

Auckland Conservation Board
Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Tāmaki Makaurau

Annual Report 2021-2022



Cover photo: Tara-iti/fairy tern chicks

Photographer: Shelley Ogle, DOC

Published by

Auckland Conservation Board
c/- Department of Conservation
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Wellesley Street

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ISSN 1172-0514 (print)

ISSN 1175-1851 (online)

April 2023

This publication is produced using paper sourced from well-managed, renewable and legally logged forests.

*Tāmaki Makaurau
Herenga waka
Herenga Tangata
He waka eke noa
Mai i ngā wai rere
a Topuni tae noa ki te
mahana o Pukoru
Kainga ngā ika katoa*

Annual Report of the
Auckland Conservation Board
Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Tāmaki Makaurau

For the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority / Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa pursuant to section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Edward Ellison
Chairperson, New Zealand Conservation Authority
PO Box 10420
Wellington 6143

Tēnā koe Edward

I submit, in terms of section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987, the annual report of the Auckland Conservation Board (the Board) for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. The Conservation Act requires that the Board report each year to the New Zealand Conservation Authority on its operations.

The Auckland region was subject to lengthier COVID-19 lockdown restrictions during the year than any other region in the country. Lockdowns meant that the Board was only able to meet in person on two occasions during the year and no field trips were able to be undertaken. Despite the impact on the Board's operations during the year, the Board was still able to achieve much of its annual work programme.

The Board was deeply concerned about the declining state of our precious native species and ecosystems across the region. Biodiversity in the region continues to be seriously impacted by pests and weeds, ongoing incremental development is reducing the extent of natural areas, and the threats posed by climate change are yet to be fully assessed and understood. The declining state of Te Moananui-a-Toi/Tīkapa Moana/the Hauraki Gulf has been well documented by the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

Despite this there were some bright pieces of news during the year. One example related to tara-iti/ fairy tern which is New Zealand's most threatened native bird with only around 40 individuals left. A new programme to hand raise chicks was commenced during the year to increase the numbers of fledglings being added to the population.

The importance of engaging with the community was also highlighted during the Year. The Board heard from community representatives about issues at the Te Maketu Historic Reserve, which is a significant site for south Auckland iwi. As a result, the Board was pleased that the Department of Conservation initiated a programme of work to better manage the site.

The Board ended the year with a successful in person meeting at the offices of Ngāti Manuhiri in Mahurangi/Warkworth. It was important for Board members to reconnect with each other and allowed us to reflect on a difficult year and the challenges we face, and prepared us for the year ahead.

No reira

E noho ora mai

Nicola MacDonald
Chairperson
Auckland Conservation Board

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1. INTRODUCTION

This is the 2021-2022 Auckland Conservation Board Annual Report. Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (Authority) with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Auckland Conservation Board (Board) submits this annual report.

Conservation boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. They represent the community and offer interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation (Department), within their area of jurisdiction.

Conservation board members are appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987 (Act). Board functions are outlined in section 6(M) and the powers, which enable the conservation boards to carry out those functions, are under 6(N) of the Act. The Board has several statutory roles under various Acts, including:

- the recommendation of the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and the Authority on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice
- reporting on the implementation of the CMS
- the recommendation of national park management plans to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and Authority on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- liaising with the regional Fish and Game Council on conservation matters
- carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

Conservation boards also have several functions under section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980. These functions include recommending the review or amendment of national park management plans and recommending approval of these plans by the Authority.

2. ROHE

The Auckland Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area of 2,430,884.34 hectares. This area 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 marks 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 Pūkoro/Miranda. The Board's district also currently includes Aotea/Great Barrier Island, Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier and the islands of the Hauraki Gulf as well as the Kermadec Islands, located 800-1,000km northeast of the North Island.

The area also extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit. with respect to protected species.

Public conservation land and waters make up 44.97% of all the Board's total district. This consists of:

- 36,727 hectares of Public Conservation Land
- 336,858 hectares of Sanctuaries to Protect Marine Mammals
- 729,606 hectares of Marine Reserves, including the 716,509 ha Kermadec Islands Marine Reserve.

These areas constitute approximately 8.38% of all public conservation areas in New Zealand. Part of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park lies within the Boards' jurisdiction.

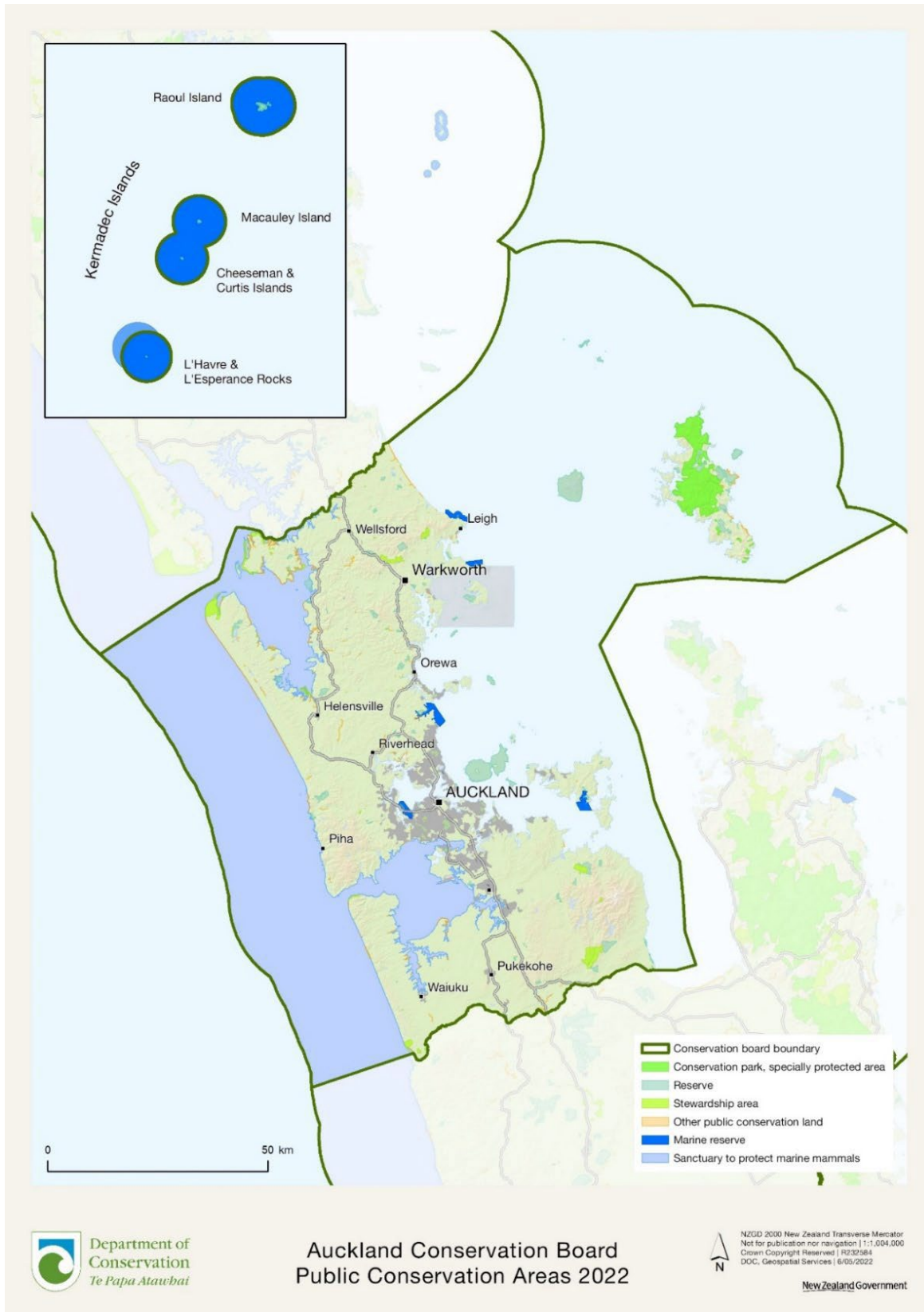


Figure 1. Auckland Conservation Board Jurisdiction

2.1 Tangata whenua

The Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland region has a strong and varied iwi landscape. 19 iwi groups have recognised interests in the region:

- Ngāti Wai
- Ngāti Manuhiri
- Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua*
- Te Uri o Hau
- Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara*
- Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei*
- Te Kawerau ā Maki*
- Ngāti Tamaoho*
- Te Ākitai Waiohūa*
- Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki*
- Ngāti Te Ata*
- Te Ahiwaru Waiohūa
- Waikato-Tainui
- Ngāti Pāoa*
- Ngāti Whanaunga*
- Ngāti Maru*
- Ngāti Tamaterā*
- Te Patukirikiri*

13 iwi, indicated by *, are represented by Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau (the Tāmaki Collective), which signed the Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Deed with the Crown in 2012.

2.2 Conservation features of the area

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, remote offshore islands and marine environments. The Board recognises the importance of making conservation real for the 1.6 million people living in Auckland and, notwithstanding the impact of COVID-19 on international and domestic tourism, delivering a first-class conservation experience for 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. They include the Firth of Thames, Kaipara Harbour, Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island, the Mokohinau island group, Aotea/Great Barrier Island, Tiritiri Mātangi and Motuora, and the inner Gulf Islands including Rangitoto, Motutapu and Te Motu-a-Ihenga/Motuihe, Mansion House on Kawau Island and the coastal defence installations at Fort Takapuna and Stony Batter on Waiheke Island. The Department manages about 60% of 28,000ha Aotea Great Barrier island, which is approximately 40% of all public conservation land in the region.

The area also extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit with respect to protected species. The marine environment is an especially important part of the Board’s district and areas of interest. The Hauraki Gulf/Tīkapa Moana/Te Moananui- ā-Toi contains 40 pest-free sanctuaries and is a stronghold for a huge number of indigenous species found nowhere else in the world, including threatened seabirds, shorebirds, marine mammals, fish and marine invertebrates.

The Board’s area also includes the Cape Rodney to Okakari Point Marine Reserve (New Zealand’s first marine reserve at Leigh), Motu Manawa / Pollen Island Marine Reserve in the Waitematā Harbour, Long Bay-Okura Marine Reserve and Te Matuku Marine Reserve at Waiheke Island. Tāwharanui Marine Reserve, on the eastern coast of the Rodney district, is the newest marine reserve and was gazetted in August 2011.

The main features of Public Conservation Land and Waters within the Board’s boundaries are:

- Aotea Conservation Park – 12,896.05 ha
- 85 Scenic Reserves – 6,735.54 ha
- 13 Historic Reserves – 307.22 ha
- 38 Recreation Reserves – 3,335.35 ha
- 68 Stewardship Areas – 4,794.85 ha
- 223 Marginal Strips – 948.58 ha
- 6 Marine Reserves – 719,606.16 ha
- 1 Sanctuary to Protect Marine Mammals – 338,096.97 ha

2.3 Conservation issues in the area

Approximately 7.59% of all public conservation land in Aotearoa lies within the region. The large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- The need to connect more Aucklanders with nature and to provide sufficient infrastructure and facilities to safely support access to conservation land for 1.6m Aucklanders and thousands of domestic and international visitors to Tāmaki Makaurau.
- The protection and management of the many threatened species and ecosystems in the region, due to destruction of habitat and the impact of development. While a number of threatened species have populations on pest free islands in the Hauraki Gulf or within mainland sanctuaries, there are many more species that do not have enough management attention. Many marine and freshwater species in particular are under huge pressure and require better regulatory protection.

- The risks to indigenous species and ecosystems from the effects of climate change. The Board has particular concern for those species that are already threatened and for which climate change will exacerbate adverse trends, and for those ecosystems that are limited in geographic scale and vulnerable to the changes that climate change will bring.
- Understanding how to give effect to the aspirations of mana whenua in relation to conservation, and to give full effect to Treaty settlements, including in particular, the Tāmaki Makaurau Motu Plan and the development of a fit for purpose Auckland Conservation Management Strategy (also see Section 7.0).
- Ensuring that the resource management system and related decisions does not further degrade important ecosystems or erode populations of threatened species and their habitats – for example by opposing the continuation of sand mining off Pākiri beach and the proposed landfill at Wayby Valley in the upper Hoteo catchment.
- Supporting the goals of the New Zealand Predator Free 2050 strategy. In the short to medium term the Board is concerned about how it can support the communities on inhabited islands such as Kawau, Waiheke and Aotea/Great Barrier to work towards becoming predator free.
- Protecting and enhancing access to the large number of heritage sites that are located on public conservation land within the region that are not being actively managed. There is a disproportionate lack of resources for heritage work in Auckland, and for providing high quality interpretation so visitors can understand the stories related to those sites and their importance.
- Restoring Tīkapa Moana/Te Moananui-a-Toi/the Hauraki Gulf. More than 20 years of “State of the Gulf” reports from the Hauraki Gulf Forum have tracked an ongoing decline in the health of the Gulf, and widespread public concern about its ecological condition and support for efforts to restore the mauri of the Gulf. It considers that the Government’s “Revitalising the Gulf” is a starting point but working towards the goals of the Hauraki Gulf Forum, for at least 30% of the Gulf under some form of marine protection, as well as the removal of trawling and dredging, measures to preserve depleted marine species such as koura, scallops and paua, and the protection of seabirds.



*Photo: Black Petrel
Credit: Sarah Dwyer, DOC*

3. FUNCTIONS

3.1 Board functions under section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987

The functions of the Board are:

- 1) To recommend the approval by the Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments
- 2) To approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments
- 3) To advise the Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for the area within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 4) To advise the Authority or the Director-General on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance
- 5) To advise the Authority or the Director-General on any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board

- 6) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matter within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 7) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

3.2 Board powers under section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987

- 1) Every conservation board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.
- 2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each conservation board may -
 - i. Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
 - ii. Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.
- 3) The power conferred by subsection (2)(a) shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board's functions.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The Minister of Conservation appoints Board members under section 6P of the Conservation Act 1987. The process of appointment ensures that a range of perspectives, life experiences, and knowledge contribute to the advice provided and decisions made by the Board.

Board members are appointed for 3-year terms and may be re-appointed, unless they are appointed in replacement of a prior member's term. There were 11 Board members for the reporting year. During the year 3 members resigned and were not replaced. In February 2021 Nicola MacDonald was elected Chairperson. Pengbo Jiang was elected Deputy Chairperson in August 2021.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 (* denotes that the member resigned during the year):

Board Member	Area	Term start	Term end
Natalie Devery	Auckland	01 July 2021	30 July 2024
Natalie Hansby*	Auckland	01 July 2019	08 November 2021
Jody Jackson-Becerra*	Auckland	01 July 2021	16 February 2022
Pengbo Jiang	Auckland	01 July 2019	30 July 2022
Shane Lavery	Auckland	01 July 2021	30 June 2024
Nathan Kennedy	Auckland - Marutūāhu Roopu	01 October 2014	30 June 2023
Mervyn Kerehoma	Auckland - Ngāti Whātua Roopu	01 July 2020	30 June 2023
Nicola MacDonald	Auckland	01 July 2018	30 June 2024

Gael Ogilvie	Auckland	01 July 2021	30 June 2025
Malcolm Page*	Auckland	01 July 2017	27 October 2021
Kate Waterhouse	Auckland/Great Barrier Island	19 November 2019	30 June 2024

4.1 Members profiles

NATALIE DEVERY: Natalie brings a legal background and a keen interest in environmental and human rights law. She is interested in environmental protection, and skilled in legal research and drafting. Ms Devery is Te Atiawa – Tainui and has an inherent understanding of the Māori world view.

NATALIE HANSBY: Natalie is an experienced senior manager in conservation, local government and tourism, with experience in strategic planning, risk management, operationalising strategy and community empowerment. She has eight years’ experience as a senior manager at Auckland Zoo and is a former board member of Girl Guiding New Zealand.

JODY JACKSON-BECERRA: Jody has worked in education, strategy and planning. She has an academic background in business sustainability and disaster management, and a passion for climate action and youth engagement. She brings a Pasifika viewpoint to the work of the Board.

PENGBO JIANG: Pengbo is an experienced board member and advisor in public and not-for-profit sectors. He holds a Masters degree in Management and has a Certificate in Māori Studies. With a background in volunteering, he is a recipient of the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers in recognition of work in the community.

SHANE LAVERY: Shane is an Associate Professor at the university of Auckland and offers over 40 years’ experience in marine and terrestrial biological conservation research. He has extensive knowledge of biodiversity and has served on several advisory boards.

DR NATHAN KENNEDY (of Ngāti Whanaunga, Marutūāhu, and Ngāti Hei): Nathan is nominated by Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau / Marutūāhu rūpū. Nathan is a Treaty negotiator for Ngāti Whanaunga, GIS (geographic information systems) analyst, and was environment officer for Ngāti Whanaunga for over 15 years. He is currently engaged as the senior Māori heritage technical specialist within Auckland Council's Chief Planning Office. He holds a PhD in Geography.

MERVYN KEREHOMA (of Ngāti Karaua and Ngāti Whanaunga): Mervyn is nominated by Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau / Ngāti Whātua rūpū. He has experience in cultural engagement and as a relationship liaison. He has knowledge of ecology restoration planning, pest management and biodiversity monitoring.

NICOLA MACDONALD (Ngāti Rehua, Ngāti Wai, Te Rarawa, Te Atiawa, and Ngāti Maru ki Taranaki): Nicola is a current member of several governance bodies, including the Hauraki Gulf Forum, the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee and the Māori Women’s Welfare League. She has experience in leading environmental programmes such as the Restore Rakitū and Bring Back Kōkako projects.

GAEL OGILVIE: Gael is the Director of Nature’s Grace Aotearoa. She has extensive governance experience, serving on a number of Boards and Steering Groups concerned with environmental sustainability. She is currently a Board member of the NZ Ecolabelling Trust.

MALCOLM PAGE: Malcolm has over 30 years’ experience in parks & recreation management, including 22 years in Auckland with Manukau City Council and most recently with Auckland Council following local

government re-organisation. He 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. Malcolm has developed co-management agreements in partnership with Ngai Tai Ki Tāmaki and Te Ākitai Waiohū.

KATE WATERHOUSE: Kate is an experienced business and conservation leader. She is a writer and consultant with strategy, facilitation and change experience across the public and private sector in New Zealand and globally. Kate advocates for a collaborative approach to biodiversity and ecosystems restoration and is Chair of the Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust, Deputy Chair of the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee and a trustee of the Hauturu Supporters Trust. She is married with three daughters and has recently completed a Masters in Creative Writing at the University of Auckland.

5. MEETINGS AND FIELDTRIPS

The Board held 4 public meetings during the reporting period. Venues for Board meetings normally vary each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the region to attend meetings and access the Board. However, during the year 3 of the 4 meetings were held online as a consequence of COVID-19 restrictions.

The Board also held 7 workshops during the year to focus on specific matters (designated by asterisk).

Meeting date	Location/Venue
14 July 2022*	Department of Conservation offices, Auckland
18 August 2021	Online
8 September 2021*	Online
15 November 2021*	Online
17 November 2021	Online
7 December 2021*	Online
23 February 2022	Online
23 March 2022*	Online
13 April 2022*	Online
25 May 2022	Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust offices, Warkworth
15 June 2022*	Department of Conservation offices, Auckland

5.1 Agendas

The Board hosted and heard from a number of speakers at its public meetings during the year including:

- Chris Gaskin, a founder of the Northern New Zealand Seabird Trust, spoke about key findings in the “State of Our Seabirds” report published by the Trust in 2021, The report described the importance of

the Hauraki Gulf for seabirds, the threats seabirds face, and actions that are required to better protect seabirds and secure their populations (17 November 2021 meeting).

- Ange Chaffe, Matthew Bloxham and Belinda Studholme, all of Auckland Council, presented to the Board about the Council’s work to monitor the state of freshwater in the region, and about initiatives to protect native freshwater fish species (25 May 2022 meeting).

Department staff also attended the public meetings throughout the year.

- Shelley Ogle, Ranger Biodiversity, Warkworth, presented to the Board about the tara-iti/fairy tern species recovery programme (18 August 2021 meeting).
- Dave Smith, Improvement Manager, Auckland, presented to the Board about how the Department manages and prioritises its biodiversity work (18 August 2021 meeting).
- Angela Mayson, Director Partnerships, Auckland, presented to the Board about her team’s work on growing conservation engagement and action among people in urban Auckland. She described the overall strategy and some of the specific projects that are underway (17 November 2021 meeting).
- Rosemary Miller, Technical Advisor Freshwater, Whanganui, presented about the Department’s work related to freshwater management (25 May 2022 meeting).

The agendas and minutes from all Board public meetings can be found on the Board’s webpage.

5.2 Field trips and site inspections

Field trips are normally an excellent opportunity for Board members to become more aware of conservation issues within their region. However, as a consequence of COVID-19 restrictions the Board was unable to undertake any field trips or site inspections during the year.

5.3 Members’ attendance 2021/22

Board Member	Meetings (total 4)	Workshops (total 7)	Fieldtrips (total 0)
Natalie Devery	4	5	0
Natalie Hansby	1	1	0
Jody Jackson-Becerra	1	0	0
Pengbo Jiang	4	6	0
Shane Lavery	4	6	0
Nathan Kennedy	3	7	0
Mervyn Kerehoma	2	4	0
Nicola MacDonald	3	7	0
Gael Ogilvie	4	7	0
Malcolm Page	1	2	0
Kate Waterhouse	4	7	0

6. MAHI

6.1 Board Committees

The Conservation Act 1987 enables the Board to establish committees to carry out functions or tasks delegated by the Board. Committees that were active during the reporting period, and members involved in those committees included:

- Communications: the purpose of this committee was to progress the Board's Communications Plan. For the first part of the year the committee was assisted through the services of a public communications contractor. During the reporting year the Board posted regularly on its Facebook page (also see section 8.5, Community Visibility).

Members: Natalie Hansby Nicola MacDonald, Gael Ogilvie, Malcolm Page

- Concessions: the purpose of this committee was to assess applications for concessions that are referred to the Board under its agreed triggers and to provide advice to the Department. It also leads the Board's work on providing advice to the Department on other statutory proposals referred to the Board. During the reporting year, 2 applications were referred to Board for their comments. The committee provided comments on both applications.

Members: Pengbo Jiang, Nathan Kennedy, Malcolm Page, Natalie Devery

6.2 Special events

In July 2021 and June 2022, the Board held dinner events to acknowledge its new and departing members. The events were also an opportunity for the Chair to recognise the year's work by all members as volunteers for conservation, and to note their achievements.

6.3 Training for members

Newly appointed members were inducted into their role as a Board member in July 2021.

7. STATUTORY ACTIVITY

7.1 Annual Work Plan

After receiving its Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation, the Board sets out its work plan for the upcoming year. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

During the first part of the year the Board revised its Work Plan in response to the Minister's priorities in her Letter of Expectation and to address matters that the Board also wished to focus on. The Work Plan was submitted to the Minister in February 2022. The Board's five strategic priorities were:

- Taonga Tuku Iho - biodiversity.
- Whakamana Te Tiriti o Waitangi – giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
- Mahi Kaupapa – statutory functions.
- Communications and advocacy.
- Wāhi Hononga - cultural heritage.

7.2 Auckland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The Auckland CMS was approved in 2014. The Board has received regular reports from the Department on the implementation of the CMS with each report focussing on a different theme, at the request of the Board. Themes reported on were freshwater, marine, cultural heritage and biodiversity.

Members were satisfied overall with the progress made and the range and amount of work completed.

However, they also noted concern that there are a growing number of milestones identifying work that is yet to be commenced or is not being completed within the timeframes indicated in the CMS. In the 2019/2020 year the Board developed “supplementary milestones” for a relatively small number of parts of the CMS, to better define how to measure and monitor progress in those areas. During the year the Department began reporting on these. Separately, Board members participated in the Department’s internal review of its management planning system, which included the purpose of the CMS within that and proposed improvements.

7.3 Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Conservation Management Plan (CMP)

The Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island CMP was approved in 2017. It was developed by the Board in conjunction with the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and was an important part of redress for Ngāti Manuhiri under their Treaty settlement. During a workshop on 7 December 2021 the Board received a presentation from Terrance (Mook) Hohneck, Chair of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust, about the CMP. He described how the CMP was developed and what the CMP has meant for improving how the island is managed and for Ngāti Manuhiri’s aspirations.

7.4 Tāmaki Makaurau Motu Plan (the Motu Plan)

The Board continues to be extremely disappointed with the continued lack of progress to begin development of a Conservation Management Plan for the inner motu/islands of the Hauraki Gulf (ie. Rangitoto, Motutapu and Motuihe/Te Motu-a-Ihenga). It is a requirement under the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014 and is intended to be prepared by the Board in conjunction with the Tūpuna Taonga o Tāmaki Makaurau Trust. The Motu Plan is also an important milestone in the Auckland CMS. Despite the Board’s continued advocacy efforts to the Department and with iwi, progress has now been delayed for a number of years. This is unfortunately beyond the Board’s influence at this time.



Photo: Hauturu
Credit: Chippy Wood, DOC

8. ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise, and some members have specific roles in liaison. The Board appointed a member to liaise with one key group:

Board member	Organisation/Group/Agency
Shane Lavery	Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

8.1 Board and New Zealand Conservation Authority liaisons

The Board holds a liaison relationship with neighbouring conservation boards. Liaison roles for the reporting year were held by:

- Kate Waterhouse – liaison to Northland Conservation Board
- Nathan Kennedy – liaison to Waikato Conservation Board

The New Zealand Conservation Authority has a liaison member with the Board to facilitate communication. Tak Mutu was the Authority's liaison for the reporting year. The Authority liaison normally attends Board meetings, and reports to the full Authority on matters raised, however the liaison member was unable to attend any Board meetings during the year.

Two members of the Board, Nicola Macdonald and Kate Waterhouse, were until 30 June 2022 members of the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee, and provided liaison with that group.

8.2 Advice to the Department

The Board provided formal written advice to the Department on the following matters:

- An application from the Rangitoto Island Historic Conservation Trust to lease a building on Rangitoto for the purposes of a museum (14 September 2021).
- An application from Intercity Group (NZ) Ltd. for a renewal of a marine mammal watching permit (14 September 2021).

8.3 Submissions

The Board advocated its interests during the reporting period through several submissions, available in full on its web page:

- Proposed Whangaparaoa coastal management plan (8 July 2021)
- Draft Emissions Reduction Plan (24 November 2021)
- Auckland Regional Parks Management Plan review (4 March 2022)
- Streamlining the stewardship land reclassification process (17 March 2022)
- Proposed Hākaimango-Matiatia (Northwest Waiheke) Marine Reserve (18 March 2022)
- Pakiri sandmining mid and near shore resource consent applications (20 June 2022)
- Conservation management planning and concessions legislation (30 June 2022)

Under the Resource Management Act the Board joined the appeal process in opposition to a proposed new regional landfill planned for a rural site in the Wayby Valley, in the headwaters of the Hoteo river. The Board lodged a submission with the Environment Court which supported the appeals of a number of other parties.

8.4 Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Meetings are normally held in different parts of the Auckland region and opportunities for the

public to attend Board meetings were advertised. As a consequence of COVID-19 restrictions during the year 3 of the Board's 4 meetings were held online.

Members of the public and representatives of organisations attended the Public Forum at several of the year's meetings and a range of issues were raised. The Board appreciated their input and efforts made to attend the meetings and responded to concerns raised.

Public forum issues raised were:

- A trustee of the Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland Te Araroa Regional Trust asked the Board to keep the Te Araroa trail, and any impacts upon it, in mind when considering conservation issues in the region (17 November 2021 meeting).
- Representatives of local iwi, supported by a representative of Fire and Emergency New Zealand, spoke of their concerns about the condition of the Te Maketu Historic Reserve, located near Drury. They identified a high risk of fire from unmown grass, the poor state of the walking track, car parking difficulties, and rubbish and weed issues (23 February 2022 meeting).
- Representatives of the Noises Marine Project presented to the Board about their proposal for increased marine protection around the Noises Islands, which are located northeast of Rakino Island. They also discussed work being undertaken to restore the marine and terrestrial environment of the Noises (25 May 2022 meeting).

The Board invited representatives from a number of community organisations to present at its meetings. Speakers this year have represented:

- Te Pu-a-nga Maara, who are a collective of rangitahi/Māori youth from three marae in South Auckland. They spoke about their project which uses mātauranga Māori in their work to restore the environment (23 February 2022 meeting).
- Te Whakaoranga o te Puhinui, who spoke about the project to restore the Puhinui Stream and its catchment (23 February 2022 meeting).
- Whenua Warriors, who spoke about their work to build gardens to help feed communities in South Auckland (23 February 2022 meeting).

These were predominantly voluntary groups carrying out huge amounts of largely voluntary conservation work within the community. The Board recognises and appreciates volunteers and thanks them for the work done in this area.

8.5 Community visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website, and via the quarterly Conservation Board Newsletter. The Board also maintains a Facebook page on which it posted about items of interest during the year. It is an objective of the Board to improve its public visibility and its effectiveness as a channel for the conservation concerns of the community. However, the Board is allocated minimal funds for operations and has no dedicated communications resources. The Board considers this gap to be an area that the Department needs to address if it wishes to improve the Board's performance and outcomes in Tāmaki Makaurau.

8.6 District and regional council advocacy and advice

The Board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the Auckland Council, which is a unitary authority for the Auckland Region and shares the same terrestrial boundaries as the Department's Auckland Region. Many of the regional issues in which the Board is interested require collaboration with Auckland Council, or individual Local Boards.

During the year, the Board met with officers of Auckland Council to hear about their work related to the monitoring of freshwater in the region and their work to protect native freshwater fish species. Members

also hold relationships with their own Local Boards and with Council officers, facilitating communication on specific issues. An example is the implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao, freshwater ecology in the region, community conservation and the implementation of “Revitalising the Gulf”.

8.7 Iwi liaison and advocacy

The Board always welcomes opportunities to meet with representatives of iwi to understand the perspective of mana whenua on conservation issues in the region.

During the year the Board met with the Chair of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust, who spoke to the Board about the Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island CMP (see section 7.3 above). The Board worked alongside Ngāti Manuhiri on the Wayby Valley Landfill and Pākiri Sand Mining consent hearings submissions, which both affected their rohe.

The Board provided a letter of support to Tū Mai Taonga, a Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea led landscape scale predator eradication project on Aotea/Great Barrier Island, following the Board’s last visit to Aotea. In addition, individuals engaged with iwi regarding the Motu Plan process to attempt a solution.

9. FEES AND ALLOWANCES

Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951. The chairperson receives a daily meeting fee of \$330, and other Authority members receive a daily meeting fee of \$250.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Board would like to acknowledge the ongoing support of its former member Prof. Andrew Jeffs who supported the Board’s work on its submission on the Pākiri sand mining consent applications.

The Board would also like to acknowledge and thank Laura Chartres, Annwyn Buchanan and Lucy Holder who undertook the role of Board Support Officer for periods during the year.

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Tāmaki Makaurau
Auckland Conservation Board
Annual Work Programme
1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022

Work Programme overview

This Work Programme has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation dated 11 November 2021. It is structured in three parts, namely:

- Part A: Regional Work Programme

Planned Board activities to meet statutory requirements and act on regional advocacy priorities:

1. Taonga Tuku Iho / Biodiversity
2. Whakamana Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi
3. Mahi Kaupapa / Statutory Functions
4. Communications and Advocacy
5. Wāhi Hononga / Cultural Heritage

- Part B: General Expectations

Planned Board activities aimed at general expectations contained in the letter:

6. Mahi ki te Mahi / Working with the Department of Conservation
7. Mahi Kotahitanga / Working with other Conservation Boards and related groups
8. Ohotata Āhuarangi / Addressing the Climate Crisis

- Part C: Risks and Opportunities

9. Issues from the Board's perspective
10. Opportunities for conservation growth

Status Indicator

Colour	Indicates
Green	Completed
Orange	Started and is ongoing
Red	Not started yet

12. PART A: REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

1 Taonga Tuku Iho / Biodiversity

The ability and capacity of te taiao (nature) to sustain and maintain whole living systems, whakapapa ecosystems and regenerate its own mauri, while contributing to the mauri of tangata and taonga tuku iho is paramount.

Kaihautu: Mervyn Kerehoma, Shane Lavery

Rōpū tautoko: Kate Waterhouse, Nathan Kennedy, Nicola MacDonald

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

- Address Auckland's declining indigenous biodiversity.
- Improve the protection and regeneration of marine habitats and ecosystems.
- Address restoration of freshwater ecosystems and indigenous freshwater fish.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - <i>we know we are on the right track when...</i>
A	Monitor the status of at-risk species and ecosystems in the rohe, and advocate for the prioritisation of indigenous biodiversity taonga		<p>The Board focused its August 2021 meeting on terrestrial biodiversity. It received an updated report on a list of threatened species that the Board uses to track progress with threatened species recovery. It also received reports on how the Department prioritises its ecosystems work, managing kauri die-back, and a presentation on the tara-iti/fairy tern recovery programme.</p> <p>The Board's November 2021 meeting was focussed on marine conservation. It received an update on implementation of <i>Revitalising the Gulf: Government Action on the Sea Change Plan</i>, and a presentation from the Northern NZ Seabirds Trust on key themes in its <i>State of our Seabirds</i> report.</p> <p>The Board lodged submissions on matters that had the potential to affect threatened species and ecosystems, or to protect them. They included submissions to the Environment Court in relation to the application for a new regional landfill in the Wayby Valley, submissions opposing sand mining off Pākiri Beach that could potentially affect tara-iti/fairy tern habitat, and on an application for a new marine reserve off Waiheke.</p>

			The Board is represented on the Hector's and Māui dolphin North Island Stakeholder Forum.
B	Work to understand the role the Board can play so it can collaborate with DOC, mana whenua and others to support the implementation of Te Mana o Te Taiao - The Aotearoa NZ Biodiversity Strategy.		The Board received a presentation from the Department about implementation of Te Mana o Te Taiao - the Aotearoa NZ Biodiversity Strategy, and provided feedback on implementation requirements in Auckland. The Board initiated planning for a "biodiversity summit." The summit will bring together iwi, Auckland Council and conservation sector leaders to identify ways to collaborate for improved biodiversity outcomes.
C	Support implementation of the Government's "Revitalising the Gulf" plan by including it as a focus in the Board's Communications Plan for 2021/2022, with the aim of increasing public awareness and support, emphasising protection of marine habitats, restoration and protected species.		The Board's November 2021 meeting was focussed on marine conservation. It received an update on implementation of <i>Revitalising the Gulf: Government Action on the Sea Change Plan</i> and included supporting this work as a focus area in its Communications Plan.
D	Participate in the resource consent process for applications for sand extraction at Pākiri, with the focus being to address threats and risks to marine ecosystems.		The Board participated in the resource consent processes under the Resource Management Act, opposing the three consents which the applicant is seeking. It appeared at the hearing for the Off-shore consent, which was subsequently declined. The Board lodged submissions opposing the In-shore and Mid-shore consents, with support from former Board member Prof. Andrew Jeffs.
E	Obtain an understanding of the state of freshwater ecosystems, whakapapa sensitive catchments and freshwater species in the Auckland region through obtaining information about their current state from DOC, Auckland Council or other sources.		The Board focussed its May 2022 meeting on freshwater biodiversity. It received presentations from Auckland Council about the state of freshwater ecosystems in the region, and on their work to protect and restore populations of threatened freshwater fish species. It also received a presentation from the Department about its national work programme related to freshwater.

2 Whakamana Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

Me he manawa tītī, through perseverance in knowing and understanding the principle of partnership in the Treaty, we can truly move forward.

Kaihautu: Natalie Devery, Pengbo Jiang

Rōpū tautoko: Nathan Kennedy, Jody Jackson-Becerra, Mervyn Kerehoma, Gael Ogilvie

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

- Enhance relationships with Treaty Partners by supporting the implementation of Treaty of Waitangi partnerships and the requirements of Section 4 of the Conservation Act

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - <i>we know we are on the right track when...</i>
A	Increase awareness of and develop Tiriti of Waitangi knowledge competencies of Board members, including but not limited to understanding Section 4 of the Conservation Act, decolonisation, co-governance, basic beginners guide such as pepeha, karakia, language familiarisation. Hold at least one hui on a marae and incorporate cultural competency elements in all Board workshops for the year.		The Board learnt from its tangata whenua members about aspects of the Māori perspective on issues when it discussed matters that were before it during the year. The Board held its May 2022 meeting at the offices of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust in Warkworth. Ngāti Manuhiri welcomed the Board with a mihi whakatau and members learnt about some elements of Ngāti Manuhiri's history and their cultural landscape.
B	Prepare and submit expert evidence and submissions supporting mana whenua appellants (Ngāti Manuhiri and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua) and DOC in the Environmental Court Appeal on the Wayby Landfill consent application.		The Board lodged submissions to the Environment Court in relation to the application for a new regional landfill in the Wayby Valley and expressed support for the appeals from Ngāti Manuhiri and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua) and the Department.

C	Continue to work with Ngāti Manuhiri to deliver the Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island Conservation Management Plan (CMP), by monitoring and advising on its implementation, and by meeting with Ngāti Manuhiri to review progress.		At a workshop in December 2021 the Board received a comprehensive presentation from the Chair of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust about the development of the Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island Conservation Management Plan and its implementation.
D	Continue to engage with mana whenua and develop understanding co-governance frameworks with a view to guiding the Board's mahi.		Opportunities for the Board to engage with mana whenua was limited due to COVID-19 related restrictions for much of the year.

3 Mahi Kaupapa / Statutory Functions

Kia tupu, kia hua, kia puāwai, to grow, to prosper, to sustain

Kaihautu: Kate Waterhouse, Natalie Devery

Rōpū tautoko: Nathan Kennedy, Pengbo Jiang, Jody Jackson-Becerra

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

- Fulfil the board's statutory functions for the Auckland Region.
- Contribute to any reviews of conservation management strategies and plans and support their progress effectively to promote strong conservation outcomes.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - <i>we know we are on the right track when...</i>
A	Monitor implementation of the 2014 Auckland CMS by seeking reports from DOC on progress, focussed on those actions and milestones where timeframes are not being met, and provide advice to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) and DOC on significant concerns identified by the Board. Use this information to help prepare for the eventual review of the CMS.		<p>The Board received reports from the Department at each of its meetings which summarised progress towards implementing milestones in the Auckland CMS. The reports included a number of "supplementary milestones" added by the Board which aim to better describe the required work and outcomes where the CMS milestones are not sufficiently clear.</p> <p>The Department's reports included a status indicator to highlight where timeframes are not being or may not be met.</p>

			<p>As a contribution towards planning for the review of the Auckland CMS, at a workshop in March 2022 the Board received a presentation on progress towards development of the new Te Hiku CMS, which has featured an innovative way of working with iwi and the community.</p> <p>At a workshop in June 2022 the Board engaged with Department staff working on policy for legislative amendments to streamline the process for the development and review of management planning documents.</p>
B	Give advice to the Department on concession applications triggered to the Board for consultation, and other		The Board provided advice to the Department on two concession applications that had met the Board's triggers for referral to it. The Board also provided advice to the Department on two land exchange proposals.
C	Advocate to the Minister, NZCA and DOC for progress on the Conservation Management Plan for the inner islands of the Hauraki Gulf (the Motu Plan) and consequent compliance with DOC's obligations under the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014.		<p>During the year the Board continued to advocate for progress on development of the Tāmaki Makaurau Motu Plan. At its May 2021 meeting the Board had resolved to pursue mediation with the Department to try and force progress however, after the receipt of further advice, the Board accepted that mediation was not an option it was able to pursue.</p> <p>The Board's initiative did however reinforce that that Board is frustrated with the lack of progress and has urged the Department to seek agreement with all the interested parties about adequate resourcing to enable work on the plan to proceed.</p>
D	Submit and provide comment on matters that affect conservation in Tāmaki Makaurau, including national or regional policy proposals and draft strategies. statutory processes as required.		The Board submitted on a number of matters that affected or were relevant to conservation in Auckland. The Board's submissions are listed in the main body of this Annual Report (see section 8.3).

4 Communications and Advocacy

Nau te raurau, naku te raurau kia ora ai te iwi, with your basket and my basket all will be well

Kaihautu: Gael Ogilvie, Jody Jackson-Becerra

Rōpū tautoko: Pengbo Jiang, Nicola MacDonald, Natalie Devery

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

- Ensure more Aucklanders connect with and appreciate nature through increased awareness of the Board and its role in representing community voices

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary - <i>we know we are on the right track when...</i>
A	Implement the Board's Communications Strategy over a suite of platforms including maintaining the Board's Facebook page, developing broader web-based communications, and issuing media releases on important subjects, to engage wider audiences and position the Board as a trusted and independent conservation advocacy body.		<p>The Board contracted external communications support, but this ended in March 2022. The contractor donated much of her time and was unable to support the Board due to other commitments. This limited the Board's ability to implement its Communications Strategy. A replacement had not been found by year end.</p> <p>The Board maintained its Facebook page but once the contractor ceased to support the Board the page had a limited number of new posts on topics such as Seaweek 2022 and the Hauraki Gulf Forum.</p> <p>The Board issued no media releases during the year.</p>
B	Develop and implement a social-marketing campaign with key messages aimed at connecting more Aucklanders to nature and the Board through promotional e-messaging.		<p>The Board was reliant on very limited contracted external support to implement a social media campaign. As noted above this support was not available for much of the year so a dedicated campaign was not able to be initiated.</p>

C	Support public awareness and implementation of cross-agency efforts to manage the ongoing threat of kauri dieback, by including it as a focus in the Board's Communications Plan for 2021/2022.		The Board was reliant on limited contracted external support to implement its Communications Strategy, which included kauri die-back as a planned focus.
D	Review the outputs of the Northland Conservation Board Arohata Te Taio initiative and explore the benefits of shaping something similar for Tamaki Mākaurau		At the Board's February 2022 meeting the Chair of the Northland Conservation Board gave a presentation about the outcomes of their Arohata Te Taio initiative, to capture public feedback about conservation and what they value most. The Board undertook a review of the initiative and decided to focus on expanding the use of its existing Facebook page to engage with the Auckland community rather than initiate something new.

5 Wāhi Hononga / Cultural Heritage

Mō tātou, ā, mō ngā uri ā muri ake nei, for us and for the generations that follow.

Kaihautu: Nathan Kennedy, Kate Waterhouse

Rōpū tautoko: Shane Lavery, Jody Jackson-Becerra

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

- Ensure protection and promotion of cultural heritage sites in the Auckland region,

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary – <i>we know we are on the right track when...</i>
A	Obtain an understanding from DOC about work programming for the management of cultural heritage sites in the Auckland region, particularly Māori heritagesites.		The Board requested but did not receive a report from the Department about how it determines its management of cultural heritage sites during the year. A report from the Department will be scheduled for the 2022/2023 year.

B	<p>Obtain an understanding of Māori cultural heritage and the values mana whenua hold for their culturally significant places, and advocate for the protection of those values.</p>		<p>Among the Board's membership were some who affiliated to mana whenua in the Auckland region. The Board relied on those members for guidance in relation to significant cultural heritage and the values mana whenua hold for those places.</p> <p>At its February 2022 meeting the Board heard from community representatives about the poor condition of the Te Maketu Historic Reserve near Drury. On investigation the Board came to understand that this was a very important site of cultural and historical significance, and strongly advocated to the Department that it address the concerns that had been brought to the Board's attention. There are now a range of actions in progress to address the issues raised.</p> <p>The Board subsequently requested data from the department on the number and location of other reserves with similar issues in the region.</p>
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6 Mahi ki te mahi / Working with the Department

Me mahi tahi tātou mo te oranga o te katoa, working together for the wellbeing of everyone.

Kaihautu: Nicola MacDonald, Pengbo Jiang

Rōpū tautoko: Gael Ogilvie, Mervyn Kerehoma

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

- Foster positive working relationships and open dialogue with directors, managers and board support officers in order to engage strategically in conservation for the region

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - <i>we know we are on the right track when...</i>
A	Embed the principles of whakawhanaungatanga and manaakitanga in the working relationship between the Board and the Department.		The Board maintained a good working relationship with the Department during the year. The principles of whakawhanaungatanga and manaakitanga were reflected in the relationship, which helped to sustain an open and trusting relationship.
B	Maintain regular feedback and monitoring of the Board's progress towards implementation of its Annual Work Programme, including regular review by the Board during the year, and supported with advice from Departmental support staff.		The Board regularly reviewed its progress towards implementing its Annual Work Programme. The Board set aside time during its meetings on 18 August 2021 and 17 November 2021 to developing and finalising the Annual Work Programme, and time during its meetings on 23 February 2022 and 25 May 2022 to check on its implementation. In addition, a number of the Board's workshops during the year also included time dedicated to developing the Annual Work Programme and progress checks on implementation.

7 Mahi Kotahitanga / Working with other Conservation Boards and related groups

He waka eke noa, we're all in this together.

Kaihautu: Nicola MacDonald, Pengbo Jiang

Rōpū tautoko: Kate Waterhouse, Nathan Kennedy

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - <i>we know we are on the right track when...</i>
A	Board representatives to act as liaison members to attend and support neighbouring Conservation Boards (Northland and Waikato). Liaison members attend a minimum of two meetings per year per neighbouring board.		Representatives of the Board attended all 4 meetings of the Northland Conservation Boards, and 3 of the 4 meetings of the Waikato Conservation Board, as liaison members.
B	Maintain effective communications with the NZCA.		The Board's interaction with the NZCA was not as effective as it could have been. This

			was due to limited engagement by the NZCA member who was assigned as liaison with the Auckland Conservation Board, due to other commitments. The Board Chair raised the lack of effective engagement with the Chair of the NZCA.
C	Develop a working relationship with relevant conservation-based councils, advisory groups such as Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee (ACPAC), Fish and Game Council.		The Board had a strong working relationship with the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee (ACPAC) as two members of the Board were the Chair and Deputy Chair of ACPAC. The Board maintained a limited relationship with the Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council and received regular reports from the assigned liaison member about the Council's business.

8 Ohotata Āhuarangi / Addressing the climate crisis

Our climate is already changing, kei te panoni te āhuarangi

Kaihautu: Gael Ogilvie, Nathan Kennedy

Rōpū tautoko: Gael Ogilvie, Mervyn Kerehoma, Jody Jackson-Becerra

Whāinga roa / Objectives:

- Support the transition to a lower-carbon conservation delivery model, having regard to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019.
- Reduce the Board's carbon emissions.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - <i>we know we are on the right track when...</i>
<i>External facing</i>			
A	Develop and agree on the board's role to drive DOC actions that bolster conservation work based on a detailed understanding of climate change implications.		The Board discussed the implications of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystems at a number of its meetings and workshops during the year. An agreed understanding of the Board's role is evolving as the Board continues to discuss this matter.

B	Where possible, actively promote the key connections between our climate and biodiversity crises		The Board took opportunities to promote the linkage between the climate and biodiversity crises as they arose. As an example, at a workshop in June 2022 members raised the importance of nature-based solutions with Department staff following a presentation about implementation of Te Mana o Te Taiao - the Aotearoa NZ Biodiversity Strategy.
<i>Internal facing</i>			
A	Evaluate the Board's climate impact by undertaking an assessment of emissions generated by Board activities.		The Board did not undertake an evaluation of its emissions during the year. However as there was very limited travel and meetings were online, we assess them to be low.
B	Actively manage the Board's activities to reduce the negative climate impact of the Board's operations, including holding at least one meeting online during the year, and opting to hold all workshops online unless the subject matter requires in person attendance (for example, marae wānanga designed to further the cultural competencies of Board members under Action		The Board's emissions were substantially lower than the previous year as so many of its meetings and workshops were held online due to COVID related restrictions. 3 of the Board's 4 formal meetings were held online during the year., and 2 of its 4 workshops were also held online. Board members were encouraged to share travel to meetings by minibus or by carpooling.

13. PART C: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

9 Risks identified from the Board's perspective

A	Board member capacity to deliver expectations in the Work Programme is limited by the number of new members and vacancies.
B	Board function is affected by the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on face-to-face meetings and effective interactions between members, especially new members.
C	The Board is unable to fulfil its statutory role in the preparation of the Motu Plan due to external delays on progress.
D	The Board's budget for legal and communications support impacts its ability to deliver expectations in the Work Programme.

10 Opportunities for conservation growth in the Board's role

A	Support DOC to work effectively with Auckland Council to progress marine protection using the refresh of the Auckland Unitary Plan covering the coastal zone.
B	Develop the Board's effectiveness and capability in working with iwi to further conservation goals through meeting the requirements of Section 4 of the Conservation Act.
C	Advocate for and support community-centric conservation and engagement with te taiao through breakthrough projects with diverse communities across Tāmaki Makaurau (e.g. Puhinui, Jobs For Nature projects).
D	Explore how momentum might be built with iwi, DOC and Auckland Council to better protect and restore freshwater in the Auckland Region.
E	Advocate for and support the successful implementation of island predator eradications on Waiheke, Aotea and Kawau to increase safe havens for burrowing seabirds and other endangered species close to Auckland.



This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act 1987 and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend conservation board meetings.

If you would like more information on the Auckland Conservation Board please see the website www.conservationboards.org.nz or contact the board support officer, at the Department of Conservation in Auckland phone (09) 307 9279 or e-mail aucklandconservationboard@doc.govt.nz.

