

[In confidence]

Chair, Cabinet Economic Development Committee

Approval of the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks Cabinet agreement to *Te Mana o te Taiao*, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (ANZBS).

Relation to government priorities

- 2 Under the Cabinet Priorities Committee, developing a new ANZBS is an ‘other key initiative’ of the Priority Outcome Transition to a clean, green carbon neutral Aotearoa New Zealand (Appendix A, CAB-18-SUB-0402).
- 3 The ANZBS will support delivery of the Government’s Economic Plan for a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy.
- 4 Implementation of the ANZBS will also contribute to improving the wellbeing of New Zealanders.
- 5 The Government has recently stated that protecting New Zealanders from the effects of Covid-19 is its current number-one priority. As Aotearoa New Zealand recovers, the implementation of the ANZBS and the restoration of nature will provide benefits for mental, cultural and physical wellbeing, recovering domestic and foreign tourism, and employment opportunities for those who have become unemployed as a result of the pandemic. The direction set by *Te Mana o te Taiao* will be considered, and where appropriate will inform the roll out of the Budget 2020 environmental jobs package.

Executive Summary

- 6 In Aotearoa New Zealand, our biodiversity is in serious decline. This is due to direct pressures — such as invasive species, land and resource use; and indirect pressures — system issues such as a lack of recognition of the value of biodiversity, ineffective or disjointed regulations, and inadequate information and monitoring.
- 7 Biodiversity is important not only for its intrinsic value, but also for our wellbeing, cultural health and economy, particularly domestic and international tourism, and primary production.
- 8 The restoration of biodiversity has been recognised as a key part of Aotearoa New Zealand’s recovery from Covid-19. The \$1.1 billion environmental jobs package announced as part of Budget 2020 will create 11,000 regionally based jobs, the majority of which will deliver improved biodiversity or environmental outcomes. The Covid-19 pandemic has also led to an increased recognition of the importance of

nature for supporting social, cultural, and physical wellbeing as well as a demonstrating the direct connection between people and nature.

- 9 The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) requires each country to have a national biodiversity strategy and action plan. The national strategy is expected to reflect the global biodiversity goals adopted under the Convention. The current global biodiversity targets and Aotearoa New Zealand's existing biodiversity strategy and action plan expire this year. Parties to the CBD are currently negotiating a new post-2020 biodiversity framework, which is likely to be adopted in early 2021¹. This will include new global biodiversity goals that Parties will be expected to implement or contribute to in accordance with their national priorities. The emerging draft of the global framework and goals has been taken into account in the development of *Te Mana o te Taiao*.
- 10 *Te Mana o te Taiao* will set the strategic direction for the biodiversity system until 2050. It provides a framework to optimise, deliver and measure the outcomes of investment in nature. It is intended to guide all those who manage, use and/or protect biodiversity, both indigenous and introduced – including central and local government, Treaty Partners, industry, communities and individuals. A key feature of the framework is the elevation of Treaty partnerships.
- 11 The Department of Conservation has carried out public consultation and significant engagement with Treaty partners, reference groups and key stakeholders over the development of *Te Mana o te Taiao*. This has included more than 40 Treaty Partner hui, 20 public workshops and focus groups, and input from more than 3000 submitters and online engagement participants. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, final engagement on the draft *Te Mana o te Taiao* has been limited with Treaty Partners and Regional Councils.
- 12 This Cabinet Paper seeks agreement to the first part of the ANZBS - *Te Mana o te Taiao* which sets out the vision, outcomes and goals for biodiversity. The second phase of the strategy will be developing an implementation plan. Collaborative implementation planning will begin immediately after the release of *Te Mana o te Taiao*, with Department of Conservation officials convening a collaborative group to develop an initial implementation plan. This will include advice on governance, monitoring, resourcing and legislation changes necessary to achieve the goals of the strategy. An implementation plan will be reported back to Cabinet in the first quarter of 2021.

Background

- 13 As a result of 80 million years of evolution in isolation on islands, and a marine Exclusive Economic Zone that is 15 times larger than our land area, Aotearoa New Zealand has a high proportion of endemic species. This includes: 100% of our land and freshwater reptiles, frogs and bats; 87% of land birds; 84% of vascular land plants; 81% of land and freshwater insects, 88% of freshwater fish, 60% of marine

¹ COP 15 was originally scheduled for October 2020. A revised date is to be confirmed by the UN later this year.

birds, and 7% of marine mammals². This has led to our country and its marine area receiving international attention as a global biodiversity hotspot.

- 14 Aotearoa New Zealand's indigenous species and ecosystems have intrinsic value. Biodiversity is important and is valued by people for its own sake and our indigenous species and ecosystems have a right to exist regardless of any benefits humans may get from them.
- 15 The health of Aotearoa New Zealand's biodiversity underpins our lives and livelihoods. Biodiversity is essential to human life and society, delivering life-sustaining processes such as air and water purification, providing resilience to climate change, and providing food. Nature lies at the heart of our economy and will be a core part of our recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic in the short and long term.
- 16 Nature also underpins our identity and wellbeing. The essential connection between people and te taiao is a core part of cultural health. Nature can provide strong support for the physical and mental health of all New Zealanders.
- 17 Our country's brand is built on an image of a pristine natural environment, giving our primary production and tourism industries a competitive advantage in both the domestic and international market.
- 18 Aotearoa New Zealand's natural environments and unique species play a key role in drawing visitors to our country and encouraging New Zealanders to explore their own country. Traditionally, tourism is Aotearoa New Zealand's single biggest export earner and provides significant regional development opportunities. Rebuilding and reimagining this industry will be a key part of the post-covid-19 context, which the restoration of biodiversity can play a role in.
- 19 Despite its importance, our indigenous biodiversity is in serious decline. Since human settlement in Aotearoa New Zealand, 90% of coastal and freshwater wetlands and 60% of our indigenous forest have been lost or degraded. Habitat loss continues apace today. Aotearoa New Zealand is home to a high proportion of threatened species compared with other nations. For example, 91% of seabirds, 84% of frogs and reptiles, and 76% of freshwater fish have been assessed as threatened or at risk of extinction.³
- 20 Biodiversity loss is the result of both direct pressures — such as invasive species, land-use change, direct exploitation and pollution; and indirect pressures or system failures — such as a lack of recognition of the value of biodiversity, ineffective or disjointed regulation, and inadequate information and monitoring.
- 21 The ANZBS fulfils in part Aotearoa New Zealand's commitments under the Convention of Biological Diversity. The current global biodiversity targets (the CBD 2011-2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets) and Aotearoa New Zealand's existing Biodiversity Strategy, adopted in 2000, expire this year. Parties to the CBD are

² Proportion of endemic species is based on the New Zealand Threat Classification System assessments (<https://nzctcs.org.nz/>). Data accessed 25 November 2019.

³ According to the New Zealand Threat Classification System (<https://nzctcs.org.nz/>). Data accessed 25 November 2019.

currently negotiating a new post-2020 biodiversity framework, which is likely to be adopted in early 2021.

- 22 The current ANZBS, which expires this year, provided direction and spurred action in biodiversity for the first five years following its release. Its effectiveness was limited in the long term due to a failure to prioritise actions and delineate responsibilities and governance and targeted funding that was only in place for the first years, and a lack of monitoring, accountability and review. A report summarising the lessons learnt from the previous strategy was developed by the Department of Conservation, and the issues identified have been considered in the development of the new strategy.
- 23 In addition to meeting an international obligation under the CBD, the purpose of the *Te Mana o te Taiao* is to provide a framework for the protection and restoration of indigenous biodiversity over the next 30 years and beyond. It sets out a long-term vision and outcomes, which will be achieved through specific and measurable goals. It acts as a ‘canopy’ strategy, providing national guidance and support to relevant strategies and work programmes. It is intended to provide strategic direction for all those working in, or impacting on, biodiversity – both indigenous and introduced-including central and local government, whānau, hapū and iwi, industry, science, landowners, resource managers and communities. People and communities planning activities in their local area or region will be able to draw from the strategy and apply aspects of it to fit their local context.
- 24 The ANZBS will be pivotal to a sustained and sustainable recovery from Covid-19, enabling joined up implementation across government, in the private and community sectors. *Te Mana o te Taiao* sets out priorities that will ensure that investment, including from the Budget 2020 environmental jobs package, can be targeted to achieve the greatest impact on biodiversity.
- 25 Development of a new national biodiversity strategy is a key piece of work that fits within Kete Tuarua Taonga Taiao me te Mātauranga Māori of Te Pae Tawhiti – WAI 262, the whole of government response to WAI 262. The ANZBS and its implementation provides an opportunity to elevate Treaty partnerships, increase recognition of mātauranga Māori and to ensure WAI 262 considerations are addressed.
- 26 Many of the Government’s work programmes, including One Billion Trees, the Budget 2020 environmental jobs package, freshwater and climate change programmes, and Resource Management Act (RMA) national direction – including the proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) currently under development – will help to protect and restore biodiversity. Nature-based solutions to climate change, as part of the goals of *Te Mana o te Taiao*, present significant potential for climate change mitigation that can contribute to the Government’s climate change targets, and adaption, while delivering co-benefits for the protection and restoration of biodiversity.
- 27 The ANZBS is designed for all New Zealanders to own and implement. It enables whānau, hapū and iwi, central and local government, communities, organisations and businesses, researchers and landowners to all be involved in the protection and restoration of biodiversity. The ANZBS covers all aspects of the environment, all

ecological domains and types of tenure including public and private land, collectively owned Māori land, freshwater and the marine environment.

- 28 The second phase of strategy development - collaborative implementation planning - will begin immediately after release of *Te Mana o Te Taiao*. Department of Conservation officials will convene a group to develop an implementation plan setting out actions for delivery over the first two years. This will include consideration of governance, monitoring, resourcing and legislation changes necessary to achieve the goals of the strategy. The group will include whānau, hapū and iwi, central and local government, and key stakeholders. Officials will report back to Cabinet with an implementation plan in the first quarter of 2021.

Analysis

Consultation process and feedback

- 29 In 2018, the Department of Conservation (DOC) began the development of a new ANZBS. To ensure that the ANZBS reflects New Zealanders' aspirations for biodiversity and their needs for its management, extensive engagement has been held with Treaty Partners, stakeholders, reference groups and the public throughout the development process from designing the discussion document to drafting *Te Mana o te Taiao*.
- 30 From November 2018 to April 2019, six public workshops and 22 hui were held to discuss views, aspirations and roles in protecting and restoring nature, leading to the development of a discussion document *Te Koiroa o te Koiroa*.
- 31 This discussion document was approved by Cabinet for public release on 1 July 2019 (CAB-19-MIN-0337 refers). The discussion document set out proposals for inclusion in a new strategy, including a vision, values and principles, long-term outcomes, goals and system shifts. Public consultation ran between August and September 2019.
- 32 Public submissions on the discussion document were open between 5 August and 22 September 2019. Over 500 survey responses, 160 written responses, and approximately 1800 form submissions were received. In addition, a youth platform (The Hive) received around 300 responses, and over 500 people took part on the interactive online HiveMind tool.
- 33 During the consultation period, eight public workshops of 40-60 attendees each and five focus groups were held around the country with people from a range of interest groups. The discussion document was the key focus of discussions with Treaty partners at policy hui with DOC. 20 hui were held with iwi/hapū/whānau around the country between August and November 2019.
- 34 Overall, the response to the development of a new ANZBS was highly positive. There was general support for the intent of the proposals set out in the discussion document. Most written submissions across all interest groups supported the intent of the proposals in the discussion document in principle. Many submissions broadly agree there is a biodiversity crisis, and a need to act urgently. A summary of feedback received is attached as appendix three.

Development

- 35 Feedback from consultation and engagement was used to inform the basis of the *Te Mana o te Taiao*. In addition, considerable input and collaboration was sought from the local government and key stakeholders.
- 36 Reference groups were closely involved in all stages of the strategy development. The reference groups comprised:

Group	Purpose	Membership
Te Ao Māori reference group	To bring a Kaupapa Māori perspective to the strategy, so it promotes a Te Ao Māori world view, advancing Māori priorities for biodiversity and taonga species.	Māori with expertise in mātauranga Māori, conservation, and natural resource management. The group is not representative of iwi/hapū/whānau.
Science reference group	To ensure the ANZBS is grounded in a strong evidence base, and considers future science needs to support thriving biodiversity.	Scientists, technical experts and people with expertise in mātauranga Māori.
Stakeholder reference group	To ensure the ANZBS considers and reflects the views of key biodiversity stakeholders and the collaborative actions of iwi/hapū/whānau, landowners, the Government, and the wider public.	Representatives from key stakeholder organisations: environmental and recreation organisations, local government, and industry, including Forest & Bird, Federated Farmers, EDS, Forest Owners Association, the fishing industry, Fish & Game and youth representatives.

- 37 In March an early draft of the *Te Mana o te Taiao* was tested with reference groups, Regional Councils and selected stakeholders including those from primary sector organisations, energy providers, conservation organisations, the science sector, marine and recreational interests to ensure that it will provide useful direction to a range of audiences.

Components

- 38 *Te Mana o te Taiao* sets up a vision for 2050 ‘Te Mauri Hikahika o te Taiao’, the image of flourishing nature defined by the abundance, vitality and vigour of our unique species. We will know we have been successful in 2050 when: ecosystems, from mountain tops to ocean depths, are thriving; people’s lives are enriched through their connection with nature; Treaty partners, whānau, hapū and iwi are exercising their full role as rangatiratanga and kaitiaki; prosperity is intrinsically linked with thriving biodiversity; and, indigenous species and their habitats across Aotearoa New Zealand and beyond are thriving.
- 39 Treaty partnerships is a key stewardship principle of the ANZBS. This ensures the relationship between the Crown and Māori as reflected in the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles are given effect to in the conservation and sustainable use of

biodiversity, including rangatiratanga, kaitiakitanga, customary use and mātauranga Māori.

- 40 Following a recommendation by the Te Ao Māori reference group, *Te Mana o te Taiao* is framed to reflect the He Awa Whiria approach which describes the coming together of Te Ao Māori with other worldviews to create the strategy. He Awa Whiria is a cross-cultural methodological approach that uses a braided river metaphor to represent diverse perspectives and knowledge systems including Te Ao Māori and other scientific knowledge systems and ways of understanding the world. The model provides a framework for enabling diverse players with differing interests and values in biodiversity to work together to implement the strategy – this is the area in the model where the different braids cross up.
- 41 The strategic framework for the *Te Mana o te Taiao* sets out the vision and five outcomes. The outcomes will be achieved through objectives grouped under three pillars or pou:
- 41.1 Tūāpapa/getting the system right – ensuring we have the right systems in place to tackle biodiversity loss, such as governance, legislation, funding and knowledge.
 - 41.2 Whakahau/empowering action - ensuring everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand is empowered to help to protect and restore our biodiversity, including capability development and job creation.
 - 41.3 Tiaki me te whakahaumanu/protecting and restoring – addressing the direct pressures causing a decline in biodiversity, ensuring its sustainable use, and restoring biodiversity in areas where it has been lost.
- 42 Goals have been set under each pou to provide milestones on the way to the objectives. Implementation actions will focus on delivering progress towards these goals.
- 43 The development of *Te Mana o te Taiao* has taken into account the emerging draft of the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework, expected to be adopted under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in early 2021. Both have been informed by the recent Global Assessment by the Intergovernmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. As a result, targets in *Te Mana o te Taiao* are expected to address many of the same issues and opportunities for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use addressed by the new global biodiversity goals.

Companion Technical Report: Biodiversity in Aotearoa

- 44 A technical report, *Biodiversity in Aotearoa: an assessment of state, trends and pressures*, will be released to the public as a companion document to *Te Mana o te Taiao*. It provides a stocktake of the biodiversity crisis in Aotearoa New Zealand by describing the state, trends and pressures on indigenous biodiversity across the three domains of marine, freshwater and land. It also identifies information gaps that exist in building a comprehensive picture of our biodiversity system. The report has been developed by DOC with input from other agencies and external experts. It is a compilation of existing data and published information on indigenous biodiversity, supplemented by examples from a mātauranga Māori perspective.

45 The drafting of *Te Mana o te Taiao* has been informed by the *Biodiversity in Aotearoa* report. For example, the goals in *Te Mana o te Taiao* were developed to respond to the key pressures identified in the report: changes in land and sea use, direct exploitation of organisms, invasive alien species, climate change, and pollution. The problem definition and current state sections of *Te Mana o te Taiao* are also informed by the report.

Collaborative implementation planning

46 As well as setting aspiration and direction, a strategy also needs to set out a pathway for how we meet the goals and objectives, and who will be working on them. Once *Te Mana o te Taiao* is in place, the next phase of strategy development will be to collaboratively design an implementation plan for 2021 - 2022. Together, *Te Mana o te Taiao* and the implementation plan form the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.

47 Collaborative implementation planning will begin immediately after the release of *Te Mana o te Taiao*. The Department of Conservation in partnership with Treaty partners, central and local government and a range of stakeholders including industry, science and NGOs, will develop an implementation plan setting out actions and assigned responsibilities and a set of indicators for measuring progress towards delivering the goals of *Te Mana o te Taiao*. The development of the first implementation plan will be led and predominantly funded by the Department of Conservation.

48 The first implementation plan will span a period of two years and focus on setting in place the systems needed to deliver the strategy. This will include advice on governance, monitoring, resourcing and any legislation changes necessary to achieve the goals of the strategy. The implementation plan will be brought back to Cabinet in the first quarter of 2021.

49 A key feature of implementation will be delivery in partnership, with decisions being made at a regional and local level as appropriate. This delivery is likely to include development, or alignment of existing, regional strategies, and consideration of a regional hubs model to support community delivery. This will align with and support the structures being established for delivery of the Budget 2020 environmental jobs package.

50 At the same time as developing the implementation plan, work will begin to:

- i) Explore options for efficient, effective, independent and inclusive oversight and coordination of the biodiversity system.
- ii) Identify the work is required for key agencies to integrate strategy goals within their work programmes, overarching strategies and accountability documents.
- iii) Undertake a broad review of legislative and policy settings to identify constraints and ensure alignment with this strategy.

- 51 There are programmes of work already underway that align with the strategy objectives. These programmes are already contributing to delivery of the ANZBS, and the *Te Mana o te Taiao* will provide a strategic context and impetus for their development. These include:
- i) Marine protected areas reform
 - ii) The proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, under the Resource Management Act 1991
 - iii) Freshwater reform, including the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020, new National Environmental Standards for Freshwater, and stock exclusion regulations
 - iv) Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari in the Hauraki Gulf and marine protection on the South Otago coast
 - v) The Predator Free 2050 Strategy and Action Plan
 - vi) Collaborative research to protect biodiversity, led by the New Zealand's Biological Heritage National Science Challenge
 - vii) The National Plan of Action for Seabirds 2020, and a new threat management plan for Māui and Hector's dolphins
- 52 Furthermore, *Te Mana o te Taiao* is already being used as a framework for prioritisation of investment within the Department of Conservation.

Monitoring

- 53 Progress against the strategy and implementation plan will be assessed and publicly reported on every 5 years. Monitoring will allow progress to inform the development of the next 5-yearly implementation plan
- 54 Collaborative implementation planning will include developing indicators and considering how monitoring can draw on and further develop existing monitoring programmes within the biodiversity system and address data gaps, where appropriate.
- 55 Aotearoa New Zealand will also be required to report on progress under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The requirements for this will be established as part of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, likely to be adopted in early 2021. Where this makes sense, our domestic reporting will be aligned with our international reporting.

Risks

- 56 The planned further engagement on *Te Mana o te Taiao* with Treaty partners and regional councils was limited due to the disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic. There has been considerable engagement, including over 40 hui with Treaty partners, and workshops with regional council biomanagers, over the course of the Strategy's development. Continued buy-in will be crucial to sustain a sense of ownership for collective implementation.

- 57 *Te Mana o te Taiao* is not a regulatory document and relies on buy-in from New Zealanders for its implementation. The process to develop *Te Mana o te Taiao* had a strong emphasis on engaging with and receiving input from wide range of groups including Treaty partners, landholders, local government, research institutions, NGOs, industry and others to create a sense of ownership over its contents and responsibility for its implementation. Sufficient on-going investment and contributions from those involved will be necessary to achieve the desired changes. The implementation process will continue this collaborative approach. In addition, regular and transparent monitoring of progress towards the strategy goals will also play a part in stimulating buy-in and demonstrating that progress is being made.
- 58 There is a minor risk of confusion between the ANZBS and the proposed National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) given the similar timeframe in which both tools were developed and the similar subject matter. This risk is being mitigated with clear public messaging.
- 59 The release of a new UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) global biodiversity framework in early 2021 may change requirements for national biodiversity strategies or lead to misalignment with the outcomes and goals of the *Te Mana o te Taiao*. This risk is being managed by ensuring that the emerging draft of the global framework and goals has been taken into account in the development of *Te Mana o te Taiao*. There will be opportunities to refine actions to align with the new global framework through the implementation process for the ANZBS, as well as to correct any misalignment through the five-yearly review. In the event of any serious misalignment, further Ministerial direction will be sought.

Financial Implications

- 60 The costs of collaborative implementation planning and the initial actions included in this Cabinet paper will be funded from within agency baselines. DOC as the lead agency will be the predominant funder, however where appropriate other central agencies and local government may contribute. Following development of the implementation plan, it is likely that additional central government funding will need to be sought through budget bids to allow for full implementation of the strategy.
- 61 The direction set by the *Te Mana o te Taiao* will demonstrate the investment priorities for biodiversity and will be used to inform the roll out of the Budget 2020 environmental jobs package.
- 62 Existing funding, including the biodiversity funding allocated in Budget 2018 will be reviewed to ensure alignment with the priorities of *Te Mana o te Taiao*.
- 63 Once an implementation plan is developed, an assessment of any other associated costs of action and who is most appropriate to fund them will be undertaken. Sufficient on-going investment and contributions from those involved will be necessary for the strategy to be successful.

Legislative Implications

- 64 The ANZBS is not a regulatory tool. One of the initial actions proposed in this paper is to undertake a broad review of legislative and policy settings to identify constraints

and ensure alignment with this strategy. This could include barriers with regard to leadership and coordination of the biodiversity system between government agencies, between central and local government and with Treaty Partners. This process may identify the need for revision of relevant biodiversity legislation. Officials would also ensure that it is joined up with existing work programmes such as the Ministry for the Environment led review of the resource management system and any DOC-led gap analysis on the legislation DOC administers.

Impact Analysis

Regulatory Impact Statement

- 65 The Cabinet paper does not require a Regulatory Impact Statement because Cabinet approval for the release of *Te Mana o te Taiao* and the initiation of an associated work programme does not have any legislative or regulatory impacts.

Climate Implications of Policy Assessment

- 66 The Ministry for the Environment has been consulted and confirms that the Climate Implications of Policy Assessment (CIPA) requirements do not apply to this proposal. The direct emissions impacts are unable to be accurately determined in quantitative terms. The Ministry notes however that it is likely this proposal will cause an overall decrease in net emissions by supporting the protection and restoration of native vegetation that stores and sequesters carbon.

Population Implications

- 67 The following table provides a summary of implications of the ANZBS for population groups.

Population group	How the proposal may affect this group
Māori	The ANZBS provides an opportunity to elevate Treaty partnerships at all levels and increase recognition of mātauranga Māori. There will be an opportunity for Māori in terms of co-governance and co-management of the biodiversity system and ensuring WAI 262 considerations including enabling kaitiakitanga and protection of taonga species and mātauranga Māori, are addressed.
Women	There are no specific implications from the ANZBS for women.
Disabled people	There are no specific implications from the ANZBS for disabled people.

- 68 Any impacts arising from the ANZBS for rural communities, landowners and other resource users will be assessed during collaborative implementation planning.

Human Rights

- 69 This paper is consistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

Consultation

- 70 The following agencies were consulted on this Cabinet paper: the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Ministry for the Environment, the Department of Internal Affairs, Te Puni Kōkiri, Land Information New Zealand, Environmental Protection Agency, Te Arawhiti, Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry for Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Transport, New Zealand Transport Agency, Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Education, StatsNZ, and the Treasury. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has been informed.

Communications

- 71 I will release *Te Mana o te Taiao* and announce start of the collaborative implementation planning process at a suitable time.

Proactive Release

- 72 I propose to release the paper proactively in whole, subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

The Minister for Conservation recommends that the Committee:

- 1 note that a national biodiversity strategy is a requirement for Aotearoa New Zealand to meet its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity but the ANZBS is not a statutory document.
- 2 note that a discussion document on the ANZBS, *Te Koiroa o te Koiroa*, was approved by Cabinet for public release on 1 July 2019 (CAB-19-MIN-0337 refers).
- 3 note that significant engagement has been carried out by DOC officials with Treaty partners, stakeholders and the wider community to inform the development of the *Te Mana o te Taiao*.
- 4 note that *Te Mana o te Taiao* and its implementation provides an opportunity to elevate Treaty partnerships, increase recognition of mātauranga Māori and to ensure WAI 262 considerations are addressed.
- 5 agree to the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy *Te Mana o te Taiao*.
- 6 note that collaborative implementation planning and action with Treaty partners, central and local government, and stakeholders to scope and initiate implementation of the goals of *Te Mana o te Taiao* will begin once the strategy is approved.
- 7 note that the costs of collaborative implementation planning and the immediate actions will be funded from within agency baselines.
- 8 direct the Minister of Conservation to report back to Cabinet in the first quarter of 2021 with an implementation plan.

- 9 authorise the Minister of Conservation to make minor editorial and design changes to the *Te Mana o te Taiao* document and the summary document before public release.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Eugenie Sage

Minister for Conservation

Released by the Minister of Conservation

Appendix 1.

Te Mana o te Taiao

Released by the Minister of Conservation

Appendix 2.

Te Mana o te Taiao Strategy on a Page

Released by the Minister of Conservation

Appendix 3.

Key findings from public consultation

Released by the Minister of Conservation