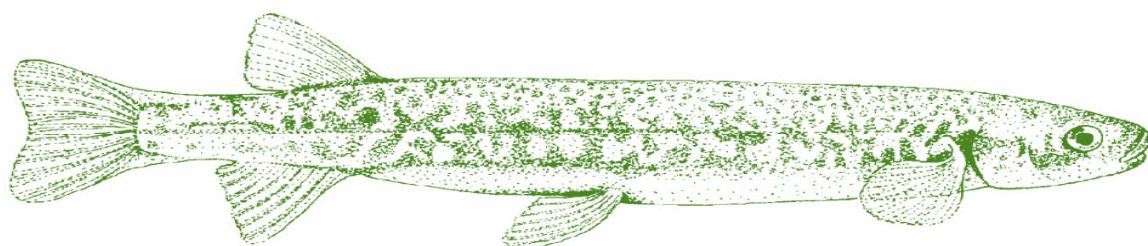
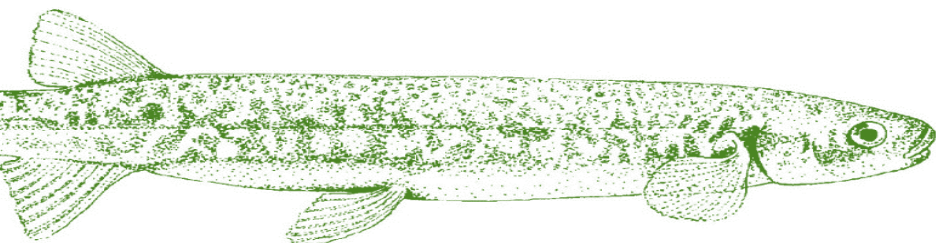




OTAGO CONSERVATION BOARD

Poari Papa Atawhai – ā-rohe ki Otago



Annual Report – Rīpoata ā-tau

1 JULY 2022 – 30 JUNE 2023

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act and distributed to interested parties.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Conservation Board meetings.

For more information about the Otago Conservation Board, please see conservationboards.org.nz.

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Published by

Otago Conservation Board
C/- Department of Conservation Coastal Otago
Level 1, 265 Princes Street, Dunedin
Dunedin

ISBN 1176-6646 hard copy
ISBN 1179-2450 online

Cover photo: Inanga - Whitebait

Photo credit: Department of Conservation image library: Stephen Moore

Contents

Chair’s Annual Report	1
Our Key Priorities.....	2
Introduction	3
Conservation Board Region.....	5
Otago Conservation Board	5
Conservation features of the area	5
Significant areas	7
Significant species.....	9
Statutory roles	10
Statutory Functions	11
Land Classification	11
Biodiversity.....	12
Visitor Management.....	14
Climate Change	15
Board Liaison	15
Community Engagement.....	16
Governance	17
Board Members	18
Board Committees	20
Board Attendance	21
Appendices	
2022-23 Mahere ā-tau - Annual Work Plan	22

Chair's Annual Report

I am pleased to report on the activities of this committed group for the 2022-23 year.

Completing the partial review of our Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) was a rewarding achievement. It creates a practical solution, enabling consideration of potential suitable bike trail sites, which would otherwise have been impossible due to restrictive previous wording of the CMS. Due to the success of this, it is now being applied as a practical solution in other regions.

The CMS milestones have been another key focus, which, working with DoC staff, we have been able to complete a full review and rationalization of the existing list resulting in milestones we (and DoC) believe will be far more practical, useful and effective for the Department staff to work through as a core part of their work plan.

The Board continues to work on ways we can assist mana whenua and the Department in achieving their objectives relating to conservation, and Section 4 of the Conservation Act, giving genuine effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Continuing to build and maintain relationships remains a key component of our work.

Southeast Marine Park planning work continues and we look forward to the Minister's decision which will enable several invaluable new marine reserves in our southeastern coastline.

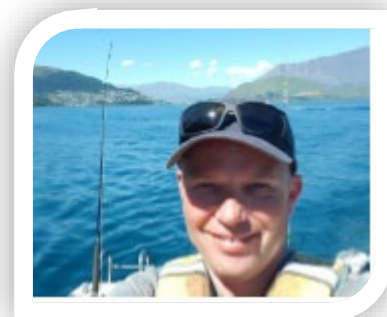
The increasing effects of Climate Change are being seen throughout the world, and we are no exception. The Public Estate administered by DoC has seen numerous significant weather events, damaging assets they are tasked with maintaining with seemingly ever-decreasing resource. The resulting temporary (and sometimes permanent) closure of public access is of great concern to the Board. It is putting significant strain on DoC staff tasked with maintaining them and is impacting on the lives of the people who hold these places as taoka and a valuable part of their lifestyles. Concession revenue earmarked for Conservation is lost, multiplying the negative impacts. The Board continues to lobby for increasing Conservation funding, inclusion of measurement and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in new Concession applications and retaining funding for "Jobs for Nature". All of these will benefit conservation and the wellbeing of our communities, visitors, Concessionaires and the economy.

Below is a more detailed summary of our year's work.

Mā tini mā mano, ka rapa te whai



Tim Barke
Otago Conservation Board Chair



Tim Barke on Lake Whakatipu Waimāori

Our Key Priorities

- **Conservation Management Plan: Partial review, monitoring and advice to the Department**
- **Biodiversity and Jobs for Nature**
- **Visitor Management**
- **Climate mitigation and adaptation**
- **Land re-categorisation**
- **Reporting, communications, and self-review**
- **Strengthening our understanding of, and delivery on, our Section 4 commitments**





Introduction

The Otago Conservation Board (the Board) is an independent body established under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987. The Board's eleven members are appointed by the Minister of Conservation to provide advice to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) and to Te Papa Atawhai, the Department of Conservation (DOC) on behalf of the public.

The Board helps to achieve conservation outcomes by:

- Contributing a strategic perspective, informed by the community, to conservation planning, policy development and decision-making.
- Exercising powers of recommendation and approval for statutory management documents. In particular, the Otago Conservation Management Strategy and the Titireia/Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan.
- Advising on the implementation of statutory management planning documents.
- Advocating for conservation outcomes, including in public forums and through statutory planning processes.

The statutory roles and functions of Conservation Boards are set out under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987:

6M Functions of Boards

- (1) The functions of each Board shall be—
- (a) to recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments:
- (b) to approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments:
- (c) to advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for areas within the jurisdiction of the Board:
- (d) to advise the Conservation Authority or the Director-General—
- (i) on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and
- (ii) on any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the Board:

- (e)[*Repealed*]
- (f)to liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board:
- (g)to exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.
- (2)Every Board shall have such other functions as are conferred on it by or under this Act or any other Act.

6NPowers of Boards

(1) Every 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 Board may—

(a) advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and

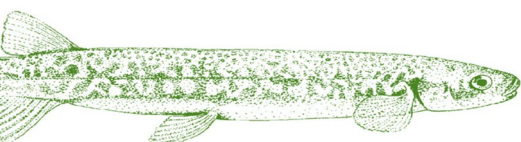
(b) appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.

(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.

In addition to the Conservation Act 1987, the following statutory roles and functions of Conservation Boards are included in the National Parks Act 1980:

- To recommend management plans, and the review or amendment of such plans, for parks within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- To consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks.
- To review and report to the Director-General or the Authority, as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the administration of the general policies for national parks within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- To give advice to the Director-General or the Authority on the interpretation of any management plan for a park; on any proposal for the addition of land to any national park or the establishment of a new national park; and on any other matter relating to any national park within the jurisdiction of the Board.

The Conservation Act requires Conservation Boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Otago Conservation Board submits this twenty-first annual report.



Conservation Board Region

Otago Conservation Board

The Otago Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area of 4,093,064.12 hectares.

The region runs from the eastern coastline, across dry inland valleys, and over the Southern Alps to the west. It contains a multiplicity of different landforms, with a huge rainfall gradient - 10,000mm on the western side of the Southern Alps and just 100kms due east, the driest area of New Zealand, Alexandra with 400mm annually. 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 6.34% of New Zealand's public conservation land and area lie within Otago's jurisdiction.

Public conservation land and areas make up 22.34% of all land in Otago. This consists of:

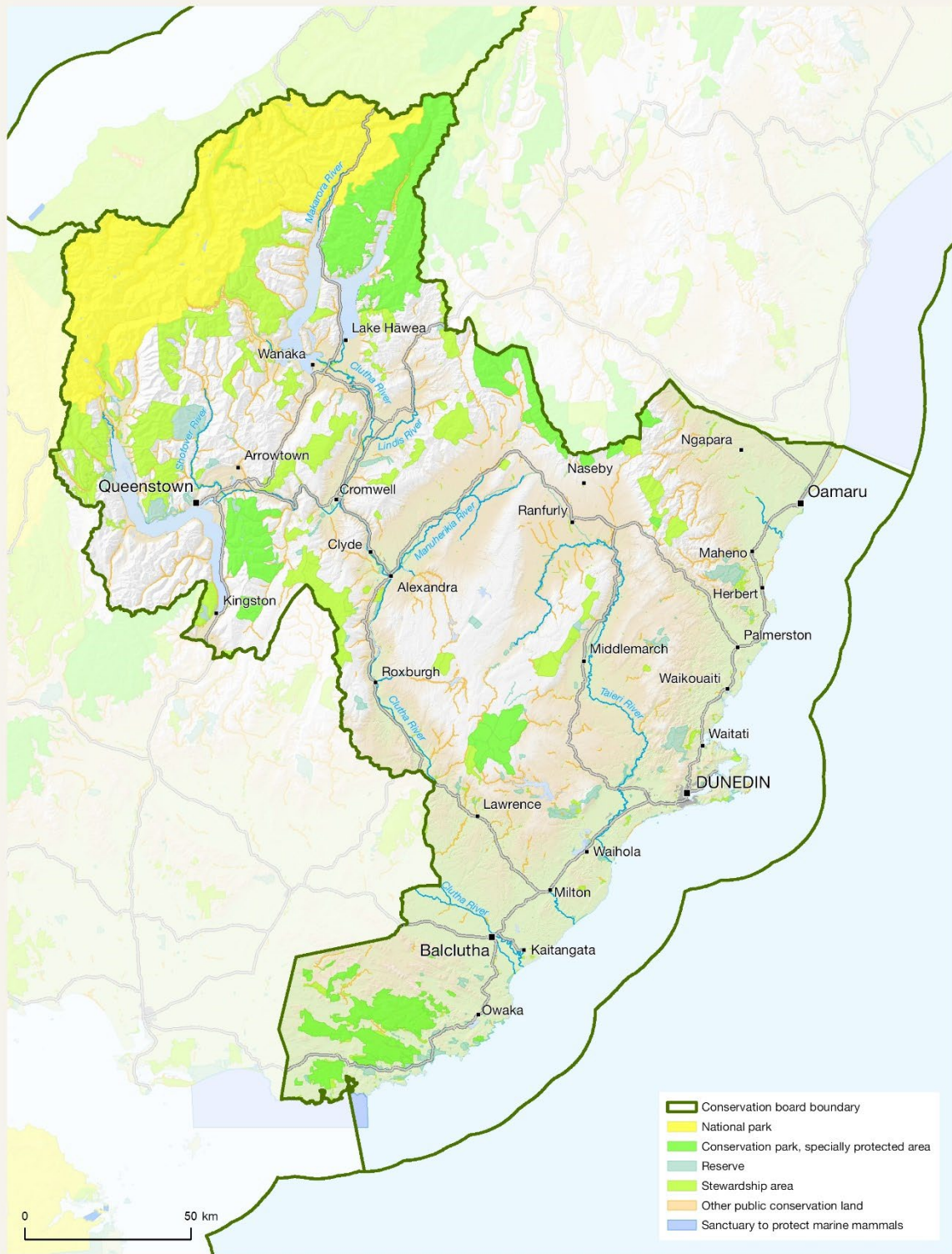
- 909,799.62 hectares of Public Conservation Land
- 4,527.8 hectares of Sanctuaries to Protect Marine Mammals

Conservation features of the area

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

- Fiordland National Park – 155.02 ha
- Mount Aspiring National Park – 358,763.65 ha
- Eyre Mountains/Taka Ra Haka Conservation Park – 26.37 ha
- Catlins Conservation Park – 52,878.44 ha
- Te Papanui Conservation Park – 20,517.42 ha
- Hawea Conservation Park – 103,786.25 ha
- Oteake Conservation Park – 30,921.77 ha
- Ahuriri Conservation Park – 25.91 ha
- 119 Scenic Reserves – 33,338.94 ha
- 37 Historic Reserves – 1,646.85 ha
- 87 Recreation Reserves – 14,994.04 ha
- 645 Stewardship Areas – 243,540.87 ha
- 478 Marginal Strips – 12,075.64 ha
- 4 Specially Protected Areas – 33,834.98 ha
- 1 Sanctuary to protect Marine Mammals – 4,527.8 ha





Otago Conservation Board Public Conservation Areas 2022

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New Zealand Government

Otago Region

This area runs from the east coast, across the dry inland valleys of Central Otago, and over the Southern Alps to the west. It features a rich Ngāi Tahu history and a wide range of different landforms, ecosystems and species that are found nowhere else. This is, in part, due to the huge rainfall gradient — 10,000 mm annually on the western side of the Southern Alps and 400mm annually in Manuherikia, Alexandra, the driest part of Aotearoa, New Zealand.

It also offers many attractive opportunities for recreation and sightseeing, which is creating a huge increase in visitors to the region.

The public interest in recreation and conservation issues provides the basis for the Board's intervention and advice whether through its oversight of commercial activities on conservation land, the management of visitor activity, the control of weeds and pests, the enhancement of biodiversity or the provision of its statutory advice.

The Board also recognises the special significance of Te Wāhipounamu — the Southwest New Zealand World Heritage Area, a part of which lies within the Board's jurisdiction.

Significant areas

The Board's area features 2,793,630.24 ha of Public Conservation Land, including:

- 132 Scenic Reserves 33,513 ha total)
- 52 Historic Reserves (1,694 ha total)
- 459 Recreation Reserves (19,030 ha total)
- 5 Ecological Areas (16512.31 ha total)
- 646 Stewardship Areas (67,0640 ha total)

Tititea/Mount Aspiring National Park

Tititea/Mt Aspiring National Park covers 355,531 ha, straddling the boundary between the areas covered by both the Otago Conservation Board and West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board. Its large glacier carved valleys, stunning mountain rangers and river valleys make it a popular destination for recreational users and international visitors alike.



Te Papanui Conservation Park

Te Papanui Conservation Park covers 20,591 ha. This remote area is an area of high ecological value, providing protection for a large area of intact native tussock grasslands, as well as a diversity of other ecosystems including wetlands, shrublands and silver beech forest remnants. It is considered a remote experience area and is used by the public for a range of recreational activities including hiking/walking, mountain biking, 4WD, horse trekking and cross-country skiing.

Hāwea Conservation Park

The Hāwea Conservation Park covers about 105,000 hectares of public conservation land around Lake Hāwea and the Hunter River, as well as areas on the McKerrow Range near Makarora. Large areas in the park are covered with native beech forest and shrublands.

Ōteake Conservation Park

About 65,000 hectares of public conservation land on the St Bathans, Hawkdun, Ida, Ewe and St Mary's Ranges and parts of the upper Manuherikia Basin. The vegetation is dominated by tussock grasslands.

Kōpūwai Conservation Area

The Kōpūwai Conservation Area is around 20,000ha and stretches along the Old Man Range due west of Alexandra. It contains the upper catchments of the Pomahaka and Fraser Rivers and features distinctive rock tors bisected with fields of alpine herbs along the exposed summit.

Otago Central Rail Trail

This very popular recreational facility for cyclists, walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders follow the route of the former Otago Central Branch railway line for 150 kilometres between Mata-Au, Clyde and Middlemarch. It is now one of the official Aotearoa, New Zealand Cycle Trails.

Remarkables, Coronet Peak and Treble Cone

Parts of the public conservation land at these sites are occupied by commercial ski fields that are well-known for winter recreational activities but are also popular summer destinations.



Significant species

There are many significant and well-known indigenous species that can be found within the Board's area of jurisdiction, including:

Otago and grand skinks/mokomoko

Jewelled gecko/moko kākāriki

Yellow-eyed Penguin/hoiho

Otago shag/kōua

New Zealand sea lion/rāpoka

Hectors dolphin/upokohue

New Zealand fur seal/kekeno

Southern right whale/tohorā

New Zealand parakeet/kākāriki

Long-tailed bat/pekapeka-tou-ra

Galaxiid/īnanga

Long-finned eel/tuna kuwharuwharu

Haast kiwi/tokoeka

New Zealand falcon/kārearea

Buff weka

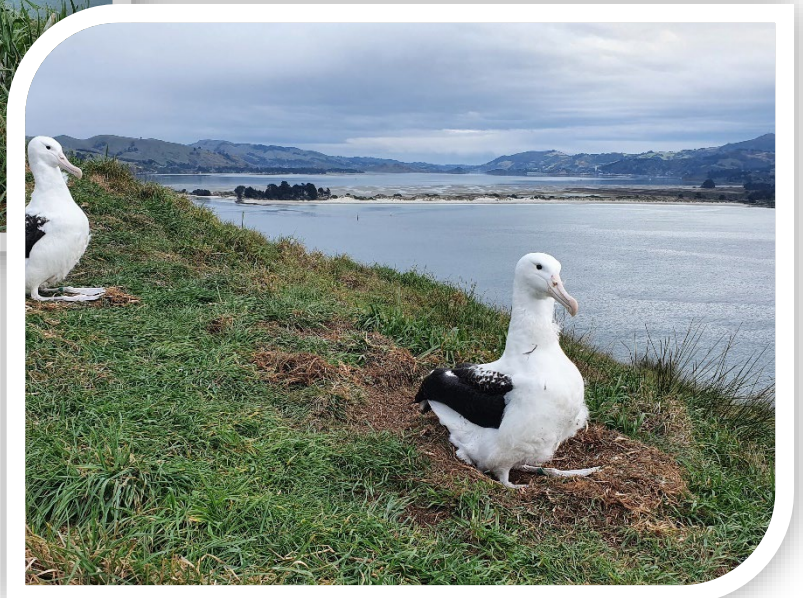
Yellowhead/mōhua

South Island robin/kakaruwai

Royal albatross/toroa



Toroa, Taiaroa Head – photo credit: Jim Watts



Work Programme

At the beginning of each year, the Board prepares a work plan outlining its statutory responsibilities, expectations set by the Minister of Conservation and any priorities the Board wishes to address. This is a living document that is updated with progress reports prior to each meeting. A summary of the main work streams is listed below, and the full document can be viewed in Appendix 1.

Statutory roles

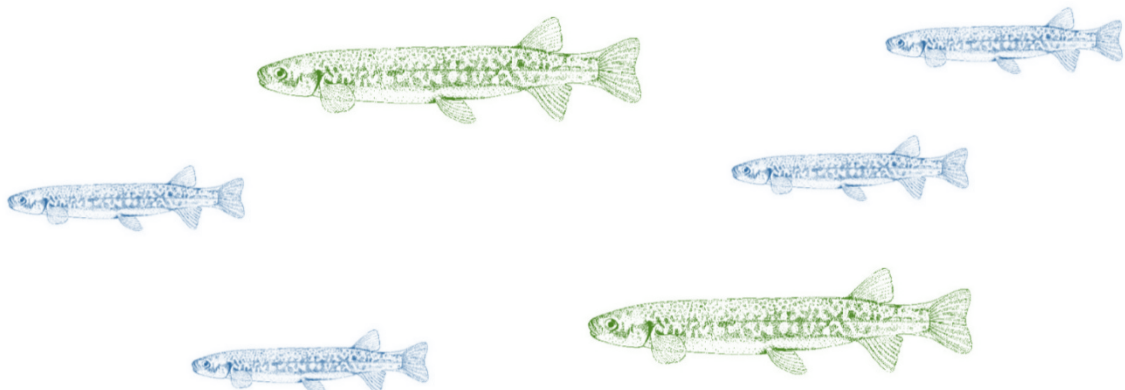
‘Contributing a strategic perspective to conservation planning, policy development and decision making.’

The Board provided advice to the Department on several concession applications and land status exchanges, including:

- Recommendation to the NZCA of the draft partial review of the Otago Conservation Management Strategy
- Advice to the Department regarding a proposal to vest a part of the Morning Star Beach Recreation Reserve
- The status of implementation of tenure review outcomes in Otago
- Progress of South-East Marine Protection
- Prioritising and resourcing engagement in Destination Management Plan processes

One media release was issued

- A call for action on a regenerative tourism strategy



Statutory Functions

CMS Partial Review

The CMS partial review was approved by the NZCA in June 2022. The OCB recommended many new areas for consideration for assessment, whilst looking to strengthen the assessment criteria to ensure robust debate on the merits and impacts of track proposals. This approach was endorsed and adopted approved by the NZCA. In our view, the new approach strikes an important balance between allowing for new trails to be considered but ensuring there are checks and balances in place to ensure any new trail is appropriate in a particular location.

CMS Milestone Reporting

Since June 2022, the Board has been focused on reviewing the milestones of the 2016 Otago Conservation Management Strategy (CMS). These milestones are a tangible measurement of progress on the work completed towards the outcomes of the CMS. These are expressed as three-, five- and ten-year milestones, supported by annual reporting done by DOC. The Otago CMS is now five years old, so it is timely to have this review to consolidate remaining milestones and review their application for the next five years.

This has stimulated much of the work done by DOC to better integrate these milestones into their annual regional business plan, and we are delighted to see the effort put in by the DOC Regional Planning Team.

Land Classification



The reclassification of Remarkables/Kawarau is a priority for the Otago Conservation Board and the whenua under consideration is of immense value to the people of Otago. Further, the reclassification of the Remarkables/ Kawarau is a milestone in the 2016 Otago Conservation Management Strategy.

The OCB has been advocating to the Department for a number of years to urging them to continue to progress this important work and avoid the loss of significant momentum and erosion of relationships that would be likely from a delay.

We now understand this work will form part of a wider consideration of stewardship reclassification in the South Island and be considered by a specialised panel. While we welcome moves to progress this, we would like to ensure that the Otago Conservation Board input is woven into this process as per our statutory responsibility.



Biodiversity

Members are delighted to see the Otago Interagency Biodiversity Forum (a collection of local councils, the Otago Regional Council and DOC) progressing well. The Board has taken the lead on this initiative to bring these groups together to better collaborate and share projects for the aim of greater delivery on positive outcomes.

Te Mana o Te Taiao

The long awaited first Te Mana o Te Taiao implementation strategy was released in 2022. This strategy allows operators better guidance to enact the goals of this broader plan. While the board does not have an operational role, this document provides a basis for us to provide advice to the department and other conservation organisations to ensure the implementation goals are met in a meaningful way and in a way that gives effect to Te Tiriti and our Otago conservation management strategy. The board looks forward to seeing how this strategy continues to develop and the outcomes it brings for our nature.

Biodiversity Forum

The Otago biodiversity forum continues to show promise as a cross organisational platform to share ideas, work together and achieve biodiversity outcomes. Our board continues its role in this forum in an advisory capacity.

Tāoka species

The board continues its work to support the wishes of mana whenua to have better information about tāoka species in our rohe. Working with the department we have begun to receive information which is not only been useful for our treaty partners but also the board at large.

Tarras airport

While the board has no set opinion on this development as of yet, the biodiversity of the site and surrounding areas including wetlands and other potential effects on the environment are of interest to the board.

Taieri Scroll Plain

The Board is pleased to see the progress in conservation efforts regarding the Taieri Scroll Plain. In particular the collaboration between the Department, mana whenua, local farmers, and community groups.



Challenges- Other Notes

A number of discussions have been held at and between Board meetings regarding the challenges in having an effective system for monitoring and reporting on impacts on species, infrastructure and landscapes at a regional / local level particularly in relation to tāoka species and their wellbeing and particularly in high traffic / high visitor usage areas. There is reporting at a national level but there seem to be challenges in effectively reporting at a regional / local level, which would be very useful for DOC staff and for Conservation Boards to be able to identify and manage threats as early as possible to minimise negative impacts.

Biodiversity Subcommittee lead Taylor Davies-Colley holding a scree skink found during a lizard survey in Oteake conservation park in January. This is one of the most lizard diverse places in the country and a special part of our region.



Visitor Management

The following is a summary of the work done by the Visitor Management Subcommittee against the board's annual workplan.

- 1. Review Destination Management Plans from each of the Regional Tourism Organisation in Otago and provide feedback where relevant.**
- 2. Hold a workshop in February 2023 related to reducing/identifying barriers to conservation work.**
- 3. Engage directly with targeted members of the tourism sector to seek implementation of regenerative tourism outcomes on public conservation lands and waters.**

All regional tourism organisations in the Otago region have now completed their destination management plans, to better align with their operations within the industry to the interests of community wellbeing, culture, te taiao, conservation, biodiversity, and climate change, in addition to the economic benefits tourism brings to the region. There are some very bold and ambitious initiatives already underway including community funding platforms to support volunteer conservation organisations and projects to reduce and eliminate greenhouse gas emissions, with airports rapidly developing plans for infrastructure to support zero carbon aviation technology.

Queenstown Lakes has unveiled plans for tourism in the area to reach "Carbon Zero by 2030" including scope 3 emissions. A number of positive projects are progressing, supporting zero carbon transport and recreation through bike trails connecting Tāhuna, Queenstown, Wānaka and Cromwell to Otepoti, Dunedin and the East Coast.



Lake Wakatipu showing Cecil Peak and Walter Peak, Queenstown | Photo by B. Smith

Climate Change

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Board Liaison

Treaty Partnership

Our Ngāi Tahu representatives continue to liaise with local rūnaka as well as Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and effectively bring Treaty partner perspectives to our table.

New Zealand Conservation Authority

The Board has continued to maintain a positive and constructive relationship with the New Zealand Conservation Authority. This has included:

- NZCA liaison (Metiria Stanton Turei) attended Board meetings.
- Continuing to align its submissions with those made by the NZCA to ensure maximum impact (when possible).

Conservation Boards

The annual Conservation Board Chairs' Conference provides an excellent forum for Chairs across Aotearoa, New Zealand to learn from each other and is highly valued. Relationships with the local neighbouring Conservation Boards are excellent with regular communication between the four Boards – Otago, Southland, Canterbury Aoraki and West Coast Tai Poutini with regular reciprocal attendance at meetings, particularly with Southland.



Otago Fish and Game Council

Taylor Davies-Colley was the Board member allocated as liaison with Otago Fish and Game Council.

Informing the Board



The Board continues to receive reports from the Department at each meeting. These include an overview of important issues with a particular emphasis on the strategic issues arising in each area. This is intended to better align with the Board's role. Some highlights included:

- CMS Partial Review briefing
- Implementing NZ Biodiversity Strategy
- Jobs For Nature
- South East Marine Protection (SEMP)
- Climate Change
- Visitor Management Strategy
- Business Planning
- Treaty Partnership



Community Engagement

A Public Forum session at each Board meeting is made available for members of the community to raise conservation issues with the Board. In 2022-2023, presentations made by community groups and members of the public at Board meetings included:

- Sharon Salmons, Club Secretary, Southern Lakes NZ Deerstalkers Association presented on the proposed 1080 drop for the Routeburn, Dart, Rockburn and Beans Burn
- Bronwyn Bain. (private individual) presented on the SEMP

Governance

Department of Conservation

The Board enjoys a strong relationship with Te Papa Atawhai, the Department of Conservation in 2022-23, interacting with the Director Operations, SSI, Aaron Fleming, Statutory Manager John Roberts, and Operations Managers - Coastal Otago, Annie Wallace; - Central Otago, Nikki Holmes; - Whakatipu-wai-Māori David Butt.

Concessions and Submissions

Advice was provided to the Department on a number of occasions about concession applications where the activity is not adequately covered within a Plan or Strategy, or it is to be publicly notified.

Board Membership

There were nine Board members for the reporting year. This included two appointees of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu in accordance with section 273 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

Changes to Membership

We bid farewell to Gareth Hughes in November 2022



Board Members

Tim Barke (Chair)

Tim has extensive experience in land, marine and aviation-based tourism, and is currently the Chief Executive of Lake Wānaka Tourism. He has worked extensively with community, iwi, and the Department of Conservation. Tim is interested and experienced in understanding taonga and seeking to achieve industry outcomes whilst protecting and enhancing the mauri, the mana and wairua of the rohe.

Tara Druce

Tara has a background in tourism public policy and research, having been a Senior Research Advisor in the Ministry of Tourism. Now living in Alexandra, she is a self-employed planning consultant, working on tourism, community development, recreation and heritage projects at local, regional and national levels. She is seen as holding highly productive and pro-active relationships in the community.

Dr Philippa Agnew

Philippa is a research scientist with Tourism Waitaki at the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony. She has a PhD in marine science, specialising in seabirds, and has extensive experience in environmental management, including maintenance, population management, spatial planning and conservation. She has detailed knowledge around protected species and Marine Protected Areas and was a member of the South East Marine Protection Forum.

Dean Fraser

Dean is a Ngāi Tahu representative. He is General Manager Transformation at Ngāi Tahu Holdings. He has previously held a variety of roles both with Ngāi Tahu Development Corporation and as the Chair of Ōtākou Papatipu Rūnaka. He is skilled in strategic direction, operational delivery, and risk management.

Jen Rodgers

Jen Rodgers works as a facilitator for the EnviroSchools programme in Dunedin. She is active in working with communities to increase knowledge of biodiversity and climate issues. She has a Bachelor of Science and a Graduate Diploma in Sustainable Practice.

Taylor Davies-Colley

Ngāpuhi, Te Hikutu

Taylor is passionate about the biodiversity and people of Aotearoa and Otago. He recently completed a master's in science researching the decline of one of our rarest plant species. He now works as an educator and science communicator at Orokonui ecosanctuary working with children and the community to ensure a future for our unique and precious wildlife and wild spaces.

Rebecca Begg

Rebecca has practical experience in terrestrial and freshwater-based conservation issues in Otago; has demonstrated rural community engagement; and strong understanding of conservation management and tourism operations in Otago and Fiordland. Mrs Begg completed the Department of Conservation's Noho Marea programme (Te Pukenga Atawhai), has studied Te Tiriti whilst at university, and continues to work with local rūnaka and hapū representatives on achieving community and environmental outcomes in the region.

Neil Harraway

Neil has extensive experience in nature conservation advocacy through journalism, film production and documentary making with Natural History NZ, reaching a wide audience across New Zealand and the world. He also has a strong understanding of terrestrial and marine sciences, business management and operation within tourism sector. Mr Harraway has engagement experience with tāngata whenua in showcasing their relationship with nature during documentary productions including series on NZ National Parks, and during Wild Dunedin – NZ's festival of nature.

Gareth Hughes

Mr Hughes, who lives in Dunedin, has significant experience in lobbying for Conservation having worked with Greenpeace NZ and the Green Party on issues such as climate change. More recently, having left politics, he moved with his family to live on Quarantine Island in Otago with a focus on Conservation.



Board Committees

The Board may appoint committees when appropriate to address a particular issue within the region. During the reporting period, the following subcommittees were established:

Subcommittee	Board Members
CMS Partial Review	Tara
Biodiversity/Jobs for Nature	Taylor (Lead), Philippa, Gareth, Neil and Rebecca
Climate Change	Jen (Lead); Taylor, Neil & Rebecca
Visitor Management	Tim (Lead), Philippa, Neil
Land reclassification	Tara (Lead), Taylor
Strengthening understanding & delivery of Section 4	Dean, Tim

Treaty Partnership

Ngāi Tahu nominates two members of the Board. They are individually selected by their papatipu Rūnanga, and their status as representative of local hapū is endorsed by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Otago Conservation Board's representatives during this annual report period were Dean Fraser and Ranui Ellison-Collins.

Neighbouring Conservation Boards

Board member	Role
Dr Philippa Agnew	Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board liaison
Tim Barke (Chair)	New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison
Tara Druce	West Coast Ta Poutini Conservation Board liaison
Rebecca Begg	Southland Conservation Board liaison

Attendance

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

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

Board Member	Base	Meetings Attended
Tim Barke (Chair)	Queenstown	4/4
Tara Druce	Manuherikia, Alexandra	4/4
Dr Philippa Agnew	Oamaru	4/4
Taylor Davies-Colley	Ōtepoti. Dunedin	4/4
Rebecca Begg	Clydevale, Balclutha	4/4
Jen Rodgers	Ōtepoti. Dunedin	3/4
Neil Harraway	Ōtepoti. Dunedin	3/4
Dean Fraser	Ōtautahi, Christchurch	2/4
Gareth Huges	Quarantine Island, Otago	2/4

Appendices



Appendix 1:

Annual Work Plan

Otago Conservation Board

1 July 2022 – 30 June



OTAGO CONSERVATION BOARD

Poari Papa Atawhai - ā-rohe ki Otago

2022-23 Mahere ā-tau - *Annual Work Plan* **Te Poari o Te Papa Atawhai ki Ōtākou –** ***Otago Conservation Board***

The 2022/23 work programme has been developed consistent with the 2022 Letter of Expectation to the OCB from the Minister of Conservation (see Appendix 1).

The work programme is also shaped by:

- (i) Function of Conservation Boards as set out in the Conservation Act (See Appendix 2)
- (ii) Strategic priorities of the NZCA (Appendix 3)
- (iii) Departmental priorities (Appendix 4)

This workplan is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act 1987 and distributed to interested parties.



1. Biodiversity

2022 MOC Letter of Expectation - Expectations and Priorities	Board work programme to deliver these	Due Date	Interim Progress Update
<p>Implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao- the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy</p>	<p>Support this through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the OCB biodiversity member leads undertaking to (i) Understand the strategy (ii) identify meaningful opportunities to engage with stakeholders about it (iii) deliver targeted public/stakeholder advocacy (iv) update each Board meeting. <p>Engage and advocate re-SEMP should this opportunity arise</p>	<p>November 2023 November 2023 June 2023 Each meeting</p> <p>June 2023</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Advocated via a letter to the Minister</p>
<p>Greater protection of indigenous biodiversity enabled by Predator Free 2050.</p>	<p>Advocate for this by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board biodiversity leads to identify advocacy opportunities Advocacy at the Otago interagency Biodiversity forum Advocacy (submission) into Otago Regional Policy Statement Chair to invite local councils to present on their biodiversity programmes 	<p>November 2022</p> <p>each meeting</p> <p>February 2023</p> <p>Public forum each meeting</p>	<p>Completed.</p> <p>Ensure Biodiversity Forum continues into the future.</p> <p>Ongoing</p>



2. Statutory Advocacy

2022 MOC Letter of Expectation - Expectations and Priorities	Board work programme to deliver these	Due Date	Interim Progress Update
Reviews of national park management plans and Conservation Management Strategies (CMSs) to support their progress effectively to promote strong conservation outcomes	Contribute to any reviews or partial reviews of Conservation Management Strategies or National Park Plans should they occur in Otago in the 22/23 year.	June 2023	Ongoing
	Provide advice to DOC regarding concession proposals brought to the board.	Reactive, as they arise	Ongoing
Stewardship Land Reclassification	Provide advice when the national programme comes to Otago	June 2023	Awaiting progress
Achieving Tenure Review Outcomes	Advocate for progress of implementing outstanding tenure review outcomes.	Nov 2022	Completed



3. Treaty of Waitangi

2022 MOC Letter of Expectation - Expectations and Priorities	Board work programme to deliver these	Due Date	Interim Progress Update
Embed the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi	Hold a section 4 workshop/wānanga for Board Members and senior DOC staff in the Southern South Island region	June 2023	In progress



4. Climate Change

2022 MOC Letter of Expectation - Expectations and Priorities	Board work programme to deliver these	Due Date	Interim Progress Update
Support the transition to a lower carbon delivery model, having regard to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019.	Seek to understand and to support the Department in delivery of their carbon reduction and adaptation plan	Feb 2023	Completed
	Actively advocate in the public arena/media channels regarding issues and opportunities for species management re- climate change adaptation	Feb 2023	Ongoing
	Carpool to meetings, hold online meetings	Ongoing	Ongoing



5. Tourism

2022 MOC Letter of Expectation - Expectations and Priorities	Board work programme to deliver these	Due Date	Interim Progress Update
Advocate for sustainable tourism activities on public conservation lands and waters	Review Destination Management Plans from each of the Regional Tourism Organisation in Otago and provide feedback where relevant.	Feb 2023	Ongoing
	Hold a workshop in February 2023 related to reducing/identifying barriers to conservation work.	Feb 2023	Work in Progress
	Engage directly with targeted members of the tourism sector to seek implementation of regenerative tourism outcomes on public conservation lands and waters.	April 2023	Completed



6. Delivery of CMS Milestones

2022 MOC Letter of Expectation - Expectations and Priorities	Board work programme to deliver these	Due Date	Interim Progress Update
Promote the delivery of the Otago CMS Biodiversity Milestones	Complete review of CMS Milestones	Nov 2022	Completed
Ensure delivery of CMS milestones in the timeframes outlined in the Otago CMS	Undertake end of year review of implementation of all CMS milestones 2022/23 year	June 2023	Completed



OTAGO CONSERVATION BOARD

Poari Papa Atawhai - ā-rohe ki Otago

RISKS

The capacity of Board Members to allocate adequate time and resources to deliver the above programme.

The ability to balance competing perspectives and values for conservation around the Board table.

The capability to understand and implement Treaty perspectives.

OPPORTUNITIES

To find ways to support and enable DOC to better deliver its work.

Appendix 1

Hon Poto Williams

MP for Christchurch East
Minister of Conservation
Minister for Disability Issues
Associate Minister for Children



19 JUL 2022

Ref: 22-B-0196

Tara Druce

Otago Conservation Board
tara@druceconsulting.co.nz
otagoconservationboard@doc.govt.nz

Tena koe Ms Druce

Annual Letter of Expectations for 2022-23 - Otago Conservation Board

I would like to thank you and your board members for your ongoing efforts to serve the Otago community and for continuing to be local conservation leaders.

The purpose of this letter is to confirm my expectations for your board. These expectations should inform the development of your board's planning process for the year. This letter also sets out a framework for successfully working with the Department of Conservation (the Department).

The basis for my expectations originates in the statutory functions set out in section GM of the Conservation Act 1987 (the Act), section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980, and the Reserves Act 1977. As reflected in these statutes, the focus of conservation boards is policy issues, strategic direction, and planning, not the day-to-day operations of the Department.

Government and ministerial priorities

For the 2022-23 year, my priorities for conservation boards are to:

- Support the implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao - the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy
- Contribute to any reviews of national park management plans and Conservation Management Strategies (CMSs) and support their progress effectively to promote strong conservation outcomes
- Embed the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in accordance with the obligations of section 4 of the Act in all aspects of work
- Support the transition to a lower-carbon conservation delivery model, having regard to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019.

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Board-specific priorities

For the 2022-23 year, my priorities for the Otago Conservation Board are to:

- Promote the delivery of the Otago CMS biodiversity milestones
- Advocate for the prioritisation of greater protection of indigenous biodiversity enabled by Predator Free 2050
- Assist with the stewardship land review in the Otago area
- Advocate for sustainable tourism activities on public conservation lands and waters. I

have been informed by my officials that your priorities for the 2022-23 year include:

- Ensuring delivery of CMS milestones in the timeframes outlined in the Otago CMS
- Advocating for the gazettal of public conservation lands acquired through pastoral lease tenure review and solid progress on implementing the backlog of tenure review outcomes
- Working with the tourism sector and the Department to plan for a regenerative tourism future on public conservation lands and waters.

I expect these priorities to be reflected in your 2022-23 Strategic Annual Work Plan and that you will work with the Department on its priorities, and look forward to seeing the outcomes in your annual report.

Resources

The Department services conservation boards in accordance with section GV of the Act. This includes providing resources developed by the Department to help boards achieve the highest standards of conservation leadership. These are published and updated as appropriate at www.conservationboards.org.nz.

Your community

As board members, you represent the public interest in conservation. It is integral that you are active and visible in your communities, so that you bring a well-informed community voice to the table. New Zealand communities are becoming increasingly engaged with conservation and are increasingly aware of the importance of preserving and protecting our natural environment as guardians for future generations. I expect your board to continue to encourage, nurture and facilitate this interest.

Working with the Department of Conservation

The Department is focused on the delivery of quality conservation work, which aligns with the conservation leadership role you play within your local communities. I expect you to work collaboratively with your Operations Director and Statutory Manager to maintain a strong working relationship with the Department. This relationship is important in providing advice to the Department on conservation matters within your area.

I expect you to report on what is working well for you, and areas that require improvement.

Working with other conservation boards and the NZCA

Conservation is a nationwide challenge, and work on conservation matters, management strategies and plans frequently requires working across boundaries with other conservation boards. I encourage you to continue to develop effective ways of working together with other conservation boards to establish a consistent and efficient approach and avoid a duplication of efforts. The New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) is a source of support for conservation boards to draw upon in relation to the national and policy context for conservation issues.

No surprises

I expect to be informed well in advance of any material or significant events relating to the board, whether positive or negative. Examples of matters that could fall within the 'no surprises' policy could include, but are not limited to, imminent media coverage of any activities that could attract critical media comment, or any matters on which I could be asked to express a view.

Understanding conservation boards' legal obligations

I expect that all conservation board members fully understand their legal obligations under conservation law, including the hierarchy of priorities that should be taken into account when making decisions. Conservation boards' legal obligations are covered in section 5 of the Conservation Board Manual.¹

Planning and reporting

I expect you, with your Operations Director, will be finalising your work plan in the near future. Your work plan should align with your statutory obligations under the Act, the National Parks Act 1980, and the Reserves Act 1977. I expect that your finalised work plan would include measures and milestones, demonstration of what success will look like for each priority, and how your board will be able to support the Department's priorities.

I look forward to hearing about the work you have achieved in 2021-22 in your annual report through the NZCA in the coming months. I am also keen to get a greater understanding of the work in your area and encourage you to provide me with a brief interim report on your activities mid-year as you progress your 2022-23 workplan. The Department will provide a template for you to use for this purpose.

I appreciate the effort and commitment of your board to conservation in your community and wish you a successful year.

Naku noa na



Hon Poto Williams
Minister of Conservation

¹ <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodie.s/conservation-boards/conservation-board-manual/conservation-board-stalutory-functions-and-powers>