



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 6 May 2019

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation

Productively released

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Kauri dieback

Track upgrades

- Track mitigation work in Auckland and Tauranga to help prevent the spread of kauri dieback has been extended into early May, as ground conditions remain dry. Work will go on hold as conditions dampen into the winter.

Behaviour change research

- We have completed research into the differences in behaviour and compliance levels between dirty and clean Mark 2 Cleaning Stations.
- We are sharing the report with the wider kauri dieback programme and we expect it to be made available to the public through the programme's website.

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.2 Myrtle rust

- There are no myrtle rust updates this week.

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.3 Ramp Up programme

Following the initial growth phase, GrowDOC (including Ramp Up) reporting is now moving from weekly to monthly updates due to projected slower growth trends. We therefore plan to provide you with this update monthly from now on, unless you request otherwise.

Budget 2018 – \$181.6m recruitment report as of 6 May 2019

A total of 106 approved new positions are currently identified as being funded from Budget 2018 money.

- Roles advertised this week:
 - Advice Manager (perm) – various locations
 - Science Manager (perm) – various locations
 - Technical Advisor, Ecosystems (perm) – various locations x 4
- Roles provisionally appointed since last week:
 - Senior Heritage Advisor (perm) – Auckland
 - Senior Visitor Advisor (perm) – Whangarei

Current overall recruitment progress to date against investment areas (note that the biodiversity recruitment varies from that initially planned, but the overall forecast is on target)

Investment Activity	Roles for Recruitment to Date	Planned 2018/19
Enhancing biodiversity by controlling and eradicating predators (not including roles funded from Contingency for biodiversity initiatives).	23	40.2
Managing the impacts of increasing numbers of visitors to public conservation land	26	22
Enhancing biodiversity protection in the Mackenzie Basin	3	4
Strengthening DOC's organisational capacity and capability (policy, asset management, core organisational capability)	19	17.7
Contingency for biodiversity initiatives (freshwater, marine, terrestrial)	35	21.9
<i>Totals</i>	106	105.8

Contact:

1.4 RMA advocacy update

DOC is considering the following RMA decisions:

Declarations

None this week

Submissions

- On 29 April, we submitted in opposition to a publicly notified resource consent application for beach replenishment activities at Matapouri Beach, Northland. We believe the activity may impact on local avifauna and marine ecosystems, and that it is likely the effects can be avoided and mitigated through appropriate conditions.

Appeals

- On 15 March, the Environment Court made a decision (NZEnvC41) on the proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement (pORPS) relating to Oceania Gold Limited's (OGL) appeal. The OGL appeal centred on how biodiversity compensation is to be implemented by the pORPS. The NZEnvC41 decision mirrors current revised drafting of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) policies on offsetting and compensation.
- On 5 April, OGL lodged an appeal to the High Court on NZEnvC41. We have determined that there is limited scope to join this appeal.
- Given the consistency of the NZEnvC41 decision wording with the NPSIB, and the interest in this decision from the Minister of Energy and Resources, Crown Law joined OGL's appeal to the High Court on 23 April, in the name of the Attorney-General.
- As the appeal is not likely to be resolved before the draft NPSIB goes to Cabinet, we suggest addressing this issue through the discussion document, focussing on questions that prompt meaningful feedback on the limits to biodiversity offsetting and compensation.
- A status item with similar information went to the Associate Minister for the Environment on 4 April.

Designations

None this week

Water Conservation Orders

None this week

Other

None this week

Contact: [REDACTED]

2 Updates

2.1 Albatross and petrel conservation

- The 11th Meeting of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) Advisory Committee and associated working groups will take place in Florianopolis, Brazil from 5-17 May.
- The New Zealand delegation will consist of one official from DOC (lead agency) and one from the Ministry for Primary Industries.
- The overarching priority for New Zealand at these meetings is to ensure progress has been, and continues to be made towards advancing the objective of the Agreement. That is, that ACAP is working successfully to improve the conservation status of albatrosses and petrels, including the Antipodean albatross and the black petrel, listed in Annex 1 of the Agreement.
- Important topics to be addressed include the drivers and barriers to bycatch mitigation uptake, and engagement with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations.
- The meetings will also provide the opportunity to advance work with Chile, Ecuador and Japan, and allow the investigation of other avenues for future collaborations.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Reassessment of the conservation status of New Zealand marine mammals

- The expert panel on marine mammals is close to completing its assessment of the New Zealand marine mammal taxa using the NZ Threat Classification System (NZTCS).
- Draft assessments of 54 marine mammal taxa have been completed. A number of taxa are proposed to change conservation status in this assessment. The proposed change in status for Hector's dolphins and New Zealand sea lions is noted here because of your interest in the ongoing work to manage threats to these species.
- The panel is proposing to change the status of Hector's dolphins from Nationally Endangered to Nationally Vulnerable. This is based on population estimates being greater than previously thought, rather than an actual improvement in species status.
- Based on observed changes in the population and a reassessment of the likely decline, the panel is also proposing to change the status of the New Zealand sea lion from Nationally Critical to Nationally Vulnerable.
- These proposed changes have been shared in confidence with officials at Fisheries New Zealand, given the overlap with Threat Management Plan work programmes.

- A few stakeholders have also asked to see the draft assessments prior to finalisation, including researchers and fisheries industry representatives. The draft text for their species of interest will be shared for comment this week, subject to confidentiality restrictions.
- Once the assessment is finalised, we intend to publish *Conservation status of New Zealand marine mammals, 2019* on the DOC website, and the assessment data at www.nzctcs.org.nz during the week beginning 27 May. We will provide your office with a more detailed status report update and a copy of the report prior to this. We are working with your office on the announcement of this report.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 Improving whitebait management

- We met with you on 2 May to discuss the revised summary of engagement feedback from our improving whitebait management process, and next steps for that work.
- At our meeting, you requested clarification on:
 - Whether current legislation enables a fit-for-purpose licensing requirement to be introduced by the Department for whitebait fishing, and,
 - How the current provisions for licensing relate to those in the Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Bill.
- S 48A of the Conservation Act contains detailed provisions for licences relevant to freshwater fisheries. Current provisions in this section of the Act include (among other provisions) the ability to make regulations:
 - Prescribing the forms and classes of licences to fish for freshwater fish, providing for the issue of such licences and for the disposal of fees recovered (s 48A (c))
 - Prescribing the scope and effect of licences to fish for freshwater fish (s 48A (e))
 - For the placement of conditions on licences applying to the acquisition or possession of fish taken for sale (s 48A (g)).
- The existing provisions in the Act are fit-for-purpose if some form of licensing is implemented for the whitebait fishery. However, regulations relating to the Act's provisions do not yet exist for whitebait and would need to be created.
- The Conservation (Indigenous Freshwater Fish) Amendment Bill does not propose changes to the regulation-making powers relating to licensing specifically.
- The Bill proposes to make it possible to require catch reporting without also requiring that fishers hold a licence. This would be achieved through a proposed addition to s 48A:
 - "(v) imposing reporting requirements relating to the taking, injuring, killing, use possession, or sale of specified freshwater fish".

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.4 Conservation General Policy / General Policy for National Parks workstream

- We discussed our proposed approach to address the Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Supreme Court decision with you on 10 April.
- We will provide you with a briefing note on 16 May, setting out our proposed approach for both the technical amendment of the CGP/GPNP and the partial review process.
- The briefing note will address questions that you raised at our meeting around resourcing, budgetary implications, timeframes and scope of a proposed partial review. The briefing note will also include a draft Governance Structure and Terms of Reference for an advisory group.
- Information on the technical amendment and partial review process, to be provided to the New Zealand Conservation Authority in preparation for its next hui, on 17/18 June, will be provided to your office on 16 May.
- We are meeting you on 28 May to discuss our approach with you further.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Campsite Pricing Review 2019/20 Season

- As part of our regular review process, we have reviewed campground prices for the 2019/20 season. (The last reviews were in 2016 and 2012.)
- From 1 July, DOC's serviced and scenic campground prices will increase by \$2. Current prices are \$18 and \$15 [*note that this information was submitted to the Minister with a pricing mistake. The prices should read \$18 and \$13*] per person per night, respectively. Children's prices (half the adult rate) will increase by \$1.
- With our campsite network catering for all budgets, standard (\$8) and basic (free) campgrounds will remain unchanged.
- Campground bookings will open this month for the 2019/20 season. The new prices will be included in the announcement of the booking opening and, as stated above, will apply to bookings from 1 July onwards.
- Prices are increasing at high-demand campgrounds only, and this will help to manage growing pressures on high-demand campgrounds and to better recover costs.
- The price increase is to better reflect the value of the experience and equitably improve the cost recovery at these campgrounds without significantly reducing demand.
- We will advise attendees at TRENZ (13-16 May) that campground prices have increased.
- We will monitor bed-nights at bookable campgrounds over the summer to identify the impact of price on demand.
- Officials are available to meet with you, or we can provide a memo, should you require further details on this matter.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Letter of complaint to the Prime Minister

- In late 2018, a complaint was made to the Prime Minister about the process (and fee) to release a vehicle from Huka Falls car park after closing hours. The complaint was accompanied by an Official Information Act request and an application to the Disputes Tribunal.

- Our investigation into the complaint is now substantially complete, with a final report expected by the end of the first week in May.
- The Huka Falls carpark was land administered by LINZ up until March this year (at which point the site transferred to Ngati Tuwharetoa), and is managed by DOC. We contract an independent security firm to provide after-hours services at the site. For security purposes, gates at the site are locked at 6.30pm. Owners of vehicles still in the carpark after hours can call the security firm to open the gates, but are charged a \$30 release fee. Authorised by way of an MOU with LINZ, this regime has been in operation for over a decade.
- The complaint alleges that the security contractor was intimidating and refused to provide ID or a receipt for the \$30 release fee. These facts are disputed by the contractor. The complainant believes the release fee is not legal and was not adequately displayed at the car park.
- We have informed the complainant via email that an internal review of the car park management contract at Huka Falls is currently under way.
- In the interim, we have found that, while the \$30 charge is lawful, we acknowledge that the signage was inadequate, and this has now been improved. We have offered to refund the release fee.
- Should you wish, we will provide you with further information of the outcome of the review of the management contract.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Upper South Island predator control for 2019 – 1080 operations

- Two large aerial 1080 operations in the upper South Island are planned to start in May in response to a significant beech seedfall event, which is driving an increase in predator numbers.
- The operation in Kahurangi National Park covers a little over 311,000 hectares and is part of the Tiakina Ngā Manu landscape predator programme. The delivery of the operation has been contracted to Vector Free Marlborough (DOC is not the lead for this operation.)
- The operation in Abel Tasman National Park is approximately 11,000 hectares and is funded by Project Janszoon. The delivery of the operation will be undertaken jointly by DOC and Tasman Pest Control Limited.
- The intent of the two operations is predator control to protect a range of native species such as whio, kākā, snails, rifleman, kea and great spotted kiwi.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.8 Pitt Island suspected rat incursion

- While mice are known to be present on Pitt Island, the island has remained free of rats. On 29 April, potential signs of a rat were found at Pitt Island School.
- As an initial response we have deployed traps and toxin around the site. Environment Canterbury will examine the area with a rat detector dog as soon as current weather conditions ease to allow travel to Pitt Island.
- At this stage, no further evidence of an incursion has been found.
- DNA analysis will either confirm or rule out the presence of rats and we will respond accordingly.
- We will keep you updated.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.9 Okura Bush Walkway upgrade and slip remediation

- The planned kauri dieback upgrade and remediation of two slips has been paused while a review of consultation is being undertaken.
- An assessment of the aspirations of the 35,000 annual users of the track is under way.
- We are in further consultation with our Treaty partners who, supported by DOC, placed a rāhui over the reserve in May 2018 to keep people out of the forest to protect kauri.
- Iwi have suggested that community groups could benefit from a better understanding of DOC's relationship with its Treaty partners. We are investigating ways in which this could be done.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.10 Corporate Services Review – consultation on proposed change

- A consultation document will be released on 8 May which focuses on rebuilding systems and support capability, and strengthening service delivery provided by the Corporate Services Group.
- There is no impact to roles at tier 5 level (including administration services provided to operations) other than reporting line changes. Additional administration resources are presently being recruited to meet internal demand.
- The PSA has been, and will continue to be briefed throughout the process.

Contact: Rose Anne MacLeod, Deputy Director-General Corporate Services: [REDACTED]

3 Director-General Engagements

May

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 8 May | Australian High Commission Trans-Tasman Dinner, Australian High Commission Thorndon |
| 9 May | Te Taiao Nature Opening Event, Te Papa |
| 9 May | Hon Lees-Galloway attending HPE meeting, DOC Wellington |
| 9 May | Memorial wall photo unveiling Hondelink/Theobald families, DOC Wellington |
| 10 May | PF2050 Ltd Board meeting, Auckland |
| 16 May | TRENZ Conference, Rotorua |
| 23 May | Regional Councils/DOC re MOU progress, DOC Wellington |
| 29 May | Meeting: Minister Jones – PGF/Billion Trees, Parliament |
| 30 May | Te Kōpuka hui (Whanganui River Strategy Group), Whanganui |

June

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 6 June | Ngāi Tahu/DOC Governance meeting, Christchurch |
| 13 June | State Services Leadership Team Retreat, Ohariu Farm |
| 17 June | NZ Conservation Authority meeting, Wellington |
| 19 June | Tourism CE's Quarterly Meeting, Wellington |
| 19 June | Central and Local Government Forum, Premier House, Wellington |

July

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 3 July | 2019 Public Service Leaders' Summit, Wellington |
|--------|---|

4–5 July	SLT Retreat, Pounui Homestead, Wairarapa
11 July	ENGO Forum, DOC Wellington
17 July	QEII National Trust, Taranaki
20–27 July	Te Hono Boot Camp, Stanford University

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:

- Motutapu Island archaeological site disturbance – update

Proactively released



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 13 May 2019

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation

Productively released

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Kauri dieback

National Pest Management Plan / Agency

- [REDACTED]
- The Biosecurity Act requires that the Minister is satisfied the NPMP proposal meets all the requirements under the Act, including funding.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Waipoua Forest Response Plan

- Recent sampling has detected the first positive identification of kauri dieback at the Four Sisters in the Kauri Walks area.
- Te Roroa and DOC have decided on a temporary closure of the track, from 13 May.
- Additional sampling and response options are also under discussion before any public announcement is made.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1.2 Myrtle rust

- Myrtle rust has been detected for the first time on the West Coast of the South Island. Geographically, this is the furthest south that the fungus has been reported in New Zealand. It was found in Greymouth [REDACTED] on the leaves of a young pōhutukawa tree.
- While this occurrence is not unexpected, it is concerning that myrtle rust has spread this far south, as it was hoped it would remain confined to the top of the South Island.
- DOC staff have been advised to keep an eye out for any incursions on PCL

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1.3 RMA Advocacy update

DOC is considering the following RMA decisions:

Declarations

None this week.

Submissions

- On 26 April, the hearings panel for Environment Southland decided to grant Sanford Limited's resource consent variation to increase the capacity of the pens of their existing salmon farms, and increase nitrogen discharges from feed within Big Glory Bay, Stewart Island. As this was a variation of existing consents, the new expiry date is 2023. We were involved in the drafting of appropriate conditions prior to, and during the hearing. These conditions are the same as those on the varied consents.

- On 7 May, we submitted on the publicly notified resource consent from Castlerock Farming Company Limited, opposing the application and seeking that the consent be declined. This is due to the lack of adequate assessment of effects on freshwater values, including effects on species such as Gollum galaxias and longfin eel.

Appeals

- On 21 March, Queenstown Lake District Council notified the decision on Stage 2 of the District Plan Review. Stage 2 covered: Wakatipu Basin, Earthworks, Transport, Signs, Open Space and Recreation, and Visitor accommodation. The decision has been reviewed by DOC and we determined that no appeal is necessary at this stage. We will review all appeals to determine if a s274 is necessary. S274 joining notices are required by 28 May.

Simons Pass Station

- On 26 October 2018, the Mackenzie District Council (MDC) sought a declaration from the Environment Court on provisions in the Mackenzie District Plan (MDP) relating to agricultural conversion, pastoral intensification and other activities at Simons Pass Station. We did not join the declaration.
- On 1 April, the Environment Court released its decision on the declaration. The decision agreed with the MDC's position, that agricultural conversion and pastoral intensification on Simons Pass are subject to a discretionary resource consent from MDC.
- On 18 April, Simons Pass appealed this decision to the High Court. Any party seeking to join this appeal needed to do so by 7 May.
- We have reviewed the appeal from Simons Pass to the High Court and have raised concerns around the potential implications on the development at Simons Pass, the MDP and the Plan Change 13 provisions.
- We were not party to the original declaration so there is uncertainty around what mechanism we could use to join. Being a High Court proceeding, Crown Law would need to lead this work and the Attorney-General would need to approve any High Court proceedings.

Designations

None this week.

Water Conservation Orders

None this week.

Other

None this week.

Contact:

2 Updates

2.1 Hector's/Māui dolphin photographed in the Bay of Plenty

- We have received photos of a Hector's/Māui dolphin spotted by Ngā Whenua Rahui staff on 5 May in the Bay of Plenty, about 100k east of Whakatane.
- A report of the sighting and the photos have been submitted to an independent validator through DOC's standard validation process.
- Hector's/Māui dolphins have been reported in this area over the last few years, but sightings are uncommon, and there has been no photographic evidence until now.
- As the Hector's and the Māui dolphin subspecies cannot be distinguished visually, it is impossible to establish if this is a Hector's or a Māui dolphin without obtaining a biopsy sample.

- We are asking the public to report any sightings and, depending on how long it remains in the area, we may attempt to locate the dolphin and, if possible, collect biopsy samples.
- MPI has been notified.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Milford Sound landslide

- Close to midnight on 4 May, a slip occurred above Freshwater Basin at Milford Sound. All local DOC staff were quickly accounted for and there were no reports of injury.
- A significant amount of soil, rock and vegetation debris moved down a natural stream line and blocked the culvert at the Freshwater Basin terminal carpark, causing localised flooding in the carpark and around the cruise terminal infrastructure. As a result, access to the area around the culvert, and cruise operations from the terminal, were suspended until 6 May.
- On 6 May, DOC arranged for Opus to carry out a geotechnical assessment to assess the potential for further failures, hang-ups and blockages. The assessment concluded that the landslide did not present a high residual risk of further movement of material, or a safety threat to people or infrastructure.
- There are now no restrictions around the culvert area, and cruise operations have resumed.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 Recovery of Southern Lakes Helicopter wreckage, Auckland Islands

- Southern Lakes Helicopters (SLH) has sought approval from DOC to recover helicopter wreckage from the recent event near the Auckland Islands at its own expense.
- Under the RMA s31A you hold the authority of a regional council in respect of the islands and coastal marine area of the Sub-Antarctics.
- Noting the high ecological values, statutory framework, World Heritage Area status and the environmental risk posed from inevitable breakup of the wreckage in the area, approval has been given by the Acting Director Operations Southern South Island under s330 of the RMA (Emergency works and power to take preventive or remedial action) to allow SLH to conduct this activity.
- The Traffic Accident Investigation Commission has also approved the uplift of the wreckage.
- The ship being used for the salvage operation departed from Bluff on 8 May. SLH expects the salvage to be completed by 13 May.
- At this stage the vessel is likely to be out of action for approximately four weeks to ensure these safety issues can be addressed. This is an appropriate action to ensure the safety of our staff.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.4 Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara incursion response

- On 1 May, a few weeks after the island was declared rodent-free following the incursion response that ran from January to March, a female Norway rat was caught in a DOC200 kill trap on predator-free Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara, Stewart Island/Rakiura.
- Rangers have again lifted monitoring intensity to a Tier 1 response with weekly checks of tracking tunnels and all DOC200 traps over the next four weeks.
- The island was checked by a rodent detecting dog and handler as part of a regularly scheduled monthly routine on 7-8 May. No further evidence of the incursion was found.
- The Tier 1 response will continue through to the end of May.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Update on Predator Free Rakiura (Stewart Island)

- The Predator Free Rakiura project has received 12 months of funding from MBIE which has enabled a Project Manager to be employed. [REDACTED]
- Due to the scale of the project, pest eradication on the ground is likely to be funded through a future PF2050 Limited application and partnership with philanthropic organisations.
- We will provide you with updates as the project progresses.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Save Our Iconic Kiwi predator control update

- The Save Our Iconic Kiwi project (SOIK) has five landscape-scale predator control operations planned for 2019/20 to protect great spotted kiwi and Fiordland tokoeka.
- The first two of these operations, Arthur's Pass and Wet Jacket Peninsula, are due to begin this week (weather dependent), and will cover approximately 140,000 ha.
- Overall, SOIK will protect approximately 260,000 ha of great spotted kiwi and Fiordland tokoeka habitat, as per the table below. Additional Tiakina Ngā Manu operations will deliver predator control to a further 650,000 ha of great spotted kiwi, Haast tokoeka and Fiordland tokoeka habitat during the 2019 mast event.

Status	Method	Region	District	Operation	Est ha	Planned start date
Confirmed	Air and ground	ESI	Rangiora	Arthur's Pass	100,000	May
Confirmed	Air	SSI	Te Anau	Wet Jacket Peninsula	40,000	May
Confirmed	Air	WSI	Buller	New Creek	70,000	July
Confirmed	Air	WSI	Buller	Punakaiki	37,016	Autumn 2020

Confirmed	Air	WSI	Greymouth	Roaring Meg	12,823	Autumn 2020
TOTAL					259,839	

- DOC's operational delivery of SOIK predator control is through Tiakina Ngā Manu. We updated you on the Tiakina Ngā Manu operations planned for 2019, including the planned SOIK operations, in the Status Report for the week beginning 29 April (item 2.1).
- SOIK has kiwi chick survival studies running at two treatment sites to measure the impact of aerial predator control on kiwi in South Island beech forest, with preliminary results due by the end of the year.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Stocktake and way forward for national deer management

- As advised in the Status Report for the week beginning 18 March (item 5.1), a team of DOC specialists is compiling a national stocktake of current deer management and working toward recommendations on next steps for establishing a plan to respond to increasing deer abundance.
- On 15 April, DOC staff and two regional council representatives from the Northland and Otago Regional Councils met to agree the approach, identify critical issues and map key stakeholder relationships.



Contact: [REDACTED]

2.8 Board appointments & fees

- We were scheduled to meet you on Friday 10 May and now should be able to address some concerns relating to appointments to the Game Animal Council and Conservation Boards.
- It is also desirable to get the National Heritage fund appointment process under way.
- We are also engaging with the Chair of QE11 in the coming week to commence an assessment of the trust's fees.

Contact: Mervyn English, Chief of Governance: [REDACTED]

2.9 Fish & Game Audits

- There is good progress being made with implementing the action plan coming out of the North Canterbury Council Audit. The Central South Island Audit has been made public, we provided you with a response in case you were asked questions.

Contact: Mervyn English, Chief of Governance: [REDACTED]

2.10 Conservation Week 2019 artwork and messaging

- Artwork and messaging have been developed for Conservation Week 2019. The key tagline is: “Let’s create change for our taonga”. This is represented visually with the shape of Aotearoa being formed by some of our native species, including fauna, flora, freshwater, and marine ecosystems.
- As touched on in the Status Report for the week beginning 4 March (item 2.11), the key target audience for this campaign is families, particularly those with children aged 5–13 years. The imagery outlined above will feature through channels such as out-of-home, digital, print, collateral, and partner advertising.
- We will acknowledge the 50-year anniversary theme throughout the wider communications and celebrate some conservation stories from the past five decades. While we will touch on past success, the focus will be on now, as being the time for action.
- There will be full Te Reo versions of this messaging across many of our channels. We will be working with Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori (the Māori Language Commission) on this, and on other opportunities to celebrate the overlap between Conservation Week and Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori again this year.
- Now that we have imagery and messaging in place we will be going out to our partners, regional offices, and the wider conservation community for input in making this year’s Conservation Week a success.
- A copy of the artwork and messaging is being provided to your office.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Director-General Engagements

May

16 May	TRENZ Conference, Rotorua
23 May	Regional Councils/DOC re MOU progress, DOC Wellington
29 May	Meeting: Minister Jones – PGF/Billion Trees, Parliament
30 May	Te Kōpuka hui (Whanganui River Strategy Group), Whanganui

June

6 June	Ngāi Tahu/DOC Governance meeting, Christchurch
12 June	DOC stakeholders BBQ, DOC Wellington
13 June	State Services Leadership Team Retreat, Ohariu Farm
17 June	NZ Conservation Authority meeting, Wellington
19 June	Tourism CE’s Quarterly Meeting, Wellington
19 June	Central and Local Government Forum, Premier House, Wellington
20 June	Environment Select Committee Estimates Hearing, Wellington

July

3 July	2019 Public Service Leaders’ Summit, Wellington
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4–5 July	SLT Retreat, Pounui Homestead, Wairarapa
11 July	ENGO Forum, DOC Wellington
17 July	QEII National Trust, Taranaki
20–27 July	Te Hono Boot Camp, Stanford University

4 Addendum

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Subject headings of content in this section are:

- Tuwharetoa settlements
- Predator Free Ltd

Proactively released



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Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 20 May 2019

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Minister of Conservation

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1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Kauri dieback

National Pest Management Plan / Agency

- Biosecurity NZ has provided a further briefing to the Minister for Biosecurity around next steps for the proposed NPMP and Agency.
- Section 62 of the Biosecurity Act 1993 outlines the criteria for the second (of four) steps in preparing a National Pest Management Plan. Clause (g) requires that “there is likely to be adequate funding for the implementation of the plan for the shorter of its proposed duration and 5 years”.
- In section 63 of the Act, under the third step, the Biosecurity Minister is required to consult with other Ministers and/or local authorities whose responsibilities may be affected, and also with tangata whenua.

Four Sisters Walk

- On 13 May, we announced the temporary closure of the Four Sisters Walk in the Waipoua Forest, in response to the risk of the spread of kauri dieback in the immediate vicinity. We are working with Te Roroa to make an informed decision on future infrastructure and people management at the site.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1.2 Myrtle rust

- There is no myrtle rust update this week.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1.3 RMA Advocacy Update

DOC is considering the following RMA decisions:

Declarations

None this week

Submissions

- We are preparing a submission on three resource consent applications by Oceania Gold Limited to the Otago Regional Council. These consents are for an extension to the existing consented Coronation North Mine at Macraes Flat and will be lodged by 16 May.
- Areas of concern include:
 - Potential contamination risks to downstream freshwater values, including habitat of the Taieri flathead galaxiid
 - Effects on the hydrology of local streams and adjacent rare basalt seepage wetlands
 - Effects caused by the modification of stream beds
 - That the district council land use consents are yet to be notified.

Appeals

- On 26 April, Environment Southland released its decision to grant a resource consent variation to Sanford Ltd to increase salmon cage capacity and nitrogen discharges (from feed).

- We worked with Sanford prior to the hearing on the proposed conditions.
- We also worked on amending the conditions in response to the issues raised by the independent hearing panel during the hearing.
- The conditions in the decision are consistent with what was agreed through the hearing and therefore no appeal is necessary.

Designations

None this week

Water Conservation Orders

None this week

Other

- On 15 May, we provided feedback to Environment Canterbury on Plan Change 7 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan. The plan change consists of three parts:
 - Omnibus (amendments to region-wide provisions)
 - Orari-Temuka-Opihi-Pareora Sub-regional
 - Waimakariri Sub-regional
- Notification for the plan changes is scheduled for June.
- We are providing informal comments to Environment Canterbury about the ecological impacts of increasing irrigation on dryland ecosystems, as both an affected neighbour (with the Kaitorete Scientific Reserve), and as a general advocate.
- We are asking that the transfer of water take and use at Kaitorete be declined.

Contact: _____

2 Updates

2.1 New Zealand Voluntary National Report on the United Nations Sustainable Development programme

- This is a brief update on New Zealand's Voluntary National Report against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- In February, we notified you that New Zealand planned to submit a Voluntary National Report (VNR) against the SDGs at the July meeting of the UN High Level Political Forum (Status Report 61, week beginning 25 February, item 2.9 refers).
- On 9 May, Cabinet approved the draft VNR, agreed to its release for public feedback from 14-26 May, and authorised the Minister of Foreign Affairs to sign off the final report for submission to the UN.
- The draft VNR is now on the MFAT website for public comment and has been provided to you for your information.
- We are working with MFAT to finalise the VNR.

Contact: _____

2.2 DOC'S Pacific work programme

- This is a brief update on DOC's Pacific work programme.
- We have successfully ensured 'invasive alien species' is part of the Government's recent Pacific security work.

- We have:

- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] and
- Gained MFAT's agreement to include biosecurity and invasive species on the agenda for the Pacific Environmental Security Forum in Wellington (21-24 May). The agenda will focus on "Building Resilience in the Pacific" and will be co-sponsored by the US Indo-Pacific Command and MFAT. Our work in the Sub-Antarctic Islands will be presented at this forum.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 PF2050 Strategic Plan update

- For the past 18 months, we have been developing a strategic plan for PF2050. We will provide you with a copy of the working draft for your review by early June and would appreciate meeting with you to discuss the strategic plan once you have seen it.
- Developing the strategic plan has involved consultation with the public, key entities and iwi to ensure broad ownership of the strategy (19-B-0280 refers). We held 15 regional hui with over a 100 iwi and hapu, received 742 responses on the Discussion Guide, and held numerous workshops and meetings with interested groups and agencies.
- The plan sets the overall direction for PF2050 as well as more concrete steps for implementation. It includes an action plan and defines roles and accountabilities. A working draft has been completed.
- We are engaging with key partners on the working draft to provide them with an opportunity for a final review. This step is designed to ensure broad pan-organisational ownership of the strategy and action plan.
- Following feedback from you and others, further work will be done to design the final document. We expect to have this process completed by the end of August.
- Based on this timeframe, a final version will be available for release from early October.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.4 Tahr control programme

- Control of tahr beyond the feral range is the key focus of the programme over May and June. Searches of the northern and southern exclusion zones continue, with low densities of tahr observed and removed. Fitting of new judas collars to tahr is under way in feeder areas to the exclusion zones.
- We have declined [REDACTED] tahr control, and have notified a Request for Tender (RFT) for contract culling. The RFT will enable us to select one or more suppliers to cull, and possibly recover, 1,000 tahr in each of two tahr management units over July/August. The RFT closes on 30 May.
- Our Treaty partner, key scientists and most Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group bodies were represented at the tahr research and monitoring workshop held at Lincoln University on 9 May. The purpose of the workshop was to identify key research and monitoring questions for effectively implementing the 1993 Himalayan Tahr Control Plan.

- The write-up of the workshop is under way. The four themes for research that emerged and were explored in detail were:
 - How to identify the effect of tahr on ecological integrity
 - Measuring the contribution of hunting on tahr control
 - Diet of tahr and other herbivores in the alpine environment
 - Monitoring techniques, including establishing the extent of tahr numbers across all land tenures.
- The workshop findings will contribute to the future tahr work programme.
- We have been invited to present on the tahr programme at the Federated Farmers High Country Conference in Marlborough on 17 May. Our aim is to build awareness of the current tahr programme and the need for improved tahr management across all land tenures.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Deer repellent use in Flora-Tableland-Lower Cobb Valley, Kahurangi National Park

- Friends of Flora may express disappointment in our decision to use deer repellent in cereal baits over 8500 ha in parts of the Flora-Tableland-Lower Cobb Valley area of Kahurangi National Park.
- The Flora-Tableland-Cobb operation using deer repellent is one of four aerial operations within the larger Kahurangi Tiakina Nga Manu programme. We are operationally ready and waiting for a fine weather period to carry out the work.
- About 65% of the area covered by the Friends of Flora's trapping network will be treated with deer repellent. It was used in this part of the park in our 2014 and 2016 predator control operations.
- We highly value Friends of Flora's dedicated work to control pests and enhance the ecology in the Flora Stream catchment and surrounding areas of Kahurangi.
- We have consulted with the Friends on the use of deer repellent in this part of Kahurangi. We have acknowledged the Friends' concerns about deer impacts in this area, and considered them carefully.
- In making our decision, we also considered the importance recreational hunters place on accessible fallow deer hunting in the area. We have reached the view that not using deer repellent at this site was unlikely to make any significant difference to deer browsing impacts on threatened native plant life in this area.
- We have discussed the decision with Friends of Flora's Chair, who accepted the decision and understands the situation.
- We have agreed with Friends of Flora and the New Zealand Deer Stalkers Association (NZDA) to work together to develop a plan to identify the threats to the ecosystem in this area of Kahurangi, desired outcomes and management actions.
- Nationally, we expect to use deer repellent over 40,000 ha of the 1,100,000 ha of land programmed for control during 2019 beech mast response. Locations were identified following extensive consultation with hunters through the NZDA and the Game Animal Council, to identify the areas of greatest interest and value to them.
- Aerial 1080 is not used for deer control. Effective deer control requires the sustained suppression of deer numbers to low levels using ground and aerial hunting.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Okuru Enterprises Limited – Easement for Water Take Application

- Okuru Enterprises Limited applied for a new easement concession in August 2018, outlining a proposal to construct a weir and buried pipeline for the purposes of water take and conveyance across 3km of public conservation land at Arawhata, South Westland.
- The application was classified as a notified easement concession due to the potential effects of the proposal, particularly on the Haast tokoeka Kiwi.
- An initial assessment of the application deemed more information was required, including ecological survey, before it was able to be publicly notified. We sought this further information from the applicant in October 2018, providing until 31 January 2019 for the submission of the information. An extension of time, to the end of April 2019, to allow for the submission of the information was subsequently approved.
- Okuru Enterprises has advised us that it would be unable to provide the further information requested until after Summer 2020.
- Under 17 SD (4) of the Conservation Act, a decision has been made to return the application to the applicant. It was decided that the time already allowed for the provision of the information (nine months in total) was fair and reasonable. The applicant has been advised of this decision.
- Okuru Enterprises Limited's current Deed of Easement, granted in 1994, expires on 21 May, therefore it will have no authority to undertake any activity under that Easement.
- Okuru Enterprises Limited may submit a new application to be considered once it believes the application is complete for DOC's assessment.
- Separate processes were run by the Westland District Council for renewal of the RMA land use permit and by the West Coast Regional Council for renewal of the RMA water take and coastal permits.
- To date the company has not utilised its consents.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Re-establishment of the tara iti/New Zealand fairy tern recovery group

- We have re-established the recovery group for the tara iti/NZ fairy tern, New Zealand's rarest bird. The group comprises DOC Biodiversity and Operations staff, and Treaty partners and external experts involved in tara iti recovery.
- The group's first meeting will be held 29-30 May, in Whangarei.
- If you would like to announce the establishment of the group, please have your office let us know by 24 May.
- Otherwise we will work with your office to promote the announcement through DOC and other government channels by 27 May.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.8 Further incursion of *undaria pinnatifida* discovered in Chalky Inlet, Fiordland

- In April, divers on a regular joint agency marine reserve, fisheries and biosecurity compliance trip discovered one mature *undaria* plant and several juvenile plants on the line of the wreck of the boat 'Stella' in Northport, Chalky Inlet.

- Environment Southland (ES), the lead agency, DOC and MPI are working together under their joint agency agreement to decide on the next steps.
- A survey to determine the extent of the incursion in Chalky Inlet is planned for mid/late June, as it is currently unknown if the location of the *undaria* found is the only incidence, or if it is more widespread.
- Following the delimiting survey, the agencies will develop recommendations for future management of the incursion so that decisions can be made in a timely manner.
- In addition to working on the Chalky Inlet incursion ES, MPI and DOC are continuing to develop recommendations for the ongoing *undaria* programme in Breaksea Sound.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.9 Mokoia Island animal pest incursion

- Previously considered a pest-free island, there is recent evidence (April/May 2019) of rats and a breeding population of mice within the wildlife sanctuary on Mokoia.
- Mokoia Island (in the middle of Lake Rotorua) is privately-owned and managed as a wildlife sanctuary. It is home to North Island brown kiwi, kōkako, saddleback and North Island robin.
- The island receives support from DOC, and we work with the Mokoia Island Trust to maintain its pest-free status.
- The trust and DOC have carried out multiple visits to the island to clear traps and replace baits. Mice footprints have been detected in tracking tunnels and one mouse has been trapped. We believe, however, that there is a larger rodent population on the island, and we are continuing to support iwi capacity to lead the incursion response.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.10 Auckland Island helicopter wreck recovered

- As previously advised (see Status Report 72 for the week beginning 13 May, item 2.3) we authorised Southern Lakes Helicopters to recover the wreckage of its BK117 Helicopter from the sea near Auckland Island.
- This authorisation was provided under the emergency works provisions of the Resource Management Act S33 (1) (d).
- The helicopter wreckage was successfully recovered on 10 May at the expense of Southern Lakes Helicopters (or its insurer) and is now under the control of the Transport Accident Investigation Commission.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.11 Green Ribbon Awards review

- As advised late last year (see Status Report 53 for the week beginning 3 December 2018, item 3.2), DOC and MfE have been reviewing the Green Ribbon Awards. The review included a survey of previous winners, applicants and stakeholders.



Official Information released

3 Director-General Engagements

May

- 23 May Regional Councils/DOC re MOU progress, DOC Wellington
- 24 May Jane Goodall Institute of NZ Reception, Government house, Wellington
- 29 May Meeting: Minister Jones – PGF/Billion Trees, Parliament
- 30 May Te Kōpuka hui (Whanganui River Strategy Group), Whanganui

June

- 6 June LGNZ Rural and Provincial CE's meeting, Wellington
- 6 June Ngāi Tahu/DOC Governance meeting, Christchurch
- 12 June DOC stakeholders BBQ, DOC Wellington
- 13 June State Services Leadership Team Retreat, Ohariu Farm
- 17 June NZ Conservation Authority meeting, Wellington
- 18 June DOC Senior Leaders hui, Wellington
- 19 June Tourism CE's Quarterly Meeting, Wellington
- 19 June Central and Local Government Forum, Premier House, Wellington
- 20 June Environment Select Committee Estimates Hearing, Wellington
- 21 June–1 July DG on annual leave, Martin Kessick acting DG

July

- 3 July 2019 Public Service Leaders' Summit, Wellington
- 4–5 July SLT Retreat, Pounui Homestead, Wairarapa
- 11 July ENGO Forum, DOC Wellington
- 13 July Predator Fee Rakiura MOU signing, Rakiura
- 17 July QEII National Trust, Taranaki
- 20–27 July Te Hono Boot Camp, Stanford University
- 31 July Senior Leaders hui, Wellington

August

- 1 August Holiday Parks Conference, Te Papa, Wellington

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:

- New Great Walks – Project Update

Proactively released



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 27 May 2019

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation

Productively released

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Kauri dieback

National Pest Management Plan

- The proposed plan is currently with the Minister for Biosecurity, who must determine if the criteria under the Biosecurity Act have been met.
- Process and timelines from here are still to be confirmed.

Four Sisters Walkway

- The Four Sisters Walkway was temporarily closed in Waipoua Forest on 20 May due to the discovery of kauri dieback at the site. This is a week later than originally planned as the barriers and signage were not ready.
- The closure was announced via a joint media release between DOC and Te Roroa.

Behaviour change research

- The data from DOC's summer research into behaviour change at Mark 2 Cleaning Stations is currently being analysed at the University of Auckland. We will update you on the results in a future status report item.
- Results from the research will be shared within DOC in June and made public in July.

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.2 Myrtle rust

- To understand life-history impacts of myrtle rust on ramarama, we have commissioned Scion to undertake research to look at the viability of ramarama seeds after infection with myrtle rust.
- This research is now under way with the final report due 30 June.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2 Updates

2.1 International Whaling Commission meeting – Hector's and Māui dolphins

- The International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee (IWC-SC) held its annual meeting in Kenya from 10-22 May 2019.
- The IWC-SC has consistently called for the New Zealand Government to provide greater protection from human threats to Māui dolphins.
- Fisheries New Zealand sent a scientist to the meeting to present the Hector's and Māui dolphin risk assessment work which is being used to inform New Zealand's domestic review of the Threat Management Plan.
- The IWC-SC noted the depth and complexity of the risk assessment meant that it was unable to fully review the work during the course of the meeting.
- Draft recommendations have been circulated calling for an intersessional review of the risk assessment, with experts reviewing individual pieces of the

work over the next 12 months and a workshop in advance of next year's IWC-SC meeting to finalise the review.

- New Zealand may be asked to provide financial support for this review process.
- The draft recommendations also repeat the IWC-SC's previous call for the closure of set net and trawl fisheries throughout the range of Māui dolphins.
- Another draft recommendation has been added, calling for further research on risks to Hector's and Māui dolphins posed by the disease toxoplasmosis.
- The final report of the IWC-SC, including recommendations, will be publicly released three weeks after the end of the meeting, approximately 12 June. We can provide additional advice to you and relevant ministers closer to this date, if required.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Joint Border Analytics Approved Information Sharing Agreement

- DOC is party to the Joint Border Analytics (JBA) Approved Information Sharing Agreement (AISA).
- The JBA is led by Customs and will use data from member agencies (DOC, Customs, MPI, MBIE: Immigration, Companies Office, and Passports Office) to refine the way agencies target and manage risk at the border.
- Customs is preparing a Cabinet paper seeking authorisation to publicly consult on the AISA to support the Joint Border Analytics work.
- Subject to consultation, we expect the paper to be considered at Cabinet Economic Development Committee on 24 July.
- We have now received feedback from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner, who has expressed reservations about the development of intelligence products that specifically identify individuals who may be committing border offences.
- The JBA agencies are making changes to address the concerns raised by the Privacy Commissioner.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 Improving whitebait management

- With your agreement, on 16 May we released a media statement communicating your decision to progress to public consultation on improving whitebait management. We also made available online the summary of feedback to our public engagement process.
- Before releasing this material, we advised Fisheries New Zealand, the Ministry for the Environment, those iwi most involved with our engagement process, Te Wai Māori and key stakeholders (e.g. the Whitebait Working Group and key contacts involved with whitebaiters' associations) of our actions and your decision to progress to consultation.
- Coinciding with the media release, we updated the Improving Whitebait Management website. Since that update, the website has had 1,570 hits.
- We also created Twitter and Facebook posts on your decision to progress to public consultation on whitebait management. These posts reached 2,460 and 12,000 screens, respectively.
- To date (22 May), the announcement has resulted in 10 online articles (including on the Scoop, Stuff, TVNZ and Newshub sites) and radio coverage by Newstalk ZB.

- All the media stories emphasised the strong support for improvements to whitebait management that was identified through DOC's engagement process.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Inaugural Te Awa Tupua – Whanganui River Claims settlement hui

- Under Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims) Settlement Act 2017, a new collaborative framework has been established to enable iwi and statutory decision-makers within the Whanganui River catchment to enhance the health and well-being of Te Awa Tupua (the Whanganui River) and its communities.
- DOC has several commitments in relation to Te Awa Tupua, including the appointment by the Director-General of one member to Te Kōpuka – the river strategy group established under the Te Awa Tupua Act.
- The inaugural meeting of Te Kōpuka – Te Awa Tupua Strategy Group will be held at Te Ihingarangi Marae, Waimiha on 30 May.
- Te Kōpuka is made up of 17 members comprising representatives from iwi, relevant local authorities, the Fish and Game Council, Genesis Energy, DOC, and members appointed to represent environmental, tourism, recreational and primary industries interests.
- DOC will be represented by the Director-General and the Director for Central North Island Operations at the first Te Kōpuka meeting. We are currently the only named Crown agency sitting on the strategy group.
- The initial focus of Te Kōpuka will be to develop and approve Te Heke Ngahuru, a strategy document to address and advance the health and well-being of Te Awa Tupua. Under the Te Awa Tupua Settlement Act, once the document has been approved, DOC must have particular regard to Te Heke Ngahuru when making decisions under the Conservation Act and the National Parks Act.

- Whilst not yet a formal member of Te Kōpuka, the Chief Executive of the Ministry for the Environment will also attend the Te Kōpuka meeting. Wherever possible, DOC will seek to encourage wider Crown engagement with, and support for Te Kōpuka, and Te Awa Tupua generally.
- We will provide you with an update following the inaugural meeting.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Pakaitore Historic Reserve Board letter

- The Pakaitore Historic Reserve Board (the Board), wrote to you on 31 March.
- The Board manages the Moutoa Garden Historic Reserve in Whanganui, which is important to Whanganui iwi.
- It had previously requested an additional \$7,000 plus GST per annum on the basis that the payment of \$23,000 plus GST (agreed in 2001) is insufficient to meet annual management and maintenance costs associated with the site.
- DOC has undertaken due diligence to ensure the increased funding is warranted, and this has led to a delay in providing a response.
- We understand the Board has some frustrations at the time taken (two years) to approve the increase, and this has led to its writing to you.
- The funding arrangements are complex, given this is a Crown appropriation and the relationship with the Board sits with DOC.
- We have proposed an interim measure and are seeking advice from Treasury prior to providing a response to the Board.
- A full memo and response letter are currently with Treasury for review, and you will receive them shortly thereafter.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Milford Opportunities Project progress update

- Minister Davis signed a joint Cabinet paper with you in the week of 20 May. The scheduled Cabinet review date is 17 June.
- The external Milford Opportunities Project terms of reference and project scope were approved by the governance group on 10 May, subject to requested changes. Changes to the terms of reference and project scope have been made for clarity.

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

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.8 National Agricultural Fieldays, Mystery Creek, Hamilton

- The National Agricultural Fieldays at Mystery Creek, Hamilton is the largest agricultural event in the Southern Hemisphere. Around 130,000 people, largely from the rural community, attend these annual Fieldays.
- DOC regularly has a stand at the event to communicate key conservation messages.
- Data collected at the DOC stand at the Fieldays in 2018 confirmed that we get c10,000 visitors over the four days of the event, 60% of whom are from the Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Auckland. The audience moves from being predominantly rural to urban as the week passes.
- Fieldays 2019 runs from 12 - 15 June.
- DOC's stand is focussed on "New Zealand's Biodiversity Crisis". Messaging will be an extension of the 2018 Conservation Week key messages and lead into the 2019 theme, "Let's create change for our taonga".
- Our stand will be run in partnership with Waikato Regional Council. We will also work with partners around the Fieldays site through the Kiwi Guardian programme.
- Our exhibition will touch on marine, freshwater and forest habitats, with each section beginning with a fact (what the environment was like/what it could be like, and what it is like now), coupled with action that can be taken by the public.
- We will provide you with an update on the success of the Fieldays project by the end of June.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.9 Pakihi Track closure

- The Pakihi Track forms a section of the Motu Trails, which is part of the Ngā Haerenga, the NZ Cycle Trail network.
- On 16 May, we made a decision to close the track so that remediation work could be done to address sections of the track affected by several slips.
- A track assessment by DOC, Motu Trails Trust and an independent contractor was carried out on 23 May to identify areas where remediation is required. The work will be carried out by contractors with DOC's local recreation team providing additional support where needed. It is expected the track will be closed for up to four weeks.
- There is a communications plan in place to manage any public concern associated with the closure. Iwi and external partners are in support of the track's closure due to safety concerns.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Director-General Engagements

May

- 24 May Jane Goodall Institute of NZ Reception, Government house, Wellington
29 May Meeting: Minister Jones – PGF/Billion Trees, Parliament
30 May Te Kōpuka hui (Whanganui River Strategy Group), Whanganui

June

- 6 June LGNZ Rural and Provincial CE's meeting, Wellington

6 June Ngāi Tahu/DOC Governance meeting, Christchurch
12 June DOC Matariki stakeholders BBQ, DOC Wellington
13 June State Services Leadership Team Retreat, Ohariu Farm
17 June NZ Conservation Authority meeting, Wellington
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21 June–1 July DG on annual leave, Martin Kessick acting DG

July

3 July 2019 Public Service Leaders' Summit, Wellington
4–5 July SLT Retreat, Pounui Homestead, Wairarapa
11 July ENGO Forum, DOC Wellington
12 July Whenua Hau book launch, Bluff
13 July Predator Free Rakiura MOU signing, Rakiura
20–27 July Te Hono Boot Camp, Stanford University
31 July Senior Leaders hui, Wellington

August

1 August Holiday Parks Conference, Te Papa, Wellington
7 August Chief Executives Environment and Economy Forum, Wellington
7 August MOU Regional Councils/DOC meeting, DOC Wellington
14-15 August EDS Conference "Rethinking Landscape in Aotearoa", Auckland
18 August Conservation Board Chairs meeting, Wellington
21 August Owhaoko Signing and Komiti meeting, Wellington

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:

- Relationship with Te Ohu Kaimoana
- Tuwharetoa matters
- Correspondence regarding 1080 operations in Central North Island
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – negotiating position
- Invitation to attend a hui