

# Waikato Conservation Board Annual Report

2019-2020



**Front Cover:**

**Wakato Conservation Board – 27 February 2020**

(left to right – Pauline Hickey, Fiona Gower, Clare St Pierre, Alan Cockle, (DOC Staff – Gemma White), Flora Bartholomew, Regan Robinson, Scott Summerfield, and Joyce Birdsall. (Missing: Melissa King-Howell).

# Waikato Conservation Board Annual Report 2019-2020

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

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

If you would like more information on the Waikato Conservation Board please see the website <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodies/conservation-Boards/> or contact the Board Support Officer, at the Department of Conservation in Hamilton, Ph: 07 8581000.

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## 1. Chairperson's Report

### E ngā mana e ngā a reo e ngā karanga maha tēnā koutou katoa

The Board's business year has been like no other. The advent of COVID- 9 and its continued global impact saw the Boards focus concentrate on the health and wellbeing of both Board members and Te Papa Atawhai personnel. We all experienced and honed our skills to operate in the new normal both in virtual and face to face engagement, and whilst the delivery of the Boards role had to be modified our ability to focus and collaborate remained un-diminished.

The Board's business year comprised of:

- Attendance at biodiversity seminar in Hamilton "Biodiversity Loss in the Waikato"
- Provision of feedback and or Submission as to the; Hectors and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan, NZ Biodiversity Strategy Review, Healthy Waterways Discussion document, Whitebait Management, National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, McGregor Bay Wetland, Sea Change, Mining on and under Conservation Land
- Oversight of Board movements - Te Whanganui A Hei Marine Reserve Sub committee
- Utilising Iwi affiliated Board members and Pou Tairangahau, Department of Conservation Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai to assist the Board gaining better understanding of cultural awareness and giving effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987
- Field trips/Board meetings; Official opening of new office, Te Papa Atawhai, Thames, Hosting New Zealand Conservation Authority, Attending 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary function for the Hauraki Marine Forum and Joint Board meeting with Auckland Conservation Board
- Attendance by, and valuable input and insight by Board liaisons; Mick Clout (New Zealand Conservation Authority). More detail follows in the body of this report.

To the Board and Department of Conservation personnel thank you for your continued collaboration to achieve the ultimate goal of positive outcomes for conservation in Aotearoa New Zealand.

It now gives me great pleasure to present to you the Waikato Conservation Board 2019/20 Annual Report.

naku noa

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

Alan Cockle  
Chair



## 2. Introduction

This is the Waikato 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 Waikato 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 those functions, are under 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 Waikato 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 Authority on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- liaising with the regional Fish and Game Council on conservation matters
- carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

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

### 3. Conservation Board Region

The Waikato Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction extends from the west coast of the North Island between Port Waikato and Mokau, across to the western edge of Lake Taupo and north to the Coromandel Peninsula. It is characterised by a variety of different landscapes, resulting from a history of uplifting, sea level change, volcanism and the influence of major river systems, such as the Waikato River.

Stand-out features of the Waikato include the west coast harbours – Kawhia, Aotea and Raglan; spectacular coastal cliffs at Moeatoa and Te Toto Gorge, Waitomo karst system; volcanic cones such as Pirongia and Karioi, and the exposed volcanic plugs (remnants of older volcanoes) on the Coromandel range; the lakes and wetlands of the Waikato and Hauraki plains; and rugged coastline, including the many islands off the Coromandel Peninsula.

The range of landscapes, altitude and east-to-west contrast provides for a great diversity of ecosystems, including the southern limit for some species, such as kauri, and northern limit of others, such as subalpine vegetation found at its northern-most limit on Moehau. Historically rare ecosystems, such as Kopuatai Peat Dome and Waitomo karst, are internationally important. Some ecosystems are well represented, such as the tall podocarp-broadleaf forests of Pureora (including the largely intact forest at Waipapa), whereas other once widespread ecosystems, such as lowland kahikatea forest, are now threatened. These ecosystems in turn provide habitat for a wide diversity of native flora and fauna.

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

The Board's area of responsibility is nearly 270,000 ha of Public Conservation land (12% of the total area 2,250,000 hectares). The land is described in more than 500 separate parcels for various purposes, including forests, wetlands, caves, marine reserves, offshore islands, historic sites, wildlife protection, and recreational areas.

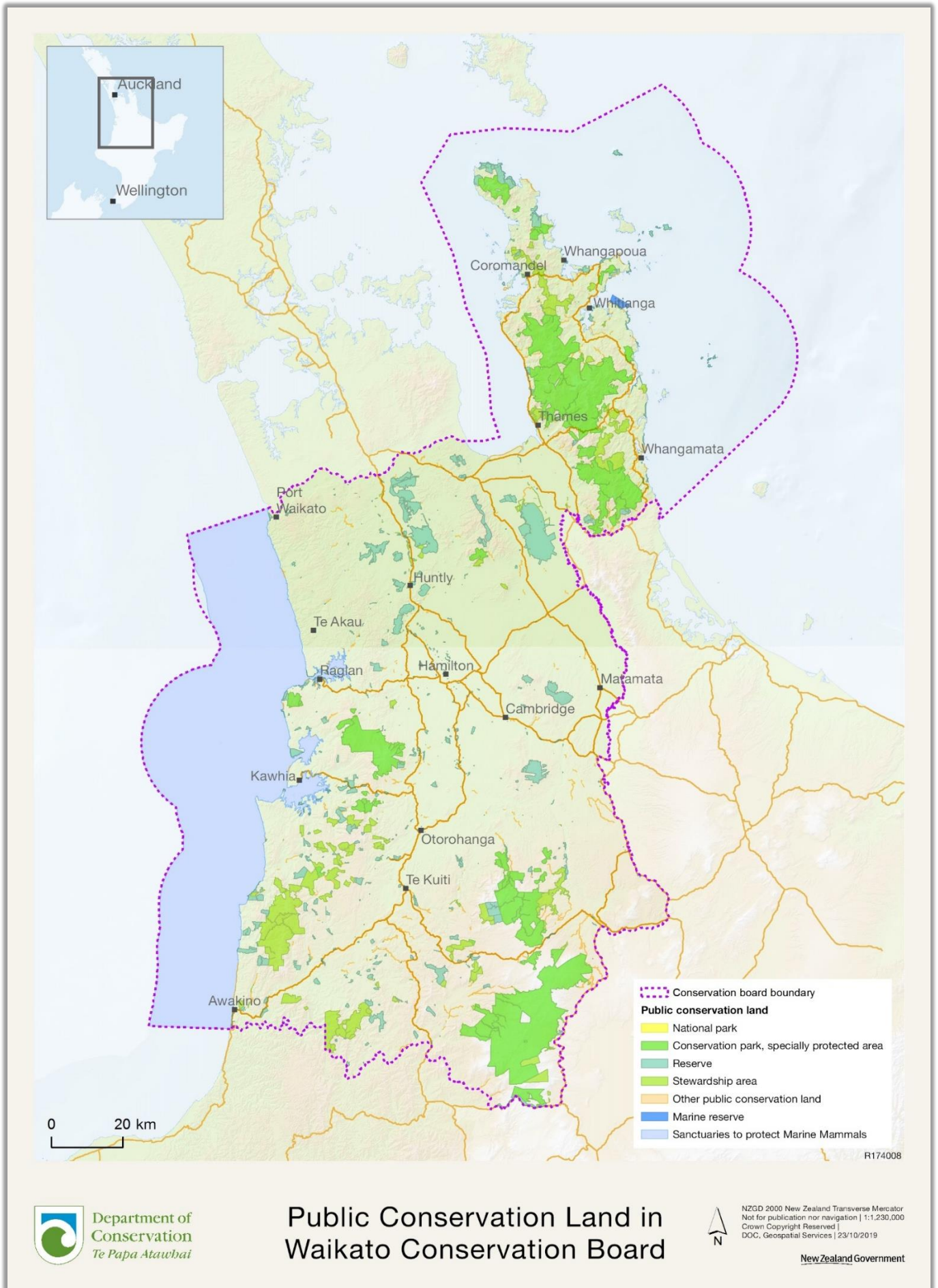


Figure 1: Waikato Conservation Board Jurisdiction

### Public Conservation Land (hectares by legislative section)

- Recreation Reserve – 6,328.76 ha
- Historic Reserve – 275.66 ha
- Scenic Reserve (sec 19 1a) – 27,286.03 ha
- Conservation Park – 162,993.98 ha
- Nature Reserve - 446.10 ha
- Ecological Area – 42,407.85 ha
- Scientific Reserve – 1,776.93 ha
- Government Purpose Reserve – 21,746.03 ha
- Sanctuary Area - 494.78 ha
- Local Purpose Reserve – 5,822.42 ha
- Moveable Marginal Strip - 83.35 ha
- Fixed Marginal Strip – 2,725.91 ha
- Stewardship Area – 62,670.67 ha
- Marine Reserve – 878.93 ha
- Sanctuaries to protect Marine Mammals – 407,153.86 ha

### The large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- some form of protection for freshwater species
- kauri dieback
- mangorei dieback
- the state of wetlands, lakes and rivers
- retain the biodiversity of mainland forest remnants ranging from coastal to montane forests
- predator control
- better protection for the Maui Dolphin including the review of the Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan
- possible implementation of Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Management Plan
- changing tourism demographics and pressures at new and existing sites such as Pureora, Waitomo, Cathedral Cove, Kauaeranga Valley
- Mining on/under Public Conservation Land
- Giving effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act
- Stewardship Land

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

- **Three internationally significant wetlands (Ramsar Convention)**  
Whangamarino Wetland, Kopuatai Peat Dome and the Firth of Thames/Tikapa Moana
- **Coastline and estuarine areas**  
(Firth of Thames, Waikato River Delta, Raglan Harbour (Whaingaroa), Aotea and Kawhia Harbour)
- **Large tracts of virgin forest**  
(Manaia Kauri Sanctuary, Moehau, Waihaha and Waipapa)
- **Terrestrial forests associated with the Hakarimata and Hapuakohe Ranges**, the volcanic Cones of Maungatautari, Kakepuku, Pirongia and Karioi and the karst landforms of Te Kauri
- **Sites of significant regional and national tourism**  
Waitomo, Cathedral Cove and Pureora Timber Trail
- **Rare and endangered species /ecosystems**  
(Kokako, Mahoenui Giant Weta, Whitebait, Maui's Dolphin, Kiwi and particularly the Coromandel Brown Kiwi and Archey's and Hochstetter's Frog)
- **Reptile and seabird communities on offshore islands**  
Tūturiwhatu/New Zealand Dotterel and Ngutuparore/Wrybill
- **Important Maori and European historic resources**

## 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 with the jurisdiction of the Board
- 5) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matter 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 membership

There were 10 Board members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Alan Cockle was elected Chairperson and Fiona Gower was elected Deputy Chairperson.

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

*Table 1: Board membership*

<b>Board member</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Term start</b>	<b>Term end</b>	<b>Term served</b>
Alan Cockle	Hamilton	01/07/2014	30/06/2020	6
Joyce Birdsall	Tairua	01/05/2014	30/06/2021	5.5
Pauline Hickey	Hamilton	01/0/2017	30/06/2020	3
Melissa King-Howell	Hamilton	01/07/2018	30/06/2022	2
Regan Robinson	Raglan	01/07/2018	30/06/2021	2
Clare St Pierre	Pirongia	01/11/2018	30/06/2021	1.5
Scott Summerfield	Thames	01/11/2019	30/06/2021	1.5
Gaylene Roberts	Putaruru	01/07/2019	30/06/2022	1
Fiona Gower	Port Waikato	07/07/2014	30/06/2020	5.5
Flora Bartholomew	Te Kuiti	01/07/2019	30/06/2022	1

#### 4.4. Members profiles

##### **Alan Cockle of Hamilton (Chairperson)**

*Appointment term: 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2020*

Alan is a business owner providing Maori Land Research, Administration Services and Governance Mentoring. He has a background in mediation, facilitation, and financial and property management.

Alan has governance experience as a trustee and Board member, and extensive iwi affiliations. He has expertise in tribal histories and is an orator within Ngati Maniapoto. He is of Ngati Maniapoto, Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Kahungungu, Te Ati Awa and Ati Haunui A Paparangi iwi. Alan is also a Justice of the Peace.

**Fiona Gower of Tuakau – (Vice Chairperson)**

*Appointment term: 1 November 2018 to 30 June 2020*

Fiona Gower combines her passion for conservation, environment, and community into a number of roles, including her position on the Waikato Conservation Board. She is also chair of the NZ Landcare Trust, national president of Rural Women New Zealand, a member of the Port Waikato Beachcare Committee, scout leader for the Waikaretu Sea Scouts, and a lifeguard and instructor at Sunset Beach Surf Lifesaving Club.

In her spare time, Fiona enjoys getting out on the farm she lives and works on, fishing and whitebaiting, and spending the increasingly rare time at home or her beach house relaxing with friends and family, reading, baking and gardening.

**Joyce Birdsall of Tairua**

*Appointment term: 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021*

Joyce Birdsall lives in the small Tairua township on the Coromandel Peninsula and has extensive community connections through environmental and conservation related groups.

She holds a Certificate of Environmental Management and has a strong interest in environmental legislation at regional and government level. She is committed to the protection and enhancement of our natural resources, particularly estuarine environments, and native forest. Her outdoor interests are gardening, walking and golf.

**Flora Bartholomew of Te Kuiti**

*Appointment Term: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022*

Flora is a self-employed dairy farmer and holds a Certificate in Biology, a Bachelor in Horticultural Science, and a Diploma in Business Management. She has five QEII blocks on her property and is a member of Rural Women NZ, Federated Farmers and Dairy Women's Network. She has a Certificate in Sustainable Nutrient Management in NZ Agriculture from Massey University.

**Pauline Hickey of Hamilton**

*Appointment term: 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2020*

Pauline has a background in finance within the agriculture sector. Her accounting career has mainly been situated in the Waikato region and covers a wide range from chartered accountants to rural retailers and manufacturers. During the past 15 years Pauline has developed an in-depth knowledge of Not for Profits and Charitable Trusts.

Pauline has two adult daughters: one a farmer and the other a freshwater ecologist. Pauline's recreational interests are mainly outdoors including netball, hot air ballooning - and she is developing an interest in lacrosse.



**Melissa King-Howell of Hamilton**

*Appointment term: 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2022*

Mrs King-Howell, of Ngāti Māhanga and Ngāti Te Wehi, has extensive leadership experience in performance management, skill capability, and capacity growth. She has a personal style preference and is an ardent advocate for servant leadership. She has a wide and varied background which includes iwi engagement, risk management, community development and small business mentoring. She has also held conservation roles as Area Manager Hauraki, Operations Manager Waikato, and led the Māori Focused Unit for Waikato Regional Council. Melissa is the trustee chairperson for her Pā and also holds a trustee role within Aramiro Station where she is engaged with Ngā Whenua Rāhui on a joint project with Waikato Regional Council in riparian planting and fencing of the Station's waterways.

**Gaylene Roberts of Putaruru**

*Appointment term: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022*

Gaylene is of Ngati Raukawa and Waikato Tainui descent nominated by the head of Kahui Ariki (the Maori Sovereign, King Tuheitia). She is on the Board in terms of the Waikato Raupatu Lands Settlement Act 1995. She has strong governance experience and is currently a chairperson and member on several boards and trusts, such as the Raukawa Settlement Trust, Waipa District Council Iwi Consultative Committee and Waikato District Health Board Kaunihera Kaumātua. She has previously been on the Board from 2012-2013, also nominated by the head of Kahui Ariki.

**Regan Robinson of Hamilton**

*Appointment term: 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021*

Mr Robinson is a water resource engineer, with a detailed understanding of earth, water, and ecological interfaces. Through his employment, first with Waikato Regional Council and latterly with Tonkin and Taylor, he has experience in solving complex issues with rivers, streams, and wetlands – involving both traditional and more innovative environmentally sensitive engineering approaches.

**Clare St Pierre of Waikato**

*Appointment term: 1 November 2018 to 30 June 2021*

Clare lives in Pirongia Village, close to where she grew up, and is an elected Councillor for Waipa District Council. She is a Resource Management Hearings Commissioner and a former chair of Waipa District Council's Audit & Risk Committee. She has a Bachelor of Business Studies (First Class Honours) majoring in management with post-graduate specialisation in Advanced Environmental Management and Sustainability.

She is the founding chairperson of Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society, which has won multiple awards including the 2018 Biosecurity Community Award, and the 2017 Green Ribbon Award for biodiversity protection for their kōkako work.

She has over 20 years' experience leading successful community-based environmental action and enjoys a good working relationship with Ngati Apakura and Ngati Rereahu.

Her interests include gardening, tree crops, cycling and creative pursuits.

### **Scott Summerfield of Thornton Bay**

*Appointment term: 1 November 2018 to 30 June 2021*

Scott is an environmentalist with connections to groups undertaking conservation work in the Coromandel. He is an advocate for protecting public conservation land from mining activity and increased public funding for enhancing indigenous biodiversity and active management across the DOC estate. Scott has previously worked on the Hauraki Treaty settlement negotiations as part of the Office of Treaty Settlements in Wellington.

Scott was formerly at the Thames-Coromandel District Council as the Policy and Planning Manager, and currently works in Treaty partnerships and regional relationships at Ministry for the Environment. He is a member of Forest and Bird, Coromandel Watchdog and is a qualified hearings commissioner.

#### **4.5. Board meetings**

The Board held six meetings during the reporting period. The public forum enables members of the public can attend meetings and access the Board.

*Table 2: Board meetings and location*

<b>Board meeting date</b>	<b>Meeting location and venue</b>
27 August 2019	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
26 November 2019	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
27 February 2020	Department of Conservation 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland
28 February 2020	Department of Conservation 24 Wellesley Street, Auckland
28 April 2020	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
23 June 2020	Gallagher Hockey Centre Queens Avenue Hamilton

#### 4.6. Attendance

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

Table 3: Board Member attendance

<b>Board member</b>	<b>Board meetings</b>	<b>Induction – Workshop</b>
Alan Cockle	6/6	1
Fiona Gower	6/6	1
Joyce Birdsall	6/6	1
Pauline Hickey	4/6	1
Melissa King-Howell	5/6	1
Regan Robinson	5/6	0
Clare St Pierre	4/6	1
Scott Summerfield	5/6	1
Gaylene Roberts	2/6	0
Flora Bartholomew	6/6	1

#### 4.7. 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 4: Field trips and site inspections

<b>Field trip date</b>	<b>Field trip destination and purpose</b>
<b>07 October 2019</b>	Pirongia Forest Park

**New Zealand Conservation Authority**  
**Visit to the Waikato 7 / 8 October 2019**

The New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) held its October meeting in Hamilton on the 8<sup>th</sup> October, with a field trip, hosted by Waikato District DOC staff, to Pirongia Forest Park, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October. The Conservation Board joined them on this excursion.



NZCA / DOC - Pirongia Forest Park – 7 October 2019 -Photo - courtesy DOC - Waikato

We were joined by Nardene Berry, from Te Pahu Landcare Trust, who spoke of the predator control work the Trust has been involved with to protect and enhance Te Pahu's natural indigenous environment. Nardene spoke of the Trust's achievements, their vision for the future and of the significant community involvement to achieve their goals.

Clare St Pierre and Dave Bryden, from the Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society, shared the work they are involved with in regard to pest control, robin and kokako introductions and *dactylanthus* management etc. Andrew Styche, Senior Community Ranger, DOC, Waikato discussed the Department's work in pest control work/ and objectives for Pirongia.

Following presentations and prior to walking the Mangakaara Bush Loop Track members were very fortunate to see two kokako.



*Kokako - Pirongia Forest – 7 October 2019 Photo - courtesy DOC-Waikato*

This sighting clearly emphasised what can be achieved with sustained and effective predator control.

NZCA members were then transported to Lake Ruatuna, one of Ohaupo's peat lakes, where, after a short lunch break, they received a presentation from DOC and Fonterra Living Water representatives on the protection of freshwater environments within intensively farmed landscapes.

There was then opportunity for further discussion before a short walk around Lake Ruatuna to view restoration work being undertaken to address water quality and biodiversity concerns.





*DOC/Fonterra - Living Waters Presentation - Lake Ruatuna – 7 October 2019 Photo-courtesy DOC*

Later in the afternoon NZCA heard from Wayne Green, DOC Partnerships Development Advisor, DOC, who spoke of the Good to Grow Partnership that exists between DOC and the Department of Corrections and how this relationship is benefitting Lake Ruatuna, and the Correction Community work teams involved.



Conservation Board, NZCA and DOC staff at Lake Ruatuna. Photo: courtesy of DOC

#### **4.8. Te Whanganui Hei Marine Reserve Committee**

Following the resignation of Barbara Ritchie, Joyce Birdsall, Waikato Conservation Board member, was elected Chair of the Subcommittee. Other members of the committee, Phil Costello, Ron Egan, Hayley Jones, Community Board representative Rekha Giri-Percival, Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Trust representative Ron Egan and Ngati Hei representatives Joe Davis and Shelley Balsom continued as members of the committee.

Due to the difficulties of meeting during Covid lockdown levels, the September meeting was the only one held this year. Monique Ladds from the Department of Conservation presented to the meeting on the work that is being done around Marine Protected Areas nationally, including nationally consistent monitoring programmes. Te Whanganui-A-Hei has a 20-year history and is one of the best monitored reserves in the country and will help inform this project. The meeting received operational reports from Department of Conservation Whitianga and a report from Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Trust on activities over the last 6 months.



Rocky Beach at the Marine Reserve – Photo courtesy DOC

#### **4.9. Training for members**

The Waikato Conservation Board held one workshop in November 2019 for induction reinduction of members and to complete their Annual Workplan for the period 2019/20.

#### **4.10. Department involvement in Board meetings**

Department staff that attended throughout the year.

Director Operations, - Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki  
Acting Director Operations - Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki  
Statutory Manager, Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki,  
Acting Statutory Manager, Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki,  
Waikato District Operations Manager  
Pou Tairangahau, (Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki)  
Board Support Officer, (Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki)

#### **4.11. Special Events**

July 2019

Hosted by DOC, Joyce Birdsall attended a visit by the Prime Minister and Minister of Conservation to the Pukorokoro Seabird Centre on 15 July. Both Ministers were extremely engaged and interested in the work done by the volunteers there and the extraordinary journeys of the godwits and red knots. The purpose of their visit was to announce the decision by UNESCO World Heritage Committee that parts of China's Yellow Sea, and the sanctuaries it provides will become a world heritage site. The Prime Minister pledged to act as a voice for red knots and godwits where she has the opportunity.

#### **September 2019 -Biodiversity Seminar – September 2019**

Members attended a Biodiversity Seminar held on the 22 September in Hamilton where guest speaker Dr Paul Dutton, Waikato Regional Council Ecologist, spoke on biodiversity loss in the region.

#### **DOC Office Thames – Official Opening –September 2019**

On 27 September, Joyce Birdsall attended the official opening of the DOC office in Thames. Representatives included the Director General of DOC and seven of the 12 Te Pare Hauraki Iwi unveiled and blessed the tomokanga entrance way into the Thames Office. This carving represents a unified approach, new beginning and shared responsibility and commitment to conservation work in the district and regions.



### **DOC Recruitment Processes**

WCB Chair, Alan Cockle and Vice Chair Fiona Gower participated in the DOC selection process for the appointments of Hauraki Waikato Taranaki Director Operations and Statutory Manager. As key stakeholders the Board were grateful to be involved in this process.

### **February 2020 - Lunch with the Minister of Conservation Hon. Eugenie Sage**

On 26 of February 2020, Joyce Birdsall attended a luncheon with the Minister of Conservation and local DOC staff at the Kauaeranga Valley Visitors Centre, in Thames.

This event provided an opportunity to meet with the Minister and local community groups and to share some key points about the work of the Board.

### **Hauraki Gulf Marine Park 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

On the evening of Thursday 27th February 2020, Waikato Conservation Board members attended the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park's 20th Birthday at the Royal NZ Yacht Squadron, Westhaven. Agenda item 'Auckland Conversations' was chaired by Clark Gayford with the Minister of Conservation, Hon. Eugenie Sage in attendance. There were several presentations and a question and answer session. Members were shown a short film showing the Hauraki Gulf and some fantastic aerial footage of the range of marine mammals seen in the water. It all looked terrific, so it was shocking to hear the facts about the gulf's state the following day.



February 2020 - Waikato/Auckland Conservation Board Joint Meeting attended by Hon Eugenie Sage, Minister of Conservation, at the ASB Waterfront Theatre, Auckland.

#### 4.12. Annual Work Plan

Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

### 5. Statutory activity

The significant advocacy and statutory work undertaken by the Board over the last twelve months have included receiving briefings from DOC on:

<b>27 August 2019</b>	
Brigette Meier, Acting Director Operations – Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki, DOC	<b>Hauraki Waikato Taranaki Regional Business Plan</b>
Kerry Charles, Senior Policy Advisor, Strategy Policy, Policy & Visitors Group, DOC	<b>NZ Biodiversity Strategy Discussion Document</b>
Paul Hardy – Community Ranger, Waikato, DOC	<b>Proposed exchange of marginal strip – Mangawara Road, Hoe O Tainui</b>
Gemma White, Statutory Manager, Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki, DOC	<b>Auckland Conservation Board (Conservation Management Strategy Progress Report)</b>
Eoin Moynihan, Policy Advisor – Marine Policy Team (Briefing paper), DOC	<b>Sea Change – Tai Timu Pai Pari Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan Update</b>
Arna Litchfield, Strategic Issues Manager, National Support and Advice Team, DOC	<b>Ngai Tai KI Tamaki Supreme Court Decision</b>

<b>26 November 2020</b>	
Darryn Ratana, Partnerships Director, Partnerships Team, New Plymouth, DOC	<b>DOC Partnerships Group Business Priorities – Overview 2019/20</b>
Amy Robinson, RMA Manager, DOC	<b>DOC’s RMA and EEZA Advocacy Strategy</b>
Kayla Kingdon-Bebb, Manager, DOC (Briefing Paper)	<b>Ngai Tai ki Tamaki Ruling – Section 4 and Treaty Partnerships</b>
Gemma White, Statutory Manager, Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki, DOC	<b>DOC’S Management Planning Team - Work Programme Update</b>  <u>Consultation Documents</u> <b>Whitebait management</b> <b>Proposed National Policy Statement Indigenous Biodiversity</b> <b>Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment – Effect of tourism growth on New Zealand’s environment.</b>
<b>27 February 2020</b>	
Gemma White, Statutory Manager, Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki, DOC	<b>DOC’s Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (Draft) circulated.</b>
<b>28 February 2020</b>	
At the combined Auckland/Waikato Conservation Board with the Minister of Conservation in attendance, agenda items discussed included:	<b>Marine Habitat Treaty Partnership – Board engagement with Treaty Partners</b> <b>Climate Change</b> <b>The role of Conservation Boards</b>
<b>28 April 2020</b>	
Erana Stevens-Tulip, Acting Statutory Manager, Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki, DOC	<b>Loder Cup Nominations</b> <b>Sea Change – Government Response Strategy to the Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari Marine Spatial Plan</b>

During the reporting period the Board have written to the Department raising concerns and providing recommendations in respect to:

- **Public submissions to notified concession applications**
- **DOC Community Fund – recommendations**

In September 2019, the Board wrote to the New Zealand Conservation Authority, the Minister of Conservation and Minister of Primary Industries outlining their concerns regarding the Kauri Dieback Pest Management Plan/Strategy (oversight and funding).

In June 2020, an additional letter was sent to the Minister of Conservation regarding DOC’s Whitebait Management Consultation process.

**The Waikato Conservation Board have completed submissions on:**

<p><u>18 May 2020</u></p> <p>DOC / Ministry for Primary Industries</p> <p><b>Government Response Strategy to the Sea Change - Tai Timu Tai Pari Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan</b></p>
<p><u>13 March 2020</u></p> <p><b>Ministry for the Environment – National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity</b></p>
<p><u>13 March 2020</u></p> <p><b>DOC – Whitebait Management</b></p>
<p><u>22 October 2020</u></p> <p><b>Submission to Ministry of the Environment Action for Healthy Waterways Discussion Document</b></p>
<p><u>16 September 2019</u></p> <p><b>NZ Biodiversity Strategy Review -Discussion Document</b></p>
<p><u>16 September 2019</u></p> <p><b>The Hector’s and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan</b></p>

In 2019 the Board wrote to the Minister of Conservation and Minister of Energy and Resources voicing their strong opposition to mining on or under Public Conservation Land in the Coromandel and urging them to reject any application for mining on/under Public Conservation Land at Wharekirauponga in the Coromandel, including any application for underground mining.

The Board continues to monitor this situation closely, and in May 2020 wrote to the Waikato Regional Council and Hauraki District Council requesting that WCB be treated as an as an affected party for any consent applications relating to mining on, under or in the vicinity of public conservation land, particularly at Wharekirauponga in the Hauraki District.

### **5.1. Resource Management Issues**

Quarterly RMA and Management Planning reports have been received by the Board. These reports provide the Board with an update on active Resource Management Act and Management Planning activity currently being led by the Shared Services Unit, DOC.

### **5.2. Waikato Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)**

The Waikato Conservation Board receive quarterly monitoring reports tracking the Progress toward milestones identified in the Waikato Management Strategy.

To assist with the monitoring, the milestone report was recently amended to include the addition of key outcomes from 'places', to provide an opportunity for the Department to report on strategic work that may not be covered by the milestone reporting.

## **6. Liaison Roles**

The Waikato Conservation Board maintains contact with neighbouring Conservation Boards through the exchange of agendas, meeting papers and the attendance of appointed liaisons to neighbouring Board meetings.

At the Board meeting held 27 February 2020, WCB Taupo/Tongariro Liaison, Pauline Hickey **reported on her** attendance at the combined Bay of Plenty/Tongariro Taupo Conservation Board field trip and Board meeting held 11/12 February 2020. The purpose of the field trip had been to highlight the concerns of DOC staff and residents regarding the tourists parking on the verge of SH 46, near the end of the Tongariro Crossing, Ketetahi.

WCB Liaison Fiona Gower attended the Auckland Conservation Board virtual meeting held in April 2020.

### **6.1. Community advocacy and involvement**

The Waikato Conservation Board believe that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Board members submit quarterly e-scans reports, which have provided opportunity for members to table and discuss community concerns, and to provide feedback when required.

## **6.2. New Zealand Conservation Authority Liaison**

Mick Clout is an Emeritus Professor of Conservation Ecology at the University of Auckland. He and his wife live at Whitford, but are frequently based at Tamahere, where their daughter and grandchildren live. Mick is a vertebrate ecologist with longstanding interests in the ecology and conservation of native birds and the behaviour and management of invasive mammals. He continues to be actively involved in science for conservation and chairs the Kakapo Recovery Group. Mick has been a member of the NZ Conservation Authority since 2011 and is the NZCA liaison for the Waikato Conservation Board.

The Board appreciates Mick's attendance at meetings and values his reporting and feedback from the NZCA, his understanding of issues, which contributes to well-balanced discussion around the Board table.

New Zealand Conservation Authority agenda's, meeting minutes and the bi-monthly letter from the Chair are also forwarded to members electronically as they arrive.

## **6.3. Fish and Game**

A copy of the Waikato Conservation Board agenda is emailed to the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Office Manager, Hamilton.

## **6.4. Community visibility**

Throughout the reporting period Board members have liaised with several individuals, groups, and organisations, attended many community activities and Department of Conservation special events. This liaison is considered a very important way of providing an interface with the Community.

The Board's e-newsletter, agenda, confirmed minutes, and submissions are also available via the Waikato Conservation Board's webpage.

The Board contribute on a regular basis to their e-newsletter and some members actively promote activities via social media.

Throughout the reporting period members of the public have also attended public forums to speak on:

- Climate Change
- Urban Biodiversity
- An introduction from Federated Mountain Club Executive
- Testing of 1080 and post monitoring of 1080 operations
- Bike Taupo – Proposed Waihaha to Timber Trail Track Upgrade

## **6.5. DOC Community Fund**

Following the DOCCF funding round of 2019, the Board wrote to DOC's Partnership Funds team expressing concern at the long delay between the submission of applications and decisions being advised. A delay places pressure on community groups/applicants wishing to undertake pest control work because of its seasonal nature. September decisions are too late in this cycle and risk biodiversity protection or enhancement work being delayed to a subsequent year

The 2020 DOCCF funding was directed towards practical projects aimed at conserving New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity on private and public land.

Joyce Birdsall, Waikato Conservation Board, DOCCF panel member met virtually on the 23 & 24 April to assess funding applications and make funding recommendations to the decision maker.

## **6.6. District and regional council advocacy and advice**

The impact of COVID19 and meeting restrictions has meant that plans to host a meeting inviting District and Regional Council officials are in abeyance. The Board are keen to progress with this action late 2020.

## **6.7. Iwi liaison and advocacy**

The makeup of the Board includes other appointed members who have iwi affiliations.

Gaylene Roberts was appointed to the Board on 1 July 2019 is recognised as the Kahui Ariki (Maori King representative) on the Waikato Conservation Board.

Alan Cockle has served on the Board from July 2014. He is of Ngati Maniapoto, Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Kahungunga, Te Ati Awa and Ati Hauni A Paparangi descent. Alan has provided a strong link with the South Waikato iwi.

## **7. Acknowledgements**

The Board wishes to thank the Department for their support, Department staff that have attended meetings and provided updates, and staff throughout the rohe that have hosted the Board on field trips.

The Board would like to acknowledge the attendance and reports tabled by the Director Operations, Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki, DOC, at meetings held throughout the reporting period.





### Annual Work Plan 2019/2020

Ministers Priorities	Outcome / Impact	Measures	Milestone	Actions
Treaty Partners	-Enhanced relationships with treaty partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Discuss with Gaylene on improving our relationship with Kingi Tūheitia.</li> <li>-Consult with Apanui Skipper, Pou Tairangahau (HWT).</li> <li>-Two weeks in advance notification from Department of Conservation to attend significant iwi events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Formalising communication between Waikato Conservation Board and Kingi Tūheitia.</li> <li>-Action points taken as per a consultation with Apanui Skipper, Pou Tairangahau (HWT).</li> <li>-Waikato Conservation Board members are in attendance to significant iwi events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ACB/WCB Joint meeting held 28 February included discussion with MOC on Treaty Partnerships.</li> <li>28 April 2020 – Operations Director HWT provided update on DOC/Iwi consultation/impact due to COVID 19.</li> <li>Updated calendar of significant Iwi events and an update at a national level on DOC/Iwi consultation/engagement requested from DOC.</li> </ul>
Declining Indigenous Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Waikato Conservation Board have a better understanding of the critically endangered species.</li> <li>- Waikato Conservation Board will advocate to address biodiversity declining.water</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Understanding the management programme for endangered species.</li> <li>-Boards oversight of CMS is to ensure the protection of key endangered species.</li> <li>-To highlight and promote the importance of habitat protection and biodiversity conservation with local bodies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Waikato Conservation Board receives a priority list of endangered species of flora and fauna.</li> <li>-To advocate on significant biodiversity issues especially in Fresh water and Marine.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priority list of endangered species available via Waikato Conservation Management Strategy.</li> <li>September 2019 Board members attended a biodiversity seminar held in Hamilton – guest speaker, Paul Dutton, Waikato Regional Council Ecologist – subject – biodiversity loss in the Waikato.</li> <li>Draft National Policy Statement on Biodiversity and Whitebait submissions completed/mailed 13 March 2020.</li> </ul>

				DOC's Operation's Director HWT present at meetings to provide updates on operational/strategic matters.
Improve protection of land with conservation values	Conservation Board is active in RMA and conservation processes to protect and enhance land with conservation values.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Advocating for private land with conservation value in the planning processes.</li> <li>-Understanding the process and progress of Stewardship land and classification.</li> <li>-Identifying priority areas.</li> <li>-Understanding the Auckland to Hamilton corridor project, updates and consult. (Awakino/Mt Messenger)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Agenda item on plan changes and notified consents.</li> <li>-Regular Board updates on Stewardship land (agenda item)</li> <li>-Keeping Board informed any updates (Field trip visit)</li> </ul>	<p>RMA Planning Reports tabled for consideration at each meeting.</p> <p>27 November 2019 – Amy Robinson, RMA Manager, DOC attended meeting to provide RMA Strategy Update.</p> <p>3 December 2019 - WCB write to Waikato Regional Council / Thames Coromandel District Council re McGregor Bay Wetland.</p> <p>28 April 2020 –Board receive an update from DOC on Stewardship Land from a national perspective.</p> <p>28 April 2020: Board agree to complete submission on Government Response Strategy to Sea Change (submitted 13 May 2020)</p> <p>13 May 2020 – WCB write to Waikato and Waikato and Hauraki Regional Council requesting they be treated as an affected party for any consent applications relating to mining on, under or in the vicinity of public conservation land, particularly at Wharekirauponga in the Hauraki District.</p> <p>DOC's Operation's Director HWT present at meetings to provide updates on operational/strategic matters.</p>
Climate change -Risk assessment -Adaption plan	Board is assured Department of Conservation is responding to the risk of climate change to the conservation estate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Identifying land and species at risk of climate change.</li> <li>-Understanding local and central government risk assessment processes and adoptions plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Briefing on climate change.</li> <li>-Local government (Waikato Regional Council) to be invited to attend a Department of Conservation briefing.</li> </ul>	<p>27 February 2020 – DOC's Climate Change Adaption Action Plan (draft) circulated via email to members for consideration/feedback/briefing rescheduled due to COVID19 lockdown.</p>

				DOC's Operation's Director HWT present at meetings to provide updates on operational/strategic matters.
Conservation Boards and NZCA	Waikato Conservation Board is better connected to neighbouring Boards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Board members are allocated to attend neighbouring Conservation Boards.</li> <li>-Conservation Boards communicate between each other.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Shared meeting with a neighbouring Board.</li>   <li>-Waikato Conservation Board members attend neighbouring meetings.</li>   <li>- Regularly updated by other Boards and NZCA.</li> <li>-Attend the Annual NZCA Board Chair's Conference.</li> </ul>	<p>17/18 August 2019 Waikato Chair and Board Member attend NZCA Chairs Conference held in Wellington.</p> <p>7/8 October 2019 WCB host NZCA members (Field Trip 7 October) and in attendance for NZCA meeting held in Hamilton on 8 October 2019.</p> <p>Waikato Conservation Board meeting papers and neighbouring Conservation Board meetings papers circulated to liaisons throughout the reporting period.</p> <p>27 February 2020 WCB Liaison reported on attendance at Taupo Tongariro Field Trip 11<sup>th</sup> February and attendance at combined Taupo/Tongariro-Bay of Plenty Conservation Board meeting on 12 February 2020.ombined Bay of Plenty/Taupo Tongariro Conservation Board meeting held.</p> <p>28 February 2020 Waikato Conservation Board/Auckland Conservation Board combined meeting held at ASB Waterfront Theatre, Auckland. Discussion on Marine Issues/Seachange/Climate Change /Treaty Partnerships and the Role of the Conservation Boards.</p>
	-Waikato Conservation Board has a good working relationship with the Department of Conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Streamlining of communications.</li> <li>-Understanding the role of the Conservation Board, in terms of giving advice to the Department of Conservation.</li> <li>- Conservation Board knowing who Department of Conservation staff are and what support is available to them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Weekly roundup and regular weekly meetings.</li> <li>-Key staff attending meetings and field trips.</li> <li>-Conservation Board receives relevant information at induction in a timely manner.</li> </ul>	<p>July 2019 WCB members attended a visit by the Prime Minister and Minister of Conservation to the Pukorokoro Seabird Centre.</p> <p>27 September 2019 WCB members attended official opening of DOC office in Thames.</p>

				<p>27 November 2019 WCB write to DOC with recommendation regarding the DOC Community Fund process.</p> <p>27 November 2019 Darryn Ratana, Director, DOC Partnerships provided an update on the 2019/20 Partnerships Business Plan.</p> <p>26 February 2020 WCB member attended lunch with DOC and MOC at Kauaeranga Visitors Centre, Thames.</p> <p>Weekly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Telephone conference with Waikato Conservation Board Chair/Vice Chair/ Statutory Manager and BSO.</li> <li>- News bulletin emailed to WCB members with correspondence, D-G Direct updates/Media Releases, other items of interest.</li> </ul> <p>April 2020 Waikato Conservation Board Member Joyce Birdsall participated on DOCCF Assessment Panel.</p>
Tourism	-Board has assurance that the Visitor and Heritage Strategy is working and is informed where the International Visitor Levy (IVL) is allocated.	<p>-Conservation Board is kept informed how visitor levy and other funding is being allocated within Department of Conservation to our Rohe.</p> <p>-The Board is informed on key tourist destinations i.e. visitor numbers and trends.</p> <p>-Understanding how the Department of Conservation is implementing the visitor and heritage strategy.</p>	<p>-Regular Board updates.</p> <p>-Briefing on Visitor and Heritage Strategy.</p>	<p>DOC Operation Director HWT in attendance to report on operational/strategic matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- COVID19/impact on operating budget, regions capital investment plan, international and domestic tourism.</li> </ul> <p>28 April 2020 Contribution to PCE report tabled for discussion -impact as result of COVID19.</p>
Public communications	Conservation Board communicates with the public and raises its profile to the wider community.	-Waikato Conservation Board contributes to E-newsletter.	<p>-Relationship formed with Waikato Biodiversity Forum.</p> <p>-Informed on what date it is published on.</p>	WCB e-news and agendas uploaded onto webpage. WCB meetings advertised in all local papers.

		-Utilises Waikato Biodiversity Forum to put E-newsletter on and the scheduled dates of Board meetings.	-Make a contribution at least two times a year.	<p>Public forums are held at each meeting with community members presenting on:</p> <p><u>27 November 2019</u> -An introduction from Federated Mountain Club Executive / Climate Change</p> <p><u>27 February 2020</u> - 1080</p> <p><u>28 April 2020</u> -Bike Taupo representatives in attendance to speak to their proposal f Bike Taupo – Proposed Waihaha to Timber Trail Track Upgrade</p> <p><u>23 June 2020</u> -1080 / Urban Biodiversity</p> <p>WCB members table reports at each meeting - includes community concerns/interests for discussion.</p>
Submissions Completed				<p><u>16 September 2019</u> <b>The Hector's and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan</b></p> <p><u>16 September 2019</u> <b>NZ Biodiversity Strategy Review -Discussion Document</b></p> <p><u>22 October 2019</u> <b>Submission to Ministry of the Environment Action for Healthy Waterways Discussion Document</b></p> <p><u>13 March 2020</u> <b>DOC – Whitebait Management</b></p> <p><u>13 March 2020</u> <b>Ministry for the Environment – National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity</b></p>

				<p><u>18 May 2020</u> DOC / Ministry for Primary Industries <b>Government Response Strategy to the Sea Change - Tai Timu Tai Pari Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan</b></p>
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