

---

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

---

# Annual Report

1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

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





# West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board

## Annual Report

For the period 1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022

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

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act and is distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend Conservation Board meetings. If you would like more information on the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board, please go to <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodies/conservation-boards/West-Coast/> or contact the Board Support Officer at the Department of Conservation in Hokitika email [westcoastboard@doc.govt.nz](mailto:westcoastboard@doc.govt.nz)

ISSN 1172-918x (Print)  
ISSN 1179-2647 (Online)

*Front Cover Photo: Rowi  
Photographer: John Reid*

Published by  
West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board  
c/- Department of Conservation  
Private Bag 701, Hokitika 7842  
[westcoastboard@doc.govt.nz](mailto:westcoastboard@doc.govt.nz)



# CONTENTS

1.	Chairperson’s Report
2.	Introduction
3.	Annual Work Plan 2021- 2022
4.	West Coast <i>Tai Poutini</i> Region
5.	<p><b>Board Functions</b></p> <p>5.1 Board Functions under Section 6m of the Conservation Act 1987</p> <p>5.2 Powers of the Board under Section 6n of the Conservation Authority</p> <p>5.3 Board Functions under the National Parks Act 1980</p> <p>5.4 Board membership</p> <p>5.5 Current Members Profiles</p> <p>5.6 Board Meetings</p> <p>5.7 Attendance</p> <p>5.8 Planning Day Meeting 25 November 2021</p> <p>5.9 Field Trips</p> <p>5.10 Community and DOC Involvement in Board Meetings</p>
6.	<b>Board Committee and Representation</b>
7.	<p><b>Advocacy</b></p> <p>7.1 Other Conservation Boards and New Zealand Conservation Authority</p> <p>7.2 Community Advocacy &amp; Involvement</p> <p>7.3 District and Regional Councils</p> <p>7.4 Iwi</p> <p>7.5 Sustainability</p>
8.	<b>Appendix 1 – Minister of Conservation Letter Expectation</b>
9.	<b>Appendix 11 – Annual Work Plan 2021- 2022</b>

## 1) Chairperson's Report

Chairs Report 2021 – 2022 - West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board -

This has certainly been an interesting and challenging year for the Conservation Board and for myself as the incoming Chair. Unfortunately, three Board members resigned, Inger Perkins (Acting Chair), Neil Silverwood and Suzanne Hills. I acknowledge their contributions as Conservation Board members during their term. Hadley Mills (a new Board appointment) also resigned to take up a new position in Brisbane and Kara Edwards (Makaawhio representative) resigned to take up a new position with the Department of Conservation. Two new appointments were made, Lisa Steenhauer (Board member) and Rob Wilson (Makaawhio member), both have considerable skills and expertise.

Like so many meetings in New Zealand, COVID had an impact on Board functions and the availability of Microsoft Teams proved to be of significant benefit.

Over the year Board members have been kept informed between meetings by email and I have maintained contact with local and District Councils. All the South Island Conservation Boards exchange, Agendas and Minutes and whenever possible I attend other South Island Board meetings. This, I believe, helps in understanding areas of common interest.

Early in 2022 the West Coast experienced significant rain fall events bringing the reality of climate change effects. A Board member, Di Rossiter, prepared an excellent climate change discussion document for the Board, which will help inform planning and policy development.

The Board has been part of the Oparara Development working Group. When completed the developments at Oparara will significantly enhance the visitor experience and I congratulate Jess Curtis (Department of Conservation) for her outstanding work coordinating the Oparara project.

The Public Forum session at Board meetings were extended to one hour to allow for more members of the public to make presentations directly to the Board and this is a permanent fixture in the Board meetings schedule.

Two significant work programmes for the Board were initiated. The involvement with the Stewardship Land Review of the West Coast and the review of the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS). While it was disappointing that Conservation Boards had not been considered to be involved in the Stewardship Land Review process, I was pleased that both the National Panel and the Mana Whenua Panel involved the Board where possible. The involvement of Conservation Boards in this process in future has been discussed with the Department of Conservation. The initial planning processes for the CMS review have been established with Department of Conservation Planners meeting with the Board to work on the review and the timeframe. Both work programmes took into consideration the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation and the involvement of Ngati Waewae, Makaawhio and Ngai Tahu.

The lifting of COVID restrictions enabled the Board to hold a two-day meeting at the Franz Josef township and meet with local tourism operators. The impact of climate change was made apparent at the Franz Josef glacier where the increasing rapid recession is making it unsafe for helicopter landings and glacier guiding. The social impact of tourism downstream is significant in the glacier country. Regrettably, the invitation by Makaawhio to visit the Marae at Bruce Bay had to be cancelled but hopefully it can be undertaken in 2023. Understanding the issues and options in South Westland will be essential for when the Board re-initiates the Westland National Park Review. The two-day meeting in Westport which was to include a visit to Bathurst mining also had to be cancelled due to COVID and safety reasons but will hopefully take place in 2023. However, this provided the Board with more time to consider the changes to the CMS with the Planners.

It was with great sadness to learn of the death of Kerry-Jayne Wilson who was a great advocate for conservation and the marine environment. Kerry-Jayne was an international expert on seabirds as well as founder of the West Coast Penguin Trust. On a happier note, Katie Milne, a Board member, and West Coast farmer, was elected as Vice-President of the World Farmers Organisation.

In closing I acknowledge the work and support provided by all Department Conservation Staff during the year and the contribution Ngati Waewae and Makaawhio make as members of the Conservation Board.

Kind sincerely



Dr Michael Legge – Chairperson  
West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board

## 2) Introduction

This is the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Annual Report as required under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987. Requirement is that Conservation Boards are 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 West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board submits this annual report.

Conservation Boards are appointed by the Minister of Conservation under Section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987.

The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board had 12 members for the 2021-2022 year appointed by the Minister of Conservation under the terms of the Conservation Act 1987. Of these 12 members 5 resigned early in the year. There were two new appointments to the Board – Lisa Steenhauer and Rob Wilson. Mike Legge was elected as Chairperson

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. These functions include recommending the review or amendment of national park management plans and recommending approval of the plan by the Authority

## 3) Annual Work Plan

[Refer to Appendix 1 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.](#)



## 4) Conservation Board Region

The West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the West Coast from north of Karamea south to Big Bay. 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 marine mammal issues. The area of jurisdiction covers an area of 3,272,211.13 hectares. Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park and Paparoa National Park lie within the Boards' jurisdiction.

Approximately 10.8% of all public conservation land and areas in New Zealand lie within the Region. Public conservation land and waters make up 47.39% of the total area of jurisdiction.

This consists of:

- 1,533,266.16 hectares of Public Conservation Land
- 17,274.56 hectares of Marine Reserves

A large number of issues which are of interest to the Board, including:

- Ecosystem management and management of plant and animal species such as mistletoe, Wetland petrel/taiko, white heron/*kotuku*, blue duck/*whio*, *great spotted kiwi/rowi*, Haast *tokoeke*, 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

### Conservation features of the area

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

- Paparoa National Park - 43,308.43 ha
- Westland National Park/Tai Poutini National Park - 131,709.33 ha
- Victoria Forest Park - 206,301.34 ha
- 17 Amenity Areas - 9,244.11 ha
- 115 Scenic Reserves - 78,360.01 ha
- 12 Historic Reserves - 38.4 ha
- 16 Recreation Reserves - 116.22 ha
- 36 Ecological Areas - 126,757.53 ha
- 515 Stewardship Areas - 801,867.73 ha
- 365 Marginal Strips - 2,975.31 ha
- 14 Specially Protected Areas - 220.3 ha
- 3 Wilderness Areas - 104,447.34 ha
- 7 Wildlife Management Areas - 21,088.89 ha
- 5 Marine Reserves - 17,274.56 ha
- Includes parts of Kahurangi, Arthurs Pass, Mt Aspiring National Parks
- Adjoins Aoraki/Mt Cook, and Fiordland National Parks
- It is integral part of Te Waipounamu - South West NZ World Heritage Area



## 5) Board Functions and Powers

The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board has a statutory obligation to fulfil Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 viz: “*This Act shall be interpreted and administered to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi*”.

- Section 4 is a powerful and fundamental provision, requiring more than procedural steps and must be considered in light of other extrinsic aids.
- Other statutory objectives must be achieved to the extent they are consistent with Section 4.

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

The functions of the Board are:

- 1) To recommend the approval by the Conservation 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 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
- 4) To advise the Conservation 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

### 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 Section 30 of 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).

### 5.4 Board Membership

There were 12 Board members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation.

The following table lists the membership of West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board between 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

*Table 1: Board membership*

Board member	Area	Term Start	Term End
Mike Legge	Charleston	01/07/2021	30/06/2023
Veronica Baldwin -Smith	Christchurch	01/07/2021	30/06/2024
Francois Tumahai	Hokitika	01/07/2016	30/06/2022
Katie Milne	Rotomanu	01/07/2020	30/06/2023
Diana Rossiter	Westport	01/07/2021	30/06/2024
Robert Wilson	Hari Hari	14/12/2021	30/06/2022
Lisa Steenhauer	Greymouth	01/07/2021	30/06/2022
Mark Mellsop-Melssen	Hokitika	01/07/2021	07/09/2021
Inger Perkins	Hokitika	01/07/2021	05/08/2021
Suzanne Hills	Barrytown	01/07/2019	05/08/2021
Neil Silverwood	Blackball	01/07/2019	05/08/2021
Hadley Mills	Hokitika	01/07/2021	21/10/2021

### 5.5 Current Members Profiles

#### Mike Legge of Charleston (Chairperson)

Mike is an Honorary Associate Professor at the University of Otago and has previously served on the Board from 2011-17. He has been heavily involved in conservation, both in a practical and in a governance capacity. Most recently, he was a member on the Aquatic Working Group, and involved in the National Plan of Action for Seabirds 2020. Mike was nominated by Te Runanga o Ngati Waewae.

#### Francois Tumahai of Hokitika

Is of Ngati Waewae and Ngati Whatua descent. He is the Chairman of Te Rūnanga o Ngati Waewae, Managing Director of Poutini Environmental and the General Manager of Waewae Pounamu. Francois brings over 20 years of management experience, 15 years governance experience and 8 years director experience to the Board.

### **Katie Milne of Rotomanu**

Katie is a dairy farmer from Lake Brunner and is the past president for the National Federated Farmers NZ. Katie has recently been elected Vice President of the World Farmers Organisation at the WFO General Assembly in Budapest, Hungary. 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.

### **Veronica Baldwin-Smith of Christchurch**

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, knowledge of relevant conservation legislation.

### **Di Rossiter of Westport**

Di is an Environmental Scientist, providing consultancy services for environmental planning, consenting, risk analysis, and Health and Safety. She provides an expert science-based approach to conservation issues. Di is also actively involved in her community through governance positions at environmental and community NGO, such as the Kawatiri Freshwater Management Unit (FMU) community, established in 2019.

### **Lisa Steenhauer of Greymouth**

Lisa is a Biology and Ecology Teacher in Westport; her teaching background provides advanced communication skills, with the ability to speak publicly on complex issues. Lisa is a PhD in Aquatic Microbial Ecology and a MSc in Zoology; her education and experience as a PhD researcher demonstrate excellent scientific knowledge and understanding, particularly of New Zealand species and biodiversity.

Lisa was a member of Kawatiri Freshwater Management Unit, an advisory Committee of the West Coast Regional Council for freshwater quality and has previously contracted to the Department of Conservation as a Technical Freshwater Advisor.

### **Rob Wilson of Hari Hari**

Robert (of Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Mamoe – Kati Māhaki ki Makaawhio hapū) is nominated by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Robert is a dairy farmer and seventh generation South Westlander, who grew up practicing traditional mahinga kai and mātauranga Māori. He has followed a passion for hunting and fishing all over the West Coast and, throughout his 40+ years of residing in the area, has developed extensive community networks. Robert is Chair and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio representative on the South Westland Freshwater Management Unit, and Tangata Tiaki for Ngāti Mahaki (Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio).

## Resignations during the year

Kara Edwards of Greymouth

Appointment Term: 1 July 2021 – 01 July 2017 – 30 June 2022- (Resignation 07/09/2021)

Inger Perkins of Hokitika

Appointment Term 01 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 (Resignation 05/08/2021)

Suzanne Edwards of Barrytown

Appointment Term: 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2022 (Resignation 05/08/2021)

Neil Silverwood of Blackball

Appointment Term: 01 July 2019 – 30 June 2022 (Resignation 05/08/2021)

Mark Mellsop-Melssen of Hokitika

Appointment Term: 01 July 2021 – 30 June 2024 (Resignation 30/11/2021)

Hadley Mills of Hokitika

Appointment Term: 01 July 2021 – 30 June 2022 (Resignation 21/10/2021)

## 5.6 Board Meetings

The Board held six 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.

Table 11: Board meeting dates and locations

Date	Area
30 July 2021	Arahura Marae
9 September 2021	Microsoft teams
26 November 2021	Hokitika
18 February 2022	Franz Josef
28 April 2022	Westport
22 June 2022	Greymouth

## 5.7 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 on their role as Board members, including subcommittee meetings and representative roles. [*\* denotes partial membership*]

Table 11: Board members attendance

Member	Home	Attended
Mike Legge	Charleston	6/6
Katie Milne	Rotomanu	4/6
Di Rossiter	Westport	3/6
*Lisa Steenhauer	Greymouth	3/6
*Rob Wilson	Hari Hari	2/6
Francois Tumahai	Kaniere	4/6
Veronica Baldwin-Smith	Christchurch	4/6

*Inger Perkins	Hokitika	1/6
*Neil Silverwood	Blackball	1/6
*Suzanne Hills	Barrytown	1/6
*Mark Mellsop-Melssen	Hokitika	2/6
*Hadley Mills	Hokitika	2/6
*Kara Edwards	Greymouth	1/6

## 5.8 Planning Day Meeting 25 November 2021

*Table IV: Planning Day attendance*

Member	Home	Attended
Mike Legge	Charleston	1/1
Katie Milne	Rotomanu	1/1
Di Rossiter	Westport	1/1
Lisa Steenhauer	Greymouth	0/1
Rob Wilson	Hari Hari	1/1
Francois Tumahai	Kaniere	1/1
Veronica Baldwin-Smith	Christchurch	1/1

## 5.9 Field Trips

### Franz Josef – February 2022

The February Board meeting was held at Franz Josef township and gave the Board the opportunity to be informed about the issues facing both the tourist and the township in general. A significant issue that the Board was made aware of was the rapidly retreating Franz Josef glacier and the problems for tourist access both on foot and in the air.

The board had the opportunity to inspect the impact of the changing terrain and the related safety and access issues for helicopter tourism operators. This was valuable time to observe and discuss related issues on climate change. The field trip clearly demonstrated the value of both observing firsthand and for face-to-face discussion.

Many of the issues in Franz Josef were important for the Board to understand as we progress into the CMS review as well as the interlinked issues with the Westland National Park.

Later in the day the Board walked to the glacier viewing area to gain insight into the issues relating to tourist safety and the glacier experience.

### Westport - April 2022

Unfortunately, due to sickness the planned June field trip to Stockton mine had to be cancelled



*Board members visiting Franz Josef Glacier. Left to right: Lisa Steenhauer, Katie Milne, Mark Davies (Director Western South Island), Mike Legge (Chairperson), Wayne Costello (Operations Manager, South Westland), Rob Wilson*



### 5.10 Community and DOC Involvement in Board Meetings

The Board welcomed presentations from members of the public and Department staff at the meetings. During 2021-2022 we had presentations from:

- Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP) - Al Bramley and Duncan Kay
- Oparara Project - Jess Curtis
- South Westland Visitor Experience & Te Tai Poutini Destination Planning - Joc Edmondson/Ian Wightwick
- Totally Tourism - Mark Quickfall
- Tiakina Nga Manu programme - Tom Belton
- Pike River Update - Tom Hopkins
- Paparoa Track - Pou Whenua - Tom Hopkins
- Dolomite Point - Owen Kilgour
- Heaphy Track Update - Scott Freeman
- Bathurst Programme - Scott Freeman
- Federated Mountain Clubs NZ - Robin McNeill
- Fish and Game - Dean Kelly
- Westport Conservation Training & Employment Hub - V Roadley and P O'Sullivan
- Stewardship Land Review - Neil Clifton



*Kea: photographer John Reid*

## 6) Board Committees and Representation

As a result of a small board, it was agreed that the Chair would represent the Board on current and ongoing committees until new members are appointed for 2022- 2023.



*Board members visiting Franz Josef Valley. Left to right, Mark Davies (Director, Western South Island), Lisa Steenhauer, Mike Legge (Chairperson), Di Rossiter, Wayne Costello (Operations Manager, South Westland), Katie Milne, Rob Wilson*

## 7) Advocacy

### 7.1 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 are maintained principally through the exchange of minutes and agendas.

### 7.2 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 West Coast 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 appreciates this input from the public.

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 trips.

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.

### 7.3 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 in.

The Chair established contact with the councils by attending Regional District meetings for Grey, Wetland and Buller to both introduce himself and the Board.

### 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.

Mike Legge the Chair has been working with Francois Tumahai (Ngati Waewae) and Paul Madgwick (Makaawhio) to help reset and create new partnerships. This includes the purpose of the CMS and statutory framework, also build a new process around Governance. The outcome of this is that new opportunities for everyone to work together and on the same page.

### 9.5 Sustainability

To reduce carbon emissions and show leadership in climate change action, the Board has produced a documentation called "The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board Opportunities for Influence: Climate Change Mitigation".



*Kekenō pup – photographer John Reid*

## Hon Poto Williams

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



19 JUL 2022

Ref: 22-B-0196

Mike Legge  
West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board  
[michael.legge@otago.ac.nz](mailto:michael.legge@otago.ac.nz)  
[westcoastboard@doc.govt.nz](mailto:westcoastboard@doc.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe Mr Legge

### **Annual Letter of Expectations for 2022-23 – West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board**

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

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

The basis for my expectations originates in the statutory functions set out in section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987 (the Act), section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980, and the Reserves Act 1977. As reflected in these statutes, the focus of conservation boards is policy issues, strategic direction, and planning, not the day-to-day operations of the Department.

#### **Government and ministerial priorities**

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

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

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand  
+64 4 817 8724 | [pwilliams@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:pwilliams@ministers.govt.nz) | [beehive.govt.nz](http://beehive.govt.nz)

### **Board-specific priorities**

For the 2022-23 year, my priorities for the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board are to:

- Develop and maintain close relationships with the Papatipu Rūnanga of Tai Poutini West Coast, being Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio
- Develop and maintain close relationships with the Tai Poutini West Coast communities both locally and regionally so that the board can understand community aspirations for conservation management at place
- Build capability within the board so it can work more effectively at a governance, strategic, and advisory level and lift out of operational and management matters
- Build a positive team culture and approach across the board table
- Monitor the implementation and delivery of the Himalayan Thar Control Plan and review the annual Tahr Control Operational Plan report
- Monitor by receiving reports on the biodiversity milestones in the West Coast National Park management plan and the CMS
- Engage on monitoring the performance and delivery of the Department's National Predator Control programme and the Predator Free South Westland project.

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

- Further progress and cement the board/iwi partnership and relations across Te Tai Poutini West Coast and increase the board's understanding of how they perform their functions under section 4 of the Act
- Progress to a full review of the Te Tai Poutini West Coast Conservation Management Strategy
- Progress the review of the Westland Tai Poutini National Park Management Plan
- Work in partnership with the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board to progress the full review of the Kahurangi National Park Management Plan.

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

### **Resources**

The Department services conservation boards in accordance with section 6V of the Act. This includes providing resources developed by the Department to help boards achieve the highest standards of conservation leadership. These are published and updated as appropriate at [www.conservationboards.org.nz](http://www.conservationboards.org.nz).

### **Your community**

As board members, you represent the public interest in conservation. It is integral that you are active and visible in your communities, so that you bring a well-informed community voice to the table. New Zealand communities are becoming increasingly engaged with conservation and

are increasingly aware of the importance of preserving and protecting our natural environment as guardians for future generations. I expect your board to continue to encourage, nurture and facilitate this interest.

#### **Working with the Department of Conservation**

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

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

#### **Working with other conservation boards and the NZCA**

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

#### **No surprises**

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

#### **Understanding conservation boards' legal obligations**

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

#### **Planning and reporting**

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

I look forward to hearing about the work you have achieved in 2021-22 in your annual report through the NZCA in the coming months. I am also keen to get a greater understanding of the work in your area and encourage you to provide me with a brief interim report on your activities

---

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

mid-year as you progress your 2022-23 workplan. The Department will provide a template for you to use for this purpose.

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

Nāku noa nā



Hon Poto Williams  
**Minister of Conservation**





## **West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board Work Plan 2021-2022 and beyond to 2024**

The Work Plan has been developed in response to the Minister of Conservation's Letter of Expectation dated November 2021.

This plan and progress will be reported on at each Board meeting using the Red Amber Green (RAG) traffic light system and with a description of progress and achievements.

### **Context**

The board's workplan aligns with the priorities and expectations from the Minister of Conservation and the Board's Statutory Functions as set out in Section 6M. 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 2021 Letter of Expectation:**

*For the 2021-22 year, my priorities for conservation boards are to:*

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

### **Board-specific priorities**

For the 2021-22 year, my priorities for the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board are to:

- Develop and maintain close relationships with the Papatipu Runanga of Tai Poutini West Coast, being Te Runanga o Ngati Waewae and Te Runanga o Makaawhio
- Develop and maintain close relationships with the Tai Poutini West Coast communities both locally and regionally so that the board can understand community aspirations for conservation management at place. Build capability within the board so it can work more effectively at a governance, strategic and advisory level and lift out of operational and management matters
- Build a board positive team culture and approach across the board table.

*I have been informed by my officials that your priorities for the 2021-22 year are to:*

- With the Department's guidance and support, work to better understand, meet and then exceed the requirements of section 4 of the Conservation Act, giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi*
- Ensure any review of a national park management plan or conservation management strategy is progressed effectively and promotes strong conservation outcomes*
- Work with the Department to review and maintain progress towards key outcomes within current planning documents*
- Restore the mana of the board and present a well-functioning board of value to your community, thereby instilling confidence in your ability to advocate for conservation on their behalf*
- Advocate for climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives, biodiversity, and conservation by advising the Department, supporting the implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao the Aotearoa Biodiversity Strategy, providing comments through suitable media and opportunities, and working with tangata whenua, community organisations, councils and local communities whenever possible and appropriate.*

**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 is the monitoring method for this work plan

Status Indicator	Indicates
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Good progress being made and on track for completion and on time</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Requires board attention</li></ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No progress yet requires attention</li></ul>

Work Stream	Description	Lead	The Work	Timeline	Monitoring Status
<b>Relationships</b>					
Poutini Papatipu Runanga	Embed section 4 understanding and Treaty Principles across all board members	Chair Mike Legge  Full Board	1. Agree with Poutini Runanga how this will be approached with the board and board members 2. Board to workshop in early 2022 with Poutini Runanga Chairs and draft a MOU type relationship understanding to guide the board going forward	Ongoing	
West Coast Communities	Build on relationships with the three District Councils, Regional Councils and Community Boards Mayors and Chairs forum	Full board	3. Board Chair to attend one Mayors and Chairs forum meeting each year 4. Board Chair and Board members to attend at least one District and Regional Council meeting each year		
New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA)	Maintain good communications with NZCA	Full board	5. NZCA Liaison member to attend as many Board meetings during the year as possible		
<b>Review of Statutory Plans</b>					
Te Tai Poutini West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) Review	Work with Poutini Runanga Chairs and DOC Regional and Statutory Planning Teams to establish Poutini Governance over the CMS Review process	Chair Mike Legge  Full Board	1. Director Operations to meet with Poutini Runanga Chairs and Statutory Planning Manager Lynn Hansberry prior to Christmas 2021 to agree on what Governance will look like 2. Joined up hui late January early February 2022 with Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu to establish Governance Group and structure for the process.		

Work Stream	Description	Lead	The Work	Timeline	Monitoring Status
Westland Tai Poutini National Park Review	A review of the park plan started in 2016 but was halted in 2019.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. To be discussed in 2022 once CMS Review Governance in place and resources identified and agreed to by the parties. Once established this Governance will oversee Westland Poutini Park Plan Review</li> <li>4. The Board wants to see it run concurrently with the CMS review.</li> <li>5. This will need Te Runanga o Makaawhio and DOC support to resource concurrently with the CMS review.</li> </ol>		
Te Tai Poutini West Coast Stewardship Land Review process and engagement with Independent Panel	Board to establish working relationship with Independent Panel	Chair Mike Legge  Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Board to support Place based consultation</li> <li>2. Board to engage in the consultation process appropriately and timely</li> <li>3. Engage with independent panel when opportunity available</li> <li>4. Board to perform its statutory responsibilities under Sec 6 1D (i) and (ii)</li> </ol>	2022	
Te Mana o Te Taiao The Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy	Support the implementation of the Biodiversity Strategy across Te Tai Poutini West Coast	Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Board to be briefed by the department on this and the alignment work being done within the West Coast Region</li> </ol>	2022	
Climate change	Support the transition to a low carbon conservation delivery model	Di Rossiter		By 2022	

Work Stream	Description	Lead	The Work	Timeline	Monitoring Status
Permissions	Respond to requests for board comment and maintain watch on fortnightly permissions reports	Di Rossiter		Ongoing	
Tai Poutini West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) 2010 to 2020	Monitoring of Place based implementation including milestones and outcomes when possible	Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board to receive two Place based CMS monitoring reports per year</li> <li>Joy Comrie to schedule with Operations Managers</li> </ol>	Annual	
Westland Tai Poutini National Park Plan 2001 to 2011 Amended 2008 Amended 2014	Monitoring of implementation including milestones and outcomes when possible	Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board to receive an annual monitoring report on the plan annually</li> </ol>	Annual	
Paparoa National Park Management Plan 2017	Monitoring of implementation including milestones and outcomes when possible	Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board to receive a monitoring report on the plan annually</li> </ol>	Annual	