

WAIKATO CONSERVATION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

2020 – 2021



Waikato Conservation Board Annual Report 2020-2021

**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: Coromandel
Image courtesy of WCB Member Clare St Pierre

Contents

1. Chairperson’s Report.....	3
2. Introduction.....	5
3. Conservation Board Region.....	6
4. Board functioning.....	11
4.1. Board functions under section 6m of the Conservation Act 1987.....	11
4.2. Powers of the Board under section 6n of the Conservation Act 1987	11
4.3. Board membership	12
4.4. Members profiles.....	12
4.6. Attendance.....	15
4.7. Field trips and site inspections	16
4.8. Te Whanganui Hei Marine Reserve Committee.....	21
4.9. Training for members.....	21
4.10 Special Events	21
4.11 Department involvement in Board Meetings.....	22
4.12. Annual Work Plan	25
5. Statutory activity.....	25
5.1. Waikato Conservation Management Strategy (CMS).....	25
5.2. Resource Management Issues.....	25
6. Other Conservation Boards Liaison Roles.....	26
6.1. Advocacy.....	27
6.2. New Zealand Conservation Authority Liaison	27
6.3. Fish and Game	27
6.4. Community advocacy and involvement.....	27
6.5 Community Visibility	28
6.6. District and regional council advocacy / advice/submissions	28
6.7. Iwi liaison and advocacy.....	28
7. Acknowledgements.....	28

1. Chairperson's Report

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

With the sporadic nature of COVID- 19 the board continued concentrating on the health and wellbeing of both board members and Te Papa Atawhai personnel and the continued embrace of engagement in both the virtual and face to face realms.

With focus not only on its statutory responsibilities, its annual workplan and alignment with the Ministers Letter of Expectations and the boards year included:

- Field trips to Raglan and the Coromandel with focus on biodiversity restoration
- Receiving presentations ranging from the Departments Management Planning System Review to changes to marine and aquatic legislation and compliance
- Submission to the Environmental Protection Authority **Watercare Services Limited** application to take water from the Waikato awa.
- Oversight of Board movements - Te Whanganui A Hei Marine Reserve Subcommittee - purpose and function.
- Utilising
 - 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
- The continued positive fostering and growth of board and Te Papa Atawhai relationships

More detail follows in the body of this report

The board farewelled board members Joyce Birdsall and Melissa King-Howell, thank you both for your valuable contribution and support. 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.

It now gives me great pleasure to present to you the Waikato Conservation Board 2020/21 Annual Report.

naku noa

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Cockle', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Alan Cockle
Chair

2. Introduction

This is the Waikato Conservation Board Annual Report. Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires Conservation Boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority) with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the 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:

- 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.

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

3. Conservation Board Region

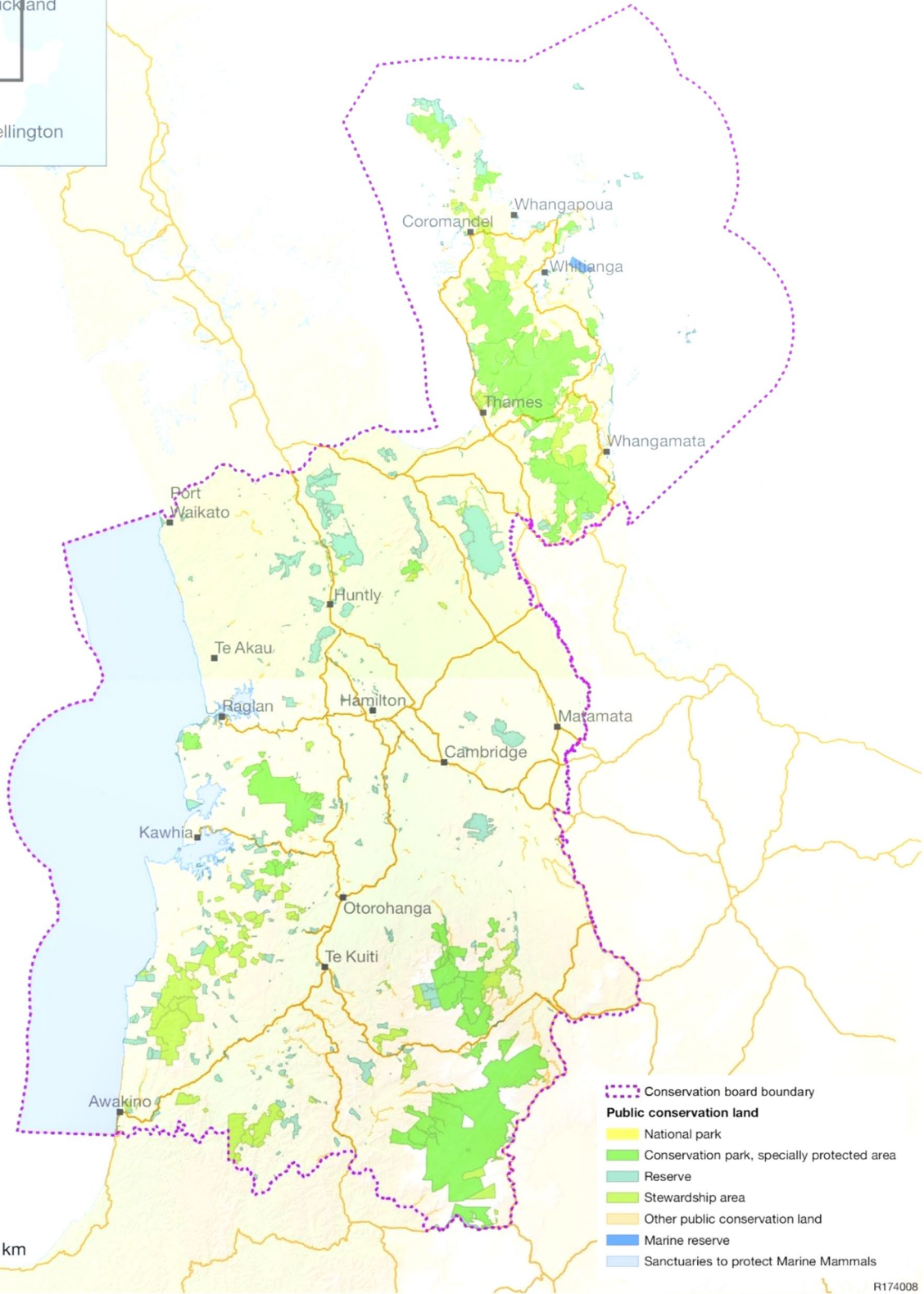
The Waikato Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction extends from the west coast of the North Island between Port Waikato and Mokau, across to the western edge of Lake Taupo and north to the Coromandel Peninsula. It is characterised by a variety of different landscapes, resulting from a history of uplifting, 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.



Public Conservation Land in Waikato Conservation Board



NZGD 2000 New Zealand Transverse Mercator
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 DOC, Geospatial Services | 23/10/2019

New Zealand Government

Figure 1: Waikato Conservation Board Jurisdiction

Public Conservation Land (hectares by legislative section)

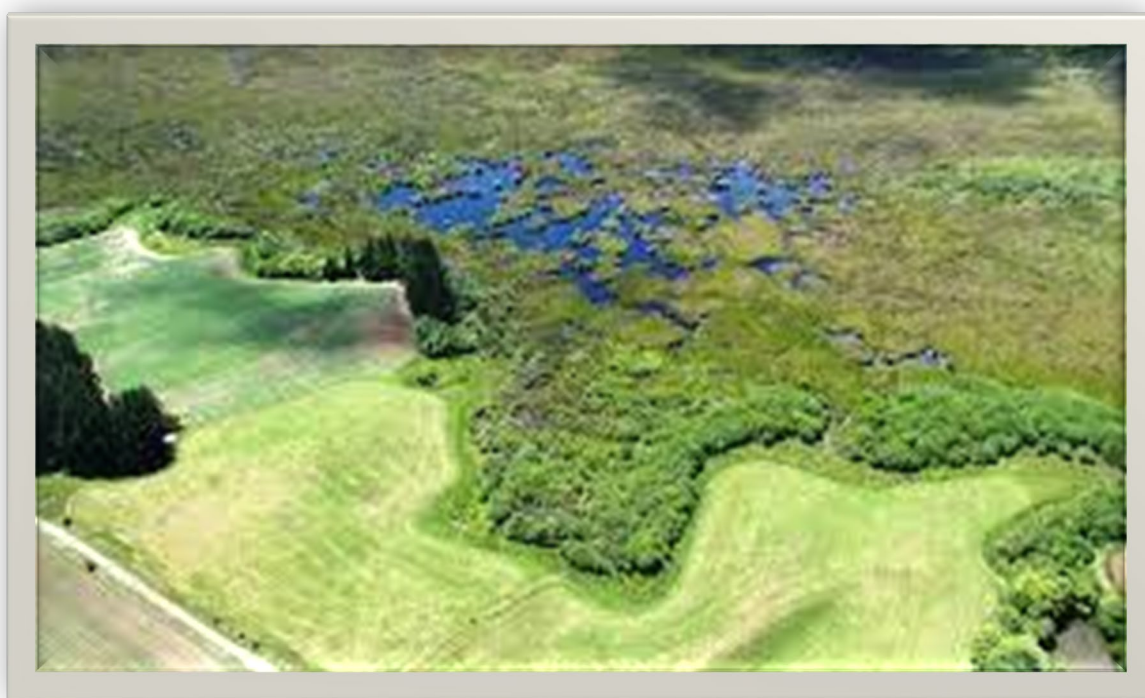
- Recreation Reserve - 6,328.76 ha
- Historic Reserve - 275.66 ha
- Scenic Reserve (sec 19 1a) - 27,286.03 ha
- Conservation Park - 162,993.98 ha
- Nature Reserve - 446.10 ha
- Ecological Area - 42,407.85 ha
- Scientific Reserve - 1,776.93 ha
- Government Purpose Reserve - 21,746.03 ha
- Sanctuary Area - 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

The large number of 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, 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



Whangamarino Weir
Image courtesy of Department of Conservation

- **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**
(Kokako, Mahoenui Giant Weta, Whitebait, Maui's 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



NZ Dotterel
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 2020 and 30 June 2021 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
Joyce Birdsall*	Tairua	01/05/2014	30/06/2021
Melissa King-Howell*	Hamilton	01/07/2018	30/06/2022
Regan Robinson	Raglan	01/07/2018	30/06/2021
Clare St Pierre	Pirongia	01/11/2018	30/06/2021
Scott Summerfield	Thames	01/11/2019	30/06/2021
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
Rob Chappell	Coromandel	07/07/2020	30/06/2023

** Resignations were received from:*

Joyce Birdsall (27 August 2020)

Melissa King-Howell (11 April 2021)

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 Ngati Maniapoto. He is of Ngati Maniapoto, Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngāti Kahungunu, 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, 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.

Joyce Birdsall of Tairua

Appointment term: 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021

Joyce Birdsall lives in the small Tairua township on the Coromandel Peninsula and has extensive community connections through environmental and conservation related groups.

She holds a Certificate of Environmental Management and has a strong interest in environmental legislation at regional and government level. She is committed to the protection and enhancement of our natural resources, particularly estuarine environments, and native forest. Her outdoor interests are gardening, walking and golf.

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

Melissa King-Howell of Hamilton

Appointment term: 1 July 2019 - 30 June 2022

Mrs King-Howell, of Ngāti Māhanga and Ngāti Te Wehi, has extensive leadership experience in performance management, skill capability, and capacity growth. She has a personal style preference and is an ardent advocate for servant leadership. She has a wide and varied background which includes iwi engagement, risk management, community development and small business mentoring. She has also held conservation roles as Area Manager Hauraki, Operations Manager Waikato, and led the Māori Focused Unit for Waikato Regional Council. Melissa is the trustee chairperson for her Pā and holds a trustee role within Aramiro Station where she is engaged with Ngā Whenua Rāhui on a joint project with Waikato Regional Council in riparian planting and fencing of the Station's waterways.

Regan Robinson of Hamilton

Appointment term: 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021

Mr Robinson is a water resource engineer, with a detailed understanding of earth, water, and ecological interfaces. Through his employment, first with Waikato Regional Council and latterly with Tonkin and Taylor, he has experience in solving complex issues with rivers, streams, and wetlands – involving both traditional and more innovative environmentally sensitive engineering approaches.

Clare St Pierre of Waikato

Appointment term: 1 November 2018 to 30 June 2021

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 Ngati Apakura and Ngati Rereahu.

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

Scott Summerfield of Thornton Bay

Appointment term: 1 November 2018 to 30 June 2021

Scott is an environmentalist with connections to groups undertaking conservation work in the Coromandel. He is an advocate for protecting public conservation land from mining activity and increased public funding for enhancing indigenous biodiversity and active management across the DOC estate. Scott has previously worked on the Hauraki Treaty settlement negotiations as part of the Office of Treaty Settlements in Wellington.

Scott works across local government policy and planning, as well as in the Treaty Partnerships space at both local and central government. He is a member of Forest and Bird, Coromandel Watchdog of Hauraki, and a supporter of conservation and anti-mining groups in the Coromandel.

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.

4.5. Board meetings

The Board held six meetings during the reporting period. The public forum enables members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

Table 2: Board meetings and location

Board meeting date	Meeting location and venue
25 August 2020	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
28 October 2020	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
15 December 2020	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
23 March 2021	Virtual Meeting
20 April 2021	Tangiario Kiwi Retreat 299 Port Charles Road, Port Charles Coromandel
22 June 2021	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton

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.

Table 3: Board Member attendance

Board member	Board meetings	Field Trips	Workshops
Alan Cockle	6/6	2/2	1
Fiona Gower	6/6	2/2	1
Joyce Birdsall*	1/6	-	-
Rob Chappell	4/6	1/2	1
Melissa King-Howell*	2/6	1	0
Regan Robinson	4/6	2/2	0
Clare St Pierre	5/6	2/2	1
Scott Summerfield	6/6	2	1
Gaylene Roberts	4/6	0	1
Flora Bartholomew	6/6	2/2	1

4.7. Field trips and site inspections

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

Table 4: Field trips and site inspections

Field trip dates	Field trip destination and purpose
15 December 2020	Raglan – Karioi Project
19 April 2021	Coromandel Peninsula - recreational assets, visitor strategies, iwi aspirations, kauri dieback and protecting rare species

Raglan – 15 December 2021



Mt. Karioi - Raglan
Image courtesy of Department of Conservation

Raglan - 15 December 2020

Members spent the afternoon in Raglan, where we met representatives from Karioi Project.

Karioi Project is a community organisation that aims to restore biodiversity on Karioi maunga, with a particular focus on seabirds.

This project started when the community became aware that ōi (grey faced petrel) were nesting in burrows on the side of the maunga.



WCB members: Mt Karioi – Raglan- 15 December 2020
Image courtesy WCB Member

Monitoring of burrows commenced and it was discovered that none of the monitored chicks fledged due to predation.

Subsequently predator control has been established and expanded to cover the maunga and beyond. This has contributed to the successful fledging of at least 30 ōi chicks over the last 4 years!

More recently it's also been found that kororā (little penguin) also nest on the coastline which was an exciting discovery.

During the field trip we went on a short bush walk to hear about the work Karioi Project are doing, learn about ōi and visit an ōi burrow.

Work that Karioi Project undertake in the community includes wildlife monitoring, predator control and education.

One of the many interesting facts about ōi is that they typically come into land on stormy nights, crashing into treetops before making their way to their in-ground burrows.

Coromandel Peninsula – 19 April 2021



Image: courtesy of Clare St Pierre

The top of the Coromandel Peninsula was the focus for our April 2021 fieldtrip and Board meeting which highlighted key local issues ranging from recreational assets, visitor strategies, iwi aspirations and protecting rare species. We viewed the impressive Coromandel bike park built by Spirit of Coromandel Trust and then visited the nearby walking track upgraded to combat the risk of kauri dieback. Local DOC staff shared their passion for the area and the challenge of too few resources for too many sites needing protection, restoration, and better visitor infrastructure.

Our lunch stop was Waikawau Campground which has successfully reconfigured an incredibly popular Christmas holiday spot so that the spike in visitors is spread more evenly across the summer and improved the experience for the campers which is seen as very important.



Image courtesy of Department of Conservation

We ended the day at Tangiaro Kiwi Retreat at Port Charles and were entranced by the Moehau Story related by local iwi. This maunga is one of three points in Aotearoa which were never submerged after breaking off from Gondwanaland and hence are the source of all the terrestrial native biodiversity we have across the country. Awesome!



Image courtesy WCB Member – Coromandel 2021

After dinner, Leticia Williams from Moehau Environmental Group led us on a kiwi by night walk but unfortunately, we weren't able to encounter a kiwi.



Image courtesy of Department of Conservation

Our Board meeting the next day featured updates on the Hauraki Settlement Implementation Plan and representations on proposed mining at Wharekirauponga by Coromandel Watchdog. Our programme was cut short due to heavy weather approaching, so it was a dash back to Coromandel township and hasty farewells to those who had hosted us so superbly.



Left to right (DOC) - Apanui Skipper, Pou Tairangahau Operations, HWT, Matt Flynn, Supervisor, Operations HWT, and Waikato Conservation Board Member Flora Bartholomew. (Coromandel – 19 April 2021)
Image courtesy WCB Member

4.8. Te Whanganui Hei Marine Reserve Committee

Following recommendations from previous member regarding the subcommittee, the Board undertook further investigation into its functioning. This has included liaising with DOC locally, considering iwi interests and discussions directly with subcommittee members. The Board will likely form a view as to the continuing function of the subcommittee next year.

4.9. Training for members

The Waikato Conservation Board held one workshop in September 2021 for induction - reinduction of members and to complete their Annual Workplan for the period 2020/21.

4.10 Special Events

Last year during the COVID restrictions, one of our iconic avian species, North Island Kokako achieved a magnificent milestone: their total numbers rose above 2000 pairs. A celebration wasn't possible at the time, so in March, an event was held at Pureora to recognise the occasion. This location was the natural choice as it is where the strongest population of kokako has its home and many translocations from there had helped strengthen smaller populations elsewhere. Our Board Member, Clare St Pierre, attended the event, representing the role Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society had played in protecting the Okahukura Valley population at Northern Pureora Forest which allowed other sub populations in the area to join up. Legendary characters that led the recovery of kokako featured in the speeches on the day, including John Innes and Ian Flux. Mana whenua and community groups that had taken on pest control to protect kokako were also there in force, emphasising how important collaboration had been to realise this success.

Clare attended in a special dress she had made for this occasion, a rich blue to match the blue of the Kokako's wattles. It is meant to look something like a mushroom. There is a Māori legend that the blue of the Kokako's wattles came from the bird rubbing its head against the native blue mushroom/fungus: *Entoloma Hochstetterii*, or Werewere-kokako.



WCB Member Clare St Pierre
Image courtesy Clare St Pierre

4.11 Department involvement in Board Meetings

DOC staff who regularly attended meetings include:

Daniel Heinrich - Director Operations, HWT
Avi Holzapfel- Operations Manager, Hauraki, HWT
Nick Kelly, Operations Manager, Whitianga, HWT
Oscar Emery, Operations Manager, Maniapoto, HWT
Apanui Skipper, Pou Tairangahau, HWT
Michelle Lewis, Statutory Manager, HWT

Administrative support was provided to the Board by the Board Support Officer (Adrienne Corfe).

Meeting	Topic	Presenter
22 June 2021	Partial reviews of Conservation General Policy and General Policy for National Parks. Management Planning System Review Update	Te Papa Atawhai Policy Advisors & Manager, Statutory Process Systems Design
22 June 2021	DOC/Fish & Game Whangamarino Weir RMA Section 128 Review	Michelle Lewis – Statutory Manager, HWT, DOC
	The Clean Hull Plan – “rules to protect the moana”	Sarah Hucker, Senior National RMA Advisor
	New Whitebait Regulations’	Neil Deans (Freshwater) and Dr Elizabeth Hegg-Aquatic Director, DOC
20 April 2021	DOC’s Development of a Recreation Strategy	Matt Flynn, Operations Team, DOC
	Hauraki Treaty Settlement Implementation Plan Overview	Apanui Skipper, Pou Tairangahau, DOC
19 April 2021	Field trip to the Coromandel – focus on biodiversity restoration	
19 February 2021	DOC’s Heritage and Visitor Strategy	Update circulated via weekly mail out
15 December 2020	Field trip to Raglan – focus on biodiversity restoration	
	Amberfield Environment Court Decision	Andrew Styche, Community Ranger, DOC, Waikato
28 October 2020	Waikato Regional Coastal Plan Review	Waikato Regional Council ‘s Project Manager and Council Team Leader, Land and Coast
	Hectors and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan Review	Kristina Hillock, Marine Technical Advisor, DOC

The Waikato Conservation Board have communicated on various issues throughout the year, including:

Date	To	Subject
4 May 2021	Hon Kiritapu Allan	Amberfield Resource Consent Process
23 March 2021	Rt. Hon. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister & Minister of Conservation Hon K. Allan	Previous Government's proposal of no new mines on conservation land
23 March 2021	Environmental Protection Authority	Waikato Conservation Board submission on Watercare Services Limited application to take water from the Waikato awa.
4 February 2021	Edward Ellison ONZM, Chairperson - New Zealand Conservation Authority	Concession Applications)
September 2020	South Waikato District Council Thames Coromandel District Council Matamata Piako District Council Hauraki District Council Taupo District Council Otorohanga District Council Hamilton City Council Waikato District Council Waitomo District Council Waipa District Council Waikato Regional Council	Long Term Plans – Funding for Conservation
21 September 2020	Rt. Hon. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister cc'd to Hon. Eugenie Sage, Hon Dr Megan Woods and Hon Nanaia Mahuta	No new mines on Conservation Land.
6 July 2020	Waikato Regional Council	WCB Submission in support of transfer of functions from Waikato Regional Council to Tūwharetoa', sent 6 July 2020

4.12. Annual Work Plan

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

5. Statutory activity

The main focus of the Board this year has been advocacy via the RMA. DOC provides the Board regular updates of key projects for the boards information and feedback- of which the Board is active.

The Board submitted in opposition to the application by Watercare to take an average of 150,000 cubic metres a day from the Waikato awa, in addition to the existing consents. The Board was concerned that this application undermined the intent of Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato and would further degrade the Waikato awa. The Board supports its Treaty partners in their strong opposition to this consent application and has kept a watching brief as this application has moved to hearing by the Board of Inquiry."

Another project of interest to the Board has been the plans for expansion of mining at Waihi by OceanaGold Limited. This includes tunnelling under PCL to extract gold resource. The Board has received regular updates from the DOC team on the pre application discussions with OGL. The Board has also received multiple presentations from The Coromandel Watchdog of Hauraki on the matter. The Board intends to follow the applications as they progress to lodging of resource consents later this year.

5.1. 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.

5.2. Resource Management Issues

Quarterly RMA and Management Planning reports have been received by the Board. These reports provide the Board with an update on active Resource Management Act and Management Planning activity currently being led by the Shared Services Unit, DOC.

The Board is keeping a watching brief on the progress from OceanaGold Ltd with respect to lodging resource consents for mining and will consider submitting in opposition to these consents to protect the biodiversity and environmental values in the Wharekairauponga area. The Board has previously written to the Prime Minister, Minister

for Energy and Resources and Minister of Conservation to register our objection to any mining activity on or under public conservation land at Wharekirauponga. Members were also updated on DOC's Management Planning System Review at their meeting held 23 March 2021.

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 Auckland and the Taranaki rohe and liaisons have attended Waikato Conservation Board meetings from the Auckland, Tongariro/Taupo, Bay of Plenty and Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Boards.

Flora Bartholomew, reports as follows:

"I have the privilege of being the liaison between the Waikato and the Taranaki Whanganui Conservation board. Geographically I am the closest, living near Piopio and I have a son at New Plymouth Boys High School and another living in Waitara. This allows me to observe the goat numbers on the roadside through the Awakino gorge and Mount Messenger and I get to indulge in eating whitebait omelettes at Mokau!

The TWCB always make me feel extremely welcome and the chair, Vicki Dombroski, always includes me in the round the table or zui discussion. There are some very passionate members of the board who have a lot of involvement in community conservation and with every conservation board there is a very wide range of knowledge represented. Many of the board are fluent Te Reo speakers.

A lot of time is spent on the outdated CMS. This seems to be the biggest source of frustration.

Other key items are

Mount Taranaki, Taranaki Mounga project, Taranaki Crossing

Treaty Settlements

Whanganui National Park

Whanganui Journey (Great Walks) walking and cycling, Mangapurua Track

Seabed mining of iron ore

Hectors and Māui dolphin

Taranaki kiwi trust and kiwi recovery

Whitebait management, Tapuae Marine Reserve and Project Reef Life

Kaimahi for Nature

Three Waters Reform

Board members come and go but the thing that does not change is the people's commitment to making New Zealand the best place in the world to live by looking after its natural resources and heritage.

6.1. Advocacy

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

6.2. New Zealand Conservation Authority Liaison

Penny Hulse is the New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison to the Board. There has been no representative in attendance for this reporting period.

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 and a range of issues were raised. The board appreciated their input and efforts made to attend.

Notable public forum issues raised were:

Wharekirauponga - Mining Permits on Public Conservation Land
Coromandel Watchdog of Hauraki

The Board also received presentations from:

Kaimahi for Nature Project and Kauri Dieback
Joe Davis, Ngāti Hei & Chris Twemlow, DOC

Coromandel Watchdog of Hauraki -
Chair-Catherine Delahunty and Augusta Macassey- Pickard

Spirit of Coromandel
Ally Davy and Paul Johnson

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.

Waikato Regional Council 's Project Manager- Ross Abercrombie, and Council Team Leader, Land and Coast, Andrew Hammond attended the Board's meeting on Wednesday 28th October to provide an update on the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan Review.

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 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 Ngati Maniapoto, Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Kahungunu, Te Ati Awa and Ati Haunui A Paparangi descent. Alan has provided a strong link with the South Waikato iwi.

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.

Appendix 1: Waikato Conservation Board

Annual Work Plan 2020/2021

Ministers Priorities	Outcome / Impact	Measures	Milestone	Actions
Treaty Partners	-Enhanced relationships with treaty partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strengthening relationship with Kingi Tūheitia. -Consult with Apanui Skipper, Pou Tairangahau (HWT). -DOC to provide notification two weeks in advance of any significant iwi events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Formalising communication between Waikato Conservation board and Kingi Tūheitia. -Action points taken as per a consultation with Apanui Skipper, 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) 	<p>22 June 2021: Nominated board member to meet with Kingi Tuheitia and report back to board.</p> <p>20 April 2021 DOC's Pou Tairangahau, HWT attended meeting to provide an update on Hauraki Treaty Settlement Implementation Plan Overview</p> <p>DOC Director of Operations/Operation Managers, (HWT) in attendance at meetings to provide updates on key focus areas, includes Whanau, Hapu and Iwi.</p>
	-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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Waikato Conservation Board have a better understanding of the critically endangered species. - Waikato Conservation Board will advocate to address biodiversity declining. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Understanding the management programme for endangered species. -Boards oversight of CMS is to ensure the protection of key endangered species. -To highlight and promote the importance of habitat protection and biodiversity conservation with local bodies. -Board members are aware in emerging biodiversity issues (share) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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. -Regular updates on Jobs for Nature. 	<p>Waikato CMS includes a list of rare and threatened species.</p> <p>28 October 2020 DOC Marine Technical Advisor, in attendance to provide an update/receive feedback on the Hector's and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan Review in attendance to provide update and receive feedback.</p> <p>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.</p>

				<p>September 2020 WCB correspondence with eleven District Councils regarding Long Term Plans funding for conservation.</p> <p>15 December 2020 and 19 April 2021 Field trips to Raglan and the Coromandel focus on biodiversity restoration.</p> <p>22 June 2021 – Presentations received from:</p> <p>DOC Senior National RMA Advisor in attendance to provide update / receive feedback on the Clean Hull Plan – “rules to protect the moana”</p> <p>DOC Senior National Policy Advisor and DOC Aquatic Director in attendance to update members/receive feedback on the ‘New Whitebait Regulations’</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>-Agenda item on plan changes and notified consents.</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 in attendance at meetings to provide updates and receive feedback on Wharekirauponga Mining/OceanaGold application.</p> <p>21 September 2020 WCB correspond with the Rt. Hon. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister with copies to Hon. Eugenie Sage, Hon Dr Megan Woods and Hon Nanaia Mahuta regarding no new mines on Conservation Land.</p> <p>23 March 2021 WCB correspond with the Rt. Hon. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister and the Minister of Conservation Hon K. Allan regarding the previous Government’s proposal of no new mines on conservation land.</p> <p>25 March 2021 WCB submit to the Environmental Protection Authority re Watercare Services Limited application to take water from the Waikato awa.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Understanding the process and progress of Stewardship land and classification. -Identifying priority areas. <p>Understanding – wetlands – stewardship land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -SNA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Understanding the Auckland to Hamilton corridor project, updates and consult. (Awakino/Mt Messenger) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Regular Board updates on Stewardship land (agenda item) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Keeping Board informed any updates (Field trip visit) 	<p>4 May 2021 WCB correspond with the Minister of Conservation regarding the Amberfield Resource Consent process and the Department of Conservation’s RMA advocacy work in general.</p> <p>15 December 2020 DOC Community Ranger, Waikato in attendance at meeting to provide update /receive feedback on the Amberfield Environment Court Decision</p> <p>23 March 2021 DOC Statutory Manger, HWT in attendance to update members on DOCs Management Planning System Review Update</p> <p>22 June 2021 DOC Statutory Manager, HWT in attendance to provide update/receive feedback on the DOC/Fish & Game – Whangamarino Weir RMA Section 128 Review.</p>
<p>Climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Risk assessment -Adaption plan 	<p>Board is assured Department of Conservation is responding to the risk of climate change to the conservation estate.</p> <p>The Board is working with other groups that are also acting in climate change space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Identifying land and species at risk of climate change. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Understanding local and central. government risk assessment processes and adaptations plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Briefing on climate change. -Local government (Waikato Regional Council) to be invited to attend a Department of Conservation briefing. <p>Meeting with the CCC and the policy team</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> <p>28 October 2020 Waikato Regional Council ‘s Project Manager and Council Team Leader, Land and Coast, attended the</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Bringing awareness – conduit – advocating- Collaboration Hauraki Gulf Forum Sea Change Regional coastal plan MPCE Team Corridor Project (Bio) NZCCC Impact of adverse weather events. 		Board meeting to provide an update on the Waikato Regional Coastal Plan Review
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>Board members have attended neighbouring Board meetings held in Auckland and the Taranaki rohe and hosted liaisons from the Auckland, Tongariro/Taupo Bay of Plenty and Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Boards.</p> <p>WCB Chair and delegate attended Conservation Board Chairs Conference August 2020 and report back to members October 2020.</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. - WCB and DOC have agreed expectations of support and timeframes for the provision of information. 	<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. .-The Department provides support to the WCB in the manner agreed to enable the WCB to deliver on this work plan. 	<p>WCB Chair/Vice Chair and Statutory Manager have met weekly via MS Teams. 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) attend meetings to provide updates /receive feedback on matters of specific key focus.</p>

<p>Tourism</p>	<p>-Board has assurance that the Visitor and Heritage Strategy is working and is informed where the International Visitor Levy (IVL) is allocated.</p> <p>Effects of COVID19</p>	<p>-Conservation Board is kept informed how visitor levy and other funding is being allocated within Department of Conservation to our Rohe.</p> <p>-The Board is informed on key tourist destinations i.e. visitor numbers and trends.</p> <p>-Understanding how the Department of Conservation is implementing the visitor and heritage strategy.</p> <p>Understanding – the effect that COVID has made on visitor numbers and dynamics</p>	<p>-Regular Board updates. -Briefing on Visitor and Heritage Strategy.</p>	<p>DOC Director of Operations/Operation Managers and Statutory Manager (HWT) have been in attendance to provide updates/receive feedback from the board.</p> <p>WCB field trips 15 December 2020 and 19 April 2021 focused on key local issues ranging from recreational assets, visitor strategies, iwi aspirations and protecting rare species/kauri dieback.</p> <p>Matt Flynn, Operations Team, DOC attended the board meeting held 20 April 2021 to present on DOC's Development of a Recreation Strategy</p>
<p>Public communications</p>	<p>Conservation Board communicates with the public and raises its profile to the wider community.</p>	<p>-Waikato Conservation Board contributes to E-newsletter.</p> <p>-Utilises Waikato Biodiversity Forum</p> <p>Re-connect with Fish and game.</p>	<p>-Relationship formed with Waikato Biodiversity Forum.</p> <p>-</p>	<p>WCB e-news and agendas uploaded onto webpage. WCB meetings advertised in all local papers. Public forums are held at each meeting. WCB contributes to E newsletter</p> <p>Agendas are sent to local Fish and Game office.</p>