



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 03 May 2021

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Acting Minister of Conservation

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PROACTIVELY RELEASED

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Status as at 27 April 2021	No.
In assessment	58
In approval	49
Approved, but not yet contracted	26
Contracted and in delivery	54
Community Fund & PFB Fund	1
	188

- The seven projects (including Northland portfolio, as well as projects in Lower North Island; Tairāwhiti and Eastern South Island) that were tabled for approval decisions at the SLU Minister meeting on 19 April, will be tabled for a decision along with the larger recommendation package at the upcoming SLU Minister meeting on 10 May.
- There are four projects presented pending receipt of your feedback (21-B-0157 refers). Three of these projects were recommended and will be included in the upcoming SLU Minister briefing. One project was not recommended for funding at this time.
- Briefing 21-B-0270 contained 28 projects recommended and for which we requested feedback. As a result of the scale of incoming applications and last week's assessments, there are now 38 recommended projects for endorsement and feedback.

SLU Minister Decisions

- No proposals were approved at the 19 April SLU Ministers meeting. The next SLU Ministers meeting is scheduled for 10 May.
- The Reference Group is meeting on 29 April. We have put forward 38 projects for endorsement:
 - 35 projects are from the Kaimahi for Nature funding stream, with a total value of \$61.08M to create 919.7 FTE. This includes 21 projects over \$1M and 14 projects under \$1M for noting.
 - Three projects are from the Nga Awa funding stream, with a total value of \$15.86M to create 200 FTE.

Workstreams and projects

Predator Free 2050 Ltd.

- [REDACTED]
- The Deloitte and Martin Jenkins reviews are progressing and are on track for delivery. The Governance Unit is working with reviewers to remove roadblocks in the review process.

Ngā Awa

- [REDACTED] are with you for consideration, having received favourable interagency feedback.
- Remaining Ngā Awa funding is being re-directed to delivering cameras on fishing boats in accordance with Ministerial request, with a Cabinet paper from Minister Parker in draft. Future catchment restoration projects, such as the [REDACTED] will be considered within the scope of remaining Kaimahi for Nature funding.

South Island Threatened Species Prevention

- The endorsed detailed business case has been received by Jobs for Nature and has been approved by DG. Ngai Tahu are recruiting for three roles; DOC recruiting for roles based on Blumine Island and Picton.

Relationship Scan

- Ministry for the Environment has advised that they are delaying the assessment of proposals for MfE's 'Essential Freshwater' funding. This is in part due to a revision in the direction of the fund.
- They have advised that their assessment process may start again in either June 2021 or July/August 2021.

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

1.2 Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS implementation

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- **Māori rights & interests:** Two focus areas have emerged:
 - to produce a think piece paper internally for DOC staff to understand the Māori outcomes in Te Mana o Te Taiao and implications for kaitiaki at place.
 - the approach to Māori engagement.
- There is a degree of complexity and scale of engagement with Māori on a national strategy like this and we recognise the potential for our engagement on implementation to compete with other work from where Māori are already involved as partners. We are canvassing where other agencies are already engaging with Māori on national strategies and projects, and we will factor this into our approach to reduce the burden on those we engage with.
- **Finance and Gaps Analysis:** A request has been sent to relevant central and local government agencies and large biodiversity funders to seek data to establish baseline expenditure on biodiversity. [REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.3 RMA Advocacy

No items this week

2 Updates

2.1

[Redacted]

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

Contact: [Redacted]

2.2 Southern South Island: Rakiura huts bed bug infestation update

- In February 2021 bed bugs were identified at Rakiura Track Great Walk huts, Port William and North Arm as well as other Rakiura accommodation providers.
- Following professional advice, treatment of bed bugs at the two huts has included spray, fumigation, and heat treatments. While bed bug numbers have reduced, unfortunately the odd bed bug is still showing up at North Arm Hut.
- We have high hut occupancy until mid-May.
- In addition to professional treatment, booked trampers have been informed through track updates, e-mails, and up to date information delivered by Visitor Centre Rangers and Hut Wardens.
- On 25 May 2021 North Arm Hut will be closed for a period of 10-days to remove and replace the interior lining of the bunkrooms and bunks. This will allow us to carry out fumigation and spraying while the bunkrooms are stripped.
- This closure is scheduled when bookings are low and the campsite is still operational. Port William hut will still be open and any affected trampers have been offered refunds.

Contact: [Redacted]

2.3 Southern South Island: New Mintaro Hut, Milford Track, Fiordland National Park

- The existing Mintaro hut is being replaced due to a rockfall hazard.
- From 22 April, the new 40 bunk hut to replace Mintaro Hut on the Milford Track became operational, hosting its first visitors in a 'shake-down' period. This is a significant milestone for a multi-year project.
- Further work is still required to complete the new hut, including instalment of panels being carved by Ngāi Tahu.
- The new hut will be officially opened at the beginning of the next Great Walk season in October, when it is fully complete. This is likely to be a virtual event.
- The old Mintaro Hut remains in place for now as an emergency shelter with demolition scheduled for June.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.4 NZ Battery Project, Lake Onslow option

- MBIE is leading the NZ Battery project to assess options for ensuring New Zealand can meet electricity demand in dry years.
- One of the key streams of work is an assessment of a new dam for pumped hydro at Lake Onslow in Central Otago. This potential dam would raise the existing lake by up to 100m, increasing its surface by 20 times, and flood the surrounding land and streams.
- Under a MOU with MBIE, DOC has been funded \$614,000 to assess and provide a report on the conservation values at Lake Onslow, how these values sit in a national context, and what principles for offsetting should be applied.
- Fieldwork is planned to start in November/early December 2021, to inform the final report to MBIE in February 2022. The exact start date will depend on weather conditions, and the lambing season. MBIE is working with the landowners to determine when fieldwork can begin.
- There will be regular meetings with ENGOs, the Minister of Conservation, the Minister of Energy, and Minister for the Environment. We will brief you on the status of the work prior to these meetings.
- We will provide MBIE fortnightly updates on our progress in completing the conservation values report, as we work towards an initial draft by July 2021.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Recreation Pricing and Campsite Pass Launch

- On 10 May DOC will announce updates to prices for huts and campsites (for stays from 1 July 2021).
- Updates to pricing were approved by the Minister (21-B-0076) on 7 March 2021.
- FY22 pricing includes the application of a differential of 1.5x for international visitors (including Australians) on seven out of ten Great Walks. Differential

Pricing was trialled during FY19 and FY20, but was not applied in FY21 due to COVID-19.

- The media release and an associated pricing factsheet will be provided to your office in early May.
- DOC's booking system will open from 11 May and will include the updated price of facilities.
- The risk associated with communicating these pricing updates is medium-low and focuses on domestic visitors not being accepting of price increases during the current economic conditions and concern about charging international visitors a differential price for the Great Walks.
- The mitigation is clear communication of the price increases and the rationale for them, including the maintenance of the range of choices available to visitors.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity

- DOC is in the process of rejoining the joint DOC/MfE project team charged with developing a National Policy Statement on Biodiversity (NPSIB), subject to the new working arrangements approved by you (21-B-0272 refers).
- A paper outlining options for identifying and managing significant natural areas (SNAs) on public conservation land (PCL) will be provided to you by 3 May .
- The paper is to prepare you for a meeting with the Associate Minister for the Environment (Biodiversity), Hon James Shaw, to agree on proposals for SNA identification and management on PCL prior to him taking provisional decisions on this matter under section 46a of the RMA.
- The issue of SNAs on PCL is on a slower track than other parts of the NPSIB, which are presently being drafted. Timely resolution of this issue will enable relevant sections of the recommendations report (required under section 46a of the RMA) to be drafted and an exposure draft of the NPSIB finalised for targeted consultation.
- Please advise if you would like to meet to discuss this matter, prior to your meeting with Minister Shaw.

Contact: Bruce Parkes, Deputy Director General Policy and Visitors: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2.7

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



Contact: [Redacted]

2.8 Proposed amendments to the Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill

- The Environment Select Committee is considering Minister O'Connor's Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill. Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) is proposing changes to the Bill in their Departmental Report. LINZ will be seeking Cabinet approval of the changes through DEV Cabinet Committee on 5 May 2021 before providing the Departmental Report to the Select Committee on 11 May. The Committee will be reporting back to the House by 6 July 2021.
- The Bill amends the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 (CPL Act) and the Land Act 1948 under which LINZ manages Crown pastoral leases (CPL) in the South Island. DOC has a significant interest in this land because of its natural and cultural values and its ecological links to adjoining public conservation land (PCL). We worked closely with LINZ throughout 2018–2020 as LINZ developed the policy for the Bill.
- DOC also has a significant interest in the Bill as it amends the Acts to:
 - End the tenure review process in the CPL Act, through which many leases have converted to combinations of PCL, other Crown lands, freehold land, and freehold land with covenants.
 - Change how LINZ administers CPL, including:
 - an outcomes-based approach, including an outcome of both maintaining or enhancing inherent values while providing for ongoing pastoral farming (inherent values including ecological, cultural, landscape, heritage, and scientific);

- a clearer decision-making process, more opportunity for public input, and more effective monitoring and enforcement;
 - Provide mechanisms for recognising and providing for the relationship of Māori with their ancestral lands, and requirements for the Crown to consult relevant iwi.
 - Require the Minister of Land Information to consult with the Minister of Conservation before recommending a pastoral activity be classified as permitted, discretionary or prohibited;
 - Require the Commissioner to consult with the Director-General of Conservation when deciding whether to grant an application for a discretionary activity; and before granting an easement over CPL or a recreation permit for a lease.
- You do not have a formal role in the Environment Select Committee's process on the Bill but may wish to comment on the changes to the Bill being proposed in the Cabinet paper.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- In addition, the Select Committee asked LINZ to consult with DOC and provide "evidence of changes to biodiversity on former Crown pastoral lease land that is now in the Conservation Estate (as a result of the tenure review process under the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998)". We have provided your office with the draft advice. In summary, although the advice notes some minor changes there is not enough evidence to detect any trends in biodiversity change with confidence.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.9 Ecosystem science within a mātauranga Māori framework

- The threatened ecosystems research team is developing research that sits within a mātauranga Māori framework. They are applying a holistic landscape-scale approach through engaging mana whenua.
- The research is focused on gumlands and shell barrier beaches, both critically endangered ecosystems confined to Auckland and Northland, in urban and rural context, respectively. The specific research questions will be based on those posed by the iwi/hapū/whānau at place.
- The team will employ kaimahi from local hapū to assist with fieldwork and facilitate capacity building. Placing science within mātauranga Māori ensures DOC is genuinely working to uplift the mana of iwi/hapū/whānau.
- DOC is also working with Te Puni Kokiri around a co-funding approach where there are early opportunities.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Director-General Engagements

Month

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

June

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

July

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

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Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

3.1 Jobs for Nature

- We have provided your office with a draft media release and provided talking points for your visit to Te Anau to announce three projects: [REDACTED]
- We have provided your office with a schedule for Jobs for Nature Funding Announcements. There are currently 8 funding announcements (in the form of media releases) with your office ready for distribution. A further 27 announcements are currently being drafted and are progressing through an internal sign off process. Where possible we are combining announcements. As projects are approved, they are added to this schedule.
- TVNZ ran a story about Myrtle Rust. The story references an application for Jobs for Nature funding going through the current approval process.
- We provided a response to your office for the PMO about what DOC Jobs for Nature projects we have in the Hawke's Bay. There are currently no approved Jobs for Nature projects in that area. However, there are Hawke's Bay projects in the currently approval process.

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

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5 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support this status report:

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

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Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 10 May 2021

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Acting Minister of Conservation

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1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Jobs for Nature – Summary

Current state (as at 4 May)

- Since the submission of Briefing 21-B-0270, we assessed further projects for recommendation. These are listed in Appendix 1.
- These additional projects were presented to the Reference Group on 29 April, along with projects included Briefing 21-B-0270. The Reference Group endorsed 37 of the 38 projects that were presented, with one project needing further information.
- These projects will be put forward to the SLU Ministers meeting on 10 May for consideration/approval.
- We are preparing regional maps of the DOC Jobs for Nature investment and will send these to your office.

SLU Minister Decisions

- Your office will be sent a DOC update for the SLU Ministers meeting on 6 May, including all projects tabled for approval and noting.

Updates - Workstreams and projects

Community and Landowner Funds

- Your office has been sent the briefing of final recommendations for these funds. Feedback was requested by 6 May in order to incorporate this package into SLU Minister papers.

Ngā Awa

- The [REDACTED] has been signed and funds are to be released imminently.
- The [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were endorsed by the Reference Group and will be put forward to the next SLU Ministers meeting.

Relationship Scan

Ministry for Environment

- Minister Parker met with the JFN Secretariat regarding the remaining JFN Funds on 4 May.
- The Ministry for the Environment is finalising the roll out of the Essential Freshwater Fund.
- The second round of Te Mana o te Wai applications are currently being assessed by MfE. DOC has a representative on the assessment panel.

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

1.2 Te Mana o te Taiao – ANZBS implementation

No items this week

1.3 RMA Advocacy

No items this week

2 Updates

2.1

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

[REDACTED]

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

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2

[REDACTED]

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

Contact: [Redacted]

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

2.3 [Redacted]

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

- [REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]



Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Tahr Control Operational Plan 2021/22

- DOC is working with Ngāi Tahu and the Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group to reduce the size of the tahr population to within the limits of the statutory Himalayan Thar Control Plan 1993 (the Plan).
- The Plan requires DOC to produce an annual Tahr Control Operational Plan specifying planned actions for each management unit.
- The final Tahr Control Operational Plan for 2021/22 (TCOP) will be released on 10 May. The plan covers the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.
- Stakeholder engagement on this TCOP included DOC convening two meetings of the Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group in December 2020 and March 2021 and calling for written contributions from the group members. Throughout development of TCOP, discussions with stakeholders have been constructive and balanced.
- The new TCOP outlines similar control effort to 2020/21 outside the feral range (all stakeholders are supportive of this work), and effort in the breeding range that mainly focuses on the West Coast, where the highest tahr densities remain.
- Over the last three years hunters and hunting groups have demonstrated considerable interest in the annual TCOPs. We expect this will continue and may cause critical comment on social platforms and by media.

- We will proactively communicate the final TCOP through an email to hunting permit holders, a media release, a social media post, and an update on DOC's website.
- Further information on the Tahr Programme is provided in Briefing 21-B-0113-Management of Tahr.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity

- DOC has now rejoined the joint DOC/MfE project team charged with developing a National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (the Statement), subject to the new working arrangements approved by you (21-B-0272 refers).
- A paper outlining options for identifying and managing significant natural areas (SNAs) on public conservation land (PCL) will be provided to you week beginning 10 May (21-B-0185 refers).
- Following your discussion with officials, we aim to provide a joint briefing on proposals for SNA identification and management on PCL to yourself and the Associate Minister for the Environment (Biodiversity) by mid-May.
- We recommend that you meet with Minister Shaw to jointly agree on proposals for SNA identification and management on PCL prior to Minister Shaw making provisional decisions on this matter under section 46a of the Resource Management Act 1991.
- Matters surrounding SNAs on PCL are slightly behind other parts of the Statement that are being drafted now. Timely resolution of this issue will enable relevant sections of the recommendations report (required under section 46a of the RMA) to be drafted and an exposure draft of the NPSIB finalised for targeted consultation.
- Minister Shaw has agreed to meet with several key stakeholders for the NPSIB, and officials are continuing to work on the development of an exposure draft and Section 32 Evaluation Report and Cost Benefit Analysis.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Public consultation on proposals to improve freedom camping

- In April the Minister of Tourism released a discussion document outlining four proposals to improve freedom camping in New Zealand.
- The four proposals under consideration are:
 - Making it mandatory for freedom camping in a vehicle to be done in a certified self-contained vehicle.
 - Making it mandatory for freedom campers to stay in a vehicle that is self-contained, unless they are staying at a site with toilet facilities (with an exemption for public conservation lands and regional parks).
 - Improving the regulatory tools for government and land managers.
 - Strengthening the requirements for self-contained vehicles.
- Some of the proposals may involve changes to the Freedom Camping Act 2011 that is jointly administered by DOC and DIA. DOC provided input into the development of the four proposals and Minister Allan met with the Ministers of Tourism, Local Government, and Transport to discuss the proposals in March.
- MBIE is running public consultation from 9 April-16 May. The consultation involves a series of public meetings across the country, meetings with local government officials and DOC field staff (who are responsible for enforcing the Freedom Camping Act).

- [REDACTED] recommended that a copy of the briefing be forwarded to your office.
- [REDACTED]
- We will provide you with further advice on the proposals once public consultation has ended.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.8 Next steps for key workstreams in the Oceans and Fisheries Portfolio

- The Minister of Oceans and Fisheries is shortly intending to progress a suite of Cabinet papers to set the overarching objectives and work programme for the Oceans and Fisheries portfolio, and to progress some immediate priorities.
- The following Cabinet Papers are planned for submission to the Environment, Energy and Climate Committee (ENV) for consideration on 10 June:
 - Interim objectives and guiding principles for work programmes under the Oceans and Fisheries portfolio (MPI/FNZ and MfE, consulted with DOC)
 - Fisheries reform program (MPI/FNZ)
 - On-board cameras across the inshore fishing fleet: business case (MPI/FNZ)
 - Strengthening fishing rules and policies: landings and discards (MPI/FNZ)
 - Strengthening fishing rules and policies: offences and penalties and agile decision making (MPI/FNZ)
 - The Government Strategy in response to the Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan (MPI/FNZ, DOC) – to be confirmed with you.
- We will provide advice on the conservation implications of these papers through the weekly Cabinet Paper Report (Appendix 3). The draft Cabinet paper for the Government Strategy in response to the Sea Change Plan is currently with your office for consideration.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.9 International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL)

- The IVL is a \$35 levy paid by most international visitors, except citizens and residents of Australia and several Pacific Island nations. Decisions on IVL expenditure are delegated to the Ministers of Conservation, Tourism, and Finance.
- The Minister of Tourism is considering changes to the IVL, [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

- [REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

3 Director-General Engagements

May

11 May	Te Urewera Board hui, Taneatua
13 May	Tuwharetoa Māori Trust Board hui, Te Puni Kōkiri Wellington
18 May	NZ Search and Rescue Awards, Parliament
21 May	JFN – Wakamoekau Community Water Storage, Wairapa
29 May	Tāmaki Makaurau Community hui, Te Mahurehure Cultural Marae Auckland
31 May	Kiwis for Kiwi Event, Bay of Islands

June

10 June	Predator Free Summit, Te Papa
12 June	NZ Deerstalkers Association National Conference, Queenstown
17-18 June	NZ Conservation Authority, Wellington
21 June	DOC and Corrections signing of MOU, Rimutaka Prison

July

1 July	Matariki Stakeholder luncheon, DOC Wellington
21-21 July	SLT Retreat, TBA

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

4 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

4.1 Electric vehicle funding announcement

- DOC will feature in a further EECA funding round announcement on 12 May.
- The announcement will include DOC as a key agency in the latest \$5 million EECA investment support round.
- Our funding is for the latest purchase of electric vehicles as we move towards removal of combustion passenger vehicles from our fleet and target a 25 percent vehicle carbon reduction.
- Both the EECA Chief Executive and DOC Director-General will attend, and it is likely that the Director-General will be asked to do a short video interview on the EV program.
- The announcement is managed by EECA on behalf of Minister Shaw.

Contact: [REDACTED]

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5 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support this status report:

1. JFN Dashboard (regular item)
2. Events table (regular item)
3. Cabinet Paper Report (regular item)
4. Forthcoming items (regular item)
5. D-G Direct (fortnightly item)

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Department of
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Te Papa Atawhai

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Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 17 May 2021

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Acting Minister of Conservation

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1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Summary

Current State (as at 11 May)

- All newly approved projects will enter the contract negotiation phase once applicants are notified. There is an expectation that a signed funding agreement will be returned by the applicant within 15-20 working days of receiving a draft.
- We are updating our reporting systems to reflect the large number of recent approvals. This information will be reflected in the upcoming JFN Programme Dashboard (delivered to your office on 14 May).
- A new monthly reporting survey on monthly employment data was sent to partners on 7 May, with a deadline of 12 May to submit their data. This informs the JFN Programme Dashboard collated by the Secretariat.
- Assurance checks on quarterly reports and milestone payments have been undertaken over the last week. This work continues and we are refining the system to process these as volume of projects increases.
- We are continuing work on project assessments for the remaining funds available. A small number of projects are expected to be tabled for the upcoming Reference Group meeting (currently scheduled for 8 June), and subsequent SLU approval. There will be several unsuccessful applicants in this process.

SLU Minister Decisions

- 29 projects over \$1 million were approved by SLU Ministers on 10 May. Two Myrtle Rust projects over \$1 million were approved subject to the endorsement of DOC's Chief Science Advisor. This is currently being sought.
- 14 projects under \$1 million were noted by SLU Ministers at this meeting. Decision papers for these projects will now be finalised and applicants for these projects will be sent approval-in-principle letters.

Updates - Workstreams and projects

Community & Landowner Funds

- You received a briefing with final recommendations for your consideration on 13 May. A background paper setting out key decisions authorising both funds was provided on 10 May.

Maori Land Grant

- An amended paper addressing your feedback was provided to your Office on 7 May.

South Island Threatened Species Prevention

- A Project Manager started work on 10 May. Four people will be appointed on a short-term contract until the three-year roles can be advertised and people appointed.

Ngā Awa

- [REDACTED] were part of the projects approved by SLU Ministers on 10 May, these will now enter contract negotiations.
- Remaining Ngā Awa funding is being re-directed to delivering cameras on fishing boats in accordance with a Ministerial request, with a Cabinet paper from Minister Parker in draft.

- Future catchment restoration projects, such as the [REDACTED], will be considered within the scope of remaining Kaimahi for Nature funding.

Prevention of North Island Indigenous Forest Collapse

- The business cases for both Kaimai-Mamaku and Raukumara projects have been received by the Jobs for Nature Unit for final approval.

QEII Trust

- SLU Ministers approved funding for QEII National Trust on 10 May.

Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

- Following the SLU Minister meeting, a further 50 funding announcements will be added to the schedule over the coming fortnight. We will work with your office to agree on an approach to manage these announcements.
- The second of our Jobs for Nature videos went live on the week commencing 10 May. The video features Kahurangi, who has been employed as a part of South Westland's 'Kaimahi for Nature' project: <https://youtu.be/-nNOAvWWct0>

Relationship Scan

Ministry for Environment

- We have supported the second round of Te Mana o te Wai applications that have been assessed.

Ministry of Social Development

- During the period 5 May - 7 May, a survey was sent to all Ministry of Social Development Labour Market Managers and DOC Partnerships Managers to ensure a relationship has been established and connections made to Jobs for Nature Projects. The result of the survey was very pleasing indicating quality connections and relationships have been established across DOC and MSD regions.

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

1.2 RMA Advocacy

No items this week

2 Updates

2.1

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Contact: [Redacted]

2.2

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

[Redacted text block]

Contact: [Redacted text]

2.3 Futurity Resources Ōtira Limited - water bottling, Ōtira adjoining Arthur's Pass National Park

- Futurity Resources Ōtira Limited (FROL) holds a West Coast Regional Council resource consent for water use and land use; to “take water”. FROL plan to bottle the water in industrially recyclable plastic bottles for commercial sale.
- We expect to receive an application for the upgrade work shortly and anticipate high public interest in the process, as has been the case with other water bottling ventures. We will keep you informed of the process as it develops.
- The water take area is within the Otira Conservation Area (Goat Creek), which is surrounded by the Arthur's Pass National Park. Futurity have stated that the water bottling plant itself will be built within KiwiRail's pocket of land at Ōtira.
- FROL hold a DOC easement concession within the Ōtira Conservation Area, allowing them to place an intake structure in Goat Creek. The easement concession also gives them the right to use an existing pedestrian track along the Ōtira Water Supply Pipeline for access and maintenance.
- FROL intend to upgrade the current infrastructure that provides Otira township's water supply. This will require a resource and building consent from Westland District Council and further authorisation from DOC.

Contact: [Redacted text]

2.4 [Redacted text]

[Redacted text block]

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

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Gold mining on Public Conservation Land (PCL), Hauraki District, Coromandel

- Oceana Gold Ltd (OGL) has signalled its intention for tunnelling under PCL to a gold resource at Wharekirauponga, an area of high ecological value (including a hotspot for Archey’s frog). A resource consent application is expected this year.
- There is significant local public interest in OGL’s operations, particularly from environmental and anti-mining groups.
- OGL’s current Access Arrangement with DOC for exploratory drilling is due to expire and an extension proposal for 8 years is currently being considered by the District Office. We have informed them that a lesser term is likely to be granted.
- OGL is now seeking to utilise a council-controlled paper road through PCL for its surface expressions for full mining, thereby avoiding the need for DOC input or Access Agreements for additional access / structures. The challenge for OGL in this approach will be surveying accurately and staying within the legal boundaries of the paper road.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Voluntary Carbon Offsetting

- You asked a follow-up question in relation to Briefing 21-B-0327 Carbon Mitigation; which was: “Whose responsibility is it to develop a pathway that avoids double-counting of offset units on Public Conservation Land?”
- MfE is responsible for creating guidance and the policy settings for a voluntary carbon framework in New Zealand, including PCL.
- The pathway to avoid double counting under the Kyoto Agreement expired when NZ moved to the Paris Agreement in 2020.
- MfE is considering several options to resolve double counting to allow voluntary offsetting under the Paris Agreement. This could include third parties making a “voluntary contribution” to New Zealand’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- We are working with MfE on this issue as we progress our Voluntary Carbon Offsetting work programme.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Assessment of takahē sensitivity to a future stoat control tool

- Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research plans to start a trial involving ten takahē at the Burwood Takahē Centre on 24 May to assess their susceptibility to para-aminopropiophenone (PAPP). The start date is dependent on final preparations that are now underway.
- DOC has engaged Manaaki Whenua to help us understand what risk PAPP might pose to native species if exposed to meat baits in the field.
- DOC is leading the development of pre-made bait PAPP for aerial and ground-based stoat control as part of bringing improved predator control tools to the market.
- PAPP directly targets predators, being more toxic to carnivores than to most other mammal and bird species. It works by reducing oxygen levels in the blood.
- The Takahē Recovery Team has agreed to the non-lethal testing of PAPP because its potential predator control benefits could be critical to takahē recovery and achieving the goal of multiple self-sustaining wild takahē populations. They have discussed the work with Ngāi Tahu and Fulton Hogan.
- This trial will apply a model for predicting the lethal PAPP dose for specific native bird species. The aim is to provide data that is more relevant to New Zealand species than previous regulatory approvals for vertebrate pesticides.
- The assessment method is considered low risk, involving low oral doses of PAPP and small blood samples at set intervals. It is a minimally invasive and highly precautionary approach. An avian veterinarian will be on-site throughout the trial to provide support if required. While low risk, we cannot eliminate the possibility of a bird dying in the trial.
- Earlier trials developed a sublethal response curve for five bird species including two abundant native species (black-backed gulls and pūkeko). This demonstrated variability of PAPP sensitivity between these species and set the PAPP doses for the takahē trial.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.8 National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity

- A briefing outlining options for identifying and managing significant natural areas (SNAs) on PCL was provided to you in the week beginning 10 May (21-B-0185 refers). You have a meeting scheduled with officials on 18 May to discuss this advice and the wider work underway to develop a National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).
- You have a meeting scheduled with Associate Minister for the Environment (Biodiversity) and officials on 20 May. The purpose of this meeting is for you and Minister Shaw to jointly agree on proposals for SNA identification and management on PCL, prior to Minister Shaw taking provisional decisions on this matter under section 46a of the RMA.
- Officials continue to work through the development of an 'exposure draft' of the proposed NPSIB and aim to have this completed in May, excluding the PCL provisions, as these are yet to be agreed between yourself and Minister Shaw.
- It is likely Minister Shaw will take an oral item to ENV committee seeking agreement to consultation on the exposure draft on 20 May.
- The joint project team will also be preparing advice for Minister Shaw which seeks his agreement for releasing the exposure draft, as well as:
 - The final confirmation of who should be included in the consultation.
 - Changes to policy since the initial recommendations report (as a result of drafting)
 - Timings for how long to consult for
 - Options to include PCL policies in this discussion.

Contact: Bruce Parkes, DDG – Policy & Visitors; [REDACTED]

2.9



Contact: [REDACTED]

2.10 Tiakina Ngā Manu Update

- Tiakina Ngā Manu (TNM) is DOC's nationally coordinated predator control programme. The work received a significant boost from Budget 2018, which allocated \$81m of funding over 4 years.

- TNM protects highly threatened wildlife, by controlling rats, stoats and possums, using a combination of aerial 1080 and ground control methods. The programme is a building block towards Predator Free 2050.
- TNM's role is to buy time by maintaining our most vulnerable threatened species populations, while we move towards predator eradication over coming decades.
- Most TNM aerial 1080 operations are paused through late summer and autumn to avoid clashing with the peak time of hunters using public conservation lands. This hiatus is near finishing.
- DOC's aerial 1080 operations will resume from late May to coincide with the coming bird breeding season. We expect some operations will be controversial, due to strongly held opposition against 1080 use among some members of the community, particularly in the Coromandel Peninsula and Westland.
- At this time of year, we also receive the annual beech mast prediction. This forecasts if large amounts of beech seed will be produced in New Zealand forests next year. The forecast is based on climate modelling and compares average temperatures across the last two summers. This information fundamentally shapes our predator control planning for 2022, as large amounts of beech seed will lead to dangerous increases in rodent and stoat populations.
- A significant beech mast is forecast to occur in 2022 in the lower and middle South Island. We are planning to concentrate our predator control effort in response. There is considerable public interest in this information, so we communicate it widely. Planned communications about the beech mast prediction for 2022 includes a media release, updated information on the DOC website and a short video on DOC's social media channels.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.11 Aotearoa New Zealand Antarctic and Southern Ocean Research Directions and Priorities 2021–2030

- MFAT in consultation with DOC, MPI, MBIE and Antarctica NZ have developed a draft *Aotearoa New Zealand Antarctic and Southern Ocean Research Directions and Priorities* document (the "Antarctic Research Directions and Priorities").
- The Antarctic Research Directions and Priorities will direct New Zealand's research in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean for the next decade. The draft is a refresh of the existing 2010-2020 Directions and Priorities.
- DOC interests in this come from our role in New Zealand's contribution to the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), our responsibilities in the management of the subantarctic islands and our statutory function to promote the benefits of the conservation of the natural and historic resources of Antarctica.
- The Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Oceans and Fisheries, Research, Science and Innovation, and yourself will be provided a Cabinet paper seeking a mandate for public consultation on the Antarctic Research Directions and Priorities for your consideration (projected to be in June).

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Director-General Engagements

May

18 May	NZ Search and Rescue Awards, Parliament
21 May	J4N – Wakamoekau Community Water Storage, Wairapa
29 May	Tāmaki Makaurau Community hui, Te Mahurehure Cultural Marae Auckland
31 May	Kiwis for Kiwi Event, Bay of Islands

June

10 June	Predator Free Summit, Te Papa
12 June	NZ Deerstalkers Association National Conference, Queenstown
14 June	Predator Free Golf Clubs Summit, Auckland
17-18 June	NZ Conservation Authority, Wellington
18 June	Marutuahu Collective, Auckland
21 June	DOC and Corrections signing of MOU, Rimutaka Prison

July

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

4 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

No items this week

5 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support this status report:

1. Events table (regular item)
2. Cabinet Paper Report (regular item)
3. Forthcoming items (regular item)



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 24 May 2021

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Acting Minister of Conservation

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PROACTIVELY RELEASED

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Summary

Current State (as of 18 May)

- Approval in Principle (AIP) letters are being sent to applicants for those projects approved over \$1M.
- Decision papers for the 14 projects under \$1M have now been finalised and applicants for these projects are being sent AIP letters.
- We are working on project assessments for the remaining funds available. We expect a small number of projects to be tabled for the upcoming Reference Group meeting (currently scheduled for 8 June), and subsequent SLU approval. There will be a number of unsuccessful applicants in this process in the coming months.
- We are updating our reporting systems to reflect the large number of recent approvals, and to ensure that time spent reporting is efficient and user-friendly.
- The response rate through the new monthly reporting survey format was significantly higher for reporting on the April period than previous monthly response rates. The monthly employment data informs the JFN Programme Dashboard collated by the Secretariat.

Updates - Workstreams and projects

Community & Landowner Funds

- The Community and Private Landowner Funds are with you for consideration and approval.

Māori Land Grant

- We await feedback from your office on the Māori Land Fund approval.

South Island Threatened Species Prevention

- Ngāi Tahu Rūnanga Chairs have met and agreed to set up an entity to recruit three positions for the project, to be seconded into the DOC Kakariki team.

Events, Announcements and Media Opportunities

- We have provided your office with a schedule for Jobs for Nature Funding Announcements. There are currently four funding announcements (in the form of media releases) with your office ready for distribution. A further 27 announcements are being drafted and progressed through internal sign off. Where possible we are combining announcements. Projects are added to this schedule as they are approved.
- Following the SLU Ministers meeting on 10 May, a further 50 funding announcements will be added to the schedule over the coming fortnight. Our team will work with your office on managing these announcements.

Relationship Scan


Ministry for the Environment

- DOC and MfE officials inspected the Tairāwhiti Agroecology Recovery Programme in Gisborne on 19 May.

Institute of Skills

- DOC continues to build a strong partnership with Te Pūkenga to create a Conservation Academy. We are currently working through a list of names and organisations that have a vested interest in forming a Conservation Academy/ Conservation Education Framework.
- The list is extensive and includes regional councils, iwi, DOC, ITO's and polytechnics. The concept has been well received to date.

AL04.11 Russell Forest

- 
- We have explained the process and assured the applicant that the application is moving through the process. We have also clarified that the fund is oversubscribed, and we cannot predetermine funding decisions made by SLU Ministers.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: 

1.2 RMA Advocacy

Submissions

Horowhenua Plan Change regarding Waitarere Beach Growth Area

- On 27 April, we lodged a submission on a notified proposed plan request to change the Operative Horowhenua District Plan 2015 to manage a planned growth area of 100ha at Waitarere Beach.
- While our submission acknowledges the need for managed growth, it also raises concerns that an ecological assessment is needed to identify and protect the environmental and cultural values of Wairarawa Lagoon or any other ecological features in the area.

Omamari Wind Farm

- On 6 May, we lodged a submission on an application from Tilt Renewables Limited for a 19- turbine wind farm at Omamari, Maitahi Road.
- Our submission focussed on the need for further monitoring of Australasian bittern and long-tailed bats to better understand the use of the site by these species so that appropriate mitigation could be considered.

Hearings

Aupouri Groundwater Take Consents

- A hearing was held in September 2020 regarding multiple consent applications to take groundwater for irrigation from the Aupouri aquifer in Northland. DOC is a submitter in opposition to the proposal, given the uncertainty of effects on adjacent wetlands and lakes.
- The hearing was adjourned, and DOC is working with the applicants and the Northland Regional Council to agree the conditions of consent that will manage effects. We expect a decision on the consents once agreement is reached.
- DOC has recently responded to an OIA request from one of the consent applicants, Te Rūnanga O Aupouri.

Contact: 



2 Updates

2.1 Proposals to improve freedom camping

- The Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) ran a public consultation on proposals to improve freedom camping in New Zealand from 9 April to 16 May. MBIE has received 5134 submissions on the proposals (including survey responses), with 31 submissions from councils.
- Some of the proposals may involve changes to the Freedom Camping Act 2011, which is jointly administered by DOC and the Department of Internal Affairs.
- DOC has provided feedback on the proposals to help inform MBIE's analysis, in particular:
 - That there is a group of traditional freedom campers who freedom camp on public conservation land (PCL). This group tends to camp at the beginning and end of a tramping, hunting, cycling or fishing trip, and tends to camp responsibly, with no behavioural issues. It will be important that any final policy proposals do not adversely impact traditional freedom campers' access to PCL.
 - That the experience of freedom camping on PCL varies between regions. In some places existing tools are working well (fines, Responsible Camping Ambassadors and technologies that assist freedom campers). In other places, poor behaviour continues, with the biggest concern on PCL being overstaying. It will be important that behavioural interventions continue to be funded going forward, as these have been the most effective tools for improving the behaviour of freedom campers.
 - That additional resources will be required to implement some of the new proposals if implemented, including training for DOC compliance staff.
- The submissions analysis and final policy proposals will be developed at pace. MBIE will prepare a series of briefings with the results of the public consultation and policy recommendations over the coming months, which we expect will be forwarded to your office. We will update you and provide advice on the recommendations through the Status Report.
- [REDACTED]
- We will work closely with MBIE going forward and provide you with further advice once MBIE completes its submission analysis and final policy proposals are developed.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Wildlife Institutions Relief Fund (WIRF) – allocation of funds

- The Wildlife Institutions Relief Fund (WIRF) is a DOC-administered, \$14.89M fund to assist institutions (e.g., zoos, aquariums, ecosanctuaries, wildlife rehabilitation and veterinary support organisations) affected by a loss of visitor revenue due to COVID-19. A total of \$10.62M has been paid to 34 institutions to date.
- A condition of the Cabinet agreement was that undisbursed WIRF funds are to be returned to the Crown.
- In January, institutions provided progress reports on the use of their grants to date; their expectations of using remaining funds in 2020/21; and their assessments of short- and longer-term viability. The responses we received

show the impacts of COVID-19 have been more severe, and are expected to be longer-lasting, than initially forecast.

- Since the January reports, we have received further requests for money from institutions directly, and there have been two letters to you and Minister Allan seeking an extension of this fund.
- We would like to meet and discuss whether the remaining unallocated funds of \$4.27M should be made available to selected institutions for use in 2021-22, through a targeted Eol process, or retained by the Government.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 Proposal for Te Aka Matua o te Ture/Law Commission Work Programme 2021/2022

- The Minister of Justice wrote to Hon Allan on 8 April, outlining his proposal for the Te Aka Matua o te Ture/Law Commission Work Programme 2021/2022.
- The Law Commission is an Independent Crown Entity promoting the systematic review, reform and development of New Zealand's law. The Commission is currently led by Amokura Kawharu, its first Māori President.
- Each year, all Ministers are consulted on proposals for projects, as specified in the Cabinet Office Circular CO(09)1 which sets out the process for determining the Commission's annual work programme. The Minister of Justice is proposing a project on statutory references to te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Given the notable increase of Treaty clauses in recent Bills and the leadership of Amokura Kawharu, the Commission is well placed to undertake a project with a kaupapa Māori focus.
- This project will help articulate best practice with respect to how te Tiriti should be referenced in legislation and how government agencies deliver on their Treaty responsibilities.
- As you will be aware, section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 requires the Minister of Conservation and Te Papa Atawhai to "give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi".
- Officials have asked the Commission to consider whether every Act should have its own Treaty clause.
- Feedback on this proposal is due by 28 May.
- We have provided your office with a draft ministerial response to the Minister of Justice.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.4 Arthur's Pass – Destination and Investment Framework report

- The Department of Conservation has been leading the development of a Destination and Investment Framework for Arthur's Pass village, national park and State Highway 73 on behalf of a wider project steering group consisting of Ngāi Tūāhuriri, MBIE Tourism, KiwiRail, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and Selwyn District Council. This project was one of the original, IVL investment ready projects announced in 2019.
- The project was driven by a need to consider a range of investments in response to tourism pressures along State Highway 73 (SH73) and the need to review the provision of a visitor centre at Arthur's Pass. At the same time KiwiRail had expressed ambitions to develop Arthur's Pass into a destination for its services. Planning was required to enable 'no regrets' decision making, a

multi-agency approach and consistent story telling that provided a coherent visitor experience.

- For this project, Stafford Strategy has produced a report consisting of externally developed recommendations and plans for Arthur's Pass and the wider SH73 corridor. The recommendations have been made using objective expertise in, and detailed reviews of the 'market need' and listening to the feedback gathered through stakeholder interviews and discussions.
 - The report indicated that Arthur's Pass and the journey along SH73 could – with the right investment and co-ordination – play a far more significant role in delivering to both conservation at place and the wider South Island tourism ecosystem and in particular, as a further enabler of the West Coast's economic recovery.
 - If adopted, the approach would represent a significant shift in capacity for Arthur's Pass, ranging from enhancements to conservation assets (such as campsites and walking tracks) to wider infrastructure away from PLC including potential for the development of KiwiRail landholdings.
- With the IVL currently in hibernation, and broader changes to tourism support packages now signalled by MBIE, funding for the recommendations is not identified. Members of the Arthur's Pass community have aired concerns regarding both the future of the old DOC visitor centre and field base building in the village which has been closed due to being earthquake prone since 2019. There are also public concerns for heritage items and documents within the building. A temporary visitor centre is operating across the road from the building.
- DOC plans to share Stafford Strategy's report and recommendations with the public via a media release and meeting with community members in Arthur's Pass village on 1 June 2021. At this meeting DOC's Eastern South Island Operations Director will address some of these concerns with the community and use the release of this report to further conversations with the community about the next steps. We are also responding to an OIA request for the report, due 2 June.
- A more detailed briefing will be provided to you in due course. Officials are available to meet with you should you require further details on this matter.

Contact: 

2.5 Concession fees system – further information

- This item responds to your request for further information, following briefing 21-B-0286. We are looking at the future of the concessions system as part of the long-term programme of conservation legislation reform. We are also exploring ways to improve the system in the short-term, in line with the DOC Heritage and Visitor Strategy and DOC's Kaupapa. Two key short-term improvements already identified are updating our activity fee Price Book and improving our capability to run competitive allocations.
- We are also conducting reviews of activity fees for the percentage of revenue framework (used to assess many large tourism concessionaires); beehive pricing; filming on PCL; and our discounts and waiver guidance. All these reviews are due to be completed by October, and concessionaires are invited to participate in these processes where their fees may potentially be increased.
- Competitive allocation (such as tenders) is a tool we have used sparingly to date. This is primarily because the legislation limits our opportunities to do so by requiring us to consider all concession applications sequentially. This results in a "first come, first served" system because we cannot run a competitive allocation process if an application has already been submitted. This is a noted issue, and within scope for conservation legislation reform.

- In the short term, we are actively improving our capability in this area. The Commercial Economics team, established in 2019, has competitive allocation within current legislation as a core part of its work programme. Opportunities are being actively sought to run competitive processes in the short term, which will build DOC's capability to run competitive allocation processes should legislation reform afford more opportunities to do so. We are also considering our Section 4 obligations to iwi, hapū and whānau when allocating commercial opportunities on PCL and waters.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB)

- You met with officials on 18 May to discuss options for identifying and managing significant natural areas (SNAs) on PCL (21-B-0185 refers) and the wider work underway to develop a National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).
- We understand that Minister Parker took an oral item on the NPSIB to Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee (ENV) on 20 May. The oral item outlined plans to consult on an exposure draft NPSIB with iwi/Māori, stakeholders and councils (briefing 2021-B-07992 refers).
- Officials are working on the development of an 'exposure draft' of the proposed NPSIB, with the exception of the PCL provisions.
- The joint project team is preparing advice for Minister Shaw which seeks his agreement to release the exposure draft, as well as:
 - the final confirmation of who should be included in the consultation
 - changes to policy since the initial recommendations report (as a result of drafting)
 - timings for how long to consult for
 - subject to your joint direction, options to include PCL policies in this discussion.
- The joint project team is also preparing advice on delivery timeframes for the NPSIB.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Auckland Inner Islands: Ordinance discovered on Rangitoto

- On 17 May, DOC staff undertaking traplines on Rangitoto Island as part of our Motutapu stoat incursion response found an unexploded ordinance, likely from WWII. GPS details of the location were recorded, and local police and the military have been informed.
- At the time of writing this report (18 May), Defence Force personnel, assisted by the Auckland Harbourmaster, had arrived on Rangitoto and were walking to the location.
- The two army personnel will advise DOC's local Operations Manager on next steps, once the ordinance has been located.
- DOC staff on the ground are aware of the location and we have recorded the health and safety concerns, which will be updated as more information and advice comes to light.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.8 Rakitū/Arid Island weka, Aotea/Great Barrier Island – Auckland Region

- On 18 May, the Auckland Conservation Board on Aotea/Great Barrier Island heard from a local community member about concerns for the continued weka population on Rakitū, an island off the east coast of Aotea.
- Rakitū underwent rat eradication in 2018 and was declared pest-free in 2020. A portion of the island's resident weka population was temporarily homed at Pukaha/Mt Bruce until the eradication was completed.
- Community and iwi have expressed a desire to eradicate or control weka on Rakitū, due to the threat their presence poses to restoration of the island as a seabird sanctuary.
- There is currently no viable translocation site for the weka to be moved to, and Te Papa Atawhai's Weka Recovery Group is strongly in favour of keeping the weka on Rakitū.
- DOC has committed to the following actions:
 - exploring our options with regard the removal or control of the island's weka in alignment with the proposed Rakitū restoration plan
 - commencing work on the restoration plan in the 2021/2022 financial year
 - meeting with local community to foster their involvement in the restoration work.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.9 Rollout of Electric Vehicles (EVs)

- Planning for the rollout of the first tranche of 30 Hyundai Kona electric vehicles is underway with site charging surveys being undertaken by our electrical vendor (Laser Electrical) across locations where the first cars will be based. The first pilot site in Kapiti is due to have its chargers installed late May with the three first cars due to arrive early June. The Kapiti site will be piloting all training and communications material to allow us to fine tune these ahead of the nationwide site rollouts.
- A comprehensive project management plan, including governance, change management, delivery timelines, and communications has been developed. Cars are not deployed to sites until all the required charging infrastructure has been commissioned.
- The EV programme is being delivered in three tranches, governed by a Steering Committee, and supported by a working group to ensure operational and regional inputs into planning. The project will ultimately see DOC have a 100% electric passenger fleet and reduce its passenger fleet by 20% from 297 to 238 vehicles. The tranches are:
 - Tranche One: rollouts out 30 Hyundai Konas and charging infrastructure. This rollout has been partly funded by an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) State Sector Decarbonisation Fund (SSDF) award. The target for completion is the end of June, dependent on charging installation.
 - Tranche Two: rollout of 118 EVs with associated charging infrastructure, also partly funded by an EECA SSDF award. The target for completion is the end of December .
 - Tranche Three: review of the remaining passenger fleet and rollout of 48 additional vehicles. The target for completion is the end of December 2022.
- All project tranches include the disposal of the vehicles that are replaced either by ending lease arrangements or on- selling to the public.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.10 New Zealand's international reporting to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

- New Zealand is a signatory to the international Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Convention obliges us to manage and report on our listed wetlands of international importance and manage all wetlands to retain their ecological functioning.
- New Zealand is due to submit its three-yearly National Report on implementation of the Convention later this year, as required before each triennial Conference of the Parties.
- The next conference (COP 14) is scheduled to be held in Wuhan, China in November (COVID and travel permitting).
- New Zealand is also due to submit international reporting updates ('Ramsar Information Sheets' or RISs) on the ecological condition of its existing Ramsar-listed wetland sites. DOC plans to submit these RISs to the international Ramsar Secretariat for five of New Zealand's seven Ramsar-listed wetland sites.
- DOC is the formal Administrative Authority for the Ramsar Convention in New Zealand and plans to submit the COP 14 National Report and five RIS updates under its own authority, unless your office indicates a preference otherwise.
- Publicly releasing both the National Report and RISs together presents a media opportunity to highlight wetland conservation issues. Only 10% of the original extent of natural wetlands in Aotearoa New Zealand remains, and many wetland types are now almost completely lost.
- MfE has also expressed interest in collaborating with us on any media response, including, potentially, to promote the Government's freshwater reform programme. We will keep your office informed of any planned media releases.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.11 Māui dolphin abundance estimate

- This advice is being delivered simultaneously to the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries through the joint agency Oceans status report.
- In March 2021, the Department of Conservation, in collaboration with researchers from the University of Auckland, completed the second part of a two-year field study into the abundance of Māui dolphins. This study repeats the survey methodology carried out in 2010-2011, and 2015-16, and involves taking DNA samples and photographic identification of Māui dolphins to estimate their abundance. The 2015-16 survey estimated that the Māui dolphin population ranged from 57-75 individuals of age one year or older (and a mean of 63).
- Preliminary abundance results from the most recent survey will be provided to agencies by 30 September 2021. To ensure a rigorous peer review process the research will be presented to a joint DOC Conservation Services Programme/ Fisheries New Zealand Aquatic Environment Working Group meeting shortly thereafter. A final report will be made publicly available before the end of the year.
- We will provide Ministers with an update on this work once the preliminary results are received. We note that there will be a high level of interest during the peer review process and once the results are made public.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Director-General Engagements

May

28 May	Puhinui Site Visit, South Auckland
29 May	Tāmaki Makaurau Community hui, Te Mahurehure Cultural Marae Auckland
31 May	Kiwis for Kiwi Event, Bay of Islands

June

10 June	Predator Free Summit, Te Papa
12 June	NZ Deerstalkers Association National Conference, Queenstown
14 June	Predator Free Golf Clubs Summit, Auckland
17-18 June	NZ Conservation Authority, Wellington
18 June	Marutuahu Collective, Auckland
21 June	DOC and Corrections Joint Leadership Teams Strategy Session, Rimutaka Prison

July

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

August

4-5 August	Environmental Defence Society Conference, Christchurch Town Hall, Christchurch
19-20 August	NZ Conservation Authority, Wellington
19-20 August	Public Services Leadership Team Retreat, Brackenridge Martinborough

September

4-12 September	Conservation Week Events, TBC
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PROACTIVELY RELEASED

4 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

None this week.

5 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support this status report:

1. Events table (regular item)
2. Cabinet Paper Report (regular item)
3. Forthcoming items (regular item)

PROACTIVELY RELEASED



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 31 May 2021

Date: _____ //

Seen by Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Acting Minister of Conservation

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1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Summary

Current State (as at 25 May)

- Approval-in-Principle letters have been sent to all applicants of projects approved at the 10 May SLU Ministers meeting.
- We are working to have the majority of funding agreements signed/executed and projects in delivery by 30 June. The exception for this are projects funded by the JFN Community Fund; JFN Private Landowner Fund and JFN Maori Land Fund. The agreements for the first two funds are expected to be confirmed in July, with Māori Land Fund following.
- You have been sent advice from DOC's Chief Science Advisor regarding the approval of two myrtle rust projects (21-B-0365 refers).
- We are currently working on confirming the funding package recommendation for the upcoming round of approvals. The proposed list of projects was presented to the JFN Steering Group on 26 May. Your office will be sent a briefing on this by 28 May for your feedback. Around \$22-\$25M worth of projects are proposed to be tabled for the upcoming Reference Group meeting and subsequent SLU approval. There will be a number of unsuccessful applicants in this process in the coming months.
- Following good feedback from partners on our revised monthly reporting format, we are redesigning the quarterly reporting format to ensure this is easy for partners to work with. The new process will be tested with delivery partners in early July, after the Q4 period ends on 30 June.
- Assurance checks and milestone payments have been undertaken on projects that were due. This work continues and we are refining the system to process these as the volume of projects increases.

Reference Group and SLU Minister's Updates

- The next Reference Group meeting is scheduled for 8 June. The next SLU Ministers meeting is scheduled for 1 July.

Updates - Workstreams and projects

Community & Landowner Funds

- Operations Directors have been advised of successful and unsuccessful applicants in their regions, with the opportunity for them to contact individuals personally prior to a formal letter being sent. We will work with your office regarding media announcements.

Māori Land Grant

- Work is continuing following your approval of the proposed approach. We are preparing responses to questions you have raised on the proposed approach.

Ngā Awa

- All six Ngā Awa projects are now approved. Four are in delivery and two are in contract negotiation following sign off by the SLU Ministers on 10 May. These are expected to be signed and in delivery by 30 June.
- The remaining Ngā Awa funding is being re-directed to delivering cameras on fishing boats in accordance with a Ministerial request.

South Island Threatened Species Prevention

- There are four people starting on eight-week contracts, and two people on casual contracts, starting on 31 May.

Prevention of North Island Indigenous Forest Collapse

- The business cases for both Kaimai-Mamaku and Raukumara projects have been received by the Jobs for Nature unit and are being reviewed for final approval.

Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

- We have provided your office with a schedule for Jobs for Nature funding announcements. There are currently nine funding announcements (in the form of media releases) with your office ready for distribution. A further five announcements are in draft form and are going through final internal sign off, with a further 70 announcements currently being drafted. Where possible we are combining announcements at a regional level. As projects are approved, they are added to this schedule.
- We are working with the Secretariat to prepare an application for the Public Service Awards for Te Tohu mō ngā Hua E Pai Ake Ana / Better Outcomes Award and for the PRINZ Best Design Awards for Small Brand Identity.

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

1.2 RMA Advocacy

No items this week

1.3 Health, Safety & Wellbeing

- You have requested a regular standing item in the Status Report on Health & Safety. This entry provides a high-level introduction to DOC's Health, Safety & Wellbeing (HS&W) processes & policies.
- DOC has a comprehensive and well-established HS&W system owned by the Deputy Director-General People and maintained by a HS&W Unit. The system is used daily by staff, contractors, and volunteers and includes elements like:
 - Pre-work 'Safe to Start' procedures
 - Activity-based Standard Operating Procedures
 - Incident reporting, recording, and investigation
 - Worker engagement
 - Capability and training
 - Injury rehabilitation.
- Key focus areas for us are:
 - Managing critical (fatal) risk and deploying a network of controls to protect staff, contractors, and volunteers
 - Developing and deploying a comprehensive occupational health system to ensure staff holistic health is monitored and maintained
 - Maintaining a COVID-19 response and planning team within the HS&W Unit (current focus is on vaccination roll-out planning)
 - Further developing our wellbeing and psychosocial risk system
 - Support to the organisation for Working With Others/Jobs for Nature and PCBU overlapping duties.
- The HS&W system is integrated with the Visitor Safety and Security systems at Director level.
- We will provide further detail and relevant data in future updates.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2 Updates

2.1 Western South Island: Griffin Creek Hydro project

- This item follows on from updates to Minister Allan on 1 and 8 February 2021, and to you on 12 May, regarding the application from Griffin Creek Hydro Ltd to vary its existing permission.
- The decision to grant this application, conditional on additional mitigation measures being added to the existing permission, was made on 24 May. The applicant was advised in confidence of the decision on 25 May.
- This decision was made under the delegated authority by the Director of Operations Te Tai Poutini / Western South Island Region.
- There has been significant interest in this application from stakeholders, including Federated Mountain Clubs, Forest & Bird and the NZ Canyoners Association. The West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board has also been involved in this process.
- The decision to grant this application is likely to generate both positive and negative media responses from local government leaders, the West Coast community, and stakeholders.
- There may be a legal challenge from both stakeholders and the applicant.
- There is to be a media release informing the public of the decision on 1 June. Follow up media interest is highly likely. We will provide further updates if issues arise.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Whitebait programme

- Your office received an updated comms package on the whitebait regulation changes on 13 May, in anticipation of a public announcement on 2 June. An updated version of the comms plan, and further Q&As, were delivered to your office on 26 May. We are preparing educational material for the public, and training staff to support that announcement and subsequent public enquiries.
- The Parliamentary Council Office (PCO) has received our drafting instructions for whitebait regulation changes. Subject to meeting engagement timeframes on the exposure draft, we are planning for these changes to go to LEG Cabinet committee on 1 July. There is some risk that engagement over the exposure draft may raise concerns about the regulations proposed, rather than their workability, and cause delays.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.3 National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB)

- In the week of 17 May, you received a copy of the advice to Minister Shaw on the delivery timeframes for the proposed NPSIB. This incorporated outcomes from the meeting about public conservation land.
- Ministry for the Environment officials are working to procure extra resources to progress two pieces of work relating to the NPSIB. We are commissioning work from an expert on solutions for biodiversity incentives to assist with the uptake of protection, management, and restoration of biodiversity, once the NPSIB is gazetted. We are also procuring skilled consultants to assist with the development of further implementation planning.

- Minister Shaw is scheduled to meet with Chris Allen (Federated Farmers) on 3 June and Sally Gepp (previously Forest and Bird) on 4 June. Officials will be providing an aide memoire to Minister Shaw for these meetings.
- Officials are scheduled to meet with the Health and Disability Commissioner to discuss the NPSIB, and any impacts it may have on the disabled community on 28 May.

Contact: Bruce Parkes, DDG Policy & Visitors: [REDACTED]

2.4 IWC SC Update on Hector's and Maui dolphins

- This advice is being delivered simultaneously to the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries through the joint agency Oceans status report.
- The International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee meeting concluded on 14 May. New Zealand presented five scientific papers, including an update on New Zealand's management measures implemented in 2020 to protect Māui and Hector's dolphins.
- As expected, there were divergent views expressed on the papers. However, the delegation was successful in its objective to update the Committee recommendations.
- The Scientific Committee report:
 - welcomed news of NZ's comprehensive suite of dolphin protection measures and the efforts to address threats to Māui and Hector's dolphins, particularly the expanded fisheries restrictions
 - noted that it was not in a position to evaluate specific policy settings associated with management decisions
 - agreed to a revised set of topics for an independent scientific review of papers presented by NZ and others at recent meetings.
- Agencies will work with the Scientific Committee to determine what level of support is required from NZ for the independent review.
- The report of the Scientific Committee is confidential until it is publicly released, with release scheduled for 18 June. There may be some public and media interest in the recommendations of the Scientific Committee, as in the past. Agencies are drafting communications materials to support any response required.
- This outcome supports our position in the separate US Court of International Trade oral hearing scheduled for 1 July.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 [REDACTED]

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

[REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Bay of Islands Marine Mammal Sanctuary

- On 18 May, public consultation closed for a marine mammal sanctuary (MMS) proposal in Te Pēwhairangi (Bay of Islands) after a 28-day submission period.
- The submissions are still being counted, but a provisional estimate indicates that over 640 submissions were received. We are now starting to analyse the submissions.
- DOC is working with Ngā Hapū o te Pēwhairangi to develop potential co-management arrangements.
- On 30 June, you will receive a briefing about the MMS decision-making process and timeframes for finalising DOC advice.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Predator Free 2050 Ltd (PF2050 Ltd) - Funding of technical GM research

- Modern genetic technologies theoretically hold great potential for providing new tools that are sorely needed for the achievement of the Predator Free 2050 mission of the eradication of possums, rats and stoats. However, to date, PF2050 Ltd has funded no technical GM research for PF2050.
- PF2050 Ltd has been watching global developments in such approaches to pest control and until this year there has been insufficient evidence that genetic approaches may be viable for application to mammal control. The company considers that overseas progress indicates it is now timely for some investment to explore this area of science for potential utility to PF2050.
- PF2050 Ltd's first proposed investment into such research is to co-fund support to the University of Otago's Dr Tim Hore in the School of Biomedical Sciences (<https://www.otago.ac.nz/anatomy/people/staff/profile/index.html?id=1770>), who already has \$1m MBIE Smart Ideas funding for the project "Enabling possum fertility control and eradication". The current project window is October 2019 to September 2022.

- PF2050 Ltd advises that the current project's aims are to demonstrate to 'proof-of-concept' that germline genetic editing is possible for marsupials (working with possums as a model organism). While this underpinning toolkit, which is essential for all heritable genetic editing, has long been developed for other mammals, this development would be a world-first for marsupials and would enable multiple new lines of control research. The Otago team's research and approaches meet all regulatory requirements under NZ law.
- PF2050 Ltd co-funding (of a proposed \$300k for the period October 2021 to September 2023) will enable the group's speedier achievement of a functional germline editing approach for possums, while increasing its bottom-up community engagement on such technologies and accelerating progress to tools for PF2050.
- Such research is delivering to priority long-term outcomes in the PF2050 Ltd Research Strategy:
 - Control of possums at landscape scale in backcountry
 - Alternatives to 1080 (and potentially more humane non-toxic alternatives e.g. fertility control)
 - National capability development in STEM subjects (c.f. National Statement of Science Investment).
- Beyond this first investment, PF2050 Ltd seeks to continue a measured and sensible approach to investing in these technologies, to provide decision makers with the knowledge needed to assess potential utility (alongside social, cultural, ethical and policy considerations) for PF2050.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.8 Maukahuka: Pest Free Auckland Island: Feasibility Study Report release

- Following the successful eradication of mice from Antipodes Island, DOC and Ngāi Tahu have completed an investigation into the feasibility of eradicating pigs, cats and mice from Auckland Island in the New Zealand subantarctic region. A World Heritage Site (1998), the islands contain some of the world's most extraordinary natural heritage, including some of the world's least modified islands.
- The feasibility study was conducted over the last three years. It involved extensive field trials and was funded by Budget 2018 allocation and IVL funds.
- This week marks the publication of the Maukahuka: Pest Free Auckland Island project report on the technical feasibility of eradicating pigs, cats and mice from Auckland Island.
- The report concludes:
 - Eradication of pigs, cats and mice from Auckland Island is worthwhile, achievable, and sustainable.
 - All three species should be eradicated to realise the benefits and optimise the investment in a project team, infrastructure, and suppliers.
 - Maukahuka is a priority eradication project because of its internationally significant biodiversity and special protection status, the severity of damage from mammalian pests, its defendability using current biosecurity measures, the lessons that will enable further scale-up in places such as Rakiura, Chatham Islands and mainland sites, and its importance for achieving the PF 2025 interim goal of predator-free offshore islands.
 - It offers an attractive opportunity for partnerships and for tangible large-scale outcomes in the medium term to create momentum and advance New Zealand's PF2050 goal.

- DOC and Ngai Tahu are making the reports available through their respective websites and directly to stakeholders and contributors to the work.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.9 Takahē trial process with DOC and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research

- This item follows on from an update to you on 17 May regarding a Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research trial involving ten takahē at the Burwood Takahē Centre, to assess the birds' susceptibility to para-aminopropiophenone (PAPP).
- This trial commenced on 24 May.
- The Takahē Recovery Team has consulted with Ngāi Tahu, and with Fulton Hogan, a major sponsor for the Takahē Recovery Programme, on this work.
- The Recovery Team has agreed to the non-lethal testing of PAPP given the low-risk method and because its potential predator control benefits could be critical to takahē recovery and achieving the goal of multiple self-sustaining wild takahē populations in former areas of their natural range.
- The assessment method is considered low risk, involving low oral doses of PAPP and small blood samples at set intervals. It is a minimally invasive and highly precautionary approach to minimise impact on the birds' health. An avian veterinarian will be on-site throughout the trial to provide support and treatment if required.
- The PAPP susceptibility assessment will initially be trialled on two of the ten takahē at Burwood – one being given a very low oral dose of PAPP and the other a non-toxic carrier agent for comparison of effects. The two birds will be monitored for four to ten days, dependent upon symptoms, to ensure any welfare impacts are identified and treated. If the vets feel it is safe to do so, up to eight more birds may be included in the trial.
- If at any point a bird shows signs of major ill-health, the trial will be suspended, and the bird will be cared for by a vet to assist its full recovery. The continuation of the trial will be reviewed.
- In the unlikely event of an adverse reaction from media channels, the PF2050 Tools 2 Market programme and the Recovery Team have prepared messaging for reporting on the trials and the potential conservation benefit for wild takahē populations.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.10 Department of Conservation Biodiversity Monitoring and Reporting System (BMRS) - Tier 1 monitoring programme

- This item is in response your inquiry about Tier 1 monitoring.
- DOC began its national biodiversity monitoring and reporting programme in 2011, based on a framework developed in conjunction with science partner agencies that defined indicators of change in ecological integrity.
- The programme comprises three tiers: Tier 1 national-scale, systematic sampling; Tier 2 site-based sampling (often capitalising on long-term local data sets); Tier 3 sampling of sites with intensive long-term scientific research.
- Tier 1 sampling entails five-yearly sampling of c. 1350 points located on an 8 km grid across public conservation land. The sample points are now on their third five-yearly cycle of measurement.

- Tier 1 sampling leverages off and contributes to MfE's Land Use and Carbon Analysis System (LUCAS), which measures change in carbon in natural forests and shrublands. At the same sample points (many vegetation measurements are identical). As a result, it is possible to identify some trends in vegetation from up to five measurements.
- Two regional councils are extending the sampling programme across private land (including agricultural, plantation forestry, and urban sample points).
- Data generated by Tier 1 monitoring is used both within DOC and externally.
- Data from Tier 1 is also used in international reporting (Montreal Process; Convention on Biodiversity; and Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services).
- Status and trends in selected indicators and measures of ecological integrity derived from the data collected in the Tier 1 programme are updated on an annual basis, hosted on the DOC website. This data has also been used broadly for national reporting, notably in Land Domain reports (MfE/Statistics NZ), since 2016.
- DOC has used the data to determine trends in productivity across a range of ecosystems, identifying species population trends and management needs for threatened species such as kea. More recently, the data has contributed to the evidence base for control plans for Himalayan tahr and current state analysis of deer in New Zealand.
- Tier 1 monitoring data also contributed to identifying the location of plants vulnerable to the novel pathogen, myrtle rust (which reached Aotearoa in 2017).
- Data from Tier 1 is used widely by the science community (e.g., >25 published scientific papers).

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.11 Lower North Island: Ōrongorongo private huts being phased into public use

- DOC is currently working through a process of giving public access to up to 50 private huts in the Ōrongorongo Valley. Under the Conservation Management Strategy, private ownership of huts must end by 2050. Before this time, all existing private accommodation on public conservation land in the Ōrongorongo Valley will be phased into public use. This will allow conservation values to be upheld while also retaining the heritage of the area.
- Phasing these huts from private to public will likely generate high local interest as hut owners have a vested interest and will want to know what the future holds for their private huts, some of which have been held by the same families for generations.
- We are working in partnership with the Ōrongorongo Hut Club and met with representatives on 11 May to discuss the process. We are also attending the Ōrongorongo Hut Club AGM on 21 July to present further information to the wider group.
- We expect media interest immediately after the July AGM and have a comms plan prepared.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.12 DOC's contribution to the Transnational Organised Crime Strategy (2020–2025)

- The Office of the Minister of Police is consulting with Ministers in late May on the implementation of the Transnational Organised Crime (TNOC) Strategy. DOC's National Compliance Team is an active member of the TNOC Steering Committee.
- The strategy aims to unify agencies' work to prevent/detect and dismantle transnational crime, and make New Zealand 'the hardest place in the world for organised criminal groups and networks to do business'.
- The actions to be undertaken by government agencies will be shared with you as part of the consultation.
- DOC's Year 2 work involves strengthening the Trade in Endangered Species Act 1989 as part of the current legislative reform, an outreach campaign focussing on the illegal importation of traditional Asian medicines, wildlife-holder inspections, environment scanning, and detector dog deployment (with a special focus on geckos and tuatara). This work is enabled by the International Visitor Levy (IVL) Regulatory Compliance Project. DOC leads this work, with the support of NZ Customs, MPI's border teams, and INTERPOL.
- As part of the TNOC strategy, the University of Canterbury will be conducting an evidence review and KPMG have been commissioned to complete intervention logic analysis. This encompasses DOC-led wildlife crime work.
- At an international level, a DOC staff member currently chairs INTERPOL's wildlife crime working group.

Contact: [REDACTED]

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

3 Director-General Engagements

May

31 May Kiwis for Kiwi Event, Bay of Islands

June

10 June Predator Free Summit, Te Papa

12 June NZ Deerstalkers Association National Conference, Queenstown

14 June Predator Free Golf Clubs Summit, Auckland

17-18 June NZ Conservation Authority, Wellington

18 June Marutuahu Collective, Auckland

21 June DOC and Corrections Joint Leadership Teams Strategy Session, Rimutaka Prison

July

05 July Matariki Stakeholder luncheon, DOC Wellington

08 July Fulton Hogan partnership signing event, Christchurch

20-21 July SLT Retreat, TBA

August

4-5 August Environmental Defence Society Conference, Christchurch Town Hall, Christchurch

19-20 August NZ Conservation Authority, Wellington

19-20 August Public Services Leadership Team Retreat, Brackenridge Martinborough

September

4-12 September Conservation Week Events, TBC

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

4 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

4.1 Nature Heritage Fund update – Opportunity to announce two Manawatu land purchases

- The Nature Heritage Fund (NHF) provides funding to protect high value ecosystems on private land through either Crown purchase or covenanting.
- In February 2017 and February 2018, NHF funding of \$300,000 and \$100,000 respectively was allocated to two land purchases in the Manawatu:
 - 25 hectares of active sand dunes at Himatangi, which contains one of only two known populations of the shrub *Pimelea actea*, threat classification nationally critical (the highest threat classification).
 - 3.6 hectares of regenerating wetland at Feilding area, which adjoins the Awahuri Scenic Reserve and contains a significant semi-swamp podocarp forest remnant.
- These purchases have now been completed, with the Himatangi area being transferred to the Crown in December 2020, and the Feilding area in February 2021
- The Feilding area will be incorporated into the Awahuri Scenic Reserve, which is managed by the Manawatu District Council, in partnership with the Awahuri Forest/Kitchener Park Trust
- Please advise if you wish to announce these purchases (we will provide your office with a draft media release)
- If you don't wish to announce these, the Department can support these purchases through local announcements.

Contact: [REDACTED]

5 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support this status report:

1. Events table (regular item)
2. Cabinet Paper Report (regular item)
3. Forthcoming items (regular item)
4. D-G Direct (fortnightly item)