

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 1 November 2021

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

DOCCM - 6817510

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1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Jobs for Nature Summary:

- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] There are 167 projects in delivery, 36 projects in contract negotiations and four projects completed.
- [REDACTED]
- As of 26 October, the total number of Written Parliamentary Questions received by Jobs for Nature with a due date of 30 August or later is 1,427.
- Data migration into the Enquire funds management tool is nearing completion and we are now moving into the user testing and training phase for both Jobs for Nature unit staff and Delivery Managers. The tool is on track to go live in early December.

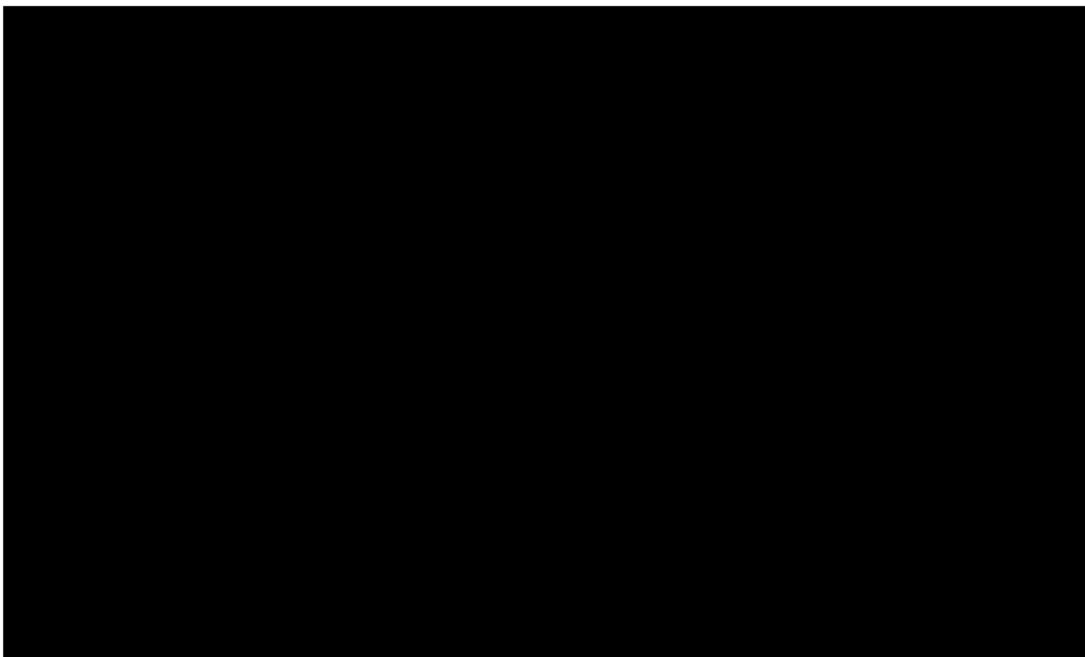
Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

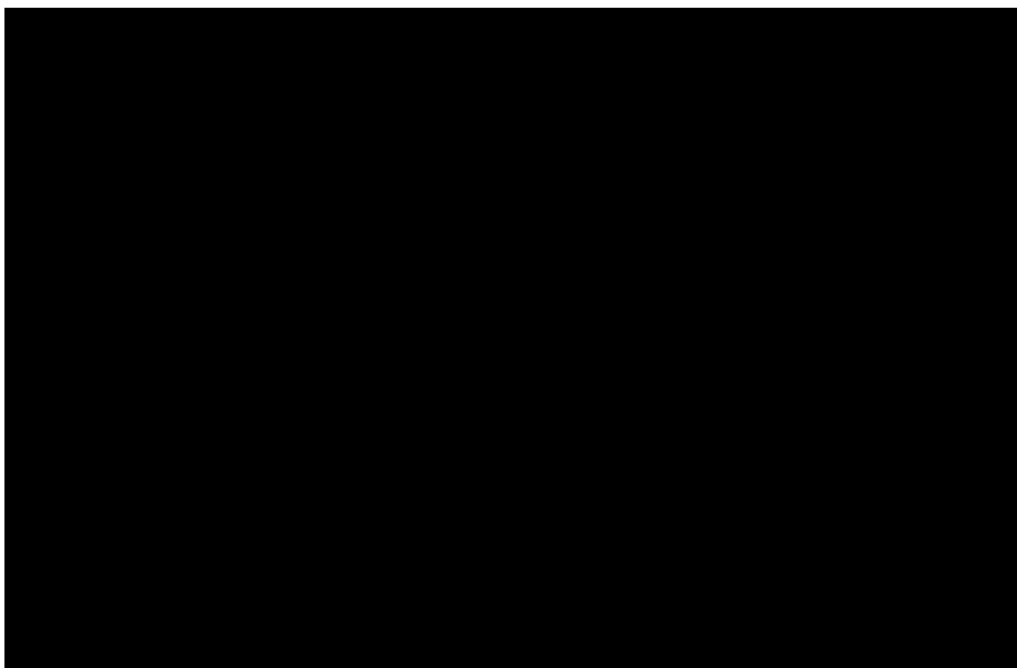
- Your office is looking into the possibility of arranging a visit to the Bay of Islands to announce JFN project Te Papa Paorooro (JFN00058) alongside the BOI Marine Mammal Sanctuary. Potential dates are 16 or 17 November.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: [REDACTED]


1.2 RMA Advocacy


No items this week





1.4 Reclassification of Stewardship Land Programme

- On 15 October, a joint memo was lodged with the High Court to adjourn the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu judicial review proceedings for an additional two weeks, until 5 November. This further adjournment was sought by Ngāi Tahu.
- We are waiting for Ngāi Tahu to sign off the Stewardship Land Reclassification Agreement.
- 
- You are seeking approval from the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee on 28 October to release the stewardship land discussion document on proposed legislative amendments.

Contact: 

2 Updates

2.1 East Coast: Korarā at Eastland Port Seawall Project

- Our Gisborne office received complaints from the public regarding perceived displacement of little penguin/korarā resulting from the Eastland Seawall upgrade project at the Port of Gisborne.
- The Gisborne District Council issued a resource consent to the Port of Gisborne for the seawall upgrade in 2017, and work commenced in June this year.
- Following the complaints, DOC staff met with Port of Gisborne and Ngāti Oneone to discuss the issue and confirmed that there were korarā onsite.
- Construction was then halted, and a more comprehensive survey undertaken by DOC, Port of Gisborne and Ngāti Oneone on 27 October.
- As mitigation, we recommended that 30 korarā nesting boxes and a screen fence be installed along the top of the seawall to stop korarā from entering the port log yard. Signs to alert the public that korarā are in the area have also been put up.
- We are developing a joint agency long-term monitoring plan with Port of Gisborne and Ngāti Oneone to ensure effects on korarā are minimised.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Management Planning System (MPS) review update

- We have undertaken a systems-level review of our Management Planning System. We first briefed you on the scope of this review on 5 March (21-B-0104). The MPS is where we develop, implement, and monitor delivery of our statutory planning documents (Conservation Management Strategies, National Park Management Plans, and Conservation Management Plans).
- From May through July, after making initial findings, we engaged with representatives from tangata whenua, conservation boards, and stakeholders to test our findings. We then developed recommendations to deliver system change in August. Recommendations include a strong focus on how to shift our organisational culture to ensure statutory plans are valued and used appropriately.
- We have prioritised implementing outcomes that will impact on how statutory plans are developed. Changes will include establishing a DDG-level internal governance group to have oversight of the MPS and resolve process issues, defining clear accountabilities throughout the planning process to ensure delivery, and working in a different way with tangata whenua when we establish projects. The governance group will meet before the end of the year.
- We will be applying system changes to current and upcoming statutory planning processes, including the Aoraki National Park Management Plan review and the upcoming Fiordland National Park Management Plan review. This will allow us to test changes at different phases of the process.
- Outcomes from the review are informing proposed near-term conservation legislative amendments through the Conservation Streamlining Bill.
- The New Zealand Conservation Authority has also requested an external review of our MPS. We have commissioned the Environmental Defence Society (EDS) to undertake a legislative and policy review that will inform

future legislative changes. The EDS review is due to report its findings in August 2022.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Gender, Māori and Ethnic Pay Gap Action Plan

- DOC published its Gender, Māori and Ethnic Pay Gap Action Plan on 29 October. The Action Plan sits under our Inclusion and Diversity work programme, which is a key priority for DOC. Government agencies have been creating Gender Pay Gap (GPG) action plans since 2019. This year's Action Plan includes data for the first time on Māori and Ethnic Pay Gaps (EPG).
- DOC has a low overall GPG of 2% compared to the national public sector GPG of 9.6% (as at 31 March 2021). Last year we reported a 1% GPG. There is currently no reason to believe that DOC's overall GPG is caused by unjustified factors, such as bias.
- Data has been analysed for DOC's Māori, Asian and Pacific Peoples' population. The Māori pay gap at DOC is 7% using average salaries compared to 9.3% across the Public Service. Initial analysis indicates the Māori pay gap is largely caused by Māori being under-represented in certain roles. As part of the 2021/22 work programme, focussing on attracting, recruiting, and retaining Māori staff across the organisation at all levels is a critical priority.
- The number of employees at DOC who identify as Asian or Pacific Peoples is low. At this stage, it is difficult to undertake detailed analysis to understand whether there are pay gap issues with these groups. The Asian pay gap at DOC is currently negative (-10%) when using average salaries. This indicates that the average Asian salary is higher by 10% than the average non-Asian salary. The Pacific Peoples pay gap at DOC is 1% using average salaries.

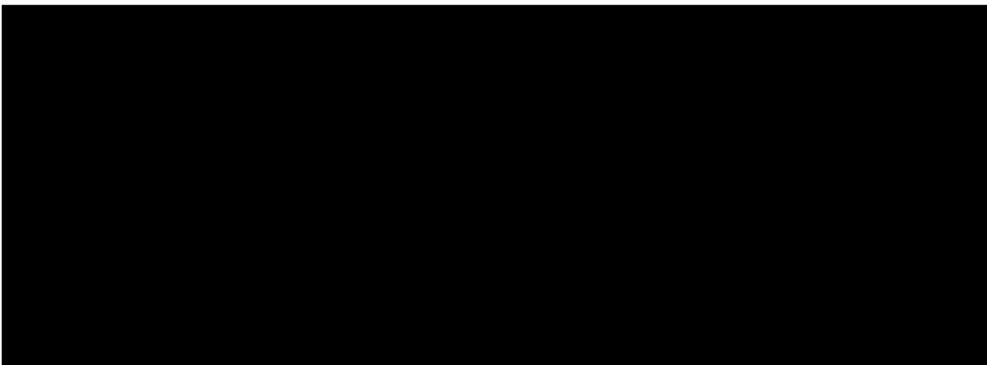
Contact: Ginny Baddeley, Deputy Director-General People: [REDACTED]

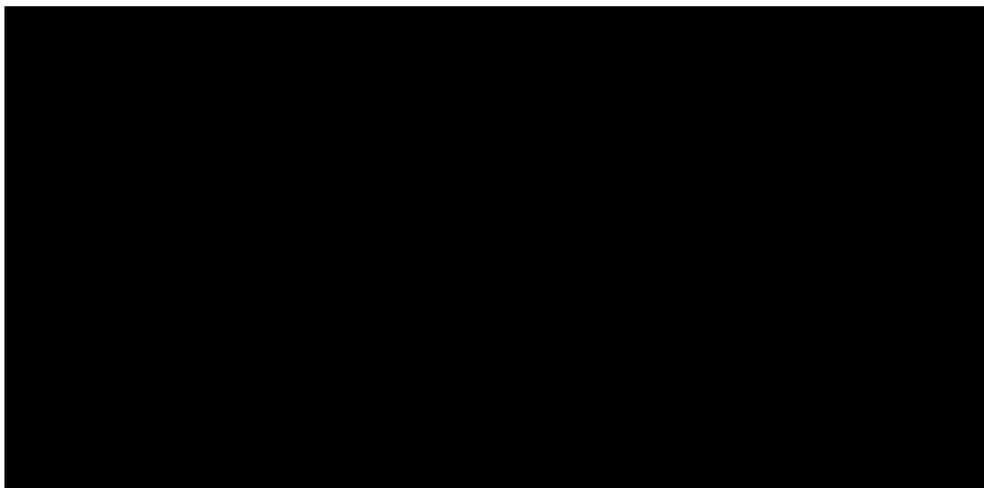


2.5 Tai Poutini / Western South Island: Population Management Kapitea skink

- The construction of a predator-free fence at the new Kapitea Scientific Reserve north of Hokitika has been completed and is protecting one hectare of habitat for the Nationally Critical Kapitea skink.
- In 2018, Cyclone Fehi depleted the skinks' natural coastal habitat by 40% and many skinks were displaced or killed. The known population at that time was approximately 300.
- As a result of the damage, we relocated 50 skinks to Auckland Zoo. Through breeding we now have 65 Kapitea skinks currently being held at the zoo.
- At the new site contractors are building 20x20m release pens that the zoo skinks will be released into:
 - Two pens will be built inside the predator proof area so that we can keep a closer eye on the skinks for the first few seasons to ensure that they are doing well. This is called a 'soft release'.
 - Two more release pens are being built outside of the predator proof area to answer the research question of whether a lower and much cheaper "leaky" fence design that excludes only rodents, provides enough protection to ensure skink recovery. If this type of design is successful, it could replace the expensive full predator-proof fences used in the past.
- We plan to have a site event opening and blessing of the skink reserve on 27 November, which you may like to attend. We will work with your office on further details.
- The opening will be a significant event for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae, as the iwi has supported the management intervention and the translocation of the skinks from the site in 2018 and is looking forward to their return home.
- From December onwards over the summer, an Otago Masters student will monitor the skinks and collect post-release data.

Contact:





2.7 Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Weekly update on the COVID-19 pandemic response:

- Staff in Auckland and parts of the Waikato remain at various levels of lockdown. Essential work is being undertaken to ensure species survival at specific places.
- The 'Traffic Light' system announced on 22 October has led to a programme of policy work to prepare DOC to operate efficiently and effectively under the new framework.
- Key policy areas will focus on employment law, visitors and partners, and conflict between vaccinated and unvaccinated staff, visitors, contractors, and volunteers.
- We are currently working on a policy to require mandatory vaccination status for customers on DOC Great Walks and some other bookable accommodation.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

None this week.

4 Director-General Engagements

November

1 Nov	Pōwhiri for Penny Nelson, DOC Wellington
2 Nov	Penny Nelson meeting with Minister Allan
8 Nov	Lou Sanson - Farewell event, Banquet Hall, Parliament
18-19 Nov	Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Martinborough
24 Nov	Te hāpai hāpori Spirit of Service Awards, Dominion Museum, Wellington
25 Nov	DOC Risk and Assurance Committee, DOC Wellington
30 Nov	SLT 'Team Day', Wellington

December

7 Dec	DOC Christmas Party, TBA Wellington
9 Dec	Annual Review Environment Select Committee, Parliament
9-10 Dec	NZCA meeting, Wellington

5 Appendices

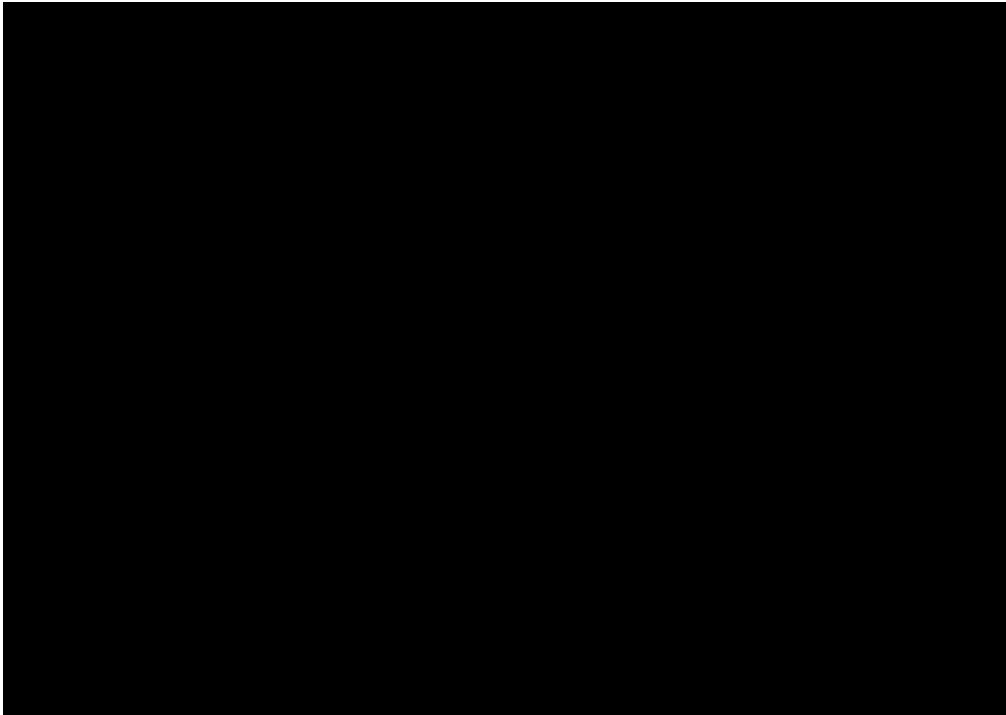
The following appendices are provided to support this status report:

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

Status Report 47 – week beginning 1 November 2021 – Confidential items

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Department of Conservation Status Report

for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 8 November 2021

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

DOCCM - 6823894

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1. Cabinet Paper Report
2. Jobs for Nature dashboard

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Jobs for Nature Summary

- [REDACTED]
- As of 2 November 2021, there are 169 projects in delivery, 34 projects in contract negotiations and 4 projects complete.
- We are currently assessing 13 applications for the Māori Land Fund, [REDACTED]. The fund is already oversubscribed with applications totalling \$17 million, and we have now stopped receiving applications. This has been updated on the DOC website.

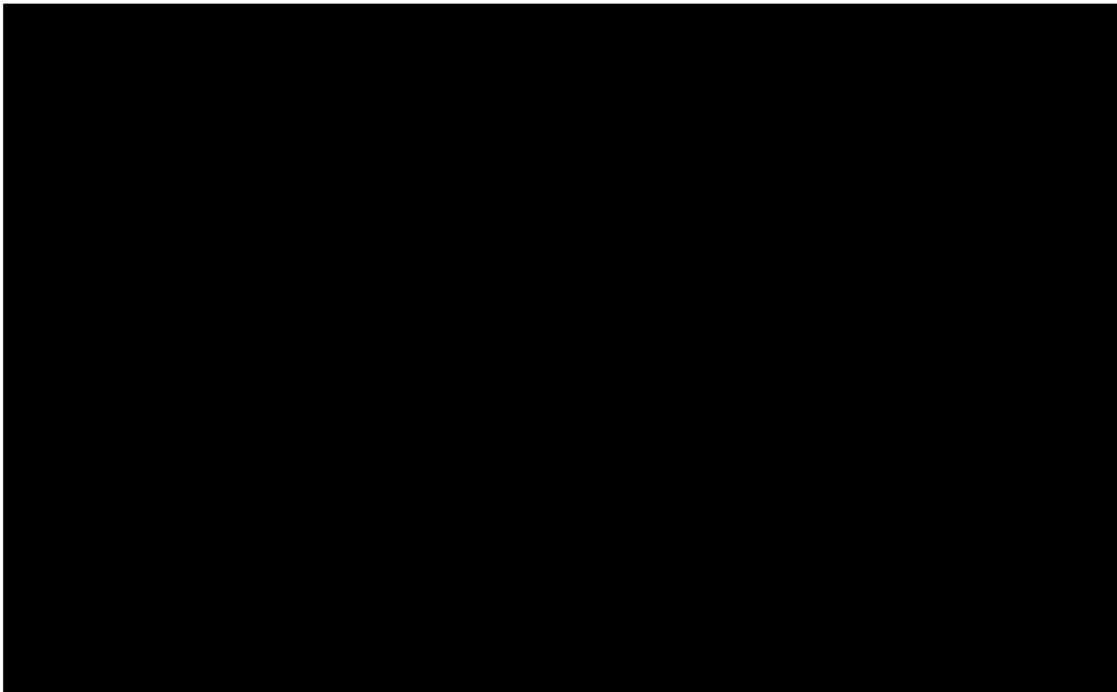
Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

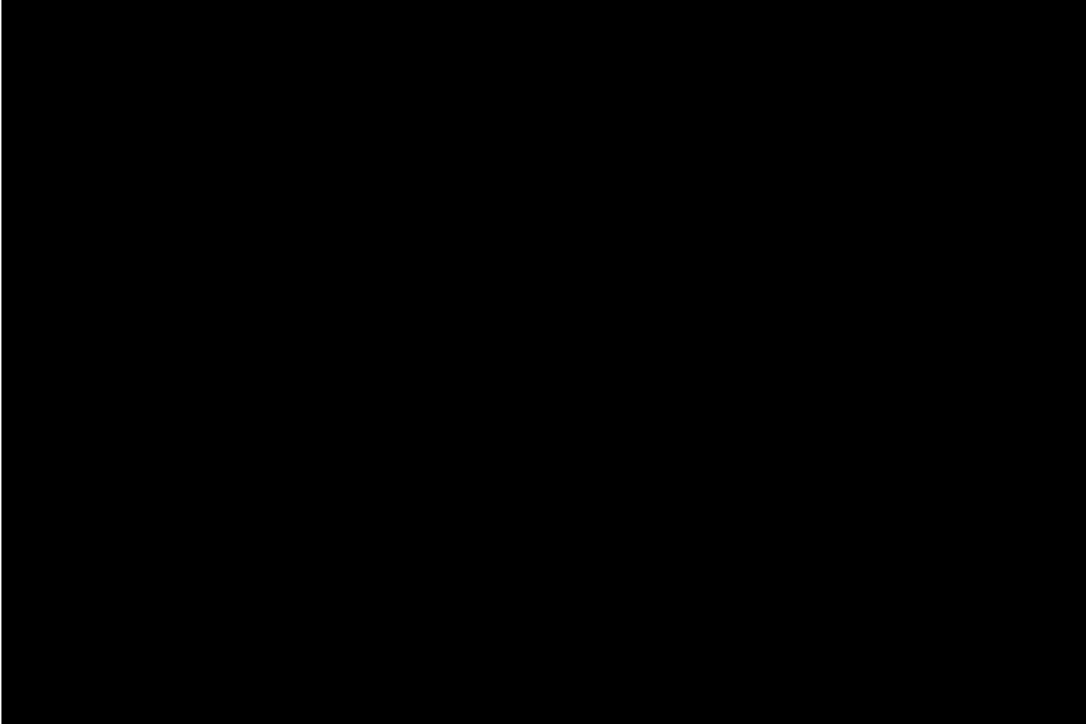
- Your office is looking into the possibility of arranging a visit to the Bay of Islands to announce JFN project Te Papa Paorooro (JFN00058) alongside the BOI Marine Mammal Sanctuary. There are possible dates of 16 or 17 November.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: [REDACTED]

1.2 RMA Advocacy

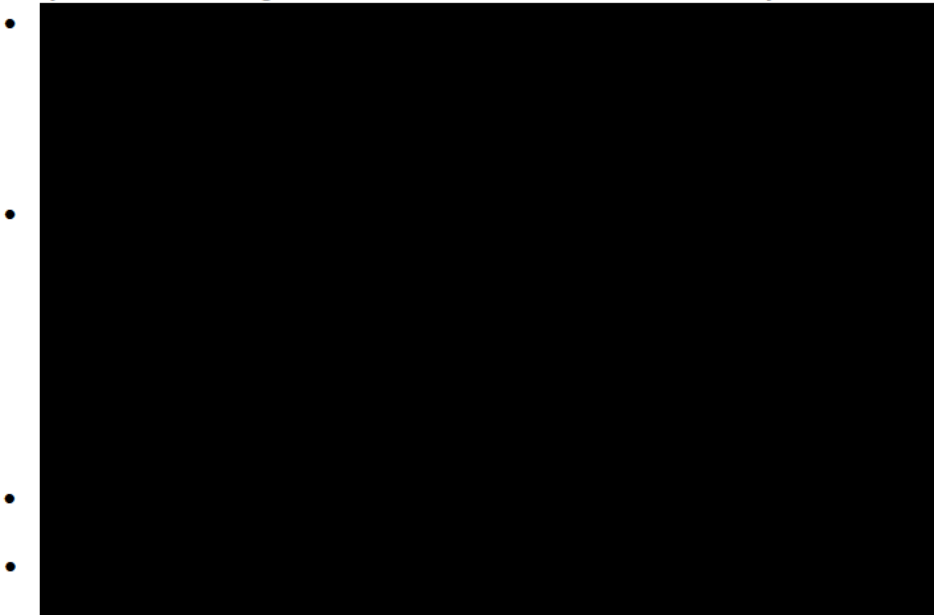
No items this week.





1.4 Stewardship Land Reclassification

- On 28 October Lisa Tumahai signed the stewardship land reclassification agreement.
- On 1 November Buddle Findlay filed a notice of discontinuance for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae Incorporated and Te Rūnanga o Makaawahio Incorporated for the judicial proceedings against yourself, the Acting Minister of Conservation, and the Attorney-General.



- We have met with MBIE to discuss their engagement in this programme of work.
- We plan to release the stewardship land legislation discussion document, and the accompanying media release, on 10 November.

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- We intend to do a media release on 10 November outlining the legislation discussion document, that an agreement has been reached with Ngāi Tahu, and that national panels are being convened in November to begin the work.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2 Updates

2.1 Northern South Island: Investigation into deliberate deaths of New Zealand fur seals – Kaikōura

- On Tuesday, 2 November 2021, Kaikōura DOC rangers confirmed, following a tip off, that several adult fur seals had been killed north of Kaikōura, near Half Moon Bay.
- The police have been notified and are working with DOC on an investigation.
- A Principal Compliance Officer completed a fuller investigation on 3 November, confirming five dead adult seals at the first location, and six dead adult seals at another location, within the Ōhau Point New Zealand Fur Seal Sanctuary.
- There is evidence of possible gunshot wounds.
- Today the team will be getting statements from those who provided tip-offs, and will establish a plan for further searching and monitoring of the coastline.
- DOC is preparing a joint media statement with Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura that will request anyone with information to come forward.
- This is at least the third serious case of foul-play investigated on fur seals in this region in the last 10 years.
- While fur seal numbers are increasing nationally, they still remain a fraction of their pre-exploitation population. In addition the Kaikōura seals face a variety of pressures, an example being the loss of habitat when the 2016 earthquake and subsequent road works forced seals to relocate with much of the largest breeding colony in the region located at Ohau Point.
- With the roadworks now largely finished and the seals re-establishing themselves on the coastline, DOC is now in a position to gather baseline data on the status of the population in the region.
- You have asked specific questions around this case and a briefing is being prepared to address these. Officials will also keep you apprised of any updates in the case.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Tai Poutini Western South Island – whale bones at Kawatiri

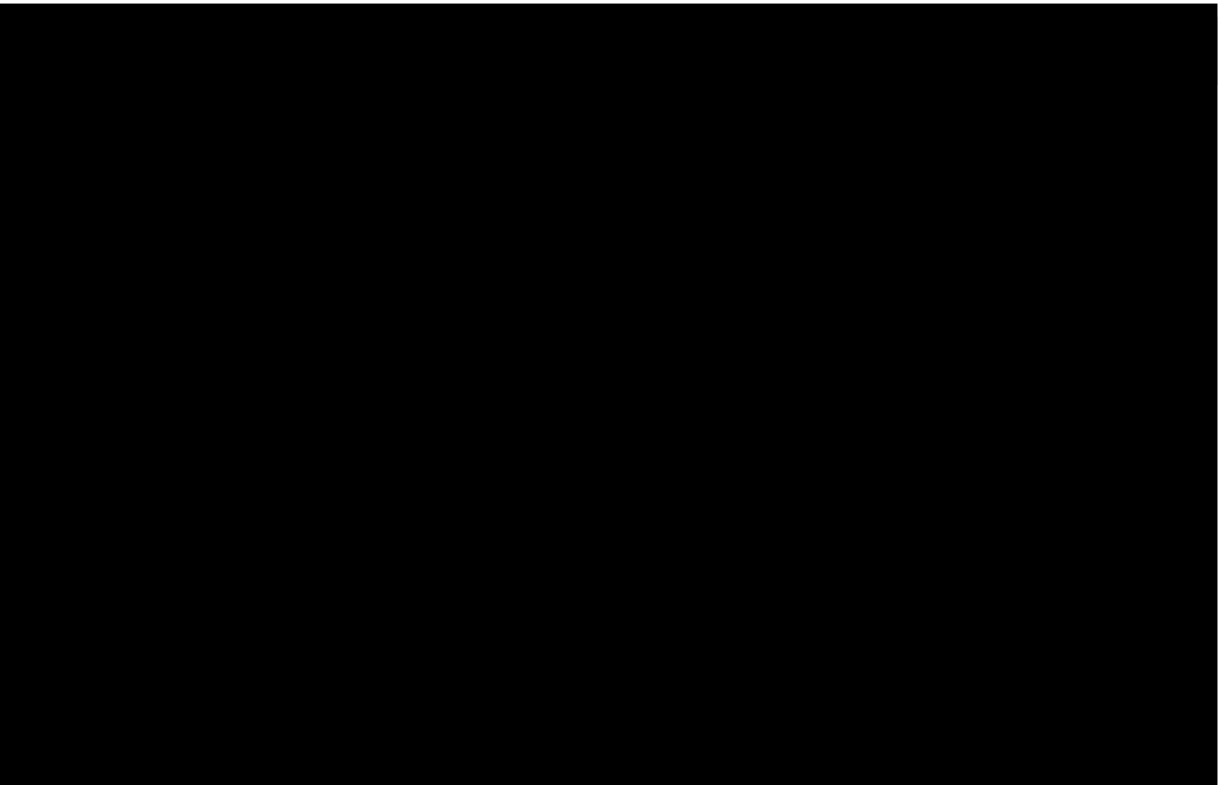
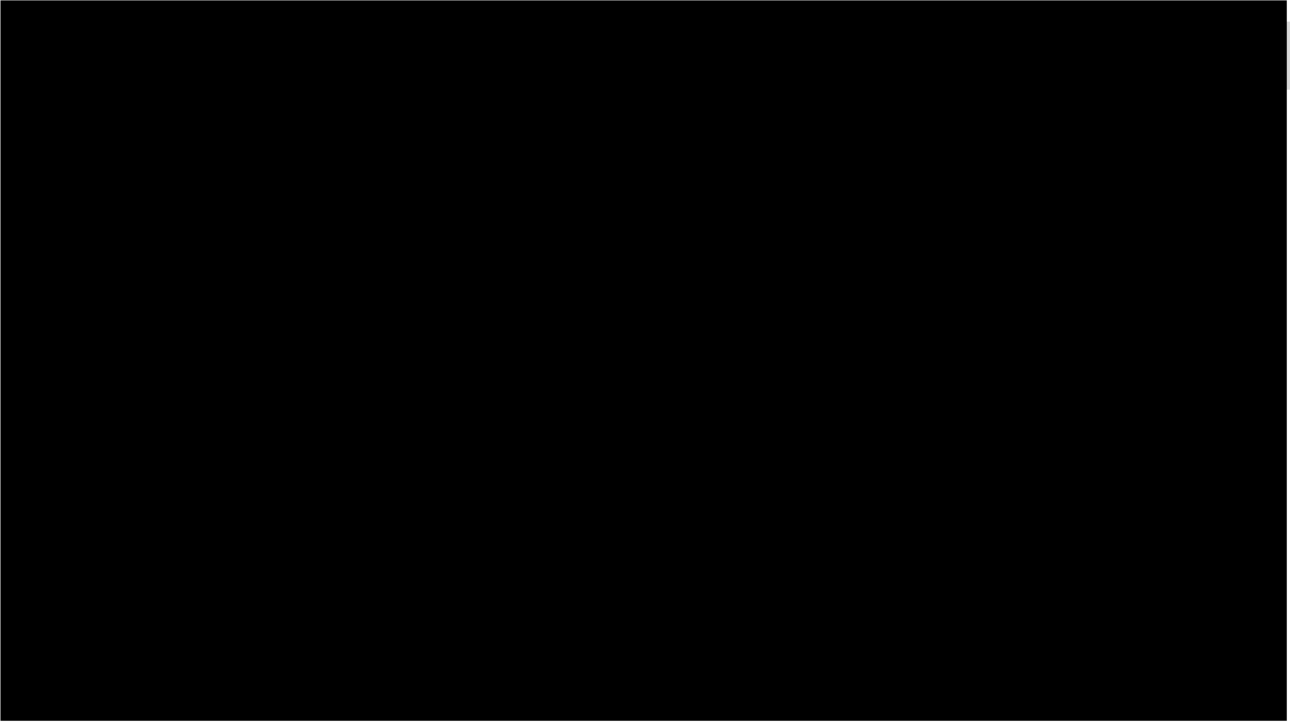
- A badly decayed front portion of a fin whale recently washed up and was discovered on Orowaiti Spit, just north of Westport.
- Ngāti Waewae requested that the taonga bones be buried, so they can retrieve them at a later date. Rangers removed the skull and the bones and buried them at an agreed site nearby.
- Other parts of the whale may wash up over the next few weeks and we will continue to work with Ngāti Waewae on any discoveries.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 Southern South Island – Rakiura National Park bed bugs return

- Bed bugs were found in late October in the North Arm hut on the Rakiura Great Walk, despite a programme to eradicate them. The eradication programme included removing the lining of the hut walls and fumigating multiple times.
- Bed bugs were a significant issue in the 2020/2021 Great Walk season at the same hut, causing disruption to the Rakiura Great Walk season and impacting on visitors' experience. The issue was also reported in the media.
- Our staff have been responding to the bed bug sighting. We have undertaken a deep-clean, as well as gap-filling and spraying, and our most recent thorough check did not find any more bed bugs. We are ready to escalate our response should the situation worsen and can respond to any media enquiries.


Contact: [REDACTED]






2.7 Funding for Samoan Conservation Society – 'Save the Manumea' campaign

- DOC's International Team has successfully secured \$99,000 (over two years) from MFAT's Pacific Enabling Fund (PEF) to support the work of the Samoa Conservation Society. MFAT agreed to provide this funding to help implement a project to save Samoa's national bird, the Manumea, and to restore rainforests and increase climate resilience in Samoa's villages.
- The Save the Manumea campaign was launched by the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Samoa Hon Fiame Naomi Mata'afa (then Deputy PM and Minister of Natural Resources and Environment) at the New Zealand High Commission in Apia (July 2019).
- This campaign is designed to raise awareness and help Samoan people work together to save the Manumea. The bird is threatened by loss of natural habitat and hunting, is IUCN listed as critically endangered, provides significant value for natural ecosystems, and is culturally significant as an esteemed source of food.
- The MFAT administered funding is only accessible to government agencies and is intended to support the Pacific Reset/Pacific Resilience. The Samoa Conservation Society was considered a suitable fit for the PEF and their work is well aligned with DOC's Pacific Strategy, which aims to extend New Zealand's conservation reach to the Pacific and build capacity to manage natural and cultural heritage.

Contact: 

2.8 General Assembly election for World Heritage committee members

- The 23rd Session of the General Assembly of State Parties to the World Heritage Convention will be electing 12 new members to the World Heritage Committee to replace outgoing members in November 2021 (meeting date still to be confirmed).
- NZ will be represented at the meeting by our Embassy in Paris.
- The World Heritage Committee is responsible for the implementation of the Convention. It selects the sites to be listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger, and it allocates the World Heritage Fund.
- The process for voting for World Heritage Committee members is regionally based and very complex. The timeframe for receiving candidatures closed on 13 October 2021. Voting is undertaken by DOC as State Party or lead agency for the Convention.
- DOC and MFAT have assessed the candidatures and voting will be guided by their alignment with NZ World Heritage priorities and the strength of bilateral relationships.

Contact: 

2.9 Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Weekly update on the COVID-19 pandemic response

- Some restrictions for Auckland and parts of the Waikato are being eased. This is not expected to have any immediate effect on most staff as offices are still not accessible and much field work is on-hold. Some staff in Hamilton have been allowed to return to the office for health and wellbeing reasons.
- The programme of policy work to prepare ourselves for the new Traffic Light system is underway. We are undertaking this work with our colleagues across the public sector, Te Kawa Mataaho, and the PSA, to translate the framework and understand the risk assessments and subsequent policy decisions.
- COVID risk assessments regarding mandatory vaccination status are being initiated for kākāpō recovery work on Whenua Hou and Anchor Islands, and Sub-Antarctic voyages.
- Mandatory vaccination status for customers on DOC Great Walks and some other bookable accommodation is under consideration.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

3.1 Eastern South Island – Kākāriki karaka translocation to The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary

- Kākāriki karaka (Orange-fronted parakeet) are a Nationally Critically Endangered species, considered at the brink of extinction. The total population is 441, with 78 held in captivity and an estimated 363 in the wild. Wild sub-populations are restricted to the Hurunui South Branch and Poulter Valleys in North Canterbury, and Blumine Island in the Marlborough Sounds.
- One of our priority actions for the species is to undertake a translocation from captivity to the Brook Waimārama Sanctuary near Nelson, to establish a new sub-population.
- We plan to translocate 20 juvenile, captive-bred kākāriki from the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust to holding aviaries in The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary on Tuesday 16 November.
- We will then have a site event to release the kākāriki into the sanctuary on Thursday 18 November, which you may wish to attend. We can work with your office on logistics as they develop.
- This will be a significant event for Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga and the iwi of Te Tau Ihu, as they are supporting the translocation of this taonga species.
- From 19 November 2021, for 6 weeks, DOC rangers will follow the kākāriki and collect post release data.
- If this translocation is successful, a second translocation of 20 juvenile kākāriki is planned for the third week of December 2021.

Contact: [REDACTED]

4 Director-General Engagements

November

- 6 Nov Conservation Board Chairs meeting, Area Events, Wellington
- 8 Nov Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu monthly hui with CEO and Chair, via MS Teams
- 8 Nov Lou Sanson farewell event, Banquet Hall Parliament
- 9 Nov Te Urewera Board hui, Taneatua
- 11-12 Nov Nelson/Marlborough Regional Visit, Nelson
- 18-19 Nov Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Martinborough
- 24 Nov Te hāpai hāpori | Spirit of Service Awards, Dominion Museum, Wellington

December

- 2-3 Dec Southland Regional Visit, Invercargill/Queenstown
- 9 Dec Annual Review Environment Select Committee, Parliament
- 9-10 Dec NZCA meeting, Wellington

5 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)

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Department of Conservation Status Report

for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 15 November 2021

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

DOCCM - 6830542



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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2.4	[REDACTED]	8
2.5	[REDACTED]	9
2.6	[REDACTED]	9
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1. Cabinet Paper Report
2. Jobs for Nature dashboard

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Jobs for Nature Summary:

- [REDACTED]
- As of 9 November 2021, there are 14 projects in assessment, 171 projects in delivery, 32 projects in contract negotiations and 4 projects complete.
- Since the beginning of November, the Jobs for Nature Unit has received 251 written parliamentary questions. Staff resources have had to be re-distributed to respond to the surge in numbers, but we have systems in place to manage these numbers.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: [REDACTED]

1.2 RMA Advocacy

Submissions:

Hamilton City Plan change 5 – Peacocke Structure Plan

- Hamilton City Council notified a review of the Peacocke Structure Plan regarding housing development in the Peacocke Area, which was created in 2007 and reviewed in 2012.
- The Peacocke Structure Plan is not considered fit for purpose, as it does not protect New Zealand's Critically Endangered Long-Tailed Bat and their habitat in this area.
- On 5 November 2021, the Director-General submitted that:
 - the Structure Plan will not adequately protect conservation values against the potential adverse effects of development.
 - there are gaps in the identification, mapping, and protection of significant natural areas, including habitat that is used by the Long-Tailed Bat.

Hearings:

Otago Regional Water Plan Change 7

- The Environment Court's interim decision on 22 October 2021 confirms the approach to be taken to renewal of existing water rights in Otago that are due for replacement as resource consents.
- The approach is consistent with the approach sought by the Director-General to provide for existing priorities of water takes that preserve flows and habitat for threatened native fish, and recognises the importance of catchments in Otago for threatened galaxias fish species.
- Final decision will be issued once we have feedback on specific wording of the plan provisions.

Appeals:

Greater Wellington Regional Plan

- All appeals have been agreed through mediation and awaiting consent orders.

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- As a result, on 5 November 2021, the Environment Court vacated the hearing time that was scheduled for November and December 2021.
- Once consent orders have been signed, the Environment Court may advise it wants to hear further from any parties.
- Otherwise, the next step is for Wellington Regional Council to make the regional plan operative. This will require your Ministerial approval for the coastal marine area matters in due course.

Kuku Holdings Limited

- Marlborough District Council declined a resource consent for expansion of mussel farming on Tawhitinui Bay, Marlborough Sounds.
- We opposed the development due to adverse effects on outstanding landscape values, very high natural character values and significant indigenous biodiversity values on the adjacent Kenny Isle Scenic Reserve.
- The applicant has now appealed to the Environment Court. On 27 October 2021, the Director-General joined the appeal in opposition, seeking to uphold the original Council decision.

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.4 Stewardship Land Reclassification

- On 3 November, the judicial proceedings filed by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae Incorporated and Te Rūnanga o Makaawahio were disposed by the High Court.
- On 19 November, the national panel and the Ngāi Tahu mana whenua panel will be inducted.
- [REDACTED]
- We have met with MBIE and arranged regular meetings to discuss our engagement and to keep them informed of this programme of work.
- On 7 November, the stewardship land reclassification project team met with Conservation Board chairs and provided an update on legislation amendments and reclassification work, including the national panels. We informed them that we will engage with Conservation Boards throughout the process.
- [REDACTED]
- We met with Straterra on 10 November and provided them an update on the legislative amendments and the status of the reclassification work, including the national panels.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- All stakeholders have been identified that will be potentially interested in the legislation amendments and the reclassification work of the panels. After the media release we will contact the key stakeholders and will set up meetings to discuss the work with them.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2 Updates

Northern South Island – Nelson Boulder Bank bach fire

- On 3 November we were alerted to reports of a fire at a bach on the Boulder Bank (Te Taero a Kereopa /Te Tahuna a Tama-i-ea) in Nelson. An article in the Nelson Mail shows that the bach has been completely destroyed.
- DOC manages the Boulder Bank, most of which is Scenic Reserve.
- There are six privately owned baches on the Boulder Bank. The land the baches are on is designated Recreation Reserve, and each bach has an allocated area of 625m². The baches pre-date creation of the reserve, with four dating from the nineteenth century.
- The Boulder Bank and associated buildings (the baches and a historic lighthouse) are identified as a Historic Area by Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.
- The bach owners have DOC licences to occupy the reserve, for 10-year terms. They were most recently granted in 2013 and expire in 2023.
- Private baches on public conservation land are often contentious. The Conservation General Policy 10(h) states:

Existing private accommodation and related facilities, including encampments, on public conservation lands and waters will be phased out, except where specifically provided for or allowed in legislation, in accordance with the conditions and timeframes set out in any relevant concession or conservation management strategy or plan. They should be removed at the end of the phase-out period, unless retained by the Department for public use.
- No phase-out period has been specified for these baches. This matter was to be addressed in the next review of the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy, which is now overdue.
- A condition on the licence for each bach states:

If the bach and associated structures are substantially damaged or destroyed the Concessionaire must not restore or replace them unless it can be demonstrated, to the sole satisfaction of the Grantor, that there is a significant public good in doing so and that the restored or replaced bach would continue the style and character it had prior to it being damaged or destroyed.
- Staff from DOC's Nelson office have spoken to the bach owner and will go to the Boulder Bank on Monday to inspect the damage and determine what clean-up is required.
- No decisions on the future of the bach are being made at this time until we have inspected the site and discussed this with the owner.

Contact: [REDACTED]


Auckland – Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee appointment process

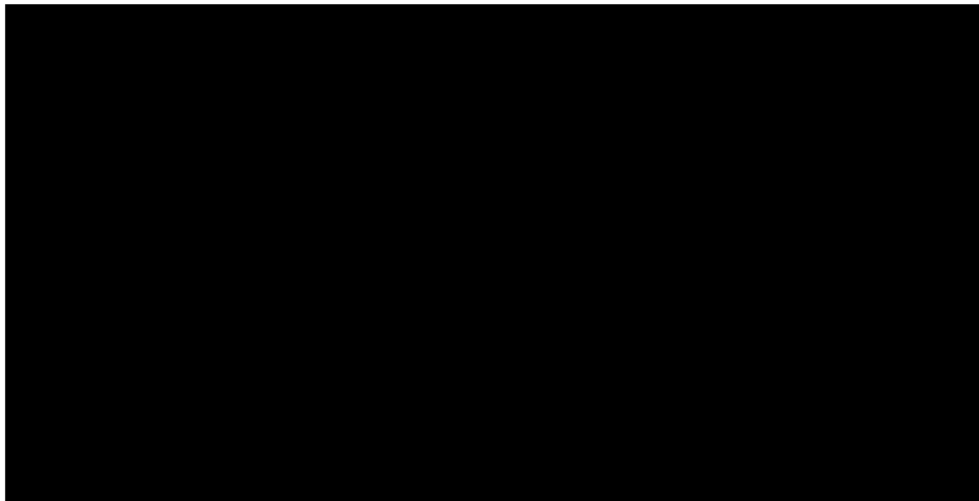
- The Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee is established under section 56(1) of the Conservation Act 1987. It represents iwi and local community interests and provides advice to the Director-General about the management of the Aotea Conservation Park, which is located on Aotea/Great Barrier Island.

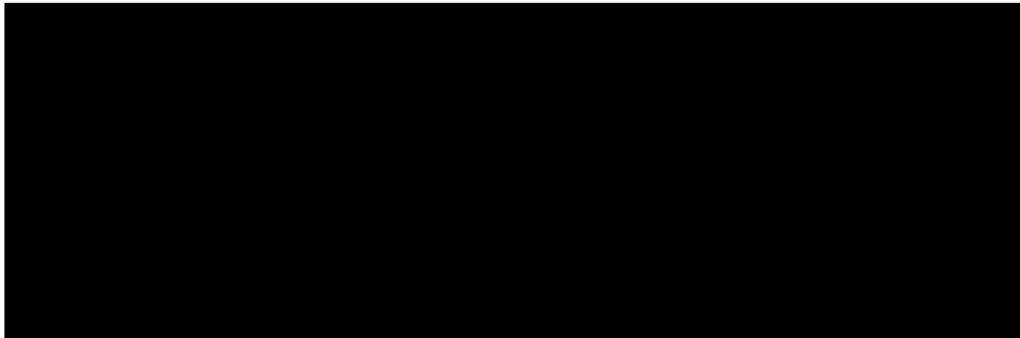
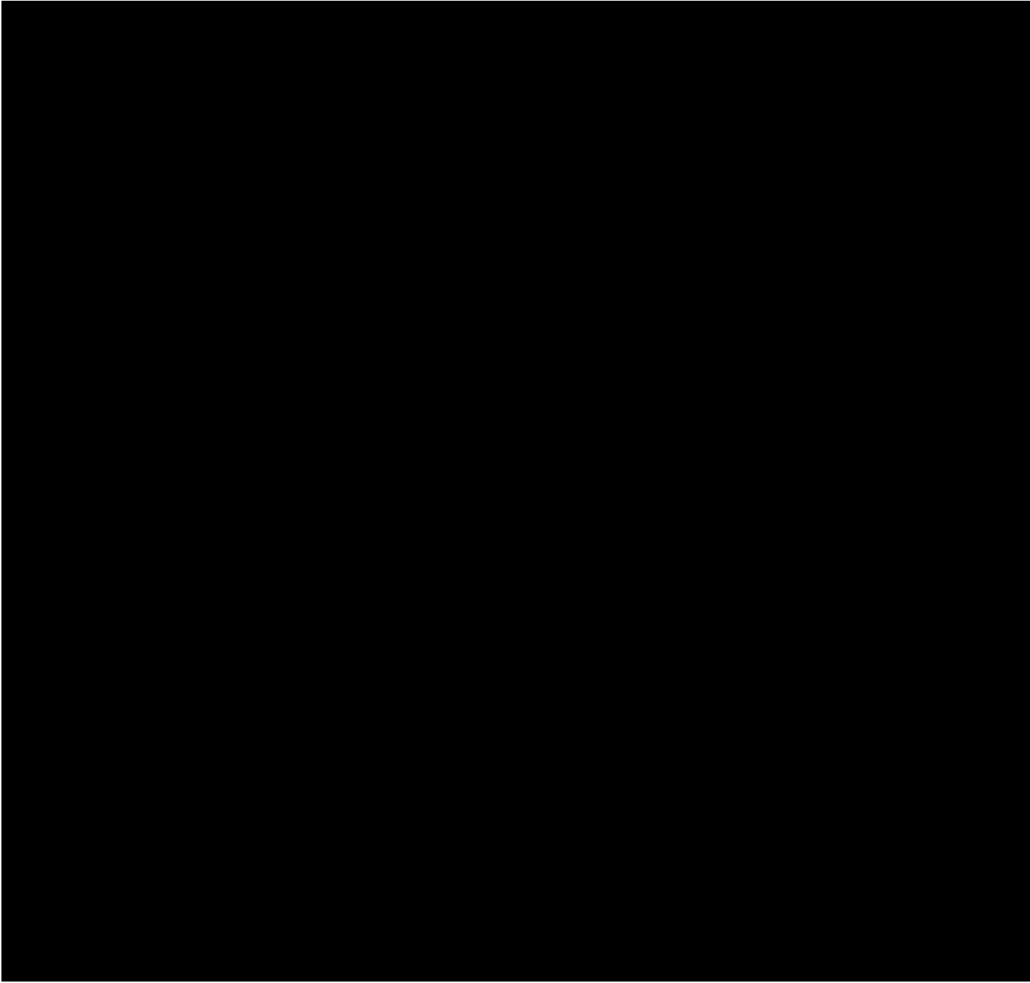
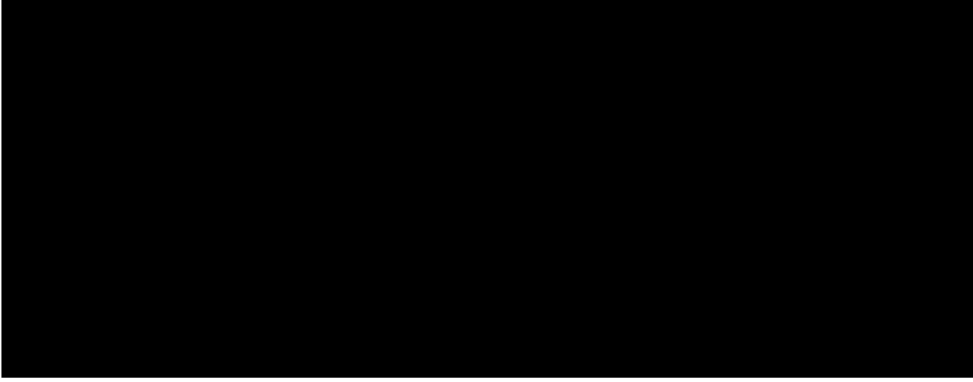
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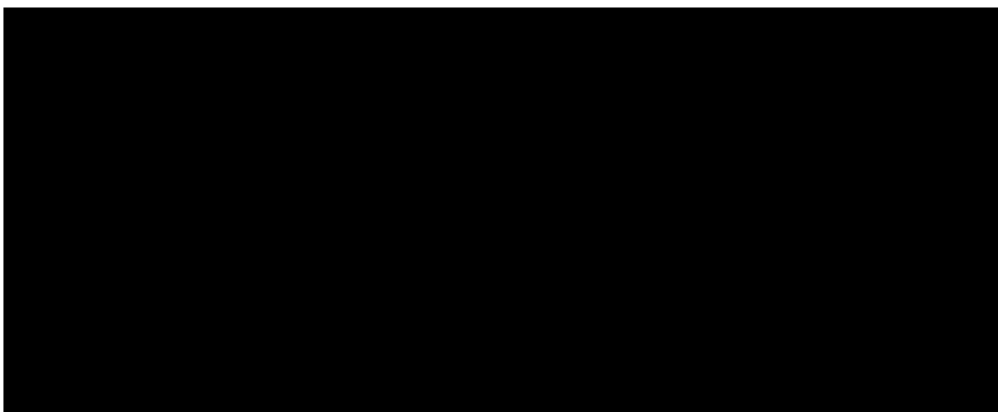
Minister of Conservation, Minister of Conservation's Office, and Department of Conservation Eyes Only.

- Terms for all ten members expire on 30 June 2022.
- The Director-General will call for nominations from tangata whenua and the island community in November and December.
- The Minister of Conservation makes appointments to the Committee after considering nominations and the Director-General's advice. We will provide you with advice in February 2022.

Contact: 








2.7 Joint Cabinet Paper – Final Antarctic and Southern Ocean Research Directions and Priorities: 2021-2030

- The *Aotearoa New Zealand Antarctic and Southern Ocean Research Directions and Priorities* document (the “Antarctic Research Directions and Priorities”) has been finalised following Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee approval of the draft document and a public consultation process.
- At time of writing, DOC is scheduled to provide a Cabinet paper seeking approval of the final Antarctic Research Directions and Priorities on 12 November to you, the Minister of Foreign Affairs (lead), the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, and the Minister for Research, Science and Innovation.
- The Antarctic Research Directions and Priorities will direct New Zealand’s research in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean for the next decade.
- DOC interests in this come from our role in New Zealand’s contribution to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), our responsibilities in the management of the subantarctic islands, and our statutory function to promote the benefits of the conservation of the natural and historic resources of Antarctica. DOC supports the Antarctic Research Directions and Priorities and the Cabinet paper.
- The Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee is scheduled to consider the Cabinet paper on 9 December 2021.

Contact: 

Health, Safety and Wellbeing

Weekly update on the COVID-19 pandemic response:

- Staff in Auckland and parts of the Waikato remain under some form of restriction. Essential species work continues. Some office-based staff in Auckland and Hamilton hub offices have been allowed to return to the office for health & wellbeing reasons.
- We are contributing to the Public Service Commission/MBIE processes to develop standard COVID risk assessment tools for the public service.
- We are working with the PSA on COVID risk assessments regarding mandatory vaccination status for the Kākāpō recovery work on Whenua Hou & Anchor Islands, and Sub Antarctic voyages.

- Mandatory vaccination status for customers on DOC Great Walks and some other bookable accommodation remains under consideration.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

3.1 Memorandum of Understanding on Seabird Conservation between New Zealand and Spain – Update on Announcement

- As previously advised [refer 21-B-0760], officials proposed that the Memorandum of Understanding on Seabird Conservation between New Zealand and Spain be signed on behalf of New Zealand by our Ambassador to Spain during Prime Minister Ardern's proposed trip to Spain in November.
- The Prime Minister's trip to Europe has now been postponed to next year.
- To enable the actions in the MOU to be initiated before the main threats to seabirds begin in late May, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade are proposing that New Zealand's Ambassador to Spain sign the MOU on 18 November, the date initially intended for the Prime Minister's visit.
- We are working with MFAT to plan the announcement of the MOU.

Contact: [REDACTED]

4 Director-General Engagements

November 2021

16 Nov Predator Free 2050 Ltd Board Meeting, Wellington
18-19 Nov Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Martinborough
24 Nov Te hāpai hāpori | Spirit of Service Awards, Dominion Museum, Wellington

December 2021

02-03 Dec Southland Regional Visit, Invercargill/Queenstown
06 Dec Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Via MS Teams
09 Dec Annual Review Environment Select Committee, Parliament
09-10 Dec NZ Conservation Authority Board, Wellington
10 Dec Tourism CEs Quarterly Meeting MBIE Offices, Wellington
15-16 Dec South Westland Regional Visit, South Westland/Perth Valley

5 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)

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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 22 November 2021

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

DOCCM - 6840574



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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Attachments

1. Cabinet Paper Report
2. Jobs for Nature dashboard

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Jobs for Nature summary:

- [REDACTED]
- There are 171 projects in delivery, four projects completed and 32 projects in the contracting/legal phase, with several of these agreements in the final stages of signoff.
- We have notified a small number of projects to advise of a deadline to confirm funding agreements by 10 December, or the approval in-principle may be cancelled.
- [REDACTED]
- We continue to assess assurance checks for milestone payments due, with around 80 payments expected in November.
- Jobs for Nature (JFN) continues to support Delivery Managers with guidance for undertaking Level 1 assurance. Monthly meetings are led by accountable Directors at place, and these meetings are also attended by JFN Investment staff to help inform Level 2 assurance. Jobs for Nature has further developed guidance for site visits by Delivery Managers.
- The Funds Management Tool Implementation project is on track to go live on 3 December, with the online platform being available to Delivery Managers from 6 December, and partners/recipients from 10 December. Several training resources will be deployed, including videos, webinars, Q&A sessions, and 'how-to' guides. The platform will provide better visibility of reporting to project partners and replace many manual processes within the current reporting system.

Advisory Group and SLU Ministers' update:

- The next SLU Ministers' meeting is scheduled for 29 November. You will receive briefing papers from the Secretariat around 24 November, and the JFN unit will prepare a short briefing following receipt of the papers.

- [REDACTED]

Updates - Workstreams and Projects

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

- We are working with your office to arrange for you to visit Canterbury, to announce five JFN projects. Provisional dates are 29 or 30 November.
- We are also working with your office to arrange for you to visit Hawke's Bay, to announce a further six JFN projects. Details are yet to be confirmed.
- Newshub will be visiting the Chatham Islands at the end of November (date to be announced) to do a story on the Miriam Reserve project. We will keep your office informed of further developments.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: [REDACTED]

1.2 RMA Advocacy

Submissions:

Dunedin City Council – Smooth Hill landfill consent

- On 15 November, we lodged a submission on consent applications for the development of a new Dunedin landfill.
- The proposal has potential to affect 'At Risk' species and wetlands, and we sought to have appropriate conditions and monitoring requirements imposed to minimise impact.
- There is significant community opposition to a new landfill, so these applications are likely to be contentious.

Otago Regional Council – Regional Policy Statement (RPS) further submissions

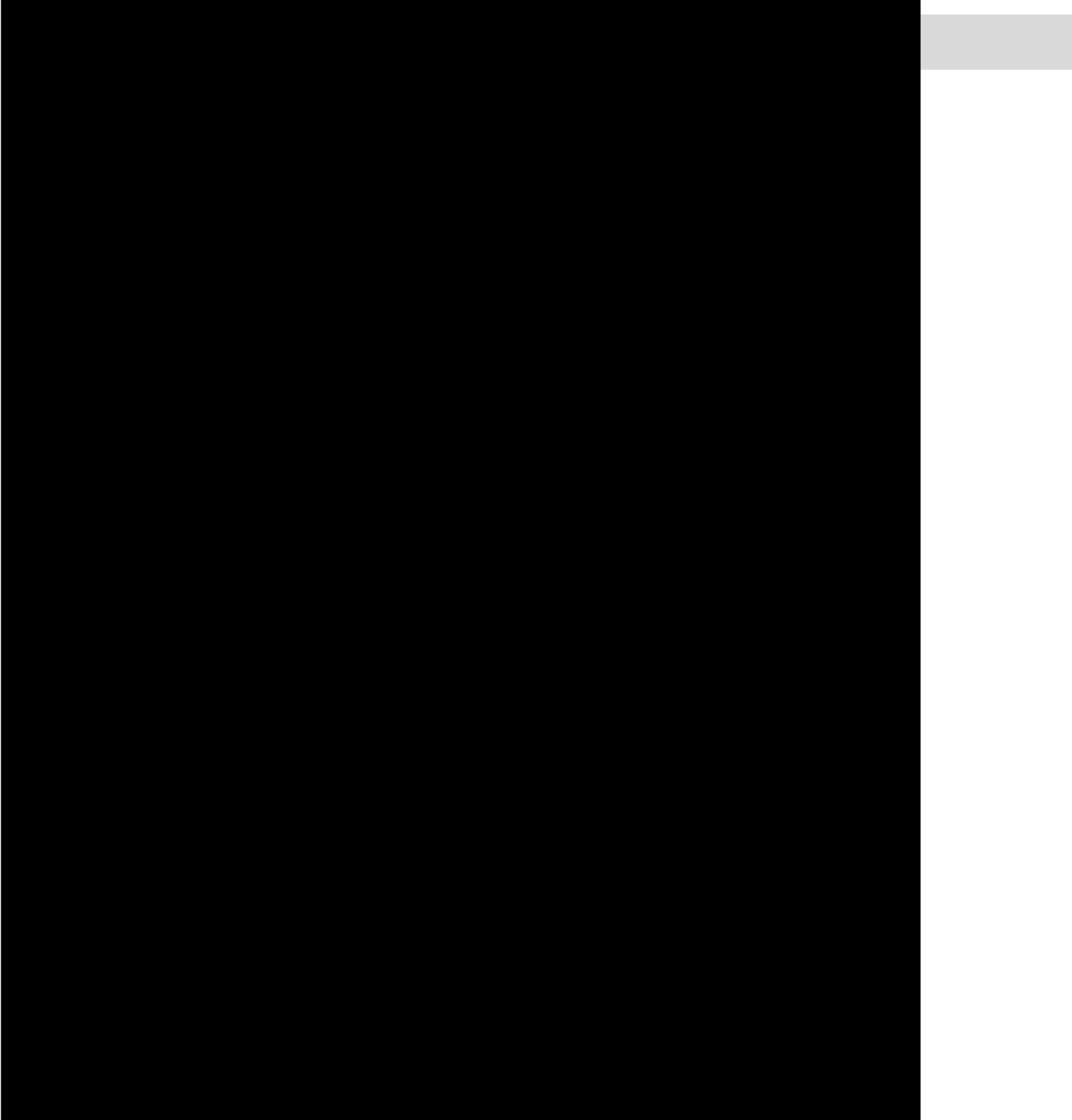
- On 12 November, DOC lodged nine further submissions, responding to other submissions on the proposed Otago RPS 2021.
- These further submissions were focussed on matters that were new or unanticipated, so were not covered in our original submission.
- The main points in the further submissions were to ensure that the definition of Regionally Significant Infrastructure is restricted to key public infrastructure only, and to ensure that the RPS (and future coastal plan) retain the ability to protect marine biodiversity, including from the effects of fishing.

Hearings:

Variations 1 and 1A to the proposed Marlborough Environment Plan

- On 10 November, planning and ecological evidence on Variations 1 and 1A to the Proposed Marlborough Environment Plan (PMEP) were presented to the Marlborough Council's hearing panel.
- The variations seek to add specific provisions to the PMEP for marine farming (Variation 1) and finfish (salmon) farming (Variation 1A).
- Our evidence was generally in support of the notified Variation 1 and the Council recommended amendments. Legal submissions outlined support for the Ministry for Primary Industries' position on Variation 1A. MPI sought that Variation 1A be paused until further work on salmon farming can be completed.

Contact: [REDACTED]



1.4 Stewardship Land Reclassification

- On 19 November, the national panel and the Ngāi Tahu mana whenua panel were inducted.



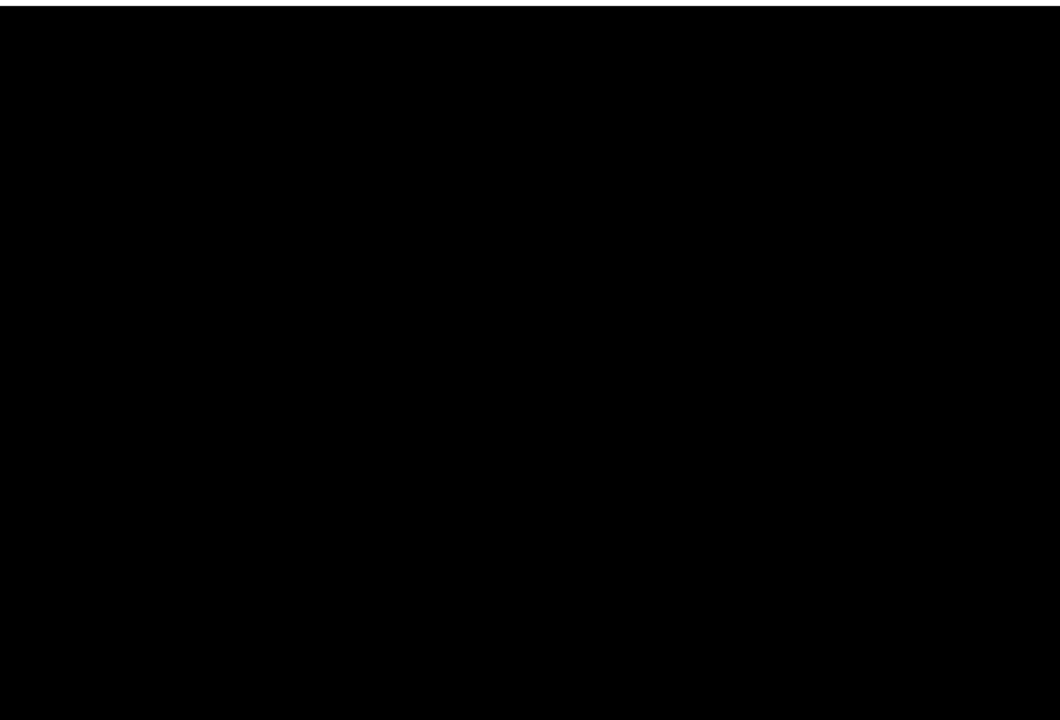
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Minister of Conservation, Minister of Conservation's Office, and Department of Conservation Eyes Only.

- At time of writing (17 November) the planned release date of the stewardship land discussion document is 19 November. Following release, DOC intends to email tangata whenua: whānau, hapū and iwi to:
 - provide them with the discussion document
 - set out the context for the stewardship land reclassification project
 - determine how they would like to be engaged throughout the consultation process.
- Key stakeholders will be invited to submit their written feedback or request a meeting.
- DOC intends to provide certain members of Ngāi Tahu (including the Kaiwhakahaere and members of the mana whenua panel) with an embargoed copy of the discussion document a day prior to the planned public release. As the press release discussed both the discussion document and the mana whenua panels, this will give Ngāi Tahu a chance to read the discussion document ahead of the press release in case they receive questions about it. It also allows the mana whenua panel members to see the context of the wider reclassification project.
- Under this timing, DOC's regional operations team will be advised on Thursday afternoon (18 November) they can notify tangata whenua: whānau, hapū and iwi in their region that the discussion document is to be released the next day.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2 Updates





Southern South Island – Rodent detections on Te Wharawhara/Ulva Island

- On 9 November, two Norway rats were caught and killed in traps on pest-free Ulva Island and another two on Pipi Rocks nearby.
- Ulva Island is in Paterson Inlet near Oban, Rakiura, and is home to many protected species.
- We are progressing an incursion response for the next four weeks to determine if there are other rodents on the island. Rodents are known to swim to the island from mainland Rakiura.
- If no rodents or rodent signs are detected, standard surveillance will resume. If rodents or signs are detected, we will take technical advice on how best to proceed.

Contact:

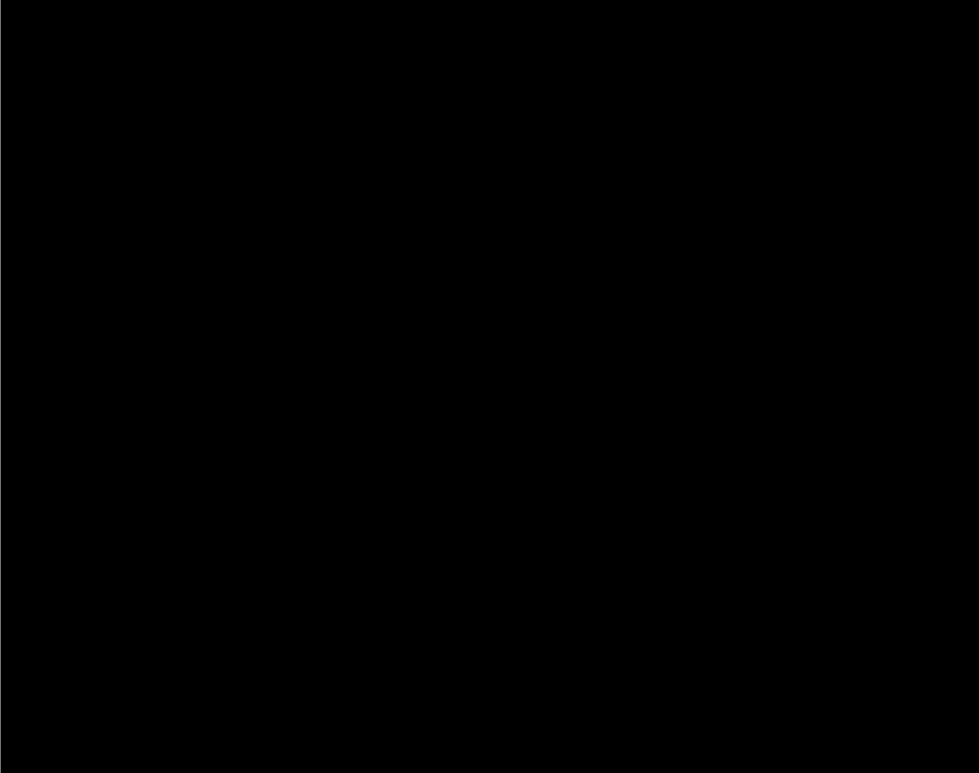


Southern South Island update on bed bugs on Rakiura and Kepler Great Walks

- There have been further bed bug sightings and one report of a person receiving bites at North Arm Hut on the Rakiura Track. Luxmore Hut on the Kepler Great Walk has also had reports of bed bugs.
- Alerts for these two Great Walks are posted on the DOC website. All Great Walk huts in Fiordland will be sprayed as a precaution.
- Luxmore Hut will remain open as we try to control the issue through fumigation, monitoring and deep cleans.
- North Arm Hut was closed for the day on 18 November to enable a contractor to carry out a full chemical bed bug treatment and provide further advice on next steps. DOC and the contractor are also meeting with local accommodation providers to work on controlling the situation, as bed bugs are known hitchhikers.
- While North Arm Hut will otherwise remain open as we work through this issue, visitors are eligible for a full refund, and we expect a reduction in future bookings. North Arm has camping facilities available, and some visitors are opting to camp instead of staying in the hut.

Contact:

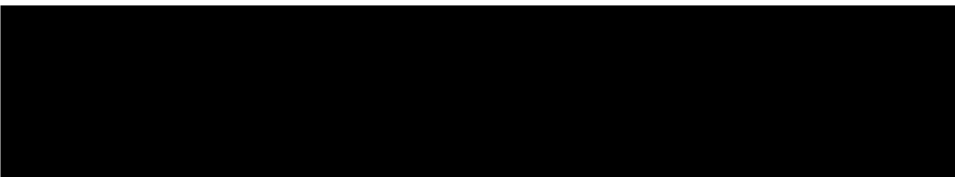




Health, Safety & Wellbeing

Update on COVID-19 pandemic response

- Staff in parts of the Waikato transitioned to Alert Level 2 on 16 November, while Auckland staff remain under Alert level 3.2.
- Public Service Commission/MBIE policy work on the transition to the new Traffic Light system continues at pace and we have contributed to several policy and legislation drafts.
- Mandatory vaccination status for customers on DOC Great Walks and some other bookable accommodation remains under consideration.



Contact: [Redacted]

3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

No items this week

4 Director-General Engagements

November 2021

24 Nov Te hāpai hāpori | Spirit of Service Awards, Dominion Museum, Wellington

December 2021

02-03 Dec Southland Regional Visit, Invercargill/Queenstown

06 Dec Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Via MS Teams

08 Dec Kevin Hague, Forest and Bird, Wellington

09-10 Dec NZ Conservation Authority Board, Wellington

10 Dec Tourism CEs Quarterly Meeting MBIE Offices, Wellington

13 Dec Predator Free Governance meeting, Conservation House, Wellington

15-16 Dec South Westland Regional Visit, South Westland/Perth Valley

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Department of Conservation Status Report

for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 29 November 2021

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

DOCCM - 6846415

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2. Jobs for Nature dashboard

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Jobs for Nature Summary:

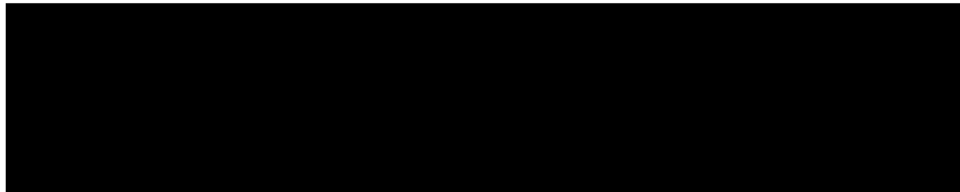
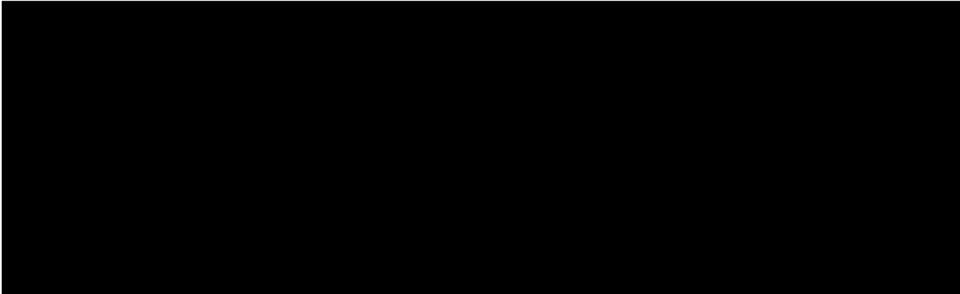
- [REDACTED]
- There are four projects completed, 174 projects in delivery and 29 projects in the contracting/legal phase with several of these agreements in the final stages of signoff. A further six Māori Land Fund projects are in assessment and four are in approval.
- Six projects have been advised by letter that the deadline for confirming funding agreements is 5.30pm on 10 December, or the approval in-principle may be cancelled.
- We continue to assess assurance checks for milestone payments due, with around 80 payments expected in November.
- The Enquire funds management tool implementation project is on track to go live on 3 December, with the online platform being available to delivery managers from 6 December, and partners/recipients from 10 December. Several training resources will be deployed, including videos, webinars, Q&A sessions, and 'how-to' guides. The platform will provide better visibility of reporting to project partners and will improve the current partner reporting system.
- The Secretariat is working on the final design of the Year One Annual Review. This will be presented at the upcoming SLU Ministers' meeting.
- [REDACTED]


[REDACTED]



Events, announcements & media opportunities

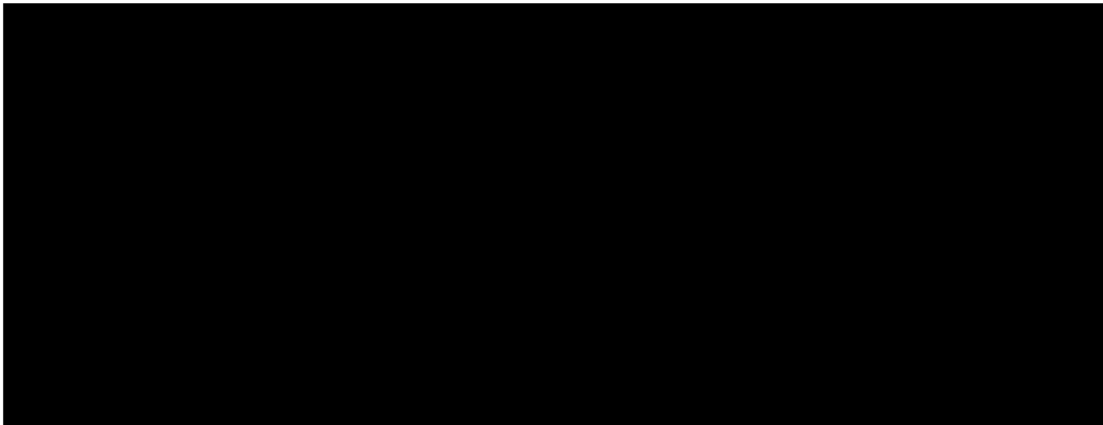
- Your office is looking into arranging a visit to Canterbury for you to announce five JFN projects. Provisional dates are either 9 or 10 December.
- NewsHub is planning to visit the Chatham Islands at the end of November (date to be announced) to do a story on the Miriam Reserve project. We will notify your office once the date of the visit is confirmed.

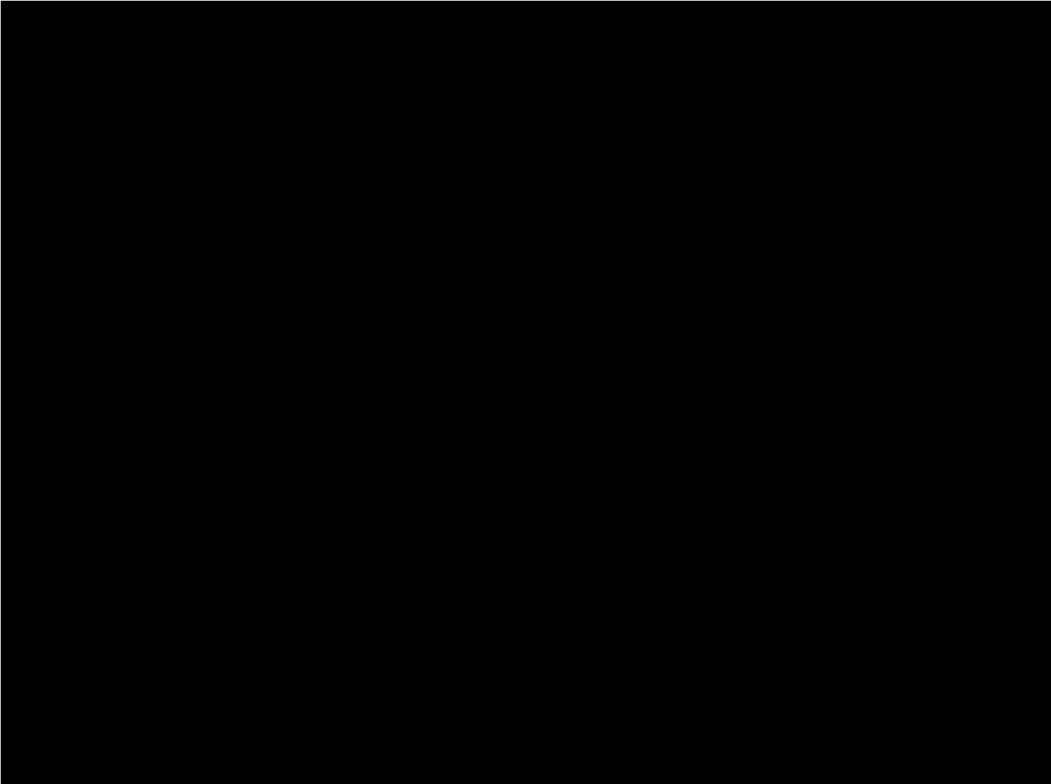


Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: 

1.2 RMA Advocacy

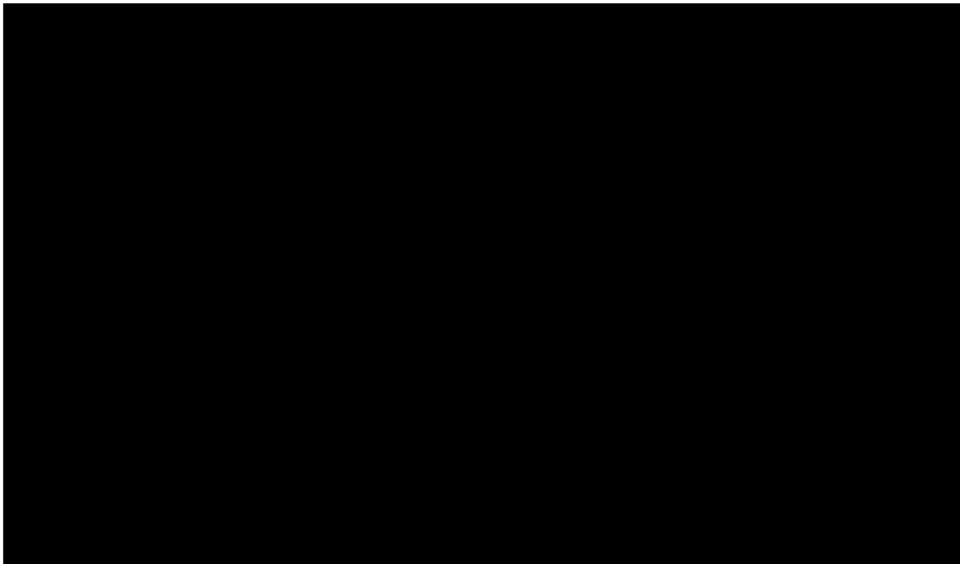
No items this week





1.4 Stewardship Land Reclassification

- The chairs of the national and Ngāi Tahu mana whenua panels are meeting in the week of 29 November to determine a set of values/characteristics which will be collectively applied during their reclassification process.



- The stewardship land discussion document was released on 19 November. Following release, DOC emailed tangata whenua: whānau, hapū and iwi to:
 - provide them with the discussion document
 - set out the context for the stewardship land reclassification project
 - determine how they would like to be engaged throughout the consultation process

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

- key stakeholders were also invited to submit their written feedback or request a meeting.
- DOC provided certain members of Ngāi Tahu (including the Kaiwhakahaere and members of the mana whenua panel) with an embargoed copy of the discussion document a day prior to the planned public release.
- In addition, on 18 November, tangata whenua: whānau, hapū and iwi were notified by DOC's regional operations teams in their region that the discussion document would be released the next day.
- There has been a generally positive response to the discussion document so far – notably in a Federated Farmers press release. We have scheduled meetings with some iwi representatives and conservation boards in the week commencing 29 November.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2 Updates

Dog management challenges in the Far North

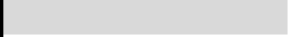
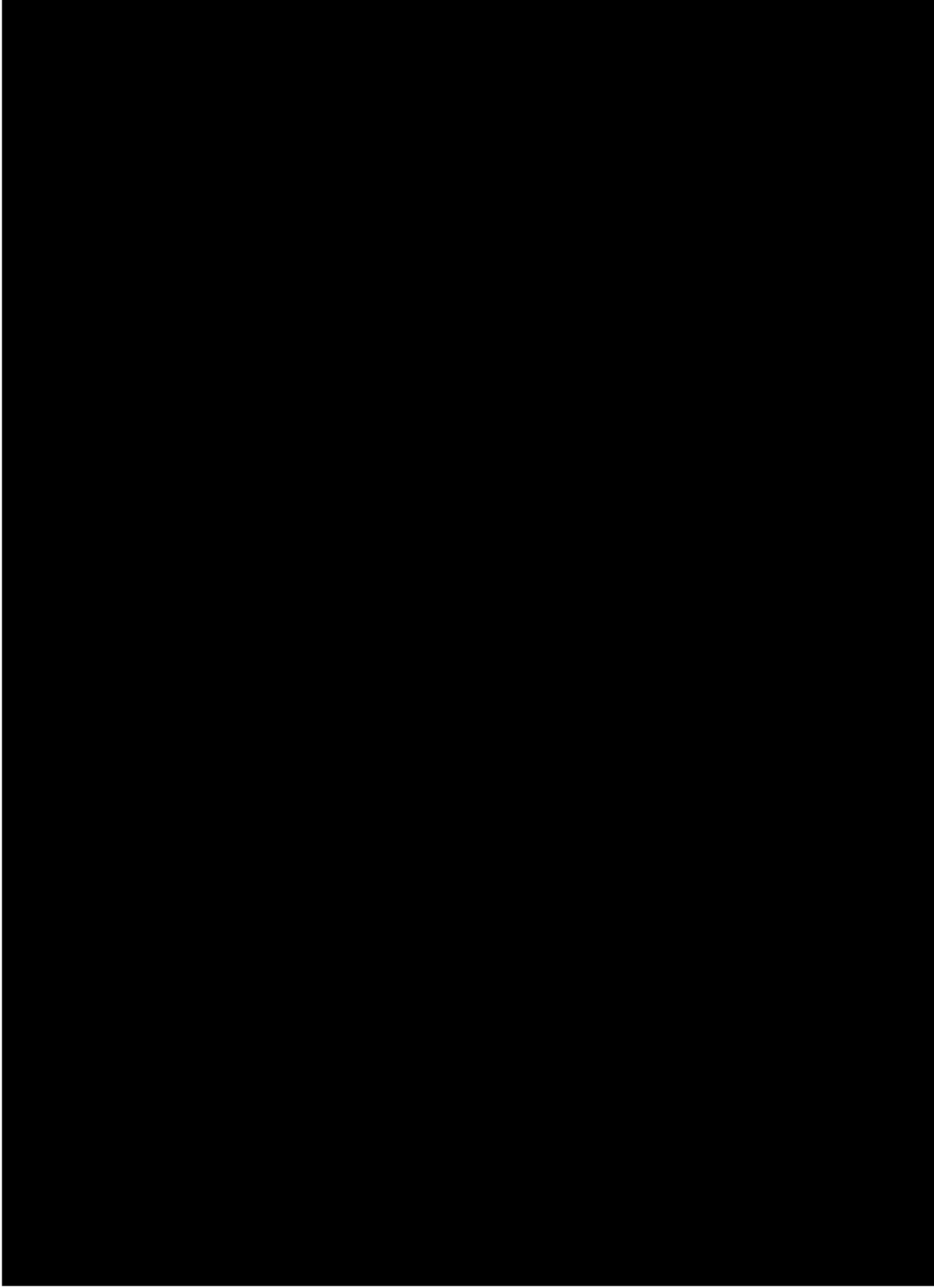
- In April, wild dogs drew media interest in the Far North due to stock being attacked on farm properties adjoining the Te Paki Recreation Reserve.
- Section 57 of the Dog Control Act 1996 authorises anyone to seize or destroy any dog that attacks domestic animals, stock, or wildlife.
- At the time of the attacks, the [REDACTED] owners requested that one organisation be accountable for dealing with the issue, and a suite of tools be used to remove the dogs, including the use of toxins. There are no pesticide toxins registered in New Zealand for controlling dogs.
- The owners also indicated they might seek compensation for their loss from DOC, as their assumption is that the dogs came from neighbouring conservation land. No such formal request has been received.
- In August, a coordinated approach to managing wild dogs, led by Far North District Council, was endorsed. Parties involved in this approach are Far North District Council (Lead), MPI Biosecurity NZ, Northland Regional Council, the Ngāti Kuri Trust Board and DOC (Kaitiaki District). This action plan, along with resources, is now being implemented by the action group.
- The Department's role in the plan is to suspend hunting permits in the area for 18 months and eliminate dogs from public lands as agreed actions. Other agencies will support private and iwi landowners to eliminate dogs, provide technical advice, and research options for ongoing management.

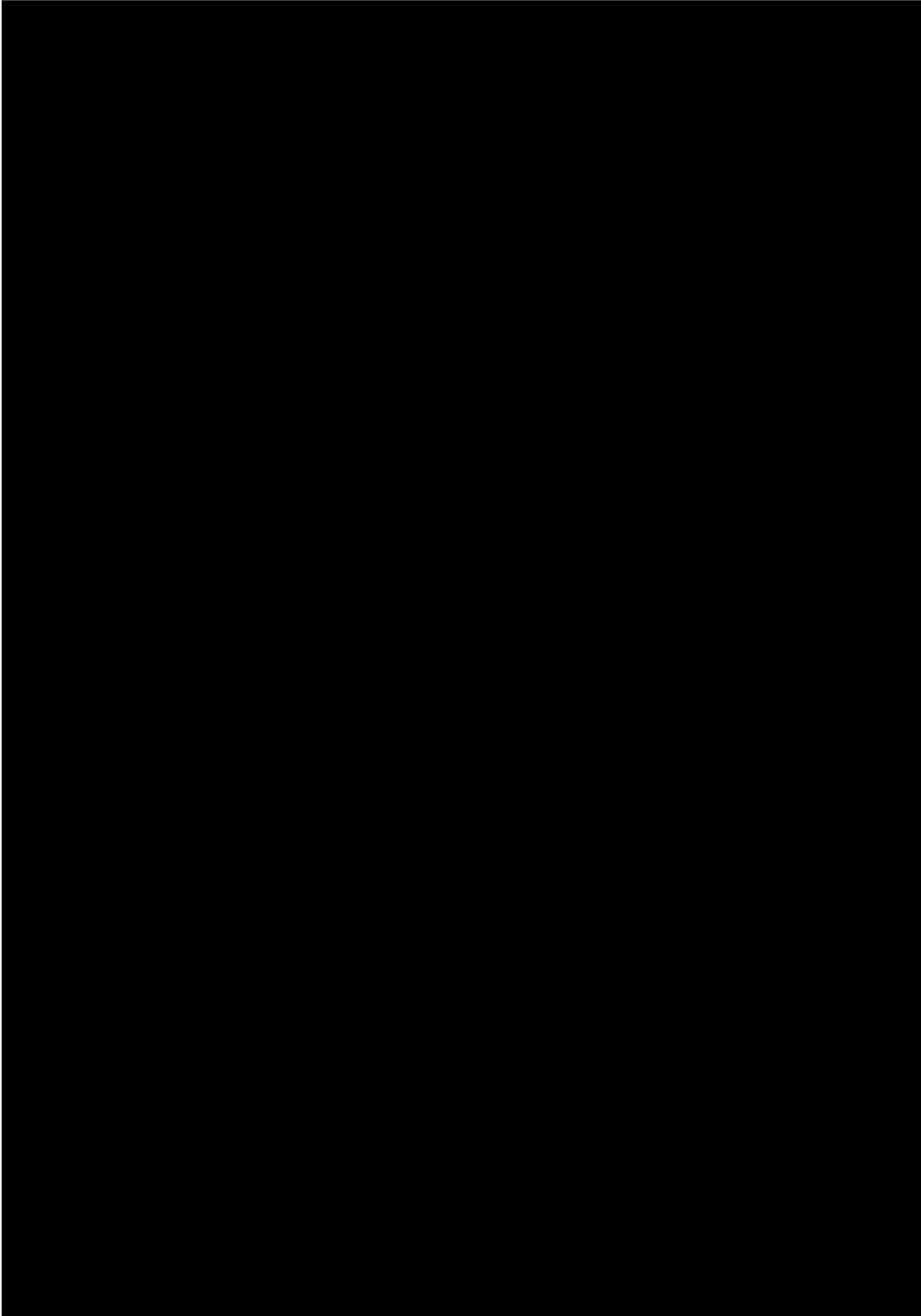
Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Phasing out private accommodation at Ocean Beach, Wairarapa

- Approximately 50 baches were built on public conservation land (PCL) at Ocean Beach in the 1950s. All concessions associated with these baches have expired and none of them are currently authorised.
- Private structures on PCL are not permitted under the Conservation General Policy and the Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) 2019, which became operative on 20 January 2019 after extensive public consultation.
- Under the CMS, decisions must be made on the future use and management of baches at Ocean Beach by 2023. Any baches not opened to the public will be removed or repurposed by 2029.
- This is consistent with our national approach to private accommodation on PCL and is currently being applied to huts in the Orongorongo Valley, where we are working with the Orongorongo Club on the future of the huts.
- We intend to manage this transition collaboratively with bach owners and have recently been in contact with the Chair of the Ocean Beach Residents Association (the Association) to organise a public meeting.

Contact: [REDACTED]

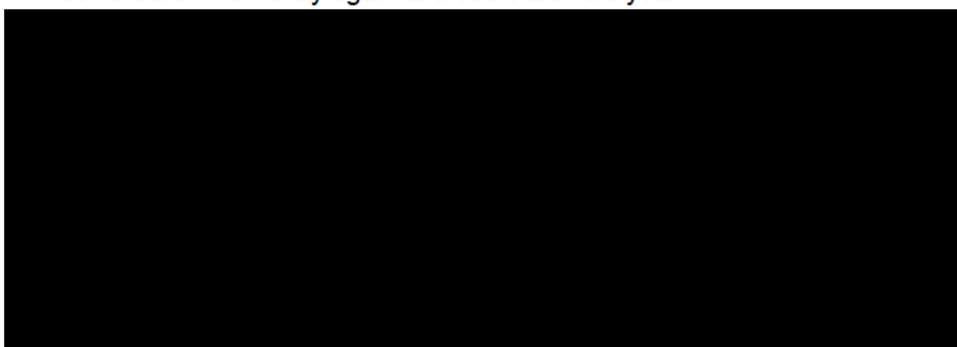




2021 Tiakina Ngā Manu programme nearly complete

- We have almost completed our 2021 predator control programme, with over 300,000 hectares of predator control completed or underway at 21 separate sites across the country. Ground trapping work will continue over the summer, but we will shortly cease aerial 1080 operations until after the holiday season.
- We have successfully completed 13 aerial 1080 operations this year. Six planned 2021 operations had to be postponed until 2022, due to delays caused by COVID-19. Lockdown restrictions on field work in August and

September meant we missed the kiwi and kōkako breeding seasons at some sites. We will try again at those sites next year.



Contact: [redacted]

2.6 Conservation status of New Zealand birds updated

- The NZ Threat Classification System (NZTCS) is used to assess the conservation status of species or subspecies (collectively known as taxa, singular taxon), based on their estimated population size and the expected rate of population change.
- DOC administers the NZTCS, facilitating reviews of the major taxa groups at five-yearly intervals. As part of the regular review process, experts have assessed 490 New Zealand bird taxa using the NZTCS criteria.
- As part of the assessment process, 16 submissions were received from ornithologists, Ngāi Tahu and conservation groups. We will respond to these submissions individually and provide Ngāi Tahu with a copy of the report before the public release.
- We propose to publish *Conservation status of New Zealand birds, 2021* on the DOC website and the assessment data on the NZTCS website (www.nztcs.org.nz) as soon as possible after 29 November.
- Notable changes in classification include improved status for 28 taxa, including five of the 23 Nationally Critical taxa, but 22 taxa are worse off. Species whose status improved, include the Haast tokoeka and brown kiwi following concerted management efforts, and Antipodes Island snipe as a result of the 'million-dollar mouse' eradication programme.
- It is possible that some science-based assessments, such as retaining hoiho as Nationally Vulnerable rather than moving it to Nationally Critical, and shifting brown kiwi to Not Threatened (with the qualifier 'conservation dependent') may attract interest from environmental groups and possibly media attention. We will share media messages with your office to assist with the management of any media interest.

Contact: [redacted]

2.7 Update on review of National Plan of Action – Sharks

- In 2013 the then Minister for Primary Industries (who held the Fisheries portfolio) and Minister of Conservation launched the National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks 2013 (NPOA-Sharks).

IN-CONFIDENCE

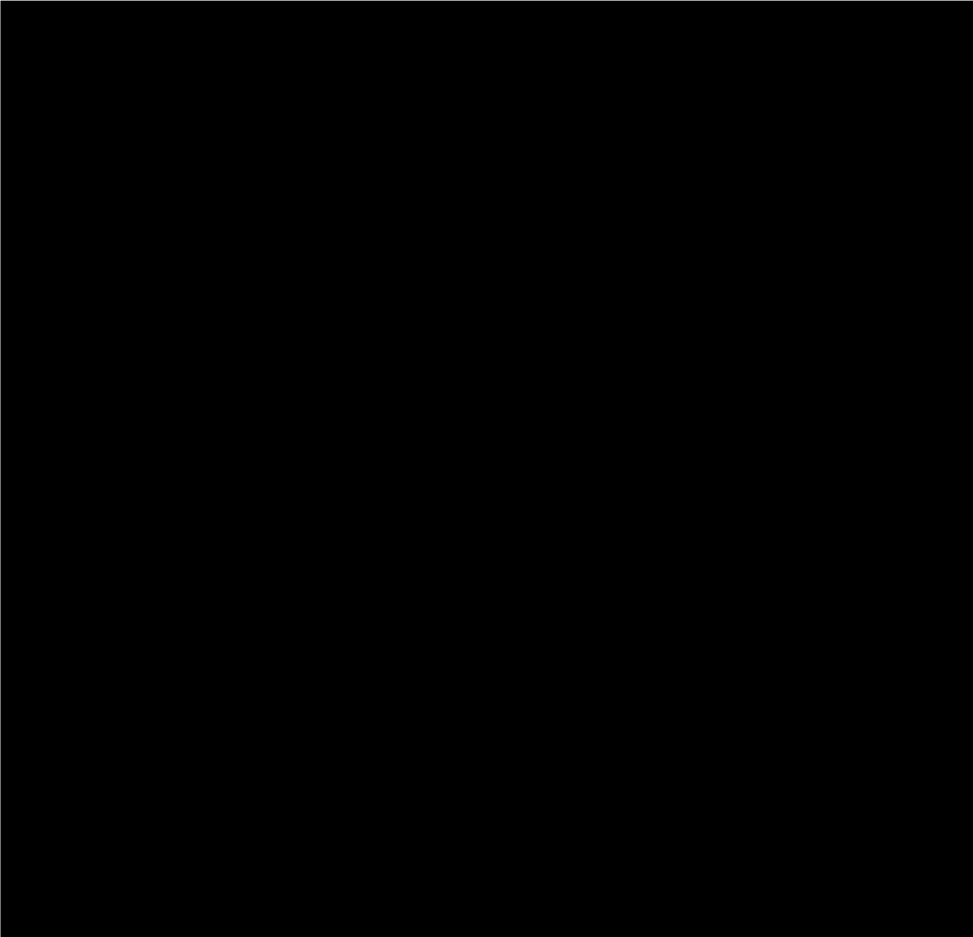
Minister of Conservation, Minister of Conservation's Office, and Department of Conservation Eyes Only.

- DOC gives effect to the NPOA-Sharks through our work on protected sharks and rays, species threat classifications and risk assessments, Conservation Services Programme projects and RMA advocacy



- Officials are available to meet with you should you require further details on this matter.

Contact: [Redacted]



2.9 Health, Safety & Wellbeing

Weekly update on the COVID-19 pandemic response and Health, Safety & Wellbeing

COVID-19

- Staff guidance for doing our work under different Traffic Light colours is being developed, now that we have a date for the transition to the new Traffic Light System.
- Decisions on mandatory vaccination status for staff/contractors/volunteers as well as customers on DOC Great Walks and bookable campsites were being considered on 23 November.
- We will be releasing our COVID-19 Risk Assessment and draft Vaccine Policy on 29 November. Our staff will have the opportunity to provide feedback on both the Risk Assessment and draft Policy, as well as how we operationalise this. This consultation period will be open for eight working days. Our draft Vaccine Policy covers staff, visitors, contractors, suppliers, and volunteers. We will keep you informed of the progress.

Health, Safety & Wellbeing



Contact: [Redacted]

3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

No items this week

4 Director-General Engagements

December 2021

02-03 Dec Southland Regional Visit, Invercargill/Queenstown
06 Dec Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Via MS Teams
09 Dec Kevin Hague, Forest and Bird, Wellington
09-10 Dec NZ Conservation Authority Board, Wellington
10 Dec Tourism CEs Quarterly Meeting MBIE Offices, Wellington
13 Dec Predator Free Governance meeting, Conservation House, Wellington
15-16 Dec South Westland Regional Visit, South Westland/Perth Valley

January 2022

19 Jan Fiordland Marine Guardians, MS Teams meeting
19 Jan Visit to Capital Kiwi Project, Wellington

5 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)