
**WEST COAST *TAI POUTINI*
CONSERVATION BOARD**

Annual Report

1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

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



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1. Chairperson's Report

Chair's report for Annual WCTPCB Report, July 2021

The past year has been a year of two halves, memorable for some challenges but also for some progress. It has been a difficult year as we have come through division and then made some progress to heal.

The first half was ably led by Dr Keith Morfett as Chair however, Dr Morfett resigned from the board in December and I, having been appointed as Deputy Chair at the November meeting, became Acting Chair.

At the start of the year, we thanked departing board member Coraleen White QSM and welcomed new board member Katie Milne. In the early months, the board and the Department sought to address a communication breakdown with our Ngāi Tahu members through a series of three Department sponsored workshops. However, engagement was discontinued while Ngai Tahu sought a review of the Minister's board member appointment process, and the board was diminished as a result. Other members continued to contribute time and energy, as well as enthusiasm to fulfil Section 4 obligations to give effect to the Treaty of Waitangi.

The general context in which the Board was operating was challenging: the Paparoa National Park Management plan faced a legal challenge from conservation and recreation groups, an associated CMS amendment process was withdrawn after the public consultation phase, the draft Westland Tai Poutini National Park Plan was withdrawn after years of work and public consultation, and the Board received a number of significant permission applications that they were unhappy with, citing the poor calibre of applications that they believed should not have been accepted and concerns about public notification decisions.

However, the development of a committee structure and work programme established a couple of years earlier was working well. The permissions committee, the climate change committee and the CMS committee functioned well. We exercised our advocacy role to some considerable effect with respect to vulnerable landfills. We made substantial submissions in the policy areas of biodiversity and visitor management. We extended a toe into the world of social media.

Board member Barry Hughes attended the NZCA Board Chairs' Conference in August 2020. He found the upskilling and networking opportunity invaluable, he reported back to the board in detail and recommended that, as some other boards do, a second board member accompanies the Chair to these events. That was agreed by the board, and I am confident that the opportunities for upskilling and knowledge sharing will support the board's development, progress, and achievements.

In November, our Chair acknowledged the contribution to conservation of the outgoing Minister of Conservation, the Hon Eugenie Sage, including the single largest addition to a National Park in New Zealand's history, with 64,600 hectares of land in the Mokihinui River catchment added to Kahurangi National Park, the addition of the Paparoa Track to our Great Walks and a significant reduction in thar numbers throughout the Southern Alps. Achievements included greater investment in conservation including Jobs 4 Nature, new protection measures for Hector's and Māui dolphins, the launch of both the Te Mana o te Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy and the Predator Free 2050 Strategy, a National Plan of Action for Seabirds 2020, and the passing into law of the Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Bill.

At the start of the year, the Minister's 'Letter of Expectation' asked conservation boards to:

- Ensure any review of plans or strategies is progressed effectively and promotes strong conservation outcomes
- Work with DOC and mana whenua to develop and improve implementation of Treaty of Waitangi partnerships and the requirements of s4 of the Conservation Act
- Advise DOC on strengthening climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives
- Work with others to implement Te Mana o te Taiao, The Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy when released, and
- Advocate for conservation and engage and connect with mana whenua and their local communities on local conservation issues.

Those priorities built on those presented a year earlier, namely: to enhance relationships with Treaty Partners, to address the crisis of declining indigenous biodiversity, and improve the protection of freshwater habitats and the marine environment, and to improve protection of land with conservation values. The letter is intended to guide the annual programme for the board.

There is no escaping the climate crisis, and I am particularly proud of our leadership, led by board member Suzanne Hills and her climate committee, undertaken in the context of the board's role as an advisor to the Department and resulting in inspiring conversations. The board has taken great encouragement from updates from the Department that have outlined the work to mitigate, and preparations to adapt to, climate change. We have also sought to include biodiversity and the Te Mana o te Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, when working with others – for example contributing to the development of the Te Tai o Poutini Plan, and we have worked hard to advocate for conservation in a wide range of fields and contexts.

The management of aircraft on and over conservation land continued to be a board focus during the year and we were pleased to learn that some proposed flights that threatened to impact on the natural quiet of a Wilderness Area were proactively withdrawn by the concession applicant once greater understanding of that issue had been achieved.

Our board is continually seeking opportunities to improve the functioning of board meetings and that has included avoiding cluttered agendas, leaving more administrative tasks to the latter part of meetings, and inviting more contributions from all board members. With board members widely dispersed around the region, it is also important to consider travel time and safe travelling, and that has been reflected in meeting start and end times.

In November, we offered a warm welcome to the new Minister, the Hon Kiritapu Allan, inviting her to meet us and noting the board's shared values for our rivers, forests, mountains, glaciers, coastline, and wild undeveloped areas of nature that provide a haven for our precious indigenous flora and fauna, as well as a haven for us all to reconnect to wilderness and the landscape of the region.

At the start of the year, in my first Chair's report, I acknowledged that there had been extreme challenges for us as a board over the previous few months and that every member of the board would have considered their role, what it was, and how and sadly whether they were able to contribute, often under very trying circumstances. I asked board members to help me to help our board move forward as constructively as possible and with a spirit of collaboration. That meant working together and sharing ownership and interest in conservation outcomes – healthy nature and thriving communities. I sought a reset and a fresh start for 2021.

I also acknowledged Dr Morfett's huge contribution as my predecessor in the Chair's role, and I'd like to repeat that here. His passion for biodiversity and the West Coast backcountry was second to none and he worked hard to ensure that the West Coast's incredible natural heritage was

conserved and enjoyed by current and future generations of coasters, New Zealanders, and visitors. He worked hard to build bridges and ensure opposing views around the table were heard. One of his legacies was the introduction of annual workshops to determine the areas of focus for the board for the coming year and then identify committees to lead on those topics. That way, he ensured that every area of work was sufficiently covered.

One of my first duties as Acting Chair was to welcome Minister Allan, together with other members of the board. The Minister kindly found time in her busy visit to the region for an informal meeting with us. She gave us great encouragement to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi as we carry out our functions – in the interests of nature conservation, natural earth and marine sciences, recreation, tourism, and the local community including tangata whenua. She encouraged us to truly understand each other's perspectives around the board table, to keep asking the question 'why' to achieve that common understanding and find common ground and begin to address and heal the divisions we have been experiencing. She asked us to find peace, to listen, hear and see each other.

To address some confusion with regard to our individual roles around the board table, the board sought clarification from both the Minister and from Edward Ellison, Chair of the New Zealand Conservation Authority. Both confirmed that each and every member of the Board is appointed by the Minister as an individual, and does not represent the organisation, or group that nominated them and/or endorsed their nomination. This is equally the case for any statutory positions on the Board.

We welcome the development of guidance material for conservation boards and a new manual that is being developed by the Governance Unit and close to being published. The draft we have seen and the welcoming of input from board members around the country will, I am confident, result in an invaluable manual that will be kept close to hand by all board members.

I was delighted to welcome back Kara Edwards to the January meeting and accept apologies from Veronica Baldwin and Francois Tumahai. The return of Ngāi Tahu statutory and community board members to the fold and to engaging with the whole board was welcomed by everyone.

The upholding of Treaty principles in all work of the board is a responsibility that falls on the shoulders of every board member in the national context of the Treaty of Waitangi / Te Tiriti o Waitangi and reinforced in the context of conservation by section 4 of the Act. The board will continue to seek the Department's support to do this effectively. I would like to acknowledge that our Papatipu Ngāi Tahu board members are not there to tell us how to do that though their advice will always be important, welcome, and valued.

My call to all our board members is to acknowledge the risk of skewed perspectives, from whichever perspective they may be coming from, to find common ground and shared values that we can build on to have one voice as much as possible, and to focus on our collective purpose to improve the protection of conservation values and to give effect to the Treaty.

My second call to all our board members is to engage, participate and contribute. We have each been appointed to do our bit as volunteers and it is important that we share that workload, support each other in that work, and allow different views to be heard.

I expect board members to work with mutual good faith and reasonableness and I know there is considerable enthusiasm to better understand and give effect to the principles of the Treaty. We have made some good progress in that direction recently, notably with the generous support and input from Michelle Hippolite, DDG Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai, at our March workshop. I look

forward to continued growth, further conciliation, and robust and respectful discussions as we deliver our functions and responsibilities to the best of our ability.

As we head into a new board year and welcome new board members, I will aim to encourage participation by all members and ensure that all voices are heard. The behaviours I expect will be professional, courteous, respectful, open, honest, timely and collaborative, listening carefully to understand, engaging, and contributing between meetings, and, I hope, enjoying what we do. Where there is a diversity of views, I will seek to work with them to achieve the best outcomes for conservation so that we can act with one voice.

The board chair has a critical relationship with the Operations Director. Mark Davies has kept me apprised of news and situations with media interest and scrutiny and guided me with regard to meetings and agenda items and I'm grateful for that. It is important for the chair and indeed the whole board to retain independence while also working towards the same over-arching goals as the department and working to and revisiting the relevant legislation, strategies and plans to support that process and the provision of advice to the Department and to the NZCA. At times, that may require situations, or comment and advice to or from the board, to be questioned or challenged, but the aim and hope is that the relationship is built on trust and respect regardless of occasional differences of opinion.

This report would not be complete without acknowledging the recent High Court decision on the derogation of the Paparoa National Park Management Plan from the Conservation Management Strategy, and the fact that a judicial review was sought in the first place, resulting in the diversion of resources from conservation. It has been a valuable lesson for all those involved that the hierarchy of legislation and plans is there for good reason and that we must all work within that structure. It has also presumably been a factor in the need to review conservation legislation and the management planning function of the Department and I hope that a new system will enable appropriate decision-making based on clear guidance, with agility and prescription included as necessary and as appropriate.

Our very grateful thanks go to Joy Cowan and Joy Comrie for their support and guidance throughout the year. In particular, I'd like to thank them, and many other DOC staff including Mark and his operations team as well as other teams across the Department, who have put considerable effort into arranging, preparing for and contributing to our meetings over the past year, including reports, presentations, and field trips. I encourage board members to do all they can to attend both meetings and field trips to make the most of those opportunities and that effort. Also, where we are shown best practice, for example at the OceanaGold mine restoration site outside Reefton in April, I encourage the Department to take those elements of best practice and ensure that other operators on public conservation land are held to the same high standards.

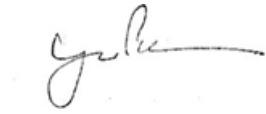
Over the past year, the board has benefitted from the vast array of skills, experience, and generous contributions in terms of energy, hard work and insights from board members Barry Hughes, Dr Jonathan Clearwater, Dr Brian Anderson, Neil Silverwood, Suzanne Hills, and Katie Milne. At the start and then later in the year, we also benefitted from the experience, knowledge and input from board members Kara Edwards, Francois Tumahai and Veronica Baldwin. Their absence during the year is to be regretted and I trust we can move on.

It is with sadness that we farewell Barry, Jonathan, and Brian from our ranks, and we thank them for their truly valuable and valued contributions as board members over the past three to five years and wish them well in the future, especially as they continue to speak up for conservation from their various vantage points.

I look forward to the coming year, working with a new board to develop and implement a new work programme to meet the expectations of the Minister, our board members, and our

community. I also look forward to the roll out of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity later this year and supporting its implementation.

My fellow board members and I have put our names forward because we believe we can contribute constructively to conservation for our region. I look forward to doing that together in the coming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Inger Perkins', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Inger Perkins, BSc (Jt Hons), DMS
Acting Chair

2. Introduction

This is the *West Coast Tai Poutini* Annual Report as required under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987.

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 Conservation Boards to carry out these functions, are under Section 6(N) of the Act.

Conservation Boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. The *West Coast Tai Poutini* Conservation Board represents the community and offer interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation, within the area of jurisdiction of the Board.

The Board has several statutory roles under various Acts including:

- The recommendation of a West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval
- Advising the Department of Conservation and the NZCA 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 NZCA for approval
- Advising the Department of Conservation and NZCA on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- Liaising with Fish and Game Council on conservation matters
- Carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act, or any other Act

Board functions are outlined in section 6(M) and the powers, which enable the Board to carry out those functions, are under 6(N) of the Act. Boards also have a number of functions under section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980.

Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the NZCA with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the *West Coast Tai Poutini* Conservation Board submits this annual report.

3. Annual Work Plan

Please refer to Appendix 2 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

4. West Coast *Tai Poutini* Region

The *West Coast Tai Poutini* Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the West Coast from north of Karamea south of Big Bay area. 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.

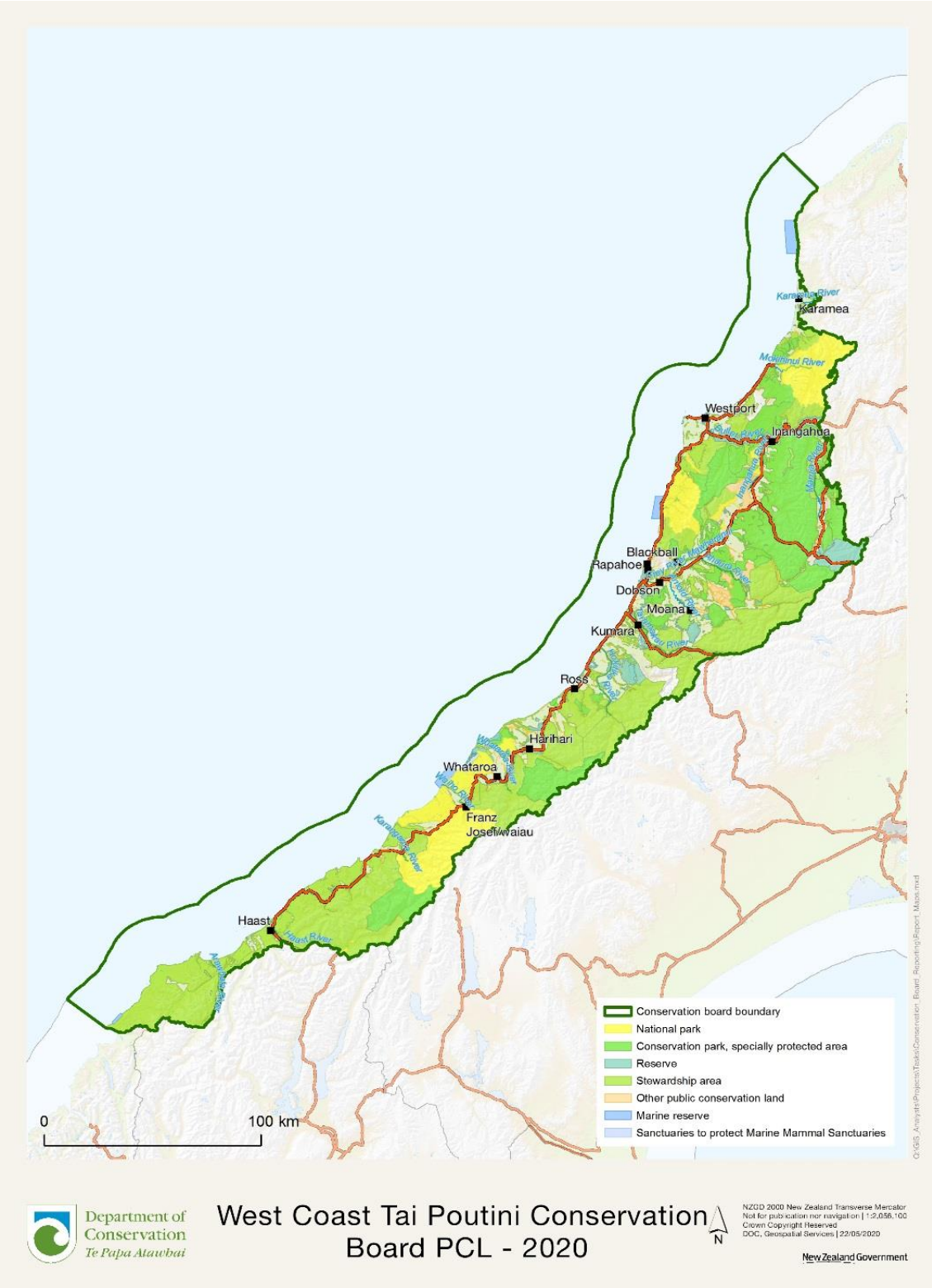


Figure 1: West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board Jurisdiction

Approximately 25% of all public conservation land and areas in New Zealand lie within the Region. The large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- Ecosystem management and management of plant and animal species such as mistletoe, Westland petrel/*taiko*, white heron/*kotuku*, blue duck/*whio*, rowi, Haast/*tokoeka*, great spotted kiwi/*roa*, mohua and Powelliphanta species
- Management of recreational facilities
- Management of historic sites
- Concession activities, including those relating to recreation and tourism activities, grazing, industrial use, baches, filming, gravel extraction
- Mining and access arrangements
- Marine protection

The total area of the West Coast Region comprises 1,913,000 ha. Of this total, approximately 84% (1,610,000 ha) is contained within the boundary of the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction.

Conservation features of the area:

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

- Paparoa National Park – 43,309.86 ha
- Westland National Park/Tai Poutini National Park – 131,709.21 ha
- Victoria Forest Park - 204,673.06 ha
- 17 Amenity Areas – 9,244.11 ha
- 115 Scenic Reserves – 78,358 ha
- 12 Historic Reserves – 38.4 ha
- 16 Recreation Reserves – 116.22 ha
- 36 Ecological Areas – 126,694.95 ha
- 525 Stewardship Areas – 801,197.98 ha
- 364 Marginal Strips – 82,699.09 ha
- 3 Specially Protected Areas – 70.37 ha
- 3 Wilderness Areas – 104,447.34 ha
- 7 Wildlife Management Areas – 21,078.96 ha
- 5 Marine Reserves – 17,274.56 ha

5. Conservation Board Functions and Powers

5.1 Board Functions Under Section 6m of the Conservation Act 1987

The functions of the Board are:

- (a) To recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments
- (b) To approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments
- (c) To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for the area 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 with the jurisdiction of the Board
- (e) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matter within the jurisdiction of the Board
- (f) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act

5.2 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 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.

5.3 Board Functions under the National Parks Act 1980

There are two national parks within the Board's region: Paparoa National Park and Westland National Park. The Board has sub committees involved in the management plan review for these. The Board also advocates for cross boundary issues with Kahurangi National Park (which is the responsibility of the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board), Arthur's Pass National Park (Canterbury *Aoraki* Conservation Board) and Mt Aspiring National Park (Otago Conservation Board).

6.0 Board Membership

There were 11 Board members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation.

In the November 2020 meeting Keith Morfett was elected Chairperson and Inger Perkins elected Deputy Chairperson. In December 2020 Keith Morfett resigned from the West

Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board and Inger Perkins stepped into the role of Acting Chairperson.

The following table lists the membership of West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board between 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

6.1 Members Profiles

Dr Keith Morfett of Hokitika (Chairperson)

Appointment term: 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2021 (resigned December 2020)

Dr Morfett has worked in science, tourism, education, and emergency management and has built two successful small businesses based in Hokitika. He has governance skills as well as planning and analysis skills developed through business, scientific research and Search and Rescue involvement. Keith has climbed, tramped, paddled, and fished throughout New Zealand and has spent considerable time overseas in National Parks, reserves, and remote protected areas.

Kara Edwards of Greymouth

Appointment Term: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022

Ms Edwards is nominated by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. She has skills in business, land and environmental management, policy, and planning. Also, consensus building, understanding of public processes and cultural understanding. She is currently a chair and member on several boards/trusts.

Dr Brian Anderson of Ross

Appointment term: 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021

Dr Anderson, glaciologist, has a wide range of scientific skills ranging from geography, hydrology, ecology, geomorphology, and paleoclimatology. He has an intimate knowledge of the West Coast conservation estate as a trumper and climber. Dr Anderson is well known in the West Coast, alpine and mountaineering communities.

Veronica Baldwin of Christchurch

Appointment Term: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021

Ms Baldwin is nominated by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. She is an environmental consultant with skills including resource and environmental planning, policy development and analysis, regional development, and knowledge of relevant conservation legislation.

Dr Jonathon (JC) Clearwater of Okarito

Appointment term: 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021

Dr Clearwater brings strong science and analytical skills useful for planning and analysis. He is connected to the community as a member of the Okarito Community Native Plant Nursery, West Coast Wilderness Trail, local Search and Rescue, and

volunteering on the local rowi programme. His work in geothermal energy has given him experience working in joint ventures between iwi and energy companies and he has an awareness of cultural collaboration.

Suzanne Hills of Barrytown

Appointment Term: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022

Ms Hills is a writer and an active conservation volunteer. She has skills in technical and project management, understanding of public processes and cultural awareness in conservation. She holds a Bachelor of Technology (Hons) in Biotechnology and Bioprocess Engineering.

Barry Hughes of Okarito

Appointment term: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022 – (resigned June 2021)

Mr Hughes is a business owner with ten plus years' experience in tourism, enabling visitors to interact with the conservation estate. He has extensive knowledge and experience of recreational activities across the New Zealand conservation estate and has volunteered on several biodiversity projects.

Inger Perkins of Hokitika – (Acting Chairperson from January 2021)

Appointment Term: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022

Ms Perkins works for the West Coast Penguin Trust, the Walking Access Commission, and the South Island Kokako Charitable Trust. She has an extensive understanding of statutory processes relating to Department of Conservation permissions, resource consents and management planning, and extensive experience advocating for conservation within and beyond the West Coast.

Neil Silverwood of Blackball

Appointment Term: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022

Mr Silverwood is a freelance photojournalist and through this work has gained a strong understanding on the key environmental issues New Zealand faces today. Has an in depth understanding of the legislation which governs the management of public conservation land in New Zealand. He also has in-depth knowledge of karst and cave management.

Francois Tumahai of Hokitika

Appointment term: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022

Mr Tumahai is of Ngāti Waewae and Ngati Whātua descent. He is the Chairman of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Chief Executive of Arahura Holding Limited. Francois brings over 20 years of management experience, 15 years governance experience and 8 years director experience to the Board.

Katie Milne of Rotomanu

Appointment term: 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2023

Katie is a dairy farmer from Lake Brunner and is the National President of Federated Farmers NZ. She is experienced in leadership, advocacy, and governance in the agricultural sector. Katie has proven environmental and community leadership abilities and has an extensive network of contacts within New Zealand.



Photo credit: New Zealand Falcon – kārearea - John Reid

Meetings

7.1 Board Meetings

The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board held three Board meetings during the reporting period. Venues for the Board meetings are varied each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

Board Meetings

Board meeting date	Area
3 July 2020	Hokitika
3 September 2020	Hokitika
6 November 2020	Fox Glacier
29 January 2021	Greymouth
16 April 2021	Reefton

7.2 Attendance

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

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

Board Member	Board Meetings	Field Trips	Workshops
Kara Edwards	2/5	0/2	3/4
Veronica Baldwin-Smith	0/5	0/2	2/4
Jonathon Clearwater	5/5	2/2	4/4
Brian Anderson	4/5	1/2	3/4
Neil Silverwood	5/5	2/2	4/4
Suzanne Hills	5/5	2/2	4/4
Katie Milne	4/5	2/2	4/4
Barry Hughes	5/5	2/2	4/4
Francois Tumahai	0/5	0/2	2/4
Keith Morfett	3/3	1/2	3/3
Inger Perkins	5/5	2/2	4/4

7.3 Field Trips

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

Field Trip date	Field trip destination
5 November 2020	Franz Josef Valley
15 April 2021	Globe Progress Mine

Franz Josef Glacier:

5 November 2020 while travelling to South Westland the Board stopped at Lake Ianthe to view the work that has been carried at the lake frontage. The Board continued with their travels to the next stop the Kiwi Centre in Franz Josef. After lunch they visited the Glacier Valley in Franz Josef where they discussed the resilience issues and the listened to the outline of the long-term planning approach that is being taken.



Photo credit: Franz Josef Valley - Joy Cowan

Globe Progress Mine:

The board was fortunate to have a field trip day associated with its Reefion meeting in April. Oceana Gold/Globe Progress Mine restoration programme was presented with site visits and a presentation, and we were lucky to have local and very knowledgeable folk join us to provide additional information and local insights. Restoration was planned in detail before a sod was turned on this huge gold mining operation and the results are very encouraging. The efforts of both the mine and the DOC team were considerable in arranging the trip and it was extremely useful to understand the processes at the mine. It is useful for the board members to gain these insights, but it is even more important that the high standards, even best practice, observed at this site are translated into best practice and high standards for all mines operating on PCL. This may be through Access Arrangement conditions and compliance but also through education and support for smaller less well-resourced mining operations.



Photo credit: Globe Progress Mine - Joy Comrie

7.4 Community and DOC Involvement in Board Meetings

The Board welcomed presentations from members of the public and Department staff at the meetings. During 2019-2020 we had presentations from:

- ZIP – Al Bramley and Duncan Kay
- FMC – Wild Rivers Park – Jan Finlayson
- Climate Change Taskforce – Sam Parsons
- Te Ara Pounamu Presentation – Penny Bicknell
- Dolomite Point update – Phil Rossiter
- West Coast White Baiters Association – Rob Roney
- Steve Bushby – Concession Application Paparoa

8. Board Committees and Representation

Committee	Members
Productivity/Relationships	Barry Hughes Jonathon Clearwater Joy Cowan
Westland National Park Review	Barry Hughes Jonathon Clearwater Brian Anderson Kara Edwards
Permissions	Suzanne Hills Neil Silverwood Brian Anderson Kara Edwards Jonathon Clearwater Inger Perkins
Paparoa National Park Plan	Neil Silverwood Suzanne Hills Francois Tumahai Veronica Baldwin-Smith
CMS	Neil Silverwood Brian Anderson Katie Milne Veronica Baldwin-Smith
Improve Treaty Relationships	Katie Milne Brian Anderson Kara Edwards
Biodiversity	Suzanne Hills Katie Milne Jonathon Clearwater Inger Perkins
Climate Change	Suzanne Hills Jonathon Clearwater Katie Milne Inger Perkins
Predator Free	Katie Milne
Advocacy	All Board
Community Engagement	Jonathon Clearwater
Visitor Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aviation Activities • Visitor Centres 	Barry Hughes Inger Perkins Neil Silverwood Kara Edwards

9 Liaison

General Comment on Liaison

The Board considers that contact by members of the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board with the community is very important. The website has been used to good advantage with Annual Plan, Board reports, meeting agenda's and confirmed

minutes from each meeting being provided. The Board annual report and the West Coast Conservation Management Strategy can also be accessed on this site.

Board members also have contact with a broad range of people, community groups and organisations.

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise, and some members have specific roles in liaison.

Public forums are offered at each Board meeting for members of the community to raise conservation issues with the Board.

9.1 Other Conservation Boards and New Zealand Conservation Authority

The West Coast *Tai Poutini* region's immediate neighbours are the Nelson Marlborough, Canterbury *Aoraki* and Otago Conservation Boards. Liaison with neighbouring Boards is maintained principally through the exchange of minutes and agendas.

Suzanne Hills was appointed as a liaison person to work with Board's Oparara Working Group. The working group identified several gaps in the Feasibility Study and Business Case. The West Coast Board along with the Nelson Marlborough Board are aware of the sensitivity of the karst landscape in the Oparara Basin and its high biodiversity values.

9.2 Community advocacy and involvement

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise. Some members are specifically appointed to represent the Board on other groups or organisations.

The West Coast is a region of small communities. Board members are often well known in their local communities and have regular contact with members of the public. Where possible the Board tries to meet with local community groups while on field inspections.

Board members are invited to join in activities organised by the Department and other conservation groups to celebrate national events. This gives members a chance to interact with other groups and to learn more about the Department's work.

9.3 District and Regional Councils

The Board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the four local authorities as there are several regional issues in which it is interested.

9.4 Iwi

Two members of the Board are nominated by Ngāi Tahu as required under the Ngāi Tahu Settlement Act 1998. The Board worked closely with Te Runanga o Makaawhio for the purpose of the *Tai Poutini* Westland Park Plan Review.



Photo credit: White-faced heron - matuku - John Reid



-7 AUG 2020

The Chairs
DOC Conservation Boards

Via email: ConservationBoardChairpersons@doc.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

ANNUAL LETTER OF EXPECTATION: CONSERVATION BOARDS 2020-21

I would like to thank you and your Board members for accepting the responsibility to be conservation leaders within your community, and I congratulate members of your Board who have been newly appointed.

This is an extraordinary time for conservation, a unique time, in which the significance of Papatūānuku has been realised, and reprioritised. I am confident that the high calibre of conservation board members across Aotearoa will rise to the opportunities and challenges that exist in the contemporary world. I look forward to the year ahead and working with you to make a difference for the conservation of our natural and historic heritage.

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

The Code of Practice for Conservation Boards is available online:

www.conservationboards.org.nz under 'What conservation boards do'. I encourage you and your Board to use the Code of Practice as a standard reference document for your meetings and activities. The Department is currently working on an Expectations Manual to provide guidance for Board members; upon its completion, this manual will provide you with key guidance on fulfilling your role.

Government and Ministerial Priorities

For the 2020-21 year, my fundamental priorities for conservation boards are that boards:

- ensure any review of a national park management plan or conservation management strategy occurring in their Board area is progressed effectively and promotes strong conservation outcomes.
- work with Te Papa Atawhai and manawhenua on developing and improving the implementation of Treaty of Waitangi partnerships and the requirements of section 4 of the Conservation Act.
- advise the department on strengthening its climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives.
- implement Te Mana o te Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy when it is released, working with iwi and hapu, community organisations, councils and the department.

- advocate for conservation and engage and connect with manawhenua and their local communities on local conservation issues.

My expectation is that you will design your 2020-21 Strategic Annual Work Plan (work plan) to reflect a combination of these priorities, the Department's priorities (contained in the Four-year Plan¹), and priorities you have identified within your rohe. Your Operations Director will discuss these priorities with you over the course of the year, as well as update you about any new or amended Government and Ministerial priorities.

In order to assist conservation boards in achieving their work plans, I am pleased to see that conservation boards are now meeting at least six times a year. I believe that this adds to positive conservation outcomes. Likewise, fieldtrips provide a basis for understanding the conservation issues within your rohe, and conservation boards should conduct at least one fieldtrip a year.

Your Community

As Board members, you represent the public interest in conservation. It is integral that you are active and visible in your communities, so that you are able to bring a well-informed community voice to the table. The community are increasingly interested in the use of and access to conservation land and are aware of how important it is to preserve and protect our natural environment. We must encourage, nurture, and facilitate this interest.

Following the Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Tribal Trust Supreme Court ruling on giving effect to section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi is recognised as being fundamentally important to the work that we do. This provides for the strengthening of relationships with iwi partners and for an inclusive environment between all conservation partners.

Working with the Department of Conservation

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

I hope that you will be able to report about what is working well for you and areas that require improvement, so that we can share lessons and best practice across all conservation boards. I greatly value your role alongside the Department, especially the advice you provide concerning statutory planning and expenditure.

Working with adjoining conservation boards and the NZCA

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

No surprises

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

I expect to be informed well in advance of any material or significant events relating to the Board, whether positive or negative. This could include instances where decisions or actions of the Board have implications for wider government policy issues. I should be made aware of any imminent media coverage of any activities that could attract critical media comment.

Monitoring and self-review

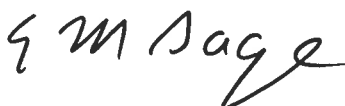
I was encouraged to receive your priorities for the coming year, and I ask that you now work collaboratively with your Operations Director to finalise your work plan by late August 2020. Your work plan should also consider your statutory obligations under the Conservation Act 1987, the National Parks Act 1980, and the Reserves Act 1977. I request that your finalised work plan include measures and milestones, designed to demonstrate what success will look like for each priority, and how your Board will be able to support the relevant Department Stretch Goals. The template that the Department have designed will assist in standardising your Board's work plan.

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

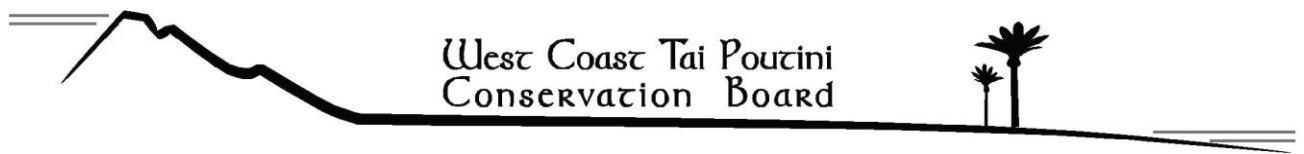
I look forward to receiving a copy of your Annual Report, through the NZCA, for the 2020-21 year ending 30 June. Please use these reports as an opportunity for you to discuss what is and is not working within your area, as well as a chance for self-review on the workings of the Board. These reports should provide direct links to the performance indicators you identify within your work plan, as well as an overview of the operations of the Board for those who read and review it.

I realise the commitment and effort required by members to be part of the Conservation Board, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a successful year.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E M Sage". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hon Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation



ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2020/2021



Photo credit: Tasman Sea and Mt Cook – John Reid

West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board Work Programme 2020-2021

Work Programme overview

This Work Programme has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation dated 7 August 2020. This document will be reported on at each Board meeting using the traffic light system and with a description of progress and achievements.

Context

The board's workplan aligns with the following priorities and general expectations from the Minister of Conservation. The general expectations provide the 'how' for the Board's actions. These have guided the detail of the work plan, as well as the measures and milestones that were chosen to report on the Board's performance.

Government and Minister of Conservation's priorities as set out in the 2020 Letter of Expectation:

- Ensure any review of a national park management plan or conservation management strategy occurring in their Board area is progressed effectively and promotes strong conservation outcomes.
- Work with Te Papa Atawhai and Manawhenua on developing and improving the implementation of Treaty of Waitangi partnerships and the requirements of section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987.
- Advise the department on strengthening its climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives.
- Implement Te Mana o te Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy when it is released, working with iwi and hapu, community organisations, councils, and the department.
- Advocate for conservation and engage and connect with Manawhenua and their local communities on local conservation issues.

General expectations in the Minister's Letter:

- Our community – representing public interest and strengthening relationships with iwi partners
- Working with the Department of Conservation – by working collaboratively with staff to maintain a strong working relationship so the Board can provide strategic advice on conservation matters. Report on what is working well and areas that require improvement to share lessons and best practice across conservation boards, especially concerning statutory planning and expenditure.

- Working with adjoining conservation boards, the New Zealand Conservation Authority and other conservation boards.
- No surprises – inform the Minister well in advance of any material or significant events relating to the Board, whether positive or negative, including where decisions or actions of the Board have implications for wider government policy issues.
- Monitoring and self-review – work plan should consider statutory obligations, measures, and milestones to demonstrate what success will look like for each priority and how the Board will be able to support the relevant Department Stretch Goals. Work with your Operations Director and other key staff to establish these performance indicators and monitor and measure progress.

Measures and review

This section outlines the key performance measures and milestones to monitor and assess Board performance.

Status Indicator

Colour	Indicates
	Achieved
	Achieved/Ongoing
	Not Achieved

Work Stream	Performance Indicators for Board	Measures/ Milestones	Committee Members * lead	Status
Productivity/Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Board members to be trained in working with Microsoft teams Develop reporting systems Improve relationships with NZCA Improve Board functions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board communicating through Microsoft teams effectively and across other Boards and NZCA Develop new templates and enhance efficiency Improvement in timing and quality of Board communications 	Barry* JC Joy Cowan	
Improve Treaty Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish pathways to improve relationship with Iwi Personal improvement and efforts Embed treaty principals into Board processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Board members can effectively mihi All Board members articulate and apply principals Build capability to give effect to the principals of the Treaty of Waitangi Ask Iwi members for feedback, input and help with milestones 	Brian Katie	
Paparoa National Park Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board to receive monitoring reports Response to include advice, suggestions, and recommendations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide Board feedback on 3-year milestone report Receive 5-year milestone report from the department 	Neil Suzanne* Francois Veronica	
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress policy (Board) Advocacy of TTPP (district plan) Obtain regular briefing from the department Board to provide advice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss and agrees to climate change policy Board Policy ratified and implemented Shared with other Boards, NZCA, DOC and community Engage with TTPP Advice provided to DOC on its policy and implementation 	Suzanne* JC Inger Katie	

CMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and reporting of current plan Completion of benchmarking be prepared for CMS review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete benchmarking at place Report on CMS implementation Prepare for what is working and what's not 	Neil* Brian Katie Veronica	
Westland <i>Tai Poutini</i> National Park Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisit Plan, determine Board actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Plan for report Develop additional non statutory milestones and agree on Receive monitoring report and provide advice 	Barry* Brian JC Kara	
Permissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring applications being processed, respond, provide comments Support improvements and process Board members to be included on hearing panels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 weekly summaries assessed Provide comment on applications when asked within 20 working days Advice provided on process Participate in hearings 	Suzanne* Neil Kara Brian Inger JC	
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure Biodiversity is reflected in CMS (landscape scale restoration) Board to provide advice on implementation of the strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Biodiversity strategy, develop new milestones for CMS Agree on non-statutory Review implementation plan and provide advice to the department Consider the implications of strategy for new CMS 	Inger Suzanne* Katie JC	
Advocacy <i>Planning</i> <i>TTPP</i> <i>Landfills</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board to advocate Nature, so Papatuanuka thrives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep issues on the radar Remain current advocate as issues arise 	All Board	
Predator Free	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board members to advocate and engage with the Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Predator Free 2050 - advocate and engage where possible Keep informed. Board updated at every meeting 	Katie	

Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and implement a strategy• Make use of adhoc opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategy developed and adopted by Board• Increase visibility as per strategy• Active role in 2021 Conservation week	JC* Suzanne	
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ANNUAL CALENDAR OF COMMON CONSERVATION BOARD ACTIVITIES

1 JULY 2020 TO 30 JUNE 2021

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



Photo credit: White Fronted Tern – kahawai - John Reid