

Report of the
NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY
for the period
1 July 2001 to 30 June 2002

Presented to the Minister of Conservation and tabled in the House of Representatives pursuant to section 6E of the Conservation Act 1987

October 2002

Chris Carter
Minister of Conservation
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister


I have the honour to submit, in terms of section 6E of the Conservation Act 1987, the tenth annual report of the New Zealand Conservation Authority, which covers the period July 2001 to June 2002.

This report includes extracts from the annual reports of all 14 of the conservation boards. Full copies of these annual reports are available from each board.

Many conservation milestones have been achieved during this reporting period. In particular we have celebrated the establishment of Rakiura National Park, the addition of land to national parks on the West Coast (many formerly managed by Timberlands West Coast Ltd) and reserve status for the foreshore adjoining Abel Tasman National Park. A good deal of work was also put into the consideration and approval of the management plans for Kahurangi, Westland Tai Poutini and Egmont national parks and the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy.

I wish to commend to you the contributions made by individual members of the Authority and conservation boards during the year on these and the many other issues that came before them for consideration.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Marshall', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Kerry Marshall
Chairperson

Vision Statement

In its statutory role, the New Zealand Conservation Authority/Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa will show leadership as an independent adviser on conservation. It will be an advocate for conservation within the framework of the Treaty of Waitangi, by promoting, initiating and drawing attention to major conservation issues and will seek to have all people participate in conservation in all facets of their lives.



NZCA Members

Back row: Nganeko Minhinnick, Edward Ellison, Peter Geddes, Peter Archibald, Craig Potton

Front row: Laura Dawson, Wendy Nelson, Lorraine Stephenson, Katharine Dickinson, Marian van der Goes, Kerry Marshall (Chairperson)

Absent: Margaret Hopkins

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Authority met formally on five occasions during the 2001/2002 reporting period. Four of these meetings were held in Wellington. The fifth was held at Roxburgh where the Authority was able to spend time with the Otago Conservation Board. The Otago board's vision to see a conservation park in the high country tussocklands was discussed during a field trip to the summit of the Old Man Range and into the Kopuwai Conservation Area. The field trip enabled the Authority to gain an understanding and appreciation of the unique natural values of Otago's high country.

The Authority held two closed meetings during this reporting period. The first was to consider the nominations for appointments to conservation boards and formulate advice to the Minister of Conservation, as provided for in section 6P of the Conservation Act. The second meeting was to consider the Department's drafting work to develop new General Policy under the Conservation Act 1987, and to review the General Policy for National Parks 1980.

Separate committees of the Authority met throughout the year on a number of matters including the consideration of the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy and several national park management plans; a review of the requirements for the ten-year review of conservation management strategies; and the development and review respectively, of General Policy under the Conservation Act and the National Parks Act.

The Authority reviewed its strategic priorities in October 2001 and confirmed that the focus of its work would continue to be in the following areas:

- Marine conservation
- Visitor issues, impacts and appropriate use
- The protection of high country tussocklands
- Section 4 of the Conservation Act and advocacy (integral to each strategic priority but also focus points in their own right)
- Pests and weeds (biosecurity)

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Membership of the Authority for the reporting period was as follows :

Mr Peter Archibald, Queenstown
Ms Laura Dawson, Taupo
Dr Katharine Dickinson, Dunedin
Mr Edward Ellison, Dunedin*
Mr Peter Geddes, Whangarei
Ms Marian van der Goes, Westland
Mrs Margaret Hopkins, Stewart Island/Rakiura
Mr Kerry Marshall, Richmond (Chairperson)
Ms Nganeko Minhinnick, Auckland
Dr Wendy Nelson, Wellington
Mr Craig Potton, Nelson
Mrs Lorraine Stephenson, Dannevirke

*Section 272 of the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 provides for one person nominated by Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu be appointed to the Authority pursuant to section 6D(1)(ca) of the Conservation Act 1987. Edward Ellison was the Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu nominee for the fourth term of the Authority (ending May 2002).

3. FEES AND ALLOWANCES OF MEMBERS

The Chairperson receives a daily fee of \$ 250.00. The other members receive a daily fee of \$ 190.00. Members can also be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred while travelling to and from meetings.

4. THE CONSERVATION ACT 1987

4.1 Section 4 of the Conservation Act

Section 4 of the Conservation Act states “This Act shall be so interpreted and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi”. In December 1999, a special workshop was held for the purpose of establishing how the Authority might best give effect to its section 4 responsibilities. At this meeting a template was developed by the Authority for application to its work. The Authority now requires the Department, in reporting to it on any issue, to report on how it is giving effect to its responsibilities under section 4. The Department has extended this reporting requirement to apply to papers going to the Minister of Conservation and has been asked by the Authority to consider the same approach for briefing papers going to the conservation boards. The Authority reviews its performance against the template on an annual basis.

4.2 Section 6B (1) of the Conservation Act – Functions of the Authority

(a) Advice to the Minister on General Policy

During the reporting period the Authority considered two proposals regarding General Policy. The first proposal concerned the Minister of Conservation’s intention to develop General Policy under the Conservation Act 1987 and the second was her request that the Authority review the General Policy for National Parks. The rationale for working on the two General Policies together was to enable the development of an integrated approach to conservation management. In December 2001 the Authority resolved to support a review of the General Policy for National Parks and that this review should be held concurrently with the development of a General Policy under the Conservation Act.

A working group of the Authority comprising five Authority members and one representative each from the Minister’s office and the Department was set up to work on the development and review of the General Policies. The Authority resolved that those members would remain members of the working group until the draft general policies are notified, whether or not they were re-appointed to the Authority by the Minister. The working group met four times between January and May, the last time with conservation board representatives. The full Authority met in June to consider the General Policy work undertaken to date. This work will continue into the new financial year and will be reported on more fully in next year’s report.

(b) Approval of Conservation Management Strategies and Plans

Section 17D(2) of the Conservation Act sets a goal of five years for the preparation of Conservation Management Strategies (CMSs).

Conservation management strategies (CMSs) outline a ten-year plan for integrated conservation management in a conservancy. CMSs are prepared by the department in consultation with conservation boards. Once a CMS has been publicly released and amended in light of public submissions, conservation boards review the amendments and then refer the CMS to the Authority for approval.

All CMSs, except for the West Coast CMS, have now been approved by the Authority. The history of the Authority's consideration of specific CMS documents is set out in the table below. There are sixteen approved CMSs. The approval process of the West Coast CMS has been delayed to allow for the re-notification of a revised draft which incorporates the additional management responsibilities of the Department as a result of the transfer of indigenous forest from Timberlands West Coast Ltd.

Several of the CMSs are now approaching the end of their 10-year timeframe. During the year the Authority was represented on a working group which considered ways to improve the CMS development process and bring greater consistency to the overall approach and presentation of the CMSs as they are revised. The purposes of the review were to reduce costs, reduce timeframes, and improve CMS readability and utility..

The Authority acknowledges the extensive effort of the Department and Conservation Boards in developing the CMSs.

Table: The approval dates and/or status of CMSs as at 30 June 2002.

CMS	CMS ACTIVITY
Northland	Northland CMS approved in April 1999 on the understanding that a review would be considered after 3 years.
Auckland	Auckland CMS approved in June 1995.
Waikato	Waikato CMS approved in September 1996.
Bay of Plenty	Bay of Plenty CMS approved in December 1997.
East Coast	East Coast CMS approved in October 1998.
Tongariro/Taupo	Tongariro/Taupo CMS approved in April 2002.
Taranaki/Wanganui	Wanganui CMS approved in April 1997.
Rangitikei/Hawke's Bay	Hawke's Bay CMS approved in September 1994.
Wellington	Wellington CMS approved in March 1996.
Nelson/Marlborough	Nelson/Marlborough CMS approved in September 1996.
West Coast	The CMS's approval process has been delayed owing to a review of the document, instigated by the Director-General, so that the land formerly under the management of Timberlands West Coast Ltd and now managed by the Department can be included. The Nelson/Marlborough, Canterbury Aoraki and Otago conservation boards also have an interest in the West Coast CMS.

CMS	CMS ACTIVITY
Canterbury Aoraki	The Canterbury CMS was approved in June 2000.
Otago	Otago CMS approved in June 1998. The board also has an interest in the Mainland Southland/West Otago CMSs.
Southland	Stewart Island CMS approved in December 1997. The subantarctic islands CMS was approved in July 1998. The Mainland Southland/West Otago CMS was approved in July 1998.
Chatham Islands	The Chatham Islands CMS was approved in August 1999.

(c) Review Effectiveness of the Department's Administration of General Policies

There are two general policies: the General Policy for National Parks which was published in 1983 and the New Zealand Walkways Policy issued in 1995. Both General Policies guide the Department in the development of CMSs and management plans for national parks (NPMPs). A review of the General Policy for National Parks was initiated during the reporting period.

(d) Conservation Matters of National Importance

General - The Authority received presentations from the Department or/and submitted or provided advice on the following topics:

- The Department's marine conservation work and capacity
- Marine reserves - progress report on proposals
- Review of the Marine Reserves Act
- The Oceans Policy
- Kaupapa Maori Strategic Policy Initiatives
- The review of CMSs
- The Department's priorities for expenditure for 2002/2003
- An amendment to the Tongariro National Park Management Plan to allow for the construction of a bund to deflect lahar flows
- Release of biocontrol agent *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (Bti)* to control the Southern Saltmarsh Mosquito in reserve areas
- Spraying of *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki (Btk)* against painted apple tussock moth in reserve areas
- The Department's development of its science priorities and its ecological management framework
- Off-road vehicle impacts on fragile ecosystems, in particular 4-wheel drive vehicles
- Review of the National Parks General Policy
- Development of General Policy under the Conservation Act
- Visitor and concession management
- Additions of lands to national parks on the West Coast
- Development of a National Biosecurity Strategy
- Protection of high country tussocklands
- Applications to release grass carp for the control of aquatic weeds

- Tenure review

Release of biocontrol agents - Section 51(a) of the Reserves Act 1977 requires the Minister of Conservation to consult with the NZCA before a biological control organism can be introduced into a reserve. The Department briefed the Authority in October 2001 on the rationale behind releasing the biocontrol agent *Bti* to control the Southern Saltmarsh Mosquito discovered in the Kaipara Harbour and sought the Authority's support to do so. The Authority resolved to support the release but was concerned that no monitoring procedures had been put in place both before and after the release to assess the impact of *Bti* on invertebrates other than the target species. The Authority wrote to the Minister of Conservation to recommend monitoring procedures be put in place as a standard operating procedure for all future biocontrol releases.

Similarly, in December 2001, and again in April 2002, the Authority was consulted on an application to spray *Btk* to eradicate painted apple tussock moth. The Authority approved the spraying of land administered under the Reserves Act with the proviso that either the impact assessment of *Btk* on the rare *Lepidoptera* species finds that there will be no long term adverse impacts or that the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry implements mitigation measures to ensure the population's survival.

The Authority considered a number of applications to release diploid grass carp for the control of aquatic weeds. While acknowledging scientific data on the carp's current inability to reproduce in New Zealand waters, and the fact that the release environments were highly modified, the Authority has concerns about the use of diploid carp. It is of the view that triploid (sterile) fish are preferable to diploid fish so that the possible future risk of changing environmental conditions or adaptation enabling the carp to reproduce is eliminated. The Authority has consistently expressed its concerns regarding the cumulative effect of grass carp releases and the impact on the environment that intentional or unintentional human assisted translocations of the fish could have. With regard to these most recent applications it did not believe the need to use grass carp was demonstrated and it was concerned that local bodies were using grass carp without fully comprehending which weeds grass carp eat or reject as a food source nor what the full impacts might be. Nor, on the information provided, did it consider that adequate consultation had been undertaken with tangata whenua. The Authority expressed a preference for other management regimes for managing weed problems to be considered.

(e) Change of Status

See section 5.3

(f) Walkways

Several meetings of the walkways co-ordinating group convened by the Department were held during the year. The group was established in 2000 to share information relating to the management of Walkways under the NZ Walkways Act 1990 and the implementation of the NZ Walkways Policy. The focus of the year's meetings was the establishment of Te Araroa, the Long Pathway, stretching from Cape Reinga in the north to Bluff in the south. Craig Potton was the Authority's representative at those meetings.

A contractor was engaged to revise the Walkways booklet issued by the former NZ Walkways Commission. The work was ongoing at year's end.

(g) Education and Publicity

No new education or publicity materials were issued during the year. A steady demand for the 1999 publication "Pest and Weeds: A blueprint for action" continues. The publication was provided to all in-coming regional councillors after the local body elections in September 2001.

The Authority's website page was updated progressively throughout the year. Information on the membership and functions of the Authority and any press releases made by the Authority can be found at the site's address: www.doc.govt.nz under the heading "Community".

During the reporting period the Authority made media statements on the following issues:

- Support for the Minister's decision on the Macrae's mining application
- General Policy development work
- The approval of the revised Egmont National Park Management Plan
- The 2002 Budget announcements
- Protection of the Abel Tasman National Park foreshore
- Support for the Minister's decision on ferrets
- Welcoming the establishment of Korowai Conservation Park

(h) Priorities for expenditure

Section 6B (1) (h) of the Conservation Act 1987 provides for the Authority "to advise the Minister and the Director-General annually on priorities for the expenditure of money". The Authority discussed this function at its August 2001 meeting and identified the following as its priorities for expenditure for the Department's 2002/2003 business planning year:

- A national overview for concessions planning
- Advocacy work concerning the use of poisons
- Participation in the genetic engineering debate
- Good science for monitoring all impacts, systems that enabled data to be shared widely, and monitoring to see if DOC-commissioned scientific research is valued and used
- Research on the emotional life of animals
- Research into geothermal values
- Research into the impact of high volume visits on sites
- Marine advocacy and Oceans Policy development.

(i) Fish and Game Council Liaison

Section 6B (i) of the Conservation provides for the Authority to liaise with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council.

The Authority provides the Council with copies of its agendas and meeting papers.

(j) Ministerial Delegations

There were no Ministerial delegations during this reporting year.

4.3 Section 6C (1) of the Conservation Act - Powers of the Authority

(a) Establishment of committees

The following committees were operative during the reporting period:

Egmont National Park Management Plan Committee

Lorraine Stephenson (convenor), Katharine Dickinson, Peter Geddes and Craig Potton, formed the committee which considered the draft revised Egmont National Park Management Plan. The plan was approved by the Authority in February 2002.

Marine

Margaret Hopkins, Wendy Nelson, Peter Geddes, Edward Ellison and Katharine Dickinson are members of a task group established to consider marine matters in the first instance before bringing them before the full Authority. Matters considered by the committee were; the Oceans Policy development; the Marine Reserves Act review and marine biosecurity.

Tussocklands

Craig Potton (convenor), Kath Dickinson and Laura Dawson are members of the working group looking at advancing the tussocklands strategic priority. The group met with the Director-General in October 2001 to advocate for legal protection of high country tussocklands and identify how best the Authority might advance this vision. It encouraged the Authority to visit the Otago region in February 2002 for the purpose of inspecting high country tussock areas and discussing the protection of them with the Otago Conservation Board.

Westland Tai Poutini National Park Management Plan committee

A committee comprising Marian van der Goes (convenor), Peter Archibald, Craig Potton and Edward Ellison was established in December 2000, to consider the draft Westland National Park Management Plan. The plan was received in February 2001. After discussions between the board and the Authority the draft plan was referred to the Minister in July 2001 for comment. Having received and addressed the Minister's comments the Authority approved the plan in December 2001.

Tongariro/Taupo CMS committee

Katharine Dickinson (convenor), Lorraine Stephenson, Wendy Nelson and Peter Geddes formed the committee that considered the draft Tongariro/Taupo CMS. The CMS was received in February 2001 and was referred to the Minister for comment in October 2001. The CMS was approved in April 2002.

(Former) Timberlands West Coast Ltd managed indigenous forest lands

A committee comprising Marian van der Goes (convenor), Peter Archibald, Craig Potton, Kath Dickinson and Nganeko Minhinnick was established to consider the Minister's proposals to add specific parcels of lands from the former Timberlands West Coast Ltd production forests to adjoining national parks on the West Coast. The Authority's recommendations of February 2002 were accepted by the Minister. The

achievement of national park status for the Saltwater and North Okarito forests has been a vision fought for by conservationists for decades and is particularly pleasing.

Nelson Lakes National Park Management Plan Committee

The Nelson Lakes National Park Management Plan revised draft was received in October 2001. A committee comprising Kerry Marshall (convenor), Craig Potton, Edward Ellison, Kath Dickinson and Nganeko Mihinnick was established to consider the plan. Approval of the plan is anticipated in the 2002/2003 reporting period.

General Policy review and development taskforce

Marian van der Goes (convenor), Edward Ellison, Katharine Dickinson, Lorraine Stephenson and Craig Potton, together with representatives from the Minister's office and the Department, formed the committee working on the National Park and Conservation Act General Policy development and review. Peter Geddes, Kerry Marshall and Nganeko Minhinnick were alternate members, and all participated actively during the year.

(c) Advocate the interests of the Authority

The Authority met with the Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) for the Oceans Policy in May 2001 to discuss the framework for the Oceans Policy development. It submitted on phase one of the policy development in August 2001 and later wrote to, and made representations to the Minister for Oceans Policy, expressing surprise that biodiversity and conservation had not been identified by the MAC as main themes emerging from the consultation process. It sought assurance from the Minister that, consistent with the Biodiversity Strategy, these priorities will be crucial principles for the Government as it continues to develop the Oceans Policy.

The chairperson met with the Regional Affairs Committee of Local Government New Zealand to identify the Authority's responsibilities and highlight its concerns at the increasing impact of *Undaria pinnatifida* on the coastal marine environment.

It made representations to the Director-General on the content of the Department's publication "Conservation Action" and proposed that tussocklands be the theme of an artists in residence programme so as to widen the public appreciation of the value of that ecosystem.

The Authority welcomed the Minister's decision to ban the sale of ferrets. These introduced animals are known predators of kiwi.

5. FUNCTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL PARKS ACT 1980

5.1 General Policy for National Parks

A review of the general policy was initiated during the year.

5.2 National Park Management Plans

The Authority considered the following draft revised national park management plans during the reporting period:

Plan	Received	Status at 31 June 2002
Westland National Park Management Plan	February 2001	Approved December 2001
Egmont National Park Management Plan	October 2001	Approved February 2002
Nelson Lakes National Park Management Plan	October 2001	Still under consideration

An amendment to the Tongariro National Park Management Plan was approved in August 2001 to allow for the construction of a bund to deflect lahar flows from the Whangaehu River away from the Waikato/Tongariro catchment. Bund construction was completed during the reporting period.

5.3 **Establishment of, additions to and deletions from National Parks**

Following the Government's decision in May 2001 to cease logging native trees from Crown-owned forests on the West Coast, management of 130,000 hectares was transferred from Timberlands West Coast Ltd to the Department of Conservation. The Government sought advice from a panel of independent experts on the appropriate land classification of this land which was made up of many parcels. The panel recommended that several of these be given national park status. The Authority consulted with the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board and subsequently recommended the addition of the North Karamea Forest and Te Namu Block to the Kahurangi National Park, Little Totara Block and Te Wharau Blocks to the Paparoa National Park and Saltwater and Okarito forests to the Westland Tai Poutini National Park.

The Authority also made recommendations to the Minister that several small parcels of other land already administered by the Department under varying land classifications be added to the Paparoa and Westland Tai Poutini national parks. They had either been specifically purchased by the Forest Heritage Fund for the purpose of addition to Paparoa National Park or had been investigated for national park status in the 1980s but not added to the Westland Tai Poutini National Park at that time.

5.4 **National Park Investigations**

No new national park investigations were initiated during this reporting period.

The Rakiura National Park on Stewart Island/Rakiura, New Zealand's fourteenth national park, was opened on 8 March 2002.

6. **MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

6.1 Stout Trust- the Authority is a member of the J D Stout Trust. The Trust makes donations or interest free loans for conservation and cultural purposes. Kerry Marshall is the Authority's representative.

6.2 The World Conservation Union (IUCN) - the Authority is one of seven members of the New Zealand Committee of the IUCN. It holds meetings quarterly. Craig Potton was the Authority's representative and Lorraine Stephenson his alternate.

- 6.3 Representation of Authority – Kerry Marshall, Nganeko Minhinnick and Margaret Hopkins represented the Authority at the opening of the Rakiura National Park. Gordon Ell, former member and convenor of the Authority’s committee which considered the national park proposal, also attended the opening ceremony as the Authority’s guest. Edward Ellison attended for Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu.

Kerry Marshall attended a Local Government Regional Affairs committee meeting where he outlined the work of the Authority and discussed biosecurity matters, highlighting in particular marine biosecurity issues.

7. CONSERVATION BOARDS

7.1 Conservation Board Nominations

Before the Minister appoints members of conservation boards s/he is required to consult the Authority. In May 2002, the Authority considered the year 2002 nominations for all conservation boards for a term beginning 1 September 2002, and formulated its recommendations to the Minister.

7.2 Authority/Conservation Board Liaison

One Authority member acts as an Authority liaison person with each conservation board and they maintain contact on a regular basis.

The Authority attempts to meet away from Wellington several times a year and uses that opportunity to meet with the local conservation board and discuss conservation issues of local importance. As identified at the outset of this report the Authority met in Roxburgh, Otago, in February.

Authority members participated in the conservation board members’ workshop to contribute to General Policy drafting in May.

The Authority sponsored a conservation board chairpersons’ conference in June 2002.

The chairperson attended the northern and southern region chairpersons’ conferences.

7.3 Annual Reports

The fourteen regional Conservation Boards have furnished the Authority with their annual reports in accordance with section 60 of the Conservation Act.

7.4 Implementation of conservation management strategies

The Authority approved a standard operating procedure (SOP) which had been developed by the department to aid boards in their statutory function of advising the Department and the Authority on the implementation of CMSs. The SOP was put into practice for the first time in 2000/2001.

Most conservation boards have adopted systematic processes for monitoring progress and providing advice to the conservancies as they implement the conservation management strategies. The boards have reported to the Authority on this monitoring in their annual reports. The Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board made a

presentation to the Authority about the extent of and effectiveness of animal pest control on public conservation land within its area of jurisdiction.

7.5 Conservation Management Plans

The Coromandel Peninsula Conservation Land Management Plan was approved by the Waikato Conservation Board in February 2002.

A minor amendment to the Leigh Reserves Complex Management Plan was approved by the Auckland Conservation Board and the plan released in October 2001.

7.6 Board Advice and Advocacy

The Authority asked conservation boards for advice on the following matters during the year:

- Review of CMSs
- Proposed establishment of high country tussockland parks and reserves
- Giving effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act

Boards also became involved in a wide range of other issues and processes through the year. Most boards were involved to one extent or another in statutory advocacy through regional and district planning and resource consent applications.

In addition to the matters already mentioned above, the table below lists some of the issues which individual boards addressed during the year. These activities are more fully covered in the boards' individual annual reports.

BOARD	ACTIVITY OR CONSIDERATION
Northland	Marine conservation advocacy work, 1080, mustelids, vessel holding tanks, vessel hull cleaning, re-routing of large vessels away from the Poor Knights and Hen and Chicken Islands, mangroves, genetic engineering, sustainability and the triple bottom line concept, 4 Wheel Drive vehicle impacts, monitoring the implementation of the Northland CMS, and relevant field trips to Trounson/Waipoua/Omapere and the Poutu Peninsula.
Auckland	State highway proposals, conservation advocacy in the marine environment, pest eradications on islands, the impact of fallow deer, marine reserve proposals, marine mammal watching, giving effect to section 4 of the Conservation Act, monitoring the implementation of the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy
Waikato	Monitoring the implementation of the Waikato Conservation Management Strategy, Mighty River Power resource consent renewals, proposed walkway on the Onemana Peninsula, Perry's Quarry expansion proposal. A joint meeting with the Taranaki/Whanganui board.
Bay of Plenty	Monitoring the implementation of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy, application of section 4 of the Conservation Act, geothermal values,

BOARD	ACTIVITY OR CONSIDERATION
	damage caused by off-road vehicles, Mighty River Power resource consent renewals, Kaituna Wildlife Reserve, mussel farming, Ohiwa and Tauranga harbours, pressures of urban growth on natural values..
East Coast/Hawke's Bay	Te Urewera National Park Management Plan review, conservation of historic heritage, support for a marine reserve proposal, kiwi and weka recovery projects at Whinray and Motu scenic reserves, attendance at hearings, consideration of concessions, monitoring the implementation of the East Coast CMS, submission of support for a National Policy Statement for Biodiversity, walkways, consideration of Departmental strategies and business planning documents and support and nominations for conservation awards.
Tongariro/Taupo	CMS development and approval process, Mt Ruapehu Crater Lake issues, Tongariro National Park Management Plan review, Whakapapa and Turoa ski areas, 1080 use, Lake Taupo's water quality, use of de-icing chemicals, conservation awards, World Heritage periodic reporting, visitor pressures, fettering.
Taranaki/Whanganui	Revision of the Egmont National Park Management Plan, monitoring the implementation of the Whanganui Conservation Management Strategy, proposed walkway near Whanganui, submissions on local authority planning documents, Oceans Policy and review of Marine Reserves Act, protection of kiwi and kiwi habitat. A joint meeting with the Waikato board.
Wellington	Coastal subdivisions, water standards in streams and shore waters, eel fishery, climate change, CMS monitoring, wetlands, recreation, marine habitat conservation, walkways coastal subdivisions, restoration work at Lake Horowhenua and Lake Papaitonga Scenic Reserve, Mt Bruce Wildlife Centre and the Wellington South Coast.
Nelson/Marlborough	CMS monitoring, Abel Tasman National Park foreshore, marine conservation, 2001/2002 DOC Business Plan, Loder Cup nomination, mining at Mt Burnett, General Policy review work, CMS review work, marine reserve advocacy, Kahurangi, Nelson Lakes and Abel Tasman national park management plan reviews, air access to Kahurangi National Park.
West Coast	Historic heritage, pest and weed control, visitor impacts, dogs, additions of former Timberlands West Coast Ltd lands and other parcels of lands to national parks, review of CMSs, concessions, mining, structures, species recovery plans, impact of 4WD vehicles, environmental awards, waste management, Westland Tai Poutini National Park management plan. Joint field trip with the Otago board in South Westland.

BOARD	ACTIVITY OR CONSIDERATION
Canterbury Aoraki	Torlesse/Korowai Conservation Park, proposed Lake Pearson Wildlife Refuge, visitor pressure on Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park, revision of Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park Management Plan, tenure review, weed and animal pest control, local and regional authority planning documents, concessions, first year implementation of the Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy
Otago	CMS monitoring, change of land status proposals, walkways, review of national park management plans, pastoral leases, tenure review, concessions and recreation permits, use of 1080 poison, genetic modification debate, climate change programme - “Kyoto Protocol”, wilding tree control, protection of indigenous forests in the Catlins, the concept of fettering, interpretation panel work. Joint field trips with the West Coast board and the NZCA.
Southland	Marine reserve proposal, water quality issues, river berm management, management of Milford Sound, visitor and development impacts, monitoring the implementation of the three CMSs, Fiordland National Park Management Plan review, Whenua Hou Nature Reserve - draft access policy and operation plan, walkways, Milford Track applications, Awarua wetland, illegal huts, Rakiura National Park opening.
Chatham Islands	Allocation of cultural material, legalities and sustainability of taking titi and toroa, transfer of Buff Weka to Lake Wanaka, biosecurity booklet, species recovery.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As I complete my second term on the New Zealand Conservation Authority it is appropriate to reflect a little not just on the past 12 months as covered by this report, but also on the past 3 years.

Conservation has made some significant achievements over this period. Much of these can be attributed to our retiring Minister, the Hon Sandra Lee. She has been the major driving force behind many of these achievements, some quite contentious, and her energy will be sadly missed. On behalf of the NZCA I should like to thank Sandra for her support and passion for ‘things conservation’. We celebrate her success and we wish her well for the future.

I would like to list some of those conservation achievements; the passage by Government of the Biodiversity Strategy and the big funding package that went with that; the recreational funding in the last Budget which is just plain awesome; the Government’s decision to cease logging of native timber on the West Coast by Timberlands; the Macrae’s mining decision; the conservation driven decisions on deer, ferrets and possums; the introduction of the Marine Reserves Bill; the passage of the

Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act, and her personal passionate advocacy for native fauna and flora and the protection of whales.

The Authority has been especially pleased to celebrate those milestones towards which it made a specific contribution - the establishment of the Rakiura National Park, the addition of land to national parks on the West Coast (many formerly managed by Timberlands), the reserve status for the Abel Tasman foreshore and the approval of the management plans for Kahurangi, Westland Tai Poutini and Egmont National Parks and the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy.

While the Authority ‘makes a difference’, the challenge for members over the past three years has been to ‘make a bigger difference’. It has certainly made our job easier and more rewarding working under the auspices of a Government and Minister who not only clearly recognise and enjoy the uniqueness of New Zealand’s natural heritage but have also provided concrete generous support for its protection and enjoyment. The Authority looks forward to another fruitful and beneficial term in office with a new Minister of Conservation at the helm.

I would like to thank Hugh Logan, the Director-General of Conservation, for his help and co-operation with the Authority and also the staff of the Department of Conservation who service the Authority or work closely with it.

The end of this year saw the departure of four members as their terms expired. I extend my personal thanks to Margaret Hopkins, Laura Dawson and Peter Archibald for their contributions. Special recognition is due to Craig Potton who completed nine years on the Authority. His extensive engagement in many varied issues and his tenacious adherence to principles and the provisions of the legislation resulted in a major contribution to the work of the Authority.

The Authority extends its best wishes and appreciation to the chairpersons and members of the fourteen conservation boards. It acknowledges the dedication and efforts of members over a wide range of conservation issues.

Kerry Marshall
Chairperson
New Zealand Conservation Authority