

Wellington Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Upoko o te Ika Conservation Board

Annual Report 2022-2023



Kaka feeding at Mount Bruce Wildlife Centre

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Front Cover: Kaka feeding at Mount Bruce Wildlife Centre – DOC Library

Figures 1 to 5: provided by Wellington Conservation Board members.

Figure 6: Putangirua Stream, Pinnacles Scenic Reserve, Wairarapa – DOC Library

Back Cover: Manawatu George – DOC Library

Contents

Co-Chair’s Report	4
Introduction	5
Conservation Board Region	5
Wellington Conservation Board.....	5
Board functioning.....	7
Board functions under section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987	7
Powers of the Board under section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987.....	7
Functions of the Board under section 30 the National Parks Act 1980	7
Board membership	8
Member profiles	8
Board meetings.....	9
Attendance	9
Field trips and site inspections.....	10
Training for members.....	12
Department involvement in Board meetings.....	12
Annual work plan.....	12
Statutory activity.....	12
Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)	12
Implementation monitoring	12
Management plans.....	12
Advice and advocacy.....	13
Other Conservation Boards liaison.....	13
Authority liaison	13
Department advice.....	13
Community advocacy and involvement.....	13
Appendix I -Annual Work Plan	14

Co-Chair's Report

It is our pleasure to present the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Wellington Conservation Board.

This year the Board has welcomed new members and had a focus on improving how DOC can integrate the Board's input into its planning processes, to enable more effective delivery of the Board's strategic functions.

As part of this, we want to thank the DOC staff in the three districts within our region for their effort to report regularly on the status of the milestones identified in the Conservation Management Strategy.

Given that Wellington is one of only two Boards with a current active Conservation Management Strategy, we consider that one of the areas where we can add value for our fellow Boards is to develop effective processes for supporting implementation of a CMS, so that when they are able to create theirs, they can undertake the Board's monitoring and advisory functions from year 1.

We also made the decision as a Board to move to a Te Tiriti ō Waitangi-based co-chair model this year, to reflect the importance of the Treaty partnership to the Board. Manaaki Barrett and Nina Mercer stepped into these new co-chair roles, and we have seen real benefit from this.

Unfortunately, Nina Mercer had to step down from her Board role early and was replaced as co-chair by Carla Bates. Thanks to Nina for her advice and wisdom, and support for all our Board members, during her time with us.

The impact of climate change and extreme weather events is fast becoming more evident across the country, and our region is no exception. While we were lightly hit compared to Tairāwhiti, Hawke's Bay, Northland, Auckland and the Coromandel, Cyclone Gabrielle and other weather events impacted on parts of the Manawatū and Wairarapa districts in our region.

DOC staff have done, and continue to do, an impressive job in helping to ensure DOC assets and flora and fauna recover strongly from these events, but resources are not limitless and the inevitable impact of climate change in forcing managed retreat from some actively managed areas is a real concern. Without sustained commitment to funding, the impact on wildlife, nature, and how we are able to interact with it will be immense.

Lastly, it is important to us that we thank and recognise the support that DOC staff have provided to our Board over the past year. In particular, we would like to thank Rachael Mora, Statutory Manager LNI and Sara Robinson, Board Support Officer, who helped to keep us organised and on track with great humour and supported us to navigate our way through DOC to find the information we required.

Manaaki Barrett and Carla Bates

Co-Chairs

Wellington Conservation Board

Introduction

This is the ninth Wellington 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 Wellington 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 Wellington 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 (CMP).
- 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; and
- 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.

Conservation Board Region

Wellington Conservation Board

The Wellington Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area of 2,974,763.62 hectares. The jurisdiction extends from the bottom of the North Island to the mouth of the Turakina River in the west, up the Turakina River and over the top of the Ruahine Forest Park, down the eastern boundary of the Forest Park and then out across to the east coast near Waimarama. It includes the three Wellington harbour islands, Matiu/Somes, Mokopun and Makaro/Ward as well as Kapiti and Mana islands. 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 4.75% of New Zealand's public conservation land and area lie within Wellington's jurisdiction.

Public conservation land and areas make up 23.04% of all land in Wellington. This consists of:

- 286,726.70 hectares of Public Conservation Land
- 395,638.22 hectares of Sanctuaries to Protect Marine Mammals
- 3,021.11 hectares of Marine Reserves

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

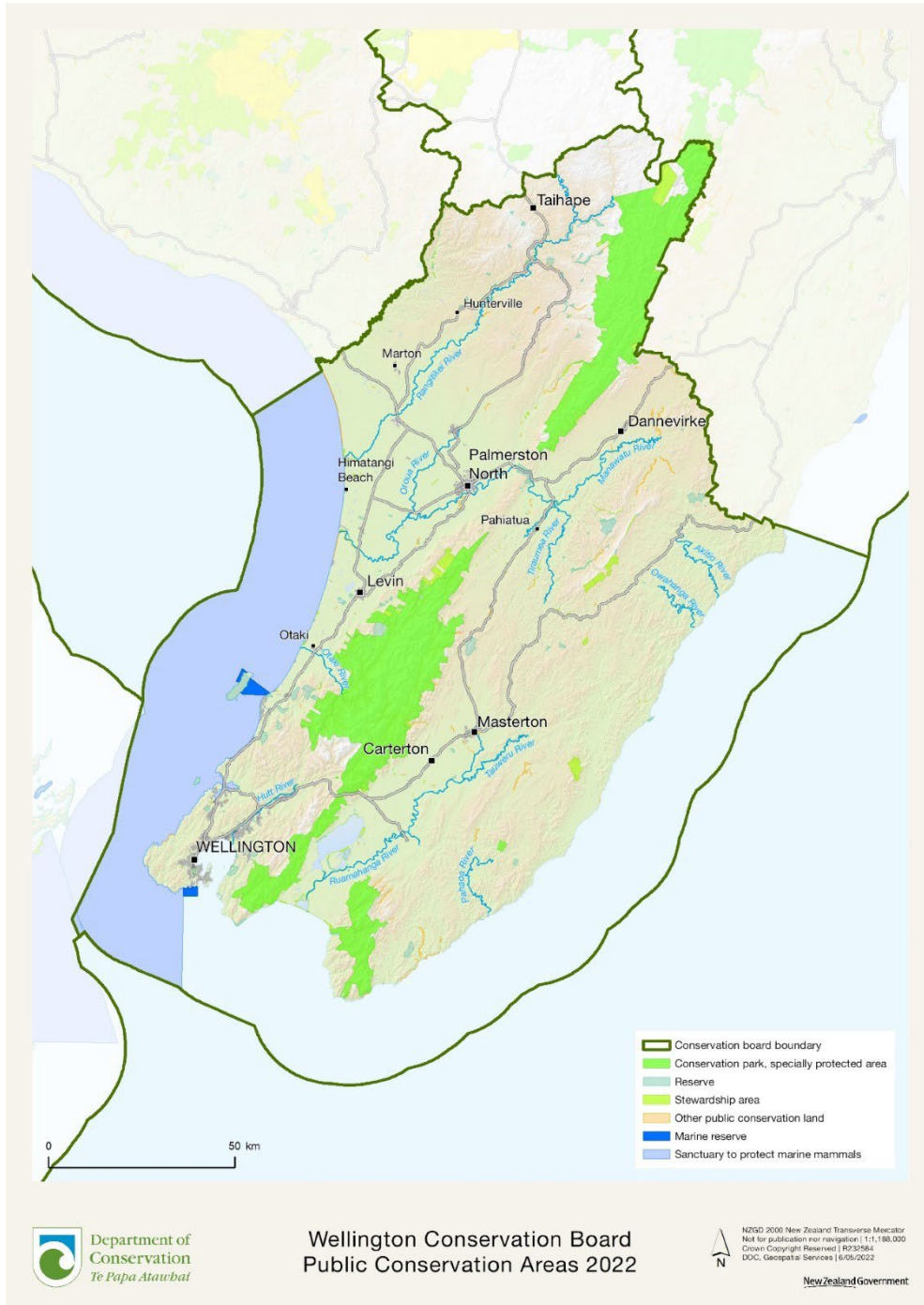
Deer and Goat Control in the Lower North Island Forest Parks

Conservation features of the area

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

- Tararua Forest Park - 114,894.14 ha
- Ruahine Forest Park - 94,819.85 ha

- Aorangi Forest Park – 19,406.07 ha
- Remutaka Forest Park – 19,775.57 ha
- 98 Scenic Reserves – 10,241.54 ha
- 1 Historic Reserve – 5.95 ha
- 21 Recreation Reserves – 841.58 ha
- 151 Stewardship Area – 21,621.09 ha
- 171 Marginal Strip – 1,066.83 ha
- 2 Specially Protected Areas – 416.52 ha
- 2 Marine Reserves – 3,021.11 ha



Wellington Conservation Board Jurisdiction

Board functioning

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.

Powers of the Board under section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987

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 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.

Functions of the Board under section 30 the National Parks Act 1980

1. To recommend management plans, and the review or amendment of such plans, for parks within the jurisdiction of the Board in accordance with sections 45 to 47.
2. To consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks.
3. To make recommendations to the Minister for the appointment of honorary rangers under section 40.
4. To review and report to the Director-General or the Authority, as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the administration of the general policies for national parks within the jurisdiction of the Board.
5. To give advice to the Director-General or the Authority:
 - a. on the interpretation of any management plan for a park; and
 - b. on any proposal for the addition of land to any national park or the establishment of a new national park; and
 - c. on any other matter relating to any national park, — within the jurisdiction of the Board.

Board membership

There were 9 Board members for the reporting year, appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Manaaki Barrett and Nina Mercer were elected as Co-Chairs. Upon Nina’s resignation, Carla Bates was elected as Co-Chair.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 and their term of office.

Table 1: Board membership

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end	Years served
Manaaki Barrett	Otaki	1 Jul 2021	30 Jun 2024	2
Nina Mercer	Palmerston North	1 Jul 2021	28 Feb 2023	1.8
Nicole McCrossin	Wellington	1 Jul 2019	30 Jun 2025	4
Sara Arhaim	Wellington	1 Jul 2020	30 Jun 2023	3
Te Rangimārie Williams	Rotorua	1 Jul 2021	30 Jun 2024	2
Toni Love	Wellington	1 Jul 2021	30 Jun 2024	2
Jim Cook	Palmerston North	30 Nov 2021	30 Jun 2023	1.7
Carla Bates	Wellington	1 Jul 2022	30 Jun 2025	1
Asher Wilson-Goldman	Paraparaumu	1 Jul 2022	30 Jun 2025	1

Member profiles

Manaaki Barrett (Co-Chair)

Manaaki (of Te Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai, Ngāti Raukawa, and Ngāti Toa) is the Operations Manager for Kāpiti Island Nature Tours, providing 10’ years’ experience in whanau-owned ecotourism business. He brings extensive knowledge of Kāpiti Island and the surrounding marine reserve to the Board.

Nina Mercer (Co-Chair) 1 July 2022 – 11 February 2023

Nina has worked in conservation on and off for nearly 20 years and has a passion for New Zealand’s flora, fauna and landscape. With expertise in communication, facilitation and strategy development Nina has created conservation stories and education resources for facilities such as Central Energy Trust Wildbase Recovery in Palmerston North and contributed to national travel magazines. She has also worked closely with Iwi on species translocation projects and in developing strategic and operational frameworks. Nina has a Post Graduate Diploma in Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management, and is currently working as an Exhibition Developer at Te Manawa Museum. With her family, Nina has tramped and camped her way around much of the Wellington Conservation Board rohe and enjoys heading to the hills whenever the opportunity arises.

Carla Bates (Co-Chair) Elected 11 February 2023

Carla has varied experience in the environmental field, including consultancy work with oil industry and environmental compliance roles on road and rail construction projects. She is skilled in collaboration and consensus building, whilst providing knowledge of sustainability and adaptability to the Board and has a strong understanding of environmental strategy, including action plan coordination.

Nicole McCrossin of Wellington

Nicole is a principal advisor in the Māori Agribusiness Directorate at the Ministry for Primary Industries. Her studies and career have been centred on the relationship between the Treaty of Waitangi and environmental management, with a background in the negotiation and implementation of natural resources redress in Treaty settlements. Outside of work, she spends as much time as possible outdoors, particularly tramping in the Tararua.

Nicole is also a student of raranga, having recently completed two years study at Te Wānanga o Aotearoa in Porirua, furthering her desire to learn about history, use, and protection of New Zealand’s plants. She is also a Crown representative on the Wellington Harbour Islands Katiaki Board.

Sara Arhaim of Wellington

Sara is a Strategic Operations Director with a background in law and accounting. She is a risk and compliance expert, able to analyse proposals from a risk perspective, and has extensive work experience in government agencies.

Eric James (Jim) Cook of Palmerston North

Eric is a lifelong trumper, fly fisher and hunter, actively enjoying New Zealand's lakes, rivers, and bush, but most of all beloved South Island mountains. Interest in breeding and rearing cage birds and supporting native bird sanctuaries. He is a member of Wellington Fish & Game and is a great advocate for the outdoors; he educates volunteers, trainees and the general public in species recognition, pest control and sustainable habitat management.

Te Rangimārie Williams

Rangimārie (of Taranaki Whānui, Tūhoe, Ngāti Whakauae, and Ngāti Hauti) has experience in expressing Māori, iwi, hapū and whānau values throughout various environmental processes. She has previously practiced as a resource management and environmental lawyer and has various positions representing and advising Māori organisations on environmental matters.

Toni Love

Toni (of Te Ātiawa) has experience in legal practice and legal academia, particularly related to environmental and Māori law, and their interactions. She is a current board member for Wellington Harbour Islands Kaitiki Board and Para Kore Marae.

Asher Wilson-Goldman

Asher has strong community engagement and governance skills at a local Government and national level and in the recreation sector. He offers knowledge of the machinery of government, and provides extensive experience in communications, planning and supporting outdoor recreation.

Board meetings

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

Table 2: Board meeting dates and location

Board meeting date	Meeting location and venue
29 July 2022	DOC Office, 28 North Street, Palmerston North
23 & 24 September 2022	DOC Office, 220 South Road, Masterton
25 November 2022	DOC, Conservation House, Manners Street, Wellington
10 & 11 February 2023	DOC Office, 28 North Street, Palmerston North
14 & 15 April 2023	DOC Office, 220 South Road, Masterton
9 & 10 June 2023	DOC Conservation House, Manners Street

Attendance

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

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

Table 3: Board meetings attended by members.

Board members	Board meetings	Liaison meetings	Special events
Manaaki Barrett	4/6	1	1
Nina Mercer	4/6		

Nicole McCrossin	5/6	1	
Sara Arhaim	4/6		1
Te Rangimārie Williams	4/6		
Toni Love	4/6		
Jim Cook	5/6		
Carla Bates	5/6		1
Asher Wilson-Goldman	5/6		1

Field trips and site inspections

Field trips are an excellent opportunity for Board members to become more aware of conservation issues within their region and to meet with community members undertaking conservation activities.

Table 4: Field trips and site inspections

Field trip date	Field trips venue
29 July 2022	Wildbase Wildlife Recovery Centre and Manawatu Gorge
23 September 2022	Pukaha National Wildlife Centre
10 February 2023	Te Ahu a Turanga - Manawatu Tararua Highway The Board along with DOC staff met with Waka Kotahi and received a presentation on the work being carried out on the new highway. This was followed by a site visit to look at the construction of the flyover.
14 April 2023	South Wairarapa - The Wairarapa DOC office took the Board on a tour of the South Wairarapa visiting Ngā Rā-a-Kupe and the Putangirua Pinnacles, to better understand how climate change was impacting on areas under DOC management.

Manawatu Gorge Visit – July 2022 Board Field Trip



Figure 1: The Whatonga steel sculpture sits at the top, halfway point of the Tawa Loop Track, above Te Āpiti - Manawatū Gorge. The walk starts at the Ashhurst end of the Gorge



Figure 2: Wildbase Wildlife Recovery Centre

Pūkaha Mount Bruce Wildlife Park – September 2022 Board Field Trip



Figure 3: Pateke enclosure



Figure 4: Kiwi Creche

Te Ahu a Turanga – Manawatu Tararua Highway – February 2023 Board Field Trip



Figure 5: Hardhats and Safety Gear needed here

Visiting Ngā Rā-a-Kupe and the Putangirua Pinnacles – April 2023 Board Field Trip



Figure 6: Putangirua Stream, Pinnacles Scenic Reserve, Wairarapa

Training for members

In addition to the regular updates on the Department's activities provided in the status report, which is considered at each meeting, the following was also covered this year.

- Iwi Relationships
- Treaty of Waitangi Workshop

Department involvement in Board meetings

DOC Staff who regularly attending our meetings include:

- Jack Mace, Regional Director, LNI and provided Director updates.
- Moana Smith-Dunlop, Acting Regional Director, LNI
- Rachael Mora Statutory Manager, LNI
- Angus Hulme-Moir, Operations Manager (Kapiti/Wellington); Kathy Houkamau, Operations Manager (Wairarapa); Moana Smith-Dunlop, Operations Manager (Manawatu); Kelly Hancock, Acting Operations Manager (Manawatu).

Administrative Support was provided to the Board by the Board Support Officer (Sara Robinson)

In addition to the above the following DOC Staff also attended meetings:

- James Harbord (July 2022 Meeting - provide an Operations update).
- Bruce Harvey, Biodiversity Planner (July 2022 Meeting - provide update on CMS Reporting).
- Mike Perry, Wild Animals Manager (July 2022 Meeting - provide an update on Wild Animal Control).
- Dave Carlton - Project Manager, Wild Animals (July 2022 Meeting - provide an update on Wild Animal Control).
- Ronnie Priest - Senior Ranger Community (September 2022 Meeting - provide an update on Ocean Beach Baches).
- Robyn Roberts, Team Lead, Management Planner (November 2022 Meeting - present to the Board on Review of Biking Policy within Conservation Management Strategies).
- Charlie Parker, Management Planner (November 2022 Meeting - present to the Board on Review of Biking Policy within Conservation Management Strategies).
- Sarah Smylie, Management Planner (November 2022 Meeting - present to the Board on Review of Biking Policy within Conservation Management Strategies).

Annual work plan

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

Statutory activity

Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The CMS has now been live for 4 ½ years.

Implementation monitoring

The Board receive a CMS report thirdly in line with the reporting schedule and a verbal update is provided by Operations Manager's at intermittent meetings.

Management plans

Apart from ongoing work with the development of the Kapiti Island Reserves conservation management plan, the Board has not undertaken any work involving management plans over the reporting period.

There is ongoing preparatory work to support the creation of the Kapiti Island Reserves Conservation Management Plan, the Board keeps connected into this via a member of the board having a liaison role. As the plan requires allocation of resourcing from multiple groups to enable this work, progress has been slow but is still on track as per the CMS timelines, but this is seen as one of the paramount work streams in our region.

Advice and advocacy

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise, and some members have specific roles in liaison. The Board appointed various members to liaise with other groups and agencies.

Table 5: Board liaisons and representatives

Board member	Group/agency/organisation
Manaaki Barrett	Kapiti Island Statutory Advisory Committee (KISAC)
Nina Mercer	Horizons Regional Council Environment Network Manawatu
Nicole McCrossin	Wellington harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board Island Bay Predator Free Berhampore, Mt Cook and Newtown Predator Free Friends of Houghton Bay

Other Conservation Boards liaison

The Board allocates liaison roles with their immediate neighbouring Boards.

Authority liaison

Wendy Nelson is the NZCA member liaison with the Board. Wendy has attended some of the Board meetings during the year and updated the Board on the activities of the NZCA.

The Board received the agenda, papers, and minutes of the NZCA meetings, and the Board Chair received regular communication from the NZCA.

Department advice

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

- CMS milestone reporting – the Board provides ongoing advice to the Department in the design of milestone reporting and relevant content in order to track progress against the Wellington Conservation Management Strategy.

Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Meetings were held in different parts of the Wellington Conservation Board's region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised.

Members of the public attended the Public Forum at several of the year's meetings and a range of issues were raised. The Board appreciated their input and efforts made to attend the meetings and responded by letter with a response to questions asked or concerns raised.

Community visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website. Updates from the Board were provided throughout the year on activities undertaken.

Iwi liaison and advocacy

The Board has an informal relationship with iwi roopu and through the district offices information relating to Board meetings are advised.

Appendix I –Annual Work Plan

Wellington

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Upoko o te Ika

Conservation Board

Work Programme 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023

Work Programme overview

This Work Programme responds to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation received 19 July 2022. The intention is that this document will be reviewed and updated at Board meetings during the year, as a living document.

It comprises three parts, some of which contain overlapping objectives:

Part A: Planned Board activities aimed at meeting the Board’s strategic priorities and its core statutory functions:




1. Progress and support the development of the Kapiti Island Management Plan under the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014.
2. Provide a Board member for the Wellington Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board and Kapiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee.
3. Focus on pest free islands in the Board’s area of jurisdiction.
4. Support delivery of the Wellington CMS.
5. Increase engagement with the community, including with whanau, hapū and iwi.
6. Identify ways in which climate change considerations can be incorporated into the delivery of the Wellington CMS.

Part B: The Minister’s fundamental priorities as set out in the Letter of Expectation:

7. Support the Implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao – The Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy
8. Contribute to any reviews of National Park Management Plans and Conservation Management Strategies and support their progress effectively to promote strong conservation outcomes.
9. Embed the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in accordance with the obligations of Section 4 of the Act in all aspects of work.
10. Support the transition to a lower carbon conservation delivery model, having regard to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019.

Part C: General expectations contained in the Minister’s Letter:

11. Work closely with the Department of Conservation to achieve strategic outcomes.
12. Working with adjoining conservation boards, the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority, NZCA) and other conservation boards.
13. Inform the Minister of any material or significant events relating to the Board, whether positive or negative.
14. Understand the Board’s legal obligations covered in section 5 of the Conservation Board Manual.
15. Monitor and self-review.

Key:	Means...
	Action under way and on track, ongoing or completed.
	Potential for concern, early flag.
	Risks identified, delay or concern.

PART A: KEY PRIORITIES AND CORE FUNCTIONS

1 Progress and support the development to the Kapiti Island Management Plan under the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014

Board objective	Support the Kapiti Island Management Plan through the nomination of a Board member to KISAC.
Outcome	The Board has input into the Kapiti Island Management Plan based on the CMS and community views and perspectives
Measures	Board members nominated. Regular reports received from nominated Board member

Planned Board Activities

	Action	Status	Progress commentary – from July 2022
1.1	Board member to sit on the Kapiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee		Manaaki Barrett was nominated to KISAC
1.2	Reports received at each Board meeting		Reports received back at each Board meeting where an update was available
1.3	Nominated Board member, seeks the views of the rest of the Board		The Board feeds back to nominated Board member as appropriate

2 Provide a Board member for the Wellington Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board and Kapiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee

Board objective	Provide a Board member for the Wellington Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board and Kapiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee.
Outcome	Wellington Conservation Board member appointed to Kaitiaki Board Board member appointed to the Kapiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee
Measures	Nominate a Board member to the Director General for the Kaitiaki Board. Regular reports received from nominated Board members

Planned Board Activities

	Action	Status	Progress commentary – from July 2022
2.1	Discuss at a Board meeting and identify potential nomination to the Kaitiaki Board		Added to Agenda for 10 & 11 February 2023 meeting. Nicole McCrossin nominated
2.2	Draft letter to go to the Director General with preferred nominee for Kaitiaki Board		Letter sent to Director General on 16/08/23.
2.3	Board member representing KISAC		Board members was appointed in February 2022 and continues in this role.

3 Focus on pest free islands in the Board's area of jurisdiction

Board objective	Understand and advocate for the improved conservation outcomes and ongoing Pest Free status of the Islands.
Outcome	Greater community support for pest free Islands
Measures	Regular reports received from Operations Managers. Board members attend and contribute to KISAC and the Kaitiaki Board.

Planned Board Activities

	Action	Status	Progress commentary – from July 2022
3.1	Receive regular updates from Operations Managers		Updates received at all Board meetings
3.2	Advocate for pest free islands as a priority to DOC through Business Planning		DOC have held planning hui, which identified priorities.
3.3	Ensure continuity of Board representation in this area		The board maintains nominated members as liaison roles with KISAC and the Kaitiaki Board to continue representation and lines of communication in these areas.

4 Support delivery of the Wellington CMS

Board objective	Advocate for the delivery of the CMS in consideration of the Minister's priorities.
Outcome	Advocate DOC Operations Director and managers remain aware of the CMS and the milestones within.
Measures	Business planning process takes CMS milestones into consideration. Board receives regular reporting from DOC (currently thirdly reporting).

Planned Board Activities

	Action	Status	Progress commentary – from July 2022
4.1	Feeding into national processes through the Chairs' Conference		Co-Chair's attended the Chair's conference in September 2022.
4.2	Participate in any consultation processes around conservation reform.		Charlotte Parker (DOC), spoke to the Board around the partial CMS review in respect of Mountain Biking.
4.3	Contribute to business planning processes, to ensure milestones are taken into account.		Made clear to Rachael Mora (Statutory Manager) that the Board wishes to participate in the business planning process.
4.4	Board receives regular reporting		Board has received some reports. There has been a change in reporting system and process.

5 Increase engagement with the community, including with whanau, hapū and iwi

Board objective	Through increased engagement with community, whanau, hapu and iwi. The Board gains a better understanding of community aspirations and can contribute effectively to Business planning, as community representatives.
Outcome	Business planning will partially represent the aspirations of the community.
Measures	Community projects positively impacted through business planning. Increased awareness within the Community of the conservation Board. Increased attendance at Conservation Board Public Forums.

Planned Board Activities

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - from July 2022
5.1	Attend community conservation events.		Board members attended Conservation Week, Wellington Zoo Conservation Fund 2022 launch. Manawatu Conservation Week, community event at the Gorge with the Minister in attendance. Forest & Bird 100 Anniversary event.
5.2	Raise awareness of public forums at Conservation Board meetings.		The Board extends invites to local community groups/iwi to talk to the board. Community group contacts have been sent to the Board Support Officer, so the groups can be notified of upcoming Board meetings and times of public forums.
5.3	Prioritise field trips during Board meetings that can be joint with mana whenua and/or social community groups.		The Board have visited the Tawa Loop Track with Horizons; Wildbase and the new Tararua highway with Waka Kotahi.
5.4	Board members raise awareness within their own community connections.		Board members regularly feedback to community connections on relevant discussions held at Board meetings.
5.5	Engage Community Rangers to communicate upcoming Public Forums to community groups.		Information has been sought from the Department on records of community groups engaged and any tracking on the strength of these relationships. This is intended to inform a community engagement strategy which the board is currently working on.

6 Identify ways in which climate change considerations can be incorporated into the delivery of the Wellington CMS

Board objective	Ensure that climate change is incorporated into board input on business planning processes.
Outcome	Climate change is at the forefront of decisions made during business planning. Receive details within the business planning process on how climate change is being considered.
Measures	Climate change considerations are included in Operations Manager's updates

Planned Board Activities

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - from July 2022
6.1	Contribute to 2023-2024 Business planning process		Committed to working on business planning process within the region.

PART B: MINISTER'S PRIORITIES 2022-2023

7 Identify ways in which climate change considerations can be incorporated into the delivery of the Wellington CMS

Board objective Build the board's understanding of Te Mana o te Taiao and how the Board can best support DOC staff to implement.

Outcome The Board can effectively support DOC staff in implementing the Strategy.

Measures Board members understanding Te Mana o te Taiao and their role to support implementation of Te Mana o Te Taiao by DOC staff.

Planned Board Activities

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - from July 2022
7.1	Check minutes and add in action and progress on presentation on Te Mana o te Taiao.		During the September 2022 meeting a board member presented on the purpose and coverage of Te Mana o te Taiao. A discussion was had around the most appropriate way to ensure it is being implemented. Due to its high level and broad coverage, we decided not to add to meeting minutes.
7.2	Update from District Operations Managers on how they are implementing Te Mana o Te Taiao into their work and what support the Board can provide		Operations managers feel that the overall departments strategy gives effect to Te Mana o Te Taiao and this flows down to their work. The arrival of a new regional director has seen a review of operational planning and strategic priorities and the boards engagement on this will seek to support the consideration of this also.

8 Contribute to any reviews of National Park Management Plans and Conservation Management Strategies and support their progress effectively to promote strong conservation outcomes

Board objective The Board plays its statutory role in any review of Conservation Management Strategies as the owner of the Strategy.

Outcome The Board considers any proposed review or partial review is light of priorities and business planning for the region.

Measures Proposed reviews are added to the Board Agenda for discussion.

Planned Board Activities

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - from July 2022
8.1	Receive presentation from Charlotte Parker re partial review on mountain biking within the CMS.		Presentation was received at the November 2022 meeting.

9 Embed the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in accordance with the obligations of Section 4 of the Act in all aspects of work.

Board objective	To increase understanding of what it means to embed the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in all work undertaken as required by Section 4 of The Conservation Act 1987.
Outcome	The Board can more effectively support DOC in meeting its obligations.
Measures	Board members understand our role in meeting these obligations and approach decisions with a principled lens.

Planned Board Activities

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - from July 2022
9.1	Board members familiarise themselves with Section 4.		Section 4 within the Induction for Conservation Boards.
9.2	Te Tiriti o Waitangi induction material accessible via MS Teams channel		Made available under Conservation Boards Induction material tab (July 2022).
9.3	The Board to have a co-chair model, with an iwi representative		Iwi representative elected as one of the two co-chairs.
9.4	The Board will undertake a facilitated korero on Section 4 Treaty responsibilities		Investigations were made into potential facilitators for this korero, but it was decided best to leave this session for when 3 new board roles were appointed.
9.5	Invite District Treaty Partner to meetings		District Treaty Partner role was invited to attend meetings. Further follow up with the Departments central Treaty Partnership team was discussed.

10 Support the transition to a lower carbon conservation delivery model, having regard to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019.

Board objective	Build the board's understanding of Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 and how the Board can best support DOC staff to implement.
Outcome	The Board can effectively support DOC staff in implementing the Act
Measures	Board members understanding of the climate change response and their role to support this by DOC staff

Planned Board Activities

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - from July 2022
10.1	Operations Managers to update the Board on how this is being incorporated into their work.		Discussion with Operations Managers around what direction and planning is in place around these requirements.

PART C: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

11 Work closely with the Department of Conservation to meet strategic outcomes.

Board objective	Understand and where necessary provide feedback on DOC Strategic Outcomes.
Outcome	The Board contributes feedback to strategic outcomes where necessary.
Measures	DOC staff provide reports to Board on strategic outcomes.

Planned Board Activities

	Action	Status	Progress commentary – from July 2022
11.1	Operations Director discusses strategic outcomes, planning and implementation with the Board as part of this regular updates.		Regular updates received.
11.2	The Board identify where their contribution is needed under the statutory obligations		This was raised with the new Director. It is intended that further work will be undertaken over the coming year as regional planning is evaluated and the board will be involved in this work.

12 Working with adjoining Conservation Boards, the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority, NZCA) and other Conservation Boards.

Board objective	Effective working relationships with the NZCA, adjoining and other Conservation Boards.
Outcome	The work of the Wellington CB contributes to national conservation outcomes alongside the NZCA and other Boards. NZCA Representative attends meetings.
Measures	Regularly liaise with neighbouring Conservation Boards. Wellington Conservation Board represented at the NZCA/Conservation Board Chairs' hui.

Planned Board Activities

	Action	Status	Progress commentary – from July 2022
12.1	Identify Liaisons for NZCA and neighbouring Conservation Boards.		Wendy Nelson is the NZCA liaison. Nina Mercer is the liaison to the ECHB Conservation Board.
12.2	Board Chair or representative to attend the annual Chair's Conference.		Manaaki attended the Board Chair's hui on Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 September 2022
12.3	NZCA representative attends Board meetings.		Wendy Nelson has attended a number of Board meetings via MS Teams and in person at the November 2022 meeting and the April 2023 meeting.

13 Inform the Minister of any material or significant events relating to the Board, whether positive or negative.

Board objective Inform the minister of anything significant.

Outcome No surprises.

Measures Keep a record of all communications.

Planned Board Activities

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - from July 2022
13.1	Identify and communicate anything of significance.		Nothing to identify and communicate.

14 Understand the Board's Obligations of Section 5 of the Conservation Board Manual.

Board objective Board members understand the obligations of Section 5 of the Conservation Board Manual.

Outcome New Board members receive an induction.

Measures Record of Induction held.

Planned Board Activities

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - from July 2022
14.1	Provide induction for all new Board members		Induction provided to Board. Board identified need for a workshop induction.
14.2	All members read and understand section 5 of the Conservation Board Manual		A link to the manual has been circulated to the Board and is also available online
14.3	Board members to receive a workshop induction prior to the first meeting of the new financial year. 2023 induction will include existing Board numbers also.		All new board members received a one-on-one induction, after a range of material was supplied. An induction checklist has also been created for future process.

15 Monitoring and Self-review.

Board objective To review and update the Work Programme at meetings.

Outcome A living document regularly reviewed and updated.

Measures Progress commentary made on actions.

Planned Board Activities

	Action	Status	Progress commentary - from July 2022
15.1	Regular reviews of Work Programme and priorities		Work programme fully developed in February 2023. Work programme reviewed at each Board meeting.
15.2	Regularly update the progress commentary		Commentary updated throughout the 2022-2023 year.



Manawatu George

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 Wellington Conservation Board please see the website www.conservationboards.org.nz or contact the board support officer, at the Department of Conservation in Palmerston North (027) 417 5246 e-mail cljacobs@doc.govt.nz.