

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

# **Annual Report 2020 - 2021**



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

## Annual Report 2020 - 2021

**Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority  
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### **Photographs**

**Front Cover:** Kaka Feeding and Mount Bruce Wildlife Centre (DOC Library)

**Back cover:** Bridge – Rangiwahia Track (DOC Library)

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# 1. Chairperson's report

Tēnā koutou e ngā rangatira e ngā whaea

This is my first annual report as Board Chair. In May, Jenny Rowen stepped down after 2 years and Barry Wards was appointed as chair. Unfortunately, Barry had to resign from the board and I have been acting in the role as chair since January of this year.

Over the years both Jenny and Barry have done tremendous work for the Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Upoko o te Ika - Wellington Conservation Board. It was due to their drive and determination that we now have a working CMS. Barry was also a member of Kapiti Island Reserves Strategic Advisory Committee (KISAC) and the Options Development Group. Jenny served on the Wellington Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board. I sincerely thank them both for their dedication to the Wellington Conservation Board and wish them well.

One of the highlights of this year for me, was the international recognition of Wairarapa Moana as a culturally significant wetland by the Ramsar convention. This success was announced at Lake Ferry by Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage in August.

CMS reporting is still a challenge and the Wellington Conservation Board is working closely with DOC staff to develop a robust and meaningful way to report on the CMS milestones.

Over the past years Conservation boards across New Zealand, including the Wellington Conservation Board have raised concerns about the lack in clarity of role of conservation boards. I am very pleased that the Department and NZCA have taking this concern on board. We were joint on several occasions by Ngaire Best who heads the Conservation Board system Improvement project to hear first-hand about the developments.

Through the year the board has continued its education on Section 4 matters and the need for Conservation Boards and the Department to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. The Wellington conservation board is very proud to have two of its members, Barry Wards and Nicole McCrossin, appointed to the Options Development Group. The purpose of the Options Development Group is to make sure the partial reviews of the general policies are guided by perspectives and insights from te ao Maori and Conservation Boards at a national level.

## **Board meetings**

Our Board meetings have been well attended again this year. We have a full membership complement.

Our first meeting of the year, was a joint meeting held with the East Coast Hawkes Bay Conservation Board. This concept was well received by both boards and gave us an opportunity to learn about the way both boards operate. This is a format that we likely would like to repeat.

At our November meeting in Kenepuru, we had a presentation from Richard Murcott regarding access to Rewa Bush Conservation Area. Despite these concerns and discussions, the situation has not changed; the gates are still permanently locked, gaining access is extremely difficult and JNL do not appear to be prepared to relieve

their restrictive permitting system and interpretation of the PAE. After this presentation Barry Wards met with Ric Cullinan, CEO of the Walking Access Commission. He is very aware of Rewa Bush and the issue was going to be raised with LINZ.

### **Site visits**

We visited the Manawatu Gorge to see work that had been carried out through Jobs for Nature. Jobs for Nature was born out of the Covid-19 pandemic and has seen people getting back into work through carrying out conservation work. Moana Smith-Dunlop Operations Manager, Manawatu took us to the Woodside end of the Manawatu Gorge and a walking track up to the windmills. On the way he explained the art of making walking track and explained the difficulties with signage.

Conservation Week was very low key, with just a small number of events taking place in the Wairarapa.

We visited Rewa Bush Conservation area in March of this year and were shown around by the Friends of Rewa Bush. Members of Sustainable Wairarapa received funding from the DOC Community funding to carry out acoustic monitoring in several places around Wairarapa, including Rewa Bush. Recently Short tailed bats have been recorded as part of their monitoring efforts. This is a great example of citizen science.

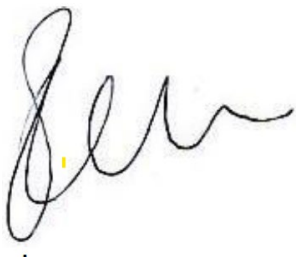
The Board were fortunate to be able to visit Mana Island in May of this year, along with Ngati Toa as well as a number of DOC staff, from different departments. We learnt first hand about the struggle to keep the power on at the island (the generator failed at least twice when we were on the island). We were on one of the last trips to the island as Charters to the Island have now ceased. Discussions are ongoing with Ngati Toa and DOC if and how people should regain access to Mana Island.

The works of the Board would not be possible without the Department of conservation staff who support and administer the Board led by Director Operations Lower North Island (acting) Jack Mace. It has been a challenging year for DOC staff in our rohe, with staff being seconded in different positions across Aotearoa and others taking interim positions to fill the vacancies. Since March our Statutory Manager Chris Visser has been seconded into the Role of Operations manager Tairāwhiti / Gisborne.

In particular I wish to thank Sara Robinson our Board Support Officer. Throughout the year, she has been fantastic in keeping us all on track, even when this called for last minute changes in meeting schedules and site visits.

Looking to the year ahead, we will have the key challenge of putting climate change at the centre of our work programme.

Nga mihi nui



Chair

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

## 2. Introduction

This is the seventh 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.

## 3. Conservation Board region

The Wellington Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers an area of 2,974,763.62 hectares. This 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 Waimārama. It includes the three Wellington harbour islands, Matiu/Somes, Mokopuna 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 2.23% of New Zealand's public conservation land and area lie within Wellington's jurisdiction.

Public conservation land and areas make up 9.77% of all land in the Wellington Region. This consists of:

- 286,541.36 hectares of Public Conservation Land.
- 999.97 hectares of Sanctuaries to Protect Marine Mammals; and
- 3,021.11 hectares of Marine Reserves.

## Conservation features of the area

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

• Tararua Forest Park	114,738.77 ha
• Ruahine Forest Park	94,823.66 ha
• Aorangi Forest Park	19,406.11 ha
• Remutaka Forest Park	19,775.62
• 98 Scenic Reserves	810,263.98 ha
• 1 Historic Reserve	5.95 ha
• 21 Recreation Reserves	841.58 ha
• 151 Stewardship Areas	21,626.19 ha
• 171 Marginal Strips	1067.63 ha
• 2 Specially Protected Areas	416.53 ha
• 2 Marine Reserves	3,021.11 ha

The range of conservation issues of interest to the Board relate to these areas, as well as specific features of regions within them:

### Manawatu

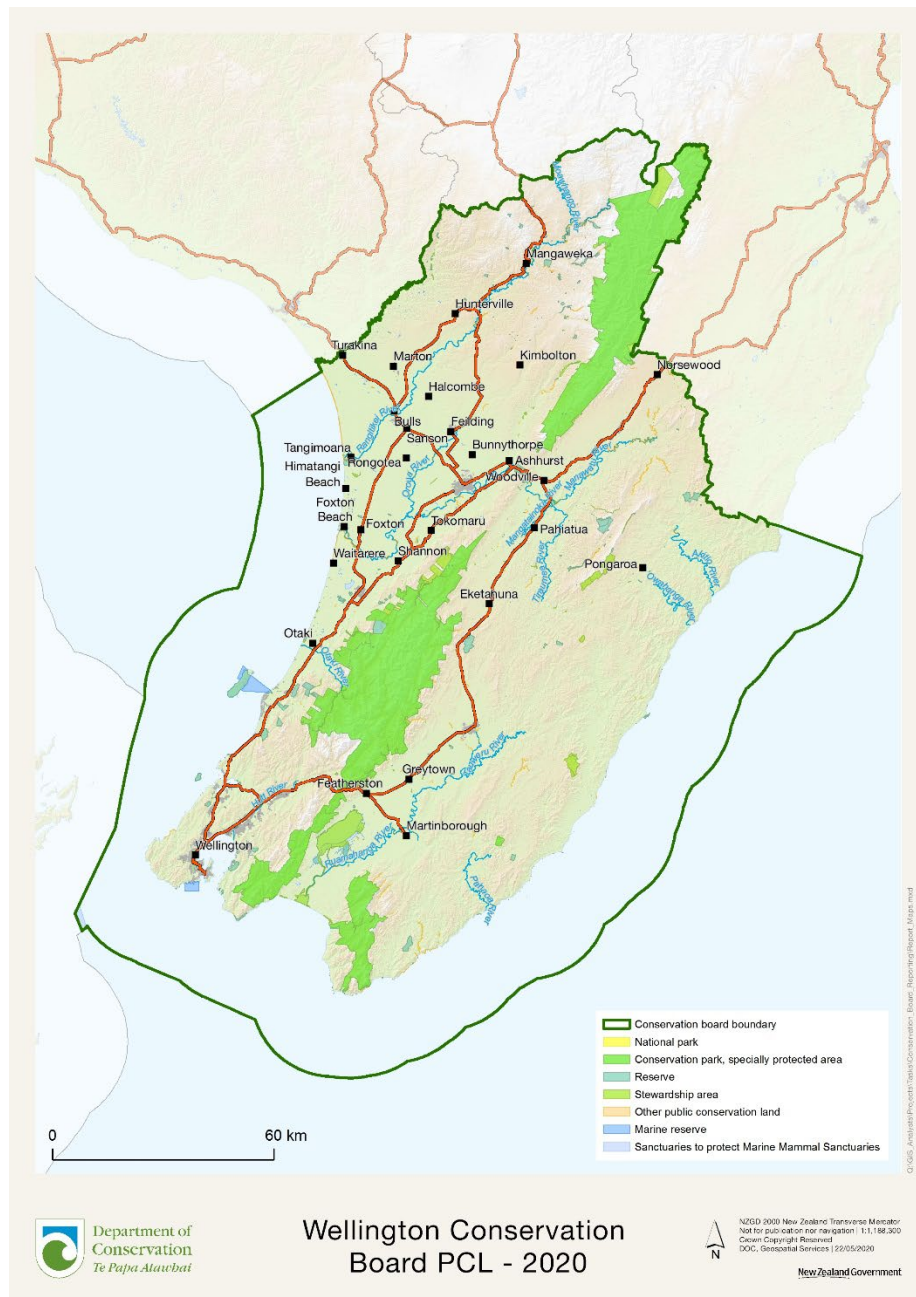
- Ruahine Forest Park
- Manawatu Gorge Scenic Reserve
- Manawatu Estuary
- Manawatu/Horowhenua Coastal Dunes

### Wairarapa

- Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre
- Tararua Forest Park
- Aorangi Forest Park
- Lake Wairarapa and Lake Onoke

### Wellington

- Remutaka Forest Park
- Turakirae Head Scientific Reserve
- Waikanae Estuary
- Kapiti Marine Reserve
- Kapiti Island Nature Reserve
- Mana Island Scientific Reserve
- Matiu/Somes Island Scientific and Historic Reserves
- Taputeranga Marine Reserve



## 4. 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. Barry Wards was elected Chairperson and Esther Dijkstra was elected Deputy Chairperson.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021 and their term of office.

Table 1: Board membership

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end	Term served
Jenny Rowan	Kapiti	17 Aug 2015	30 June 2021	2
Barry Wards	Upper Hutt	1 May 2014	24 March 2021	2.5
Esther Dijkstra	Wairarapa	1 Jul 2016	30 June 2022	2
Raewyn Moss	Wellington	1 Jul 2016	30 June 2021	2
Anne-Sophie Page	Palmerston North	1 Jul 2018	30 June 2021	1
Dan Elderkamp	Waipukurau	1 Jul 2019	30 June 2022	1
Nicole McCrossin	Wellington	1 Jul 2019	30 June 2022	1
Sara Arhaim	Wellington	1 Jul 2020	30 June 2023	1
Reuben Saathof	Palmerston North	1 Jul 2020	30 June 2023	1

## Member profiles

### Barry Wards of Upper Hutt (Chairperson)

Dr Wards is a Principal Advisor Biosecurity HSNO for the Ministry of Primary Industries. He has over 30 years' experience in environmental and conservation advocacy and activity. He has a strong knowledge of nature conservation, indigenous biodiversity, pest control and the potential impacts of conservation activities on cultural heritage, recreation, tourism and local economics. He has a working knowledge of legislation and government/local body processes.

### Esther Dijkstra of Carterton (Deputy Chair)

Dr Dijkstra is a business owner with a PhD in Environmental Science and a Master's in Physical Geography. She's connected to the wider Wairarapa community as an EnviroSchools facilitator, and as a member of the Ruamahanga Whaitua committee.

### Jenny Rowan of Kapiti

Jenny Rowan has been involved in local government for 30 years, most recently as former Mayor of Kapiti Coast District Council, and as an Environment Court Commissioner for 16 years. She is widely experienced in matters relating to conservation estate issues, the Resource Management Act and related aspects of the Conservation Act, including extensive work with Iwi. Her current interests include restoration and enhancement of public reserves and DOC estates on the Kapiti Coast, including as a former trustee of Whareroa Farm and as a member of the governance body for the Kapiti Biodiversity Project.

### **Raewyn Moss of Wellington**

Raewyn has an environmental science background and works at Transpower as their General Manager External Affairs. She has worked in the energy sector for 20 years at both Meridian Energy and Transpower in environmental policy, natural resource management, property and stakeholder relations roles. She is experienced in the RMA, working with iwi and conservation estate issues. Raewyn is a former Trustee for Community Energy Action and the Te Waiiau Mahika Kai Trust. She is a keen trumper having tramped throughout NZ and the Wellington Region. She highly values a healthy environment and access for recreation.

### **Anne-Sophie Page of Palmerston North**

Miss Page is a student at Massey University studying veterinary science. She is the environmental advocacy coordinator for the Manawatu Branch of Forest and Bird, is an experienced wildlife guide, and a published environmental writer.

### **Dan Elderkamp of Waipukurau**

Mr Elderkamp has previously been chair and member on several committees/boards. He is familiar with New Zealand conservation issues, both past and present, and practiced pest and weed control, and revegetation. He is currently employed as a bus driver, coach driver and a self-employed farmer.

### **Nicole McCrossin of Wellington**

Ms McCrossin is a senior advisor in Māori Crown relations for Te Arawhiti. She has skills in relationship management, communication, and analysis and advice. She is a member of the Wellington City Council Environmental Reference Group.

### **Reuben Saathof of Palmerston North**

Reuben is a Construction Manager; he combines his engineering problem solving with his passion for conservation. He has strong skills in management, reporting, communication, and leadership.

### **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.

## 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
31 July 2020	DOC Office, Manners Street, Wellington
25/26 September 2020	Conference Room, MCIA Accountants, Dannevirke – Joint meeting with East Coast Hawkes Bay Conservation Board
27 November 2020	DOC Office, 13b Wall Place, Kenepuru
29 January 2021	DOC Office, 28 North Street, Palmerston North
19/20 March 2021	DOC Office, 220 South Road, Masterton
22 May 2021	DOC Office, 13b Wall Place, Kenepuru

## 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 member	Board meetings	Liaison meetings	Special events
Barry Wards	4/6	1	0
Esther Dijkstra	6/6	0	2
Jenny Rowan	6/6	0	0
Raewyn Moss	6/6	0	0
Anne-Sophie Page	0/6	0	0
Dan Elderkamp	6/6	0	0
Nicole McCrossin	5/6	0	0
Reuben Saathof	5/6	0	0
Sara Arhaim	5/6	0	0

## 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 trip destination and purpose
<p>26 September 2020</p>	<p>Walk along the Gorge Track from Balance End to Windy Lookout. The purpose of this was to see the work that had been done on the track with a Jobs for Nature project.</p>  <p>From Left to Right: Nicole McCrossin (WGTN); Sara Arhaim (WGTN); Doug Bailey (ECHB); Jo Blakeley (ECHB); Raewyn Moss (WGTN); Moana Smith-Dunlop (DOC); Apenti Tamanui-Fransen (ECHB); Chris Visser (DOC); Dan Elderkamp (WGTN); Lucy Meagher (ECHB); Esther Dijkstra (WGTN); Barry Wards (WGTN); Sara Robinson (DOC); Jenny Rowan (WGTN)</p>  <p>View from Windy Lookout, Manawatu Gorge</p>

**20 March  
2020**

Field trip to Rewa Bush



Rewa Bush at the lookout.

**22 May  
2021**

The Board along with DOC staff and members of Ngati Toa visited Mana Island.





## 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.

- Relationship management in relation to 1080
- DOC Strategy on Climate Change issues
- Board Member attended Te Pukenga Atawhai

## Department involvement in Board meetings

DOC Staff who regularly attending our meetings include:

- Jack Mace, Regional Director, LNI and provided a Director updates.
- Chris Visser, Statutory Manager, LNI.
- Angus Hulme-Moir, Operations Manager (Kapiti/Wellington); Kathy Houkamau, Operations Manager (Wairarapa); Moana Smith-Dunlop, 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:

Ngaire Best – to provide an update on the Governance Improvement Project

Dave Carlton – gave an update on Deer control

Jill Hetherington – gave the Board an understanding of how Community Agreements work.

Abby Davenport – Admin Support covering BSO absence.

## Annual work plan

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

## 5. Statutory activity

### Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The CMS has now been live for 2 ½ years.

#### **Implementation monitoring**

The Board reviews milestone reports which set out the Department's progress and work towards CMS objectives and milestones. In conjunction with the Department, the Board has continued to refine the reporting template.

While substantial progress has been made by the Department in reporting against the milestones and outcomes of the CMS, the reports received by the Board fall short in providing an informed position of progress, achievement and forecast. Some of this is due to difficulties in sourcing the right information from the Department's business plan systems in a way that does not necessitate extensive re-work. Achieving consistency and completeness of reporting across the region is also challenging.

Despite this, however, the reporting is improving, and Board remains confident that an improved reporting framework will result from workshop discussions and testing of template models.

#### **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.

#### **Kapiti Island Reserves Conservation Management Plan**

The Kapiti Island Reserves Strategic Advisory Committee (KISAC), set up under the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014, is responsible for developing the Kapiti Island Reserves conservation management plan. The Board is kept informed on progress with the plan through Barry Wards, who is one of the two DOC-appointed members of KISAC.

KISAC is steadily progressing through preparing to start the draft plan and expects to formally start development in the forthcoming year.



## 6. 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

<b>Board member</b>	<b>Group/agency/organisation</b>
<b>Jenny Rowan</b>	Wainuiwhenua Project QE Park Friends Guardians of Whareroa Kapiti Biodiversity Group Board Representative on the Harbour Island Kaitiaki Board
<b>Nicole McCrossin</b>	Matiu/Somes Kaitiaki Board Island Bay Predator Free Berhampore, Mt Cook and Newtown Predator Free Friends of Houghton Bay
<b>Raewyn Moss</b>	Ngaio Predator Free Khandallah Predator Free
<b>Barry Wards</b>	Forest & Bird Bushy Park Trust Mauri Tūhono Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board Upper Hutt Climate Change Focus Group KISAC
<b>Esther Dijkstra</b>	
<b>Reuben Saathof</b>	
<b>Dan Elderkamp</b>	
<b>Sara Arhaim</b>	

### Other Conservation Boards liaison

The Board allocates liaison roles with their immediate neighbouring Boards. During the 2020/2021 year a member of the East coast Hawkes Bay Conservation Board attended a meeting and a Wellington Conservation Board member also attended an East Coast Hawkes Bay meeting. We also had a joint meeting in September 2020 with the East Coast Hawkes Bay Conservation Board and also met jointly on LNI conservation fund allocations and subsequently with Department officials to understand where improvements might be possible within the community conservation funding process.

### 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.

Notable public forum issues raised were:

- Community Agreements (complexity).

## **Community visibility**

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

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

The Board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the four local Councils as there are several regional issues of ongoing interest, including development of the Wellington Region Biodiversity Framework.

## **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.

## 7. Appendix I – Annual Work Plan

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### Wellington Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Upoko o te Ika Conservation Board **Work Programme**

**1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021**

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#### **Purpose**

To outline the work programme of the Wellington Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Upoko o te Ika Conservation Board (“the Board”) for the 2020/2021 year (1 July 2020– 30 June 2021). This work programme has been developed in consideration of the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation dated 7 August 2020.

#### **Board functions**

The functions of the Board, as outlined in Section 6M of the Conservation Act, are:

- a) to recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies (CMSs), and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments.
- b) to approve conservation management plans (CMPs), 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) to liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board; and
- f) to exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

#### **Work programme overview**

##### **Priority work areas**

The priority areas of work activity over the past year have been:

- Implementation of the Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) (continuing);
- Reorganisation of meetings to better focus on priorities, particularly the CMS (continuing).

Other activities that have been associated with these have included:

- Continuing to develop an effective reporting framework for the CMS.
- Fostering a collaborative and productive relationship with the Department.

### Work programme structure

The Board work programme for the 2020-2021 year is structure around the following priorities:

- Continue Implementation of the CMS, particularly reporting against milestones and outcomes.
- Advocacy and advice
- Engagement with the Department
- Management of risks and issues and exploring conservation growth opportunities and initiatives

Objectives and activities of the Board relating to each of the four priority areas are broken down in the work programme below. These objectives and activities align with the statutory functions of the Board, and the use of the powers available to it to deliver these effectively. In general, priorities, objectives and activities are not mutually exclusive, and some will necessarily overlap.

### Work programme

#### Status indicator

Colour	Indicates
	Completed
	Started and is ongoing
	Not started yet

Priority Area	
<b>A.</b>	<b>CMS</b>
<b>Objective 1:</b>	<b>Develop a CMS monitoring and reporting framework, in conjunction with the Department</b>
<i>Activities:</i>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and communicate the Board's expectations of monitoring and reporting against the CMS to the Department.</li> <li>Work with the Department to develop an effective CMS monitoring and reporting system via business planning.</li> <li>Monitor delivery of CMS commitments via Departmental Reports to the Board.</li> </ol>	
<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress commentary</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ongoing work with the Department to communicate and share understanding of where the CMS fits within business operations.</li> <li>▪ Number of reporting models proposed and discussed.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective 2:</b>	<b>Explore initiatives to ensure the CMS becomes a dynamic resource for conservation stakeholders</b>
<i>Activities:</i>	

## Priority Area

1. Identify initiatives to enable the CMS to become a more real-time online resource, including map-based story-telling and CMS reporting.
2. Identify priority initiatives and develop a plan to implement these, in conjunction with the Department.
3. Consult conservation stakeholders on their expectations of the use of the CMS.

### Status

### Progress commentary

- Discussions held with DOC.
- Discussions held around what initiatives could be employed to communicate CMS reporting to stakeholders.

## B. Communications Strategy

### Objective 3: Maintain good liaison with neighbouring conservation boards and the NZCA on matters of mutual interest

#### Activities:

1. Continue to have nominated Board representatives to be liaison points with neighbouring conservation boards.
2. Nominated Board representatives to attend at least one neighbouring board meeting annually and report back to the Board.
3. Ensure the Board NZCA representative is kept well informed of Board activities and invited to Board meetings and events.
4. Attend NZCA meetings, where possible.
5. Explore initiatives to foster more productive relationships with neighbouring conservation boards and the NZCA.

### Status

### Progress commentary

- Nominated Board representatives have maintained liaison with neighbouring Boards but the ongoing impact of COVID has limited in person meetings.
- NZCA kept informed of relevant Board activities – with the NZCA representative either attending meetings in person or virtually.

### Objective 4: Nurture collaborative relationships with Fish and Game Councils in areas of mutual interest within the WCB area

#### Activities:

1. Identify areas of mutual interest between the Board and Fish and Game Councils.
2. Continue to have at least one Board representative liaison point with Fish and Game Councils in the WCB area.
3. Attend Fish and Game Council meetings in the WCB area.

### Status

### Progress commentary

- Liaison points identified.
- Contact made with local F&G Council and a member of F & G attended a board meeting.

## Priority Area

**Objective 5: Nurture collaborative relationships with local communities, especially conservation stakeholders, to enhance Board profile and further develop good working relationships**

**Activities:**

1. Maintain relationships with local iwi and gain greater familiarity with issues important to local Maori.
2. Allocate Board representatives as liaison points to specific conservation stakeholder groups/organisations across the rohe/area, including Conservation Community Partnerships Funded projects.
3. Maintain relationships with local bodies and Councillors across the rohe/area on matters relevant to the Boards interest.
4. In conjunction with the Department, maintain relationships with deer management stakeholders to ensure timely progression is made towards achieving milestones and outcomes for deer management in the CMS.
5. Explore initiatives to further report to, and engage with, conservation stakeholders, especially those in our own communities of practice.
6. Visit areas where conservation stakeholders, including the Department, are undertaking conservation work.
7. Explore initiatives to encourage greater communication between the Board and conservation stakeholders, including increased attendance at advertised Board meetings.

<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress commentary</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintained engagement and participation with local iwi through Kapiti Island Strategic Reserves Advisory Committee (KISAC) and Matiu/Somes Kaitiaki Board.</li> <li>▪ Department provided updates on iwi engagements and treaty settlement processes.</li> <li>▪ Extensive relationships with local bodies (Regional, District and City Councils) maintained on a wide range of issues.</li> <li>▪ Wide range of community stakeholders engaged with on a regular basis through individual Board member interests and liaison points</li> <li>▪ Joint field trip with East Coast Hawkes Bay Conservation Board to Manawatu Gorge.</li> <li>▪ Field trip to Mana Island and met with Ngati Toa</li> <li>▪ Field trip to Rewa Bush.</li> </ul>

**C Advocacy and advice**

**Objective 6: Pursue all reasonable opportunities to advocate at hui and community forums and in any statutory planning processes relevant to conservation**

**Activities:**

1. Maintain awareness and responsiveness to opportunities to attend and advocate at appropriate hui and community forums.
2. Engage in statutory planning processes and use these as opportunities to advocate for the Board's priorities.

## Priority Area

3. Maintain a watching brief on the development of the Kapiti Reserves Management Plan.
4. Continue to advocate for conservation initiatives in our communities, including conservation and Kaitiaki armies, supporting Department staff and spreading awareness of conservation programmes to inspire and empower local communities.
5. Give priority to advocacy on key conservation initiatives, including:
  - a) Initiatives and milestones in the CMS;
  - b) Collaborative landscape projects promoting local ecological networks and community collaboration;
  - c) Predator-free NZ 2050 projects; and
  - d) Regional and national work that promotes ecological integrity of freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems

Status	Progress commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DOC provided a presentation on the outcomes of the Nga Tai Supreme Court ruling.</li> <li>▪ Fully engaged in working with the Department to integrate CMS milestones and outcome reporting into Department business practices and processes.</li> <li>▪ Members actively participate in community-based conservation activities.</li> </ul>

**Objective 7: Provide advice to the Department, the NZCA and/or the Minister on matters relevant to the Boards role and function**

**Activities:**

1. Respond to requests for advice from the Department, the NZCA and/or the Minister, including those relating to concessions.
2. Consider and provide advice to the Department on proposed changes of status for national and internationally important areas.
3. Provide advice to the Department, the NZCA and/or the Minister on areas of local and national conservation interest, community engagement in conservation and delivery of conservation outcomes.
4. Continue to ensure that the provision of advice is focused at a governance/strategic level and not at an operational/management level, where appropriate.

Status	Progress commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regular engagement with the department and the NZCA.</li> <li>▪ Continued to raise ongoing concerns about Old Man's Beard (<i>Clematis vitalba</i>)</li> <li>▪ Continued to urge the department to be more proactive in response to climate change issues.</li> <li>▪ Strong input into Board effectiveness, support, liaison and administration through participation in the Board Chairs forum.</li> <li>▪ Provided feedback on Conservation Board Improvement Project</li> </ul>

**D. Engagement with the Department**

**Objective 8: Maintain a collaborative and productive working relationship with the Department**

## Priority Area

### **Activities:**

1. Maintain open dialog with Directors, Managers and Board Support Officers in order to ensure effective implementation of the Boards role and functions.
2. Engage constructively with Department staff, including attendance at DOC events and training/learning opportunities and calling-in to DOC offices around the country.
3. Explore initiatives to further develop mutually beneficial productive and collaborative relationships between the Board and the Department.

<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress commentary</b>
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- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strong, proactive and productive collaborative engagement with the Department maintained across the region.</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

**Objective 8: Maintain understanding and awareness of the Board's and Department's obligations under Section 4 of the Conservation Act Treaty settlements**

### **Activities:**

1. Received a presentation on the outcomes of the Nga Tai Supreme Court ruling.

<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress commentary</b>
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- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintained awareness on any potential issues related to Nga Tai Supreme Court ruling.</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

**E. Management of risks and issues and exploring conservation growth opportunities and initiatives**

**Objective 9: Effectively manage risks relating to the role and function of the Board**

### **Activities:**

1. Develop and maintain a Risk Register of risks relating to the role and function of the Board and strategies for the management of those risks.

<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress commentary</b>
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**Objective 10: Explore opportunities and initiatives for conservation growth**

### **Activities:**

1. Maintain an awareness and understanding of Government initiatives to advance conservation strategy and incorporate these, where appropriate, into the Board work programme.
2. Work more closely with whanau, hapū and iwi to fulfil to better fulfil the obligations of Section 4 of the Conservation Act.
3. Actively engage with, and listen to, the wider community to broaden understanding of community concerns, issues and aspirations for conservation and environmental protection.
4. Explore and encourage opportunities for greater collaboration and alignment between conservation stakeholders to achieve better conservation outcomes.
5. Give priority to advancing initiatives and opportunities relating to conservation education and awareness, particularly with youth and in urban areas.



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## Priority Area

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6.

**Status**



**Progress commentary**

- Continued awareness of the ongoing effects of COVID on Department and conservation issues nationally and locally.
  - Maintained liaisons with community groups.
  - Placed focus on engaging with local iwi, particularly around location of Board meetings.
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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](http://www.conservationboards.org.nz) or contact the board support officer, at the Department of Conservation in Palmerston North (027) 611 2442 or e-mail [Sarobinson@doc.govt.nz](mailto:Sarobinson@doc.govt.nz)