



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

In-Confidence

Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 7 September 2020

Seen by Hon Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Proactively Released

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Update on Ngā Rakau Taketake, science solutions to kauri dieback and myrtle rust

- The Biological Heritage National Science Challenge is managing government's investment into myrtle rust (\$5M) and kauri dieback (\$29.5M) research to June 2023 through the platform "Ngā Rākau Taketake (NRT)". This is Aotearoa's main investment into science solutions to kauri dieback and myrtle rust.
- One of DOC's new "Principal Advisor Science Investment" (PASI) roles has been working closely with NRT this year to build the relationship with the Challenge and champion key priorities for DOC, as well as facilitating connections and building DOC staff into the process of research development and execution, where possible.
- Out of seven programmes within NRT, the following two are furthest along in design and our leverage of these programmes is as follows:
 - "Mobilising for action" - human dimension of forest health management. Three out of the six projects will deliver targeted approaches that DOC as a management agency can directly apply, and will be part of 'testing' during the research. Total value of this programme is approximately \$4 Million over four years.
 - "Control Protect Cure" - pathogen detection, diagnostics, bioactives and disinfectants. Outputs of all the projects will be of use to DOC. We specifically aligned \$10k towards the disinfectants project to include targeted questions for DOC management practices. The resulting research project is worth \$270k and will give us a lot more information than an independent research contract could have achieved. Total value of this programme is approximately \$3.7 Million over four years.

Contact:

1.2 Jobs for Nature Unit

- We received fifteen enquiries from job seekers through the Jobs for Nature inbox this week and referred them to the all of government website (www.connected.govt.nz). We have referred a total of 182 enquiries to the website since 8 June 2020. We are also receiving an increasing number of enquiries from people asking to be put in contact with their regional alliance.
- Following your feedback on the Kaimahi for Nature criteria, we are reviewing these to ensure they are specific and plain English. We are also working to further develop the biodiversity criteria in alignment with the Investment Framework.
- In relation to your comment on maps, the MfE maps hosted on the website contain data only on projects that have been announced, compared to the dashboard maps which contain data on all projects approved, whether announced or not. We update DOC's projects regularly.
- We are currently working through alignment of technical definitions and reporting with MfE. We will inform your office next week on progress.
- DOC and the Secretariat are exploring options to enhance value in, or relationship with, MSD. Specifically, in their expertise in job and employment reporting, and ours in conservation.
- The first Kaimahi for Nature project, in the Northern South Island was approved by SLU Ministers, and the Alliance Co-Chairs were notified this week.

- We received and assessed the final partnership agreement for the Sustainable Business Network: Partnering to Plant project and will be releasing the remainder of the funds to SBN as per the terms of the Agreement.
- The Jobs for Nature programme was discussed at the NZ Conservation Authority and NZ Conservation Board Chairs conference last week. We have clarified with both parties that they have an Advisory role to an Alliance.
- The 'Prevention of North Island Forest Collapse' Steering Group met this week to review draft business cases for both the Raukumara and Kaimai-Mamaku projects and understand progress on establishing working groups, stakeholder and partnership engagement.
- We continue to engage with regional Directors in support of establishing Alliances, including meeting with Southern South Island alliance members alongside MfE officials, in their first Alliance establishment meeting.
- We are continuing to work with Te Uru Rākau, who are leading a cross-agency approach to support nurseries, to provide enough nursery stock and resources to support Jobs for Nature planting work. Jobs for Nature Chief Advisor Reg Kemper has met with MPI Director Forestry Development Henry Weston to progress the next steps.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor, Jobs for Nature: [REDACTED]

Proactively Released

2 Updates

2.1 Lake Taupo High Court case – Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board v Taupo Water Collective Ltd

- A four-day hearing of the above proceedings began in Wellington on 3 September.
- In 2007, the Crown and Ngati Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board (the Trust Board) entered a deed concerning Lake Taupo. The 2007 deed revoked and replaced certain aspects of a 1992 deed between the parties. In summary, the 2007 deed records the Crown's agreement to vest the ownership of the subsoil, the beds, the water column of, and the air above, Lake Taupo (Taupo Waters) in the Trust Board.
- Following opposition to its attempts to require commercial users of Taupo Waters to obtain licences to operate, the Trust Board seeks declarations from the High Court in relation to the board's rights and powers under the 2007 deed when granting rights of occupation and use of Taupo Waters for commercial purposes.
- The respondent in the proceedings, Taupo Waters Collective Ltd, represents a group of small businesses that depends on the use of Taupo Waters for commercial operations. In early May 2020, the respondent advised the Court that it was unable to resource its participation in the proceedings and requested that an amicus be appointed to act as contradictor. The respondent has not formally withdrawn from the proceedings and has reserved its position to participate on a limited basis.
- The Attorney-General is involved as an intervenor on the basis that the Crown supports the position of the Trust Board
- It is anticipated that the decision will be reserved.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Waiheke Island marine

- There is growing community interest in the Waiheke Marine Project as the Future Search event draws closer. This includes an online petition by some recreational fishers expressing concern about Ahu Moana being implemented at Waiheke Island.
- The mana whenua and community-led Waiheke Marine Project team have engaged with recreational fishers, inviting them to contribute to the Future Search Hui, and emphasized that there are no predetermined solutions for marine protection and regeneration.
- So far, seven people with recreational fishing perspectives have registered for the Future Search Hui.
- The Future Search Hui will only go ahead on 25-27 September if Auckland is at Alert Level 1. A postponement date of 30 October – 1 November is planned.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2.3 Bird Poisoning at Lake Waihola

- DOC is supporting an investigation into a mass death incident of black swans and other birds at Lake Waihola, Otago (187 Swans, 8 Paradise shelducks, 7 Canada geese and 1 pukeko).
- The investigation is being led by Otago Fish and Game. We are assisting Fish and Game and have kept our Treaty Partner informed.
- Both MPI and the Otago Regional Council have sought samples for analysis.
- If the incident has been caused by insecticide poisoning from nearby farmland, poisoning may continue, as toxicity remains in soil and water for up to seven days. In this scenario prosecution is an option.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.4 Ministry for Primary Industries - staff secondments to DOC

- As noted in the Status Report of 6 July 2020, as a result of COVID-19 the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has a reduced workload for its border control staff. MPI has offered to fund the secondment of several Christchurch and Auckland airport staff to DOC.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- Another four Christchurch staff are joining the DOC Rangiora and Mahaanui district offices to carry out a variety of ranger duties including visitor asset work and concession monitoring.
- In Auckland, four staff are joining Operations to work on programmes across mainland and Hauraki Gulf island sites and Another staff member is joining our administrative team.
- The length of secondments varies from six to twelve months. In all cases there is an option for an extension, potentially, for up to two years.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 West Coast Treetop Walkway Zipline

- The West Coast Treetop Walkway (WCTW) is a tourism facility just south of Hokitika, where visitors can walk along an elevated walkway in the canopy of podocarp forest close to Lake Mahinapua.
- A large part of the walkway is on the Lake Mahinapua Scenic Reserve, which WCTW has a concession over.
- As part of its development plan, WCTW has applied to DOC to install a 400m dual zipline, allowing two riders to ride simultaneously, from the top of an existing tower on PCL (at a height of 45m above the ground) to a point on private land opposite the existing base facility and café (also on private land).
- The application has been assessed and subsequently approved as a variation to WCTW's existing concession. The site works required are a minor addition to the existing structure.

- WCTW plans to begin construction soon, to be ready in time for the 20/21 summer season.
- Works authorised within PCL comprise:
 - Construction of the zipline, a platform attached to an existing WCTW tower, ground anchor points and guy wires, a dual running zipline and minor trimming of vegetation.
- When considering the variation, we consulted with the Tai Poutini West Coast Board and our Treaty Partner and assessed its consistency with the Tai Poutini West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (CMS).
- No significant issues were raised during consultation and the activity is consistent with the CMS.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Update on revised New Zealand Cat Management Strategy Group Report

- The National Cat Management Strategy Group (NCMSG) sent you its revised report on 25 August. This was originally due to you and Ministers O'Connor and Mahuta in March but was delayed due to the COVID-19 response.
- One of DOC's principal scientists was a technical advisor to the group. This gave us the opportunity to reiterate our operational position on feral cats, including our views on Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR). DOC does not support TNR programmes as they provide no benefit to wildlife while cat colonies persist.
- TNR is still part of the proposed strategy, however, it is stated in the strategy's key recommendations that "Sensitive wildlife areas are not suitable for TNR programmes" and "Where no other humane and non-lethal approaches are available the NCMSG reluctantly acknowledges that trap and humane killing methods for stray cats may be necessary to protect vulnerable native species".
- The document also recognises that toxoplasmosis infection is a known cause of mortality for critically endangered Maui and Hector's dolphins, and one of the key recommendations is to ensure implementation of action plans to mitigate the risks of toxoplasmosis on marine wildlife.
- DOC will be reviewing the final strategy and providing more considered advice ahead of any meeting after the election. We are currently preparing a letter of acknowledgement to the group on your behalf.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Director-General Engagements

September

07 September	LINZ/DOC combined SLT hui, Conservation House, Wellington
17 September	IUCN World Protected Areas Leaders Forum, New Zealand hosting the virtual forum
18 September	Mackenzie Agency Alignment CE Forum, via MS Teams
22 September	Risk and Assurance Committee meeting, Conservation House, Wellington
23 September	QEII Board meeting, The Oaks, Wellington
29 September	Senior Leaders hui, TBC Wellington

October

13-14 October	Senior Leadership Team Retreat, Pounui
15-16 October	NZ Conservation Authority, TBC Napier
23 October	Lake Daniel's Hut opening, Lewis Pass
24 October	Cave Creek 25 year Anniversary, West Coast

November

02 November	Public Service Day awards, Wellington
03 November	Tuhoi Board hui, Taneatua
09 November	Spirit of Service Awards, Te Papa
12 November	State Sector Leadership Team Retreat, Silverstream Retreat

December

10-11 December	NZ Conservation Authority, TBC
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4 Addendum

This section includes content that is sensitive or is being considered by the Minister of Conservation or other Ministers. This information is not being released proactively.

Subject headings of content in this section are:

- Update on Tourism Futures Taskforce
- West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board

Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

None this week.

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Department of Conservation Status Report

Week beginning: 14 September 2020

Seen by Hon Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

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1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

- Enquiries to the jobs for nature inbox are increasing, with 16 enquiries from partners and projects over the past week. We are preparing messaging to explain the different funds, including their purpose, criteria, processes and timing.
- The West South Island Regional Alliance – Kotahitanga ki te Uru – have submitted their application to be formally recognised. We are currently assessing this and will provide an update to the Reference Group for their meeting on 17 September.
- The Northern South Island Kotahitanga mō te Taiao have submitted a second project application, which seeks funding to establish two project support roles (hosted by Ngāti Koata and Ngāti Rārua) to increase iwi participation in project scoping and development. We are assessing this and will provide an update to the Reference Group for their meeting on 17 September.
- We have developed a draft funding processes for two contestable funds – the DOC Community Fund COVID-19 Funding Round (\$16M) and the Private Landowners Fund (\$18M). These have been socialised for internal feedback and we will update your office in the coming days.
- We are working closely with the Biodiversity Group to repurpose funding previously intended for the Kiwis for Kiwi: Hapū Capacity Building project. The rescoped project (\$5.1M) will specifically focus on South Island Threatened Species Recovery, including kiwi. We will keep your office closely informed on the progress of this project.

- To date the following jobs have been created:

With:	No. Jobs	\$ paid	Comment
Te Arawa Lakes Trust	3	\$125,000	
Forestry Redeployment Project	202	\$1,555,000	
Tairawhiti Agroecology Recovery Project	2	\$25,000	As part of a co-funded cross agency project

- The Queenstown Workforce Hub pilot project has funds approved from both the MSD COVID-19 wage subsidy and DOC Jobs for Nature, but so far only the MSD wage subsidies have been paid out:
 - 48 jobs were initially credited to DOC funding
 - with insufficient evidence to confirm that these jobs can be attributed to Jobs for Nature funding alone, we have taken the conservative approach of revising jobs numbers to 0.
 - Once DOC funding is paid, the recipient will likely reimburse a part of the costs incurred from this funding.
- We are working between relationship leads and partners, and legal services, on both the PF NZ Trust and Backcountry Trust quick start funding agreements.
- We are continuing to make refinements of reporting outcomes
- We are working with your office on two upcoming announcements:
 - Kaimai-mamaku in Tauranga on Tuesday, 15 September
 - Kiwis for Kiwi in Queenstown on Thursday, 17 September
- We have provided a summary of DOC's approved Job for Nature projects and DOC's Kaimahi for Nature Alliance Readiness summary to your office for their information

2 Updates

2.1 Red-billed Gull Conservation

- You requested an update on the conservation status of red billed gulls following concerns raised by the public over the impact of these birds nesting on buildings in Oamaru, and what strategies or research DOC was doing to assist this species.
- The current national threat status of red-billed gulls is At Risk – Declining.
- A national census, carried out from 2014-16, identified 27,800 breeding pairs, 30% lower than the 1960s estimate.
- Of note from the 2014-2016 census was a reduction in size of offshore colonies, especially in northern New Zealand, and the appearance of many smaller local colonies (fragmentation).
- The main threats for red-billed gulls have been identified as predation by introduced mammals at colonies, and changing food supplies associated with climate change (warming seas affecting productivity) and apparent reductions of surface shoaling fish that drive up small prey items to the sea surface.
- Pest management by DOC and community groups has been attempting to protect colonies on the mainland and offshore islands. However large colonies on predator-free islands have undergone dramatic changes (losses) which indicates that loss of food supplies has been the primary driver of these population declines.
- DOC has been investigating the links between fish shoals and seabirds in northern New Zealand using fisheries levy funds and BIO2018 money. Reporting from the study is scheduled for mid-2021.
- The use of commercial building roofs for roosts or nests is primarily driven by the birds locating safe places away from human disturbance, out of control dogs and predators such as cats and stoats.
- Methods to prevent birds using these rooftop sites include wire grids, ribbon streamers, raptor decoys and keeping the roof space free of debris where the birds can anchor their nests. Providing suitable safe nesting refuges in nearby coastal areas is also an option but these sites need to be safeguarded from human disturbance and dogs at the time the birds begin to form the colony.
- There are no long-term strategies around managing this species other than being part of the species streaming process for long-term persistence.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Global Biodiversity Outlook Report

- The Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) 5th Global Biodiversity Outlook will be released on Tuesday 15 September 2020. The report is a synthesis and summary of the state of nature worldwide.
- The report provides a report card on the CBD's current Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2011-2020) and will inform the negotiations of the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework which will set new goals for the conservation and sustainable use of nature.
- The report shows that none of the current Aichi Targets will be fully met, which in turn threatens the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals.

- More positively, the report presents transitional pathways to reach new global targets by 2030, and to put the world on route to achieve a vision of 'Living in harmony with nature' by 2050.
- The report also provides examples of progress which, if scaled up, can support the type of transformative changes required to halt and reverse biodiversity loss.
- The report is expected to attract international media attention. Its focus on global trends however means it is unlikely to mention New Zealand specifically. We will explore media opportunities with your office.

Contact:

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3 Director-General Engagements

September

17 September	IUCN World Protected Areas Leaders Forum, Virtual hosted by NZ
18 September	Mackenzie Agency Alignment CE Forum Via MS Teams
22 September	Risk and Assurance Committee meeting, DOC Wellington
23 September	QEII Board Meeting, The Oaks Wellington
29 September	Senior Leaders hui, DOC Wellington

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02-04 October	Ngati Porou hui, Gisborne
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4 Addendum

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Subject headings of content in this section are:

- Nature Heritage Fund (NHF) update
- Performing our role as a regulator well

Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

None this week

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Week beginning: 21 September 2020

Seen by Hon Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation

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1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 RMA Advocacy Update

Recent Submissions

Northland Regional Council, Resource Consent Application by Mangawhai Historic Wharf Trust

- The Mangawhai Historic Wharf Trust seeks resource consents for a proposed wharf facility in the coastal marine area of the Mangawhai Estuary. DOC submitted in opposition to this application on 14 August. Our opposition is based on (but not limited to) the following key points:
 - Mangawhai Harbour is arguably the most important site in the country for our rarest breeding bird, the New Zealand fairy tern (tara-iti, *Sternula nereis davisae*). The NZ fairy tern is categorised in the NZ Threat Classification system as nationally critical
 - The survival of the fairy tern is dependent on the Mangawhai Harbour habitat for breeding, including providing enough food for egg production and ensuring chicks are fed post-fledging at defended sites around the harbour
 - If recreation is encouraged in the middle harbour by providing this infrastructure, it would threaten the fairy tern population. The most serious concern currently is the disturbance caused by people walking with unleashed dogs at low tide
 - Our position is that the proposed wharf would result in effects on fairy terns that are likely to be significant.
- The hearing for this application will be held on 21 September at the Mangawhai Club, Mangawhai Heads. DOC technical and planning staff will present expert evidence at the hearing.

Marlborough District Council, Resource Consent Application by PB Partnership Ltd for a mussel farm

- On 15 September, DOC lodged a submission opposing renewal of coastal permits for an existing mussel farm at Pig Bay in Port Gore, Marlborough Sounds. The submission seeks that the application be declined because of effects on natural character and landscape values, potential adverse effects on king shag feeding grounds, and inconsistency with the NZCPS. This is the last remaining mussel farm in Pig Bay, with two neighbouring farms having been removed after consents were declined on similar grounds.

Hawkes Bay Regional Council (HBRC) Proposed Plan Change 9 to manage water quality and quantity for the Tūtaekurī, Ahuriri, Ngaruroro and Karamū (TANK) catchments

- DOC submitted on Plan Change 9 on 14 August. The submission commented on all parts of the proposed plan and, while we were supportive of improvements regarding the management of freshwater, we have concerns that the proposed plan change does not do enough to:
 - provide for the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020
 - provide for Te Mana o te Wai
 - appropriately recognise iwi values and aspirations
 - protect indigenous freshwater biodiversity.
- We are seeking significant changes before we could support the proposed Plan Change.

Hawkes Bay Regional Council Plan Change 7 - Outstanding Water Bodies

- On 28 February, DOC lodged a submission on Plan Change 7 to the Hawkes Bay Regional Resource Management Plan. The submission was generally supportive of the plan change but identified amendments to address outstanding concerns and increase the plan's effectiveness.

- On 10 September, we lodged a further submission on Plan Change 7, opposing those submissions that requested removal of waterbodies and additions of primary or economic values to waterbodies.

Porirua City Council (PCC) Proposed Plan Change 18: Plimmerton Farm

- DOC submitted on this Plan Change on 2 July and lodged a further submission on 28 July. Our submissions commented on all parts of the proposed plan and supported the positions of Forest & Bird and QEII, among others. We sought improvements regarding the management of freshwater and the protection of wetlands forming part of the Taupo Swamp complex. The council's s42A report significantly lessened protection for these values and placed responsibility solely with Greater Wellington Regional Council. We have concerns that the proposed plan change does not do enough to:
 - provide for the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020
 - provide for Te Mana o te Wai
 - appropriately identify wetland SNAs
 - protect indigenous freshwater biodiversity.
- Significant changes are required in relation to these matters before DOC could support this proposal.
- Ecological and Planning evidence was lodged 11 September with a hearing to commence 12 October.

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.2 Jobs for Nature update

- We are currently working with News Hub. News Hub would like to profile two people who have gained employment through Jobs for Nature and the difference it has made to their lives. We are pitching the West Coast as an opportunity for this story.
- The Sustainable Business Network has informed us through a weekly budget that it is now in the process of advertising, recruiting and confirming people in roles for the 36 jobs enabled by DOC quickstart funding.
- We are working through the Alliance establishment phase, with Western South Island now formally recognised, and we are expecting applications from the Chatham Islands and Southern South Island.
- Papers have been prepared for the Reference Group and SLU Minister meetings on 21 September, which will outline the process for the DOC Community Fund and Private Landowners Fund. A memo (refer 20-B-0713) has also been sent to your office for your feedback.
- We are establishing processes to improve our reporting on actual people employed, forecasting alliance progress and workstream project pipeline.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: [REDACTED]

2 Updates

2.1 Finalising the DOC Heritage and Visitor Strategy

- We provided you with a final version of the DOC Heritage and Visitor Strategy (the Strategy), including minor changes in response to COVID-19, on 17 August (20-B-0628). We believe that the Strategy is closely aligned with the direction we have discussed with you over the last two years, the Tourism Strategy, and our input to the ongoing Tourism Futures work. As with all such strategies, we expect it to continue to evolve and adjust to further developments over the coming years.
- As the Strategy has been in development for some time (and is already driving internal prioritisation), our Treaty partner and key stakeholders who were consulted are seeking clarity on when it will be finalised.
- Before we finalise the Strategy, we need to confirm that you have no concerns. Once we have this confirmation, we will release the Strategy to internal staff and consulted stakeholders and make it publicly available on the DOC website.
- We are not planning any external publicity to accompany the Strategy's release.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.2 Tourism Industry Aotearoa's (TIA) Submission to the Tourism Futures Taskforce

- The Tourism Futures Taskforce is currently seeking submissions on the future of tourism. These submissions will inform the work of the taskforce as it develops options and recommendations for changes to the tourism system.
- On 15 September, TIA made its submission to the taskforce and released the submission publicly. The submission includes 22 recommendations across 16 themes.
- One chapter of the submission focuses on the conservation/tourism interface. TIA believes the interface to be uncoordinated and considers the current legislative framework governing conservation and tourism is unable to deliver effectively on desired outcomes.
- TIA feels that it and DOC have put considerable effort into achieving better conservation and tourism outcomes within the existing system. Despite this effort, and much goodwill by all parties, TIA believes that both parties have failed to achieve lasting and meaningful results.
- The TIA submission recommends four ways this could be rectified:
 - Reviewing and updating the Conservation and National Parks Acts
 - Reviewing DOC's management planning and concessions functions
 - Requiring DOC to enable business to deliver conservation outcomes
 - Increasing DOC's core funding to enable it to deliver on its role in the tourism system.
- Submissions to the taskforce close on 22 September. We will participate in discussion of the submissions through our member, the DDG Policy and Visitors. We are also supporting and advising the taskforce through the secretariat.
- Officials are available to meet with you should you require further details on this matter.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Director-General Engagements

September

22 September Risk and Assurance Committee meeting, DOC Wellington
23 September QEII Board Meeting, The Oaks Wellington
29 September Senior Leaders hui, DOC Wellington

October

02-04 October Ngati Porou hui, Gisborne
08 October Nga Tangata Tiaki o Whanganui hui, Whanganui
13-14 October Senior Leadership Team Retreat, Pounui
15-16 October NZ Conservation Authority, Blenheim
23 October Lake Daniel's Hut opening, Lewis Pass
24 October Cave Creek 25-year Anniversary, West Coast

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02 November Public Service day awards, Wellington
03 November Tuhoē Board hui, Taneatua
04 November Brook Sanctuary, Nelson
09 November Spirit of Service Awards, Te Papa
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Subject headings of content in this section are:

- Leopard Seal Research Permit Amendments

Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

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Week beginning: 28 September 2020

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Minister of Conservation

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 RMA Advocacy

Submissions

Tasman District Council – Plan Change 72 Mooring and Coastal Structures

- You recently submitted in support of the above proposed plan change which gives effect to New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 by:
 - Identifying mooring areas in appropriate locations;
 - Avoiding the placement of moorings in the Westhaven (Te Tai Tapu) Marine Reserve;
 - Ensuring the ownership of moorings adjacent to the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve is consistent with its management plan;
 - Restoring natural character where it is degraded by the removal of abandoned structures being a permitted activity subject to conditions.

Tasman District Council – Draft Mooring Area Bylaw

- The Director-General lodged a submission supporting the Mooring Bylaw which is the companion to Plan Change 72 above.
- It allows the Harbourmaster to allocate and manage the moorings within the mooring areas.
- The submission further clarified that applicants in areas adjacent to the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve in the Torrent/Rākauroa or Boundary Bay Mooring Areas are required to provide proof of an interest in a land title in those Bays to obtain a mooring.
- The Mooring Area Bylaw would then be consistent with the proposed Plan Change 72.

Tasman District Council – Plan Change 71 Coastal Occupation Charges.

- No submission was lodged on the Tasman District Council proposal that no coastal occupation charges were to be levied on users of the common marine and coastal area.

Southland Regional Council – Application by Fiordland Cruises Ltd for day trips in the Sounds

- The Director-General has lodged a submission opposing the application by Fiordland Cruises Ltd for a day trip in 'The Area' (comprising Doubtful Sound/Patea, Thompson Sound, Crooked Arm east of Turn Point and Hall Arm Fiordland). The Area is surrounded by Fiordland National Park and is part of Te Wāhipounamu South West Fiordland World Heritage Area.
- The application was opposed because of the cumulative adverse effects on the area's outstanding natural character and natural features and landscapes through the loss of wild and scenic values, including remoteness and solitude.
- Additionally, there are likely adverse effects on globally unique indigenous biodiversity including:
 - island habitat of Fiordland crested penguins Tawaki (nationally vulnerable),
 - benthic habitat of corals and sea-pens from potential anchor damage, and
 - vessel disturbance to bottlenose dolphin habitat on the margins of the fiords. This pod is critically endangered on the IUCN red list of threatened species.
- The activity is contrary to the Southland Regional Coastal Plan provisions as it fails to preserve or protect the values identified above.

Appeals

Waikato Regional Council – Healthy Rivers Plan Change 1 (PC1) Appeals

- PC1 is the full freshwater plan review for the Waikato and Waipā River catchments. It seeks to manage diffuse discharges of contaminants from agricultural and urban activities to improve water quality in the region. DOC's interest relates to wetlands, lakes, ecosystem health, and stock exclusion.
- DOC has been extensively involved in Council hearings and filed its notice of appeal in July.
- On Monday 22 September DOC filed eight notices as an interested party to the Environment Court proceedings for PC1.

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.2 Kauri Dieback and Myrtle Rust

No update this week

Contact: [REDACTED]

1.1 Jobs for Nature Unit

- We are developing customer experience mapping to better understand how applicants can be kept informed throughout the process.
- Following your feedback, we are progressing with the Newshub West Coast story and are working with our regional communications advisors to identify other potential stories.
- We are working with partners to finalise the business cases for the Raukumara Ranges and Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges projects.

Quick Start projects

- The agreement for the Te Arawa Lakes Trust quick-start project has been signed, and funding release for their next milestone payment is underway. Further recruitment is set to begin.
- The Sustainable Business Network have enabled employment for 19 people so far, through working with the Whangawehi Catchment Management Group in Hawke's Bay and Wai Wanaka in Otago.
- Recruitment is underway for further positions supporting community groups in Auckland, Waikato, Canterbury and Otago. Funding release for their next milestone payment is also underway.
- We are finalising the deeds and business cases for the below quick-start projects:
 - Korehāhā Whakahau - Whakaari/White Island re-set
 - In the Wild – Queenstown & Fiordland Workforce Hub
 - South Westland
 - Backcountry Trust
 - Tairāwhiti Agroecology Recovery Project
 - Predator Free NZ Trust - Supercharging Predator Free 2050 Project
 - Te Waihora Restoration Project
 - Punakaiki Restoration Project
 - Wainuiouru

Alliances

- The Northern South Island Alliance paperwork is progressing, including finalised decisions to fund two projects; a DOC/Alliance agreement drafted; and two deeds for the approved projects.

- We are working through documentation with partners, who are beginning recruitment. We are expecting to receive project proposals from the Western South Island and Southern South Island Alliances next.

Restoring Nature

- We have finalised decision documents for Te Waihora, Punakaiki and Wainuiouru restoration projects., Partners have been notified of approval in principle of funds. We are working with Conservation Volunteers NZ (Punakaiki project) and the Wainuiouru Catchment Project Group on deeds and subsequent funding release.
- We are using existing process to administer the Jobs for Nature - DOC Nature Community Fund with additional efficiencies including rapid assessment and decision-making, and early communication to reduce time the fund is receiving applications.
- It is proposed that both the Community Fund and Private Landowners Fund are announced in October and open simultaneously in mid-November.
- Following your feedback, we are looking at how we can provide further support in a targeted way with known partners through these funds.

Protecting Nature

- We are working with Kiwis for Kiwi on Jobs for Nature requirements for the development of their Annual Plan, which we expect to receive at the end of October.
- The table below provides you with a summary of DOC's approved Job for Nature projects including planned and created job numbers.

2020

	JOBS approved	July		August		September		October	
		planned	people employment	planned	created	planned for 30/9	created @ 24/9	planned	created
Quick-start projects									
Te Arawa Lakes Trust	40				3			8	
Ngati Awa	40						1	8	
Forestry Redeployment Extension	151				190		10		
South Westland	51						34	8	
Queenstown Workforce Hub	64						39		
Sustainable Business Network	36					1	19	13	
Backcountry Trust	108						8		
Predator Free NZ Trust	60							1	
Tairāwhiti Agroecology Recovery Project	4				2			1	
Protecting Nature									
Predator Free 2050 Ltd	450						3	13	
Kiwis for kiwi	80						5	3	
Raukumara restoration	41							60	
Kaimai Mamaku restoration	-							4	
Restoring Nature									
Punakaiki Wetland Restoration	46						4		
Wainuiouru Catchment Restoration Project	8.5						1		
Kaimahi for Nature Kotahitanga mo te Taiao (Project 1):									
Maitai Ecological Restoration Project	30							17	
					195		1	124	136
Total jobs on the ground by...	1209	5					end of September	end of October	
							320	456	

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor, Jobs for Nature: [redacted]

2 Updates

2.1 Lake Daniell Track – Opening of Manson Nicholls Hut

- A small event marking the official opening of the 'Kōhanga Atawhai – Manson Nicholls Hut' has been scheduled for Friday, 23 October 2020.
- A popular 'first tramp' hut at Lake Daniell, in the Maruia Valley has been rebuilt and is now open for use.
- The original memorial hut was built in 1976 to commemorate the lives of 3 trampers who were killed in a 1974 landslide which destroyed a fishing club hut across the lake.
- 'Kōhanga Atawhai' translates to 'Conservation Nest' and the name is a reference to the early conservation movement that started nearby and the fact that many families visit the hut, giving young people an opportunity to learn about nature.
- The rebuild and renaming of the hut was done in partnership with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae. We also consulted family members and volunteers who were associated with the 1974 tragedy and the original hut on the site.
- The hut has been built with input from the local Maruia School and with future accessibility in mind. It has state of the art composting toilets attached to the hut by a boardwalk. As we gradually upgrade the track, we expect more and more people from the accessibility community will use this facility.
- The hut will go into the booking system for the 2020/21 summer season with the date of first booking requirement still to be confirmed.
- More information can be found in a [3 July 2020 media release](#)

Contact: _____

2.2 Public notice of intention to vest Taia Historic Reserve 26

- Public notice of your Intention to vest Taia Historic Reserve on Rēkohu/ Wharekauri/Chatham Islands in Hokotehi Moriori Trust will occur on 26 September 2020.
- The public notice pursuant to section 26(3) Reserves Act 1977 is a re-notification of a notice issued in 2003.
- We have briefed you on this matter previously. You determined the proposal should be re-notified given the passage of time since written submissions and objections were last sought.
- The period for submission will close 5pm Friday, 30 October 2020.
- We have advised Hokotehi Moriori Trust, Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust and the Rēkohu/Wharekauri/Chatham Islands Conservation Board of the public notice.

Contact: _____

2.3 Oceana Gold Limited – Wharekirauponga (Coromandel) mining update

- DOC staff from Hauraki district office met with representatives from Oceana Gold on 17 September 2020 for an update on the proposed mining operation at Wharekirauponga in Coromandel Forest Park.
- Oceana Gold Limited have a current access arrangement in place which allows for exploration drilling at nine sites (plus additional sites for support – 2 helipads and a camp site).
- No application has been submitted to DOC requesting to vary this arrangement and as such no mining activity is permitted at this time.
- At the meeting, Oceana Gold shared their future mining plans for the site including:
 - an intention to tunnel under Public Conservation Land (PCL) using a decline (ramp) and a portal into the underground tunnel located off Conservation Land.
 - tunnelling at Wharekirauponga would involve no surface mining on Public Conservation Land
 - some structures such as ventilation shaft caps would be proposed on PCL to allow air flow through the mine.
 - while nominally for further exploration only, a tunnel and surface structures would be the same as for any future mining activities.
 - tunnel construction may involve blasting.
- Oceana Gold are likely to apply for resource consents by the end of this year. They indicate Environmental Court appeals are likely and estimate 2 years before consents might be granted.
- Some information on the proposed operation has been released on the Oceana Gold website with the Preliminary Economic Assessment but no formal public announcement has been made.
- There is likely to be a high public interest in the applications and DOC's response to them

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.4 Bay of Islands Marine Mammal Sanctuary

- On 21 September 2020 a hapū-DOC kaitiaki roopu (working group) with representation from all seven coastal hapū was finalised. On the same day the roopu held their first hui under their new Terms of Reference to progress the marine mammal sanctuary (MMS) statutory process.
- The first mahi for the roopu is the co-design of a discussion document, to provide to you for approval. The next hui for the roopu is proposed for 28 October 2020.
- DOC has also been engaging with other government agencies (Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry for the Environment, Te Puni Kōkiri and Te Arawhiti) and key stakeholders on the MMS proposal.
- Statutory consultation for the MMS is now planned for early 2021 to avoid consulting over Christmas and to give enough time for development and approval of the discussion document for public release.
- We will keep you updated on progress.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Fines for illegal helicopter landings in Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone

- A helicopter pilot and Precision Helicopters Ltd have been fined \$32,000 for dropping off and collecting hunters from a designated wilderness area in the Kaimanawa Ranges.
- This is the highest penalty for this kind of prosecution.
- The Rangitikei Remote Experience Zone (REZ), which includes the upper Rangitikei River catchment, protects the wilderness character of the area in perpetuity and ensures that priority is given to maintaining its wilderness character. Aircraft landings are not permitted in the REZ, except in case of emergencies.
- The offences occurred on Saturday 23 February 2019, when the pilot dropped three hunters in the REZ and flew back to the REZ to collect them a week later.
- The pilot, Darryl Williams, was fined \$20,000 for the landings in the REZ, when he appeared in the Rotorua District Court in June 2020.
- On September 18, 2020 Precision Helicopters Ltd was fined \$12,000 in the Taupo District Court for its part in the offences. The company had previously been given a formal warning about unapproved landings in 2014.
- We distributed a [media release](#) outlining the issue on Tuesday 22 September.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 Publication - "Understory vegetation provides clues to succession in woody weed stands"

- Kate McAlpine (Threats Science Advisor) has published a paper in the NZ Journal of Ecology: "Understory vegetation provides clues to succession in woody weed stands".
- Woody weeds form dense stands in many areas of New Zealand. At some sites, they die out naturally and are replaced by native species as succession proceeds, but at others they persist indefinitely.
- This paper provides a framework to help land managers distinguish between these different trajectories at any given woody weed site, using their observations of the understory vegetation. This allows them to assess the likelihood of that site returning to native dominance naturally.
- We have provided a copy of the article to your office and it is available here: <https://newzealandecology.org/nzje/3418.pdf>

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Director-General Engagements

September

29 September Senior Leaders hui DOC Wellington

October

01 October Jobs for Nature event, DOC Wellington /Zoom

02-04 October Ngati Porou hui, Gisborne

08 October Nga Tangata Tiaki o Whanganui hui, Whanganui

08 October Eureka Trust Scholarship Gala Dinner, Grand Hall Parliament

13-14 October Senior Leadership Team Retreat, Pounui

15-16 October NZ Conservation Authority, Blenheim

20 October Ngā Tāngata Tiaki o Whanganui Hui, TBC Whanganui

23 October Lake Daniel's Hut opening, Lewis Pass

24 October Cave Creek 25-year Anniversary, West Coast

November

02 November Public Service day awards, Wellington

03 November Tuhoē Board hui, Taneatua

04 November Brook Sanctuary, Nelson

09 November Spirit of Service Awards, Te Papa

12 November State Sector Leadership Team Retreat, Silverstream Retreat

19 November Blake Awards, Auckland

December

10-11 December NZ Conservation Authority, DOC Wellington

Proactively Released

4 Addendum

No items this week

Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

No items this week

Proactively Released