

# Department of Conservation Status Report

## for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 2 May 2022

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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Seen by Hon Kiri Allan  
**Minister of Conservation**

DOCCM - 6991082

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1. Cabinet Paper Report
2. Jobs for Nature dashboard



- 9(2)(f)(iv)

: 9(2)(a)

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

- Following the launch of the first iteration of the ANZBS Implementation Plan on 20 April, the Plan and its related Cabinet paper are now available on the DOC website. Work is underway to develop the next iteration of the plan. This is planned for mid-2023 and will take into account requirements from the Convention on Biological Diversity Post 2020 Framework as well as include actions from the wider biodiversity sector.
- The Interim Oversight Group (**IOG**) is continuing their work on governance recommendations and discussions to date have covered the principles of advancing the Treaty partnership; accountability; funding; regulatory, policy and international roles; local government; and risk management.
- The IOG next meets on 5 May and will have an opportunity to engage with the Director-General on their thinking and receive her feedback on their initial proposals. The IOG is on track to deliver its recommendations to the Director-General by the end of June.
- Dialogue with agencies (MPI, MfE, LINZ, Stats NZ, MBIE, NIWA), regional councils and internal teams is underway off the back of the monitoring and reporting meeting on 5 April to continue scoping a shared future framework. The upcoming mātauranga Māori monitoring and reporting wānanga in Rotorua (5-6 May) has commitment from key iwi subject matter experts, and a proceedings report will be released ahead of the consecutive South Island wānanga, scheduled for August/September.
- A range of work is happening across the biodiversity sector that expands on actions set out in the current Implementation Plan. Work is underway to collate the current state of cross-sector work delivering on various aspects of Te Mana o te Taiao and build on these in the next iteration of the Implementation Plan. Current examples of cross sector projects include:
  - **Farming with Native Biodiversity Initiative** led by the New Zealand Landcare Trust, with involvement from MPI, DOC-Fonterra Living Water partnership, Silver Fern Farms, National Bioheritage Science Challenge, University of Canterbury, and Auckland Institute of Technology. The \$1.4 million pilot project aims to increase the number of biodiversity experts who understand farming, and develop science-based biodiversity resources and networks that enable farmers to take long-term affirmative action. The project will work with farmers, catchment groups and councils to develop case studies in different regions for different farm types.
  - **Wild animal management programme** led by DOC. We will establish a national programme in 2022/23 to fulfil the Minister's responsibilities under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 and deliver on the draft Te Ara ki Mua adaptive framework for managing wild animals. The project will work with whānau, hapū and iwi, NZ Game Animal Council, communities and a number of councils and agencies (LINZ, MPI, MSD).
  - **Ongoing Policy Programme** led by DOC. The Policy Unit are continuing work on conservation system reform with the first principles review of the Wildlife Act 1953 and preparatory work towards

conservation law reform. They are working across agencies to influence legislation and policy which can deliver ANZBS outcomes including the RMA reform, National Environmental Standard – Plantation Forestry and New Zealand's Emissions Reduction Plan. The opportunity to drive implementation of the ANZBS is a key consideration when prioritising policy work.

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

**1.5 9(2)(g)(i)**

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

9(2)(a)

**1.6 Milford Opportunities**

No update this week.

## 2 Updates

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### 2.1 Auckland: Putiki Bay kororā

- Drilling works on the breakwater recommenced on 26 and 27 April. DOC staff were on site with the marina ecologists to monitor their methodology and ensure the Wildlife Authority was being adhered to.
- Rock removal work commences on 5 and 6 May, with DOC staff and marina ecologists on site to monitor works.
- Over the next month we will be actively working with Ngāti Paoa Iwi Trust and other key agencies to engage with the wider Ngāti Paoa whānau on key issues impacting their people on Waiheke.
- Engaging with whānau is the priority for our iwi partners and is the first step of our community engagement plan for Waiheke.
- The second step of the plan is to reconnect with the island-wide kororā care forum, through the Waiheke Marine Project and Ngāti Paoa Iwi Trust, to identify priorities for working with the wider Waiheke community.

Contact: Andrew Baucke, Director Operations Auckland: 9(2)(a)

### 2.2 9(2)(g)(i)

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

[Redacted] 9(2)(a)

### 2.3 9(2)(g)(i)

- [Redacted]

- 9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
  - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

#### 2.4 Lower North Island Region: Tūturuatu/Shore Plover deaths at Cape Sanctuary, Hawke's Bay

- Three out of 14 adult Tūturuatu/shore plover at the captive breeding site at Cape Sanctuary have died recently. A further five sick birds were transferred to Wildbase at Massey University for treatment, with another one subsequently dying.
- Tūturuatu/shore plover are an endemic shorebird with fewer than 250 adult birds in the wild. They are ranked "Threatened – Nationally Critical" and are extremely vulnerable to mammalian pests. Only one small natural population survives.
- Recovery efforts are focused on establishing new populations on predator-free islands by releasing captive-bred juvenile birds. The captive-breeding programme has three facilities – Cape Sanctuary, Pukaha National Wildlife Centre at Mt Bruce, and the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust (**Isaac's**) in Christchurch.
- Wildbase detected a bacterial infection in two of the dead birds from Cape Sanctuary, possibly due to faecal contamination from farm runoff from recent flooding events.
- Cape Sanctuary has now moved birds from the affected aviary, disconnected the river water supply and is clearing aviary waterways. The water supply will be turned back on once water quality improves.
- We met with Cape Sanctuary on site on Tuesday 27 April to assess the situation and provide assistance and advice.
- Three adult birds at Isaac's also died in March/April. Necropsy results are currently inconclusive, but a similar faecal contamination event is considered unlikely, so the situation is being monitored.
- The birds that have died have generally been one of a pair, meaning that new pairs will need to be formed for next season. We are therefore expecting a delayed breeding season and are keeping a close watch on the health of captive birds.

Contact: Jack Mace, Director Lower North Island: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]



## 2.5 Western South Island Region: Update on flood damage to Heaphy Track Great Walk and reopening as a through trip

- A section of the Heaphy Track between Heaphy and James Mackay Huts is currently closed due to February 2022 storm damage.
- The section will remain closed until the Heaphy Bridge is replaced, and repairs are completed on the Gunner Bridge and damaged track.
- Walkers and mountain bikers can still book huts and in/out trips on the Heaphy Track from the West Coast and Golden Bay ends, but through trips are not possible.
- Bookings for the next Heaphy Track Great Walk season (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023) open on 4 May 2022.
- We have had to make the decision that the Heaphy Track will not be able to be booked as a full walk until 1 May 2023. 1 May is the normal start of the mountain biking season for the track.
- We can bring forward the date for through trips should works on the Heaphy Bridge take less time than anticipated, but at this stage we consider it best to give as much notice to walkers and mountain bikers as possible.
- Concessionaires and local businesses in Golden Bay and Karamea that rely on the Great Walk for custom are likely to be disappointed. Concessionaires will be informed about this decision via our fortnightly newsletter about Heaphy Track updates, information on our webpage and the booking system, and proactive media releases as required.

Contact: Mark Davies, Director Operations Western South Island: 9(2)(a)

## 2.6 Auckland: Rangitoto/Motutapu stoat incursion response finished

- We have been responding to stoat incursions on Rangitoto and Motutapu islands in the Hauraki Gulf for the last 18 months, after stoat footprints were first detected in May 2020.
- The large-scale pest incursion response resulted in three stoats being trapped, the last being in November 2021.
- We have since undertaken four thorough checks by pest detection dogs with no evidence of stoat presence.
- The incursion is now considered dealt with, and we are completing the final winddown steps.
- This incursion has been one of DOC's longest running island pest incursion responses. The response involved servicing around 600 traps across the islands, frequent use of pest detection dogs, and innovative use of lures to attract the stoats into traps. It has cost several hundred thousand dollars.

Contact: Andrew Baucke, Operations Director, Auckland: 9(2)(a)

## 2.7 Environment and Climate Research Strategy (ECRS)

- The Minister for the Environment has forwarded the Cabinet paper 'CAB-76 Environment and climate research strategy report' back to your office.

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- Minister Parker will discuss this paper at your next monthly meeting of Joint Environment Ministers (Hons Parker, Allan, Twyford and Shaw), with the view for the final paper to be considered by DEV on 8 June.
- DOC officials have reviewed the Cabinet Paper and DOC's feedback has been incorporated into the new draft.
- The Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (**ANZBS**) is a central strategy within the proposed framework of the ECRS. The ECRS would prioritise research that will support the change needed to deliver into the outcomes of the ANZBS.

Contact: Meg Rutledge, Director Threats: 9(2)(a)

## 2.8 Health, Safety & Wellbeing

### Weekly update on the COVID-19 pandemic response

#### Omicron

- To date (from 1 March 2022) 264 DOC staff have advised that they have tested positive for COVID-19. Only 34 staff have reported as positive since the last Status Report dated 11 April 2022.
- Business remains largely 'as normal', and no services have been disrupted over the last 2 weeks.

#### Vaccine mandates

- Subsequent to the 23 March Cabinet decisions on the future of vaccine pass and mandate systems, we undertook a review of our risk assessment for staff, contractors and volunteers.
- SLT approved a recommendation to suspend the vaccine mandate for staff, contractors, volunteers and visitors to our workplace buildings and premises, subject to staff support by way of survey.
- The staff survey closed on 12 April, with the majority of respondents (72%) supporting the suspension proposal. This has been reported back to SLT and the proposals confirmed.
- These decisions will be effective from 4 May 2022. There will be a transition period through May as local managers reunify their teams at a workplace level and we work at an organisational level on reconnecting the workforce more generally across the country.
- A small number of specific situations may retain a vaccine mandate, particularly where the consequences of an infection are very high (e.g., remote offshore islands).

Contact: Harry Maher, Director Health & Safety: 9(2)(a)

### **3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities**

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None this week.

### **4 Appendices**

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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)

# Department of Conservation Status Report

## for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 9 May 2022

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Seen by Hon Kiri Allan  
**Minister of Conservation**

Date:       /      /      

DOCCM - 6999158



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

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3. Summary of active legal matters
4. Civil litigation in the senior Courts

# 1 Standing and Priority Items

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## 1.1 Jobs for Nature

### Jobs for Nature Summary:

- Project AL14.6 Tūranga Kaimahi mō te Taiao combines the work of the three Tūranga iwi in Tairāwhiti into one Funding Agreement (Ngāi Tāmanuhiri, Rongowhakaata and Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki). 9(2)(g)(i)  
[Redacted]
- 9(2)(f)(iv)  
[Redacted]
- Deputy Chief Executives from JfN agencies met last week and discussed a draft framework for a programme-wide transition strategy and a proposed national platform for connecting projects.

### Māori Land Fund (Treaty Settlement and other entities)

- Projects are in various stages of contracting. One funding agreement has been drafted (JFN0059.16 Whaia Titirangi) and is expected to be finalised by end of May. Other MLF projects are in similar stages of processing, with one project contracted, one currently with the partner for signing, and another one due to go to the partner for signing by 9 May.

### Ngā Whenua Rāhui

- Agreements have been drafted and are being reviewed by the Ngā Whenua Rāhui team. Work is underway to ensure a consistent approach between Ngā Whenua Rāhui and Jobs for Nature, i.e. the application of GST.

### Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities:

- There are eleven projects awaiting announcements. This includes the eight Western Bay of Plenty iwi projects that will be announced by us in either June or July, in an event where workers from each iwi will come together. They have invited you to attend.
- The Chatham Island projects AL03.1 Te Ara Manu and AL03.2 Pitt Island Habitat Protection can be announced when the new funding agreement for the Te Ara Manu project has been finalised, as the initial funding recipient had relinquished their role. The project will now be managed by Taiko Trust who were previously contracted to do the work.
- There is an opportunity to announce the JFN0058 Te Papa Paorooro project in Northland during the Conservation Roadshow in June.
- We are working with your office to provide recommendations of high-performing JFN projects for you to visit during the Roadshow in July.

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





- 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted] 9(2)(a)

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

Fortnightly item – no update this week.

**1.5 9(2)(g)(i)** [Redacted]

[Redacted]

**1.6 Milford Opportunities**

- The Milford Opportunities Project Ngāi Tahu and independent board members have received their formal letters of appointment to the Milford Opportunities Project Board (the Board).
- At the Board meeting on 12 April, it was agreed that the local government members should also receive a letter of appointment. These members will be advisors to the Board only.
- Environment Southland have been appointed to the Board, and we are preparing formal letters of appointment for Environment Southland and Southland District Council which will be sent to your office for signing shortly.

Contact: Claire Spencer, Manager Regional Visitor Planning: 9(2)(a) [Redacted]

## 2 Updates

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### 2.1 9(2)(g)(i)

- [Redacted]
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9(2)(a)

### 2.2 9(2)(g)(i)

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9(2)



9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]  
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[Redacted] 9(2)(a)

**2.5 9(2)(h)** [Redacted]

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- [Redacted]

[Redacted] 9(2)(a)

**2.6 Trade in Endangered Species Bill – PCO drafting issues and timeline impacts**

- We have now reworked the timeline for delivery of the Trade in Endangered Species (TIES) Bill and Regulations. 9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]  
[Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

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- Including the domestic ivory ban in the primary legislation requires additional policy work, targeted consultation, and approvals from DEV and Cabinet before PCO can draft these provisions in the Bill. This timeline does not guarantee enactment of the revised TIES Act within this term of Parliament, but allows for the introduction of the Bill, the first reading and select committee by mid-2023.
- The TIES framework relies on regulations to give effect to international obligations. The regulations workstream includes updating existing TIES regulations and developing new regulations for better consistency with our international commitments and the new Bill. For workability, most of the regulations need to come into effect at the same time as the Bill.

Date	Bill	Regulations
May 2022	Policy work to develop domestic ivory ban continues Decision from you sought on preferred policy options for domestic ivory ban	Regulations work slowed while domestic ivory work underway
June 2022	Targeted consultation with 2019 TIES submitters who commented on domestic ivory ban	Policy work on 10 different regulations workstreams
July 2022	Submissions analysis; further policy work. Ministerial decision needed on implementation mechanism Preparation of DEV paper seeking policy approvals for ivory ban	Some regulations workstreams will require targeted stakeholder engagement – timeline must allow for 4 weeks for this  Prepare agency consultation pack
August 2022	DOC internal regulatory impact assessment (RIA) process DOC consults agencies on complete TIES DEV pack	Prepare Regulations RIA & DEV paper

9(2)(f)(iv)



9(2)(f)(iv)



Contact: Sean Cooper, Acting Director Policy: 9(2)(a) or Lillian Fougere, Manager, Tourism and Economic Development Policy: 9(2)(a)

## 2.7 Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, Seventh Meeting of Parties

- New Zealand's objectives at the upcoming Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (**ACAP**) Seventh Meeting of Parties (**MOP7**), to be held on 9-13 May 2022, are set out below.
- New Zealand's overall aims for ACAP include:
  - Further the conservation of New Zealand-listed species.
  - Ensure ACAP functions effectively through a coherent ACAP Secretariat and targeted conservation programmes.
  - Support information sharing, collaboration, and capacity building with Parties.
  - Agree priority work plans which provide conservation benefit to New Zealand-listed species.
- Key priorities that the New Zealand delegation will be seeking at MOP7 include:
  - Ensure New Zealand's scale of contribution is applied in a fair and equitable manner.
  - Ensure ACAP budget and work programmes are robust and reasonable for 2023-2025.

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- Support improvements in the operation of the Agreement.
- Achieve approval of the ACAP Advisory Committee programme.
- Support an extension of the term of contract for the current Executive Secretary and recruitment for the position later during the next intersessional period when retirement has been indicated.
- Support the establishment of a new communications role in the Secretariat but noting financial implications dependent on the budget adopted.
- Seek continued and improved collaboration with key ACAP Parties (e.g., Spain, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile) on vulnerable New Zealand-listed species (including Antipodean albatross and black petrel).
- Promote collaboration with other relevant international organisations, particularly Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, to further ACAP objectives and conservation of ACAP-listed species.
- New Zealand is an active participant in ACAP, as part of our work to promote global protection in complement to our national conservation measures. New Zealand attaches high value to the work of ACAP as a mechanism to help preserve albatrosses and petrels globally. DOC is the lead agency for New Zealand at ACAP and works in collaboration with MFAT and MPI.
- The Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels promotes cooperation between countries in the conservation of albatrosses and petrels and has been ratified by 13 countries to date.
- The Agreement is administered through a Meeting of the Parties every third year, interspersed by two meetings of the scientific Advisory Committee, and associated Working Groups
- Officials are available to meet with you should you require further details.

Contact: Elizabeth Heeg, Director Aquatic: 9(2)(a)

## 2.8 Northland: Rākau Rangatira project, Waipoua Forest

- We have been working with Te Iwi O Te Roroa to redesign the visitor experience for the Waipoua Forest, and Tāne Mahuta.
- The Rākau Rangatira Project aims to protect the health of the forest and its landmark kauri, whilst providing an improved visitor experience through managing visitor access and creating a more immersive experience. It also aims to mitigate poor visitor behaviour to minimise the risk of spread of Kauri Dieback from tourism activity.
- The intent is to develop a park and ride experience based in Waipoua village, with an approximate 20-minute transport trip hosted by Te Roroa. The experience would include a paid guided walk through the ngahere with Tane Mahuta as a centre piece attraction, on a new fit-for-purpose boardwalk. Nodes at key locations will create a platform for Te Roroa to share cultural narrative and ecological information about the ngahere.
- The key proposal is to limit visitor numbers and permit access only through the guided experience. Previously, visitors had unrestricted access.
- The most effective way to do this is to create a nature reserve which would also afford the highest level of biodiversity protection. A permit is required to enter a nature reserve, and the permit application would allow us to limit numbers, with the cost of the permit incorporated into the price visitors would pay for the guided experience.
- There is a process under the Conservation Act for creating a nature reserve, and as a reserve there is flexibility to provide for an active management role



for Te Roroa. The indicative land area currently includes a sanctuary, part of a conservation forest park and part of a conservation area (stewardship land). The final area to be involved is yet to be confirmed.

- The project requires significant investment to implement, including the construction of the board walks, and is anticipated to cost \$20 million (CAPEX) to deliver in full. The project currently has \$8.5 million CAPEX allocated via Budget 2017. Rākau Rangatira could be delivered in stages as funding becomes available, and future International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy funding could be an option.
- 9(2)(f)(iv)  
[REDACTED]
- We will engage with your office regarding an opportunity to discuss the project and proposed way forward with you.

Contact: Bruce Parkes, Deputy-Director General, Policy and Visitors:  
9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

## 2.9 Central North Island: Concession requirements from Coroner findings

- The Bruce Road is managed by DOC in Tongariro National Park, providing vehicle access to Whakapapa Ski Area. The road is legally National Park land and is subject to the normal concessions regime. It is categorised as 'Special Purpose Road' and was assumed to be legal road like the Turoa Mountain Road.
- As a result of the bus crash on Ohakune Mountain Road in 2018, several recommendations were made by the Coroner. The Coroner recommended that transport operators be required to comply with the Alpine Code of Practice. The Coroner recommended that this regime was applied by DOC to the Bruce Road via the concessions regime. This highlighted an issue in that many of the operators do not have any concession, with a general assumption that the road is legal road.
- We are now working to implement these recommendations. Due to the short time-frame before the start of the 2022 winter season, it is proposed that operators apply for a short-term concession for 3 months to allow them to legally operate through the 2022 winter season. We can then take the time to undertake proper consultation, and ensure longer term arrangements include implementation of the Alpine Code of Practice and other recommendations from the Coroner's findings.
- We wrote to all transport operators on the Bruce Road on 28 April 2022 advising them of the new requirement to apply for a short-term concession to operate for the 2022 winter season, and asking them to complete applications by 1 June 2022.
- Notice was also given that a long-term concession will need to be applied for in order to operate beyond the 3-month period, and that concessions will include conditions to address the recommendations of the Coroner.
- These changes will impact on some of the same bus operators in National Park Village and Tūrangi that are involved in discussions around the Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

Contact: Damian Coutts, Operations Director, Central North Island:  
9(2)(a) [REDACTED]



## 2.10 Central North Island: Tongariro Alpine Crossing

- We continue to work with Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro to develop a pilot visitor management model for the Tongariro Alpine Crossing.
- We will initiate stakeholder engagement on 9 May and subsequent rounds will occur across June and July.
- Stakeholders include local councils, Regional Tourism Organisations, concessionaires, local businesses, and key national stakeholders such as Tourism New Zealand and the Tourism Industry Association. A preferred visitor management model will be finalised once stakeholder engagement is complete.
- Given that the concept of restricting visitors on public land is new, this is likely to lead to correspondence with you and DOC.
- 9(2)(g)(i)

Contact: Claire Spencer, Manager Regional Visitor Planning: 9(2)(a)

## 2.11 Central North Island: Kaimanawa Wild Horse Muster

- The Kaimanawa Wild Horse muster takes place every one to two years as a method to control the wild herd population and to protect the Moawhango ecological area, in accordance with the Kaimanawa Wild Horse Management Plan.
- The Kaimanawa Wild Horse Advisory Group provides advice to DOC on implementing the management plan. The Advisory Group comprises representatives from NZ Defence Force, Kaimanawa Heritage Horses, Kaimanawa Wild Horse Preservation Society, Ngāti Rangi, Ngāti Tama, New Zealand Veterinary Association, and Forest and Bird.
- There are currently an estimated 540 horses in the range, well above the agreed manageable number of 300 as stated in the Management Plan.
- The Advisory Group decided in 2020 to pursue a contraceptive trial as a tool to suppress herd numbers, negating the need for complex and costly rehoming musters. The trial received animal ethics approval in 2021.
- The primary focus of this year's muster is to commence the contraceptive trial on 60 mustered mares to gauge its effectiveness in keeping the population at a sustainable level. The trial has been delayed for two years due to Covid disruption.
- Kaimanawa Heritage Horses have been working hard to arrange homes for mustered Kaimanawa horses and have contributed to funding, to allow both the contraception trial and the rehoming of horses, to reduce herd numbers.
- The four-day operation commenced on Saturday 30 April in the Defence Reserve, east of Waiouru. Over the weekend, 88 horses were mustered and sent to Kaimanawa Heritage Horses preapproved homes and 60 horses received the contraceptive and were released back into the herd.

Contact: Damian Coutts, Director Operations, Central North Island: 9(2)(a)

**2.12 9(2)(f)(iv)**

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

9(2)(a)

**2.13 Northern South Island – Rangitahi/Molesworth Management Plan Review**

- Molesworth Recreation Reserve is currently managed under a 2013 Conservation Management Plan and constrained by a lease under the Land Act 1948. The Plan puts emphasis on farming operations and restricts public access. It is not considered fit for purpose.
- We are working in partnership with Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura to review the Conservation Management Plan and together we are keeping Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu informed of progress. We are also undertaking consultation under section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 with Te Tau Ihu (particularly Rangitāne o Wairau and Ngāti Toa) as iwi with an interest in Rangitahi/Molesworth.
- We will publicly announce the review of the Rangitahi/Molesworth Conservation Management Plan on 12 May 2022. The announcement will be accompanied by a public engagement survey to seek feedback on future management of the reserve, and we will test a GIS StoryMap as a tool to reach a wider online audience.

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- We will continue to keep you informed as the project progresses and there are further outcomes to share.

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

## 2.14 Western South Island Region: 20-21 April heavy rain event update

- This is an update on the damage to visitor facilities and estimated time to repair and reopen, after the 20/21 April heavy rain event.

### Paparoa Track Great Walk

- Immediately after a medium scale slip and drop out of the track approximately 1km above Pororari Hut, we closed the track as it was not safe for visitors on foot or mountain bikes to traverse. A full damage assessment was completed on 22 April and a repair plan put in place.
- The track was partially reopened after Easter to allow visitors access from either end and to gain walking and mountain bike access through from the Moonlight Hut to Pororari Huts.
- Work has now begun to remediate the track, expected to take two weeks. The planned reopening of the track as a full through-journey is scheduled for Friday 13 May.

### Point Elizabeth Track

- A small-scale slip down onto the track deemed it unsafe to cross, with no safe alternative route available.
- Work to remove the slip will begin as soon as the work on the Paparoa Track is completed.

### Heaphy Track

- The coastal Wekakura section of the Heaphy track was damaged through this weather event. Slips and subsidence occurred along a four-kilometre section of the track. The track is passable through this section with care and remains open.
- Work has started to remediate the track and is expected to take a fortnight, to be completed by 13 May.

### Coalbrookdale Walkway and Bridge (Denniston Plateau)

- The heavy rain caused the Coalbrookdale stream to flood, with the water level rising to one metre through the historic fanhouse, over the track and to the top of the road bridge. 600 metres of the top section of the historic track has washed away and needs to be reinstated.
- The road bridge abutments were damaged, including the collapse of some of the stonework from the 1800s. The bridge services both the Coalbrookdale Walkway and Cascade Mine, which is accessed by Bathurst Resources Ltd.
- We are working with Heritage New Zealand and Bathurst Resources to undertake repair work. It is expected that this will take three weeks, with the bridge and track remaining closed during this time.

Contact: Mark Davies, Director Operations, Tai Poutini/Western South Island  
9(2)(a)

## 2.15 Update on status of DOC visitor assets closed due to COVID-19

- The following visitor assets were closed for reasons beyond those required by national and regional alert level restrictions. All 3 assets are now open.
- Sites that were closed for a short time for deep cleaning following COVID-19 cases are excluded.

### **Maitai Bay Campsite, Northland (closed 10 September 2021, reopened 30 April 2022):**

- DOC received a request from local hapū, supported by Ngāti Kahu Iwi, to close the Maitai Bay Campsite in late 2021 to actively protect the health of their community.
- A risk assessment identified potential spread of COVID-19 from visitors to the local community and the Campsite was closed on 10 September.
- The risk assessment noted the low vaccination rate in the local community and potential for spread as the Campsite is located in a part of the reserve that provides access to popular local beaches. DOC's COVID visitor policy settings would be unable to ensure vaccinated campers and unvaccinated day visitors would be separated.
- The decision was made to reopen the Campsite on 30 April as local vaccination rates had reached 90%. Public health measures, masking indoors, physical distancing and hand washing, will continue to apply.

### **Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk/all visitor facilities in Te Urewera (closed 20 September 2021, reopened 14 February 2022):**

- DOC was advised by Tūhoe Te Uru Taumatua that they were unable to reopen the Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk, campsites and Backcountry Huts in Te Urewera after the move to Alert Level 4 in August 2021, due to resourcing issues and an inability to meet the Alert Level measures.

### **Whirinaki Recreation Camp, East Coast (closed 21 December 2021, reopened 14 February 2022)**

- Whirinaki Recreation Camp was not used between these dates as a result of potential users choosing to respect Ngati Whare's rāhui over their rohe, which includes Whirinaki Te Pua a Tāne Conservation Park.

Contact: Dave Jane, Acting Director Heritage and Visitors: 9(2)(a)

## 2.16 Weekly update on the COVID-19 pandemic response

### **Omicron**

- To date (from 1 March 2022) 297 DOC staff have advised that they have tested positive for COVID-19. Only 13 staff have reported as positive since the last Status Report dated 26 April 2022, showing a continuing trend of reducing numbers of reported cases week-to-week. Business remains largely 'as normal', and no services have been disrupted over the last week.

### **Vaccine Mandates**

- The 'staff, contractors, volunteers' vaccine mandate will be suspended effective 4 May 2022. A transition period through May has commenced with local managers reconnecting their teams at a workplace level, alongside work at an organisational level reconnecting the workforce more generally across the country.

Contact: Harry Maher, Director Health & Safety: 9(2)(a)



### 3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

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#### 3.1 Marine Reserve Monitoring Programme launch

- The Marine Reserve Monitoring and Reporting Framework is finalised, and we propose that it is launched on World Ocean's Day, 5 June 2022.
- This new framework outlines how to monitor marine reserves to meet the objectives of Te Mana o Te Taiao, using innovative approaches and technologies to breathe new life into the management of marine reserves. Implementing the framework will not only improve our ability to report on the status and trends of marine reserves domestically, it will also improve our ability to meet our international obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Monitoring plans built from this framework will be co-designed and co-implemented with iwi/hapū/whānau and communities at place.
- This launch provides a media opportunity to raise the profile of our marine reserves, particularly the new and growing network of Marine Rangers across the country, and demonstrate the actions we are taking to improve their management. We are currently scoping locations for the launch.
- If you wish to attend, we will work with your office to arrange logistics and provide briefing material.

Contact: Elizabeth Heeg, Aquatic Director: 9(2)(a)

#### 3.2 Predator Free NZ Trust Jobs for Nature apprenticeship workshop 3-5 August 2022

- The Predator Free NZ Trust Jobs for Nature apprenticeship programme provides a career path for people wanting to work in predator control and supports the goal of a predator free New Zealand by increasing the capacity and capability of the sector.
- The programme places apprentices with experienced pest control practitioners to undergo a two-year training programme with the aim of establishing a career in animal pest management. It involves completing their NZ certificate in Pest Operations (Level 3) or equivalent with a qualified tertiary provider, on-the-job training, and local on-the-ground support to community conservation groups.
- The Predator Free NZ Trust is organising a workshop at the Silverstream Retreat for approximately 70 Jobs for Nature apprentices and 60 representatives from their host organisations. There is a welcome dinner from 6pm on Wednesday 3 August, which you may wish to attend and open the event.
- The two days of workshops that follow will cover a range of topics including the Predator Free vision, emerging tools and technologies, working with communities, practical workshops on eradication vs suppression, Te ao Māori and Mātauranga Māori, mental resilience and wellbeing.
- We will work through logistics with your office should you be able to attend the opening event.

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

## 4 Appendices

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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 active legal matters
- Appendix 5 – Civil Litigation in Senior Courts

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# Department of Conservation Status Report

## for the Minister of Conservation

### Week beginning 16 May 2022

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

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Seen by Hon Kiri Allan  
**Minister of Conservation**

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1. Cabinet Paper Report
2. Jobs for Nature dashboard

# 1 Standing and Priority Items

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## 1.1 Jobs for Nature

### Jobs for Nature Summary

- Quarterly programme reporting to the Secretariat is due on 16 May, and this will be sent to SLU Ministers by the Secretariat in late May/early June.
- We are finalising the Quarterly Delivery Confidence Assessment of projects over \$1 million. This will be delivered to the Secretariat along with quarterly reporting. 9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Recruitment delays and COVID are the main reason behind projects with amber status. A summary of the Delivery Confidence Assessment will be included in the programme dashboard provided to SLU Ministers.
- A deep-dive learning review was carried out in Eastern South Island region recently, with four site visits conducted, and meetings held with regional Operations Director, Delivery Manager, and Partner, to provide insights on how the JfN delivery system is working in the region. Key themes include high dependency on the capability of Project Managers, a high level of felt accountability by Delivery Managers, and a high dependency on regional DOC (BAU) context.
- Assurance checks and payments to projects with milestones due are progressing. We are currently processing payments for projects with milestones due at the end February and March 2022.
- The JfN Unit are currently scoping a Regional Investment Review (RIR). The proposed RIR comes following the MartinJenkins work which recommended an analysis of project sustainability requirements, and mapping the risk profile of projects and regions to better support delivery, outcomes and value for money. This task is yet to be tested with SLT. JfN are currently inputting into DOC's Select Committee Estimates preparation.
- The next SLU meeting is scheduled for 29 June, to be confirmed by the Secretariat.
- The next Advisory Group meeting is on 18 May, where agencies will be providing an update on work underway around transition planning

### Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

- We are working with your office to arrange an event to announce the Māori Land Fund projects. The timing will depend on when the funding agreements have been finalised. DOC is preparing supporting materials, including media release and factsheets, for the event.

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

## 1.2 RMA advocacy

### Te Waikoropupū Springs, Tākaka - Water Conservation Order (WCO) appeal hearing

- An Environment Court hearing for appeals on the draft Water Conservation Order for Te Waikoropupū Springs is to be held between 16-27 May 2022. We will be represented at the hearing, in support of local iwi and residents who are the applicants seeking the WCO.

- The Springs are internationally recognised for their water purity and clarity and have great significance to local iwi. The site of the Springs (Te Waikoropupū Springs Scenic Reserve) is a DOC reserve, managed in conjunction with iwi and included as an overlay site in the 2014 Settlement Act with Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu, and Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui.
- The WCO is being sought to protect the natural state of the Springs and the Arthur Marble Aquifer which feeds the Springs.
- Key issues for the hearing are how to address nitrate intrusion into the Springs, and how the WCO controls should apply to existing consent holders on surrounding land.

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

### 1.3 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

9(2)(a)

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

- The Interim Oversight Group met with the Director-General on 5 May to present their initial proposals regarding governance, and an update will be provided to you in the next Status Report. The outcomes of this discussion will feed into the final recommendations to the Director-General, due end of June.

- The Monitoring and Reporting workstream are continuing their dialogue with agencies (MPI, MfE, LINZ, StatsNZ, MBIE, NIWA), regional councils and internal teams with a deadline of 20 May for feedback on indicators. The mātauranga Māori monitoring and reporting wānanga in Rotorua took place on 5-6 May and an update will be provided to you in the next Status Report. A proceedings report will also be released ahead of the consecutive South Island wānanga, scheduled for August/September.
- Work is underway to develop a collaboration and engagement action plan for 2022/23. The plan will take stock of existing collaboration across the sector, consider the needs of different stakeholder groups, and build on this to determine what is required to enable collaborative action planning for future ANZBS updates.
- Preparation work for the next iteration of the ANZBS Implementation Plan is ongoing with a focus on collective actions across the wider biodiversity sector, including with:
  - **Fisheries New Zealand:** A successful online meeting between DOC and Fisheries was held where the implications of Te Mana o Te Taiao for Fisheries were discussed and areas of existing collaborative work, such as national plans of action for seabirds and sharks, were identified. The response was positive and future collaboration is planned.
  - **Otago Biodiversity Forum:** Led by Otago Regional Council and includes local councils, DOC, LINZ and MfE. A presentation to the forum was well received and there are plans for further engagement with regional biodiversity decisionmakers. The ORC signalled their intent to ensure the ANZBS implementation plan is embedded within the next rewrite of the Otago Biodiversity Strategy.
  - 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]

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

1.5 9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]

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

- 9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted] 9(2)(a)

**1.6 Milford Opportunities**

- We expect to complete the process for appointing the Director of the Milford Opportunities Unit in May, enabling them to take up their duties shortly thereafter.
- Letters for signing by the Ministerial Group confirming the appointment of representatives of Environment Southland and Southland District Council to the MOP Board in an advisory role are to be sent to your office on 16 May.
- You spoke with MOP Board Chair Dr Keith Turner on 9 May in advance of your meeting with him on 12 May, for which you received an event memo [22-M-0077] with background information on the MOP Masterplan.

Contact: Claire Spencer, Manager Regional Visitor Planning, 9(2)(a)



- 9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]

[Redacted]  
9(2)(a) [Redacted]

**2.2** 9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]

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[Redacted] 9(2)(a)

**2.3** 9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]

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

[Redacted] 9(2)(a)



**2.4 9(2)(g)(i)**

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

[Redacted] 9(2)(a)

**2.5 Tiakina Ngā Manu predator control programme name change**

- The Tiakina Ngā Manu programme has been renamed 'the Department of Conservation's (DOC's) National Predator Control Programme'.
- The name change is intended to be more descriptive of the work the programme does, and will come into effect following Budget 2022.
- A communications plan has been prepared to advise key internal and external stakeholders of the name change and update programme communications and collateral.

Contact: Vicki Connor, Director Customer Engagement: 9(2)(a)

**2.6 Taranaki: North Egmont Visitor Centre redevelopment**

- In July 2021, we received \$2.8925 million funding from the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) to create an authentic cultural narrative through renovating the visitor centre at North Egmont as stage two of the Taranaki Crossing project.
- The project is a partnership between DOC, MBIE and Te Atiawa, and all parties are on the project governance group.
- It has taken time and careful negotiation but we have now worked through the issues crucial to the future of the centre, and have achieved consensus on the redefined scope of the project.

- 9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]
- [Redacted]



- 9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Contact: Dan Heinrich: Director Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

## 2.7 World Fish Migration Day

- World Fish Migration Day (WFMD) is a biennial global event, coordinated by the World Fish Migration Foundation (WFMF), is a non-profit focused on fish migration and river connectivity issues.
- WFMD aims to improve the public's understanding of the importance of migratory fish and how to protect them.
- This year the celebration features over 300 events across 63 countries. Event types include sport events, festivals, seminars, site visits, and more.
- At the WFMF's request, we are coordinating WFMD events for Aotearoa New Zealand.
- On 21 May, we are hosting an online campaign to raise awareness for DOC staff, partners, and the public. We are also hosting, co-hosting, or participating in events nationally over several days. These events include workshops, exhibits and public events, e.g., Te Hoiere/Pelorus Fish Fest.
- Full details on the types of events and dates are on the international WFMD webpage.
- The online campaign will include intranet and internet stories, as well as posts on our social media – Twitter, Instagram, Facebook.
- Contents will include facts about native migratory fish in Aotearoa New Zealand, fish passage and field stories from DOC freshwater staff.
- River connectivity, ki uta ki tai from mountains to sea is a core principle of freshwater and migratory fish conservation for DOC. WFMD is a great opportunity to bring attention to freshwater issues in New Zealand.

Contact: Elizabeth Heeg, Director Aquatic: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

**2.8 Launch of the Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP) on 16 May**

- The ERP outlines the Government's plan for reaching its climate targets and will be launched by the Prime Minister, Minister for Finance and the Minister for Climate Change at 11am on 16 May in the Beehive.
- New Zealand's emissions reduction plan is one of the first in the world to explicitly address the climate and biodiversity crisis together:
  - a guiding principle of the plan is for climate policy to protect, enhance and restore nature
  - nature-based solutions (such as wetlands for sea level rise) will be given priority in our regulatory systems
  - government is committed to restore native forests as part of our climate efforts.
- DOC led the working for nature chapter of the ERP. You have received the following related briefings:
  - Emissions Reduction Plan: Completion and launch of the first plan [22-K-0012].
  - Aligning climate and biodiversity policy in the Emissions Reduction Plan [22-K-0009].
  - Draft Emissions Reduction Plan chapter: Nature-based Solutions [22-B-0018].

Contact: Alex Smith, Senior Policy Advisor: 9(2)(a)

**2.9 9(2)(f)(iv)**

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

[Redacted]  
9(2)(a)

## 2.10 Weekly update on the COVID-19 pandemic response

### Omicron

- To date (from 1 March 2022) 322 DOC staff have advised that they have tested positive for COVID-19. The number of staff reporting as positive continues to slowly decline, with only 11 positive cases reported since 3 May 2022.
- Business remains largely 'as normal', and no services have been disrupted over the last week.

### Vaccine Mandates

- The 'staff, contractors, volunteers' vaccine mandate has been suspended effective 4 May and staff are working through a transition period reconnecting their teams at a workplace level. No significant disruptions to internal or external service delivery are expected.

Contact: Harry Maher, Director Health & Safety, 9(2)(a)

## 3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

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No items this week.

## 4 Appendices

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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)

# Department of Conservation Status Report

## for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 23 May 2022

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Seen by Hon Kiri Allan  
**Minister of Conservation**

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1. Cabinet Paper Report
2. Jobs for Nature dashboard

# 1 Standing and Priority Items

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## 1.1 Jobs for Nature

### Jobs for Nature Summary:

- The next quarterly reporting from projects will include more comprehensive questions on the impacts Covid-19 is having on delivery.
- Quarterly programme output reporting and the Delivery Confidence Assessment were sent to the Secretariat on 17 May. This will be included in the JFN cross-agency dashboard, which will be sent to SLU Ministers prior to the next meeting (currently proposed for 29 June).
- We have identified 27 projects that are reporting some outputs cumulatively (i.e. treating the same area multiple times). Guidance was sent to Delivery Managers and partners to clarify how these outputs are to be reported in the future. This work will be finished prior to the end of June 2022.
- Work has commenced on the scope and nature of the Regional Investment Reviews. This work will identify JFN projects that require further support to sustain outcomes created through JFN funding. The work will also clarify the additional risks and opportunities associated with projects.
- As part of the ongoing Level 2 assurance programme, we have scheduled deep dive learning reviews for the Western South Island (**WSI**) and Southern South Island (**SSI**) regions for the end of May/early June, including site visits to four projects in WSI and three projects in SSI.

### Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities:

- We 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

### Submissions:

Update on draft Te Tai o Poutini Plan, combined district plan for the West Coast - Schedule 1 RMA consultation

- Te Tai o Poutini Plan Committee are undertaking consultation on the draft Te Tai o Poutini Plan, the combined district plan for the West Coast region.
- In March 2022, we provided you with our comments on an earlier exposure draft of the plan.
- 9(2)(g)(i)
- We have discussed concerns with MfE, and they are seeking direction from their Minister.
- Comment on the draft is requested by 31 May 2022. We will keep you informed of any future engagement.

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McCullum Brothers Ltd, offshore sand extraction at Pakiri Beach, Mangawhai – application declined by hearing panel

- In May 2020, Auckland Council notified a resource consent application for McCullum Brothers Ltd to extract sand from the coastal marine area in water greater than 25m deep offshore from Pakiri.
- We submitted in opposition to the application. The key concern was the potential to trigger coastal erosion that would damage the breeding habitat of threatened birds and plants, in particular the tara iti (fairy tern), dotterel and pīngao (golden sand sedge).
- The hearing started in May 2021 but was adjourned to allow expert witness conferencing. Following further discussions with the applicant our concerns were addressed by proposed conditions and we no longer opposed grant of this consent.
- The hearing was completed in February 2022 and the application has now been declined. The panel highlighted the lack of certainty provided by experts on the impact of the proposed sand dredging.
- This was the first of three applications to be considered to extract sand offshore from Pakiri, with the other two being in shallower water, closer to the coast. DOC submitted in opposition to both of these applications, and we consider them to be higher risk to conservation values than the offshore application.

**Appeals:**

Aupouri Groundwater Consents Appeal, Northland / Te Tai Tokerau – Environment Court Hearing

- In August 2021, we appealed applications to take groundwater from the Aupōuri Aquifer, Northland / Te Tai Tokerau to the Environment Court. The proposed water takes are upstream of conservation areas containing nationally significant ecosystems or threatened species.
- Key conservation issues identified were: delegation of matters to management plans; lack of clear performance standards in the conditions; and the lack of a clear adaptive management framework.
- Since lodging the appeal, areas of agreement have been reached and the appeal scope narrowed, with an improved set of conditions proposed to better provide for conservation outcomes.
- Remaining matters are now limited to clarifying or enhancing the conditions, of which 2 have been actively discussed at the hearing this week: an additional rule to better protect conservation values from water level fluctuations; and support for Iwi to be able to nominate their representative(s) on the Review Panel for the adaptive management framework.
- The DOC planning and legal team are not tied to the relief sought and are effectively inviting the Court and other parties to consider more practical and appropriate ways to administer the applications.
- The Environment Court hearing commenced on 9 May 2022, effectively completing our interest in these applications, other than any role in the Review Panel.

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





- 9(2)(g)(i) [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[Redacted] 9(2)(a) [Redacted]

**1.6 Milford Opportunities**

No update this week.

## 2 Updates

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### 2.1 9(2)(h)

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

9(2)(a)

### 2.2 Review of the Wildlife Act 1953

- We have begun initial engagement with tangata whenua and stakeholders. The objectives of this first round of engagement are:
  - to socialise the review process and build relationships;
  - to test the policy process, be transparent about the inputs, and to ensure people can see how and when they can be involved; and
  - to understand issues people experience with the Wildlife Act and their aspirations for species management.
- The engagement hui are being undertaken in conjunction with the Conservation Management and Processes (CMAP) consultation. We aim to conclude the first round of engagement hui by the end of June, aligned with the deadline for submissions on the CMAP discussion document. We anticipate that a limited number of Wildlife Act review-specific hui may take place in early July.
- There will be additional opportunities to engage with the Wildlife Act review process throughout 2022.
- We have updated the Conservation Law Reform roadmap to support people to engage with various law reform projects, including the Wildlife Act review. We have also updated the DOC webpage, where the roadmap is housed, to provide additional up-to-date information.
- 9(2)(f)(iv)  
[Redacted]

Contact: Kayla Kingdon-Bebb, Director Policy: 9(2)(a)

### 2.3 9(2)(g)(i)

- [Redacted]



## 2.5 Central North Island – Tongariro Alpine Crossing

- Working alongside Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro, we have initiated key stakeholder engagement with government agencies, business, concessionaires and interest groups.
- There is common support amongst stakeholders for setting visitor restrictions long-term.
- 9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
- The proposal has been picked up in the media, with mixed response. We will continue to work with your office on media queries.
- We are working with Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro on an MOU, which will be finalised before your announcement of the pilot.
- We are confirming the date for the announcement with your office and participants, and also a pre-meeting with Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro.

Contact: Claire Spencer, Manager Regional Visitor Planning: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

## 2.6 Vesting of Taia Historic Reserve/Rekohu/Wharekauri/Chatham Island

- The Reserves Act Commissioner has completed his summary of submissions received on the public notice advising of the Minister of Conservation's intention to vest the reserve in Hokotehi Moriori Trust.
- We will supply the Commissioner's Report, and an accompanying DOC report asking you to make your final decision on the vesting proposal, in the week starting 20 June 2022.
- Your decision will be the last step in a vesting process that started in 2003.
- Officials are available to meet with you should you require further details on this matter.

Contact: Jack Mace, Director Operations, Lower North Island: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

## 2.7 Northern South Island – Rangitahi/Molesworth Management Plan Review

- We recently informed you we would be publicly announcing the review of the Rangitahi/Molesworth Conservation Management Plan on 12 May 2022.
- We have since been notified by Te Rūnanga a Rangitāne o Wairau they have commenced proceedings with the Waitangi Tribunal to clarify the relativities between themselves and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.
- As Crown Law has not yet served DOC with a copy of the claim, we have decided to wait a short period of time before we announce the review of the Plan to better understand how Rangitāne o Wairau's claim relates to Rangitahi/Molesworth.
- Officials are available to meet with you should you require further details on this matter.

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

## 2.8 Western South Island Region – Long fin Eel (Tuna) deaths Arnold River Dam

- Dead Long fin eel (tuna) were recently discovered by a group of kayakers downstream of the Arnold River Power Station, below Moana (Lake Brunner) on the West Coast. The exact number of tuna discovered is not known.
- The West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) are looking into this matter with the owners of the power station, Manawa Energy (formerly Trustpower).
- On 14 May 2022, the Greymouth Star incorrectly stated that DOC was investigating the incident. This is a resource consent compliance matter for WCRC to lead. We are supporting WCRC and Manawa Energy as they work through the issue and have informed Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae about the reported deaths.
- Manawa Energy have no records of this kind of incident in the past 29 years of the power station operating.
- Manawa Energy consider it possible that an unusual sequence occurred: a tuna migration event in a low water flow may have been suddenly impacted by heavy rainfall, most likely causing tuna to divert through the turbines rather than the overflow pathway. The WCRC concurs with this assessment. DOC will continue to work with both Manawa Energy and the WCRC on this.

Contact: Mark Davies, Director Tai Poutini Western South Island: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

## 2.9 Southern South Island – Rakiura Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara incursion response

- We have been actively undertaking a rodent incursion response on pest-free Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara Sanctuary, after the discovery of a rat on 13 February 2022.
- Ground-based poison operations were initiated in early March around the known area of rodent activity.
- Between 24 April and 5 May 2022, multiple rodents were detected and captured at widely dispersed locations around the island, after 20 days of no detections.
- \ As of 16 May, a total of 17 rodents have been caught in kill traps since February 2022.
- Our technical experts recommend standing down the incursion response, to consider initiating re-eradication. We are now considering the scope of re-eradication and planning a programme, which is likely to include use of aerially applied toxin.

Contact: Aaron Fleming, Director Operations Southern South Island: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

## 2.10 Kotahitanga mō te Taiao regional leadership group supporting Māori to fulfil their role as kaitiaki

- The Kotahitanga mō te Taiao regional leadership group, consisting of Iwi, Local Government, and DOC, in partnership with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), are working collaboratively across the top of the South Island and in northern Buller on conservation projects to transform the freshwater, terrestrial and marine landscapes.

- Led by TNC, the regional leadership group has successfully secured funding through the Rātā Foundation to support the capacity of Māori to engage in a Conservation by Design 2.0 planning process. The funding also directly supports quick win projects aligned with the group's strategy.
- Conservation by Design 2.0 is TNC's collaborative, science-based, and strategic framework for conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends, and is based on the international Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation. This community-led, adaptive, outcomes approach will enable the region to optimise its effort and resourcing to achieve the best possible biodiversity and social outcomes for the top of the South Island and northern Buller. It is an approach that can be tailored regionally and can therefore be replicated to optimise investment at scale.
- The Rātā Foundation funding will be provided to iwi partners for them to apply in a way that best supports contributing their expertise as they actively work with other partners throughout the process, from identifying challenges and goals through mapping strategies and determining what aspects need to be measured.
- Active engagement by Māori throughout all aspects of the process will ensure that the resulting prioritisation of work and implementation plans reflect their values and aspirations for the area.
- The regional leadership group will likely announce this work in the last week of May.

Contact: Matt Hippolite, Partnership Manager: 9(2)(a)

## 2.11 Health, Safety & Wellbeing

### Weekly update on the COVID-19 pandemic response

#### Omicron

- To date (from 1 March 2022) 330 DOC staff have advised that they have tested positive for COVID-19, an increase of 8 on last week.
- Once again business remains largely 'as normal', and no services have been disrupted over the last week.

Contact: Harry Maher, Director Health & Safety: 9(2)(a)



## 3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

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### 3.1 Invitation to open Australasian Wildlife Management Society Conference, Napier

- You have been invited to open the Australasian Wildlife Management Society (**AWMS**) conference in Napier on 6 December 2022.
- The AWMS promotes the use of science to inform management of species and habitats.
- The theme for the conference is Mountains to Sea, Ki Uta Ki Tai.
- The expected duration of the opening speech is 15 minutes (following the powhiri/whakatau).
- The last time this conference was held in New Zealand was 2016. Expected attendance is around 200.
- We will work with your office to firm up logistics should you be interested in this opportunity.

Contact: Jack Mace, Director Operations, Lower North Island: 9(2)(a)

### 3.2 Matariki Public Holiday 2022

#### Update on DOC's planned activity

- You asked DOC to prepare some communications to encourage New Zealanders to celebrate the new Matariki public holiday on 24 June 2022.
- DOC is planning a programme of internal activities, some regional activities, and communications on our external channels that brings a conservation perspective to celebrating the Matariki holiday.
- All activity aligns with the advice issued from the Matariki Advisory Committee on how to celebrate the Matariki holiday; at the heart of our activity will be the three major principles of Matariki and the value of mana taiao – environmental awareness.
- DOC will communicate on our public channels, predominately our social media, encouraging the public to get into nature with their whānau and sharing some of the activities being done by DOC teams and staff around the country.
- We can provide you with custom content for your channels if you wish.

Contact: Vicki Connor, Director Customer Engagement, 9(2)(a)

## 4 Appendices

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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)

# Department of Conservation Status Report

## for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 30 May 2022

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Seen by Hon Kiri Allan  
**Minister of Conservation**

DOCCM - 7029989

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## Attachments

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1. Cabinet Paper Report
2. Jobs for Nature dashboard

# 1 Standing and Priority Items

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## 1.1 Jobs for Nature

### Jobs for Nature Summary

- Assurance checks and milestone payments continue for projects with milestones due on 30 March 2022.
- We are continuing to work on the Regional Investment Review, with scoping for this work expected to be complete by the end of May.
- We have been working with the Secretariat to finalise quarterly programme reporting, which will be included in the multi-agency dashboard sent by the Secretariat to SLU Ministers.
- We are working with MPI to survey JFN projects that have native nursery components. This will help to understand plant supply across the country and enable us to track changes in planting trends.
- We are undertaking a review of the assurance process for milestone payments. The purpose of the review is to improve efficiency while maintaining and improving the confidence that we have in milestone delivery when releasing funds.
- We are proposing a deep-dive learning review for the Auckland region in mid-June and are in the process of confirming a selection of projects for this.
- We are focused on improving the timeliness and response rate for quarterly reporting from projects for the next quarterly reporting period. This will allow further time to validate the data and prepare reports for the Secretariat.
- The work to prepare DOC input into the Jobs for Nature programme Annual Report is underway, with an expected completion date of 17 October.
- We have finalised work to strengthen programme governance. The Governance Group met on 19 May, and with T3 Directors will focus on delivery oversight.
- 9(2)(g)(i)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### Advisory Group and SLU Minister Updates

- The Secretariat is proposing the next SLU Ministers meeting for 29 June.

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

## 1.2 RMA advocacy

No items this week

### 1.3 Resource Management (RM) reform

#### Delegated decisions for remaining matters

- 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: Kayla Kingdon-Bebb, Director Policy: 9(2)(a)

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

- The Interim Oversight Group (**IOG**) met with the Director-General on 5 May to present their initial proposals regarding governance at a principles level. The presentation was well-received. The Director-General requested the IOG to provide further advice on giving effect to the Treaty and operationalising governance principles (e.g., interactions and channels into NRS agencies). IOG is now developing their recommendations into a report, due to the Director-General at the end of June.
- Response to development of the interagency monitoring and reporting system continues to be positive. The Monitoring and Reporting workstream is working through the feedback received from agencies (MPI, MfE, LINZ, StatsNZ, MBIE, NIWA), regional councils and internal teams on the proposed indicators.
- The inaugural Te Ao Māori Monitoring and Reporting wānanga took place in Rotorua on 5-6 May. It was a positive first step to see work in action with Te Arawa Lakes Trust and collect the views of iwi subject matter experts to inform the future Te Ao Māori programme. Planning for the South Island wānanga, scheduled for late September, has commenced with Ngāi Tahu.
- The Collaboration and Engagement workstream has run two working group sessions to map stakeholders and gather input on the collaboration and engagement action plan for 2022/23. The plan will take stock of existing collaboration, consider the needs of different stakeholder groups, and build on this to determine what is required to enable collaborative action planning for future ANZBS updates.
- Following the launch of the Implementation Plan, an op-ed by Allan Brent and Matthew Haw from the Environmental Law Initiative was published on RNZ. They acknowledge the release of the Plan as an important first step, but also implore the need to do more, such as outlining more concrete actions to achieve aspirations of the Strategy, applying limits to freshwater and marine environments, and securing cross-party buy-in. Our position is that the actions listed in the Implementation Plan record foundation-building and achievable first steps towards meeting the Strategy's aspirations, and represent immediate steps to help bring that collective action about. As a living document, the Implementation Plan itself will expand over time as those actions are developed and resourced.
- Preparation for the next iteration of the ANZBS Implementation Plan is ongoing with identifying collective actions across the wider biodiversity sector and their contributions to the Strategy, and socialising the Strategy with stakeholders. This includes:
  - **PF2050 Collaborative Groups:** The groups are undertaking work mapping actions to the Te Mana o te Taiao goals. The implementation team is strengthening relationships with the groups to prepare for future implementation actions.



- **Environment and Climate Research Strategy (ECRS):** Led by Ministry for the Environment. A successful online meeting between the Te Mana o te Taiao implementation team and the ECRS team, where the work undertaken and planned by both teams were discussed. The teams will continue to share learnings.
- **BioHeritage National Science Challenge 'Crazy & Ambitious 3' conference:** An online presentation was delivered to participants of the 'Crazy & Ambitious 3' conference helping to raise the profile of Te Mana o te Taiao implementation work and foster connections throughout the wider sector.
- **Conservation Boards:** Update on implementation presentations were delivered to Auckland, Otago and Wellington Conservation Boards.
- **Crown Property leadership team LINZ:** A presentation was delivered to the Crown Property leadership team in LINZ about the strategy and their 2022 Implementation Plan commitments.

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

1.5 9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]

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



- 9(2) [REDACTED]  
(g) [REDACTED]  
(i) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

**1.6 Milford Opportunities**

- A briefing has been provided to your office accompanying letters of appointment for representatives of the Southland District Council and Environment Southland to the MOP Board. The issuing of these letters will complete the appointment process for the Board.
- We are revising the TOR that you noted in draft form on 15 October 2021 [21-M-0160] to reflect recent changes in the design of the Board, provide additional clarity on roles and accountabilities, and ensure alignment with the decisions of the Ministerial Group and Cabinet. This will be provided for approval by the Ministerial Group in June.
- We continue to work with your office to sequence your announcement of the Board following the issuing of the appointment letters .
- An event memo will be provided to your office by 3 June to support the convening of the Ministerial Group and Dr Turner.

Contact: Claire Spencer, Manager Regional Visitor Planning: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

## 2 Updates

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### 2.1 Select Committees' consideration of PCE weeds report

- The Environment and Primary Production Committees are considering the report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment on weeds that threaten native ecosystems. DOC provided a written submission to the Committees on 6 May and a copy has been provided to your office.
- We have been invited to provide an oral submission to the Committees on 2 June.
- We will advise of any outcomes in future Status Reports.

Contact: Meg Rutledge, Director Threats: 9(2)(a)

### 2.2 National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB)

- An exposure draft of the NPSIB was approved by Cabinet on 9 May 2022 [Cab-22-MIN-0162 refers] and will be released for targeted engagement on 30 May for a period of six weeks. This will be a further opportunity to ensure the NPSIB is workable and can be implemented well.
- The NPSIB will be the primary tool under the RMA to help address the ongoing decline of indigenous biodiversity. It is likely to be transferred into the National Planning Framework in the new Natural and Built Environments Act and is the key regulatory tool for implementing Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.
- DOC was part of the Joint Project Team that developed the exposure draft of the NPSIB but is not presently engaged in this work.
- The NPSIB has implications for DOC's work including how Public Conservation Land (PCL) is treated under the RMA, protection of wildlife habitat outside of PCL, and biodiversity monitoring. We will engage with MfE during the exposure draft period to ensure that any implications for DOC are properly considered and assessed.

Contact: Kayla Kingdon-Bebb, Director Policy: 9(2)(a)

### 2.3 Trade in Endangered Species Bill – timing of advice

- Two recent Status Report entries (Status Report 62 – week commencing 11 April 2022, and Status Report 66 – week commencing 9 May 2022) updated you on timelines for progression of the Trade in Endangered Species (TIES) Bill. Updated timelines have centred in particular around the controls on domestic sale of CITES-listed species, following advice from the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO).
- The reason for updated timeframes and delays were two-fold:
  - Legislative design – PCO recently advised that the domestic ban on the sale of CITES-listed species would require detail in the primary legislation that we had previously anticipated developing for regulation after enactment of the Bill. Further policy work is needed now in order to include more provisions in primary legislation [Status Report 62 refers];

- Drafting timing in relation to Cabinet – Earlier indications were that PCO may be able to draft such provisions ahead of Cabinet policy approvals, given related August 2020 approvals. This is no longer an option, meaning policy approvals are needed before drafting of these provisions, and before Cabinet approval to introduce the Bill [Status Report 66 refers].
- These two entries advised of a compounding delay to the TIES timeline, with the result being that we could not guarantee enactment of the revised TIES Act within this term of Parliament, but allows for the introduction of the Bill, the first reading and select committee by mid-2023.
- 9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
- We were recently advised that PCO support is affected by COVID-19. PCO expertise is needed to ensure that our preferred policy approach meets their preference for legislative design.
- Given the need for PCO involvement at this stage, timeframes will be delayed by approximately two weeks and the advice seeking your decisions [22-B-0359] will now be provided to you mid-June. This will also contain a revised timeline for the TIES work programme.

Contact: Kayla Kingdon-Bebb, Director Policy: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

#### 2.4 Shore plover deaths at Cape Sanctuary and Isaac Wildlife Conservation Trust

- Tūturuatu / shore plover is an endemic shorebird with fewer than 250 adult birds in the wild. It is ranked “Threatened – Nationally Critical”.
- There are thirty-eight birds in captivity. We reported previously on shore plover deaths in March and April (Status Report 65 for week beginning 2 May refers).
- Two more adult birds from Cape Sanctuary died in late April while at Wildbase at Massey University for treatment. This brings the total number of Cape Sanctuary shore plover deaths in April to five, from a captive population of fourteen (plus three juveniles).
- The likely cause of death is bacterial infection from the drinking water.
- In addition, four more adult birds died at Isaacs, in Christchurch, in April and early May. This brings the total number of shore plover deaths at Isaacs this year to seven, from a captive population of twenty-four (plus fourteen juveniles).
- These four birds died from bacterial septicaemia. Some had similar pathology to the Cape Sanctuary birds, but there is less evidence that contaminated water is the cause.
- We are working closely with both Cape Sanctuary and Isaacs to mitigate further deaths, while exploring longer term solutions such as water filtration options for the aviary.
- On 5 May, nine juvenile shore plovers were released at Waikawa Island, off the North Island east coast, as part of the captive breeding programme.
- 9(2)(g) [REDACTED]  
(i) [REDACTED]

Contact: Ian Angus, Director Terrestrial Science Unit: 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

2.5 s9(2)(g)(i)

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

9(2)(a)

2.6 Eastern South Island Region: Hooker River Landfill

- In February 2022 a flood of the Hooker River exposed an old landfill site along the riverbank in Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park. The landfill was in operation from approximately 1960–1986. The exposure may gather public interest.
- We have completed an interim site management plan and the next steps for the site are:
  - Installing erosion monitoring markers, fencing and signage;
  - Cleaning up exposed waste (approximately 1.6km downstream of the site);
  - Commencing monthly monitoring of the site; and
  - WSP consultants have been engaged to design temporary erosion protection, to enable us to get the physical work on site completed as soon as possible.
- Environment Canterbury and Mackenzie District Council have been notified of the situation and we will engage with tangata whenua and the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board before the end of May.

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

2.7 Western South Island Region: Heavy rain event 9 May 2022 – damage to the Old Ghost Road Great Ride / Kahurangi National Park

- A heavy rain event on 9 May caused significant damage to a section of the popular Old Ghost Road (OGR) Great Ride cycling and walking track.

- The OGR is an 85km multi-day mountain bike and walking track, mainly within Kahurangi National Park, that receives up to 10,000 visitors annually.
- We closed the track on 10 May after a rapid assessment of storm damage was undertaken. The full closure as a through-experience has now been changed to a partial closure of 15km of the southern end of the track, after a fuller damage assessment. The northern portion of the track can be accessed from Seddonville as an in-and-out journey.
- The OGR is a significant component of the social and economic fabric of the Buller and Grey Districts as it delivers significant visitor revenues and benefits to the communities of Reefton and Westport. The number of visitors booked to walk or ride the OGR during this partial closure is around 500.
- The OGR was built and is managed by the Mokihinui-Lyell Backcountry Trust (MLBCT). The Trust maintains the track in partnership with DOC.
- The closed section of the track, from the Lyell Campground towards Lyell Saddle Hut, has sustained significant damage. There are slips in every waterway from the hill tops down to the creek beds.
- Parts of the track follow a historic gold mining trail, but the storm event did not significantly affect archaeological sites. We are working closely with the MLBCT to ensure protection of the historic fabric associated with the track while repairs are being completed.
- The MLBCT have sought funding from MBIE's 'Maintaining the Great Rides' fund and 'Extreme Event Funding' pool.
- The MLBCT have started reinstatement of the track and are already 6kms in. They are working with urgency and the goal is to re-open the track in mid-June. We will update you when the OGR is reopened.

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

2.8 9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
9(2)(a) [REDACTED]



**2.9** 9(2)(g)(i)

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
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9(2)(a)

**2.10** 9(2)(g)(i)

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

9(2)(a)

2.11 9(2)(g)(i)

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

[REDACTED] 9(2)(a)



### **3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities**

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None this week.

### **4 Appendices**

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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)