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

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**Annual  
Report**

**1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023**

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 2022 - 30 June 2023

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

This last year has brought about a period of stability to the Board. The Board members have worked well together, especially the collaborative work to commence the full Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) review.

The Board had five meetings during the last year, which included an "Induction and Planning Day" for the new Board members: John Taylor, Ariana Stevens and Danual Cattermoul. Their appointments expanded the Board membership and gave greater numbers for input, decision-making and new ideas. Regrettably, Francois Tumahai stepped down from the Board and his expertise, wisdom and humour is greatly missed. In January, we learned of the death of a previous long-standing Board member Terry Scott, who was the Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio and Statutory Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu representative. Terry brought great skill and knowledge to all the Board meetings.

In September, I attended the NZCA Board Chairs' meeting in Wellington. This is always a beneficial meeting to meet other Board Chairs, have updates on policy, and meet Wellington Department of Conservation (DOC) staff. I was also fortunate to attend all the hearings relating to the Stewardship Land review in September. This was a valuable experience and will make a significant contribution when drafting the CMS review. In October, the Board met with the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board in Karamea. This two-day meeting was an opportunity to meet each other and be briefed on issues and developments of joint interest; including the Ōparara basin development, Thar and Kea programmes, the Landscape Predator Control Programme, and a full briefing on the CMS review by the DOC planners. The meeting ended with a field trip to the Ōparara Basin.

Following the October meeting, the Deputy Chair (Katie Milne), Mark Davies (Regional Director Operations, Western South Island) and I met with the then Minister of Conservation (Honourable Poto Williams), and the Chairs of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio at the Arahua marae.

During the next two months, meetings were held with senior DOC staff to update and progress the CMS review. I was invited to represent the Board at the Waitangi Day celebrations held in Hokitika. Contact was continued with DOC planners to progress the CMS initial review process. Similarly, virtual meetings were held for updates relating to the Stewardship Land Review.

In March, the Board met in Westport which included a joint CMS planning hui with the DOC planners and senior DOC staff. This was to reaffirm the planning process and to "brainstorm" for ideas from the Board members. A field trip to the Stockton mine site, the following day, gave an update on the activities of Bathurst Mines and provided discussion on the issue relating to acid mine drainage. In April, I was invited to attend the joint Aoraki/Canterbury and Nelson Marlborough Conservation Boards' meeting in Kaikoura. As neighbouring Boards, we consider these contacts essential for good management. The meeting provided the opportunity to discuss the West Coast CMS review, and other conservation issues and cultural

considerations relevant to Conservation Boards. In April, I also represented the Board at the Cave Creek Memorial Day.

Our May meeting was held at the Blackball Working Men's Club; it was attended by our guests Barney Thomas (Pou Tairangahau, Northern South Island), Harvey Ruru (Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board) and Aroha Gilling (Treaty Settlements Ranger, Northern South Island). This was a valuable visit to draw on their collective knowledge, and I am grateful to Kopa Lee, our Pou Tairangahau, for his advice on welcoming our guests. We all attended a field trip to the Pike River Mine, where we met some of the Pike Mine families committee and were briefed by Chris Hickford and Jess Curtis (DOC) on the proposed developments. At this meeting we farewelled Joy Cowan, our long standing and excellent BSO, who moved to a new position in DOC and we welcomed Alisa Alspach as our new BSO. May also saw the arrival of the Minister of Conservation's "Letter of Expectation" which we will incorporate into the Board Planning Day.

Overall, this has been an interesting year for the Board. I appreciate the support, both myself and the Board, received from Mark Davies (Regional Director Operations Western, South Island) and his staff. Personally, I am very grateful for the support the Board gives to both myself and the broader conservation activities for the West Coast. Our focus is the CMS review, and I am especially grateful to our two planners, Laurien Heijs and Charlie Parker, for their very focused work to progress this major work.

Kind regards,



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 nine members for the 2022-2023 year appointed by the Minister of Conservation under the terms of the Conservation Act 1987. The Board is currently carrying two vacancies.

Conservation Boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board represents the community and offers 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 II for the full Board Annual Work Plan.](#)



## 4) Conservation Board Region

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

Issues of interest to the Board include:

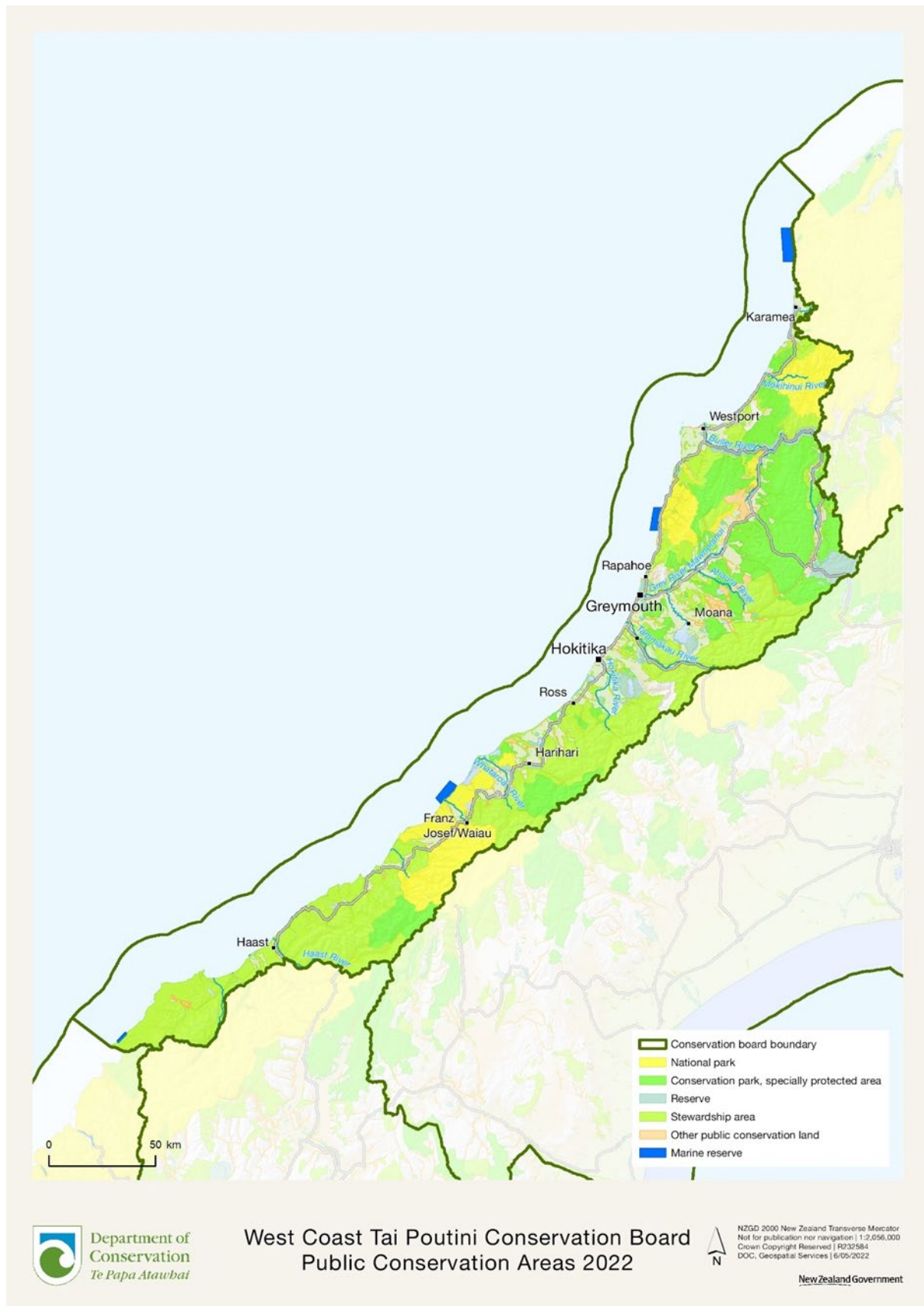
- Ecosystem management, and management of plant and animal species (e.g. mistletoe, Westland petrel/tāiko, white heron/kōtuku, blue duck/whio, great spotted kiwi/rowi, Haast tokoeka, mohua, and *Powelliphanta* snail species).
- Management of recreational facilities.
- Management of historic sites.
- 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, Arthur's Pass, and Mt Aspiring National Parks.
- Adjoins Aoraki/Mt Cook, and Fiordland National Parks.
- An integral part of Te Wāhipounamu - South West NZ World Heritage Area

Figure 1: West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board Jurisdiction



## 5) Board Functions

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 of the Department 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 of the Department:
  - 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 matters 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 jurisdiction of the Board's region: Paparoa National Park and Westland National Park. 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).



*Opārara Arch.*

*Photographer: Mal Hansen*

### 5.4 Board Membership

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

The following table lists the membership of the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board between 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

*Table I: Board membership*

Board Member	Area	Term Start	Term End
Mike Legge	Charleston	01/07/2021	30/06/2023
Veronica Baldwin -Smith	Christchurch	01/07/2019	30/06/2024
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	30/06/2025
Lisa Steenhauer	Greymouth	23/11/2021	30/06/2025
Danual Cattermoul	Greymouth	01/07/2022	30/06/2024
Ariana Stevens	Christchurch	01/07/2022	30/06/2025
John Taylor	Reefton	01/07/2022	30/06/2025

## 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 Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae.

### Katie Milne of Rotomanu

Katie is a dairy farmer from Lake Brunner. She is a Director on the Predator Free 2050 Limited Board, the Chair of Predator Free South Westland, a member of the Todd Foundation board, and is the Director of The Aspen Institute New Zealand. She was the National President of Federated Farmers NZ between 2017-20, the first female president in the history of the organisation. Katie is experienced in leadership, advocacy, and governance in the agricultural sector. Katie has also served on the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, chaired the West Coast TB Free Committee, and was a member of the Farmer Mental Wellness Strategy Group. She has proven environmental and community leadership abilities and has an extensive network of contacts within New Zealand.

### Veronica Baldwin-Smith of Christchurch

Veronica is nominated by her iwi Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and is from Te Tai Poutini. She is a managing director of an environmental and conservation consultancy, which provides strategic advice to Ngāi Tahu and Poutini Ngāi Tahu.

She is recognised for her skills and expertise in Māori governance, collaboration with central and local government, community engagement, policy development and implementation, and parliamentary processes. Veronica is an experienced resource management and environmental policy professional and has extensive experience in working for her iwi and hapū, and with central and local government. Veronica is a Ministerial appointee to the Government's Māori Climate Platform, working with tangata whenua to enable Māori-led climate action and planning to build climate resilience.

### Di Rossiter of Westport

Di is a committed environmental advocate and strategic thinker; she works to drive essential change for nature as well as local communities. She uses her background to take an expert science-based approach to conservation issues. Di is also actively involved in her community through her governance positions with the Kawatiri Nature Environment and Communities Trust (KNECT), as well as co-chairing the Board of Trustees for a local primary school.

### Ariana Stevens of Christchurch

Ariana is of Poutini Ngāi Tahu descent and a qualified lawyer and teacher with a passion for te reo Māori, helping rangatahi and whānau in their communities and sharing knowledge of te ao Māori and other kaupapa. Ms Stevens has recently graduated from a Masters in Te Reo Māori and brings to the Board a strong sense of cultural awareness and knowledge.

### **Lisa Steenhauer of Greymouth**

Lisa is the Learning Area Lead of Science at John Paul II High School in Māwhera; 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).

### **Danual Cattermoul of Greymouth**

Dan is of Ngāi Tahu descent and an entrepreneur who has experience in fundraising for a number of nature conservation organisations and can bring a strong advocacy focus to the Board. He also provides an in-depth understanding of Te Tiriti principles from an environmental perspective, which goes hand in hand with his practical work experience in dealing with Te Tiriti.

### **John Taylor of Reefton**

John is a mining heritage consultant offering a unique perspective of both primary industry and the heritage space. Being a former Board member, he is seen as having a very level head, good skills and experience as a member and always brought that community connection to the table. Mr Taylor has extensive knowledge of the West Coast, and is an enthusiastic supporter of the Reefton community's preservation and promotion of the regions heritage sites and use for recreational activities. He is the New Zealand representative on the Australasian Institute of Mining & Metallurgy's Heritage Committee, and is a member of the Geoscience Society of New Zealand's Geoheritage Subcommittee.

### **Resignations during the year**

There were no resignations within the reporting year.

## 5.6 Board Meetings

The Board held four 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 II: Board meeting dates and locations*

Date	Area
5 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	Karamea
13 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Hokitika
22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2023	Westport
25 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	Blackball

## 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, including subcommittee meetings, representative and liaison roles.

*Table III: Board member attendance*

Board Member	Board Meetings	Field Trips	Workshops
Mike Legge	4/4	2/3	3/3
Veronica Baldwin -Smith	2/4	1/3	2/3
Katie Milne	3/4	2/3	3/3
Diana Rossiter	3/4	3/3	3/3
Robert Wilson	3/4	1/3	3/3
Lisa Steenhauer	2/4	2/3	3/3
Danual Cattermoul	4/4	2/3	3/3
Ariana Stevens	3/4	2/3	3/3
John Taylor	4/4	3/3	3/3

## 5.8 Field Trips

Field trips are a great way for Board members to familiarise themselves with regional conservation issues.

*Table IV: Field Trips*

Date	Field Trip Destination
6 October 2022	Ōparara Basin
22 March 2023	Stockton Mine
25 May 2023	Pike River Mine Site

## Ōparara Basin

Following the joint Conservation Board meeting in Karamea, the West Coast *Tai Poutini* and the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Boards, had a field trip to the Ōparara Basin and received updates on the redevelopment of the Ōparara Basin from DOC staff Jess Curtis and Scott Freeman. The Boards visited Box Canyon and the Crazy Paving caves, the Mirror Tarn development, and a walk to the main Arch. While it was still work in progress the updates provided insights into what will be a significant visitor experience once the redevelopment is completed.



*Board Members, DOC Staff, and members from the Nelson Marlborough Board during the visit to the Ōparara Basin.*

*Photographer: Unknown*

## Stockton Mine

In March 2023, The Board had a field trip to Stockton Mine and was hosted by Stockton Mine personnel. Fortunately, the weather was favourable and provided the opportunity to be guided around the mine site. Among the issues discussed were the major issue of acid drainage, closure dates, the possibility of new coal reserves, and the rehabilitation programme. The Board saw extensive rehabilitation on the retired mine sites and discussed future rehabilitation programmes and predator control in the area with the mine staff.





*Board Members and DOC Staff learning about Stockton Mine.  
Photographer: Mark Davies*

### [Pike River Mine Site](#)

In May, the Board held its meeting in Blackball and had a field trip to the Pike River Mine in the afternoon. Chris Hickford (DOC) organised the field trip and the Board was grateful to the cooperation of the police who were still working on gathering evidence at the mine site. Representatives of the Pike River Mine families were also invited, and it was a privilege to meet them and discuss the Pike River Mine disaster. Harvey Ruru (Emeritus Arch Deacon and a member of the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board) gave short prayer for the 29 men still in the mine. This was a significant reminder of the Pike River Mine disaster and on behalf of the Board I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to visit the mine site and to try and understand how the bereaved families are still struggling with this disaster.



*Board Members, DOC Staff and Pike River Families gather at the Pike River Mine Portal.  
Photographer: Laurien Heijs*

### 5.9 Community and DOC Involvement in Board Meetings

The Board welcomed presentations from members of the public and Department staff at the meetings. During 2022-2023 presentations included:

- Tiakina Nga Manu Programme Integration
- Bathurst Project Biodiversity Enhancement Programme
- Ungulate Goat and Deer Control Programme
- Kea Risk Mitigation Research Project
- Ōparara Redevelopment Project Update
- Heaphy Track Cyclone Dovi Recovery Update
- Social and Economic Wellbeing of Golden Bay and Karamea Community
- Buller District Council Update
- Proposed Feasibility Study Glacier Country Cycle Trail
- Kawatiri Trail
- Strategic Direction for Visitor & Heritage
- Predator Free South Westland Project
- Marine Presentation
- Regional Biodiversity Monitoring Programme
- Treaty Settlements & Te reo Māori

## 6) Board Committees and Representation

It was agreed that the Chair would represent the Board on current and ongoing committees.

## 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 Forums. The Board appreciates 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 (Buller District Council, Grey District Council, Westland District Council, and the West Coast Regional Council) 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, Westland 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.

Mike Legge the Chair has been working with Francois Tumahai (Ngāti 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”.



*Kapitia Skink.*  
*Photographer: Owen Kilgour*

# Appendix I – Minister of Conservation Letter of Expectation

## Hon Willow-Jean Prime

MP for Northland  
Minister of Conservation  
Minister for Youth  
Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage  
Associate Minister of Health



1 May 2023

Ref: 23-B-0143

Mike Legge  
Chairperson  
West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board  
[REDACTED]  
[westcoastboard@doc.govt.nz](mailto:westcoastboard@doc.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe Mr Legge

### Annual Letter of Expectations for 2023-24 – 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 2023-24 year, my priorities for conservation boards are to:

- Support the implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao – the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy
- 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 2023-24 year, my priorities for the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board are to:

- Support and maintain the co-governance and co-design of the West Coast Te Tai o Poutini Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) review project and process with the Poutini Ngai Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga of Tai Poutini West Coast

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+64 4 817 8788 | [wj.prime@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:wj.prime@ministers.govt.nz) | [beehive.govt.nz](http://beehive.govt.nz)

- Maintain the close trusted relationships with the Poutini Ngai Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga of Tai Poutini West Coast, being Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio, and the West Coast community leadership (Mayors and Chairs)
- Continue to increase Board engagement and networking with the community, in particular to understand and reflect their interests in the work of the Board
- Build capability within the Board, maintaining the focus of its work primarily at a governance, strategic, and advisory level
- Build on the positive team culture and approach across the Board table
- Monitor the implementation and delivery of the West Coast components of the Himalayan Thar Control Plan and review the annual Tahr Control Operational Plan
- Monitor by receiving reports on the milestones within the West Coast National Park management plans and the CMS
- Engage in monitoring the performance and delivery of the Department's National Predator Control programme and the Predator Free South Westland project.

I expect these priorities to be reflected in your 2023-24 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.

I have been informed by my officials that your priorities for the 2023-24 year include:

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

#### **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. 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 the 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**

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

Nāku noa nā



Hon Willow-Jean Prime  
**Minister of Conservation**

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<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/>



# West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board Work Plan 2022-2023 and beyond into 2024

The Work Plan has been developed in response to the Minister of Conservation Letter of Expectation dated July 2022. 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 Boards 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 (MOC) priorities as set out in the 2022 Letter of Expectation (LOE):**

*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*

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

- *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 a full review of the Te Tai Poutini West Coast Conservation Management Strategy.*
- *Progress the review of the Westland Te 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.*



### General expectations in the Minister’s Letter:

- *Our community – be active and visible in representing public interest in conservation and encourage, nurture and facilitate the public’s interest in the natural environment.*
- *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.*
- *Work 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.*
- *Legal obligations and planning and reporting - understanding legal obligations and hierarchy of priorities in decision making. The 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 Department’s priorities. Work with your Operations Director and other key staff to establish these performance indicators and monitor and measure progress.*

### 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 board positive team culture and approach around the board table.
- Monitor the implementation and delivery of the Himalayan Thar Control Plan and review the annual Thar Control Operational Plan.
- Monitor by receiving reports on the milestones within the West Coast National Park Management Plans and the West Coast CMS.
- Engage on monitoring the performance and delivery of the Department’s National Predator Control programme and the Predator Free South Westland project.

### 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 board attention</li></ul>

Work Stream	Description	Lead	The Work	Progress Updated May 2023	Status
<b>Relationships</b>					
Poutini Ngai Tahu Papatipu Rūnanga	<p>Embed section 4 understanding and Treaty Principles across all board members</p> <p>Develop and maintain a close effective working relationship with Poutini Ngai Tahu and Papatipu Rūnanga</p>	<p>Chair Mike Legge</p> <p>Full Board</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agree with Poutini Rūnanga how section 4 understanding will be approached with the board and board members</li> <li>2. Embed CMS co-governance through the Terms of Reference agreement and implement a co-management and co-design model.</li> <li>3. New Board members induction to be led by Ngai Tahu Board Statutory members.</li> <li>4. Hold at least one board meeting on each of the Poutini Papatipu Rūnanga marae during the year.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ngati Waewae Board statutory representative Veronica Baldwin led the new members Board Induction in mid August 2022 and outlined Poutini Ngai Tahu's expectations around Sec 4 and the treaty partnership and relationship at the board level.</li> <li>2. CMS Review Project Co Governance Group formally established mid 2022 and have been meeting regularly.</li> <li>3. TOR agreed to and finalised. Funding arrangement agreed to.</li> <li>4. Board meeting programme planned for 23/24 Arahura and Te Tauraka Waka a Maui Marae (Bruce Bay).</li> </ol>	
West Coast Communities	Build on relationships with West Coast communities, three District Councils, Regional Councils and Community Boards Mayors and Chairs forum	Full board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Board Chair to attend one Mayors and Chairs forum meeting each year</li> <li>2. Board Chair and Board members to attend at least one District and Regional Council meeting each year</li> <li>3. Hold meetings throughout the West Coast to promote</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Board Chair attended Mayors and Chairs forum supported by the Regional Director early 2022.</li> <li>2. Planned round of face to face relationship meetings for 2023.</li> <li>3. Board Chair supported by Regional Director attended Grey, Buller and Westland District Council meetings during 2022.</li> </ol>	

Work Stream	Description	Lead	The Work	Progress Updated May 2023	Status
			the board's activities and allow public input.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. 2022 meeting programme included Greymouth, Hokitika, Franz Josef and Karamea.</li> <li>5. 2023 meeting schedule being developed.</li> <li>6. Board chair scheduled to meet with Buller, Grey and Westland District Councils and West Coast Regional Council with Regional Director and District Operations Managers over June, July and August 2023.</li> </ol>	
New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA)	Maintain good working relationship and communications with NZCA	Full board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NZCA Liaison member to attend as many Board meetings during the year as possible</li> <li>2. Annual Report to be completed and sent to NZCA on time and to standard</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Board Chair attended NZCA Chairs annual conference in late 2022. Currently no NZCA liaison member assigned to the West Coast Board. The Board chair has discussed this with the NZCA Chair.</li> <li>2. Board Chair in regular communication with NZCA Chair by phone and email.</li> </ol>	
Adjoining Conservation Boards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nelson Marlborough</li> <li>• Aoraki Canterbury</li> <li>• Otago</li> </ul>	Maintain good working relationship and communications on cross board matters of interest.	Board Chair	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plan for joint board meetings in shared places</li> <li>2. Kahurangi National Park (Karamea)</li> <li>3. Lewis Pass National Reserve and Arthurs Pass National Park</li> <li>4. MT Aspiring National Park</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Joint Nelson Marlborough and West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board meeting Karamea October 2022</li> <li>2. Board Chair has attended joint meeting with Nelson Marlborough at Kaikoura in April 2023.</li> <li>3. Board Chair has attended meetings with Aoraki Canterbury and Otago in early 2023</li> </ol>	

Work Stream	Description	Lead	The Work	Progress Updated May 2023	Status
Minister of Conservation (MOC)	Maintain good working relationship and communications in regard to MOC Letter of Expectations (LOE) and matters of interest.  Ensure no surprises	Chair	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boards Annual Work Plan to meet the MOC LOE sent September 2022.</li> <li>Board invitation to Minister to visit West Coast</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Chair and Deputy Chair met with MOC in Punakaiki October 2022</li> <li>Chair has formally invited Minister Prime to visit the West Coast (April 2023)</li> </ol>	
<b>Review of Statutory Plans</b>					
Te Tai Poutini West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) Review	Progress a full review of the CMS	Chair Mike Legge  Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement a co-governance, co-design and co-writing model with Poutini Papatipu Rūnanga.</li> <li>Work closely with the DOC planning team to ensure timely progress.</li> <li>Request ongoing input from affected adjacent boards as the review progresses.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above. Co Governance Group established and meeting regularly.</li> <li>Co Governance Group working through the project plan with the project team and a timeline and phased agreed to.</li> <li>All adjoining boards have been contacted both in person and by letter seeking their support for the CMS review. All have responded positively.</li> </ol> <p><b>May 23 Update</b> Poutini Ngai Tahu Chairs have advised DOC of a pause on this work while they work through a number of matters of mutual interest to them with Ministers and Government.</p>	

Work Stream	Description	Lead	The Work	Progress Updated May 2023	Status
Westland Tai Poutini National Park Review	A review of the park plan started in 2016 but was halted in 2019.	Chair Mike Legge  Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be discussed in 2023 once CMS Review is well underway.</li> <li>This will need Te Runanga o Makaawhio and DOC support to resource concurrently with the CMS review.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understood that this will follow the CMS review and more likely 2025 and beyond?</li> </ol>	
Kahurangi National Park Management Plan	Progress a full review of the plan in partnership with the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae	Chair Mike Legge  Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to engage with the Nelson Marlborough board regarding a timeline for progressing a review.</li> <li>Continue discussions with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and keep them updated on this matter of mutual interest.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussions held with Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board at joint board meeting in Karamea in October 2022.</li> <li>Context and need well understood by both boards. This is a resourcing, timing and sequencing matter for DOC.</li> <li>Ongoing discussions with Te Runanga o Ngati Waewae on this matter.</li> <li>MOC Williams briefed on this during her visit in October 2022 by Francois Tumahai and Mark Davies.</li> <li>The concerns and expectations of Ngati Waewae and the Board are well understood.</li> </ol>	
Te Tai Poutini West Coast Stewardship Land Review process and engagement with Independent Panel	Board work with the Independent Panel through the hearing process.	Chair Mike Legge  Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with both the Independent Panel and the Mana Whenua Panel during the hearing process.</li> <li>The board review final West Coast recommendations from the panels to the minister.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Chair attended all the hearings on behalf of the board.</li> <li>Agreed between Board Chair, DOC and Independent Panel and Mana Whenua Panel Chairs that the board will get the opportunity to review the recommendations give their advice.</li> <li>As above</li> </ol>	

Work Stream	Description	Lead	The Work	Progress Updated May 2023	Status
			3. Board to perform its statutory responsibilities under Sec 6 1D (i) and (ii)	<b>May 23 Update</b> Poutini Ngai Tahu Chairs have advised DOC of a pause on this work while they work through a number of matters of mutual interest to them with Ministers and Government.	
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> <li>2. Receive regular board briefings on DOC predator control program and predator free South Westland progress.</li> </ol>	1. The West Coast CMS review is the opportunity and the right place for this strategy to be brought to life across the West Coast and to be embedded.	
Thar plan	Monitor the implementation and delivery of the Himalayan Thar control plan	Rob Wilson	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Receive regular board briefings the progress of the Himalayan Thar control program including reviewing the annual report.</li> <li>2. Rob Wilson to represent the board on the Thar Plan Implementation Liaison Group.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Progress report and briefing to the board completed in Franz Josef meeting early 2022.</li> <li>2. 22/23 operations will be reported to the board mid 2023.</li> <li>3. Operational plan report back scheduled for the board July 2023.</li> </ol>	

Work Stream	Description	Lead	The Work	Progress Updated May 2023	Status
<b>Other Board work and reporting</b>					
Board culture and capability	Build capability and a positive team culture	Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-op additional board members as required.</li> <li>Undertake training/coaching workshops to upskill board members.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Currently not required.</li> <li>Under development</li> </ol>	
Climate change	Support the transition to a low carbon conservation delivery model	Di Rossiter Full Board	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enact the Department's climate change adaptation and resilience plan where possible.</li> <li>Adopt the climate change plan developed by the board.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Coast CMS review is the right opportunity to deliver on this.</li> <li>Completed during 2022. This is now an input into the CMS review</li> </ol>	
Permissions	Respond to requests for board comment and maintain watch on fortnightly permissions reports	Lisa Steenhauer Mike Legge	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lisa to be sent relevant applications and reports</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing</li> </ol>	
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>Scott Freeman to schedule with Operations Managers</li> <li>Board to receive of annual briefing on monitoring on the regional program completed</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned for 2023 mid year</li> <li>Scheduled for July 2023 board meeting</li> </ol>	

<b>Work Stream</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>The Work</b>	<b>Progress Updated May 2023</b>	<b>Status</b>
Westland Tai Poutini National Park Plan 2001 to 2011 Amended 2008 Amended 2014	Monitoring of implementation including milestones and outcomes when possible	Full Board	1. Board to receive an annual monitoring report on the plan annually	1. Monitoring report will be tabled at the July 2023 board meeting.	
Paparoa National Park Management Plan 2017	Monitoring of implementation including milestones and outcomes when possible	Full Board	1. Board to receive a monitoring report on the plan annually	1. Monitoring report will be tabled at the July 2023 board meetings.	