



Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Waitaha me Aoraki
Annual Report 2019-2020



CANTERBURY AORAKI CONSERVATION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

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

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1. Chairperson's report

The Department of Conservation is an organisation which is well adapted to uncertainty and working in a constant state of change, but this year has been a particularly challenging one. Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board is grateful for the accommodating way in which the Department has continued to provide time and resources to enable the Board to function and fulfil its purpose throughout.



Indigenous biodiversity

The Board appreciates receiving an operations report at each of its meetings. Among other matters, indigenous biodiversity conservation efforts in Canterbury are detailed. Despite difficulties, significant progress has been reported this year on high-profile threatened species kakī and kākārīki karaka as well as lesser-known native species such as upland longjaw galaxias. In addition, ongoing and incremental efforts by the Department and others managing biodiversity threats such as wildings, other weeds, wasps and predators of all kinds must surely be paying dividends in supporting the survival of Canterbury's diverse indigenous species and ecosystems. The Board commends staff in Canterbury for their obvious and enthusiastic commitment to what the Board considers is the Department's most important work.

Recently the Board prepared to support the removal of Tahr from within national park boundaries by participating in a High Court Declaration proceeding initiated by Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand. This process is now on hold.

Statutory plans and their implementation

Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan was supposed to have been the Board's main statutory planning task this year and was expected to be completed by now. The Board looks forward to the completion of this big piece of work in the year ahead, over five years after the review process began.

Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board is concerned to learn that review of the 2007 Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan, which was to have been completed by next year, is not currently programmed. The Board wishes to draw the attention of the New Zealand Conservation Authority and the Minister of Conservation to the fact the Department does not appear to have the resources to meet existing statutory planning obligations.

In October 2019, the Board was pleased to receive comprehensive and timely annual reports on the two national parks in Canterbury. Although there is evidence steady implementation progress is being achieved, these reviews also highlight to the Board how dated the existing national park management plans are.

The Board was also pleased with the Department's improved reporting on the Canterbury (Waitaha) Conservation Management Strategy 2016 (the CMS), when it received a comprehensive and useful report on 3-year milestones in December. The next big CMS report is the 5-year milestone report due in 2022. The Board is uneasy because reporting on some key 5-year milestones may be hampered as baseline measures meant to be established by 3 years are still not in place.

Concessions/permissions

The Board provided advice and recommendations to the Department on a number of applications throughout the year. A particularly controversial application involving Caroline Hut within the Aoraki Tōpuni was considered in June. Despite the Board recommending that no new concessions be granted in Aoraki Mount Cook National Park until the new management plan is operative, quite a large number of concession applications have been processed, and decisions have been made, in the last year or so.

Recently the Board has begun to focus on the 60-odd grazing authorisations on public conservation land and their potential for contributing more to conservation in Canterbury.

Board initiatives

Slow progress is being made on re-classification of stewardship lands in Canterbury but there is still a lot to do. The Board is looking forward to a break-through on the re-classification of neighbouring St James and The Poplars Conservation Areas which have been top priority for successive Canterbury Aoraki boards.

An inclusive workshop involving ski field operators on public conservation land and Department staff to discuss risks associated with climate change was deferred until after the current season.

A CMS proposal to achieve international recognition for one of Canterbury's braided rivers was progressed as university geography students undertook assessments to identify the best river and reported on their research. A hui to gauge support among kaitiaki rūnaka for the idea did not eventuate.

The COVID-19 associated pause in international tourism was identified by the Board as an opportunity for New Zealand to re-set the industry to avoid some of the negative impacts of high visitor numbers on the environment. A strong, generally supportive, response to public statements suggests many New Zealanders share the Board's view that this as an opportunity to change for a better future.

Advocacy

This year the Board made seven submissions in support of conservation in Canterbury:

- Hector's and Māui Dolphin Threat Management Plan
- Te Koiora o te Koiora – Our shared vision for living with nature, a national biodiversity strategy discussion document
- Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan
- National Direction for Freshwater proposals
- Proposed National Environment Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity
- Whitebait Management Consultation Document
- South East Marine Protection proposal

The Board also wrote to Environment Canterbury about plant pests in Arthur's Pass National Park and the upper Waimakariri, and to a number of organisations about irresponsible advertising using images of wild Russell lupin.

In addition, the Board planned and managed its own local conservation award process, maintained a social media presence, and finalised a sustainability policy to minimise waste and track carbon emissions from its own activities.

All this in six meetings, two workshops and three field trips.

I would like to acknowledge the work members put into their regular reports and thank you all for generously sharing your knowledge and opinions, so the Board makes better recommendations and decisions.

With sadness we say goodbye to departing members Te Awhina Arahanga, Sophie Smith, Dr Robert Wynn-Williams and Helen Ivey. Without doubt, when people with a range of views work together through issues to find common ground, bonds are created. So, with this in mind we also welcome new members Euan Brook, Jane Demeter, Eila Gendig and Michael McMillan. We look forward to working with you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paula Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paula Smith
Chairperson
23 July 2020

2. Introduction

This is the 22nd Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Annual Report. Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires Conservation Boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority) with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement, the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board submits this annual report.

Conservation Boards are appointed by the Minister of Conservation under Section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987. Board functions are outlined in Section 6(M) and the powers, which enable the Conservation Boards to carry out these functions, are under Section 6(N) of the Act.

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

Conservation Boards have several statutory roles under various Acts including:

- the recommendation of the Canterbury (Waitaha) 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 approval of conservation management plans
- the recommendation of national park management plans to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and the Authority on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- liaising with the regional Fish & 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.

3. Conservation Board region

The Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area of 5,201,723.07 hectares.

The jurisdiction extends from the Conway and Clarence Rivers in the north and west to the main divide, including all of Arthur's Pass and Aoraki Mount Cook National Parks. The southern boundary is the catchment of the Waitaki River at Kurow, along the river to the east coast. 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.

Approximately 12.42% of New Zealand's public conservation land and area lie within Canterbury Aoraki's jurisdiction.

Public conservation land and areas make up 31.12% of all land in Canterbury Aoraki. This consists of:

- 1,137,113.14 hectares of Public Conservation Land
- 480,706.03 hectares of Sanctuaries to Protect Marine Mammals
- 746.35 hectares of Marine Reserves

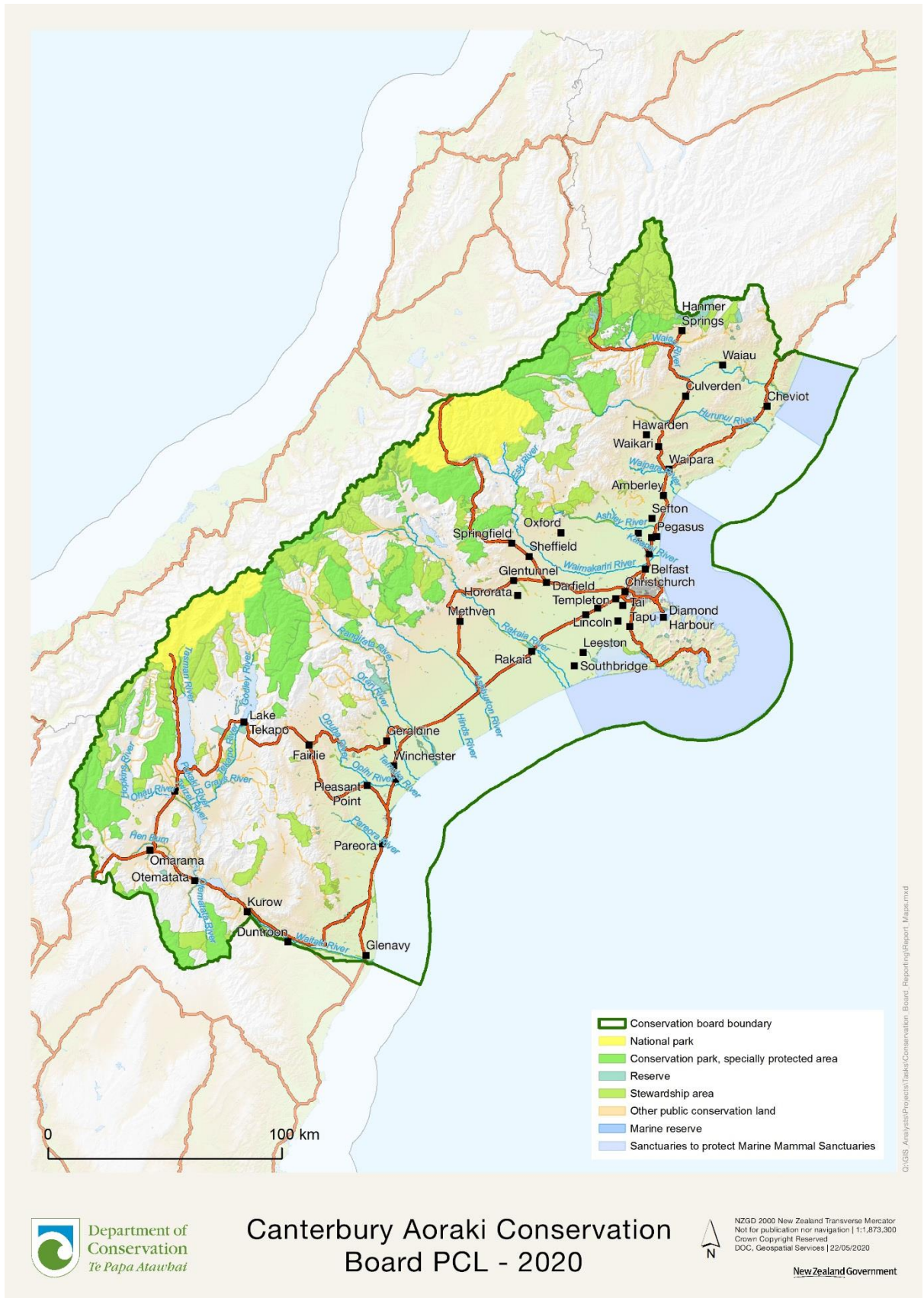
3.1 Conservation features of the area

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

- Arthur's Pass National Park – 118,522.21 ha
- Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park – 72,260.66 ha
- Nelson Lakes National Park – 6.53
- Ahuriri Conservation Park – 47,887.36 ha
- Cragieburn Conservation Park – 44,683.02 ha
- Hakatere Conservation Park – 59,582.58 ha
- Hanmer Forest Park – 11,777.03 ha
- Hawea Conservation Park – 1,704.99 ha
- Ka Whata Tu o Rakihouia Conservation Park – 42.73 ha
- Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park – 23,991.03 ha
- Lake Sumner (Hoka Kura) Forest Park – 105,031.81 ha
- Oteake Conservation Park – 33,759.29 ha
- Ruataniwha Conservation Park – 37,098.53
- Te Kahui Kaupeka Conservation Park – 93,081.09 ha

- 105 Scenic Reserves – 22,809.77 ha
- 9 Historic Reserves – 21.58 ha
- 38 Recreation Reserves – 5,932.14 ha
- 443 Stewardship Areas – 435,693.85 ha
- 551 Marginal Strips – 8,370.19 ha
- 1 Specially Protected Area – 444.42 ha
- 2 Wilderness Areas – 7,171.25
- 2 Sanctuaries to protect Marine Mammals – 480,706.03 ha
- 2 Marine Reserves - 746.35 h

Figure 1: Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Jurisdiction



4. Board functioning

4.1 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:
 - a) On any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and
 - b) On any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 5) To liaise with any Fish & Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 6) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

4.2 Powers of the Board 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:
 - a) Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
 - b) 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.

4.3 Board functions under Section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980

- 1) To recommend management plans, and the review of amendment of such plans, for parks within the jurisdiction of the Board in accordance with Sections 45 to 46
- 2) To consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks
- 3) To make recommendations to the Minister for the appointment of honorary rangers under Section 40
- 4) To review and report to the Director-General or the Authority, as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the administration of the general polices for national parks within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 5) To give advice to the Director-General or the Authority:
 - i. on the interpretation of any management plan for a park; and
 - ii. on any proposal for the addition of land to any national park or the establishment of a new national park; and
 - iii. on any other matter relating to any national park, within the jurisdiction of the Board.

4.4 Board membership

There were 12 Board members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Paula Smith was elected Chairperson and Dr Heather Purdie was elected Deputy Chairperson.

The following table lists the members of the Board between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020 and their term of office.

Table 1: Board membership

Board member	Area	Term Start	Term End
Te Awhina Arahanga*	Christchurch	07/04/16	30/06/20
Bethany Baker	Christchurch	01/07/18	30/06/21
Joseph Hullen*	Kaiapoi	01/09/07	30/06/22
Helen Ivey	Aoraki Mount Cook	01/07/14	30/06/20
Josh Neville	Christchurch	01/07/19	30/06/22
Joy Paterson	Twizel	01/07/16	30/06/22
Dr Heather Purdie	Canterbury	01/07/18	30/06/21
Rachel Robilliard*	Cheviot	01/07/19	30/06/22
Paula Smith	Banks Peninsula	01/05/14	20/06/22
Sophie Smith	Christchurch	01/07/17	30/06/20
Dr Benita Wakefield*	Birdlings Flat	01/07/18	30/06/21
Dr Robert Wynn-Williams	Christchurch	01/07/14	30/06/20

**Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu appointee*

4.5 Members profiles

Paula Smith (Chairperson)

Ms Smith has extensive governance experience and is a member on several boards and committees. She also has experience in reserve management planning, landscape assessment, design and planning, and is familiar with RMA and National Parks Act 1980 processes. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Botany and a Post Graduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture.

Dr Heather Purdie (Deputy Chairperson)

Dr Purdie is a Senior Lecturer in Physical Geography and Glaciology at the University of Canterbury.

Heather has 13 years experience in conducting research into New Zealand glaciers and their response to climate change, and the implications of environmental change to commercial tourism concessions and recreational activities on conservation land.

She is a scientific advisor for the DOC Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom (LEOTC) programme at Aoraki Mount Cook.

Te Awhina Arahanga

Taumutu te whenua tuturu, Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Te Atihaunu Apārangi, Ngāti Hauiti ki Rata, Rapuwai, Waitaha, Ngāti Māmoe, Ngāi Tahu o nga iwi, a dash of English and a splash of Scottish ancestry.

Museum consultant specialising in exhibition design and curation, writer and researcher, social and cultural historian. Particular interest in biota or interconnection of whakapapa within species to the land, sea and air space, especially the realm of Te Aitanga Pepeke and the 'not so cute' endangered species.

Bethany Baker

Miss Baker has a Bachelors' degree in Geography and is a full-time master's student studying Natural Resources Management and Ecological Engineering at Lincoln University.

Bethany has a strong conservation and environmental ethos, and this is reflected in the numerous roles she has on university committees and community groups in that space. She has an understanding of environmental management, planning and policies, and has been involved with DOC's Growing Voices group and their contribution to the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Review.

Joseph Hullen

Mr Hullen is nominated by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. He has skills in environmental management and advocacy, is a mahinga kai practitioner and provides strong cultural awareness. He is currently employed as a whakapapa researcher for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Helen Ivey

Mrs Ivey is a shareholder/director of Glentanner Station, which has recently been through the tenure review process. Her farming and tourism business operates adjacent to Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park. She has very strong conservation beliefs because of her vicinity to the Park. Her outdoor recreation interests are skiing, mountain-biking and tramping.

Josh Neville

Mr Neville works in local government as an urban regeneration planner. He holds a Bachelor of Science and Masters' degree in Geography – having completed his thesis on Land Value Taxation. He has a strong interest in sustainable management and environmental systems.

Joy Paterson

Ms Paterson has extensive governance experience and is a member on several boards and committees. She holds a Master of Educational Administration and Bachelor of Science. She has previous experience in management and consultant roles.

Rachel Robilliard

Miss Robilliard is nominated by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. She has a legal background with a focus on environmental, planning and natural resources law. She has experience advising on legal and compliance requirements for a range of environmental and resource management matters. She is also a member of the Kaitiakitanga Portfolio for Te Taumutu Rūnanga.

Sophie Smith

Sophie graduated from the University of Canterbury with a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Geography and Art History. While studying she worked on projects such as DOC's 'Growing Voices' and found a passion for conservation and the outdoors.

In her current role at Narrative Campaigns, she works on campaign design and management, communication strategies and event management for Canterbury-based and focussed organisations to strengthen their communications and voice. A large focus of Sophie's role over the past two years has been 'growing communities' through online marketing and coordination of large events. Sophie was inspired to apply to be on the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board after hearing local people concerned about their environment and 'piece of Aotearoa', which echoed her thoughts on our environment.

Dr Benita Wakefield

Dr Wakefield is a nominee of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Benita has over 15 years' experience working in environmental management and her PhD is in the field of Kaupapa Māori environmental health management. She has previously worked for DOC on Ngā Whenua Rānui contracts in the Hawkes Bay and has taken an active role in the community and marae life, with representation at local, regional and national levels.

Dr Robert Wynn-Williams

Dr Wynn-Williams is a self-employed agribusiness and technology consultant, and a part-time cycle guide. He is a professional agriculturalist with experience in land management options and consensus building.

He is a past community member on the Christchurch West Melton Zone Water Management Committee and a trustee of the Christchurch Little River Rail Trail. His outdoor recreation interests are trout fishing, mountain biking, skiing, tennis and gardening.

4.6 Board meetings

The Board held 6 meetings during the reporting period. Venues for the meetings vary each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

Table II: Board meeting dates and location

Board meeting date	Meeting location
27 August 2019	DOC Office, Christchurch
23 October 2019	Rāpaki Marae, Banks Peninsula
5 December 2019	Geraldine RSA, Geraldine
5 March 2020	DOC Office, Rangiora
22 April 2020	via teleconference (due to COVID-19 Alert Level 4)
24 June 2020	DOC Office, Christchurch

4.7 Attendance

The table below summarises the number of Board meetings attended by members out of the total number of meetings held during the year.

Members attended other meetings and events in their role as Board members, including subcommittee meetings and representative roles.

Table III: Board member attendance

Board member	Board meetings	Field Trips	Workshops
Te Awhina Arahanga	3/6	0/3	0/2
Bethany Baker	5/6	2/3	2/2
Joseph Hullen	3/6	0/3	0/2
Helen Ivey	6/6	3/3	2/2
Josh Neville	6/6	3/3	2/2
Joy Paterson	5/6	2/3	2/2
Dr Heather Purdie	6/6	2/3	2/2
Rachel Robilliard	5/6	2/3	2/2
Paula Smith	6/6	3/3	2/2
Sophie Smith*	3/6	2/3	1/2
Dr Benita Wakefield	6/6	3/3	2/2
Dr Robert Wynn-Williams	6/6	3/3	2/2

**Approved Leave of Absence from the Board from 30 March to 30 June 2020*

4.8 Field trips and site inspections

Field trips are an excellent opportunity for Board members to become more aware of conservation issues within their region.

Table IV: Field trips and site inspections

Field trip date	Field trip destination
22 October 2019	Ripapa Island and Ōtamahua/Quail Island
4 December 2019	Hakaterere Conservation Park and Ō Tū Wharekai
4 March 2020	Loch Katrine, Lake Sumner Forest Park

Ripapa Island and Ōtamahua/Quail Island

The Board's focus for the field trip was to develop a greater understanding of the pressures and challenges facing the Department and its partners regarding:

- Management of the historic structures/buildings and their use in accordance with historic site conservation plans
- Management of the ecological restoration project in accordance with the Ōtamahua/Quail Island Restoration Plan 2015, with that plan reviewed and re-approved by the Department in 2025
- Progress on the Canterbury Waitaha Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) Milestones – Outputs for these places



Ōtamahua Hut (Image: C Dennehy)

Hakatere Conservation Park and Ō Tū Wharekai

The Board's focus for the field trip was to develop a broader understanding of the framework for birdlife/wetland restoration and biodiversity. Wetlands in the park include some of the best examples of red tussock (*Chionochloa rubra*) and *Carex secta*/pūkiō in Canterbury. The park is one of three sites that make up a national wetland restoration programme. An extensive network of kettle hole wetlands, with associated turf vegetation, occurs among moraines and is a rare habitat type nationally. Many threatened turf-forming plants are found here. Through the Ngāi Tahu Settlement Act 1998, a Statutory Acknowledgement and Deed of Recognition is in place over the area to formally acknowledge the association and values Ō Tū Wharekai holds for Ngāi Tahu.



Potts River, Hakatere Conservation Park (Image: M-L Grandiek)



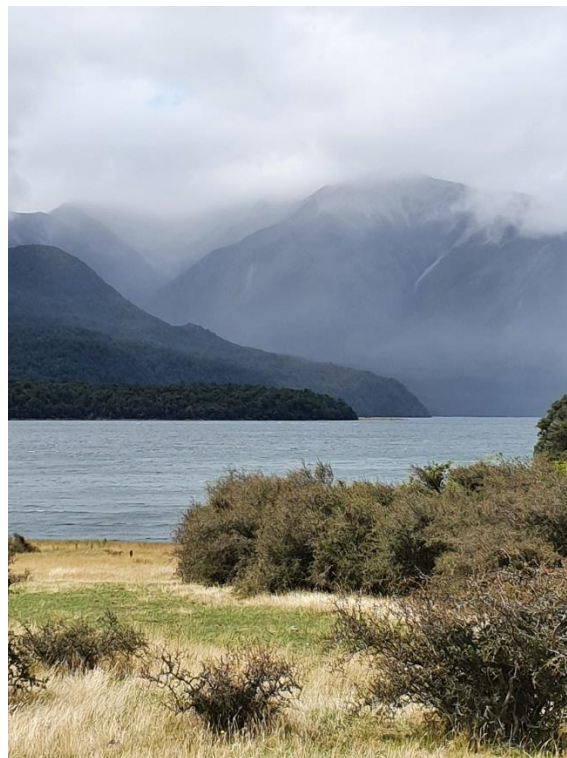
Hakatere Station buildings (Image: Department of Conservation)

Loch Katrine, Lake Sumner Forest Park

The Board's focus for the field trip was to familiarise themselves and increase their understanding of the particular issues facing the Department's work in relation to the Canterbury (Waitaha) Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for Loch Katrine. Of interest were the Policies and Milestones for Loch Katrine (*p. 67 and 69, CMS*); and Milestones-Outputs (*p. 71, CMS*) to be achieved by the end of Year 5 after CMS approval (2021).



Loch Katrine, Lake Sumner Forest Park (Image: P Smith)



Home Bay, Lake Taylor looking towards Mount Longfellow (Image: M-L Grandiek)

4.9 Board committees

Membership of Board committees was reviewed in August 2019.

Table V: Committees

Committee name	Members
Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Review	Dr Robert Wynn-Williams (Chair) Committee of the Whole (excluding members who have a conflict of interest) AMCNP MPR Hearings Te Awhina Arahanga, Paula Smith
Communications and Awards	Sophie Smith (Chair) Bethany Baker, Joseph Hullen
Community Engagement	Bethany Baker (Chair) Josh Neville, Paula Smith
Permissions	Dr Robert Wynn-Williams (Chair) Helen Ivey, Joy Paterson, Dr Heather Purdie, Dr Benita Wakefield
Iwi	Dr Benita Wakefield (Chair) Te Awhina Arahanga, Joseph Hullen, Rachel Robilliard
Land and Water	Joy Paterson (Chair) Bethany Baker, Joseph Hullen, Josh Neville, Sophie Smith, Dr Benita Wakefield
St James Reclassification	Dr Robert Wynn-Williams (Chair) Joseph Hullen, Josh Neville, Paula Smith, Sophie Smith, Dr Benita Wakefield
Tenure Review	Helen Ivey (Chair) Joy Paterson, Heather Purdie, Rachel Robilliard, Paula Smith

NB: Paula Smith (Chairperson) is ex-officio member of each Committee

4.10 Training for members

The Board held two workshops.

August 2019 Induction/Reinduction of Board members
Annual Work Plan – 2019/2020

June 2020 Completion of Annual Work Plan 2019/2020
Completion of Annual Report

SMART Operator Programme

Paula Smith attended a SMART Operator Programme. SMART (Sustainable Marine Mammal Actions in Recreation and Tourism) is a voluntary collaboration between commercial boat operators and the Department of Conservation for the protection of marine mammals in New Zealand.

4.11 Department involvement in Board meetings

Director Operations ESI, Acting Director Operations ESI, Statutory Manager ESI, Board Support Officer, Pou Tairangahau and Operations Managers – North Canterbury, Mahaanui, Geraldine, Twizel and Aoraki Mount Cook attended Board meetings. Presentations at Board meetings were received from:

- Geoff Ensor, Director Commercial Partnerships
- Jenny Christie, Science Advisor, Threats
- Philip Duffey, Planner Operations
- Rebecca Bird, Project Manager

4.12 Special events

Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Annual Conservation Awards.

The Board's Conservation Awards are held annually and recognise the efforts of local groups and individuals in supporting conservation within the wider Canterbury region. The 2019 Awards were sponsored by The Isaac Wildlife and Conservation Trust and held in conjunction with Conservation Week.

This year's recipient of the award was the Okuti River Project. This unique project is community-based stewardship of the Okuti River on Banks Peninsula. The second-place recipient was Kids Discovery Plantout, whose project gives students from Selwyn schools the opportunity to connect to their local environment through the adoption of a restoration site close to their school. The third-place recipient was The Styx Living Laboratory Trust which plays the role of guardianship and advocacy for the waterway and the biodiversity of the surrounding land as a living part of the Canterbury landscape.



Conservation Award Winner: Okuti River Project (Image: Department of Conservation)

4.13 Annual Work Programme

Please refer to Appendix I for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

5. Statutory activity

5.1 Canterbury (Waitaha) 2016 Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

Conservation General Policy requires the Department to report, at least annually, on the implementation of the CMS.

Implementation Monitoring

At its bi-monthly meetings the Board received regular operations and planning reports which include information on the wide-ranging work undertaken by Department staff, much of which is consistent with achieving CMS objectives and policies. In addition, the Board asked the Department to report specifically on the 40 three-year milestones which were identified in the CMS to be achieved by 1 September 2019.

The Board visited and latterly discussed the implementation of the policies outlined in the CMS and the achievement by the end of Year 5 of the Milestones - Outputs for Loch Katrine Recreation Reserve. The Board has subsequently requested the Department provide a 'Plan of Action' for implementing these policies.

The Board continues to work with the Department to achieve the CMS Milestone for Braided Rivers - a World Heritage Area or Wetland of International Importance achieved for at least one Canterbury braided river by Year 10. A hui to discuss this milestone with Papatipu rūnanga was scheduled in April 2020 but was deferred to 2020/21 due to COVID-19.

The Board has also established a CMS Milestones Monitoring Committee, dedicated to identifying CMS milestones which are likely to be achieved and those unlikely to be achieved.

5.2 Management Plans

There are two National Parks within the Board's area of jurisdiction. Each National Park has a management plan which is reviewed at 10-year intervals.

Arthur's Pass National Park

The Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan was approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority in December 2007. It was due for review in 2017, but this has yet to be commenced by the Department. The Department presented an annual report to the Board on the existing Management Plan in October 2019.

The Board made specific note of the following items:

- Preservation Outcomes – removal of lead
- Corridor Outcomes – weed control
- Public Use Outcomes – Casey Hut

Aoraki Mount Cook National Park

The process for reviewing the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan was paused while the Department and Ngāi Tahu worked through the wider implications of the Supreme Court's decision on the Ngāi Tai ki Tamaki case. Agreement has now been reached to start a new review of the Management Plan. The Department presented an annual report to the Board on the existing Management Plan in October 2019.

The Board noted that the Department is under some pressure from stakeholders and concessionaires whilst the Management Plan Review is on pause. The COVID-19 lockdown has also been challenging and has had significant impact on the lives and livelihoods of people who have an interest in the National Park.

The Board looks forward to resuming consultation with Ngāi Tahu and the Department on reviewing the Management Plan and drafting a document to ensure the natural, cultural, heritage and recreational values of the National Park are protected for all.



Aoraki / Mount Cook (Image: M-L Grandiek)

6. 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 various members to liaise with other groups and agencies.

Table VI: Board Liaisons and Representatives

Board Member	Group/Agency/Organisation
Bethany Baker	Environment Canterbury Healthy River Ōpāwaho Strategic Leadership Group Social Media – Facebook and Twitter
Josh Neville	Fish & Game North Canterbury & Central South Island Group
Helen Ivey	Tahr Interest Group Himalayan Tahr Control Plan Implementation Group Wilding Tree Management Strategy
Joy Paterson	Mackenzie Country Trust
Dr Heather Purdie	Tahr Interest Group Himalayan Tahr Control Plan Implementation Group
Sophie Smith	Social Media – Facebook and Twitter
Dr Robert Wynn-Williams	Game Animal Council Deerstalkers Groups

6.1 Other Conservation Boards Liaison

The Board's immediate neighbours are the Nelson Marlborough, Otago and West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Boards. The Board's respective liaisons monitor the minutes for issues of common interest and report back at each meeting.

6.2 Authority Liaison

Tony Lepper is the New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison to the Board.

6.3 Department Advice

The Board provided advice to the Department on the following issues:

Change of Status

The Board provided comment and recommendations on the following areas where there was a proposed change of status or classification:

- Proposal for name and classification of Motu Kānuka Scientific Reserve
- Proposal to add conservation land to Craigieburn Forest Park

The Board further requested that the Department provide an annual update (in May of each year), on the reclassification of stewardship lands. The Board resolved that any new proposed status for stewardship land reclassification should be discussed and agreed in partnership with Papatipu rūnaka.

Concessions

Recommendations were made to the Department on a number of Concessions Applications within the following public conservation areas:

- Aoraki Mount Cook National Park
- Arthur's Pass National Park
- Craigieburn Forest Park

Public Submissions

The Board provided submissions on the following:

- Improving Whitebait Management / Te whakapai ake I te whakahaere īnanga
- National Policy for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB)
- Transforming the resource management system: opportunities for change – Issues and options paper
- Proposed name changes around Lyttelton / Whakaraupō
- Proposed Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan
- New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy: Te Koiora o Te Koira
- Action for Healthy Waterways 2019
- Hector's and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan Review

6.4 Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Meetings were held in different parts of the Canterbury Aoraki region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised. Members of the public attended the Public Forum at several of the year's meetings and a range of issues were raised. The Board appreciates this input from the public.

Public forum issues raised were:

- Volunteer work in St James Conservation Area
- Tahr
- Post-1080 control work monitoring
- Strategic grazing
- Plantings of endangered native plants
- Weed control
- Caroline Hut

During field trips and Board meetings, presentations were received from:

- Maui Hudson, University of Waikato
Genomic research and taonga species including context on the genomics research community linked with traditional knowledge
- Karl Russell and Michael McMillan (Aoraki Environmental Consultancy)
Ō Tū Wharekai: seasonal mahinga kai and resource gathering and the cultural and historic association and values held for Ngāi Tahu
- Ian McLennen, Ōtamahua / Quail Island Ecological Restoration Trust

The Board corresponded with a variety of external groups regarding:

- The 'Future of Tourism' in New Zealand
- Using images of Russell lupins in advertising
- Concern regarding spread of weeds, particularly lupins and broom within the transport corridors of Arthur's Pass National Park
- Future management of landfills at sea-level

6.5 Sustainability

In order to reduce carbon emissions and show leadership in climate change action, the Board adopted a 'Climate-Smart Operating Agreement' in June 2020. By agreeing to follow the nine recommendations, the Board will seek to calculate their carbon emissions with the aim of working towards establishing a means of offsetting these emissions via investment / participation in a local carbon offsetting scheme.

6.6 Community Visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website with updates provided throughout the year on activities undertaken. The Board also maintains a presence on both Twitter and Facebook.



Kākāriki (Image: J Paterson)

APPENDIX I – Annual Work Programme 2019/2020



Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board
Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Waitaha me Aoraki

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2019/2020



Selwyn District, Canterbury

Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Work Programme

1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

Work Programme overview

This Work Programme has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation dated 5 September 2019. It is structured in three parts, namely:

- Part A: Planned Board activities aimed at meeting the regional Work Programme contained in the letter:
 - review/development/monitoring of statutory management plans including Conservation Management Strategies (CMS)
 - advice relating to stewardship land
 - other statutory functions for the Board
 - advocacy.
- Part B: Planned Board activities aimed at general expectations contained in the letter:
 - working with the Department of Conservation (the Department)
 - taking account of the Ministerial priorities for the Department as contained in the Department's Four-year Plan
 - working with adjoining conservation boards and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority)
 - understanding the Board's contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi
 - general engagement with the community, including raising the profile of the Board.
- Part C: Risks/issues from the Board's perspective, and opportunities for conservation growth that are not covered above.

Status indicator

Colour	Indicates
Green	Achieved
Yellow	Partially Achieved/Ongoing
Red	Not Achieved

PART A: REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

1 Review / development of statutory management plans including conservation management strategies (CMS)

1.1 Board objective:

The Board, in partnership with Ngāi Tahu, will monitor the progress of the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Review. The draft plan is currently on pause.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The Board will actively contribute to the review process through participation in public hearings.		Was planned for but not achieved due to the Management Plan Review being put on hold.
B	The Board will carry out its statutory role monitoring and reporting on the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan.		Monitoring and reporting completed. The Board appreciates the Department producing the report in a timely manner.
C	The Board will work in conjunction with the Department to apply interim policies regarding Permissions applications within the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park.		The Board considers permission applications on a monthly basis and provides feedback to the Department where sought. However, despite the Board's request for a moratorium on applications within the Park pending the new Management Plan, applications are still being approved by the Department.

1.2 Board objective:

In conjunction with the Department, the Board will determine priorities for implementation of the approved Canterbury CMS.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
A	The Board will carry out its role in monitoring and reporting on the Year 3 Milestones.		The Board received the annual report on progress in achieving the milestones of the CMS as a means of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the CMS. The Board subsequently provided their report on the CMS to the NZCA.
B	The Board will review its list of focus CMS Milestones at the end of the Year 3 Milestone Reporting (September 2019).		The Board is currently reviewing its list of focus CMS Milestones and will include this in their Annual Work Plan for 2020/21.

C	The Board will actively engage with the Department and Ngāi Tahu to allow strategic grazing for the enhancement of conservation values in the St James Conservation Area, particularly weed management.		The Board is currently awaiting outcomes of the Department's engagement process with Ngāti Kuri and a scientific report on the use of grazing as a biodiversity management tool being completed by the Department.
D	The Board will work to ensure the Department implements the policies of the CMS to remove all private accommodation and structures from Loch Katrine Recreation Reserve and other lake-edge conservation lands.		Site visit undertaken in early March 2020. The Board is currently awaiting a 'Plan of Action' from the Department for implementing the policies outlined in the CMS.

2 **Stewardship Land**

2.1 **Board objective:**

The Board will continue to provide the Minister and the Department with advice on priorities for reclassification of stewardship areas that require increased protection because of their significant conservation values.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The Board will actively engage with the Department and Ngāi Tahu on any processes regarding the reclassification of lands within its rohe, focus on St James Conservation Area.		The Board received and discussed (at its meeting of 5 March 2020) a comprehensive update from the Chair on stewardship land within the Board's rohe.
B	The Board will work with the Department and Ngāi Tahu to accelerate progress on the land status review for all stewardship land within the Board's rohe.		See (A) above. In addition, the Board has requested the Department provide a report on reclassification of stewardship lands. This is to be received annually in May each year. The Board provided feedback to the Department in July 2019 re a proposal to add conservation land to Craigieburn Forest Park.
C	The Board will work with the Department and Ngāi Tahu to complete the additions of adjacent Public Conservation Land to Aoraki Mount Cook National Park (as has been signalled for the past 2 decades).		The land prescribed is now public conservation land and its future classification is being considered by the Department. There are ongoing discussions with Ngāi Tahu and the Board continues to be engaged with the Department regarding the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Review.
D	In conjunction with the Department, the Board will seek to develop a strategy for pastoral lease monitoring and high-country protection mechanisms for long-term stewardship as tenure review ends.		The Board wrote to Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) regarding pastoral lease monitoring. No updates have been provided. The Board maintains an interest and will request a further update from LINZ.

3 Other statutory functions¹

3.1 Board objective:

The Board will nurture ongoing working relationships with Fish & Game Councils regarding issues of mutual interest within the region.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The Board will develop a relationship with Fish & Game and a Board member will attend most Fish & Game meetings.		Board has liaison representative. Due to COVID-19, fewer meetings held. The Board will be interested in the ministerial review into the governance of Fish & Game New Zealand and regional Fish & Game councils.

3.2 Board objective:

The Board will advise on proposed changes of status for nationally and internationally important areas.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The Board will work with the Department to achieve the CMS Milestone for Braided Rivers – a World Heritage Area or Wetland of International Importance achieved for at least one Canterbury braided river by Year 10.		The Board received papers from students of the University of Canterbury on the development and implementation of a tool to rank Canterbury's braided rivers. A hui with Papatipu rūnanga to discuss this CMS Milestone was scheduled for April 2020 but was deferred due to COVID-19.
B	The Board will advocate for a marine protected area process for the eastern South Island (to include the implementation of a comprehensive marine protection framework).		The Board has previously submitted on the Proposed Marine Protected Areas for the south-east coast of the South Island. Consultation recommenced on 3 June 2020 and the Board will provide further feedback on the proposed network.

¹ This section should include conservation board functions relating to statutory functions under section 6M of the Conservation Act

4 Advocacy

4.1 Board objective

The Board will pursue all reasonable opportunities to advocate at public forums and in any statutory planning process.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
A	The Board will continue to advocate for the protection of public conservation lands which are impacted by ski areas.		The Board had planned to hold a workshop in May 2020 but due to a myriad of issues, including COVID-19, this did not eventuate. The Board continues to raise site-specific issues with Departmental staff at meetings and will look to recommence work in this sphere in 2020/2021.
B	The Board's sub-committees will actively work towards ensuring government agencies and planning processes receive relevant submissions from the Board. Representatives from the Board will advocate at public forums if required and work with the Department in developing submissions where applicable.		The Board has made several submissions in the past 12 months: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan• 2019 Action for Healthy Waterways Consultation• Name and classification of Motu Kānuka Scientific Reserve• Transforming the Resource Management System• Improving Whitebait Management• Proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

PART B: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

5 Working with the Department

5.1 Board objective:

Board members will maintain good working relationships and open dialogue with directors in order to engage strategically in conservation for the region.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The Board Chair will meet regularly with the Director Operations to ensure all are engaged to support conservation in the region.		Regular meetings, telephone calls and email correspondence with the Director Operations and Statutory Manager.
B	Board field trips will be aligned with the CMS.		The Board undertook 3 field trips aligned with the CMS: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ōtamahua/Quail Island• Ō Tū Wharekai / Hakatere Conservation Park• Loch Katrine / Lake Sumner Forest Park
C	The Board will work with the Department to ensure Board members are briefed on any areas where they require a better understanding of the Department's work.		Improved engagement with Papatipu rūnaka on field trips. Working group to discuss grazing applications on public conservation land.

6 Taking account of Ministerial priorities for the Department²

6.1 Board objective:

The Board will identify opportunities to support the following additional areas of work within their rohe:

- Inaka
- Freshwater ecosystem conservation
- Kākāriki karaka / orange fronted parakeet
- Tourism pressures
- Cultural heritage and mahinga kai
- Threatened species

² This section could include where conservation boards are consulted on pest control operations

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The Board will work with the Department in receiving updates on the above areas of work and key current operational issues including those that relate to biodiversity, recreation and management.		<p>Formal operations reports are provided to the Board's meetings (however, this is not always included in the Public Order Papers).</p> <p>The Department generally responds to ad-hoc requests.</p>
B	The Board to advocate for a 'carrying capacity' concept for managing increasing human numbers at visitor pressure points.		<p>The Board wrote to all Conservation Boards and the NZCA inviting them to frame key attributes for the visitor industry of the future.</p> <p>A radio interview was also undertaken.</p>
C	The Board will work with the Department to advocate for the protection of mahinga kai.		The Board regularly discusses the protection of mahinga kai at meetings and during their field trip to Ō Tū Wharekai. The Board has resolved to further its advocacy in this area.
D	The Board will work with the Department to advocate that historic and cultural heritage on public conservation lands and waters is valued and actively conserved.		<p>The Board has visited some historic sites in the past year and discusses these regularly at meetings.</p> <p>The Board was disappointed with the CMS reporting on historic and cultural heritage.</p>
E	The Board will support and advocate for freshwater ecosystem conservation.		<p>The Board provided submissions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan • 2019 Action for Healthy Waterways Consultation • Improving Whitebait Management • National Freshwater
D	The Board will advocate for the protection of all threatened species within its rohe.		<p>The Board provided submissions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hector's and Māui Dolphins Threat Management Plan • National Policy for Indigenous Biodiversity <p>The Board supports the strategy to support the health of hoiho / yellow-eyed penguin – Te Kaweka Takohaka mō te Hoiho.</p>

7 Working with adjoining conservation boards and the Authority

7.1 **Board objective:**

Board members will liaise with neighbouring conservation boards in order to progress cross boundary CMS issues and other matters of mutual interest.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The Boards' appointed liaisons for neighbouring Conservation Boards will actively follow minutes and identify any common issues.		Members appointed as liaison to neighbouring Conservation Boards provide regular updates to each meeting.
B	The Board will liaise with Nelson Marlborough, West Coast Tai Poutini and Otago Conservation Boards on cross-boundary issues.		Minutes of meetings are distributed to neighbouring Boards. Good connectivity with Nelson Marlborough and West Coast Tai Poutini but it has been difficult to connect with Otago. Support for Nelson Marlborough re the review of the Molesworth Management Plan.

8 Understanding the Board's contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

8.1 **Board objective:**

The Board will understand and support the Board's and Department's obligations under Treaty settlements as well as principles under section 4 of the Conservation Act.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The Board will continue to develop a partnership with Ngāi Tahu and local iwi.		The partnerships are on-going. This is an area for improvement by the Board.
B	The Board will send at least one member to Te Pukenga Atawhai.		Deputy Chair to attend in April 2020 but this was cancelled due to COVID-19. Has been added to participant list for March 2021.
C	The Board will have at least one hui each year at a marae within its rohe.		The Board held its October 2020 meeting at Rāpaki Marae, situated on Banks Peninsula.

9 Engaging with the community, including raising the profile of the Board

9.1 Board objective:

Board members will liaise regularly with other conservation entities, such as district and regional councils, NGOs and community groups, in order to enhance the profile of the Board and pursue good working relationships on issues of mutual interest and concern.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The Board will continue to present its annual Conservation Awards to acknowledge and celebrate efforts by conservation, recreation, school and industry groups to further conservation values and outcomes within its rohe.		The Board held its annual Conservation Awards during Conservation Week, with presentations made at the stakeholders' event at the International Antarctic Centre. The Board acknowledges the sponsorship of their Awards by The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust.
B	The Board will foster community participation in conservation in Canterbury by attending/promoting activities within its rohe.		<p>The Board continues its work by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Board member liaison • Facebook page • Board page on DOC website • DOC Community Fund process <p>In addition, the Board has written to external organisations, highlighting conservation concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KiwiRail and New Zealand Transport Authority: Weed management of the rail and road corridor through Arthur's Pass National Park • Environment Canterbury: Plant pests in the upper Waimakariri Basin • Tourism agencies: Use of lupin images in advertising

PART C: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

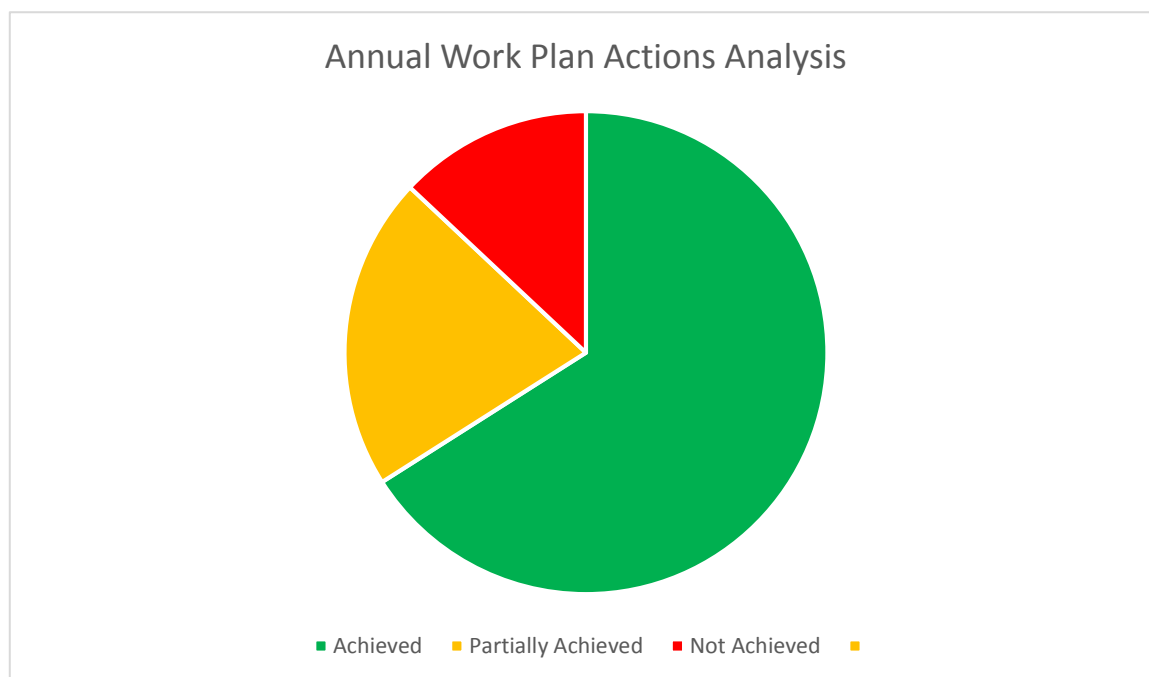
10 Risks from the Board’s perspective

A	That the Board and/or the Department does not effectively communicate their roles in conservation.
B	Rapidly increasing tourism numbers in the Boards’ region leading to heavy pressure on the Departments track, hut and campsite infrastructure.

11 Opportunities for conservation growth

A	Enhancing engagement with communities.
B	Promote public participation in, and an understanding of, all weed and animal pest strategies.

ANNUAL WORK PLAN – ACTIONS ANALYSIS



Comment:

- 87% of actions within the Annual Work Plan were Achieved or Partially Achieved by the Board.
- Those actions Not Achieved (13%) were the result of delays within the Department.

Hon Eugenie Sage

Minister of Conservation

Minister for Land Information

Associate Minister for the Environment

Minita mō Te Papa Atawhai

Minita mō Toitū Te Whenua

Minita Tuarua mō Te Taiao



5 September 2019

The Chairs
DOC Conservation Boards

Via email: ConservationBoardChairpersons@doc.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

ANNUAL LETTER OF EXPECTATION: CONSERVATION BOARDS 2019-20

I would like to thank you and your Board members for accepting the responsibility to be conservation leaders within your community, and I congratulate members of your Board who have been newly appointed. I understand the commitment and effort required by members to be part of the conservation board system and realise in our busy lives this can be demanding. I look forward to the year ahead and working with you to make a difference for the conservation of our natural and historic heritage.

The purpose of this letter is to confirm my expectations for your Board and to set out a framework for success within which both the Department and your Board can operate. The basis for my expectations originates in the statutory functions set out in Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987, the National Parks Act 1980 and the Reserves Act 1977. As reflected in these statutes, the Board's focus is on policy issues, strategic direction and planning, not in the day to day operational details of the Department of Conservation.

The Code of Practice for Conservation Boards is available online: www.conservationboards.org.nz under 'What conservation boards do'. I encourage you and your Board to use the Code of Practice as a standard reference document for your meetings and activities.

Government and Ministerial Priorities

For the 2019-20 year, my fundamental priorities are to:

- Enhance relationships with Treaty Partners.
- Address the crisis of declining indigenous biodiversity, and improve the protection of freshwater habitats and the marine environment.
- Improve protection of land with conservation values.

My expectation is that you will design your 2019-20 annual work plan to reflect a combination of these priorities, the Department's priorities (contained in the Four-year Plan¹), and priorities you have identified within your rohe. Your Operations Director will discuss these priorities with you over the course of the year, as well as update you about any new or amended Government and Ministerial priorities.

¹ The Department's Four-year Plan can be found here <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/corporate-publications/four-year-plan/>

In order to assist conservation boards in achieving their workplans, I have signalled that I would also like to see every conservation board meet at least six times a year. I note that many conservation boards are already meeting this regularly and I believe that it will add to positive conservation outcomes if this is consistent across the country.

Your Community

The recent Nga Tai ki Tamaki Tribal Trust Supreme Court ruling on giving effect to section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, has again highlighted its fundamental importance in relation to the work that we do. The Board's understanding of its contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi is vital to achieving strong conservation outcomes. This provides for the strengthening of relationships with iwi partners and for an inclusive environment between all conservation partners.

The community are increasingly interested in the use of and access to conservation land, and are aware of how important it is to preserve and protect our natural environment. For this reason, there is an increased need for good quality debate at your Board meetings and, as noted above, I'm sure you'll understand the importance of including our Treaty Partners in these debates. To assist with this, as Board members you will need to be active in your communities and bring a strong, well informed community voice to the table.

Working with the Department of Conservation

The Department is focused on the delivery of quality conservation work, and this provides the opportunity for alignment to the conservation leadership role you play within your local communities. I hope that you will be able to report about what is working well for you and areas that require improvement, so that we can share lessons and best practice across all conservation boards. I greatly value your role alongside the Department, especially the advice you provide concerning statutory planning and expenditure.

I expect your Operations Director to maintain a strong working relationship with you, so that your Board can provide strategic advice to the Department on conservation matters within your rohe. You will be able to provide advice that other parties cannot. The Department is focused on the delivery of quality conservation work, and this provides the opportunity for alignment to the conservation leadership role you play within your local communities.

I hope that you will be able to report about what is working well for you and the Department, and areas that require improvement, so that we can share lessons and best practice across all conservation boards. I also encourage you to reflect on the Department's expenditure in your region.

Working with adjoining conservation boards and the NZCA

Working on conservation matters, management strategies and plans will frequently involve working across boundaries with other conservation boards. I encourage you to continue to develop effective ways of working together to establish consistency and avoid duplication. The New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) is also a source of support for conservation boards to draw upon in relation to the national and policy context for conservation issues.

Monitoring and self-review

I encourage you to discuss your priorities with your Board, your NZCA liaison representative and your Operations Director, and complete a revised work programme by late September 2019 to attach to the Letter. I request that your finalised work programme include measures and milestones, designed to demonstrate what success will look like for each priority, and how your Board will be able to show progress against the relevant Department stretch goal. The template that the Department have designed will assist in standardising the work programmes.

My expectation is that you, with your Operations Director, will work to establish these performance indicators, and monitor and measure progress. You will be able to draw upon the support of your Operations Director, Statutory Manager and regionally aligned Pou Tairangahau to build on these tools.

I look forward to eventually receiving a copy of your Annual Report, through the NZCA, for the 2019-20 year ending 30 June. Please use these reports as an opportunity for you to discuss what is and is not working within your area, as well as a chance for self-review on the workings of the Board. These reports should provide direct links to the performance indicators you identify within your work programme, as well as an overview of the operations of the Board for those who read and review it.

Yours sincerely



Hon Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation

CANTERBURY AORAKI CONSERVATION BOARD FOCUS MILESTONES

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | 1.4: Treaty partnership with Ngāi Tahu <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Agreed systems and processes to monitor and measure Treaty engagement and satisfaction of Ngāi Tahu with Department activities. (By Year 3: Sept 2019) |
| 2 | 1.5.1: Natural Heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A baseline report assessing the condition of priority ecosystem units. (By Year 3: Sept 2019) |
| 3 | 1.5.1: Natural Heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Sustained control of wilding trees within the high country in accordance with the New Zealand Wilding Conifer Management Strategy 2015-2030. (By Year 5: Sept 2021) |
| 4 | 1.5.2: Historic and Cultural Heritage <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A baseline report assessing the condition of actively conserved historic places listed in Appendix 10 that are stable and not deteriorating and including the identification of relevant community partnerships. (By Year 3: Sept 2019) |
| 5 | 1.5.3: Recreation <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ A baseline report assessing the number and condition of huts, tracks and other visitor facility structures, the numbers and the satisfaction of people using them, and the opportunities for recreational groups to assist in their management and retention. (By Year 3: Sept 2019) |
| 6 | 1.5.3: Recreation <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ An increase in the number of huts and tracks that have recreational groups assisting in their management and retention. (By Year 5: Sept 2021) |
| 7 | 2.1: National Parks Place <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Completion of review of Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan. (By Year 3: Sept 2019) |
| 8 | 2.3: Northern High-Country Place <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Land status review for all public conservation lands and waters within the Place, including the St James Conservation Area. (By Year 3: Sept 2019) |
| 9 | 2.3: Northern High-Country Place <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Resolution of the boundaries and statutory provisions for an area where recreational hunting will be given priority for wild animal control. (By Year 3: Sept 2019) |
| 10 | 2.4: High-Country Basins Place <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Monitoring results of visitor use and impacts on natural, historic and Ngāi Tahu cultural values at Kura Tāwhiti Scenic Reserve. (By Year 5: Sept 2021) |
| 11 | 2.6: Braided Rivers / Ki Uta Ki Tai Place <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ World Heritage Area or Wetland of International Importance achieved for at least one Canterbury braided river. (By Year 10: Sept 2026) |

RECLASSIFICATION OF CONSERVATION LAND – TOP FIVE CANDIDATES

Canterbury Aoraki

PRIORITY	STEWARDSHIP LAND	AREA (HA)	PROPOSED NEW STATUS
1=	The Poplars Conservation Area	4248	<i>Conservation Park?</i>
1=	St James Conservation Area	79429	<i>Conservation Park?</i>
1=	Conservation Area Nina Doubtful Rivers	3014	<i>Conservation Park?</i>
1=	Lower Doubtful/Boyle River Conservation Area	1557	<i>Conservation Park?</i>
2=	Central Southern Alps Wilberforce Conservation Area	7454.10	<i>Add to Craigieburn Conservation Park</i>
2=	Rangitata/Rakaia Headwaters Conservation Area	53959	<i>Add to Hakatere Conservation Park</i>
3	Conservation Area Kaitorete (3 parcels)	72.84	<i>Scientific Reserve?</i>
4=	Conservation Area Waikewai Creek Taumutu (2 parcels)	2.83	<i>Mahinga Kai Conservation Park</i>
4=	Conservation Area – Lakeside	4.05	<i>Mahinga Kai Conservation Park</i>
4=	Conservation Area – Landing Yard Point	2.43	<i>Mahinga Kai Conservation Park</i>
4=	Conservation Area – Te Waihora Harts Creek	6.83	<i>Mahinga Kai Conservation Park</i>
4=	Conservation Area – Te Waihora Proposed Picnic Area	7.83	<i>Mahinga Kai Conservation Park</i>
4=	Conservation Area – Greenpark Sands Lower Selwyn Hut	1.9	<i>Mahinga Kai Conservation Park</i>
4=	Conservation Area – Lower Selwyn Huts	1.93	<i>Mahinga Kai Conservation Park</i>
4=	Conservation Area - Lill River Silverstream	0.60	<i>Mahinga Kai Conservation Park</i>
4=	Conservation Area – Greenpark Sands	1246.62	<i>Mahinga Kai Conservation Park</i>
4=	Conservation Area – Lakelands Wildlife Reserve	213.57	<i>Mahinga Kai Conservation Park</i>
4=	Conservation Area – McQueens Lagoon (2 parcels)	24.39	<i>Mahinga Kai Conservation Park</i>
4=	Waiwera Conservation Area	651.73	<i>Mahinga Kai Conservation Park?</i>
5=	Ruataniwha Conservation Area	35800.77	<i>Conservation Park additions</i>
5=	CA-Castle Hill x 2 (2 parcels)	8472.85	<i>Conservation Park additions</i>
5=	CA- Cass Valley	214.89	<i>Conservation Park additions</i>
5=	CA – Mount Horrible	439.36	<i>Conservation Park additions</i>
5=	Porter Heights CA	727.61	<i>Conservation Park additions</i>
5=	Ben More CA	29.66	<i>Conservation Park additions</i>
5=	Oxford Forest CA	13308.00	<i>Conservation Park additions</i>

ANNUAL CALENDAR OF COMMON CONSERVATION BOARD ACTIVITIES

1 JULY 2019 TO 30 JUNE 2020

Timeframe	Event
1 July	New Board member appointments take effect
31 August	Annual report from previous year due with the NZCA
Second half of August	Minister's Letter of Expectation sent to Boards
Mid-late September	Board chairs – annual meeting in Wellington to discuss Minister's Letter of Expectation and prospective work programmes.
Mid November	Board chairs send work programme to Minister, via DDG Conservation Partnerships
Early – mid December	Public notices calling for nominations called for next year's appointments (closing date of 28 days from date of first notice)
By mid-February	Departmental recommendations provided to SBU for collation and clearance with DG or delegate.
By mid-February	South Island Board chairs – annual meeting in Dunedin to discuss common South Island opportunities and challenges
Early May	Minister's proposed Board appointments considered by Appointments and Honours Committee then Cabinet
Mid May	Board appointments made by Minister of Conservation
Late May	Press releases issued
Late June	Board pages updated on DOC website



Māui Dolphins (Image: Department of Conservation)