

Department of Conservation Status Report

for the Minister of Conservation


Week beginning 29 January 2024

Date: / /

Seen by Hon Tama Potaka
Minister of Conservation



A tawaki/Fiordland crested penguin has been released back to the wild near Hokitika. It was found injured at Scarborough Beach in Christchurch and spent 4.5 months recovering at Christchurch Penguin Rehabilitation.

 DOC



Department of
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Te Papa Atawhai

2.2 Chateau Tongariro

- Further to our briefing to you in December 2023 (23-B-0479), work is underway to develop decommissioning options for the Chateau and its ancillary buildings, including likely upfront costs and ongoing operational costs. We will brief you with the details in mid-February.
- A phone meeting with a Kah NZ representative in Singapore is currently being set up to discuss DOC's proposed legal claim. This is likely to take place on 1 or 2 February. The aim of the meeting is to understand the previous lessee's position in relation to our notice of breach of the lease agreement, as well as to again request the removal of all chattels from the building.

Next steps

- We are developing a plan to commence an expression of interest process seeking commercial interest for the Chateau concession. This process will take a minimum of 4-6 months to complete and will require extensive consultation with iwi.

Contact: Mike Tully, Deputy Director-General Organisation Support: s9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act

Department of Conservation Status Report

for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 17 June 2024

Tama Wilham Potaka

Date: 20, 06, 2024

Seen by Hon Tama Potaka
Minister of Conservation



DOC posters are appearing at North Island beach spots highlighting the plight of Māui dolphins. We only have about 50 remaining and we're enlisting the public's help in reporting sightings of dead or stranded dolphins to assist our research to protect these marine mammals.

DOC



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3.3 Chateau Tongariro

Decommissioning Options

- In February a briefing paper (23-B-0063) [REDACTED] 9(2)(f)(iv)
[REDACTED] 9(2)(f)(iv)
- That paper has not yet been presented to Cabinet as you requested additional information and DOC has been considering the consultation requirements with both Iwi and other key stakeholders.
- A further briefing will be presented to you by the end of June to provide the additional requested information and to seek your direction as to whether you would like a Cabinet Paper on the matter.
- DOC has incurred \$1.73m (excluding legal costs) between June 2023 and 31 May 2024 and forecasts an annual spend of \$2.2m. DOC has spent \$2.02m since March 2023.
- DOC is in the early stages of investigating long-term options for the Chateau Tongariro. One option is to re-lease the buildings and DOC has commenced development of an expression of interest process to understand whether there would be any market interest. It is estimated that this process will be completed by 30 September.
- DOC also continues to seek resolution of the end of lease matters with the previous tenant, KAH New Zealand Limited and is taking legal advice in respect of next steps.
- As a reminder, the Whakapapa ski field expression of interest commenced in April and DOC agreed with MBIE to include a statement that any interest in the Chateau should be referred to DOC.
- The occupation at the Whakapapa Tavern continues and is being monitored by DOC. A briefing will be presented to you on this matter in the next week.

Next steps

- DOC will provide you with a further briefing on the decommissioning options by the end of June.

Contact: CJ Juby, Director Business Services: [REDACTED] s9(2)(a)

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Department of Conservation Status Report

for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 15 July 2024


Date: / /

Seen by Hon Tama Potaka
Minister of Conservation



DOC is responsible for the management of New Zealand's albatrosses and works closely with the fishing industry and researchers to tackle the threats facing these ocean wanderers.

We're also protecting their breeding sites by controlling access to island sanctuaries.

 : DOC



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

3.5 Abandoned buildings: Chateau Tongariro

Decommissioning Options

- In February we provided you with a briefing paper (24-B-0063) [redacted] 9(2)(f)(iv)
[redacted] 9(2)(f)(iv)
- An Expression of Interest (EOI) process is underway to test whether there is market interest in re-leasing the Chateau Tongariro (or similar course of action). This is due to be completed in September. The results of the EOI process will inform the decommissioning options available.
- DOC also continues to seek resolution of the end of lease matters with the previous tenant (KAH New Zealand Limited) and is taking legal advice in respect of next steps.
- DOC is operating and maintaining the Chateau at an estimated cost of \$2.2m per annum, and costs will continue at this level until a decommissioning option is confirmed.

Next steps

- We will provide you with a further briefing on the decommissioning options in early October.

Contact: CJ Juby, Director Business Services, [redacted] s9(2)(a)

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