

# Waikato Conservation Management Strategy

VOLUME I  
Visions,  
Principles and  
Strategic  
Objectives  
1996-2006



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

# Waikato Conservation Management Strategy

Volume I : Vision, Principles and  
Strategic Objectives 1996 - 2006

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Kia whakakororia te Atua  
Kia mau nga rongo ki te whenua,  
Kia whakaaro pai ki nga tangata katoa

Ka mihi ki Te Arikinui, ki a Te Atairangikaahu  
Huri noa i tona whare; Me nga mihi ki te Kahui Ariki  
Kia tau nga manaakitanga ki runga i a ratou

Ka tangi hoki ki te pepeha i puta  
Ko Tainui te waka  
Ko Waikato te awa  
Ko Taupiri te maunga  
Ko Potatau Te Wherowhero te tangata

Ā, ka hoki mai ki a koe e te Arikinui me Tainui whānui:  
Ko Hauraki tēna,  
Ko Raukawa tēna,  
Ko Maniapoto tēna,  
Ko Tuwharetoa tēra;  
Me nga pikinga, hekenga o nga tahataha kei roto i a ratou.

Ka whakaea ake i roto i te mahara  
Kia hora te marino,  
Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana,  
Kia tere te karohipohi  
Ka oti ake; Tihei Mauriora.

*Glory To God,  
Peace on earth,  
Goodwill to all people*

*Greetings to Te Arikinui Te Atairangikaahu  
And her associate family.  
Greetings to her esteemed Elders,  
May they all be blessed and supported.*

*One is reminded of the ancestral aphorism  
Which binds us to - Tainui, the canoe  
Waikato, the river  
Taupiri, the sacred mountain,  
Potatau Te Wherowhero the ancestor  
from whom Te Arikinui and the Associates of the many hapu of Tainui descend*

*Hauraki lies to the Northeast;  
Raukawa lies to the South;  
Maniapoto lies to the Southwest;  
While Tuwharetoa lies beyond the southern boundaries of Raukawa  
All unified by the various lines of genealogy,  
That flow like the tributaries of their spiritual well spring.*

*We naturally conclude with the relevant phrases -  
May peace be widespread,  
May the sea glisten like the greenstone,  
May the shimmer of summer  
Ever dance across your pathway*

*So, we must remain, breathing the essence of life!*



## FOREWORD

This is the conservation management strategy for the Waikato Conservancy of the Department of Conservation. It has been prepared in accordance with Part IIIA of the Conservation Act 1987 (for a detailed description of the procedure refer to Appendix 1).

A conservation management strategy is a statutory document which implements general policies and establishes objectives for the integrated management of natural (including land and species) and historic resources. It sets long term management directions desired for the Conservancy over the next 10 years, and provides a framework for day to day conservation management by Conservancy staff, volunteers, associates and friends.

The conduct of some activities on land administered by the department can only take place by and in accordance with the conservation management strategy. Those preparing regional and district plans must have regard to any relevant conservation management strategy. It must be noted however, that a conservation management strategy is generally a statement of intent, and does not over-ride the provisions of legislation, general policy and agreements.

A draft conservation management strategy was publicly notified in September 1993, having been prepared following consultation with iwi, interested parties and a number of public workshops. Written submissions and public opinion were received from over 200 individuals and organisations, of which about a third discussed their views with representatives of the Waikato Conservation Board and the department at special meetings.

Having revised the draft in the light of these submissions and discussions, the department forwarded it, in May 1994, to the Waikato Conservation Board for its consideration. Amendments were requested by the Board and the agreed changes were made.

In November 1994, the Board recommended the revised draft to the New Zealand Conservation Authority for approval. The Authority consulted the Minister of Conservation and requested further amendments. The amendments were made and this conservation management strategy was subsequently approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority pursuant to Section 17F(p)(i) Conservation Act 1987 on 24 September 1996.



Sir Duncan McMullin  
Chairman, New Zealand Conservation Authority  
Wellington



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## PREFACE

We are all part of the natural systems of life on earth. We are not above nature, although we can escape some of the most severe assaults delivered by nature. We cannot live aside from nature, even though in our cities and mechanical processes, we may at times think we can.

We came, during our long ancestral journey from the past, from the roots of all life through to the complexities of today. We carry within ourselves reminders of those origins. Yet for all our intellect, we are unable to understand in full even the simplest processes of the natural world.

The air we breathe, the water we drink, the soil from whence comes our nourishment, the land which supports us, and the sea which washes our shores and which, ultimately, sources all life - all these can maintain their integrity without us, yet all suffer if we are careless with our activities.

It is in our own interests to take great care of this breast of nature which succours us. We are, lamentably, all too frequently guilty of violations against the very processes which can assure our survival.

As with our natural heritage, so with our culture. Throughout the region of the Conservancy there is evidence of a long chronicle of human habitation and conflict. Many events crucial to both Maori and Pakeha history of Aotearoa/New Zealand have occurred within the Conservancy. To lose our spiritual and cultural links with our past deprives us of our understanding of ourselves. The richness of life derives largely from the myriad of influences upon us that come from our histories, our languages, our treasures, taonga, waahi tapu, artefacts, historic sites old and recent, and our customary ways and attitudes. The Waikato Conservancy has a human story of more than one thousand years, with evidence of it visible or hidden in almost every part. There has to be a commitment to guarding these physical reminders of our past, because they are important in orienting us to that past.

In spite of the damage inflicted, the Conservancy still has within its bounds an extraordinary diversity of landscape, seascape, habitat, flora, fauna, human activity and culture.

Many unifying threads bind the Conservancy together. There are the rivers, particularly the Waikato and Waihou systems, running through the heartlands. There are the contrasting coastal margins, with dramatic black sands and wild cliffs along the exposed West Coast and, to the north east, the sandy bays and muddy estuaries, rocky foreshore and coastal bluffs of the Coromandel, fronted by scattered islands and backed by the steep spine of the peninsula.

Between the coasts and the rivers lie productive green pastures, often set starkly against the dark green of old, bush covered volcanoes and ancient hills. Wetlands and lakes, large and small, lie among the farms along the historic meanders of the Waikato River.

The dissected hills of the King Country almost close in the southern Conservancy boundaries. Rugged limestone country and its bluffs are honeycombed with caves. The southeast is remarkable for the majestic podocarp forests of Pureora.

The task set for us is a formidable one. And yet there is a rising public recognition of the importance of conserving and enhancing our natural and historic resources, be they in public or private hands. Each of us, in all walks of life, bears a responsibility towards conservation. The impacts of human presence and development have been immense. The unwitting devastation wrought by our forebears has left us with many species now extinct, many more on the brink of extinction, habitats depleted and decayed, and the natural diversity degraded. Historic sites have been lost or forgotten, ties with ancestral lands shorn away. In addition, legislation, which can at times be a help, at times a hindrance, has to be complied with. Resources and finances are constricted.

While protection is of the utmost importance, it has to be achieved hand in hand with public enjoyment. Many and varied activities are enjoyed on lands administered by the department. Particularly with the expected growth in tourism, adverse impacts on pure ecological values are inevitable. Care and wisdom will be needed to avoid damage and to prevent loving a place to death. However, setting our feet on the ground, in the bush, or along the beach, is how we gain our understanding, our sympathy, and our love for our heritage, along with a determination to protect.

The conservation management strategy sets out in broad and specific terms, the ways and means of protecting and enhancing this precious resource. It establishes a vision of the ultimate destination we seek, so that the measures taken always move towards that destination. In awe of the complexity and beauty of the natural world, and of the values and fragility of our cultural heritage, we must show caution, humility and respect.

This, the first conservation management strategy for the Waikato Conservancy, endeavours to face reality and to lay down policies that will enable the land administered by the department to be managed effectively according to our kaupapa.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David Lawrie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Lawrie" clearly distinguishable.

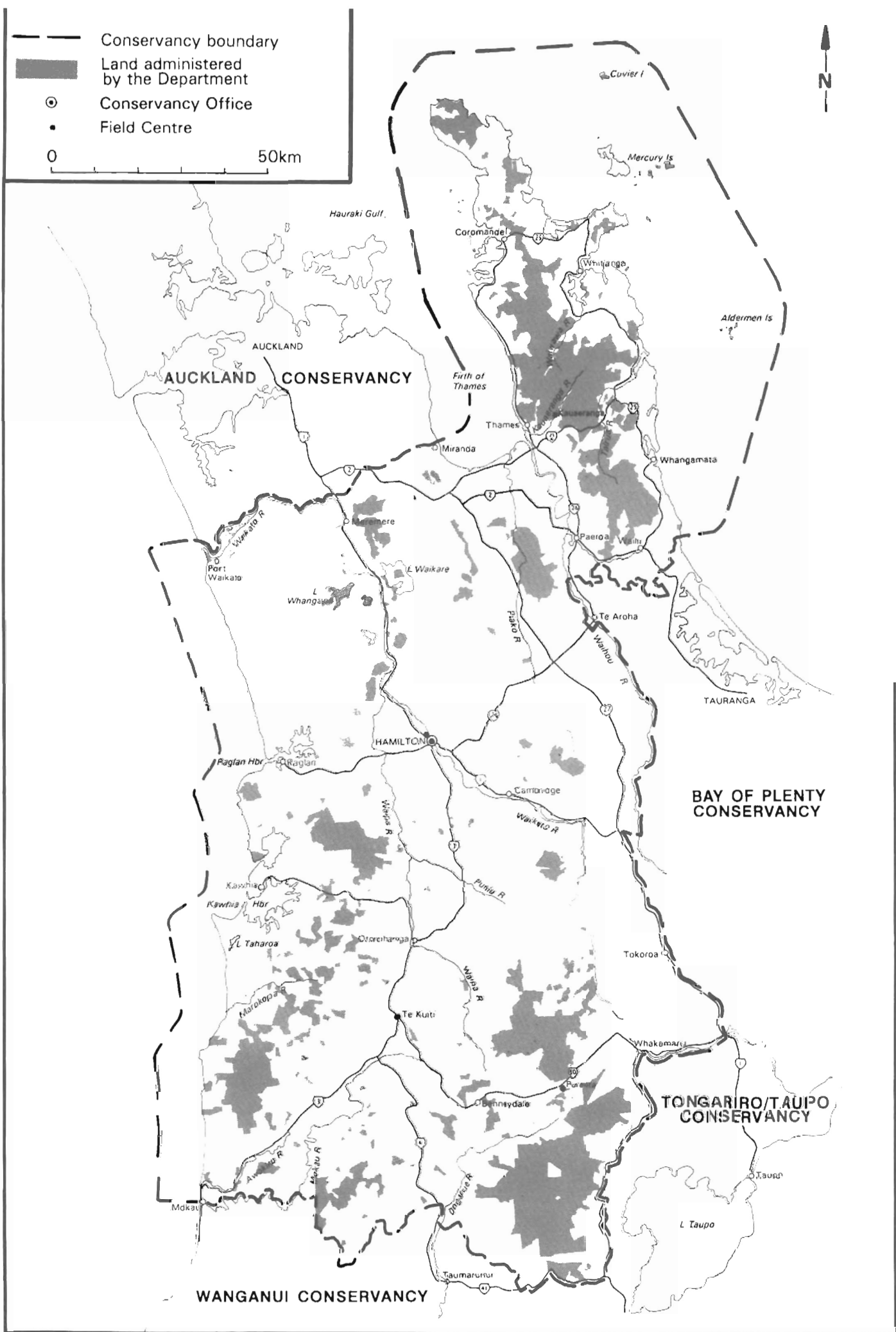
David Lawrie  
Chairman  
WAIKATO CONSERVATION BOARD

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many people have contributed to the preparation of this Conservation Management Strategy and thanks are extended to all concerned. In particular:

- ◆ Staff of the Waikato Conservancy and Head Office of the Department.
- ◆ The Waikato Conservation Board.
- ◆ Hapu and Iwi authorities from the rohe of Waikato, Hauraki, Maniapoto, Raukawa and Tuwharetoa.
- ◆ All those who made submissions and comments on earlier discussion papers and drafts or attended workshops and meetings.





*Ma te whakaaromai ka hanga te huarahi;*

*Ma te matauranga ka u ai.*

*Wise counsel will create the dreams;*

*Knowledge will realise the visions.*

## CHAPTER 1 - Introduction

---



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 A CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (CMS) DEFINED

Section 17D of the Conservation Act 1987 (as introduced by the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990) requires the department to prepare conservation management strategies for all conservation areas and natural and historic resources within its care.

The conservation management strategy (CMS) is a document which spells out the department's functions under the Conservation Act and does not necessarily tie in with the functions of the Minister of Conservation under other Acts. In particular, the Minister's functions under the Resource Management Act 1991 are not subject to this document. The purpose of a conservation management strategy, as provided by Section 17D(1), is to implement general policies and establish objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources, including any species, managed by the department under the:

Wildlife Act 1953

Marine Reserves Act 1971

Reserves Act 1977

Wild Animal Control Act 1977

Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978

National Parks Act 1980

Conservation Act 1987

New Zealand Walkways Act 1990,

and for recreation and tourism and other conservation purposes.

The Waikato Conservation Management Strategy:

- Covers all of the land, marine areas to the territorial sea limit and historic resources administered by the department in the Waikato Conservancy, including conservation areas, reserves, wildlife refuges, marine reserves, walkways, and historic sites and features within the area shown by Map 1.
- Covers all aspects of the department's work, including historic site protection, species protection, pest control, statutory planning and public education and awareness.
- Indicates desired outcomes for the protection of the natural and historic values of areas not directly managed by the department, such as lands administered by other agencies or in private ownership. Some departmental functions, such as species protection, fire prevention and pest control work, also involve areas not administered by the department.



- Gives effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in the legislation administered by the department, and provides the basis for a partnership between the Conservancy and iwi.
- Provides the basis for working relationships with other agencies, and the wider community.
- Provides for public participation in the management of natural and historic resources.

A conservation management strategy sets out to answer the following questions:

- What are the department's conservation goals and objectives for the next 10 years?
- How do we achieve them?
- How do we know if and when they have been achieved?

It is a guide for both managers and the public about what the department intends to do. It will help to co-ordinate and integrate the department's functional activities, provide a means for resolving conflicts, make the department accountable for its activities and decisions, and in association with corporate and business planning, guide the allocation of departmental resources.

**The Waikato Conservation Management Strategy** covers the area shown by Map 1 and includes some 2,249,500 ha and approximately 1100 km of coast. About 270,000 ha (approximately 12%) of this area is administered by the Department of Conservation.

The area of the Conservancy is physically, ecologically, socially and economically diverse. It can be divided into five different sub-regions, as shown in Map 2 and described in detail in Chapters 3 to 7. Each of these sub-regions is characterised by different conservation issues, opportunities and challenges. The differences mean that conservation management objectives and priorities vary from one part of the Conservancy to another.

Culturally, the Conservancy falls mainly within the rohe of the Tainui waka, however, the tribal diversity within Waikato, Raukawa, Maniapoto and Hauraki is also recognised. The Conservancy also includes part of the territory of Ngati Tuwharetoa.

The statutory Maori Trust Boards within the Conservancy are the Tainui Maori Trust Board, Raukawa Maori Trust Board, Maniapoto Maori Trust Board, Hauraki Maori Trust Board and Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board. Map 3 gives a general indication of the Trust Board boundaries.

**The process for preparing a conservation management strategy** is set out in the Conservation Act. (See Appendix 1). Briefly, the Act requires that a CMS be prepared in consultation with the Waikato Conservation Board and "such other persons or organisations, as the Director-General [of the department] considers practicable and appropriate", and then notified and approved in accordance with a detailed process of public submissions, hearings, and consultations. Final approval is by the New Zealand Conservation Authority

after receiving comments and recommendations from the Minister of Conservation.

## 1.2 USING THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The two volumes of this document are designed to provide both a broad, long term picture of what the Department of Conservation intends to do in the Waikato Conservancy, and enough of the finer details to allow any member of the public to know what is likely to happen on a particular piece of land administered by the department.

Volume I sets out the broad picture. The vision and principles of Chapter 2 are translated into objectives and implementation measures in subsequent chapters, based on the description of places and issues in Chapters 3 to 7. These in turn provide a basis for the finer details of Volume II, which sets out objectives and implementation measures suggested by the department for particular areas of land. For a full understanding of any specific objective, topic or area of land, therefore, the document needs to be read as a whole. A cross referencing system in Volume I and an index system for both volumes help to make these inter-relationships clearer.

The two volumes of this conservation management strategy thus state objectives which have some statutory weight. The explanatory notes have been included for guidance. They are not in substitution of the actual objectives of the conservation management strategy.

In addition, two other documents are of major relevance: one is a background report entitled *Waikato Conservancy, its Resources and Conservation Issues*. The other is the annual Waikato Conservancy Business Plan. These documents may be viewed at the Waikato Conservancy office, Private Bag 3072, 18 London Street, Hamilton.

## 1.3 RELATING THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY TO OTHER PLANNING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

The department is involved in many other planning activities apart from the CMS. The relationships between these various plans is shown in Figure 1 and includes the following:

**Functional plans** are specific to a particular type of activity, such as visitor services, public awareness, historic resources, weeds, wild animal control, or the recovery of a threatened species. The plans are non-statutory documents to provide guidance for management activities at a detailed level. They are reviewed from time to time, with public input as required.

**Conservation Management Plans** implement conservation management strategies. They establish detailed objectives for the integrated management of

natural and historic resources within a specific area. They apply only where specified by this document (Section 17E (2) Conservation Act) or where the Minister of Conservation requires their preparation (Section 17E (3) Conservation Act). They involve formal public notification and opportunities for public participation. Section 9.12 of this CMS indicates the specific areas of the Conservancy for which a CMP will be completed.

This Strategy replaces all existing management plans prepared under Section 41 Reserves Act 1977 or Section 26 and 63C Forests Act 1949 in respect of land administered by the department. (The Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Management Plan made under the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Act 1967 is now a conservation management plan for the purposes of the Conservation Act 1987).

**Operational plans** are working plans to guide the operational activities of a particular programme. They are normally informal and “in-house”, but can be subject to inspection through the Business Planning procedure.

**Conservation Action Plans** involve areas of natural or physical resources, which can fall within both private ownership and the public estate. They comprise an assessment of the conservation resources and values, threats to those values, and objectives and policies for management of the area or resource. They differ from a conservation management plan in that they may involve private landowners or other agencies and are not statutorily binding. They allow for greater informality and flexibility than a conservation management plan and are more suitable for co-ordinated management of resources that are multi-owned. Conservation Action Plans proposed for the Waikato Conservancy include the Waikato wetlands and the King Country caves & karst resources.

**Business Plans** are prepared annually, as required by the Public Finance Act 1989. The Business Plan outlines the conservation programmes proposed by the Conservancy for the financial year. It is guided by the objectives, policies and priorities of the CMS but is also subject to government priorities, the availability of resources, and natural events and contingencies such as cyclones, floods, fire and the introduction or spread of pests and weeds.

The Business Plan must be able to respond to shifts in government priorities and to unforeseen changes of circumstance, but it must also address the objectives and targets specified by the CMS. Any significant departures will require amendment of the CMS in accordance with Section 17 (I) of the Conservation Act 1987.

The department's work comprises outputs (work which directly contributes to the outcomes which the Government is seeking) and inputs (work which only indirectly contributes to outcomes, such as management of the computer network). Outputs are organised for business planning purposes into 10 output classes covering in broad terms; policy and advice, conservation outreach, conservation management, public involvement and enjoyment.

Approximately two thirds of the Conservancy's budget in 1995/96 was committed to expenditures of a fixed nature. These included salaries, vehicle running costs, departmental accommodation, office overheads, corporate services, the performance of statutory responsibilities and basic land management and administration. The remaining third was available for

discretionary expenditure, on recreation, protection of natural and historic resources and conservation advocacy, albeit with some constraints imposed by a need to meet national priorities for each output class.

To help determine the priorities for distributing this discretionary income, the Conservancy has developed a rational system of considering all areas of conservation value (primarily but not exclusively land managed by the department), and assessing their need for management action. The system, which will continue to evolve, involves an assessment of biodiversity assets, threats to those assets, the practical achievability of action to counter those threats, and the risks of non-achievability, including the likely public reaction of not doing something.

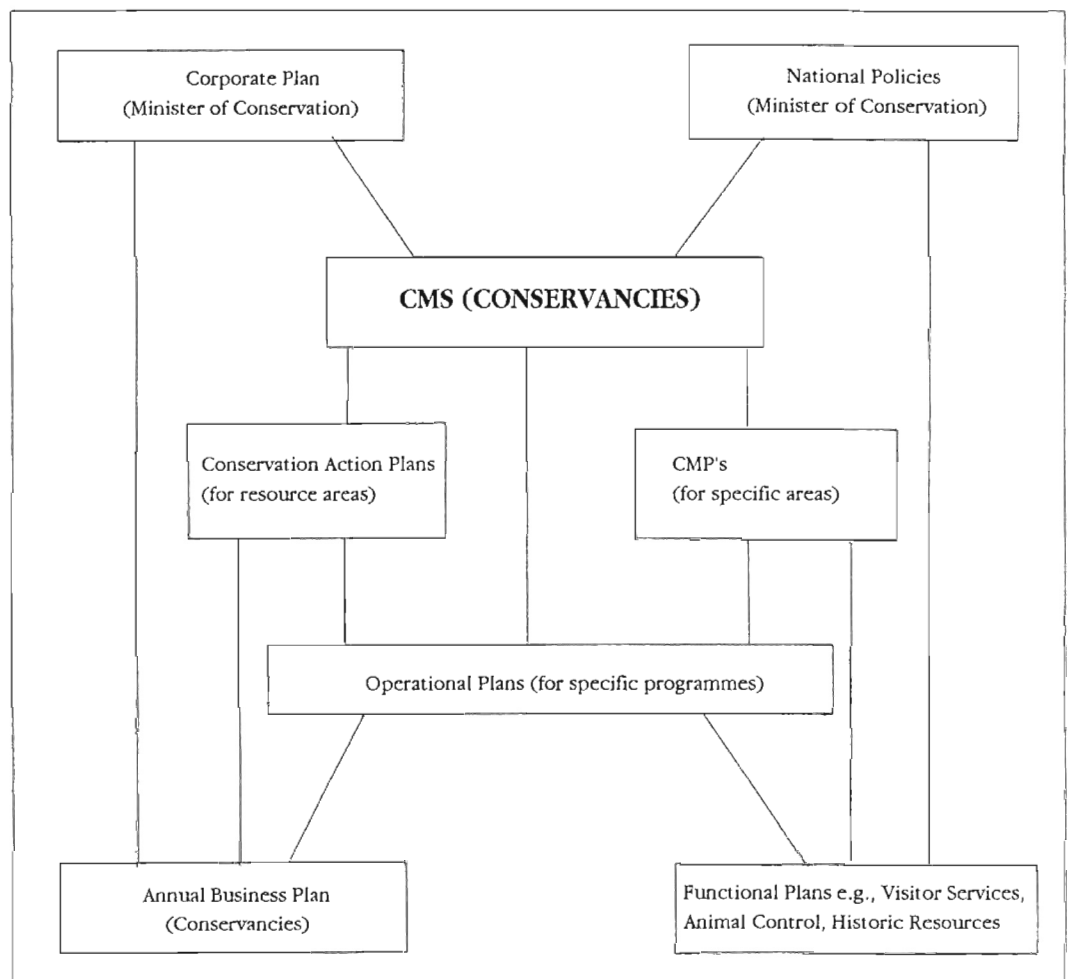


Figure 1 : Relationships between plans

## 1.4 IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGY

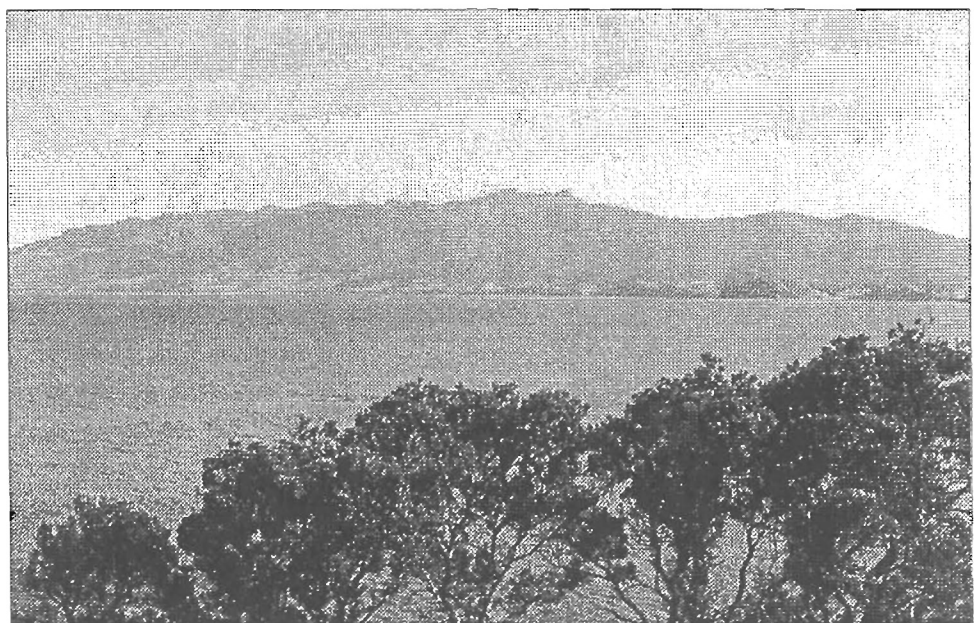
This Strategy was prepared by the Waikato Conservancy in association with the Waikato Conservation Board.

Preparation of the draft involved three rounds of public consultation as well as effort to include a Maori perspective. The public consultation involved an initial series of public meetings, discussion with small groups, submissions and incorporation of material from those submissions, followed by a further round of submissions and meetings in response to a first draft and associated pamphlet. In September 1993 the revised draft was then publicly notified and 146 written submissions received, with meetings to hear those who wished to speak to their submissions. Changes were made to the publicly notified draft in response to those submissions.

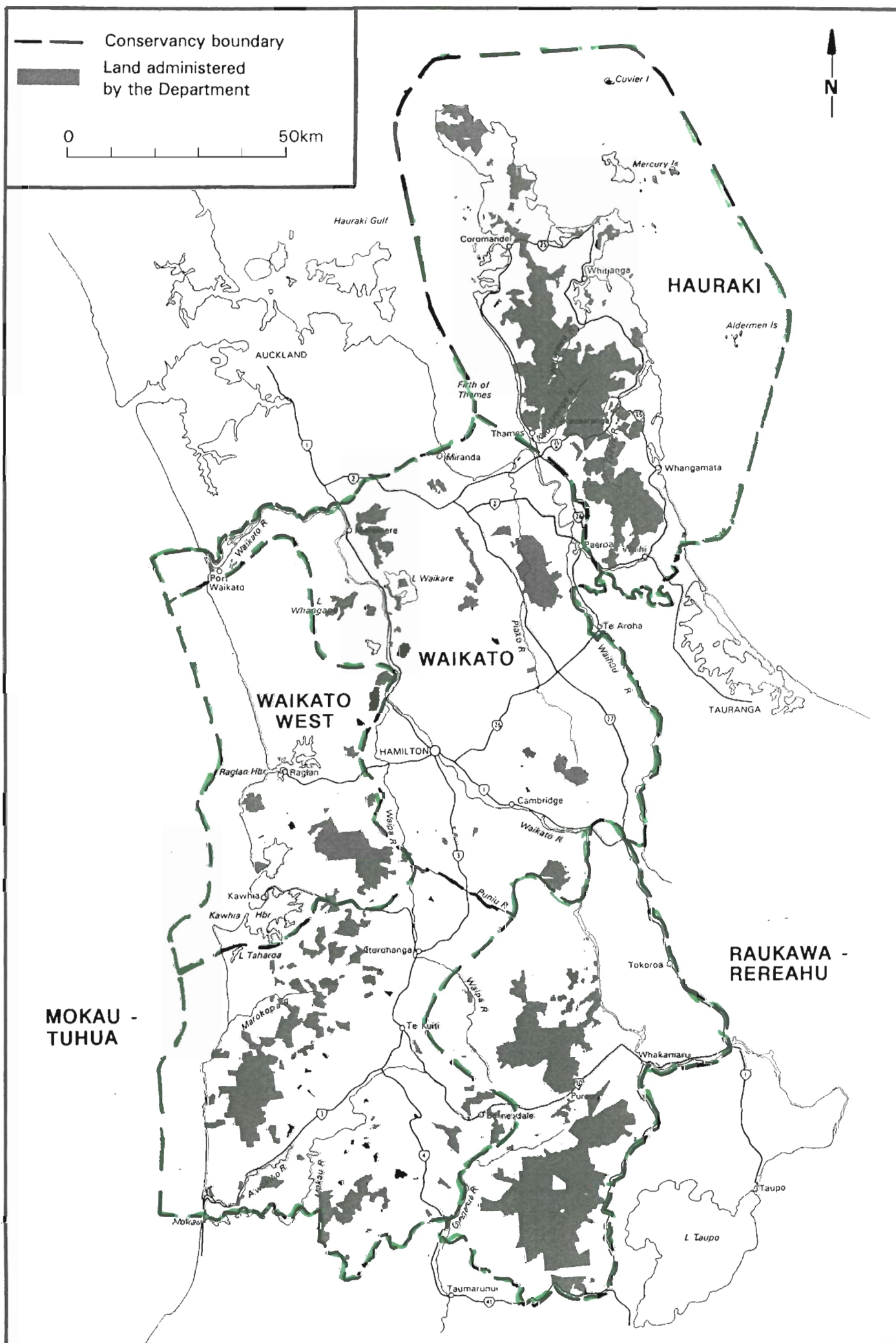
The revised draft was endorsed by the Waikato Conservation Board and recommended for approval to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA). The NZCA and the Minister of Conservation then considered the draft and their recommendations were incorporated into the document. The CMS became operative after final approval by NZCA on 24 September 1996.

The Strategy has a lifespan of 10 years (i.e. until 2006). Under Section 6M (c) of the Conservation Act 1987, one of the functions of the Waikato Conservation Board is *"to advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies."* A process will be set in place to enable the Board to review progress in achieving the strategic objectives and implementation provisions contained in this document. The Annual Business Plan, which determines the allocation of funds and staff time on a yearly basis, will be the key to implementation of the Strategy. Any significant departures from the objectives of this CMS will need to be justified. The justification will need to persuade the Minister as well as members of the Waikato Conservation Board and the NZCA.

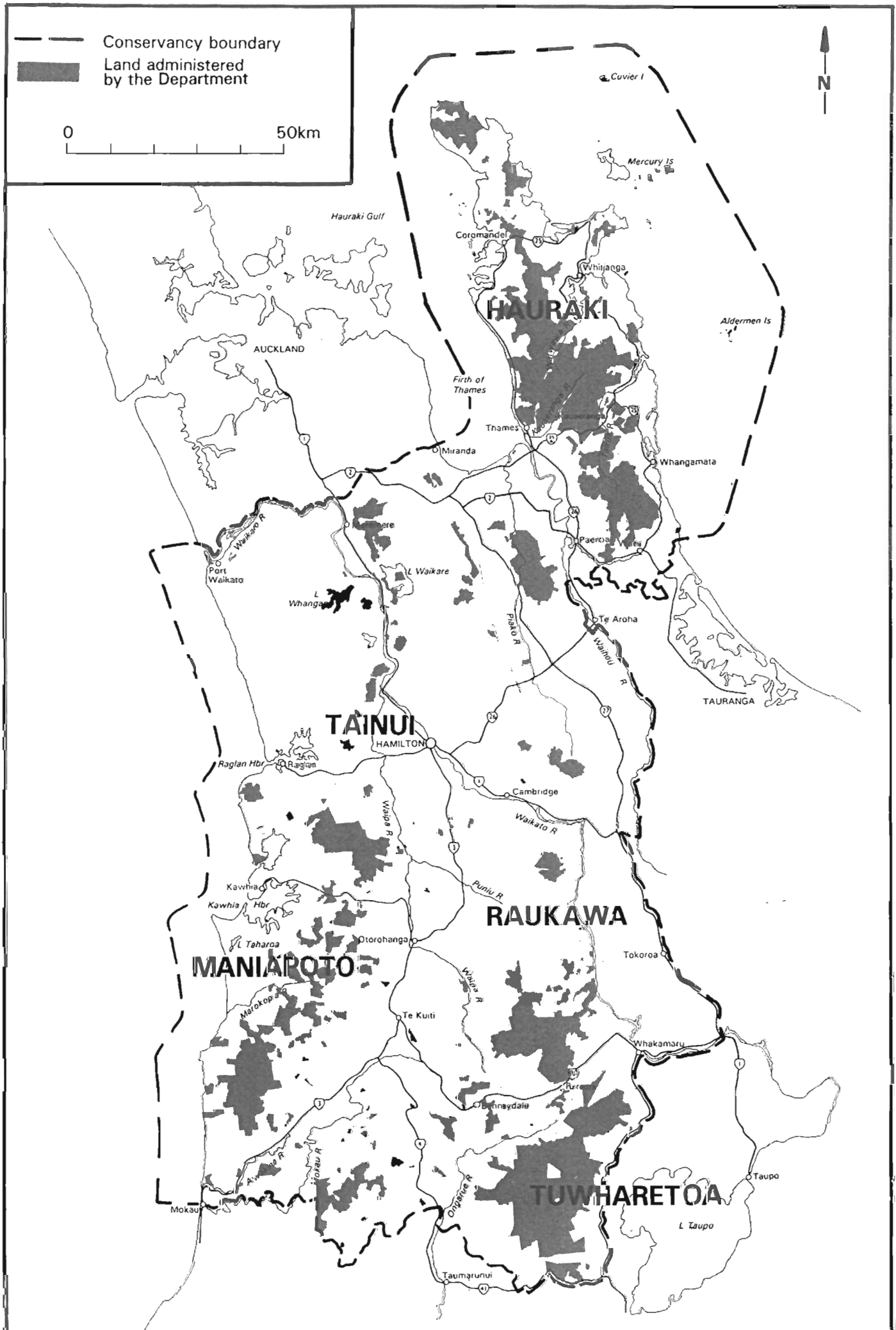
Any significant changes of direction, objectives or priorities will require a formal process of change to the Strategy as set out in Section 17H of the Conservation Act 1987.



Moehau Range from  
Coromandel Coast Road







**STATUTORY MAORI TRUST BOARD AREAS  
WITHIN WAIKATOCONSERVANCY**





*Kia mau tonu ki nga tikanga o nehera.  
Hei whakau i te taba wairua, i te taba tinana;  
Kia nobo kotahi ai te katoa, te tangata me te kararehe,  
Tena ki tona ake, tena ki tona ake tuohutanga.  
Hold fast to the traditional principles,  
To maintain physical and spiritual well-being,  
Within all living species, both animal and human;  
Each respecting one's own, and each other's environment*

## CHAPTER 2 - A Vision for Conservation in the Waikato Conservancy

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## 2. A Vision for Conservation in the Waikato Conservancy

### 2.1 UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY/KAUPAPA

See: 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4

2.2.5, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.4,

2.3.5, 2.3.7, 8.1.1, 8.2.2,

8.2.3, 8.3.1, 8.3.2, 8.4.1, 8.5,

8.6, 9.1.1, 10.1.1, 10.6, 11.8

To conserve the natural and historic resources of the Conservancy for the purpose of preserving their intrinsic values, providing for their appreciation and enjoyment by the public, safeguarding the options of future generations; and in a manner that gives effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

*Ko ta te Papa Atawhai, huri noa i a Tainui waka, me ona webewehenga, he ata whakaaute i a Papatuanuku, kia u tonu ai tona whakauitanga hei whangai i a tini i a mano, huri noa, mo ake tonu atu.*

*The Conservancy is obliged to nurture and protect Mother Earth, so that she may provide the spiritual and physical sustenance for the survival of the myriads who depend on her.*

#### EXPLANATION

*To discharge this mission, the conservation management strategy must encompass ideals and a vision of how things could be in a generation or more hence. Although the ultimate may never be achieved, the journey must always be toward this visionary destination.*

### 2.2 VISION

#### 2.2.1

See: 8.2.2, 8.2.3, 8.3.1, 8.3.2,

8.4.1, 11.1.1, 11.3.1, 11.3.2,

11.3.3, 11.5.1, 11.8, 11.8.1, 11.8.3

A society committed to its own long term wellbeing and development, recognising that this depends on maintaining a healthy environment, where other life forms can co-exist in their natural habitats, and recognising the vital role played by natural ecosystems in maintaining climate, fresh air, and clean, available water.

*Kia mau ki nga tikanga o nehera, Hei whakau i te tahe wairua, i te tahe tinana; Kia noho kotahi ai te katoa, te tangata me te kararehe, Tena ki tona ake tuohutanga, tena ki tona ake tuohutanga.*

*This means that we need to hold fast to the traditional principles, to maintain physical and spiritual well-being, within all living species, both animal and human; each respecting one's own, and each other's environment.*

#### EXPLANATION

*Human survival depends on the continued working of a complex web of living beings. This web of life includes all plants and animals as well as the most humble bacteria, algae and fungi. These life forms interact with each*

*other and with air, water, and soil, to form ecosystems. As ecosystems they convert sunlight into plant food, thence into animal food and finally they recycle the wastes from living processes back into the soil. Ecosystems depend for their health on the quality of air, water, and soil, and on the maintenance of their interactions with the many components of the environment. Human development, and human physical and spiritual welfare is no less dependent on the health of air, water, and soil, and/or the interaction of living forms. Damage to these systems imposes social, economic and ecological costs. By protecting natural systems we not only protect human welfare in the present but our options for the future, and the future of our children.*

*Our vision is that attitudes toward sustainability of living forms and their interaction as healthy ecosystems would be demonstrated in the same way that society presently recognises the need for, and insists upon, provision of social services such as health, welfare, and education.*

### 2.2.2

**An effective partnership between the department and tangata whenua with shared goals for protecting and managing natural and historic resources on land administered by the department.**

*Kia mabitahi te Papa Atawhai me nga iwi, i raro i te kaupapa kotahi hei whakahaere, hei tiaki, hei pupuru i nga taonga tuku iho, i nga whenua kua riro i raro i te oritetanga o te Papa Atawhai.*

*The obligation is to consummate an effective partnership between the Conservancy and the different subtribes with shared goals for protecting and carefully managing the natural and historical resources on lands administered by the department.*

#### EXPLANATION

*The department needs to have co-operative working relationships with many individuals, groups and agencies, but the relationship with tangata whenua is a special one. Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 requires that the Act "be interpreted and administered so as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi".*

*The Court of Appeal has expressed the view that the Treaty signified a partnership between Pakeha and Maori requiring each to act toward the other reasonably and with the utmost good faith. This concept of partnership is an overarching principle.*

### 2.2.3

**The natural resources of the Waikato have intrinsic worth. The vision is of a community taking pride in, and respecting its natural heritage, that recognises the distinctive characters of the Waikato landscapes, their landforms, geology, fauna and flora, and that is actively involved in their practical management.**

*He nui nga taonga kei roto i te rohe o Tainui; taha moana, ki uta, nga maunga, me nga puke, nga roto me nga awa, nga ngahere me nga whenua whakatupu kai; hei pupuru kia tika ai te noho, na te mea i tika te tiaki.*

*Tainui region is rich in resources; both marine and on land; both mountains and hills; both lakes and rivers; both forest and cultivations. All must be preserved and managed productively.*

**EXPLANATION:**

*The Conservancy has an extraordinary diversity of landscape, seascape, landforms, geology, habitat, plants and wildlife. The Strategy aims to involve the whole community in promoting the conservation of this rich heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

**2.2.4**

See: 2.3.3,2.3.4,8.6,8.6.1,  
8.6.2,8.6.3,8.6.4,8.6.5,  
11.1.1,11.3.2,11.3.3

**A community valuing and seeking to conserve its cultural heritage, and respecting the cultural heritage of all its members.**

*Hei pupuru ma tena ma tena, hei taonga tuku iho ki nga uri whakatupu.*

*Each to maintain and manage the bequests, for the benefit of succeeding generations.*

**EXPLANATION**

*Cultural resources include historic places (pre-historic, historic, and industrial) and Maori traditional sites, including sites of spiritual significance. They help to provide emotional roots and deeper understanding of ourselves as a people, our relationships to each other, and our relationships to the natural environment. Maori, Pakeha, and other ethnic groups have equal need to feel commitment to the land and nation of New Zealand/Aotearoa. All need roots. All need to feel that New Zealand/Aotearoa is their home. All have historic and cultural sites which they hold precious. To live in harmony as a society we need to respect these feelings and respect the cultural and historical resources which different groups hold precious.*

**2.2.5**

See: 2.1,2.2.3,2.2.4,  
2.3.4,9.2.1,10.1.1,10.2.2,  
10.2.3,10.2.5

**Accepting that New Zealanders have a right of access to their natural and cultural heritage, to the extent consistent with its conservation, to fulfil spiritual and physical needs.**

*He taonga hei pupurutanga ma te katoa, mo nga whakatupuranga a tona wa, kia rite ki te ngunguru a Papatuanuku.*

*A valued bequest that is protected and handed down to posterity, who should be sensitive to the subtle moods of Mother Earth and respond accordingly.*

*Conservation lands form a large part of the public estate and contain much of the nation's heritage.*

*Public enjoyment of the land administered by the department is important because, without a wide understanding of and sympathy for conservation, there will be no public commitment to its protection. Increasingly, the public will be called upon for active voluntary involvement in conservation and they will expect to have the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of conservation. Guidance through education and knowledge will increase their use and enjoyment of this heritage, and encourage them to actively participate in conservation with a strengthened commitment.*

#### 2.2.6

<p><b>A department that is dedicated, efficient, and effective in managing the conservation resources in its care, and in its advocacy of conservation generally.</b></p>
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*Kia u tonu nga kaiwhakahaere o Te Papa Atawhai ki nga tikanga, hei hapai i te taonga me ona hua, i nga wa katoa.*

*Department of Conservation managers will commit themselves to the care and upkeep of Mother Earth and her resources for the benefit of succeeding generations.*

#### EXPLANATION

*Because of the many pressures and trends against conservation of natural and historic resources, the status quo is one which results in gradual degradation and loss of these resources. For any organisation there is always a temptation to settle for the easy options, and to stick with the comfortable and familiar. Therefore, we must consciously strive to remain efficient and effective, to look for improvements in the means to achieve our objectives, and to look for effective ways of helping and motivating other groups and agencies to conserve our common heritage.*

*The department will seek to maintain an accurate and comprehensive information base, will rigorously assess priorities during its annual business planning round; will strive to hold to its business planning objectives unless there are major conservation reasons to the contrary, and will strive to make sure that the conservation projects undertaken will provide the greatest conservation gains in the long term. Programmes will be undertaken only where they will significantly assist the achievement of a conservation gain.*

### 2.3 KEY PRINCIPLES

The department's responsibilities within the Waikato include management of more than 270,000 ha of public land. It also has responsibility, with Environment Waikato, for protecting coastal marine areas under the Resource Management Act 1991 and is responsible for protecting marine mammals and indigenous species, both terrestrial and aquatic. The department is also responsible for protecting historic sites and buildings on land administered by it.

The department may also, under the Conservation Act 1987, advocate conservation generally, foster the use of natural and historic resources for recreation, and allow their use for tourism.

In accordance with Section 4 of the Conservation Act the department has a responsibility to involve iwi in conservation management in a manner that gives effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

In accordance with Section 6 of the Conservation Act, the department has a special relationship with the Waikato Conservation Board. The Board is an independent body appointed by the Minister of Conservation (following public nominations) for a three year term. It has a role in conservation planning, policy and management advice to the department.

In short, the department has wide responsibilities in the conservation of natural and historic resources, whether on private or public land. This conservation management strategy identifies a series of key principles for management which provide the basis for establishing priorities.

These principles are:

### 2.3.1

See: 2.1,3.5,3.6,3.7,3.9,  
3.10,4.5,5.5,6.5,7.6,,2.2,  
8.2,3,8.3.1,8.3.2,8.4.1,8.5,8.6

<b>Highest priority will be given to protecting threatened indigenous natural resources and threatened significant historic places.</b>
---

#### EXPLANATION

*These resources include threatened native plants, animals, ecosystems and habitats; and threatened landscapes, geological sites and historic places that are significant. These, once lost, are gone forever.*

*In relation to natural resources, namely plants, animals and ecosystems, the aim will be not so much protection of individuals but to maintain viable populations of plants and animals in their appropriate habitat. Since viable populations of plants and animals depend on the continued healthy functioning of ecosystems, the overall emphasis must be on maintaining, as much as possible, the continued healthy functioning of native ecosystems - wetland ecosystems, forest ecosystems, marine and freshwater ecosystems, particularly those which, separately or together, support an abundance and/or diversity of native species. Protection of such species and ecosystems is vital for preserving biodiversity.*

*Historic resources within this category are those which have unique significance for cultural or scientific reasons.*

*Protection of natural and historic resources of this nature will take priority over areas that do not have these resources or are of lesser value (for example, they support only a few remaining individuals of an endangered species, or they have already been irreparably damaged).*

### 2.3.2

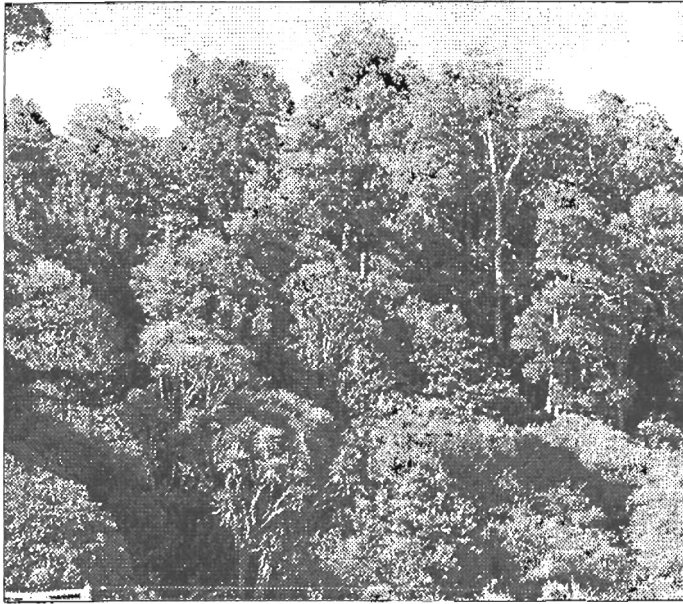
See: 2.1,3,8.3,10,5.5,  
6.5,7.5,8.2,2,8.3.1,  
8.4.1,8.5,8.6

<b>High priority will be given to conserving a representative range of historic, landscape, geological and soil resources and of indigenous biological resources, as a means of conserving a representative range of historic resources and biological diversity.</b>
---



## EXPLANATION

*Many indigenous ecosystems, species and biological communities within the Conservancy cannot presently be considered unique, rare or immediately threatened but nevertheless merit high priority. They include areas that are exceptionally fine examples of ecosystems that are elsewhere widespread but degraded, for example, parts of Pureora forest, which have experienced less degradation from logging and the effect of browsing animals than similar forest elsewhere, and Whangamarino Wetland, which retains a high diversity of wetland habitats and wetland species. They also include habitats which were once widespread but have become regionally rare or non-existent, for example, lowland and coastal forest. They include resources which are not yet rare or threatened but show signs of long-term decline, for example, the pohutukawa, the kereru (native NZ pigeon), and the two native species of tuna (eel). Protection of these resources helps retain biological diversity on a regional basis over the long term.*



Entrance to Totara Walk,  
Pureora Conservation Park

*In relation to landforms and geological resources, the goal is to protect the best representative examples of the broad range of landforms, geological features and soil types that together document the history of the Waikato Region over the last 200 million years.*

### 2.3.3

Give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
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See: 2.1,2.2.3,3.6,3.7,  
3.8,3.10,4.5,5.5,6.5,7.5,  
8.2.4,8.3.4,8.4.3,8.5.5,  
8.6.5,9.14.1,10.3.1

## EXPLANATION

*Tangata whenua and the department have a common goal in the protection and management of natural and historic resources although the methods of achieving this may differ.*

*Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 states that the Act "...shall so be interpreted and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi". Section 4 recognises the central importance of the Treaty of Waitangi to the conservation of natural and historic resources. This is appropriate considering that the mandate to enact the legislation is derived from the Treaty itself. The Treaty principles are of primary significance in that they set out the manner in which both the department and tangata whenua should conduct their relationship.*

*The department recognises that the Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document which sets out the relationship between the Crown and Maori. The department also recognises that the Treaty principles describe that dynamic relationship between the Treaty partners, recognising that the Treaty is a living document.*

#### 2.3.4

**Involvement and education of people in the conservation task.**

##### **EXPLANATION**

*Conservation problems are mostly caused by people. It is people who have introduced the weeds and pests, people who drain the wetlands and cut down the forests, and people who decide whether or not to protect our remaining natural and historic resources.*

*People need to be involved in conservation of land administered by the department because it is public land and because their involvement is necessary to bring about long term change for protection of our natural and historic heritage on both public and private land. The department acknowledges that it has a special responsibility to be facilitative and to provide leadership or assistance if called upon.*

#### 2.3.5

**Free public access on, to and through land administered by the department consistent with statutory and legal requirements and the protection of natural and historic resources.**

##### **EXPLANATION**

*Land administered by the department is subject to specific legislation (e.g., the Reserves Act 1977, the Conservation Act 1987, the Wildlife Act 1953) which specifies rights and restrictions on public access and the circumstances and procedures for limiting public access. Most of the land administered by the Waikato Conservancy is open to the public. The public will continue to have unrestricted access on, to and through land administered by the department except in the following circumstances:*

- *the land is subject to a legislative status that prohibits or limits public access, for example Nature Reserves and Wildlife Sanctuaries (all the islands administered by the department in the Mercury and Aldermen Island group) and scientific reserves (e.g., Aotea Scientific Reserve and Mahoenui Giant Weta Scientific Reserve);*
- *unrestricted public access is likely to threaten the values for which the land is held and administered, for example the wildlife within a wildlife management reserve such as Mapara Wildlife Management Reserve, or caves in Hollow Hill and other Scenic Reserves;*
- *the land is subject to a concession or other legal agreement restricting access which has involved due statutory procedures;*
- *unrestricted public access is likely to cause irretrievable damage or destruction to regionally, nationally or internationally significant landforms or geological features or significant historic places, or put at risk the viability of a population of rare or threatened indigenous species, or the viability of a regionally or nationally significant indigenous plant or animal community or indigenous ecosystem.*

- *the area is a site of particular spiritual/cultural significance to tangata whenua, in which case voluntary avoidance of the area by the general public will be sought.*

### 2.3.6

See: 2.1,2.2.1,2.2.4,  
9.6.1,9.8.1,10.2.5,10.5.1,  
10.6,10.6.3

**Protective and caring management of land administered by the department.**

#### EXPLANATION

*Management in the context of this conservation management strategy means management in a way that is consistent with the protection of natural and historic resources. As a principle it recognises that conservation is not synonymous with “lock up”, but it is synonymous with care and understanding of the land and the natural and physical systems and structures on it.*

*For recreation purposes the public has right of access to almost all land administered by the department. In addition, public use and enjoyment of land administered by the department is a vital part of creating support for conservation and is to be encouraged for that reason. However, it is important that recreational use and tourism do not degrade the experience for which people come, or threaten natural and historic resources.*

*In some parts of the Coromandel and Waitomo areas, visitor numbers and behaviour already threaten conservation. In these areas, a key management concern is to ensure that visitor impacts do not exceed the capacity of the conservation resource, or degrade the quality of the recreational experience. It should be noted in this context that commercial use can sometimes assist in protecting natural values and encouraging low impact use, because it normally involves an element of trained guidance and supervision.*

*The provisions of Section 10.6 of this Strategy set out the procedures for assessing uses of land administered by the department. They focus on the likely effects of any use and are intended to make sure there are no lasting detrimental effects.*

### 2.3.7

**Cost recovery and rents, fees and royalties from commercial activities on land administered by the department; and user fees for some facilities and services provided by the department.**

#### EXPLANATION

*Activities on land administered by the department which involve a commercial return or potential commercial return for the concessionaire shall be charged on a full cost-recovery basis for the cost of all administration and monitoring involved. They may also be required to pay market rents, fees and royalties for use of the resource, particularly if the concession conveys an exclusive right of use, involves a restriction on public access, or in other ways, restricts the option of alternative uses and users.*

*Recreation services and facilities may be provided on a non-cost recovery basis where they assist the protection of natural and historic resources or will foster low-impact enjoyment of those resources. They may also be provided on a cost recovery or profit-making basis where they involve facilities and services beyond those required for protection of conservation values or low impact recreation, for example, campgrounds and recreation huts.*

## 2.4 KEY CONSERVATION ISSUES

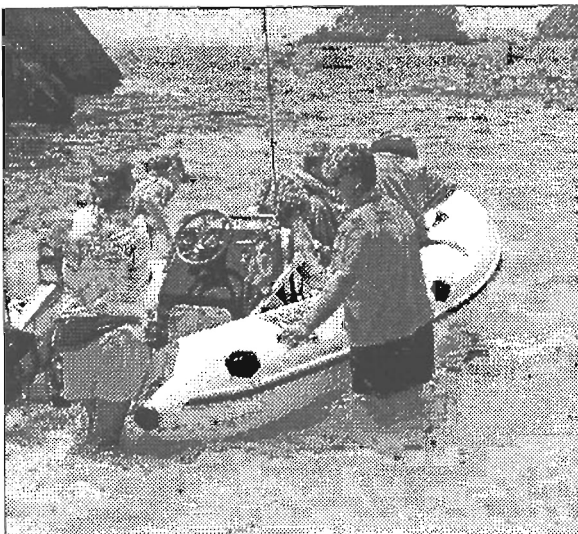
There are a number of key conservation issues which apply to the Conservancy as a whole and these are set out below. In addition, the more specific issues relating to each sub-region are outlined in Chapters 3 to 7.

- **A great spread and diversity of known high quality conservation resources** that deserve the highest levels of protection, including large tracts of virgin forest (e.g., Moehau Peninsula, Waihaha and Waipapa forest), extensive wetlands and estuaries (e.g., Thames estuary, Kawhia Harbour, Whangamarino Wetland, Kopuatai Peat Dome), rare and threatened species and natural communities (e.g., kokako in Pureora forest and Western King Country; milktree forest, reptile and seabird communities on the Mercury and Aldermen (Ruamahua) Islands, historic resources (e.g., Coromandel goldfields, Coromandel kauri logging sites, sites of early human occupation) and caves and karst scenery. The department's staff and operational resources are stretched simply to provide protection for these places of national importance.
- **High people pressures** in parts of the Conservancy associated with intensive rural and urban settlement (e.g., Hauraki Plains and Waikato Basin) or an influx of visitors from outside the region especially at peak holiday times (e.g., Coromandel Peninsula). These pressures create development demands which have potential to threaten natural and historic values unless carefully managed.
- **Potential conflict between provision for recreation on the one hand, and protection of natural and historic resources and earth science resources (e.g., volcanic landforms, caves and karst, rich fossil**

**heritage) on the other.** Because of the population living in Auckland and Hamilton, the Conservancy is subject to high recreational demand. This demand represents both an opportunity and a threat. As a threat visitors can and do cause damage to natural and historic resources, sometimes intentionally (e.g., vandalism, cutting firewood etc.) but more often unintentionally. Provision for recreation can also draw resources away from programmes required for protection.

However, the high recreation demand also creates the opportunity to provide the public with experiences that will build support for conservation. The department needs to ensure strategic provision of recreation opportunities to ensure a quality experience for the maximum number of people.

Cathedral Cove and Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve



- **Ongoing degradation of indigenous forest and loss of species** as a result of widespread distribution of rats, mustelids, goats, possums and other introduced animals.
- **Degradation of indigenous wetlands and waterways** by introduced plants, fish and invertebrates and by rural and urban development.
- **Need for strong conservation advocacy** to protect wetlands from drainage and lowered water tables and from lowered water quality, and to protect areas of private forest, particularly remnant lowland and coastal forest.
- **Lack of survey and scientific information** about conservation resources and ecological relationships and processes, particularly remnant lowland and coastal forest.
- **A need for the department to work more effectively with user groups, community and conservation groups, neighbouring landowners and public agencies** by listening, communicating, co-operating on tasks of mutual benefit and, as much as possible in the light of financial and staff constraints, pursuing good neighbour land management policies. Many conservation gains have resulted from the active involvement and commitment of conservation groups and they are important key associates for the department.
- **A need to develop an effective partnership between the department and tangata whenua**, with shared goals for protecting and managing natural and historic resources. Natural and historic resources associated with traditional use, protocols and cultural harvest are valued treasures of tangata whenua. It is important that tangata whenua are involved with protection and management of waahi tapu and other sites of special significance to them.
- **Claims under the Treaty of Waitangi** over land administered by the department have been lodged by various iwi and hapu.

Historic earthworks at  
Meremere Village

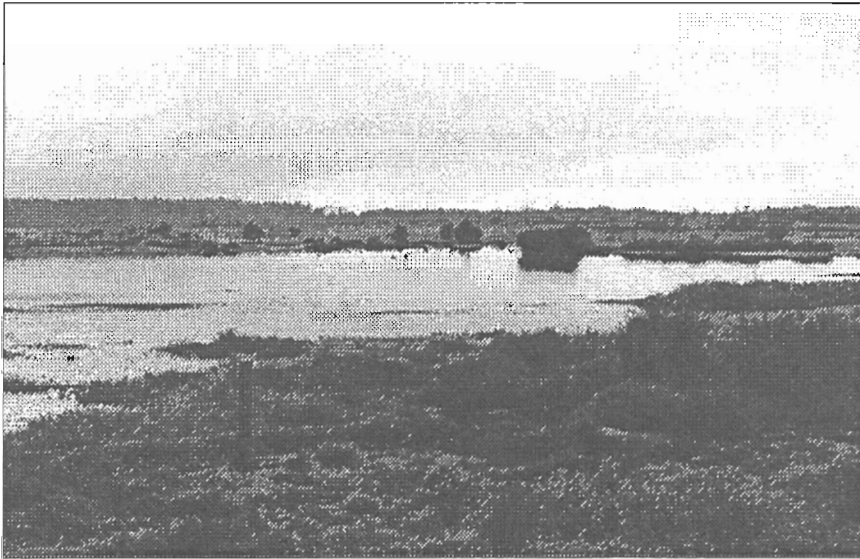


These realities are the basis for the key principles and strategic directions outlined in this CMS. They have prompted the Conservancy to focus sharply on areas (clusters of management) and specific conservation assets (threatened natural and historic resources that are indigenous or unique) that are of highest priority; to seek greater involvement from the public in conservation, and to work in partnership with iwi, key associates and the local community for the achievement of local and regional conservation objectives; and to look further for obtaining more revenue and resources for conservation, particularly user charges for all commercial uses, cost recovery for discretionary services and activities, and sponsorship.

## 2.5 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT CLUSTERS

The Conservancy has identified eleven special places, termed "strategic management clusters". The clusters are single sites or groups of sites which

have strategic importance for conservation. They contain resources of high conservation value (e.g., rare or threatened native plants or animals, relatively unmodified ecosystems or habitat types, significant or unusual historic sites or geological features) but also have additional strategic importance. Some are the best remaining examples of their type (e.g., lower Waikato wetlands, Kawhia and Aotea Harbours, podocarp forests of Pureora and Moehau).



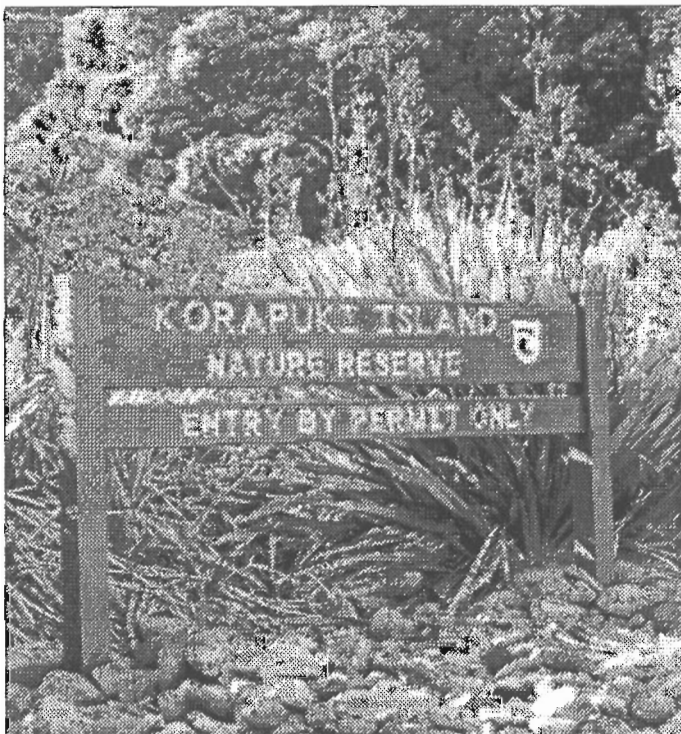
Lake Patetonga, area of wetland restoration

Others have special long term importance for the preservation of threatened native species (e.g., Cuvier (Repanga), Aldermen (Ruamahua) and Mercury Islands, Mapara Wildlife Reserve) and several are particularly important for human reasons (e.g., Cathedral Cove area, Kauaeranga Valley and Karangahake, all of which receive many visitors and have potential to be centres of conservation education).

Off-shore islands are a vital part of the department's threatened species management programme

Their active and ongoing protection is necessary to preserve in perpetuity examples of significant natural or historic resources of the Conservancy. In addition, for all of them there is likely to be a significant amplification of

conservation results by managing them as whole units on a sustained basis. (It should be noted that private land appearing within the strategic clusters is not subject to the department's management. However, the department may advocate conservation of natural and historic values on private land).



Identification of these strategic clusters DOES NOT mean that all other areas administered by the department are unimportant. Virtually all remaining conservation areas are important because they contain or support natural and historic resources that are important, perhaps essential, for the long term physical, spiritual and cultural welfare of the people of the region. They provide water and soil protection, homes for native and introduced plants and animals (hence an essential storehouse of biodiversity), local recreational opportunities and scenic beauty.

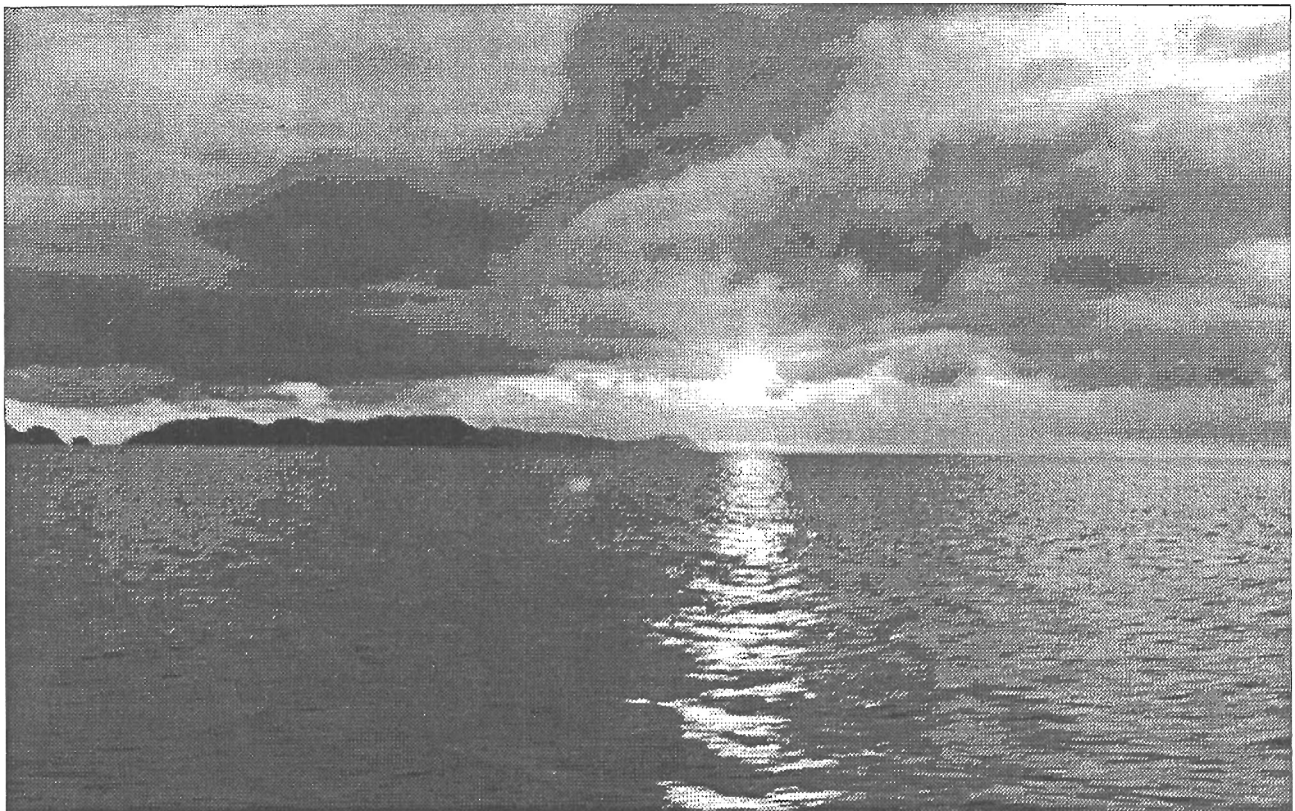


Nor does it mean that private land within the areas marked as Strategic Clusters on Map 9 has any altered legal status, or that property rights are under specific threats as a result.

However, while the department has a responsibility to manage all areas that it administers, the degree of management can vary from "leave as is" through to intensive, highly resourced programmes such as species recovery or recreation development. The department does not have the resources to do everything it wishes to achieve good conservation. It must focus where it can be most strategically effective on a national scale, and assist local and regional communities to protect resources of local and regional importance.

The strategic management clusters are spread across the five different sub-regions of the Waikato Conservancy. Each sub-region has its own unique set of characteristics, resources and conservation issues and these are outlined in Chapters 3 to 7, along with management objectives for the relevant clusters.

Storm clouds and morning sun  
over the Mercury islands









## CHAPTER 3 - Hauraki Sub-region







## 3. Hauraki Sub-region

### 3.1 CHARACTERISTICS

This area falls within the rohe of the Hauraki iwi. The diversity of the 12 iwi of Hauraki is reflected in their origins. There are iwi who descend from Toi Tangata and others who have Tainui, Te Arawa and Mataatua lineage.

The geographic sub-region includes the Coromandel Peninsula and offshore islands. It extends to just south of SH2 between Paeroa and Waihi but does not include the Kaimai-Mamaku Conservation Park, except for a small portion which is associated with the Karangahake Historic Walkway. Ecologically, the area falls within the Coromandel Ecological Region.

The sub-region is characterised by:

- **Diverse landforms, natural habitats and human activities:** The Peninsula is highly complex geologically. This creates rapid changes of topography, climate and natural ecosystems.
- **High-quality resources:** The area has high quality scenic, recreational, historic, botanical, zoological, geological, mineral, coastal, marine and other physical, natural and cultural resources. The smaller islands within the Aldermen and Mercury groups remain virtually in their natural state, providing some of the most distinctive and diverse ecologies in New Zealand.
- **Complexity:** The diversity and quality of natural, physical and cultural resources and the inter-relatedness of natural and physical systems generates complexity and often conflict between protection and development, or between one resource use and another.
- **Cultural values:** The Coromandel Peninsula is described by Hauraki as Te Tara o Te Whai (the barb of the Stingray). The mountain range from Moechau to Te Aroha is described by tangata whenua as a great waka whose volcanic cones are the vertebrae and rivers are the ribs. Both mountains have deep spiritual significance to tangata whenua and each peak in between is special. The motu are associated with the feats of Taramainuku and Maui. The sea is Tikapa Moana. The Hauraki rohe supports the physical and spiritual sustenance of the Hauraki iwi and their welfare is dependent on maintaining the physical integrity and inter-connectedness of land, islands and water.
- **High people-pressure:** As a result of population growth, especially of the retirement age population, there are high numbers of summer visitors especially from the Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions and high concentrations of people around favoured spots (e.g., coastal beaches and estuaries). Development pressures are likely to increase in future because of social trends such as more people reaching retirement age and communications technology which allows people to work at home rather than from, say, an office in Auckland.

### 3.2 CONSERVATION RESOURCES & THREATS

These include:

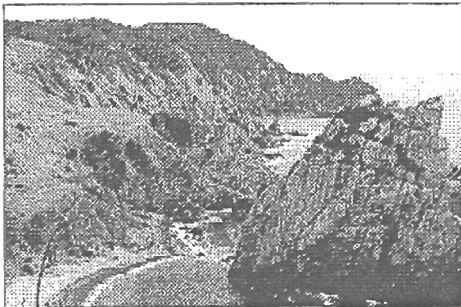
- **An ecologically diverse coastal and marine environment:** Rocky headlands, bays and inlets, estuaries, sandy beaches, reefs and islands all occur in this area. Marine ecosystems in the area have been subject to considerable pressure from commercial and recreational fishing. Most of the native coastal vegetation has been destroyed or is not regenerating, including pohutukawa and other types of coastal forest, dune vegetation and coastal wetlands, exceptions being the Mercury and Aldermen (Ruamahua) Islands.

Extensive eelgrass beds are found in Whangapoua, Whitianga, Tairua and Whangamata harbours. Most estuaries still support mangrove and saltmarsh communities.

The coast from Cooks Beach to Hot Water Beach, including Hahei and Cathedral Cove is one of the most popular visitor destinations in the Coromandel. It has a significant range of high value natural and historic resources, including Te Whanganui-a-Hei Marine Reserve, Mahurangi Island (some few hundred metres off-shore), and a number of historic reserves and areas-of special significance to tangata whenua.

Threats to coastal and marine resources include coastal settlement, high seasonal visitor numbers, recreational and commercial fishing, boating and yachting, effluent and waste disposal, mining, forestry, farming (grazing and trampling of forests, dunes and wetlands by stock; land clearance), sandmining and marine farming.

- **Offshore Islands:** Many of the islands in the Aldermen and Mercury Groups have never experienced the devastating effect of browsing or predation by introduced mammals and retain their indigenous vegetation as well as communities of threatened and endemic fauna. Others have experienced such effects, for example, Stanley (Kawhitu), Red Mercury (Whakau), Cuvier (Repanga) and Great Mercury (Ahuahu) but are recovering and can provide the opportunity to relocate native species that can no longer survive on the New Zealand mainland. As such they are nationally important. Access to these islands is restricted to prevent the introduction of weeds, rats, mice or cats etc., or humans damaging seabird burrows and ground dwelling animals. There may be some potential for visitors to selected islands on a strictly controlled basis.



Cuvier Island

- **Coromandel Range:** The mantle of Tane, that is the indigenous forest cover, is mostly within the Coromandel and Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Parks and forms a near continuum broken only by farmland north of Colville and the Karangahake Gorge east of Paeroa. Protection of the Coromandel Range is particularly important because of:
  - the steep and precipitous nature of the Range;
  - the natural values of stream habitats and their susceptibility to pollution and degradation;
  - the susceptibility of the geology and soil structure to erosion in many areas; .

- the location of the Range in a zone very prone to high intensity storms (total rainfall of 300 mm in 24 hours and rainfall intensities of 100 mm per hour have been recorded);
- the proximity to estuaries and the coast, and the sensitivity of those ecosystems;
- the felling in the late 19th/early 20th centuries of primeval forest for the extraction of timber, gold and kauri gum;
- subsequent damage through logging, introduced animals, fire, domestic stock, residential development, mining and roading;
- the slow rate of regeneration back to full canopy indigenous vegetation.

A further feature of the Range is its volcanic geology. Where the rocks are high in sulphide-bearing minerals, natural erosion and land disturbance can give rise to the production of acid leachates containing heavy metals. The production of leachates following excavation and depositing of waste rock from roading, construction and mining can have long term deleterious consequences for natural ecosystems.

The continuing health of both natural and managed, terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems depends on maintaining intact indigenous forest cover throughout and minimising rock and soil disturbance along the Coromandel Range. From a human perspective many people on the Peninsula draw their water supply from streams originating in the catchments.

- **Coromandel Forests:** The indigenous forests are highly important to the people of the Coromandel, Waikato and Bay of Plenty for aesthetic, recreational, and water and soil protection reasons. They also have high ecological value in providing a forest continuum north/south and east/west, including an altitudinal sequence from coastal to montane vegetation; habitat for a range of native fauna including the threatened North Island Brown kiwi and Archey's and Hochstetter's frogs, as well as historic resources. As tourist numbers on the Coromandel rise, these forests will come under increasing pressure.
- **Farm Parks:** These are at the northern tip of the Peninsula (Cape Colville) and at Waikawau Bay, south-east of Colville. They provide an outstanding visitor opportunity in a remote setting, with farm land interspersed amongst areas of regenerating coastal and lowland forest. Campgrounds are provided at both farm parks and all have toilets, water supply, rubbish disposal and some have cold water showers. The Crown is not bound by the provisions of the Camping Ground Regulations 1985 under the Health Act but generally, the department complies with the provisions of the regulations where they are applicable to "remote campsites".
- **Historic & Archaeological Sites:** Some 3,300 pre-European sites and 700 historic sites have been recorded so far on the Peninsula, being perhaps 40% of the total that exist. The pre-European sites include some of the earliest known settlements in New Zealand. Historic sites include those associated with kauri logging and gold mining. A cluster of sites associated with the Ohinemuri Goldfield around Waihi is being developed for interpretation of the region's mining history and includes a historic walkway, with railway tunnel; a restored railway station building and visitor centre on the site of the



old Waikino Station; and a railway line and steam train, run by the Goldfields Steam Train Society. Threats to historic and archaeological sites include natural processes and the passage of time (e.g., beach and headland erosion, vegetation growth), livestock damage (especially cattle) and human activity (e.g., fossicking).

- **Cultural Resources:** There are many sites of great spiritual and cultural significance to tangata whenua which need to be appropriately protected and managed. Threats to these sites include erosion; livestock; human activities such as mining, recreational use, tourism, scientific study; increasing accessibility to waahi tapu.
- **Geological and Landform Features:** The Peninsula has a complex geology which is reflected by a landform and geological features that are diverse and aesthetically attractive. A large number of geological sites are ranked as regionally important by the NZ Earth Science societies, including the barrier dunes of Otama beach, the thermal springs of Hot Water Beach, Hahei Cathedral Cove area, Shakespeare Cliff at Whitianga, Maumaupaki (Camels Back) dacite plug, and many more. The region is well known for its mining potential, but there is perhaps less general knowledge and appreciation of its gem resources and semi-precious minerals.
- **Recreation Resources:** Apart from Waitomo Caves, the Coromandel Peninsula provides the most intensively used recreational areas within the Waikato Conservancy. The coast is used mainly for boating, sailing, snorkelling, fishing, swimming, sunbathing, camping, picnicking and walking, while the mountains and forests are used for walking, rambling, tramping, camping, picnics, visiting historic sites, looking at plants, rock hounding, sunbathing and swimming. Existing use of both coast and inland is highly seasonal, with high to extreme levels of use over the summer months.



Beach-side camping -  
synonymous with the  
Coromandel Peninsula

Areas of special recreational use include Coromandel, Whitianga, Cooks Beach, Hot Water Beach, Tairua and Whangamata and the Kauaeranga Valley near Thames. The Kauaeranga Valley has the best developed visitor services in the Conservancy. It is also relatively accessible for visitors to the

Coromandel region because of its location near to Thames. It has a good range of recreational experiences and opportunities and an ideal location for schools and youth groups.

Eighty to 90 per cent of visitors (depending on your source of information) to Hauraki are New Zealanders. Tourism growth projections for the area are uncertain because of the relatively static nature of the domestic tourism sector and the high proportion of domestic visitors. However, if current promotion efforts by the local community and tourism interests are successful, it is likely the number of international visitors to the area will rise, bringing increased demand for expanded tourism facilities using land administered by the department.

According to a Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA - See the Coromandel Experience 1991 Pacific Asia Travel Association) task force study "the Coromandel has the best or equal to the best of what New Zealand offers under its 'clean and green' attractions. Without the protection and continued maintenance of the natural environment the Coromandel would lose a key component of its tourism package."

### 3.3 CONSERVATION ISSUES

- Presence of natural resources which merit high priority protection (e.g., Mt Mochau, Mercury & Aldermen Islands, Te Whanganui-a-Hei marine reserve near Hahei) but also the opportunity to promote the ideals and concepts of conservation by appropriate interpretation.
- Presence of rare, threatened or endangered native species including some that are found nowhere else in the world (e.g., tusked weta, Mochau stag beetle).
- Presence of introduced pests and weeds which are threatening the continued functioning of indigenous ecosystems and natural communities and the survival of threatened species.
- Presence of areas and resources of special spiritual and cultural significance to tangata whenua which merit high priority measures for protection.
- The presence of high value historic resources which are deteriorating and losing integrity and which therefore merit high priority measures for preservation. The Karangahake Gorge presents a key opportunity for the Conservancy to present the public with a range of historic themes about Coromandel (and potentially, the Bay of Plenty) including gold mining, kauri logging, Maori and European settlement, and exploitation of land and natural resources.
- High value recreation resources which need to be used in a manner which does not threaten the qualities for which they are enjoyed;
- High seasonal visitor pressures which:
  - in some areas threaten or cause damage to conservation values (e.g., historic sites, dune systems, NZ dotterel breeding sites)
  - create demand for visitor facilities and services (e.g., camp sites, interpretation facilities)
  - provide opportunities for improving the department's image.
- High development pressures, especially on the largely unprotected coast (e.g., coastal subdivision, residential and tourism development); mining, marine farming, logging, all with a high advocacy requirement.
- High public profile and public demand. Administering a high percentage of the land on the Peninsula gives the department a major presence and a high public profile, placing it in high demand for responding to local interests and concerns.
- A number of sites within this management planning unit feature in the department's national ten year possum and goat control plans as being of highest priority for wild animal control, due to their ecological significance and vulnerability to browsing animals.
- As it contains such important conservation values and experiences and such population and development pressures, Hauraki currently absorbs a high proportion of the Conservancy's staff time and funding resources.

This is likely to continue but it must be balanced against the requirements of the rest of the Conservancy, which are equally important from a national perspective. The department, tangata whenua, the two district councils, the regional council and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries all have conservation responsibilities and, with the exception of tangata whenua, are all accountable to the larger community. There is a need for all these agencies to develop common understandings in order to work effectively.

- Various sectors of the community are seeking some form of special status for the Hauraki Gulf, for example, marine park. Representatives from various agencies in the Auckland region have formed a core group to promote a "Vision for the Hauraki Gulf of the Future".
- Special provisions apply to the Aldermen (Ruamahua) Islands. These islands were gifted to the Crown with certain conditions attached, including the right of the original owners and their descendants to take muttonbirds (titi). This right is embodied in the Grey Faced Petrel (Northern Muttonbird) Notice 1979 issued pursuant to Section 6 of the Wildlife Act 1953.

### 3.4 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT CLUSTERS

Within the Hauraki Sub-region six areas of particular interest have been identified. These are the Moehau Range and Farm Parks at the northern end of Coromandel Peninsula; Cuvier Island (Repanga) and the Mercury and Aldermen (Ruamahua) Islands; Cathedral Cove-Hahei-Mahurangi Island-Hot Water Beach area; the upper Kauaeranga Valley, the Waikino-Karangahake Gorge area; and the Coromandel Forests. Management objectives and implementation measures for each cluster follow.

### 3.5 CAPE COLVILLE AND MOEHAU RANGE

*(See Volume II for site specific details)*

#### 3.5.1

##### Objective:

See: 2.1,2.3.1,2.3.2,  
8.2.2,8.3.1

**To preserve and enhance the outstanding ecological values.**

##### Implementation:

- remove goats and possums and prevent the establishment of deer, wallaby, and any other introduced browsing animals which may invade any land administered by the department;
- enforce prohibitions on the taking of native fish in Stony Bay Stream, Port Charles and Fantail Creek where these streams fall within land administered by the department.

- seek, as practicable, the reduction or elimination of other introduced species (plant or animal) which may threaten indigenous ecosystems or the survival of any viable population of any indigenous threatened species on land administered by the department;
- monitor and ensure the maintenance and protection of indigenous ecosystems and species, and other natural resources by fencing, planting, weed control, and other forms of management intervention as necessary;
- protect and rehabilitate areas of coastal forest.

### 3.5.2

See: 2.1,2.2.5,2.3.3

2.3.5

#### Objective:

**To recognise the areas' recreational attractions and make provision for visitors seeking a low key, remote experience.**

#### Implementation:

- manage campgrounds as "remote camp sites" providing basic amenities only;
- maintain existing walking and recreation opportunities and develop new facilities (for example, a mountain-biking track) where they are consistent with the protection of natural and historic resources.

### 3.5.3

See: 2.3.5

#### Objective:

**To maintain and develop farming operations as an integral part of the Farm Park, ensuring consistency with recreational and conservation objectives.**

#### Implementation:

- practice good farming and sustainable land management;
- retire and revegetate areas of coastal cliffs, steep hillsides and riparian margins;
- fence out pockets of indigenous vegetation;
- prepare a concept plan to identify areas for farming, plantation forestry, recreation and protection.

### 3.5.4

See: 2.1,2.2.1,2.3.2

#### Objective:

**To investigate, and if appropriate, establish protection for the waters and marine ecosystems adjacent to lands administered by the department (see S 8.4).**

### 3.5.5

See: 2.2.4

#### Objective:

To protect historic resources on land administered by the department and advocate their protection elsewhere.

### 3.5.6

See: 2.2.2, 2.3.3, 2.3.7

#### Objective:

To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

#### Implementation includes (but is not limited to):

- finding a solution to prevent the adverse impact that recreational visitors are currently having on Nga Tihī o Moehau (Mt Moehau “439 reservation”).
- timely and effective involvement of tangata whenua in investigations and options for marine protected areas;
- timely and effective involvement of tangata whenua in the preparation of the Farm Park concept plan.

## 3.6 CUVIER ISLAND (REPANGA), MERCURY ISLANDS (KAWHITU, MOTUREHU, WHAKAU, AHUAHU, KORAPUKI, ATIU AND GREEN) AND ALDERMEN (RUAMAHUA) ISLANDS

*(See Volume II for site specific details)*

### 3.6.1

See: 2.1.2.3.1, 8.2.2

#### Objective:

To preserve and enhance the outstanding ecological values of the islands.

#### Implementation:

- maintain in their natural state islands which have suffered minimal impact from human colonisation of New Zealand (Middle Island (Atiu), Green Island, Castle Island, all the Aldermen (Ruamahua) Islands except Middle Chain, and all kiore free islets) and prohibit access to these islands except by permit for scientific, cultural and management purposes, or, in the case of the Aldermen (Ruamahua) Islands, muttonbirding in accord with procedures agreed jointly by the department and tangata whenua;

- restore indigenous biotic communities on islands which have lost their original communities [Korapuki Island, Double (Moturehu) Island, Middle Chain (Atiu) Island, Stanley (Kawhitu) Island, Red Mercury (Whakau) Island and Cuvier (Repanga) Island], and prohibit access to these islands except under strictly supervised and controlled situations;
- undertake management in accordance with the recommendations contained in the draft Conservation Action Plan for the Mercury Island Ecological District and with reference to species recovery plans.

### 3.6.2

See: 2.3.1, 8.2.2

#### **Objective:**

**To create a refuge for threatened mainland species formerly present within the Mercury Island Ecological District on Stanley (Kawhitu) Island, Red Mercury (Whakau) and Cuvier (Repanga) Islands (and possibly Great Mercury (Ahuahū) Island and any other suitable privately or Maori owned islands, should this be acceptable to the owners).**

#### **Implementation:**

- assess the impact and feasibility of introducing threatened mainland species on a case by case basis and managing those islands administered by the department in accordance with such assessments, and implement in terms of any relevant threatened species recovery plans and departmental species transfer guidelines;
- provide support and involve owners of private islands in the development and implementation of ecological management plans;
- eradicate (with the agreement of the owners) introduced mammals and weeds that pose a threat.

### 3.6.3

See: 2.2.4

#### **Objective:**

**To protect historic and cultural resources on land administered by the department and advocate their protection elsewhere.**

### 3.6.4

See: 2.3.3

#### **Objective:**

**To foster public knowledge and understanding about, and support for island protection.**

#### Implementation:

- investigate and implement as appropriate (and where land status allows), controlled visitation e.g. using suitably trained and qualified concessionaires, for Cuvier (Repanga), Stanley (Kawhitu) and Red Mercury (Whakau) Islands;
- increase the awareness of local community groups, commercial and recreational fishers, and boaties about the ecological values of the islands and seek their assistance with management.
- provide information and interpretation, particularly at visitor centres on the Coromandel Peninsula, about the islands, their unique fauna and flora, and their role in the protection of the most threatened components of New Zealand's endemic biodiversity.

#### 3.6.5

See: 2.1,2.3.2,8.4.1,  
8.4.3

##### Objective:

To investigate and, if appropriate, seek marine protection for an area of marine environment associated with the Mercury and/or Aldermen (Ruamahua) Islands.

#### 3.6.6

##### Objective:

To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

#### Implementation includes (but is not limited to):

- involving tangata whenua in the management of islands administered by the department;
- identifying and implementing the conditions of the gift of Ruamahua (Aldermen Islands) by tangata whenua to the Crown;
- assisting tangata whenua as required in developing procedures for taking of titi (muttonbirds);
- timely and effective involvement of tangata whenua in investigations and options for marine protected areas.

### 3.7 CATHEDRAL COVE AREA AND TE WHANGANUI-A-HEI MARINE RESERVE

*(See Volume II for site specific details)*

#### 3.7.1

See: 2.1,2.3.1,3.2.3,8.4.1

##### Objective:

To establish and maintain effective protection of Te Whanganui-a-Hei Marine Reserve and win widespread community support for the reserve.

**Implementation:**

- work with the community to establish effective management and enforcement of the reserve provisions;
- provide education and information about the reserve and its role in the protection of marine life, and marine fisheries.
- monitor the marine ecosystem to ensure protection is effective and human impacts are minimal.
- establish a proactive compliance and law enforcement plan for the reserve in concert with the Ministry of Fisheries.

**3.7.2**

See: 2.1

**Objective:**

**To recognise and provide for the recreational value of the area.**

**Implementation:**

- as deemed necessary, co-ordinate with Thames Coromandel District Council in providing visitor facilities;
- as deemed necessary, assist and co-operate with agencies involved with visitor promotion of the area.

**3.7.3**

See: 2.3.2, 8.4.1

**Objective:**

**To protect natural, historic and cultural values especially the coastal and marine environment between Whitianga Rock and Hot Water Beach, including Mahurangi Island.**

**Implementation:**

- develop a conservation management plan in consultation with the local community for integrated management of reserves between Whitianga Rock and Hot Water Beach;
- advocate protection of the scenic, natural, and historic qualities and features on private land;
- ensure there are adequate visitor facilities to protect the natural and historic features of the area from overuse or misuse by members of the public;
- involve the community in undertaking restoration and revegetation of Mahurangi Island to improve its habitat for the introduction of native fauna.



### 3.7.4

See: 2.3.3

#### Objective:

To use the facilities and attractions of the area as a focus for public education about marine and coastal protection and conservation generally.

### 3.7.5

See: 2.2.2.2.3.7

#### Objective:

To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

#### Implementation includes (but is not limited to):

- working with tangata whenua to establish effective management and enforcement of the reserve provisions;
- tangata whenua involved in preparing and developing a conservation management plan for the integrated management of reserves - between Whitianga Rock and Hot Water Beach;
- tangata whenua representation on any marine reserve committee;
- recognising that the procedures involved in protecting and managing Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve do not reflect tangata whenua aspirations for the future protection and management of the coastal and marine environment.

## 3.8 COROMANDEL FORESTS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT

*(See Volume II for site specific details)*

### 3.8.1

See: 2.1,2.2.1,2.3.2,2.3.5

#### Objective:

To maintain existing forest cover and protect indigenous ecosystems and species, including fish habitat, for the protection of scenic values, biological diversity, and soil and water values.

#### Implementation:

- control wild animals where nationally important natural resources are under threat;

- encourage recreational hunting where this can be done without hazard to other recreational users;
- seek assistance from the local and regional community for the control of wild animals and protection of resources;
- prevent the establishment of deer;
- ensure that any non-recreational uses of the area cause only temporary disturbance to vegetation and soil cover;
- enforce prohibitions on the taking of native fish in the streams of the Waiharakeke and Otahu River catchments, where these streams fall within land administered by the department.

### 3.8.2

See: 2.2.3,2.2.4

#### **Objective:**

**To protect historic features and notable geological features.**

### 3.8.3

See: 2.2.1,2.2.3

#### **Objective:**

**To recognise the high value of the north-south and east-west forest continuum or corridor between Moehau Range and the Kaimai Range, and to protect and, where possible, add to it.**

#### **Implementation:**

- encourage local landowners and the district councils to take measures to protect connecting forest linkages;
- resist any development proposals that will threaten the health and viability of forest corridors;
- support restoration projects that will add to the indigenous forest cover.

### 3.8.4

See: 2.2.1,2.2.3

#### **Objective:**

**To facilitate recreational use and enjoyment of the area consistent with the protection of its natural and historic resources.**

#### **Implementation:**

- provide support where possible for local groups, the Thames Coromandel and Hauraki District Councils, recreational groups, and private enterprise to participate and assist with developing and maintaining recreational facilities, which meet Conservancy Visitor Services Strategy priorities.

- maintain existing recreation opportunities for day use off existing road access points and develop new facilities where appropriate;
- increase public awareness of half day and day recreational opportunities through information pamphlets and interpretation.

### 3.8.5

**Objective:**

To establish detailed objectives for integrated management of natural and historic resources as part of the conservation management plan for the Hauraki Planning Unit.

### 3.8.6

See: 2.2.2,2.3.7

**Objective:**

To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

**Implementation includes (but is not limited to):**

- tangata whenua involved in preparing and developing the conservation management plan.

## 3.9 KAUAERANGA VALLEY

*(See Volume II for site specific details)*

### 3.9.1

See: 2.2.1,2.2.3,2.2.4

**Objective:**

To encourage public use and enjoyment of the area as an outstanding example of natural forest habitat, combined with historic features.

**Implementation:**

- maintain and extend opportunities for day use off existing road access points and road end facilities;
- maintain, or expand if possible, the number and type of short walks;
- develop and upgrade existing tracks and huts into a three day "Kauacraga Kauri Trail", to become part of New Zealand's Great Walk System;
- encourage greater numbers and a wider range of visitors to the area by increasing public awareness of half day and day recreational opportunities through public information, pamphlets, and notices;

- maintain and improve existing visitor accommodation and expand future camping facilities as demand requires (campground, cabins, caravan points etc);
- rationalise tracks to optimise the range of tramping opportunities available while avoiding duplication of opportunities (with its resulting drain on maintenance resources);
- maintain the Hotoritori horse trail in co-operation with the Thames Pony Club;
- investigate the feasibility of and, if appropriate, develop a mountain bike trail.

### 3.9.2

See: 2.3.3

<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <p>To maintain and improve the area as an educational and interpretive centre for indigenous forest, the historic heritage of Coromandel Peninsula, and conservation issues generally.</p>
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#### Implementation:

- maintain and improve the Visitor Centre, and associated interpretive facilities and educational programmes;
- support the maintenance or expansion of the Education Camp and Michael Stead Memorial Lodge.

### 3.9.3

See: 2.3.2

<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <p>To protect existing fauna and flora values.</p>
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#### Implementation:

- undertake active management for protection as required;
- log existing exotic pines for replacement by indigenous forest.

### 3.9.4

See: 2.2.4,8.6

<p><b>Objective:</b></p> <p>To conserve and actively manage historic resources.</p>
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### 3.9.5

See: 2.3.3

#### Objective:

To prepare a conservation management plan for the Kauaeranga Valley as part of an integrated management plan for the Hauraki Planning Unit.

### 3.9.6

See: 2.2.2, 2.3.7

#### Objective:

To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Implementation includes (but is not limited to):

- tangata whenua involved in preparing and developing the conservation management plan.

## 3.10 KARANGAHAKE GORGE & OHINEMURI GOLDFIELD SITES

### 3.10.1

See: 2.2.4

#### Objective:

To develop and establish the area as the Conservancy's main centre of heritage information, guided and self-guided walks, tours, and heritage site visits, and education and interpretation of heritage themes, for the Coromandel, Hauraki Plains, and Bay of Plenty.

Implementation:

- establish self guided interpretive trails through the Karangahake-Waitawheta area;
- prepare cost recoverable self guiding trail booklets about this area;
- foster recreation and allow for tourism ventures that will improve public knowledge and understanding of historic resources (e.g., guided walks, mountain bikes, local market days) and are compatible with other visitor activities.

### 3.10.2

See: 2.2.4

#### Objective:

To protect and manage the historic structures, particularly Victoria Battery.

### 3.10.3

See: 2.2.6

#### Objective:

To develop Karangahake Gorge and Ohinemuri Goldfield Sites in an integrated and comprehensive manner.

#### Implementation:

- prepare an overall concept plan in consultation with Hauraki District Council, Transit NZ, the Hauraki Maori Trust Board, Waikino Heritage Trust, the Historic Places Trust, the Goldfields Steam Train Society and the local community;
- ensure that operational plans and the development of any physical structures are in accord with the overall concept plan.

### 3.10.4

See: 2.2.2, 2.3.7

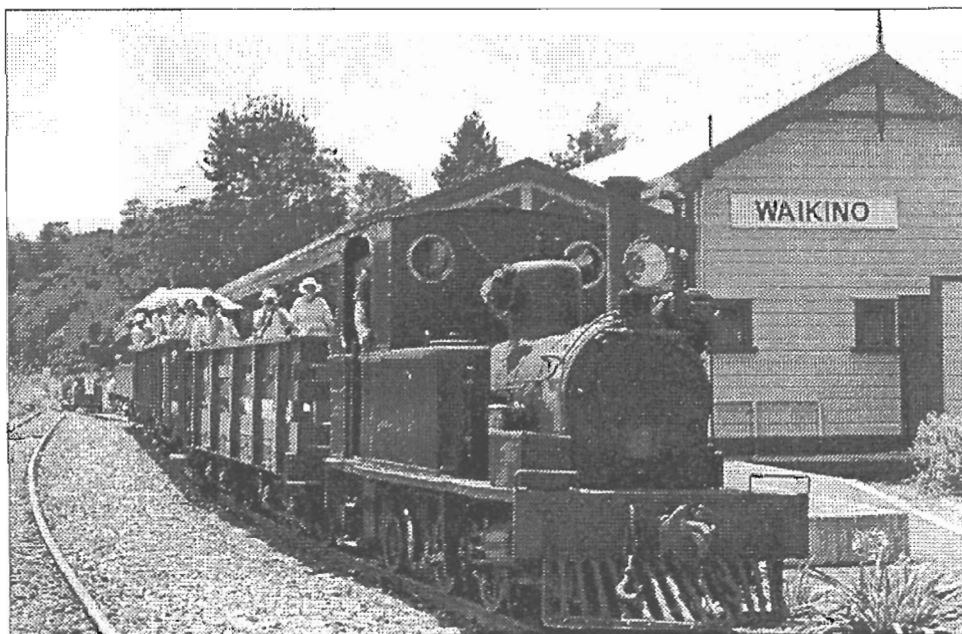
#### Objective:

To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

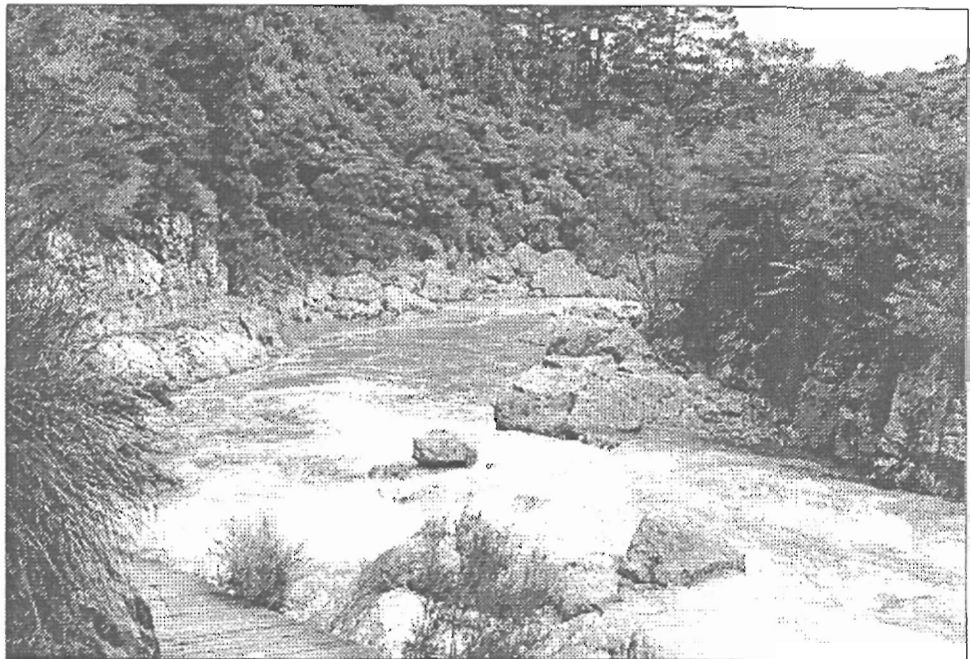
#### Implementation includes (but is not limited to):

- tangata whenua involved in preparing and developing the overall concept plan.

The Goldfields Steam Train Society provides just one of many attractions in the Karangahake Gorge, between Paeroa and Waihi



Karangahake Gorge Historic  
Walkway



Karangahake Gorge Historic Walkway (above) passes through an area steeped in mining history, while the Dancing Creek dam (pictured below) is a relic from the kauri logging industry on the Coromandel Peninsula.

Dancing Creek dam, near  
Pinnacles Hut at the head of the  
Kauaeranga Valley

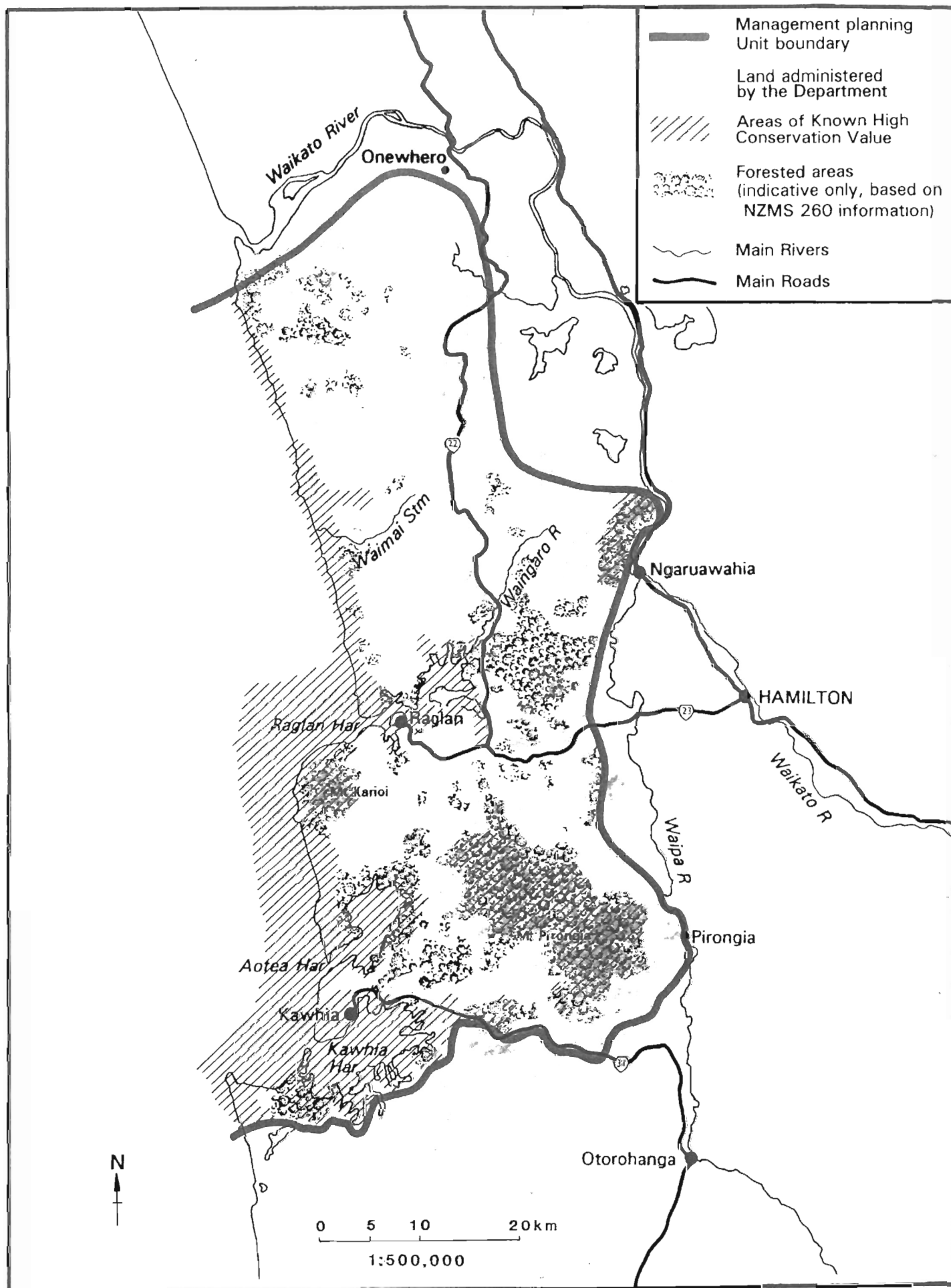


## CHAPTER 4- Waikato West Sub-region

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## WAIKATO WEST MANAGEMENT PLANNING UNIT



## 4. Waikato West Sub-region

### 4.1 CHARACTERISTICS

This geographic sub-region extends from immediately south of Port Waikato to State Highway 33, and the southern shore of the Kawhia Harbour and Lake Taharoa and its associated dune wetland system of Kawhia Harbour. It comprises the hills west of Hamilton basin and incorporates the Raglan Ecological District and most of Kawhia Ecological District. Most of it falls within the sphere of Tainui Maori Trust Board.

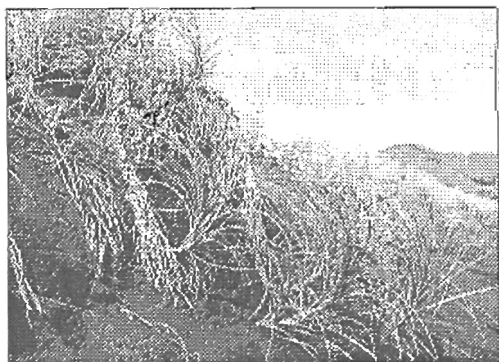
The sub-region is characterised by:

- **Extensively modified rural landscape:** North of Raglan (Whaingaroa) Harbour most of the original vegetation has been removed for sheep and beef farming. South of Raglan, forest and farmland intermix but most areas of forest are surrounded by farmland and suffer “edge” effects.
- **Rural isolation:** Many parts of the area are inaccessible to the public (e.g., most of the coast). Much of the roading is unsealed. Population densities are low; settlements are small (e.g., Raglan 1991 population 2,103; Kawhia 1991 population 402).
- **Threatened high quality conservation resources:** Conservation resources in the area include the three large estuarine harbours of Kawhia, Raglan (Whaingaroa) and Aotea, several large sand dune systems, and many tracts of good quality forest.

### 4.2 CONSERVATION RESOURCES AND THREATS

These include:

- **Raglan (Whaingaroa), Kawhia & Aotea Harbours:** All three harbours are of high conservation value for both natural and historic reasons. Aotea and Kawhia Harbours in particular are important breeding and feeding habitat for native birds and fish. Both Aotea and Kawhia meet the “Ramsar” criteria for “wetlands of international importance”. Aotea Harbour is unusual for the quality of its water and its relatively pristine condition. It is a large food resource for coastal birds, particularly waders. North of the harbour is an unmodified, nationally important dunefield. It supports the rare sandplant pingao (*Desmoschoenus spiralis*) and is the location of a large number of archaeological sites.

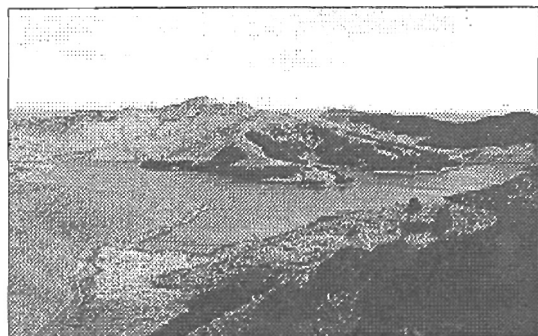


Pingao - rare sand plant

Kawhia is included in the Oceania Wetland Inventory and rates as an outstanding wildlife habitat because of its importance to international and internal migratory birds. The threatened NZ dotterel, Australasian bittern and banded rail are residents. The Harbour and its catchment are the location of nine geological sites, rated nationally important for their fossils, and of a number of unusual threatened plants (*Hebe obtusata*, *Scandia rosaefolia*, the king fern *Marattia salicina*,

and the limestone fern *Asplenium lyallii*). Both harbours are of great cultural and historic significance to the Tainui people. Kawhia contains the last resting place of the Tainui canoe. Threats to the harbours include siltation (caused by erosion of catchments), pollution (e.g., sewage at Raglan, agricultural chemicals run-off), overfishing and spread of weed species such as spartina.

- **Coast & dune systems:** Much of the coast between Port Waikato and Kawhia Harbour is inaccessible apart from a short stretch south of Raglan. This short stretch is intensively used as the closest beach to Hamilton. The



Lake Harihari, south of Taharoa

marine area is little known. The main dune systems are north of Raglan (Whaingaroa) Harbour and north and south of Aotea and Kawhia Harbours. Those of the Aotea sand spit are rated nationally important and are protected by reserve status. South of Kawhia Harbour are the Taharoa sandfields and dune lake systems. The lakes support a productive native fishery with several rare fish species. Threats to the dunes include iron sand mining, dune stabilisation by planting (e.g., pines, marram), and replacement of native vegetation by exotics.

- **Protected forest:** This includes part of the Hakarimata Range near Huntly and the conservation park blocks of Mt Karioi near Raglan, and Mt Pirongia. Both mountain blocks support rare or threatened native species (including seven species of threatened plants) and plant communities which blend northern and southern species. Mt Pirongia and the Hakarimata Range are of value to the regional community for their landscape qualities and for the recreational opportunities they provide. They also include streams which support important populations of native fish. Considerable capital investment in recreation has occurred within Pirongia Block, and Mt Karioi Block is receiving systematic goat control. Threats include the effect of possums and goats and localised impacts from high recreational use.
- **Private forests:** Several large blocks of Maori owned native forest remain east of Raglan and south of Kawhia Harbour, while a significant portion of the northern catchment of Aotea Harbour also includes areas of privately owned native forest. The forests on the Kawhia and Aotea Harbour catchments are especially important for protecting water quality in the harbours.
- **Geological and landform features:** The area contains a rich and diverse resource of fossil sites from the Age of the Dinosaurs (Mesozoic), volcanic platforms at Pukekawa, Te Kaawa, Karioi and Pirongia and limestone features south of Port Waikato and along parts of the west coast.

### 4.3 CONSERVATION ISSUES

- Presence of introduced animals, especially goats and possums, which are threatening native ecosystems and species;
- Siltation and pollution entering the three harbours as a consequence of land management practices within their catchments;
- Deterioration of harbour, wetland and aquatic habitats;

- Pressure on scenic and recreation areas as a result of proximity to urban Waikato;
- Spread of weeds, especially spartina, in the harbours;
- Deterioration/destruction of dune structures and habitats as a consequence of sandmining, dune stabilisation, plantation forestry and replacement of native vegetation by exotics;
- Protection of remaining native wetland habitats including harbours and whitebait fisheries. The streams of the Hakarimata Range, the west side of Mt Pirongia, and those with forested catchments which flow into any of the three harbours are of particular importance.

#### 4.4 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT CLUSTERS

Within the Waikato West sub-region, Kawhia and Aotea Harbours have been identified as a strategic management cluster. Management objectives and implementation measures follow.

#### 4.5 KAWHIA-AOTEA HARBOURS

##### 4.5.1

See: 2.1,2.2.1,2.3.2,8.4.1

##### **Objective:**

**To pursue the maintenance and improvement of Kawhia and Aotea Harbours as productive estuarine habitats.**

##### **Implementation:**

- advocate protection of the catchment of both harbour systems by retaining forest cover and planting and restoring riparian vegetation;
- assess the feasibility and if feasible, seek the establishment of one or more marine protected areas;
- advocate strong measures for protection of significant conservation values within the coastal marine area.

##### 4.5.2

See: 2.3.2

##### **Objective:**

**To protect and maintain existing high natural and historic conservation values.**

##### **Implementation:**

- secure a Ramsar listing for Kawhia and Aotea Harbours as Wetlands of International Importance.

### 4.5.3

Sec: 2.2.2.2.3.7

**Objective:**

To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

**Implementation:**

- work with tangata whenua for the protection of natural, cultural and historic resources;
- support and cooperate with tangata whenua investigations into taiapure.



Aotea harbour from Okapu

## CHAPTER 5 - Waikato Sub-region







## MANAGEMENT PLANNING UNIT



## 5. Waikato Sub-region

### 5.1 CHARACTERISTICS

This geographic sub-region includes the low lying areas of the Hauraki Plains, the middle and lower Waikato River basin and the lower Waipa River Valley. It incorporates all the Waikato Ecological Region except for Waipa Ecological District.

This area falls within Waikato, Raukawa and Hauraki Iwi. The statutory Maori Trust Boards are the Tainui Maori Trust Board and its environmental authority, the Huakina Development Trust Board, the Hauraki Maori Trust Board, and the Raukawa Maori Trust Board.

The sub-region is characterised by:

- **Generally lowland topography:** Flat to rolling countryside, formerly widespread wetlands. Most of the area is less than 100 metres asl.
- **Intensive farming:** Most of the land within this unit is in high production pasture (dairy and horses), cropping, or horticulture. Some of the most highly valued rural land in New Zealand is in the vicinity of Matamata.
- **Widespread transformation of the natural landscape:** Most of the original landscape has been converted into farmland.
- **High rural population densities:** Apart from smaller areas of intensive horticulture, the Hauraki Plains/Waikato basin supports one of the densest, highest rural populations in the country. Some 75,000 people live on the land within this area.
- **Large urban populations:** Hamilton (Kirikiriroa), with 100,000 people, is the fourth largest urban area in the country (after Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch). A further 50,000 people live in towns such as Matamata, Morrinsville, Paeroa, Te Aroha, Huntly, Cambridge and Te Awamutu.
- **Remnants of native wetland habitats:** Remnant wetland and lowland vegetation includes stands of kahikatea and cabbage tree forest, small swamps and peat bogs, and the peat lakes round Hamilton and Te Awamutu.

### 5.2 CONSERVATION RESOURCES & THREATS

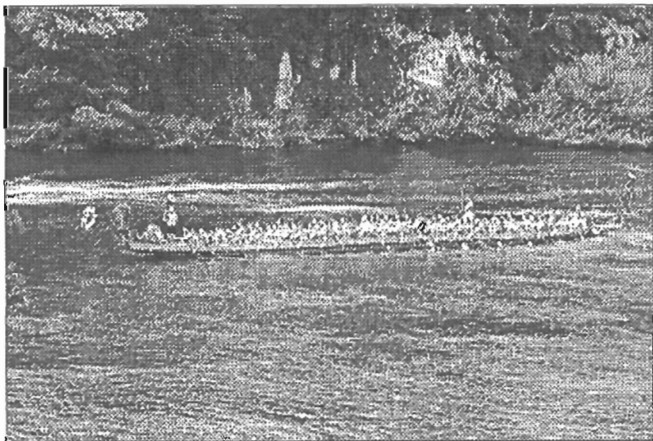
The most significant natural conservation resources within this sub-region are wetlands, lakes and rivers and the plant, bird and fish communities associated with them. They form parts of two separate systems, one comprising the lower Hauraki Plains and Thames Estuary, the other the Waikato and Waipa River Valleys. The areas and sites described below need to be viewed as parts of a system of interconnected land and water, each of them dependent on the health and wise management of the system as a whole.

While many, such as the Hamilton basin peat lakes, are greatly reduced from their former extent and modified to varying degrees, the number of smaller, (and often lower quality) wetlands and streams provide additional habitat and

shelter for birds, fish and wetland invertebrates, which makes possible the overall abundance of wetland dependent species in the region.

All of these areas are threatened to a greater or lesser extent by impacts on the water cycle, particularly lowering of water tables (by land drainage, river control and dredging) and lowering of water quality (through pollution and run-off of soil and agricultural chemicals). Other threats include the impact of weeds (willow, glyceria) and introduced fish (koi carp, catfish, mosquitofish).

- **Kopuatai and Torehape Peat Domes:** Kopuatai is the largest remaining wetland in the North Island and the most significant example of a raised peat bog. It supports several wetland communities, at least six threatened plants, the endangered endemic black mudfish and several threatened native birds. It is listed by the "Ramsar" convention as a wetland of international significance. Torehape Peat Dome is a smaller raised bog which has been partially destroyed by lowering of the water table.
- **Whangamarino Wetland:** This is a series of four separate peat domes and enriched mineralised swamp areas which receive flood waters from the Whangamarino Stream. Its importance relates to the diversity of habitats that it contains and the abundance and diversity of species which it supports. It is listed by the "Ramsar" convention as a wetland of international significance.
- **Firth of Thames Estuary:** The Firth of Thames represents the inner waters of Tikapa Moana, which is of great spiritual and cultural significance to the tangata whenua of Hauraki. The tidal flats between Miranda and Thames support up to 40,000 birds, including migrants from the arctic and eastern Asia and some that are rare or threatened. Mangroves grow round the southern margins and extend up the Waihou and Piako River estuaries. The area is an internationally significant wetland under the "Ramsar" convention.
- **Waikato River:** The Waikato River supports New Zealand's largest eel (tuna) fishery and the largest whitebait (inanga) fishery on the North Island's west coast. The estuary is considered a wildlife habitat of national significance because it supports nationally threatened species. The river as a whole is of major spiritual significance to the Tainui people.



Waikato River - of major spiritual significance to the Tainui people.

- **Other rivers:** These include the Waihou, Piako and Waipa Rivers. They are much modified and degraded by human activities but remain both ecologically and culturally important because they provide connecting habitat between wetlands and are of special significance to tangata whenua.
- **Lower Waikato lakes:** These include Lakes Whangape, Waahi, Waikare, Rotokawau and others. Lakes Waikare and Whangape in particular support large numbers of waterfowl. All are important for increasing the total habitat area available for wetland species in the sub-region.
- **Hamilton basin lakes:** Some dozen or so small peat lakes and a remnant swamp represent the remains of habitat that was once widespread. They support plant and animal species that have become locally and regionally rare or threatened.

- **Remnant lowland & swamp forest:** Remnant areas of lowland and swamp forest in this sub-region are valuable because they are so scarce.
- **Hapuakohe, Maungatautari, Te Tapui & Te Miro:** These hill areas have native forest cover. They are also culturally important to iwi.
- **Historic resources:** Numerous pa sites and other evidence of Maori settlement (e.g., kumara pits, shell middens) are found along the edges of the Waikato and Waipa Rivers. They include floating pa sites located around the swampy peat lakes of the Hamilton Basin. Also significant are European sites associated with the Waikato Land Wars.

### 5.3 CONSERVATION ISSUES

- Legal and practical protection of existing wetlands especially Whangamarino Wetland, Kopuatai Peat Dome, Torchape Peat Dome, Thames-Miranda Estuary (Tikapa Moana) and lakes of Lower Waikato and Hamilton Basin;
- Drainage of farmland which results in lowered water tables, shrinking and subsidence of peatland, drying out of wetlands, and changes to hydrological flows;
- Destruction and degradation of wetlands;
- Widespread invasion of wetlands by land and water pests and weeds;
- Deterioration of water quality and aquatic habitats (especially in relation to the Waikato, Waipa, Waitoa, Waihou and Piako Rivers) as a consequence of rural and urban uses;
- Disappearance of remnant wetlands and kahikatea and totara forest in private land as a consequence of land management practices;
- Damage and destruction of historic sites (e.g., those associated with the land wars and Huntly coal mining);
- Threat of excessive or destructive recreational and commercial use of wetlands and aquatic resources such as the whitebait fisheries;
- Access to wetlands for recreational opportunities where this is consistent with conservation objectives;
- Lack of understanding and awareness among many landowners and recreational users of wetland habitats and the need for their conservation;
- Implications of the deed of settlement signed between Waikato and the Crown. Any proposed land exchange or disposal will be discussed first with Waikato. Any proposed land exchange or disposal within that area cross claimed by Hauraki will need to be discussed with both Waikato and Hauraki.

### 5.4 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT CLUSTERS

Within the Waikato sub-region the Lower Waikato and Hauraki Lakes, Rivers and Wetlands system have been identified as a strategic management cluster. Management objectives and implementation measures follow.

## 5.5 LOWER WAIKATO AND HAURAKI LAKES, RIVERS & WETLANDS

*(See Volume II for site specific details)*

### 5.5.1

See: 2.3.1,2.3.2.8.3.1

#### Objective:

To preserve viable examples of indigenous wetland ecosystems and freshwater habitats, and viable populations of indigenous wetland, aquatic, and migratory species.

#### Implementation:

- ensure practical and/or legal protection of key wetland habitats, namely: the Firth of Thames Estuary between Thames and Miranda (Tikapa Moana), the Kopuatai and Torehape Peat Domes, the Whangamarino Wetland, Lakes Waikare and Whangape, the Waipa peat lakes, and, where practicable, the lower Waikato River downstream from Rangiriri;
- protect and rehabilitate wetlands and lakes on lands administered by the department;
- monitor management activities and events, e.g., water level rise in Whangamarino; 1987 fire;
- seek support from landowners and Environment Waikato for protection of water quality and water levels on private land which impact on wetlands, rivers, lakes and streams;
- in consultation with Ministry of Fisheries and other affected parties, seek closure of commercial eeling (or reduction if closure is not feasible) on Lake Whangape, Whangamarino Wetland, Kopuatai Peat Dome, Lake Hotoananga and Lake Ruatuna (for the protection of short-finned eels or tuna);
- advocate the restoration and protection of riparian vegetation and riparian and aquatic habitat;
- prepare a wetlands Conservation Action Plan to identify management needs in consultation with Auckland Conservancy, district councils, Environment Waikato, the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council, Ministry of Fisheries, landowners and conservation groups and work with these groups to achieve protection of wetland and aquatic species and their habitats;
- advocate protection of the natural values of lakes and wetlands administered by bodies other than the department, specifically Lakes Kainui, Rotokauri, Horseshoe, Rotoroa and Rotokaeo;
- construct fish passes or other methods to enable fish passage into Lakes Waikare, Kimihia, Hakanoa, Rotongaro, Okowhao, Rangiriri, Ohinewai, Rotokawau and Ngaroto.

### 5.5.2

See: 2.3.1,2.3.2,8.3.1,8.4.1

#### Objective:

To investigate and, if appropriate, seek protection for the coastal and aquatic habitats at the south end of the Firth of Thames between Miranda and Thames (see S8.4).

(NOTE: Any management in the Firth of Thames shall be done in collaboration with Auckland Conservancy).

### 5.5.3

See: 2.2.1,2.2.3,8.3.2

#### Objective:

To seek widespread knowledge, understanding of, and support for, the protection of wetland areas by the people and agencies of the region, and the wider New Zealand public.

#### Implementation:

- involve tangata whenua, key associates and other interested parties in management of wetland areas administered by the department, and work with such groups on a co-operative basis on joint management committees;
- prepare and distribute educational material;
- install interpretive boards at appropriate sites and if feasible, develop or contribute to one or more interpretation centres to increase awareness and understanding of wetland ecosystems, plants and animals, and wetland conservation;
- encourage community use of, and consultation with the community in the management and operation of these facilities.

### 5.5.4

See: 2.2.5

#### Objective:

To encourage recreational use of wetlands consistent with the protection of sometimes fragile wetland ecosystems.

#### Implementation:

- work with the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council to ensure responsible use of wetlands by hunters and anglers, and establish guidelines and standards for facilities and structures associated with recreational gamebird hunting;
- foster controlled access to wetlands where they will not be damaged by recreational use.

### 5.5.5

See: 2.2.4, 8.6

#### Objective:

To protect historic and cultural resources.



### 5.5.6

See: 2..2.2,2.3.7

#### Objective:

To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

#### Implementation:

- ensure early and effective involvement of tangata whenua in the preparation of a wetlands Conservation Action Plan;
- ensure early and effective involvement of tangata whenua in the investigation of options for protection at the south end of the Firth of Thames;
- co-operate with tangata whenua in the investigation of taiapure;
- recognise that poukai/koroneihana can be a vital forum for the expression of conservation views and ideas.



Wrybills at Miranda

## CHAPTER 6 - Raukawa-Rereahu Sub-region

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# 6. Raukawa-Rereahu Sub-region

## 6.1 CHARACTERISTICS

This geographic sub-region extends south from Putaruru to Highway 41 between Taumarunui and Turangi, and west from the eastern boundary of the Conservancy to Te Kuiti and Benneydale. In social terms it approximates to the north-eastern King Country and Tokoroa. Culturally, it includes the territory of the Ngati Raukawa of the Tainui tribes north of Whakamaru, of the Rereahu and Tuhua-Hikurangi people of the Maniapoto and of the Tuwharetoa people of Taupo.

Ecologically, it includes those parts of the Conservancy that fall within the Western Volcanic Plateau and Central Volcanic Plateau Ecological Districts.

The sub-region is characterised by:

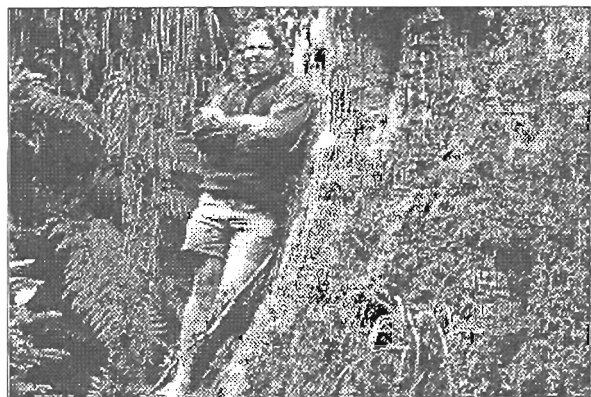
- **Extensive forest cover both exotic and indigenous:** It includes the Pureora Conservation Park and large areas of exotic forest plantation west of Tokoroa.
- **Volcanic ash soils:** The region is next to the Taupo Volcanic zone and has been much influenced by this fact. The soils have developed from layers of ash and pumice deposited by a series of volcanic eruptions which have occurred over the past one and a half million years.
- **Late European settlement:** Comparatively recent conversion of indigenous forest to hill country farms or exotic forest. Many farms still support patches of native forest.
- **The meeting of Maori tribal boundaries:** The area is significant to both Tainui and Tuwharetoa people with Pureora Mountain and Titiraupenga as tribal landmarks. The shadows of these mountains fall across Te Miringa te kakara, the spiritual base of local iwi.
- **Low density human settlement:** Rural towns are generally small and scattered, except for Tokoroa, a town of some 17,500 people, which services the forestry industry.

## 6.2 CONSERVATION RESOURCES & THREATS

- **Pureora Conservation Park:** With its constituent parts (e.g., Waihaha Ecological Area, Waipapa Ecological Area, Mangatutu Ecological Area, etc.) includes areas of virgin podocarp forest considered to have national importance for flora and fauna. It is one of the very few such areas remaining in the North Island. Scenically it provides views of native forest which extend as far as the eye can see. To the untrained eye, it is like the New Zealand which existed before European contact. It also includes high altitude mires which retain relatively unmodified wetland vegetation and it is considered one of the more popular areas for recreational hunting of deer in the North Island and contains a well developed infra-structure of roads, tracks, visitor centre and park headquarters. It lacks developed facilities for visitors but contains many features of potential visitor interest.

- **Waipapa and Waihaha Ecological Areas:** Rated nationally important for their botanical and wildlife values, both areas support dense stands of unmodified podocarp forest and good numbers of rare and endangered native species.

The remainder of the Conservation Park has conservation values of at least regional importance, with high to outstanding value for wildlife or



Stephen King leans against one of the many giant totara trees he helped save in 1978 as leader of the 'tree top protesters' at Pikiariki, Pureora Conservation Park

vegetation. For example, Whenuakura Ecological Area provides one of very few examples of post-Taupo eruption vegetation sequences; Mangatutu Ecological Area, (along with the Cowan Wildlife Refuge and Okahukura Forest) contains important populations of kokako, kaka and parakeet; Waimonoa Ecological Area contains virgin and secondary tanekaha forest, a nationally rare forest type; and Rata-Nu-nui contains a large expanse of rata dominated forest. Pikiariki Ecological Area was the site of a treetop protest by environmentalists, in 1978, to prevent the logging of indigenous timber.

Threats to the forest and its indigenous fauna and flora come from the introduction of goats, the spread of deer and possums and in some parts, wilding pines, and from introduced predators such as rats and mustelids.

- **Other Protected Forest:** Includes a number of reserves which support isolated areas of indigenous forest. They add diversity and scenic interest to the rural farming landscape but are less valuable from a national viewpoint because of their isolation from other forest and their small size. Threats to these forests come from browsing by wild animals and farm livestock.
- **Private Forest:** Privately owned forest in this sub-region includes areas which adjoin Pureora Conservation Park. They help to extend the area of continuous indigenous forest cover and are ecologically valuable as a consequence. Threats to private forest come from browsing by wild animals, and farm livestock, logging and land development.

### 6.3 CONSERVATION ISSUES

- Presence of nationally important conservation resources within Pureora Conservation Park.
- Damage to indigenous ecosystems and populations of indigenous species by introduced animals throughout Pureora Conservation Park and other protected forest and private forest.
- Hunting and a conflict of management objectives between recreational deer hunting and protection of endangered native plants and animals. Pureora Conservation Park contains one of the best trophy herds in the country and is particularly favoured by recreational hunters of the upper North Island. In 1981 Pureora's north block, including Waipapa and Mangatutu Ecological Areas, was gazetted a Recreational Hunting Area under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977.

There is a tension between keeping deer numbers at a level satisfactory to hunters, and protecting native plants and animals. Many native plants are rare or endangered because they are preferred by browsing animals. The department therefore has to balance hunters' requirements against the survival of plants and the native animals that depend on them.

- Use and maintenance of existing infrastructure of forestry and logging services (e.g., roads, on-site accommodation, Park HQ). These provide an opportunity but also require resources to maintain.
- Future of exotic forest within Pureora Conservation Park and revegetation of logged areas. Revegetation of logged areas is expected to be a major activity within the lifetime of this CMS. Removal of trees for replacement with indigenous forest will need to be managed to minimise impacts on indigenous ecosystems and the roading network, and to bring about restoration of indigenous forest to a state as close as feasible to the original forest. The Native Forests Restoration Trust has been closely involved with promoting the concept of restoration of these areas, and it and other interested parties will be consulted and involved in developing the plans.
- Lack of visitor facilities.
- Realisation of tourism/recreation opportunities represented by a variety of features of visitor interest which are easily accessible from the Visitor Centre (e.g., buried forest, unmodified podocarp forest, easy tracks, bird and canopy platform, Pureora Mountain).



Board walking on the way to  
Pureora summit

- Lack of knowledge of the historic values on lands administered by the department.

- Involvement of tangata whenua in management of Pureora Conservation Park. The Park is of great cultural and historic significance to Maori. As recorded by the Waitangi Tribunal in its report to the Pouakani claim, (the Pouakani Report 1993 Waitangi Tribunal Report: 6 WTR), the mountains Pureora and Titiraupenga are tribal land marks, maunga tapu, for Maori who identify

with Tainui and Tuwharetoa, and the Forest is the taonga of local tribes. The Tribunal has made a series of recommendations which need to be resolved in a process of negotiation between tangata whenua and the Crown.

## 6.4 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT CLUSTERS

Within the Raukawa-Rereahu area Pureora Conservation Park is identified as a strategic management cluster. Management objectives and implementation measures follow.



## 6.5 PUREORA CONSERVATION PARK

### 6.5.1

See: 2.3.1, 8.2.2

#### **Objective:**

**To protect and maintain the existing diversity and abundance of indigenous forest fauna and flora with their supporting ecosystems.**

#### **Implementation:**

- monitor changes in the park to identify trends that could threaten the maintenance of existing species and ecosystems;
- support research into methods for more cost effective protection of native fauna and flora;
- as far as possible maintain existing fauna and flora values throughout the rest of the Park by recreational and commercial hunting;
- by education, information and provision of access, particularly into Waipapa and the southwestern part of the Park, assist recreational and commercial hunters to be effective in protecting high conservation values;
- retain Waihaha and Waipapa Ecological Areas in their present relatively unmodified state through weed control and high levels of wild animal control.

### 6.5.2

#### **Objective:**

**To replace exotic timber within the Park with indigenous vegetation.**

#### **Implementation:**

- complete a long-term timber harvest and restoration strategy;
- harvest exotic timber in accordance with the strategy;
- replant and restore indigenous vegetation in accordance with the strategy.

### 6.5.3

See: 2.2.5

#### **Objective:**

**To encourage recreation and allow tourism (where they are consistent with protection of conservation resources).**

#### **Implementation:**

- maintain a network of tracks and roads;
- maintain and, as necessary, improve visitor facilities and accommodation;

- develop, as finances permit, additional tracks, huts, signage, interpretive and educational services and facilities that will encourage public appreciation of the Park and its natural and historic resources;
- publicise the attractions of the area, especially day and half-day recreational opportunities.

#### 6.5.4

See: 2.2.2,2.3.7

##### **Objective:**

To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

##### **Implementation:**

- work with tangata whenua to achieve mutually beneficial management of the Park.
- work in partnership with Rereahu Regional Management Committee (of Ngati Maniapoto) to allow the controlled taking of cultural materials consistent with principles of sustainability and cultural traditions (see S 10.3 for provisions concerning the use of cultural materials).



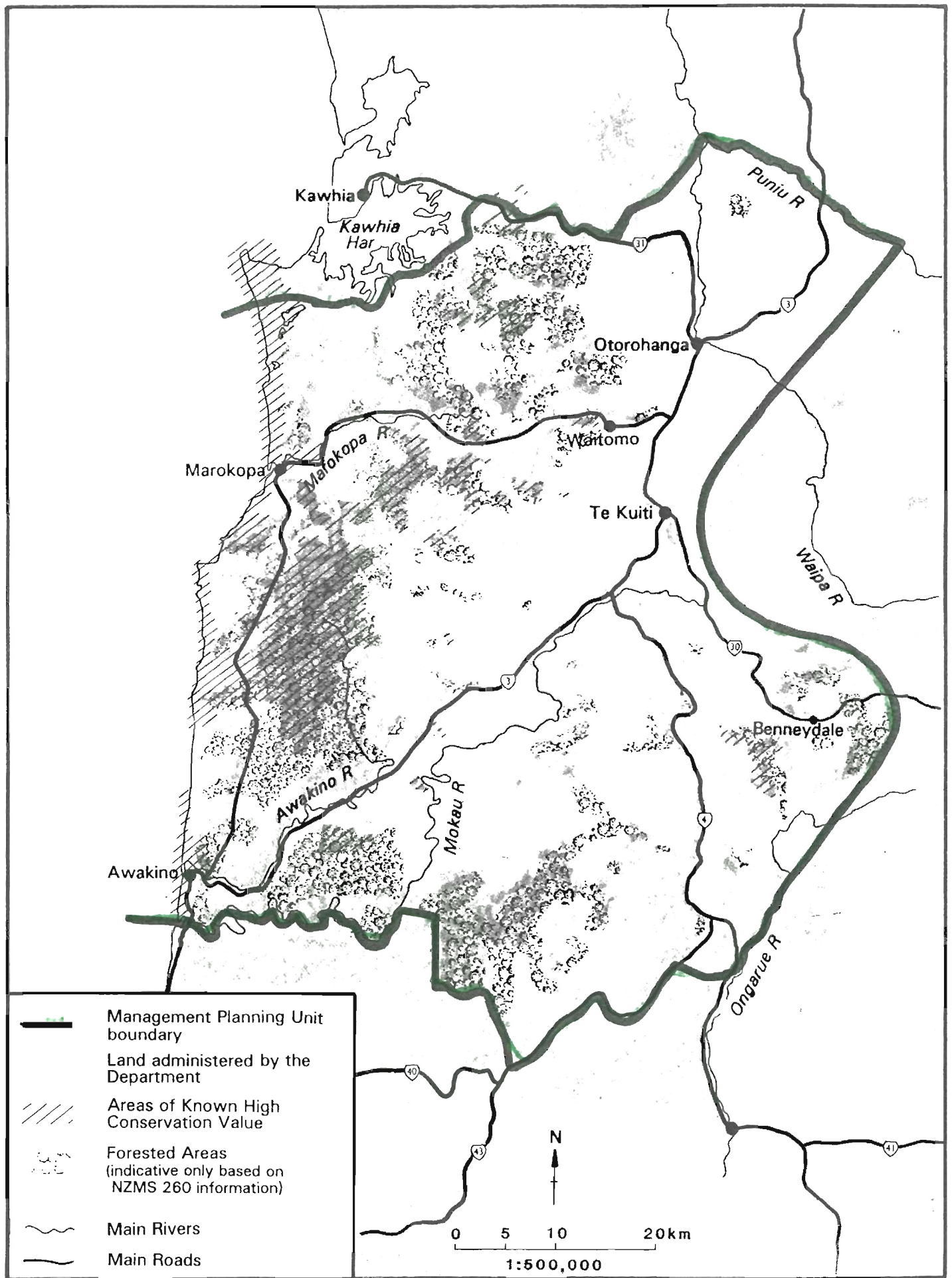
Waihora Lagoon, Pureora  
Conservation Park



## CHAPTER 7 - Mokau-Tuhua Sub-region

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## MOKAU - TUHUA MANAGEMENT PLANNING UNIT



# 7. Mokau-Tuhua Sub-region

## 7.1 CHARACTERISTICS

This geographic sub-region extends from just north of Te Awamutu to Awakino and Taumarunui. Socially it includes the western, northern and central King Country. Culturally, it includes the heartland of the Maniapoto people. Ecologically, it includes the Waipa Ecological District (of Waikato Ecological Region), Herangi Ecological District (of Tainui Ecological Region), the Waitomo Ecological District (of King Country Ecological Region) and those parts of North Taranaki and Taumarunui Ecological District which fall within the Conservancy.

The sub-region shares many of the characteristics of the Raukawa-Rereahu and Raglan-Kawhia sub-regions. Its general characteristics include:

- **Widespread pastoral hill country farming:** This area is highly dependent on sheep and beef returns.
- **Rural isolation:** Especially of areas west of Herangi Range and in the south.
- **Rural depopulation:** The rate of population decline from the rural areas of Otorohanga and Waitomo Districts is much higher than from the towns.
- **Extensive areas of indigenous forest:** Significant portions in both private and Maori ownership, especially on the Herangi Range.
- **Karst (Limestone) features:** The unit contains one of the most important areas of karst landscape in New Zealand, with features such as caves, disappearing rivers, sinks, rocky outcrops and natural arches. This landscape is of major interest to tourists (e.g., Waitomo tourist caves) and recreationalists.
- **Landscape diversity:** Resulting from geological and topographic complexity and late European settlement of the area which has meant that patches of native vegetation remain scattered throughout the region, in private ownership.

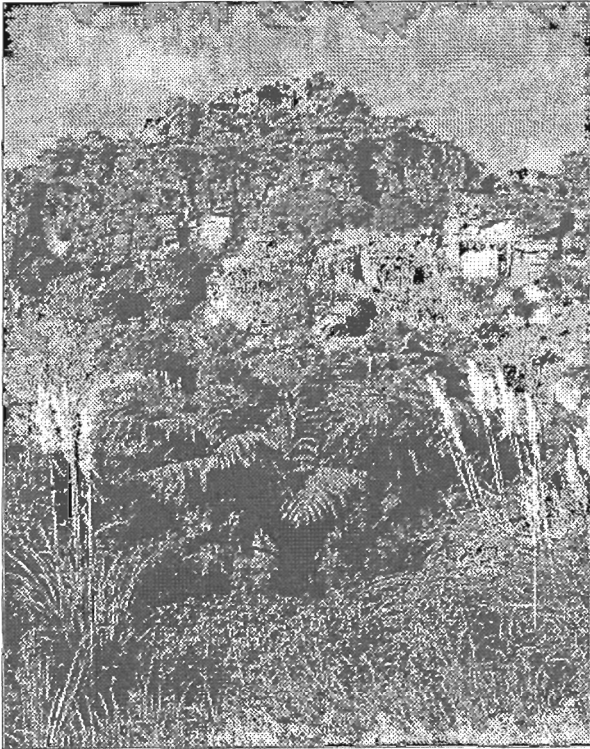
## 7.2 CONSERVATION RESOURCES & THREATS

- **Coastal and marine areas:** The Mokau-Tuhua coast is wild, steep and isolated. It is largely inaccessible from land. Access (at Waikawau) was constructed during the days of early European settlement by digging a tunnel through rock to a narrow sandy beach on the seaward side. Most of the coastal forest has been removed apart from a few remnant areas on reserves. Threats to these remnants come from browsing by goats, possums and farm stock.
- **Indigenous forest:** The area contains an almost continuous stretch of indigenous forest, in both public and private ownership, from south of Mt Pirongia and State Highway 33 to Awakino. Additional stretches of forest are found south of State Highway 3 into North Taranaki Ecological District. The forest varies in condition but parts are in good health and support a diversity of forest types and altitudinal sequences (from coastal to the sub-alpine crest



of the Herangi Range) as well as rare, threatened or endangered species, including Archey's & Hochstetter's frogs. Grazing by farm livestock and feral goats has reduced the value of streams in the area as habitat for native fish.

- **Karst and cave:** There are 28 significant cave systems in the Waitomo area including the Waitomo Glowworm Cave and nearby Aranui and Ruakuri caves. Some 350,000 to 400,000 visitors come to these three caves annually, 80 per cent being international tourists, while the largest percentage of domestic visitors originate from Auckland, Waikato and the King Country. In addition to caves the area contains other karst features of scientific, educational and recreational interest including cliffs, natural tunnels and bridges, and fossil sites. Threats to these features result from overuse or misuse and vandalism by visitors, and from the effect of sedimentation in caves as a result of soil erosion from surrounding farmed catchments.



Karst landscape on the way to  
Marokopa

- **Mapara Wildlife Reserve:** An isolated area of forest which contains an unusually high number of the endangered kokako. It is being managed as part of a national experiment to determine the most cost-effective management techniques for protecting kokako populations in a mainland situation.

- **Mahoenui giant weta:** The region includes an area which is home to this recently rediscovered rare insect.

### 7.3 CONSERVATION ISSUES

- Although evidence suggests that the kokako management programme at Mapara is successful, it involves very high commitment of staff and operational resources. The continuation of the programme will depend on the needs of the national kokako recovery plan and any variations to the current programme which can achieve the same results with less management effort.
- The Waitomo area is the best speleological resource within one day's driving distance of Auckland, and supports an internationally known and marketed tourist attraction. There is likely to be increasing pressure to raise the level of management input although costs of such input can be offset to a considerable extent by a "user pays" policy and by co-operation and joint ventures with private interests.
- At present the forests are insufficiently protected from browsing animals and show signs of extensive ecological damage. A major commitment of resources is required to prevent further deterioration and loss of native species.

- Enforcement is a problem because of the remoteness of the area. Illegal logging (for timber or firewood), grazing, and release of deer or other introduced animals can occur with little chance of being detected.
- Removal of indigenous forest on private land through logging and farm management.
- A number of catchments in the area suffer significant soil erosion, flooding, and water quality problems. The land administered by the department is very important for protection of soil and water values.
- The area of land administered by the department is too extensive and fragmented to allow protection of natural and historic values by the department alone. However, an interest has been shown by local landowners and residents in the development of a "park" or protected landscape which would include both public and private land and allow development of the area as a visitor destination. Management co-operation between the department and private landowners appears to be a promising means of achieving protection for the forest and other natural and historic values of the area.
- Cave and karst resources are likewise scattered through public and private land. Pressures of visitor growth which are presently focused on the Waitomo Caves can be spread more evenly without damage to the natural features provided there is co-operation between the department, other landowners, and private enterprise in the region, and a set of cave management guidelines can be agreed upon and adopted by all concerned. Some caves, fossil sites or other fragile natural resources may require permitting systems or closure to the public unless measures can be found to ensure that public use will not compromise their conservation value.

#### 7.4 STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT CLUSTERS

The strategic management clusters in Mokau-Tuhua sub-region are the Waitomo Caves and forests of the Western King Country and Mapara Wildlife Reserve. Management objectives and implementation measures for these clusters follow.

#### 7.5 WAITOMO CAVES & WESTERN KING COUNTRY FORESTS

*(See Vol. II for site specific details)*

##### 7.5.1

See: 2.1,2.2.1,2.2.3,2.3.2,  
2.3.3,8.2.3,8.5,8.5.3,8.5.4

##### Objective:

To protect natural (including geological) and historic resources in the area, and foster the development of opportunities for their recreational enjoyment and appreciation, with the assistance and co-operation of private landowners, private enterprise, tangata whenua and the local and regional community.

### **Implementation:**

- complete a comprehensive survey and assessment of the conservation resources of the area, to identify significant natural and historic resources and threats to those resources;
- in consultation with private landowners, the regional and district councils, private industry, and interested agencies and voluntary groups (e.g., the Waitomo Landcare group, the NZ Speleological Society), develop a caves and karst Conservation Action Plan including a set of guidelines for their management;
- to explore in consultation with tangata whenua, key agencies, interested parties and residents of the area, the option of establishing a protected scenic landscape involving integrated or co-operative management of public and privately owned land, i.e., the Kawhia-Awakino Park concept, and implement if feasible;
- expand the range of recreation opportunities and facilities available to the public in a manner which does not cause conflict with existing uses nor detrimental impact to caves or other natural or historic resources.

### **7.5.2**

See: 2.3.2,2.3.3,8.2.3

#### **Objective:**

**To seek retention of a continuous network of forest between Te Kauri Park Scenic Reserve and Whareorino Forest.**

### **Implementation:**

- encourage owners of private forest which adjoins land administered by the department to retain that forest;
- encourage owners of private forest which adjoins land administered by the department to extend legal protection over their forest by means such as Reserves Act 1977 and Queen Elizabeth II National Trust covenants;
- encourage Waitomo and Otorohanga District Councils to develop provisions and incentives which encourage landowners in the area to retain and restore indigenous vegetation;
- assist landowners to achieve protection of their forests.

### **7.5.3**

See: 2.3.5

#### **Objective:**

**To manage the Waitomo Glowworm cave in partnership with the local hapu, and Aranui and Ruakuri caves plus associated reserves in a manner that will provide for the expected future growth of tourism in the area without degrading the quality of the tourism experience or the natural, historic and cultural values associated with these caves.**

**Implementation:**

- prepare and implement a conservation management plan for the Waitomo and Ruakuri Caves and Bush Scenic Reserves;
- maintain consultation and liaison with all interested parties in the management of the caves, involving them in planning and management of those areas that fall within land administered by the department, and seeking joint management of the caves which are jointly owned.

**7.5.4**

See: 2.2.3,2.3.3

**Objective:**

**To recognise and support Waitomo Museum of Caves as a centre of conservation education.**

**Implementation:**

- continue to work with the Waitomo Museum of Caves to provide information and interpretation to visitors about the caves and natural and historic resources in the area;
- assist the continued development of the Waitomo Museum of Caves as the national centre for the interpretation of karst in New Zealand.

**7.5.5**

See: 2.2.2,2.3.7

**Objective:**

**To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.**

**Implementation:**

- foster the partnership established with the Ruapuha Uekaha Hapu Trust arising from the settlement of claim Wai 51 under the Waitangi Tribunal, for the joint management of the Waitomo Glowworm Cave;
- ensure early and effective involvement of tangata whenua in the preparation of a Cave and Karst Conservation Action Plan;
- assist applications by owners of Maori land for funding from appropriate sources (e.g., Nga Whenua Rahui Fund) for protection of their forests.

## 7.6 MAPARA WILDLIFE RESERVE

### 7.6.1

See: 2.2.5.2.3.3

#### Objective:

To monitor and protect kokako population and habitat.

- determine the best management techniques for conservation of NI kokako in accordance with the Department of Conservation's *Recovery Plan for the North Island Kokako*.

### 7.6.2

See: 2.2.5.2.3.3

#### Objective:

To make provision for visitors to the reserve.

### 7.6.3

See: 2.3.3

#### Objective:

To provide educative and interpretive material about kokako, other threatened species and their management, and related issues.

- develop a public relations campaign to promote ecological restoration and biodiversity using Mapara as a case study;
- explore ways of involving local hapu in species management.

A kokako is released after banding  
at Mapara



Note: There is no necessary assumption that intensive management for kokako recovery will continue once "the best management techniques" have been determined; at that point it may be appropriate to reassess the kokako recovery strategy, or to switch resources to more urgent protection priorities elsewhere.

*Kua oti ke te taiao,  
I hanga te ira tangata hei kaitiaki.  
Ecosystems have been predetermined.  
Humanity was preordained as the guardians.*

## CHAPTER 8 - General Objectives for Protection of Natural & Historic Resources

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## 8. General Objectives for Protection of Natural and Historic Resources

### 8.1 INTRODUCTION

One of the key visions relating to the protection and management of natural and historic resources on land administered by the department is for an effective partnership between the department and tangata whenua. For this to happen, mutual understandings of the roles and responsibilities of each partner will need to be developed. This CMS provides interim guidelines pending mutual agreement being reached.

As well as managing lands under its administration, the department is obliged, by Section 6 (ab) of the Conservation Act 1987, *to preserve so far as is practicable all indigenous freshwater fisheries, and protect recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats*. It also has responsibility under various other acts (e.g., Wildlife Act 1953) to protect natural and historic resources wherever they happen to be. It **may**, pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Conservation Act 1987, advocate and promote the conservation of natural and historic resources generally.

This chapter sets out general objectives to be followed in attempting to achieve the protection of important natural and historic values in the Conservancy, irrespective of land tenure. The means by which the department seeks to achieve protection of resources such as wildlife, historic sites, freshwater fish and fish habitats on private land is largely through conservation advocacy, education and public awareness.

#### 8.1.1

##### Management Objectives:

See: 2.1.2.2.1

To preserve the health and diversity of existing indigenous terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems, and maintain or increase the variety and abundance of indigenous species.

To develop an effective partnership between the department and tangata whenua with shared goals for protecting and managing indigenous ecosystems and species.

### 8.2 TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS AND SPECIES

#### 8.2.1

See: 2.2.6

##### Objective:

To maintain an up-to-date inventory and assessment of indigenous ecosystems, habitats and species, and the nature and severity of the threats they face.



### Implementation:

- complete fauna and flora survey coverage of the Conservancy including threats to them;
- update coverage of areas that have not been surveyed for 10 years or more.

### 8.2.2

See: 2.1.2.3.1,2.3.2,3.5.1,  
3.6.1,3.6.2,3.6.4,3.9.1,  
6.5.1,7.6.1

#### Objective:

**To identify and protect key indigenous forest ecosystems and habitats.**

### Implementation:

- identify the status and distribution of rare, threatened and endangered native species and biological communities, and determine key areas or sites necessary for their survival. (NOTE: This exercise may involve the preparation of one or more strategies for threatened plants and animals, and would be done in co-ordination with Head Office policies and national species protection plans);
- seek mutual agreement on the levels of involvement of tangata whenua in preserving indigenous ecosystems and species;
- identify other areas or sites that are of high or outstanding value for conserving indigenous ecosystems, habitats, and species generally;
- seek the legal protection of unprotected or inadequately protected key sites; using mechanisms such as conservation covenants, economic incentives, regulatory controls, and acquisition;
- provide for the effective practical protection of key areas or sites;
- carry out restoration programmes on key ecosystems and habitats, especially ones that have become rare or significantly reduced, and ones that will support increased numbers of rare, threatened or endangered native species (c.g., areas of coastal and lowland forest);
- foster public support for the protection of key areas or sites by disseminating information and encouraging public involvement in their protection, particularly through Care Groups;
- monitor key areas and sites, and if necessary provide management action to make sure that the ecosystem and species values are maintained.

### 8.2.3

See:  
2.1.2.2.1,2.2.3,2.3.3,  
3.8.1,3.8.3,5.5.3,7.5.1,7.5.2,  
11.5.1,11.8.1,11.8.3

#### Objective:

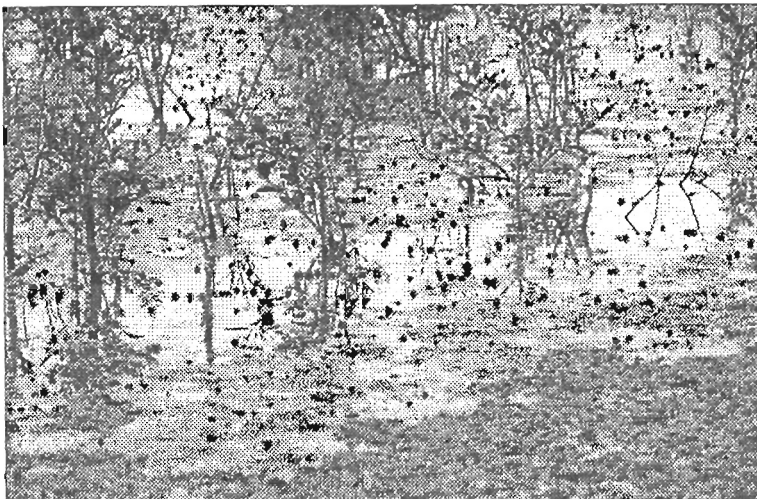
**To identify and promote the protection of all other areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.**

### Implementation:

- seek assistance from key associates and other interested parties to identify, list, and publicise all such areas or sites;
- advocate appropriate measures for their protection in regional and district plans, including protection from off-site sources of pollution and damage;
- advocate protection of areas of significant natural value listed in Appendix 2 and indicated on Maps 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8;
- seek protection of remaining native forest, especially areas which can function as corridors or buffer zones;
- advocate regeneration and rehabilitation of remnant or degraded areas of indigenous habitat, e.g., remnant lowland forest;
- assist landowner or community initiatives for protection or restoration of such areas or sites;
- prepare guidelines for the conservation management of such areas and distribute them to local authorities, tangata whenua and affected land owners;
- ensure that local authorities, Maori Trust Boards and public libraries are provided with accurate, up to date and comprehensive information on conservation resources and values or know where they can access such information within the department;
- encourage landowners of areas which support significant native vegetation or significant habitat for native species to conserve such vegetation or habitat;
- educate resource users and the public about conserving indigenous ecosystems, areas of significant indigenous vegetation, and significant habitat of indigenous fauna.

### Explanation:

*To be able to protect the conservation resources we have we need to know what those resources are and the threats to them. Survey of the Conservancy needs to be completed and information updated within 10 years.*



Miranda mangroves

*We then need to select the areas which are most important for preserving the variety and abundance of our native plants, animals, and ecosystems and ensure that they receive priority for protection both legally and in practice.*

*We also need to promote protection of all other areas that support significant indigenous vegetation and fauna.*

## 8.3 FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEMS

### 8.3.1

See: 2.1.2.3.1, 2.3.2,  
2.2.6, 5.5.1, 5.5.2

#### Objective:

**To identify and protect key indigenous freshwater ecosystems and habitats.**

#### Implementation:

- complete a fauna and flora survey of all freshwater ecosystems within the Conservancy and identify key areas or sites for protection;
- identify other areas or sites that are of high or outstanding value for the conservation of indigenous ecosystems, habitats and species generally;
- prepare a wetlands conservation action plan for the Waikato Ecological Region, with early and effective involvement of tangata whenua, and in consultation with district and regional councils, Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council, Federated Farmers, adjacent land owners and other interested parties;
- secure river protection orders on all rivers and streams identified as having high to outstanding value for the survival of rare, threatened or endangered native species;
- secure Ramsar listings for wetlands of international importance;
- provide for the effective practical protection of key areas or sites;
- carry out restoration programmes on key ecosystems and habitats, especially those that have become rare or significantly reduced, and those that will support increased numbers of rare, threatened or endangered native species, e.g., Whangamarino, Patetonga Lake, areas of remnant swamp;
- advocate protection of all water catchments associated with key ecosystems and habitats;
- foster public support for the protection of key areas or sites by disseminating information and encouraging public involvement in their protection, particularly through Care groups;
- monitor key areas and sites and, where necessary, provide management intervention to maintain ecosystem and species values.

### 8.3.2

See: 2.1.2.2.1, 2.2.3,  
5.5.1, 11.3.1, 11.8.1

#### Objective:

**To identify and promote the protection of all other areas of significant indigenous freshwater ecosystems and significant habitats of indigenous aquatic fauna.**

### Implementation:

- seek assistance from key associates and other interested parties to identify, list and publicise all such areas or sites;
- advocate appropriate measures for their protection in regional and district plans, including protection from offsite sources of pollution damage;
- advocate protection of rivers, streams, wetlands and areas of significant natural values listed in Appendix 2 and indicated on Maps 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8;
- seek a reduction of pollution and sediment entering wetland and riverine environments through statutory advocacy and education, and the protection and rehabilitation of riparian vegetation in association with land owners and local authorities, involving local communities where appropriate, e.g., Care groups;
- maintain or restore water levels of lakes and wetlands administered by the department, and advocate protection of lakes and wetlands on private land;
- advocate regeneration and rehabilitation of remnant or degraded areas of indigenous habitat, and assist land owner or community initiatives for protection or restoration of such sites;
- prepare guidelines for the conservation management of such areas and distribute them to local authorities, tangata whenua and affected land owners;
- ensure that local authorities and public libraries, are provided with accurate, up to date and comprehensive information on conservation resources and values or know where they can access such information within the department.

### 8.3.3

See: 2.1.2.2.1, 2.3.1, 2.3.2,  
3.5.1, 3.8.1, 5.5.1

#### Objective:

To promote the conservation of native fish and protect areas important for their life cycle (e.g., fish passage, spawning and juvenile rearing areas) and their general habitat.

### Implementation:

- in consultation with the Ministry of Fisheries and other affected parties, seek closure of commercial eeling (or reduction if closure is not feasible) in key freshwater habitats, for the protection of shortfinned eels (tuna);
- enforce prohibitions on the taking of native fish in areas of known high fish density and diversity, where streams fall within land administered by the department;
- restore fish access to wetland habitats and construct fish passes or use other methods to enable fish passage, in association with other key agencies where appropriate, e.g., Lake Arapuni;
- resist the introduction of any species of exotic fish to systems where these fish are not already present;

- seek the reduction of populations of pest fish, including koi, catfish and mosquito fish;
- retire progressively riparian margins on all land administered by the department to improve aquatic habitat for native fish;
- protect rivers and streams and their margins as identified in Appendix 2 by involvement in statutory processes under the Resource Management Act 1991;
- seek protection of whitebait (inanga) spawning areas and unmodified lowland stream habitat;
- support and cooperate with the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council to increase conservation of wetlands and wetland species;
- seek rehabilitation of streams contaminated by past mining activities.

**Explanation:**

*Key freshwater ecosystems need to be identified and given priority for protection, both legally and in practice. However, all freshwater ecosystems are of value and advocating the protection of less significant sites will add to the overall extent and diversity of freshwater habitat available. Native fish habitat has been severely degraded and native fish species are suffering competition from other introduced species, both coarse fish and salmonids in many parts of the Conservancy, with a resultant decline in fish density and diversity. Protection of the various areas used by native fish during their life cycle is essential to ensure that fish are able to complete their life cycles, as is protection of representative habitats within ecological districts and regions.*

## 8.4 COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

### 8.4.1

See: 2.1,2.2.3,2.3.1,2.3.2,  
2.3.3,3.5.4.3.6.5.3.7.1,3.7.3,  
4.5.1,5.5.2,11.5.1,11.8

**Objective:**

**To identify and protect key coastal and marine sites and maintain the health and diversity of the coastal and marine environment.**

**Implementation:**

- complete a comprehensive survey of coastal marine resources, particularly of areas threatened by development or where additional information is required;
- identify areas of high or outstanding value for conservation;
- in collaboration with neighbouring conservancies, with early and effective involvement of tangata whenua and consultation with Ministry of Fisheries, prepare a marine protected areas strategy and participate in the establishment of a network of marine protected areas.

- foster public support for the protection of key sites by disseminating information and encouraging public involvement in their protection;
- advocate protection of areas with significant natural values as listed in Appendix 2;
- seek a reduction of pollution and sediment entering coastal and marine environments through statutory advocacy and education, and protection and rehabilitation of coastal vegetation in association with land owners, local authorities, involving local communities, e.g., care groups;
- advocate regeneration and rehabilitation of remnant or degraded areas such as indigenous coastal vegetation, dunes, coastal forest, cliff face vegetation and pohutukawa forest and assist land owner or community initiatives for protection or restoration of such areas or sites;
- prepare guidelines for the conservation management of such areas and distribute them to local authorities, tangata whenua and affected land owners;
- provide local authorities and public libraries with accurate, up to date and comprehensive information on conservation resources and values or let them know where they can access such information within the department.

#### 8.4.2

See: 2.2.6

##### **Objective:**

To develop systems for establishing, and effectively managing and monitoring marine protected areas.

##### **Implementation:**

- ensure consultation with all interested parties including tangata whenua, key associates, local community groups and fishing industry representatives in the establishment of protected areas;
- provide adequate resources for effective administration, enforcement, interpretation of the areas and monitoring of marine life;
- support and cooperate with tangata whenua in promoting the holistic management of fisheries and with investigations into taiapure.

##### **Explanation:**

*There are numerous formal and informal means for protecting coastal and marine sites, ecosystems and species, including taiapure under the Fisheries Act 1983 administered by the Ministry of Fisheries, and Mātaitai Reserves. Protection of intertidal (foreshore) landforms can be achieved through the Conservation Act 1987 and the Reserves Act 1977, coupled with the Land Act 1948. Policies and plans prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991 may also provide a powerful mechanism for achieving protection. More comprehensive protection can be achieved under the Marine Reserves Act 1971, but the criteria for establishing reserves under the Marine Reserves Act are limited to scientific purposes. The Marine Reserves Act also has the potential to exclude taiapure. The Fisheries Act offers forms of protection that are not available under any of the Acts administered by the department.*

*Investigation of areas for marine protection will consider these varied options and factors such as the quality of the marine and coastal habitat representativeness, size and uses. Consultation and planning will involve the views of local residents, district councils, iwi and commercial and recreational fishing interests and the implementation and enforcement of protection will strongly depend on acceptance and cooperation from these groups.*

*The Ministry of Fisheries needs to be fully involved in the preparation and implementation of a marine protected area strategy because of its powers and responsibilities under the Fisheries Act 1983.*

*Note: The department now has responsibilities under the Foreshore and Seabed Revesting Amendment Act 1994 for foreshore and seabed within the coastal marine area.*

## 8.5 LANDSCAPES, LANDFORMS, SOILS AND GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

### 8.5.1

See: 2.1,2.2.3

#### Objective:

To protect significant landscapes, landforms, and geological features and soil sites by protective management of features on land administered by the department.

#### Implementation:

- give high priority to fragile sites and features, for example fossil sites, small exposures, speleothems, scoria cones;
- seek mutual agreement with tangata whenua on the levels of recognition and provision to be given to prevent damage to culturally significant landforms and geological resources.

### 8.5.2

See: 2.3.3

#### Objective:

To assist the NZ Earth Science societies, and in particular the Waikato branches of those societies, or any other expert groups, in preparing and updating the Geopreservation Inventory or similar public information source.

#### Implementation:

- provide co-operation and advice on request;
- provide logistical assistance where this is feasible and of mutual benefit.

### 8.5.3

See: 2.2.1.2.3.3,11.8

#### **Objective:**

**To advocate, encourage, and support protection of significant landscapes, landforms, geological features and soil sites on private land.**

#### **Implementation:**

- provide local authorities and landowners with information about significant landforms and geological features within their areas of administration or management;
- advocate measures for protecting significant landscapes, landforms and geological features in regional and district plans;
- foster public interest in and appreciation of the Waikato's diverse earth science heritage;
- oppose or support opposition to resource consents that could threaten the scientific, aesthetic, cultural or community values of significant landscapes, landforms or geological features.

### 8.5.4

See: 2.3.3

#### **Objective:**

**To seek integrated and protective management of publicly and privately owned cave and karst resources of Waitomo and Otorohanga Districts.**

#### **Implementation:**

- initiate consultation with key associates and all interested parties including NZ Speleological Society, landowners and tangata whenua, district councils, and any relevant commercial interests;
- in consultation with the foregoing interests, formulate mutually acceptable objectives, policies, and management guidelines for the use and protection of caves and karst features;
- ensure that all access to and use of Waitomo Glowworm Caves is in accordance with an approved conservation management plan;
- ensure that access to and use of all other caves and karst resources on land administered by the department is in accordance with the provisions of a document entitled:  
*General Policy and Guidelines for Cave and Karst Management in Areas Managed by the Department of Conservation*, or any successor document; in particular the proposed Caves and Karst Management Plan;
- promote conservation of soil, water, and indigenous vegetation within catchments that drain into caves;



- encourage research aimed at advancing knowledge and understanding of cave and karst ecosystems and natural processes, and at improving the effectiveness of their conservation management; provided that such research shall not be allowed to pose any threat to their conservation values;
- foster public interest in and appreciation of the values of cave and karst resources of Waitomo and Otorohanga Districts.

**Explanation:**

*The Conservancy will seek to protect all significant landscapes, landforms, geological features and soil sites by protective management within its administrative control. In the case of landscapes, landforms and geological features which are outside the areas of its administration, the department will, to the extent that resources and other conservation priorities permit, provide support to community groups and other agencies for their protection.*

*The aim is to ensure the protection of the best representative examples of the diversity of landforms, geological and soil sites and physical processes of the Waikato, including those which have been identified by the New Zealand Earth Science Societies as being of regional, national or international significance (refer Appendix 4) or by a local authority or tangata whenua.*

*Cave and karst resources can easily be permanently damaged, and those of Waitomo and Otorohanga Districts are subject to high visitor pressure. Careful and co-operative management is necessary to reduce visitor impacts and to get maximum benefits for local people with minimum damage to the resources.*

## 8.6 HISTORIC AND CULTURAL FEATURES

### 8.6.1

See: 2.1, 2.2.4, 8.6.2,  
8.6.3, 8.6.4

**Objective:**

**To ensure that a representative range of sites is preserved reflecting the total period and diversity of human settlement, resource exploitation, human interactions, and human impacts on the landscape.**

**Implementation:**

- complete a Historic Resources Strategy identifying sites and priorities for protection in the Waikato Conservancy;
- be guided by iwi regarding the protection of areas of special spiritual, cultural and historical significance to tangata whenua on lands administered by the department;
- develop jointly agreed criteria and procedures to achieve the protection of such sites. This will also include developing ways of encouraging a wider appreciation of Maori history and mythology and may involve the use of interpretation to identify some sites.

### 8.6.2

See: 2.1,2.2.4

#### **Objective:**

**To protect and manage historic places on land administered by the department.**

#### **Implementation:**

- complete a site inventory and assessment of all historic sites located on land administered by the department;
- survey and record areas presently unsurveyed;
- prepare site management plans for significant sites or group of sites located within the land administered by the department. These include the Ohinemuri and Thames goldfields, and Waikato Land Wars sites;
- implement protection management programmes as required in the light of the relative conservation value and threats to each site;
- develop a regional historic resources team of people with expertise and interest who can assist and supervise with identification, ranking and protection of sites;
- encourage involvement and assistance from the community and special interest groups;
- monitor areas of land administered by the department experiencing high visitor impact and, where necessary, take steps to protect historic places.

### 8.6.3

See: 2.2.4,2.3.3,8.6,11.8.1

#### **Objective:**

**To foster conservation of historic places located on private land.**

#### **Implementation:**

- continue to assist the Historic Places Trust in the protection of archaeological sites through the Historic Places Act 1993;
- advocate the conservation of historic places located on private land, by procedures of the Resource Management Act 1991 and general conservation advocacy;
- include historic resources on private land within the Historic Resources Strategy.

### 8.6.4

See: 2.2.4,2.3.3,8.6,

11.1.1,11.3.2,11.3.3

#### **Objective:**

**To foster public knowledge of and understanding about historic places and events.**

## Implementation:

- help to establish self-guided interpretive trails through areas of significant historic or cultural interest (e.g., Huntly coalfields, Karangahake-Waitawheta, Land War Sites, Thames and Coromandel goldfields, King Country sites);
- prepare cost-recoverable self-guiding trail booklets about areas of significant historic and cultural interest (e.g., Coromandel kauri sites, Coromandel goldfield sites, the Ohinemuri goldfield, a Land Wars trail guide);
- preserve historic relics "in situ" where they are well protected and consider returning industrial machinery to its original site where this is practicable and would assist interpretation;
- record the story of conservation efforts to gain recognition for the value of lowland forest through historical interpretation (e.g., tree top protest Pureora);
- undertake research, survey and monitoring where these can help to make recreation and protection management more effective;
- co-ordinate actions with other agencies such as Environment Waikato, district councils and NZ Historic Places Trust.

## Explanation

*Given the extent and scale of historic sites and resources and the resourcing constraints faced by the Conservancy, it is necessary to prioritise historic management work. Because sites reflect the conditions of the people who created them it is possible to learn a great deal about the different or*

*changing circumstances of people who lived in the past by studying the differences and changes in archaeological and historic sites over time and from one place to another. The aim is to retain the full spectrum of cultural diversity.*

*Waahi tapu are a special category and the department will need to be guided by iwi regarding protection and management of such sites.*

NOTE: Any place associated with human activity before 1900 is deemed to be an archaeological site under the Historic Places Act 1993. Any proposed work which will destroy, modify or damage an archaeological site will require an authority from the NZ Historic Places Trust in the first instance.



*Ko ta te Papa Atawhai, huri noa i a Tainui waka, he ata  
whakatau i a Papatuanuku, kia u tonu ai tona whakauitanga;  
hei whangai i a tini i a mano, huri noa mo ake tonu atu.  
The Waikato Conserrancy is obliged to nurture and restore  
Mother Earth so she may provide the spiritual and physical  
sustenance for the survival of the myriads who depend on her.*

## CHAPTER 9 - Specific Objectives for Areas Administered by the Department

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## 9. Specific Objectives for Areas Administered by the Department

### 9.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter sets out functional objectives for protection management of the land and marine areas administered by the department in Waikato Conservancy. (Chapter 10 deals with recreational, commercial and other uses and with assessment procedures for all works and activities, including those undertaken by the department for management purposes).

The general obligations of the department in respect of land administered by it are set out in Section 6 and Parts IV, IVA & V of the Conservation Act 1987, Section 3 and Sections 17-25 of the Reserves Act 1977 and Section 4 of the National Parks Act 1980. The department also has an obligation to administer all Acts listed in the schedule of the Conservation Act in a manner that gives effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi as required by Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987.

In addition, there are areas administered for the specific purposes of the Marine Reserves Act 1971 (e.g., Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve), and wildlife sanctuaries and reserves under the Wildlife Act 1953 (e.g., Mapara Wildlife Reserve).

At the date of writing this Strategy, there are no areas within the Conservancy administered under the National Parks Act 1980.

The prime responsibility of the department for land administered under the Conservation Act 1987 is conservation of natural and historic resources. The Act defines Conservation as *"the preservation and*

*protection of natural and historic resources for the purpose of maintaining their intrinsic values, providing for their appreciation and recreational enjoyment by the public and safeguarding the options of future generations"*.

For land administered under the Reserves Act 1977, the prime responsibility is to protect the features or values, for which the area has been reserved whether they be natural, scenic, recreational, historic, cultural, archaeological, biological, geological, scientific or educational or of particular local community value. The public have right of access to recreation, scenic and historic reserves, which comprise the majority of reserves in Waikato Conservancy. In the case of nature reserves, public access is subject to permit.



Phil Bradfield plays a kokako tape recording at Mapara, hoping to entice a bird or two into view for his guests. The ploy succeeds.

Public access to Scientific and Government Purpose reserves (e.g., Wildlife Management) is allowed unless prohibited or restricted by notice in the New Zealand Gazette.

The public also has a right of access to Conservation Parks and stewardship land unless specifically excluded by lease, licence or protection of conservation values.

The detailed management of specific areas administered by the department is then determined by this CMS and any specific conservation management plan, and is also subject to the Resource Management Act 1991. The Crown Minerals Act 1991 applies to minerals on land so administered.

See: 2.2.2.2.2.6

### 9.1.1

#### MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE:

To achieve cost-effective protection of the natural and historic resources on land and marine areas administered by the department; to fulfil statutory obligations as efficiently and effectively as possible; to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi; and to involve the local and regional community in the protection of areas over which they have an interest.

## 9.2 ACCESS

See: 2.2.5.2.3.4

### 9.2.1

#### Objective:

The department will strive to ensure practicable access to all areas suitable for recreation and will seek to improve or extend access where funds are available and conservation priorities permit.

#### Explanation:

*There are some areas to which public access must be prohibited, restricted or controlled in order to prevent damage or threat to the conservation resources for which the land is protected. These areas include the outer islands off the east coast of Coromandel (i.e., Cuvier (Repanga) Island, Aldermen (Ruamabua) and Mercury Islands), some wildlife management reserves and scientific reserves (e.g., Mapara Wildlife Reserve, Whewells Bush, Aotea Reserve) and a number of caves, fossil sites and other areas which could be damaged by public access. For such areas access may be allowed subject to permit and/or the presence of an authorised guide or member of the department.*

## 9.3 AIRCRAFT ACCESS

### 9.3.1

Sec: 10.4

**Objective:**

To provide for departmental use of aircraft for management purposes and for emergency situations.

**Implementation:**

- allow aircraft to be used for access purposes by the department to enable it to carry out management functions;
- allow access by aircraft for firefighting, search and rescue and other emergency situations.

### 9.3.2

**Objective:**

To control the private use of aircraft as a means of access to areas administered by the department for recreational, commercial or other purposes.

**Implementation:**

- authorise the hunting and recovery of wild animals by aircraft as provided for under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977;
  - consider all other applications for the landing, taking off and hovering of aircraft on a case by case basis taking into account:
    - the purpose and necessity for aircraft access
    - whether reasonable/practicable alternative access is available
    - impact of the aircraft and proposed landing zone (or alternatives) on natural, historic, recreation or cultural values and other users
    - occupational health and safety aspects
- Any such use will require approval from the department. All aircraft landings for recreation purposes on land administered by the department will require a concession;
- require Hughes 300 helicopters to comply with the fire safety prescriptions relating to the fitting of approved spark arrestors/heat shields;
  - refuse permits for access by aircraft on land administered by the department where threatened or endangered wildlife sensitive to disturbance are present, for example nesting sites, roosts or where it would compromise cultural or recreational values;
  - report any incidents of unauthorised low flying aircraft causing disturbance to wildlife to the Civil Aviation Division of Ministry of Transport;



- investigate with Civil Aviation Division, means of regulating the low flying of aircraft to minimise disturbance in areas where this would compromise recreational users on the ground, especially areas of remote experience.

#### Explanation:

*The control of aircraft (which includes fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, microlights, gliders, hang-gliders and parapents) is the responsibility of the Civil Aviation Authority (Ministry of Transport) by virtue of the Civil Aviation Act 1990. No aircraft can land, hover or take-off from a reserve or conservation area (except for an emergency arising from bad weather, mechanical or structural defects) without a concession from the department granted under the Conservation or Reserves Acts. The department can grant or refuse to grant permission to land.*

*Aircraft, particularly helicopters, provide an important means of access for management purposes e.g., building or servicing public facilities in a remote site, and for emergency purposes, e.g., fire fighting. Helicopters have minimal physical impact compared to roading or some other means of transport.*

*Allowance will generally be made for aerial access for recreational hunting and possum trapping as legitimate recreational and commercial activities on land administered by the department. Applications for helicopter permits for other purposes (for example, the maintenance of a concessionaire's facility or commercial filming) will be considered according to the criteria above. Of particular concern is the need to avoid conflict between lowflying aircraft and sensitive natural habitats and compromising the remote, recreational experience.*



Aircraft play a vital role in management of conservation land, particularly wild animal control

## 9.4 BICYCLES AND OFF-ROAD VEHICLES

### 9.4.1

See: 2.2.5

#### **Objective:**

**To enable recreational use of bicycles and other off-road vehicles on land administered by the department, where natural and historic resources, and the safety and enjoyment of other users will not be endangered.**

#### **Implementation:**

- allow the use of mountain bikes, other bicycles and off-road vehicles on all formed roads, old logging roads and any other designated tracks, unless there are reasons of safety, security, or protection of natural or historic resources for prohibiting such use;
- identify and designate tracks which may be used for bicycles or off-road vehicles, and indicate by signs the existence of such tracks;
- prohibit the use of bicycles and off-road vehicles on walking and tramping tracks which have not been specifically identified as suitable for such use.

## 9.5 ANIMAL PEST CONTROL

### 9.5.1

See: 8.1.1, 8.2.2

#### **Objective:**

**To ensure the survival of native ecosystems and habitats and threatened species.**

#### **Implementation:**

- prevent animal pest species from becoming established where they are not already present by directing control techniques as necessary;
- eradicate animal pest species where feasible (for example, on islands);
- contain wild animal species within their present range by ensuring that hunting pressure or other control measures are effectively directed to prevent expansion of their range;
- maintain or improve ecosystem functions of key ecosystems and habitats by controlling wild animal species at population levels necessary to preserve affected indigenous species;
- carry out wild animal control in accordance with national control plans, policies and priorities;

- develop systems, procedures and incentives to encourage recreational and commercial hunting of animal pests for areas of natural value which are not being protected by official wild animal control methods;
- monitor and assess the effects and effectiveness of different methods of pest control, including alternatives to 1080;
- use hunters and trappers where access, topography, vegetation, and the availability of good hunters or cost effectiveness permit, and where the use of poison as a method of control is likely to threaten the survival of any threatened indigenous species;
- liaise and maintain communication with all commercial and recreational hunting groups, and continue to consult with such groups on a regular basis;
- adopt mutually agreed consultative procedures with tangata whenua.

#### **Explanation:**

*Most wild animal control is presently directed at large animals such as possums, goats and deer and is carried out under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977. However, the above objectives can apply equally to rats, cats, mustelids or other animals where their control is practicable and necessary for protection of the target indigenous species. For example, rats, cats and mustelids are controlled at Mapara Wildlife Reserve, and management of the Mercury and Aldermen (Ruamahua) Islands and Cuvier (Repanga) Island has involved the eradication of rats and rabbits.*

*The methods used to control wild animals vary with circumstances, including ground conditions and the presence or absence of non-target species that could be affected by a particular control method (for example, kiwi, which are susceptible to trapping, or weta which could be susceptible to ground based poison baits). 1080 poison, applied both aerially and by ground methods, is currently one of the most common control methods used by the department because, compared with other methods, it is the safest and most cost effective method under a wide range of circumstances. However, it is by no means the only method used and, given changes in technology, methods of application, or other circumstances, it may not be the most common means in future. The department is constantly testing new methods of animal control to find ways which minimise environmental damage and maximise efficiency of animal control.*

*Wild animal control methods may include commercial hunting, recreational hunting, or official control methods by the department and other agencies. Official control by the department depends on the degree of protection required to ensure the survival of particular vulnerable species or the functioning of specific ecosystems or habitats, and it will apply to areas that have been ranked as nationally important.*

*In relation to the issue of commercial versus recreational hunting or helicopters versus ground hunting, the department does not have a particular preference except where one may endanger the safety or enjoyment of others or where one method of control has clear conservation or financial advantages over others.*

## 9.6 COMPLIANCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

### 9.6.1

See: 2.2.6, 2.3.5

**Objective:**

To develop effective law enforcement systems throughout the Conservancy.

**Implementation:**

- develop an honorary officer network and/or networks with tangata whenua and other interested groups to assist staff with ensuring the public comply with laws and bylaws administered by the department;
- develop and maintain an ongoing system of law enforcement training for staff and honorary officers;
- take prosecutions where warranted;
- develop an advocacy strategy to promote compliance with conservation law, bylaws and the department's Environmental Care Code;
- develop and maintain effective and ongoing compliance and law enforcement response and reporting mechanisms.

## 9.7 DOGS & DOMESTIC ANIMALS

### 9.7.1

See: 2.3.1

**Objective:**

To control the entry of dogs and other domestic animals, including horses, on to land administered by the department.

**Implementation:**

- identify and gazette a list of open dog areas and those areas where dog access will be controlled;
- prohibit the use of dogs in controlled dog areas (except guide and companion dogs and those under the control of authorised persons) unless allowed under a dog control permit or during a specified period when the area may be open to dogs;
- prohibit the use of horses except on formal roads, where they shall be allowed, and in specific areas, tracks or facilities that are designated for use by horses. The department shall identify areas where horses may be taken without compromising natural and historic values and permit their use in those areas;
- prohibit the entry of all other domestic animals on to areas administered by the department except into specified areas under specific conditions authorised by permit.

### Explanation:

*Unless under strict control, dogs can kill kiwi and other native wildlife, and can cause nuisance to visitors and other users of conservation land. The department's approach is to allow for guide dogs and dogs necessary for management purposes, but to otherwise limit the entry of dogs except under controlled conditions or where they will not endanger wildlife or conflict with the enjoyment of other users. Similarly, use of horses can detract from the enjoyment of walkers, trampers and other visitors if they use the same tracks.*

*Under Part VC of the Conservation Act 1987 National Parks; wilderness areas; ecological areas; sanctuary; scenic, nature, scientific and national reserves; wildlife sanctuaries, refuges and reserves cannot be designated open dog areas. Other areas may be declared a "controlled dog area" or an "open dog area" following a public consultation process initiated by a discussion document. After taking into account public submissions, a list of areas and any conditions pertaining to them, will be published in the NZ Gazette.*

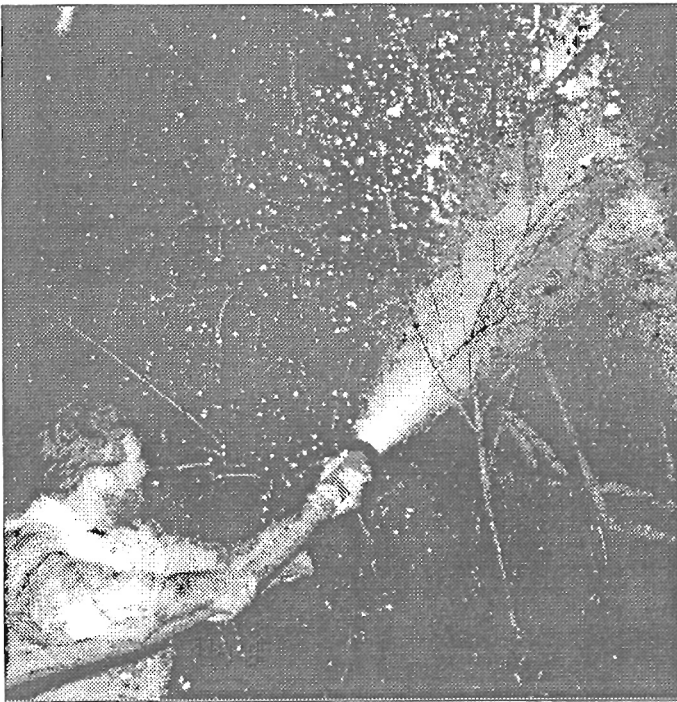
## 9.8 FIRE CONTROL & MANAGEMENT

### 9.8.1

Sec: 2.3.5

#### Objective:

To ensure an effective fire capability within the Conservancy to reduce the risk of uncontrolled fire, and to use fire as a management tool for protecting the values for which the land is administered.



A fire at Hakarimata Scenic Reserve is quickly brought under control by department staff, summer 1994.

#### Implementation:

- maintain suitably trained personnel;
- maintain adequate equipment;
- maintain appropriate communication with neighbouring fire authorities;
- maintain a fire permit system for the use of fire in all areas other than approved fire places;
- provide protection for high value, high risk areas in the form of fire breaks and water supplies;
- declare prohibited fire seasons and cancel fire permits when fire dangers indicate high risk from uncontrolled fires;
- complete a zone plan system and fire plan according to Conservancy site priorities, and ensure in-house knowledge of the plan;
- develop a greater level of understanding within the general community of the threat to conservation values posed by fire;
- use fire as a management tool.

### Explanation:

*The Minister of Conservation is the fire authority for lands administered by the department and for a one kilometre contiguous fire safety margin. The department is responsible for "fire control measures" within this area as defined in Section 2 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977.*

## 9.9 LAND ACQUISITION AND EXCHANGE

### 9.9.1

See: 2.2.6, 2.3.1, 2.3.2,

2.3.7, 8.2.2

#### Objective:

**To ensure that acquisition of land by purchase or exchange will maximise conservation benefits for the Conservancy.**

#### Implementation:

- assess the value of any land offered to the department for acquisition or exchange in terms of its implications for practical management and in terms of Conservancy priorities, as well as by the criteria required by applications for land purchase funding from the department's Land Acquisition Fund or from public funding sources. Specifically, any land offered for acquisition or exchange will be:
  - inspected by staff, and all natural and historic resources assessed. Tangata whenua involvement is required for any proposed exchange given that cultural values may be associated with the land;
  - after staff inspection and assessment any firm proposal for acquisition or exchange will be referred to tangata whenua for comment. This will include a request for advice about any sites of cultural or spiritual values associated with the land;
  - assessed in relation to the criteria required for land purchase funding applications (e.g., the Forest Heritage Fund or the department's Land Acquisition Fund). Where normal funding sources are not appropriate or existing funds are unavailable, the department may seek sponsorship or assistance from other agencies and organisations if it believes the purchase of an area merits special effort;
  - assessed in relation to the Conservancy's own priorities as set out in this CMS or any other planning documents and expressed through the Annual Business Plan;
  - processed only on the basis of a willing seller, willing buyer.

#### Explanation:

*The department is frequently offered land for acquisition or exchange. It needs to assess whether the value of such land is enough, in terms of its conservation resources or its implications for practical management, public efficiency, to outweigh the costs involved (e.g., survey costs, fencing, weed and*

*pest control, or the opportunity cost of spending funds on one area as opposed to another). Any proposal to exchange land is generally subject to public advertising. In the case of land that is not subject to a requirement for public advertising, there must be consultation with the Waikato Conservation Board and local iwi.*

## 9.10 LAND DISPOSAL

### 9.10.1

See: 2.2.6, 2.3.1, 2.3.2,

2.3.7, 8.2.2

#### Objective:

To ensure that any land disposed of by the department by sale or exchange is justified by a conservation gain that outweighs the cost of disposal measures. In any case, where the department proposes to dispose of land, it shall first invite inspection and comment by tangata whenua.

#### Explanation:

*The options and procedures for disposal of land depends on the particular Act to which the land is subject. The provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 for example, involve a formal procedure of revoking the reserve status (subject to public advertising) before any land can be disposed of. The Conservation Act 1987 precludes the disposal of any Conservation Area other than a stewardship area subject to certain criteria and to procedures of public notice and rights of objection. These and other procedures (such as surveying) may involve a cost which outweighs the conservation benefit to be gained by the proposal. In all cases the requirements of the Public Works Act shall apply, with the Waikato Raupatu Claims Settlement Act 1995 also having particular relevance.*

## 9.11 LAND STATUS & CLASSIFICATION

### 9.11.1

See: 2.2.6, 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 8.2.2

#### Objective:

To change the legal status or classification of any land administered by the department where such a change will ensure more effective management or protection.

#### Explanation:

*The legal status and management of areas administered by the department depends on the Act to which they are subject. Conservation Parks (e.g., Coromandel Conservation Park, Pureora Conservation Park), Ecological areas, Wilderness Areas, Sanctuary Areas and Stewardship Areas are subject*

*to the Conservation Act. (But note that there can be Wilderness areas under the Reserves Act as well). Wildlife Reserves and Refuges are subject to the Wildlife Act. Recreation Reserves, Scenic Reserves, Nature Reserves and Historic Reserves are subject to the Reserves Act.*

*The aim of most of these different classes of land is protection of natural or historic resources. But there is variation in the degree of protection imposed by the legislation, the amount of public access allowed, and the opportunity for other uses (e.g., recreation, commercial leases and licences). The differences of status and classification have very little effect on day-to-day protection management. The department bases the practical management of the land it administers on the ecological values present, and on its relationship with adjoining or nearby land. Thus, where there are rare or endangered species, or habitat or forest of high value, management is designed to protect those values, irrespective of the classification. Similarly, if the land is part of a wildlife or habitat corridor which in sum has a high ecological value, management priorities will be designed accordingly.*

*However, it is also recognised that the status given to land by classifications can influence public attitude and the decisions that may be made by those considering correct applications or uses. In particular, land of higher protective status may be given greater consideration in the public mind than land of lower status, such as stewardship even though it may have equal or greater ecological value. The department will, under such circumstances, consider reclassification to a more relevant and protective status. Such changes involve costs (e.g., staff time, survey costs). Therefore, they will only be undertaken where the conservation benefit to be gained is clear and is greater than expenditure of equivalent staff time and money on any alternative conservation activity. The views of tangata whenua, affected parties and in some cases, the public, will be sought.*

## 9.12 MANAGEMENT PLANNING

### 9.12.1

See: 2.2.6, 2.3.3, 2.3.7

#### **Objective:**

**To implement and review this conservation management strategy, and prepare and implement conservation management plans and such other plans as may be necessary to help the department, tangata whenua, local and regional communities to work effectively together.**

#### **Implementation:**

- work closely with the Waikato Conservation Board in preparing and reviewing conservation management plans, and reviewing and amending this strategy.
- seek a high level of tangata whenua and public involvement in the process of preparing conservation management plans and conservation action plans and amendments to this conservation management strategy;



- produce plans and strategies which provide clear directions, priorities and guidelines;
- seek a high level of knowledge, understanding and acceptance of plans and strategies by agencies and groups who have an interest in the land administered by the department and protection of conservation resources;
- in conjunction with the Auckland Conservancy, seek a review of the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Management Plan consistent with the provisions of this CMS in respect of Cuvier (Repanga) Island, Motutapere Island off the west coast of Coromandel Peninsula, all the Mercury Islands except Great Mercury (Ahuahu), and all the Aldermen (Ruamahua) Islands;
- complete conservation management plans for Waitomo Caves Scenic Reserve, Ruakuri Caves and Bush Scenic Reserve; and reserves between Whitianga Rock & Hot Water Beach, including Mahurangi Island; and all other land administered by the department within the Hauraki Planning Unit.

Further to the conservation management plans for the areas specified here, the department will undertake additional conservation management plans in the following instances where:

- the area has a high public profile or has particular significance to the community or sectors of it; and/or
- there are competing demands on the area; and/or
- there are special issues which cannot be covered by the CMS in sufficient detail, or cannot be resolved by consultation or other processes;
- complete conservation action plans and functional strategies where more detailed management direction is required. Such plans will include the wetlands of the Waikato Ecological Region, the caves and karst resources of Waitomo and Otorohanga Districts; the public and private forests and landscape of western King Country between Kawhia and Awakino and functional strategies for visitor services and historic resources. Although non-statutory, public input into the preparation of these documents will be sought.

**Note:** This conservation management strategy is the over-riding planning document for this Conservancy. Any conservation management plans prepared must be in conformity with it. All previous reserve management plans prepared for land administered by the department, including plans prepared for reserves by the former Department of Lands and Survey under Section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977, and by the NZ Forest Service under Section 26 and Section 63C of the Forest Act 1949 have lapsed and are replaced by this conservation management strategy.

An exception is the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Management Plan made under the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Act 1967. This is now a conservation management plan for the purposes of the Conservation Act 1987, and applies to Cuvier (Repanga) Island, Motutapere Island off the west coast of Coromandel Peninsula, all the Mercury Islands, except for Great Mercury (Ahuahu), and all the Aldermen (Ruamahua) Islands.

**Explanation:**

*In terms of S.17E of the Conservation Act 1987, conservation management plans relate only to areas administered by the department under the Wildlife Act 1953, the Marine Reserves Act 1971, the Reserves Act 1977, the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978 and the Conservation Act itself. Under this Act they must go through a formal statutory procedure that is intended to ensure widespread public notification and opportunities for public submission. Management plans require the approval of the Waikato Conservation Board and the Board is also responsible for overseeing any review and amendment of the conservation management strategy.*

*“Conservation action plan” is a term here being applied to areas or resources which are found both on private land and land administered by the department. For these areas the statutory procedures of a conservation management plan will not be used because they apply to the management of land or resources that are privately owned as well as those managed by the department.*

## 9.13 MAXIMISING EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS

### 9.13.1

See: 2.2.6

**Objective:**

**To maximise efficiency and long term cost effectiveness of management programmes.**

**Implementation:**

- subject all management programmes to annual review and assessment of conservation priorities and ensure that management actions are consistent with those reassessed priorities;
- choose methods of conservation and recreation management which, in the long term, can be expected to minimise maintenance costs and ongoing energy inputs;
- choose methods of conservation and recreation management that are practicable and achievable;
- except as necessary for the protection of threatened species, ecosystem and habitat management, seek to achieve sustainable long term ecological balances.

**Explanation:**

*Past experience has shown many ways of improving the long term efficiency and cost-effectiveness of projects and facilities. The cheapest option at the outset may not be the best value for money in the long term if it involves high maintenance costs. Similarly programmes which are not practicable or*

*achievable within a definite time frame may result in half-completed jobs and wasted effort.*

*Past experience suggests that, in general, the greatest long term efficiency and cost-effectiveness is achieved by doing fewer programmes, but doing them completely and well.*

## 9.14 TREATY OF WAITANGI

### 9.14.1

See: 2.2.2, 2.3.7

#### Objective:

**To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.**

#### Implementation:

- commit resources to developing an effective partnership between tangata whenua and the department in the protection and management of natural and historic resources on land administered by the department;
- seek resources to support tangata whenua with conservation initiatives and the protection of taonga in areas administered by the department;
- provide information and advice to tangata whenua to whom responsibility for protection of taonga in areas administered by the department has been delegated;
- support and include in conservancy literature and interpretation material, the effective use of Maori place names and names of flora and fauna;
- pursue opportunities to participate in hui, attend poukai and adopt appropriate protocols in the implementation of bicultural communication;
- implement effective consultation processes on issues, activities and proposals that are likely to affect cultural values;
- work towards achieving greater understanding of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and joint conservation objectives in partnership with local hapu and iwi;
- provide ongoing cultural programmes which cultivate an awareness and understanding of tikanga Maori at different levels to meet the needs of staff.

#### Explanation

*Local hapu and iwi authorities will be consulted about projects that are proposed for conservation lands within their area of territorial concern. They shall be provided with information and with reasonable time to respond. They shall be made aware of the business planning cycle and invited to signal ahead of time, issues which could be of concern to them.*

*Resources permitting, assistance will be provided under Tikanga Atawhai for local hapu and iwi to undertake conservation projects.*

## 9.15 SURVEY & RESEARCH

### 9.15.1

See: 2.2.2,2.2.3,2.2.6,2.3.7

#### Objective:

To encourage survey and research within the Conservancy aimed at improving understanding of indigenous species, habitats, ecosystems, historic resources, landscapes, landforms, geological features and matters effecting recreational use of conservation resources.

#### Implementation:

- submit annually to the research section of the department projects required for the protection or improved understanding of natural and historic resources within the Conservancy;
- provide information to universities, polytechnics, Crown research institutes, and other research institutions about the research requirements of the Conservancy;
- provide, in accordance with Conservancy priorities, support for research that will advance the understanding or conservation of natural and historic resources within the Conservancy;
- co-operate with tangata whenua in the collection of information about natural and historic resources within the Conservancy, and provide survey and research information to tangata whenua;
- co-operate with other agencies and voluntary groups in collecting information about natural and historic resources within the Conservancy. This may include joint programmes with district councils and Environment Waikato, as well as educational institutions such as the University of Waikato, and specialist groups such as dive clubs, the NZ Ornithological Society, Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society, Native Forests Restoration Trust, botanical groups, the NZ Speleological Society and others;
- undertake monitoring and assessment of the effectiveness of all new or experimental protection or recreation programmes;
- require early and close consultation between researcher and tangata whenua on any survey or research that involves areas or resources of value to tangata whenua.

#### Explanation

*Local people have invaluable knowledge of specific resources and the wider environment, much of which will go back over many generations. Some of this information exists nowhere else and may be in a form that is completely different from the conventional approach taken by science. It is essential that conservation policy or management recognises and works with the knowledge held at local levels as well as scientific knowledge.*

## 9.16 WEED CONTROL

### 9.16.1

See: 2.3.1,2.3.2,8.2.3

#### **Objective:**

**To carry out weed control as necessary for the preservation of natural resources.**

#### **Implementation:**

- assess the threat to natural and historic resources posed by weed species;
- prepare and maintain one or more weed control programmes and strategies for the Conservancy based on the degree of threat to conservation resources posed by weed populations and the practicability of control programmes;
- develop weed control programmes in accordance with the weed strategy or strategies;
- work with Environment Waikato and other agencies to control weeds which threaten conservation resources on areas for which the department has a statutory responsibility, including freshwater habitats;
- co-operate with other conservancies to determine non-chemical methods for the effective control of weeds, and implement these where feasible.

### 9.16.2

See: 2.2.4,8.6.2

#### **Objective:**

**To implement vegetation control as necessary for the preservation of historic and geological resources.**

#### **Implementation:**

- assess the threat to geological and historic resources posed by regeneration of indigenous and other vegetation;
- develop vegetation control programmes, which may include grazing sheep, for certain places or geological sites.

### 9.16.3

See: 2.2.6

#### **Objective:**

**To meet statutory obligations in relation to weed control as cost-effectively as possible.**

#### **Implementation:**

- seek co-ordination of weed control programmes with other land use managers;
- seek assistance and co-operation of other interested parties in weed control programmes;
- ensure the completion of any resource consent requirements under the Resource Management Act 1991.

*He taonga te whenua,  
Ma te katoa hei tiaki mo nga uri whakatupu;  
Kia rangona ai te ngunguru o Papatuanuku.  
Land is a gift, for all  
To nurture and protect for the generations that follow;  
So that one may hear Mother Earth sigh with contentment.*

## CHAPTER 10 - Uses and Activities on Land Administered by the Department

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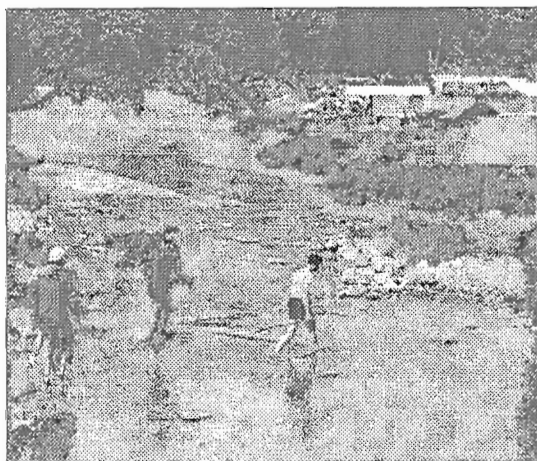
# 10. Uses and Activities on Land Administered by the Department

## 10.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter sets out objectives and procedures for all uses and activities undertaken, either by the department directly, or by individuals and organisations authorised by the department, on land administered within the Waikato Conservancy.

The purpose is to inform the public generally as to what activities are, and may be undertaken; provide guidance on circumstances under which private sector activities may take place, and assist territorial authorities and other public bodies to formulate and implement management policies and plans within the Waikato region.

The chapter is divided into two parts. The first (10.2 to 10.5) outline objectives and implementation. The second part (10.6) sets out the procedures and criteria for assessing all proposed uses and activities.



Stony Bay campground,  
Coromandel Peninsula

Perhaps the most significant uses of lands administered by the department are recreation and tourism. These are often considered one and the same except that recreation equates with non-commercial use by resident New Zealanders whereas tourism is often identified with commercial recreation and visitors from overseas and other parts of New Zealand.

Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987 enables the department to *foster the use of natural and historic resources for recreation, and to allow their use for tourism*. Although the Act distinguishes between recreation and tourism, it does not define the terms and in practise, the only distinction made by the department is between activities which require a concession and those which do

not. The department's aim is to foster recreation and allow tourism without compromise to the vision and key principles of this CMS.

Most visitors to lands administered by the department in Waikato Conservancy are from within the region. However, some 350,000 to 400,000 people visit the Waitomo Glowworm Caves each year, many from overseas. There were an estimated 800,000 visitors to the Coromandel Peninsula in 1994. Some 80 to 90 per cent of these were expected to be resident New Zealanders.

The NZ Tourism Board has projected a three-fold increase in the number of tourists to New Zealand by 2004. However this nationwide growth is not expected to have a huge influence on the overall growth of tourism in the Conservancy, except at the Waitomo Caves, and on the Coromandel Peninsula.



Of more significance for recreation on the Coromandel Peninsula is likely to be continued rapid growth in the retired population and general growth of the resident population as modern electronic communications allow people to work from home. These trends suggest that the Peninsula will receive continued growth pressure for wider recreational opportunities, particularly for family recreation, short-stay and day visitors.

Demand in relation to Waitomo, Ruakuri and Aranui Caves is expected to follow the national pattern of significant growth in the number of international visitors and will require management actions accordingly.

#### 10.1.1

See: 2.1,2.2.5,2.3.5

##### **MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE:**

**For land subject to the Conservation Act 1987: to conserve natural and historic resources, foster public recreational enjoyment of those resources and allow their use for tourism; and ensure that any non-recreation, non-tourism uses of areas administered by the department conform with the legislation to which the area is subject.**

### 10.2 RECREATIONAL USE OF LAND

#### 10.2.1

See: 2.2.6

##### **Objective:**

**To complete a Visitor Services Strategy for the Conservancy to focus management effort in the provision of safe recreation facilities.**

##### **Implementation:**

- prepare an inventory of existing facilities;
- assess future potential and demand in terms of growth patterns and the sensitivity of the resource to change;
- classify outdoor experiences in terms of Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS);
- prioritise the provision of visitor facilities and services;
- provide opportunity for public comment and, in particular, input from recreational and user groups and tourism organisations.
- involve tangata whenua in development of the Visitor Services Strategy.

#### 10.2.2

See: 2.2.1,2.2.5,2.2.6

##### **Objective:**

**To facilitate recreation participation by all New Zealanders and provide recreational opportunities which best reflect and respond to patterns of demand throughout the Waikato Conservancy.**

- manage the existing range of recreation facilities and opportunities and extend these in accordance with the Visitor Services Strategy for the Conservancy;
- work closely with tourism organisations to assess visitor demand, pressure points, and opportunities to enhance visitor experiences;
- facilitate through concessions, commercial activities which foster recreational opportunities to the extent consistent with the prime management objective and existing uses and values of the area;
- encourage greater public awareness of the extent and range of existing and potential opportunities by the distribution of information and interpretive material;
- maintain a range of facilities that will provide access for disabled visitors;
- unless restricted or controlled access is necessary for conservation reasons, discourage exclusive use of recreation resources by particular interests or user groups which could limit other existing or potential uses;
- provide for foot access to remote areas in ways which will not compromise their remote character;
- co-ordinate with territorial authorities and other agencies and conservancies, for the integration of recreational opportunities throughout the region.

### 10.2.3

See: 2.2.3, 2.2.5

#### **Objective:**

**Depending on the availability of resources and assistance from the private sector, regional and district councils or other agencies, seek to maintain and develop a system of walkways over public and private land for public enjoyment of the countryside.**

#### **Implementation:**

- develop one or more walkways on the Coromandel Peninsula. A possibility is the linkage of existing tracks and walkways, and development of consistent signposting to create a "Coromandel Backbone track";
- develop other walkways in close proximity to population centres or areas of high tourist use, for example Hakarimata Walkway near Hamilton and the Waitomo Walkway;
- refer all proposals relating to walkways to the Waikato Conservation Board which acts as a Walkways Committee in terms of the Walkways Act 1990;
- involve tangata whenua in the assessment of all walkway proposals.

### 10.2.4

See: 2.2.2, 2.3.3

#### **Objective:**

**To encourage the involvement of tangata whenua, recreational user groups, local communities and commercial users in planning, developing and maintaining suitable recreational opportunities and facilities.**

### Implementation:

- seek regular consultation with tangata whenua and assistance with the maintenance of existing tracks and other facilities;
- seek regular consultation with user groups and tourism interests and discuss any proposed rationalisation of tracks or other recreation facilities with relevant user groups;
- request assistance from commercial and user groups with the maintenance of existing tracks and other facilities;
- encourage the creation of area support groups (for example, "Friends of Kauaeranga") and the formation of consultative groups for developing and maintaining particular recreational areas or resources;
- seek assistance and sponsorship for the development of facilities which are in accordance with the Conservancy's Visitor Services Strategy and provide technical advice and support to groups for the on-going maintenance of such facilities.

### 10.2.5

See: 2.1.2.2.1, 2.3.5

#### Objective:

To ensure that recreational use does not cause irreversible damage to natural or historic resources.

### Implementation:

- monitor the impact of recreational use, especially areas of high visitor use such as most Coromandel coastal reserves and areas vulnerable to human damage (for example, cave and karst resources);
- manage access to, and use of, recreational resources in a way that prevents, or mitigates, the impact of visitors on natural and historic resources. This is particularly important for coastal areas, cave and karst areas and waahi tapu;
- seek involvement from tangata whenua.

### Explanation:

*The department's prime duty in relation to land it administers under the Conservation Act 1987 is to preserve and protect natural and historic resources; to foster recreational enjoyment of those resources and allow their use for tourism consistent with conservation objectives and in a manner that will give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. For the most part these obligations cannot be interpreted as a "lock up" of conservation land, but clearly impose a duty on the department to ensure that all recreation and tourism uses are consistent with conservation.*

*Survey, research and management expertise all show that recreation patterns reflect the natural diversity of the region. High visitor pressure is experienced on the Coromandel coastline, in its forests (to a lesser degree), and at the Waitomo tourist caves. Other areas receive more localised visitor pressure,*

*but have potential for increased use with improved access and facilities, and greater public awareness of their recreational opportunities.*

*The Conservancy's Visitor Services Strategy will detail the precise management intention for these areas and the priority of these programmes. It will also ensure that under-represented visitor groups are adequately provided for and that more diverse and extended recreation for these groups is encouraged.*

*New walkways under the Walkways Act 1990 will generally only be considered where there is a recognised public demand, where the walkway will provide for a wide range of visitors or complement or link existing track systems on land administered by the department; where land owners are receptive to a walkway over their land, and where the resulting walkway will not involve the department in a significant commitment of regular staff and funding resources. Walkways must be consistent with the protection of natural and historic resources or spiritual and cultural values.*

*Similarly, it is imperative that for caves and other areas easily damaged, recreational use does not cause irreversible change to natural or historic resources. Techniques such as photomonitoring, voluntary "friends", honorary rangers and voluntary registers could be used to monitor impacts.*

*There is a constant trade-off between expenditure for recreation provision and the protection of natural and historic resources, except where they coincide. Since the department's primary mandate is protection of these natural and historic resources and the magnitude and urgency of conservation is so great, there are seldom enough resources within the department to develop and maintain recreation facilities of a nature and to the standards sought by some recreationists.*

*The department, tangata whenua and recreationists together, must look for new ways to maintain and develop recreational opportunities in order to maximise these opportunities on conservation land without diminishing the resources available for protecting our natural and historic heritage.*

## 10.3 CULTURAL USE

### 10.3.1

#### Objective:

To provide for the sustainable use of cultural materials by tangata whenua.

See: 2.3.5, 2.3.7

#### Implementation:

- co-operate with tangata whenua in developing guidelines and procedures for sustainable taking of food, fisheries, and taonga;
- ensure that the guidelines and procedures are in accordance with the healthy functioning of indigenous ecosystems, the survival of endangered species and with the protection of all other natural and historic resources;

- ensure that all taking of cultural resources are channelled through the appropriate iwi authorities;
- co-operate with iwi authorities to develop and implement procedures for monitoring and controlling sustainable levels and methods of use.

NOTE: Most forms of cultural use should fit within Category B uses of Section 10.6.3(ii) of this Strategy and will be dealt with accordingly. However some proposals may have significant impacts beyond the land administered by the department. These will need to be treated like any other Category C use.

### Explanation

*The Wildlife Act 1953 gives absolute protection to most native species of wildlife, including insects and snails (deemed to be "animals" in the third Schedule of that Act and, as such, part of the definition of wildlife). Except with the permission of the Director-General, and except for taking of muttonbirds (titi) from the Aldermen (Ruamabua) Islands by authorised individuals, taking of such animals for cultural purposes is not possible.*

*Removal of plant materials is less restricted by statute but nevertheless requires caution. The department manages natural resources "for conservation purposes" and is responsible to ensure that use of such resources does not endanger their existence. However, Section 30 of the Conservation Act 1987 provides for the allocation of plant material for traditional Maori purposes from land subject to the Act. This could be flax or kiekie for weaving or a fallen log to be made into a canoe or carving for a Wharehau. Bird feathers and whalebone are other materials with cultural application.*

## 10.4 MILITARY USE

### 10.4.1

See: 8.6.1, 9.3

#### Objective:

To allow military use of lands administered by the department in accordance with the 1990 Defence Training Agreement.

#### Implementation:

- work cooperatively with the New Zealand Defence Force to manage the effects, if any, of military exercises;
- requests for military use of areas administered by the department will be considered on their merits in accordance with the criteria in the agreement;
- conditions may be applied to reduce impacts on natural and historic resources and on visitors;

- where areas administered by the department are subject to a proclamation under the Military Manoeuvres Act 1915, the department will liaise with the New Zealand Defence Force Headquarters to seek protection of natural and historic resources.

#### **Explanation:**

*The size and remoteness of some lands administered by the department makes them attractive for defence training. The department receives a number of requests for the use of areas it administers in Coromandel and Pureora Conservation Parks. Large scale exercises have been carried out in these areas for a number of years.*

*Under the Military Manoeuvres Act 1915 the Governor-General may proclaim lands (including lands administered by the department) to be available for military manoeuvres. Any other intended defence activity, however, requires the approval of the department.*

*The department and New Zealand Defence Force are parties to a Defence Training Agreement (signed 8/3/90) which provides for military training to be carried out on State Areas as defined in the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, provided certain conditions are met. departmental approval to carry out military exercises is issued subject to conditions to protect natural and historic resources, and visitors.*

*In return, the New Zealand Defence Force may make available fire fighting assistance to the department. Further assistance for various projects including track construction and maintenance, and transportation of departmental personnel to remote conservation areas by road, air and sea is also often provided.*

*Military training within the Conservancy may also involve Royal New Zealand Air Force aircraft participating in low level flying in airspace above the Conservancy. Low level flying is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Aviation New Zealand Aeronautical Information Publications which recognise notified wildlife sanctuaries and nature reserves. Prior consent must be obtained from the controlling authority if flying is proposed within restricted airspace.*

## **10.5 COMMERCIAL USE**

### **10.5.1**

See: 2.3.5

#### **Objective:**

**To ensure that all non-recreational, non-tourism activities on land administered by the department are consistent with conservation of natural and historic resources and conform with the legislation to which the area is subject.**

**Implementation:**

- assess and process all proposals for a use or activity in accordance with the procedures and criteria specified in Section 10.6 of this CMS.

**10.5.2**

See: 2.2.6, 2.3.6

**Objective:**

To ensure that commercial users of land administered by the department do not unduly divert resources from protection and recreation management.

**Implementation:**

- ensure that applicants for any commercial use of natural and physical resources on land administered by the department pay the full cost of assessing their application whether or not the application is successful;

**10.5.3**

See: 2.2.6

**Objective:**

To pursue the efficient and effective processing of proposals for any use or activity on land administered by the department.

**Implementation:**

- ensure that proposals are assessed in compliance with all relevant statutory procedures;
- use standardised assessment criteria, procedures and national policies which shall be available to applicants at cost;
- encourage prompt and effective liaison with the Waikato Conservation Board, Environment Waikato, district councils, and any other relevant agencies or interest groups; and early and effective dialogue with tangata whenua.

**Explanation**

*Any proposed use or activity on land administered by the department, whether undertaken by the department or not, is to be assessed in terms of its impact on natural, cultural and historic resources. The procedures and criteria specified in Section 10.6 are intended to ensure that the likely effects are accurately assessed and that proposals are allowed, amended, allowed with suitable conditions and safeguards, or declined, on the basis of their likely effect on natural, cultural and historic resources.*

## 10.6 PROCEDURES FOR ASSESSING AND PROCESSING PROPOSED USES OR ACTIVITIES AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT MONITORING AND ADMINISTRATION

### INTRODUCTION

- See: 2.1,2.2.2,2.2.5, 2.2.6,2.3.1,2.3.2,2.3.3,

2.3.4,2.3.5

What can and may take place on areas administered by the department is largely governed by statute.

The principal Acts under which the department administers land within the Waikato Conservancy are the Conservation Act 1987 and the Reserves Act 1977.

In addition there are certain specially protected areas under the Wildlife Act 1953, and a marine reserve under the Marine Reserves Act 1971.

Legislation of general application also controls what may occur on areas administered by the department. For example, the Crown Minerals Act 1991 sets out the obligations of the Minister of Conservation for land allocated to the department. Land administered by the department is open to mining. However the Minister is not required to facilitate exploration or mining.

The Resource Management Act 1991 regulates uses, works or activities. The Crown is bound by this Act. This means that its provisions, and the policies and plans prepared by district and regional councils under it, apply to the department (and other Crown agencies) as much as they do to any other organisation or individual.

The department, and any other organisation or individual undertaking works or activities on land administered by the department, must apply for any resource consents required by the Act or the plans prepared under it.

Section 4 of the Resource Management Act 1991 gives the Crown limited exemption from resource consents as required by territorial local authorities (district councils). This exemption does not apply to works or activities of private organisations on land administered by the department, even though the department itself may have approved the work or activity. The Act does not contain any exemption for works or activities of the Crown which require consent from regional councils.

### 10.6.1

**Concessions or other legal rights to use areas administered by the department may be granted to any body or person for purposes conforming with this Strategy.**

The lands administered by the department are described in Volume II. Management objectives have been set out for each area of land. A concession or other legal interest may be granted for any land administered by the department if:



- i it is in conformity with the statute to which the land is subject; and
- ii the activity or use falls within the criteria described in Section 10.6.3 of this Volume; and
- iii the effects of the use or activity that is the subject of the application do not conflict with the objectives for the particular area of land as stated in Volume II.
- iv The granting of the particular concession is in conformity with the applicable CMS or plan or can be justified in terms of the legislation and criteria described in Section 10.6.3.

Where land administered by the department includes the margins of any river, stream, lake, or the coast, the granting of any concession, or other legal interest, shall be subject to the overall objective of ensuring that these margins are protected and managed to achieve the purposes of marginal strips as set out in the Conservation Act 1987.

## 10.6.2

Activities on land administered by the department may also be subject to standard departmental policies which have been developed for certain uses.

## 10.6.3

See: 2.3.5

Proposals for any use or activity on land administered by the department will be grouped into one of the categories indicated below and treated accordingly. All proposals will be assessed on their merits in accordance with the legislation. Where there is doubt about the possible effects of a use or activity the applicant must supply any additional information to enable the case to be considered. The application may be refused if there is insufficient information or if reasonable conditions cannot be set to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects.

- i **Category A uses or activities are those carried out by the department which will:**
  - have minor impact (see Glossary for definition); or
  - are necessary for the protection of natural or historic resources.

Examples include day-to-day management for protecting natural and historic resources, such as fencing, weed and pest control, clearing of small areas for replacement by indigenous forest, planting for habitat restoration and rehabilitation, species management and species liberation, and removal of exotics for replacement by indigenous forest, maintenance of buildings and structures, and construction of low impact visitor and service facilities (signs, picnic sites, small parking sites, walking or tramping tracks).

ii **Category B uses and activities are those carried out by persons other than the department which will:**

- have minor impact and
- will involve a concession or legal right for less than five years.

Examples which could fall into these categories include low impact tourism and recreation activities, grazing that assists the protection of natural or historic resources, beekeeping, and taking of plant materials for cultural purposes (e.g., fallen totara, feathers of birds that have died of natural causes).

**Assessment & Approval Procedures for Category A & B**

Assessment and decision-making for these uses or activities will:-

- (a) be assessed in accord with:
  - the statutory requirements of the Acts to which the land is subject (including the Resource Management Act 1991).
  - the objectives and implementation measures of this CMS and the Waikato Conservancy Business Plan;
  - the provisions of any existing departmental policy.
- (b) involve notifying the Waikato Conservation Board of activities that may have a significant impact but are necessary to protect natural or historic resources;
- (c) involve early and effective notification to iwi authorities of activities that may have significant impact on cultural or spiritual values but are necessary to protect natural or historic resources.
- (d) require prior consultation with iwi in respect of taking of plant or animal materials for cultural purposes.

iii **Category C uses or activities are those carried out by the department which will:**

- have a significant effect on land administered by the department **and** are not necessary to protect natural or historic resources;
- or**
- have an impact that is likely to be of considerable public concern.

Examples which could fall into this category include depots, workshops, visitor centres, campgrounds and motor camps, airstrips, helipads, and plantation indigenous forestry grown for cultural purposes.

iv **Category D uses or activities are those carried out by agents other than the department which will:**

- involve a significant effect and/or will involve a concession or other legal rights of use for a period of five years or more.

Examples in this category could include: recreational or tourism concessions which involve a long term lease or licence or which may involve a short term (less than five years) but are likely to have a significant effect, for example, a high impact sporting event, grazing leases, private campgrounds, motor camps or visitor centres, telecommunications equipment, major road works, and bridges.

### **Assessment & Approval Procedures for Category C & D**

Assessment and decision making in respect of category C & D uses or activities will involve the following steps:

- (a) A copy of the proposal and all existing information relevant to its assessment will be presented to the Waikato Conservation Board and to any iwi authority likely to be affected by the proposal, together with an invitation for comment;
- (b) Assessment by the department in accordance with:
  - the statutory requirements of the Acts to which the land is subject (including the Resource Management Act 1991);
  - the objectives and implementation measures of this CMS and the Waikato Conservancy Business Plan;
  - the provisions of any existing departmental policy;
  - comments from the Waikato Conservation Board and any iwi whose interests could be affected by the proposal.
- (c) Formal notification to the applicant of decision in the light of comments and suggestions made through the consultative process and contingent upon the satisfactory completion of all statutory requirements, including any public notification.
- (d) The department may prepare a conservation management plan in the event of any proposal for major or complex change, or proposals which require the resolution of complex multiple interests.

All uses, works or activities in these two categories may be subject to conditions to avoid the following effects:

- any ground disturbance involving the excavation or depositing of rocks and soil that has the capacity to produce environmental contamination from acidic and/or heavy metal leachate;
- any ground disturbance or vegetation clearance that has the capacity to produce sedimentation in aquatic and marine habitats or disturb important flora and fauna values, or significant landscapes, landforms, geological features and soil sites, or historic resources or iwi cultural values;
- construction of permanent structures that are an aesthetic detraction from the surrounding natural habitat;
- activities that detract from the public's recreational use and experience of natural habitat values;

- any condition that enhances weed or pest incursion or expansion (for example, light dependent weeds or warm goat camps);
- any condition that is likely to cause or create a risk of contamination of water or soil above and beyond levels that would naturally occur in the absence of such conditions.

## Explanation

*The four categories outlined in preceding sub-sections (i), (ii), (iii) & (iv) can be visually distinguished as follows:*

CATEGORY A by Department Low impact or necessary for protection	CATEGORY B by Other Agents low impact and short term legal right (5 years or less)
CATEGORY C by Department medium or high impact and not necessary for protection; or of considerable public concern	CATEGORY D by Other Agents medium or high impact and/or long term legal right more than 5 years

*They distinguish between management actions carried out by the department on the one hand, and those uses and activities carried out by other agents (private, commercial or other public agencies); and between uses and activities which are low impact in their effect versus those which are or have the potential to be medium to high impact in their effects, or which may be controversial.*

*Uses or activities in Category C are ones carried out by the department which are not necessary for protecting natural or historic resources but could have a substantial permanent effect on conservation resources, including land, water and soil, plants and animal population, ecosystems, historic resources, geological features and recreational enjoyment or opportunity. They are mostly related to provision of recreation facilities or else they are activities which are necessary for protection but of considerable public concern.*

*Category D uses or activities include private and commercial activities which are short term but high impact as well as those which are low impact but long term. Because they may have significant or permanent effects on the land administered by the department, or involve long-term use of conservation resources, they are likely to be of interest to the public. Where this interest is not otherwise provided for by a statutory requirement for public consultation, the Conservation Board, which represents the interests of the public, may assess and comment. Iwi, representing the interests of tangata whenua, may also be consulted to determine if a use or activity impinges on a waahi tapu site.*

*Any uses or activities subject to a resource consent under the Resource Management Act 1991 or to the requirements of the Building Act 1991 must proceed separately through the consent procedures of those Acts.*

*Any proposal likely to effect the interests of tangata whenua shall include an opportunity for the relevant iwi to make formal comment.*

#### **v Mining and Minerals-related activity**

- Entry for minimum impact activities, prospecting and exploration for and mining of minerals on land administered by the department will only be allowed under the terms and conditions of formal access arrangements agreed to by the Minister of Conservation in accordance with and having regard to the matters specified in Sections 50 and 61 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

In every instance regard will be had both to the overall objectives of the Act under which the land concerned is administered by the department, and the particular purpose for which that land is held under that Act.

Subject to the requirements of the Crown Minerals Act 1991, access proposals for mining and minerals-related activity will be processed by the department according to the categories and procedures described in Section 10.6.3.

Section 60 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 also provides for the Minister of Conservation to consider making a joint recommendation, with the Minister of Energy, for an Order-in-Council to close areas administered by the department to exploration and mining. Where requested by the Minister, the department will carry out investigations to enable Section 60 to be applied to specific areas on account of recreational use, natural and historic values, landscape/amenity values and/or Maori cultural and spiritual values.

#### **Explanation**

*Applications under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 will be assessed consistent with the requirements, procedures and criteria for other uses or activities. All proposals will be assessed on their merits. Where there is doubt about the possible effects, the applicant must supply any additional information to enable the case to be considered. The application may be refused if there is insufficient information or if reasonable conditions cannot be set to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects.*

*Mining will normally be inappropriate in areas of high or potentially high recreational use and/or areas of high intrinsic scenic, scientific, educational, natural, historic and cultural value, due to the potential effects of mining on these values and the purposes for which the areas are held and managed. Any compensation will be assessed in accordance with the Crown Minerals Act 1991.*

*Pupuhi mai nga hau,  
Papaki tu nga tai,  
Kei whea nga taonga tuku a Ranginui raua ko Papatuanuku?  
As the winds change,  
The waves pound and violate the shores;  
Where are the gifts of Sky-Father and Earth-Mother?*

## CHAPTER 11 - Public Awareness & Statutory Advocacy

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# 11. Public Awareness and Statutory Planning

## 11.1 INTRODUCTION

Sections 6(b), (c) and (d) of the Conservation Act 1987 empower the department, *inter alia*:

*"To advocate the conservation of natural and historic resources generally;*

*"To promote the benefits to present and future generations of the conservation of natural and historic resources generally and the natural and historic resources of New Zealand in particular;*

*"To prepare, provide, disseminate, promote and publicise educational and promotional material relating to conservation."*

As an advocate for conservation, there are two main ways the department can seek to gain greater support and commitment to conservation:

- i provide a wide range of public awareness programmes and information about the need to conserve our natural and historic heritage; outline the work of the department; and encourage the involvement of the community in conservation projects.
- ii by statutory planning processes associated with the Resource Management Act 1991, including involvement in the process of preparing regional policy statements and regional and district plans, and in resource consent procedures.

The Waikato Conservation Board also has the power *to advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process* (Section 6N(2)(a) Conservation Act) and to take initiatives that advocate conservation or lead to better conservation management.

### 11.1.1

See: 2.2.1,2.2.3,2.2.4,2.3.3

#### Management Objective:

To increase understanding of, support for, and involvement in conservation of the natural and historic heritage of the Waikato Conservancy and other parts of New Zealand.

## 11.2 PUBLIC AWARENESS

A survey of the public and the department's conservation associates in 1992 found that, for the public, the most important responsibilities of the department included "educating and informing the public (75%) and advocacy (66%)". Department associates felt that, apart from management of parks and reserves and species protection, "consulting with other people and organisations" is one of the most important things for the department to be doing.



Other responsibilities of the department considered important by associates included "protection of habitats", "encouraging local councils to consider conservation", and "raising public awareness of conservation issues". In short, the general public and the main associates of the department believe that encouraging public awareness, consultation and general conservation advocacy are very important aspects of the department's work.

New Zealanders have become more aware in recent years of global issues such as driftnet fishing, the greenhouse effect etc, and are sympathetic to programmes which seek to save from extinction, species such as the black robin and kakapo. They are generally less aware of conservation issues at a regional level, or what they can do locally to conserve natural and historic resources. Public awareness effort needs to be focused at a local level, especially in areas where public interest and support matters most for achieving real conservation gains.

Detailed action and priorities for public awareness in the Waikato are contained in the Conservancy's Public Awareness Strategy, a document which indicates the target and methods for public awareness programmes.

The overall goals for public awareness in the Conservancy as derived from the National Public Awareness strategy are:

#### **Understanding**

A high proportion of the public enjoy and appreciate the value of Waikato's natural, historic and cultural resources and understand the need for their protection.

#### **Relationships**

Iwi, community groups, schools, volunteers and other public agencies are involved with the department in achieving its conservation goals.

#### **Empowerment**

The department has encouraged individuals, iwi, community groups and other agencies to take their own conservation initiatives.

#### **Processes**

The systems and processes are in place to ensure public awareness efforts are effective.

These goals provide the framework for developing objectives.

### **11.3 UNDERSTANDING**

#### **11.3.1**

See: 2.2.1,2.2.3,2.3.3

##### **Objective:**

To foster understanding of biodiversity and the principles of ecologically-based sustainable management of natural resources.

#### **Implementation:**

- include the concept of biodiversity and principles of ecologically-based sustainable management of natural resources wherever feasible in displays, publications and media releases;
- encourage and assist district councils with information to include the protection of biodiversity as part of their land management responsibilities;
- encourage land managers to consider conservation and be aware of the principles of sustainable management and protection of biodiversity through information and public education;
- prepare information guidelines (in conjunction with any other organisation with experience/knowledge) on the sustainable management of natural resources, including wetlands, lakes, rivers, remnant forest and historic sites.

### **11.3.2**

See: 2.1,2.2.3,2.2.4,2.3.3

#### **Objective:**

**To foster understanding and appreciation of the natural and historic resources of this Conservancy and other parts of New Zealand.**

#### **Implementation:**

- publicise information about recreation opportunities and visitor attractions on land administered by the department;
- ensure that information on recreation opportunities and visitor attractions within this Conservancy is available from other Conservancies, particularly Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Tongariro-Taupo, Wanganui and Taranaki;
- keep a supply of up-to-date information within the Conservancy office on nationally important visitor attractions administered by the department;

### **11.3.3**

See: 2.2.1,2.2.3,2.2.4,2.3.3,

8.2.3,8.3.2,8.6.4:

#### **Objective:**

**To use interpretation as an educational and management tool to increase public understanding of natural and historic resources and enrich the visitor experience.**

#### **Implementation:**

- develop a series of interpretational themes (involving the relevant iwi authority and other organisations where appropriate) which could include:  
**Cave and Karst Landscapes** - in conjunction with the Waitomo Museum of Caves and visitor facilities associated with Waitomo Caves;  
**Wetlands and Wetland Species;**

**Goldfields and Gold Mining** - in association with the Hauraki Maori Trust Board and Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel District Councils;

**Coastal/Marine Resources** - (also the Mercury and Aldermen (Ruamahua) Islands);

**Podocarp Forests** (and problems of introduced animals);

**Coromandel Kauri Forests** (kauri logging and regeneration);

**Threatened Species and Habitats** (e.g., kokako, Mahoenui weta, tuatara, Pycroft's petrel, indigenous reptiles);

**Land Wars & Kaupapa Maori** - in association with the NZ Historic Places Trust, the Waikato Museum and the relevant iwi authority.

- develop a network of interpretation/information signs which reflect interpretation themes, recreation opportunities and visitor responsibilities at key sites and visitor centres in accordance with Conservancy Visitor Strategy priorities;
- promote the use of land administered by the department and facilities for conservation education, biology and natural resource management by schools and tertiary institutions;
- encourage schools and other educational institutions to develop a programme of study embracing natural and historic resources and the interconnection between natural systems and human activities;
- provide information about the natural and historic resources within the Conservancy, especially those which are rare, threatened, unique or otherwise special;
- ensure that concessionaires and their staff, as users of conservation resources, are aware of the estate's natural and historic resources and are able to promote a conservation ethic and respect for those resources.

Sec:: 2.2.3.2.3.3

#### 11.3.4

##### **Objective:**

**To build support for the work of the Department of Conservation in the Waikato Conservancy.**

##### **Implementation:**

- ensure that those people significantly effected by any conservation programme are fully informed, consulted and have their views taken into account before the programme begins;
- ensure regular and effective communication about the work of the Conservancy with iwi, key associates and supporters.

### 11.3.5

See: 2.3.6

#### Objective:

To use merchandising of conservation services and products as a means of extending the conservation message and recovering some of the cost of providing information to the public.

#### Implementation:

- maintain conservation products and information booklets and pamphlets at visitor centres;
- produce products for sale which reinforce the conservation message;
- recover the cost of production where possible.

#### Explanation:

*Advocacy needs to be a part of all work done by the department, so people understand the reasons for it being done or not done, and can give support or assistance, or, alternatively, so they can seek changes to the work programme they believe necessary. Conservation land is public land, managed by the department on behalf of the public. The public can therefore reasonably expect to know and understand what work is being done and why.*



Advocacy needs to be part of all work done by the department

*Improving the public's understanding of and support for the protection of indigenous biodiversity as a fundamental principle for conservation is a major issue. Biological diversity or biodiversity means the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part. It includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems. New Zealand as a nation has ratified the International Convention on Biological Diversity, and thereby demonstrated an overall national commitment to protect biodiversity. Within this context the department has a special role to protect the diversity of native species and native ecosystems.*

*A number of other themes have been identified as a focus of interpretation. These can be integrated with the strategic management clusters identified in Chapters 3 to 7 and are consistent with the Conservancy's conservation priorities. They can provide a framework for discussing related themes to a degree and in a manner appropriate to the issues which affect the different parts of the Conservancy.*

*For example, the wetlands issue in association with Hamilton Field Centre and the Conservancy Office can be tied in with the related themes of water, native fisheries, whitebait and protection of whitebait spawning areas, and restoration/ rehabilitation of wetlands by farmers and private landowners. The theme of podocarp forests in association with Pureora and Te Kuiti Field Centres can be particularly geared to recreational hunters.*

## 11.4 RELATIONSHIPS

### 11.4.1

See: 2.2.6,2.3.3,2.3.7:

#### **Objective:**

**To seek involvement and coordination with other resource management agencies or groups in management of land administered by the department.**

#### **Implementation:**

- coordinate actions with other agencies and key associates where it will help to achieve conservation objectives;
- liaise and cooperate with agencies or groups with whom there are matters of common concern or benefit (for example, Environment Waikato and Federated Farmers for weeds, water quality and pest control; district councils for land management and management of recreation areas; Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Native Forests Restoration Trust, NZ Ornithological Society for habitat protection; tramping clubs for tracks and huts; commercial operators and concession holders for the management of areas such as caves);
- provide opportunity for input into the annual business planning process by key associates, including Waikato Conservation Board, Environment Waikato, district councils, Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council and the Tainui, Maniapoto, Hauraki, Raukawa and Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Boards to facilitate joint projects and strengthen partnership arrangements;
- foster relationships with individuals, organisations and groups who can significantly affect conservation. Specific target groups will include farmers and landowners, recreational hunters, tramping clubs, conservation groups (for example, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Native Forests Restoration Trust, NZ Ornithological Society) and special interest groups (e.g., dive clubs, speleological groups, ornithologists and botanists);
- develop a "Good Neighbours Action Plan" in association with Federated Farmers, Women's Division of Federated Farmers and Young Farmers clubs and other rural organisations as a basis for consultation, co-operation and mutual understanding for conservation benefit in the rural sector;
- maintain a close working relationship with the Waikato Conservation Board to ensure that the Board is in a position to provide sound planning, policy and management advice for the conservation of natural and historic resources.

### 11.4.2

See: 2.2.6,2.3.3

#### **Objective:**

**Improve communication with the public and consultation with conservation associates and supporters.**

### Implementation:

- maintain liaison with the communications media and ensure that appropriate staff have media skills;
- seek regular formal and informal opportunities for communication/consultation with interested individuals, agencies and groups, (for example, arrange meetings and conservation forums or workshops, attend the meetings of others, attend public hui arranged by iwi);
- use the Waikato Conservation Board as an independent forum for the public to bring conservation issues or concerns to the attention of the department.

### Explanation:

*There are many organisations, groups and other agencies interested or involved in managing natural and historic resources and with whom it would be advantageous for the department to cooperate or coordinate activities. They include the regional and district councils, Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council, Waitomo Museum of Caves, local farmers, hunting and recreational groups and naturalist groups such as the Ornithological Society of NZ, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Native Forests Restoration Trust, the Botanical Society and the Speleological Society. If these groups are aware of the department's plans they can arrange to dovetail their own activities to reinforce or extend those of the department. In addition, greater gains per conservation dollar can be achieved by coordinating activities with other agencies and cooperating with them in joint programmes where possible.*

## 11.5 EMPOWERMENT

### 11.5.1

#### Objective:

**To foster effective public involvement in conservation and recreation management.**

See: 2.2.1,2.2.3,2.3.3,  
8.2.3,8.3.2

### Implementation:

- provide information to user groups, community groups or other agencies who wish to take some responsibility for protecting land administered by the department;
- provide opportunities and support for individuals, community groups and other interested parties to participate informally in conservation projects, or as part of an organised volunteer programme (for example, planting and rehabilitation programmes, nest protection, track maintenance);
- make provision in the Annual Business Plan for support or assistance to some projects which are community driven;
- seek corporate sponsorship for conservation programmes;

- provide practical advice and assistance to local groups, marae etc when this is feasible and consistent with conservation priorities;
- involve local expertise and human resources whenever possible;
- ensure that supporters of conservation, sponsors and volunteers are given due recognition for their services and receive rewarding experience;
- provide coordination and liaison on conservation projects where these will result in effective action by other individuals, groups or organisations (i.e., the department will try and link individuals or organisations with each other).

**Explanation:**

*It is not possible for the department to undertake all the conservation work that needs doing. Nor should that be expected, as conservation is something to be practised by all New Zealanders in some way. Often all people require is encouragement or direction to get them started on a conservation project.*

*The department needs to provide opportunities for active involvement by supporters and potential supporters.*

## 11.6 PROCESSES

### 11.6.1

Sec: 2.2.3,2.3.3

**Objective:**

**To ensure that public awareness is an integral part of all conservation work.**

**Implementation:**

- ensure that planning and provision for public awareness is a part of all major programmes identified in the Annual Conservancy Business Plan;
- provide project managers with training in public relations, negotiation and communication skills.

### 11.6.2

Sec: 2.2.6

**Objective:**

**To maintain effective coordination and liaison with adjoining conservancies.**

**Implementation:**

- maintain a regular information exchange on topics of mutual concern;

- encourage joint programmes and training sessions;
- inform and involve adjoining conservancies in public meetings which are held close to a common boundary or which involve issues that relate to both.

#### **Explanation:**

*For public awareness action to be effective, it needs to be integrated across all conservation work. Public awareness opportunities/threats need to be identified at the project planning stage so that appropriate measures are taken to increase conservation awareness and avoid/minimise threats. In some cases there will be mutual benefits in working closely with other conservancies.*

### **11.7 STATUTORY PLANNING**

Statutory planning includes involvement in regional and district planning and regulatory processes under the Resource Management Act 1991, and provides the opportunity for the department to advocate the protection of landscapes, habitats, ecological processes, historic sites and indigenous species on lands and waters which are not managed by the department. By making available its information and expertise in ecological systems and the conservation of those resources, the department is able to significantly assist both regional and district councils in achieving the purpose and principles of the Act. (See Appendix 2).

The Resource Management Act implemented two important changes which affect the Conservancy's advocacy in the coastal area. First, it established a jurisdictional line of mean high water springs, landward of which the Conservancy has no direct resource management responsibility under that Act. Secondly, the Resource Management Act 1991 specifies the Minister of Conservation's powers, functions and duties for the area seaward of mean high water springs, the coastal marine area.

Within the Conservancy, responsibility for managing the coastal marine area is shared with Environment Waikato. Planning control of activities above mean high water springs is the statutory responsibility of Environment Waikato and six district councils. District councils have the primary responsibility for controlling the effects of land use. Thus control of effects of activities above mean high water springs are guided by the provisions of the Regional Policy Statement, and regional plans prepared by Environment Waikato and by district plans prepared by district councils.

The role of the Conservancy in relation to the coastal marine area is, for Resource Management Act 1991 matters, determined by the duties, functions and powers of the Minister of Conservation under that Act. This statutory role complements the Minister's functions under the Conservation Act 1987. What the Conservancy has to ensure, in its role of servicing the Minister, is that all matters of relevance to the Minister in exercising his/her functions are brought to the attention of Environment Waikato.



This includes, for example, ensuring all matters of national importance (Section 6 RMA) are recognised and provided for.

Environment Waikato is responsible for preparing the Regional Coastal Plan, which is given final approval by the Minister of Conservation. This mandatory plan for the coastal marine area of the Conservancy must be consistent with any New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

## 11.8 GENERAL STATUTORY PLANNING

### 11.8.1

See: 2.1.2.2.1.2.2.3.3.2.3,5.2,  
5.3,5.4,5.6,8.2.3,  
8.3.2.8.5.3,8.6.3

#### **Objective:**

**To achieve the conservation of natural and historic resources through participation in the statutory/resource management process.**

#### **Implementation:**

- encourage regional and district authorities to make effective policies and provisions for conservation in regional and district plans;
- use other mechanisms under the Resource Management Act 1991, including, where appropriate, a requirement through the Minister of Conservation for a heritage order and the provisions of Section 60 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991, to protect places of special interest or value;
- provide well researched and accurate information about conservation resources on a cost recovery, reciprocal or mutually beneficial basis;
- promote early consultation with regional and district planners and policy makers;
- assist with the formulation of relevant policies and performance standards if requested;
- seek outcomes for statutory resource consents that are compatible with conservation of natural and historic resources;
- cooperate with other conservation interests whenever possible;
- act by persuasion and co-operation rather than litigation whenever possible;
- provide the Waikato Conservation Board with available information where it will assist the Board to advocate its interests in the statutory planning process.

### 11.8.2

See: 2.2.6

#### **Objective:**

**To establish and maintain good relationships with Local Government.**

#### Implementation:

- make regular contact and hold meetings with politicians and technical staff;
- exchange information on a cost recovery or mutually beneficial basis;
- provide timely advice;
- ensure accuracy, consistency and credibility in all dealings with local government.

### 11.8.3

See: 2.3.3, 8.2.3, 8.3.2

#### Objective:

To encourage, and, where possible, assist with the protection of conservation values on private land.

#### Implementation:

- provide information to landowners and regional and district councils about conservation values in their area;
- support and encourage the provision of protection mechanisms for natural and historic resources on private land in regional policy statements and regional and district plans;
- assist, where possible, with the assessment of conservation values on private land, for the purpose of encouraging the protection of such land.

#### Explanation:

*A wide variety of mechanisms are available for protecting conservation resources on private land. Some of these are outlined in Appendix 5. The department will encourage protection of natural and historic resources on private land and will assist with information and advice whenever staff and other resources are available.*

*Appendix 2 of this CMS sets out criteria for identifying areas of significant conservation value. These criteria will be used to guide the Conservancy's involvement with statutory processes under the Resource Management Act 1991.*

## 11.9 COASTAL PLANNING

### 11.9.1

#### Objective:

To ensure effective implementation of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

### Implementation:

- work closely with Environment Waikato in developing the Regional Coastal Plan;
- provide constructive input into the development of those parts of district plans affecting the landward component of the coastal environment;
- monitor the implementation of the Regional Coastal Plan, District Plans and any other plans impacting on the coastal environment;
- provide information on coastal and marine values to regional and district councils;
- maintain close liaison with other agencies with statutory responsibilities in the coastal environment, for example, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries;
- maintain liaison with other agencies and individuals who operate within the coastal environment;
- recognise the special interest of iwi in the coastal environment.

### Explanation:

*The Conservancy's conservation advocacy role in relation to the coastal environment above mean high springs will be directed by the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, and the Conservancy's interest in matters which relate to Part II of the Resource Management Act 1991 generally.*

Pinnacles Rocks, northern  
Coromandel Peninsula



# Conclusion

*Ko te whakaaronui te tino mea,  
No reira whāia te whakaaronui.  
A, kia whiwhi te katoa,  
Ka whiwhi koutou ki te matauranga.*

*Whakanuia te whakaaronui,  
A, Mana koutou e kake ake.  
Whakahonoretia Ia,  
Ka awhi Ia i a koutou.*

*Ka honoretia Ia,  
He pare ataahua ki ou mahunga;  
Ka potaea ano koutou e Ia,  
Ki te karauna whakapaipai.  
KIA MAU, KIA MAU, KIA MAU.*

*Let your intentions be noble,  
Therefore seek excellence.  
When others achieve,  
You will all gain wisdom.*

*Exalt the principles of wisdom,  
She will promote your ideals;  
Honour the principles of wisdom,  
She will embrace you all.*

*The honour you will receive,  
Will be like unto a crown;  
You will wear it,  
As an ornament of grace.  
HOLD FIRM, HOLD FIRM, HOLD FIRM!*



## GLOSSARY OF TERMS



# Glossary of Terms

**Activity:** includes a trade, business or occupation (Conservation Act 1987).

**Advocacy:** the collective term for work done to promote conservation to the public and outside agencies by the Department of Conservation, Conservation Boards and the New Zealand Conservation Authority. Advocacy includes taking part in land use planning processes and using a range of methods to inform and educate the public and visitors on conservation issues.

**Animal:** means an organism being endowed (more or less perceptibly) with life, sensation and voluntary motion. (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary 1982*).

**Amend:** in relation to conservation management strategies, conservation management plans, freshwater fisheries management plans and sports fish and game management plans, means any change that does not affect the objectives of the strategy or plan. Such a change may not require a full public process. (*Conservation Act 1987*).

**Amenity Values:** those natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, cultural and recreational attributes. (*Resource Management Act 1991*).

**Archaeological site:** any place in New Zealand, including shipwrecks, which was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900 and which, through investigation by archaeological methods may provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand. (*Historic Places Act 1993*).

**Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council:** is a statutory body under the Conservation Act 1987 (as enacted by the Conservation Law Reform Act 1990) and the Wildlife Act 1953, and is responsible to the Minister of Conservation. It has the responsibility to manage, maintain, and enhance the sports fish and game resources in the region in the recreational interests of anglers and hunters. Its boundaries encompass the area of the Waikato Conservancy.

**Biological Community:** a group of plants or animals, of distinctive character related to a particular set of environmental requirements. The term is used in a general, collective sense.

**Biodiversity/biological diversity:** means the variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part, and includes diversity within species, between species and of **ecosystems**. (*United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992*).

**Bogs:** are wetland areas formed in poorly drained hollows by the accumulation of dead plant material, where rain is the main source of nutrient for plant growth and water conditions are highly acidic. Decay is slow or incomplete and bogs tend to 'grow' vertically, to form peat. Characteristic of Waikato and Hauraki Plains are "**Raised Bogs**" or "**Peat Domes**", which are higher in the middle than at the edges. They are characterised by a species of restiad (jointed) rush and are sometimes called **Restiad Bogs**.



**Coastal environment:** means an environment in which the coast usually is a significant part or element. The extent of the coastal environment will vary from place to place depending upon how much it affects or is (directly) affected by coastal processes and the management issues concerned. It includes at least three distinct, but interrelated parts; the coastal marine area, the active coastal zone, and the land backdrop.

**Coastal marine area:** means the area of foreshore and seabed between the outer limit of the territorial sea and mean high water springs. At river mouths the landward boundary is that agreed by the Minister of Conservation, the regional council and the particular district council or is otherwise the lesser of; one kilometre upstream or five times the width of the river mouth. (*Resource Management Act 1991*).

**Concession:** is a lease, licence, permit or easement granted under Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987 and includes any activity authorised by the concession document.

**Conservancy:** the Department of Conservation has 14 regional offices in different parts of the country, each regional office and the area it is responsible for being called a conservancy.

**Conservation:** in respect of conservation areas means the preservation and protection of natural and historic resources for the purpose of maintaining their intrinsic values, providing for their appreciation and recreational enjoyment by the public, and safeguarding the options of future generations. (*Conservation Act 1987*).

**Conservation Action Plan:** in the context of this CMS refers to a non-statutory document that comprises an assessment of the values and threats to those values in an area or specific type of natural, physical or historic resource; and objectives and policies for integrated management of that resource in the light of the assessment.

**Conservation area(s)** means all land held, managed or administered under the Conservation Act 1987(1) and the Acts in the First Schedule of the Conservation Act (2) and includes but is not limited to areas subject to the Reserves Act 1977, the Wildlife Act 1953, the Walkways Act 1990, the Marine Reserves Act 1971, the Historic Places Act 1980 and the National Parks Act 1980. (Note: The term “conservation area(s)” has no legal status of its own and is used in this strategy for convenience as a generic term to describe all such lands. See “Land administered by the Department” at the end of this Glossary).

**Conservation Boards:** there are 17 regional conservation boards, each comprising up to 12 appointed members. Their functions include overseeing the preparation of conservation management strategies and national park management plans for their area, approval of conservation management plans (e.g., for Conservation Parks), advising the NZ Conservation Authority or Director-General of the department on regional conservation matters and advising on new walkways in the region. (*Conservation Act 1987*).

**Conservation management plan or CMP:** means a conservation management plan approved under Section 17G of the Conservation Act for the purpose of implementing conservation management strategies and establishing detailed objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources within any area or areas managed by the department, and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes.

**Conservation Management Strategy or 'CMS':** means a conservation management strategy approved under Section 17F of the Conservation Act 1987, for the purpose of implementing general policies and establishing objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources managed by the department and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes.

**Conservation resources:** include natural resources and historic resources as defined by the Conservation Act 1987, and includes but is not limited to plants and animal of all kinds and their habitats; ecosystems; landscape, landforms, and geological features; historic sites and features and areas of cultural significance.

**Consultation:** a genuine invitation to give advice and genuine consideration of that advice. To achieve consultation, sufficient information must be supplied and sufficient time allowed by the consulting party to the consulted to enable it to tender helpful advice. It involves an ongoing dialogue. (*Adapted from judgment of Mr Justice McGechan - Air NZ v Wellington International Airport, CP 403/91, 6 January 1992*).

**Corporate plan:** an annual plan which the department is required to prepare. (*Public Finance Act 1989*).

**Department, DOC:** means the Department of Conservation.

**District plan:** this is prepared and changed by a territorial authority according to the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 for the purpose of sustainable management of natural and physical resources. District plans indicate what uses are permitted for land within the district. (*Resource Management Act 1991*).

**Ecological District:** is a geographic area with a recognisable distinct pattern of characteristic natural ecosystems, that is ecologically homogeneous or possesses a simple or repeating sequence of ecosystems. (*The New Zealand Protected Natural Areas Programme*).

**Ecological Region:** is a single, very distinctive ecological district, or more commonly, a group of adjacent ecological districts which have diverse but closely related ecological components and relationships. (*The New Zealand Protected Natural Areas Programme*).

**Ecology:** means the study of organisms in relation to one another and to their surroundings. (*NZ Pocket Oxford Dictionary*).

**Ecosystem:** means a biological system comprising a community of living organisms and their environment involved together in the process of living. There is a continuous flow of energy and matter through the system. The concept implies process and interaction. Ecosystems may be small or large, simple or complex. They range in size from small freshwater ponds or pools to the earth itself.

**Effect:** has the same meaning as in the Resource Management Act 1991 and includes

- (a) any positive or adverse effect; and
- (b) any temporary or permanent effect; and
- (c) any past, present, or future effect; and

(d) any cumulative effect which arises over time or in combination with other effects -

regardless of the scale, intensity, duration, or frequency of the effect, and also includes -

(e) any potential effect of high probability; and

(f) any potential effect of low probability which has a high potential impact.

**Endangered:** means any species in danger of extinction or whose survival is unlikely if causal factors continue in operation, and includes species whose habitat has been so reduced or altered that the species is in immediate danger of extinction, and species with population numbers so critically low, that a breeding collapse due to lack of genetic diversity becomes a possibility. (*The Red Data Book of NZ, 1981*).

**Endemic:** refers to species of plants or animals which are unique to New Zealand or animals which may migrate but breed only in the area. (*The Red Data Book of NZ, 1981*)

**Environment Waikato:** means the regional council that extends over the Waikato region and Taupo and within this area has primary responsibility for the management of water, soil, geothermal resources and pollution control and for regional aspects of hazard mitigation, soil conservation, and hazardous substances.

**Esplanade reserve:** means a local purpose reserve usually 20 metres wide, vested in the territorial authority or in the Crown with the purposes of protecting conservation values, enabling public access to or along the sea, a river or lake and recreational use where this is compatible with conservation values. Usually created as a result of subdivision of private land. Refer **marginal strips**. (*Resource Management Act 1991, Reserves Act 1977*).

**Fauna:** means the animal life of a place or time. (*Collins Concise Dictionary*).

**Fishery:** means one or more stocks or species of freshwater fish or aquatic life that can be treated as a unit for the purposes of conservation or management. (*Conservation Act 1987*).

**Foreshore:** means shore between high and low-water marks at mean spring tides. (*Conservation Act 1987*).

**Flora:** means plant life of a given place or time. (*Collins Concise Dictionary*).

**Freshwater Fish:** species of finfish (classes Agnatha and Osteichthyes) and shellfish (classes Mollusca and Crustacea) that spend all or part of their life histories in freshwater. (*Conservation Act 1987*).

**Functional planning:** involves strategic assessment for a single function of the department over a wide geographic area and includes wild animal control plans for a conservancy and conservancy recreation strategies. (*Management Planning Guidelines, DOC*)

**General Policy:** means a statement, directive or guide adopted by the Minister of Conservation, or the New Zealand Conservation Authority following a statutory process under the Conservation Act, National Parks Act, Reserves Act, Wildlife Act, Marine Reserves Act, Wild Animals Control Act, Marine Mammals

Protection Act or the New Zealand Walkways Act, the provisions of which Conservation management strategies are required to implement. (*Management Planning Guidelines, DOC*).

**Habitat:** means the environment in which a particular species or group of species lives and comprises the physical and biotic characteristics that are relevant to the species concerned. For example, the habitat of the Blue Duck consists of swift water with an abundance of freshwater insects.

**Hapu:** means a Maori sub-tribe. (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*).

**Historic area:** means an area of land that; a) contains an inter-related group of **historic places**, and b) forms part of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand and c) lies within the territorial limits of New Zealand. (*Historic Places Act 1993*).

**Historic place:** means any land, building or structure that forms part of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand and lies within the territorial limits of New Zealand, and includes anything fixed to this land. (*Historic Places Act 1993*).

**Historic Resource:** has the same meaning as “historic place”.

**Implementation provisions:** specific statements on how **objectives** are to be achieved which may include criteria for assessment. (*Management Planning Guidelines, DOC*).

**Integrated management:** the management of activities, existing or potential, in a manner which ensures that each is in harmony with the other and that priorities are clear.

**Interpretation:** conveying information about the origin, meaning or values of national or cultural heritage via live, interactive or static media. It occurs in the vicinity of the subject and is designed to stimulate visitor interest, increase understanding and promote support for conservation.

**Indigenous species:** refers to plants or animals which were established in New Zealand before the arrival of human beings and includes species which are unique to New Zealand (**endemic**) as well as those which are also found elsewhere in the world.

**Intrinsic Values:** means, in relation to ecosystems, those aspects of ecosystems, and their constituent parts which have value in their own right, including:

- 1 Their biological and genetic diversity; and
- 2 The essential characteristics that determine an ecosystems’s integrity, form, and functioning and resilience. (*Resource Management Act 1991*).

**Iwi:** in the context of this CMS refers to any one of the iwi authorities with traditional territorial interest within this Conservancy, these being the Hauraki Maori Trust Board, the Maniapoto Maori Trust Board, the Raukawa Maori Trust Board, the Tainui Maori Trust Board and the Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board.

**Kainga, kaika:** village, settlement, home (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*).

**Kaitiakitanga:** means the exercise of guardianship; and in relation to a resource, includes the ethic of stewardship based on the nature of the resource itself. (*Resource Management Act 1991*)

**Kaupapa:** an abstract word with many meanings. Within the department it is generally used in the sense of vision, philosophy, cause, idea or theme.

**Karst:** refers to that type of landscape which is formed by solution of limestone rocks by rainwater, and includes but is not limited to, the classic characteristics of a hummocky, bumpy appearance caused by surface hollows, depressions and fissures, collapse structures such as natural arches, caves, disappearing and reappearing rivers and streams, and strangely shaped rocky outcroppings.

**Key Associates:** groups and organisations with an interest in the conservation of natural and historic resources.

**Lands:** administered by the department - see diagram at end of this Glossary.

**Lease:** means a grant of an interest in land that gives exclusive possession of the land and makes provision for any activity on the land that the Lessee is permitted to carry out. (*Conservation Act 1987*)

**Licence:** grant that gives a profit a prendre or any other non-exclusive interest in land or a grant that makes provision for any activity on the land that the licensee is permitted to carry out (*Conservation Act 1987*).

**Mahinga kai, mahika kai, mahinga mataitai:** places where food is procured or produced. (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*).

**Mana:** means authority, control, influence, prestige, power (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*).

**Mana whenua:** means customary rights and authority over land (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*) customary authority exercised by an iwi, hapu or individual in an identified area. (*Conservation Act 1991 as amended by 1993 amendment*).

**Management planning:** is the process of setting and confirming objectives for the management of natural and historic resources, and recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes, and specifying the actions and resources necessary to achieve those objectives. (*Management Planning Guidelines, DOC*).

**Marginal strip:** land reserved from sale or other disposition along the foreshore, waterways greater than three metres wide (when not used by the Electricity Corporation of New Zealand for generating electricity) and lakes. This term also refers to land acquired in exchange for marginal strips. Marginal strips are 20 metres wide unless a reduced width has been approved by the Minister. For more information refer to the Act. (*Conservation Act 1987*).

**Marine Protection:** includes a variety of protection mechanisms from protection of a few species at one end to complete protection of natural systems and physical features at the other. It includes controls on the taking of fish through Taiapure and Fisheries Act 1983 controls which are administered by the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries and protection of intertidal (foreshore) landforms through the Conservation Act 1987, and the Reserves Act 1977, coupled with the Land Act 1948, as well as protection through the Marine Reserves Act 1971.

**Mauri:** means life principle, special character. (*The Revised Dictionary of Maori, P M Ryan*).

**Minor impact:** in relation to this CMS means an effect that is localised in its visible and auditory extent; that does not in any way reduce the continued survival of the population of any resident indigenous species; that does not impede or threaten the continued operation of any ecosystem comprised primarily of indigenous species; and that does not damage, threaten, or destroy any historic place or any place recognised by an iwi authority in the conservancy as having cultural significance, or any landform or geological feature identified by the NZ Geological Society as having international, regional, or national importance, and that does not give rise to any condition that causes or is likely to cause contamination of water or soil above and beyond levels that would naturally occur in the absence of such conditions.

**Minimum impact activities:** in relation to any minerals related activity, has the same meaning as in Section 2 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

**Natural resources:** has the meaning defined in the Conservation Act 1987, and includes but is not limited to plants and animals of all kinds, their habitats, landscapes, landforms, geological features, systems of interacting living organisms, and their environments; and includes any interest in a natural resource. (*Conservation Act 1987*).

**New Zealand Conservation Authority, (NZCA):** means a national body of 12 appointed members established under Section 6a of the Conservation Act 1987, which amongst other functions, has the statutory responsibility for approving General Policy, conservation management strategies, conservation management plans and national park management plans; investigating conservation matters of national importance.

**Objectives:** are statements of intended results which can be broad or narrow in scope, and should be accompanied by implementation provisions. (*Management Planning Guidelines, DOC*).

**Pa:** means a fortified Maori village, or more recently any Maori village. (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*).

**Plant:** means a living organism having neither power of locomotion nor special organs of sensation or usually digestion, being a member of the vegetable kingdom. (*Concise Oxford Dictionary, 1982*).

**Permit:** means a grant of rights to undertake an activity that does not require an interest in land. (*Conservation Act 1987*).

**Podocarps:** A predominantly Southern Hemisphere family of coniferous plants which include the kahikatea or white pine, totara, Hall's totara, matai, miro, rimu, tanekaha or celery pine, mountain pine and bog pine.

**Protected Areas Legislation** is a term that applies collectively to the statutes which govern the areas administered or managed by the Department of Conservation, and includes the Conservation Act 1987, the Reserves Act 1977, the Wildlife Act 1953, the Walkways Act 1990, the Marine Reserves Act 1971, the National Parks Act 1980.

**Protected Natural Areas (PNA) Programme:** a programme which aims to establish a network of reserves and other protected natural areas which is representative of the full range of New Zealand's natural diversity. (NZ *Protected Natural Areas Programme*, NZ Biological Resources Centre, DSIR).

**Preservation:** in relation to a resource under the Conservation Act 1987, means the maintenance, so far as is practicable, of its intrinsic values. (*Conservation Act 1987*).

**Protection:** in relation to a resource under the Conservation Act 1987, means its maintenance, so far as is practicable, in its current state but includes restoration to some former state and augmentation, enhancement or expansion. (*Conservation Act 1987*).

**Rahui:** is a restriction on access; prohibition (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*).

**Rangatiratanga:** means sovereignty, chieftainship, authority, and in the context of this CMS refers to the authority of the iwi with traditional territorial interest in this Conservancy.

**Rare:** means those species with small world populations that are not at present Endangered or Vulnerable but are at risk, and includes but is not limited to, species that are localised within restricted geographical areas or habitats or are thinly scattered over a more extensive range. (*The Red Data Book of NZ 1991*).

**Recommended area for protection (RAP):** means a place identified as a priority for protection because it contains the best example(s) of its type or class of natural ecosystem and/or landscape in an ecological district. (NZ *Protected Natural Areas Programme*, NZ Biological Resources Centre Publication No 6).

**Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS):** means a system for classifying outdoor experiences. It identifies opportunities along a continuum from urban to wilderness.

**Regional Council:** means a locally elected council which has primary responsibility for management of water, soil, geothermal resources and pollution control and for regional aspects of hazard mitigation, soil conservation and hazardous substances. For the conservancy this is the Waikato Regional Council, which operates under the name **Environment Waikato**, and the Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council.

**Regional plan:** means a plan prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991 for the purpose of assisting a regional council to carry out its functions. (*Resource Management Act 1991, Regional Policy Statements and Plans, Ministry for the Environment*).

**Regional policy statement:** means a document prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991 by a regional council which sets out the objectives for sustainable management of natural and physical resources in the region, and is binding on regional and district plans.

**Reserve or Reservation:** meaning to protect an area through statutory classification under Reserves Act, Conservation Act, Wildlife Act, Historic Places Trust, Marine Reserves Act, National Parks Act.

**Review:** in relation to conservation management strategies and management plans means to reconsider **objectives** and policies and following a process of public comment to approve a new strategy or plan, having regard to increased knowledge or changed circumstances.

**Rohe:** is a tribal boundary, or tribal region (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*).

**Runanga:** is an assembly, or council (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*).

**Significant:** in relation to historic places means significant as established through Historic Places Act criteria.

**Significant impact:** in relation to this CMS means any effect that is not a minor impact.

**Specially protected areas:** are conservation parks, wilderness areas, ecological areas, sanctuary areas, watercourse areas as detailed in Part IV of the Conservation Act 1987. (*Conservation Act 1987*).

**Species recovery plan:** is a plan of action intended to halt the decline of a threatened species and increase its population.

**Stewardship area:** is a conservation area that is not a marginal strip, watercourse, conservation park, ecological area, sanctuary area or wilderness area, or land in which an interest is held under the Conservation Act 1987 for one or more of these purposes. (*Conservation Act 1987*).

**Strategic Management Cluster:** in the context of this CMS means an area of land administered by the department, cluster of sites, or combination of conservation sites and associated private land which has particular conservation importance because it contains natural or historic resources of high conservation value which are particularly good examples of their type, and-

- a Its active and ongoing monitoring and protection is necessary to preserve in perpetuity examples of the natural or historic resources it contains; and
- b There is likely to be a significant benefit from managing the cluster as a unit.

**Sustainability, ecological:** means the use of the components of an ecosystem in ways that allow for the perpetuation of the character and natural processes of that ecosystem.

**Sustainable management:** is managing the use, development and **protection** of natural and physical resources in a way or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural well-being and for their health and safety while (a) sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations, (b) safe-guarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems, and (c) avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment. This definition is specific to the Resource Management Act 1991. (*Resource Management Act 1991*).

**Swamp:** wetlands which are periodically or permanently flooded from through-flowing streams, containing varying amounts of organic matter, mixed with silt, minerals and other materials carried in by the floodwaters. Swamp soils are richer and less acidic than bog soils, and decomposition occurs more rapidly in them. There is generally a wide seasonal fluctuation in water levels.



**Taking:** in relation to plants this includes breaking, cutting, destroying, digging up, gathering, plucking, pulling up and removing of the plant. In relation to fish it means fishing. (*Conservation Act 1987*).

**Tangata whenua:** means the people of Maori descent belonging to a particular place, people of the land, or indigenous people, depending on context.

**Taonga:** means anything that is highly prized or treasured by tangata whenua, and may include but is not limited to physical resources such as lakes, rivers, forests, burial sites and so forth, as well as intangible treasures such as language and tribal mana.

**Territorial authority:** means a district or city council which is a locally elected body responsible, amongst other things, for land use planning under the Resource Management Act 1991.

**Threatened:** means the same as “Vulnerable” and applies to species likely to become endangered in the near future if adverse causal factors continue operating, and includes but is not limited to, species of which most or all of the populations are decreasing because of over-exploitation, extensive destruction of habitat or other environmental disturbance; species whose populations have been seriously depleted and whose ultimate security is not yet assured; and species with populations that are still abundant but are under threat from serious adverse factors throughout their range. (See “Vulnerable”, *The Red Data Book of NZ 1981*).

**Tikanga Maori:** means Maori customary values and practices. (*Resource Management Act 1991*).

**Traditional site:** means place or site that is important by reason of its historical significance or spiritual or emotional association with Maori.

**Urupa:** means a Maori cemetery, burial ground. (*Waitangi Tribunal Report (Wai 27) 1991*).

**Vulnerable:** see “Threatened”.

**Waahi tapu** means a place of spiritual, religious or ceremonial significance to Maori people and includes but is not limited to burial grounds and places where significant events have taken place.

**Waikato Conservation Board:** one of 17 regional conservation boards whose functions include overseeing the preparation of the Waikato Conservation Management Strategy (CMS), approval of conservation management plans (CMP), advising the NZCA or Director General of Conservation on regional conservation matters, and advising on new walkways in the region. The Board may comprise up to 11 appointed members plus the Head of Kahui Ariki or a person nominated as their representative. (*Waikato Raupatu Claims Settlement Act 1995*).

**Walkway:** means an area of land that has been declared a walkway or an area of land over which a walkway has been established under the New Zealand Walkways Act. (*New Zealand Walkways Act 1990*).

**Wetland:** permanent or intermittently wet land, shallow water and land-water margins. Wetlands may be fresh, brackish or saline, and are characterised in their natural state by plants or animals that are adapted to living in wet conditions. They include swamps, bogs, estuaries, braided rivers, and lake margins. (*New Zealand Wetlands Management Policy, Commission for the Environment, 1986*).

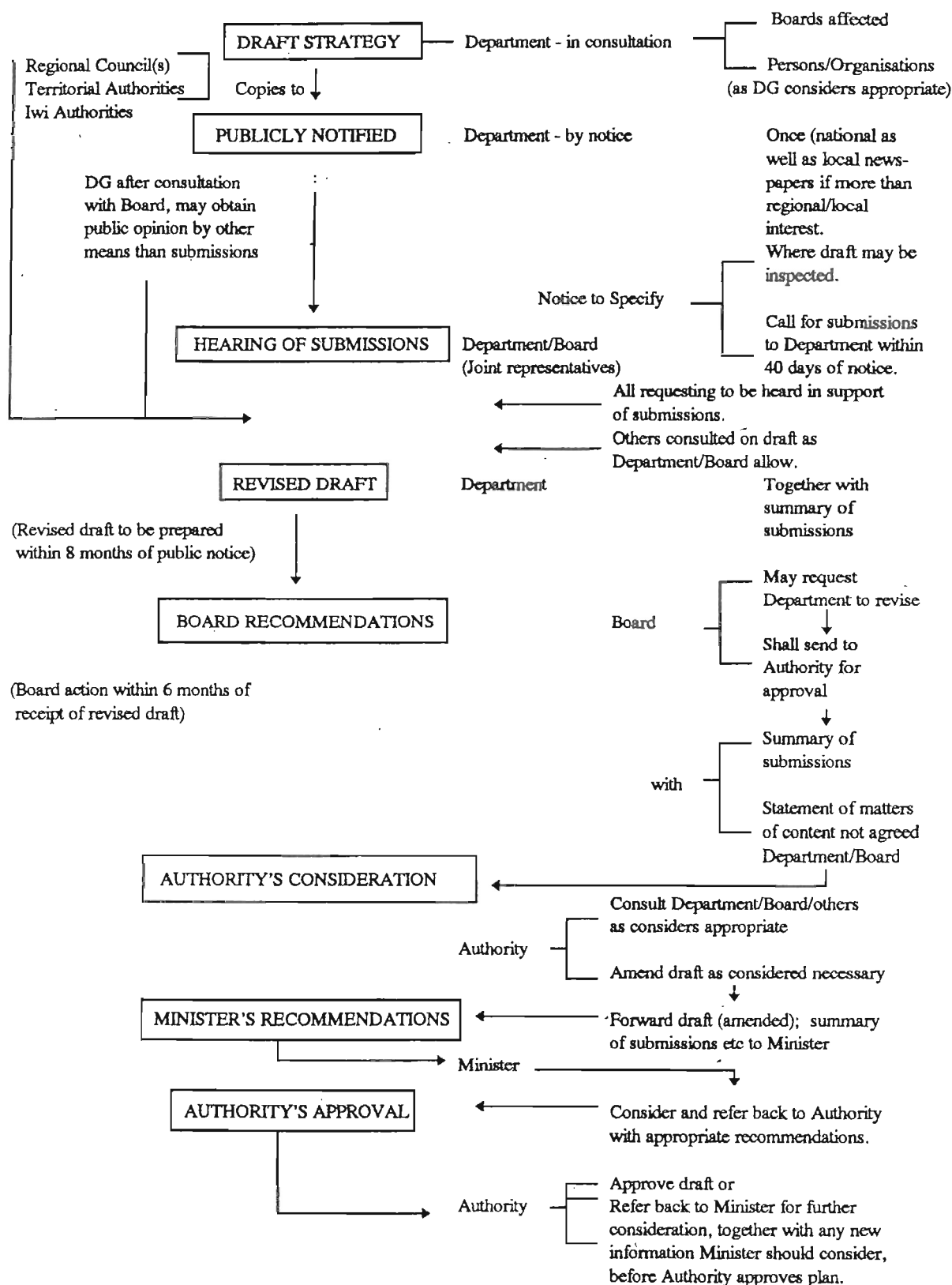
## APPENDICES

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# APPENDIX 1

## PROCEDURE FOR PREPARATION AND APPROVAL OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES Section 17F Conservation Act 1987



## APPENDIX 2

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### CRITERIA USED BY THE WAIKATO CONSERVANCY TO GUIDE ITS INVOLVEMENT IN PROCESSES UNDER THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987 sets out the functions of the Department of Conservation. These include:

*"to advocate the conservation of natural and historic resources generally"; and  
"to promote the benefits to present and future generations of the conservation of natural and historic resources generally and the natural and historic resources of New Zealand in particular" (Section 6(b) & (c)).*

This provides the statutory basis for the Department's active involvement in the preparation and implementation of policies and plans under the Resource Management Act 1991.

This Act also gives the Department specific functions, in conjunction with regional councils, over coastal marine areas. These functions are described in Section 2, which follows.

By making available its information and expertise in ecological systems and the conservation of those resources, the Department is able to significantly assist both regional and district councils in achieving the purpose and principles of the Resource Management Act 1991.

These purposes and principles are:

- to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources by managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety, while:
  - (a) Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
  - (b) Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems; and
  - (c) Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment (Section 5, Resource Management Act 1991).

Section 6 of the Act specifies a list of matters of national importance which must be recognised and provided for. These are:

- (a) The preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment (including the coastal marine area), wetlands, and lakes and rivers and their margins, and the protection of them from inappropriate subdivision, use, and development:

- (b) The protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna:
- (c) The maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers.
- (d) The relationship of Maori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, waters, sites, waahi tapu, and other taonga.

In addition, Section 7 of the Resource Management Act lists a series of other matters for which persons exercising functions and powers under the Act must have particular regard. These are:

- (a) Kaitiakitanga
- (b) The efficient use and development of natural and physical resources:
- (c) The maintenance and enhancement of amenity values:
- (d) Intrinsic values of ecosystems:
- (e) Recognition and protection of the heritage values of sites, buildings, places or areas:
- (f) Maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment:
- (g) Any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources:
- (h) The protection of the habitat of trout and salmon.

In respect of private land, the Department will advocate all of the above principles which are consistent with its own mandate under the Conservation Act and other relevant statutes (eg Wildlife Act, Reserves Act).

## **2. ADVOCACY IN RESPECT OF COASTAL AREAS**

The Conservancy's conservation advocacy role in relation to the coastal environment above mean high springs will be directed by the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, the Conservancy's interest in matters which relate to Part II of the RMA generally.

The Conservancy is required to ensure in the Regional Coastal Plan, that any part of the coastal marine area that is of significant conservation value is not adversely affected by any activity. The criteria which will be used by the Conservancy for its advocacy of coastal protection are:

(i) **Maori Cultural Values**

Areas of local, regional, or national significance identified by the tangata whenua in accordance with Tikanga Maori, including waahi tapu, urupa, tauranga waka and mahinga mataitai.

(ii) **Protected Areas**

**Where there are protected areas below Mean High Water Springs**

Any gazetted or notified marine reserve, marine mammal sanctuary, marine park or other marine protected area, including adequate buffer areas, or any proposal which is under current investigation.

(iii) **Where there are protected areas above Mean High Water Springs**

Where there are protected areas above mean high water springs, consideration may be given to whether the adjoining area below mean high water springs should be identified as an area of significant conservation value.

(iv) **Wetlands, Estuaries and Coastal Lagoons**

Any wetland, estuary, or coastal lagoon in the coastal marine area which is of regional, national or international importance, including those:

- (a) necessary to act as buffer zones;
- (b) that are important spawning grounds or nurseries for marine and freshwater indigenous species;
- (c) where related catchments, marginal land and tidal flats have been minimally modified;
- (d) strategically sited to act as stepping stones for migratory species along coastal tracts.

(v) **Ecosystems, Flora and Fauna Habitats**

Any area that contains regionally, nationally or internationally significant or threatened ecosystems or plant or animal species.

(vi) **Scenic Sites**

Any part of the coastal marine area that forms a land or seascape of national or international importance.

(vii) **Historic Places**

Historic places of national or outstanding significance (including archaeological sites adjoining mean high water springs), especially places where the values relate to the seabed as well as to the land.

(viii) **Coastal Landforms and Associated Processes**

Representative examples of nationally significant or outstanding coastal landforms and their associated sediment transport systems and sources including:

- (a) Submerged landforms (eg fiords, drowned river valleys, banks, reefs, moraines, and drowned shorelines);
- (b) Erosional landforms including those that have been carved out of the land by the sea (eg shore platforms and submarine canyons);
- (c) Geologically rare or unusual features of very high quality.

All the Waikato Conservancy coastline has high conservation value. Even the limited areas of diminished ecological value such as mooring areas and boat ramps are important for recreation.

The following areas are listed to indicate the known presence of conservation resources which merit consideration but are not intended to replace the criteria specified above.

The main concern of the Conservancy in respect of such areas is to ensure that management will preserve the particular conservation resources which give the area its significant conservation value.

The list may need to be modified or expanded in the light of changing knowledge and should not be regarded as exhaustive or finite.

The list includes areas proposed for inclusion in the Regional Coastal Plan as "Areas of Significant Conservation Value" (see Coastal Resources and Issues in the Waikato Region, Department of Conservation, Waikato Conservancy, April 1993).

**KAWHIA HARBOUR** - Entire harbour and estuarine system, from the CMA boundary to harbour mouth.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260      **Map No.** R15      **Grid Ref:** Centred on 670440

**Conservation Values:**

*Ecosystem:*            Good example of west coast harbour and ranked as nationally important. Extensive eelgrass beds, mudflats with marshland in some bays and inlets. Areas of coastal forest and shrublands adjoin the southern margins.

*Species:*             Outstanding value to international and national migratory waders. These include the endemic black stilt, an endangered species in NZ, the threatened NZ dotterel, wrybill, caspian tern, variable oystercatcher, reef heron, white heron and royal spoonbill. In excess of 4% of the NZ population of SI pied oystercatchers, 6% of bartailed godwits, large numbers of turnstones, occasional Far Eastern curlews, and Asiatic whimbrels over-winter on the harbour. Hector's dolphin is regularly recorded at the harbour entrance.



- Geological:* Numerous sites of national importance for both fossils and sedimentary geology.
- Scenic/  
Landscape:* Of local and regional significance.
- Archaeological  
& Historical:* Resting place of Tainui waka. Strong ancestral and spiritual ties with Tainui iwi. Importance regionally for kaimoana.
- Recreational:* Boating, swimming, fishing, leisure cruising.

**GANNET ISLAND** - The island, intertidal reef and surrounding waters.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** Q15    **Grid Ref:** 478578

**Conservation Values:**

- Ecosystem:* Only significant off-shore island along the West coast from Mokau to Port Waikato and as such has the only significant seabird nesting colony.
- Species:* Major rookery for the Australasian gannet, with breeding populations exceeding 20,000 birds through November to February. Important stand-out site for NZ fur seals with up to 200 animals recorded regularly.

**AOTEA HARBOUR** - Entire harbour and estuarine system, from the CMA boundary to harbour mouth and including Aotea Reef.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** R15    **Grid Ref:** 700540

**Conservation Values:**

- Ecosystem:* Extensive areas of eelgrass, narrow margins of saltmarsh, often buffered by coastal forest. Justifies a ranking of national importance.
- Species:* Frequented by international and national migratory waders. Of note are the threatened, NZ dotterel, caspian tern, reef heron, variable oystercatcher, wrybill, and endangered black stilt. Hector's dolphin recorded off harbour entrance.
- Geological:* Dunes to the north west of the harbour are of national significance.
- Scenic/  
Landscape:* The dune headlands are described as being of local importance.
- Recreational:* Fishing, boating, swimming.

**RAGLAN HARBOUR** - All of Raglan Harbour from CMA boundary to harbour entrance.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260     **Map No.** R14     **Grid Ref:** 730765

**Conservation Values:**

*Ecosystem:*     A varied harbour with a narrow discontinuous saltmarsh zone around most of the shoreline and extensive mudflats. A small stand of mangroves, close to the southern limit for this species, occurs at the Waingaro landing. Offers extensive feeding opportunities for wading species which justifies its national significance.

*Species:*     Recorded threatened species include banded rail, caspian tern, reef heron, royal spoonbill and the endangered white heron. Hector's dolphins regularly recorded at harbour entrance.

*Scenic/  
Landscape:*     Of local and regional significance.

*Recreational:*     Boating, swimming, fishing. Regionally significant.

**KAPIAPIA ROCK** - Basalt plug with Cook's Scurvy grass.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260     **Map No.** R13 623061

**WAIKATO RIVER MOUTH & ESTUARY** - The estuarine zone downstream of the delta islands and CMA boundary to the river mouth.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260     **Map No.** R13     **Grid Ref:** 615-245

**Conservation Values:**

*Ecosystem:*     The lower delta with salt marsh, reed beds, sandy islands and tidal flats offers habitat for some 31 recorded species of bird. Habitat diversity and the range of species recorded justify the national ranking.

*Species:*     The sand spit and islands are used by breeding populations of the threatened NZ dotterel, caspian tern, variable oystercatcher and white fronted tern. Other threatened visitors include, banded dotterel, reef heron, wrybill and the endangered black stilt and white heron.

*Geological:*     Fossils, in jurassic mudstone of national importance.

*Scenic/  
Landscape:*     Of local significance.

*Recreational:* The lower delta inclusive of the zone down river of the CMA boundary is the most important whitebait fishing in the North Island and a popular recreation fishery.

**FIRTH OF THAMES** - Intertidal mudflats including the inland vegetation zones from Kaiaua around the shoreline to Tararu.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260      **Map No.** S12, T12      **Grid Ref:** Centred on 270410

**Conservation Values:**

*Ecosystem:* Supports NZ largest area of mangroves. Estuarine habitat attracts large numbers of national and international migratory waders (>40,000) many of which are threatened, and this estuarine habitat is undoubtedly the reason for the extensive fin and shellfish resources within the Firth. It has been listed as a wetland of international importance.

*Species:* 74 species of shorebird, waders and waterfowl frequent or live in the Firth. Those species either threatened or endangered include; fairy tern, black stilt, caspian tern, grey plover, Siberian tatler, rednecked stint, eastern little tern, white heron, brown teal, variable oystercatcher, sharptailed sandpiper, sanderling, NZ dotterel and wrybill.

*Geological:* The graded shell beach ridges between Miranda and Kaiaua are an example of a chenier plain, a landform unique in NZ and rare globally.

*Scenic/  
Landscape:* Of regional significance.

*Archaeological/  
Historical:* Archaeological sites are known from the mouth of the Waihou River. Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.

*Recreational:* Game bird hunting, shellfish gathering, ornithological interest, recreational fishing.

**MANAIA HARBOUR** - All of the Manaia harbour estuary from the CMS boundary to the harbour entrance.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260      **Map No.** S11      **Grid Ref:** 290810

**Conservation Values:**

*Ecosystem:* Shallow estuary of moderate size, supporting extensive areas of mangrove and eelgrass and occasional areas of saltmarsh. Offers a range of high quality and representative habitats for waders and shorebirds.

*Species:* Waders regularly recorded at Manaia include the threatened variable oystercatcher, NZ dotterel, banded dotterel, caspian tern.

*Scenic/  
Landscape:* Locally and regionally significant.

*Archaeological/  
Historical:* Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.

*Recreational:* Nationally significant. Fishing and boating.

**INNER COROMANDEL HARBOUR** - Intertidal zone of the eastern harbour margins.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260     **Map No.** T11     **Grid Ref:** 880310

**Conservation Values:**

*Ecosystem:* Mangrove, saltmarsh, eelgrass and mudflats offer a diverse range of habitats for waders, shorebirds, fish and shell fish. It is nationally significant.

*Species:* The threatened NZ dotterel, caspian tern and white fronted tern are reported as breeding; variable oystercatcher, possibly breeding. Also breeding colony of the common red billed gull.

*Scenic/  
Landscape:* Of local and regional importance. Offers scenic seascapes to travellers using SH 25 and visitors and residents to Coromandel township.

*Archaeological/  
Historical:* Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.

*Recreational:* Of national importance. Fishing, boating, leisure cruising.

**COLVILLE BAY** - Inner Colville Bay, encompassing the intertidal zones and vegetated margins.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260     **Map No.** S10     **Grid Ref:** 300060

**Conservation Values:**

*Ecosystem:* Sand and shell banks along the inner southern shoreline offer ideal nesting and roosting sites for waders and the intertidal sand and mudflats are feeding sites.

*Species:* A notable site for the threatened NZ dotterel with up to 12 breeding pairs. Reef heron, caspian tern, banded rail, variable oystercatcher and international migrants regularly recorded.

*Scenic/  
Landscape:* A regionally significant seascape.

*Archaeological/  
Historical:* Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.

*Recreational:* Of national significance. Boating and fishing.

**CAPE COLVILLE TO SANDY BAY** - Coastline between Cape Colville and Sandy Bay.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** S09 & S10

**Grid Ref:** From 207216 around the coastline to 311168

**Conservation Values:**

*Ecosystem:* A coastline representative of the Coromandel Peninsula forming part of the Moehau Ecological District. The coastline between Stony Bay and Sugar Loaf Rocks under consideration for marine protection.

*Scenic/  
Landscape:* Of national and local importance, part of the Moehau Land Unit.

*Archaeological/  
Historical:* Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.

*Recreational:* Of national significance.

**PORT CHARLES HEADLAND TO WAIKAWAU BAY** - Rocky coastline estuary and beach front, from Port Charles Headland to Gisborne Stream and the southern end of Waikawau Bay.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** T10    **Grid Ref:** 316180-367080

**Conservation Values:**

*Ecosystem:* Diversity of high energy coastline including reef and cliff communities. Relatively unmodified estuarine system with adjoining freshwater wetland communities and an extensive dune system running the entire length of Waikawau Beach.

*Species:* Pied shag colony. Breeding and feeding site for the threatened NZ dotterel, banded dotterel, variable oystercatcher.

*Scenic/  
Landscape:* Of local value, but a component of the nationally significant Moehau Land Unit. Rocky coast has significant landscape/seascape values.

*Archaeological/  
Historical:* Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.

*Recreational:* Of national significance. Very popular holiday/camping site, beach walking, fishing, boating, surfing.

**NEW CHUMS BEACH (WAINUIOTOTO) BEACH** - Includes Beach and headlands.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** T10    **Grid Ref:** 434960-435978

**Conservation Values:** Pohutukawa fringed beach. Foot access only via rocky coastline, nikau/flax forest.

*Scenic/  
Landscape:* Spectacular combination of cliff, pohutukawa and beach/seascape.

*Geological:* Motuto Pt - columnar joint basalt of regional significance.

*Archaeological/  
Historical:* Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.

*Recreational:* Very popular picnic area and surf beach.

**WHANGAPOUA HARBOUR** - The entire Whangapoua Harbour including the northern portion of Mahurangi Beach/sand spit and Opera Point from south end of Whangapoua Beach.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** T10    **Grid Ref:** 447948-450290

**Conservation Values:**

*Ecosystem:* Extensive mangroves, saltmarsh, eelgrass beds and intertidal mud/sand flats, supporting a variety of threatened wildlife.

*Species:* The NZ dotterel is reported using the harbour, Wainuiototo Bay and Whangapoua Beach. Reef heron, caspian tern, variable oystercatcher and banded dotterel regularly recorded. International migrants like bartailed godwit also present in significant numbers.

*Scenic/  
Landscape:* The harbour is of regional significance.

*Archaeological/  
Historical:* Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.

*Recreational:* Of regional significance. Popular for boating, fishing, shellfish gathering, game bird hunting.

**OTAMA BEACH & OPITO BAY** - Black Jack coastline, Otama Beach foredunes and estuary, Opito beach and foredunes, around to Red Bay.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** T10 & U10

**Grid Ref:** From 542942 to 629917

**Conservation Values:**

- Ecosystem:* Extensive dune system of regional significance; Otama Beach and estuary support small populations of threatened wildlife; Opito Bay nesting site for threatened wildlife; rocky shoreline representative of Coromandel east coast.
- Species:* NZ dotterel known to breed at Otama and Opito, together with variable oystercatcher. Sea caves, sponge communities, paua, crayfish, mussels, reef fish communities.
- Scenic/  
Landscape:* Of local and regional significance.
- Archaeological/  
Historical:* Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.
- Recreational:* Of regional significance. Popular holiday destination, fishing, boating, beach walking. Blackjack is very popular snorkeling, scuba diving and recreational fishing area.

**OHINAU ISLAND GROUP** - All islands in the Ohinau group, and surrounding waters.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** T10    **Grid Ref:** Centred on 675930

**Conservation Values:**

- Ecosystem:* The smaller islands have remnant and unique coastal forest, diverse invertebrate and reptile fauna. Great potential for establishing island refuges for endangered and threatened species.
- Species:* Islands > 3 ha likely to have tuatara and lizards which commonly use tidal zone.
- Scenic/  
Landscape:* Of regional significance.
- Archaeological/  
Historical:* Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.
- Recreational:* Of regional significance. Fishing, diving, boat charters.

**MERCURY ISLAND GROUP & CUVIER (REPANGA) ISLAND** - All islands in the Mercury Island group, including Great Mercury (Ahuahu) Island and Cuvier (Repanga) Island.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** T10    **Grid Ref:** Mercury Islands centred on 680040  
Cuvier Island centred on 590255

### Conservation Values:

- Ecosystem:* Remnant indigenous coastal floral and faunal communities. Deep reef system.
- Species:* Diverse invertebrate and reptile fauna including tuatara, Whitakers, robust and marbled skink. Very diverse marine ecosystems.
- Scenic/  
Landscape:* Of local and national importance scenically.
- Archaeological/  
Historical:* Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.
- Recreational:* Of regional significance. Fishing, diving, boat charters.

**WHITIANGA HARBOUR** - All of Whitianga Harbour excluding the port and Whitianga township shore frontage, from the CMA to the Harbour mouth.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** T11    **Grid Ref:** 500780

### Conservation Values:

- Ecosystem:* Extensive intertidal mud/sand flats, eelgrass beds and mangrove forests, with diverse marine life and coastal wildlife. The harbour is of national importance.
- Species:* Threatened reef heron, caspian tern, variable oystercatcher, NZ dotterel, breeding colonies of pied and little shags. The estuary is also frequented by the only estuarine inhabiting common dolphin known in NZ.
- Scenic/  
Landscape:* Of local importance.
- Archaeological/  
Historical:* Historic wharf site opposite existing wharf, and kauri booms at Back Bay. Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.
- Recreational:* Nationally important, boating, fishing, shellfish gathering, pleasure cruising.



**PURANGI ESTUARY** - All of the Purangi estuary from the CMA boundary to the estuarine mouth.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** T11    **Grid Ref:** 565807

**Conservation Values:**

- Ecosystem:* A variety of habitat from saltmarsh to tidal sand flats. Extensive shellfish beds.
- Species:* Threatened species include reef heron, caspian tern and variable oystercatcher. Banded rail, fernbird and bittern have been recorded from the mangrove/saltmarsh fringe.
- Archaeological/  
Historical:* Historic wharf site and spring used by Captain Cook to collect fresh water. Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.
- Recreational:* Of national importance. Shellfish gathering, fishing, recreational boating.

**TE WHANGANUI-A-HEI (CATHEDRAL COVE) MARINE RESERVE** - The gazetted reserve and south to Sailors Grave (Te Karo Bay).

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** T11    **Grid Ref:** 600820-640664

**Conservation Values:**

- Ecosystem:* Complex, high quality subtidal and intertidal habitats, including sponge garden, hard reef and soft sediment communities.
- Species:* Diverse communities of plants, crustaceans, molluscs and fish.
- Geological:* Cathedral Cove is of geological interest. Orua Hotwater Springs at Hot Water Beach are of national importance.
- Scenic/  
Landscape:* Of local and regional importance and compliments the seascape as viewed from Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve.
- Archaeological/  
Historical:* Of cultural and spiritual importance to Ngati Hei. Sailors Grave burial site.
- Recreational:* The marine reserve and Hot Water Beach are nationally important recreation sites. Marine reserve for snorkeling, scuba diving, Hot Water Beach for fishing, surfing, digging hot water pools in sand at low tide. Lynch Stream track to Te Karo Bay provides kauri forest and coastal walking opportunity.

**ALDERMEN (RUAMAHUA) ISLAND GROUP** - Includes all islands in the Aldermen Group and surrounding waters.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** U11    **Grid Ref:** 850660

**Conservation Values:**

- Ecosystem:* All islands except for Middle Chain are little modified and support remnant coastal forest. Refuges for threatened flora and fauna.
- Species:* Diverse and abundant native invertebrate reptile fauna, seabirds and tuatara.
- Scenic/  
Landscape:* Of local and national significance, viewed from Coromandel Peninsula.
- Cultural:* Tangata whenua have guaranteed access to kaimoana and muttonbirds (titi) as a condition of the gift of Aldermen Islands (Ruamahua) to Crown.
- Archaeological/  
Historical:* Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.
- Recreational:* Of national importance. Fishing and diving/boat charters.

**TAIRUA HARBOUR**

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** T11/T12    **Grid Ref:** 625570-650634

**Conservation Values:**

- Ecosystem:* A variety of habitat including mud and sand flats, mangroves and saltmarsh, eelgrass and shellfish beds.
- Species:* Rare or threatened species include fernbird, spotless crane, banded rail, Australasian bittern, variable oystercatcher, caspian tern and reef heron. Sandbars in the harbour are used as loafing spots by the migrant eastern bartailed godwit.
- Geological:* The Pauanui barrier spit and shore platform are listed in the Geopreservation Index as regionally significant landform examples.
- Archaeological/  
Historical:* Pa sites and shell middens; of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.
- Recreational:* Of regional importance. Extremely high level of use for swimming, sunbathing, surfing, diving, walking, rambling, sailing, windsurfing.

**CLARK ISLAND GROUP** - Includes all islands within the group, including Hauturu, Whenuakura and Rawengaiti Islands.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** T12    **Grid Ref:** 675385

**Conservation Values:**

*Ecosystem:*            The larger islands support remnant coastal forest and populations of sea birds. Potential for management as refuges for threatened flora and fauna.

*Species:*              Remnant populations of tuatara.

*Scenic/  
Landscape:*            Of local significance.

*Archaeological/  
Historical:*            Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.

*Recreational:*        Of regional significance. Fishing, diving, sailing and charter boats.

**OPOUTERE SAND SPIT & WHAREKAWA HARBOUR** - The entire estuarine system from the CMA boundary to the mouth, including the sand spit and north to Ohui.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** 11    **Grid Ref:** 665505-675555

**Conservation Values:**

*Ecosystem:*            Estuary fringed with mangrove and saltmarsh communities; supports extensive eelgrass and shellfish beds. Nesting for waders and shore birds on sandspit. Sandy beach and dune system.

*Species:*              Largest breeding site for the threatened NZ dotterel. Variable oystercatcher and banded dotterel also nest at this site and feeding habitat is available for a wide range of waders and shore birds including reef heron and caspian tern.

*Scenic/  
Landscape:*            Of local significance.

*Archaeological/  
Historical*            Numerous pre-European sites at Ohui. Best preserved of the archaic dune sites remaining on Coromandel Peninsula. Radio carbon dating suggests that the earliest Polynesian settlement in NZ occurred along the east coast beaches of Coromandel. Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.

*Recreational:*        Of regional importance. Shellfish gathering, boating, fishing. Popular area for school activities.

**WHANGAMATA HARBOUR** - Mid and upper sections of Whangamata Harbour excluding the port and mooring area.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** T12    **Grid Ref:** 645425

**Conservation Values:**

- Ecosystem:*            The harbour mud/sand flats and mangroves provide habitat for wetland and coastal birds.
- Species:*             Threatened species recorded include reef heron, caspian tern, variable oystercatcher, NZ banded dotterel, banded rail and fernbird.
- Scenic/  
Landscape:*         Of local significance.
- Archaeological/  
Historical:*         Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.
- Recreational:*        Of regional significance. Shellfish gathering, fishing, boating, swimming.

**OTAHU ESTUARY** - The entire Otahu estuary from the CMA boundary to the mouth.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** T12    **Grid Ref:** 650376-671350

**Conservation Values:**

- Ecosystem:*            Intertidal mud/sand flats with diverse vegetation communities, rocky coastline.
- Species:*             The threatened caspian tern, banded rail, fern bird and Australasian bittern have been recorded.
- Archaeological/  
Historical:*         Of cultural and spiritual significance to tangata whenua.
- Recreational:*        Of regional significance. Boating, swimming, recreational fishing.

**EPIHIA REEF** - The entire reef and a 20 m seaward margin around the reef.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260    **Map No.** Q18    **Grid Ref:** 490750

**Conservation Values:**

- Ecosystem:*            Supports a diverse range of seaweeds and encrusting/attached animals representative of the West Coast.
- Species:*             Representative range of bryozoans, sponges and ascidians.
- Geological:*          One of the few inshore intertidal reefs on the Mokau to Awakino coastline.

*Scenic/  
Landscape:* Can be viewed from Mokau township and SH 3.

*Archaeological/  
Historical:* Regionally significant gathering place for kaimoana (shellfish) by tangata whenua of North Taranaki.

*Recreational:* Gathering of shellfish, fishing.

**MOKAU RIVER ESTUARY** - The entire Mokau River Estuary from the CMA boundary to the river mouth.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260      **Map No.** R18      **Grid Ref:** 765510

**Conservation Values:**

*Ecosystem:* Extensive areas of intertidal mudflats and saltmarsh which are bounded upstream by remnant lowland coastal and riparian forest.

*Species:* 15 coastal/wetland bird species recorded, including the threatened reef heron, NZ dotterel and the rare variable oystercatcher. Hector's dolphin (threatened status) has been recorded from river mouth estuarine bar.

*Scenic/  
Landscape:* Visible from SH 3 road bridge over the Mokau River.

*Archaeological/  
Historical:* Landing site of the Tainui waka, holds strong ancestral sites for iwi of Tainui and Te Atiawa (Taranaki).

*Recreational:* Regionally significant whitebait fishery, and is also used for boating, fishing.

**COASTLINE BETWEEN TE RUAOTEATA POINT & TAPIRIMOKO POINT** -  
Coastline between Te Ruaoteata & Tapirimoko Points.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260      **Map No.** R16      **Grid Ref:** 594184 to 552-42

**Conservation Values:**

*Geological:* 5 km of coastline as far south as the Moeatoa conglomerate. Very significant invertebrate and pollen stratigraphy and Triassic sequence.

*Scenic/  
Landscape:* Access very limited. Described as being of local significance.

*Recreational:* Occasional fishing and diving where access is available.

**MAROKOPA ESTUARY** - The entire river estuary from the CMA to the river mouth, then south to Tirua Point.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260      **Map No.** R16      **Grid Ref:** 602-205

**Conservation Values:**

*Ecosystem:* Tidal sand and mudflats with areas of remnant unmodified saltmarsh, rocky coastline adjoining Moeatoa Scenic Reserve and including Potikei Reef.

*Species:* 12 species of coastal and wading birds recorded, including the threatened reef heron, banded rail, NZ dotterel and caspian tern. Hector's dolphin regularly recorded at river mouth. Tirua Point is a seal haul out reef system; includes sponge communities. Conservation values are threatened by siltation and smothering due to erosion, flooding and landslip within the catchment.

*Recreational:* Regionally significant whitebait fishery and a locally significant kahawai fishery, diving.

**ALBATROSS POINT** - Includes the coastline between Te Maika on the southern headland of Kawhia Harbour to south of Albatross Point.

**Geographic Ref:** NZMS 260      **Map No.** R15      **Grid Ref:** From 579-404 to 564-447

**Conservation Values:**

*Species:* Coastline used by NZ fur seal as a haul-out site. Up to 50 seals recorded, one of the largest and most northern sites off West Coast of NI.

*Geological:* Intertidal platforms and cliffs contain bivalve and brachiopod fossil groups. Holostratotope of Aratauron stage.

*Scenic/  
Landscape:* Of local significance.

*Archaeological/  
Historical:* Includes Te Arawi headland. A site of historical importance to Tainui iwi.

*Recreational:* Fishing, from Albatross Point where access is available.

### **3. ADVOCACY CRITERIA FOR RIVERS & STREAMS AND THEIR MARGINS**

The Department will advocate protection of all, or portions of, rivers and streams and their margins in the Waikato which meet the following criteria. This will include activities within the catchment, in particular, activities which result in increased sediment and other contaminant loadings, reduced infiltration, loss of catchment and riparian cover, channelisation or drainage.

### **i) Maori Cultural Values**

- Portions of rivers or streams and their margins identified by tangata whenua in accordance with tikanga Maori as having spiritual or cultural importance.

### **ii) Ecological Values**

- Any river or stream and its margins or any portion of a river or stream and its margins that contains or is necessary for the support of any regionally or nationally rare or threatened indigenous species, ecosystem, habitat or assemblage of plants or animals.
- Any portion of a river or stream, its margins and its upstream catchment that supports a regionally or nationally high abundance or diversity of indigenous species, whether rare or commonplace, or for trout.
- Any upstream and downstream portion of river or stream that provides migratory passage for any regionally or nationally rare or threatened indigenous species or for an abundance or diversity of more commonplace indigenous species, or for trout.
- Any portion of a river or stream and its margins that provides habitat critical for survival during sensitive stages of the life cycle of any regionally or nationally, rare or threatened indigenous species, or for an abundance or diversity of commonplace indigenous species, or for trout, including spawning sites, nursing sites, juvenile rearing sites and adult refuge.
- Any river or stream and its margins or portions of a river or stream and its margins, that supports habitat or indigenous species that were formerly widespread or abundant but are now rare within the ecological district (eg unmodified lowland streams, lowland riparian vegetation).

### **Biological Indicators**

Other factors which affect the biology of rivers and streams can be used as indicators of biological and ecological significance. The Department will advocate protection for such rivers and streams in the absence of direct information about species and habitat values where the following indicators are favourable.

- **Geology:** rivers or streams draining a hard rock catchment tend to be biologically richer than those lined predominantly by erodible soft rock.
- **Hydrological flow:** rivers or streams that experience a stable water flow tend to support greater biological diversity and abundance than those with unpredictable flows or extreme variations of flow.
- **Passage Obstructions/Impediments:** Physical impediments such as a waterfall, dam or river, and chemical or temperature barriers, can block the passage of aquatic life up and down stream. They may also offer protection to vulnerable species and habitats that would otherwise suffer from the introduction of other species (such as exotic fish or aquatic plants).

- **Catchment Condition:** Rivers or streams that have a well-forested catchment and riparian vegetation have higher conservation values than those with little or no riparian vegetation and little or no forested catchment.
- **Outflow Characteristics:** Rivers and streams that empty into an estuary or sheltered coastal water tend to have higher indigenous fisheries values than those which flow directly into the open sea.

### iii) **Landscapes, Landforms & Geological Features**

- Any portion of a river or stream and its margins identified by the Geopreservation Index as containing or constituting a landform or geological feature of regional, national or international significance, including fossil beds, geological outcrops and river terraces.
- Any portion of a river or stream that constitutes a central element of a landscape identified as having regional or national importance.

### iv) **Historic Values**

- Any site on any river or stream and its margins which contains significant evidence of past human activity, for example kauri dam sites, sites associated with mining activity, sites associated with Maori settlement.

## 4. **ADVOCACY CRITERIA FOR WETLANDS (including bogs, swamps, mires, lakes and their margins but excluding estuaries, such as Firth of Thames and Kawhia Harbour, which are considered coastal areas under the Resource Management Act 1991)**

The Department advocates the protection of all wetland areas over 2 ha in size within the Waikato Conservancy which meet one or more of the following criteria. This includes activities within the catchment which could diminish the cultural, ecological, landscape or historic values associated with any such wetland.

### i) **Maori Cultural Values**

Any wetland identified by the tangata whenua in accordance with tikanga Maori as having special natural, historic, cultural or spiritual significance.

### ii) **Ecological Values**

- Any wetland that supports or contributes to the support of, any regionally, nationally or internationally rare or threatened indigenous species, ecosystem, habitat or assemblage of plants or animals.
- Any wetland that supports or contributes to the support of, a regionally or nationally high abundance or diversity of indigenous species, whether rare or commonplace.



- Any wetland that provides habitat critical for survival at sensitive stages of the life cycle for any regionally, nationally or internationally rare or threatened species, or for an abundance or diversity of commonplace indigenous species, including sites for spawning, nesting, nursing, juvenile rearing, moulting, staging or wintering.
- Any wetland supporting habitat or indigenous species once widespread or abundant but now rare within the Ecological District, including: all freshwater wetlands in Coromandel Ecological Region, Meremere, Maungatautari, Waipa, Raglan, Kawhia, Herangi, Tokoroa, Pureora and Waitomo Ecological Districts, all mineralised wetland in Hauraki Ecological District, all lakes, remnant peat and mineralised wetland in Waikato Ecological District and all riparian lake vegetation in Meremere District.

### iii) Landscapes, Landforms & Geological Features

- Any wetland that comprises or contains a landform or geological feature of regional or national significance (eg peat domes, dune lakes).

### iv) Historic Values

- Any wetland that contains sites of past human activity, for example, swamp pa associated with lakes within the Waikato basin.

## 5. ADVOCACY CRITERIA FOR INDIGENOUS VEGETATION

In relation to indigenous vegetation, the Department advocates the protection of all areas that meet the following criteria:

### i) Maori Cultural Values

Any significant area of indigenous vegetation identified by tangata whenua in accordance with tikanga Maori as having special natural, historic, cultural or spiritual significance.

### ii) Ecological Values

- Habitat or indigenous vegetation specially set aside by statute or covenant for protection and preservation.
- Habitat or vegetation supporting indigenous species that are uncommon or threatened with extinction (rare, threatened or endangered) within the Ecological District or nationally.
- Vegetation with the potential to provide a critically diminished habitat parameter important in the maintenance or recovery of a species uncommon or threatened within an Ecological District or nationally, for example linking corridor, size of habitat, altitudinal sequence, riparian shading or buffering.

- Habitat or vegetation type that is under-represented nationally or within the Ecological District.
- Vegetation containing associations of species which are representative or unusually abundant or diverse within an Ecological District or nationally.
- Unusual vegetation or habitat being influenced by factors such as geothermal activity, historical cultural practises, altitude, watertable, or soil type.
- Vegetation or habitat that protects a freshwater fishery in terms of S.6 (a)(b) and S39(4) and (5) of the Conservation Act, and S6(a), & 7(d), (g) & (h) of the RMA.
- Vegetation that contributes to a designated landscape feature such as a regional walkway, or a tourist scenic route, or a distinctive landscape of the region.
- Vegetation identified in a regional or district Plan as catchment protection, vegetation protecting soil or water values, and has functions in hazard mitigation.

Within the Ecological Regions and/or Districts listed below (see Map of Ecological Regions & Districts), significant vegetation types include but are not necessarily limited to the following:

**Coromandel ED** - all remaining indigenous coastal vegetation including dune vegetation and coastal forest; all indigenous forest below 200 m asl.

**Hauraki ED** - all indigenous forest.

**Hinuera ED** - all remaining indigenous vegetation including scrub.

**Hapuakohe ED** - all remaining indigenous vegetation including scrub.

**Maungatautari ED** - indigenous forest below 200 m asl.

**Waipa ED** - all remaining indigenous forest.

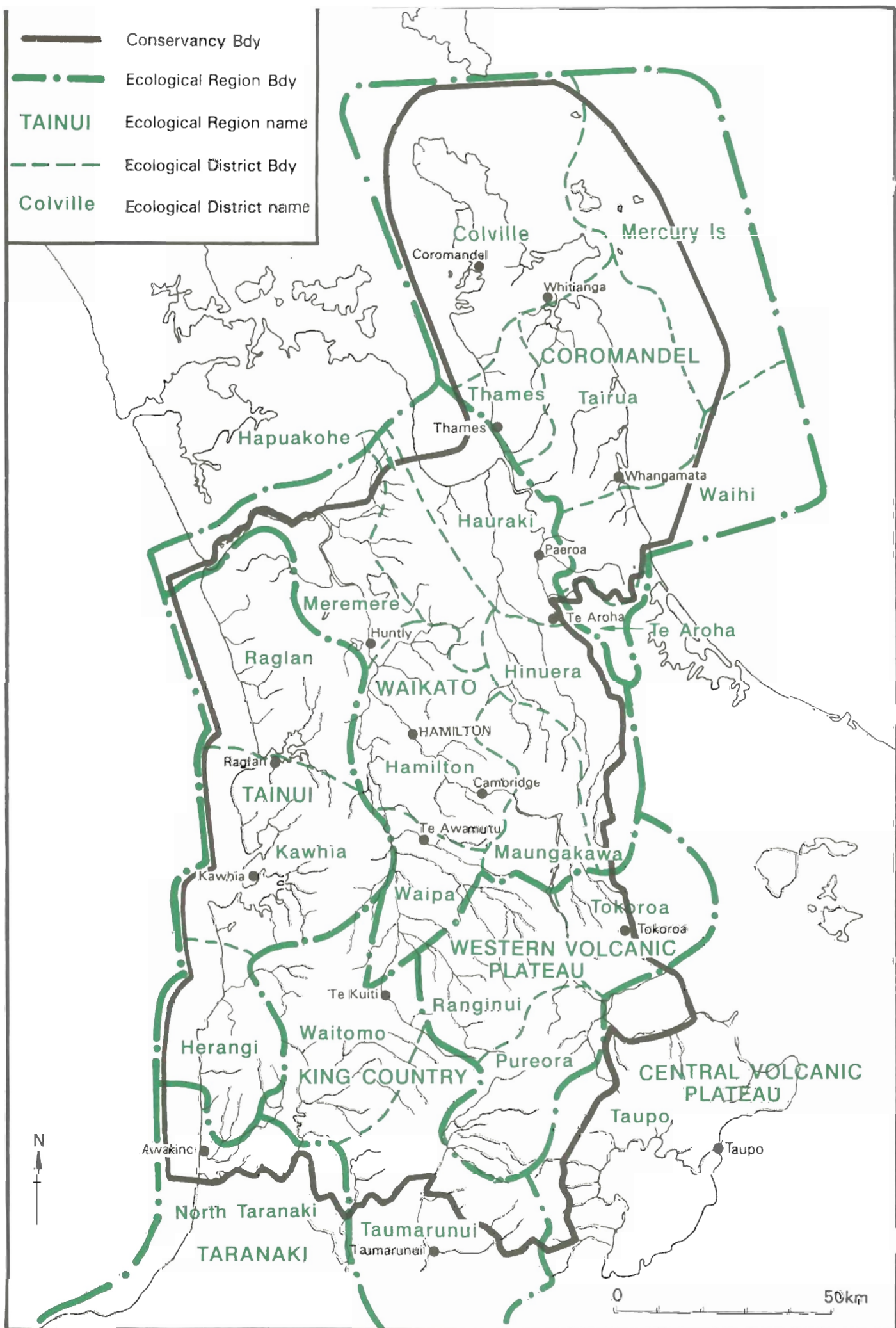
**Waikato ED** - all gully vegetation (gully systems are a special feature of Waikato pumice soils); all remaining indigenous forest.

**Meremere ED** - all remaining indigenous forest, both coastal and inland.

**Raglan ED** - all remaining indigenous coastal vegetation including dune vegetation, coastal forest and coastal cliff remnants; all indigenous forest below 200 m asl.

**Kawhia ED** - all remaining indigenous coastal vegetation including coastal forest and dune and coastal cliff vegetation; all indigenous vegetation in Tawarau River Catchment and Puaroa Stream Catchment.

**Herangi ED** - all remaining indigenous coastal vegetation including coastal forest and dune and coastal cliff vegetation; indigenous forest below 200 m asl.



**ECOLOGICAL REGIONS AND DISTRICTS**

**Tokoroa ED** - all remaining indigenous vegetation.

**Pureora ED** - all indigenous forest below 200 m asl.

**Ranginui ED** - all indigenous forest (because of the instability of the Waipa catchment).

**Waitomo ED** - all indigenous forest below 200 m asl.

**Taupo ED** - all remaining indigenous vegetation.

**Taumarunui ED** - all indigenous forest below 200 m asl.

## **6. ADVOCACY CRITERIA FOR SIGNIFICANT HABITATS OF INDIGENOUS FAUNA**

The Department will advocate the protection of any area conforming with the criteria listed below for sites of outstanding, high, moderate to high, and moderate value for wildlife. These are the criteria for Sites of Special Wildlife Interest developed by the Fauna Survey Unit of the NZ Wildlife Service before it became part of the Department of Conservation.

### **1. Outstanding**

- (a) Presence of a breeding population of a highly endangered or rare endemic species.
- (b) Presence of a population of an endemic species of very restricted distribution and which could become endangered.
- (c) Areas essential to species from (a) and (b) for purposes other than breeding.
- (d) Areas of vital importance to internationally uncommon species (breeding and/or migratory).
- (e) Areas of vital importance to internally migratory species with very limited distribution or abundance.
- (f) Largely unmodified ecosystems or example of original habitat type not represented elsewhere in the country, of large size and containing viable populations of all or almost all species which are typical of the ecosystem or habitat type.

### **2. High**

- (a) Site containing an indigenous species which has declined significantly as a result of human influence.
- (b) One of few or the only breeding area for a non-endemic indigenous species of limited abundance.
- (c) Habitat of an uncommon, discontinuously distributed species not adequately represented in a particular ecological region.

- (d) Example of a largely unmodified site which is not represented to the same extent elsewhere in the ecological region and is used by most species which are typical of that habitat type for the region.
- (e) Presence of a species of an endemic family which is of limited abundance throughout the country although adequately represented in one ecological region but whose habitat is at some risk.

### 3. Moderate-High

- (a) Presence of a species which is still quite widely distributed but whose habitat has been and still is being significantly reduced or modified as a result of human influence.
- (b) Areas containing high numbers of breeding or moulting birds or where breeding or moulting areas are of inter-regional significance to wildlife.
- (c) A large and fairly unmodified site or ecosystem which is represented elsewhere in the ecological region and contains all, or almost all, species typical of that habitat type for a particular region.
- (d) An area where any particular species is exceptional in terms of, say, abundance or behaviour but which is otherwise widespread.

### 4. Moderate

All sites supporting good numbers of species which are typical of that type of habitat within an ecological region and which have not been heavily modified by human influence.

Highest priority will be given to areas that provide habitat for the support of species that are nationally or internationally rare, threatened or endangered and secondly, to native species that are regionally rare, threatened or endangered. Species currently known to have such status are in Appendix 4. (NOTE: The list below excludes native insects and other invertebrates such as weta and snails. These deserve recognition equal to that given to birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, but at the time of writing this CMS no list for invertebrates is available).

## APPENDIX 3

### RARE, THREATENED OR ENDANGERED FAUNA & FLORA PRESENT WITHIN WAIKATO CONSERVANCY

SPECIES	STATUS	BREEDS IN CONSERVANCY
<b>Reptiles &amp; Amphibians</b>		
Archey's frog	Threatened	*
Hochstetter's frog	Threatened	*
Tuatara	Threatened	*
Duvaucels gecko	Threatened	*
Ornate skink	Rare	*
Robust skink	Threatened	*
Marbled skink	Threatened	*
Whitakers skink	Threatened	*
Striped skink	Threatened	*
Green turtle	Endangered	
Leather-backed turtle	Endangered	
<b>Mammals</b>		
Long tailed bat	Threatened	*
Short tailed bat (pekapeka)	Threatened	*
<b>Birds</b>		
North Island brown kiwi	Threatened	*
Little spotted kiwi	Endangered	*
New Zealand dabchick (weweia)	Threatened	*
Kermadec petrel	Rare	
Pycroft's petrel	Rare	*
Black petrel	Threatened	
White heron (kotuku)	Endangered	
Reef heron	Threatened	*
Australasian bittern (matuku)	Threatened	*
Royal spoonbill	Threatened	
Brown teal (pateke)	Endangered	*
Blue duck (whio)	Threatened	*
New Zealand falcon	Threatened	*
Banded rail	Threatened	*
Variable oystercatcher	Rare	*
Grey plover	Rare	
Banded dotterel	Threatened	

SPECIES	STATUS	BREEDS IN CONSERVANCY
New Zealand dotterel	Threatened	*
Wrybill	Threatened	
Siberian tatler	Rare	
Sharptailed sandpiper	Rare	
Curlew sandpiper	Rare	
Rednecked stint	Rare	
Sanderling	Rare	
Black stilt (kaki)	Endangered	
Caspian tern	Threatened	*
Black-fronted tern	Threatened	
Fairy tern	Endangered	
Eastern little tern	Rare	
North Island kaka	Threatened	*
Red-crowned parakeet	Threatened	*
Fernbird	Threatened	*
North Island robin		*
North Island saddleback	Rare	*
North Island kokako	Endangered	*
Stitchbird	Rare	*
<b>Fish</b>		
Banded kokopu	Threatened	*
Bluegilled bully	Threatened	*
Dwarf galaxias	Rare	*
Giant kokopu	Threatened	*
Koaro	Threatened	*
Lamprey	Threatened	
Shortjawed kokopu	Threatened	*
<b>Plants</b>		
<b>Extinct (2)</b>		
<i>Myoporum debile</i>		
<i>Trilepidea adamsii</i>	Mistletoe	
<b>Endangered (7)</b>		
<i>Amphibromous fluitans</i>	Water Broome	
<i>Christella dentata</i> 'NZ'		
(incl <i>C. 'basket'</i> )	Soft Fern	
<i>Clianthus puniceus</i>	Kakabeak	
<i>Corybas carsei</i>	Swamp Helmet Orchid	

SPECIES	COMMON NAME
<i>Plectranthus parviflorus</i>	Cockspur Flower
<i>Pterostylis micromega</i>	Swamp Greenhood
<i>Pterostylis nana</i>	

#### Vulnerable (20)

<i>Baumea complanata</i>	
<i>Calystegia marginata</i>	
<i>Dactylanthus taylorii</i> (pua reinga)	Woodrose
<i>Deschampsia caespitosa</i>	Poaceae
<i>Euphorbia glauca</i> (waiuuatua)	Native Milkweed
<i>Hebe speciosa</i> (Napuka)	
<i>Juncus holoschoenus</i>	
<i>Lepidium flexicaule</i>	
<i>Lepidium olearaceum</i> (Nau)	Cooks Scurvy Grass
<i>Lycopodium serpentinum</i>	
<i>Mazus novaezeelandiae</i>	
<i>Olearia pachyphylla</i>	
<i>Ophioglossum petiolatum</i>	Adders Tongue Fern
<i>Peraxilla tetrapetala</i> (Pirirangi)	Mistletoe
<i>Pimelea tomentosa</i> ss	
<i>Pomaderris apetala</i> (Tainui)	
<i>Pomaderris polifolia</i>	
<i>Prasophyllum</i> aff. <i>patens</i>	
<i>Rorippa divaricata</i> (matangoa)	
<i>Senecio scaberulus</i>	

#### Rare (15)

<i>Austrofestuca littoralis</i>	Sand Tussock
<i>Carmichaelia williamsii</i>	
<i>Gratiola nana</i>	
<i>Marattia salicina</i> (Para)	King Fern
<i>Myriophyllum robustum</i>	Native Parrots feather
<i>Phylloglossum drummondii</i>	
<i>Pimelea arenaria</i>	Sand Pimelea
<i>Pittosporum turnerii</i>	
<i>Pomaderris hamiltonii</i>	Pale-flowered Kumarahou
<i>Pterostylis plumosa</i>	
<i>Ranunculus macropus</i> (Raoriki)	
<i>Tupeia antarctica</i> (Pirita)	Mistletoe
<i>Senecio marotiri</i>	
<i>Utricularia australis</i>	Bladderwort
<i>Utricularia delicatula</i>	Swamp Bladderwort



## APPENDIX 4

### SITES OF INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL & REGIONAL GEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE IN THE WAIKATO CONSERVANCY

	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF	THREATS	ADDITIONAL
<b>CAVE AND KARST FEATURES</b>			
Cathedral Cove, Hahei Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T11/593821	Low. Marine erosion.	Spectacular coastal arch beneath headland; isolated stack (Te Hoho Rock), impressive cliffs of white ignimbrite.
Gardners Gut Cave Waitomo District	National S16/919249	Moderate. Recreational use.	Significant geomorphology, length, speleogenesis, reflective of karstification, two level development, sedimentary deposits, speleothems, fossil bone deposits.
Grand Canyon Cave Waitomo District	National R17/739029	Moderate. Disturbance by visitors.	Solution caves. Bat habitat.
Helictite Hole Waikato District	National S14/946710	High. Recreational use.	Speleothems, in particular helictites. Highly vulnerable to destruction or modification by humans.
Hollow Hill Cave Waitomo District	Regional R16/871275	Moderate. Recreational use.	Large horizontal stream passage, three small inlet passages. Moderately vulnerable to human damage.
Karamu Cave Waipa District	Regional S15/927655	Low	Horizontal stream cave in Oligocene limestone, about 3 km long.
Kuratahi Cave Waitomo District	National R17/767034	Moderate. Recreational use.	Significant speleothems, geomorphology, dendritic development, old sedimentary deposits potentially useful for pollen research. Moderately vulnerable to human damage.
Lake Disappear Waikato District	Regional R15/788626	Low	A polje which periodically floods, then drains.
Mangapohue Natural Bridge and Karst Features Waitomo District	Regional R16/765252 R16/813234	Low	50 m high arch, and natural ecosystem in polygonal karst in Oligocene limestone.
Mangapu Cave System Waitomo District	International S16/900132 S16/928160	Moderate	Spectacular entrance tomos up to 100 m deep. Largest entrance pitch in North Island. Horizontal streamway in Oligocene limestone.
Mangawhitikau Cave System Waitomo District	National S16/925176	Low	Largest cave stream in NZ. Good examples of cave geomorphology and two level development. High recreational significance.

	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF		THREATS	ADDITIONAL
Mangawhitikau Gorge Waitomo District	Regional	S16/920170	Low	1 km long gorge incised in Oligocene limestone.
Maze Cave Waitomo District	National	S16/948302	Low	Significant geomorphology with classical maze development along joint system.
Moa Egg Shell Cave Waitomo District	National	R16/892281	Moderate. Recreational use.	Remnant cave passage in Oligocene limestone. Sedimentary deposits consisting of ash layers, fossil leaves, moa egg shell deposits.
Pukeroa Cave System Waitomo District	Regional	R17/709947	Moderate. Recreational use.	Horizontal stream system about 4.5 km long. Significant speleothems vulnerable to human damage.
Puketiti Flower Cave Waitomo District	International	R17/742017	High	Speleothems - gypsum display - flowers. Highly vulnerable to destruction or modification by humans. Protected by conservation covenant.
Puketiti Swamp Karst Waitomo District	Regional	R17/767034	Low	Small areas of karst characterised by flat top 1.5 m above present surface of swamp. Pinnacles 0.25m - 2m in diameter. Rare feature, only developed in swamp situation.
Ruakuri Cave Waitomo District	National	S16/921243	Low. Recreational use.	Significant length (4 km). Nationally important tourist cave.
Ruakuri Natural Bridge Waitomo District	Regional	S16/919243	Low	Spectacular limestone arch through which the Waitomo Stream flows. Aesthetic and tourism significance.
Taranaki Point Karst Waipa District	Regional	R15/665569	Low	Pinnacles, caves and other karst landforms, spectacular karst features outcropping on storm battered coast. Unlikely to be damaged by humans.
The Tunnel Arch, Mangapohue Waitomo District	Regional	R16/771254	Low	Largest arch feature in Waitomo District. Unlikely to be damaged by humans.
Tomac Tomo Waikato District	Regional	S15/924669	Moderate. Recreational use.	Significant geomorphology, speleothems - iron stained calcite, gypsum. Vulnerable to partial destruction or modifications by human activities.
Troopers Road Cave System Waitomo District	National	R16/897122	Moderate. Recreational use.	One of the most extensive North Island cave systems with a combined length of about 8 kms. Moderately vulnerable to human damage.
Waipuna Cave Waitomo District	Regional	R16/868195	Moderate. Recreational use.	Impressive speleothems. Only major cave in Waitomo area with forested catchment. Moderately vulnerable to damage by humans.
Waipuna Karst Waitomo District	Regional	R16/872200	Low.	Natural ecosystem in polygonal karst under native forest. Unlikely to be damaged by humans.

	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF		THREATS	ADDITIONAL
Waitomo District				Unlikely to be damaged by humans.
Waitomo Glowworm Cave Waitomo District	International	S16/943249	Moderate. Water and air pollution.	Glowworms, nationally important tourist area. Vulnerable to partial destruction or modifications by humans. Scenic reserve vested in THC.
Waitomo Stream Headwaters Cave System Waitomo District	National	R16/877213	Moderate	Significant geomorphology: length and extent, speleothema. Very important recreational resource. Moderately vulnerable to human damage.
<b>FOSSIL SITES</b>				
Arataura Pt, Kawhia Harbour Waitomo District	National	R15/631415	Low. Marine erosion.	Bivalves, Brachiopods in Jurassic strata.
Awakino Gorge Waitomo District	Regional	R17/598820 R17/632859	Low. Road works.	Mesozoic and Miocene strata.
Bradfield's "Lindern Hills" Quarry Waitomo District	National	R16/641215	Moderate. Further quarrying, cover increase.	Best Tertiary fauna in New Zealand. Features vulnerable to damage by human activity.
Daff Road Jurassic Plant Beds Franklin District	National	R13/672208	Moderate. Further quarrying.	Extremely well preserved Jurassic plant beds.
Heteri Pt, Kawhia Harbour Waitomo District	National	R15/664401	Low. Marine erosion.	Rich macrofossil faunas in Jurassic strata.
Huriwai Beach Jurassic Plant Beds Franklin District	National	R13/613167	Moderate. Coastal erosion.	Extremely well preserved and significant upper Jurassic flora. Vulnerable to damage by human activity.
Kaawa Creek - Ngatutara Bay Section Franklin District	National	R13/646082	Low. Marine erosion. Vegetation.	Shellbeds, significant Pliocene fauna, well preserved molluscs. Unlikely to be damaged by human activity.
Kaimango Road, Kawhia Otorohanga District	National	R16/829384	Low. Stream erosion.	Jurassic fossil locality. Unlikely to be damaged by human activity.
Kiritehere Coast, (5 km section south) Waitomo District	National	R16/598198	Low. Coastal erosion.	Continuous exposure of Upper Triassic to basal Jurassic strata. Important for invertebrate and pollen stratigraphy and best Triassic sequence in the North Island.
Kiritehere Gastropod bed Waitomo District	Regional	R16/580174	Low. Coastal erosion.	Rich gastropod fauna.
Moeweka Quarry Franklin District	National	R13/715219	Low. Further quarrying. Vegetation cover increase.	Good Tertiary molluscan and brachiopod fauna. Unlikely to be damaged by human activity.
Motutara Peninsula, Kawhia Otorohanga District	National	R15/722474	Low. Marine erosion.	Jurassic and Oligocene sediments. Very rich fossil locality in the Puroan.

	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF		THREATS	ADDITIONAL
Ohaua Pt, Kawhia Harbour Waitomo District	National	R15/684411	Low. Marine erosion.	Rich macrofossil faunas in Jurassic strata.
Ohuka Franklin District	Regional	R13/648072	Low. Coastal erosion. Slips.	Plio-Pleistocene flora and carbonaceous sandstone.
Opuatia Cliff Franklin District	National	R13/720228	Low	Rich, diverse and well preserved Temaikan molluscan and brachiopod fauna.
Piako Swamp Hauraki District, Matamata-Piako District	Regional	T13/380185	Moderate. Burning, draining, grazing.	Quaternary vegetation of northern New Zealand. Vulnerable to damage by human activity.
Pomarangi Road Quarry Waitomo District	Regional	R16/698143	Low. Further quarrying, vegetation cover increase.	Type locality for <i>Belemnopsis keari</i> and only New Zealand Jurassic barnacle.
Port Waikato to Tuakau Bridge Rd Franklin District	National	R13/660248	Low. Stream erosion.	Jurassic section.
Puaroa Creek, Kawhia Waitomo/Otorohanga Districts	National	R16/726370	Low. Stream erosion.	Jurassic fossil locality. Holostratotype of Puaruan Stage.
Puti Point, Kawhia Otorohanga District	National	R15/734481	Low. Road works.	Rich fossil locality in Puaruan Stage.
Rauroa Stream Waitomo District	Regional	R17/650892	Low. Stream erosion.	Jurassic fauna. Good Temaikan marine faunas at several localities.
Te Maika Point, Kawhia Harbour Waitomo District	National	R15/658441	Moderate. Marine erosion, wharf development.	Jurassic macroflora (tree stumps).
Totara Point, Kawhia Harbour Waitomo District	National	R15/659411	Moderate. Marine erosion.	Includes historically important Captain Kings shell bed, containing rich Jurassic bivalve and brachiopod fauna. Type locality of many species.
Uraroa Pt, Kawhia Harbour Waitomo District	National	R15/648430	Low. Marine erosion.	Includes important <i>Dactylioceras</i> bed with a rich and varied fauna.
Whakapirau Road, Kawhia Harbour Waitomo District	Regional	R16/648369	Low. Road cuttings, weathering.	Bivalves, Brachiopods, Amanoids in Jurassic strata. More accessible section than that exposed on the South Kawhia coast.
<b>GEOHERMAL FEATURES</b>				
Kawhia (Te Puia) Hot Springs Otorohanga District	Regional	R15/663470	Moderate	Hot springs in a 25 m diameter region of beach, west of Kawhia.
Kerepehi Hot Springs Hauraki District	Regional	T12/365321	High	Hot springs no longer emerge at surface due to disruption to natural drainage. Highly vulnerable to complete destruction by human activities.

	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF	THREATS	ADDITIONAL
Otorohanga District			
Kerepehi Hot Springs Hauraki District	Regional T12/365321	High	Hot springs no longer emerge at surface due to disruption to natural drainage. Highly vulnerable to complete destruction by human activities.
Lake Waikare Hot Springs Waikato District	Regional S13/072154	Moderate	Warm springs emerge from small sinter islet in Lake Waikare. Vulnerable to partial destruction or modification by humans.
Manawaru Hot Springs Matamata-Piako District	Regional T14/531909	Moderate	Hot springs, vulnerable to partial destruction or modification by humans.
Ohinewai Hot Springs Waikato District	Regional S13/010140	Moderate	Springs emerge through Waikato River flood plain. Vulnerable to partial destruction or modification by humans.
Okauia Hot Springs Matamata-Piako District	Regional T14/601756	Moderate	Hot springs on both sides of the Waihou River. Vulnerable to partial destruction or modification by humans.
Okoroire Hot Springs South Waikato District	Regional T15/566574	Moderate	Warm springs. Vulnerable to modification by humans.
Orua Hot Springs (Hot Water Beach) Thames-Coromandel District	National T11/620756	Low	One of only a few hot springs in NZ at sea level. Vulnerable to modification by humans.
Puriri Hot Springs Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T12/450370	Moderate	Warm springs. Flow varies with rainfall.
Taihoa South Road Hot Springs Matamata-Piako District	Regional T15/561670	Moderate	Warm springs on west bank of Waihou River.
Taputapu Hot Springs Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T11/511838		Hot springs in bed of stream. Vulnerable to partial destruction or modification by human activities.
Te Maire (Naikē) Hot Springs Waikato District	Regional R13/820098	Moderate	Two springs on either side of the Te Maire Stream.
Waikorea Hot Springs Waikato District	Regional R14/734981	Moderate	Hot springs depositing a whitish precipitate. Vulnerable to partial destruction or modification by human activities.
Waingaro Hot Springs Waikato District	Regional R14/866881	Moderate.	Hot springs. Vulnerable to modification.
Waitoa Hot Springs Matamata-Piako District	Regional T13/382077	Moderate	Hot springs beside Waitoa River. Vulnerable to modification.
Walton Hot Springs Matamata-Piako District	Regional T14/481778	Moderate	Warm springs
Wigmore (Hahei) Hot Springs	Regional T11/606799		Isolated springs on banks of Wigmore Creek. Vulnerable to

	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF	THREATS	ADDITIONAL
Crown Battery, Karangahake Thames-Coromandel District	International T13/508167	Moderate. Site redevelopment.	Site where the MacArthur-Forrest cyanide process was first used commercially to extract gold and silver from ore. Vulnerable to damage by humans.
Horohora Hydro-Electric Power Station	Regional T15/435545	Site flooded.	The site of the first hydro-electric power station on the Waikato River which commenced generation in 1913, and was flooded by the formation of Lake Karapiro in 1947. Outline of headrace is visible on the lakeside.
Kapanga Gold Discovery Site Thames-Coromandel District	National T10/337934	Low	Site of the first authenticated discovery of gold in New Zealand in 1852 near the base of Tokatea Hill, northern outskirts of Coromandel township.
Karangahake Gorge Section Hauraki District	Regional T13/515164	Low	Disused railway line and tunnel now used as a walking track linking a number of mining related historic features.
Kupakupa Coal Mine Waikato District	Regional S13/002005	Further mining.	The first coal mine in the Waikato district and site of the type section for the Waikato Coal Measures. Original mine portal destroyed by subsequent mining. Vulnerable to further destruction.
Lichfield Bank Building South Waikato District	Regional T16/573398	High. Demolition.	Earliest known building made of ignimbrite. Built in 1886. On west side of SH1 at Lichfield between Putaruru and Tokoroa. Highly vulnerable to destruction.
Luck at Last Battery, Whangamata Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T12/587415	Moderate. Logging.	One of the best preserved battery sites on the Coromandel Peninsula. Well preserved relics of gold mining. Battery erected 1898-1899.
Mangapehi Coal Mine, Bennydale Waitomo District	National S17/185960	Low. Renewed mining.	First mine in NZ to use longwall mining method, in association with hydraulic stowage, in 1956.
Martha Mine No 5 Pumphouse, Waihi Hauraki District	National T13/623199	Moderate. Demolition.	Best preserved of only two remaining relics of the most productive gold mine in NZ. Housed the largest pump, installed in 1904. Mining started 1890. Vulnerable to modification by humans.
Ongarue Rail Disaster Site Ruapehu District	National S18/080735	Low	Site where in 1923 a train ran into a landslide killing 17 passengers. NZ's worst landslide disaster in terms of the number of deaths.
Paritu granite quarry Thames-Coromandel District	Regional S10/195159 S10/198149	Moderate. Demolition of wharf, renewed quarrying.	Abandoned quarry and wharf made of the quarry stone, source of "Coromandel Granite" a widely used building and monumental stone in NZ. Vulnerable to modification by humans.
Ralph's coal mine disaster site, Huntly Waikato District	Regional S13/010025	Urban development	Site of the worst mining disaster in the Waikato (1914). Partly destroyed, vulnerable to further destruction.
Tahanga Basalt pre-historic quarry, Opito Bay	National T10/614932	Moderate. Subdivision, fossicking.	Source of widely distributed stone adze material. Stone from this area was focus of an early major industrial centre along the east

	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF		THREATS	ADDITIONAL
Paritu granite quarry Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	S10/195159 S10/198149	Moderate. Demolition of wharf, renewed quarrying.	Abandoned quarry and wharf made of the quarry stone, source of "Coromandel Granite" a widely used building and monumental stone in NZ. Vulnerable to modification by humans.
Ralph's coal mine disaster site, Huntly Waikato District	Regional	S13/010025	Urban development	Site of the worst mining disaster in the Waikato (1914). Partly destroyed, vulnerable to further destruction.
Tahanga Basalt pre-historic quarry, Opito Bay Thames-Coromandel District	National	T10/614932	Moderate. Subdivision, fossicking.	Source of widely distributed stone adze material. Stone from this area was focus of an early major industrial centre along the east Coromandel Coast. Includes three main quarry/working floor sites. Vulnerable to modification by humans.
Talisman Battery, Karangahake Hauraki District	National	T13/512160	Moderate	The Talisman battery serviced the Talisman mine, which had the third largest output of any gold mine in NZ. Vulnerable to modification by humans.
Tokatea Hill gold mines Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T10/350945	Moderate. Over-collecting.	Easily accessible adits and relics of gold mining near Coromandel township.
Union Hill Concrete Cyanide Tanks, Hauraki District	International	T13/629198	Moderate. Vandalism. Mining operations.	Largest and well-preserved example of the B and M or agitation tank for gold recovery, a NZ invention. Vulnerable to modification by humans.
Victoria Battery Site, Waikino Hauraki District	National	T13/560174	Reworking of site.	Largest gold mining battery in NZ, used to process ore from Martha Mine.
Wairere serpentine quarry, near Pio Pio Waitomo District	Regional	R17/860935	Reclamation Restoration	Remains of one of the biggest serpentine quarries in NZ, worked until recently. Vulnerable to modification by humans.
Waitewhena Coal Mine, Ohura Ruapehu District	Regional	R18/818736	Low. Mining, Vegetation	Abandoned opencast and underground mines.
Watkins Stone Kitchen South Waikato District	Regional	T15/452578	High. Demolition, vandalism, neglect.	The only known example of the use of "Hinuera" alluvium in the construction of a building. One of the oldest buildings in the region. Highly vulnerable to modification by humans.
Woodstock Underground Powerhouse Thames-Coromandel District	National	T13/513156	Moderate	Underground pumphouse chamber, only one of its type constructed by a mining company in NZ and probably most complete dewatering plant still in situ in any historic mine in NZ.
<b>IGNEOUS SITES</b>				
Bald Spur, Mt Pirongia Waikato District	Regional	S15/961563	Low	Good exposure of Pirongia Volcanics. Outcrops of basaltic volcanic breccia.
Bridal Veil Falls Waikato District	Regional	R15/770643	Low	Waterfall over an excellent example of a columnar jointed basalt lava flow.

	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF	THREATS	ADDITIONAL
Thames-Coromandel District			of altered andesite, cutting Moechau formation sediments, with prominent hydrothermal minerals.
Karangahake Gorge Section Hauraki District	Regional T13/550170	Low	Ohinemuri River has exposed dacite, rhyolite, ignimbrite, andesite and sediments juxtaposed against each other.
Maumaupaki dacite plug (Camels Back) Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T11/398699	Low	Excellent example of a dacite plug. Spectacular bluff exposure.
Moechau Summit, andesite Thames-Coromandel District	Regional S10/258150	Low	Good exposures above the bushline of Port Charles Andesite, hornfelsed by subjacent Paritu Pluton.
Moechau Summit, diorite Thames-Coromandel District	Regional S10/255152	Low	Exposure of diorite above the bushline. Represents a hypabyssal satellite of the Paritu Pluti
Ngatutura Point Franklin District	Regional R13/645077	Low	Spectacular outcrops of dissected eruptive centre, including lava flows, dikes and diatreme.
Ohinau Island Columnar rhyolite Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T10/673929	Low	Excellent exposures of columnar flow-banded rhyolites.
Okete Quarry Waikato District	Regional R14/788749	Low	Spectacular section through columnar jointed flow and type location of the Okete volcanics.
Opito Point basalts Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T10/622943	Low	Well exposed basalt plug.
Orangiwhao Trig Section Otorohanga District	Regional R15/615409	Low	Well preserved section of Orangiwhao volcanics with porphyritic andesite and plagioclase-hornblende porphyry, lavas, dikes and plutons.
Paku rhyolite dome Thames-Coromandel District	National T11/656628	Moderate. Housing. Roads	Exposures of a multi stage eruptive complex. Off-white glassy rhyolite is perlitically cracked.
Papanui Point Waikato District	Regional R15/649672	Low	A well exposed sequence of olivine tholeiite lava flows exposed along the shoreline.
Parakiwai andesite neck Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T12/615333	Moderate	Outstanding example of columnar jointed andesite neck.
Pauanui eroded columnar jointing Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T12/665596	Low	Example of progression of different stages of erosion of a columnar jointed lava flow.
Pinnacles rhyolite neck Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T12/523579	Low	Well exposed rhyolite neck.
Red Mercury Island basalt Thames-Coromandel District	Regional U10/732052	Low	Sequence exposing six thick basalt flows and up to ten thinner ones, with a number of rhyolite and basalt tuff beds in between.
Rock Bolt, volcanic neck, Hikui Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T12/522477	Low	Well exposed volcanic neck of rhyolite.



	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF		THREATS	ADDITIONAL
Thames-Coromandel District				
Pauanui eroded columnar jointing Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T12/665596	Low	Example of progression of different stages of erosion of a columnar jointed lava flow.
Pinnacles rhyolite neck Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T12/523579	Low	Well exposed rhyolite neck.
Red Mercury Island basalt Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	U10/732052	Low	Sequence exposing six thick basalt flows and up to ten thinner ones, with a number of rhyolite and basalt tuff beds in between.
Rock Bolt, volcanic neck, Hikui Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T12/522477	Low	Well exposed volcanic neck of rhyolite.
Ruamahuaite andesite flow Aldermen Islands	Regional	U11/849652	Low	Only exposure of andesite on Aldermen Islands.
Slipper Island scoria cone Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	U12/722583	Low	Well exposed section through centre of young scoria cone.
Stanley Island basalt vents and cone Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T10/687025	Low	Eroded volcanic neck and scoria cone, with parasite cone and lava lake, buried by sheet flows.
Sugar Loaf andesite, Cape Colville Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	S09/265226	Low	Earliest preserved andesite eruption deposits in the Coromandel Volcanic Zone.
Table Mountain, andesite plateau Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T12/465582	Low	A large intrusive block of andesites into Whitianga Group rhyolitic sediments and extruded andesite flows over them.
Taranaki Point volcanics Waikato District	Regional	R15/673565	Low	Sequence of volcanics overlying flaggy Te Kuiti Group limestone.
Te Kawa Quarry Waipa District	Regional	S15/110442	Low	Excellent exposures of thick olivine basalt lavas.
Te Toto Gorge Section Waikato District	Regional	R14/665720	Low	Well exposed sequence of lavas and related pyroclastics, site of a parasitic vent of the Karioi Volcano.
Wairere Serpentinite, Rodingite and Rosenhahnite Waitomo District	National	R17/860975	Moderate. Reclamation. Further quarrying.	Wairere Serpentinite contains large metasomatised gabbro xenoliths.
Waitaia Ridge Sinter Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T10/553942	Low	Excellent example of volcanogenic sinter and silicified greywacke.
Whale Bay, section Waikato District	Regional	R14/685739	Low	Well exposed section of basalt lava flows.
Whangapoua columnar jointed basalt Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T10/438967	Low	Headland composed of solid mass of basalt with vertical columnar jointing, cave and blowhole.

	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF	THREATS	ADDITIONAL
Woody Hill basalt, Tairua Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T12/592597	Low	Well exposed residual volcanic neck of basalt with dikes.
<b>LANDFORM SITES</b>			
Aldermen Islands coastal features Thames-Coromandel District	Regional U11/845668	Low	A range of spectacular rocky coast landforms such as spires, needles and vertical bluffs.
Aotea Dune Fields Waikato District	National R15/732588	Moderate. Possible reforestation.	Large area of mobile dune fields - the biggest example on northwest coast.
Awakino River Mouth Barrier Waitomo District	Regional R17/511808	Low	The only river mouth barrier in the region - good example of longshore drift. Recommended for reserve.
Big Bay Blowhole, Hahei Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T11/619793	Low	Largest blowhole on Coromandel Peninsula, inactive at present.
Bridal Veil Falls Waikato District	Regional R15/770643	Low	Spectacular single drop waterfall over edge of eroded lava flow.
Castle Rock Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T11/390855	Low	Spectacular rock outcrop composed of columnar-jointed dacite, formed by erosion around a resistant volcanic plug.
Cathedral Cove, Hahei Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T11/593821	Low	Spectacular coastal arch beneath headland; isolated stack (Te Hoho Rock), impressive cliffs of white ignimbrite.
Karangahake Gorge Section Hauraki District	Regional T13/515164	Low	Impressive gorge cut by the Ohinemuri River through the uplifted Coromandel Range.
Kauaeranga Gorge Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T12/500585	Low	A deeply incised gorge with near vertical sides extending 300 m above the river.
Kennedy Bay "Tumbledown Rocks" Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T10/407003	Low	Example of pre-European rock fall - jumble of large blocks of breccia.
Kerepehi Fault, Eastport Road Matamata-Piako District	Regional T13/428006	Low. Ploughing, burning, overstocking.	Fault scarp showing 5-8 m displacement.
Kerepehi Fault, Matamata Matamata-Piako District	Regional T14/570748	Low. Ploughing, burning, overstocking.	Fault scarp of 6 m.
Kerepehi Fault, Mellon Road Matamata-Piako District	Regional T13/424047	Low. Ploughing, burning, overstocking.	Fault scarp showing 3.5-4 m displacement.
Kerepehi Fault, Taihoa North and South Roads Intersection Matamata-Piako District	Regional T14/582710	Low. Ploughing, burning, overstocking.	Fault showing 6 m displacement, with terrace offsets.
Mangawhara Stream Meanders Waikato District	Regional S13/224121	Low.	Classic gravel bed stream with meanders, ripples and pools.

	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF		THREATS	ADDITIONAL
Thames-Coromandel District				breccia.
Kerepehi Fault, Eastport Road Matamata-Piako District	Regional	T13/428006	Low. Ploughing, burning, overstocking.	Fault scarp showing 5-8 m displacement.
Kerepehi Fault, Matamata Matamata-Piako District	Regional	T14/570748	Low. Ploughing, burning, overstocking.	Fault scarp of 6 m.
Kerepehi Fault, Mellon Road Matamata-Piako District	Regional	T13/424047	Low. Ploughing, burning, overstocking.	Fault scarp showing 3.5-4 m displacement.
Kerepehi Fault, Taihoa North and South Roads Intersection Matamata-Piako District	Regional	T14/582710	Low. Ploughing, burning, overstocking.	Fault showing 6 m displacement, with terrace offsets.
Mangawhara Stream Meanders Waikato District	Regional	S13/224121	Low.	Classic gravel bed stream with meanders, ripples and pools.
Maramatotara Bay Coastal Features Thames-Coromandel District	National	T11/529819	Low	A visor notch carved into ignimbrite. Two levels of platform - one related to high tide and one to groundwater level.
Mataora Beach Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T13/690287	Moderate	Bayhead beach associated with a Pleistocene barrier dune.
Mokau coastal features Waikato District	Regional	R17/502909	Low	Impressive series of coastal features with marine terrace, abandoned sea cliff and contemporary and relic dune field.
Ngaruawahia wadi Waikato District	Regional	S14/996855	Low	Valley, old river system in Hinuera formation.
Omara Spit Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T10/474930	Moderate. Subdivision and redevelopment presently occurring.	Well defined barrier sandpit.
Otama abandoned beach ridges Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T10/569956	Moderate	Abandoned Pleistocene dune barrier. Classic example, the best on Coromandel Peninsula.
Pauanui Barrier Spit Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T11/654614	Moderate	Superb example of large barrier spit.
Pauanui eroded columnar jointing Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T12/665596	Moderate	Natural cobblestone pavement, erosion of shore platform.
Piarere Turnoff Alluvial Terraces Matamata-Piako District	International	T15/445587	Moderate. Lower terraces flooded by Karapiro Dam.	One of the world's best examples of alluvial terraces. Good outcrops of ignimbrites, and small alluvial fans.
Port Waikato Complex Landslide Franklin District	Regional	R13/637228	Low	A significant geomorphic feature in the area - the landslide involves debris movement.
Pukewhakatarara Rock Pillars	Regional	S11/285785	Low	Prominent hilltop of rock pillars and bluffs composed of old lahar

	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF		THREATS	ADDITIONAL
Waipa River Meanders and Levees Waikato District	Regional	S14/966829	Moderate. Potential power development.	Excellent examples of meanders and levees. Vulnerable to destruction or modification by human activities.
Whangamata Cuspate Foreland Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T12/663388	Low	The largest cuspate foreland in Thames Valley and Bay of Plenty.
Whangapoua Columnar jointed basalt Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T10/438967	Low	Solid basalt headland with vertical columnar jointing, cave and blowhole.
Whiritoa Blowhole Hauraki District	Regional	T12/682304	Low	Most spectacular active blowhole on Coromandel Peninsula - active during easterly storms.
White Cliffs, Great Mercury Island Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T10/620057	Low	Most prominent landform in the Mercury Islands and the highest coastal cliffs on the Coromandel coast (200 m high).
<b>METAMORPHIC SITES</b>				
Cuvier Island Thames-Coromandel District	National	T09/584257	Low	Tourmalinised alteration of intruded country rocks. Good example of hornfelses.
Fantail Bay - Paritu hornfels Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	S10/194165	Low	Greywacke which has been thermally metamorphosed to hornfels. One of the few hornfels localities in the North Island.
Kiritihere Coast Upper Triassic/Lower Jurassic section Waitomo District	National	R16/598198	Low	Sequence contains several hundred thin, zeolitised tuffaceous beds.
Wairere Serpentinite, Rodingite and Rosenhahnite Waitomo District	National	R17/860935	Moderate. Reclamation. Further quarrying.	Contains large metasomatised gabbro xenoliths.
<b>MINERAL SITES</b>				
Broken Hills Mordenite Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T12/542524	Moderate	Small crystals of mordenite exposed in rhyolite.
Cuvier Island tourmaline Coromandel	National	T09/584257	Low	Good exposure of large black crystals of tourmaline.
Darkie Stream tourmaline Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	S10/196153	Low	Tourmaline rosettes on joint surfaces in dacite on coastal shore platform.
Karangahake Gorge Section Hauraki District	Regional	T13/515164	Low	Locally mineralised dacite, rhyolite, ignimbrite, andesite and sediments juxtaposed against each other. Gold bearing quartz reef exposed at White Rock.
Martha Hill gold lode Hauraki District	National	T13/620220	High. Mining, eventual flooding.	Most productive Coromandel gold-silver deposit.
Ongaroto perlite	Regional	T17/644086	Low	High grade perlite deposits in glassy rhyolites. Site of NZ's first

	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF		THREATS	ADDITIONAL
MINERAL SITES				
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Cuvier Island tourmaline Coromandel	National	T09/584257	Low	Good exposure of large black crystals of tourmaline.
Darkie Stream tourmaline Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	S10/196153	Low	Tourmaline rosettes on joint surfaces in dacite on coastal shore platform.
Karangahake Gorge Section Hauraki District	Regional	T13/515164	Low	Locally mineralised dacite, rhyolite, ignimbrite, andesite and sediments juxtaposed against each other. Gold bearing quartz reef exposed at White Rock.
Martha Hill gold lode Hauraki District	National	T13/620220	High. Mining, eventual flooding.	Most productive Coromandel gold-silver deposit.
Ongaroto perlite South Waikato District	Regional	T17/644086	Low	High grade perlite deposits in glassy rhyolites. Site of NZ's first perlite quarry.
Paku Island, perlite Thames-Coromandel District	National	T11/656628	Moderate. Housing, roads.	Excellent quality perlite.
Tairua Opal Thames-Coromandel District	National	T11/	High. Mining.	A very rare occurrence of precious opal, occurring as pinfire opal in perlite, almost totally worked out. Highly vulnerable to complete destruction or major modification by humans.
Tapu, ferrierite Thames-Coromandel District	National	T11/378646	Moderate	NZ's only recorded occurrence, and the world's 20th recorded occurrence of ferrierite.
Te Kaka Ridge, roscoelite Thames-Coromandel District	National	T11/369643	Moderate	A very rare occurrence of Roscoelite (vanadiferous muscovite) in NZ.
Te Mata carnelian Thames-Coromandel District	National	T11/339669	Moderate. Over-collecting.	Good example of carnelian. Vulnerable to modifications by humans.
Tokatea Hill amethyst Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	T10/349943	Moderate. Mining. Over-collecting.	One of few sites in NZ where amethyst can be found. Vulnerable to modification by humans.
Wairere rosenhahnite, South of Pio Pio Waitomo District	National	R17/860935	Moderate. Reclamation, further quarrying.	Only known occurrence of rosenhahnite in NZ.
QUATERNARY VOLCANOES				
Ahuroa Ignimbrite Section Waipa District	Regional	T16/350370	Low	Intensely welded ignimbrite with "inverse" cooling gradient, erupted from Mangakino volcano.

	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF		THREATS	ADDITIONAL
Paewhenua West Road Ignimbrite Section Otorohanga District	National	S16/198218	Low	Good exposure of Ignimbrite A and Ongatiti Ignimbrite.
Pukekawa I Basalt Cone Franklin District	Regional	R12/865310	Low. Entirely covered in market gardens.	Basalt cone with extensive thick lava flows, 183 m high.
Pukekawa II Basalt Cone Franklin District	Regional	R13/870296	Low. Partially covered in market gardens.	Basalt cone, 226 m high.
Pukekawa III Basalt Cone Franklin District	National	R13/859278	Low. Further farming development. Construction of rural buildings and roads.	Well preserved small, steep sided scoria cone with a preserved crater.
Pukeotahinga scoria cone Franklin District	Regional	R13/750279	Low. Further farming development.	Scoria cone, approximately 302 m high with a breached crater and a flow to the NW.
Ranginui Road Ignimbrite Section Otorohanga District	National	T17/403077	Low	Exposure of proximal Auhuroa Ignimbrite.
Ranginui Station Farm Road Ignimbrite Section Otorohanga District	National	T17/388076	Low	Exposure of Ignimbrite C.
State Highway 30 Ignimbrite Section Waitomo District	National	T17/301959	Low	Exposure of Manunui Ignimbrite, with underlying Ongatiti Ignimbrite.
Te Kohanga Tuff Ring Franklin District	Regional	R13/729309	Low	Well preserved breached tuff ring approximately 1.2 km in diameter.
Waipapa Dam Section South Waikato District	National	T16/449200	Low	Exposure of material typical of Whakamaru Ignimbrite in the Waikato Valley.
Waipapa Road Section A Taupo District	International	T16/462135	Low	Exposure of base of Whakamaru Ignimbrite.
Waipapa Road Section B Taupo District	National	T16/448163	Low	Exposure of top of Whakamaru Ignimbrite.
Whakamaru Ignimbrite Maraeti Dam Section Taupo District	International	T16/500131	Low	Type locality for Whakamaru Ignimbrite.
<b>SEDIMENTARY SITES</b>				
Albatross Point, Kawhia Coast Jurassic sediments Waitomo District	National	R15/583420	Low	Sandstone, siltstone, conglomerate, carbonaceous beds.
Awakino Gorge Tunnel Oligocene and Miocene record Waitomo District	Regional	R17/615855	Low. Slips, road widening.	One of the best exposed sequences recording the Oligocene and Miocene sedimentary and tectonic history of north Taranaki.
Awakino River Mouth Mokau Group/Mohakatino	Regional	R17/511808	Low	Contact between Mokau group mudstone and sandstones (below)

	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF		THREATS	ADDITIONAL
South Waikato District				Waikato Valley.
Waipapa Road Section A Taupo District	International	T16/462135	Low	Exposure of base of Whakamaru Ignimbrite.
Waipapa Road Section B Taupo District	National	T16/448163	Low	Exposure of top of Whakamaru Ignimbrite.
Whakamaru Ignimbrite Maraeti Dam Section Taupo District	International	T16/500131	Low	Type locality for Whakamaru Ignimbrite.
<b>SEDIMENTARY SITES</b>				
Albatross Point, Kawhia Coast Jurassic sediments Waitomo District	National	R15/583420	Low	Sandstone, siltstone, conglomerate, carbonaceous beds.
Awakino Gorge Tunnel Oligocene and Miocene record Waitomo District	Regional	R17/615855	Low. Slips, road widening.	One of the best exposed sequences recording the Oligocene and Miocene sedimentary and tectonic history of north Taranaki.
Awakino River Mouth Mokau Group/Mohakatino Group contact Waitomo District	Regional	R17/511808	Low	Contact between Mokau group mudstone and sandstones (below) and Mohakatino group sandstones (above).
Dunphail Bluffs Oligocene Sandstone Waikato District	Regional	S14/942937	Low	Eroded bluff composed of a prominent sandstone overlying siltstone and a basal limestone.
Fletcher's Bay Waitemata Group Sediments Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	S09/254224	Low	Best sequence of these sediments on Coromandel Peninsula.
Gibsons Beach Unconformity Te Akau Waikato District	Regional	R14/692912	Low	Coarse sandstone and conglomerate of the Kawau Subgroup filling channels in the Te Kuiti Group. Also Otorohanga limestone overlain by Waitemata Group sandstone.
Hautapu Hill Oligocene sediments Otorohanga District	Regional	R15/788422	Low	Horizontally bedded sequence of calcareous siltstones, sandstones and limestones.
Huriwai-Waikawau coastal section Jurassic/Oligocene Unconformity Franklin District	Regional	R13/620153	Low. Erosion.	Siltstones, sandstones and conglomerate unconformably overlain by sandstone, flaggy limestone and marl.
Kaawa Creek-Ngatutura Bay Section Franklin District	National	R13/646082	Low. Marine erosion, vegetation growth.	Shellbeds unconformably overlying calcareous sandstone and marl, and overlain by basaltic flow and agglomerate.
Kawhia Harbour, Arataura Point Jurassic sequence Waitomo District	National	R15/631415	Low. Marine erosion.	East-dipping indurated siltstones and fine sandstones.
Kiritehere Moeatoa Conglomerate lowest Triassic	National	R16/552142	Low	Conglomerate consisting of igneous and metamorphic rock.

	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF		THREATS	ADDITIONAL
Franklin District				
Meremere, type Amokura Formation Waikato District	Regional	S13/931280	Low	Rare outcrop of an important subsurface unit, consists of bedded mudstone, siltstone and sandstone.
Motutara Peninsula Jurassic and Oligocene Sediments Otorohanga District	National	R15/722474	Low	Moderately indurated Jurassic siltstones overlain unconformably by calcareous Oligocene siltstones.
Ohuka Plio-Pleistocene Carbonaceous Sandstone Franklin District	Regional	R13/648072	Low	White sandstone containing lignite lenses, rare basalt pebbles and a fine granule conglomerate.
Puti Point Jurassic fossiliferous Siltstone, Kawhia Otorohanga District	National	R15/734481	Low	Massive, blue-grey siltstone, thin sandstone.
Southern Awakino Gorge Triassic/Jurassic unconformity Waitomo District	Regional	R18/569795	Low. Slips, road widening, quarrying.	Excellent exposure of steeply dipping Murihiku supergroup rocks containing rich Monotis beds unconformably overlain by Mokau sandstone.
Squires Creek Opencast, Waitewhena Coalfield Ruapehu District	National	R18/805793	Low	North Island coal measures usually consist of thick nonmarine sequences. This example is a thin nonmarine packet overlain and underlain by marine beds.
Waiharakeke Bridge-Kinohaku Jurassic Sediments Waitomo District	National	R16/722399	Low	East-dipping, indurated siltstone grading up to sandstone and volcanic pebble conglomerate. The conglomerate weathers to a distinctive red clay.
Waikawau Beach Miocene Sediments Waitomo District	Regional	R17/530017	Low	Good exposure of sediments and structure of Mohakatino Formation.
Waikorea-Waimai Road, Te Akau Oligocene Limestone Waikato District	National	R14/708941	Low	Type locality of Waimai Limestone member.
Waitete Bay Oligocene Sediments Thames-Coromandel District	Regional	S10/289009	Low. Coastal development. Over collecting of fossil oyster shells.	Terrestrial or beach sediments overlain by Oligocene marine calcareous sandstone and limestone. Sandstone contains oyster shellbeds.
Waitewhena Coal Mine, Ohura Ruapehu District	Regional	R18/818736	Low. Mining, vegetation.	Coal, siltstone, conglomerate. Exposure of upper and lower Mokau sandstone and Maryville Coal Measures.
Waiwiri Beach unconformity and basal Waitemata Group Sediments Franklin District	Regional	R13/632125	Low.	Transgressive Waitemata Group sequence overlying a bored and eroded unconformity on the Te Akatea Limestone.
Weavers Opencast Mine, Huntly Waikato District	Regional	S13/995010	Mining. Weathering. Could be improved by human activity.	Good exposure of Upper Waikato Coal Measures and basal Mangakotuku Formation.
<b>STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY SITES</b>				
Albatross Point, Kawhia Coast Syncline Waitomo District	National	R15/583420	Low	Reasonably well exposed showing geomorphic expression of dip slope.



	CONSERVATION VALUE/GRID REF	THREATS	ADDITIONAL
Waikawau Beach Miocene Sediments Waitomo District	Regional R17/530017	Low	Good exposure of sediments and structure of Mohakatino Formation.
Waikorea-Waimai Road, Te Akau Oligocene Limestone Waikato District	National R14/708941	Low	Type locality of Waimai Limestone member.
Waitete Bay Oligocene Sediments Thames-Coromandel District	Regional S10/289009	Low. Coastal development. Over collecting of fossil oyster shells.	Terrestrial or beach sediments overlain by Oligocene marine calcareous sandstone and limestone. Sandstone contains oyster shellbeds.
Waitewhena Coal Mine, Ohura Ruapehu District	Regional R18/818736	Low. Mining, vegetation.	Coal, siltstone, conglomerate. Exposure of upper and lower Mokau sandstone and Maryville Coal Measures.
Waiwiri Beach unconformity and basal Waitemata Group Sediments Franklin District	Regional R13/632125	Low.	Transgressive Waitemata Group sequence overlying a bored and eroded unconformity on the Te Akatea Limestone.
Weavers Opencast Mine, Huntly Waikato District	Regional S13/995010	Mining. Weathering. Could be improved by human activity.	Good exposure of Upper Waikato Coal Measures and basal Mangakotuku Formation.
<b>STRUCTURAL GEOLOGY SITES</b>			
Albatross Point, Kawhia Coast Syncline Waitomo District	National R15/583420	Low	Reasonably well exposed showing geomorphic expression of dip slope.
Kaawa, coastal cliffs south of Port Waikato Franklin District	Regional R13/647084	Low. Marine erosion.	Exposure of the Ngatutura Fault striking parallel to coastline. Good example of faulting.
Waitawheta Gorge Quartz vein structures Hauraki District	Regional T13/514157	Moderate. Mining.	Epithermal quartz veins in hydrothermally altered andesite, for example those adjacent to the wingbridge over the Waitawheta River. Good exposure of epithermal vein structures. Vulnerable to modification by humans.
Kawaroa Anticline Otorohanga District	Regional R15/767495	Low	Lithologically well-defined anticlinal feature within the Kawhia Regional syncline.
Tokatea Hill quartz reef Thames-Coromandel District	Regional T10/349943	Moderate. Mining, road construction.	Large epithermal amethystine quartz vein, well exposed in a roadside outcrop on Tokatea Saddle Road. Vulnerable to modification by humans.
Tunaiti Caldera Section, between Whiritoa and Whangamata Hauraki District	Regional to T12/674319 T12/671336	Low	A well-exposed sequence of rhyolite domes and flows, deformed lake sediments, andesite and dacite lava flows, ignimbrites and pyroclastic fall deposits, indicating a section across a caldera structure.
Wairere Serpentine exposure Waitomo District	National R17/860935	Moderate. Reclamation, further quarrying.	Surface exposure of structurally complex serpentinite body along the trace of the Waipa fault.

## SOIL SITES OF INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL IMPORTANCE IN THE WAIKATO CONSERVANCY

SITE/REGIONAL COUNCIL	CONS VALUE OWNER/MANAGER	GRID REF STATUS	THREATS	SIGNIFICANCE
<b>SOIL SITES</b>				
Castle Rock Waikato	Regional DOC	T11/390855 RAP	Moderate. Goats, possums.	Range of brown granular loams and clays. Example of Rangiora soils.
Chiltern Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	T11/364824 SR	Low.	Good examples of Whitianga soils are uncommon.
Coromandel Conservation Park Waikato	International DOC	T12/445565 CP	Low. Goats, possums.	Wide range of little-disturbed soil-vegetation associations. Example of Waitakere soils. Good examples of Parakire, Manawatu and Moeau soils are uncommon. Example of Manawatu soil not developed for agriculture or horticulture.
Manaia Harbour Waikato	National	S11/290810 RAP	Moderate.	Uncommon example of saline soil under native vegetation. Good examples of Takahiwai soils are uncommon. Example of Takahiwai soil not developed for dairying.
Ongohi Waikato	Regional	S10/255140 RAP	Moderate. Stock grazing.	Good examples of Moeau soils are uncommon.
Pollock Open Space Covenant Waikato	National	T10/310025 QEII covenant	Low.	Excellent example of northern brown granular clay under native vegetation.
Waiau Falls Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	T11/378804 SR	Low	Example of Te Tio soil, not developed for farming.
Waikawau Bay Waikato	National DOC	T10/355090 RAP	Moderate. Vehicles, goats, sheep.	Good sequence of soils on sand dunes. Good examples of Pinaki soils are uncommon. Example of Pinaki soil not developed for farming or forestry.
Middle and Green Islands	International DOC	T10/655026 SR	Low	Soils formed partly as a result of burrowing activities of birds. Islands have been undisturbed by fire. Soils have developed in the absence of kore.
Hot Water Beach Waikato	National	T11/615760 RAP	Moderate.	Example of Pukenu soil. Good examples of Pinaki soils are uncommon. Example of Pinaki soil not developed for agriculture or forestry.
Kaitoke Scenic Reserves Waikato	Regional DOC	T11/512798 SR	Moderate.	Good examples of yellow-brown earths and loams under native vegetation. Good examples of Whitianga soils are uncommon.
Puriri Scenic Reserve and Reserve Extension Waikato	Regional DOC	T12/475425 SR, RAP	Moderate	Good examples of yellow-brown earths and loams under native vegetation.

## SOIL SITES OF INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL IMPORTANCE IN THE WAIKATO CONSERVANCY

SITE/REGIONAL COUNCIL	CONS VALUE OWNER/MANAGER	GRID REF STATUS	THREATS	SIGNIFICANCE
<b>SOIL SITES</b>				
Castle Rock Waikato	Regional DOC	T11/390855 RAP	Moderate. Goats, possums.	Range of brown granular loams and clays. Example of Rangiuru soils.
Chiltern Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	T11/364824 SR	Low.	Good examples of Whitianga soils are uncommon.
Coromandel Conservation Park Waikato	International DOC	T12/445565 CP	Low. Goats, possums.	Wide range of little-disturbed soil-vegetation associations. Example of Waitakere soils. Good examples of Parakiore, Manawatu and Mochau soils are uncommon. Example of Manawatu soil not developed for agriculture or horticulture.
Manaia Harbour Waikato	National	S11/290810 RAP	Moderate.	Uncommon example of saline soil under native vegetation. Good examples of Takahiwai soils are uncommon. Example of Takahiwai soil not developed for dairying.
Ongohi Waikato	Regional	S10/255140 RAP	Moderate. Stock grazing.	Good examples of Mochau soils are uncommon.
Pollock Open Space Covenant Waikato	National	T10/310025 QEII covenant	Low.	Excellent example of northern brown granular clay under native vegetation.
Waiiau Falls Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	T11/378804 SR	Low	Example of Te Tio soil, not developed for farming.
Waikawau Bay Waikato	National DOC	T10/355090 RAP	Moderate. Vehicles, goats, sheep.	Good sequence of soils on sand dunes. Good examples of Pinaki soils are uncommon. Example of Pinaki soil not developed for farming or forestry.
Middle and Green Islands	International DOC	T10/655026 SR	Low	Soils formed partly as a result of burrowing activities of birds. Islands have been undisturbed by fire. Soils have developed in the absence of kiore.
Hot Water Beach Waikato	National	T11/615760 RAP	Moderate.	Example of Pukenuamu soil. Good examples of Pinaki soils are uncommon. Example of Pinaki soil not developed for agriculture or forestry.
Kaitoke Scenic Reserves Waikato	Regional DOC	T11/512798 SR	Moderate.	Good examples of yellow-brown earths and loams under native vegetation. Good examples of Whitianga soils are uncommon.

SITE/REGIONAL COUNCIL	CONS VALUE OWNER/MANAGER	GRID REF STATUS	THREATS	SIGNIFICANCE
Whewells Bush Scientific Reserve Waikato	National DOC	S14/201728 Sci Res	Low. Drainage.	Example of Horotiu soil not developed for agriculture. Good examples of Horotiu soil are uncommon.
Gordon Gow Scenic Reserve Waikato	National DOC	T14/497839 SR	Low.	Uncommon example of little-disturbed recent soils and yellow brown loams on floodplains. Example of Ngarua soil. Good examples of Waihou soils are uncommon. Example of Waihou soil not developed for agriculture.
Junction Scenic Reserve and Maungakawa Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	T14/317733 & T15/330677 SR	Low.	Good examples of Tauwhare soils are uncommon. Example of Tauwhare soils not developed for agriculture.
Maungatautari Mountain Scenic Reserve Waikato	International Waikato DC	T15/385527 SR	Low.	Moderate range of little-disturbed soil-vegetation associations. Soils should be a good leaching sequence of brown granular clays and yellow-brown loams. Examples of Tirau and Otorohanga soils, not developed for agriculture. Good examples of Kakepuku soils are uncommon.
Te Miro Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	T14/333751 SR	Low.	Good examples of Pukerata soils are uncommon. Example of Pukerata soil not developed for agriculture.
Te Tapui Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	T14/410715 SR	Low. Deer, possum, pig.	Range of little-disturbed soil-vegetation associations. Good examples of Kakepuku and Peria soils are uncommon.
Williams Open Space Covenant Waikato	Regional Private	T14/350769 QEII covenant	Low.	Good examples of Kakepuku and Peria soils are uncommon.
Eric Baker Memorial Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	R13/694100 SR	Low.	Example of Ruakiwi soil.
Hakarimata Scenic Reserve and Te Puroa Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	S14/984927 & S14/908799	Low.	Good examples of Waingaro soils are uncommon. Example of Dunmore soil not developed for agriculture.
Kaniwhaniwha Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	S15/949687 SR	Low.	Good examples of Dunmore soils are uncommon. Example of Dunmore soil not developed for agriculture.
Motukokako Point Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	R14/775784 SR	Low.	Example of Wairama soil, not developed for agriculture.
Te Karaka Memorial Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	R13/694100 SR	Low.	Good examples of Ruakiwi soils are uncommon.
Brabant Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	R15/756562 SR	Low.	Example of Red Hill soil, not developed for agriculture. Good example of Te Waitere soils are uncommon. Example of Te Waitere soil not developed for agriculture.
Bridal Veil Falls Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	R15/773654 SR	Low.	Moderate range of soils under native vegetation. Example of Kauroa soil. Good examples of Papatapu soils are uncommon.

SITE/REGIONAL COUNCIL	CONS VALUE OWNER/MANAGER	GRID REF STATUS	THREATS	SIGNIFICANCE
Riddell Open Space Covenant Waikato	National Private	S14/123931 QEII covenant	Low.	Uncommon example of lowland soil under native forest. Example of Te Rapa soil. Good examples of Horotiu soils are uncommon. Example of Te Rapa and Horotiu soils not developed for dairying.
Whewells Bush Scientific Reserve Waikato	National DOC	S14/201728 Sci Res	Low. Drainage.	Example of Horotiu soil not developed for agriculture. Good examples of Horotiu soil are uncommon.
Gordon Gow Scenic Reserve Waikato	National DOC	T14/497839 SR	Low.	Uncommon example of little-disturbed recent soils and yellow brown loams on floodplains. Example of Ngarua soil. Good examples of Waihou soils are uncommon. Example of Waihou soil not developed for agriculture.
Junction Scenic Reserve and Maungakawa Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	T14/317733 & T15/330677 SR	Low.	Good examples of Tauwhare soils are uncommon. Example of Tauwhare soils not developed for agriculture.
Maungatautari Mountain Scenic Reserve Waikato	International Waikato DC	T15/385527 SR	Low.	Moderate range of little-disturbed soil-vegetation associations. Soils should be a good leaching sequence of brown granular clays and yellow-brown loams. Examples of Tirau and Otorohanga soils, not developed for agriculture. Good examples of Kakepuku soils are uncommon.
Te Miro Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	T14/333751 SR	Low.	Good examples of Pukerata soils are uncommon. Example of Pukerata soil not developed for agriculture.
Te Tapui Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	T14/410715 SR	Low. Deer, possum, pig.	Range of little-disturbed soil-vegetation associations. Good examples of Kakepuku and Peria soils are uncommon.
Williams Open Space Covenant Waikato	Regional Private	T14/350769 QEII covenant	Low.	Good examples of Kakepuku and Peria soils are uncommon.
Eric Baker Memorial Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	R13/694100 SR	Low.	Example of Ruakiwi soil.
Hakarimata Scenic Reserve and Te Puroa Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	S14/984927 & S14/908799	Low.	Good examples of Waingaro soils are uncommon. Example of Dunmore soil not developed for agriculture.
Kaniwhaniwha Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	S15/949687 SR	Low.	Good examples of Dunmore soils are uncommon. Example of Dunmore soil not developed for agriculture.
Motukokako Point Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	R14/775784 SR	Low.	Example of Wairama soil, not developed for agriculture.
Te Karaka Memorial Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	R13/694100 SR	Low.	Good examples of Ruakiwi soils are uncommon.

SITE/REGIONAL COUNCIL	CONS VALUE OWNER/MANAGER	GRID REF STATUS	THREATS	SIGNIFICANCE
Waikato	DOC	SR		Waitanguru and Mangaotaki soils are uncommon. Example of Waitanguru soil not developed for dairying.
Mangaokewa Gorge Scenic Reserve Waikato	National Waitomo DC	S16/009131 SR	Low.	Moderate range of soils and soil-vegetation associations. Uncommon example of unmodified rendzinas. Good examples of Te Kuiti soils are uncommon.
Mangarongia Scenic Reserve Waikato	National DOC	R17/714953 SR	Low.	Uncommon example of rendina - native forest association. Good examples of Bluff and Tumutumu soils are uncommon. Example of Bluff soil not developed for farming.
Mangapohue Natural Bridge Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	R16/720249 SR	Low.	Good examples of Waitanguru soils are uncommon. Example of Waitanguru not developed for dairying.
Marakopa Natural Tunnel Scenic Reserve Waikato	National DOC	R16/794266 SR	Low.	Uncommon example of unmodified rendzinas. Good examples of Te Mata/Waitomo soils are uncommon.
Ngatamahine Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	S17/915952 SR	Low. Stock. Goats.	Moderate range of soils under native forest. Example of Oniao soil, not developed for farming.
Putaki Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	R16/852301 SR	Low.	Good examples of Pomarangi soils are uncommon.
Te Raumauku Caves Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	S16/970335 SR	Low	Example of Oparue soil. Good examples of Tumutumu soils are uncommon. Example of Te Kuiti soil not developed for farming.
Turaerua Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	S17/900904 SR	Low. Weeds. Widening and excavation of stream channel.	Moderate range of soils and soil-native vegetation associations.
Waipuna Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	R16/864190 SR	Low	Example of Te Rauamo soil, not developed for farming. Good examples of Pomarangi soils are uncommon.
Waitaka Scenic Reserve Wanganui-Manawatu	Regional DOC	S18/929787 SR	Low.	Good examples of Hiwi and Waitataura soils are uncommon.
Waitanguru Scenic Reserve Waikato	National DOC	R16/732118 SR	Low. Goats.	Good examples of rendzinas under native forest are uncommon.
Hikurangi Scenic Reserve Wanganui-Manawatu	Regional DOC	S18/084666 SR	Low. Goats.	Good examples of Timi soils are uncommon.
Lairdvale Scenic Reserve Wanganui-Manawatu	Regional DOC	S18/090575 SR	Low.	Good examples of Waitakura soils are uncommon.

SOURCE: Inventory of New Zealand Soil Sites of international, national and regional importance. Part Two - North Island and northern offshore islands; 1st edition; J Arand, L Basher, R Wardle, K Wardle: New Zealand Society of Soil Science Occasional Publication 2; 1993.

STATUS KEY: CP Conservation Park  
Sci Res Scientific Reserve

GPR Government Purpose Reserve  
SR Scenic Reserve

RAP Recommended Area for Protection  
WMR Wildlife Management Reserve

SITE/REGIONAL COUNCIL	CONS VALUE OWNER/MANAGER	GRID REF STATUS	THREATS	SIGNIFICANCE
Hollow Hill Scenic Reserve Waikato	National DOC	R16/867282 SR	Low.	Uncommon example of rendzinas under native forest. Good example of Te Mata/Waitomo soils under native vegetation.
Kurukuru Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	S17/012968 SR	Low. Goats. Cattle.	Good example of Te Kuiti soils are uncommon. Example of Te Kuiti soil not developed for agriculture.
Mahoenui Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	R17/700953 SR	Low. Goats.	Moderate range of unmodified soils. Good examples of Waitanguru and Mangaotaki soils are uncommon. Example of Waitanguru soil not developed for dairying.
Mangaokewa Gorge Scenic Reserve Waikato	National Waitomo DC	S16/009131 SR	Low.	Moderate range of soils and soil-vegetation associations. Uncommon example of unmodified rendzinas. Good examples of Te Kuiti soils are uncommon.
Mangaoronga Scenic Reserve Waikato	National DOC	R17/714953 SR	Low.	Uncommon example of rendina - native forest association. Good examples of Bluff and Tumutumu soils are uncommon. Example of Bluff soil not developed for farming.
Mangapohue Natural Bridge Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	R16/720249 SR	Low.	Good examples of Waitanguru soils are uncommon. Example of Waitanguru not developed for dairying.
Marakopa Natural Tunnel Scenic Reserve Waikato	National DOC	R16/794266 SR	Low.	Uncommon example of unmodified rendzinas. Good examples of Te Mata/Waitomo soils are uncommon.
Ngatamahine Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	S17/915952 SR	Low. Stock. Goats.	Moderate range of soils under native forest. Example of Oniao soil, not developed for farming.
Putaki Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	R16/852301 SR	Low.	Good examples of Pomarangi soils are uncommon.
Te Raumauku Caves Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	S16/970335 SR	Low	Example of Oparue soil. Good examples of Tumutumu soils are uncommon. Example of Te Kuiti soil not developed for farming.
Turaerae Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	S17/900904 SR	Low. Weeds. Widening and excavation of stream channel.	Moderate range of soils and soil-native vegetation associations.
Waipuna Scenic Reserve Waikato	Regional DOC	R16/864190 SR	Low	Example of Te Rauaoma soil, not developed for farming. Good examples of Pomarangi soils are uncommon.
Waitaka Scenic Reserve Wanganui-Manawatu	Regional DOC	S18/929787 SR	Low.	Good examples of Hiwi and Waitataura soils are uncommon.
Waitanguru Scenic Reserve Waikato	National DOC	R16/732118 SR	Low. Goats.	Good examples of rendzinas under native forest are uncommon.
Hikurangi Scenic Reserve Wanganui-Manawatu	Regional DOC	S18/084666 SR	Low. Goats.	Good examples of Timi soils are uncommon.

SITE/REGIONAL COUNCIL	CONS VALUE OWNER/MANAGER	GRID REF STATUS	THREATS	SIGNIFICANCE
Lairdvale Scenic Reserve Wanganui-Manawatu	Regional DOC	S18/090575 SR	Low.	Good examples of Waitakaurā soils are uncommon.

**SOURCE:** Inventory of New Zealand Soil Sites of international, national and regional importance. Part Two - North Island and northern offshore islands; 1st edition; J Arand, L Basher, R Wardle, K Wardle: New Zealand Society of Soil Science Occasional Publication 2; 1993.

**STATUS KEY:** CP Conservation Park      GPR Government Purpose Reserve      RAP Recommended Area for Protection  
 Sci Res Scientific Reserve      SR Scenic Reserve      WMR Wildlife Management Reserve



## **APPENDIX 5**

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### **MEASURES FOR PROTECTING CONSERVATION VALUES ON PRIVATE LAND**

Many areas with significant conservation values within the Conservancy do not have any formal protection. Protection of these areas can be achieved in many ways ranging from responsible private ownership to purchase for conservation purposes. This Appendix provides a brief summary of some of the methods which can be used. The information provided is condensed and augmented from work by Marjorie Cutting as presented in section 11 of the Draft Open Space Strategy for the Auckland Region March 1992.

#### **1. VOLUNTARY PROTECT AND RETAIN OPTIONS**

These are legal options available to private land owners should they decide to protect natural features or open space on their property of their own free will.

##### **1.1 Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Open Space Covenant**

Under the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Act 1977 it is possible for landowners to enter a binding legal agreement with the Trust to protect all or part of their property. The agreement is usually in the form of a covenant which is registered on the property title. Restrictions on land use usually only cover the particular features that require protection and are negotiated between the Trust and landowner. Public access may or may not be provided for. Such access is dependant upon whether or not public use of the area is compatible with the values being protected and on the outcome of negotiations.

Covenants can be for a specified period of time or in perpetuity depending on the circumstances. The Trust usually pays for the surveying, legal and registration costs of the covenant and may also contribute to the cost of fencing, depending on the values to be protected. Other mechanisms which can be employed by the National Trust besides covenanting include purchase, co-ordinated purchase with other agencies, leasing and gifts.

##### **1.2 Covenants**

Covenants are a legal contract between a landowner and a conservation agency to manage an area according to agreed conservation objectives. They include conservation, open space, or heritage covenants, a protected private land agreement or a management agreement. The management responsibilities of each party are set out in the agreement. The Department sees advantages in these agreements to all parties and supports them as a means to protect conservation values.

The Reserves Act 1977 (Section 76) allows for covenants to protect private land with natural, scientific, scenic or historic values. They can also be made to protect the natural environment, landscape, wildlife, freshwater and marine life. The agreement between the parties is registered on the title and binds subsequent owners. Rates relief may be available under certain circumstances depending on the policies of the local district

council. Public access may be provided for if appropriate and if it is the wish of the owner.

Under the Conservation Act 1987 agreements can be made between the Department of Conservation and a landowner which need not be binding on the title. If appropriate and with the agreement of the landowner, public access to the land may be provided for. The Department of Conservation may pay for the surveying, legal or fencing costs. It can also make grants in lieu of rates. Additionally the Minister of Conservation has the ability to enter into management agreements under the Reserves Act (S38) and Conservation Act (S29).

Maori land or Crown land held under a Crown lease by Maori, may be managed so as to preserve and protect the natural, historic, spiritual and cultural values of the land, by agreement with the owner or lessee for a Nga Whenua Rahui Kawenata to provide for the management of the land.

Such an agreement is usually in perpetuity, but subject to review at intervals not less than 25 years, or for a specific term as agreed.

## **2. CONSERVATION AWARENESS/ADVOCACY**

Provision of information about the values of natural areas in both a broad education sense and with respect to informing individual landowners who have natural features on their property, can encourage conservation and sustainable land management on private land. For example, provision of information can help district councils to make provision for conservation in district plans. Pamphlets and leaflets can provide broad coverage.

Public meetings with particular interest groups such as Federated Farmers are a forum to disseminate information and ideas about the general landscape. Individual and direct liaison with landowners is the best method of dealing with the conservation of particular places and their values, generally through an appropriately designed negotiation process. For some landowners the formal recognition of good land management practice or a community service by the voluntary protection of their land is sufficient encouragement for them to protect natural or historic features. Such recognition could be in the form of plaques, ceremonies and awards, for example, Farm Environment Award.

## **3. ECONOMIC MECHANISMS - INCENTIVES AND CONTROLS**

### **3.1 Indigenous Forest Policy**

The Forests Amendment Act came into force on 1 July 1993 and provides for the following:

- a) export controls banning the export of all indigenous timber products except for sawn rimu and beech sourced from sustainably managed, and finished and manufactured products regardless of source;

- b) a system of sustainable management plans, to be approved by the Secretary of Forestry in consultation with the Director-General of Conservation;
- c) a system of sustainable forest management permits to be approved by the Secretary of Forestry.

This Act does not apply to:

- a) the Crown's indigenous production forests on the West Coast;
- b) those forests on land reserved under the South Island Landless Natives Act 1906;
- c) forests administered by the Department of Conservation; or
- d) planted indigenous forests.

### **3.2 Tradeable Development Rights**

Development rights are effectively tradeable where normal conditions on land uses can be waived by local authorities in lieu of a more desirable outcome. Subdivision can be used to reward landowners who are prepared to covenant natural features on their property. Subject to covenanting areas of native vegetation on their property landowners can then subdivide rural residential or lifestyle lots (also known as bush lots).

### **3.3 Rates Relief and Rebate**

The Ratings Powers Amendment Act 1992 provides for the remission or postponement of rates by local authorities where land with natural, historic or cultural features has been voluntarily preserved or enhanced by the occupier. The following specific protected areas are covered by the amendment;

- (i) open space covenants under the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust Act
- (ii) heritage covenants under the Historic Places Act
- (iii) conservation covenants under both the Reserves and Conservation Acts
- (iv) protected private land under the Reserves Act
- (v) management agreements for conservation purposes under both the Reserves and Conservation Acts
- (vi) maori reservations for natural, historic or cultural purposes under the Te Ture Whenua Act 1993

This is not an exclusive list. Any areas voluntarily protected or enhanced which have natural, historic or cultural features (not necessarily formally or legally protected) are also covered where the local authority adopts a policy under this amendment.

## **4. REGULATION**

The Resource Management Act 1991 grants responsibility and authority to regional and district councils which may have the effect of protecting conservation resources.

#### **4.1 Regional Planning Controls**

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (Section 30), regional councils may, among other things, control the use of land for the purposes of soil conservation, maintenance and enhancement of the quality of water in water bodies and coastal water, the maintenance of water quantity in water bodies and coastal water and the avoidance or mitigation of natural hazards.

In conjunction with the Minister of Conservation, regional councils may, in respect of any coastal marine area, control land and associated natural and physical resources, the occupation of space on lands of the Crown or lands vested in the regional council, that are foreshore or seabed and the extraction of sand, shingle or other natural material from that land. They may control the taking, use, damming and diversion of water, discharges of contaminants and actual or potential effects of the use, development or protection of land.

Regional councils may control the taking, use, damming and diversion of water, and the control of the quantity, level and flow of water in any water body.

#### **4.2 Water Conservation Orders**

Part IX of the Resource Management Act 1991 allows for the protection of waterways using water conservation orders. The purpose of a water conservation order is to "recognise and sustain outstanding amenity or intrinsic values which are afforded by water in their natural state".

A water conservation order may provide for the preservation and protection of characteristics which contribute to a waterways habitat values, wild and scenic characteristics, scientific and ecological values, recreational, historical, spiritual or cultural purposes and tikanga Maori.

#### **4.3 Heritage Orders**

Sections 187 to 198 of the Resource Management Act allow for the implementation of Heritage Orders for the protection of any specified place. A heritage order is a provision made in a district plan to give effect to a requirement made by a heritage protection authority. A heritage protection agency can be any Minister of the Crown, local authorities, iwi authorities, NZ Historic Places Trust, or any person who is approved as a heritage protection authority. Compensation must be paid by the authority in accord with the provisions of the Public Works Act 1981.

#### **4.4 District Planning Controls**

District councils have power to make provisions in district plans to protect conservation resources. A number of planning techniques have been developed.

These include:

- i) Special zoning and land use controls associated with zoning.

- ii) Subdivision controls, such as size of lots (which can limit the density of development) and engineering standards for waste disposal, land clearance and ground disturbance sites.
- iii) Schedules and Registers where significant features (such as trees or historic places) are listed. Items so listed may require special procedures (such as public notification) before they can be damaged, removed or altered.

#### **4.5 Designations**

A "designation" is a provision made in a district plan to give effect to a requirement made by a requiring authority under Section 168 (or 168a) or Clause 4 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act.

A requiring authority could be the Minister of Conservation, a local authority or some other approved requiring authority.

The effect of a designation is that no one can do anything that will prevent or hinder the purpose of the designation.

The requiring authority must ultimately be prepared to acquire the land subject to the designation or otherwise compensate the owner of the land.

Heritage Order provisions of the Resource Management Act are more commonly used for conservation purposes.

Present departmental policy is not to use designations over privately owned land unless exceptional circumstances exist.

### **5. ACQUISITION - PURCHASE, RESERVE CONTRIBUTIONS, LEASING, MANAGEMENT AGREEMENTS, GIFTS AND BEQUESTS**

There are funding sources for purchase, protection and enhancement of the environment. Most of these involve special criteria to qualify.

#### **5.1 Forest Heritage Fund**

The objective of the fund is to "enable, facilitate and support activities directed at the protection and restoration of indigenous forest through helping to permanently protect representative, unique and threatened areas of indigenous forest and associated vegetation, by purchase of interest or, while leaving the land in private ownership, through covenanting, leasing, accords and management agreements".

A contestable amount is available each year with closing dates for applications being February, April, July and October.

The protective actions for which the fund can be employed include the following:

- i) "land purchase, securing voluntary agreements or covenants to protect indigenous forests through the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust or directly with the Crown through the Department of Conservation;
- ii) a system of accords and exchanges where agreements can be reached and land exchanged in order to achieve both the goals of protection and economic survival for the landowner".

## **5.2 Nga Whenua Rahui Fund**

This fund was set up by Government in 1990 as a method of protecting indigenous forests in Maori tenure, through Crown leases, covenants, management agreements, and Maori reservations under Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993, all to recognise the special values placed by Maori on the land.

An advisory Committee to the Minister of Conservation was set up early in 1991 to promote the protection of indigenous forests on Maori owned land. This committee meets four times a year to consider proposals and make recommendations to the Minister. If the Minister is satisfied the land should be managed to protect its natural, historic, spiritual and cultural values, an agreement of some form will be entered into. A list of criteria is set out in the application form.

While from a Pakeha point of view it is important for areas of bush to be protected to be of high ecological value, the Nga Whenua Rahui Committee also takes into account the cultural and spiritual values to iwi of ngahere areas submitted for funding.

Legal protection is usually in the form of a Kawanata (covenant) which is worded carefully to ensure tangata whenua retain mana whenua. The formal agreement should be a perpetuity agreement, but a clause within the covenant may allow for a review of the conditions and continuance at generational intervals (usually stated at 25 years). Full owner rights for access and timber felling for cultural/medicinal purposes can be included.

The Committee assists tangata whenua in applying for rate remissions.

## **5.3 NZ Historic Place Trust Assistance Fund**

This fund is for the preservation of New Zealand's historic heritage by helping owners of historic buildings and sites with their restoration projects. A similar fund provides assistance for restoring traditional Maori buildings on marae. The contact is the NZ Historic Places Trust, Box 2629, Wellington. There are no closing dates for application for Maori buildings; 30 April for the other funds.

#### **5.4 Leasing**

The Department of Conservation may lease land of high conservation value for protection purposes.

#### **5.5 Management Agreements**

The Department may enter into management agreements with landowners in order to protect conservation values of any natural or historic resources on their land or under their control.

#### **5.6 Gifts/Bequests**

The outright gifting of land by private landowners to the Crown or to local authorities is yet another option. In these cases, the Department will usually accept responsibility for legal and any survey costs involved.

### **6. REFERENCES**

Auckland Regional Council 1992: An Open Space Strategy for the Auckland Region.  
Auckland Regional Council.