survey risk will be considered as part of the review's risk assessment. At the last review five years ago, set-netting was the greatest threat.

The Board has committed to working with the Taranaki/Whanganui Board and Northland and Waikato Boards to coordinate a response to the stakeholder consultation process for the TMP.

SECTION 6M (1)(F) FISH AND GAME COUNCIL LIAISON

Minutes and agenda are provided to the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council.

During the report year Andrew Jeffs has been the lead point of liaison.

SECTION 6M(1)(G) DELEGATION OF POWERS BY THE MINISTER

The Minister has not delegated any powers or functions to the Board.

7. POWERS OF BOARDS: SECTION 6N OF THE CONSERVATION ACT

These powers provide the Board with the authority to run its affairs as it wishes and to advocate its interest through statutory processes.

The Board has made several submissions during the period as outlined in the Chair's report.

8. BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES: OTHER SECTIONS OF CONSERVATION ACT

The Board ensures that the perspectives of whānau, hapū and iwi are understood before making decisions, and is working with iwi to progress Treaty settlements such as the Hauturu and Inner Motu Conservation Management Plans.

9. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Board is very aware of the challenges of bringing a strong community voice to the Auckland region and its 1.5 million residents.

In the report year, the Board has written to Auckland Council to endorse greater collaboration in the fight against kauri dieback; summarised the challenges in the region in a letter to the incoming Minister; supported the application from Aotea/Great Barrier Island for the Aotea Track to be selected as one of the new Great Walks;

continued to advocate for action to address the potential risk posed by the Niagara shipwreck and written to the Minister of Conservation with regards to the risks to the Long Bay-Okura Marine Reserve.

The Board reaches out to the community through its field trips which in the report year include visits to Okura-Long Bay Marine Reserve; Motutapu and Rangitoto Islands; Papakanui Spit; Kaipara; and Auckland Zoo.

The Board continues to communicate via its Facebook page [facebook.com/auckconservationboard/](https://www.facebook.com/auckconservationboard/) to more directly engage with the community more directly.

Minutes and agenda are exchanged with Northland and Waikato Conservation Boards.



Biosecurity hygiene measures in place in Auckland's kauri forests, January 2018

III

Appendices

APPENDIX 1

AUCKLAND CONSERVATION BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

The table below outlines the Auckland Conservation Board budgeted and actual spending for 2017-2018. To 30 June 2018.

ITEM	ACTUAL \$ YTD	BUDGET \$ YTD	VARIANCE	FULL YEAR BUDGET
Board fees	9,087	9,000	(87)	9,000
Office costs	152	1,000	848	1,000
Travel & accommodation	2,047	6,000	3,953	6,000
Hospitality & events	2,795	4,000	1,205	4,000
Printing & publication	1,159	1,000	(159)	1,000
Education & training	0	4,000	4,000	4,000
Total	15,240	25,000	9,760	25,000

IV

Map of the Auckland Region

