

with the approach taken in recent Treaty settlements in Aotearoa. Indeed, the international survey reinforced for us that the Te Urewera Forest and Whanganui River post-settlement approaches here are world-leading in their innovation.

It was clear from the international models, which traversed different countries with greater population and development pressures than here, that there are conflicting needs, values and threats in any landscape. These need to be recognised and directly acknowledged even if they cannot be resolved. This necessitates a management framework that is open and inclusive and provides for a range of approaches and tools.

There is no question that the most successful governance bodies are those that have the capacity, community support and resourcing to adopt a proactive and adaptive approach. In contrast, agencies that lack these will struggle to even keep a regulatory regime on track, and more innovative responses to problems will usually not emerge. Resourcing must be sufficiently reliable to support long term planning and projects.

It was clear from the international examples (reinforcing our conclusions from the local case studies) that there needs to be a robust regulatory framework at the heart of any landscape protection system. This was demonstrated by the comparison between the United Kingdom national parks which have generally been effective and AONBs which have not. The national parks have a strong regulatory basis, with dedicated national park authorities and central government funding whereas there is a weaker regulatory framework for AONBs, less funding and local authorities still making planning decisions.

Whatever the regime, the purposes of the regulatory framework need to be clearly articulated and, where purposes conflict, it needs to be clear which takes priority. Similarly, without powers to enforce protective provisions, landscapes are often compromised and inappropriate development is often enabled. Therefore, designation alone or an overlay policy without 'teeth' is unlikely to work.

The regulatory regime needs to be supported by initiatives to involve landowners, mana whenua and the public in landscape management and restoration, providing opportunities for community action and engagement and cultivating a sense of local identity. Land trusts and conservancies have usefully played this role in a number of the international models, as similar organisations have in our Aotearoa New Zealand case studies. It is notable that, in all the successful international models we reviewed, getting indigenous, community and especially landowner buy-in to the management approach was crucially important.

While our context is of course different, there have been instructive lessons from our international comparative analyses.

9.2 Is the currently regulatory framework adequate?

When considering a new landscape protection model for Aotearoa New Zealand it is pertinent to query whether the current regulatory framework is up to the task. Our case studies highlighted that, where there are intense development pressures, the current system is not working well. We saw this most vividly demonstrated in the Mackenzie Basin, where the introduction of irrigation and intensification of agriculture, has significantly degraded landscape and biodiversity values despite a regulatory system intended to protect it. Demonstrably, the regulatory system failed when put under pressure.

One of the key problems has been weak regional and district plans. For example, until recently, agricultural intensification was a permitted activity on most of the Mackenzie Basin floor. And there is often too much discretion left to council officers, resulting in death by a thousand cuts as we saw on Waiheke Island. There has also been inconsistency between the approach taken to landscape in different areas with, for example, 97 per cent of the rural land in the Queenstown Lakes District being identified as an ONL and only 24 per cent on Banks Peninsula.

More recent Māori cultural planning provisions, such as those included in the Auckland Unitary Plan for Te Akitai Waiohua, show promising potential. However, this level of protection of cultural landscapes should be the norm rather than the exception.

The current system also lacks effective oversight when agencies fail to adequately fulfil their statutory functions. This means there is no certainty that national direction, or the provisions of the RMA itself, will be properly applied by councils. For example, our Banks Peninsula case study highlighted Environment Canterbury's failure to give effect to the NZCPS, which came into force a decade ago (although a review is finally underway). The Waitaki District Plan is still failing to give effect to the Canterbury RPS and section 6(b) of the RMA in terms of the protection of landscapes in the Mackenzie Basin.

In addition, there is poor integration between landscape protection under the RMA and other management and policy regimes. In the Mackenzie Basin we saw discretionary consents granted by the Commissioner of Crown Lands under the Crown Pastoral Land Act authorising major agricultural intensification. In the Banks Peninsula case study we saw the likely impact of the emissions trading scheme and the One Billion Trees programme in incentivising exotic plantation forestry in preference to indigenous regeneration with its multiple benefits.

Finally, rules can be effective at stopping things happening but cannot generally make things happen, and many landscapes need active management if their values are to be protected and enhanced.

We think Aotearoa New Zealand's landscapes deserve better.

9.3 Key elements of a new landscape protection model

Our investigation of overseas protected landscape models, and insights from our five case studies, indicate that there are four key elements of a national landscape protection system that need to be considered.

The first element is the key role of mana whenua in landscape management and restoration. The case studies demonstrated the strong leadership role that mana whenua already play in achieving improved landscape outcomes in many places. Any new landscape model needs to give effect to Treaty principles and enable the relationship of mana whenua with their ancestral lands to be better recognised and strengthened on a landscape scale. This can be achieved through moving towards a bicultural partnership model for landscape management.

The second element is the role of land managed for conservation purposes such as public conservation land managed by DOC and regional park land managed by regional councils. In some landscapes, public conservation land comprises a large

part of the landscape (such as on Aotea Great Barrier Island), whereas in other landscapes (such as Rakino Island) there is very little. Where such conservation land is lacking, strategic land acquisition by government and others can help to establish a strong conservation core within the landscape. This has happened with the Tū Te Takiwhanoa Drylands within the Mackenzie Basin, where DOC recently acquired an additional 11,800ha of land to provide a stronger core of protected land on the Basin floor.²

Māori and privately-owned land managed for conservation purposes can also make a significant contribution to landscape restoration and enhancement. We saw this with the work of Koukourārata Rūnanga in replanting thousands of indigenous plants on tribal land around local streams. Privately-owned Hinewai Reserve changed the thinking of farmers and others about land management on the Banks Peninsula. Similarly, Windy Hill Sanctuary showed what could be achieved on Aotea Great Barrier Island using local initiative. Covenancing can also played a strong role in protecting private land for conservation purposes, particularly if the tool is used strategically to create corridors and refuges for indigenous species.



Hinewai Reserve, Banks Peninsula

Such public and privately-owned conservation land can provide a core area for pest control and regeneration work within the landscape. It can provide a sanctuary for plants and animals which do not thrive in a working landscape. We saw the importance of this in the Mackenzie Basin, where endemic plant species are still being lost, even under low intensity grazing regimes. When privately owned, such land can also generate an income, through mechanisms such as eco-tourism, honey production and carbon credits.

The third element is effective protective regulation for significant working (usually agricultural) landscapes to ensure that incompatible activities, intensification harmful land use changes do not occur. Our case studies and international review highlighted the need for strong regulation to head off incompatible activities when there are strong economic drivers for change. We saw this particularly on Waiheke Island and the Waitākere Ranges with creeping urban development and in the Mackenzie Basin with agricultural intensification. A similar situation is emerging on the Banks Peninsula with forestry, which is why it is particularly concerning that regulation of forestry has recently been considerably weakened on the Peninsula.



Exotic forestry in Peraki Bay, Banks Peninsula

The fourth element of a landscape protection system is creating an effective partnership with landowners and others to support and encourage sustainable land use and management. This can be fostered through the adoption of measures such as education, research and provision of funding and expertise. Community trusts and other not-for-profit entities can play a significant role in supporting landowner efforts. They can help broker agreements, coordinate effort and bring people together. We saw this with the BPCT, Waiheke Collective and Mackenzie Country Trust amongst many others. Such entities can also help pursue research into more sustainable land management models for the area, innovative pest control methods, use of economic incentives such as the emissions trading scheme and the like. They can help to educate landowners and the public about the values in the landscape, and create new opportunities to engage with it, as shown by the work of the Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust and Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Geopark Trust.

In the Te Manahuna Mackenzie Basin case study we floated the idea of creating a new legislative tool in the form a Heritage Landscape Order or similar in order to provide an extra layer of regulatory protection for important landscapes. We discuss this proposal in more detail in section 9.5. This would provide a longer term solution to the challenge of providing effective and long-lasting landscape protection.

Since developing those recommendations, the report of the RMR Panel, has been released. This contains proposals for a significant strengthening of the current resource management system which provide a more immediate option for strengthening the regulatory framework around landscape management. We explore this option in more detail in section 9.4.

9.4 Prospective RMA reforms

The Government's proposed reform of the resource management system provides a significant opportunity to improve the way we currently provide for landscape protection. The RMR Panel, which reported to the Minister for the Environment in June 2020, has recommended fundamental changes to the current system. This includes replacing the RMA with new legislation and promulgating a new Act to provide for strategic spatial planning at a regional level (see spotlight). The RMR Panel's recommendations are providing the basis for the Government's reform programme which is being rolled out during 2021 and beyond.

We analyse the key recommendations in the context of landscape protection below and identify how they could serve to improve landscape management and how they might be strengthened to this end.

A spotlight on the Resource Management Review Panel's key recommendations

New legislation

- Create a new Strategic Planning Act and require the preparation of regional spatial strategies encompassing both land and the coastal marine area. These strategies are to align functions across other statutes, including the new Natural and Built Environments Act, the Local Government Act, the Land Transport Management Act 2003 and the Climate Change Response Act 2002.
- Repeal the RMA and replace it with a new Natural and Built Environments Act with a revised purpose and principles which signal a shift from managing environmental effects to achieving positive outcomes.
- Enact a dedicated Managed Retreat and Climate Change Adaptation Act, which would provide for managed retreat and for the establishment of a climate change adaptation fund.

Māori matters

- Require decision-makers to give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Incorporate the overarching concept of Te Mana O Te Taiao in the purpose statement of the new Natural and Built Environments Act.
- Establish a National Māori Advisory Board to monitor the performance of central and local government in giving effect to Te Tiriti and provide for an integrated partnership process between mana whenua and councils.

Policy and planning

- Require national direction to be made on a range of core matters, and combine such direction into a coherent suite of instruments that clearly resolve conflicts and relationships between them.
- Require the establishment of environmental bottom lines and targets.
- Reformulate existing RMA plans into combined unitary plans for each region, reducing the 100 or so current plans to just 14.

- Reform the planning process, including the establishment of joint planning committees comprising regional council, territorial authority and mana whenua representatives.

- Require an audit of plans by the Ministry for the Environment before they are notified.

Resource consenting

- Alter how the notification framework operates, including removing the "no more than minor" threshold for notification of consents.
- Remove non-complying activity status.
- Provide an alternative dispute resolution pathway for minor matters.
- Strengthen the overall role of the Environment Court.
- Provide more flexibility to review existing resource consents to create a more responsive system.

Oversight, monitoring, compliance and enforcement

- Establish a nationally coordinated environmental monitoring system led by the Ministry for the Environment.
- Expand the role of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment to provide a stronger auditing and oversight role of the resource management system.
- Establish regional hubs for compliance, monitoring and enforcement.
- Strengthen offences and penalties for non-compliance.

Other matters

- Strengthen the framework for water conservation orders.
- Provide for greater use of economic instruments to drive behaviour change.

Role of regional spatial strategies in landscape protection

The RMR Panel proposed a new Strategic Planning Act “as the key mechanism for improving strategic integration across the resource management system”. It is to be designed to help improve strategic integration at a regional level across multiple statutes, functions, outcomes and agencies.³

The Strategic Planning Act would require spatial strategies to be developed for each region, and they would encompass land, freshwater and the coastal marine area. This means that they would encompass seascapes as well as landscapes. They are to provide a long term view, setting a strategic direction for at least the next 30 years and cover a wide range of matters including:⁴

long-term objectives to improve the quality of the natural and built environments, provide sufficient development capacity, promote Māori interests and values, promote the sustainable use of rural land, protect historic heritage, address natural hazards and climate change.

The regional spatial strategies are to be developed jointly by central government, local government and mana whenua through consensus decision-making. This, importantly, enables mana whenua to participate in spatial planning as partners and “to better reflect Te Tiriti partnerships and incorporate mātauranga Māori knowledge”.⁵ It should enable Māori values associated with specific landscapes and Māori cultural landscapes to be more fully reflected in the planning documents.

The RMR Panel proposes that regional spatial strategies would include a range of environmental matters (alongside identifying the location of future development capacity and infrastructure) such as “regionally significant ecological areas, landscapes and recreational space that should be protected or enhanced”, “areas of historic heritage values and areas of significance to mana whenua that should be protected and enhanced”, “areas where significant change in land use is required to reduce impacts of land use and development in lakes, rivers, wetlands and the marine environment”, “areas for enhancement and restoration, such as wetlands



Mussel farm near Coromandel

and green corridors” and “areas that may be affected by climate change or other natural hazards, and measures that might be necessary to address such issues”.⁶

Therefore, as proposed by the RMR Panel, such regional spatial strategies would have the ability to address a range of environmental matters at the regional level including landscape change, protection and restoration. They would be useful mechanisms through which important landscapes could be identified, protected and enhanced in collaboration with Māori and communities at a regional level.

The RMR Panel recommended that central government should have the ability to develop a ‘national priorities statement’ under the Strategic Planning Act which would “signal its intention to address specific nationally significant issues through regional processes.” This would be used to set out “particular nationally significant issues central government wishes to resolve at a regional level” amongst other things. Therefore, a national priorities statement could be a mechanism through which central government sets out its long-term national priorities for landscape protection.⁷

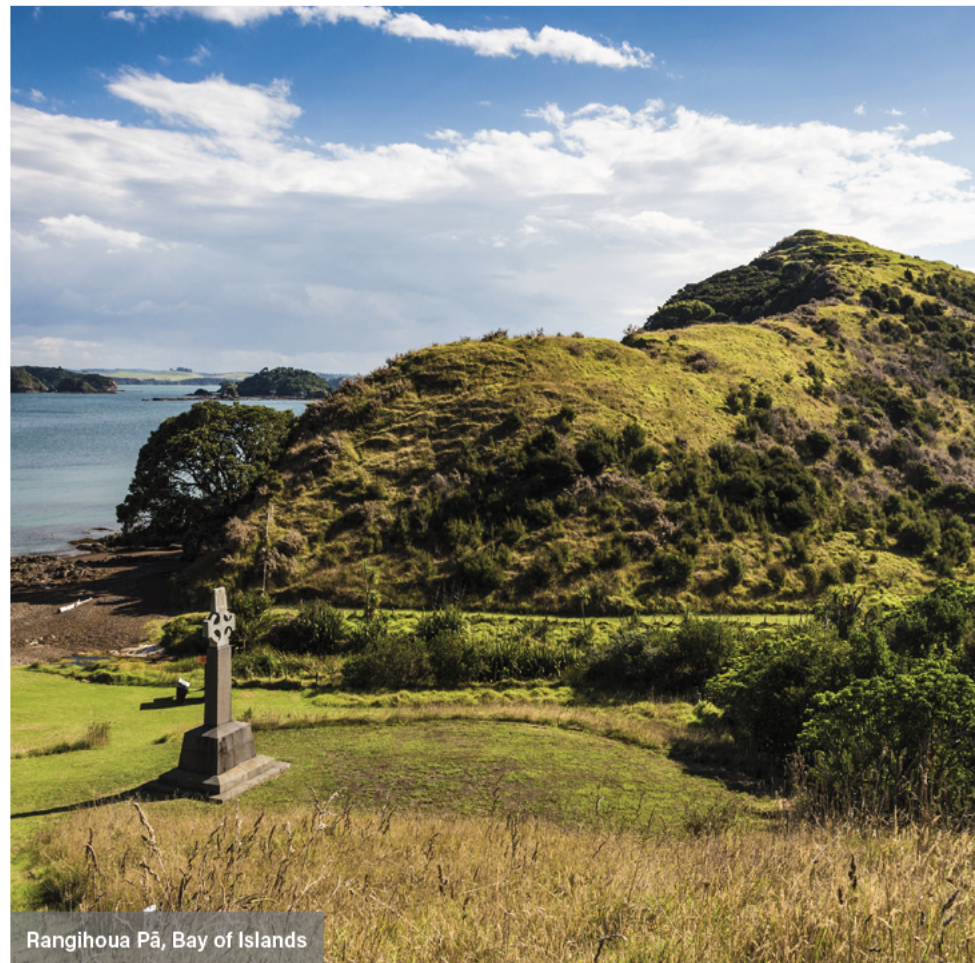
Regional spatial strategies are to be accompanied by ‘implementation agreements’ which will include more detailed planning for “certain infrastructure or environmental remediation projects” and apportion funding responsibility between central and local government. These could then be linked to the budgeting process for each government body, thereby helping to ensure that funding is made available to implement the regional spatial strategies. They could include funding provision for the protection and restoration of important landscapes.

The RMR Panel’s recommendations also address the potential linkage between regional spatial strategies and other resource management legislation through which the provisions of the spatial strategies would primarily be implemented. Our landscape case studies indicated the importance of making a close link between policy and the regulatory tools needed for effective implementation. The Panel proposed that regional spatial strategies should be “consistent with” the purposes of the new Natural and Built Environments Act (NBEA) which will replace the RMA, Local Government Act and Land Transport Management Act. It also proposed that they be consistent with national direction including NPSs, NESs, the national adaptation plan and government policy statements on land transport and housing and urban development. This highlights the importance of having a strong NPS on landscape in place to guide the development of regional spatial strategies.

In turn, plans developed under the NBEA, the Local Government Act and the Land Transport Management Act would need to be consistent with the regional spatial strategy.⁸ This should help ensure that alignment runs both ways. Such plans include long-term plans and annual plans which incorporate

local government budgets, and this could help to ensure that local government expenditure is aligned with the regional spatial strategy’s provisions on landscape protection and restoration.

The scope of the RMR Panel’s review was limited to a primary focus on the RMA and its interface with the Local Government Act, Land Transport Management Act and Climate Change Response Act rather than the resource management system as a whole. The Panel’s recommendations therefore relate only to these pieces of legislation. Our landscape case studies indicate that the scope needs to be broader in order to more fully integrate across statutory frameworks impacting on landscape matters.



Rangihoua Pā, Bay of Islands

The Strategic Planning Act should also apply to the Crown Pastoral Land Act, which applies to the management of Crown pastoral leasehold land and the Conservation Act which applies to the management of public conservation land amongst other things.

Overall, the proposed Strategic Planning Act could make a significant improvement to the way important landscapes are managed in Aotearoa New Zealand. However, in order to achieve this, it needs to be drafted to specifically require the identification of significant landscapes at a regional level, and provision for their protection and restoration. The national priorities statement needs to address landscape matters. The new Act should also provide for implementation agreements to address funding for the management and restoration of landscapes. And its scope should be expanded to include the Crown Pastoral Land Act and Conservation Act in the first instance.

Role of Natural and Built Environments Act in landscape protection

The bulk of the RMR Panel's recommendations focus on replacing the RMA with new legislation provisionally titled the 'Natural and Built Environments Act'. One of the driving forces behind the perceived need to replace the RMA was its failure to protect the natural environment alongside inadequate recognition of urban development matters. Identified issues with managing the natural environment included lack of national direction, inadequate resources at central and local government levels to implement the legislation, the application of an overall broad judgement approach which weakened environmental limits, and a legislative purpose which failed to address environmental restoration.⁹ The Panel's report also notes the failure under the RMA to enable mana whenua to engage meaningfully in the resource management system.¹⁰ All these issues have affected landscape protection.

The proposed NBEA seeks to create greater alignment between te ao Māori and non-Māori world-views and approaches to resource management through incorporating the concept of Te Mana o te Taiao in the purpose statement of the new Act. It has a much stronger emphasis on achieving positive outcomes (rather than primarily mitigating adverse effects). This is through the establishment of a series of environmental limits, outcomes and targets. As the RMR Panel explains in its report, relying on limits alone risks creating a 'race to the bottom', whereas setting outcomes and targets shifts the focus to continuous environmental improvement:¹¹

... where a healthy and flourishing environment is sought, rather than one that can merely endure human modification. Outcomes are intended to be high-level enduring goals reflecting a desired future state. Targets are time-bound steps for improving the environment and moving towards achieving outcomes.

The RMR Panel's proposed drafting of a new Part 2 identifies a series of outcomes to be provided for the natural environment, built environment, tikanga Māori, rural, historic heritage and natural hazards and climate change (see below). Unlike the RMA, which created a hierarchy between section 6 and section 7 matters, there is no priority given to this list of outcomes. Any conflicts are to be reconciled through national direction, or failing that, through the provisions of the combined plans.

The outcomes include specific reference to the "protection and enhancement" of "outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes" thereby largely carrying over the provisions of section 6(b) of the RMA but with some important changes. That section did not refer to enhancement. It also contained a reference to protection "from inappropriate subdivision, use and development" and this qualifier has been removed in the revised proposed drafting. There is a direct reference to "cultural landscapes", and the protection and restoration of the relationship of iwi, hapū and whanau with them, in proposed section 7(j). This should raise the prominence of cultural landscapes within the resource management system. The revised drafting also includes new references to the enhancement and restoration of ecosystems and restoration of viable populations of indigenous species. These are all positive changes.

The reference to protection of "historic heritage" has been brought over from the RMA, with the same definition of the term, but with a new qualifier of "significant" replacing the earlier qualifier of "from inappropriate subdivision, use and development". This seems reasonable. However, no direct reference to heritage landscapes is proposed, which may perpetuate the lack of recognition of such landscapes in places such as Ihumātao as profiled in section 4.3 above. Consideration should be given to including heritage landscapes in this section either through direct incorporation into section 7(p) or through amending the definition of 'historic heritage' to explicitly include heritage landscapes.

The RMR Panel proposals also remove any reference to 'amenity values' which was included in section 7(c) of the RMA as the "maintenance and enhancement of amenity values". Instead, there is a broader reference to "enhancement of features and characteristics that contribute to the quality of the natural environment" in the new proposed Part 2. Amenity values are an important component of landscape in Aotearoa New Zealand. As noted in Section 4.4 above, amenity landscapes are significant landscapes, but those that are not quite natural enough to qualify as an ONL under section 6(b). They often form a buffer between ONLs and landscapes with no particular values meriting management or urban areas. We consider that reference to amenity landscapes, and the need to carefully manage them, should be included in the new proposed Part 2. A NPS on landscape (or its equivalent) could then follow to flesh out the policy parameters and obligations.

Section 7 Outcomes (as proposed by the RMR Panel with our proposed changes in bold)

To assist in achieving the purpose of this Act, those exercising functions and powers under it must provide for the following outcomes:

Natural environment

- (a) enhancement of features and characteristics that contribute to the quality **and amenity** of the natural environment;
- (b) protection and enhancement of:
 - (i) nationally or regionally significant features of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, lakes, rivers and their margins;
 - (ii) outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes;
 - (iii) areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna;
- (c) enhancement and restoration of ecosystems to a healthy functioning state;
- (d) maintenance of indigenous biological diversity and restoration of viable populations of indigenous species;
- (e) maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, wetlands, lakes, rivers and their margins;

Built environment

- (f) enhancement of features and characteristics that contribute to the quality of the built environment;
- (g) sustainable use and development of the natural and built environment in urban areas including the capacity to respond to growth and change;
- (h) availability of development capacity for housing and business purposes to meet expected demand;

- (i) strategic integration of infrastructure with land use;

Tikanga Māori

- (j) protection and restoration of the relationship of iwi, hapū and whanau and their tikanga and traditions with their ancestral lands, cultural landscapes, water and sites;
- (k) protection of wāhi tapu and protection and restoration of other taonga;
- (l) recognition of protected customary rights;

Rural

- (m) sustainable use and development of the natural and built environment in rural areas;
- (n) protection of highly productive soils;
- (o) capacity to accommodate land use change in response to social, economic and environmental conditions;

Historic heritage

- (p) protection of significant historic heritage and **heritage landscapes**;

Natural hazards and climate change

- (q) reduction of risks from natural hazards;
- (r) improved resilience to the effects of climate change including through adaptation;
- (s) reduction of greenhouse gas emissions;
- (t) promotion of activities that mitigate emissions or sequester carbon; and
- (u) increased use of renewable energy.

One of the recognised weaknesses in the implementation of the RMA has been the lack of national direction and it is notable that there still is no NPS on landscape matters outside the coastal environment close to 30 years after the RMA came into force. The RMR Panel proposes to significantly strengthen the role of national direction through making it mandatory for a range of matters. It would retain the mandatory NZCPS. It would also include a mandatory NPS on “how the principles of Te Tiriti will be given effect through functions exercised under this Act”.¹² This links to the revised Treaty clause proposed in a new section 6 which refers to “giving effect” to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi¹³ as opposed to merely taking them into account as provided for under the current section 8 of the RMA. This should significantly strengthen the Treaty compliance of management agencies under the new legislation.

NPSs will also be required to set targets (either binding or non-binding) “in order to achieve continuous improvement in the outcomes specified in section 7” which includes the protection and enhancement of ONLs and ONFs as described above. They will also need to state objectives and policies to achieve the targets. This means that national direction on landscape will be mandatory which is a positive change. This provides the opportunity to establish a robust national framework for the management of landscapes at the regional and/or local levels.

The RMR Panel’s recommendations also propose to considerably strengthen resource management policies and plans. Over 100 RMA plans nationwide will be consolidated into just 14 combined plans which will include all the provisions of RPSs, regional plans and district plans within a region. This should enable better integration across the region and between the various statutory provisions in the different documents. It should, for example, help avoid the disjunct between regional water planning and district landscape planning that we found in the Mackenzie Basin. The mapping of important landscapes should be a mandatory component of combined plans.

The combined plans will be developed by a joint committee of delegates from the regional council and constituent territorial authorities within the region, a representative from DOC and representatives from mana whenua. With mana whenua having a seat at the table, rather than being a consultee or submitter, the new combined plans should better reflect mana whenua aspirations for landscape management. As well as this more strategic role for Māori in planning, the RMR Panel’s recommendations include provision for an integrated partnership process between mana whenua and local authorities to agree on a wide range of matters including: processes to provide for aspects of iwi management plans to be taken into account in regional spatial planning and combined planning processes; opportunities to implement power sharing mechanisms; and funding for mana whenua participation in resource

management processes.¹⁴ This should enable bespoke arrangements to be developed for the active leadership and engagement of mana whenua in the identification and management of important landscapes.

Under the RMR Panel recommendations, the proposed combined plan will be audited by an expert reviewer appointed by the Minister for the Environment before it is notified. The audit will address alignment with national direction and the regional spatial strategy. This should help avoid the situation, such as we found in Waitaki District, where the district plan did not give effect to the RPS or section 6(b) of the RMA itself.

Submissions on the combined plans will be heard by an independent hearing panel appointed by the Principal Environment Court Judge to avoid any perceptions that the appointment process may be politicised.¹⁵ All these new mechanisms should help ensure that future plans are much more robust, clearer and more directive, and meet the requirements of the new Act including those relating to landscape protection and enhancement. They should also help with resourcing to support higher quality planning, with the combined resources of multiple agencies contributing to the development of the combined plan. Overall, this should help resolve the problem of weak plans and small impecunious councils being left to manage nationally important landscapes on their own.

The RMR Panel also addressed compliance, monitoring and enforcement, an area we found to be particularly weak, especially in areas such as the Mackenzie Basin which is remote from the head offices of management agencies. The Panel recommends the regionalisation of these functions into stand-alone organisations or hubs that would be better resourced and located at arms-length from political interference. They also propose a range of other legislative amendments to strengthen this function. These are all positive changes which should help address lack of compliance with the rules.

Landscapes of national importance

Overall the RMR Panel’s recommendations, if well implemented, should help to strengthen landscape management in Aotearoa New Zealand. They help address the consistent identification of important landscapes, the role of mana whenua in their identification and management, strategic integration across different management regimes affecting them, linkages with clear and directive regulation to protect important values, placing a focus on restoration and enhancement and improving the linkage with funding mechanisms to support sustainable land management and restoration work.

However, to further raise the profile of important landscapes within Aotearoa New Zealand we also suggest that regional spatial strategies be required to identify

a category of landscapes which we provisionally call 'landscapes of national importance' but leave open the option of using an appropriate Māori name. On this point, we note the proposal of Ngāi Tahu to include 'Ngā Tūtohu Whenua' in the Christchurch District Plan to denote landscapes of particular cultural importance.

Landscapes of national importance would be entire landscape areas that include significant natural, Māori cultural and/or heritage landscape values. They would include, but be broader than, ONLs which would continue to be identified and protected under the NBEA. They could include places like the Mackenzie Basin, Banks Peninsula, Wakatipu Basin, Waitākere Ranges, Marlborough Sounds and Aotea Great Barrier Island. A Landscape NPS could provide specific policy for these nationally important landscapes to prioritise the protection and restoration of their values. They could also receive priority for existing government initiatives and funding. This could include conservation land acquisition by the Natural Heritage Fund, support for covenanting by the QEII Trust and others, money from the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy when international tourism restarts, and government science and innovation funding for predator control and research into sustainable land management. It could also include funding to support collaborative restoration initiatives and a focus for philanthropic investors.

The identification as a landscape of national importance could also be used to support the development of a collective brand for the area. This brand could assist with marketing strategic tourism opportunities and could also create a quality mark for products produced in the area. Similar to how tourists are attracted to the 'Great Walks' on DOC conservation land, they could also be attracted to the network of landscapes of national importance around Aotearoa New Zealand, where they could be assured of having high quality experiences of the country's outstanding natural and cultural landscapes.

Overall, approaching the resource management reforms through a landscape lens, could help ensure that the new system provides for stronger protection of Aotearoa New Zealand's special places for the benefit of current and future generations.

9.5 Heritage Landscape Order

As earlier suggested, the development of 'Heritage Landscape' Orders is a potential mechanism which could provide greater statutory protection over landscapes of national importance. We leave open the question as to what the most appropriate name for such Orders would be, but have initially proposed 'Heritage Landscape' as a term that encapsulates the concept of caring for and passing down through the generations Aotearoa New Zealand's important natural and cultural landscapes.

A Heritage Landscape Order could be confirmed by the making of an Order in Council under the RMA, a process described further below. However, we do not rule out other alternatives to provide longer-term regulatory protection for important natural and cultural landscape values. There is also the option of enacting bespoke legislation (such as the WRHAA or HGMPA), generic legislation (such as a Heritage Landscape Act) or coming up with a hybrid process to achieve the outcomes sought.

Designation as a 'Heritage Landscape' under the RMA or other legislation (such as the Conservation Act) through a Heritage Landscape Order could be used to create a stronger protective purpose for high value landscapes. Heritage Landscapes could cover both public and private land which would be managed in a manner that was sympathetic to the landscape, cultural and ecological values present. In developing our thinking, we have taken inspiration from Water Conservation Orders, which have provided water bodies with a very high level of legal protection under the RMA. A similar approach could be taken to Heritage Landscapes.

Drawing on the process provided for the establishment of Water Conservation Orders, and considering how a new approach could fit into the existing resource management framework, we propose that Heritage Landscapes could be implemented in the present legislative regime as follows:

- The RMA would set out a broad purpose of what Heritage Landscapes should achieve, and the national values to be protected (you could think of these as designation criteria).
- There would be provision for any party to apply to have a landscape designated as a Heritage Landscape. In order to be considered, the landscape would need to meet the national criteria specified in the RMA. An applicant would also need to be able to demonstrate local community and iwi support.
- Applications could be made to a suitable person/entity, who would then either reject the application (on the basis that it does not meet the purpose specified in the Act) or accept it in a pro forma way. Such an entity could be a specifically established co-governance Heritage Landscape Board, which could have a broader role of oversight over the management of important natural and cultural landscapes. It could also be given the ability to support the development of worthy applications through a Heritage Landscape Fund. Alternatively a suitable Minister of the Crown could perform this role.
- If the application is accepted, a specialist tribunal would be established to publicly notify the application, hear submissions and either provide a draft Heritage Landscape Order or recommend the application be declined.

- The Minister would then accept or reject the recommendations. If rejected, the recommendations would be referred back to the Tribunal for reconsideration. The Minister would then make a final determination on the Heritage Landscape proposal.
- This determination could then be challenged through a de novo appeal in the Environment Court by any party which made submissions, thereby providing independent oversight of the process.

It is envisaged that the cost structure for applying for a Heritage Landscape Order would be similar to that for Water Conservation Orders, namely that the applicant (whether that is an individual, group or governmental body) would need to pay a prescribed fee with the application. Funding could be made available from central government for the development of applications in order to encourage use of the tool. All further costs, for special tribunals and the promulgation of the Order, would be borne by central government.

This process would provide a bottom-up approach to protection. It would enable iwi, hapū, NGOs and local communities as well as agencies such as DOC, to initiate the process (particularly if government funding was available to support the development of applications). The provision for independent review by the Environment Court is important so that those with properties that may be affected by the Heritage Landscape have the opportunity to challenge the proposal if they wish to do so.

If the application is granted, a new Heritage Landscape Order would be created for the specific landscape, for example a Heritage Landscape (Te Manahuna Mackenzie Basin) Order. This Order would include the landscape, cultural and ecological values to be protected in that specific landscape, and activities that must be restricted or prohibited to protect these values. Resource consents that are granted, once the Order is in place, could not be contrary to these restrictions or prohibitions; and regional and district planning documents could not be inconsistent with the Order.

The provisions of the Order could also provide for the establishment of a co-governance steering group, comprising representatives from mana whenua and the relevant statutory agencies (such as the regional council, territorial authorities, DOC and LINZ), to provide oversight of management of the area and to ensure that aligned and joined-up management approaches are applied to the landscape. Support could also be provided for community trusts and the like to facilitate restoration work. Funding would need to be made available to cover the operational costs of these groups.

There is provision in the RMA to revoke or amend a Water Conservation Order. This means that it is not necessarily permanent. However, unless the amendment will have no more than minor effects, or is agreed between the original applicant and regional council; the application to amend or revoke goes through the same process as designation. To date, this has not happened. As such, Water Conservation Orders have offered more permanent protection than planning documents. They also provide an apolitical approach – anybody can apply to designate an area and anybody can apply to revoke an order, and in both circumstances the application must be decided on its merits.

In addition to its protective purpose, a Heritage Landscape designation could be used to support the development of a collective brand for the area. This brand could assist with marketing strategic tourism opportunities and could also create a quality mark for products produced in the area. Similar to how tourists are attracted to the 'Great Walks' on DOC conservation land, they could also be attracted to the network of 'Heritage Landscapes' around New Zealand, where they could be assured of having high quality experiences of New Zealand's outstanding natural and cultural landscapes.



West coast of the Waitākere Ranges

ENDNOTES

- 1 Pauling, 2016, [4.1]-[4.6]
- 2 <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/tu-te-rakiwhanoa-drylands/>
- 3 Resource Management Review Panel, 2020, 129
- 4 Resource Management Review Panel, 2020, 142
- 5 Resource Management Review Panel, 2020, 146-147
- 6 Resource Management Review Panel, 2020, 142-143
- 7 Resource Management Review Panel, 2020, 138
- 8 Resource Management Review Panel, 2020, 139-140
- 9 Resource Management Review Panel, 2020, 52-53
- 10 Resource Management Review Panel, 2020, 88
- 11 Resource Management Review Panel, 2020, 66
- 12 Resource Management Review Panel, 2020, 486
- 13 Resource Management Review Panel, 2020, 483
- 14 Resource Management Review Panel, 2020, 106
- 15 Resource Management Review Panel, 2020, Chapter 8

Conclusions and recommendations

Lake Wanaka

This landscape project has involved an in-depth review of the case law and landscape assessment practices. It has taken us overseas to see how other countries approach similar challenges. It has brought us around the country to investigate how landscapes are being managed on the ground in various regions and rohe. We have been extremely impressed by the level of innovation and dedication of many land managers, mana whenua and communities in looking after their special places. But we found increasing anthropogenic pressures being placed on them. And we documented a landscape management system often not up to the task.

The current resource management reform process provides an excellent opportunity to remedy this situation in the shorter term. However we also recommend that a more enduring approach be developed in the longer-term. We can learn from the mistakes of the past to develop a landscape management system fit for the future.

Drawing on our international and national case studies and examples, we identified four aspects critical for a new landscape protection model. The first element was the key role of mana whenua in landscape management and restoration and the need to give effect to Treaty principles. This includes enabling the relationship of mana whenua with their ancestral lands to be better recognised and strengthened on a landscape scale. The second element was the important role of land managed for conservation purposes such as public conservation land and sympathetically managed privately-owned land. The third element was effective protective regulation for significant working (usually agricultural) landscapes to ensure that incompatible activities, intensification or land use changes do not occur. The fourth element was creating an effective partnership with landowners and others to support and encourage sustainable land use and management.

We have considered a range of new approaches to landscape management throughout this report and set out below a summary of the key recommendations.

10.1 Short-medium term recommendations

Proposed Strategic Planning Act

1. Require regional spatial strategies to address landscape matters, including identifying 'landscapes of national importance' and providing for their protection and restoration.
2. As proposed by the RMR Panel, require regional spatial strategies to encompass land, freshwater and the coastal marine area to enable landscapes and seascapes to be managed in an integrated manner.

3. Ensure the national priorities statement addresses landscape protection including criteria for the identification and protection of 'landscapes of national significance'.
4. As proposed, require mana whenua to be included as equal decision-making partners with government entities in the development of regional spatial strategies to enable Māori rights, interests and values associated with specific landscapes, and Māori cultural landscapes, to be fully reflected in the strategies.
5. Ensure implementation agreements include funding provision to support mana whenua, land managers and community organisations to protect and restore important landscapes particularly within landscapes of national significance.
6. Provide a strong statutory connection between regional spatial strategies and plans developed under the RMA (and its successor) to ensure important landscapes are mapped and protected through robust policies and rules, and plans developed under the Local Government Act to ensure budgetary provision for landscape management and restoration.
7. Apply the Strategic Planning Act to the Crown Pastoral Land Act and Conservation Act to better align these regimes across landscapes.

Proposed Natural and Built Environments Act

8. Retain the proposed reference to the protection and enhancement of outstanding natural features and outstanding natural landscapes.
9. Implement the proposed requirement for mandatory national direction on section 7 outcomes including those relating to landscape protection and enhancement.
10. Prioritise the development of a NPS on Landscape to establish environmental outcomes, targets and bottom lines for the country's landscapes including outstanding and amenity landscapes. The NPS should also set out at what scale landscape should be assessed, the assessment methodology to be used, and the roles of mana whenua and respective councils and their planning documents in providing protection.
11. Include reference to heritage landscapes and amenity in the new legislation.
12. Implement the proposal to develop combined plans, including the inclusion of mana whenua representatives on the planning committee, an independent audit before notification and independent scrutiny of submissions.
13. Require combined plans to map important landscapes within each region.

14. Utilise RPSs to provide strong direction for the protection of important landscapes in each region and use RPS sub-chapters to detail considerations for specific landscapes.
15. Provide greater recognition for iwi planning documents in the management of Māori cultural landscapes and support for the co-design of policy and planning provisions to protect their values.
16. Implement the proposal to establish regional hubs for compliance, monitoring and enforcement and other proposals to strengthen this function.

Other matters

17. Review the NESPF to ensure that it is not permitting plantation forestry in areas of outstanding or high landscape values such as the Banks Peninsula and Te Manahuna Mackenzie Basin.
18. Review the emissions trading scheme to ensure that it incentivises indigenous vegetation regeneration as opposed to further expansion of exotic plantation forestry.

19. Establish a dedicated biodiversity enhancement fund to support indigenous forest restoration.
20. Provide support to strengthen iwi, hapū and community collaborative initiatives focused on landscape restoration.
21. Proceed with the proposed reforms set out in the Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill.
22. Undertake a fundamental review of the concessions system under the Conservation Act.

10.2 Longer-term recommendation

23. Building on the concept of Heritage Landscapes develop a new tool for landscape protection, in partnership with Māori and through wide consultation, to provide enduring protection for Aotearoa New Zealand's important natural and cultural landscapes.



Tahunanui Beach, Nelson

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Aotearoa New Zealand's distinctive natural and cultural landscapes are an integral part of our individual and collective well-being. But despite the importance of these landscapes, and this being recognised in law for close to 30 years, we are still seeing poor outcomes. This prompted the Environmental Defence Society to initiate a project to investigate why the landscape management system is failing and how it might be strengthened.

This Synthesis Report brings together the large body of work we have undertaken on landscape management. It includes the findings of four case studies focusing on landscape management in Te Manahuna Mackenzie Basin, Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula, the Waitākere Ranges and the Hauraki Gulf Islands. A fifth case study investigated potential linkages between tourism and landscape protection. The Report also includes an in-depth review of the case law and landscape assessment practices in Aotearoa New Zealand and an investigation into the application of a te ao Māori approach to landscape. In addition, we have included the findings of an in-depth international review of innovative landscape protection models.

We found that the pressures on our landscapes have increased markedly over the past two decades and many landscapes are still in decline. The pressures are becoming stronger, more multifaceted, and they play out in different ways in different places. We found that in the face of intense development pressures, the current system is not performing well.

We conclude the report with identifying how the current proposed reforms to the resource management system could be better configured to provide more robust landscape protection. We also propose a more enduring landscape protection model to better protect Aotearoa New Zealand's landscapes for our future generations.

DOC Jobs for Nature Delivery Manager Site Visit

Purpose: To verify project delivery on-site with the Delivery Partner

Context: Regular monitoring of delivery of JfN Projects on the ground with the Delivery Partner is a key part of the DOC Delivery Manager role.

Quality & Quantity:

DOC Delivery Managers should be undertaking monthly site visits with the Delivery Partner to support and monitor project delivery. The minimum frequency of site visits is no less than quarterly.

The visit will help verify project delivery on the ground, allow a review of the Health & Safety systems in place and allow exploration of any aspects you have identified in RAG reporting.

Pre-Visit

- Review reporting information and RAG assessments to identify any project specific questions or critical issues to discuss or explore and note these in the form below.
- Note some key employment, milestone and H&S information from recent reporting in the boxes below to confirm on your visit.

Project Details

Project Name:	JFN0035 Iwi Collaboration for Kauri Action
Site Visit Date & Time:	Tuesday 24 th January, full day out in the Ngahere with the Ngati Kuri Kauri Ora team
Visit undertaken by: (Delivery Manger)	Marty Akroyd
Other DOC Attendees:	Nil
Project Partner Representative:	s.9(2)(a)

Delivery Monitoring

JSA Complete (on site by project) **Y**

COVID-19 safety practices provided for **Y**

General questions [delete as needed]

- *What's working well (been achieved) with the project?*

The teamwork within the group has been really good, very keen and dedicated staff, with boundless enthusiasm, they see this type of work as their future.

The team is learning a lot, in particular the technical side of Kauri protection and Matauranga, almost to the point where they have had to scale back a little on the information they need to absorb.

My observations of the knowledge the team holds in relation to kauri protection is quite extensive, they provide opportunities for staff to contribute their ideas and opportunities to innovate.

- *What are the key risks impacting success and how they are being managed?*

The weather was mentioned as impacting a little on success of their work so forecasting was a big part of ensuring success.

Also the need to ensure logistics are done well considering the area is fairly remote impacts success if not done well, I suggested they could potentially call on local DOC districts if they needed any help with supply of materials as there is a fair bit of movement between DOC offices that could possibly help.

- *Describe any identified improvements to maximise delivery.*

They have been fine tuning their methodology with the work they do which helps maximise delivery.

Staff are used to working outside of the square due to the remote locations where they live so that innovation is helping to maximise delivery.

- *Is there anything DOC can do to help support your work?*

Erik mentioned if DOC has access to any Kauri imagery, or any information/records about the history of the reserves in relation to Kauri would be beneficial, I will have a chat to DJ the relationship manager for Ngati Kuri to see if they have anything that may be of use to help Erik in relation to the work, they are carrying out.

- *Are staff being trained as per the FA commitment and are they getting opportunities in general to upskill and develop?*

There has been bountiful opportunities and training that the staff have attended to upskill and develop, this was very evident in the knowledge the staff had about their work over the day with them, it was quiet inspiring for me to hear about what they have learnt along the way and see the dedicated passion and affiliation the staff have with the land.

General Observations from visit –

A very well-connected team that is thriving off the work they have been doing.

Excellent hygiene and biosecurity controls were in place within their Kauri Ora work.

Project specific questions

[Insert any critical issues / questions or data verification you want to clarify on your visit] –

- These things are discussed with the Project Manager rather than the Team leaders of the groups.

Any critical issues or risks? Nothing Identified

Part B - Health & Safety

Delivery Managers are responsible for ensuring that Partners have H&S Systems in place and that there is evidence of the system being used.

H & S Assurance Reporting

<p>What evidence can you confirm that the project has H&S systems in place and being used?</p>	<p>Testing procedure for Covid was asked of me.</p> <p>I was inducted into the office and the site-specific day's work ahead of us.</p> <p>I was taken through a Job safety analysis for the days work and had the opportunity to contribute to that discussion.</p> <p>Staff had portfolios for H&S so each staff member is getting the opportunity to lead those discussions which was great to see</p>
<p>Are they working to their Site-Specific Safety Plan (SSSP)?</p> <p>Is there evidence workers are being inducted into the SSSP?</p> <p>Is there a H&S register at site?</p> <p>Can you see evidence of JSA's or Toolbox Talks being done?</p> <p>Are Contractor's Inducted on site?</p> <p>Are Contractors being monitored by the Partner?</p> <p>Is (PPE) being worn?</p> <p>When asked are workers aware of the risks and controls in place?</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes, refer above</p> <p>Yes Yes I was involved in one</p> <p>N/A N/A</p> <p>Yes, PPE was offered if I required it</p> <p>Yes, this was evident in discussions, in particular the site we were going to, the correct vehicle for the site was discussed and the tools required to communicate when on site, eg Radios, whistles, Hi viz</p>
<p>No. of H & S incidents that have occurred since last reporting -</p>	<p>Nil</p>
<p>Are incidents being followed up on in a timely manner?</p>	<p>If they have any they will</p>
<p>Are notifiable events to DOC being reported within one day?</p>	<p>They are aware of this need as is the Project manager</p>
<p>If on PCL is the project reporting incidents to add in Risk Manager (if appropriate)?</p>	<p>They are aware of this need as is the Project manager</p>
<p>Other observations? – My only suggestion to Erik was due to the terrain and remote locations they are working in it may be useful to carry a PLB between the team, it would be a useful tool to access emergency services quickly in the event of something like a broken leg or heart attack.</p>	



Post Site Visit

1. Note any follow up actions in your actions log on Enquire.
2. Upload to DOCCM and link in Documents on Enquire.

Site Photos

Ngati Kuri team reconnaissance for kauri and tree health assessments



Recording Kauri locations and inputting tree health assessments into survey 123



Stunning Views from work location, Te Pahi Recreation Reserve



FACTSHEET

Project name and JFN Ref	AL04.13 Te Haumihi ō Ngāti Kuri		
Project Applicant	Ngāti Kuri Trust Board		
DOC contact and phone	Meirene Hardy-Birch, s.9(2)(a) Abraham Witana, s.9(2)(a)		
Project Partners	Auckland Museum, Te Papa Atawhai, Manaaki Whenua, Landcare Research		
Location	Region: Northland		
Project summary <i>Briefly describe the project in less than 200 words</i>	<p>'Te Haumihi ō Ngāti Kuri' is a comprehensive capability advancement proposal to grow jobs in nature with long term ecological and environmental gains that will contribute to diverse outcomes. This application seeks resource to employ kaimahi to coordinate efforts across 14 specific sites covering Te Haumihi. Through Jobs for Nature, new positions will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ~Establish a biosecurity management policy and framework for our mainland, islands and marine activities in and across Te Haumihi and Te Ara whānui. ~Increase production and security of tāonga plants, their recovery and sanctuary habitats. ~Build a multi-dimensional labour force to maintain infrastructure, assets and facilities and further establish new restoration sites. 		
Funding Requested	s.9(2)(b)(ii) [REDACTED]		
Employment Opportunities	Total FTE created	41.2	
	Total jobs created	15	
	Total Avg. Cost per FTE	s.9(2)(b)(iii) (corrected from original app)	
	Avg. wage per FTE	[REDACTED] (corrected from original app)	
	Employees will be paid at least the living wage	Yes	
Timing	Start Date:	30 April 2021	Total Term: 3 years

<i>It is expected that Projects are ready to commence once approved.</i>	End Date:	April 2024	
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Funding Breakdown

COST TYPE	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
Field Personnel Related Costs	s.9(2)(b)(ii)			
Field Operations Related Costs				
Project/Programme Administration Related Costs				
Capital Expenditure				
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS				
TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED				

Employment Opportunity Breakdown

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	TOTAL
FTE to be created	13.7	13.7	13.7	41.2

Co-Funder(s) of Project

Name of co-funder	Amount of co-funding	Confirmed (Yes/No)
N/A	\$ plus GST, if applicable	

Outcomes

Outline of Project:
<p>Ngāti Kuri's contemporary tribal area covers approximately one million square kilometres in the Far North (Te Hiku o Te Ika) and extends from Hukatere on the west coast across to Maunga Tohoraha (Mt Camel) on the east coast and north to Te Rerenga Wairua (Cape Reinga) and Manawatawhi (Three Kings Islands) and Rangitāhua (Kermadec Islands). It is considered a global hotspot of biodiversity. 14 specific sites have been selected across Te Haumihi for immediate work and includes 4 dedicated dune lake zones and 2 wetland areas. The project will establish a biosecurity management policy and framework for the mainland, islands and marine activities in and across Te Haumihi and Te Ara whānui. It will increase production and security of tāonga plants and their recovery and sanctuary habitats.</p>

The project will build a multi-dimensional labour force to maintain infrastructure, assets and facilities and further establish new restoration sites.

This proposal sets out to engage a range of key environmental, science, and mātauranga experts through hui and wānanga, site visits, translation of current research projects to make meaning to other opportunities within this work, to create a robust and supportive mentoring programme for all new jobs, and stimulate whānau and iwi members into meaningful employment aligning to Ngāti Kuri's Te Haumihi and Te Ara Whānui frameworks.

Expected Employment Outcomes:

This application is to retain 2 staff in facilities maintenance roles effected by Covid-19 circumstances and create 8 new positions across 800 hectares of land for whānau who have returned from the cities seeking employment.

Jobs will also be available to our emerging 4th Gen leaders seeking employment and pathways in environmental leadership, a number of whom are also affected by the impacts of reduced hours within current positions.

Expected outcomes for iwi, hapū and whanau in the region

This work will be complimentary to other Ngāti Kuri business units and obligations and fill significant gaps within the Te Haumihi work programme to address the severe shortage in our region for nature-based positions and the restoration uplift required to save highly endangered endemic tāonga, including but not limited to; Te Rata Moehau and Kahikā Rangitāhua.

This proposal is positioned to be the largest investment in jobs for Ngāti Kuri specifically exercising kaitiakitanga for own region and levels up a range of staff who have been working volunteer for a number of years.

This 'giving of time' is no longer an option for many whānau presently, who are now forced to work longer hours as they manage COVID impacts. This is the opportunity at a strategic level to provide a system wide cohesive programme that works to establish a floating workforce and build capacity for placement into adjoining and upcoming Ngāti Kuri initiatives beyond this application.

Ngāti Kuri have an intimate understanding of employment needs within their iwi and region and they currently have 9 staff awaiting roles or land-based job opportunities that they will directly place into the proposed roles.

Furthermore, we have had a number of whānau impacted by COVID-19 who have returned home from the cities and we currently have at least 8 members seeking employment, with additional members seeking job retention pathways. Ngāti Kuri is also connected directly with MSD staff for other projects and are informed of data and relevant information that will be useful to this project.

Expected Conservation outcomes:

Overtime, the successful execution of Te Haumihi is intended to have a 'halo' effect, making the vision of a predator-free Aotearoa a reality. We will continue to encourage and support our neighbouring iwi to address pest and predator issues within their own rohe, creating a network of predator suppression and eradication areas, resulting in a predator free Te Hiku o Te Ika. In time all activities are aligned to achieve the following project outcomes and align to Ngāti Kuri Trust Board's Predator Free 2050 Strategy:

- Eradication of pests and predators within the protection area.
- Development of a project specific workforce trained and educated in predator control, biodiversity, biosecurity enhancement and knowledge transfer.
- Endemic biodiversity within protection area enhanced.

Background & Approach

<p>Provide some background on the funding recipient that is leading this work:</p>
<p>The Ngāti Kuri Trust Board is the post- Te Tiriti o Waitangi settlement iwi affiliated with the iwi through Ngāi Kuri Claims Settlement Act 2015. It is a mandated iwi organisation under the Māori Fisheries Act 2004, and an Iwi Aquaculture Organisation under the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004. The trust represents Ngāti Kuri as an "iwi authority" for resource consent applications under the Resource Management Act 1991 and is a Tūhono organisation and incorporated society. The trust is made up of three people from the iwi, three people from the Muriwhenua iwi group, and five iwi members who live outside the iwi area.</p> <p>Ngāti Kuri have other environmental initiatives such as Ngāti Kuri Bioblitz ; partnered with the science community (Auckland Museum, Canterbury Museum, Manaaki Whenua Land Care Trust, NIWA, Bird & Forest to deliver BioBlitz at Kapowairua and Te Paki.</p> <p>The BioBlitz have been well supported by our kura tamariki, kaumatua and whānau. The level of interests has required limiting the numbers of attendees. These wānanga have been a great success in engaging our people in science and connecting with our environment and tāonga species. New Bioblitz areas within this programme are proposed for Kohuroa, Te Paerau and Te Rerenga Wairua.</p>
<p>Why is this project important for this area/region?</p>
<p>Ngāti Kuri have been committed over the past 8 years to re-visioning their ecological domains and consider the opportunities for positive change that seek to restore and protect some of their most vulnerable tāonga and habitats remaining in Aotearoa. This regeneration has been at the forefront of all work programmes with momentum achieved through various feasibility work. This project adds to that vision and aligns with iwi's objectives to restore and protect.</p> <p>Te Haumihi figuratively acknowledges Ngāti Kuri's tangible and intangible cultural and natural heritage, and its importance to their identity as Ngāti Kuri. Te Haumihi is Ngati Kuri's evolving strategic response to Wai262.</p>
<p>Does this work align or contribute to a regional, catchment or conservation strategy? If so, how?</p>
<p>This work programme aligns to the strategic intents of the Environmental Plan and will position both Ngāti Kuri and council through Te Kahu o Taonui to action a range of initiatives within the plan. Specifically;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Freshwater Improvement workstreams such as pest fish control, sediment mitigation, education and weed control. ● Link directly to the DOC visitor and Heritage strategy as well as the Biodiversity Strategy ● Advance iwi interests by forming innovative ecosystem experiences, promote clear dialogue processes, and develop and extend tools widely available to encourage scientists, mātauranga/knowledge holders, and community researchers, to actively engage in the cocreation of a iwi-led working agenda for restoration that can be used for social, cultural and environmental advancement.
<p>Does this work deliver on regulatory or statutory requirements? If so, how? (i.e. Conservation Management Strategy and Treaty Settlement obligations)</p>
<p>No but is aligned with other strategic intents as above. Closely aligned to government policy, strategy, and priorities with research outcomes specifically addressing these priorities; building² Protecting³ Collecting⁴ Predictings.</p> <p>This proposal further responds to the Government's strategic priorities⁶, and is part of an international responsibility under the Convention on Biological Diversity.</p>
<p>Are there any in-kind contributions to this project? If so, what?</p>

OIA 9(2)(b)(ii)

Does the delivery of this work reflect known approaches, or is it trialling innovative techniques?

New predator free fencing technologies will be explored and the applicant will review best practice models to guide pest and trapping controls. They will also work with other iwi who are experienced in full pest-free eradication projects including Maungatautari and Puerora Forest Kaitiaki.

Does this project undertake any work to mitigate climate change? If so, how will it be measured? i.e. Carbon through establishing planting activities

Yes through restoration and riparian planting. Also machinery and operations have a minimum to low environmental impact and will include petroleum-based tools and machinery for weeding and maintenance.

Project Delivery

What will happen following the end of J4N funding? Is there an exit strategy? If so, what is it?

The applicant is working towards building a programme of work that sits well beyond the life of this fund and more towards the 10 year vision of Te Haumihi. The investments in infrastructure and assets such as fencing provide far reaching environmental gains and provide a sound position for sustained employment in the future.

The applicant has contributed \$2M in wages directly into the community in 2019/20 and has 50+ workers across their businesses. These businesses are growing and expanding and the Trust Board is prioritising new positions over the next 3 years to meet these growth demands. The jobs for nature positions will build a range of transferable skills and capacity and therefore direct channels into the broader opportunities within Ngāti Kuri will be realised.

Who is the primary employer (if different from the Applicant)?

The applicant.

What are the skills required to deliver this project?

Kaupapa Māori research skills

- Strategic thinkers
- Policy analysts
- Conservation experience
- Ecology, wetland, freshwater and dune lakes expertise
- Biosecurity protocols and how to position them within an iwi context

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Biodiversity activities and threatened species and ecosystems recovery ● Performance analyst ● Data collection ● Management- Project, research, asset, maintenance operations, business and finance ● Building, fencing, weeding, pest control and trapping ● Tāonga plant species recovery programme ● Planning, monitoring and reporting on delivery of tasks for predator control and facilities operations.
<p>Who are these jobs targeted at? (e.g. Tourism redeployment/iwi/forestry workers)</p>
<p>The applicant has had a number of whānau impacted by COVID-19 who have returned home from the cities and we currently have at least 8 members seeking employment, with additional members seeking job retention pathways. Ngāti Kuri is also connected directly with MSD staff for other projects and are informed of data and relevant information that will be useful to this project.</p>
<p>How do people apply? (will they be working with MSD and/or iwi to source employees)</p>
<p>As above.</p>
<p>Is there any capability development (formal or informal), training, certifications, wananga delivered through the programme? If yes, what, and how many people are expected to receive it?</p>
<p>Formal Training: The applicant will align all training to the level of skills and qualifications of applicants. The intention is to recruit looking for the skills we need. Standard items the applicant will invest in are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Outdoor first Aid (safety), ● LUV training (safety), ● Maori wardens training package <p>Informal Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ngāti Kuri Health and Safety ● Wānanga- Tikanga, Te Reo, Whakapapa, history ● Ngāti Kuri leadership ● Professional development support for WAI262 context
<p>Does the project target youth/ Rangatahi capability or development? If so, how?</p>
<p>This project will advocate and advance the Ngāti Kuri '4th Gen Group. This is a group of rangatahi from Ngāti Kuri that work on collaborative projects that;</p> <p><i>“help us to understand what we need to protect, restore and revitalise our land, sky and oceans. As the fourth generation we are the keepers of our ancestral fires, we have led Mātauranga and Science Expeditions to our outer island Manawatāwhi (Three Kings), Rangitāhua Kermadec Islands and remote places of where we have been prevented from accessing for 4 generations.”</i></p>

Recommended for funding:

<p>Yes</p> <p>Rationale and any project specific conditions:</p> <p>This is a well-planned, large-scale project to restore 14 ecologically and culturally significant sites in the Far North, leveraging the cultural knowledge and existing investment into research and environmental by Ngāti Kuri, Manaaki Whenua and the Auckland Museum. The project covers a significant range of activities – wetland and dune restoration, restoration planting, freshwater</p>

monitoring, as well as pest plant and animal control. Employment will benefit specific Ngāti Kurī whanau and create jobs for the isolated Far North communities near project areas. As the project is on 80% Maori Land, outcomes are to be sustained by Ngāti Kurī through its ten year Strategic plan.

New Zealand Government

Te Hiku District Office Biodiversity BP- 2021/22

Overarching priorities:

- Capable, competent, and safe team (inc. inductions & support for new staff)
- Te Hiku CMS- policy/strategy to inform 5-year planning.
- Support for nature-based work force- collective impact

Key points:

- 5 x distinct wahi structure to better focus conservation management & partner priorities.
- All staff to contribute approx. 300hrs to non-site/wahi related outputs. A large portion will sit within a new 1.7 IOO prescription which represents the Districts J4N projects collectively. Support for community groups captured under community prescription- 'Working with others'
- Traditionally relationships with communities/partners have been isolated business planned activities- removal of these activities and build in/allow for salary per wahi /prescriptions as this underpins the way we work.
- Desire to simplify WBS (currently 50+ biodiversity) & consolidation of activities that allows for flexibility (may test the National systems and be limitations) Resulting in less maintenance orders/schedules that hold larger resource.
 - Critical issue re flexibility is HT address/navigate NFPL targets which lock in detail.
 - Simplified activity level- HT ensure meaningful narrative is visible
- Wilding pine programme & NRC Regional alliance- option of maintaining activities within the prescriptions/sites- or- create 1 x prescription for this work collectively with the benefit of flexibility should new sites become options.

Te Paki

Activity	Notes
Species led programmes	snail monitoring, rata moehau, Surville Pittosporum monitoring, and Atriplex- all existing or historic programmes of work that will likely continue in some shape or form. Allow for wider lens to support species led programmes – initiate support from Andrew T where and when necessary
Weed work	Maintain track work focus across sites. Better coordination with Rec
Wilding conifer	Regional alliance/follow-up
Animal pest control & monitoring	Core trapping areas are established and have provided on-going control/species protection. Desire to maintain this- but realistically not practical nor safe- what are the options for this going forward. Animal pest monitoring built into this activity- should be undertaken where we are controlling pests or have concerns for specific areas/species
Fence checks	Maintain fence checks- exception of Spirits Bay.
Argentine Ants	Not clear what we are working towards- \$120k annual programme- is this ongoing. Imperative that regardless of A. ant programme- biosecurity protocols are paramount

Out of scope



Out of scope



Out of scope



Tiakina Kauri Iwi/Hapu groups being talked to with view to funding proposal or recipients of funding to carry out Kauri protection mahi on PCL

Note; It is likely that Rongo training and application may be occurring on PCL across all these groups

J4N projects are carrying out soil sampling and surveillance mainly for the benefit of Iwi/Hapu knowledge, TK funding will be soil sampling to meet the measures of the NPMP

22/11/22

DOC District	Iwi/Hapu	PCL work area	Funding status	Type of work	Permit / training	Comments
Kaitaia	Ngati Kuri	Te Pahi scenic reserves	TK funding in place	Soil testing and surveillance	No, In training	

