

WAIKATO CONSERVATION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

2021 - 2022



**Waikato Conservation Board Annual
Report 2021 - 2022**

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

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 Waikato Conservation Board please see the website <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodies/conservation-Boards/> or contact the Board Support Officer, at the Department of Conservation in Hamilton, Ph: 07 8581000.

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Front cover - Waikato Conservation Board Members

(Front row -left to right -Flora Bartholomew, Rob Chappell, Clare St Pierre, Charlotte Muggerridge, Shelley Langton-Myers.

Back row, Left to right - NZCA Liaison Puke Timoti, Bill Harris, Chair Ngati Apakura Rūnanga Trust Board, Michelle Lewis, DOC HWT Statutory Manager and Natasha Grainger, Waikato Regional Council Lakes Advisor.

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1. Chairperson's Report

E ngā mana e ngā a reo e ngā karanga maha tēnā koutou katoa

With the 2 years of COVID- 19 intensity fading into memory as we return to normality, albeit with a heightened sense of awareness and focus of looking after our respective corners of the world, so has the board returned to normality and relished the opportunity to meet face to face instead of in the virtual

With focus not only on its statutory responsibilities, its annual workplan and alignment with the Minister's Letter of Expectations, the board's year included:

- Field trip to the Waipa District to view the state of the peat lakes, receive presentations from the Living Waters team, and hear and engage with Iwi

- Receiving presentations ranging from the Ministry of Primary Industries – Tiakina Kauri Team Department's stewardship land review project, Sea change to name a few

- Utilising

- Statutory appointees i.e.: Kingitanga Representative – unlike in past years the board has been able to utilise this key relationship more effectively, with it being made more aware of any concerns or issues that need to be brought to its attention

Iwi affiliated Board members

- Pou Tairangahau, Department of Conservation Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai to assist the Board gaining better understanding of cultural awareness and giving effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 through presentations, attendance in board meetings and in the provision of advice to enable the board to gain a balanced view in its decision making

- Attendance by, and valuable input and insight by Board liaisons and finding commonalities in issues and concerns that neighbouring boards may have. The relationship between board and NZCA through our liaison is crucial also

- The continued positive fostering and growth of board and Te Papa Atawhai relationships and the reciprocity of valuing each parties' roles in the relationship

More detail follows in the body of this report.

To the Board and Te Papa Atawhai whanau, thank you for your dedication to your roles and your passion to achieve positive outcomes for conservation in Aotearoa New Zealand.

I trust that you will enjoy this 2021-2022 Annual Report, a snapshot of the Waikato Conservation Board world.

naku noa

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Cockle', written in a cursive style.

Alan Cockle
Chair

2. Introduction

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 Waikato 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 those functions, are under 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:

- giving effect to the Treaty of Waitangi in all activities and decisions
- the recommendation of the Waikato 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 Authority on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- liaising with the regional Fish and Game Council on conservation matters
- carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act, or any other Act.

3. Conservation Board Region

The Waikato Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction extends from the west coast of the North Island between Port Waikato and Mokau, across to the western edge of Lake Taupo and north to the Coromandel Peninsula. It is characterised by a variety of landscapes, resulting from a history of uplifting, sea level change, volcanism and the influence of major river systems, such as the Waikato River.

Stand-out features of the Waikato include the west coast harbours – Kawhia, Aotea and Raglan; spectacular coastal cliffs at Moeatoa and Te Toto Gorge, Waitomo karst system; volcanic cones such as Pirongia and Karioi, and the exposed volcanic plugs (remnants of older volcanoes) on the Coromandel range; the lakes and wetlands of the Waikato and Hauraki plains; and rugged coastline, including the many islands off the Coromandel Peninsula.

The range of landscapes, altitude and east-to-west contrast provides for a great diversity of ecosystems, including the southern limit for some species, such as kauri, and northern limit of others, such as subalpine vegetation found at its northern-most limit on Moehau. Historically rare ecosystems, such as Kopuatai Peat Dome and Waitomo karst, are internationally important. Some ecosystems are well represented, such as the tall podocarp-broadleaf forests of Pureora (including the largely intact forest at Waipapa), whereas other once widespread ecosystems, such as lowland kahikatea forest, are now threatened. These ecosystems in turn provide habitat for a wide diversity of native flora and fauna.

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.

The Board's area of responsibility is nearly 270,000 ha of Public Conservation land (12% of the total area 2,250,000 hectares). The land is described in more than 500 separate parcels for various purposes, including forests, wetlands, caves, marine reserves, offshore islands, historic sites, wildlife protection, and recreational areas.

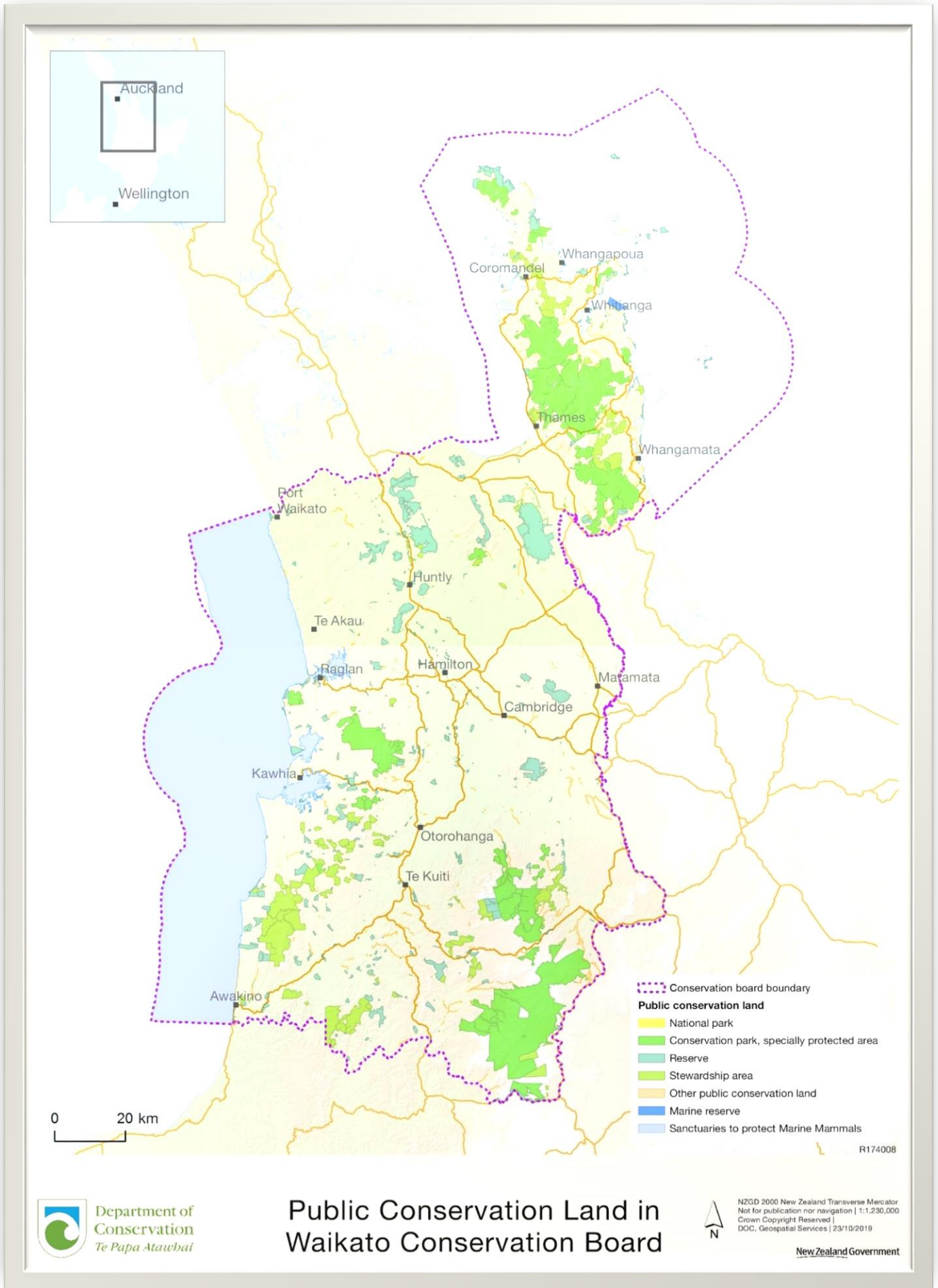


Figure 1: Waikato Conservation Board Jurisdiction

Public Conservation Land (hectares by legislative section)

- Recreation Reserve - 6,328.76 ha
- Historic Reserve - 275.66 ha
- Scenic Reserve (sec 19 1a) - 27,286.03 ha
- Conservation Park - 162,993.98 ha
- Nature Reserve - 446.10 ha
- Ecological Area - 42,407.85 ha
- Scientific Reserve - 1,776.93 ha
- Government Purpose Reserve - 21,746.03 ha
- Sanctuary Area - 494.78 ha
- Local Purpose Reserve - 5,822.42 ha
- Moveable Marginal Strip - 83.35 ha
- Fixed Marginal Strip - 2,725.91 ha
- Stewardship Area - 62,670.67 ha
- Marine Reserve - 878.93 ha
- Sanctuaries to protect Marine Mammals - 407,153.86 ha

Issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- some form of protection for freshwater species
- kauri dieback
- the state of wetlands, lakes and rivers
- retention of biodiversity of mainland forest remnants ranging from coastal to montane forests
- predator control
- better protection for the Māui dolphin including the implementation of the Māui Dolphin Threat Management Plan
- possible implementation of Sea Change - Tai Timu Tai Pari Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Management Plan
- changing tourism demographics and pressures at new and existing sites such as Pureora, Waitomo, Cathedral Cove, and Kauaeranga Valley
- mining on/under Public Conservation Land
- giving effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act
- Stewardship Land Reclassification
- climate change and the impact on biodiversity and conservation land

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

- Important Māori and European historic resources
- Three internationally significant wetlands (Ramsar Convention)
Whangamarino Wetland, Kopuatai Peat Dome and the Firth of Thames/Tikapa Moana



Image Courtesy of DOC -Waders at Miranda

- **Coastline and estuarine areas**
(Firth of Thames, Waikato River Delta, Raglan Harbour (Whaingaroa), Aotea Kawhia, Whitianga, Tairua and Whangamata Harbours)
- **Large tracts of virgin forest**
(Manaia Kauri Sanctuary, Moehau, Waihaha and Waipapa)
- Terrestrial forests associated with the Hakarimata and Hapuakohe Ranges, the volcanic Cones of Maungatautari, Kakepuku, Pirongia and Karioi and the karst landforms of Te Kauri
- Sites of significant regional and national tourism
Waitomo, Cathedral Cove and Pureora Timber Trail

- Rare and endangered species /ecosystems
(Kōkakā, Mahoenui Giant Wētā, Whitebait, Māui Dolphin, Kiwi and particularly the Coromandel Brown Kiwi and Archey's and Hochstetter's Frog)



Archey's Frog
Image courtesy of Department of Conservation

- Reptile and seabird communities on offshore islands
Tūturiwhatu/New Zealand Dotterel and Ngutuparore/Wrybill



Wrybill
Image courtesy of Department of Conservation

4. Board functioning

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 with the jurisdiction of the Board
- 5) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matter 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 membership

There were 10 Board members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Alan Cockle was elected Chairperson and Fiona Gower was elected Deputy Chairperson.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 and their term of office.

Table 1: Board membership

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end
Alan Cockle	Hamilton	01/07/2014	30/06/2023
Gaylene Roberts	Putaruru	01/07/2019	30/06/2022
Fiona Gower	Port Waikato	07/07/2014	30/06/2023
Flora Bartholomew	Piopio	01/07/2019	30/06/2022
Clare St Pierre	Pirongia	01/11/2018	30/06/2024
Rob Chappell	Coromandel	07/07/2020	30/06/2023
Shelley Langton-Myers	Pokeno	01/07/2021	30/06/2022
Ngawai Smith	Hamilton	01/07/2021	30/06/2024
Charlotte Muggeridge	Hamilton	01/07/2021	30/06/2024
Wayne Jensen	Waitomo	01/07/2021	30/06/2024

4.4. Members profiles

Alan Cockle of Hamilton (Chairperson)

Appointment term: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023

Alan is a business owner providing Māori Land Research, Administration Services and Governance Mentoring. He has a background in mediation, facilitation, and financial and property management.

Alan has governance experience as a trustee and Board member, and extensive iwi affiliations. He has expertise in tribal histories and is an orator within Ngāati Maniapoto. He is of Ngāati Maniapoto, Ngāati Raukawa, Ngāati Tuwharetoa, Ngāti Kahungungu, Te Ati Awa and Ati Haunui A Paparangi iwi. Alan is also a Justice of the Peace.

Fiona Gower of Tuakau

Appointment term: 1 November 2020 to 30 June 2023

Fiona Gower combines her passion for conservation, environment, and community into several roles, including her position on the Waikato Conservation Board. She is also

chair of the NZ Landcare Trust, former national president of Rural Women New Zealand, a member of the Port Waikato Beachcare Committee, scout leader for the Waikaretu Sea Scouts, and a lifeguard and instructor at Sunset Beach Surf Lifesaving Club.

In her spare time, Fiona enjoys getting out on the farm she lives and works on, fishing and whitebaiting, and spending the increasingly rare time at home or her beach house relaxing with friends and family, reading, baking and gardening.

Flora Bartholomew of Te Kuiti

Appointment Term: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022

Flora is a self-employed dairy farmer and holds a Certificate in Biology, a Bachelor in Horticultural Science, and a Diploma in Business Management. She has five QEII blocks on her property and is a member of Rural Women NZ, Federated Farmers and Dairy Women's Network. She has a Certificate in Sustainable Nutrient Management in NZ Agriculture from Massey University.

Clare St Pierre of Waikato

Appointment term: 1 November 2018 to 30 June 2024

Clare lives in Pirongia Village, close to where she grew up, and is an elected Councillor for Waipa District Council. She is a Resource Management Hearings Commissioner and a former chair of Waipa District Council's Audit & Risk Committee. She has a Bachelor of Business Studies (First Class Honours) majoring in management with post-graduate specialisation in Advanced Environmental Management and Sustainability.

She is the founding chairperson of Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society, which has won multiple awards including the 2018 Biosecurity Community Award, and the 2017 Green Ribbon Award for biodiversity protection for their kōkako work. She has over 20 years' experience leading successful community-based environmental action and enjoys a good working relationship with Ngāati Apakura.

Her interests include gardening, tree crops, cycling and creative pursuits.

Rob Chappell of Coromandel

Appointment term: 7 July 2020 to 30 June 2023

Robin, now retired, has had a long career with the Department of Conservation offering expertise in island management, marine mammals and threatened species management.

Rob currently has a number of conservation roles including Trustee for the Moehau Environment Group (MEG,) Trustee for the Northern Seabird Trust, Conservation

Advisor to the owners of Ahuahū (Great Mercury Island) and Mahakirau Gated estate and a trainer for the Department of Conservation large Whale Disentanglement team. His interests are photography and landscape design.

Gaylene Roberts of Tokoroa

Appointment term: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022

Gaylene is of Ngāti Raukawa and Waikato Tainui descent and was nominated by the head of Kahui Ariki (the Maori Sovereign, King Tuheitia). She is on the Board in terms of the Waikato Raupatu Lands Settlement Act 1995. She has strong governance experience and is currently a chairperson and member on several boards and trusts, such as the Raukawa Settlement Trust, Waipa District Council Iwi Consultative Committee and Waikato District Health Board Kaunihera Kaumātua. She has previously been on the Board from 2012-2013, also nominated by the head of Kahui Ariki.

Ngāwai Smith of Hamilton

Appointment term: 2 July 2021 to 30 June 2024

Ngāwai is of Te Roroa and Ngāti Hine descent. She is a Māori communications specialist and currently works at the Ministry of Education as a Senior Regional Engagement Advisor. She has experience developing, engaging, and maintaining relationships with Māori stakeholders, and personal academic networks in Mātauranga Māori.

Ngāwai is particularly interested in how Mātauranga Māori can be used to inform conservation practice.

Charlotte Muggeridge of Hamilton

Appointment term: 2 July 2021 to 30 June 2024

Charlotte is a resource management lawyer. She has extensive experience in property law and governance, having sat on a number of environmental and community boards at local, regional, and international levels. In 2019, she was awarded the Zonta's Women of Achievement Award.

Dr Shelley Langton-Myers of Pokeno

Appointment term: 2 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Shelley is an Ecologist, Entomologist, and Lecturer for the EcoQuest Education Foundation Te Rarāngahau Taiao. She brings a conservation science background to the Board, and is well versed in conservation issues, policy, and eco-tourism.

Wayne Jenson of Waitomo

Appointment term: 2 July 2021 to 30 June 2024

Wayne is of Maniapoto descent and is a farmer and Manager for Ngāti Maniapoto Marae Pact Trust. He holds a post-graduate Diploma in Māori and Business Management and was previously an RMA commissioner.

4.5. Board meetings

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

Table 2: Board meetings and location

Board meeting date	Meeting location and venue
Thursday 16 th September 2021	Virtual
Monday 15 th November 2021	Virtual
Wednesday 8 th February 2022	DOC Waikato, 5 Northway Street, Te Rapa, Hamilton
Thursday 8 th June 2022	Waihi RSA, 99 Beach Road, Waihi Beach

4.6. 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.

Table 3: Board Member attendance

Board member	Board meetings	Field Trips	Workshops
Alan Cockle	4 / 4	0 / 1	2 / 2
Fiona Gower	3 / 4	0 / 1	1 / 2
Flora Bartholomew	4 / 4	2 / 2	2 / 2
Rob Chappell	4 / 4	1 / 1	2 / 2
Wayne Jensen	3 / 4	0 / 1	1 / 2
Shelley Langton-Myers	4 / 4	1 / 1	2 / 2
Charlotte Muggeridge	3 / 4	1 / 1	1 / 2
Clare St Pierre	4 / 4	1 / 1	2 / 2
Gaylene Roberts	3 / 4	0 / 1	2 / 2
Ngāwai Smith	4 / 4	0 / 1	2 / 2

4.7. Field trips

Field trips are an excellent opportunity for Board members to become more aware of conservation issues within their region and to meet with community members undertaking conservation activities.

Table 4: Field trips and site inspections

Field Trip	Field trip destination
Thursday 31 st March 2022	Waikato Wetlands and Peat Lakes

Waikato Conservation Board Field Trip – Thursday 31st March 2022

For our March 2022 field trip the Waikato Conservation Board members visited three of the peat lakes in the Waipa district, south of Ōhaupō. Hosted by DOC, a range of guests were invited to kōrero.

There are many important peat lakes in the Waikato, that are significant wetland systems. Peat lakes are nutrient rich and shallow providing important habitat that is particularly vulnerable to pollution and challenging to restore.

We learnt that originally these lakes would have had no inflows or outflows. They have been permanently altered from our farming practices, and the creation of inflows and outflows make the shallow peat lakes even shallower.

We started the day at Lake Ruatuna. We began with a discussion on peat lake values and then had a tour of the recent restoration efforts at Lake Ruatuna. The Living Water team showed us some of the restoration efforts that have been going on since 2013 such as the pā harakeke where flax varieties have been planted that are significant for weaving, the koi carp barrier installed to prevent koi carp entering the lake, the spot where spotless crakes are frequently encountered, and we learnt about killing weeds with drones.



We then visited Rotopiko which is enclosed by a predator proof fence. We couldn't enter the wetland discovery trail as pest control of mice was taking place inside the fence, however Murray Davies gave us an interesting tour along the fence perimeter. We were impressed with the weeding, pest control and trail making effort that has occurred here due to the determination of individuals like Murray. Often our wetlands are underappreciated as they aren't accessible to the average person. Rotopiko is accessible to everyone and has an education trail members will return with family to check out.

We ended the day being welcomed to Wairoto by karanga from Hazel Wander, Ngāti Apakura. Here we discussed the many challenges of this lake. The warming summers and surrounding farming practices have had dire consequences. Last summer algal blooms were so bad a great deal of wildlife was killed, and the lake was closed for recreation. Wairoto is of importance to Ngāti Apakura as a historical pā site and contains burial grounds.



4.8. Te Whanganui Hei Marine Reserve Committee

At the Waikato Conservation Board's meeting held on 15 November 2021, the ongoing relevance of the Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve and Hahei Coast Committee was discussed, with members resolving to disestablish the committee.

The Board agreed that the disestablishment will not derogate from the Board's interests in the area; these can be effectively maintained via operational reports from DOC's Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki Operations Director, District Operational Teams and Coromandel based board members.

4.9. Training for members

Due to the emergence of COVID-19 in the rohe, the Whakataua to welcome new members and afternoon induction and annual planning workshop were cancelled. Consequently, inductions for new members were completed virtually.

4.10 Workshops

Workshops	
Wednesday 7 th June 2022	Waihi – Meeting with OceanaGold Mining Limited Waihi RSA – Meeting with Coromandel Watchdog of Hauraki
Monday 15 th November 2021	Auckland / Waikato Conservation Board Combined Workshop (Virtual)

Wednesday 7th June 2022

As reported in the Waikato Conservation Board 2020/2021 Annual Report a project of interest to the Board has been the plans for expansion of mining at Waihi by OceanaGold Limited (OG). This includes tunnelling under Public Conservation Land (PCL) to extract gold resource. The Board has received regular updates from the DOC team on the pre application discussions with OGL

On Wednesday 7th of June 2022, Waikato Conservation Board members travelled to Waihi where they spent the morning with OceanaGold Limited representatives. The purpose of this meeting was to receive a presentation on the Waihi North project, and in particular, a focus on Wharekirauponga, the process for consenting, timing, impacts on conservation related values and community, including iwi/hapu views. Following this presentation, OceanaGold Limited personnel transported members to Baxter’s Road, Waihi for a short trip around their facility.

Members then reconvened at the Waihi Beach RSA, Waihi Beach, for an afternoon **workshop** and to receive a presentation from Coromandel Watchdog of Hauraki representatives in respect to their aims, objectives and to listen to their concerns relating to OceanaGold’s Wharekirauponga Mining proposal.

Later that same afternoon, Chris Gaskin, from Northern Seabird Trust, joined virtually and provided an extremely informative presentation on Te Ora o ā Tātou Manu Moana / State of our Seabirds: Looking to the future and restoration possibilities.

Monday 15th of November 2021

On Monday 15th November 2021, the Auckland and Waikato Conservation Board held a combined virtual workshop, the purpose being for both Boards to receive updated information about the central and local government response to Sea Change, in order to inform a discussion of what role Conservation Boards could play in this space (e.g.,

advocacy, networking).

Presentations were received from DOC/MPI and Auckland Council. Due to status of their workstream, Waikato Regional Council were unable to present to the Boards.

4.10 Special Events

Loder Cup Presentation

The Loder Cup is a prestigious conservation award, donated by Gerald Loder in 1926, which encourages and honours New Zealanders who work to investigate, promote, retain, and cherish our Indigenous flora.

Dr Beverley Clarkson, a wetlands expert and advocate, was nominated by both the University of Waikato and the Waikato Conservation Board, with supporting letters from Northland Regional Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, National Wetland Trust, Ministry for the Environment, and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research.

On the 27th of April 2022, Waikato Conservation Board member, Clare St Pierre, was in attendance when the Honourable Kiritapu Allen, presented Dr Clarkson with the Loder Cup.



Image – courtesy of DOC – Dr Beverley Clarkson and Honourable Kiritapu Allen

Sanctuary Mountain - Maungatautari – Gala Dinner and Auction

On the evening of 9th June 2022, Waikato Conservation Board Chair Alan Cockle, Board member, Gaylene Roberts, and Puke Timoti, the New Zealand Conservation Authority Liaison to the Board attended the Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari Gala Dinner and Auction, at the Don Rowlands Centre, Lake Karapiro. The purpose of this event was to raise funds to tell the historical ecological story of bringing Kakapo to Maungatautari.

4.11 Department involvement in Board Meetings

DOC staff who regularly attended meetings include:

Daniel Heinrich - Director Operations, HWT
Tinaka Mearns – Operations Manager, Hamilton, HWT
Brigitte Meier, Improvement Manager, HWT
Avi Holzapfel- Operations Manager, Hauraki, HWT
Nick Kelly, Operations Manager, Whitianga, HWT
Alice Anderson, Pou Tairangahau, HWT
Michelle Lewis, Statutory Manager, HWT
Tahi Rangiawha, Waikato District Operations Manager, HWT
Nick Kelly, Operations Manager, Whitianga
Tom Christie, RMA Planner, DOC HWT
Mailee Stanbury, Senior Ranger, Biodiversity, Hauraki, DOC

4.12. Annual Work Plan

Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

5. Waikato Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The Board continues to monitor the milestones in the Waikato CMS with the Director of Operations (Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki) and Operation Managers attending meetings to provide updates on key operational matters that have occurred in the rohe throughout the reporting period.

5.1. Resource Management Issues

The Board wrote to the Minister of Conservation concerning carbon farming and the adverse effects large scale planting of pines could have on native biodiversity as well as local communities.

The Board also made submissions on Waikato Regional Council's Regional Coastal Plan review, advocating for more marine protected areas, and to Hamilton City's Plan Change 8 - Historic Heritage and Natural Environments supporting the proposed provisions on significant natural areas but seeking better funding support.

Consideration is being given to making a submission on the OceanaGold application to mine at Wharekirauponga.

6. Other Conservation Boards Liaison Roles

The Waikato Conservation Board maintains contact with neighbouring Conservation Boards through the exchange of agendas, meeting papers and the attendance of appointed liaisons to neighbouring Board meetings.

Board members have attended neighbouring Conservation Board meetings held in Taranaki and liaisons have attended Waikato Conservation Board meetings from the Auckland, Tongariro/Taupō and Bay of Plenty.

6.1. Advocacy

All board members have the opportunity for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise.

6.2. New Zealand Conservation Authority Liaison

Puke Timoti is the New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison to the Board and has been in attendance for the Board meeting held 8 June 2022.

New Zealand Conservation Authority agenda's, meeting minutes and the bi-monthly letter from the Chair are also forwarded to members electronically as they arrive.

6.3. Fish and Game

A copy of the Waikato Conservation Board agenda is emailed to the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Office Manager, Hamilton.

6.4. Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is important.

Board member reports are tabled at meetings and this agenda item allows members to provide updates on any activities they have undertaken to pursue conservation interests, or advocate for good conservation outcomes.

Members of the public also attended several of this year's meetings where a range of issues have been raised, these have included:

- Waikato Conservation Management Strategy – 2014 – 2024 - Karioi/Te Toto goals

Paul Newton-Jackson, joined virtually to raise concerns in respect to the priority the CMS indicates for Karioi and Te Toto and how that does not seem to be reflected in current management. He asked how the Board monitor the CMS implementation.

6.5 Community Visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website with updates provided through the year on activities undertaken.

The Board's e-newsletter, agenda, confirmed minutes, and submissions are also available via the Waikato Conservation Board's webpage.

The Board contribute on a regular basis to their e-newsletter and some members actively promote activities via social media.

6.6. District and regional council advocacy / advice/submissions

The impact of COVID19 and meeting restrictions has meant that plans to host a meeting inviting District and Regional Council officials did not proceed.

6.7. Iwi liaison and advocacy

The makeup of the Board includes other appointed members who have iwi affiliations.

Gaylene Roberts was appointed to the Board on 1 July 2019 and is recognised as the Kahui Ariki (Māori King representative) on the Waikato Conservation Board.

Alan Cockle has served on the Board from July 2014. He is of Ngāati Maniapoto, Ngāati Raukawa, Ngāati Tuwharetoa, Ngāti Kahungunu, Te Ati Awa and Ati Haunui A Paparangi iwi. Alan has provided a strong link with the South Waikato iwi.

Wayne Jensen is Ngaati Mutunga, Ngaati Urunumia, Ngaati Putaitemuri, Ngaati Ngutu, Ngaati Apakura, and Ngaati Maniapoto. He is endorsed by Maniapoto Iwi Authorities environmental steering Committee (Te Mana Taiao) to be the Iwi liaison for the Waitomo District Plan's Review. Wayne is the sitting Chairman of Te Tokanganui-a-noho Regional Management Committee, and Motiti Marae Trustee's. He is also appointed to Waikato Conservancy Board through the Te Mana Taiao endorsement which is a Mana Whenua collective established by the Iwi of Maniapoto to focus on Environmental matters in the Maniapoto Rohe (King Country

7. Acknowledgements

The Board wishes to thank the Department for their support, Department staff that have attended meetings and provided updates, and staff throughout the rohe that have hosted the Board on field trips.

The Board wish to acknowledge the attendance and reports tabled by the Operations Director, Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki, DOC, at meetings held throughout the reporting period.

Waikato Conservation Board

Annual Work Plan 2020/2021 (2022)

Ministers Priorities	Outcome / Impact	Measures	Milestone	Actions
Treaty Partners	-Enhanced relationships with treaty partners	-Strengthening relationship with Kingi Tūheitia. -Consult with Alice Anderson, Pou Tairangahau (HWT). -DOC to provide notification two weeks in advance of any significant iwi events.	-Formalising communication between Waikato Conservation board and Kingi Tūheitia. -Action points taken as per a consultation with Alice Anderson, Pou Tairangahau (HWT). -Waikato Conservation Board members are in attendance to significant iwi events. Calendar of significant Iwi events and an update at a national level on DOC/Iwi consultation/engagement requested from DOC. -The Pou to become a standing agenda item in the WCB meetings. -Cultural training and awareness (including the cultural landscape of our area). - Treaty of Waitangi training - Section 4 of the Conservation Act training (what it means for DOC and the WCB)	King Tuheitia's appointee to the Board has regular updates with the King and provides feedback to the Board. DOC Director of Operations/Operation Managers, (HWT) in attendance at meetings to provide updates on key focus areas, includes Whanau, Hapu and Iwi. Board members Clare St Pierre and Gaylene Roberts attended the Te Pūkenga Atawhai Wānanga at Te Ōhākī Marae Huntly in July 2022.
	-The WCB gives effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (section 4 of the Conservation Act)	-All WCB decision making includes an assessment of giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi	- All reports and board papers to include a section on section 4 of the Conservation Act and how it applies to the decision being made	DOC Operations Director (HWT) in attendance at meetings/submits reports to update members/receive feedback at meetings.
Declining Indigenous Biodiversity	-Waikato Conservation Board have a better understanding of the critically endangered species. - Waikato Conservation Board will advocate to	-Understanding the management programme for endangered species. -Boards oversight of CMS is to ensure the protection of key endangered species.	-Waikato Conservation Board receives a priority list of endangered species of flora and fauna. -To advocate on significant biodiversity issues especially in Fresh water and Marine.	DOC Director of Operations/Operation Managers, Statutory Manager (HWT) in attendance to provide updates on key focus areas and to receive feedback from the board includes Jobs for Nature/Biodiversity updates Waikato CMS includes a list of rare and threatened species.

	<p>address biodiversity declining.</p>	<p>-To highlight and promote the importance of habitat protection and biodiversity conservation with local bodies.</p> <p>-Board members are aware in emerging biodiversity issues (share)</p>	<p>-Regular updates on Jobs for Nature.</p>	<p>8 June 2022 Sean Cooper, Conservation System Reform Policy Manager, DOC, Alana Garland Duignan, Policy Advisor, DOC, Kyle Grant, Policy Advisor, DOC attend meeting virtually to brief members and receive feedback on the Conservation Law Reform / Review of Wildlife Act.</p> <p>8 June 2022: Mailee Stanberry, Senior Ranger Biodiversity , HWT, DOC in attendance at meeting and presented on the DOC Hauraki Biodiversity workplan.</p> <p>8 June 2022 Olivia Robinson, DOC Project Support, Jobs for Nature, in attendance at meeting and briefed members on the Job for Nature programmes/status/progress in HWT region.</p> <p>8 June 2022 Louise Saunders, Chief Executive Officer, Manaaki Kaimai Mamaku Trust, attended meeting to present on the progress of the Manaaki Kaimai Mamaku Trust over the last six months and the handover of the Jobs for Nature Kaimai Mamaku Restoration Project to the Trust.</p> <p>2June 2022 Clare St Pierre participated in an interdisciplinary webinar on 'Enhancing the Regulatory Effectiveness of Protected Areas and Nature-based Tourism' and reports back to the Board.</p> <p>8 April 2022</p>
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				<p>Waikato Conservation Board send written communication to the Minister of Conservation – Subject – MOC Exotic Forests and Carbon Farming</p> <p>8 February 2022 Becca Ganley, Science Group Leader, Innovative Plant Pathology, Plant Food Research attended virtually to provide an overview of work across Ngā Rākau Taketake – Kauri Dieback.</p> <p>7 June 2022 Chris Gaskin, from Northern Seabird Trust, joined the WCB workshop virtually to update members on the Te Ora o ā Tātou Manu Moana / State of our Seabirds: Looking to the future and restoration possibilities</p> <p>Nov 15, 2021 Lauren Waller, and Mike Nathan from the Ministry of Primary Industries Kiakina Kauri team joined the meeting virtually and updated members on the work their team is doing to establish operations through a funding process that enables them to identify and support investment in four Pou activities</p> <p>16 September 2021 Michelle Lewis, Statutory Manager, HWT, provided a briefing to members on the Hectors and Maui Stakeholder Forum.</p> <p>Fiona Gower is appointed as Board representative to the forum.</p> <p>July 20th 2021 DOC Waikato District Office Freshwater Hui</p>
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				<p>Clare St Pierre attended as board representative and provided feedback to WCB at September 2021 meeting.</p> <p>July 26, 2021 WCB /Watercare Waikato – communication to Environmental Protection Authority, indicating the board no longer wished to be heard at hearing, but its submission was not withdrawn. reserving right to appeal</p>
<p>Improve protection of land with conservation values</p>	<p>Conservation Board is active in RMA and conservation processes to protect and enhance land with conservation values.</p>	<p>-Advocating for private land with conservation value in the planning processes.</p> <p>-Understanding the process and progress of Stewardship land and classification. -Identifying priority areas.</p>	<p>-Agenda item on plan changes and notified consents.</p> <p>-Regular Board updates on Stewardship land (agenda item)</p>	<p>DOC provide quarterly updates on active Resource Management Act Planning activity currently being led by the Shared Services Unit.</p> <p>DOC Operations Manager, Hauraki and Tom Christie RMA Planner, HWT in attendance at meetings to provide updates and receive feedback on Wharekairauponga Mining/OceanaGold Limited application.</p> <p>7 June 2022 WCB/OceanaGold Limited workshop held in Waihi. Subject: Waihi North project, and in particular, a focus on Wharekairauponga, the process for consenting, timing, impacts on conservation related values and community, including iwi/hapu .</p> <p>22 April 2022 Te Mana o te Taia Implementation Plan – Biodiversity – circulated to members via weekly update.</p>

		<p>Understanding – wetlands – stewardship land -SNA</p> <p>-Understanding the Auckland to Hamilton corridor project, updates and consult. (Awakino/Mt Messenger)</p>	<p>-Keeping Board informed any updates (Field trip visit)</p>	<p>8 February 2022 Anna Cameron, Strategic Operations Manager, DOC Lillian Fougere, Manager, Tourism and Economic Development Policy and Leila Martley, Senior Policy Analyst, DOC</p> <p>Attend meeting virtually to provide an update on Reclassification of Stewardship Land and to receive board feedback.</p> <p>8 February 2022 Philippa Rutledge, DOC SLM Advisor, Operations Planning, Permissions, and Land Unit, in attendance to provide context and receive WCB feedback regarding Thames Coromandel District Council's marginal strip waiver request.</p> <p>31 March 2022 WCB Field Trip – Waikato Peat Lakes Hosted by DOC WCB members visited three Peat Lakes in the Waikato district, south of Ohaupo.</p> <p>Purpose of field trip to learn more of the remedial measures and collaborative approach being undertaken by stakeholders to restore unique peat ecosystems and enhance habitat around the lake margins. Members also heard from Ngāti Apakura iwi and learnt more on the integration of Mātauranga Maori.</p>
<p>Climate change -Risk assessment -Adaption plan</p>	<p>Board is assured Department of Conservation is responding to the risk of climate change to the conservation estate.</p>	<p>-Identifying land and species at risk of climate change.</p>	<p>-Briefing on climate change. -Local government (Waikato Regional Council) to be invited to attend a Department of Conservation briefing.</p>	<p>DOC Director of Operations/Operation Managers, Statutory Manager (HWT) have attended throughout the year to present and receive feedback from members on national/operational strategic matters.</p>

	The Board is working with other groups that are also acting in climate change space.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Understanding local and central government risk assessment processes and adaptations plan. -Bringing awareness – conduit – advocating- Collaboration Hauraki Gulf Forum Sea Change Regional coastal plan MPCE Team Corridor Project (Bio) NZCCC Impact of adverse weather events. 	Meeting with the CCC and the policy team	<p>Nov 15, 2021 Auckland/Waikato Conservation Board Joint Workshop (virtual) to receive presentation from DOC/Department of Fisheries, and Auckland Council about the central and local government response to Sea Change.</p> <p>Nov 17, 2021 WCB members join Chris Gaskin, Northern NZ Seabird Trust Project Coordinator' presentation, on the 'State of our Seabirds Report 2021'.</p>
Conservation Boards and NZCA	Waikato Conservation Board is better connected to neighbouring Boards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Board members are allocated to attend neighbouring Conservation Boards. -Conservation Boards communicate between each other. Teams joint meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Shared meeting with a neighbouring board. -Waikato Conservation Board members attend neighbouring meetings. - Regularly updated by other boards and NZCA. -Attend the Annual NZCA Board Chair's Conference. 	<p>The Waikato Conservation Board maintains contact with neighbouring Conservation Boards through the exchange of agendas, meeting papers and the attendance of appointed liaisons to neighbouring Board meetings.</p> <p>WCB Representative Clare St Pierre was in attendance for the NZCA CB Chairs Conference held on 6/7 November 2021.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Waikato Conservation Board has a good working relationship with the Department of Conservation. -WCB is supported by the Department to undertake and deliver on the annual work plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Streamlining of communications. -Understanding the role of the Conservation Board, in terms of giving advice to the Department of Conservation. - Conservation Board knowing who Department of Conservation staff are and what support is available to them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly roundup and regular weekly meetings. -Key staff attending meetings and field trips. -Conservation Board receives relevant information at induction in a timely manner. 	<p>WCB Chair/Vice Chair and Statutory Manager have met fortnightly throughout the reporting period via MS Teams.</p> <p>Weekly bulletins are circulated to members – these include correspondence, DOC media items, and provide feedback on matters arising/actions from previous meetings.</p> <p>DOC Director of Operations/Operations Managers /Statutory Manager (HWT)</p>

		- WCB and DOC have agreed expectations of support and timeframes for the provision of information.	.-The Department provides support to the WCB in the manner agreed to enable the WCB to deliver on this work plan.	attend meetings to provide updates /receive feedback on matters of specific key focus.
Tourism	-Board has assurance that the Visitor and Heritage Strategy is working and is informed where the International Visitor Levy (IVL) is allocated. Effects of COVID19	-Conservation Board is kept informed how visitor levy and other funding is being allocated within Department of Conservation to our Rohe. -The Board is informed on key tourist destinations i.e. visitor numbers and trends. -Understanding how the Department of Conservation is implementing the visitor and heritage strategy. Understanding – the effect that COVID has made on visitor numbers and dynamics	-Regular Board updates. -Briefing on Visitor and Heritage Strategy.	DOC Director of Operations/Operation Managers and Statutory Manager (HWT) have been in attendance to provide updates/receive feedback from the board. Weekly mail outs to members include DOC Covid policy/updates.
Public communications	Conservation Board communicates with the public and raises its profile to the wider community.	-Waikato Conservation Board contributes to E-newsletter. -Utilises Waikato Biodiversity Forum Re-connect with Fish and Game.	-Relationship formed with Waikato Biodiversity Forum.	WCB e-news and agendas uploaded onto webpage. WCB meetings advertised in all local papers. Public forums are held at each meeting and community members have attended to speak on concerns relating t: * The Waikato Conservation Management Strategy 2012 2024, specifically Karioi/Te Toto and goals. WCB contributes to E newsletter Agendas are sent to local Fish and Game office.

