



OTAGO CONSERVATION BOARD

Poari Papa Atawhai – ā-rohe ki Otago



ANNUAL REPORT 1 JULY 2019 – 30 JUNE 2020

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act and distributed to interested parties.

Members of the public are welcome to attend Conservation Board meetings.

For more information about the Otago Conservation Board, please see conservationboards.org.nz.

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Chair's Annual Report



I am pleased to report on a productive year for the Otago Conservation Board. Our work programme, detailed later in this report, outlines the breadth of submissions, advocacy and partnerships we pursued during the year to advance conservation outcomes in Otago.

Touching on some events of note, the year started with a farewell, when long-serving Chair, Pat Garden, retired from the Board after 6 years of service. Pat made many achievements during his time as Chair including leading a biodiversity hui that has led to ongoing regional collaboration between key partners in the region. His enthusiasm and knowledge will be greatly missed by all. We also bid farewell to two members - Dr Anna Carr and Dr Rosemary Clucas who both provided invaluable insight and expert advice on a range of issues across the Otago region. We welcomed a new member with Donald Lousley of Wānaka joining us in August. With Board changes came the opportunity to reflect. The Board convened a governance workshop in June where members took an in-depth look at our role as a conservation board and considered how we could optimise our impact. This included the ever-present challenge of approaching our work strategically to ensure our statutory obligations are being delivered effectively. We also reviewed how the Board is currently operating and discussed what could be done better. It was a productive day and the Board agreed to four key priorities for the year.

Celebrations were in order at our November meeting in Wānaka with one of Otago's own – the hoiho (yellow-eyed penguin) – winning “Bird of the Year”. Sadly, the joyous atmosphere didn't last long as we discussed the challenges facing hoiho. Multiple starvation events and ongoing pressures on land and at sea mean these birds could be extinct on the mainland within decades. The Board took action by submitting on several consultations impacting hoiho including the

Our Key Priorities

Enhance relationship with Treaty Partner

Address the crisis of declining indigenous biodiversity and improve the protection of freshwater habitats and the marine environment

Improve protection of land with conservation values and user experience in National Parks

Grow advocacy and community engagement

Strategy and Action Plan for Hoiho.

Meeting in Wānaka gave us the chance to explore two of our priorities — biodiversity and user experience in National Parks. The Upper Clutha Trust presented on freshwater challenges in the area including collaborative work with stakeholders in the private and public sectors to develop an integrated catchment plan for Lake Wānaka. Staff from the Department's Wānaka office provided an excellent briefing on visitor management in the area. This was followed by a field trip up the western side of Lake Wānaka towards Mt Aspiring National Park. We saw first-hand the crowding issues at Mt Roy, as well as the Bike Glendhu proposed bike park site, the Treble Cone ski access road and the restored Boggy Burn wetland.

An important milestone was achieved at our February meeting where we adopted a protocol giving effect to our obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi and discussed how it can be woven further into the Board's activities and work programme. Enhancing our relationship with Treaty Partners is — and will continue to be — an important focus for the Board.

Towards the end of the planning year, a partial review of the Otago Conservation Management Strategy was activated to review the provision of mountain biking in the region. The Board appointed a sub-committee to support this review.

The Board continues to develop and maintain strong relationships with the community, as well as with key stakeholders to ensure we are working together effectively to improve outcomes for conservation and the community across our region. This year we were pleased to have a range of representatives from NZCA, neighbouring conservation boards and local government attend meetings. This included John Whitehead (Chair, Southland Conservation Board), Tony Lepper (NZCA), Marian Hobbs (Chair, Otago Regional Council), Tim Cadogan (Mayor, Central Otago District Council).

In the coming year, we look forward to continuing our work and building on the considerable work achieved in the 2019/20 year in partnership with our Treaty Partners, the Department and the Otago community.

Ma tini ma mano ka rapa te whai.

Tara Druce

Otago Conservation Board Chair



Introduction

The Otago Conservation Board (the Board) is an independent body established under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987. The Board's eleven members are appointed by the Minister of Conservation to provide advice to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) and to the Department of Conservation (DOC) on behalf of the public.

The Board helps to achieve conservation outcomes by:



Contributing a strategic perspective, informed by the community, to conservation planning, policy development and decision-making

Exercising powers of recommendation and approval for statutory management documents. In particular, the Otago Conservation Management Strategy and the Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan

Advising on the implementation of statutory management planning documents

Advocating for conservation outcomes, including in public fora and through statutory planning processes

The statutory roles and functions of Conservation Boards are set out under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987:



To recommend the approval by the New Zealand Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies and the review and amendment of such strategies under the relevant enactments;

To approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments;

To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for areas within the jurisdiction of the Board;

To advise the New Zealand Conservation Authority or the Director-General on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance;

To advise the New Zealand Conservation Authority or the Director-General on any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the Board;

To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board;

To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act

In addition to the Conservation Act 1987, the following statutory roles and functions of Conservation Boards are included in the National Parks Act 1980:

To recommend management plans, and the review or amendment of such plans, for parks within the jurisdiction of the Board;

To consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks;

To review and report to the Director-General or the Authority, as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the administration of the general policies for national parks within the jurisdiction of the Board;

To give advice to the Director-General or the Authority on the interpretation of any management plan for a park; on any proposal for the addition of land to any national park or the establishment of a new national park; and on any other matter relating to any national park within the jurisdiction of the Board.

The Conservation Act requires Conservation Boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Otago Conservation Board submits this twentieth annual report.



Field trip Matukituki Valley

Otago Conservation Board Region

The Otago Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction spans 4,093,064 hectares of the Otago region, including 2,783,630 hectares of Public Conservation Land.



Otago Region

This area runs from the east coast, across the dry inland valleys of Central Otago, and over the Southern Alps to the west. It features a wide range of different landforms, ecosystems and species that are found nowhere else. This is, in part, due to the huge rainfall gradient — 10,000 mm annually on the western side of the Southern Alps and 400mm annually in Alexandra, the driest part of New Zealand.

It also offers many attractive opportunities for recreation and sightseeing, which is creating a huge increase in visitors to the region.

The public interest in recreation and conservation issues provides the basis for the Board's intervention and advice whether through its oversight of commercial activities on conservation land, the management of visitor activity, the control of weeds and

pests, the enhancement of biodiversity or the provision of its statutory advice.

The Board also recognises the special significance of Te Wāhipounamu — the South West New Zealand World Heritage Area, a part of which lies within the Board's jurisdiction.

Significant areas



The Board's area features 2,793,630.24 ha of Public Conservation Land, including:

- 132 Scenic Reserves (33,513 ha total)
- 52 Historic Reserves (1,694 ha total)
- 459 Recreation Reserves (19,030 ha total)
- 5 Ecological Areas (16,512.31 ha total)
- 646 Stewardship Areas (67,064 ha total)

Mount Aspiring National Park

Mt Aspiring National Park covers 355,531 ha, straddling the boundary between the areas covered by both the Otago Conservation Board and West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board. Its large glacier carved valleys, stunning mountain ranges and river valleys make it a popular destination for recreational users and international visitors alike.

Te Papanui Conservation Park

Te Papanui Conservation Park covers 20,591 ha. This remote area is an area of high ecological value, providing protection for a large area of intact native tussock grasslands, as well as a diversity of other ecosystems including wetlands, shrublands and silver beech forest remnants. It is considered a remote experience area and is used by the public for a range of recreational activities including hiking/walking, mountain biking, 4WD, horse trekking and cross-country skiing.

Hāwea Conservation Park



The Hāwea Conservation Park covers about 105,000 hectares of public conservation land around Lake Hāwea and the Hunter River, as well as areas on the McKerrow

Range near Makarora. Large areas in the park are covered with native beech forest and shrublands.

Oteake Conservation Park

About 65,000 hectares of public conservation land on the St Bathans, Hawkdun, Ida, Ewe and St Mary's Ranges and parts of the upper Manuherikia Basin. The vegetation is dominated by tussock grasslands.

Kopuwai Conservation Area

The Kopuwai Conservation Area is around 20,000ha and stretches along the Old Man Range due west of Alexandra. It contains the upper catchments of the Pomahaka and Fraser Rivers and features distinctive rock tors bisected with fields of alpine herbs along the exposed summit.

Otago Central Rail Trail

This very popular recreational facility for cyclists, walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders follow the route of the former Otago Central Branch railway line for 150 kilometres between Clyde and Middlemarch. It is now one of the official New Zealand Cycle Trails.

Remarkables, Coronet Peak and Treble Cone

Parts of the public conservation land at these sites are occupied by commercial ski fields that are well-known for winter recreational activities but are also popular summer destinations.



Significant species

There are many significant and well-known indigenous species that can be found within the Board's area of jurisdiction, including

Otago and grand skinks/mokomoko

Jewelled gecko/moko kākāriki

Yellow-eyed Penguin/hoiho

Otago shag/kōua

New Zealand sea lion/rāpoka

Hectors dolphin/upokohue

New Zealand fur seal/kekeno

Southern right whale/tohorā

New Zealand parakeet/kākāriki

Long-tailed bat/pekapeka-tou-ra

Galaxiid/īnanga

Long-finned eel/tuna kuwharuwharu

Haast kiwi/tokoeka

New Zealand falcon/kārearea

Buff weka

Yellowhead/mōhua

South Island robin/kakaruwai

Royal albatross/toroa



Tara Druce & Dave Vass inspect a tuatara at Orokonui Ecosanctuary

Work Programme



At the beginning of each year, the Board prepares a work plan outlining its statutory responsibilities, expectations set by the Minister of Conservation and any priorities the Board wishes to address. This is a living document that is updated with progress reports prior to each meeting. A summary of the main work streams is listed below, and the full document can be viewed in Appendix 1.

Statutory roles

‘Contributing a strategic perspective to conservation planning, policy development and decision making.’

The Board provided advice to the Department on a number of concession applications and land status exchanges, including:

- Aramoana Spit Houses
- McKellar Lodge Landings
- Aspiring Guides Concession Application
- Advice on NZDA Waianakarua Hut Proposal;
- Craigs Flat Road Taking, Millers Flat

The Board also submitted on a number of wider policy statements and position papers, including submissions on:

Squid 6T Operational Plan (August 2019)

The strategy to support the ecological and cultural health of yellow-eyed penguins/hoiho (*Te Kaweka Takohaka mō te Hoiho*) and the 5-year action plan for their recovery (*Te Mahere Rima Tau*).

Proposed Management of Change to the University of Otago’s Department of Marine Science.

LINZ – Crown Pastoral Land Tenure review – Glenaray & Whitecomb

MPI – National Plan of Action for Seabirds 2020

Whitebait Regulations

Application for a Mātaitai Reserve over the lower reaches of the Tautuku and Fleming Rivers



Otago Conservation Board Members & Department Staff & Fish and Game NZ Reps

Conservation Management Strategy

'Advising on the implementation of statutory planning documents'

The Department is asked to report to the Otago Conservation Board annually on progress towards achieving the various Milestones listed in the CMS. This year was year 4 of the Department's reporting against progress towards the Otago CMS 5-year Milestones. A comprehensive progress report from the Department is included in Appendix 2.

In response to the report, the Board discussed where work was behind schedule or where the expectations contained within a Milestone were proving difficult to deliver. We resolved to write to the Department raising concerns that unless a significant focus was placed on many Milestones in the next year, they were unlikely to be met. The Board also agreed to hold a workshop with the Department, once the 5-year Milestone reporting is received in September 2021 to explore progress against these in detail. In some areas there are challenges in monitoring milestones, as the wording of some milestones is vague. We have agreed to work with the department to add some agreed

detail around these areas at this workshop.

The Board has ongoing concerns regarding the operational budget of the Department being adequate to continue to deliver across all milestone areas, especially in relation to Milestones that deliver on our Treaty Partnership and as we face unprecedented biodiversity loss and climate change impacts. We are also advocating CMS delivery to be an input into the Department's annual work and budget planning process.

Board Liaison



Iwi

At its November meeting, the Board passed a resolution to adopt the New Zealand Conservation Authority principles on giving effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act. Our Ngai Tahu representatives continue to liaise with local runaka as well as Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and effectively bring Treaty Partner perspectives to our table.

New Zealand Conservation Authority

The Board has continued to maintain a positive and constructive relationship with the New Zealand Conservation Authority. This has included:

- Welcoming the Board's NZCA liaison (Tony Lepper) to attend meetings

- Aligning its submissions with those made by the NZCA to ensure maximum impact (when possible).

Conservation Boards

The annual Conservation Board Chairs' Conference provides an excellent forum for Chairs across New Zealand to learn from each other and is highly valued. Relationships with the local neighbouring Conservation Boards are excellent with regular communication between the four Boards – Otago, Southland, Canterbury Aoraki and West Coast Tai Poutini with regular reciprocal attendance at meetings, particularly with Southland.

Fish and Game

The Board has been represented at a number of Fish and Game Council meetings. Ian Hadland, CEO Otago Fish and Game was also in attendance at the February 2020

Field trip to the Manuherekia.

Local Government Authorities

Meeting attendances by representatives from Central Otago District Council, Otago Regional Council, Upper Clutha Trust, QLDC.

Informing the Board

The Board continues to receive reports from the Operations Managers at each meeting. These include an overview of important issues with a particular emphasis on the strategic issues arising in each area. This is intended to better align with the Board's role and was a direct outcome of our Governance workshop.

Some highlights included:

- **Tiakina Nga Manu**

This year saw the biggest beech mast in 40 years. The Board was briefed on the Department's efforts to protect Otago's most at-risk populations of native species, ecosystems and areas of high ecological value. This is the largest ever predator control programme carried out by the Department, spanning on million hectares.

- **Freshwater values in Otago**

The Board received a briefing from Senior Ranger Trudy Anderson introducing freshwater values within Otago. This included a focus on indigenous freshwater fish such as the 12 species of non-migratory galaxiids which occur in the Otago region. This was followed by an overview of the scope of the Department's species management work and its advocacy work and statutory context.

- **Visitor management in Wānaka**

Staff from the Department's Wānaka office provided an excellent briefing on visitor management and biodiversity issues in the area. This was a good opportunity for the Board to familiarise itself with Mt Aspiring National Park ahead of a likely review of the Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan in the coming years.



We also received briefings on the following issues:

- The Supreme Court decision on the Ngai Tai Fullers case.
- The impending review of the Conservation General Policy.
- The Department's efforts to reduce carbon emissions and align itself appropriately with the Zero Carbon Act.



Manuherekia River



Donald Lousley & Mike Tubbs at Boggy Burn Wetland



Inanga

Community Engagement

A Public Forum session at each Board meeting is made available for members of the community to raise conservation issues with the Board. In 2019-2020, presentations made by community groups and members of the public at Board meetings included:

Back Country Hut Trust

Guardians of Lake Wanaka

Bike Glendhu Ltd

Haehaeta Natural Heritage Trust

Member of public Mr G. Shattky presenting on freshwater concerns



The board at Falls Dam - site of proposal to raise the dam to support irrigation

Governance

Department of Conservation

The Board enjoys a strong relationship with the Department, with the Director Operations, SSI, Aaron Fleming, Statutory Manager John Roberts, three Operations Managers - Coastal Otago, Mike Hopkins (acting for Annie Wallace); Central Otago, Mike Tubbs; and Queenstown, Geoff Owen all attending Board meetings.

Concessions and Submissions

Where an application for a concession is believed to have a particular public interest, it is not adequately covered within a Plan or Strategy, or it is to be publicly notified, the Department will seek advice from the Board.

Board Membership

There were eleven Board members for the reporting year. This included two appointees of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu in accordance with section 273 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

Changes to Membership

The year began with a farewell to Pat Garden, the Board's long-serving Chair, who retired after six years of service. Pat's experience and knowledge made an immense contribution to conservation advocacy in the Otago region and we will miss both his kindness and good company.

We also bid farewell to Dr Anna Carr, who stepped down from the Board after five years of service. Anna's knowledge of tourism and the challenges of balancing visitor management with biodiversity outcomes will be greatly missed.

Dr Rosemary Clucas, one of the Board's two Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu appointees, also stepped down. Her expertise on freshwater fish and ecosystems, as well as her knowledge of local issues, were of great help at Board meetings.

There was one new appointment to the Board — Donald Lousley from Wānaka.

The Board also elected Tara Druce as chairperson and Bruce Jefferies was re-elected as Deputy Chairperson.

Board Membership

Pat Garden – Chair (outgoing)

Pat is a high-country farmer. He is past President of the New Zealand Grassland Association and has held extensive government board memberships and chair roles in the areas of science and agriculture. He became a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to science and agriculture in 2006. Pat's outdoor recreation interests are fishing and living and working in the high country.

Tara Druce – Chair (incoming)

Tara has a background in tourism public policy and research, having been a Senior Research Advisor in the Ministry of Tourism. Now living in Alexandra, she is a self-employed planning consultant, working on tourism, community development, recreation and heritage projects at local, regional and national levels. She is seen as holding highly productive and pro-active relationships in the community.

Bruce Jefferies – Vice-chair

Bruce was previously in a Samoa-based role as Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Advisor for the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme. He is an experienced international consultant and practitioner in protected area management and planning. He is a former Conservator (Tai Rawhiti) and conservation board member (Tongariro), and a current Member of Forest & Bird. Bruce's outdoor recreation interests are skiing, fishing, and using the backcountry.

Dr Philippa Agnew

Philippa is a research scientist with Tourism Waitaki at the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony. She has a PhD in marine science, specialising in seabirds, and has extensive experience in environmental management, including maintenance, population management, spatial planning and conservation. She has detailed knowledge around protected species and Marine Protected Areas and was a member of the South East Marine Protection Forum.

Kimberley Collins

Kimberley is a science communicator and conservationist who specialises in using digital media to engage people with conservation and the environment. She runs a science communication consultancy in Ōtepoti/Dunedin and is an active volunteer with local conservation projects. This includes being a committee member on Forest & Bird's Dunedin branch, leading a campaign to protect penguins at Caroline Bay in Timaru, and connecting conservation communicators throughout New Zealand. With experience working for a range of conservation organisations, she has a strong understanding of conservation issues at a local and national level.

Dr Rosemary Clucas (outgoing)

Rosemary is a nominee of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. She is a qualified scientist, self-employed as a consultant ecologist. Her background includes environmental management advocacy and cultural awareness, and her consultancy deals with climate change, biodiversity, in-stream flow surveys, and cultural values.

Anna Carr (outgoing)

Anna is a senior lecturer and co-Director of the Centre for Recreation Research at the University of Otago. She is a well-respected and connected academic/practitioner in protected area policy, planning, management of landscapes and their cultural values, and community-based approaches to nature tourism. Her outdoor recreation interests are sea kayaking, walking, photography, climbing, tramping, mountain biking, bird watching, and downhill and cross-country skiing. Anna is of Ngapuhi (Mahurehure) and Ngati Ruanui iwi.

Andrea Ludemann

Andrea is an Administration/Health and Safety Manager for Banarach Farm Limited, and Administrator for the Otago Rural Support Trust. She completed the Governance Development Programme from the Institute of Directors in 2013 and continues with development in governance. She has considerable links into the Waitaki community and likes to assist the public to understand public processes and resolve concerns and complaints. Andrea's outdoor recreation interests are cycling, skiing, tramping and gardening.

Robyn Shanks

Robyn is a sheep and beef farmer in The Catlins and manages the Cathedral Caves tourist attraction for the Maori landowners. She is chairperson for Catlins Coast Inc. - a community charitable organisation set up to help manage tourism increase in The Catlins. Robyn's outdoor recreation interests are walking, gardening and sea-shore activities such as wildlife and bird watching.

Ranui Ellison-Collins

Ranui is the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu appointee on the Otago Conservation Board. She grew up in South Dunedin and attended Queen's High School where she was part of the Young Enterprise Scheme leading a combined team with King's High School. Ranui's team won the National Te Puni Kokiri Excellence in Maori Business Award and the National Enterprising Music Award. Ranui is in her final year of a BA/BCom majoring in Economics and Indigenous Development and has more recently added a Dip Lang in Chinese Language after spending a year in Shanghai, China.

Dave Vass

Dave has been an enthusiastic adventurer for over 30 years, especially as a mountaineer/climber mainly throughout the southern mountain areas of Fiordland and Otago. He is the co-founder of New Zealand's first canyoning company based in Wanaka and believes that smaller-scale tourism ventures can interact with nature in a meaningful and sustainable way. Dave also enjoys fly fishing, canyoning, free diving, mountain biking, sea kayaking, skiing and ski touring.

Donald Lousley (incoming)

Donald is self-employed in several roles, including landscape and wildlife photographer. He has extensive outdoor experience in New Zealand with skills including, bush craft, avalanche control, mountaineering, and trap installation and monitoring. He was previously employed by the Department of Conservation over summer periods from 2014-2017, looking after huts, tracks and people in Mt Aspiring National Park, and predator control and bird monitoring.



Elvis from Orokonui Ecosanctuary introducing the board to a tuatara

Board Committees

The Board may appoint committees when appropriate to address a particular issue within the region. During the reporting period, one committee was established.

Land and water working group

The purpose and function of this working group is to draft submissions on Tenure Review and take part in statutory consultation on Land and Water matters for Board sign-off. Its members include Bruce Jefferies, Andrea Ludemann and Dave Vass.

Liaison roles

Making connection with neighbouring Conservation Boards and relevant organisations is important in both a collaborative and collegial sense.

Iwi

Ngāi Tahu nominates two members of the Board. They are individually selected by

their papatipu Rūnanga, and their status as representative of local hapū is endorsed by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Otago Conservation Board’s representatives during this annual report period were Dr Rosemary Clucas and Ranui Ellison-Collins.

Dr Clucas stepped down from the Board during the reporting period and the appointment of an additional representative is underway.

Board member	Role
Ranui Ellison-Collins	Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu representative
Dr Rosemary Clucas	Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Te Roopu Kaitiaki liaison

Neighbouring Conservation Boards

Board member	Role
Dr Philippa Agnew	Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board liaison
Tara Druce (Chair)	New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison
Donald Lousley	West Coast Ta Poutini Conservation Board liaison
Robyn Shanks	Southland Conservation Board liaison
Dave Vass	West Coast Ta Poutini Conservation Board liaison

District and Regional Councils

The Board appointed various members to liaise with other groups and agencies.

Board member	Role(s)
Rosemary Clucas	Dunedin City Council liaison
Tara Druce	Central Otago District Council liaison Otago Regional Council liaison
Bruce Jefferies	Fish and Game Council liaison
Andrea Ludemann	Waitaki District Council liaison

Robyn Shanks	Clutha District Council liaison
Dave Vass	Queenstown Lakes District Council liaison

Other

Board member	Role(s)
Robyn Shanks	New Zealand Sea Lion Forum liaison

Board Meetings

The Otago Conservation Board held four meetings during the reporting period (although six meetings in the calendar year). Venues for the Board meetings are varied each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

Date(s)	Location
10 – 11 September 2019*	Ōtepoti/Dunedin
21 – 22 November 2019*	Wānaka
27 – 28 February 2020*	Manuherekia/Alexandra
11 May 2020	Online (due to Covid-19)

* Indicates field trip/workshop



Tara Druce & Donald Lousley in Wanaka

Attendance

The table below summarises the number of Board meetings attended by members out of the total number of meetings held during the reporting period.

Members attended other meetings and events in their role as Board members, including sub-committee meetings and representative roles.

Board member	Base	Meetings attended
Pat Garden (Chair, outgoing)	Millers Flat	1/4
Tara Druce (Chair, incoming)	Manuherekia/Alexandra	4/4
Bruce Jefferies (Vice-chair)	Wānaka	3/4
Dr Philippa Agnew	Oamaru	3/4
Dr Anna Carr (outgoing)	Ōtepoti/Dunedin	0/4*
Kimberley Collins	Timaru Ōtepoti/Dunedin	4/4
Ranui Collins-Ellison	Wellington	4/4
Dr Rosemary Clucas (outgoing)	Ōtepoti/Dunedin	1/4
Donald Lousley	Wānaka	4/4
Andrea Ludemann	Oamaru	4/4
Robyn Shanks	Owaka	4/4
Dave Vass	Wānaka	4/4

Field trips

Field trips often coincide with Board meetings. This is an opportunity for members to visit areas of significance to their work and to better understand local issues affecting the communities where they are holding a meeting.

Date(s)	Location
10 September 2019	Workshop and field trip at Orokonui Ecosanctuary in Dunedin
22 November 2019	Visit to Boggy Burn Wetland in the Matukituki Valley, Wānaka
27 – 28 February 2020*	Visit to various sites in the Manuhereki Valley, Central Otago



Boggy Burn Wetland, Matukituki Valley

Appendices

Appendix 1:

Annual Work Plan



Otago Conservation Board

1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

This Annual Work Programme outlines the responsibilities and priorities of the Otago Conservation Board for the 2019/20 year. It has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation dated 5 September 2019, aligns with the statutory functions of the board and the application of these powers to deliver conservation outcomes for Otago. The plan is structured in three parts:

A: Government and Ministerial Priorities

1. Enhance relationships between Treaty Partners
2. Address the crisis of declining indigenous biodiversity and improve the protection of freshwater habitats and the marine environment
3. Improve protection of land with conservation values with focus on improving intrinsic values and appropriate user experiences in National Parks
4. Grow advocacy and community engagement

B: General expectations contained in the letter:

1. Statutory Responsibilities
2. Working with and providing advice to the Department of Conservation (the Department)
3. Working with adjoining conservation boards and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority)
4. Monitoring and self-review

C: Risks/issues from the Board's perspective, and opportunities for conservation growth that are not covered above.

BOARD FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Board, as outlined in Section 6M of the Conservation Act, are:

- a) to recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies (CMSs), and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments;
- b) to approve conservation management plans (CMPs), and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments;
- c) to advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for areas within the jurisdiction of the Board;
- d) to advise the Conservation Authority or the Director-General:
 - (i) on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and

- (ii) on any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the Board;
- e) to liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board; and
- f) to exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

The functions of the Board, as outlined in Section 30 of the National Park Act 1980 are:

(1) In addition to the functions specified elsewhere in this Act or in any other Act, the functions of each Board shall be—

- (a) to recommend management plans, and the review or amendment of such plans, for parks within the jurisdiction of the Board in accordance with sections 45 to 47:
- (b) to consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks:
- (c) to make recommendations to the Minister for the appointment of honorary rangers under section 40:
- (d) to review and report to the Director-General or the Authority, as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the administration of the general policies for national parks within the jurisdiction of the Board:
- (e) *[Repealed]*
- (f) 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.

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act 1987 and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend conservation board meetings. If you would like more information on the Otago Conservation Board please see the website www.conservationboards.org.nz or contact the board support officer tmurphy@doc.govt.nz.

Status indicator

Colour	Indicates
	Completed
	Started and is ongoing
	Not started yet

PART A: Government and Ministerial Priorities

1. Enhance relationships between Treaty Partners

Grow positive relationships with Iwi and gain greater understanding of a Maori world view.

Lead: Ranui & second Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu representative

Support: Dave, Bruce and Kimberley

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Consider NZCA's Section 4 protocol and its application to the OCB.		Protocols have been considered and adopted by the Board. Protocols will guide future decision-making.
B	Grow the boards understanding of the history of the Ngāi Tai case and consider inviting a Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu representative to give context to this case at a local level.		This is an ongoing learning opportunity as the outcomes of this case are being considered. We continue to monitor work being done by the Department on this.
C	Continue regular mātauranga Māori discussions to grow the OCB's Maori world view		The Board continues to reserve time at each meeting to discuss relevant topics and upskill. This year has focused heavily on understanding,

	and the significance of areas within Otago		adopting and giving life to Section 4 Protocols.
D	Provide Board Members with the opportunity to attend Pūkenga Atawhai training.		Board members have the ongoing opportunity to attend the training however there have not been any in the Southern Region during the 19/20 year.
E	Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu appointees to report back at each OCB meeting on liaison and any issues that the OCB should be aware of		This is an ongoing responsibility of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu appointees that has been met this year and will continue to be met in the future.

2. Biodiversity

Address the crisis of declining indigenous biodiversity and improve the protection of freshwater habitats and the marine environment

Lead: Phillipa

Support: Robyn, Andrea, Donald, Kimberley

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
A	Submit on strategic documents regarding biodiversity and threatened species in our region.		Submitted on the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy, Whitebait Strategy, Hoiho Strategy, Squid Strategy, Marine Science Restructure, National Plan of Action Seabirds. Biodiversity advocacy is ongoing.
B	Provide strategic leadership for the interagency		Letter to ORC Chair Nov 19. Meeting with ORC Chair Feb 20. Attended biodiversity forums, Aug 19 and Feb 20. Feb 2020

	Biodiversity forum and advocate to and for this group. Meet with ORC Chair and attend biodiversity forum meetings.		Field trip to the Manuherekia Basin to understand more about the biodiversity values and planning issues.
C	Invite local councils to represent on biodiversity programmes when we are holding a meeting in their area.		QLDC Bio-diversity Staff – November meeting CODC, Mayor Cadogan - Feb meeting DCC, Hon Hawkins - July Meeting

3. Improve protection of land with conservation values with focus on improving intrinsic values and appropriate user experiences in National Parks.

Lead: Dave

Support: Robyn, Donald, Bruce

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Provide advice to the Department on proposed changes to the status of significant conservation lands as per the Conservation Management Strategy.		The proposed reclassification of the Remarkables is an ongoing area of interest for the Board and we continue to seek updates from DOC on developments. The Board made a submission on the Tenure Review proposal for Glenarae Station.
B	Advocate ways for improving intrinsic values and appropriate user experiences		MANP management plan review has not started and looks increasingly distant. The board is currently advocating for a greater focus on intrinsic values and better user experience through the Tourism Review Taskforce process, including writing to the Minister

	during the MANP management plan review process if the plan is notified.		of Tourism in May 2020.
C	Give advice to the Department on any reviews or partial reviews of Conservation Management Strategies or National Park Plans should they occur in the 19/20 year.		The Otago CMS partial review focused on bike trails is underway. The Board is advising on policy and content and will be sitting on upcoming hearing panels.
D	Advocate for better management of aircraft impacts in National Parks		DOC is revisiting aircraft planning in National parks in the wake of the re-notification of the AMCNP review and other plans. The board is awaiting developments. The board had dialogue with West Coast Board Chair on this issue at the Nov 2019 meeting.
E	Advocate for conservation outcomes in Regional / District Plan Reviews		The board is advocating with the ORC, DCC and other councils, to continue developing the 'multi agency co-operation outcomes' that arose from the 2018 biodiversity hui.

4. Grow advocacy & community engagement

Lead: Kimberley

Support: Philippa, Andrea, Tara

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
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A	Develop a community engagement strategy to effectively communicate with Board stakeholders, including mana whenua, conservation/recreational users of public conservation land, and the wider public.		Drafted for board discussion at August meeting.
B	Complete an analysis to identify current Board stakeholders.		Drafted for board discussion at August meeting.
C	Investigate the creation of stakeholder focus groups and establish a schedule for focus group type engagement.		No progress until stakeholder list finalised
D	Report to the public and NZCA on the outcomes of our meetings and field trip activity through quarterly newsletter annual report.		In progress for discussion at August meeting.

PART B: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

1 Deliver on our Statutory Functions and Responsibilities

Lead: Bruce

Support: Donald and Ranui

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Give advice to the Department on		Gave advice on a number of statutory issues during the year including the

	concession issues and other statutory processes as required.		Aramoana Spit Houses, University of Otago proposed changes to Marine Science, Aspiring Guides Caches and Waianakarua NZDA Hut.
B	Monitor the Department of Conservation's progress towards the notification of a MANPMP review. Review the annual work programme if this is realised during the 2019/20 year.		No progress made towards this review.
C	Monitor and report on the milestones of the Otago Conservation Management Strategy (2016)		Undertook a comprehensive review of the 5-year milestones of the CMS and advocated to DOC on areas where more focus is required.
D	Support the collaborative relationships with Fish & Game Councils in areas of mutual interest in the Otago region, identify areas of mutual interest, have a nominated board member attend F&G Council meetings and encourage Otago Fish and Game staff and councillors to attend board meetings		Board members attended x board meetings and we hosted the Otago F&G CEO and Board member for a field trip to the Manuherekia in Feb 2020.

2 Foster a collaborative and productive relationship with the Department

Lead: Tara

Support: All

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Invite key DOC staff at Board meetings and other forums to contribute to discussions and decision-making processes		Key staff invited and attended all meetings and are trusted advisors to the Board.
B	Work with DOC staff to ensure papers to the board are strategically focused		New templates adopted for all Board reports to ensure a strategic focus.
C	Support the Department at events and where appropriate in discussions with Stakeholders.		No events or external discussions attended by the Board during the 19/20 year.

3 Work effectively with adjoining conservation boards and the Authority

Lead: Tara

Support: All

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Continue to have nominated Board		Nominated Board members received board minutes from neighbouring

	representatives to be liaison points with NZCA and neighbouring conservation boards. Representatives to review agendas, board papers minutes and ensure relevant connections with OCB work.		boards.
B	OCB Chair to continue to liaise with neighbouring Board Chairs through the NZCA Conference for Board Chairpersons and to develop a constructive working relationship with adjoining Board Chairs		Attendance at Chair's hui in August 2019 . Also a meeting with the Wellington Board Chair in January 2020 and regular phone conversations with the Southland Chair.
C	Ensure NZCA representative is kept well informed of Board activities and is invited to all meetings and copied into board papers.		Frequent meetings with NZCA liaison between Board meetings and attendance at 2 meetings.
D	Invite neighbouring boards to send representatives to attend our meetings and/or field trips.		The Chairs of both the Southland and West Coast boards attended our meeting, Useful discussions around aircraft planning and NP Plans.

4 Monitoring and Self Review

Lead: Tara

Support: All

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Implement the recommendations of the Governance Review undertaken in June 2019		Year One recommendations adopted and implemented. Other recommendations ongoing.
B	Reorganise meeting agendas and structure to focus on strategic priorities		Done.
C	Instigate dedicated board only time to reflect on governance and strategic direction and performance		Done.
D	Work towards creating an inclusive board culture that welcomes diverse perspectives, identities, and life experiences to ensure all board members are equally engaged and invested.		Ongoing. Explored our diversity of thought profile and board only time allows for reflection.
E	Implement a protocol for managing conflicts of interest		Done. Conflict of interest register circulated at each meeting.

PART C: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

10 Risks from the Board's perspective

A	The ability of board members to allocate adequate time and resources to what is a significant voluntary commitment
B	The ability to balance completing perspectives and values for conservation around the Board table.
C	The ability of monitor and understand ever-evolving Treaty related issues

11 Opportunities for conservation growth

A	<p>Ensure that CMS and National Park Management Plans integrate prescriptive guidance to the department that are focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the long term (in perpetuity) values that are provided by intact ecosystems and biodiversity (ii) Consistent with (i) human welfare benefits and measurable gains
B	<p>Consider undertaking an analysis of research which would yield important new information with practical application to support conservation. A concise overview of both social and natural science research priorities for the Otago region would provide an opportunity for application within the academic and research community, including topics for future PhD research. Research results would benefit stakeholders operating in the practical field of conservation planning and management.</p>
C	<p>Investigate ways to better understand how the Otago CMS and MANP MP align with national biodiversity conservation objectives.</p>
D	<p>Considering that climate change will threaten the habitat of endemic and migratory species consider ways to design and practice assisted migration to guarantee, as far as possible, secure future habitats for these species.</p>
E	<p>Better understand and apply how the cultural and spiritual significance of nature could be better understood and used to improve the governance and management of conservation values.</p>

APPENDIX 2

Otago Conservation Management Strategy Implementation Monitoring Report		
Otago Conservation Management Strategy Implementation Monitoring Report		
Milestone:	From Otago Conservation Management Strategy 2016	
Status:		
	Underway in current business plan and on track to achieve by target date.	
	Underway but either very complex or has issues that may affect achievement by target date if not managed well.	
	Will not meet target date as work has either stalled, or will take longer than expected, or where it is proposed to seek agreement with the Board to drop the milestone and not proceed with the work.	
	Not started and not yet programmed for work.	
Progress:	Progress report on achievement of the milestone.	
	<i>Progress statement required every report on status red and amber milestones and especially significant achievements for status green milestones. Progress statement required at end of year on progress of all milestones, except those with status white.</i>	
Changes to milestone target date:		
	<i>Note any changes to the target date for a milestone, only where agreement has firstly been reached between the Board and the Department. The milestone reverts to status green, but with a tag to note the target year has been changed by agreement.</i>	
Achievement of milestone	Where a milestone has been fully achieved it will be removed from the list at the end of the reporting year.	
Removal of milestone	Where it has been agreed between the Board and the Department that the milestone will no longer be progressed, it will be removed from the list at the end of the reporting year.	
Other achievements	If required, provide additional information to briefly describe any significant achievements advancing CMS outcomes and objectives that are not tied to a milestone.	
Milestone	Status	Progress
1.4 Treaty partnership with Ngāi Tahu – Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)		
An agreed 'partnership framework' has been		The Te Ara Hononga DOC - Ngāi Tahu relationship engagement framework project was initiated by TRoNT and commenced in February 2017 and concluded in March 2018. The project succeeded in identifying the drivers of the

<p>developed with Ngāi Tahu to implement and monitor the Treaty partnership with respect to the management of conservation lands in Otago.</p>		<p>relationship in both organisations and how joint work could occur towards a relationship framework.</p> <p>In August 2018 the DDG Operations (who holds accountability for the Ngāi Tahu relationship) issued a DOC - NT relationship improvement task to the newly appointed Ngāi Tahu Relationship Advisor (fixed term role). The purpose of this task was to, Explore/scope how to improve the Department's partnership with Ngāi Tahu so the two organisations can operate together effectively. The task concludes with a final report and recommendations to DDG Operations on 31 August.</p> <p>In late 2018 Ngāi Tahu and DOC established a Kahui Governance Group to oversee the DOC relationship. The group meets every three months.</p> <p>With Te Ara Hononga concluded, it is through these the relationship task and the Kahui Governance Group, that this milestone will be achieved.</p>
<p>A process has been established between the Department and Ngāi Tahu to prioritise, review, develop and implement protocols and guidance documents addressing Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, Conservation Protocols and section 4 Conservation Act 1987 matters.</p>		<p>This was an outcome from Te Ara Hononga project which was concluded in March 2018. The emphasis in the Partnership has shifted to governance oversight as a mechanism to improve the relationship and treaty requirements. The NZ Supreme Court Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki decision is currently the priority in both organisations regarding how Sec.4 is interpreted and applied.</p> <p>There is the potential at some point in the future for the Protocols to be reviewed but not timeframe has been discussed.</p>
<p>Measures to protect, encourage respect for, and provide for active involvement of Ngāi Tahu in the</p>		<p>DOC works with individual Papatipu Runanga and Te Tai Arai te Uru Roopu to provide for active involvement. DOC and Ngāi Tahu have piloted a co-design approach to Hoiho Recovery which is has potential for other recovery groups.</p>

<p>management of sites and species of significance to Ngāi Tahu have been formally put in place.</p>		
<p>Guidelines on the use of taonga species and sites of significance to Ngāi Tahu within advertising and promotional material have been mutually formalised and implemented.</p>		<p>No work has been done on this milestone.</p>
<p>A process has been mutually agreed to, and implemented, that will enable the Department to identify and support conservation-related projects of strategic priority to Ngāi Tahu.</p>		<p>The Kahui Governance Group has initiated strategic work, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whenua Tupuna land classification • Cultural materials • Relationship principles <p>A process to systemise strategic work has not been implemented and would need to be supported by shared strategic objectives.</p>
<p>Part 1 Milestones: 1.5.1 Natural heritage – Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)</p>		

A baseline report on the condition of the priority ecosystem units in Otago, as listed in Appendix 4.

There is a desk-top process to estimate each sites' condition. Detailed reports presented at Sept board meeting - copy available on request

There are 38 ecosystem management sites (known as Ecosystem Management Units or EMUs) that form the list in Appendix 4.

Each individual ecosystem site represents one or more different types of ecosystem (e.g. silver beech forest or spinifex duneland).

A new ranking for sites that combines data for managing both ecosystems and species has been completed and DOC has started incorporating this new advice into business plans, primarily to help guide new investment. (These were not selected as sites to protect specific threatened species, but a lot of work has been done to integrate species management into those sites, and to identify new species management sites - known as Species Management Units or SMUs). We note the importance of maintaining the legacy of past work at sites which have been the focus of considerable effort.

Overtime, the new internal ranking may change the emphasis that DOC places on management for the list in Appendix 4. All sites under management have 'prescriptions' describing the work that must be carried out to meet long term ecological condition and/or species persistence objectives. We use these prescriptions to estimate the site's condition.

Records of pressures (e.g. climbing weeds, possums, water abstraction) present and management planned to relieve pressure is used to calculate predicted condition indices for each ecosystem type.

These estimates were then averaged to give an estimated condition index for each site (Table 1).

Table 1 shows the average ecological integrity for ecosystem management sites identified as priorities in the Otago Conservation Management Strategy ("Table 1 OtagoCMS_EMUS_EI.pdf"). Average ecological integrity is the area-weighted mean of the estimated integrity of each terrestrial, lake or wetland ecosystem type found at the site. Ecological integrity is estimated on a scale of 0 to 1, where 0 indicates a wholly modified ecosystem with no remaining natural character and 1 indicates an ecosystem of high health and function, which is only minimally impacted by pressures arising from invasive species or human use of land or water. This estimate is based on information recorded in site-based management plans, indicating which pressures affect each ecosystem type at the site, and the degree to which each pressure will be reduced by management. Differences may be due to choices to put more or less effort into different sites but can also reflect the landscape context of each site, the ecosystems' inherent vulnerability to different pressures, and

the tractability of different pressures to management. For instance, some aquatic ecosystems can have low integrity because they are influenced by pressures which are very difficult to reduce through local, on-the-ground management. Estimated average condition of ecosystem types common in the Otago region was summarised over all managed sites and compared to national condition for those types (Figure 1). Figure 1 is a comparison of estimated ecological integrity for terrestrial, lake and wetland ecosystem types represented in Otago with the national average for ecosystem types (error bars show 95% confidence interval) (“Figure 1 OTagoCMSFunded.png”). Ecological integrity is estimated on a scale of 0 to 1, where 0 indicates a wholly modified ecosystem with no remaining natural character and 1 indicates an ecosystem of high health and function, which is only minimally impacted by pressures arising from invasive species or human use of land or water. This estimate is based on information recorded in site-based management plans, indicating which pressures are present at each site where the ecosystem type occurs, and the degree to which each pressure will be reduced by management. Most ecosystem types in Otago are close to the national average. Frost flats (temperature inversion ecosystems), low altitude grass and shrubland (non-forest below the treeline), dune, braided river and conifer forests are in somewhat poorer condition than the national average. Differences may be due to a choice to focus on other ecosystem types but may also reflect the completeness of the information contained in management plans, either in Otago or elsewhere in NZ. DOC puts ongoing effort into “prescription review” to improve the quality of this information.

At last year’s milestone reporting, it was thought possible to report on the condition of priority sites using field data from the National Biodiversity Monitoring and Reporting System and data about management from our work outputs at site (e.g. residual mammal tracking rates).

There have been some pilot investigations on how to do this, and some new resources from Budget2018 are available to support further development but we do not yet have a means to summarise the effectiveness of conservation activities by site using field data.

At present, reporting is limited to discrete metrics (e.g. bird call index) at the landscape or national scale rather than individual sites.

<p>Scheduled outputs identified in approved work programmes for priority ecosystem units in Otago.</p>		<p>Outputs are able to be identified from the annual business plan and thirdly reporting. The BP shows hours and \$ per site (EMU). Thirdly reporting demonstrates the outputs actually delivered each third. Detailed report of outputs/spend against sites presented at Sept meeting - copy available on request</p>
<p>Scheduled outputs identified for threatened species outside priority ecosystem units for which a work programme is underway.</p>		<p>As above, the extent of outputs for threatened species work outside EMU's for which a work programme is underway are able to be identified via the annual business plan process and its delivery reported on via thirdly reporting. Detailed report of outputs/spend against threatened species presented to board Sept 19 - copy available on request</p>
<p>Collaborative partnerships for ecosystems and species restoration, protection and management are established.</p>		<p>There are currently 43 partnerships involved in ecosystems and species restoration, protection and management across Otago. These are recorded in relationships databases held by Districts (Central Otago 20 partnerships, Coastal Otago 14 partnerships & Wakatipu 9 partnerships). Partnerships for Central Otago have increased in the last 12 months from 14-20 due to new biodiversity initiatives, including partnerships with Aspiring Biodiversity Trust, Clyde Community and EnviroSchools Ecological Restoration Group and Haehaeata Natural Heritage Trust. Soho Properties Ltd has become a significant biodiversity initiative we are working with in Central Otago. Predator Free Dunedin received \$4.3M in October 2018 and a new Trust formed. Two of the three sectors (Otago Peninsula and Mt Cargill/West Harbour) are fully operational and the third sector, Urban linkage, will be operational post 1 July 2019.</p>
<p>Control of wilding conifers in accordance with the New Zealand Wilding Conifer Management Strategy 2015-2030.</p>		<p>There are 4 broad strategies in this document and the department is consistent with these</p> <p>1. Recognise individual and collective responsibilities</p> <p>DOC Wakatipu is part of the Wakatipu Wilding Conifer Control Group (WCG) a Trust created in 2009 which consists of local government, private businesses/landowners and individuals who had recognised that the wilding problem can only be tackled collectively. The WCG have a clear role to lead the work in accordance with the national strategy, and an agreed annual operational plan which is updated as control work occurs. The Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control Group (COWCCG) was established in 2013 and signed a Management Agreement with DOC in 2016. The Trust has a very similar set up to the WCG and again work in accordance with the national strategy.</p>

		<p>2. Be cost effective and timely At a district level, the WCG and COWCCG contract control operations to DOC as it is recognised that this a cost-effective approach to addressing the issue. Work is delivered in accordance with the operational plans. WCG works concentrating on seeding trees at present</p> <p>3. Prioritise This year has been about continuing to move forward as part of the National Programme, the process of prioritising will be ongoing. The country is now split into high priority management units where M.P.I is contributing to the cost of control. At a local level the priority in the Wakatipu has been tackling areas where there is the highest risk of seed spreading. The COWCCG strategy is aligned with the National Strategy which has allowed national priority areas in the Kakanui/St Mary/Ida Ranges, Dunstan Mountains and Lammermoor Range to be treated.</p> <p>4. Coordinate The WCG have long coordinated across land boundaries and tenures, and COWCCG also work with a range of stakeholders. A large percentage of the work is undertaken on private land; landowners pick up a share of the costs and are given the tools to undertake their own control into the future. Nationally, we are in phase one of a project to formalise a best practice guide and establish training for aerial wanding operations; this will share knowledge and skills across the country, and will enable consistent results in wilding control work. The Wilding Control Information System is up and running, allowing fund managers to upload control work. This gives a national picture of infestations and control work completed.</p>
<p>Part 1 Milestones: 1.5.2 Historic and cultural heritage – Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)</p>		
<p>A baseline report on the number and condition of actively conserved historic places listed in Appendix 10 that are stable and not deteriorating.</p>		<p>The number and condition of sites for 2018-19 is able to be provided from the Visitor Asset Management database from our regular inspections and engineering reports . Detailed data presented at Sept board meeting, copy available on request.</p>

<p>Progress heritage assessments for all actively conserved historic places listed in Appendix 10, including identification of Ngāi Tahu values.</p>		<p>There are 39 sites on this list. 30 have now had heritage assessments completed - No 17/18 update provided . Yet to be updated for 18-19</p>
<p>Identification of new sites for inclusion in Appendix 10, including sites important to Ngāi Tahu.</p>		<p>The Department currently manages about 600 actively conserved historic places nationally. A method to add new places to this list (as they are acquired or are recognised) and remove them (usually resulting from natural disaster) is currently being prepared as of 16/17. This will allow a pathway to evaluate the status of the list of actively conserved historic places and to consider additions identified - No 17/18 update Yet to be updated for 18-19</p>
<p>Part 1 Milestones: 1.5.3 Recreation – Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)</p>		
<p>A baseline report on the number and condition of huts, tracks and other visitor facilities in Otago, and on the numbers and satisfaction of people using these facilities.</p>		<p>We are able to provide the number and condition of huts, tracks and other visitor facilities and numbers of people using these facilities direct from our inspection reports /track counters (where we have them) in the visitor asset management database. Detailed data presented for the 18-19 year at the board at Sept meeting. Copy available as a separate report on request. Not possible to provide analysis of the satisfaction of people re All assets across Otago - but note online feedback summary in Sept Rec report and scope/results of MANP Visitor Surveys (Jeff Dalley) done summer 18-19 to inform MANP Plan review</p>
<p>Partnerships established to maintain and develop Local Treasure and Backcountry facilities in Otago.</p>		<p>There are many recreation partnerships across Otago (17 in Central Otago alone), however the 7 key partnerships are the Dunedin City Council (strategy development, track alignment, and volunteer support), the Green Hut Track Group (maintenance at multiple BC sites around Dunedin) , the Otago Central Rail Trail Trust, the NZ Alpine Club and Upper Clutha Tracks Trust, the Queenstown Trails Trust and the Queenstown Mountain Biking Club. (Refer doccm-5111147)</p>
<p>Part 1 Milestones: 1.5.4 Community engagement – Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)</p>		

<p>Evaluate the extent of, and outcomes from, programmes aimed at increasing the amount of conservation achieved with community partners in Otago.</p>		<p>A review of existing and new management agreements is underway for community groups/individuals either working on, or seeking to work on, public conservation land to ensure an understanding of the work being undertaken and its contribution to conservation. DOC is also using a set of tools to evaluate and assess alignment of existing stakeholder aspirations to DOCs Stretch Goals and to identify where gaps may exist. The outcome of this work influences DOC business planning. Coastal Otago has surveyed 5 key stakeholders to collect information on work done by others to increase the amount of conservation achieved. Their stakeholders are: Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group, Landscape Connections Trust, Sinclair Wetlands, Orokonui Ecosanctuary. Central Otago have also surveyed 5 key stakeholders. Their stakeholders are: Te Kakano Trust, Haehaeata Natural Heritage Trust, Clyde Community and Enviroschools Restoration Group, Aspiring Biodiversity Trust, Forest and Bird Society (Central Otago-Lakes). Data on stakeholders and volunteer numbers relating to DOC-linked work is also collected for non-financial planning level (NFPL) reporting.</p>
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Part 1 Milestones: 1.5.5 Business partnerships – Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)

<p>Evaluate the extent of, and outcomes aimed at increasing the amount of, conservation achieved with business partners in Otago.</p>		<p>1. Stocktake We are still in the process of developing a method to evaluate the extent of, and outcomes from, increasing conservation achieved with business partners. There are currently 6 formal business partnerships across Otago (Central Otago 0, Wakatipu 4, Coastal Otago 2 (docCM 5516475). These relationships are delivering across a range of outcomes and include business participation in Trusts, sponsorship and provision of facilities</p> <p>2. Contributions The next step will be to look at the contributions in more detail and summarise them both in terms of dollar contributions (if possible) and qualitative assessments.</p> <p>3. Options for increasing conservation achieved with business partners. Each district will need to look at how to improve contributions being made by businesses, and options such as the linkage between local businesses and community groups. This will also tie into the broader work being undertaken by the Partnerships team.</p>
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Process in place -

Part 2 Milestones: Mount Aspiring National Park/Tititea Place - Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)

Commence an investigation to add the Lower Dart Conservation Area and part of the Shotover Conservation Area, Snowy Creek to Mount Aspiring National Park.		Site specific investigations not commenced
Part 2 Milestones: Te Papanui, Oteake and Hāwea Conservation Parks Place - Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)		
Progress actively conserved historic site status and Ngāi Tahu historic interpretation for Manuhaea Conservation Area.		2019 progress: No resources committed to progress both these matters. Engagement yet to begin with Ngai Tahu.
Part 2 Milestones: Western Lakes and Mountains/Ngā Puna Wai Karikari a Rākaihautū Place - Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)		
Control and containment of feral goats and tahr.		Annual work is planned and funded via annual business plan and reported on in detail via Thirdly Reporting ; Current Wakatipu/Wanaka goat control work spread over approx 220,000 hectares and work subject to Operational Goat Control Plan for SSI Region (currently being updated); Current Wakatipu /Wanaka Tahr control covers approx 500,000ha. Tahr control work implemented subject to the departments Operational Plan for Tahr Control, SSI Region. Thar Abundance key points: 1. Aerial surveys of Himalayan thar were undertaken across the thar range during 2016 and 2017. The total abundance of thar on public conservation land was estimated to be 35,633. 2. Thar density in the Southern Exclusion Zone (south of the Haast Highway) averaged 0.06/km2. 3. The management threshold for thar density of <1 thar /km2 Management Unit 7 (Otago) was not exceeded. Refer Thar density report doccm 3233856. Tahr control nationally has been on hold for much of the 2018/19 year as the National Tahr Operational Plan has been

		under review. Work recommenced in the Southern Exclusion Zone (Mt Aspiring National Park) in May 2019.
An evaluation of the level of recreation opportunities at the Skippers township.		Done - see "Skippers Canyon - Bringing History to Life and Increasing Participation in Recreation" 2015 internal report by national recreation team.
A programme established to manage wilding tree control within Macetown Historic Reserve while considering historic and amenity values.		Further investigation into programme is planned for this year but will be complex due to the location and high heritage values on site. Some aerial and ground control of Sycamores has taken place around the fringes of the reserve. We will continue this in the coming year.
Part 2 Milestones: Central Otago Uplands Place - Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)		
Investigations have commenced to determine the best way to create a 'tussock grassland park'.		Have not commenced this. Note scattered nature of pcl in this Place from Pisa/Dunstans in the west to Manorburn and the Kakanui's in the east.
Part 2 Milestones: Old Man Range/Kopuwai, Old Woman Range, and Garvie Mountains - Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)		

Initiation of monitoring the use and effects of over-snow vehicle activities.		2019 process: Monitoring programme by national Planning, Monitoring & Reporting team established. Representative GNSS tracks of commercial snowmobile activity carried out. Engaging with recreational skiers to capture data and seek feedback yet to be established.
Investigations have commenced to determine the best way to create a 'tussock grassland park'.		These lands form part of the possible scope of the 2016 OCB/DOC reclassification proposal for the wider Remarkables. Note FMC national park proposal; and Glenaray TR across these lands. Suggest that 'investigation' has commenced under the scoping of 2016 Remarkables reclassification proposal, but any delivery of a wider 'grassland park' linking these lands likely to be complex
Part 2 Milestones: Central Otago Drylands/Manuherikia Place - Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)		
Collaborative initiatives are encouraged and supported for the restoration and enhancement of dryland ecosystems.		The Central Otago District has historic, vegetation protection and landscape covenants within dryland ecosystems. The number and condition of these are reported on under a covenant monitoring programme. DOC work with 3 primary groups on dryland ecosystem enhancement and restoration, the Haehaeata Natural Heritage Trust, Te Kakano Trust and the Central Otago Ecological Trust. These groups propagate dryland shrubs and trees and restore ecosystems through planting projects, as well as promoting the work they do within the community. Where practicable DOC connects other interested parties with these groups to promote the value of dryland species and encourage use of eco-sourced shrubs for restoration or planting projects. Control of wilding conifer trees is undertaken in partnership with the Central Otago Wilding Conifer Control Group, leading to a large area of public conservation land being controlled for wilding conifers. A number of heritage sites in the Dryland Upland are popular visitor attractions. New interpretation produced for these sites references the special vegetation of the area, including shrublands.
The Otago Central Rail Trail remains successful.		15,029 people did the whole trail in the 18-19 year (July-June) This compares to 14,800 in the 17-18 year (July-June) No specific visitor satisfaction surveys this year
Part 2 Milestones: Eastern Otago and Lowlands/Maukaatua Place - Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)		

<p>Collaborative initiatives are established to promote and increase awareness of threats to the wetlands and other habitats, fragile dunes, nesting birds, marine mammals and threatened species.</p>		<p>Collaborating actively with 27 groups including other government agencies and local authorities, a variety of NGO's, business, landowners and volunteer groups on these biodiversity interests in this Place (refer DOC-5938990).</p>
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Part 2 Milestones: Catlins/Te Ākau Tai Toka Place - Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)

<p>Collaborative initiatives are established for conservation management of or advocacy for the threats to the fragile dunes, nesting birds, marine mammals and threatened species.</p>		<p>A number of Community Agreements have been established, (eg. Tautuku Basin with Forest & Bird, Trapping at Pounaweia with local Community) with Community groups for trapping of predators. Otago University have completed a report on Dunes and planning has been commenced with Ngai Tahu and Otago University in regard to Sealion dune reconstruction. Consent for the Dune reconstruction work has been received but the actual work has not been completed. Input has been received into Sealion threat management plan. Yellow Eyed Penguin work is ongoing with the Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust including a 5-year distribution survey. A Technical advisory group for hoiho is underway.</p>
<p>Identification, in conjunction with Ngāi Tahu, relevant agencies and the community, of improvements to visitor facilities.</p>		<p>Feedback has been incorporated into the modification of the toilets at the Nuggets. We have worked with community groups in regard to the improvement of local tracks and a revegetation programme. Local businesses have provided feedback for the repair work on the McLeans Falls track following a large landslip. Clutha District Council and Catlins Inc have provided advice and feedback on the establishment of the Responsible Camping Ranger Programme. With Clutha District Council contributing financially to this venture. During July 2019 Operations Manager, Tony Preston has an inter-agency meeting with major stakeholder on managing tourism in the Catlins. Major stakeholders include; Clutha District Council, Southland District Council, Ngai Tahu and Catlins Inc.</p>

Part 2 Milestones: Marine/Te Tai o Arai te Uru Place - Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)

<p>Collaborative initiatives are established to improve integrated management or advocacy for the marine environment in Otago.</p>		<p>Collaborating with 16 central and local government agencies, Ngai Tahu, NGO's, businesses and volunteer groups on integrated management in the marine environment covering Raukapuka/Geraldine, Coastal Otago and Murihiku Districts (refer DOC-5938990). Outcomes from the South Eastern Marine Protection Forum have yet to be promulgated to DOC Operations.</p>
<p>Assessment of the effectiveness of statutory advocacy and the implementation of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (2010) in Otago.</p>		<p>The Otago Regional Policy Statement recognises and gives effect to the NZCPS with greater protection for indigenous biodiversity, natural character, and natural features and outstanding landscapes in the coastal environment. The NZCPS is recognised in the DCC 2GP. This is both for protection of significant landscape values and indigenous biodiversity values in the coastal environment.</p>
<p>Part 2 Milestones: Freshwater/Wai Māori Place - Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)</p>		
<p>Assessment of the effectiveness of statutory advocacy and the implementation of the Otago Regional Council's 'Water for Otago' (the Water Plan) on river conservation values.</p>		<p>Statutory advocacy here relates to engagement in a number of Water Plan changes completed or in progress (mostly Minimum Flow Plan Changes for various rivers across Otago) and the deemed mining programme. Department is engaged in these via local operations teams, national freshwater and RMA teams. We are currently engaged in a number of deemed mining permit applications setting residual flows, either as a submitter to lodged application or in development with applicant as an affected party, plus a number of minimum flow settings e.g. Lindis Plan Change; Manuherikia Plan Change; Arrow Plan Change; Cardrona Plan change. Advocating in a coordinated way with other stakeholders and have resourced via internal steering group and project team. Difficult to measure our effectiveness until more of these individual applications are resolved and minimum flows set. Success with Bickerstaffe in 2016 (Clutha flatheads) and Kyeburn (Roundheads) in 2017 - agreement from farmers for an indigenous fish management plan as result of our advocacy in the RMA process along with a minimum flow and conditions. ORC assessing how to process remaining deemed mining permits in the context of their existing Water Plan, lack of minimum flows, new National Policy Statements for freshwater and the 2021 deadline for processing the remaining deemed</p>

		<p>mining permits. DOC is engaged actively with ORC and stakeholders on this matter.</p>
<p>Collaborative initiatives are established for management or advocacy of freshwater ecosystems in Otago.</p>		<p>Much ongoing collaborative engagement with other stakeholders (Fish and Game, KTKO -Ngai Tahu, ORC staff) in relation to minimum and residual flow setting work. Recognise the need to keep on developing collaborative initiatives with individual farmers as they arise. Multiple examples already resulting from Coastal Otago freshwater ranger work with individual farmers gaining support for freshwater works and allowing us access to undertake survey work, trout removal, trout barrier and fence installation. Note increasing freshwater resources in DOC - number of technical positions advertised.</p>
<p>Investigations undertaken to determine the best way of protecting priority indigenous ecosystems off public conservation lands and waters in Otago, such as Lakes Waihola and Waipori, the Taieri River scroll plain, and the wetland complex situated on Nokomai Station.</p>		<p>(1) Waihola and Waipori are Statutory Acknowledgement Areas under the NT Deed of Settlement. Coastal Otago working with community groups on to explore options for EMU prescription delivery here (refer CM-5511147). The Sinclair Wetlands between the two lakes is protected under a QE II covenant. (2) Upper Taieri River Scroll Plain is recognised by the ORC as a regionally significant wetland and listed as an Area of Significant Vegetation. (3) The Garvie wetland complex comprises wetlands split between Nokomai and Glenaray. Glenaray in TR; Nokomai has not entered. The Blue, Gow and Scott Lake wetlands are classed as regionally significant wetlands in the Environment Southland Regional Plan; Water.</p>

Part 3 Milestones: Specific policy requirements – Achieved by the end of Year 3 (2019)

Initiatives to remove or change the status of unauthorised private accommodation and related facilities on public conservation lands and waters in Otago.		Addressing these as they arise (e.g. Pilot houses) and via concession expiry.
An assessment undertaken of the effectiveness of aircraft management provisions within the CMS, including cumulative and adverse effects.		Assessment of effectiveness of CMS provisions (e.g. zones; landings/day/year) not yet conducted. Planning Monitoring and Reporting team are collecting soundscape information to inform FNP and MANP reviews regarding flightpaths, but not on effectiveness of existing provisions (e.g. zones; landings/day/year). For this narrower Park Plan purpose we have also undertaken a review of the extent and usefulness of the aircraft data we do hold, and what is still required, to address having information of which to base decisions for the upcoming provisions of the MANP Plan review (activity returns, GPS, field monitoring, social surveys, soundscape)

