

Vic Cammell

From: Government Services
Sent: Monday, 18 May 2026 11:59 am
To: Kayla Wilson; Nicole Kunzmann; Doc PrivateSecs
Cc: Government Services; Kyle Grant; Patrick West-Oram; Vic Cammell
Subject: ATTACHED: 26-M-0046 Meeting memo - EDS - Gary Taylor: Wednesday, 20 May 2026 6:15 pm-6:45 pm
Attachments: 26-M-0046 - EDS meeting memo - 20 May.pdf; 26-M-0046 - EDS meeting memo - 20 May - DOC-10934642.docx
Importance: High

Kia ora Private Secretaries

Please find a meeting memo attached. Hard copies to follow.

Ngā mihi,

Julian Boorman (he/him)
Government Services Advisor | Kaitohu Ratonga Kāwanatanga
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai
DDI s9(2)(a)

From: Kyle Grant <kgrant@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 18 May 2026 11:51 am
To: Government Services <GovernmentServices@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Bryan Dunne <bdunne@doc.govt.nz>; Bex Worthington <rworthington@doc.govt.nz>; Sam Thomas <samthomas@doc.govt.nz>; Tyler Hall <tyhall@doc.govt.nz>; Patrick West-Oram <pwestoram@doc.govt.nz>; Vic Cammell <vcammell@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: 26-M-0046 Meeting memo request - EDS - Gary Taylor: Wednesday, 20 May 2026 6:15 pm-6:45 pm
Importance: High

Kia ora GS

This has been approved by Bryan for sending to the office at midday today.

DocCM link - <https://doccm.doc.govt.nz/cwxv4/wcc/faces/wccdoc?dDocName=DOC-10934642>

PDF also attached.

Ngā mihi
Kyle

From: Kayla Wilson s9(2)(a) <s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 13 May 2026 1:34 pm
To: Government Services <governmentsservices@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Nicole Kunzmann s9(2)(a) <s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz>; Bex Worthington <rworthington@doc.govt.nz>; Tyler Hall <tyhall@doc.govt.nz>; Bryan Dunne <bdunne@doc.govt.nz>; Sam Thomas <samthomas@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Commission -Meeting memo - Meeting: EDS - Gary Taylor: Wednesday, 20 May 2026 6:15 pm-6:45 pm

Kia ora,

The office has just now received the attached email and letter from EDS. Given the content of this letter, we will need a meeting memo covering the key issues.

Can we have this to the office by midday Monday 18th.

Meeting Advice					
Event title	Meeting: EDS - Gary Taylor				
Event date	20 May	Event time	6.15pm-6.45pm	Location	Minister Potaka's office
Complexity rating*:	High	?	Low	?	Any comment
Key context	• Template sets out the required content including talking points. • The same template must be used for both high and low complexity events. Hui/Event/Meeting memo (DOC-10358492)				
DOC support	Officials required				
Maori cultural support required	No				
'Must-have' content	• Talking points to cover the matters outlined in the attached letter from EDS				
Additional content	e.g. • Press Release (as this is normally commissioned via the above other channel) • Maps or other appendices • Speech (as this is different to talking points)				

[illegible]

Kayla Wilson

Private Secretary – Conservation | Office of Hon Tama Potaka MP

Minister of Conservation | Minister for Maori Development
Minister for Maori Crown Relations | Minister for Whanau Ora

Associate Minister of Housing

DDI: s9(2)(a) | M: s9(2)(a)

Email: s(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz | Website:
[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/]www.beehive.govt.nz

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Please also send all e-mails to me to my colleague: **Nicole Kunzmann:**
s9(2)(a) [s9\(2\)\(a\)@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz)

From: Kayla Wilson

Sent: Tuesday, 12 May 2026 4:09 pm

To: Bryan Dunne <bdunne@doc.govt.nz>; Sam Thomas <samthomas@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Nicole Kunzmann nk@parliament.govt.nz; Bex Worthington rworthington@doc.govt.nz;

Tyler Hall <tyhall@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Meeting: EDS - Gary Taylor: Wednesday, 20 May 2026 6:15 pm-6:45 pm

Kia ora kōrua,

The Minister has accepted a hui with Gary Taylor to discuss some initial perspectives on the CAB.

At this stage we would like Officials to attend, but this may change.

We do not think a meeting memo is required in this instance.

Nā,

Kayla



Kayla Wilson

Private Secretary – Conservation | Office of Hon Tama Potaka MP

Minister of Conservation | Minister for Māori Development
Minister for Māori Crown Relations | Minister for Whanau Ora

Associate Minister of Housing

DDI: s9(2)(a) | M: s9(2)(a)

Email: s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz | Website:
[http://www.beehive.govt.nz/]www.beehive.govt.nz

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Please also send all e-mails to me to my colleague: **Nicole Kunzmann:**
s9(2)(a)@parliament.govt.nz

HUI/EVENT BRIEF

HUI/EVENT	Environmental Defence Society (EDS) – Gary Taylor
DATE	20/05/2026
TIME	6.15pm-6.45pm
LOCATION	Minister of Conservation's Office, Beehive
ATTIRE	Business attire

PURPOSE	You are meeting with Environmental Defence Society (EDS) representatives to discuss the Conservation Amendment Bill. They are very likely to attempt to focus your discussion on the actual Bill <i>drafting</i>, particularly proposed drafting concerning the purpose changes. We advise against a detailed discussion on the legal drafting itself, which is likely to become very technical. The meeting does provide an excellent opportunity to explain your policy intent behind the drafting, that you are seeking to test the ability of the drafting to meet the policy intent at Select Committee, and that you would welcome EDS' submission to the Committee.
BACKGROUND	EDS contributed to the development of the recently introduced <u>Conservation Amendment Bill</u> - The Conservation Amendment Bill (the Bill) had its First Reading on 12 May and has been referred to the Environment Select Committee. - EDS has previously prepared the following reports on the conservation management system that informed the development of the Bill: <i>Independent Review of the Conservation Management Planning System</i>, Environmental Defence Society, April 2023 <i>Restoring Nature: Reform of the Conservation Management System</i>, Environmental Defence Society, August 2024 <u>EDS has raised concerns with the purpose-related changes</u> - EDS are concerned the changes will displace the primacy of conservation as the purpose of the system and enable economic activities to occur on conservation land irrespective of their conservation outcomes. They are specifically concerned about: Amendments to section 6 – Functions of the Department New section 13D(2) – Purpose of the National Conservation Policy Statement (NCPS) New section 13H(2) – Purpose of area plans New section 14 – Purpose of Part 3B (concessions framework) - These sections of the Bill are appended in <i>Appendix 1</i> for your reference. <i>Amendments to section 6: Functions of the Department</i> - EDS considers the exercise of the Department's new economic function may not be limited by the conservation purpose of the Act because: - there is no hierarchy between the Department's functions in section 6 of the Conservation Act; and - clause 6 contains no qualifying provisions, either relating to the size of the activity or its consistency with conservation; and

	○ the use of the phrase ‘to the greatest extent’ could be interpreted as directing the Department to enable economic activity to its maximum potential. <i>New sections 13D and 13H: National Conservation Policy Statement and Area Plans</i> • EDS considers the current drafting of new sections 13D and 13H may diminish or remove the consideration of conservation outcomes from the National Conservation Policy Statement (NCPS) and area plans because: ○ recognising and enabling economic opportunities is listed as an explicit purpose and other conservation outcomes are not; and ○ the NCPS and area plans are made by the Minister, not the Department; and ○ the Conservation Act does not have a single purpose statement; and ○ decisions made in the NCPS and area plans will be required to provide for use and development to the greatest extent practicable. • EDS incorrectly noted there is no section 13A(2) but rightly assumed that it would refer to conservation legislation.¹ • EDS considers further explicit recognition of economic opportunities in relation to the purpose of the NCPS or area plans is unnecessary. <i>New section 14: Concessions</i> • EDS considers the proposed section does not address how contrary objectives would be resolved in concessions decisions. • EDS also raised concerns about the lack of clarity about the phrase ‘the greatest extent practicable’. <u>You have an opportunity to explain your policy intent to the Environmental Defence Society</u> • You have an opportunity to confirm the intent of your policy changes. • The intent is to see an increased focus on economic activity on conservation land, while retaining conservation as the primary purpose of the Conservation Act 1987. In particular, you intend for the purpose-related changes to: ○ signal that economic opportunities, beyond just tourism, are possible on conservation land; and ○ support the economic opportunities enabled through the Bill and the National Policy Statement. This includes providing a strong legal basis for economic activities enabled through exemptions, pre-approvals, and ‘pre-assessed’ activities. • Select Committee is an opportunity to refine the proposed amendments to the purpose-related clauses to make sure they give effect to your policy intent. <i>Our assessment is that the current drafting will better recognise economic development, whilst retaining conservation as the primary purpose of the regime</i> • As previously advised, the proposed changes will result in a small number of concessions being approved that would have otherwise been declined under current settings (a net gain in economic activity on PCL). • The changes also retain conservation as the primary purpose of the Conservation Act 1987. In particular we consider:
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¹ Listed Acts in new section 13A(2) are the Conservation Act; the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978; the Marine Reserves Act 1971; the National Parks Act 1980; the Reserves Act 1077; The Wild Animal Control Act 1977; and the Wildlife Act.

	○ the absence of a single purpose statement does not undermine the primacy of conservation; and ○ the absence of a hierarchy of functions does not undermine the primacy of conservation; and ○ enabling the use and development of resources and land 'to the greatest extent practicable' does not mean all applications to operate on conservation land will be approved. <i>The absence of a single purpose statement does not undermine the primacy of conservation</i> • Despite not being contained in a single statement, the primacy of conservation is embedded throughout the Conservation Act. • For example, Part 3 of the Conservation Act states that land is held for conservation purposes. The Act then goes on to specify what conservation purposes are for particular land (e.g. conservation parks are managed so that their natural and historic resources are protected). • The nature of these provisions means that even if the conservation purpose is not explicitly referenced in a specific section of the Bill, it will continue to have primacy. • For the NCPS and area plans this means the embedded conservation purpose will continue to have primacy over economic development for policies set through the NCPS and area plans. This includes: ○ any additional information provided on how consistent an activity is with the purpose for which areas are held or managed; and ○ the classification of activities as pre-approved or exempt. • For the concessions regime this means economic considerations will only be considered to the extent that they fit within the Act's framework. For example, section 14Z(1) retains the requirement for the Minister to decline applications if the proposed activity would be inconsistent with the purposes for which the land is held. <i>The absence of a hierarchy of functions does not undermine the primacy of conservation</i> • Even without an explicit hierarchy, the proposed economic development function will not override the rest of the Conservation Act. All the Department's functions must be exercised consistently with the Conservation Act and Schedule 1 legislation. • In practice, the addition of an economic development function will not displace the conservation purpose that is deeply embedded in the statutory framework. <i>Enabling the use and development of resources and land to the 'greatest extent practicable' does not mean all applications to operate on conservation land will be approved.</i> • The phrase "to the greatest extent practicable", along with the wording "subject to this Act" constrains when economic opportunities will be enabled by new section 6(ea). ○ Activities will only be enabled where they are consistent with other statutory provisions. ○ For example, in the concessions system, activities must meet the tests described in new section 14Z(1) to be considered within the extent 'practicable'.
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ATTENDEES	<u>Environmental Defence Society</u> ▪ Gary Taylor, Chief Executive ▪ Shay Schlaepfer, Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel <u>DOC Officials attending to support you</u> ▪ Bryan Dunne, Deputy Director-General Policy s9(2)(a) ▪ Kyle Grant, Senior Policy Advisor
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TALKING POINTS	• The Government wants to see an increased focus on economic activity on Conservation land where it is consistent with the Act's framework. • My intent is that the purpose-related changes will increase the emphasis on economic development but retain conservation as the primary purpose of the Conservation Act. In particular, the changes are intended to: ○ signal that economic opportunities, beyond just tourism, are possible on conservation land; and ○ support the economic opportunities enabled through the Bill and the National Policy Statement. The changes are intended to provide a strong legal basis for economic activities enabled through exemptions, pre-approvals, and 'pre-assessed' activities; and ○ underscore the regulatory responsibilities of the Department, including its role in providing for economic activity on conservation land. • My officials have advised me that, based on their current analysis, the drafting of the Bill will better recognise and enable the economic development aspects of my reforms, while retaining conservation as the primary purpose of the Conservation Act. • Select Committee is a valuable opportunity to test the proposed amendments to the purpose-related clauses, to make sure our policy intent is given effect to. I would welcome your submission.
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CONTACTS:

NAME	ROLE AT HUI	MOBILE NUMBER
Bryan Dunne	DOC support – DDG Policy	s9(2)(a)

Appendix 1 – Purpose related provisions in the Conservation Amendment Bill

6 Section 6 amended (Functions of Department)

(a)-(d) unchanged

The functions of the Department are to administer this Act and the enactments specified in [Schedule 1](#), and, subject to this Act and those enactments and to the directions (if any) of the Minister,—

- (a) to manage for conservation purposes, all land, and all other natural and historic resources, for the time being held under this Act, and all other land and natural and historic resources whose owner agrees with the Minister that they should be managed by the Department;
- (ab) to preserve so far as is practicable all indigenous freshwater fisheries, and protect recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats;
- (b) to advocate the conservation of natural and historic resources generally;
- (c) to promote the benefits to present and future generations of—
 - (i) the conservation of natural and historic resources generally and the natural and historic resources of New Zealand in particular; and
 - (ii) the conservation of the natural and historic resources of New Zealand's sub-antarctic islands and, consistently with all relevant international agreements, of the Ross Dependency and Antarctica generally; and
 - (iii) international co-operation on matters relating to conservation;
- (d) to prepare, provide, disseminate, promote, and publicise educational and promotional material relating to conservation:

Replace section 6(e) with:

- (e) to foster the use of land and other natural resources and historic resources managed by the Department for recreation to the extent consistent with their conservation;
- (ea) to recognise the economic opportunities that arise from the use and development of land and other natural resources and historic resources managed by the Department, and to enable this use and development to the greatest extent practicable under this Act and other enactments;
- (f) to advise the Minister on matters relating to any of those functions or to conservation generally;
- (g) every other function conferred on it by any other enactment.

(f)-(g) unchanged

13D National Conservation Policy Statement

- (1) The Minister may make a National Conservation Policy Statement.
- (2) The purpose of the NCPS is to—
 - (a) set policy relating to the Acts listed in [section 13A\(2\)](#);
 - (b) recognise the economic opportunities that arise from the use and development of land and other natural resources and historic resources managed by the Department, and to enable this use and development to the greatest extent practicable under those Acts.
- (3) To this end, the NCPS may—
 - (a) set policies relating to the Acts listed in [section 13A\(2\)](#);
 - (b) specify content or types of content that must be, may be, or must not be included in all or any of the following planning documents:
 - (i) area plans;
 - (ii) freshwater fisheries management plans;
 - (iii) sports fish and game management plans;
 - (iv) reserve management plans (*see* [section 41](#) of the Reserves Act 1977);
 - (c) provide additional information on how consistent an activity is with the purposes for which areas are held or managed;
 - (d) classify activities as pre-approved or exempt, in accordance with [section 13E](#).

13H Area plans

- (1) The Minister must make area plans.
- (2) The purpose of an area plan is to—
 - (a) provide regional-level and local-level policy relating to—
 - (i) the Acts listed in **section 13A(2)**; and
 - (ii) the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000; and
 - (b) recognise the economic opportunities that arise from the use and development of land and other natural resources and historic resources managed by the Department, and to enable this use and development to the greatest extent practicable under those Acts.
- (3) An area plan may—
 - (a) set objectives and policies relating to the Acts referred to in **subsection (2)(a)**; and
 - (b) provide information and context about the area as it relates to those Acts; and
 - (c) set out matters to be considered by the Department and the Minister in making decisions under those Acts.

Part 3B

Concessions

Subpart 1—Purpose and other preliminary matters

14 Purpose of this Part

- (1) The purpose of this Part is to provide a concession framework within which the Minister—
 - (a) may, in a way that recognises the economic opportunities that arise from the use and development of the natural resources and historic resources of conservation areas, make decisions enabling their use and development to the greatest extent practicable under this Act;
 - (b) may, in a way that recognises the economic opportunities that arise from the use and development of land managed by the Department under the Acts referred to in **subsection (2)**, make decisions enabling that land's use and development to the greatest extent practicable under those Acts.
- (2) The Acts are the National Parks Act 1980, the Reserves Act 1977, and the Wildlife Act 1953.
- (3) See section 49(1) of the National Parks Act 1980, section 59A(1) of the Reserves Act 1977, and section 14AA(1) of the Wildlife Act 1953, which apply this Part, with modifications, in order to authorise the granting of concessions under those Acts.

14Z Grounds for declining application*Mandatory grounds*

- (1) The Minister must decline an application if the proposed activity would be contrary to or inconsistent with—
 - (a) any provision of this Act or an Act listed in Schedule 1; or
 - (b) any secondary legislation made under this Act or an Act listed in Schedule 1, including the NCPS; or
 - (c) an area plan; or
 - (d) the purpose for which the land concerned is held.

Vic Cammell

From: Shay Schlaepfer <shay@eds.org.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 13 May 2026 12:51 pm
To: Tama Potaka (MIN)
Cc: Gary Taylor (EDS); Penny Nelson
Subject: Conservation Amendment Bill: Economic considerations
Attachments: Letter to Potaka 13 May 2026_Final.pdf

Dear Minister,

Please see **attached** letter.

Ngā mihi
Shay

Shay Schlaepfer
Chief Operating Officer



Environmental Defence Society

PO Box 91736 | Victoria Street West | Auckland 1142 | New Zealand

Tel: s9(2)(a) | Email: shay@eds.org.nz

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Vic Cammell

From: Intisar Muketar
Sent: Monday, 11 May 2026 3:29 pm
To: Dallas Kete
Cc: Kayla Wilson; Nicole Kunzmann; Sam Thomas; Ange Bell; Fiona Weightman; Bronwyn Saunders; Harry Evans; Briana Phillips
Subject: Re: Newsroom media query

Kia ora Dallas,

Please see response below. Let us know if you have any questions.

Journalist: Andrew Bevin, Newsroom

Deadline: Due to the office today

Query:

- *Whether CAB allows for economic factors to be considered in concession applications - previous guidance I've seen from DOC said it can't be considered in the 1987 Act. Considering the proposed new function of DOC being recognising the economic opportunities that arise from the use and development of land, I'm assuming that extends to concessions, but I can't really read into it from the bill.*

Response

- While ensuring conservation remains the Conservation Act's primary purpose, the Bill will amend the Act to more explicitly recognise and enable development on conservation land.
- In terms of the consideration of economic factors, the changes will send a strong signal that a development focus should be taken where there is discretion within the statutory tests to lawfully approve activities or require them to operate with conditions that better enable economic development while still ensuring conservation objectives are achieved. This includes concessions.
- These targeted changes strike the balance between protecting conservation values and supporting productive, well managed use of conservation land.

Context with more detail - not to be shared

- The proposed new section 6(ea) does apply to concessions, and to everything DOC does, subject to the Conservation Act and Schedule 1 Acts. See proposed new section 14 of the Bill (the replacement Part 3B is at clause 23 of the Bill) for more on concessions.
- New section 6(ea) means that economic factors can be considered to the extent that they relate to conservation. DOC should recognise the economic opportunities arising from the use and development of land, and enable this use and development to the greatest extent practicable under the rest of the Conservation Act and Schedule 1 Acts.
- The new section sends a stronger signal in the direction of recognising and enabling economic development, but does not mean economic development is prioritised over conservation, because the

rest of the Conservation Act and Schedule 1 Acts are focussed on conservation, and this proposed new provision is subject to the rest of the Act.

- For a specific example in the concessions context, if an activity is contrary to or inconsistent with the purposes for which land is held, this remains an activity that the Minister must decline (this is proposed section 14Z(1)(d) in the Bill, similar to current section 17U(3)).
- We note that economic benefits are currently considered, in a narrow way such as the benefits to conservation of concession fees or through our section 4 analysis.

Ngā mihi nui,
Intisar Muketar

Senior Media and Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Matua Pāpāho me te Whakapā
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

From: Dallas Kete s9(2)(a) [redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 8 May 2026 3:46 pm

To: Intisar Muketar <imuketar@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Kayla Wilson s9(2)(a) [redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>; Nicole Kunzmann s9(2)(a) [redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>;

Sam Thomas <samthomas@doc.govt.nz>; Ange Bell <abell@doc.govt.nz>; Fiona Weightman

<fweightman@doc.govt.nz>; Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Newsroom media query

Agree that is probably best course of action. Do you mind flicking a response through on Monday and I will get in touch with Andrew in the meantime.

Cheers
Dallas



Dallas Kete | Press Secretary | Office of Hon Tama Potaka

Minister of Conservation | Minister for Maori Crown Relations | Minister for Maori Development
Associate Minister of Housing | MP for Hamilton West

M: s9(2)(a) [redacted]

E: s9(2)(a) [redacted]@parliament.govt.nz

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Authorised by Hon Tama Potaka, Wellington

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From: Intisar Muketar <imuketar@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 8 May 2026 3:31 pm
To: Dallas Kete s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: Kayla Wilson s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; Nicole Kunzmann s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>; Sam Thomas <samthomas@doc.govt.nz>; Ange Bell <abell@doc.govt.nz>; Fiona Weightman <fweightman@doc.govt.nz>; Bronwyn Saunders <bsaunders@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fw: Newsroom media query

Kia ora Dallas,

Hope you're having a good day.

With the media request below, we think the answer should come from the office. We can draft an answer and get it to you guys on Monday if that's not too late.

Ngā mihi nui,
Intisar Muketar

Senior Media and Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Matua Pāpāho me te Whakapā
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

From: Andrew Bevin <andrew.bevin@newsroom.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 8 May 2026 2:22 pm
To: Media <media@doc.govt.nz>; Dallas Kete s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: Newsroom media query

Hi there, hope all is well - sent to both Minister Potaka and DOC as I am unsure who is best placed to answer.

I'm taking a quick look at the Conservation Amendment Bill and I'm curious about whether it allows for economic factors to be considered in concession applications - previous guidance I've seen from DOC said it can't be considered in the 1987 act.

Considering the proposed new function of DOC being recognising the economic opportunities that arise from the use and development of land, I'm assuming that extends to concessions, but I can't really read into it from the bill.

Could I please get some advice in that regard?

Thanks,

Andrew Bevin

Business Reporter

newsroom.

e: andrew.bevin@newsroom.co.nz p: s9(2)(a)

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Vic Cammell

From: Meredith Lawry
Sent: Friday, 5 June 2026 4:42 pm
To: Kayla Wilson
Cc: Nicole Kunzmann; Doc PrivateSecs; Ange Bell; Patrick West-Oram; Government Services; Manon Roehrig
Subject: ADVN-74: Initial briefing to Select Committee on Conservation Amendment Bill
Attachments: ADVN-74 Initial briefing to Select Committee on Conservation Amendment Bill.docx; ADVN-74 Attachment A - Powerpoint presentation.pptx

Kia ora Kayla,

Please find attached ADVN-74, which provides a copy of the initial briefing we are intending to present to the Select Committee about CAB (exact date of presentation is still tbc). Hard copies of this are coming in the Monday morning mailbag.

Thanks,
Meredith

Meredith Lawry (she/her)
Senior Policy Advisor | Kaitohutohu Matua Kaupapa Mahere
Conservation House | Whare Kaupaua Atawhai
Phone: s9(2)(a)

Vic Cammell

From: Government Services
Sent: Monday, 15 June 2026 12:45 pm
To: Doc PrivateSecs
Cc: Government Services; Manon Roehrig; Bryan Dunne; Ange Bell; Dasha Leonova; Patrick West-Oram; Tyler Hall; Ashleigh Moss Brown; Nicole Kunzmann; Policy Managers
Subject: 26-M-0014 / INVTP-1681 - Invitation evaluation - EDS Conference 25 June 2026
Attachments: 26-M-0014 – Meeting Memo, EDS Conference.pdf; 26-M-0014 – Meeting Memo, EDS Conference.docx

IN-CONFIDENCE

Kia ora private secretaries,

Please find advice attached.

Ngā mihi,
Tristan

Tristan Culpan
Government Services
Conservation House
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

IN-CONFIDENCE

**TALKING
POINTS**
(5 - 7 minutes)

Out of Scope

1. Supporting economic growth on conservation land

- The Conservation Act already provides for economic activity on Conservation land. More than 1600 businesses operate on conservation land, contributing tens of millions of dollars to local economies, and demand continues to grow.

- The Bill supports economic growth by providing greater clarity for those who want to invest on conservation land, while keeping conservation as the primary purpose.
- It streamlines a planning framework that is currently overly complex and fragmented.
- For example, the Routeburn Track spans two National Parks and operates under multiple plans with different limits for overnight guided walkers. This creates uncertainty about which limits apply.
- The Bill simplifies this by:
 - replacing the two existing general policies with a single National Conservation Policy Statement (NCPS)
 - replacing multiple layers of plans with a single set of clear, non-overlapping area plans.
- These planning documents will focus on clear objectives and regulatory settings and will make the system easier to understand and navigate. This will provide greater certainty for all users of the system, with clearer conservation outcomes.
- While decision-making on planning documents shifts to the Minister, the New Zealand Conservation Authority and conservation boards retain an important advisory role, ensuring that conservation voices and concerns continue to be reflected in the system.
- It also introduces an amenity areas tool for conservation land, allowing for targeted, well-managed development in high-use locations, while protecting more sensitive and pristine areas.

Out of Scope

3. Increased use and development of the conservation estate is a means of increasing revenue through concessions. Does the Conservation Amendment Bill strike the right balance between providing for greater economic opportunities in the conservation estate and protecting nature?

- The Conservation Amendment Bill is designed to enable appropriate use and development of conservation land while maintaining strong protections for its conservation values.
- It addresses long-standing inefficiencies in the planning and concessions system that have created unnecessary complexity and discouraged investment.
- By modernising the framework, the Bill streamlines processes, unlocks sustainable economic opportunities and generate additional revenue that can be reinvested into conservation.
- Importantly, conservation remains at the heart of the Bill — ensuring that increased use does not come at the expense of the natural values New Zealanders care deeply about.

Out of Scope