

IN-CONFIDENCE

Minister of Conservation, Minister of Conservation's Office, and Department of Conservation Eyes Only.

Department of Conservation Status Report

for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 6 June 2022

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Kiri Allan
Minister of Conservation

DOCCM - 7036242

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Storage and disposal	IN CONFIDENCE information can be secured using the normal building security and door-swipe card systems that aim simply to keep the public out of administrative areas of government departments. Must be disposed of by departmental arrangements.

Contents

1	Standing and Priority Items	4
1.1	Jobs for Nature	4
1.2	RMA advocacy	5
1.3	s9(2)(f)(iv)	5
1.4	Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.....	6
1.5	s9(2)(g)(i)	6
1.6	Milford Opportunities Project	7
2	Updates	8
2.1	Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Village Water System – E.coli and chlorination.....	8
2.2	s9(2)(h)	9
2.3	s9(2)(h)	9
2.4	s9(2)(g)(i)	10
2.5	s9(2)(g)(i)	10
2.6	s9(2)(g)(i)	10
2.7	s9(2)(g)(i)	11
3	Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities	11
4	Appendices	12

Attachments

1. Cabinet Paper Report
2. Jobs for Nature dashboard

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

- As of 27 May 2022, we have had 3,450 Employment Starts.
- Work is progressing on finalising the scope and approach for the Regional Investment Review. This includes developing the inquiry questions, the data collection tool and methodology for collecting the required information, and agreeing the resources needed to deliver the task.
- We are working with the Secretariat to develop the programme wide protocol for reallocating funding. This will be tabled to SLU Ministers at the upcoming meeting (currently scheduled for 29 June). We will provide you with a briefing on this ahead of the meeting.
- The most recent quarterly report to the Secretariat has been submitted and work to prepare the JFN programme 2021/2022 annual report is underway, with an expected completion date of 17 October.
- We have provided the Public Service Commission with information on Jobs for Nature resourcing to inform a meeting with the Ministerial Oversight Group on State Sector Employment Relations (MOGSSER Ministers) on 8 June. The meeting concerns ongoing COVID-19 services across agencies and resulting workforce and resourcing implications. s9(2)(g)(i) Jobs for Nature funding is largely committed to external parties and has minor internal resourcing implications. We will inform your office of the outcome of this meeting.

s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted]

Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

- DOC is working with your office to arrange an event to announce the Māori Land Fund projects. Timing will depend on when the funding agreements have been finalised. DOC is preparing supporting materials, including media release and factsheets, for the event.
- The team are preparing project delivery overview information for each area you are visiting as part of the Conservation Roadshow. This includes details of high performing projects in each area. There is also the opportunity for you to announce Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki's project, AL19.4 Ki Ngā Motu, Ki Tai, Ki Uta., while you're in Auckland on 5 – 7 July.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: 9(2)(a)

1.2 RMA advocacy

Northland Region: Aupōuri Groundwater Consents Appeal – Environment Court Hearing

- In August 2021, we appealed applications from the Aupouri Aquifer Water Users Group to take groundwater from the Aupōuri Aquifer in Northland, to the Environment Court. The proposed water takes are upstream of significant wetland conservation areas.
- The Environment Court hearing commenced on 9 May 2022 and DOC witnesses presented their evidence on 19 and 20 May. Judge Smith thanked the DOC witnesses for their contributions.
- The core element of the Director-General's appeal, of ensuring clear objectives and standards in conditions rather than in environmental management plans, has been accepted by parties.
- Conditions were developed through the hearing and will need refinement. We await direction from the Court on this matter.
- Closing legal arguments are scheduled for 30 June and 1 July 2022.

Ngāi Te Rangi submission opposing the expansion of the Port of Tauranga – request for DOC support

- Port of Tauranga Limited applied for a Fast Track consent to expand their existing container and log handling facilities. Proposals include reclamations, piled wharves and dredging.
- The request for Fast Track consideration was declined by joint decision of the Minister for the Environment and yourself, to enable the opportunity for submitters to be involved in consent processes.
- Port of Tauranga has since lodged an application with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, which has been directly referred to the Environment Court, with a hearing indicated for July.
- The application was not publicly notified and DOC did not receive direct notification. Ngāi Te Rangi received direct notification and submitted in opposition to the application.
- Ngāi Te Rangi have requested DOC assistance with the Court case, asking us to provide expert witnesses. We are considering the request and the role and scope of any witnesses.
- Expansion of the Port has the potential to adversely affect marine mammals foraging in the Harbour. The initial view of DOC's marine experts is that these effects can be managed by suitable conditions.
- We will keep you informed of this Environment Court process.

Contact: Natasha Ryburn, Director Planning Permissions and Land:
9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

1.3 s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2 Updates

2.1 Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Village Water System – E.coli and chlorination

- *Escherichia coli (E. coli)* was detected in the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park village drinking water system in late April and mid-May via routine water samples, indicating recent faecal contamination in the water supply.
- Immediate action was taken to minimise the health risk to the Aoraki community and visitors, being:
 - DOC notified Taumata Arowai (national drinking water regulator) and sought advice on compliance with the Water Services Act 2021.
 - DOC initiated an emergency response under guidance of technical experts.
 - On 13 May a boil water notice was issued for Aoraki village and Whitehorse Hill Campground as a temporary measure.
 - An investigation and follow up water sampling was initiated to identify the source of contamination.
- An alternative source of clean, potable water has since been made available within the village while the boil water notice remains in place.
- DOC put in place a communication plan to keep the community informed and on 26 May the community was invited to meet with DOC staff and contractors. The meeting was held on 1 June.
- Our response has followed the Water Services Act 2021, section 22 which states: *if a supplier's drinking water does not comply with the drinking water standards, the supplier must –*
 - (a) *Take immediate action to ensure that public health is protected; and*
 - (b) *Notify Taumata Arowai of the non-compliance; and*
 - (c) *Take remedial action to rectify the situation; and*
 - (d) *Identify and implement measures required to ensure that the event does not reoccur; and*
 - (e) *Take all practicable steps, to the satisfaction of Taumata Arowai, to advise affected consumers and drinking water suppliers that drinking water does not comply with the drinking water standards and what measures should be taken to protect public health.*
- Our next step will involve the introduction of residual chlorination into our distribution network as a secondary source of treatment. This will disinfect the network and provide good protection against the risk of bacteria and some viruses.
- Three stakeholders s9(2)(a) have complained about the chlorination decision and consultation process leading to the decision. s9(2)(a) contacted your office on 1 June on behalf of stakeholders and residents. DOC's view is that s9(2)(a) comments do not represent those of the wider community, which has been well engaged in the emergency response and consultation process.
- It is likely these three stakeholders will go to the media to share their concerns about the water being chlorinated.
- DOC is required to comply with national water standards, and we are working with Taumata Arowai and other experts to ensure we are meeting these legislative responsibilities and supplying safe water in the village.
- This is an emergency response to ensure public health.

Contact: Jo Macpherson, Director Eastern South Island: 9(2)(a)

2.4 s9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]

- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]

[Redacted] 9(2)(a)

2.5 s9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]

- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]
- | [Redacted]

[Redacted] 9(2)(a)

2.6 s9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]

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- | [Redacted]
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- | [Redacted]
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- | [Redacted]

4 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support this status report:

- Appendix 1 – Cabinet Paper Report (regular item)
- Appendix 2 – Forthcoming items (regular item)
- Appendix 3 – Jobs for Nature dashboard (regular item)
- Appendix 4 – Summary table of Civil Litigation in Senior Courts
- Appendix 5 – Summary of active legal matter

Department of Conservation Status Report

for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 13 June 2022

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Kiri Allan
Minister of Conservation

DOCCM - 7043312

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Contents

1	Standing and Priority Items	4
1.1	Jobs for Nature	4
1.2	RMA advocacy	4
1.3	Resource Management (RM) reform	4
1.4	Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.....	4
1.5	s9(2)(g)(i)	5
1.6	Milford Opportunities.....	6
2	Updates	7
2.1	Central North Island: Tongariro Alpine Crossing.....	7
2.2	s9(2)(f)(iv)	7
2.3	West Coast Public Conservation Land Mining Compliance Operation	8
2.4	Western South Island: Update on proposed rock quarry in South Westland within Te Wahipounamu World Heritage Area.....	8
2.5	s9(2)(h)	9
2.6	s9(2)(g)(i)	10
3	Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities	11
4	Appendices.....	11

Attachments

1. Cabinet Paper Report
2. Jobs for Nature dashboard

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

- As at 7 June 2022 we have had 3,488 Employment Starts and 1.7 million hours worked.
- Work continues on the Regional Investment Review to finalise the inquiry questions, plan the methodology for collecting the required information, and agree the resources needed to deliver the task.
- We are preparing case studies for inclusion in the Secretariat-led 2021/2022 annual report expected to be completed in October.
- We are designing new dashboards to provide information to a range of audiences at regional and programme levels.
- We are undertaking a review of the milestone assurance process to identify efficiencies and ways to speed up delays in payments.
- Along with MfE, we presented a programme update to the Regional Council sector Regional Management Group and had a fruitful discussion about how central and local government can work more closely together to support transition planning for projects following the end of JFN funding.
- Last week's deep dive visits to western South Island and Southern Lakes areas proved to be insightful. Reports are now being drafted. A deep dive to Auckland region is scheduled next week.
- End of FY processes including accruals, forecasting, and milestone payments are in progress
- The next SLU Ministers meeting is scheduled for 29 June.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: 9(2)(a)

1.2 RMA advocacy

No items this week.

1.3 Resource Management (RM) reform

- We are continuing to comment on draft briefings from the Ministry for the Environment for policy matters that require delegated decisions from Ministers. We will raise any issues with you for your consideration.

Contact: Dr Kayla Kingdon-Bebb, Director Policy: 027 405 2819

1.4 Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy

- The report recommending governance options from the Interim Oversight Group (IOG) is on track to be released to the Director-General on 16 June.
- DOC is working with agencies (MPI, MfE, LINZ, StatsNZ, MBIE, NIWA, regional councils) on the proposed Te Mana o te Taiao indicator feedback, to develop a shared Biodiversity Monitoring and Reporting Framework. We are working with Biosecurity NZ on connecting core strategies and systems.

- Planning for the South Island wānanga to support the Mātauranga Māori workstream will continue over the coming months with Ngāi Tahu and other relevant Iwi.
- The collaboration and engagement workstream is on track to be delivered at the end of June, with stakeholder mapping and identifying the framework for action planning.
- s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]
- [redacted] the principles of intergenerational equality and the need for transformational change are at the forefront of Te Mana o te Taiao implementation planning. However, the level of additional investment required is not clear, as we do not yet have a coherent picture of the effort across the biodiversity system. This reinforces the need for a collaboration and assurance system which can steer Aotearoa's collective investment in the optimal direction.
- On 23 May the Emissions Reduction Plan was released. The 'Working with Nature' chapter contains commitments to deliver biodiversity outcomes through climate action. The Plan has successfully elevated the position of the Te Mana o te Taiao in climate policy.
- Continued engagement with the wider biodiversity sector has been undertaken, including with:
 - **Fit for a better world engagement team from MPI:** An online meeting was held between the ANZBS Implementation team and Fit for a Better World Engagement team to build connections and understand how their work aligns to ANZBS.
 - **Te Uru Rākau:** An update on the ANZBS implementation work was discussed to service the group of NZ Emission Trading Scheme Māori forestry stakeholders that Te Uru Rākau meet regularly.
 - **Forest & Bird:** The team has connected with Forest & Bird, as per your letter to them (Dec 2021, CORM-544 refers). A subsequent discussion is being planned with the purpose of creating an ongoing engagement pathway relating to ANZBS.

Contact: Mark Fitzpatrick, Director Te Mana o te Taiao Implementation:
9(2)(a) [redacted]

1.5 s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

s9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted] 9(2)(a)

1.6 Milford Opportunities

No items this week.

2 Updates

2.1 Central North Island: Tongariro Alpine Crossing

- Following further discussions with Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro and the local business community we are proposing a staged approach to capping numbers on the Tongariro crossing. Local businesses are looking for more time to adapt their businesses as tourism recovers. s9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

[Redacted] 9(2)(a)

2.2 s9(2)(f)(iv)

- [Redacted]

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- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 9(2)(a)

2.3 West Coast Public Conservation Land Mining Compliance Operation

- During the week of 13 June 2022, a mining compliance monitoring operation is planned for Public Conservation Lands across the Greymouth and Hokitika Districts on the West Coast.
- DOC compliance staff will fly over mines in the Hokitika and Greymouth districts to document any non-compliance or illegal mining activity.
- Authorised mining operations in the area include small to medium-sized alluvial gold mines, and some medium-to-large open cast coal mines. The effects of mining on the environment are managed by terms and conditions within Access Arrangements and Authorities to Enter and Operate.
- Regular ground operations for compliance monitoring take place. This is the first aerial operation by DOC.
- The helicopter will contain a Principal Compliance Officer and Compliance Officer from DOC's National Compliance Team, a Compliance Officer from MBIE, and a district staff member.
- This will give us a current picture of what is happening on the ground, and the scale of any non-compliance. It will also allow us to test our design of a monitoring process for mining permits.
- s9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]

Contact: Hilary Aikman, Director Operations Issues and Programmes:
9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

2.4 Western South Island: Update on proposed rock quarry in South Westland within Te Wahipounamu World Heritage Area

- DOC received an Access Arrangement application from Kokiri Lime Company Ltd on 12 June 2020, to access 15 ha of Stewardship Land in South Westland within the Te Wahipounamu World Heritage Area at Karangarua. We have been working with the applicant since that time to progress this application and assess it.
- This application forms part of a proposal to operate a hard rock quarry to:
 - Service the state highway network and provide armouring rock to improve resilience of key infrastructure across South Westland
 - Support flood protection works including Waihou River and Franz Josef township stop bank.
- The applicant has a pending mining permit for the quarry proposal with MBIE's New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals (NZP&M). Hard Rock is

classified as a mineral under MBIE's Mineral Programme and therefore requires a mining permit to authorise extraction.

- There is a well-known shortage of armour-grade hard rock protection across the West Coast especially in South Westland and it is anticipated that this particular rock will be in high demand.
- The application was publicly notified with three submissions received and a public hearing held in March 2021.
- We advised the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO of the application as we are obliged to under the Operational Guidelines for the Management of World Heritage Sites.
- UNESCO responded, reminding us of UNESCO's position that mining within World Heritage Areas is inconsistent with World Heritage status, and urging DOC to fully consider World Heritage matters.
- DOC has assessed the application and requested further information from the applicant, to ensure all effects are addressed and mitigation measures are understood, to fully inform the decision.
- The applicant has indicated the information requested (rehabilitation plan and conclusive fauna assessment) will be provided at the end of the summer of 2022/2023.
- A final decision is anticipated to be made by April 2023. Any Access Arrangement (if granted) cannot be operable without the appropriate permit issued by NZP&M.
- The classification of the parcel of stewardship land has been reviewed as part of the broader reclassification of stewardship land on the West Coast and the recommendation is for the land to be within the proposed 'Kā Tiritiri o Te Moana Conservation Park'. Any applications will be assessed against the legal status of the land at the time of consideration.
- s9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
- We will keep you updated with progress.

Contact: Mark Davies, Director Operations Tai Poutini West Coast:
9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

2.5 s9(2)(h) [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

No items this week.

4 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support this status report:

Appendix 1 – Cabinet Paper Report (regular item)

Appendix 2 – Forthcoming items (regular item)

Appendix 3 – Jobs for Nature dashboard (regular item)

Note:

**There was no Status Report for the
week beginning 20 June 2022**

Department of Conservation Status Report

for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 27 June 2022

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Poto Williams
Minister of Conservation

DOCCM - 7059379

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Contents

1	Standing and Priority Items	4
1.1	Status Report purpose and Priority Items options	4
2	Updates	5
2.1	Jobs for Nature	5
2.2	s9(2)(f)(iv)	5
2.3	Milford Opportunities.....	6
2.4	s9(2)(g)(i)	7
2.5	Resource Management Act (RMA) advocacy.....	8
2.6	Department of Conservation support for changes to the Environmental Reporting Act.....	9
2.7	Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (ANZBS)	10
2.8	Island-Ocean Connection Challenge – UN Oceans Conference	11
2.9	Game Animal Council Quarter 3 report	11
3	Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities	12
4	Appendices	12

Attachments

1. Cabinet Paper Report
2. Jobs for Nature dashboard

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Status Report purpose and Priority Items options

- The Status Report, prepared weekly, provides a mechanism for DOC to give you short updates on key topics as they arise.
- This section, Standing and Priority Items, is for you to customise so you can ensure you receive regular updates on any areas of particular interest to you.
- The Report also includes a snapshot of upcoming briefings and memos, Select Committee updates, and Official Information Act responses.
- We will engage with your office to confirm which topics you want to include as standing items for future reports, and the frequency on which you would like to receive those updates.

Contact: Lucy Alcock, Director Government Services: 9(2)(a)

2 Updates

2.1 Jobs for Nature

- We have provided you with a dashboard showing progress in the DOC Jobs for Nature programme as at end of Quarter 3. We plan to send this dashboard to you quarterly. Key insights from this data are:
 - DOC has approved 214 JFN projects, of which 205 are contracted for delivery.
 - \$477.5m of DOC JFN funding has been approved.
 - DOC funded JFN projects have generated 1,759 FTE and 3,607 employment starts. These numbers continue to rise steadily.
 - Just over 1.8m hours have been worked on DOC funded JFN projects.
 - 83% of DOC JFN projects have an overall delivery confidence of Green or Amber-Green.
 - s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]
 - s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]
- s9(2)(g)(i) [redacted]
- The Regional Investment Review is underway. This work is to understand the ongoing sustainability implications of DOC's investments and conduct an analysis of investment risks and opportunities to enable changes to be made that strengthen delivery and maximise value for money. Work continues to finalise the inquiry questions and comms. A pilot is expected to commence on 4 July.
- We visited multiple project sites in the Auckland region last week as part of a Deep Dive Learning Review.
- End of financial year processes including accruals, forecasting, and milestone payments due to projects are in progress.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: s9(2)(a) [redacted]

2.2 s9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

- [redacted]
- [redacted]

2.5 Resource Management Act (RMA) advocacy

Pare Hauraki Kaimoana application for fish farm near Coromandel - private plan change

- Pare Hauraki Kaimoana (PHK) has applied to Waikato Regional Council to farm kingfish, mussels, sea cucumbers, sponges, kelp, algae and seaweeds in the 300-hectare Coromandel Marine Farming Zoning in the Inner Hauraki Gulf.
- We did not oppose the consent application but submitted requesting additional conditions to reduce adverse effects. We opposed the farming of the invasive pest seaweed *Undaria pinnatifida*. We will update you when we have further information on the consent process.
- PHK have also lodged a private plan change that would allow the anchors and lines securing fish pens within the Zone to extend beyond its boundary by approximately 150m.
- We did not submit on the private plan change on your behalf as we assessed that it would not make any material difference to the environmental effects of the associated resource consent application and the scale of effects is not proposed to change beyond what was previously considered.
- The decision not to engage considered consistency with the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) and any matters that would likely prevent you signing off the plan change in your Regional Coastal Plan approval capacity.
- Several parties have submitted on the private plan change. Those opposing are Forest and Bird, the Whitianga and Coromandel Commercial Fishers Association, the Robinsons (2 submissions) and Protect our Gulf. Those in support are Te Patukirikiri Iwi, Ngati Maru Runanga, the Hauraki Māori Trust Board and the Thames-Coromandel District Council.

Ruataniwha Water Storage Scheme, Hawke's Bay - Consent lapse extension application

- The applicant, Water Holdings Hawke's Bay, has approached DOC to seek 'approval' for an extension of the lapse terms for a bundle of related RMA consents approved in 2015 for the water storage scheme. They will currently lapse in 2025 if not implemented. Rationale provided to support the extension is that it would provide time to engage with mana whenua, as well as providing time to solve land issues and redevelop a new water security scheme to address climate change and environmental requirements.
- We are currently considering our response which will likely be comments rather than 'approval' as an affected person under the RMA.
- The national direction regarding freshwater management has changed significantly since the consents were granted, including the National Policy Statement for Freshwater which includes the Te Mana o te Wai hierarchy. The applicant has provided a 're-scoping report' that considers alternative water security options and provides, among other matters, a perspective on the consistency of the proposals with Te Mana o te Wai.
- The applicant has noted that they are not seeking condition changes at this time but will likely do so if the proposal progresses.
- Associated with the RMA consented proposal was a land exchange as conservation land would be flooded by the water storage. The Supreme Court's decision in *Hawkes Bay Regional Investment Company Limited v Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc.* [2017] NZSC 106 prevented the proposed land exchange occurring. It is therefore unlikely that a land exchange will be appropriate.

- Previous investigations to the suitability of a concession to inundate the land suggested this would not be a suitable option either. If the proposal progresses, an alternative approach (e.g., a local bill) may need to be considered. The applicant is not currently engaging with DOC regarding land matters.
- There is also a Freshwater Fisheries Regulations approval and dispensation (held by Hawkes Bay Regional Investment Company Limited) that was granted in 2015 which will lapse in 2025 if not implemented. This relates to measures to minimise the impact of the proposed dam on fish passage and is specific to the dam design as presented to us at that time.
- We will provide comments to the applicant on the lapse extension application. Land ownership issues will be addressed separately.

Te Waikoropupū Springs Water Conservation Order - Environment Court

- An Environment Court inquiry relating to appeals on the draft Water Conservation Order (WCO) for Te Waikoropupū Springs was held in Nelson over the period 24-27 May 2022. The hearing has attracted significant media attention, including on DOC's role.
- The WCO is being sought by the Applicants (Ngāti Tama and Andrew Yuill) to protect the natural state of the Springs and the Arthur Marble Aquifer which feeds the Springs. DOC's view on the WCO aligns closely with that of the Applicants.
- Parties including DOC presented legal submissions and the Applicants' witnesses provided evidence. All parties agree that there should be a WCO, but don't agree on key clauses such as the water quality limits that are to apply. A key issue is how to address increasing nitrate concentrations in the Springs.
- This is the first time a WCO will recognise and protect a groundwater source (Arthur Marble Aquifer) so is precedent-setting in that sense.
- The Springs have great significance to three local iwi (Manawhenua ki Mohua of Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa and Ngāti Rārua, being nga iwi who hold kaitiaki status over the area). The site of the Springs is a DOC reserve, managed in conjunction with Manawhenua ki Mohua.
- DOC has been working closely with its Treaty partner Ngāti Tama in relation to this matter for the last few years, including supporting them at the Special Tribunal phase in 2018 which preceded the Environment Court process.
- The hearing was adjourned on 27 May and further conferencing between experts directed. The hearing is likely to resume in late June.

Contact: Natasha Ryburn, Director Planning Permissions and Land:
9(2)(a)

2.6 Department of Conservation support for changes to the Environmental Reporting Act

- The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) sought feedback from DOC on a draft Cabinet paper (CAB-120) which seeks Cabinet's agreement for proposed amendments to the Environmental Reporting Act 2015.
- MfE conducted targeted consultation and engagement with DOC between February and March 2022 on the proposed amendments.
- We have reviewed the subsequent draft paper and support all proposed changes, and also provided some minor recommendations.
- Associate Minister for the Environment (Biodiversity), Minister Shaw, plans to undertake Ministerial consultation between 29 June – 13 July.

- The Cabinet paper will be considered by the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee (ENV) on 28 July, and by Cabinet on 1 August 2022.
- You will receive a Cabinet paper memo on the revised version of the Cabinet paper before it is submitted to the Cabinet Office.

Contact: Sharon Alderson, Director Planning & Support: 9(2)(a)

2.7 Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (ANZBS)

- The Interim Oversight Group (IOG) has completed its report on governance recommendations for Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS. The report is currently with the Director-General for consideration.
- The IOG was appointed in July 2021 in consultation with acting Conservation Minister Ayesha Verrall. The IOG comprises nine members, chaired by Edward Ellison. Other members are Aroha Mead, Tina Porou, Debs Martin, Patrick Whaley, Dr Bruce Clarkson, Mike Smith, Jamie Ferguson and Matt Highway.
- No further meetings of the IOG are planned, as the provision of this report was the primary task for the IOG under the terms of reference. The terms of reference also state that the IOG continues until December 2022, so we will use the IOG as a sounding board on advice, if relevant, in the second half of the year.
- A Te Mana o te Taiao monitoring and reporting system is being developed to measure progress towards goals identified in the Strategy, including a National Monitoring framework and a Te Ao Māori Monitoring framework. These will create an umbrella system to connect existing monitoring frameworks across the biodiversity system including central and local government, iwi, and industry.
- *The National Monitoring framework:* Synthesis on the proposed monitoring and reporting indicator feedback from agencies (MPI, MfE, LINZ, StatsNZ, MBIE, NIWA), regional councils and internal teams is underway.
- *Te Ao Māori Monitoring framework:* Planning for the South Island wānanga to support the Mātauranga Māori monitoring and reporting workstream will continue over the coming months with Ngai Tahu and other relevant iwi.
- We are establishing a system-wide assurance system to ensure actions in the 2022 Implementation Plan are on track for delivery and subject to regular performance reporting.
- We are developing a collaboration system for future action planning, to promote buy-in, information sharing and partnership across central, regional, and local government, Māori and iwi, and stakeholders, to align work programmes and ensure future implementation plans reflect actions from the wider sector.
- s9(2)(g)(i)
[Redacted]

Contact: Mark Fitzpatrick, Director Te Mana o te Taiao Implementation:
9(2)(a)

2.8 Island-Ocean Connection Challenge – UN Oceans Conference

- At the UN Ocean Conference in Lisbon (27 June – 1 July 2022), Hon. David Parker as Minister for Oceans and Fisheries is likely to be asked by NGOs (Island Conservation, The Nature Conservancy and Re:wild) about New Zealand's possible participation in the 2030 Island Ocean Connection Challenge.
- The Challenge is a global initiative led by international scientific and philanthropic environmental organisations to fund and deliver pest mammal eradications and ocean research for 40 significant islands.
- New Zealand's three highest priority islands for eradicating pest mammals as part of Predator Free 2050 are Maukahuka/Auckland Island, Rēkohu Wharekauri/Chatham Island and Rakiura/Stewart Island. Removing predators from these three islands as a group would have globally significant value for marine and terrestrial conservation. In discussions with the above NGOs, they have asked if New Zealand would consider entering these islands in the Challenge.
- The cost of achieving this predator free outcome for the three islands (est. ~\$200m) will likely exceed New Zealand's capacity to fund alone. Participating in the Challenge could enable New Zealand to access 50% to 65% of project costs through philanthropic contributions.
- Iwi and imi of the three islands are supportive of the Predator Free 2050 direction that is progressing on the islands. We are now seeking their direction whether they would support participating in the Challenge.
- s9(2)(g)(i)
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
- Fisheries New Zealand have indicated their support for exploring the Challenge, noting that it promotes healthy oceans, helps mitigate fishing impacts on seabirds, and involves Māori and Moriori directly.
- We have worked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and provided a summary of the Island Ocean Connection Challenge opportunity for the New Zealand delegates conference pack which includes Hon. David Parker.
- We will engage with your office if further information is requested and can also provide you the material that has been included in the New Zealand conference pack.

Contact: Martin Rodd, Director Partnerships: 9(2)(a) [Redacted]

2.9 Game Animal Council Quarter 3 report

- We have received the Game Animal Council's Quarter 3 report for 2021-22.
- The Council has reported steady progress against the milestones in its Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE). It has liaised positively with DOC on a range of issues throughout the quarter, including on the development of Te Ara Ki Mua Wild Animals framework and through a submission on the development of the Himalayan Tahr Control Operational Plan for 2022-2023.
- The Council has been operating in a tight financial environment. Budget 2022 contained the "Deer management and goat control initiative", which

will phase in increases to the Council's baseline funding (which is currently \$250,000 per annum). The Council will receive \$600,000 in 2022-23. Its funding will increase \$200,000 per year until it reaches \$1.2 million per annum in 2025-26.

- The Council's 2021-22 Letter of Expectations and SPE requires that it progress a sustainable funding strategy and advise you on the expected timing and introduction of a Game Trophy Export Levy, including its anticipated impact and scaling options. This advice is currently being finalised, and we expect that it will be provided to you shortly.

Contact: Ngaire Best, Director, Governance; 9(2)(a)

3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

No items this week.

4 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support this status report:

- Appendix 1 – Cabinet Paper Report (regular item)
- Appendix 2 – Forthcoming items (regular item)
- Appendix 3 – Jobs for Nature dashboard (regular item)