

# Aotea Conservation Park Proposal

## Factsheet



## Why is the Department proposing a conservation park?

Aotea/Great Barrier Island is a unique and diverse environment and is one of the Auckland region's last great wild areas. The Department of Conservation (DOC) manages approximately 60% of the land on Aotea. A large portion of the conservation land on the island is managed as stewardship areas.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment recently released a report on stewardship areas in New Zealand. It identified areas within the conservation estate that have significant conservation value, yet have the relatively low legal protection status of stewardship areas. In response to this report, the Minister of Conservation directed DOC to investigate changing the status of stewardship areas on Aotea.

DOC has carefully considered possible options for changing the status of stewardship areas on Aotea. The most appropriate option identified is the amalgamation of all stewardship areas into a conservation park. Conservation land is appropriate to be managed as a conservation park if it has a mix of nationally significant natural, historic, cultural and recreation values, such as the stewardship areas on Aotea.

## What are the benefits of creating a conservation park?

Conservation parks are managed to protect their natural and historic resources, and to facilitate public recreation and enjoyment. The benefits of the proposed conservation park include the following:

- The land will be appropriately protected and preserved for its natural and historic resources.
- The land's classification, or status, will appropriately reflect its values.
- The land's unique natural, historic, cultural and recreational values will be highlighted, creating a higher public profile for Aotea.
- The land's classification, or status, will provide for public access and enjoyment, and outdoor recreation and tourism will become one of the core purposes of the park.
- The establishment of a new conservation park will contribute to the development of a protected area network representative of a full range of landforms and ecosystems that characterise New Zealand.

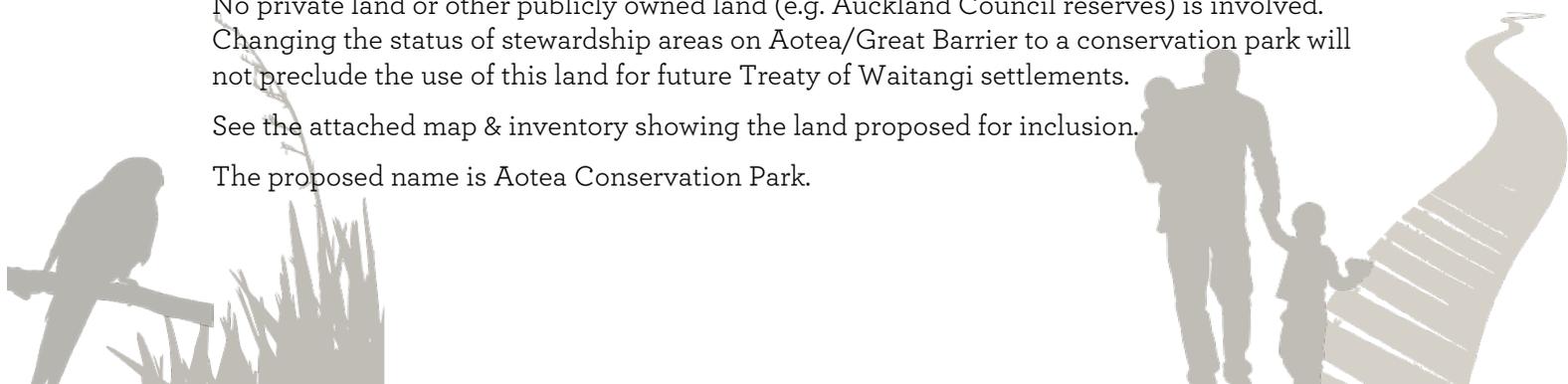
## What are the boundaries of the proposed park?

Only public land held under the Conservation Act will be included in the conservation park. This includes all land currently held as stewardship areas, and the existing Hirakimata-Kaitoke Swamp Ecological Area and Wairahi Forest Sanctuary.

No private land or other publicly owned land (e.g. Auckland Council reserves) is involved. Changing the status of stewardship areas on Aotea/Great Barrier to a conservation park will not preclude the use of this land for future Treaty of Waitangi settlements.

See the attached map & inventory showing the land proposed for inclusion.

The proposed name is Aotea Conservation Park.



## Where can I get more information?

A discussion document can be downloaded from the DOC website – [www.doc.govt.nz/aoteaconservationpark/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/aoteaconservationpark/).

Copies of the discussion document are also available from the DOC offices in Port Fitzroy, Warkworth and Auckland, as well as Auckland Council Service Centre- Claris , the Airport Claris I-site and at various cafes on Great Barrier Island.

DOC staff will be present at events and locations on Aotea/Great Barrier over the summer months with information and copies of the discussion document.

## What do you think?

Your written comments on this proposal are invited. Submissions will ensure that the final decision on whether or not to formally establish a conservation park for Aotea/Great Barrier Island is based on consultation and a clear understanding of the uses, values and the opportunities that are likely to be affected.

Submission forms can be downloaded from the DOC website.

***All submissions are due by 5pm Friday 28 February 2014***

Submissions can be made in writing in a number of ways:

### Post

Attn: Hannah Divehall  
Department of Conservation  
Private Bag 3072  
Hamilton 3240

### Drop off at DOC Field Base

Department of Conservation  
Port Fitzroy  
Great Barrier Island

### Email

[gbiconservationpark@doc.govt.nz](mailto:gbiconservationpark@doc.govt.nz)

### Online submission (webpage)

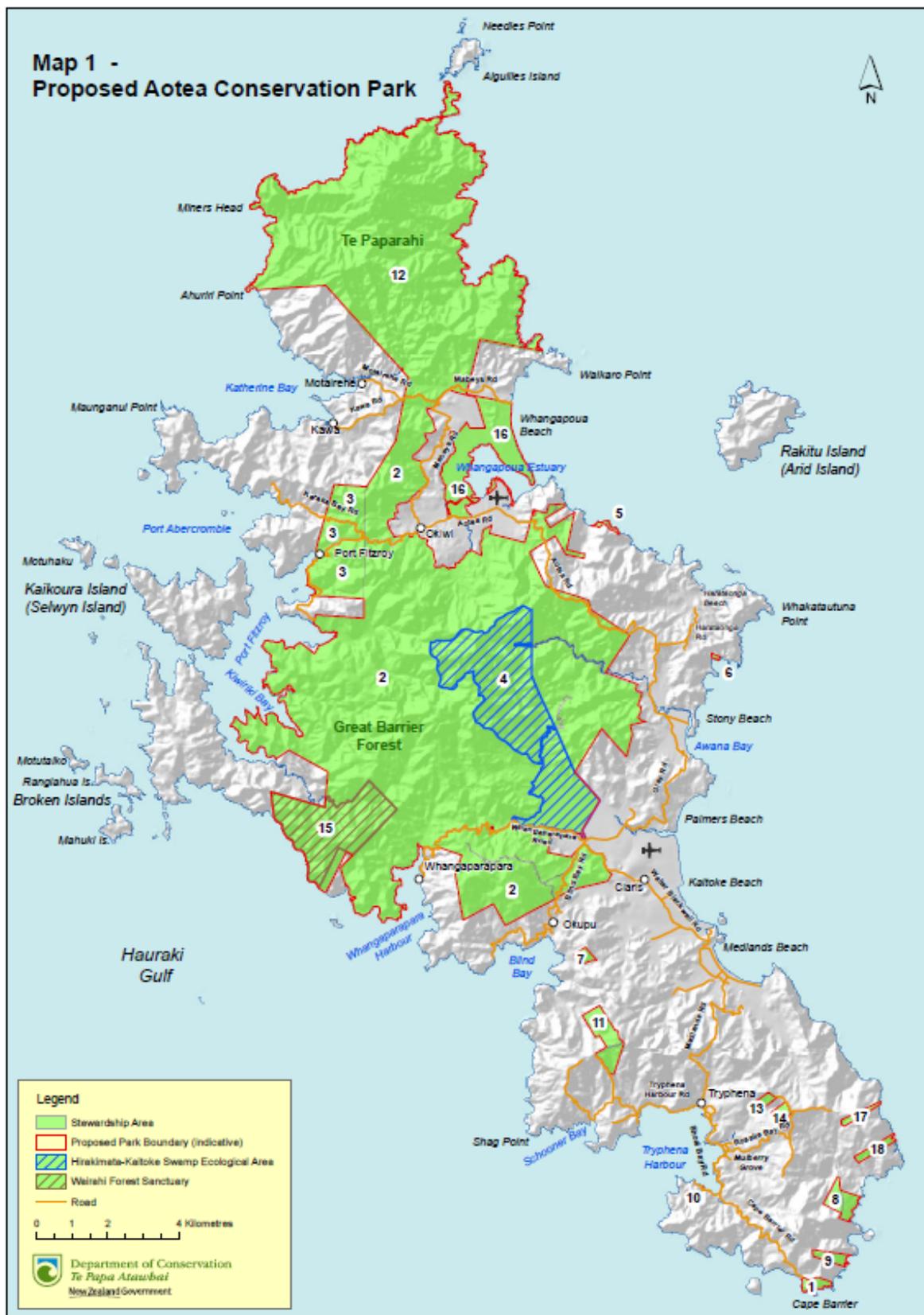
[www.doc.govt.nz/aoteaconservationpark/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/aoteaconservationpark/)

There will also be an opportunity to make submissions verbally in support of a written submission at a hearing. Hearings will be arranged after the close of submissions. Please indicate in your submission if you wish to be heard and make a verbal presentation to a hearings panel.

## Want to find out more?

For more information contact Rebecca Gibson, Ranger Partnerships, Department of Conservation, Great Barrier Island Field Base on (09) 429 0238, or email [gbiconservationpark@doc.govt.nz](mailto:gbiconservationpark@doc.govt.nz).

# Land that is proposed to be included in Aotea Conservation Park



## Land inventory of Conservation land proposed for inclusion in Aotea Conservation Park

# key for map	Name	Approximate Size (hectares)
1	Cape Barrier Stewardship Area	23.4
2	Great Barrier Forest Stewardship Area	6088.1
3	Great Barrier Forest Stewardship Area	399.4
4	Hirakimata/Kaitoke Swamp Ecological Area	1089.9
5	Komahunga Stewardship Area	7.7
6	Korotiti Bay Stewardship Area	2.5
7	Okupu Stewardship Area	15.1
8	Ruahine North Stewardship Area	57.8
9	Ruahine South Stewardship Area	26.2
10	Shoal Bay Stewardship Area	0.2
11	St Paul Stewardship Area	97.4
12	Te Paparahi Stewardship Area	3383.1
13	Tryphena North Stewardship Area	16.5
14	Tryphena Stewardship Area	22.9
15	Wairahi Forest Sanctuary	477.2
16	Whangapoua Stewardship Area	359.3
17	Windy Hill North Stewardship Area	16.5
18	Windy Hill South Stewardship Area	26.3
<b>Total approximate size of proposed conservation park:</b>		<b>12,109.5 ha</b>