

# Annual Report *of the* New Zealand Conservation Authority

Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2009 TO 30 JUNE 2010

*Presented to the Minister of Conservation and tabled in the House of Representatives  
pursuant to section 6E of the Conservation Act 1987*

**Annual Report of the**  
**New Zealand Conservation Authority**

**For the period**  
**1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010**

Presented to the Minister of Conservation and tabled in the House of Representatives pursuant to section 6E of the Conservation Act 1987

Front cover photo: Trampers walking near beach dunes at Masons Bay, part of the NZCA and DOC trip to Stewart Island, Rakiura Southern Circuit

*Photographer: Elena Sedouch*

Back cover photo: Heaphy Track, between James Mckay and Lewis Huts Kahurangi National Park

*Photographer: Diana Parr*

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15 October 2010

Hon Kate Wilkinson  
Minister of Conservation  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

Dear Minister

I submit, in terms of section 6E of the Conservation Act 1987, the annual report of the New Zealand Conservation Authority for the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010. The Act requires that the Authority shall in each year report to the Minister on the exercise of its functions and powers.

The past twelve months have been busy for the Authority, advising you on a range of matters of national importance and working on the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* Conservation Management Strategy which was approved in April. Towards the end of the period the Authority also received the Stewart Island/Rakiura Conservation Management Strategy and Rakiura National Park Management Plan, and the Kahurangi National Park Management Plan partial review.

In addition, the Authority provided advice on the Conservation Management Strategy framework being developed by the Director-General of Conservation.

The Authority has received the annual reports of the thirteen conservation boards, as required by section 6O of the Act.

Cuts in the budgets and servicing of conservation boards have presented additional challenges for the boards in discharging their functions effectively. Members increasingly contribute their skill and insights for no fee.

Your attendance at the Conservation Boards Chairpersons' Conference this year was highly valued by the Authority and the chairpersons.

Our meetings are greatly appreciated. I look forward to our continuing regular dialogue and discussion.



Don Ross  
Chairperson  
New Zealand Conservation Authority

## Mission Statement

*To ensure for the people of New Zealand, that the richness of New Zealand's natural and cultural heritage is valued, restored, maintained, and cared for by all, in order to enhance our environment and quality of life.*

## The New Zealand Conservation Authority Members



**From left to right (front):** John Nankervis, Yvonne Sharp, Linda Conning, Louise Savage, Don Ross (Chair), Brian Stephenson.

**From left to right (back):** Waana Davis, Basil Morrison, Hally Toia, Bob McDowall.

**Other members:** Kay Booth, Mike Browne, Charles Crofts.



Kay Booth



Mike Browne



Charles Crofts

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## 1. OVERVIEW of the 2009 - 2010 year

The New Zealand Conservation Authority (Authority) met on six occasions during the year: in August, October and December 2009, and in February, April and June 2010. All six meetings were held in Wellington.

A wide range of issues of national importance for public conservation resources were discussed by the Authority during the year, the most significant of which are identified below.

- The Authority provided the Minister of Conservation with advice relating to the proposals centred on amending Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act.
- The Authority provided the Minister of Conservation with advice on the proposal to establish a New Zealand Game Animal Council.
- Heli-hunting; its consistency with the purposes of gazetted wilderness areas and compatibility with the benefit, use and enjoyment of national parks by other users was first debated in the context of the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* CMS.
- The Authority made a submission on the proposal for a National Policy Statement for Freshwater.

The review of conservation management strategies (CMSs) was put on hold by the Director-General of Conservation (Director-General), while a national standard ('Framework') was developed by the Department of Conservation (Department). The Authority was consulted as part of that process with dialogue continuing at the end of the reporting period. The Authority supported the adoption of departmental best practice and developed a content and format check list identifying its expectations in this regard for the use of planners and conservation boards.

The Authority approved the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* CMS.

At the June meeting the Authority received the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS and Rakiura National Park Management Plan for approval. Due to the integrated approach taken to these two documents, and the advanced stage reached in the process, they were not affected by the CMS review moratorium. The Authority also received the Kahurangi National Park Management Plan (partial review) at its June meeting.

The Authority hosted a two-day conference for the chairpersons of conservation boards in May. The key purposes were relationship building and information sharing. All thirteen conservation boards were represented, and the majority of Authority members also attended. The Minister of Conservation and the Director-General each had a session with the chairpersons.

The Authority continued regular interaction with the Director-General and senior departmental staff. Key matters covered by the Director-General included: the Department's vision and direction; the establishment of a business unit to build relationships with the business sector for the purpose of achieving enhanced conservation outcomes; 'Prioritising for the Future' in the context of budget reductions; and Treaty Settlements.



In August 2009, Bryce Johnson, Director of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council attended the Authority's meeting to advise it of the conservation priorities for Fish and Game New Zealand.

The Authority's views and principles continue to be challenged by political, social and economic changes. The reduction in the Department's annual budget has affected the operation of conservation boards, and it became even more important for board membership to be representative of communities across the areas they cover.

The Authority is committed to continuing its work in restoring and preserving the natural, historical and cultural values of New Zealand. The Authority believes that the CMSs and national park management plans (NPMPs) are important for providing certainty as to how the public conservation land will be managed.

## **2. INTRODUCTION TO THE NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**

The Authority is a statutory advisor to the Minister of Conservation and to the Director-General on conservation issues of national importance. It was established by section 6A of the Conservation Act 1987.

The functions of the Authority are set out in section 6B of the Conservation Act 1987, and in the National Parks Act 1980, the Wildlife Act 1953, the Marine Reserves Act 1971, the Reserves Act 1977, the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 and the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978. It also has specified responsibilities, set out in treaty claims settlement legislation, with regard to consultation with tangata whenua.

The Authority has the important function of approving the ten-year conservation management strategies and national park management plans which guide the management of public conservation resources by the Department.

## **3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY**

The Minister appoints the thirteen Authority members including the Chairperson.

The members are selected in consultation with the Minister of Tourism (two appointments); the Minister of Maori Affairs (two appointments); the Minister of Local Government (one appointment); on the nomination of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu (one appointment); and on the recommendation of the Royal Society of New Zealand (one appointment); Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand (one appointment); and Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand (one appointment). In addition, four Authority members are appointed after receipt of nominations from the public. This process ensures that a wide range of perspectives, life experiences and geographical knowledge contribute to the advice provided, and decisions made, by the Authority.

Members of the Authority are appointed for three-year terms. A mix of new appointments and reappointments every three years ensures continuity and retention of institutional knowledge. The current terms of appointment for all members expire on 31 May 2011.

## 4 MEETINGS

The Authority met for six two-day meetings during the year. All meetings were held in Wellington.

In addition, the Authority held two workshops with key departmental staff developing the Conservation Management Strategies Framework. See also section 6.2(b).

### 4.1 Attendance record of members at meetings of the Authority

|                  | Number meetings<br>attended (6 held) |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Kay Booth        | 5                                    |
| Mike Browne      | 5                                    |
| Linda Conning    | 5                                    |
| Charles Crofts   | 3                                    |
| Waana Davis      | 4                                    |
| Bob McDowall     | 6                                    |
| Basil Morrison   | 5                                    |
| John Nankervis   | 6                                    |
| Don Ross         | 6                                    |
| Louise Savage    | 4                                    |
| Yvonne Sharp     | 4                                    |
| Brian Stephenson | 6                                    |
| Hally Toia       | 6                                    |

## 5 BUDGET, FEES AND ALLOWANCES

The Authority's budget for 2009/10 was \$137,500. Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951. The chairperson receives a daily meeting fee of \$290 and other Authority members receive a daily meeting fee of \$215. Members may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred while engaged on Authority business.

## 6 THE CONSERVATION ACT 1987

### 6.1 Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 states "This Act shall so be interpreted and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi." As a body established under the Conservation Act 1987, section 4 applies to the Authority in the discharge of its functions.

### 6.2 Functions of the Authority

#### (a) Advise the Minister on statements of General Policy

General Policy is the highest level of statutory planning for conservation outcomes. No changes were proposed or made to General Policy in the reporting period.

## **(b) Approve Conservation Management Strategies**

A conservation management strategy (CMS) is a ten-year statutory document. Its purpose is to implement General Policy and to establish objectives for the discharge of the Department's functions in the area covered by the strategy, and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes. The CMSs are developed by departmental planning staff in partnership with local conservation boards, and there are opportunities for input from the public, tangata whenua and other interested parties. Since December 2009, the review of CMSs has been on hold due to the Director-General's decision to develop a national framework for CMSs.

### *CMS Framework*

The purpose of the CMS Framework is to ensure that each CMS is strategic, demonstrates how it fits into the national conservation and recreation picture, provides for local flavour and identifies community priorities at the regional and local level, and has legal and policy interpretation, process, format and publication standards which are consistent with other CMSs. Pressure has come from the public and the business sector for CMSs to state clearly what the conservation management principles and priorities are for each area and thus provide certainty about, and confidence in, the Department's management.

The Authority attended two CMS workshops (in December 2009 and in June 2010) with departmental officers developing the CMS Framework to consider key issues and options for its development. Prior to that, in July 2009, after consulting key departmental staff and conservation boards, the Authority developed a content and format check list identifying its expectation that departmental best practice and national guidance would be followed by planners and conservation boards.

### *Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy*

Following the departmental restructuring in 2009, which resulted in the Bay of Plenty Conservancy being expanded to include the East Coast, on 13 August 2009, the Authority agreed to a request from the Department and from the newly-established East Coast/Bay of Plenty Conservation Board that it cease its consideration of the draft revised Bay of Plenty CMS.

### *West Coast Te Tai o Poutini CMS*

The Authority continued its dialogue with the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board and the Conservancy over the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* CMS with regard to: (1) the temporary closure to the public of affected parts of conservation land during major sports events; (2) private accommodation on conservation land; (3) heli-hunting; (4) concessions in gazetted wilderness areas; and (5) the articulation of the relationship between national park management plans and conservation management strategies.

The Authority sent the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* CMS to the Minister in October 2009 for consideration, noting the difference in views of the Authority, the Board and the Department on heli-hunting. The draft West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* CMS did not mention heli-hunting activity and the Department and the Board held differing views on whether or not heli-hunting should be allowed on public conservation land. A concurrent review

of permits issues for Wild Animal Recovery Operations, under which heli-hunting had been taking place, was at that stage leaving the discretion as to locations for heli-hunting to conservancies. The Authority felt that it was, therefore, appropriate for the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* CMS to give guidance on heli-hunting activities.

In the event, the Authority approved the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* CMS on 15 April 2010, without any heli-hunting provisions. It did so on the understanding that the Conservancy would initiate a partial review of the CMS dealing specifically with heli-hunting; the review to be completed (including Authority approval) by 1 May 2012.

#### *Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS*

The Authority received the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS at its June 2010 meeting, along with the Rakiura National Park Management Plan (NPMP). The review of the CMS and the development of the NPMP had been developed concurrently to ensure an integrated approach to public conservation lands on Stewart Island/Rakiura and for process and consultation efficiency.

The Authority considered the two documents concurrently and reporting in this section also covers the NPMP.

The Authority's comments were sent to the Southland Conservation Board and the Conservancy in May. A meeting of the three parties subsequently took place on Stewart Island/Rakiura from 30 May to 2 June to discuss issues and questions raised by the Authority at which time most issues were resolved.



NZCA Committee members meet with the Southland Conservation Board representatives and Southland Conservancy staff on Stewart Island.

#### **(c) Approve Conservation Management Plans**

The Authority did not approve any national park management plans in this reporting period. Conservation management plans are generally approved by conservation boards; no conservation management plans were approved in the reporting period.

#### **(d) Review the Effectiveness of the Department's Administration of General Policies**

The Authority did not review the effectiveness of the Department's administration of General Policies during the reporting period. In the process of approving the West Coast *Tai o Poutini* CMS, the Authority sought to satisfy itself that the CMS gave effect to the two statements of General Policy appropriately.

#### **(e) Investigate or advise on Conservation Matters of National Importance**

The Authority considered a number of matters of national importance during the year.

### *Establishment of a New Zealand Game Animal Council*

The Authority was represented at a stakeholders' workshop for those interested in the proposal to establish a New Zealand Game Council on 20 August 2009.

On 21 December 2009, the Authority provided advice to the Minister on the Game Animal Council Establishment Committee options paper. The Authority recommended that further clarifications be made about the role and status of any proposed Game Animal Council (GAC). The Authority suggested that if a GAC is considered necessary, the role should be limited to co-ordination, education and advice. If statutory status is considered necessary, there were existing provisions in the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 that enabled the Minister to appoint an advisory committee.

### *Concessions Processing Review*

The Authority provided its comments on the Concessions Processing Review to the Department in December 2009.

The outcome of the Concessions Processing Review was released in May 2010.

The Authority noted that the review concludes that more direction in statutory management documents on desired outcomes at places would enable quicker and clearer decisions on concessions. Too often the concessions process has, in effect, been substituted for place-based planning, causing uncertainty and delay.

### *Proposed National Statement for Freshwater Management*

The Authority was heard by the Board of Inquiry, in Napier, on 7 September 2009, in support of its submission on the Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater. The key aspects covered were the Authority's freshwater principles, connectivity, lifecycles, flow, temperature, riparian vegetation, sedimentation, and whole-of-catchment planning.

### *Heli-hunting*

During the reporting period, the Department undertook a review of its permit system for Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO). During the review it became apparent that recreational hunting from helicopters, especially for trophy heads (known as heli-hunting), was being undertaken using WARO permits. The review also revealed a high level of public disquiet about heli-hunting on several grounds. The Department issued one-year permits for heli-hunting to enable existing bookings from hunters, primarily overseas tourists, for the 2010 autumn/winter to be met. The Department's decisions relating to the longer term were outstanding at the end of the period. See also section 6.2 West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* CMS.

## **(f) Change of Status**

The Authority did not consider or make any proposals for the change of status or classification of areas of national and international importance during the reporting period. It did, however, advise the Minister of Conservation that it wished, at the

appropriate time, to advise her on the long-term classification of the St James Conservation Area.

**(g) Walkways**

The Authority formally had the function of advising the Minister of Conservation or the Director-General, as appropriate, on any matter relating to, or affecting, walkways. This function was repealed by section 82 of the Walking Access Act 2008.

**(h) Education and Publicity**

Copies of minutes and agendas and other information regarding the Authority's functions and activities can be found on [www.conservationauthority.org.nz](http://www.conservationauthority.org.nz).

Authority meetings are open to the public and are advertised via the Authority's webpage.

No new educational material was produced during the reporting period.

**(i) Priorities for Expenditure by the Department of Conservation**

In August 2009, the Authority advised the Minister of Conservation and the Director-General of Conservation that its priorities for expenditure for the year beginning 1 July 2010 were:

- The protection of indigenous biodiversity at priority places with an emphasis on animal and plant pests and wild animal control. Deferring pest control would most certainly result in escalated costs. Since pest control underpins New Zealand's clean and green brand, we feel its contribution to the conservation economy is of greater importance than upgrading visitor facilities.
- Statutory management planning. This is the key means by which New Zealanders can influence the management of "their" land by the Department. It provides a framework for efficient decision-making, reduces costs, and provides certainty for business, tangata whenua and the public. The Authority regards management planning as an investment, not a cost.

In addition, the Authority advised that the Department's inputs to Treaty Settlements, including ongoing commitments, needed to be adequately funded by the Crown so that this activity does not impact on the core purpose of the Department to protect natural and historic resources.

The Authority supported innovative approaches designed to increase and improve conservation outcomes and enhance the value New Zealanders attribute to conservation, across the full range of the Department's activities and responsibilities.

**(j) New Zealand Fish and Game Council Liaison**

Section 6B(1)(i) of the Conservation Act 1987 provides for the Authority to liaise with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZF&GC). The Authority and NZF&GC provided each other with copies of agendas and meeting papers during the reporting

period. In August 2009, Bryce Johnson, Director of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, attended the Authority's meeting to advise it of the conservation priorities for Fish and Game New Zealand.

### **(k) Ministerial Delegations**

The Minister did not delegate any ministerial powers or functions to the Authority during the reporting period.

## **6.3 Powers of the Authority**

### **(a) Establishment of Committees**

The Conservation Act enables the Authority to establish committees to carry out functions or tasks delegated by the Authority.

The committees that were active during the reporting period were:

Grass Carp Applications  
Freshwater  
Future of Pest Management  
Kahurangi National Park Management Plan Partial Review  
Schedule 4 Crown Minerals Act  
Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS and Rakiura National Park Management Plan  
West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini* CMS

### **(b) Advocacy**

The Authority advocated its interests by making several submissions and attending workshops and hearings. Refer also to section 5.2 (e) Conservation Matters of National Importance.

#### *The introduction of bladder kelp seaweed into the quota management system*

The Authority supported the inclusion of bladder kelp seaweed into the Quota Management System (QMS), as it provides a statutory mechanism for its management; the alternative being for an open-access fishery. The latter option was not supported because of the vulnerability of the 'attached' state, and the potential for demand to exceed a sustainable harvest.

#### *Animal Health Board Bovine Tb Strategy Review*

The Authority supported the continuation of funding to the Animal Health Board to prevent the spread of bovine Tb. The Authority recommended that the Government require the Animal Health Board to begin monitoring for changes in forest health, so that future reviews can identify more comprehensively, and authoritatively, the full range of benefits that may accrue to New Zealand from this investment.

### *Future of Pest Management*

The Authority was represented at a 'Future of Pest Management' workshop, organised by MAF/Biosecurity New Zealand, held in Christchurch on 23 June 2010. The Authority also lodged a submission on the review of key parts of the Biosecurity Act 1993.

### *Managing and controlling the risk posed to the marine environment from biofouling on arriving vessels*

The Authority's submission supported mandatory requirements for biofouling on vessels arriving in New Zealand, by way of an Import Health Standard made under the Biosecurity Act, as the option that would deliver the highest overall net benefit for New Zealand.

### *Protection of longfin eels*

The Authority continued its long-term advocacy for the protection of longfin eels by seeking confirmation from the department that it had a shared understanding with the Authority as to relevant considerations when the Department was processing applications for commercial eeling on public conservation land and waters.

### *Hunting Advisor*

The Authority endorsed the work of the Department's National Hunting Advisor and supported the continuation of the role.

## **7 FUNCTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL PARKS ACT 1980**

### **7.1 General Policy for National Parks**

The Authority did not review, or make any changes to, the General Policy for National Parks in the reporting period.

### **7.2 National Park Management Plans**

#### **(a) Kahurangi National Park Management Plan Partial Review**



Don Ross (NZCA) and Philip Simpson (Nelson/Marlborough Board)

The Authority received the proposed amendments to the Kahurangi National Park Management Plan at its April 2010 meeting, following a partial review of the plan by the Department. The partial review covered the following issues: (1) mountain-biking on the Heaphy, Flora Saddle to Barron Flat, Kill Devil, and Lake Sylvester Tracks; (2) private accommodation on the Heaphy Track; (3) horse-riding concessionaire access to Puponga Farm Park; (4) access provisions for aircraft and; (5) hunting access restrictions.



The Authority generally agreed with how the plan dealt with the five issues, but did seek greater clarity (from the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board and the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy) regarding the proposals for air access and hunting in the Tasman Wilderness Area. Minor changes were also made to ensure that there is clear guidance for the users of the plan. The partial review was still under consideration at the end of the reporting period.

### **(b) Rakiura National Park Management Plan**

The Authority received the Rakiura National Park Management Plan (NPMP) at its June 2010 meeting. The NPMP and the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS are presented in one document, and the Authority is looking at both documents concurrently. See also section 6.2.

## **7.3 Establishment of, Additions to, and Deletions from, National Parks**

### *Addition and deletion of land – Abel Tasman National Park, Anchorage*

The Authority resolved to support an ‘exchange’ of land at Anchorage in Abel Tasman National Park on the recommendation of the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board. This involves revoking national park status over some land (612 m<sup>2</sup>) that has been encroached upon by a neighbouring landowner, in return for some shoreline kanuka-dominated forest (680 m<sup>2</sup>) which will be added to the Park.

### *Addition and deletion of land – Mt Aspiring National Park, Gates of Haast*

The Authority resolved to support an ‘exchange’ of land at the Gates of Haast, on the Haast Highway, within Mount Aspiring National Park on the recommendation of the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board. Approximately 4,920 m<sup>2</sup> of existing State Highway will be added to the Park and approximately 12,250 m<sup>2</sup> removed from the Park, associated with the State Highway re-alignment.

## **7.4 National Park Investigations**

### Proposal for a Kauri National Park in Northland

The Authority wrote to the Director-General of Conservation on 12 February 2010, requesting a formal investigation of areas proposed by the Department of Conservation and Te Iwi o Te Roroa as to their suitability for national park status. All the areas identified are within the rohe of Te Roroa.

## **7.5 Mining in National Parks**

### *Schedule 4 of Crown Minerals Act – discussion document*

During the year, the Minister of Energy and Resources initiated a review of the protection from mining provided to national parks and certain other areas by their inclusion in Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

The Authority provided advice to the Minister of Conservation on this proposal and copied it to the Minister of Energy and Resources. Additional advice was provided to the Minister of Conservation on 28 June 2010.

The Authority did not support the removal of any land in a national park, no matter how small, from Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act. That conclusion is based principally on the philosophical and legislative underpinning of national parks, but also on wider economic and non-market considerations.

The proposal for joint ministerial approval for access to Crown land is opposed not only because it is contrary to the scheme of the Crown Minerals Act but also because inherent in it is a lowering of the bar for undertaking mining activities in all public conservation areas.

## **8 RESERVES ACT 1977**

### **8.1 Introduction of Biological Control Organisms**

#### *Grass carp release into stormwater ponds and drains at Bethlehem, Tauranga*

The Authority recommended that an integrated plan for the management of macrophytes in the entire system be required before the grass carp are released into stormwater ponds and drains at Bethlehem.

#### *Grass carp transfer and release into Quarry Lake at Shea Terrace, Takapuna, Auckland*

The Authority considered that the information provided was insufficient to make an informed decision. It recommended against approval until better information was available.

#### *Application by the Tauranga City Council to liberate grass carp into stormwater ponds at the Lakes Development, Tauranga*

The Authority considered that there were a number of inconsistencies in the application. It recommended against the transfer and release of grass carp into the Lakes Development in Tauranga until further clarification had been provided.

## **9. MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

### **9.1 JD Stout Trust**

The Authority is a trustee of the JD Stout Trust. The Trust makes donations or interest-free loans for conservation and cultural purposes. The Trust met once during the reporting period. Waana Davis is the Authority's representative on the Trust.

### **9.2 The World Conservation Union (IUCN)**

The Authority is one of eight members of the New Zealand Committee of the IUCN. The committee meets quarterly. John Nankervis is the Authority's representative on the Committee.

## **10. CONSERVATION BOARDS**

### **10.1 Conservation Board Nominations**

The Minister is required to consult with the Authority prior to appointing members to conservation boards.

In August 2009, the Authority provided its advice for membership of the newly-reconfigured East Coast/Bay of Plenty and Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservation Boards following the disestablishment of the East Coast/Hawke's Bay Conservation Board. Its advice was that special effort should be made to ensure that East Coast and Hawke's Bay were fairly represented on the two conservation boards.

In May 2010, the Authority provided its advice on appointments with effect from 1 September 2010.

### **10.2 Authority/Conservation Board Liaison**

One Authority member acts as liaison with each conservation board. This liaison with boards takes the form of at least annual attendance at board meetings and informal liaison with the board chairperson, which is reported back to the Authority at each meeting.

### **10.3 Conservation Boards Chairpersons' Conference**

A Conservation Boards Chairpersons' Conference was held in Wellington on 21 and 22 May 2010. Each conservation board was represented. The conference was attended in part, by Hon Kate Wilkinson, Minister of Conservation, and by Al Morrison, Director-General of Conservation.

Topics covered during the two days of the conference included: the framework for the review of Conservation Management Strategies; Concessions; advocacy, providing advice, conflicts of interest and decision-making; and the Department's Nature Heritage Management System, Statement of Intent and Commercial Framework.

In addition, Dr Morgan Williams, former Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, led a provocative session entitled "Conservation Board Chairpersons as Rural Leaders".

### **10.4 Annual Reports**

The thirteen conservation boards have provided the Authority with their annual reports for the year ended 30 June 2010, in accordance with section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987. These reports are available in hard copy from the boards. Their addresses are given at the end of this report or from [www.conservationboards.org.nz](http://www.conservationboards.org.nz) by selecting conservation boards by region.

### **10.5 Implementation of Conservation Management Strategies**

Most conservation boards have adopted a systematic process for monitoring progress with the implementation of the CMS for their region and for providing advice to the

Department's conservancies in that respect. The boards report on this monitoring in their annual reports.

Under the Conservation General Policy, the Department is required to provide each conservation board with a report (at least annually) on the implementation of the CMS for its region.

## **11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Sincere thanks are due to the staff of the Department who have attended our meetings or serviced, supported and briefed the Authority during the reporting period.

Special thanks to the Director-General, Al Morrison, with whom we have enjoyed some robust debates; Catherine Tudhope, whose knowledge is invaluable to our work; Allan McKenzie, for support and guidance in Catherine's absences this year; and Elena Sedouch for servicing the Authority.

Finally, thanks to my Authority colleagues and all conservation board members who have given their time and their incredibly varied skills and diverse life experiences to the work of the Authority and conservation boards throughout the year.

Don Ross  
Chairperson  
New Zealand Conservation Authority  
2009 - 2010

## FIRST SCHEDULE

### Conservation management strategies - approval dates

| Conservation management strategy   | Date Approved  | Term extended by the Minister <sup>1</sup> to |
|------------------------------------|--|---|
| Northland                          | 14 April 1999  |   |
| Auckland                           | 30 June 1995   | 30 June 2010                                  |
| Waikato                            | 24 September 1996  | 28 December 2008                              |
| East Coast/ Bay of Plenty          | 14 October 1998 (East Coast) and 4 December 1997 (Bay of Plenty) | 14 January 2010<br>12 December 2009           |
| Tongariro/Taupo                    | 30 May 2002  |   |
| Whanganui                          | 9 April 1997   | 9 April 2009                                  |
| Wellington/Hawke's Bay             | 13 March 1996 (Wellington) and 19 October 1994 (Hawke's Bay)     | 13 March 2011 and<br>14 January 2010          |
| Chatham Islands                    | 12 August 1999   | 2 August 2010                                 |
| Nelson/Marlborough                 | 12 September 1996  |   |
| West Coast <i>Te Tai o Poutini</i> | 15 August 2010   |   |
| Canterbury Aoraki                  | 14 June 2000   |   |
| Otago                              | 15 August 1998   | 15 August 2011                                |
| Mainland Southland/ West Otago     | 10 July 1998   | 15 December 2012                              |
| Stewart Island/Rakiura             | 4 December 1997  | 4 December 2009 <sup>2</sup>                  |
| Subantarctic Islands               | 16 July 1998   | 16 July 2012                                  |

<sup>1</sup> Director-General of Conservation has put the review of CMSs on hold and is seeking the approval of the Minister to revised terms for approved CMSs. The expectation is that each CMS will be reviews at 10 year intervals.

<sup>2</sup> Revised CMS with the Authority for approval at the end of the reporting period

## SECOND SCHEDULE

### National park management plans – Approval dates and/or status of reviews as at 30 June 2010

| National park management plan | Date approved                 |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Abel Tasman                   | 9 October 2008                |
| Aoraki/Mount Cook             | 14 August 2004                |
| Arthur's Pass                 | 13 December 2007              |
| Egmont                        | 14 February 2002              |
| Fiordland                     | 21 June 2007                  |
| Kahurangi                     | 14 June 2001                  |
| Mount Aspiring                | 19 October 1994; under review |
| Nelson Lakes                  | 10 October 2002               |
| Paparoa                       | 18 November 1992              |

|                      |                            |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| Rakiura              | With the NZCA for approval |
| Te Urewera           | 13 February 2003           |
| Tongariro            | 12 October 2006            |
| Westland Tai Poutini | 13 December 2001           |
| Whanganui            | 1 March 1989               |

### THIRD SCHEDULE

#### Conservation boards address list

| Conservation Board            | Board address (c/- Department of Conservation)                    | Board Support Officer |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Northland                     | PO Box 842<br>Whangarei 0140                                      | Jeannie Hogarth       |
| Auckland                      | Private Bag 68908<br>Newton<br>Auckland 1145                      | Raewyn Bennett        |
| Waikato                       | Private Bag 3072<br>Waikato Mail Centre<br>Hamilton 3240          | Des Williams          |
| East Coast/Bay of Plenty      | PO Box 1146<br>Rotorua 3040                                       | Adele Davidson        |
| Tongariro/Taupo               | Private Bag 2<br>Turangi 3353                                     | Louise Davies         |
| Taranaki/Whanganui            | Private Bag 3016<br>Wanganui Mail Centre<br>Wanganui 4540         | Louise Davies         |
| Wellington/Hawke's Bay        | PO Box 5086<br>Wellington 6145                                    | Bronwyn Bell          |
| Chatham Islands               | PO Box 114<br>Waitangi<br>Chatham Islands 8942                    | Alex McKillop         |
| Nelson/Marlborough            | Private Bag 5<br>Nelson Mail Centre<br>Nelson 7042                | Kay Switzer           |
| West Coast <i>Tai Poutini</i> | Private Bag 701<br>Hokitika 7842                                  | Lara Kelsen           |
| Canterbury Aoraki             | Private Bag 4715<br>Christchurch Mail Centre<br>Christchurch 8140 | Brenda Preston        |
| Otago                         | PO Box 5244<br>Moray Place<br>Dunedin 9058                        | Mark Clark            |
| Southland                     | PO Box 743<br>Invercargill 9840                                   | Gloria Harris         |



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