



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 7 December 2020

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Media and Communications

- [REDACTED]
- We are working on two OIA requests, from TVNZ and the *Southland Times* on funding allocations made to regional alliances.
- We have also received an OIA request from a journalist for DOC's internal and external correspondence in relation to his September request for information about the number of actual jobs created (vs the number forecasted). This request has also been sent to the Secretariat and the Ministry for the Environment.

Kaimahi for Nature

- There are 14 Alliance projects tabled either for approval or noting, at the upcoming SLU Minister meeting on 7 December.
- There are a further 20 Alliance projects in the pipeline in the assessment stage, which we expect to table for the Reference Group and SLU Minister meetings in early February. We are pleased to see that the Alliances are now submitting projects of sizeable scale, to maximise employment and conservation outcomes. [REDACTED]
- The direct contracting model is progressing, and we have signed direct contracts with the [REDACTED] and have many other draft deeds currently sitting with partners for their confirmation.
- [REDACTED]

Most other regions are signalling their preference for a direct contracting model between DOC and a delivery partner, with some regional entities playing an advisory role.

Restoring Nature

- Punakaiki Restoration Project: The deed for this project has been signed by the delivery partner, Conservation Volunteers New Zealand, and final sign-off and funding release is currently in progress. Funding from this project will retain four people in employment, and recruitment for an additional nine nursery staff will commence soon.
- [REDACTED]
- The following projects are now being considered by the cross-agency Freshwater Governance Group:
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - Ngā Awa - Te Hoiere/Pelorus: Initial scoping for this project showed a cost/FTE of over \$100K and we are working with staff and partners to reduce this.

Protecting Nature

- Kiwis for kiwi have confirmed their annual plan and have noted that they expect to overachieve on their employment targets. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- Predator Free 2050 Ltd held its board meeting on 24 November and [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Jobs for Nature funding is already enabling immediate job retention for 11 FTE jobs.

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

1.2 RMA Advocacy Update

DOC's recent RMA work is as follows:

Submissions

Proposed Selwyn District Plan

- The proposed Selwyn District Plan was notified on 5 October, with submission closing 11 December. We are currently drafting a submission.
- Our submission will focus on DOC's RMA priorities and is largely supportive of coastal environment and natural hazard provisions. The proposed plan includes mapped areas for natural character, coastal inundation and coastal erosion, with specific rules for activities in these areas.
- The draft submission seeks considerable amendments to the indigenous biodiversity provisions as they do not ensure that indigenous biodiversity will be maintained. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The proposed provisions do not identify significant natural areas and, in addition, provide for vegetation clearance associated with a number of activities as a permitted activity. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Clutha Gold Trail Charitable Trust

- A proposal for a cycle trail involving the construction of an embankment and boardwalk within part of the regionally significant Lake Waihola wetland was notified by Otago Regional Council on 30 October.
- We lodged a submission on 27 November opposing the application by the Clutha Gold Trail Charitable Trust because of the adverse effects on Lake Waihola wetland.
- We have proposed a meeting with the applicant to identify a route and construction methods which will avoid adverse effects on the wetland values.

Tasman District Council - Plan Change 72 Moorings and Structures

- In July, the Tasman District Council (TDC) notified proposed Plan Change 72 Moorings and Structures to the Tasman Natural Resource Plan. Plan Change 72 mapped a number of primarily existing mooring areas in Tasman District coastal marine area. Management of mooring space and moorings within the identified mooring areas was proposed by the TDC using a mooring bylaw which was notified at the same time. The then Minister of Conservation lodged a submission primarily in support of the plan change.
- On 27 November, a further submission was lodged on your behalf, on one submission from the Marine Farmers Association.
- The Marine Farmers Association's submission further clarified matters which ensured the Plan Change did not manage aquaculture structures. This submission point was supported on your behalf.

- The submission sought a joint implementation programme of inspections of moorings for harmful aquatic organisms, and this was also supported on your behalf.
- A further submission was submitted on your behalf in opposition to the submission's suggestion of a flexible, non-regulatory approach to the management of future critical infrastructure.

Hearings

Port Otago Ltd, erosion works at Te Rauone Beach, Otago Harbour

- The Otago Regional Council notified a resource consent application to install three rock groynes to prevent coastal erosion, and to undertake beach replenishment works at Te Rauone Beach, Dunedin.
- DOC submitted in opposition of the proposed consent because of potential adverse effects on threatened species and inconsistency with the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.
- Concerns about the effects of these works have been resolved through negotiation on consent conditions and, as a result, the request to be heard has been withdrawn.

Northland Regional Council Resource Consent Application by Mangawhai Historic Wharf Trust

- The Mangawhai Historic Wharf Trust sought resource consents for proposed wharf facility in the coastal marine area of the Mangawhai Estuary. DOC submitted in opposition to this application on 14 August. Our opposition focussed on the following key points:
 - The Mangawhai Harbour is arguably the most important site in the country to New Zealand's rarest breeding bird the New Zealand fairy tern (tara iti). Tara iti is categorised in the NZ Threat Classification system as Nationally Critical (the highest possible threat ranking before extinction)
 - The survival of tara iti is dependent on Mangawhai Harbour being suitable for the breeding and raising of chicks
 - If recreation is encouraged in the middle harbour by providing infrastructure such as the proposed wharf, this could be the death knell for the tara iti population
 - The adverse effects of the wharf are potentially significant.
- DOC legal, technical and planning staff presented expert evidence at the hearing for this application, held on 21 September.
- A decision released on 8 November **refused** the consent application. The Independent Hearings Panel (IHP) was not satisfied that the proposed activities could be carried out without increasing disturbance to tara iti and further degradation of the habitat. Furthermore, the directive protection provisions of the NZCPS and other RMA planning documents clearly did not support the granting of consent
- This was an important outcome for DOC, as we have committed substantial resources into the survival of tara iti over many years, through activities such as active nest management, incubation of eggs, and partnering with community groups.
- The IHP acknowledged this, commenting in the decision that:

“[that tara-iti] still persist at Mangawhai, including in the areas where there is significant recreational activity, is directly related to the significant efforts and funds that have been invested by DOC, the NZ Fairy Tern Trust, and the community to actively manage and offset the various stressors faced in their natural habitat.”
- The applicant has until 8 December to lodge an appeal.

Other

Comments on the Draft Nelson Plan

- The Nelson City Council has released the draft Nelson Plan for comments. The proposed Plan is a combined plan that includes Regional Coastal Plan provisions to be approved by the Minister of Conservation.
- DOC's comments to the clarification and focus on RMA priorities, such as the coastal marine area, natural character, and significant natural areas. A key issue is coastal water quality and rules relating to discharges of wastewater to the coastal marine area.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Proactiiv y Released

2 Updates

2.1 Central North Island – Te Whānau a Apanui Treaty settlement

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

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Lower North Island: Lift of temporary suspension concession - Cape Kidnappers

- A concession held by Gannet Beach Adventures (GBA) to transport people to Cape Kidnappers was temporarily suspended by DOC in February 2019 in response to a landside which severely injured two walkers on the beach.
- The suspension was for safety reasons while an independent Quantitative Risk Assessment (QRA) was carried out to identify the hazards and risks to people on the beach.
- The QRA was provided to GBA and the company was instructed by DOC to prepare and provide an independently audited safety plan appropriate to the risks and hazards identified.
- The company complied, the plan was accepted by DOC, and the temporary suspension of the concession was lifted on 27 November.
- Safety has been our priority in this situation, but we acknowledge GBA's uncertainty as we worked through the issues, and we are glad to have been able to reach a decision in time for the summer season.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 Southern South Island: 3 February 2020 flood recovery

- We have made progress with the recovery of assets at key visitor attractions in the Fiordland and Mt Aspiring national parks following widespread and damaging floods earlier this year.
- On 3 February, more than one metre of rain fell in an 18-hour period (about 1/10th average annual rainfall for the area). More than 440km of tracks on Public Conservation Land sustained damage as well as the loss of structures (bridges, boardwalks, barriers), which impacted on many iconic and key visitor attractions.
- Assessments of all affected areas were undertaken immediately after the storm cleared and were completed before the nationwide Covid-19 lockdown in late March. \$13.7M was allocated by the Government in Budget 2020 for the repairs, in an estimated three-year programme of work. DOC personnel and specialist contractors started the major recovery work in September.
- After partial openings on 27 October, the Milford track reopened on 30 November, and the Routeburn Track will reopen this week. These two Great Walks were the focus for the first stage of work, as they attract thousands of visitors to the region and are very important to local communities and concessionaires.
- The Lake Howden Hut facilities - approximately 3.5km from the Divide carpark on the Routeburn Track - was deemed unsafe to repair after being damaged in a landslide during the flooding. Demolition began late November, and the site will be remediated in time for the Routeburn track reopening.
- Two popular day-visitor attractions along the Milford Road corridor were repaired and opened to the public in November - Lak Maian Track and Key Summit Track.
- The Chasm is also a very popular visitor attraction which remains closed while geotechnical assessments and planning are undertaken. The Chasm is 10km from Piopiotahi Milford Sound on the Milford Road, and was significantly damaged by the flood. The upper two viewing bridges were destroyed and the lower viewing bridge damaged. The carpark and track surfaces sustained serious washout and slumping. The Cleddau River has changed course and now runs closer to the carpark area.
- The Hollyford Track is another popular attraction that is still closed because of extensive storm damage. There are streams without bridges, and slips in the area. Work is under way to reopen the Hollyford track to the public (albeit with a lower service standard, reflecting the damaged facilities) during December. Ngāai Tahu tourism also expects to run a modified guided walk on this track in peak summer. The Hollyford Road itself was severely damaged in a number of places, which has impacted on access to the Hollyford Track and adjacent side-tracks. Waka Kotahi and the Southland District Council announced in November that the entire road will be rebuilt to the road end, allowing vehicle access to the start of the track.

Contact [REDACTED]

2.4 Southern South Island: Kawarau/Remarkables reclassification

- DOC is currently reclassifying the conservation status of the two Remarkables Conservation Areas immediately adjoining Queenstown.
- The first round of public consultation begins on 9 December, with the release of five values reports. This round is limited to seeking initial views on values, that will inform the classification proposal itself, which will be developed next year.
- These lands adjoin the private gift to the QEII Trust of farmland on the lower slopes of the Remarkables, which was announced in the week of 30 November.

- The conservation lands are currently held as stewardship land. The purpose of reclassifying these lands is to better understand and recognise the conservation values known to be present.
- We have worked closely with Papatipu Rūnanga to articulate the known values, and these are described in the five values reports to be released.
- Undertaking this process is consistent with the policies and milestones of the 2016 Otago Conservation Management Strategy.
- The Otago Conservation Board has previously signalled these lands as its highest priority for reclassification, and the board has a statutory role to advise DOC in this process.
- There has been long-held public interest in reclassifying these lands. Most recently, this was expressed by the Federated Mountain Clubs in a 2017 proposal to classify these and other surrounding lands as a national park.
- The process is likely to attract much public interest, both in the scope of lands to be included and in any eventual classification.
- A second round of consultation is expected in 2021, once the classification proposal has developed.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Health & Safety programmes relaunched

- DOC's 'Safe to Start' and 'Stop for Safety' programmes were relaunched on 30 November. They are part of a suite of Health and Safety initiatives to ensure the safety of DOC staff.
- These are priority systems for us. 'Safe to Start' requires staff to discuss risks before beginning work and all staff must agree that a job is safe before commencing. Even after the work has started anyone can call 'Stop for Safety' if they see a safety issue, and the job will stop until it is resolved.
- All staff were introduced to the system when they returned to work after the COVID-19 lockdown, as part of our Restarting Safety programme. This programme won an international LearnX award for best Health and Safety training project.
- We are now promoting 'Safe to Start' and 'Stop for Safety' with a new intranet page and a red card issued to all staff (which acts as a visual identifier that a staff member wants to call a halt to any activity because of safety concerns). Staff will also have to initial an Authority to Start before starting a job – this empowers all team members to have their say, express any concerns and to confirm they feel 'Safe to Start'.
- The next step will be rolling out a Stop for Safety phone app to all DOC mobile phones.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Fisheries New Zealand-led National Longfin Eel Strategy

- DOC freshwater technical staff attended the first meeting of the National Longfin Eel Strategy Working Group held on 25 November.
- Following a 2018 review of North Island longfin eel stocks, the then Minister of Fisheries (Hon Stuart Nash) instructed Fisheries New Zealand (FNZ) to undertake a review of longfin eels. He had stated his interest in the views of tangata whenua and stakeholders on the future management of the species.

He also recognised that longfin eels are affected by a range of non-fishing related factors.

- DOC is a partnership agency to the development of the National Longfin Eel Strategy (the strategy) led by FNZ. Additional partnership organisations are: Te Wai Māori Trust, Te Ohu Kaimoana, and Te Mana o Ngā Tuna.
- Longfin eels are classified as 'At Risk: Declining' in the New Zealand Threat Classification System and are a taonga species. We welcome the opportunity to explore with our Treaty partners and FNZ the full suite of management options for longfin eel.
- The strategy will cover the management of the longfin eel fishery, while also addressing non-fishing impacts, in collaboration with the above agencies. There will be two sections to the strategy; a fisheries section focussing on the fisheries management tools and aspirations of tangata whenua and stakeholders, and a section on non-fishing impacts.
- The strategy will make recommendations on non-fishing impacts with the expectation that these recommendations will be implemented by the relevant organisations with the support of the National Longfin Eel Strategy Working Group.
- This group has been established to assist with and support the development of the strategy. It is an advisory body, not a decision-making body.
- DOC is a member of this group, along with representation from; tangata whenua, the eel industry, regional councils, dam operators, Forest & Bird, Te Wai Māori and Te Ohu Kai Moana.
- At the 25 November meeting, an independent chair was nominated, each group member provided a quick summary of their respective organisations/agencies, and the group's purpose and the purpose of the strategy were discussed.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Aquaculture biosecurity project - update

- There has been a delay in timeframes for this project. In June 2019, Cabinet agreed to the policies underpinning the National Environmental Standard for Marine Aquaculture (NES-MA) [ENV-19-MIN-0022 refers].
- In July 2020, Cabinet agreed to remove the requirements for biosecurity management plans for existing and new marine farms from the NES-MA.
- Key issues leading to the decision to remove biosecurity from the NES-MA included:
 - limitations on the scope of biosecurity matters that can be regulated through the NES-MA
 - the need for consistency in approach to managing biosecurity for land-based aquaculture activities
 - the capacity of regional councils to implement and enforce the proposed biosecurity requirements of the NES-MA.
- Officials from MPI, MfE and DOC were directed to report back to the Minister of Fisheries, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Biosecurity, and Minister of Conservation by December 2020 on the best approach to ensure a comprehensive biosecurity regime across all aquaculture that can be delivered in at least the same timeframes as proposed in the NES-MA, i.e. by 2025 [CAB-20-MIN-0353 refers].
- The advice has been substantially progressed. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- There are no risks identified with this delay.

- All the relevant Ministers (noted above) have been advised of this delay. Officials are available to meet with you should you require further details on this matter.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.8 National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB)

- DOC is working jointly with MfE on the development of an NPSIB. This is a priority 1 policy work programme for DOC. MfE is the official lead for the work programme, under the direction of Associate Minister for the Environment (Biodiversity) Hon James Shaw.
- The NPSIB is a much needed regulatory tool under the RMA. It seeks to clarify local authority roles and functions pertaining to the protection and maintenance of indigenous biodiversity across all land tenures.
- It will be a key mechanism for implementing Te Mana o te Taiao - Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (ANZBS), and meeting New Zealand's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- The NPSIB intersects with conservation legislation such as the Conservation Act 1987, the Wildlife Act 1953, the Reserves Act 1977 and the National Parks Act 1980, given that provisions apply across all land tenures. The final policy recommendations and implementation planning for Significant Natural Area (SNA) identification on public conservation land, SNA management, and highly mobile fauna identification and management will be of particular relevance to your portfolio.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Officials available should you wish to meet with them to discuss the NPSIB.

Contact [REDACTED]

2.9 Myrtle Rust update

- New Zealand's first known cases of trees dying from myrtle rust infection were observed in October, in the East Cape's Karakatuwhero River Valley. The affected trees were adult ramarama, located on private land, and near (~5km) Raukumara and Kōpuapouamu conservation areas.
- DOC is joining the Crown Research Institutes, Scion and Plant and Food, on a site visit to the affected area to help identify next steps with mana whenua.
- Myrtle rust is a disease caused by the fungus *Austropuccinia psidii* that affects trees and shrubs in the Myrtaceae plant family, such as ramarama, mānuka,

rātā and pōhutukawa. It was first detected in Australia in 2010, and in New Zealand in 2017.

- Australia's experience after recent major bush fires is that species which were previously resistant to the disease are now susceptible and being severely impacted. The risk of species becoming locally extinct increases where other factors (such as fires and mammalian browsing) create high levels of disturbance.
- In April 2018, New Zealand's myrtle rust incursion response, led by Biosecurity New Zealand (MPI), was transitioned to long-term management, and reporting of new detections ceased to be a requirement under the Biosecurity Act.
- DOC efforts now focus on staff training for myrtle rust identification and hygiene measures and working out how to protect species through long-term management. We can provide you with further context and information in a memo if you wish.
- DOC and MPI are encouraging citizen surveillance through the iNaturalist app, which generates reports through which DOC and Scion can track the spread of the disease.
- The National Science Challenge's Ngā Rākau Taketake programme includes myrtle rust strategic research and both MPI and DOC eagerly await the outcomes.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3 Director-General Engagements

December

10-11 December NZ Conservation Authority, Te Papa Atawhai, Wellington
15 December Te Papa Atawhai Christmas Party, Wellington

January 2021

19 January ENGO Forum (TBC) Te Papa Atawhai, WGTN

February 2021

17 February Good to Grow MOU signing – DOC and Department of Corrections (TBC) Rimutaka Prison
18-19 February NZ Conservation Authority, Te Papa Atawhai, Wellington

Proactively Released

4 Addendum

No addendum items this week.

Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

No events, announcements or media opportunities this week.

Proactively Released

Proactiv y Released



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Week beginning: 14 December 2020

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

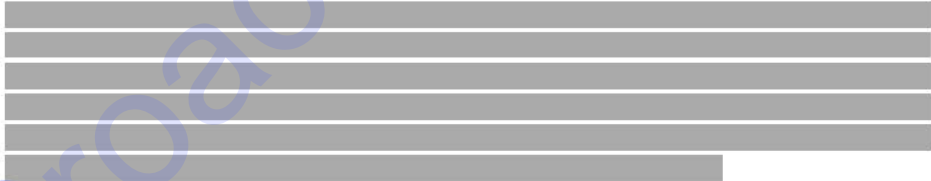
1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Media and Communications

- We have updated our public facing website (Jobs for Nature) pages to make them more user friendly. We will continue to refine the content on these pages, including the addition of more photography and video as projects are stood up.
- We have prepared communications and website content to promote the opening of the contestable funds following your announcement.
- We have provided your office with a draft media release to announce the opening of the contestable funds and have worked with your office to provide additional information for this announcement.
- We are progressing an interagency collaboration on a short video series that will highlight Jobs for Nature projects and the impact these jobs have had on the employees and their communities. We are meeting with Ministry for the Environment, Health Promotion Agency, and the Secretariat to refine our approach and agree key messages.
- Our Brand and Design team is working with Ministry for the Environment and the Secretariat to refine a Jobs for Nature 'look and feel'. The Secretariat has presented this to the Reference group for their feedback. The branding will be used with all agencies across the Jobs for Nature package
- We have provided a Jobs for Nature media release schedule to your office, which provides details on funding ready to be announced, announcements that are being drafted, and opportunities to see the mahi being done. We will provide the schedule to your office weekly.

Kaimahi for Nature

- We are realigning the application form to include a clearer project costing template to capture information directly from applicants. This will support implementing the new direct contracting model for regional projects.
- We have worked with DOC Finance to produce activity costing tools which will support applicants to better determine project costs and support the assessment process.
- We are establishing further connections within teams in the Provincial Development Unit, and continue to share context, implement learnings for setting up our system and identify investment opportunities.
- 
- Three projects presented to SLU Ministers were approved on 9 December and we continue to work with you and your office to provide further details on upcoming projects on a regular basis, including meeting with regional project leads when needed.

Restoring Nature

- The previous Conservation Minister sought that funding for 'Nga Awa' Jobs for Nature projects be limited to first year approvals only, pending delivery of project milestones. These projects are therefore being rescoped on a pilot basis. In addition, all Jobs for Nature agencies with as yet uncommitted freshwater funding are considering how they can more effectively deliver freshwater projects on an integrated basis to ensure maximum efficiency and

effectiveness. Agency CEs are currently considering options to achieve this. You will receive advice on the preferred approach shortly.

- The Waikanae Nga Awa project has been approved and announced by you. [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] Other Nga Awa projects will also likely be drawn into reconsideration of interagency freshwater priorities. This is partly in response to both redirecting resources to where the need for jobs is greatest as well as ensuring partners can be appropriately supported to deliver those projects at pace.
- The Punakaiki Restoration (Phase 2) project is now signed by Conservation Volunteers New Zealand and is with the Director General for signing and funding release.
- We are working with your office and preparing for the Community Fund, Private Landowner Fund and Māori Land Fund to open on 18 December.

Protecting Nature

- DOC’s Governance Team have met with Predator Free 2050 Ltd Chief Executive and Board Chair on 7 December, to determine progress on agreed targets with work ongoing.

Weekly Dashboard (Standing Item) – Data as at 4 December 2020

- We have noted your request for a weekly dashboard.
- We are currently undertaking a data reconciliation exercise to bring information together including aspects such as work type and training. This is expected to take a few more weeks to complete but will then allow versatile visual controls.
- Please find some key data below as a work in progress.

Job Numbers				
Actuals	TOTAL	20/21 (last week)	20/21 (this week)	20/21 TARGET
Total No. of Jobs Approved	1378		814	1750
Total No. of Jobs Realised			472	
Total No. of People Employed			459	

1.2 RMA Advocacy

This is an update on DOC's recent resource management work and progress on significant consent applications and Plan changes:

Auckland Regional Landfill, Dome Valley

- Waste Management New Zealand has applied for a plan change and resource consents to construct and operate a Class 1 landfill north of Warkworth.
- The Director-General's submission opposes the landfill consents and plan change due to the potential effects on significant conservation values on the site. These include nationally critical long-tailed bats, hochstetters frog, and Australasian bittern. The submission also raises concerns around potential impacts on Te Mana o te Wai of the Hōteu river, and Kaipara Harbour.
- DOC presented planning and technical evidence in support of the Director-General's submission at the Council hearing on Tuesday 1 December which appeared to be well-received by the panel.

Proposed Plan Change 7 - Outstanding Water Bodies, Hawkes Bay Regional Resource Management Plan

- Hawkes Bay Regional Council notified a plan change to include a list of Outstanding Water Bodies with a framework for protection.
- The Director-General's submission on the proposed plan change is generally in support, but suggests amendments to proposed policies to allow for the values of waterbodies not listed in the plan to be considered in resource consent processes, to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020.
- DOC presented planning and local evidence in support of the Director - General's submission at a hearing on Tuesday 1st December. Evidence was well received, and several questions were answered by our experts.

Contact: _____

2 Updates

2.1 Auckland Region: America's Cup (AC36), Hauraki Gulf Marine Park (HGMP) and DOC

- The America's Cup returns to the waterfront of Tāmaki Makaurau and runs from December 2020 to March 2021. All racing is within New Zealand's only national park of the sea, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park/Tikapa Moana, and will attract millions of viewers from around the world, as well as local supporters.
- We are working to raise awareness of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park by focusing on biodiversity and biosecurity successes and challenges as well as the cultural significance of the moana.
- This includes agencies such as the Hauraki Gulf Forum, Auckland Council and the Ministry of Primary Industries, iwi with interests in the islands of Hauraki Gulf including Ngai Tai ki Tāmaki, Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Manuhiri and Ngāti Rehua as well as island restoration Trusts including Motutapu Restoration Trust, Motuihe Trust and Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi.
- On 11 March 2021, DOC, iwi, island Trusts and agency partners will be hosting a Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Open Day at Te Pou, New Zealand House, located on the waterfront. You are invited to address an audience and share your vision and actions for New Zealand's marine environment and for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park in particular.
- A detailed event memo can be provided on request.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Central North Island: Decommissioning of the Eastern Ruapehu Lahar Alarm Warning System (ERLAWS)

- We will shortly notify stakeholders of our intention to decommission the Eastern Ruapehu Lahar Alarm Warning System (ERLAWS).
- The decision to retire and not replace ERLAWS has been reached based on five key considerations:
 1. The system was designed to mitigate the tephra dam failure lahar risk prior to the March 2007 lahar. In March 2007 when the dam failed, the Crater Lake outlet was restored to its normal outflow. This meant that the risk from a tephra dam failure lahar derived from the 1995 and 1996 eruptions ceased. If presented with eruptions that create a tephra dam, a new system could be quickly established in response to this emerging risk.
 2. Infrastructure (such as the Tangiwai road bridge) was modified and made more resilient to lahar flows in the lead up to the March 2007 tephra dam failure. Assets are now at much lower risk from lahars in the Whangaehu.
 3. The current system no longer provides meaningful risk mitigation. It only detects larger eruption-induced lahars, but not smaller lahar volumes, so is not a reliable mitigation. We are concerned that the current system does not provide meaningful risk mitigation in the contemporary hazard context.
 4. The system is also at its end of life. The age of the system (installed in 2002) and lack of compatible replacement parts mean the current system can no longer be effectively supported. The system would require a major and costly upgrade to remain operational and reliable.
 5. A sophisticated eruption detection and warning system has been operating on Ruapehu since 2010. This system acts as an effective response tool for eruption induced lahar impacts on Eastern Ruapehu. Eruption warnings can

be responded to as though a lahar in the Whangaehu is likely, enabling life safety and asset and protection to occur.

- Tongariro staff will work with through a process of consultation with stakeholders into the new year to recalibrate the perception of its need. We will provide a further update on the outcome of our engagement if there remain any outstanding issues with stakeholders.
- We continue to be committed to effective volcanic risk management in Tongariro National Park.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 Southern South Island: Red-billed Gulls/Tarāpunga in Oamaru

- For some years red-billed gulls/tarāpunga have been nesting on flat roof-tops in downtown Oamaru. This has created issues and complaints regarding damage to buildings, public health concerns, noise and smell.
- Some building owners, members of the public and elected officials including the Mayor of Waitaki District Gary Kircher, have been seeking control or removal of the gulls. The Mayor raised the issue with the previous Minister of Conservation, Hon. Eugenie Sage.
- Red-billed gulls are listed as 'At Risk – Declining' meaning their numbers are going down across the country, they are tāonga to Ngāi Tahu, and are 'absolutely protected' under the Wildlife Act 1953. This latter point means that they cannot be deliberately disturbed unless authorised by DOC.
- In the past we have issued a permit to Countdown supermarket to disturb birds on their roof; the provision of this permit is likely *ultra vires* in light of court cases relating to shark cage-diving off Rakiura.
- We are seeking advice on whether we can use an alternative section of the Wildlife Act to authorise others to disturb gulls and remove nests where damage is occurring. Initial advice is that this is unlikely.
- We are developing a plan with building owners and the District Council to move nests that are causing legitimate issues and are encouraging building owners to take measures to discourage gulls from settling on their rooftops in the first-place. This was trailed on December 10th and results are being monitored.
- This issue has featured in the media in previous summers, we are currently responding to further media enquiries and the Mayor may seek to raise the issue with you.
- We will keep you informed if the risk increases.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.4 Governance and management of large and complex projects

- The Optimised Landscape Investment plan has a portfolio of Landscape Scale projects that are listed for investment over the next five years. This includes Rakiura, Chatham Islands, Maukahuka, Te Manahuna Aoraki, Coromandel, Far North, Pelorus, Arohura, Taranaki and South Westland.
- Very few of these large projects to date have developed an operating or governance by design model. Instead they have evolved from small scale initiatives and there is little consistency across the portfolio.

- Building on the lessons identified in the Maukahuka review, the Predator Free 2050 team alongside the Governance Unit is developing a ‘fit for purpose’ operating and governance model(s) for the optimised landscape portfolio.
- Two workshops, held on 27 October and 9 November, with external and DOC participants were held to understand more widely the lessons learnt, identify other work happening in this area, and the key principles for successful operating and governance delivery.
- Models are currently being developed and will be tested in the New Year with a paper going to SLT at the end of March 2021.
- It is anticipated that the outcomes of this project will be available for your consideration in early April 2021.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Rangatahi mō Papatūānuku video competition

- The Rangatahi mō Papatūānuku video competition (1 Feb - 15 March) asks rangatahi to create videos about their aspirations for the future of te taiao and the ideas they have for what can be done to restore its mauri.
- The competition is funded by Tiakina Ngā Manu (TNM), DOC’s national programme to protect native species via predator control.
- The project is part of the kaupapa promoted by TNM’s 4-year engagement strategy to build and consolidate inclusive, trusting relationships at place to support the TNM programme and the needs of the community – culturally, socially, economically and environmentally.
- The competition format aims to encourage participation, and the use of video and social media are the mediums for creating and sharing perspectives and ideas and are familiar to this demographic.
- Support for filmmakers is provided by rangatahi presenters and technical experts in easy to follow instructional videos and a series of online workshops. They will provide tips and guidance for planning, shooting, editing and upload.
- Promotion is underway with direct contact to rural education and youth groups, schools and universities with email flyers (your office has been provided with copies) and through social media with the rangatahi presenter-led video ‘Get inspired’ in te reo Māori and in English on Facebook.
- The link to the Rangatahi mō Papatūānuku webpage: www.doc.govt.nz/rangatahivids
- External professionals will form the judging panel for shortlisted videos. The judges have been confirmed as Stacey Morrison, Pā (Rob) McGowan, Tweedie Waititi and Tame Malcolm.
- Winners and runners up will be announced on 29th March 2021.
- Immediate impact will be measured through analytics – webpage views, engagement with posts on social media (comment, likes, shares, video views) – to build a picture of interest and engagement in the project.
- The project is about engagement – building relationships and trust – and as such is not always readily quantifiable, however the kaupapa fits with our commitment to listen and include ideas from rangatahi about protecting Papatūānuku and ensuring she thrives.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Director-General Engagements

December

15 December Ngai Tahu Powhiri, Christchurch

January

19 January ENGO Forum, DOC Wellington

February

17 February Good to Grow MOU signing with Department of Corrections,
Rimutaka Prison

18-19 February NZ Conservation Authority, DOC Wellington

Proactively Released

4 Addendum

Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

No items this week

Proactively Released



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 21 December 2020

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

- We have finalised a new application form which gathers clear information from applicants at the beginning which seeks more clarity and transparency around costs. This aligns with the direct contracting model.
- We are continuing to streamline our processes as the Jobs for Nature system matures.
- Some of the refinements include:
 - reducing the number of documents being produced
 - building in administrative steps earlier to set up funds recipients in our Accounts Payable system
 - reviewing financial delegation levels to align with decision-making levels.
- A number of these improvement steps are necessary to deliver on the expectation of government agencies paying invoices within 10 days.
- We have confirmed deadlines with your office for papers due and have arranged for another 'Dragon's Den' meeting in January and early February.
- We met with one of the Investment Directors from the PDU to share learnings and context on process, investments and future direction. We will continue to maintain this relationship and share knowledge and learnings.

Media and Communications

- We have met with Ministry for the Environment, Health Promotion Agency and the Secretariat. We are progressing an interagency collaboration on a short video series that will highlight Jobs for Nature projects and the impact these jobs have had on the employees and their communities. This will be filmed early in the new year.
- We are working on a proposal with Sustainable Business Network and Kiwis for Kiwi on a short in-house video series for social media profiling people who've gained employment. This is in the early stages.
- Our Brand and Design team are refining the illustrative look and feel for Jobs for Nature. The Secretariat have approved the use of the Jobs for Nature word mark.
- We have provided a Jobs for Nature media release schedule to your office, which provides details on funding announcements that are ready to be announced, announcements that are being drafted and opportunities to see the mahi being done (as projects are stood up and people are employed). This schedule will be provided to your office weekly.

Kaimahi for Nature

- Feedback from project leads and Jobs for Nature staff that attended the Dragon's Den meeting was extremely positive. They enjoyed the opportunity to talk with you directly about the projects.
- On 16 December, we forwarded five further projects in a paper for SLU Minister approval.
- We submitted further projects to your office on 17 December for your consideration over the holiday period and will submit another round of projects to you on 19 January 2021. Project leads will be available for a Dragon's Den meeting, currently scheduled for 26 January.
- We continue to process projects of value under \$1M and welcome any feedback on these.
- We have notified all successful applicants following the recent SLU Minister approvals and have signed off decision papers for these projects. These are now in the deed negotiation stage.

Restoring Nature

- The Punakaiki Restoration (stage II) project deed has now been signed by both parties, with first instalment of payment underway to Conservation Volunteers New Zealand.
- Communication has been sent to all regional Directors to continue to ensure that staff are instructed to connect frequently with partners and encourage them to submit applications to the Community Conservation Fund and Private Landowners Fund when they open early in the New Year.

Protecting Nature

- Kiwis for kiwi have informed us that the community groups that they will be supporting in their project are now beginning to plan announcements. They are connecting with the DOC Communications Team. Your office will be kept informed of these announcements as they develop.
- There is a governance group meeting scheduled for the ‘Prevention of North Island Forest Collapse’ projects (Raukumara Pae Maunga and Kaimai-Mamaku) this week, and a finalised business case is expected to be presented for this project.

Weekly Dashboard– Data as at 11 December 2020

Job Numbers				
Actuals	TOTAL	20/21 (last week)	20/21 (this week)	20/21 TARGET
Total No. of Jobs Approved	1423	814	867	1750
Total No. of Jobs Realised		472	477	
Total No. of People Employed		459	467	

DOC Regional Summary			

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

RMA Advocacy

Otago Regional Council (ORC) Plan Change 7 (PC7) (short term water permits)

- The Director-General of Conservation submitted in support of Plan Change 7 to the Otago Regional Water Plan, which was to provide an interim framework for water permit applications while ORC develops a “fit for purpose” regional water plan.
- PC7 addresses the 300+ deemed permits (former mining privileges) which will expire on 1 October 2021. PC7 attempts to create an ‘efficient, low-cost’ controlled activity pathway to allow consents to be renewed for up to 6 years, after which time the new Otago Land and Water Plan should be in place.
- Since PC7 was first notified in March 2020, timeframes have been extended due to Covid-19 and the plan has been ‘called in’ to be heard by the Environment Court. This means a decision will not be finalised until at least June 2021. Applications to replace deemed permits will need to be lodged by 31 March 2021 so water can continue to be taken under section 124 of the RMA while applications are considered.

- The rules of the current water plan will still have effect, the intended low-cost pathway will not have effect (i.e. they will still have to address the full requirements of the current water plan - ecological assessments, flow data etc).
- Now that it is likely PC7 may not work as intended, we are discussing this matter with other submitters, Ministry for the Environment officials and ORC, and alternative approaches may need to be considered. In the interim, DOC planning and freshwater technical evidence is being prepared for the March 2021 Environment Court hearing.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Proactively Released

2 Updates

2.1 Hauraki Waikato Taranaki – Firth of Thames/Hauraki Plains biodiversity crisis emergency response planning

- Last summer, the Hauraki Plains experienced a severe drought causing a biodiversity crisis:
 - an unprecedented number of bird deaths due to botulism (around 3,500 bodies recovered and buried)
 - mass eel stranding in drains and canals (numbers in the thousands)
 - an outbreak of sickness, which could be due to a toxic algal bloom, affecting one of the migratory wader birds – hauhou, the red knot that roosts at Pūkorokoro Miranda.
- NIWA forecasting indicates this summer is likely to produce even worse conditions which make it likely these events will occur again.
- Local iwi members have called a response group which includes DOC, Waikato Regional Council, Hauraki District Council, Fish and Game, and the Miranda Shorebird Centre. These agencies are collaborating to build an Emergency Response Plan to mitigate bird and fish deaths.
- The events of last year's biodiversity crisis received media coverage at the time, and the expectation of a similar event this summer has been raised again in local media.
- The areas at risk include two wetlands of international importance (Ramsar sites), Kopuatai Wetland and the Firth of Thames coastal mudflat. Kopuatai Wetland is an important Treaty Settlement Site.
- The Firth of Thames is internationally recognised under the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP), for protecting migratory shorebirds. There is a risk continued mortality or sickness in migratory shore birds at Pūkorokoro will endanger the position we hold in the EAAFP.
- We have been involved in a collaborative effort as part of this partnership to protect the mudflats where these birds feed on their way to the Northern Hemisphere breeding grounds.
- We are responsible for reporting on the status of Ramsar sites to the International Ramsar Wetland Committee, and continued degradation of the Firth of Thames Ramsar site could cost New Zealand Ramsar status at this site.
- The cross-agency effort aims to have a draft Emergency Response Plan before Christmas. The plan will include regular monitoring of hotspots where fish stranding or bird deaths/sickness occurred last summer, plus emergency measures to move effected wildlife to safer locations.
- Testing for and identifying a toxic algal bloom in the Firth of Thames Ramsar site presents many logistical challenges and is currently out of scope of the response plan. We are discussing internally how to address this.

Contact: 

2.2 Hauraki Waikato Taranaki - Mahoenui Giant Wētā

- The only natural population of the Mahoenui giant wētā is in severe decline due to habitat change and predation. This population is found in the Mahoenui Giant Wētā Scientific Reserve, King Country.
- Mahoenui giant wētā are taonga to local iwi (Mōkau ki Runga, Maniapoto iwi) who are closely involved with conservation efforts.
- An urgent response is underway to prevent extinction of this critical population:
 - interim predator control has been deployed

- options assessed and plans have commenced to scope building a predator-proof fence around part of the reserve to ensure long term survival
- funding is yet to be secured for the fence and associated pest eradication.
- Mahoenui giant wētā have been translocated to three sites outside of their natural range – Mahurangi Island, Coromandel (population status: possible decline), Warrenheip, predator fenced private land near Cambridge (population status: stable) and Sanctuary Mountain Maungtautari, predator fenced forest near Cambridge (population status: establishing).
- A new captive programme is being planned, we hope to breed hundreds of wētā for release to new sites – this is being modelled from the very successful wetapunga breeding project.
- To secure Mahoenui giant wētā needs intensive management for the next 5-10 years, with ongoing maintenance of conservation gains continuing thereafter.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 Eastern South Island - Lighthouse generator shed restoration

- On 10 December Ngāti Wheke blessed the newly restored lighthouse cottage at Awaroa / Godley Head, near Christchurch.
- A lighthouse has operated on the headland to guide ships into Lyttelton Harbour since 1865. The cottage (formerly the generator shed) was built in the 1940s and sits in a prime position overlooking Pegasus Bay with the Seaward Kaikōura Mountains to the north and Banks Peninsula to the south east.
- The building was in extremely poor condition and was badly graffitied. It is the last remaining building from what was a large lighthouse complex. It has now been fully restored and transformed into overnight accommodation. All external historic features remain and many of the internal features have also been preserved.
- Accommodation will be offered at \$65 a night to ensure it's affordable for families. This is expected to generate a revenue stream of approx. \$8000 per annum which will help us to service and maintain this heritage facility. The restoration costs were \$97k.
- This new facility compliments a very successful camping experience in the same area which opened three years ago. Godley Head Loop Track is one of our most popular three-hour walks which sees over 100,000 visitors per annum.

Contact: [REDACTED]



2.4 Eastern South Island - Honu Repatriation to Koukourarata on Banks Peninsula

- On 12 December a 350kg leather back turtle was transported from Te Papa to Koukourarata Marae for burial on Horomaka Island on Banks Peninsula.
- In 2018, the turtle, which was only recently deceased, washed ashore on the northern side of Banks Peninsula near Port Levy.
- Te Honu is of great significance to local Rūnanga at Koukourarata, as a kaitiaki and a taniwha, and is significant in their history and storytelling.
- After being sent to Te Papa for scientific analysis, Te Papa Atawhai staff worked closely with Koukourarata to plan the return of Te Honu for her final resting place at Horomaka Island near their marae at Port Levy.
- The Rūnanga engaged Te Papa who readily agreed to the repatriation and on 10 December our staff and Rūnanga travelled to Wellington for a ceremony and transported the Honu together back to the Koukourarata Marae at Port Levy. Staff and iwi dug the ana for the internment on the Island together.
- DOC and Koukourarata provided a driver each to share the journey with Te Honu through the night for a poroporoaki, as was the correct tikanga. We participated in partnership with Koukourarata on all elements of the day, including the short helicopter trip from the pa where Te Honu rested for the ceremony, to Horomaka Island.
- This was a significant and positive event for DOC, Koukourarata and Te Papa colleagues who travelled to attend this tikanga, and we have had wide range of positive feedback as a result of this work.

Contact: _____



2.5 Southern South Island: 3 February 2020 Flood Recovery Update

- The Hollyford Road, a 16km, unsealed, one-way road off the Milford Road was extensively damaged by the February storms, restricting access into the popular Lower Hollyford Valley.
- The area has a rich history for tāngata whenua and the wider Southland community. DOC's Hollyford Track and the Ngāi Tahu pounamu trail are accessed from the road.

- The 'special purpose road' is owned by Southland District Council and funded by Waka Kotahi NZTA, who announced in November that the entire road would be rebuilt. The full cost of repairs was \$2.3m
- The road has now been reopened as far as Girder Creek, 13km from the Milford Road intersection, 9 days ahead of schedule. The remaining 3km requires significant repair work and is not scheduled to reopen to vehicles until April/May 2021.
- People wanting to access the Hollyford Track and surrounding area can safely walk to the start of the track from a new carpark at Girder Creek.
- The Hollyford Track, which was also closed due to extensive storm damage, was reopened as a Backcountry Adventurer track on December 17.
- This is a lower service standard than the previous Backcountry Comfort Seeker user group status. This change reflects the new condition of the track, where walkers may encounter unbridged streams that may become impassable in heavy rain.
- Ngāi Tahu Tourism plan to run a modified guided walk on this track in peak summer.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Southern South Island - Takahē Murchison Mountains Three-Yearly Survey Update

- We have just completed and received the results of our three-yearly survey of Takahē recovery sites, a key milestone in the recovery programme.
- Takahē are a priority tāonga species for Te Papa Atawhai and Māori - particularly Ngāi Tahu. We lead the national Kākāpō/Takahē team through active engagement with Ngāi Tahu and the Takahē Recovery Group. The work is financially supported by National Partner Fulton Hogan.
- Takahē numbers have increased an average of 10% per year over the last five years to the current population of about 450 birds. In 2017, takahē were downgraded from Nationally Critical to Vulnerable (in the New Zealand Threat Classification system).
- Takahē are held at two Recovery Sites and 16 predator-free Sanctuary Sites across New Zealand. The Sanctuary Sites form an 'insurance' population. Supplementing these sites, and a vital driver of population growth, is the captive rearing of takahē at the Burwood Takahē Centre near Te Anau. The vision is to have more Recovery Sites and for them to be self-sustaining.
- A three-yearly survey has just been completed in the main Recovery Site, the Murchison Mountains, revealing the population there to be about 150-180 birds. This population is not self-sustaining so requires ongoing supplementation. High mortality occurs from accidents in this harsh alpine environment and predation during stoat plagues, despite intensive ongoing trapping.
- 30 takahē were released into Kahurangi National Park in 2018 with the aim of establishing this site as a second Recovery Site. Takahē have bred successfully there since release but 11 birds died during 2020 so research into the suitability of this site for takahē is ongoing.
- There is an urgent need for new takahē habitat at large wild sites, particularly in Ngāi Tahu's rohe. However, there are very few suitable predator-free sites and all large mainland sites rely on effective predator control being in place. Research is ongoing to find mitigation measures for 1080, which takahē appear to be susceptible to: 3 takahē died of 1080 poisoning in Kahurangi in August 2020.
- Finding new wild sites and mitigations for 1080 are the highest priorities for takahē conservation in 2021. Supplementation into Kahurangi and the Murchison Mountains will continue in February 2021.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 High Performance Engagement (HPE) Relationship with Public Service Association (PSA)

- We have had an HPE relationship with the PSA since 2016. That arrangement involves us working with the PSA to improve productivity and wellbeing within the organisation.
- Unlike a normal union-management relationship, this involves joint work rather than parties sitting on opposite sides of the table. The relationship is overseen by a leadership group comprising leaders from both parties. The work is supported by a coordinator who is a seconded national delegate.
- The relationship embeds two approaches to our work – that the PSA and our leadership will jointly progress improvements that will provide staff with a better working environment in which they can deliver more conservation outcomes; and that staff who are affected by issues are fully involved in solving those issues.
- HPE has delivered significant benefits for our work, including efficient bargaining that has significantly improved the workability of the collective agreement, earlier resolution of issues facing individual staff members through a cooperative approach between delegates, organisers, managers and HR; and joint promotion of agreed business changes with reduced potential staff concerns and quicker implementation.
- HPE has made it far easier for us to tackle potentially contentious issues, such as the drug and alcohol policy, and introduction of GPS into vehicles.
- HPE has allowed us and the PSA to share information and tap into the networks of both organisations.
- PSA is using us as an example for other agencies that are seeking to develop an HPE approach.
- DOC and the PSA are available to meet with you should you require further details on this matter.

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

2.8 Predator Free 2050 Tools to Market

- A Deed of Agreement has been signed between DOC and Island Conservation (IC), a global non-governmental biodiversity conservation organisation focused on preventing extinctions by removing invasive species from islands.
- The Deed of Agreement will facilitate sharing of information related to drone technologies for predator control and contribute to and support global best practice for biodiversity conservation.
- The agreement is reciprocal with intellectual property developed for use overseas by IC to be shared with us to improve conservation outcomes in New Zealand.
- Our Predator Free 2050 Tools to Market programme is funding the Aerial Baiting by Drone project with Environment & Conservation Technologies Ltd (ECT).
- The project, announced in March this year, will enable development and testing of a new lightweight bait spreader system for use with an adapted heavy-lift drone, not previously used in New Zealand.
- IC are looking to contract ECT to develop a bait spreader system that can be used to apply cereal bait from a drone for island eradication projects.
- Both DOC and IC are partners on the Pacific Regional Invasive Species Management Support Service (PRISMSS). Our focus is on providing technical support and capacity development to the Pacific Islands on invasive species management including vertebrate eradications on islands. Our contribution to the PRISMSS is supported by MFAT under the project: Managing Invasive Species for Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific.

- This project will contribute significantly to the successful implementation of our Pacific Strategy 2018-2022.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.9 DOC's Covid Planning Over Summer

- We have a COVID 'watching brief' in place to support staff with up to date guidance material for conducting work at each COVID Alert Level.
- Any response to local or regional COVID cases will be led by the Regional Operations Director at place to support the All of Government (AoG) COVID response. The COVID Coordination Group is available over the summer holiday period with the ability to stand up in support of regional responses if required.
- We have provided staff with internal guidance for conducting work at each Alert Level which is aligned with AoG messaging. This guidance has been streamlined since the Auckland resurgence to enable ease of access.
- We are enabling contact tracing through our Booking System for Great Walks and other bookable campsites, and frontline facilities. We have 318 sites with QR codes issued and have an established intentions book system for manual entry for remote backcountry huts and alpine bivvys.
- Visitor facilities will be open and at full capacity in Alert Levels 1 and 2, with full cancellations, 100% refunds, and closures occurring at Alert Levels 3 and 4.
- We are continuing to establish relationships with regional Public Health Units. These relationships will be key to successful management of any future COVID case connected to a DOC hut, campsite, or other facility.
- We have a good connection with AoG COVID Comms team and clear understanding of our role in communicating any suspected or confirmed COVID cases linked to DOC facilities or PCL.
- We are promoting the use of the AoG 'Make Summer Unstoppable' campaign material at frontline facilities such as DOC Visitor Centres and communicating AoG summer campaign key messages about health, hygiene and compliance habits with all staff.

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

3 Director-General Engagements

January

19 January ENGO Forum (TBC), DOC Wellington

February

17 February Good to Grow MOU signing with Department of Corrections (TBC), Rimutaka Prison

18-19 February NZ Conservation Authority, DOC Wellington

Proactively Released

4 Addendum

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:

- Auckland – Te Akitai Treaty settlement
- Hauraki Waikato Taranaki – kōkako milestone event

Proactively Released

Proactiiv y Released