

Annual Report of the

# Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Waitaha me Aoraki

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2020 TO 30 JUNE 2021



# Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board

## Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Waitaha me Aoraki

For the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

*Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority  
Pursuant to Section 6 (O) of the Conservation Act 1987*

Photograph Front Cover:

Rangitata River Restoration: Ngā Awa river restoration programme. *(Brad Edwards)*

*The Rangitata Restoration initiative is an exciting multi agency and community project. Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Environment Canterbury, Land Information New Zealand, Department of Conservation, Central South Island Fish & Game, Timaru District Council and Ashburton District Council have come together in a collaborative forum to work in alignment and in support of each other to restore and enhance our beautiful taonga river.*

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*Private Bag 4715*

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*CHRISTCHURCH 8140*

*canterburyaorakiboard@doc.govt.nz*

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Paula Smith, Chairperson

## 1. Chairperson's report

### Indigenous biodiversity in Canterbury

2020-2021 was marred by three major fires: 3000ha burned near Lake Pukaki in August significantly damaging most of the Pukaki Scientific Reserve, the Ōhau fire in October burned 1900ha of Ruataniwha and Ahuriri Conservation Parks including part of the Ōhau moraines complex and in March this year another blaze in the Waimakariri basin ripped through vegetation in the Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park. Hopefully, this is not a sign of things to come.

On the plus side though, significant wilding conifer eradication was achieved in the Mackenzie and Waimakariri high country basins, and a 30% increase in the adult population of kakī was recorded, the best in 40 years. Lots of positive biodiversity work has been happening with braided rivers too, especially the very special Rangitata awa. The Board is updated on biodiversity work right across Canterbury as part of our regular operations reports from Te Papa Atawhai.

Himalayan tahr control was a hot issue in 2020 with litigation and protests. A modified tahr annual control plan was carried out, and some wallaby control undertaken outside the feral range. At the Conservation Board table, iwi expressed cultural concerns about the potential use of GMO in biodiversity pest management.

Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board appreciates and values all the effort going into biodiversity protection in Canterbury by Te Papa Atawhai and its many partners. It must be making a difference.

### Statutory plans and their implementation

Annual implementation reports for our CMS and two national parks were received by the Board and summaries are attached for your information.

While good progress is being made on some targets, the monitoring reveals some areas for attention by Te Papa Atawhai to achieve the outcomes expected by the community. At the request of the Board, district managers are moving towards directly referencing CMS policies, objectives, and milestones in their regular operations reports in an attempt to make the CMS more relevant in operations work.

The Board was unable to ensure the review of the Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park Management Plan “progressed effectively” as requested by the Minister in her Letter of Expectation. There was little work for the Board to do during the year as Ngāi Tahu and Department staff worked together to identify how to move forward. It is to be hoped this job can finally be finished in the year ahead and the Board will be working to ensure the new plan “promotes strong conservation outcomes”.

Nowhere are the effects of climate change more obvious than in Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park and providing input to the new Aoraki Mt Cook management plan is one of the key-ways the Board “advises the Department on strengthening its climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives”, as expected by the Minister. Next year, we also look forward to the first report from Te Papa Atawhai on the implementation of the Te Waihora Joint Management Plan.

The Board contributed to an internal review of Te Papa Atawhai’s statutory planning system, which is beset with delays and other issues, and provided comment to the New Zealand Conservation Authority. The Board provided feedback to the Options Development Group working on amendments to the Conservation General Policy and General Policy for National Parks.

### Concessions/permissions

The Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board routinely reviews concession applications and provides advice about selected applications to Te Papa Atawhai decision-makers. The Board’s “triggers” were recently revised.

As part of efforts to address the effects of climate change the Board takes a particular interest in ski field concessions, both monitoring of conditions and renewals. Successive Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Boards have expressed concern about the potential for costly clean ups of abandoned ski fields.

In 2020-2021 Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board focussed on the growing number of grazing concessions on public conservation lands in Canterbury. A closer look at the 60 -70 odd grazing and irrigation infrastructure concessions made the Board question whether all such concessions are in the best interests of conservation. The Board was not satisfied with the Director General’s response when it wrote highlighting its concerns, and further work will be done on this matter in the coming year.

The Board was reassured by the Director of Operations, Eastern South Island, when concern was expressed that COVID-related waiving of concession fees may be impacting on essential conservation work in Canterbury.

### Treaty of Waitangi

Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board has been working “with Te Papa Atawhai and manawhenua on developing and improving the implementation of Treaty of Waitangi partnerships and the requirements of Section 4 of the Conservation Act” as expected by the Minister. This work is detailed in the work programme and is ongoing.

The Board is regularly assured by the Operations Director, Eastern South Island, that the relationships between the Department, iwi and rūnanga at the regional and local level are robust and productive. The Board hears from iwi-appointed members, staff, and others about the many practical ways the partnership is being implemented with papatipu rūnanga at various places in Canterbury.

### Board Work Programme

The Board’s foci for the year were reflected in the annual work programme included with this report. 89% of tasks were achieved and 11% were partially achieved or are ongoing.

The Board remains concerned about the vulnerability of conservation values on stewardship land within its rohe. The area of stewardship land in Canterbury now totals 435,694ha. This is more than the combined area of all seven of our conservation parks. More parcels are added to the inventory as land comes out of tenure review, Nature Heritage Fund, and other acquisitions. The Board has asked for an annual update on progress reclassifying the 90 or so areas of stewardship land over 100ha. The Board hopes for a speedy resolution of issues behind Ngāi Tahu's court action following the proposed stewardship land process announcement. The situation is not easy, and the Board is sympathetic to both the need to ensure legal protection of conservation values on stewardship land and iwi aspirations for kaitiakitanga as guaranteed by the Crown. The two outcomes are not necessarily mutually exclusive, and the Board is confident a solution can be found.

In 2020-2021 Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board actively sought closer liaison with both Central South Island and North Canterbury Fish and Game Councils.

#### [New whare](#)

Highlights for the region in 2020-2021 included the opening of the restored Hooker Hut at an adapted location and installation of a new Alpine Club hut near Beetham Valley in Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park, the virtual opening of a new Casey Hut in Arthur's Pass National Park, the opening of the delightful Balmoral Fire lookout overlooking the Hurunui, and the opening of a bookable lighthouse cottage on Awaroa Godley Head. All wonderful recreation assets for everyone.

#### [Conservation Board Awards](#)

As far as we know Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board is the only conservation board to have its own annual award, Te Waka o Aoraki. We were honoured Minister Allen was able to attend our prize giving event last December and thoroughly enjoyed meeting her and introducing her to some of the great people and community groups working for conservation in Canterbury. Your invitation to our next award event will be in the mail, Minister!

#### [Membership changes](#)

We were sorry to say goodbye to Joy Paterson, Bethany Baker and Dr Benita Wakefield. They have all made valuable contributions, at the Board table and through their respective committees. The Board really appreciated this as it soldiered on for several months with reduced numbers. We will be glad to welcome three new members soon.

Thank you to all past and present members for your presence and your perspectives in 2020-2021.

Nga mihi nui



Paula Smith  
Chairperson  
2 August 2021

## Canterbury Waitaha Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) 2016

Annual CMS Implementation Report 2020

to Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Te Runanga Papa Atawhai o Waitaha me Aoraki

### Notes:

- Report presented to Board on 9 November 2020 as a spreadsheet.
- All Year 3 milestones, Year 5 milestones and Year 10 milestones were assessed.
- 2020 was Year 4 of the CMS.
- Half of Year 3 milestones were achieved by the end of Year 4 (19/38).
- At this stage 35% of Year 5 milestones (16/46) are expected to be achieved on time, but another 30% will need to be “well managed” if they are to be achieved on time.
- A significant number, 22%, of Year 5 milestones were not started and not yet programmed for work (10/46) at the time of reporting. Most of these are place-based milestones.
- All Year 5 milestones are meant to be achieved by September 2021.

<b>CMS Milestones</b> (No. of milestones in brackets)	Underway in current business plan and on track to be achieved by target date <b>(green)</b>	Underway but either very complex or has issues which may affect achievement by target date if not well managed <b>(orange)</b>	Will not meet target date as work has either stalled, or will take longer than expected, or where it is proposed to seek agreement to drop <b>(red)</b>	Not started and not yet programmed for work (blank)
<b>Treaty Partnership</b> (13 milestones)				
Year 3		5		
Year 5		4		
Year 10				4
<b>Natural Heritage</b> (11 milestones)				
Year 3	3			
Year 5	2		2	
Year 10	4			
<b>Historic and Cultural Heritage</b> (12 milestones)				
Year 3	3	1	1	
Year 5	3			1
Year 10				3
<b>Recreation</b> (8 milestones)				
Year 3	2	2		
Year 5	3			
Year 10		1		



<b>Recreation</b> (8 milestones)				
Year 3	2	2		
Year 5	3			
Year 10		1		
<b>Community Engagement</b> (3 milestones)				
Year 3	1			
Year 5	1			
Year 10	1			
<b>Business Partnerships</b> (3 milestones)				
Year 3	1			
Year 5	1			
Year 10	1			
<b>Specific Policy Requirements</b> (7 milestones)				
Year 3	1			
Year 5				2
Year 10				4

Implementation of place-based milestones:

<b>National Parks Place</b> (4 milestones)				
Year 3			1	
Year 5			1	
Year 10				2
<b>Southern Conservation Parks Place</b> (10 milestones)				
Year 3	1		1	
Year 5	1			3
Year 10	2			2
<b>Northern High-Country Place</b> (8 milestones)				
Year 3	1	3		
Year 5		2	1	
Year 10		1		

<b>High Country Basins Place</b> (8 milestones)				
Year 3	2	1		
Year 5		2		1
Year 10		2		
<b>Foothills Place</b> (4 milestones)				
Year 3	1			
Year 5	1	2		
<b>Braided Rivers Place</b> (10 milestones)				
Year 3		2		
Year 5		2		1
Year 10		4		1
<b>Christchurch Ōtautahi Place</b> (8 milestones)				
Year 3	1	1		
Year 5	2		1	1
Year 10				2
<b>Banks Peninsula Place</b> (8 milestones)				
Year 3	1			
Year 5	2	2		1
Year 10		1		1
<b>Coastal and Marine Place</b> (10 milestones)				
Year 3	1	2	2	
Year 5				1
Year 10	1	1		2
<b>Totals (127 milestones)</b>	<b>44 (35%)</b>	<b>41 (32%)</b>	<b>10 (8%)</b>	<b>32 (25%)</b>

## Aoraki Mt Cook National Park Management Plan 2004

Annual Implementation Report 2020

to Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Waitaha me Aoraki

### Notes:

- Report presented to the Board on 9 October 2020 as a spreadsheet.
- Not all policies, objectives and methods in the management plan were assessed.
- 82% of policies and methods assessed are on track.
- Policies and methods related to management of indigenous species, introduced plants, animals and livestock are implemented by Te Manahuna Twizel office. \*
- Aircraft concessions, club lodges and grazing in the park need additional attention to achieve full implementation.

<b>Subject</b> of policies or methods (No. in brackets)	Underway in current business plan and on track to be achieved by target date (green)	Underway but either very complex or has issues which may affect achievement by target date if not well managed (orange)	Will not meet target date as work has either stalled, or will take longer than expected, or where it is proposed to seek agreement to drop (red)	Not started and not yet programmed for work (blank)
Treaty of Waitangi (2)	1	1		
Indigenous species*(5)	2	2		1
Landscape management (3)	3			
Water/snow/ice/riverbeds (4)	4			
Introduced plants*(5)	5			
Introduced fauna and domestic animals*(3)	1	1	1	
Historic resources and memorials (5)	5			
Natural Hazards (4)	4			
Fire control (3)	3			
Boundaries and land additions (2)	1	1		
Recreation policies and milestones (29)	26	2		1
Ngāi Tahu customary use (1)	1			
Concession policies and methods (18)	10	8		
Community relationships (2)	1	1		
State Highway 80 (1)	1			
Village policies and milestones (37)	35	2		
<b>Totals (124)</b>	<b>103 (83%)</b>	<b>18 (15%)</b>	<b>1 (1%)</b>	<b>2 (2%)</b>

## Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan 2007

Annual Implementation Report 2020

to Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Waitaha me Aoraki

Notes:

- Report presented to Board on 9 October 2020 as a spreadsheet.
- Not all policies and outcomes in the management plan were included in the assessment.
- The Arthur's Pass National Park management plan is now 14 years old. It is not programmed for review.
- Weed infestations need action to achieve all preservation outcomes.

<b>Subject</b> of policies or milestones (No. assessed in brackets)	Underway in current business plan and on track to be achieved by target date (green)	Underway but either very complex or has issues which may affect achievement by target date if not well managed (orange)	Will not meet target date as work has either stalled, or will take longer than expected, or where it is proposed to seek Board agreement to drop (red)
Treaty of Waitangi policy (1)		1	
Preservation outcomes (23)	11	8	4
Heritage outcomes (8)	2	5	1
Public use outcomes (35)	29	6	
Corridor outcomes (10)	3	2	
Concessions and other uses outcomes (5)	4	6	
<b>Totals (82)</b>	<b>49 (60%)</b>	<b>28 (34%)</b>	<b>5 (6%)</b>

## 2. Introduction

This is the 23<sup>rd</sup> Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Annual Report. Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires Conservation Boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority) with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement, the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board submits this annual report.

Conservation Boards are appointed by the Minister of Conservation under Section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987. Board functions are outlined in Section 6(M) and the powers, which enable the Conservation Boards to carry out these functions, are under Section 6(N) of the Act.

Conservation Boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. They represent the community and offer interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation (the Department), within their area of jurisdiction.

Conservation Boards have several statutory roles under various Acts including:

- the recommendation of the Canterbury (Waitaha) Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and the Authority on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice
- reporting on the implementation of the CMS
- the approval of conservation management plans
- the recommendation of national park management plans to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and the Authority on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- liaising with the regional Fish & Game Council on conservation matters
- carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act, or any other Act.

Conservation Boards also have several functions under Section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980. These functions include recommending the review or amendment of national park management plans and recommending approval of these plans by the Authority.

### 3. Conservation Board region

The Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area of 5,201,723.07 hectares.

The jurisdiction extends from the Conway and Clarence Rivers in the north and west to the main divide, including all of Arthur's Pass and Aoraki Mount Cook National Parks. The southern boundary is the catchment of the Waitaki River at Kurow, along the river to the east coast. The area also extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit with respect to protected species.

Approximately 12.42% of New Zealand's public conservation land and area lie within Canterbury Aoraki's jurisdiction.

Public conservation land and areas make up 31.12% of all land in Canterbury Aoraki. This consists of:

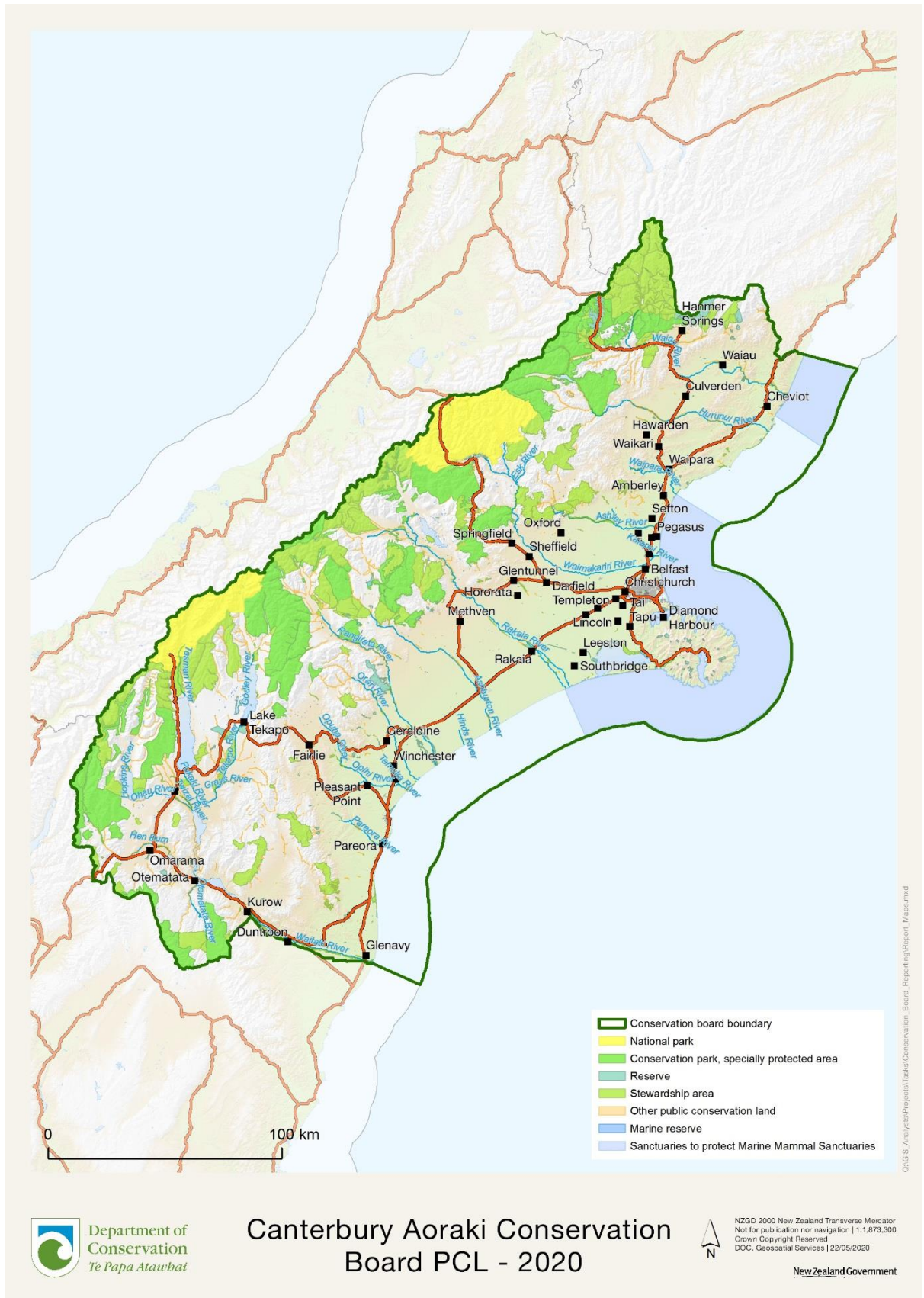
- 1,137,113.14 hectares of Public Conservation Land
- 480,706.03 hectares of Sanctuaries to Protect Marine Mammals
- 746.35 hectares of Marine Reserves

#### 3.1 Conservation features of the area

The main features of Public Conservation Land and Waters within the Board's boundaries are:

- Arthur's Pass National Park – 118,522.21 ha
- Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park – 72,260.66 ha
- Nelson Lakes National Park – 6.53 ha
- Ahuriri Conservation Park – 47,887.36 ha
- Craigieburn Conservation Park – 44,683.02 ha
- Hakatere Conservation Park – 59,582.58 ha
- Hanmer Forest Park – 11,777.03 ha
- Hawea Conservation Park – 1,704.99 ha
- Ka Whata Tu o Rakihouia Conservation Park – 42.73 ha
- Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park – 23,991.03 ha
- Lake Sumner (Hoka Kura) Forest Park – 105,031.81 ha
- Oteake Conservation Park – 33,759.29 ha
- Ruataniwha Conservation Park – 37,098.53 ha
- Te Kahui Kaupeka Conservation Park – 93,081.09 ha
  
- 105 Scenic Reserves – 22,809.77 ha
- 9 Historic Reserves – 21.58 ha
- 38 Recreation Reserves – 5,932.14 ha
- 443 Stewardship Areas – 435,693.85 ha
- 551 Marginal Strips – 8,370.19 ha
- 1 Specially Protected Area – 444.42 ha
- 2 Wilderness Areas – 7,171.25 ha
- 2 Sanctuaries to protect Marine Mammals – 480,706.03 ha
- 2 Marine Reserves - 746.35 ha

Figure 1: Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Jurisdiction



C:\GIS\_Analysis\Projects\Tasks\Conservation\_Board\_Reporting\Report\_Maps.mxd

## 4. Board functioning

The Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board has a statutory obligation to fulfil Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 viz: *“This Act shall so be interpreted and administered to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi”*.

- Section 4 is a powerful and fundamental provision, requiring more than procedural steps and must be considered in light of other extrinsic aids.
- Other statutory objectives must be achieved to the extent they are consistent with Section 4.

### 4.1 Board functions under Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987

The functions of the Board are:

- 1) To recommend the approval by the Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments
- 2) To approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments
- 3) To advise the Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for the area within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 4) To advise the Authority or the Director-General:
  - a) On any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and
  - b) On any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 5) To liaise with any Fish & Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 6) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

### 4.2 Powers of the Board under Section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987

- 1) Every conservation board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.
- 2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each conservation board may:
  - a) Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
  - b) Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers
- 3) The power conferred by subsection (2)(a) shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board’s functions.

### 4.3 Board functions under Section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980

- 1) To recommend management plans, and the review of amendment of such plans, for parks within the jurisdiction of the Board in accordance with Sections 45 to 46
- 2) To consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks
- 3) To make recommendations to the Minister for the appointment of honorary rangers under Section 40



- 4) To review and report to the Director-General or the Authority, as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the administration of the general polices for national parks within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 5) To give advice to the Director-General or the Authority:
  - i. on the interpretation of any management plan for a park; and
  - ii. on any proposal for the addition of land to any national park or the establishment of a new national park; and
  - iii. on any other matter relating to any national park, within the jurisdiction of the Board.

#### 4.4 Board membership

There were 12 Board members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Paula Smith was elected Chairperson and Dr Heather Purdie was elected Deputy Chairperson.

The following table lists the members of the Board between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020 and their term of office.

*Table 1: Board membership*

Board member	Area	Term Start	Term End
<b>Bethany Baker</b>	Christchurch	01/07/18	30/06/21
<b>Euan Brook</b>	Christchurch	01/07/20	30/06/23
<b>Jane Demeter</b>	Christchurch	01/07/20	30/06/23
<b>Eila Gendig</b>	Christchurch	01/07/20	30/06/23
<b>Joseph Hullen*</b>	Kaiapoi	01/09/07	30/06/22
<b>Michael McMillan*</b>	Temuka	01/07/20	30/06/23
<b>Josh Neville</b>	Christchurch	01/07/19	30/06/22
<b>Joy Paterson</b>	Twizel	01/07/16	30/06/22
<b>Dr Heather Purdie</b>	Canterbury	01/07/18	30/06/21
<b>Rachel Robilliard*</b>	Cheviot	01/07/19	30/06/22
<b>Paula Smith</b>	Banks Peninsula	01/05/14	20/06/22
<b>Dr Benita Wakefield*</b>	Birdlings Flat	01/07/18	30/06/21

*\*Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu appointee*

#### 4.5 Members profiles

##### **Paula Smith (Chairperson)**

Ms Smith has extensive governance experience and is a member on several boards and committees. She also has experience in reserve management planning, landscape assessment, design, and planning, and is familiar with RMA and National Parks Act 1980 processes. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Botany and a Post Graduate Diploma in Landscape Architecture.

### [Dr Heather Purdie \(Deputy Chairperson\)](#)

Dr Purdie is a Senior Lecturer in Physical Geography and Glaciology at the University of Canterbury.

Heather has 13 years' experience in conducting research into New Zealand glaciers and their response to climate change, and the implications of environmental change to commercial tourism concessions and recreational activities on conservation land.

She is a scientific advisor for the DOC Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom (LEOTC) programme at Aoraki Mount Cook.

### [Bethany Baker](#)

Miss Baker has a Bachelors' degree in Geography and is a full-time master's student studying Natural Resources Management and Ecological Engineering at Lincoln University.

Bethany has a strong conservation and environmental ethos, and this is reflected in the numerous roles she has on university committees and community groups in that space. She has an understanding of environmental management, planning and policies, and has been involved with DOC's Growing Voices group and their contribution to the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Review.

### [Euan Brook](#)

Mr Brook holds a BEng (Hons) in Chemical Process Engineering from Canterbury University and is a qualified project manager working for Goodman Fielder Meadow Fresh in Christchurch.

Euan is an outdoor enthusiast, devoting any free time from his young family to backcountry tramping, hunting, diving, and photography. Currently following a passion and undertaking research on geckos in the central Canterbury High Country.

### [Jane Demeter](#)

Ms Demeter has been involved in resource management in Canterbury at both governance, education, and community representation levels, with a current focus on land and water management. Her experience in offshore healthcare software development has given her a broad business background.

Jane's involvement in community groups currently focuses on environmental awareness, advocacy, education, and predator trapping.

### [Eila \(Isla\) Gendig](#)

Ms Gendig is the Principal Implementation Advisor on Water Use Compliance Monitoring for Environment Canterbury. Eila has a Master of Science in Natural Resource Management and has extensive experience with conservation issues and government processes.

### [Joseph Hullen](#)

Mr Hullen is a nominee of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. He has skills in environmental management and advocacy, is a mahinga kai practitioner and provides strong cultural awareness. Joseph is currently employed as a whakapapa researcher for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

### Michael McMillan

Mr McMillan is a nominee of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. He has excellent communication skills, consulting with both private and government agencies.

Michael is a cultural consultant with a background in construction. He has knowledge of the RMA, resource consents, conservation legislation, district plan reviews, iwi management plan development, cultural impact assessments, farm auditing and restoration projects.

### Josh Neville

Mr Neville works in local government as an urban regeneration planner. He holds a Bachelor of Science and Masters' degree in Geography – having completed his thesis on Land Value Taxation. He has a strong interest in sustainable management and environmental systems.

### Joy Paterson

Ms Paterson has extensive governance experience and is a member on several boards and committees. She holds a Master of Educational Administration and Bachelor of Science. Joy has previous experience in management and consultant roles.

### Rachel Robilliard

Miss Robilliard is a nominee of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. She has a legal background with a focus on environmental, planning, and natural resources law. She has experience advising on legal and compliance requirements for a range of environmental and resource management matters.

Rachel is also a member of the Kaitiakitanga Portfolio for Te Taumutu Rūnanga.

### Dr Benita Wakefield

Dr Wakefield is a nominee of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Benita has over 15 years' experience working in environmental management and her PhD is in the field of Kaupapa Māori environmental health management. She has previously worked for DOC on Ngā Whenua Rānui contracts in the Hawkes Bay and has taken an active role in the community and marae life, with representation at local, regional, and national levels.

## 4.6 Board meetings

The Board held 6 meetings during the reporting period. Venues for the meetings vary each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

*Table II: Board meeting dates and location*

Board meeting date	Meeting location
14 August 2020	Via Microsoft Teams (Due to COVID-19 Alert Levels)
9 October 2020	Timaru
27 November 2020	Aoraki / Mount Cook
10 February 2021	Christchurch
16 April 2021	Christchurch
17 June 2021	Mahaanui

#### 4.7 Attendance

The table below summarises the number of Board meetings attended by members out of the total number of meetings held during the year. Members attended other meetings and events in their role as Board members, including subcommittee meetings and representative roles.

*Table III: Board member attendance*

Board member	Board meetings	Field Trips	Workshops
Bethany Baker	2/6	1/3	0/3
Euan Brook	4/6	2/3	2/3
Jane Demeter	6/6	3/3	3/3
Eila Gendig	6/6	3/3	3/3
Joseph Hullen	3/6	1/3	1/3
Michael McMillan	6/6	3/3	3/3
Josh Neville	6/6	3/3	3/3
*Joy Paterson	3/6	2/3	1/3
Dr Heather Purdie	5/6	3/3	3/3
Rachel Robilliard	6/6	3/3	3/3
Paula Smith	6/6	3/3	3/3
**Dr Benita Wakefield	3/6	2/3	1/3

*\*Resigned from the Board 30 November 2020*

*\*\*Resigned from the Board 27 February 2021*

#### 4.8 Field trips and site inspections

Field trips are an excellent opportunity for Board members to become more aware of conservation issues within their region.

*Table IV: Field trips and site inspections*

Field trip date	Field trip destination
8 October 2020	Rangitata / South Canterbury
26 November 2020	Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park
9 February 2021	Waimakariri Basin / Arthur's Pass

#### Rangitata River (Grazing Concessions)

The focus for the field trip was grazing concessions on public conservation land (PCL), with particular emphasis on PCL adjoining rivers and riparian margins.

Issues discussed included:

- Weed control
- Damage to environmental values
- Degradation of waterways
- Expectations of right of renewal
- Monitoring of grazing concessions
- Conservation Management Strategy – Canterbury (Waitaha) 2016 (*Policy 2.6.7 and Policy 3.15.1*)

### Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park

The focus for the field trip was the issues facing the Department of Conservation's work in relation to Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park and the review of the Park's Management Plan.

The Board held a workshop on the Management Plan review and visited several sites within the National Park, including the Aoraki/Mt Cook Visitor Centre, the Hooker Valley Track up to the second swing-bridge, and the Tasman Glacier and Tasman Valley from Husky Flat.

The Board discussed:

- Tōpuni status of Aoraki/Mt Cook as a public symbol of Ngāi Tahu mana whenua and rangatiratanga
- Impacts of climate and environmental change on the National Park
- Comprehensive narrative on glaciers from Dr Heather Purdie (Deputy Chairperson, Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board)



**Narration from Dr Heather Purdie re Tasman Glacier and climate change (Image: M-L Grandiek)**



### Waimakariri Basin / Arthur's Pass

The focus for the field trip was the work of the Department of Conservation in relation to the Conservation Management Strategy – Canterbury (Waitaha) 2016 policies for the High-Country Basins Place.

The Board visited:

- Kura Tāwhiti: Issues facing site due to high visitor interest,
- Mt Cheeseman ski-field: Challenges facing ski-fields with climate change, effects of COVID-19 on visitor numbers and concession issues,
- Flock Hill: High-country farming challenges, conservation opportunities and stakeholder partnerships,
- Arthur's Pass Visitor Centre: management of Arthur's Pass National Park, impact of reduction in tourism due to COVID-19, and work being undertaken on Cockayne vegetation plots.



Hawdon Valley, Canterbury (Image: M-L Grandiek)

## 4.9 Workshops

Table V: Workshops

Workshop Date	Focus of Workshop
8 October 2020	Annual Work Plan – 2019/2020 Committee structure and liaisons Terms of Reference for CMS Milestones & Monitoring and Land & Water Committees
15 February 2021	Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park - Management Plan Review
15 April 2021	Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park - Management Plan Review

## 4.10 Board committees

Configuration and membership of the Board's committees was reviewed in October 2020.

Table VI: Committees

Committee name	Members
Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Review	<b>Paula Smith (Chair)</b> Committee of the Whole (excluding members who have a conflict of interest)  AMCNP MPR Hearings Paula Smith
Communications, Awards and Community Engagement	<b>Bethany Baker (Chair)</b> Jane Demeter, Joseph Hullen, Josh Neville
Permissions	<b>Eila Gendig (Chair)</b> Heather Purdie, Michael McMillan
Iwi	Joseph Hullen, Michael McMillan, Rachel Robilliard
Land and Water	<b>Josh Neville (Chair)</b> Bethany Baker, Euan Brook, Joseph Hullen
CMS Milestones and Monitoring	<b>Josh Neville (Chair)</b> Eila Gendig, Heather Purdie, Rachel Robilliard

NB: Paula Smith (Chairperson) is ex-officio member of each Committee

## 4.11 Department involvement in Board meetings

Director Operations ESI, Acting Director Operations ESI, Statutory Manager ESI, Board Support Officer, Pou Tairangahau and Operations Managers – North Canterbury, Mahaanui, Geraldine, Twizel and Aoraki Mount Cook attended Board meetings. Presentations at Board meetings were received from:

- Options Development Group
- Stacey Wrenn, Systems Design Manager, Department of Conservation
- April Hussey, Lydia Bloy and Thomas Burns, Land Information New Zealand
- David Hodder, New Zealand Deer Stalkers Association, North Canterbury Branch
- Angela Sergeant, Asset Planner, Department of Conservation
- Troy Titheridge, post-graduate student, Lincoln University

#### 4.12 Special events

##### Annual Conservation Award Te Waka o Aoraki

The Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board awards Te Waka o Aoraki annually, to recognise and encourage conservation efforts and achievements in Canterbury. The Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board awards the 'Te Waka o Aoraki' trophy to a person or group of people who have nominated themselves to be considered for the award. The 2020 Awards were sponsored by The Isaac Wildlife and Conservation Trust.

This year's recipient of the award was Akaroa Area School. The school community wanted to do something about climate change, so they took over the management of Te Umu te Tehua (Hammond Point) Reserve and have since become kaitiaki of the Reserve. Partnerships have been created with the Department of Conservation, the Christchurch City Council, local businesses, and the local community. The school has undertaken fencing and significant planting in the Reserve and hope to use the money from the Award for future pest management and for building habitats for White-Flipped Penguins to encourage their return to the location.

Glentanner Park (Mt Cook) Ltd Holiday Park and Activity Centre sponsored a new category for the best school-based conservation project. This was awarded to Burnside Primary School for the Canterbury boulder copper butterfly garden.



Te Waka o Aoraki Winners 2020 (Image: Department of Conservation)

#### 4.13 Annual Work Programme

Please refer to Appendix I for the full Board Annual Work Programme.



## 5. Statutory activity

### 5.1 Canterbury (Waitaha) 2016 Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

*Conservation General Policy requires the Department to report, at least annually, on the implementation of the CMS.*

#### Implementation Monitoring

At its bi-monthly meetings the Board received regular operations and planning reports which include information on the wide-ranging work undertaken by Department staff, much of which is consistent with achieving CMS objectives and policies. The Department reported to the Board in November 2020 on the CMS. *(See Chairpersons Report prev.)*

The Board has also established a CMS Milestones Monitoring Committee, dedicated to identifying CMS milestones which are likely to be achieved and those unlikely to be achieved.

### 5.2 Management Plans

There are two National Parks within the Board's area of jurisdiction. Each National Park has a management plan which is reviewed at 10-year intervals.

#### Arthur's Pass National Park

The Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan was approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority in December 2007. It was due for review in 2017, but this has yet to be commenced by the Department. The Department presented an annual report to the Board on the existing Management Plan in October 2020. *(See Chairpersons Report prev.)*



Otira Valley, Arthur's Pass National Park (Image: S Evans)

### Aoraki Mount Cook National Park

The process for reviewing the Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park Management Plan was paused while the Department and Ngāi Tahu worked through the wider implications of the Supreme Court's decision on the Ngāi Tai ki Tamaki case. Agreement has now been reached to start a new review of the Management Plan. The Board is currently working in consultation with Ngāi Tahu and the Department on reviewing the Management Plan and drafting a document to ensure the natural, cultural, heritage and recreational values of the National Park are protected for all. The Department presented an annual report to the Board on the existing Management Plan in October 2020. *(See Chairpersons Report prev.)*



Hooker River, Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park (Image: D Stent, Department of Conservation)

## 6. Advocacy

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise, and some members have specific roles in liaison. The Board appointed various members to liaise with other groups and agencies.

*Table VII: Board Liaisons and Representatives*

Board Member	Group/Agency/Organisation
Bethany Baker	Environment Canterbury Healthy River Ōpāwaho Strategic Leadership Group
Josh Neville Paula Smith	Fish & Game North Canterbury & Central South Island Group
Joy Paterson	Mackenzie Country Trust
Dr Heather Purdie	Tahr Interest Group Himalayan Tahr Control Plan Implementation Group
Joseph Hullen	Social Media – Facebook and Twitter

### 6.1 Other Conservation Boards Liaison

The Board's immediate neighbours are the Nelson Marlborough, Otago, and West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Boards. The Board's respective liaisons monitor the minutes for issues of common interest and report back at each meeting.

### 6.2 Authority Liaison

Tony Lepper is the New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison to the Board.

### 6.3 Department Advice

The Board provided advice to the Department on the following issues:

#### Change of Status

The Board provided comment and recommendations to the Department on areas where there was a proposed change of status or classification.

The Board has requested that the Department provide an annual update (in May of each year), on the reclassification of stewardship lands. The Board resolved that any new proposed status for stewardship land reclassification should be discussed and agreed in partnership with papatipu rūnaka.

#### Concessions

Recommendations were made to the Department on several Concessions applications within the following public conservation areas:

- Aoraki Mount Cook National Park
- Arthur's Pass National Park
- Te Kahui Kaupeka Conservation Park
- Hakatere Conservation Park
- Hae Hae Te Moana Conservation Reserve
- Hurunui River, Waitohi River and Rangitata River sites

## Public Submissions

The Board provided submissions on the following:

- Dunstan Downs Tenure Review
- Proposed Marine Protection Areas for South-Eastern South Island
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment: Future of Tourism
- Proposed Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill
- Christchurch City Council: Proposed Long Term Plan 2021-2031
- Hurunui District Council: Proposed Long Term Plan 2021-2031

### 6.4 Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Meetings were held in different parts of the Canterbury Aoraki region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised. Members of the public attended the Public Forum at several of the year's meetings and a range of issues were raised. The Board appreciates this input from the public.

### 6.5 Community Visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website with updates provided throughout the year on activities undertaken. The Board also maintains a presence on both Twitter and Facebook.

### 6.6 Sustainability

To reduce carbon emissions and show leadership in climate change action, the Board adopted a 'Climate-Smart Operating Agreement' in June 2020. By agreeing to follow the nine recommendations, the Board will seek to calculate their carbon emissions with the aim of working towards establishing a means of offsetting these emissions via investment / participation in a local carbon offsetting scheme.



## 7. APPENDIX I – Annual Work Programme 2019/2020



**Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board**  
**Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Waitaha me Aoraki**

# **ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME**

## **2020/2021**

### **Milestones and Monitoring Committee**



*Mueller Hut Route: Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park*

## Milestones and Monitoring Committee – 2020/2021

This work programme was developed in late 2020 by Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board/Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Waitaha me Aoraki (the Board) in response to the Minister of Conservation's annual Letter of Expectation to Conservation Boards, dated 7 August 2020. (See copy attached).

It is designed to give effect to Board functions under Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987 and other statutory requirements of conservation boards.

The purpose of this report is to detail progress of the work programme during 2020/2021 and report the actions the Board has yet to achieve.

### Key Highlights

The Board has 47 actions listed below.

➤ **Successes of the Board are:**

- 1) 42 actions have been achieved, being 89%,
- 2) 3 actions are partially achieved/ongoing.

➤ **Remedial Actions**

2 actions are at risk, having not been achieved this year. Going forward, the Board will:

- 1) Review the actions,
- 2) Take additional steps to support achievement.

### Status Indicators

Colour	Indicates
Green	Achieved
Yellow	Partially Achieved/Ongoing
Red	At Risk
White	Not Yet Commenced

**TASK 1:****Monitoring Conservation Management Strategy, Canterbury (Waitaha) 2016**

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
1.1	A 'Milestones and Monitoring Committee' will be established to focus on increasing achievement of CMS milestones.		The committee was established by the Board at the meeting 09 October 2020.
1.2	The Board will receive an annual report on progress implementing the CMS milestones at its November 2020 meeting.		CMS Implementation Monitoring Report was received by the Board at the meeting of 27 November 2020.
1.3	Five-year milestones at risk of not being achieved will be identified.		Discussion was had by the Board at the meeting of 27 November 2020.  Board members have identified some priorities at meetings over the year.
1.4	The Board will receive quarterly updates on implementation of the CMS milestone relating to CMS Policies 2.3.6 - 2.3.10. This is in relation to private accommodation and structures at Loch Katrine Recreation Reserve.		An update was provided by K Timpson (Stat Manager) at the meeting of 27 November 2020.  Updates regularly received.
1.5	The Board will report on progress on implementation of the CMS to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) in its 'end-of-year' report.		Will be completed following meeting of 17 June 2021.
1.6	Board field trips will be planned to relate to CMS milestones of particular interest to the Board.		The Board decided on meetings, particularly in relation to areas of interest at their meeting of 27 November 2020.

**TASK 2:****Monitoring implementation of Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan 2007**

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
2.1	The Board will receive an annual monitoring report on implementation of the Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan 2007.		The Board received the annual report at the meeting 09 October 2020.
2.2	The Board will report on progress on the implementation of the Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan 2007 to the NZCA in its 'end-of-year' report.		Will be completed following their meeting of 17 June 2021.

2.3	The Board will continue to support and advocate for integrated pest management along the road and rail corridors through Arthur's Pass National Park, and on neighbouring riverbeds.		<p>The Board was represented at the Waimakariri Weeds Forum in August 2020.</p> <p>An update was provided by K Timpson (DOC) at the meeting of 27 November 2020.</p> <p>An update from ECAN, NZTA, KiwiRail to be requested. Correspondence to be sent thanking Conservation Volunteers New Zealand Christchurch for their efforts might be sent (who de-headed 40 hectares of Russell lupins at Klondyke corner on 28/29 November 2020).</p> <p>The Board continues to advocate on this issue.</p>
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### TASK 3:

#### Monitoring implementation of existing Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan 2004

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
3.1	The Board will receive an annual monitoring report on implementation of the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan 2004.		The Board received the annual report at the meeting 09 October 2020.
3.2	The Board will report on progress on the implementation of the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan 2004 to the NZCA in its 'end-of-year' report.		Will be completed following meeting of 17 June 2021.
3.3	When considering applications for permissions in Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, the board will base its advice on the existing plan but will also be mindful of policy emerging with development of the new management plan.		The Board has considered this implication as it pertains to application commentary provided to the Department. The Board comments as appropriate on bi-monthly Permissions Reports.



#### TASK 4:

### Approval of a new Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
4.1	The Board will seek to ensure review of the management plan for Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park is progressed effectively. The Board will report on progress to the NZCA at the end of the year.		The Board visited AMCNP at the meeting of 27 November 2020. A workshop to discuss the AMCNP management plan review has been organised for 2021. Will be completed following meeting of 17 June 2021.
4.2	The Board will seek to ensure review of the management plan for Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park promotes strong conservation outcomes.		Board continuing to advocate for strong conservation outcomes for the National Park. Two workshops have been held in November 2020 and April 2021. The June 2021 workshop was deferred.
4.3	The Board will seek to ensure the new management plan is co-designed with kaitiaki rūnaka and the document reflects full partnership with mana whenua, recognising and enabling Ngāi Tahu rights and interests.		As above. (Task 4.2)
4.4	The Board will seek to ensure the new management plan strengthens climate change mitigation and includes workable adaptation initiatives.		As above. (Task 4.2)

#### TASK 5:

### Advocating for Conservation in Canterbury/Waitaha

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
5.1	The Board will take opportunities as they arise to make submissions in support of improving conservation outcomes for Canterbury/Waitaha.		The Board has made submissions on: Dunstan Downs Tenure Review, South-East Marine Protection areas, Castle Hill Village Reserve replanting, Greater Christchurch 2050, Tourism Futures, Proposed Crown Pastoral Land Reform Bill, and 2021-2031 Proposed Long Term Plans for Hurunui District Council and Christchurch City Council.
5.2	The Board will be selective about which issues it submits on, using its particular influence to best advantage for conservation in Canterbury/Waitaha.		Principles on which issues to submit on was discussed by the Board at the meeting 09 October 2020.

5.3	A 'Land and Water Committee' will be established, with agreed terms of reference, which will lead the development of submissions in most instances. Where any Board member has particular expertise on an issue, the member may develop the draft submission. The Committee will report regularly to the whole Board.		The committee was established by the Board at the meeting 09 October 2020.
5.4	In all submissions, the Board will acknowledge Ngāi Tahu rights and interests.		Most submissions made on behalf of the Board have acknowledged Ngāi Tahu rights and interests.
5.5	Particular areas of focus for advocacy by the Board in the year ahead include the declining kea population, management of Bennett's wallabies, the future of tourism - particularly high visitor impact sites on public conservation land in Canterbury (Waitaha) such as Kura Tāwhiti and Aoraki Mount Cook National Park front country.		The Board sought to advocate strongly in these areas but was limited due to capacity issues and informal opportunities were taken when they arose.
5.6	The Board will continue to advocate for ecological survey of marine ecosystems off the coast of Canterbury/Waitaha, and for an integrated system of marine protection which is aligned with customary rights, and which acknowledges currently unrecognised rights.		The Board made a direct advocacy to the Minister of Conservation Hon Kiritapu Allen on this issue at the Conservation Board awards evening 14 December 2020.  Further advocacy needs planning.
5.7	The Board will continue to advocate for the timely reclassification of stewardship lands in Canterbury/Waitaha and will receive an annual update on progress from Te Papa Atawhai at the beginning of each year.		The Board undertook direct advocacy to the Minister of Conservation, Hon. Kiritapu Allen on this issue at the Conservation Board awards evening 14 December 2020.  The Board expects to contribute to the proposed new reclassification process.
5.8	The Board will work strategically with other conservation boards and the NZCA where this makes advocacy more effective.		The Board has appointed representatives to neighbouring Conservation Board – shared opportunities to work strategically have yet to be pursued.

## TASK 6:

### Providing advice and recommendations to Te Papa Atawhai on selected applications for permissions

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
6.1	The Board will provide advice and recommendations on selected applications for permissions (concessions) to carry out activities on public conservation lands in Canterbury/Waitaha.		The Board continues to provide advice on concessions as they are received.
6.2	The Board will seek to ensure Te Papa Atawhai processes for the granting of permissions in Canterbury/Waitaha are responsive to kaitiakitanga, Papatipu rūnaka and iwi aspirations.		Ongoing discussions continue between the Board and the Department of Conservation.
6.3	A particular focus for the Board this year will be grazing concessions/licences/leases on public conservation lands. The Board will provide advice to the NZCA and Te Papa Atawhai on this issue.		<p>A report on the Grazing on Public Conservation Lands in Canterbury (Waitaha) has been prepared by the Board and sent to the NZCA and Te Papa Atawhai on this issue in December 2020.</p> <p>A reply was received in April 2021 and the Board plans to meet to further discuss next steps.</p>

## TASK 7:

### Supporting improvement and further development in the Treaty of Waitangi partnership between Te Papa Atawhai, iwi and Papatipu rūnaka in Canterbury/Waitaha

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
7.1	The Board will seek to ensure Te Papa Atawhai processes, including the granting of permissions (concessions), recognise and enable customary rights.		<p>The Board continues to regularly raise this matter with the Department of Conservation.</p> <p>The Board has requested a determination from the New Zealand Conservation Authority for cultural harvesting within Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park.</p>
7.2	An 'Iwi Committee' will be established, which reports regularly to the whole Board.		Iwi Committee made up of the four appointed Ngāi Tahu representatives reports back to CACB regularly.

7.3	Kaitiaki rūnaka will be routinely advised when the Board is meeting in their rohe, and rūnaka members invited to participate in the Board's field trips.		Kaitiaki Rūnaka are routinely advised when the Board is meeting in their rohe.
7.4	At least one CACB meeting a year will be held on a marae in Canterbury/Waitaha.		Meeting held at Rāpaki in 2019. The Board's August 2021 meeting is calendared to be held at Arowhenua Marae.
7.5	Tikanga and ongoing learning will be incorporated into Board meetings and field trips.		Tikanga and ongoing learning are being incorporated into Board meetings and field trips.
7.6	If the opportunity is available, at least one Board member will attend a Pūkenga Atawhai course during the year.		No Board members have attended a Pūkenga Atawhai course and/or any other courses/programmes this year.

## TASK 8:

### Implementation of *Te Mana o Te Taiao Aotearoa* New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
8.1	The Board will find out more about current work on <i>Te Mana o Te Taiao</i> and identify ways to support implementation plans.		Further information has not been sought or actioned.
8.2	The Board will investigate better ways to have biodiversity trends communicated, including adapting 'Tier One' reporting to assess and report on biodiversity outcomes at the regional level, to be used for reporting on Natural Heritage outcomes and milestones in the CMS.		The Board has received correspondence from the Statutory Manager, Department of Conservation to give effect to this action.
8.3	The Board will advise Te Papa Atawhai about risks and cultural sensitivities association with GMO (Genetically Modified Organisms) for biodiversity management.		A report on GMO was presented at the 9 October 2020 meeting by Board member
8.4	The Board will seek assurance from Te Papa Atawhai that Bennett's wallabies are being managed as stated in CMS Appendix 6 (Pg. 243).		A report from ECAN has been circulated to Board members – The Board have highlighted the need for further control measures to take place. A plan to advocate this further may need to be developed.

**TASK 9:****Advising Te Papa Atawhai on strengthening its climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives**

	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Progress Commentary</b>
<b>9.1</b>	The Board will continue to remind Te Papa Atawhai of the need to monitor future risks, particularly the risk of abandoned ski field infrastructure on public conservation land.		The Board continues to highlight this issue and take this into account when considering concession applications. A field trip to Mt Cheeseman was undertaken in February 2021 to hear first-hand about the issues.
<b>9.2</b>	The Board will seek to ensure the new management plan for Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park strengthens the climate change mitigation and includes workable adaptation initiatives.		The Board visited AMCNP at the meeting of 27 November 2020. A further workshop to discuss the AMCNP management plan review was held in April 2021 and further workshops are to be held. Board members received a concise briefing on the effects of climate change on the glaciers at site.
<b>9.3</b>	The Board will seek to ensure Te Papa Atawhai is working to reduce the risk of wildfires permanently harming ecological values on public conservation land and to identify and manage future wildfire risk.		The Board continues to highlight this issue and take this into account when considering concession applications. The Board continues to receive updates from the Department of Conservation when these events occur.
<b>9.4</b>	The Board will advocate to minimise risks to natural ecosystems from historic landfills, particularly those at sea level.		The Board received an update from the Department of Conservation on the historic landfill issues at Lake Ohau Lodge.  The Board Chair provided comment on the Ministry for the Environment's ongoing work on legacy landfills in her June 2021 report.

**TASK 10:****Engage and connect with Papatipu rūnaka and local communities on conservation issues**

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
10.1	All Board members will report regularly on participation in activities and events related to conservation in Canterbury/Waitaha. Interactions with other people and organisations will inform the Board's advice to Te Papa Atawhai.		Liaison reports continue to be supplied at each meeting.
10.2	The Board will improve liaison with North Canterbury and Central South Island Fish and Game Councils.		Members have attended recent meetings of Fish and Game Councils within their rohe with relationships now established.
10.3	A 'Communication and Engagement Committee' will co-ordinate the Boards communications and activities, including a social media presence. Regular reports will be provided to the whole Board.		Reports continue to be supplied at most meetings.
10.4	The CACB Conservation Awards will be made in late 2020.		The CACB Conservation Awards were presented at an awards evening on 14 December 2020. The Minister of Conservation Hon Kiritapu Allen attended, and was very well received by Board members, and members of the Conservation community in Waitaha Canterbury.

**TASK 11:****Monitoring achievement of CACB Annual Work Programme 2020/2021**

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
11.1	The Board aims for 80% achievement of the 47 actions in the Annual Work Programme.		The Board has achieved 89% of actions in the Annual Work Programme.
11.2	The Board will assess progress on actions in the Annual Work Programme at its first meeting in 2021 and again at the first meeting to be held after the end of the year in June 2021.		Completed – 17 June 2021.

## 8. APPENDIX II – Minister of Conservation Letter of Expectation

# Hon Eugenie Sage

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Minister of Conservation

Minister for Land Information

Associate Minister for the Environment

Minita mō Te Papa Atawhai

Minita mō Toitū Te Whenua

Minita Tuarua mō Te Taiao



- 7 AUG 2020

The Chairs  
DOC Conservation Boards

Via email: [ConservationBoardChairpersons@doc.govt.nz](mailto:ConservationBoardChairpersons@doc.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe

### ANNUAL LETTER OF EXPECTATION: CONSERVATION BOARDS 2020-21

I would like to thank you and your Board members for accepting the responsibility to be conservation leaders within your community, and I congratulate members of your Board who have been newly appointed.

This is an extraordinary time for conservation, a unique time, in which the significance of Papatūānuku has been realised, and reprioritised. I am confident that the high calibre of conservation board members across Aotearoa will rise to the opportunities and challenges that exist in the contemporary world. I look forward to the year ahead and working with you to make a difference for the conservation of our natural and historic heritage.

The purpose of this letter is to confirm my expectations for your Board, and to set out a framework for success within which both the Department of Conservation (the Department) and your Board can operate. The basis for my expectations originates in the statutory functions set out in Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987, the National Parks Act 1980, and the Reserves Act 1977. As reflected in these statutes, the Board's focus is on policy issues, strategic direction, and planning, not in the day to day operational details of the Department.

The Code of Practice for Conservation Boards is available online:

[www.conservationboards.org.nz](http://www.conservationboards.org.nz) under 'What conservation boards do'. I encourage you and your Board to use the Code of Practice as a standard reference document for your meetings and activities. The Department is currently working on an Expectations Manual to provide guidance for Board members; upon its completion, this manual will provide you with key guidance on fulfilling your role.

### Government and Ministerial Priorities

For the 2020-21 year, my fundamental priorities for conservation boards are that boards:

- ensure any review of a national park management plan or conservation management strategy occurring in their Board area is progressed effectively and promotes strong conservation outcomes.
- work with Te Papa Atawhai and manawhenua on developing and improving the implementation of Treaty of Waitangi partnerships and the requirements of section 4 of the Conservation Act.
- advise the department on strengthening its climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives.
- implement Te Mana o te Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy when it is released, working with iwi and hapu, community organisations, councils and the department.



- advocate for conservation and engage and connect with manawhenua and their local communities on local conservation issues.

My expectation is that you will design your 2020-21 Strategic Annual Work Plan (work plan) to reflect a combination of these priorities, the Department's priorities (contained in the Four-year Plan<sup>1</sup>), and priorities you have identified within your rohe. Your Operations Director will discuss these priorities with you over the course of the year, as well as update you about any new or amended Government and Ministerial priorities.

In order to assist conservation boards in achieving their work plans, I am pleased to see that conservation boards are now meeting at least six times a year. I believe that this adds to positive conservation outcomes. Likewise, fieldtrips provide a basis for understanding the conservation issues within your rohe, and conservation boards should conduct at least one fieldtrip a year.

### **Your Community**

As Board members, you represent the public interest in conservation. It is integral that you are active and visible in your communities, so that you are able to bring a well-informed community voice to the table. The community are increasingly interested in the use of and access to conservation land and are aware of how important it is to preserve and protect our natural environment. We must encourage, nurture, and facilitate this interest.

Following the Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Tribal Trust Supreme Court ruling on giving effect to section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi is recognised as being fundamentally important to the work that we do. This provides for the strengthening of relationships with iwi partners and for an inclusive environment between all conservation partners.

### **Working with the Department of Conservation**

The Department is focused on the delivery of quality conservation work, and this provides the opportunity for alignment to the conservation leadership role you play within your local communities. I expect you to work collaboratively with your Operations Director, Governance Advisor, and Statutory Manager to maintain a strong working relationship with the Department, so that your Board can provide strategic advice to the Department on conservation matters within your rohe. You will be able to provide advice that other parties cannot.

I hope that you will be able to report about what is working well for you and areas that require improvement, so that we can share lessons and best practice across all conservation boards. I greatly value your role alongside the Department, especially the advice you provide concerning statutory planning and expenditure.

### **Working with adjoining conservation boards and the NZCA**

Working on conservation matters, management strategies, and plans will frequently involve working across boundaries with other conservation boards. I encourage you to continue to develop effective ways of working together to establish consistency and avoid duplication. The New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) is also a source of support for conservation boards to draw upon in relation to the national and policy context for conservation issues.

### **No surprises**

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<sup>1</sup> The Department's Four-year Plan can be found here <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/corporate-publications/four-year-plan/>



I expect to be informed well in advance of any material or significant events relating to the Board, whether positive or negative. This could include instances where decisions or actions of the Board have implications for wider government policy issues. I should be made aware of any imminent media coverage of any activities that could attract critical media comment.

### **Monitoring and self-review**

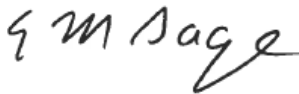
I was encouraged to receive your priorities for the coming year, and I ask that you now work collaboratively with your Operations Director to finalise your work plan by late August 2020. Your work plan should also consider your statutory obligations under the Conservation Act 1987, the National Parks Act 1980, and the Reserves Act 1977. I request that your finalised work plan include measures and milestones, designed to demonstrate what success will look like for each priority, and how your Board will be able to support the relevant Department Stretch Goals. The template that the Department have designed will assist in standardising your Board's work plan.

My expectation is that you, with your Operations Director, will work to establish these performance indicators, and monitor and measure progress. You will be able to draw upon the support of your Operations Director, Statutory Manager, Governance Advisor, and regionally aligned Pou Tairangahau to build on these tools.

I look forward to receiving a copy of your Annual Report, through the NZCA, for the 2020-21 year ending 30 June. Please use these reports as an opportunity for you to discuss what is and is not working within your area, as well as a chance for self-review on the workings of the Board. These reports should provide direct links to the performance indicators you identify within your work plan, as well as an overview of the operations of the Board for those who read and review it.

I realise the commitment and effort required by members to be part of the Conservation Board, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members a successful year.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E M Sage". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hon Eugenie Sage  
**Minister of Conservation**

## Annual Calendar of Common Conservation Board Activities 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

Timeframe	Event
1 July	New Board member appointment take effect
31 August	Annual report from previous year due with the NZCA
Mid -late September	Minister's letter of Expectaton sent to Boards
Mid November	Board chairs send work programme to Minister, via DDG Conservation Partnerships
Early - mid December	Public notices calling for nominations called for next year's appointments (closing date of 28 days from date of first notice)
By mid - February	Departmental recommendations provided to SBU for collation and clearance with DG or delegate
Early May	Minister's proposed Board appointments considered by Appointment and Honours Committee then Cabinet
Mid May	Board appointments made by Minister of Conservation
Late May	Press released issued
Late June	Board pages updated on DOC website





**Winding Creek, Flock Hill Station (Image: M-L Grandiek)**