



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 12 November 2018

Seen by Hon Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Incident Management Team – Project Safeguard 2018

- The CIMS team had been focusing on responding to immediate issues and has now shifted to supporting the transition to long-term management. The team has now been reduced to a skeleton crew.
- An overarching issue for long-term management is building DOC's internal expertise to understand and respond to the new operating environment. Key tasks to achieve this include: formalising an intelligence function, extending the reach of the Predator Free campaign, and strengthening staff welfare and protective security functions.
- We will keep you informed of any further developments.

Contact: Mervyn English, Deputy Director-General, Strategy and People:
[REDACTED]

1.2 Kauri dieback

Tane Mahuta

- The work to install side barriers on the boardwalk to Tane Mahuta will start shortly.
- The soil sampling tentative results may be available as early as 16 November. A hui is planned with Te Roroa and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) to discuss the results and potential actions. A Communications Plan will be developed and provided to your office.

Biosecurity Forum

- MPI's Biosecurity Forum takes place in Auckland on 12–13 November. The theme of the Forum is 'Biosecurity: Partnering to Protect' and explores the many different approaches and motivations to biosecurity.
- DOC is a partner on the Forum and has numerous speakers throughout the programme covering topics such as kauri dieback and PF2050. DOC's Director-General will be speaking at the event.
- The Biosecurity awards will also take place on the evening of 12 November. DOC is sponsoring the 'Community Award'.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2 Updates

2.1 New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy: upcoming engagement

- The first meeting of the NZBS reference groups has been scheduled for 21 November in Wellington. This will be a combined meeting of the three reference groups and will be facilitated by [REDACTED]. We are working to secure your attendance at the meeting.
- You have been supplied with letters of appointment to sign and send to each reference group member.
- Arrangements are underway for hui with Treaty partners around the country. These hui will cover the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity, Predator Free 2050 plan, Conservation Science Prospectus, priorities for visitor management, and the review of visitor pricing and revenue.
 - Four hui will be held in Northland in late November, in Whangarei, Kauri Coast, Kaitiaki and Bay of Islands.
 - Hui are planned for the Northern South Island and Southern South Island in early 2019.
 - We are working to set up hui in other regions.
- Workshops will be held for invited stakeholders in Wellington and Auckland in early December. This will be an opportunity for early conversations with a range of interested parties, including regional councils, industry, NGOs, researchers and community groups. Similar workshops will likely be held in other centres in early 2019.
- You may wish to attend one or more of these and we will work with your office on this.
- Officials are available to meet with you should you require further details on this matter.

Contact: [REDACTED]

This item has been withheld as the matter is still under consideration

2.3 Final pathology report for beach cast Māui dolphin

- The final pathology report for the beach cast Māui dolphin discovered at Te Akau (north of Raglan) at the end of September has been received from Massey University.
- The only difference between this final report and the previous interim report is that cause of death for the calf has been attributed to a brucellosis infection.
- Brucella is a bacterial infection common in marine mammals and is spread from the mother to foetal tissue.
- Advice is that the brucellosis infection killed the foetus, with the mother later dying from blood poisoning through the hosting of the dead foetus.
- A copy of the final report will be shared with interested parties and uploaded to the DOC incident database this month as is standard protocol. A copy has also been provided to your office.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.4 Uniforms and minimising future textile waste

- At the status meeting of 29 October you asked what DOC's current thinking is on decommissioning of old uniforms.
- We will decommission the retired old uniform (and new uniforms when worn out) in environmentally sustainable ways.
- Finding the most appropriate solutions is a focus for the Uniform Project, with regular interest and close attention coming from the public, you, media, and staff.
- We are conscious of the textile waste issue and the reputational risk for DOC of inappropriately decommissioning old uniforms.
- Our solutions will be varied to suit the multiple types of synthetic and natural fabrics, and the needs of safely securing the DOC brand.
- We are considering a range of options for decommissioning of old uniforms, including:
 - In the case of unbranded uniform items in acceptable condition: allowing staff to keep them, or donating them to charities (DOC has had some requests already from Duke of Edinburgh schemes, Scouts, iwi, and theatre groups).
 - In the case of branded or worn out items, and items that are recognisably DOC uniform: All logos or identifying features will be removed from uniform items (we have been investigating whether the Department of Corrections can be involved in this task).
 - Reuse by overseas organisations e.g. aid organisations.
 - Synthetic fabric downcycled into other items e.g. reusable shopping bags or recycled into its component parts for reuse in future manufacturing.
 - Natural fibre downcycled into weed mats to support DOC's normal planting and the One Billion Trees programme.
- At this stage all investigations have been exploratory. No decisions have been made. We will be seeking external expert advice.
- As the new uniform is being phased in over three years, staff are continuing to wear some old uniform items until new replacement items are issued (the office range is scheduled to arrive mid next year).
- Once we have collected in old uniform items and established the exact tonnage of each type of product and fabric we will engage appropriate expertise to

analyse and advise on sustainable options for reuse or recycling of the old uniform items.

- We expect analysis and decisions will be made in the third quarter of 2019, after we have collected in the bulk of old uniform items.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Publication of scientific paper on wetland loss in Southland

- A scientific paper titled '*Loss of wetlands since 1990 in Southland, New Zealand*' will be published online on the New Zealand Journal of Ecology website in the week beginning 12 November.
- A DOC staff member is the lead author of the paper and the research was undertaken in collaboration with Landcare Research.
- The paper provides evidence of the change in wetland extent since 1990. For example, the rate of wetland loss in Southland since 1990 (0.5 % per year) and in other regions indicates that New Zealand is losing wetlands at a similar rate to other parts of the world.
- The paper refers to the impacts of agricultural development in Southland since 1990, and the effectiveness of the RMA. It is important research for DOC, presenting accurate data on the state of threatened ecosystems.
- Recent reports by Environment Southland and MfE have highlighted wetland loss but have either not been published in peer reviewed journals or have not quantified the extent of loss.
- The information will support current policy development, including current MfE work (supported by DOC) to provide advice on mechanisms to improve the protection of wetlands.
- Forest & Bird have indicated an interest in this research and have asked us to share it with them as soon as it is published.
- You may wish for a press release to be issued on this publication and we will work with your office on this.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands – Triennial Conference of the Parties

- The 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands took place in Dubai, 21–29 October. New Zealand was represented by the DOC International and Freshwater teams. The delegation engaged on numerous issues of importance to New Zealand to ensure our views were reflected in final agreements.
- Potential risks were identified for proposals to create an overly burdensome governance structure and undermine the Antarctic Treaty System, and these risks were successfully mitigated.
- On agriculture, we included references to the conservation of wetlands, promoted practices that do not degrade or drain significant wetland systems, and supported the removal of text on agricultural subsidies. On climate change, we acknowledged the potential for peatland carbon sequestration, encouraged the collection of data and information, and noted that we reported these sinks in our own inventories.
- We took the opportunity to gauge the level of support for [REDACTED] being nominated to the Convention's [REDACTED]

Scientific and Technical Review Panel, which we assessed to be overwhelmingly positive. We plan to work through the nomination process with our Oceania Standing Committee Representative, Australia, early in 2019.

- We supported the Pacific region in several discussions, notably on marine turtles, where we spoke to New Zealand's support for the 'turtle project' implemented by SPREP and DOC in the Pacific.
- The New Zealand delegation also participated in a DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) side event, providing introductory remarks before screening the TVNZ documentary on the Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists Trust's shorebird surveys. This event was well received, and it was clear that New Zealand's further engagement would be most welcome.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Events, Announcements and Media Opportunities

3.1 Omoeroa rowi release, Fox Glacier – 13 Dec 2018

- There is an opportunity for you to attend the public celebration of the release of rowi into the Omoeroa ranges.
- Rowi, New Zealand's rarest kiwi, have been the focus of an intensive Operation Nest Egg programme in Ōkārito forest which has successfully raised the population from approximately 150 rowi (in 2005) to 600 today. The population has now outgrown the Ōkārito sanctuary, and DOC, along with Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio, are expanding the population into the Omoeroa ranges.
- This will be the first time rowi will be released to start a permanent population outside of Ōkārito sanctuary.
- The public release will be held at the Lake Matheson café, Fox Glacier, on 13 December, with a pōwhiri to welcome about 25 juvenile rowi to their new home.
- A public event is planned to start at 10:30am on 13 December, before the rowi are flown by helicopter to their release sites.
- The event will take approximately 2.5 hours, but travel time to and from Fox Glacier will need to be allowed for.
- There will be speeches as part of the public event to inform locals and media of the significance of this release, and there will be an opportunity for you to speak. There would also be an opportunity for you to join the release of the rowi into the forest via helicopter.
- This event also provides an ideal opportunity for you to announce the release of the National Kiwi Recovery Plan (see item below).

Contact: [REDACTED]

3.2 Release of the 2018–2028 Kiwi Recovery Plan

- The Kiwi Recovery Plan 2018-2028 is ready for public release and we would like to invite you to release it.
- This plan marks a distinct shift in the approach to kiwi management. In the past, kiwi recovery has focused on the rarest kiwi species and on *ex situ* management (e.g. Operation Nest Egg). For the first time, the focus of this plan is to increase *all* kiwi species by at least 2% per year through *in situ*

management, primarily through predator control. A copy of the plan and the executive summary has been provided to your office.

- The Kiwi Recovery Group led the preparation of this plan. It is the most collaborative species recovery plan ever written in New Zealand, with over 50 contributors from a broad range of stakeholders and partners. Work for this plan began in October 2015.

Release of the Plan

- The release of the Plan is a good opportunity to reinforce with the public and media the need for *in situ* predator control to reverse the decline of kiwi. The following three events are available for the release:
 - **Franz Josef:** The release of rowi into the Omoeroa ranges on 13 December, as detailed in the item above.
 - **Taranaki:** A site visit to one of our strong iwi-led predator control recovery sites at Parininihi, led by Ngāti Tama. This site visit can be arranged based on your availability.
 - **Mt. Taranaki:** There are two kiwi releases planned for Mt. Taranaki, weather pending, for the first and second weeks of December. The dates have not been confirmed yet and can be flexible based on your availability.
- We aim to release the Kiwi Recovery Plan before the end of 2018. We will work with your office to find a suitable opportunity based on your interest and availability for this release and will provide further details as required.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3.3 Landmarks – co-agency project to celebrate our historic places

- There is an opportunity for you to attend the launch of the 'Landmarks' project.
- Landmarks is a co-agency project to celebrate our historic places, the 'places that tell our stories'.
- It is an initiative between Heritage NZ, Ministry for Culture and Heritage, DOC and MBIE.
- The West Coast region is currently working through the selection process of its Landmark sites.
- The first tranche to be confirmed for launch will include:
 - Brunner Mine site
 - Reefton 'town of light'
 - Denniston Mine site
- Further landmark sites are envisaged at other historically significant locations, including sites of significant history to local iwi, and these will be released in early 2019.
- The initial site launch of Landmarks West Coast is set for 7 December at the Arahura Marae. The Brunner Mine site will be unveiled that same afternoon. The Ministry for Culture and Heritage has invited Minister O'Connor.
- The site-based unveilings at both Reefton and Denniston will be with local dignitaries on the following day, 8 December.
- If you are interested in attending, we can approach the Ministry for Culture and Heritage regarding an invitation.

Contact: [REDACTED]

4 Director-General Engagements

November

- 12–13 Nov Biosecurity NZ Forum, Auckland
- 13 Nov NZ River Awards, MAC's Function Centre, Wellington
- 15 Nov Bio Protection Research Centre function, The Wellington Club
- 16 Nov PF2050 Ltd Board Meeting, Auckland
- 21–22 Nov NZ State Services Leadership Team Retreat, Peppers, Martinborough
- 23 Nov Takahe Release with Fulton Hogan, Murchison Mountains
- 27–28 Nov Global Eco Conference/Heads of Parks meeting, Townsville
- 30 Nov–2 Dec CEOs/Partners visit to Dusky Sounds, Fiordland

December

- 5 Dec DOC Christmas Function, Wellington

Proactively released

5 Addendum

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

Subject headings of content in this section are:

- Myrtle rust and kauri dieback
- DOC role in freshwater reform policy work
- Riversdale Flats
- DOC – LINZ engagement over discretionary consents
- Tūhoe and Ngā Whenua Rāhui

Proactively released



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Week beginning: 19 November 2018

Date: / /

Seen by Hon Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Kauri dieback

Tāne Mahuta

- Results from the 104 samples taken in and around Tāne Mahuta are currently being verified by laboratories commissioned by Te Roroa, along with Te Roroa's and DOC's own experts. DOC, Te Roroa and MPI are planning the next steps for release of the information to the public.
- We will advise your office in advance of public release and provide key messages.

Track updates

- Upgrade work to 10 tracks in Tauranga to prevent the spread of kauri dieback will start in mid-November, and is scheduled to be completed by March 2019.

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.2 Myrtle rust

- There are no updates for myrtle rust this week.

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.3 RMA Advocacy Update

DOC is considering the following RMA decisions:

Declarations

- None this week.

Submissions

- We have lodged a submission with the Porirua City Council in opposition to a proposed adventure park.
- The proposed adventure park would be located at Botanical Park, Rangituhi / Colonial Knob Scenic Reserve and Te Rahui o Rangituhi, on both council- and DOC-managed land.
- The submission requests additional information on the potential impacts of the activity and the contents of proposed management plans.

Appeals

- The Lindis Catchment Group and Plan Change 4 by the Otago Regional Council (combined case) Environment Court hearing ran from 5-16 November 2018 after two weeks of expert caucusing.
- We have received 11 s274 notices on Forest and Bird's appeal against the West Coast Regional Council in relation to significant wetlands and biodiversity offsetting in the Proposed West Coast Regional Policy Statement (pWCRPS).
- DOC is one of 13 s274 parties in support of Forest & Bird's appeal on the pWCRPS. It seeks wide-ranging relief, including, in places, substantial redrafting and restructuring of parts of the pWCRPS.
- We are considering not appealing the Bay of Plenty Regional Council's Water Quantity Plan Change 9. We will make a decision shortly.

Designations

- None this week.

Water Conservation Orders

- None this week.

Other

- None this week.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2 Updates

2.1 Progress update on Milford Opportunities Project

- We expect the growth in visitor numbers at Piopiotahi/Milford Sound to continue. Visitors, and the way they access Milford Sound, are impacting on conservation values, visitor experiences and visitor safety.
- The Milford Opportunities Project (MOP) aims to address such issues, while maintaining a quality visitor experience.
- The project's Governance Group has been working to develop a vision and masterplan for effective destination management, and will shortly provide a report to Ministers, detailing work to date.
- The Group has developed a number of potential concepts and now wishes to test these with Ministers. Avenues under exploration include:
 - effective, authentic story-telling to connect people with conservation and culture
 - transport innovations that improve visitor safety, congestion and efficiency
 - a new blueprint that repurposes and redistributes infrastructure at key sites
 - the sustainable use of resources; water, electricity, hydrogen energy
 - a focus on Milford's natural quietness and grandeur
 - putting people and nature at the centre of a genuine New Zealand experience
 - distribution of visitor experiences across the wider southern South Island region, with Te Anau as a gateway to Fiordland.
- [REDACTED]
- We will provide you with a full briefing on the potential concepts, prior to the release of the report [18-B-1348 refers]. Officials are available to meet with you to discuss further if you wish.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Improving whitebait management

Iwi and community engagement

- Regional drop-in sessions are under way. During the week starting 5 November, drop-in sessions were held in Wellington (15 attendees), Kaiapoi

(50 – 60 attendees), Pokeno (15 attendees), and Invercargill (approximately 100 attendees).

- In the week starting 12 November, drop-in sessions were held in Hokitika (30 attendees), Westport (30 attendees), Fox Glacier (12 attendees), Haast (14 attendees), Whangarei (7 attendees) and Napier (approximately 50 attendees). The final drop-in session will be in New Plymouth on 27 November.
- Feedback from these sessions is broadly consistent with that provided by the Whitebait Working Group and online survey responses. In addition, attendees commented that they appreciate DOC's efforts to engage with the community on this issue.
- DOC's Improving Whitebait Management website received 3,370 hits from mid-October (when it went live) to 9 November.
- Over 2,000 responses have now been received to the online survey linked to this website. The survey will remain open until 7 January 2019 and the site is being updated on an ongoing basis.
- Treaty partner engagement is ongoing, and we expect it to continue through December and into January.

Issues and Options paper

- We are now preparing the Issues and Options paper for you, to be provided in February 2019.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Events, Announcements and Media Opportunities

None this week.

4 Director-General Engagements

November

21–22 Nov NZ State Services Leadership Team Retreat, Martinborough
23 Nov Takahē Release with Fulton Hogan, Murchison Mountains
27–28 Nov Global Eco Conference/Heads of Parks meeting, Townsville
30 Nov–2 Dec CEOs/Partners visit to Dusky Sounds, Fiordland

December

5 Dec DOC Christmas Function, Wellington

5 Addendum

None this week.



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Week beginning: 26 November 2018

Seen by Hon Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Kauri dieback

Summer season

- DOC offices are looking to engage local kauri dieback ambassadors on more of DOC's tracks over the summer season, with the involvement of kauri dieback rangers.
- We are preparing a video on the effective use of cleaning stations, to be rolled out over summer.

Soil sampling

- Scientists completed comprehensive kauri dieback soil sampling at the Tāne Mahuta site in early October over 104 sites.
- Soil sampling has been led by Te Roroa as part of the Tāne Mahuta Response Plan. Sampling found that the area in the immediate vicinity of Tāne Mahuta is clear of *Phytophthora agathidicida* (PA), the pathogen that causes kauri dieback disease.
- Two sites, located approximately 60m and 90m away from Tāne Mahuta, are positive for the pathogen. Both sites are no closer to the tree than the site confirmed with the disease in June this year. We informed your office of this development on 21 November.
- The announcement was made public via a joint Te Roroa/DOC media release on 22 November (copied to your office on 21 November).

Track upgrade work

- Ten DOC tracks in Tauranga are temporarily closed while they are upgraded to prevent the spread of kauri dieback disease. One DOC track is temporarily closed in Waikato. We announced these closures via a media release on 21 November.
- Work on the upgrades of these tracks began on 19 November and will finish in March 2019.

As part of the Tauranga district's protection protocol, contractors working on the upgrade and DOC's Kauri Ranger team have participated in a cultural health and safety induction with the people of Ngāti Te Wai.

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.2 Myrtle rust

- We continue to contribute to development of the Myrtle Rust Long-Term Management Plan, and supporting action plan, with MPI and stakeholders.
- We are looking into a planned approach to the management of a potential rise in infestations, which may occur over the summer.
- Contact: [REDACTED]

1.3 RMA Advocacy Update

DOC is considering the following RMA decisions:

Declarations

- None this week.

Submissions

- We have lodged a submission with Environment Southland in opposition to small scale works (primarily gravel removal) in the Lill Burn River bed (Fiordland) for flood management purposes (Waiiau Herefords Stud).
- The proposed small-scale works are located in Lill Burn. This is a significant habitat of indigenous fauna including two Southland species of non-migratory galaxiids – Gollum and Southern flathead galaxias - both with a threat classification of Nationally Vulnerable.
- Our submission seeks appropriate consent conditions that would severely limit instream works and the risk of loss of healthy fish habitat.

Appeals

- None this week.

Designations

- None this week.

Water Conservation Orders

- None this week.

Other

Lower North Island

- The New Zealand Transport Agency's (NZTA) request to designate land for a new State Highway 3 north of the Manawatu Gorge has been notified. Submissions are due 13 December.
- The designation does not include any public conservation land. It does, however, go through five QEII covenanted land parcels and is immediately to the north of the Manawatu Gorge Scenic Reserve.
- We have assembled a team to undertake analysis of the proposal and prepare a submission.
- The initial assessment is that the proposal could have a significant ecological impact.
- We are scheduled to undertake a site visit and meet with NZTA on 24 November.

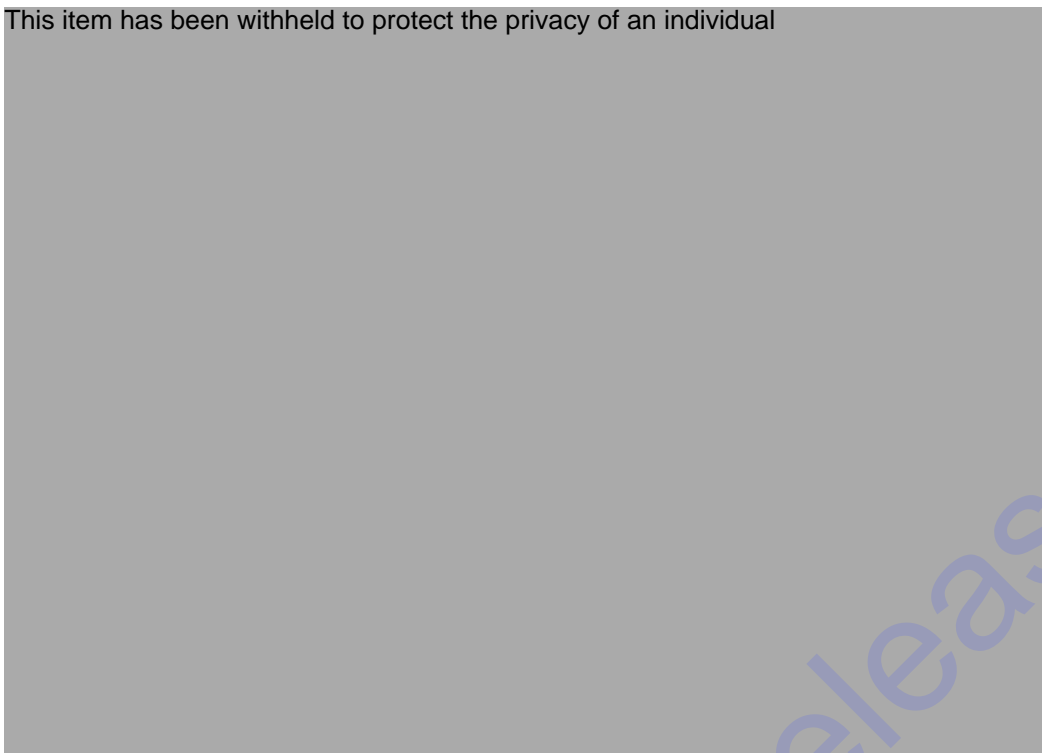
Northern North Island

- Judicial review proceedings in the name of the Director-General have been filed against the Northland Regional Council (NRC), in relation to the resource consents granted to Resin and Wax Holding Ltd (ResWax) on land forming part of the Kaimaumau-Motutangi wetland and owned by Te Runanga o Ngai Takoto (Ngai Takoto).
- We anticipate that these proceedings will be progressed together with the judicial review proceedings already filed by the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand (Forest and Bird). Crown Law has been engaged.
- We have decided to file proceedings because of concerns with NRC's decision-making process, and with the project as authorised by the consents. We believe that the activity consented by NRC will have significant adverse effects on the site itself and, potentially, for the wider Kaimaumau-Motutangi wetland complex.

Contact:

2 Updates

This item has been withheld to protect the privacy of an individual



2.2 Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC): 15th Regular Session

- MPI will shortly be providing you with a copy of a briefing prepared for the Minister of Fisheries on the 15th meeting of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC), which is being held on 9-14 December in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- DOC will be attending the meeting as part of the New Zealand delegation.
- Our priority for the meeting is to seek agreement on improvements to the seabird Conservation and Management Measure (CMM), which is particularly important to enhance the conservation of NZ's vulnerable seabirds, including the Antipodean wandering albatross, black petrel, flesh-footed shearwater and the Campbell Island mollymawk.
- We will also participate in negotiations on the shark and ray CMM (which will enhance the conservation of vulnerable shark species), and the marine pollution CMM.

Contact: 

2.3 The National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB): Upcoming engagement

- In our 5 November status report update, we committed to keeping you informed on early targeted engagement on the NPSIB.
- On 21 November, we gave a high-level overview of the process to refine the Biodiversity Collaborative Group's draft NPSIB and complementary measures at the first meeting for the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy's reference groups. We intend to discuss the NPSIB in more detail with two of these

reference groups (the Te Ao Maori reference group and the stakeholder reference group) when they meet in early 2019.

- Tangata whenua engagement has commenced, with four hui planned in Northland on 27-30 November. These will be in Whangarei, Kauri Coast, Kaitiaki and Bay of Islands. The hui will discuss the NPSIB, alongside the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, the Predator Free 2050 plan, the Conservation Science Prospectus, priorities for visitor management and the review of visitor pricing and revenue.
- We are planning hui across the rest of the country for early 2019.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2.4 2018 national Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO) permit

- DOC permits WARO under the provisions of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977.
- The DDG Operations has decided to progress review of the WARO permits. We have previously briefed you on this. [18-B-0928 refers]
- The existing permits expired on 30 June but are rolling on (under section 17ZAA of the Conservation Act 1987) for eligible operators, while the new permits are being determined.
- The first round of consultation was completed in June and July of this year. We invited feedback from key stakeholder groups (including NZDA, Forest & Bird, FMC, WARO operators, NZ Professional Hunting Guides, Lower North Island Red Deer Foundation (LNIRDF), Game Animal Council, Safari Club International, NZ Bowhunters Association, NZ Pig Hunting Association, and – where these were known – meat processors) to help inform the land access decisions.
- Approximately 430 submissions were received. In general, WARO operators wanted fewer restrictions to WARO access over public conservation land, while recreational hunters wanted more restrictions to WARO access.
- The second consultation period is to be undertaken because of the LNIRDF judicial challenge of the 2015 National WARO Permit around consultation. The Court found that, where a significant change at place was proposed (and the Park's Conservation Management Plan had indicated there would be consultation in such circumstances), affected recreational hunters should also be consulted and have their feedback considered, before decisions were made.
- The second consultation is limited to feedback on locations where there have been changes to the draft recommendations, initially consulted on in June/July. These changes have arisen, in part, due to feedback received, and analysis of this against legislation, policy and statutory management plans.
- We will invite submissions from those who provided feedback during the June/July consultation. At a later date, WARO operators will also be given the draft decision support document, to correct any factual errors and provide comment on (as required by the Conservation Act 1987), before the report with recommendations goes to the decision-maker (DOC's Director, Planning, Permissions and Land).
- The second round of consultation will commence in the last week of November and go through until late January 2019.
- DOC's decision-maker will decide on the new national WARO permit in the first part of 2019, and the permit will be offered to operators soon after.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2.6 Manawatū River Leaders' Accord – Release of Progress Report

- The Manawatū River Leaders' Forum is a collaborative group of councils, iwi, community groups, industry and DOC working to improve the state of the river. The Forum was established in 2010 and agreed an Accord in 2011. The Accord sets out the focus, vision, and goals for the river, and has been supported by two Action Plans.
- On 24 November, the Forum will release a progress report on the current (and second) Action Plan. All 102 actions are reported against.
- There may be media interest in this progress report.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Ngāti Raukawa Meeting Request Expected

- [REDACTED] has indicated that he will be seeking a meeting with you to advance the partnership relationship between Ngāti Raukawa and the Crown. This follows a letter sent to you by Ngāti Raukawa in August.
- We recommend you accept if the request is made.
- We intend to hold a working-level meeting with Ngāti Raukawa staff before the end of the year if possible, focusing on business planning and outstanding issues.

- We are available to meet with you should you require further details on this matter.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.8 Attendance at Hauraki Gulf Forum meeting, February 2019

- The Hauraki Gulf Forum would like to invite you, the Hon Stuart Nash and possibly the Hon David Parker to its next meeting in February 2019.
- Forum members greatly valued your attendance at their August 2018 meeting and hope that engagement by you and other Ministers, particularly the Ministers of Fisheries and the Environment, will continue.
- You met [REDACTED] on 25 October during which greater engagement by the Government with the Forum was discussed [18-B-1238 refers].
- The Forum's meeting is currently scheduled for 11 February 2019. The Forum recognises, however, that those Ministers who would normally be required to attend Cabinet would find it difficult to attend on that date.
- The Forum is prepared to change its February meeting date to a Friday, in a bid to make attendance by you and your Cabinet colleagues more feasible. Possible dates are 8 February or 15 February 2019.
- If your office advises us of a favourable date, we will notify the Forum so that it can extend a formal invitation. The Forum is keen to progress this, in order to inform its members of any new meeting date, should you and your colleagues be available to attend. The Forum would be interested to hear again from you, and other Ministers if they attend, about progress towards implementation of Sea Change (the Hauraki Gulf marine spatial plan). We would provide you with a briefing and key points ahead of the meeting.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.9 Non – toxic pre-feed aerial operations at Pukaha Mt Bruce and Manawatu Gorge

- Two Battle for our Birds drops are planned in the coming weeks.
- 900 hectares at Pukaha – Mt Bruce was treated with non-toxic pre-feed over the week ending 23 November.
- 900 hectares at Manawatu Gorge will be treated with non-toxic pre-feed as soon as the weather allows.
- Aerial 1080 will be applied in the first fine weather window following the pre-feed drops.

Contacts: [REDACTED]

2.10 Reassessment of conservation status of New Zealand lichens completed

- We propose to publish *Conservation status of New Zealand indigenous lichens and lichenicolous fungi, 2018* on the DOC website, and the assessment data at www.nzctcs.org.nz, during the week beginning 3 December. We have provided your office with a copy of the report. The DOC communications team

can arrange media coverage with your office if you would like to announce the report.

- Experts have assessed New Zealand lichen taxa, using the NZ Threat Classification System (NZTCS) during 2017/18.
- Lichens occur in almost every terrestrial habitat. In forests they play a vital role in providing nitrogen to the ecosystem. 2026 lichen taxa are listed in this report. 233 taxa have been added, either because they have been newly recognised since the 2010 assessment, or they have been recently discovered in New Zealand.
- 91 taxa that were previously assessed as Data Deficient now have a conservation status. This is in part due to the increased awareness and interest in lichens that has developed since the publication of the 2010 assessment.
- Nevertheless, lack of knowledge about lichens in New Zealand has a significant bearing on the assessments. Nineteen taxa that were previously assessed as At Risk – Naturally Uncommon or Not Threatened are now considered to be Data Deficient because of insufficient information. 211 of the 233 newly assessed taxa are also Data Deficient.
- A worse status was recorded for 17 taxa, although 13 of these were based on improved knowledge or reinterpretation of existing data. Only four were assessed as having actually declined into a worse conservation status since the previous assessment:
 - *Cladia fuliginosa* is now assessed as Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable because of impacts from mining on its habitat in the northwest of the South Island.
 - *Ramalina canariensis* was previously Not Threatened. It is, however, declining on the Chatham Islands to the extent that the national population is assessed as At Risk – Declining.
 - *Ramalina geniculata* is still abundant on Raoul Island in the Kermadecs but has declined markedly from mangrove swamps, one of its preferred habitats in the northern North Island. The reasons for this are not well understood. It has also moved into At Risk – Declining, from Not Threatened.
 - *Notocladonia cochleata* occurs in widespread locations but habitat loss in Northland has also led to it being assessed as At Risk – Declining.
- An improved status was recorded for seven taxa. These changes are based on improved knowledge or reinterpretation of existing data compared to actual increases in population size or trend.
- The New Zealand Threat Classification System (NZTCS) is used to assess the conservation status of species in New Zealand. DOC administers the NZTCS on behalf of New Zealand and convenes expert panels from within the scientific and conservation community to conduct assessments of groups of species (e.g., bats, birds, mosses) approximately every five years. Assessments of fungi, hornworts and liverworts, marine mammals and macroalgae are presently under way. We will advise you prior to each assessment being published.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.11 Reassessment of the conservation status of New Zealand freshwater invertebrates completed

- Experts have re-assessed New Zealand freshwater invertebrate taxa, using the NZ Threat Classification System (NZTCS).
- We propose to publish *Conservation status of New Zealand freshwater invertebrates, 2018* on the DOC website, and the assessment data at www.nzctcs.org.nz during the week beginning 3 December. As above, we have

provided your office with a copy of the report, and can arrange media coverage with your office should you wish to announce it.

- Findings from the report will be presented to the New Zealand Freshwater Science Society Conference in Nelson on 10–14 December by DOC's freshwater technical adviser and expert panel member, Tom Drinan.
- Assessments of 675 freshwater invertebrate taxa are reported, with the conservation status of 17 taxa having changed since the last assessment.
- Three taxa have improved their status, because of increased knowledge or reinterpretation of existing data, rather than any observed increases in population size or area of occupancy. One taxon has worsened in status because of an observed decline in populations.
- The tadpole shrimp, *Lepidurus apus viridis*, is declining on both the North and South Islands as its habitat of small ephemeral ponds continues to be lost. Concern is mounting for its continued persistence in very small, widely dispersed locations. From a previous assessment of At Risk – Naturally Uncommon, the tadpole shrimp is now assessed as Threatened – Nationally Endangered.
- 178 freshwater invertebrate taxa cannot be assessed for lack of suitable data, and are, listed, therefore, as Data Deficient. A further 88 taxa were assessed with the qualifier 'Data Poor', reflecting a lack of comprehensive data to support the assessments.
- This lack of knowledge reflects the limited number of researchers working on freshwater invertebrates. This is a problem, because the presence or absence of many freshwater invertebrate species provide strong indicators of the health of aquatic ecosystems. Our ability to effectively plan for the conservation of freshwater species and their habitats is, therefore, hindered.

Contact: _____

3 Events, Announcements and Media Opportunities

3.1 Invitation to Ka Hao te Rangatahi (EIT Ruatoria ecological land management) course launch - February 2019

- This is an update for you on the launch of our new DOC/Eastern Institute of Technology training programme, as discussed with you on your recent visit to Gisborne.
- You showed an interest in the programme and indicated you would like to attend the launch.
- This innovative new programme, funded by MBIE's 'He Poutama Rangatahi' fund, is now known as 'Ka Hao te Rangatahi'.
- The programme will be launched in February 2019 and is focused on fundamental land, erosion and conservation management skills, in the context of the Waiapu catchment.
- At this stage the launch is forecast to commence on 11 February, with a noho marae in Ruatoria, and end on 13 February 2019.
- You are invited to attend a session with the students, staff and other dignitaries on 12 February.
- Other Ministers, including [REDACTED] will also be invited to the launch by other parties involved in the project.
- The details of this launch are still being confirmed and will be provided to you as soon as they are available.
- Officials are available to meet with you should you require further details on this matter.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3.2 DOC Summer Visitor Campaign

Summer Visitor Campaign launch

- The Customer Engagement Unit is in discussion with your office about an official launch of the DOC Summer Visitor Campaign, on 15 or 16 December 2018.
- This DOC campaign has been developed following joint research with Tourism New Zealand (TNZ), a literature review and a survey of DOC Operations staff.
- The campaign will focus on five core behaviours demonstrated by international visitors and New Zealanders; wildlife interactions, littering, toileting, safety and drones.
- The campaign's underlying theme is managing the impact of tourism on public conservation land. This will be delivered through digital and on-the-ground activity. It will build on and amplify Tiaki – Care for NZ (a multi-agency initiative), and also the Responsible Camping Campaign that is driven by TNZ and MBIE (supported by DOC).
- We will contact your office to brief you about the programme and the research behind it.

Contact: [REDACTED]

4 Director-General Engagements

November

- 27–28 Nov Global Eco Conference/Heads of Parks meeting, Townsville
30 Nov–2 Dec CEOs/Partners visit to Dusky Sounds, Fiordland

December

- 3 Dec Farewell to Brendan Boyle, CEO, MSD, Wellington
5 Dec DOC Christmas Function, Wellington
7-10 Dec Chatham Islands visit, Chatham Islands
11 Dec NZ Conservation Authority, Wellington
19 Dec Tourism CE's meeting, Wellington

5 Addendum

None this week.

Proactively released