



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 12 April 2021


Date: _____ / ____ / ____

Seen by Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Acting Minister of Conservation

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Regional Applications and Projects

- Sustainable Land Use (SLU) / Reference Group
 - The SLU Ministers' meeting scheduled for 7 April was cancelled, and we are currently working with the Secretariat to confirm when decisions on the seven DOC projects (over \$1m) presented in briefing papers are expected from SLU Ministers.
 - 
- National Summary
 - Assessments are now under way on a further 65 new projects, plus the recommendations for the Community Fund and Private Landowners Fund (approximately 45 projects across these two funds). The volume of work, time constraints and resources available will mean that the Jobs For Nature Unit (JFN) will need to process these in two batches for your feedback, and subsequently for presentation to the Reference Group and SLU Ministers for approval. The approach will include a light assessment to be conducted across all projects, with those that score highly across key criteria (e.g., targeting regions in need, current unemployment data, ability to create high impact for FTE and conservation outcomes) progressing through to a full assessment and recommendation for the first batch.
 - This first batch of recommendations is expected to be sent to your office by 15 April and following feedback, will progress for Reference Group input for its scheduled meeting on 29 April. The second batch of recommendations will be sent to your office mid-to-late April, for progression into the following approval round.
 - We have received a portfolio of multiple projects in the latest round from the Southern South Island and Hawke's Bay regions, as well as several projects from the Manawatu-Whanganui region.

Current State (as at 7 April)

Status	Number of projects
In assessment*	65
In approval process	18
Approved, not yet contracted	31
Contracted	40

* plus, assessment of the Community Fund and the Private Landowner Fund projects (at this stage approximately 45 recommended projects across the two funds)

- There are four projects presented within Briefing 21-B-0157 (Northland - AL04.6, AL04.11, AL04.12, Auckland - AL19.3) pending receipt of feedback. Three of these projects were recommended, and one project was not recommended for funding at this time. We are happy to respond to questions on these projects as needed.

Workstreams

- A briefing to Minister Allan on 18 March (Ref: 21-B-0221) on the [REDACTED] project (the project) was resubmitted to you on 8 April and we await feedback on this briefing. This briefing provides supplementary information that was inadvertently not presented to Minister Allan when she made a decision on funding for the project, and seeks your reconsideration of that decision, ahead of the next SLU Ministers meeting on 29 April.
- Community Fund/ Landowner Fund: Central panels met on 29 and 30 March to confirm recommendations for funding proposals for the JFN Community and JFN Private Landowner Biodiversity Fund. The final recommendation packages are being finalised and you will be briefed separately on this.
- Ngā Awa: [REDACTED]
 - Inter-agency feedback on the [REDACTED] waterway restoration project and the [REDACTED] restoration project was received at the SLU Deputy Chief Executives' forum. Support for both projects was signaled by those present.
 - [REDACTED]
- Kaimahi for Nature Regional and National workstreams: With limited remaining funds available and Kaimahi for Nature funding appropriation for three years only (until end FY23), any proposals received after 1 April 2021 (Q4) will be considered for two years funding. Work is under way with regional staff and applicants to understand this constraint.
- South Island Threatened Species Protection: A Detailed Business Case is now in the process of endorsement and approval.
- Kiwis for kiwi: Assurance checks are currently under way to release milestone payment for Kiwis for kiwi, with quarterly reporting due 14 April.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] - Jobs for Nature has received the [REDACTED] Detailed Business Case for final endorsement by the Chief Advisor, and then approval by the Director-General. This will be put forward for approval once remaining questions on projects costs have been considered and addressed.

Relationship Scan

- Ministry for the Environment: We provided several Expressions of Interest to MfE for freshwater proposals that DOC is unlikely to be able to fund due to the oversubscription of our JFN funding. These will be considered for MfE's 'Essential Freshwater' funding. MfE has undertaken an initial review of the proposals and has not identified any that would be ineligible for MfE funding. Once MfE has undertaken further review of these proposals, they will be considered against others that have been put forward by other agencies by an interagency panel at the end of April.

Weekly Dashboard (Standing Item)

A summary of the programme is provided as an appendix for you.

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.2 RMA Advocacy Update

DOC's recent RMA work is as follows:

Submissions

Buick Trustees Ltd – Notified Resource Consent – South Marlborough

- On 23 March, we lodged a submission on a notified resource consent which seeks the abstraction of water from the Waimā (Ure) River to irrigate farmland.
- Our submission raised concerns about the lack of information and assessment of effects, particularly on threatened or at-risk species.
- DOC considered this application in relation to another notified consent to take water from the Waima River, discussed below.

Flaxbourne Irrigation Scheme Limited – Notified Resource Consent – South Marlborough

- On 24 March, we lodged a submission on a notified resource consent, also to take water from the Waimā (Ure) River.
- Our submission raised concerns about the location of the take on the Waima Conservation Area, and effects on freshwater indigenous biodiversity and braided river ecosystems, indigenous avifauna, wetland and hapua ecosystems and the natural character of the coastal environment and the Waima River.
- Most significantly, our submission raised concerns that the applicant has not included sufficient hydrological data on surface water flows of the Waima River, and as a result it is uncertain whether the mitigation proposed will be effective.

Watercare Services' application regarding water take from the Waikato River to supply Auckland.

- On 26 March, we lodged a submission on a notified water permit application for the abstraction of water supply to Auckland City from the Waikato River at Tuakau.
- Our submission acknowledges the need for the take to supplement the municipal water supply to Auckland, but raises concerns that the take could allow significant adverse effects on aquatic ecosystems.
- The submission considers that the application does not demonstrate that the ecological (on threatened and at-risk species) cultural (on whanau, hapū, iwi) and cumulative effects have been appropriately considered, and seeks for measures through conditions of consent to be designed and implemented to address these impacts.

Appeals

Te Waikoropupu Spring Water Conservation Order

- DOC is party to several appeals to the Environment Court on the decision to make a Water Conservation Order (WCO) over Te Waikoropupu Springs and its source aquifer, in Golden Bay.
- We are in support of the WCO being made as sought by the applicant, Ngati Tama ki Te Tauhu.
- Court assisted mediation between the parties reconvened for three days from 29 March to allow the parties to refine the points of disagreement before advancing to a hearing later in the year. DOC will be attending this mediation and we are active in redrafting the WCO in consultation with the parties.

Marlborough Environment Plan Appeals

- DOC is an appellant and party to several appeals to the Environment Court on Marlborough District Council decisions on the Marlborough Environment Plan.
- Mediation on the first group of appeal topics began the week of 15 March and will continue on alternate weeks until mid-June this year. We have an interest in many of these appeal topics, including natural character and landscape values of the coastal environment, indigenous biodiversity, and freshwater.

- Given this interest, we will be engaged in the ongoing mediation over much of this time.

Southland Water and Land Regional Plan Appeals

- DOC is an appellant and party to several appeals to the Environment Court on Environment Southlands' decisions on the Southland Water and Land Plan.
- Mediation on the rules for managing land use activities and effects on freshwater habitats, and setting water quality and quantity limits, commenced on 29 March in Invercargill and will continue for several weeks.
- DOC is attending to engage in this mediation, with the aim of resolving as much as can be before hearings are required.

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.3 Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS implementation

Workstream updates

Governance & oversight workstream

- We provided Minister Allan with a briefing on options for governance and oversight of the implementation of the Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Strategy (Ref: 21-B-0184) on 1 April. We look forward to receiving your feedback or meeting with you to discuss your preferences for the path forward.

- [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Monitoring & reporting workstream

- We are meeting with other agencies to establish areas of alignment and clarify roles, responsibilities and progress with related monitoring and reporting initiatives that will support or inform the pathway to implementation.

Other work areas

- We are assessing the financial implications for implementation, and progressing a stocktake to assess the current costs associated with biodiversity work across DOC, the regional sector and other agencies.

- [REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]

2 Updates

2.1 Fisheries New Zealand: quarterly reporting of protected species bycatch

- Media messages are to be drafted by officials from DOC and Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) which will be shared with you and Minister Parker, as it is likely that you will both receive calls from environmental NGO groups to do more to reduce the bycatch of protected marine species.
- Due to commitments under the revised National Plan of Action for Seabirds 2020, FNZ has started proactively reporting protected species interactions with commercial fisheries via the FNZ website.
- The report compiles all fisher-reported interactions, by fishery, for the previous quarter and includes a summary of significant captures for the current quarter.
- The current report was released on the week commencing 29 March (for the period of 1 October to 31 December 2020). Noted within is the bycatch of 28 spine-tailed devil ray by the purse seine sector (all released alive) and 52 flesh-footed shearwater interactions with bottom longline vessels (24 released alive, 28 dead).
- Since 1 January there have also been significantly high captures of turtles in the surface longline fishery, spine-tailed devil rays in the purse seine fishery and a significant event involving a bottom longline vessel capturing a total of 19 black petrels.
- FNZ and DOC have engaged with fishers through the DOC's fisher liaison programme to prevent or reduce the likelihood of these bycatch events.
- In addition, various mitigation and research explorations are under consideration to further reduce similar bycatch events in future.
- As stakeholders become aware of these bycatch incidents over the coming weeks through the website reporting and various stakeholder engagement discussions (such as the Black Petrel Working Group), it is likely to attract public and media attention and a call for more to be done.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 PF2050: Development of PAPP toxic bait for use on feral cats and stoats

- DOC's National Eradication team is collaborating with our Threats team on work to develop a PAPP toxic bait for stoats (funded through Tools to Market) and feral cats (funded through DOC Predator Free Research).
- Field trials in 2019 & 2020 in Fiordland showed the baits to be highly palatable to stoats. In winter 2020, field trials on Auckland Island also found the baits to be highly palatable to cats.
- The National Eradication team is currently trialling non-toxic baits on Rakiura Stewart Island to assess the palatability of the bait to feral cats and non-target species, in particular, Stewart Island tokoeka/kiwi. If successful, the next step will be hand-laid toxic bait trials.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 Ministry for the Environment 'Our land 2021' Release

- 'Our land 2021' is the latest release in the joint Ministry for the Environment/ Statistics NZ Environmental Reporting series and will be launched on 15 April. You will receive

a MfE briefing via Minister Shaw's office and will be invited to an embargoed briefing the day before the release.

- 'Our land 2021' focuses on the issue of land-use change and intensification, and the effects these have on the wider environment. The report builds on 'Our land 2018' and 'Environment Aotearoa 2019'. DOC advisors commented on an early draft of the report.
- The report takes a theme-based approach, meaning that not all aspects of the land domain are considered in depth. Biodiversity decline is one of the areas not included as a theme in the report this time.
- The April release includes updates to the interactive indicator web pages. Some indicators rely entirely on data drawn from long-term DOC datasets, including from the national biodiversity monitoring programme, the New Zealand Threat Classification System, and from spatial data sets developed and maintained by DOC. DOC's monitoring programme is described in the indicator web pages and links are provided so the data profiled can be downloaded.
- Three of the updated indicators that draw on DOC expertise and data are:
 - Bird species richness on public conservation land
 - Land pests – Includes ungulates, rabbits, hares and possums
 - Extinction threat to indigenous land species.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.4 Takahē Awareness Month

- April is Takahē Awareness Month. This is an annual campaign to raise people's awareness of, and interest in, this taonga species.
- This year, the campaign focusses on encouraging people to visit takahē at one of the 14 publicly accessible sanctuary sites across the country. The campaign will be run predominately across DOC channels and will include a radio-promotion giveaway of family passes to five sanctuary sites.
- If you wish to engage with or share DOC social media content on your channels, custom content for your social channels can be provided if required.
- More than 70 years of work has gone into protecting this taonga species since takahē were rediscovered in Fiordland's Murchison Mountains in 1948, after 50 years of being considered extinct. Today there are almost 450 birds in the wild and in sanctuary sites.
- DOC's Takahē Recovery Programme is working with Ngāi Tahu, national business partner Fulton Hogan and a network of people throughout the country to ensure the takahē is never again considered extinct.
- The goal of takahē recovery work is to return birds to the wild. Today, nearly half of the species is located in the wild across two populations – the Murchison Mountains and Kahurangi National Park. The remainder of the birds are spread across 18 sanctuary sites, which contribute to population security and breeding.
- Since 2015, the overall population has grown by an average of 10% a year. In 2018, takahē were introduced to Kahurangi National Park in a first attempt to establish a new wild population.
- The Takahē Recovery Programme is currently working towards establishing new, self-sustaining wild populations within the species' former range in the South Island.
- Fulton Hogan has been DOC's national partner for the Takahē Recovery Programme since 2016 and has given \$1 million to support the programme. The existing partnership agreement ends in June and is currently being renegotiated. Fulton Hogan has signalled its strong, on-going support.
- While there are no planned takahē releases this month for you to attend, further information on Takahē Awareness Month can be provided if required.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 People Group – COVID-19 Vaccination Roll Out Planning

- In collaboration with the Public Service Association, DOC has prepared an organisation vaccination plan based on the current Public Service Commission guidance.
- DOC staff will be offered vaccinations consistent with the Ministry of Health guidance/prioritisation system. Some front-line DOC staff have already been vaccinated.
- The programme will enable many remote staff to be vaccinated at their nearest DOC site. Where remote staff do not have easy access to the DOC at-site programme, or to primary healthcare facilities, DOC will facilitate at-place vaccinations .
- All vaccinated persons will have their names recorded in DOC's Occupational Health System.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Western South Island region: Cave Creek commemorations

- On 28 April 1995, thirteen students from Tai Poutini Polytechnic and a DOC staff member died when a viewing platform they were standing on collapsed into a chasm at Cave Creek. Four students survived the fall.
- It was a failure of DOC systems and processes that led to the platform collapse. In the aftermath of the tragedy, and in response to recommendations of a commission of enquiry, DOC comprehensively reviewed its systems for managing visitor sites and put in place rigorous controls and procedures to increase the safety of its facilities. The management structure was changed to a system that provided clear lines of accountability for decisions and actions.
- Since 1995, DOC's structure and systems have continued to evolve. We now have a number of leadership models to guide our work, underpinned in the DOC Trilogy (DOC's operating model, comprising Single Point Accountability, Leader-led & Team Process). DOC has a determined commitment to the continual improvement of our systems and processes.
- The Cave Creek anniversary provides an opportunity to reflect on the importance of strengthening our focus on health, safety and wellbeing across the organisation – including ensuring the safety of our visitors, staff, contractors and volunteers. Internal communication about the Cave Creek anniversary is focussed on ensuring that the victims of the tragedy are never forgotten, and that the seriousness of Cave Creek, and its impact upon DOC and our culture is understood by all DOC staff. To support this commitment, around the 26th anniversary we will be sharing a video about Cave Creek in DOC team meetings. A media release acknowledging the anniversary is also being prepared.

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

2.7 Western South Island Region: Pike River Mine – Pike River Recovery Agency Drift Recovery Project

- This is an update on the Pike River Recovery Agency (PRRA) Project, and the timeline for the planned handover of the mine site to DOC later this year.
- Te Kāhui Whakamana Rua Tekau mā Iwa/Pike River Recovery Agency (PRRA) has completed the recovery of the Pike River Mine drift and is now supporting Nga Pirihimana O Aotearoa/New Zealand Police (NZ Police) with its forensic examination of areas and items of interest within the drift.

- To assist the forensic examination, the NZ Police propose to drill up to six additional boreholes into the main workings of the mine, an area currently inaccessible. The PRRA has been engaged by NZ Police to implement the drilling work.
- As the Pike River Mine is located within Paparoa National Park, the PRRA's activities within the Park are authorised by an Access Arrangement with DOC under the Crown Minerals Act. The drilling of the additional boreholes will require DOC to authorise the activity by way of a variation to the Access Arrangement. Upon receipt of the application, we intend to process it as we have done for previous requests for authorisation made by the PRRA.
- Once the PRRA and NZ Police's activities are concluded at the mine site, the Access Arrangement will be surrendered, and management of the site will be handed over to DOC. Handover of the site to DOC is now expected to occur in October.
- DOC had hoped to complete remaining work on the Pike29 Memorial Track and other work required to make the Pike River Road and track entrance safe and fit for purpose in time for the 11th anniversary of the Pike River disaster, on 19 November, however due to the additions to the PRRA's mandate, this date is no longer feasible. The track's opening is now scheduled for mid-to-late 2022, and the Pike River families have no strong feelings on this delay.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.8 Western South Island Region: Franz Josef Glacier Guiding Westland Tai Poutini National Park

- Franz Josef Glacier Guiding Limited (FJGG) is owned by Ngai Tahu Holdings Limited. FJGG hold long-term concessions for aircraft landings and glacier guiding at "Luncheon Rock" on the Franz Josef Glacier within Westland Tai Poutini National Park.
- In recent months, the area deemed guidable and safe has reduced significantly due to extensive glacier retreat and an associated increase in rockfall events and, therefore, risk to visitors.
- In mid-February 2021 a significant rockfall onto the remaining guiding area occurred, covering that part of the glacier in thick dust & rock debris. The increased risk of further rockfall at the site led to FJGG's decision to stop glacier guiding, at which point the business was unable to continue operating.
- Representatives of FJGG met with DOC in late February to discuss a minor variation to FJGG's concession, allowing it to carry out the above activities at a safer site FJGG had identified higher up the glacier. The new site, 225m higher and 270m further up the glacier, is not identified as an approved landing site in the Westland Tai Poutini National Park Management Plan.
- A decision has been made under delegation by the Deputy Director-General Operations, to approve a short-term (one year) variation to FJGG for the new site to continue to operate and give the business and DOC time to investigate any longer-term solutions. It also provides the opportunity to test the operation of the business from this site, for a longer-term concession application.
- A technical amendment to the Westland Tai Poutini National Park Plan to formalise this change in circumstances will be explored.
- It is likely that the guiding operators on the Fox Glacier (Fox Glacier Guiding Limited) will seek a similar variation in the near future.
- Glacier guiding is an iconic activity in South Westland Glacier Country, and a key reason visitors come to South Westland. It drives a significant component of the social and economic fabric and wellbeing of the local community.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.9 Southern South Island - Milford Opportunities update

- The Independent Chair of Milford Opportunities, Dr Keith Turner, met with Minister Allan on 16 March to discuss the forthcoming Masterplan for Milford Sound Piopiotahi and surrounds. Dr Turner also met with the Minister of Tourism.
- Minister Allan and the Minister of Tourism agreed to meet again with Dr Turner in late April, following the finalising of the Masterplan by the project Governance Group. Dr Turner will be in touch with Ministerial offices to schedule a joint meeting with the Ministers of Conservation, Tourism and Transport.
- The development of the Masterplan was endorsed by the Cabinet Economic Development Committee in June 2019. The Ministers of Tourism and Conservation were invited to report back to Cabinet with the recommended Masterplan once complete.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Dr Turner will meet with the Minister of Transport on 9 April to discuss the Masterplan, with DOC officials in support.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.10 Southern South Island: kākāpō breeding predictions

- Recent rimu fruit counts indicate that kākāpō on Whenua Hou/Codfish Island and Pukenui/Anchor Island will breed in early 2022. Kākāpō breed in response to the mass fruiting, or masting, of the rimu tree. This typically occurs every two to four years. Rimu are sampled yearly in March and the percentage of developing fruit informs the breeding prediction for the following year. Winter or spring weather can impact the developing fruit, however, so the fruit crop will be reassessed again in November.
- Based on current rimu data, we can expect most of the females on both Whenua Hou and Pukenui to breed. There is a chance that a small number of females recently transferred to Te Kakahu/Chalky Island may also breed.
- Kākāpō last bred successfully in 2019. That season was a significant event, with a record 72 chicks fledging. The kākāpō population currently stands at 205 individuals.
- Given that kākāpō remain critically endangered, predicted breeding is very welcome news, enabling us to plan for appropriate breeding management.
- While we don't want to count our kākāpō before they hatch, we are optimistic that 2022 will potentially result in another positive population increase. We intend to share this good news with the public via established social media platforms as the season gets under way when there will be opportunities for media announcements and updates.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.11 Te Ara ki Mua Project – Deer in Aotearoa

- Te Ara ki Mua – Deer in Aotearoa project seeks to develop a strategic framework for responding to increasing deer populations in New Zealand. This project was initiated in 2019 by the previous Minister of Conservation in response to concerns from many

groups, including regional councils and hunting stakeholders, about the impact of increasing deer numbers.

- The focus of Te Ara ki Mua is to better manage wild deer to reduce their negative impacts on the environment, while acknowledging they are valued as a recreational, cultural, and economic resource.
- DOC is using a collaborative approach with tangata whenua: Iwi, hapū and whānau, the Game Animal Council, and other stakeholders to develop and implement the Strategy: nationally and at place. The Strategy needs to encompass solutions that effectively manage deer in the backcountry, rural front country and those areas still deer-free.
- The approach we are taking is to optimise and strengthen the suite of regulatory and non-regulatory tools available to manage deer populations. These include recreational hunting practises, community group/NGO action, and use of cultural practises (for example tikanga and Mātauranga Maori), along with relevant legislation, including the Wild Animal Control Act, Biosecurity Act, etc.
- Implementation will involve working with tangata whenua: Iwi, hapū and whānau and other stakeholders to identify issues and solutions at place, and then applying the appropriate combination of the levers to develop effective deer management responses regionally. The Raukūmara Pae Maunga project is an early example of this approach.
- We are looking to get this process under way at a small number of sites, which, in addition to the Raukūmara, will include the Kaweka/Kaimanawa sika deer population, the Ruahine Ranges and Northland. Lessons learned will be scaled up and management options will be strengthened as we learn and deliver outcomes at site.
- By the end of the year, we will have the overarching national framework in place and the internal systems required to support this regional approach and address deer issues across the country at place.
- Officials are available to meet with you should you require further details on this matter.

Contact: [Redacted]

2.12 [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



Proactively Released

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Contact: [REDACTED]

2.13 Update on the Options Development Group for the partial reviews of the general policies

- The Options Development Group (ODG) for the partial reviews of the Conservation General Policy and General Policy for National Parks (general policies) met for its sixth wānanga on 23-24 March.
- At this wānanga, the ODG:
 - confirmed its draft recommendations; and
 - prepared for engagement hui with tangata whenua and workshops with conservation boards and stakeholders.
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- On 20 April, the ODG is meeting with Ngāi Tahu and Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki at Rapaki Marae to discuss the draft recommendations. This will be the first of a number of engagement hui that will be held between April and June.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Proactively Released

3 Addendum

Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

This section includes content that is sensitive or is being considered by the Minister of Conservation or other Ministers. This information is not being released proactively.

Subject headings of content in this section are:

- PF2050 Tools to Market - GoodNature aerial micro-trap project announcement

4 Director-General Engagements

April

13 April	DOC Senior Leaders hui, Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington
15-16 April	NZ Conservation Authority, Napier
20 April	Genesis Stakeholder Breakfast, Wellington
29-30 April	Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Brackenridge, Wairarapa

May

5-6 May	TRENZ event, Christchurch
11 May	Te Urewera Board hui, Tāneatua (TBC)
13 May	Tuwharetoa Māori Trust Board hui, Te Puni Kōkiri, Wellington
18 May	NZ Search and Rescue Award Parliament
20 May	Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Silverstream



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Te Papa Atawhai

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Week beginning: 19 April 2021

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Acting Minister of Conservation

Proactively Released

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1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature - Summary

Current State (as at 12 April):

Status	Number of projects
In assessment*	91*
In approval process	18
Approved, not yet contracted	30
Contracted	46
TOTAL	185

* plus assessment of the Community Fund and the Private Landowner Fund (multiple projects in each fund)

- Assessments are underway on 91 new projects, plus the recommendations for the Community Fund and Private Landowners Fund.
- The volume of work, time constraints and resource available mean that the project applications for the remaining Kaimahi for Nature funding will be sent to you in two batches.
 - The first batch was included in a Briefing that was sent to your office on 16 April, with feedback requested by 21 April.
 - The second batch of recommendations will be sent to your office in mid-May, for progression into the following approval round.
- We have received portfolios of multiple projects from the Southern South Island and Hawke's Bay and the Manawatu-Whanganui regions. There has been low investment into these regions to date, with each of these regions indicating their preference to submit a portfolio, rather than on an individual project basis. This was due to regional partners wanting to understand what a suite of project investment looked like for the region before endorsing individual projects.
- [REDACTED]
- There are four projects presented within Briefing 21-B-0157 (Northland - AL04.6, AL04.11, AL04.12, Auckland - AL19.3) pending receipt of your feedback. Three of the four projects were recommended for funding.
- Several projects have progressed through negotiations and assurance checks in the last week with a total of 46 projects now contracted.
- [REDACTED]

SLU Minister Decisions

- Seven DOC projects over \$1m were considered at the SLU Ministers' meeting on 15 April.
- [REDACTED]

Updates - Workstreams and projects

Community Fund & Private Land Biodiversity Fund

- We will provide you with funding recommendations for approximately 45 projects, across these two funds, for your consideration by 21 April 2021. These will be presented as two funding packages of projects totalling \$34M. If you approve these, the recommendations will be provided to SLU Ministers for approval.
- In last week's Status Report you requested a diagram of the different funds. DOC officials met with you on Tuesday 13 April and presented you with a diagram of these funds. This diagram is attached as an appendix.

Maori Land Grant

- [REDACTED]

Ngā Awa:

- DOC has a Ngā Awa programme within Bio-18 funding, focussed on 14 priority catchments. Jobs for Nature Ngā Awa funding enables community groups in those catchments to invest in catchment restoration projects at scale to improve freshwater biodiversity.
- The large-scale Ngā Awa Waikanae and [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- The [REDACTED] waterway restoration project and [REDACTED] restoration project are being finalised for Ministerial consideration, having received favourable interagency feedback.
- [REDACTED]

South Island Threatened Species Recovery

- The endorsed Detailed Business Case has been received by Jobs for Nature and is in the process of final approval.
- In last week's Status Report you asked if there is an equivalent North Island Threatened Species prevention programme. There is no such programme within JFN. The South Island Threatened Species Recovery programme is being delivered in partnership with [REDACTED] and focuses on species recovery and habitat restoration for threatened species.

Kiwis for kiwi

- 10 of the 12 projects that Kiwis for kiwi has funded are currently active and on track. A launch for Taranaki based projects is being planned.

Predator Free 2050 Ltd

- [REDACTED]

- The final business case is with Jobs for Nature for approval. Operational planning is now at the implementation stage, with deer and goat culling.
- [REDACTED] restoration – Ongoing discussions are being held with iwi and hapū about their role in this project, with development of a schematic that shows the relationship and roles of iwi and hapū, DOC and the [REDACTED]. This is an entity undergoing change to be fit to receive resources for the projects. No new projects have been commissioned.

Relationship Scan

Ministry for the Environment

- We provided several Expressions of Interest to MfE for freshwater proposals that DOC is unlikely to be able to fund due to oversubscription. These will be considered for MfE's 'Essential Freshwater' funding. MfE has undertaken an initial review of the proposals and identified that they are all eligible for MfE funding. Following further review by MfE, these proposals will be considered against proposals put forward by other agencies by an interagency panel in late April.
- DOC was involved in the first round of Te Mana o te Wai assessments.

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

1.2 Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS implementation

- [REDACTED] The implementation work programme focusses on five workstreams that will set up the foundations for delivering action against the Strategy:

Governance & oversight workstream

- We recently provided your office with a briefing to explore options for governance and oversight of the implementation of the Strategy (DOC ref: 21-B-0184). Whilst we await your feedback, work is currently focused on ensuring close alignment with the Māori rights and interests workstream.

Monitoring & Reporting workstream

- We continue to meet with other agencies to establish alignments, clarify roles, responsibilities and progress with related monitoring and reporting initiatives that will support or inform the pathway to implementation. This includes meeting with MfE Environmental monitoring and reporting system team, and workshops with StatsNZ focused on the Data Investment Plan (Social, Economic and Environmental agencies and Treasury).

Finance and Gaps Analysis workstream

- [REDACTED]
- DOC will be contacting previous stakeholders and reference group members over the week beginning 19 April to inform on progress and future plans for implementation.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2 Updates

2.1

[Redacted content]

Contact: [Redacted]

2.2 Northern South Island: Loss of valuable bryozoan coral beds off Abel Tasman National Park

- New research from NIWA, funded by MBIE, has found that a valuable bryozoan coral bed has disappeared at Separation Point, off Abel Tasman National Park. This is a significant loss for biodiversity and for fisheries management, as the beds were an important nursery habitat for coastal fisheries.
- A 140 km² area off Separation Point has been closed under fisheries regulations to commercial trawling and dredging since 1980 to protect the area's extensive bryozoan "coral" beds – the last remaining beds in Tasman and Golden bays.
- NIWA has described the area as "a barren desert in terms of biogenic habitats and juvenile fish assemblages" and concluded sedimentation from land, particularly the effects of ex-Cyclone Gita in February 2018, was the likely cause.
- This issue is likely to receive public and media attention due to growing concerns about the adverse effects of sedimentation on coastal ecosystems. We are working with Fisheries New Zealand on this issue and will keep your office informed.
- The adverse effect of sedimentation on the marine environment has been identified by DOC as a high priority through its Bio-18 funding work stream. As part of this work, we are working with others to identify research priorities to improve our understanding of sedimentation on coastal and marine ecosystems.

Contact: [Redacted]

2.3 Eastern South Island: Awaroa/Godley Heads asbestos

- Some facilities, including camping areas and other bookable accommodation at Awaroa/Godley Head have been closed following the discovery of friable asbestos (fibres in the soil dispersing to air) and other contaminants.
- Awaroa/Godley Head (30m from central Ōtautahi Christchurch) is the site of a historic WWII heavy gun battery. Over 100,000 visitors per annum use the walking track, and the site is a popular destination with a campground and a newly restored 'caretakers' cottage', both of which are bookable accommodation on the DOC website.
- All known asbestos was removed from the site between 2005-2008 by the Department of Labour (now MBIE), in accordance with best practice at that time.
- As part of a proposed road re-sealing project, testing was undertaken to determine whether contaminated material was still present. It revealed friable asbestos, and the presence of coal tar and tar ash along the road, around the historic buildings and gun emplacements.
- The site has now been closed to the public. Camping and booked accommodation has been cancelled, and signage and danger tape and an alert on the DOC website have been put in place. A caretaker and their family have also been moved off site.
- Staff who have worked or lived at the site will be supported and health testing will be required. A plan of action is currently being developed.
- Further testing is underway to determine the extent and degree of contamination. Once results are known, a range of remediation options will be explored and costed.
- A media release informing people about the contamination was sent out before Easter. Since then, The Press/Stuff have run a follow-up story. Messaging to use in response to media queries has been prepared.
- We will keep you updated as the situation progresses.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.4 Western South Island: Griffin Creek Run of the River Hydro Project

- This item follows two updates to Minister Allan in early February regarding the application from Griffin Creek Hydro for a variation to their existing permission. The Director Operations Western South Island is due to decide on this application within the next three weeks. Regardless of the outcome, the decision is likely to generate a negative response from stakeholders and/or the applicant. The variation application has been assessed by DOC as having nil-to-minor conservation impact, so does not trigger the need for public notification.
- Significant stakeholder interest (including from Federated Mountain Clubs, Forest & Bird and the NZ Canyoners Association) centres mainly around the hydro activity, as opposed to the specifics of the variations. The West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board has also been involved in this process.
- Iwi fully support the proposal for a mini hydro scheme on Griffin Creek, which is seen as a step towards sustainable energy and greater resilience across Tai Poutini West Coast.
- Both stakeholder groups and the applicant have intimated legal challenge to the process. We believe, however, that a sound process has been followed to date and our legal advice supports this view.
- The pending decision (due within the next three weeks) is likely to create media interest and/or legal challenge from the stakeholders and/or applicant, depending on the outcome. We will keep your office informed of developments.

Contact: [REDACTED]



Contact: [Redacted]



Contact: [Redacted]

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Contact: [Redacted]

2.8 [Redacted]

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

█ [REDACTED]
█ [REDACTED]
█ [REDACTED]
Contacts: [REDACTED]

3 Director-General Engagements

April

20 April Genesis Stakeholder Breakfast, Wellington
29-30 April Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Brackenridge, Wairarapa

May

4 May Launch of "Fight for the Wild" Series, Zealandia
5-6 May TRENZ event, Christchurch
11 May Te Urewera Board hui, Tāneatua (TBC)
13 May Tuwharetoa Māori Trust Board hui, Te Puni Kōkiri, Wellington
18 May NZ Search and Rescue Awards, Parliament
20 May Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Silverstream

June

17-18 June NZ Conservation Authority, Wellington

July

1 July Matariki stakeholder luncheon, Te Papa Atawhai, WGTN
20-21 July Senior Leadership Retreat (TBC)

4 Appendices

- JFN programme summary (regular item, Status Report item 1.1 refers)
- Events table (regular item)
- Cabinet Paper report (regular item)
- Forthcoming items (regular item)
- JFN diagram – "Programme Funding on a Page" (Status Report item 1.1 refers)
- JFN diagram – DOC programmes (Status Report item 1.1 refers)
- Cave Creek background material (requested of Director-General, and in last week's Status Report):
 - Commission of Inquiry report (comprises four files)
 - Essay by Joris de Bres on Cave Creek
 - Video prepared for internal DOC use (provided digitally to your Office)



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 26 April 2021

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Acting Minister of Conservation

Proactively Released

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1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Current State (as at 20 April):

Status	Number of projects
In assessment*	69
In approval process	40
Approved, not yet contracted	25
Contracted	51
TOTAL	185

* plus assessment of the Community Fund and the Private Landowner Fund (multiple projects in each fund)

- Briefing 21-B-0270 (sent to your office on 16 April) outlined 28 recommended projects for your feedback by 22 April (this includes a one-day extension that has been given by the JFN Secretariat). If desired, we can send this recommendation package through to the JFN Reference Group for feedback concurrently and will consider feedback from both yourself and the Reference Group prior to submitting the projects for SLU approval. Please confirm this is acceptable.
- The seven projects (including Northland portfolio, as well as projects in Lower North Island; Tairāwhiti and Eastern South Island) that were tabled for approval decisions at the SLU Minister meeting on 19 April, will be reassessed in the national context and re-tabled as appropriate within the larger recommendation package at the upcoming SLU Minister meeting on 10 May.
- There are four projects presented within briefing 21-B-0157 pending receipt of your feedback. Three of these projects were recommended, and one project was not recommended for funding at this time. The three recommended projects will be included in the upcoming SLU Minister briefing on 10 May.
- It is likely that further projects are added for Reference Group feedback and SLU Minister approval, following the result of the assessment process this week. Your office will be notified of any additional projects going forward, to obtain your feedback prior to the SLU meeting.
- Following feedback from the SLU Minister meeting on 19 April, we are working with the JFN Secretariat to present a programme-level view of the investment approach and strategy.
- We have received portfolios of multiple projects from Southern South Island and Hawke's Bay and the Manawatu-Whanganui regions. There has been low investment into these regions to date, with these regions indicating their preference to submit a portfolio, rather than on an individual project basis.
- A paper has been provided to your office that sets out the overall funding picture for the DOC Jobs for Nature programme. This describes the remaining funding that could be made available to contribute to funding cameras on fishing boats.
- We are also working with MPI who is leading a paper based on the direction given by SLU Ministers at their meeting on 19 April.

SLU Minister Decisions

- A decision is also tabled for increasing the delegation threshold for SLU Minister decisions from \$1m to \$2.5million. If approved, this means that delegations for decision-making for projects under \$2.5million will sit with the Director-General and will be presented to SLU Ministers for noting only. Decisions on projects over \$2.5m in value will sit with SLU Ministers.

Updates - Workstreams and projects

Community and Landowner Fund

- A recommendation package for this fund is being finalised and will be sent to your office from the Funds Team separately.

Kiwis for kiwi

- Projects continuing to ramp up although slower than Kiwis for Kiwi intended. Kiwis for Kiwi although remain forecast to exceed annual targets.

- Deloitte continues to conduct a formal review.
- Submissions of JFN reporting remain incomplete. The authorisation of payment for [REDACTED] is being withheld whilst we are working through final assurance checks.

South Island Threatened Species Prevention

- The endorsed detailed business case has been received by Jobs for Nature and is in the process of final approval.

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

1.2 Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS implementation

- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- The implementation work programme focusses on five workstreams that will set up the foundations of how Aotearoa will come together to deliver action against the Strategy (Governance and Oversight, Māori rights and interests, Finance and gaps analysis, Communications and engagement). Relevant updates this week include:
 - Governance & oversight workstream:**
 - We await feedback on the briefing to explore options for governance and oversight of the implementation of the Strategy (Ref: 21-B-0184) which was recently provided to your office.
 - Māori rights & interests:**
 - DOC held our first kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face) hui on 21 April in Wellington. The purpose of this meeting was whanaungatanga, to develop a high-level framing 'think piece' for Māori rights and interests in biodiversity and a high-level engagement plan with Māori over the next two years. We will provide an updated on the outcomes of this meeting in next week's status report.
 - Finance and gaps analysis:**
 - A request has been sent to relevant central and local government agencies and large biodiversity funders to seek data to establish baseline expenditure on biodiversity.
 - This will inform an assessment of the gaps in activity against the goals of the Strategy [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.3 RMA Advocacy

No items this week

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2 Updates

2.1 Northern North Island: Te Pēwhairangi (Bay of Islands) Marine Mammal Sanctuary engagement

- The Marine Mammal Sanctuary (MMS) proposal has been publicly notified on 20 April 2021 on your behalf.
- Our Bay of Islands office is continuing with ongoing engagement on the proposal.
- On 9 April 2021 the hapū-DOC kaitiaki roopu (working group) for the MMS proposal presented to the Board of Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-Ō-Ngāpuhi. This is the first time DOC has been invited to present to this influential forum.
- The kaitiaki roopu answered questions about the proposal and listened to feedback. Common themes were clarifying how the proposal interrelates with commercial and customary interests of Ngāpuhi – including customary title applications under the Takutai Moana Act 2011.
- Further public engagement events are planned to occur during the 28 day statutory period.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Northern North Island: Ngāti Kuri Kawena signing

- Te Hiku Iwi and DOC will be signing Te Kawenata, a partnership agreement to develop a draft Te Hiku Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) on 28 April 2021 in Kaitiāia.
- The CMS forms a significant part of the cultural redress in the 2015 Treaty Settlements of the Te Hiku iwi (Te Aupōuri, Te Rarawa, Ngāi Takoto and Ngāti Kuri), and applies to an area defined in settlements as the Te Korowai area. Te Korowai extends from the Hokianga Harbour and Mangonui northwards.
- A joint iwi and DOC working group has been established to develop the CMS and the team is focused on delivering the initial draft ready for engagement with tangata whenua, key stakeholders, and community during 2021.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 Northern North Island: Kennedy Point Marina Development, Waiheke Island – judicial review

- The Auckland Council has granted resource consents to Waiheke Marina Development to develop a marina at Kennedy's Point, Waiheke Island. There is opposition from local groups, partly from their concerns about little penguins (kororā), which nest and moult in the existing breakwater that is partly affected by marina works.
- At a meeting on 14 April 2021 with Auckland Council, the developer, iwi and animal welfare groups, DOC restated its position that the scope and timing of the works present a low risk to penguins, and that the risk is adequately addressed by the developer's penguin management plan.
- Some parties at the meeting raised questions about whether a permit to disturb wildlife under the Wildlife Act is required for the development. DOC invited these

parties to submit relevant questions to DOC in writing, so that legal and technical advice can be sought to answer them.

- On 19 April, SKP Incorporated (Save Kennedy Point) and four other applicants (HUHA (Helping You Help Animal Trusts), Earthrace Charitable Trust, World Animal Protection Ltd and Ngāti Paoa Trust Board) initiated judicial review proceedings against DOC and Auckland Council in respect of this matter.
- The decisions being challenged in the judicial review proceedings are:
 - DOC's decision that proposed works at Kennedy Point in connection with the proposed Kennedy Point Marina are not prohibited (without lawful authority) under the Wildlife Act 1953 and/or do not require any authorisation under that Act;
 - the Auckland Council's decision to approve a construction management plan (CMP) under the resource consent for the proposed Kennedy Point Marina when the CMP was deficient and should have been approved.
- We have recommended to your Office that they refer any correspondence received on this to the Department for response.
- Crown Law is acting for DOC in respect of the Judicial Review proceedings.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.4 Central North Island: 2021 Kaimanawa Wild Horse Muster

- DOC's annual Kaimanawa wild horse muster will take place on 24 April (weather dependent) within the Waiouru Military Training Area. We will muster to rehome around 130 horses, in line with the 1993 population management programme. No euthanising is proposed, a horse would only be euthanised if it came in injured and a vet deemed it necessary.
- This programme requires the herd to be kept to a practicable level that minimises the damage they cause to rare plant species found within the Kaimanawa Ranges, while also maintaining genetic diversity (300 horses).
- DOC manages the horses by working with partners in the Kaimanawa Wild Horse Advisory Group (KWHAG) comprising New Zealand Defence Force, Ngati Rangi, Forest & Bird, SPCA, horse re-homing groups (Kaimanawa Heritage Horses and Kaimanawa Wild Horse Preservation Society), vets and adjoining landowners.

• [REDACTED]

• [REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Western South Island: Temporary closure of a small part of Dolomite Point Walkway (Punakaiki "Pancake Rocks")

- Dolomite Point Walkway (the Pancake Rocks) is a key visitor facility and experience within the Tai Poutini West Coast Region. The walkway is a 40-minute elevated coastal walk within the dramatic coastal setting on the edge of the Paparoa National Park. Up to 1,000 visitors a day will visit Dolomite Point during these school holidays.

- We closely monitor and manage natural geological hazards and risks to visitors on the walkway, including daily geotechnical stability measurements of the ground supporting the walkway. Monitoring on 16 April 2021 showed that three points along a 20m section of the walkway have moved between 1mm-3mm
- A Visitor Safety Triggered Action Response Plan (TARP) is in place. This sets out the daily monitoring programme and the appropriate response if any changes are detected. As per the TARP, we must temporarily close the portion of the walkway (the outer coastal section) where there has been movement (85m of the 1.1km track) until we are confident this movement has ceased.
- A further geotechnical site assessment was completed on 20 April with a decision being due by COP 22 April on when this section of the walkway can be reopened.
- The balance of the Dolomite Point walkway remains open and visitors can still access the blowholes and the surge pool

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Southern South Island: Milford Opportunities Project (MOP)

- DOC is part of 'Milford Opportunities' (MOP), a collaborative project led by Southland District Council to develop a non-statutory master plan for Milford Sound Piopiotahi, Milford Corridor, and surrounds.
- In June 2019 Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV) endorsed the development of a master plan and invited the Ministers of Tourism and Conservation to report back to Cabinet with the plan once complete. MOP Independent Chair Dr Keith Turner met individually with the Ministers for Conservation, Tourism and Transport in March/early April and all Ministers signalled support for the direction of the draft plan. The MOP Governance Group confirmed and approved the final plan on 13 April 2021.
- You are meeting with Dr Keith Turner and the Ministers of Tourism and Transport on 13 May 2021 to discuss the finalised master plan, the forthcoming Cabinet paper and launch of the plan.
- The paper is scheduled to go to Cabinet in June 2021 to seek endorsement for the plan recommendations and implementation structure. The master plan contains controversial precedent recommendations:
 - controlling access to public conservation land through a permit and public transport system
 - pricing for access
 - closure of the fixed wing runway at Milford Sound Piopiotahi
 - prohibiting cruise ships from entering Milford Sound Piopiotahi
 - reorganising the infrastructure and visitor flow at Milford Sound Piopiotahi.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Predator Free 2050 – five year progress report release

- DOC is preparing a Predator Free 2050 (PF2050) five year progress report to detail the challenges and successes of the programme as a whole, as well as the investments made over 2016 - 2021. The report also assesses the initial progress made against the seven interim goals outlined in the PF2050 national strategy.
- The report notes the wide range of activities carried out by both Government and external partners. A draft is currently with stakeholders for review.

- The public release of the report will coincide with the PF2050 Annual Summit on 10 - 11 June. You have also been invited to attend the first day of the PF2050 Annual Summit.
- The report will also form part of the PF2050 report back to Cabinet, scheduled for ENV committee on 10 June.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.8 Tenure Review under the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998

- Briefing 20-B-0814 discusses your role in tenure review and the process of tenure review in more detail. There are currently 27 tenure reviews at various stages of the process.
- For each review, we will provide you with a briefing on the proposal, the property, the decisions you are being asked to make, relevant considerations and information that you will need to take into account.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- The former Minister for Land Information Hon Eugenie Sage introduced a Bill in 2020 (the Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill refers) that will end the process of tenure review. This Bill is now being progressed by Minister for Land Information Hon O'Connor (item 2.8 below refers).
- The Bill provides transitional arrangements for reviews that have reached the "Substantive Proposal Put" stage of the process to complete, however all other tenure reviews will cease once the Bill is enacted.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.9 Proposed amendments to the Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill

- The Environment Select Committee is considering Hon O'Connor's Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill. Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) is proposing changes to the Bill in their Departmental Report (DR). Cabinet approval of these changes will be sought through DEV Cabinet Committee on 6 May before providing the DR to the Select Committee on 11 May. The Committee will be reporting back to the House by 6 July.
- DOC has a significant interest in this Bill, as Crown pastoral land often adjoins public conservation land, it encompasses some of New Zealand's most iconic landscapes, and there has been ongoing loss of biodiversity and landscape values.
- The outcomes in the Bill require both maintaining or enhancing inherent values (ecological, cultural, landscape, heritage, and scientific) across the Crown pastoral estate while providing for ongoing pastoral farming.
- DOC has commented on the draft DR and Cabinet paper. We supported many proposed amendments and suggested some minor technical changes. However, we consider three proposed changes (intended to better support leaseholders' ability to exercise their rights under their lease) would shift the balance and effectively weaken the ability to maintain and enhance inherent values. We also consider two of these changes would be infeasible or difficult and administratively complex to implement.

- Minister O'Connor sent out the Cabinet paper and DR for Ministerial consultation on 20 April. DOC's feedback is not yet reflected in the Cabinet paper (see para 101). We met with LINZ on 21 April to discuss our comments.
- We provided your office with a copy of our comments on the DR and will provide you with a memo for the DEV meeting.
- In addition, the Select Committee has asked LINZ to consult with DOC and provide "*evidence of changes to biodiversity on former Crown pastoral lease land that is now in the Conservation Estate*". We are developing this advice and will provide the draft to your office on Friday 23 April.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.10 [REDACTED]

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

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.11 National Iwi Chairs Forum

- The Minister for Māori Crown Relations has organised a pre-National Iwi Chairs Forum (ICF) quarterly hui meeting with lead Ministers and ICF Pou Co-Chairs for Thursday 22 April (the date for the quarterly ICF hui is yet to be confirmed but will be held in May).
- The ICF is a group of roughly 70 iwi organisations. Since 2005 the ICF has been meeting quarterly to discuss and enable iwi/Māori aspirations in the spheres of cultural, social, economic, environmental and political development.
- ICF hui is an opportunity for the ICF and Ministers to discuss and advance priorities across five key work areas:
 - Pou Taiao (Environment)
 - Pou Tahua (Economic Development)
 - Pou Tikanga (Culture and Constitution)
 - Pou Tangata (Wellbeing); and
 - Pou Take Āhuarangi (Climate Change)
- The ICF hui at Waitangi on Friday 5 February provided an opportunity for the ICF and Ministers to discuss and potentially agree to advance a range of shared priorities for 2021.
- The conservation priorities for Pou Taiao are:

- Jobs for Nature programme,
 - The partial reviews of the Conservation General Policy
 - General Policy for National Parks, and
 - the Implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao – The Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy .
- Report-backs on the agreed priorities are to be provided at the quarterly ICF hui, and an update on the conservation priorities for Pou Taiao is being provided to the Ministry for the Environment.
 - Michelle Hippolite, Deputy Director-General Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai in DOC is meeting with the Iwi Advisory Group on Tuesday 27 April to discuss conservation related kaupapa.

Contact: [REDACTED]

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3 Director-General Engagements

April

20 April Genesis Stakeholder Breakfast, Sofitel Wellington
28 April Cave Creek Recognition, DOC countrywide
29-30 April Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Brackenridge Wairarapa

May

01 May Giftback of Pukaha/Mt Bruce Pukaha
04 May Launch of "Fight for the Wild" Series, Zealandia
05 May Jobs for Nature – Nga Awa hui, Waikanae
05-06 May TRENZ event, Christchurch
11 May Te Urewera Board hui, Taneatua (tbc)
13 May Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board hui, Te Puni Kokiri, Wellington
18 May NZ Search and Rescue Awards, Parliament
20 May Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Silverstream Retreat
21 May J4N - Wakamoekau Community Water Storage, Wairarapa
29 May Tāmaki Makaurau Community hui Te Mahurehure Cultural Marae
Auckland
31 May Kiwis for Kiwi Event, Bay of Islands

June

12 June NZ Deerstalkers Association National Conference, Queenstown
17-18 June NZ Conservation Authority, Wellington

July

01-07 July Matariki Stakeholder luncheon, DOC Wellington
20-21 July SLT Retreat, TBC

4 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

4.1 Jobs for Nature (JFN)

- The Prime Minister is visiting Hawkes Bay on 22 April. We have provided all JFN Hawkes Bay projects which are currently all in the assessed phase as at 21 April.
- We have been advised that the PM's visit to Rakiura/Stewart Island has been postponed. A new date has not been confirmed.
- We have provided your office with a schedule for JFN funding announcements. A further 29 announcements are currently being drafted and progressing through an internal sign off process. Where possible we are combining announcements. As projects are approved, they are added to this schedule.
- Our Jobs for Nature video series went live the week commencing 19 April. This series is designed to show our audiences the impact the programme is having on people's lives in hard-hit communities, and the big-picture biodiversity benefit. The first video went out on 21 April. It profiles Caitlin Bell working on the Bullock Creek restoration project in Punakaiki. The five 60 second videos in the series will be released over a ten-week period.

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

4.2 Northern North Island region: Ngāti Kuri Research Centre of Excellence

- Hon Nanaia Mahuta has been invited by Ngāti Kuri iwi, to open a Research Centre of Excellence during Matariki (June/ July).
- The event showcases the investment Ngāti Kuri have made to advance a centre of research for lands and the Kermadec Islands, within their rohe. The five-year research programme, made possible by \$13.3 million from the MBIE Endeavour Fund, also has the University of Auckland, Massey University, Niwa and Manaaki Whenua as partners.
- Ngati Kuri will also present Te Arawhanui and Te Haumihi, which are Ngāti Kuri aspirations for the next 1000 years, and they are considering utilising the event as a potential launch of the next stage for WAI262, major topic for Maoridom across Aotearoa.
- The event is expected to take place at DOC's Te Paki Field base. We are still waiting for further detail about this event and will keep you informed.

Contact: [REDACTED]

4.3 Summary of progress to date on carbon mitigation

- The Department's bid for EECA funding to cover 50% of the cost of 148 Hyundai Kona EVs and charging stations was successful, and there may be an opportunity for a joint official announcement with Minister Shaw. Details for an announcement are being arranged by EECA with Hon Shaw's office.
- The balance of the cost of the EVs will be met by the Department, with vehicles arriving from 2021 onwards. The purchase of these EVs is in support of the Carbon Neutral Government Programme (CNGP). The major contributors to carbon emissions at DOC are vehicle / vessel fuel (petrol and diesel), air travel, and helicopter usage.

- We are on track to a verified carbon emissions programme by year-end with Toitū Envirocare. Based on the verified emissions, we will introduce carbon budgets across our operations in the next financial year. Our related Carbon Reduction Plan will also be developed and implemented at that time.
- We have achieved a 40% reduction in air travel emissions through reduced travel budgets and the use of video conferencing, and we have several pilot programmes underway aimed at introducing drones into our operations to reduce helicopter use. We are working through 69 visitor sites and staff properties to replace the use of coal.
- A management of change programme is under development to support this fundamental business transformation.
- The Hyundai Kona roll-out is targeting our passenger fleet only at this stage. Currently there are no viable electric options that are fit for purpose for our utility fleet, but we will review options as they become available.

Contact: [REDACTED]

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5 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support this status report:

1. Appendix 1 – JFN Dashboard (regular item, Status Report item 1.1 refers)
2. Appendix 2 – Events table (regular item)
3. Appendix 3 – Cabinet Paper Report (regular item)
4. Appendix 4 – Forthcoming items (regular item)

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