



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

**In-Confidence**

# **Department of Conservation Status Report**

**Week beginning: 01 February 2021**

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

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

# 1 Standing and Priority Items

## 1.1 Jobs for Nature

- 16 projects were represented by regional staff in the Dragon's Den meeting on 26 January. Of these:
  - Nine will proceed to the Reference Group paper.
  - Four require further information, as noted in the meeting. The Chief Advisor will determine whether the projects will proceed to Reference Group based on the quality of additional information received.
  - Three projects from the Tairāwhiti/Gisborne region are being rescoped and aligned into one larger application. This application will likely be submitted for the next round and represented at the scheduled Dragon's Den meeting on 15 February.
- Projects under \$1M as noted on briefing 21-B-0002 will also be included in the Reference Group paper, as will all projects (both over and under \$1M) listed in briefing 20-B-0949, as confirmed by your office. A copy of the final Reference Group paper will be provided to your office.
- The next deadline for project submissions from regions was Friday 29 January, and we expected between 5-10 applications in this round. Assessments will follow and a briefing paper will be sent to your office by Tuesday 9 February.
- The final deed for AL06.3 SSI: Weeding Fiordland's Buffer Zone (\$690K; 12 FTE) has now been signed and funding release is underway. Project [REDACTED] is also in the final stages of assurance checks for funding release.
- We are working on understanding the current state of projects through to April 2021, including reconciliation across financial years, work in progress and forecasted projects.
- [REDACTED]
- We are working with MfE and other Jobs for Nature agencies to develop a more integrated process to recommend freshwater projects with the remaining unallocated freshwater funds, as requested by agency CEs. [REDACTED] A proposal is likely to be considered by SLU Ministers at their next meeting.
- We have been working with QEII National Trust to understand their project proposal and expect to receive a final draft of this within the week. Your office will be kept informed of progress and will be sent further information on this Jobs for Nature investment in the coming weeks.
- The DOC Governance Team is working closely with Predator Free 2050 Ltd to ensure the company understands its obligations for Jobs for Nature.
- To date, Kiwis for kiwi have delivered 24 new roles, over 10,000 hours worked which equals 6.7FTE. We are confident on the organisation's ability to deliver on their obligations for these community-led and iwi-led projects. Kiwis for kiwi have indicated that they would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss their mission, goals and Jobs for Nature projects. We will work with your office to identify any opportunities that may be available.

## Weekly Dashboard (Standing Item) – Data as at 28 January 2021

- As noted last week we are transitioning our reporting to the measures advised by MfE and the Secretariat in November 2020.
- Provided is a summary of the Employment Start (people employed) and FTE (total hours calculated as equivalent FTE hours per annum)
- With these measures now embedded, we will progress our visual controls and reporting work and develop the dashboard you have requested.
- We are continuing to work with MfE to align further measures and reporting.

ES - Employment Starts  
[Number of people employed]

	ES - Approved	ES - Actual Realised	ES - Forecast (Difference)
20/21	945	478	467
21/22	459	-	-
22/23	219	-	-
23/24	183	-	-
TOTAL	1806		

FTE - Full Time Equivalent  
[Hours worked as expressed over a year]

	FTE - Approved	Target	% Against Target
20/21	711	1754	41%
20/22	475	1754	27%
20/23	277	1754	16%
20/24	218	750	29%
TOTAL	1681	6012	-

FTE In System	1327	Projected Total FTE
FTE Forecast	1139	

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

## 1.2 Predator Free 2050 Ltd – Jobs for Nature

- When you met with the Predator Free 2050 Ltd Board in relation to their Jobs for Nature funding on 17 December 2020 you requested regular updates through the weekly Status Report.
- We can advise that the Chief Executive of PF2050 Ltd has:
  - confirmed that they are still targeting 125 FTE's by 30 June 2021.
  - advised that their forecast is deteriorating and has fallen since that time from 91 jobs to 89 jobs by 30 June 2021, due to one project having a delay in recruitment.
  - yet to provide the Department further evidence of their actions to strengthen job creation.
  - assured officials that they are in active negotiation to finalise the contracts of all 12 projects in coming weeks.
  - advised that their quarterly report will be made available to you next week. We will provide advice following receipt of this report.

Contact: [REDACTED]

## 2 Updates

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### 2.1 Auckland Region - Waiheke Island marine

- Ngāti Paoa have indicated intention to declare a rāhui on koura, kutai, paua, tipa out to 1 nautical mile around the entire coastline of Waiheke Island; with the rāhui to be placed on Sunday 31 January at 5.30am at Oneroa Beach.
- To support the rāhui, an application for a s186a temporary closure under the Fisheries Act, has been made to Hon David Parker, the Minister of Oceans and Fisheries.
- MPI are managing the application, which includes a period of public consultation.

Contact: [REDACTED]

### 2.2 Kokiri Lime Company Ltd: Application for access to PCL

- Kokiri Lime Company Ltd have applied for access to 15ha of Stewardship land within a 181ha Mining Permit area at Karangarua in the South Westland District, to undertake rock quarrying. This is 18km south of Fox Glacier, within the Te Waipounamu World Heritage Area.
- The Mining Permit for the 181ha has not yet been issued by MBIE and we are required to consider and decide on access. Any decision to grant access would be conditional on the applicant gaining a mining permit.
- The applicant plans to utilise the rock for priority roading projects and providing economic and employment benefits to the area.
- Biodiversity values at the location are generally well represented in the wider Karangarua Ecological District, however, the proposal will impact previously undisturbed land that contains native forest and permanently alter a landform on conservation land.
- A decision under the Crown Minerals Act on the proposal's significance has been made. As a result, the application has been publicly notified via local newspapers and on the DOC website. Submissions close 19 February 2021.
- The public will be able to comment on the proposal or request to be heard at a public hearing to inform the decision on access. Once the submission period closes or a decision has been made on whether to grant the mining permit.
- We will update you with information about the next steps.

Contact: [REDACTED]

### 2.3 Southern South Island: Governor-General visit to Rakiura

- Her Excellency the Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy and Sir David Gascoigne will be visiting Rakiura 18/19 February accompanied by DOC staff.
- We are supporting this visit with logistics and a tour of managed conservation sites.
- Sites being visited include Ulva Island, Moturau Moana Native Gardens, and the chain at the entrance to Rakiura National Park.

Contact: [REDACTED]

### 3 Director-General Engagements

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#### February

01 February	Visit to Capital Kiwi, Terawhiti Station
03-05 February	Waitangi events including Te Ruapekapeka and Te Ahurea Blessing/Opening Ceremony, Kerikeri
12 February	Dinner with WWF CEO and Board, TBC Mana
16 February	Te Urewera Board hui, Taneatua
17 February	Te Papa meet with CEO, Board and Leadership Team, Te Papa
18 February	DOC Annual Review, Parliament
18-19 February	Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Brackenridge Wairarapa
18-19 February	NZ Conservation Authority, DOC Wellington
24 February	Te Kopuka na Te Awa Tupua, Whanganui/via Zoom

#### March

16 March	SLT marae visit with Nga Tangata Tiaki o Whanganui, Whanganui
30-31 March	DOC Senior Leadership Team Retreat, TBA

## 4 Addendum

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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:

- [REDACTED]
- Western South Island - Griffin Creek Run of the River Hydro Project
- Eastern South Island - Interagency and Ngāi Tahu and Papatipu Rūnanga proposed response to Ō Tū Wharekai (Ashburton Lakes) Water Quality Issue
- Southern South Island - Milford Opportunities

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

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- Turtle release to Poor Knight's Marine Reserve

Proactively Released



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

**In-Confidence**

# **Department of Conservation Status Report**

**Week beginning: 8 February 2021**

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

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

# 1 Standing and Priority Items

## 1.1 Jobs for Nature

- We have prepared a presentation on the Jobs for Nature current state and ways to speed up job creation. The Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature will be discussing this with you. Many internal changes are already under way.
- DOC presented 22 projects to the Reference Group on 4 February. This included 14 projects over \$1M, equal to \$32.82M and 520.8 FTE, as well as eight projects under \$1M, equal to \$4.64M and 85 FTE.
- Six projects were received for assessment on 29 January. Three are \$1M and over. This includes the rescope Tairāwhiti bid that we submitted to your office for consideration on 29 January. From your feedback, this project is now being rescope with partners and will come back to you for consideration in March. We are currently assessing the other projects and will provide your office with a briefing paper on 9 February.
- The Community Fund and Private Landowner Fund are both still open and are due to close on 16 February. Initial proposals have already been received. The assessment process and the process for approval are being finalised.
- Kiwis for kiwi has successfully awarded 11 groups with funds from its Jobs for Nature Scaling Up and Accelerating Community and Māori-led Initiatives project. The Deed of Grants with these groups will be announced once this process is complete. We will ensure your office is kept informed.
- Iwi collaboration for the Kauri Dieback prevention project is in the deed creation stage. The draft deed is with the partner for review and we expect sign-off on this deed by the end of February.
- Te Waipounamu Threatened Species Recovery project was approved on 28 January, and we expect the Detailed Business Case submitted to be finalised within the coming weeks.
- The Upper and Lower Rangitata projects have deed development under way, with the Lower Rangitata deed almost complete.
- The SBN Partnering to Plant Phase 3 variation will be signed next week. It allows payment of \$540K towards the Phase 3 allocation of \$1.2M for a further 16.2 FTE.



## Project Updates

- The Tourism Holdings Ltd deed will be signed this week. This is a \$500K project for 10 FTE for the Waitomo region.
- [Redacted]
- Deed negotiation for Ngati Hei - Te Haumana A Tahanga Kauri Dieback has begun. [Redacted]
- Deed negotiation for the Northern South Island Restoring and Protecting Significant Flora Ecosystems at Scale has also begun. [Redacted]



## Communications Update

### Video series

- The first of the Jobs for Nature video series featuring the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands project went live on 2 February, to coincide with World Wetlands Day. This is an interagency collaboration and will comprise five short videos that will highlight Jobs for Nature projects and the impact these jobs have had on the employees and their communities. A joint media release from MfE, the Greater Wellington Council and DOC was distributed along with the video, which is being shared via social media.

### Customer Journey Mapping

- We are progressing customer journey mapping to get an overview of how customers progress through the Jobs for Nature system. We will use this information to improve key touch points and communications channels relating to customer experience and understanding of the Jobs for Nature programme.

### Media releases and announcements

- We have a number of media releases in the process of being signed off before being provided to your office for distribution. We are working with your office to coordinate this process.

### Kiwis for kiwi

- Kiwis for kiwi's Jobs for Nature funded projects are ready to be announced. These projects are a subset of the previously announced \$17.7M allocated to Kiwis for kiwi. We are meeting with Kiwis for kiwi's communications manager on a fortnightly basis to get an understanding of these announcements and identify any opportunities for you to take part.
- You have been invited to visit Pukearuhe Marae (Ngāti Tama) near Urenui, which is about a 40-minute drive north of New Plymouth. This would provide the opportunity for you to meet with project partners and announce three projects within the Kiwis for kiwi funding:
  - Te Kōhanga Āhuru, a pest control collaboration between the three northern Taranaki iwi – Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Mutunga, and Ngāti Maru.
  - Experience Pūrangi, administered by the East Taranaki Environment Trust, is a pest control project that will expand the trust's current work beyond the boundaries of its wildlife sanctuary into the adjoining forest.
  - A kiwi monitoring and handling training programme, run by Kiwis for kiwi, will be used by both Te Kōhanga Āhuru and Experience Pūrangi, along with other projects in the western region, to train and upskill their people. The focus will be on mana whenua and field workers in disciplines such as predator control, forestry, and site-led conservation.

## Weekly Dashboard (Standing Item) – Data as at 3 February

- As we advised you last week, we are transitioning our reporting to the measures advised by MfE and the Secretariat in November 2020.
- Provided below is a summary of the Employment Start (people employed) and FTE (total hours calculated as equivalent FTE hours per annum)
- With these measures now embedded, we will progress our visual controls and reporting work and develop the Dashboard you have requested.
- We are also working with MfE to align further measures and reporting.

ES - Employment Starts  
(Number of people employed)

	ES - Approved	ES - Actual Realised	ES - Forecast (Difference)
20/21	956	478	478
21/22	468	-	-
22/23	228	-	-
23/24	183	-	-
TOTAL	1835		

FTE - Full Time Equivalent  
(Hours worked as expressed over a year)

	FTE - Approved	Target	% Against Target
20/21	717	1750	41%
20/22	482	1750	28%
20/23	284	1750	16%
20/24	218	750	29%
TOTAL	1701	6000	-

FTE In System	1401	Projected Total FTE
FTE Forecast	1124	
		4224

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

## 2 Updates

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### 2.1 Auckland: temporary evacuation of tūturuatu/shore plover from Motutapu Island, Hauraki Gulf

- Tūturuatu are a small, colourful shorebird that vanished from mainland Aotearoa by the 1870s due to introduced mammalian predators. Today they exist on only a few predator-free islands with a total population of approximately 250 birds.
- In December 2020, a stoat was detected on Motutapu Island in the Hauraki Gulf (see Status Report for the week beginning 25 January 2021).
- The initial evidence of the stoat incursion was the death of two critically endangered tūturuatu/shore plover, with clear DNA and post-mortem signs that a stoat was responsible.
- Two additional adult tūturuatu and all remaining eggs and chicks from the breeding season have been lost.
- An incursion response is being led by DOC and Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki. This includes an intensified trapping programme.
- The Shore Plover Recovery Group has recommended that the remaining nine birds on the island (three male and six female) be moved to temporary captivity urgently, to reduce extinction risk.
- From 9 February, the birds will be caught and transferred to captive facilities in Hawkes Bay (Cape Sanctuary), Wairarapa (Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre) and Christchurch (Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust).
- Due to capacity limits at the captive facilities, the birds will need to be returned to Motutapu Island before the end of April. Because they are site-fixed, the birds cannot be released elsewhere, as they will still seek to return to Motutapu.

Contact: [REDACTED]

### 2.2 Ngāti Maru (Taranaki) deed of settlement signing

- Ngāti Maru will be signing their deed of settlement with the Crown on 27 February at Tarata Domain, Tarata, Taranaki.
- You will shortly receive an invitation to attend the ceremony from the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations. DOC staff from national and regional offices will attend the ceremony. Michelle Hippolite (Deputy Director-General, Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai) will represent DOC's senior leadership team.
- The conservation redress in the Ngāti Maru deed of settlement includes:
  - The transfer of six public conservation sites totalling 200.7 hectares, with five transferring subject to reserve status
  - The joint-transfer of one public conservation site with Ngāti Haua, totaling one hectare, subject to reserve status
  - Deeds of recognition and statutory acknowledgements over 19 public conservation sites
  - A commitment from DOC to develop a cultural materials plan with Ngāti Maru within five years of settlement
  - A relationship agreement between DOC and Ngāti Maru setting out how the two parties will interact on certain conservation subject matters.
- If you decide to attend the Ngāti Maru deed of settlement signing, officials will provide you with a briefing that includes details of the ceremony and further information on the conservation redress included in the Ngāti Maru deed of settlement.

Contact: [REDACTED]

### 2.3 Nature Heritage Fund (NHF) update – opportunity to announce land purchase

- The NHF is a contestable Crown fund with an annual appropriation of \$1.8M. The NHF's purpose is to fund the permanent protection of areas containing nationally significant indigenous biodiversity.
- The Minister of Conservation (MOC) appoints the NHF Committee. This committee considers applications and makes funding recommendations to the MOC.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- DOC will consult with iwi about an appropriate classification for the area and its ongoing management.
- We will provide your office with a draft media release at a time convenient to you, should you wish to announce this purchase.

Contact: [REDACTED]

### 2.4 Western South Island: New Mataketake Hut opening event – Haast, 13 February

- Andy Dennis, a renowned New Zealand conservationist, author and long-time member of Federated Mountain Clubs and Forest and Bird, passed away in 2016. He left a bequest to build a new hut in the mountains of the South Island. The value of this bequest, from a highly-respected nature and conservation hero, to Te Wāhipounamu - South West New Zealand World Heritage Area, cannot be overestimated.
- The new Mataketake Hut was built by the Andy Dennis Trust, but will be “owned” by the Backcountry Trust.
- The hut and access tracks are expected to make a very popular loop walk and addition to the Haast to Paringa Cattle Track in South Westland.
- The official opening event is planned for 13 February. Members of the Andy Dennis Trust, including Hon Eugenie Sage will be attending. The Deputy Director-General of Operations, Mike Slater, will be representing DOC.
- Weather permitting, the opening event will be held at the hut on Saturday 13 February.

Contact: [REDACTED]

### 2.5 NZ sea lion/pakake/whakahao fisheries mortalities

- The NZ sea lion/pakake/whakahao is a Nationally Vulnerable taonga species endemic to Aotearoa, with an estimated total population of 12,000 that breeds mostly on the subantarctic Auckland Islands and Campbell Island.

- NZ sea lions are occasionally caught in commercial trawl nets in the Squid fishery in the region adjacent to the Auckland Islands (referred to as Squid 6T).
- MPI sets operational guidelines to mitigate fisheries-related sea lion mortalities in the Squid 6T Operational Plan. These guidelines include a minimum of 90% observer coverage and mandatory use of SLEDs (sea lion exclusion devices).
- The 2020/21 Squid 6T season began in November 2020, and as of 2 February, all 390 squid target tows in the area have been observed. In total, four New Zealand sea lions (one male and three females) have been caught, all of which were dead.
- The capture events occurred on 24 December, 7 January, 29 January and 1 February, on three separate vessels. In all cases, Fisheries NZ observers photographed and sampled the sea lions and confirmed that the crew on all three vessels were deploying SLEDs and adhering to all marine mammal avoidance procedures.
- Applying the cryptic multiplier (used to estimate captures that have not been observed) of 1.3 to the four observed captures results in an estimated 5.2 sea lion mortalities against the annual fishing-related mortality limit (FRML) of 52.
- As of 2 February, there are currently no vessels fishing in Squid 6T.
- DOC Officials are working with MPI to review the circumstances of the captures and understand what further mitigation measures could be put in place.

Contact: [REDACTED]

## 2.6 Landscapes report from Environmental Defence Society

- The Environmental Defence Society (EDS) is releasing a synthesis report titled 'Caring for the Landscapes of Aotearoa New Zealand' on 23 February.
- We understand you were invited to the launch event, but are unable to attend.
- EDS has provided an embargoed copy of the report to DOC and LINZ. We are currently preparing a joint briefing on the report for you and Minister O'Connor.
- The report was commissioned by DOC and LINZ in 2019 to investigate how existing legislative and policy tools could be more effectively used to protect important natural landscapes. It also looks at potential new models for improving landscape protection.
- The report summarises case studies of landscape protection from several areas, including Te Manahuna Mackenzie Basin, Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula, the Waitākere Ranges and the Hauraki Gulf Islands. These case studies present a range of different issues and pressures, highlighting the need for a robust and flexible system that allows for collaboration between communities, not for profit organisations and philanthropists.
- DOC is currently preparing a memo for you on the Tū Te Rakiwhānoa Drylands project, based in Te Manahuna Mackenzie Basin, which you will receive in mid-February.
- EDS proposes key elements that should be included in a landscape protection model for the future. Strengthening the role of mana whenua in landscape management and restoration is seen as critical, including moving towards a bicultural partnership landscape management model.
- EDS highlights the proposed reform of the resource management system as an opportunity to improve the way landscape protection is provided for, and recommends ways to do this within the proposed Strategic Planning Act and the proposed Natural and Built Environments Act.
- Recommendations also include establishing a dedicated biodiversity enhancement fund to support indigenous forest restoration, and providing support to strengthen iwi, hapū and community collaborative landscape restoration initiatives.
- The report provides useful analysis for many areas of our work, including conservation legislation system reform, input into the resource management reform process, and the implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.

Contact: [REDACTED]

## 2.7 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]

## 2.8 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 fourth wānanga, 26-27 January.
- Since its establishment, the ODG has decided to split into four working groups to undertake specific options development. The table below outlines these working groups and their corresponding chairs.

Working Group	Chair
Treaty of Waitangi Responsibilities Framework	Valmaine Toki
Partnership Approaches	George Riley
Mātauranga and Biodiversity Outcomes	Aroha Mead
Access and Customary Use	Dion Tuuta

- As the topics of the working groups are inherently linked, the four working groups are discussing and testing ideas with each other.

- In April and May, the ODG will test options and/or recommendations for change to the general policies, with whanau, hapū and iwi, Conservation Boards, and conservation stakeholders, before finalisation.
- You are welcome to attend an ODG wānanga. The dates for the next two wānanga are 22-23 February, and 23-24 March.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Proactively Released

### 3 Director-General Engagements

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#### February

16 February	Te Urewera Board hui, Taneatua
17 February	Te Papa meet with CEO, Board and Leadership Team, Te Papa
18 February	DOC Annual Review, Parliament
18-19 February	Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Brackenridge Wairarapa
18-19 February	NZ Conservation Authority, Conservation House, Wellington
24 February	Te Kopuka na Te Awa Tupua, Whanganui/via Zoom

#### March

04 March	NEXT Outlook breakfast, Te Prefab Hall, Te Aro
16-17 March	SLT marae visit with Nga Tangata Tiaki o Whanganui, Whanganui
26 March	Pureora Forest Park – Celebrate 2000 kokako pairs,
30-31 March	DOC Senior Leadership Team Retreat, TBA

#### April

01 April	Signing “Good to Grow” MOU with Corrections CEO, Rimutaka Prison
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Proactively Released



## 4 Addendum

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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:

- [REDACTED]
- Ngati Tuhoe and Te Urewera
- Board appointments
- Fish and Game Ministerial Review
- Western South Island: Griffin Creek Run of the River Hydro Project

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

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None this week.

Proactively Released



Department of  
Conservation  
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**In-Confidence**

# **Department of Conservation Status Report**

**Week beginning: 15 February 2021**

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

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

# 1 Standing and Priority Items

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## 1.1 Jobs for Nature

- We have submitted a paper to request approval from SLU Ministers for 15 projects over the \$1M threshold, equal to \$36.3M and 573.6 FTE. The paper also notes a further eight projects under the \$1M threshold, equal to \$4.64M and 85FTE. These projects received endorsement at last week's Reference Group meeting.
- Briefing 21-B-0064 was sent to your office on 10 February outlining the next round of projects for your feedback. There are two projects over the \$1M threshold which will be discussed at the Dragon's Den meeting on 15 February, with regional staff available to answer questions.
- The Community Fund and Private Landowner Fund will close on 16 February. Initial proposals have already been received. Regional Operations Directors and their staff are involved in the assessment process and endorse projects through the initial triage phase.
- We have seven deeds finalised and now in the process of being signed, with funding release following. These include:
  - NNI: Te Aupouri
  - CNI: Waitomo restoration project (Tourism Holdings Ltd)
  - LNI: Wainuiouru restoration
  - NSI: Ngati Koata Iwi support roles
  - ESI: Pest free Banks Peninsula
  - ESI: Te Makuru
- There are a further 12 deeds currently in the negotiation phase which are being progressed with urgency.

## Project Updates

- We have been working with QEII National Trust to finalise their plan for approved funding. This is near completion and you will be briefed separately on this.
- To address your feedback we received last week, we are working with regional staff on the rescoped larger project in Tairāwhiti [REDACTED].
- In the week beginning 8 February we received two project applications from Northland, with initial triage process completed and assessments underway. We are expecting further projects to be received from Northland by the end of the week.
- We continue to monitor the current forecasting of job creation for Predator Free 2050 Ltd.
- We have signaled a locked-in expense transfer request for \$15M of year one funding to be transferred to Financial Year 2022, \$10M from Kaimahi for Nature workstream and \$5M Predator Free 2050. These will be discussed with you on 15 February.
- The status report format will be reviewed and a revised version provided in due course.

**Weekly Dashboard (Standing Item) – As at 11 February**

ES - Employment Starts  
[Number of people employed]

	ES - Approved	ES - Actual Realised	ES - Forecast (Difference)
20/21	965	488	477
21/22	477	-	-
22/23	237	-	-
23/24	184	-	-
TOTAL	1863		

FTE - Full Time Equivalent  
[Hours worked as expressed over a year]

	FTE - Approved	Target	% Against Target
20/21	731	1750	42%
20/22	496	1750	28%
20/23	294	1750	17%
20/24	218	750	29%
TOTAL	1739	6000	-

FTE In System	1412	Projected Total FTE
FTE Forecast	918	
		4069

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

## 2 Updates

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### 2.1 Northern North Island – Ngāti Hine / Taumarere catchment project

- You met with Ngāti Hine on 2 February to discuss their aspirations as kaitiaki over their lands.
- It was agreed at the hui for Department officials to meet with Mr Pita Tipene as soon as possible to scope a large landscape project for the Taumarere catchment which encompasses Ngāti Hine lands.
- This meeting is taking place on 15 February at the Whangarei DOC office.
- You will be kept updated on progress via the status report, or direct reporting to your office if urgent.

Contact: [REDACTED]

### 2.2 Southern South Island – Spotted shag mortalities

- The Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) and DOC received reports of deceased spotted shags at various locations along the South Island Coast, including near Kaka Point and Nugget Point.
- At least ten spotted shags have been found dead. We have recovered the dead carcasses and necropsies are being undertaken.
- There are also public reports of the spotted shags behaving strangely.
- MPI are the lead agency due to potential biosecurity concerns and we are supporting their response.

Contact: [REDACTED]

### 2.3 Post-graduate scholarships for conservation research – inaugural round of scholarship awards

- We have awarded scholarships to 10 Masters students under the Te Papa Atawhai Post-graduate Scholarship Programme for the 2021 year.
- The recipients had research proposals of a high standard that closely aligned to our research priorities.
- The recipients will each receive \$15,000 to support them through their research. They will also be given access to advice from our experts in their relevant field of research.
- We received 82 eligible applications across a range of disciplines, which Universities New Zealand considers exceptional for an inaugural round.
- Several unsuccessful applications were also of high quality and we have referred these students to the relevant staff, so they can benefit from their advice.
- The inaugural round was limited to Honours and Masters students doing conservation related research. We intend to extend the scholarships to include PhD research in the next round.
- The scholarship addresses the need for quality conservation research and will:

- inform critical policy work, departmental strategic decision making and operational decision making
- build capability and capacity in conservation related science in Aotearoa
- encourage talented individuals into a career in conservation science.
- The scholarships are funded from reprioritised baseline funding and do not require new Crown investment.
- We will monitor the outcomes of the scholarship programme to ensure the initiative is delivering value to Aotearoa.
- A media release announcing the scholarship winners will be sent in the week beginning 15 February to relevant media and posted on the DOC website.
- Details of recipients and their research topics are in the table below.

First Name	Last Name	Gender	University	Area of research
Jennifer	Alderton-Moss	F	Victoria	Utilising mycorrhizal fungi in the conservation of an endangered native orchid.
Charles	Ching	M	Canterbury	Observational analysis of the Mt Ruapehu crater lake, volcano tourism risk.
Gemma	Coutts	F	Lincoln	Exploring local ecological knowledge in an 'At Risk' catchment as a resolution to shifting baselines: a case study from Pelorus/ Te Hoiere, Marlborough.
Britney	Ford	F	Massey	Overcoming barriers to biodiversity protection in Mōtu, New Zealand: A catchment-based study assessing tools and perspectives for overcoming net loss of areas of high biodiversity value.
Fraser	Gurney	M	Lincoln	Breeding movements and winter dispersal of Black-fronted Terns ( <i>Chlidonias albostratus</i> )
Callum	Long	M	Victoria	Modelling the effects of climate change on the Fiordland marine food web.
Josie	Mainwaring	F	Victoria	To develop a detailed understanding of <i>Phytophthora agathidicida</i> oospores and identify microbial antagonists for biocontrol in Kauri Dieback disease.
Amy	Norris	F	Victoria	COVID-19 tourism planning.
Samuel	Purdie	M	Otago	Ecology and habitat use of skinks in North Otago with a focus on the newly discovered alpine rock skink ( <i>Oligosoma</i> sp.) and the scree skink ( <i>Oligosoma waimatense</i> ).
Alana	Thurston	F	Lincoln	Improving techniques to manage <i>Phytophthora agathidicida</i> , the causal agent of Kauri Dieback disease.

Contact: [REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

Proactively Released



### 3 Director-General Engagements

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#### February

16 February	Te Urewera Board hui, Taneatua
18 February	DOC Annual Review, Select Committee Parliament
18-19 February	Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Brackenridge Wairarapa
18-19 February	NZ Conservation Authority, Te Papa Atawhai/Conservation House Wellington
24 February	Te Kopuka na Te Awa Tupua, Whanganui/via Zoom

#### March

04 March	NEXT Outlook breakfast, The Prefab Hall, Te Aro
16-17 March	SLT marae visit with Nga Tangata Tiaki o Whanganui, Whanganui
24 March	Public Services Leaders' Summit 2021, TSB Arena Queens Wharf Wellington
26 March	Pureora Forest Park- celebrate 2000 Kokako pairs, Pureora Forest Park
30-31 March	DOC Senior Leadership Team Retreat, TBA

#### April

01 April	Signing MOU with Corrections CEO, Rimutaka Prison
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Proactively Released

## 4 Addendum

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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/Waikato – Job opportunities in the Hauraki Gulf
- Release of the Tourism Futures Taskforce interim report
- South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation – Bottom Fishing Outcomes from the 9th Commission Meeting

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

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- No items this week.

Proactively Released



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

**In-Confidence**

# **Department of Conservation Status Report**

**Week beginning: 22 February 2021**

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

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

# 1 Standing and Priority Items

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## 1.1 Jobs for Nature

- The Jobs for Nature Community and Private Land Funds closed for applications on 16 February 2020;
  - We received 280 applications requesting approximately \$140M to the Community Conservation Fund (\$16 million available)
  - We have received 116 applications requesting approximately \$80M for the Private Land Biodiversity Fund (\$18M available)
  - After an initial filter, regional staff through to Operations Directors will shortlist applications, with central panels finalising recommendations. The Jobs for Nature team members will support regional staff through this process to monitor timeframes, ensure alignment and raise any emerging issues if required.
  - We are aiming to provide you with recommendations for funding for your feedback by late March, noting that managing a high number of applications to this timeline will be challenging.
- We have 18 projects in the deed negotiation phase, equalling \$47.49M and over 550 FTE.
- To speed up the deed negotiation phase we are now including an expectation, within Approval in Principle Notification letters to applicants, that we receive signed deeds from recipients within 15 working days of us providing it to them.
- We are also implementing a change from using a Deed of Funds template to a Funding Agreement template. This reflects learnings from the PDU and the types of agreements that MPI and MBIE also use. The new signing requirements will also speed up the process of confirming funding agreements and releasing payments.

### Project Updates

- There are a further 15 projects totalling \$36.3M and 573.6 FTE that are with SLU Ministers for approval in February. There are a further eight projects under \$1M totalling \$4.64M and 85 FTE in the SLU Minister paper for noting. In total, this represents 23 projects totalling \$40.94M and 658 FTE.
- We have notified you in Briefing 21-B-0064 of two projects at or over the \$1M threshold for your consideration and feedback. These projects equal a total of \$3.373M and 44FTE and DOC regional staff will be available to respond to your questions in the next Dragon's Den meeting.
- Regional staff have advised Jobs for Nature that the [REDACTED] project presented in Briefing 21-B-0064 is time critical in order to have the work undertaken during the planting season.
- We are meeting regularly with the DOC Governance Team to understand the current state of delivery for Predator Free 2050 Ltd funding.

### Weekly Dashboard (Standing Item) – As at 16 February

- We are continuing to work closely with MfE and the Secretariat on reporting to build out the project information e.g. project intent, contract start and end dates, land tenure etc.
- Sitting alongside this is our internal visual dashboard development for a range of audiences, including yourself.
- Provided is a short summary of the Employment Starts (people employed) and FTE (total hours anticipated to be worked) until these Dashboards can be further developed.
- As per your request, the number of Employment Starts from the previous week has been added, as is a trend of Employment Starts.

#### ES - Employment Starts

[Number of people employed]

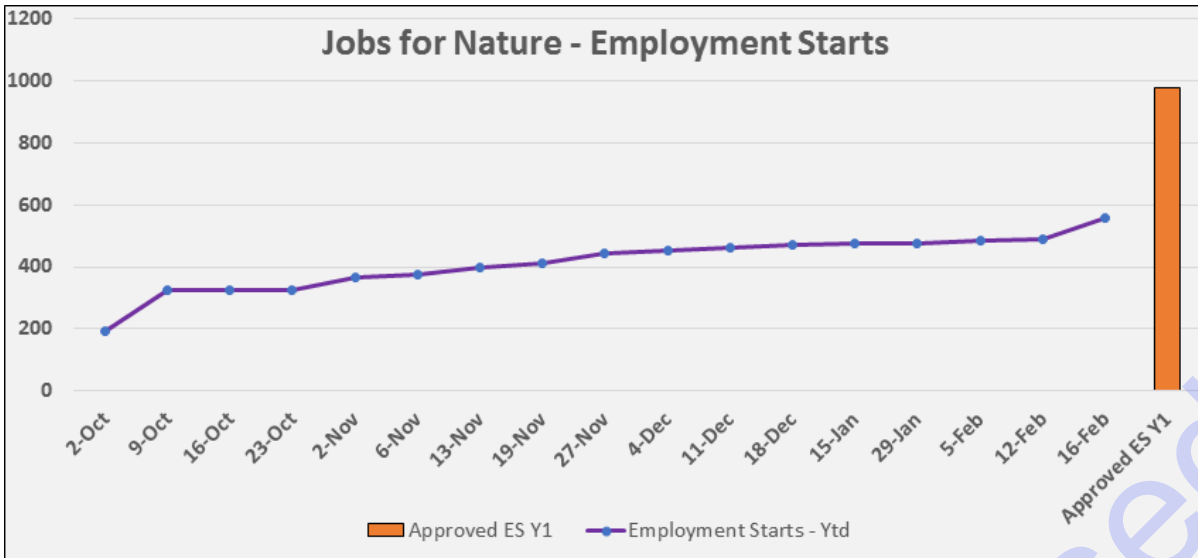
Approved		20/21 Realised	
	ES - Approved	ES - Actual Realised	ES - Forecast (Difference)
20/21	979	557	422
21/22	446	<i>As at 9 February, there were 488 employment starts.</i>	
22/23	238		
23/24	185		
TOTAL	1847		

#### FTE - Full Time Equivalent

[Hours worked as expressed over a year]

	FTE - Approved	Target	% Against Target
20/21	729	1750	42%
20/22	478	1750	27%
20/23	289	1750	17%
20/24	218	750	29%
TOTAL	1714	6000	-

FTE In System	1270	Projected Total FTE
FTE Forecast	1160	
		4144



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

## 1.2 RMA Advocacy Update

### Submissions

#### Ramparts Rural Water Supply consent renewal, Kakapo Swamp, Te Anau

- Southland District Council (SDC) held an existing resource consent which allowed for the abstraction of 720m<sup>3</sup>/day at a rate of 30m<sup>3</sup>/hour from the Kakapo Swamp for the Ramparts Rural Water Supply. The SDC can continue to take water under the existing authorisation until their application for renewal is decided.
- Water is abstracted for the Ramparts Rural Water Supply Scheme from an existing bore, located adjacent to the Kakapo Swamp (Wildlife Management Reserve) which is located next to the Te Anau Mossburn Highway – State Highway 94. This groundwater is abstracted via an intake well and subsequently pumped from the well to the main reservoir. The consent expired in May 2020. The applicant seeks to replace this consent with no changes.
- We lodged a submission (on 17 Feb) opposing the proposed water take, as there is insufficient information provided to determine if the proposal will result in partial drainage of the wetland. Depending on the effect of the proposal, it may be a prohibited activity under the National Environmental Standards for Fresh Water.

#### Bay of Plenty Regional Council - Integrated Catchment Group

- Bay of Plenty Regional Council - Integrated Catchment Group have lodged an application for erosion and flood management works that are impacting waterways and stream mouths throughout the Bay of Plenty region. Exclusion areas have been specifically identified.
- The application lacked information on areas (including species) with significant and/or highly sensitive values. The application also relied upon conditions of an expired consent and a code of practice which does not reflect current best practice for this type of activity.
- We have lodged a submission opposing the application. The submission identified the need for effective consultation to be undertaken, as well as a need for monitoring and reporting conditions to be added to any consent approval.

#### Grant & Ragg, Subdivision, Queensberry

- Central Otago District Council has publicly notified a resource consent application to undertake a two-lot subdivision and to vary a condition of a consent notice at 10 Puninga Lane, Queensberry.
- We lodged a submission in opposition to the application on 12 February. It is considered the proposal will potentially adversely affect conservation values (particularly those associated with native indigenous vegetation due to the vegetation clearance required to facilitate the subdivision) and could also have cumulative and precedent effects on similar applications in Central Otago.

## Hearings

### Plan Change PC7 (Short Term Water Consents).

- DOC recently lodged two briefs of evidence on Otago Regional Council's Plan Change PC7 (Short Term Water Consents).
- A DOC Science Advisor Freshwater provided evidence that outlines the significance of the Otago region's suite of highly threatened non-diadromous galaxiids (fish that do not make migrations between sea and freshwater). The evidence also discusses consent conditions and other management interventions that should be required. These conditions address both hydrological environment alterations and negative effects of salmonids over the term of PC7 required to protect, maintain, and enhance local populations of galaxiids to reduce the risk of species extinction.
- A DOC Senior RMA Planner provided planning evidence that outlines significant concerns about whether, as drafted, PC7 would achieve that intent and proposed amendments to the consent condition to include the evidence to address these issues.
- The Environment Court hearing will commence in March.

### Mackenzie District Plan Change 18 (Indigenous Biodiversity)

- We have prepared and filed evidence in support of the Director-General's submission on Plan Change 18 (PC18) to the Mackenzie District Plan. The evidence supports several of the Council Officer's recommendations. It seeks significant amendments to ensure significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitat of indigenous fauna in the Mackenzie Basin are protected.
- Mackenzie District Council notified PC18 to the Mackenzie District Plan in December 2017. PC18 includes provisions controlling indigenous vegetation clearance in the Mackenzie District and seeks to strengthen provisions that previously included several exemptions. The proposed PC18 provisions have legal effect through an Environment Court declaration.
- Staff will be attending the hearing on 8-11 March.

Contact: [REDACTED]

## 2 Updates

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### 2.1 Auckland – Signing of Ngāti Paoa Treaty settlement

- We have been advised by Te Arawhiti that Ngāti Paoa wish to sign their Deed of Settlement with the Crown on 4 March at Wharekawa marae, Kaiaua.
- The Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations will send out official invitations in due course.
- If requested, we can provide you with a briefing outlining the redress in the Ngāti Paoa settlement and Order of Events for the Deed of Settlement signing ceremony.
- The conservation-related redress in the Ngāti Paoa individual Treaty settlement includes:
  - seven conservation sites to be transferred as cultural redress
  - the gift and gift-back of two conservation sites
  - two overlay classifications
  - 14 statutory acknowledgements
  - a relationship agreement with the Department.
- Ngāti Paoa will also receive significant conservation-related redress through the Hauraki Collective and Marutuahu Collective Treaty settlements.

Contact: [REDACTED]

### 2.2 Southern South Island – Predator Free 2050: Release of Auckland Island feasibility study

- The results from a three-year feasibility study for a project to eradicate pigs, mice and cats from Auckland Island (Maukahuka project) will be publicly released via the DOC website in late February.
- Auckland Island is the only remaining place in New Zealand's Sub-Antarctic World Heritage Area where mammalian pests remain. The report shows that eradication is feasible with a long timeframe and complexities, such as the lack of pre-existing infrastructure and the site's remoteness. The biodiversity benefits are internationally significant with low ongoing cost to maintain once eradication is achieved.
- The process used to develop this feasibility plan, and some of the eradication methodologies developed during field trials, are already contributing to improving our large landscape scale management approach.

Contact: [REDACTED]



### 2.3 Southern South Island - Milford Opportunities update

- We are a part of 'Milford Opportunities', a collaborative project led by Southland District Council to develop a non-statutory destination plan, the output of this will be a Master Plan for Piopiotahi, Milford Corridor and surrounds.
- Due to elevation of the COVID-19 alert levels the 15 February mana whenua meeting was postponed as recommended by Ta Tipene O'Regan, and was supported by Governance Group Chair, Keith Turner. This will be rescheduled within the next three weeks.
- The Milford Opportunities Project (MOP) Governance Group proceeded with their meeting on the 17 February. The purpose was to deliberate on the contents of the draft master plan.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- The consultants developing the Master Plan have understood the substantial advice provided by the Governance Group and Working Group. They will adapt the draft Master Plan with a focus on the most crucial outcomes.
- The Master Plan will be finalised on 13 April 2021 and will be presented to you and the Ministers of Tourism, Economic and Regional Development, Transport and Finance.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- The Independent Chair of Milford Opportunities, Dr Keith Turner, is seeking meetings with you and other key Ministers in the next few weeks to brief you on the project. We can provide you with talking points prior to any meeting with Dr Turner.

Contact: [REDACTED]

### 2.4 Percentage of Revenue Framework Review

- At the meeting with [REDACTED] on 12 February there was some discussion around the Percentage of Revenue Framework Review.
- We manage and collect revenue through the granting of concessions. There are various methods for setting an appropriate fee for the use of Public Conservation Land by concessionaires, generating commercially based revenue. The Percentage Review Framework (PRF) has generally been applied to tourism concessions, for example, Accommodation/Food, Retail, Guiding and Adventure Activities, Transport and Ski field sectors. Another method used is a per person-based activity fee.
- The PRF is currently undergoing a review. The scope of the review is concentrated on the methodology, not the principle, of paying an activity fee. The outcomes the review seeks are transparent and fair mechanisms that are founded on robust and sound methods. It is a first principles approach, with the options ranging from complete alternatives to adjusting the current formula.
- We are currently in the first of three phases in the engagement process. This first phase explores the issues and options, with stakeholder feedback due in

late March. The review is expected to be complete and the preferred approach signed off by September. Iwi and stakeholder engagement is a strong part of the review.

- An industry Reference Group has been established (and has met twice) to help act as a sounding board and sense check for the review process and help facilitate engagement. The group's membership includes commercial operators, Tourism Industry Aotearoa and iwi.

• [REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]

## 2.5 COVID-19 Alert Level Changes

- We are working in alignment to the current alert levels and continuing to serve New Zealand within the parameters of those alert levels.
- We deployed our existing Alert Level transition plans at midnight 14 February in response to the Prime Minister's announcement. The Auckland Region successfully transitioned to Alert Level 3 on 15 February and no significant issues were encountered.
- Staff in the Taranaki District responded on 15 February to the information that the people who have tested positive had visited Egmont National Park (but did not enter the DOC Visitor Centres there). Deep cleans of the visitor facilities they visited were undertaken. All facilities are now open and operational.
- The rest of DOC operated under Alert Level 2 without any significant issues arising.
- Planning has commenced for the application of the vaccination programme roll-out to DOC staff, following recently published Public Service Commission guidance.

Contact: [REDACTED]

### 3 Director-General Engagements

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#### February

23 February EDS Landscape Report Launch, Wellington  
24 February Te Koupuka nā Te Awa Tupua, Whanganui/via Zoom

#### March

04 March NEXT Outlook breakfast, The Prefab Hall, Te Aro  
16–17 March SLT marae visit with Nga Tangata Tiaki o Whanganui, Whanganui  
24 March Public Service Leaders' Summit 2021, TSB Arena Queens Wharf, Wellington  
26 March Pureora Forest Park – celebrate 2000 Kokako pairs, Pureora Forest Park  
30–31 March DOC Senior Leadership Team Retreat, Ponui Homestead Wairarapa

#### April

01 April Signing MOU with Corrections CEO, Rimutaka Prison  
13 April DOC Senior Leaders hui, TBC  
15–16 April NZ Conservation Authority, TBC

Proactively Released

## 4 Addendum

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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:

- Ngāi Tahu
- Raukūmara Pae Maunga
- Kaimai Mamaku

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

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- No items this week.

Proactively Released