



# Auckland Conservation Board

*Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Tāmaki Makaurau*

## Annual Report 2023-2024



Annual Report of the  
**Auckland Conservation Board**  
Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Tāmaki Makaurau

For the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

*Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority / Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O  
Aotearoa pursuant to section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987*

Cover photo: Auckland Conservation Board, from left Nerissa Henry, Pippa Coom, Edward Ashby and Mihi McMahon (Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust), Nicola MacDonald, Kate Waterhouse, Gael Ogilvie, John Galilee (DOC), Arataki Visitor Centre, June 2024.

*Photographer:* Emma Smith

Back cover photo: Kawakawa foliage on Ōtata Island, February 2024.

*Photographer:* Nicola MacDonald

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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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Edward Ellison  
Chairperson, New Zealand Conservation Authority  
PO Box 10420  
Wellington 6143

Tēnā koe Edward

I submit, in terms of section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987, the annual report of the Auckland Conservation Board (the Board) for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. The Conservation Act requires that the Board report each year to the New Zealand Conservation Authority on its operations.

Once again, I am very pleased with the achievements of the Board during the year. As this annual report demonstrates the Board was able to progress almost every part of our work plan despite relying on the largely voluntary efforts of our members and the relatively small resource available from the Department to support us.

This year I encouraged the Board to focus on a few key priorities, such as advocacy and influencing on matters of significance such as the review of the Wildlife Act, the review of the Treaty Principles and the Treaty clauses review, responding to the Fast-Track Approvals Bill and supporting the establishment of Te Paepae, a forum to support Conservation Board Chairs. The results of these engagements speak for themselves.

Some of the highlights from the year include the development of strong whanaungatanga with our neighbouring boards Te Hiku o Te Ika, Te Tai Tokerau and Waikato. We were hosted in Kirikiriroa by our Waikato members where we focused on the future and wellbeing of Tīkapa Moana/Te Moananui-ā-Toi/the Hauraki Gulf.

Both Boards are anxiously awaiting the Government's enactment of the Hauraki Gulf Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill, which will create 19 new marine protected areas and go a long way towards securing a healthy future for the Gulf. The Board will continue to focus on the Hauraki Gulf and protection of our region's precious biodiversity in the year ahead.

In closing, as my final korero as the Chair of Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Tamaki Makaurau, we are amid political change and for some, economies and resource extraction are valued more than the ongoing protection and restoration of Te Taiao. Therefore, as stewards and kaitiaki it is essential that a unified voice is strengthened and amplifies the voices of tangata whenua and our communities to hold fast to Te Mana o Te Taiao.

He kaitiaki koe

He kaitiaki au

Nicola MacDonald  
Chairperson  
Auckland Conservation Board

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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This is the thirty-third Auckland Conservation Board Annual Report. Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (**Authority**) with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Auckland Conservation Board (**Board**) submits this annual report.

Conservation boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. They represent the community and offer interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation (**Department**), within their area of jurisdiction.

Conservation board members are appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987 (**Act**). 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. The Board has several statutory roles under various Acts, including:

- the recommendation of the Auckland 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 recommendation of conservation 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 the National Parks Act 1980 but there are no national parks within the Board's district.

## 2. ROHE

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The Auckland Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area of 2,430,884 hectares. This area extends from the west coast to the east coast in the narrowest part of New Zealand. The entrance to the Kaipara Harbour marks the north-western corner of the region and Mangawhai Heads marks the north-eastern point. In the south-west, the boundary follows the north bank of the Waikato River, and the south-eastern boundary is on the Firth of Thames at Pūkoro/Miranda. The Board's district also currently includes Aotea/Great Barrier Island, Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier and the islands of the Hauraki Gulf as well as the Kermadec Islands, located 800-1,000km northeast of the North Island.

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.

Public conservation land and waters make up 44.97% of all the Board's total district. This consists of:

- 36,727 hectares of Public Conservation Land
- 336,858 hectares of Sanctuaries to Protect Marine Mammals

- 729,606 hectares of Marine Reserves, including the 716,509 ha Kermadec Islands Marine Reserve.

Part of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park lies within the Boards' jurisdiction.

The Board's area of jurisdiction was set in 1990 when conservation boards were established. Two areas (Kermadec Islands and Pūkororo/Miranda) are no longer managed from the Department's Auckland office. The Board has informal arrangements with the Te Hiku o Te Ika and Waikato Conservation Boards that they will respectively be responsible for those areas until such time as the boundaries of the three boards are formally re-defined.

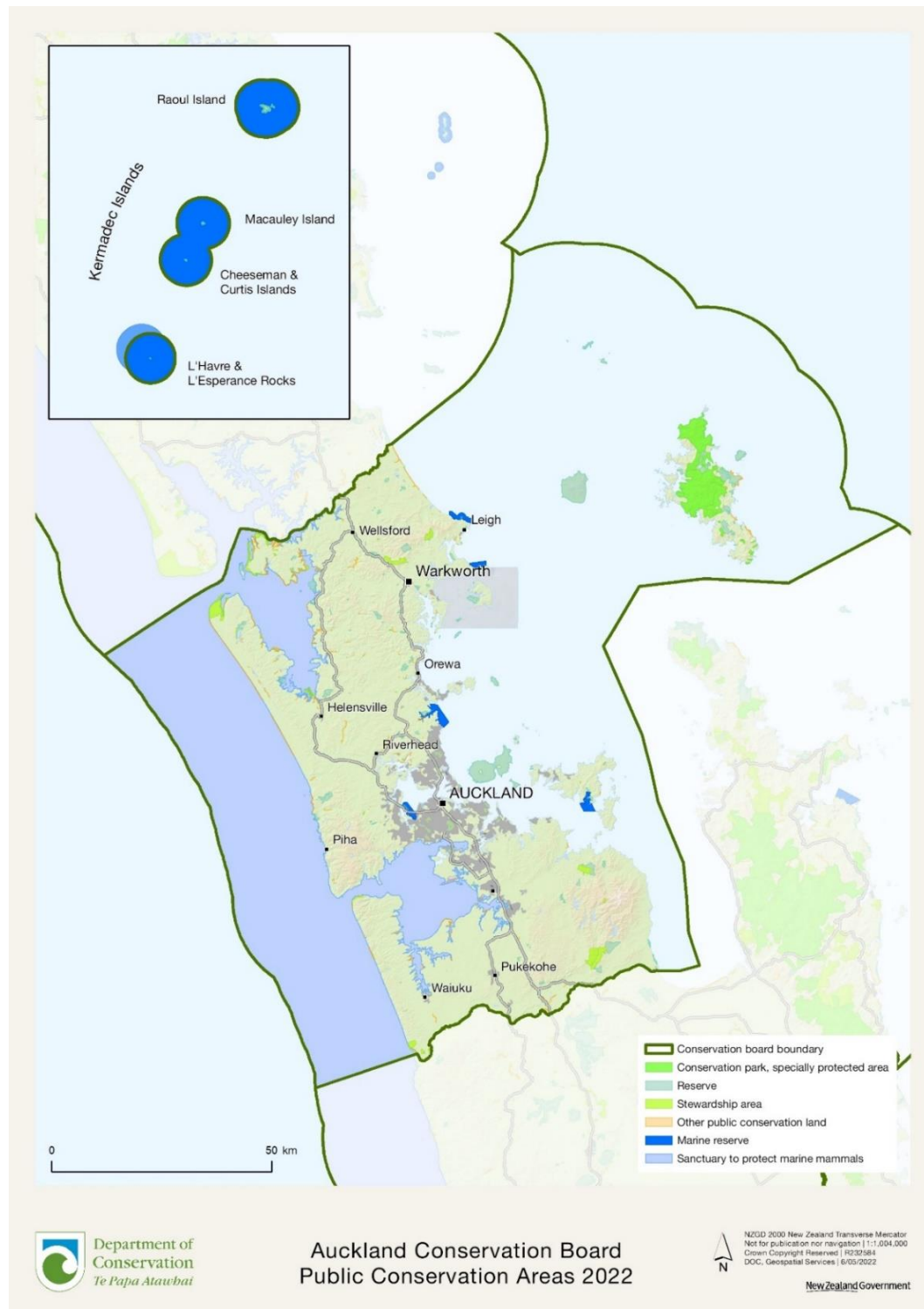


Figure 1. Auckland Conservation Board Jurisdiction

## 2.1 Tangata whenua

The Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland region has a strong and varied iwi landscape. 19 iwi groups have recognised interests in the region:

- Ngāti Manuhiri
- Ngāti Maru\*
- Ngāti Pāoa\*
- Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea
- Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki\*
- Ngāti Tamaoho\*
- Ngāti Tamaterā\*
- Ngāti Te Āta\*
- Ngāti Wai
- Ngāti Whanaunga\*
- Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara\*
- Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei\*
- Te Ākitai Waiohua\*
- Te Ahiwaru Waiohua
- Te Kawerau ā Maki\*
- Te Patukirikiri\*
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua\*
- Te Uri o Hau
- Waikato-Tainui

13 iwi, indicated by \*, are represented by Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau (the Tāmaki Collective), which signed the Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Deed with the Crown in 2012.

## 2.2 Conservation features of the area

The Board's district is a unique one in that it comprises the highly urbanised environment of the Auckland metropolitan area with one third of New Zealand's population, as well as extensive rural areas, remote offshore islands and marine environments. The Board recognises the importance of making conservation real for the 1.6 million people living in Auckland and, notwithstanding the impact of COVID-19 on international and domestic tourism, delivering a first-class conservation experience for visitors to Auckland each year.

The Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland region encompasses areas of very significant European historical importance as well as areas of ecological, natural, and amenity value. They include the Firth of Thames, Kaipara Harbour, Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island, the Mokohinau island group, Aotea/Great Barrier Island, Rakitū, Tiritiri Mātangi and Motuora, and the inner Gulf Islands including Rangitoto, Motutapu and Te Motu-a-Ihenga/Motuihe, Mansion House on Kawau Island and the coastal defence installations at Fort Takapuna and Stony Batter on Waiheke Island. The Department manages about 60% of 28,000ha Aotea/Great Barrier Island, which is approximately 40% of all public conservation land in the region.



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 marine environment is an especially important part of the Board's district and areas of interest, and its national significance was recognised by its declaration in 2000 as the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

The Hauraki Gulf/Tīkapa Moana/Te Moananui-ā-Toi contains 40 pest-free sanctuaries and is a stronghold for a huge number of indigenous species found nowhere else in the world, including threatened seabirds, shorebirds, marine mammals, fish and marine invertebrates.

The Board's area includes five marine reserves: Cape Rodney to Okakari Point (New Zealand's first marine reserve at Leigh), Motu Manawa/Pollen Island (in the inner Waitematā Harbour), Long Bay-Okura, Te Matuku (southwestern Waiheke Island), and Tāwharanui.

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

- Aotea Conservation Park - 12,896.05 ha
- 85 scenic reserves - 6,735.54 ha
- 13 historic reserves - 307.22 ha
- 38 recreation reserves - 3,335.35 ha
- 68 stewardship areas - 4,794.85 ha
- 223 marginal strips - 948.58 ha
- 6 marine reserves - 719,606.16 ha
- 1 marine mammal sanctuary - 338,096.97 ha



Photo: Auckland Conservation Board visit to Ōtata Island. 'The Noises' are a collection of islands lying northeast of Rakino Island in Auckland's Hauraki Gulf. February 2024.

*Photographer:* Emma Smith

### 2.3 Conservation issues in the area

Approximately 7.59% of all public conservation land in Aotearoa lies within the region. The large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- The need to connect more Aucklanders with nature and to provide sufficient infrastructure and facilities to safely support access to conservation land for 1.6m Aucklanders and thousands of domestic and international visitors to Tāmaki Makaurau.
- The protection and management of the many threatened species and ecosystems in the region, due to destruction of habitat and the impact of development. While a number of threatened species have populations on pest free islands in the Hauraki Gulf or within mainland sanctuaries, there are many more species that do not have enough management attention. Many marine and freshwater species in particular are under huge pressure and require better regulatory protection.
- The risks to indigenous species and ecosystems from the effects of climate change. The Board has particular concern for those species that are already threatened and for which climate change will exacerbate adverse trends, and for those ecosystems that are limited in geographic scale and vulnerable to the changes that climate change will bring.
- Understanding how to give effect to the aspirations of mana whenua in relation to conservation, and to give full effect to Treaty settlements, including in particular, the Tāmaki Makaurau Motu Plan and the development of a fit for purpose Auckland Conservation Management Strategy (also see Section 7.0).
- Ensuring that the resource management system and related decisions does not further degrade important ecosystems or erode populations of threatened species and their habitats – for example by opposing the continuation of sand mining off Pākiri beach and a proposed landfill at Wayby Valley in the upper Hotoe catchment.
- Supporting the goals of the New Zealand Predator Free 2050 strategy. In the short to medium term the Board is concerned about how it can support the communities on inhabited islands such as Kawau, Waiheke and Aotea/Great Barrier to work towards becoming predator free.
- Protecting and enhancing access to the large number of heritage sites that are located on public conservation land within the region that are not being actively managed. There is a disproportionate lack of resources for heritage work in Auckland, and for providing high quality interpretation so visitors can understand the stories related to those sites and their importance.
- Restoring Tīkapa Moana/Te Moananui-a-Toi/the Hauraki Gulf. Over 23 years “State of the Gulf” reports published by the Hauraki Gulf Forum have tracked an ongoing decline in the health of the Gulf, and widespread public concern about its ecological condition and support for efforts to restore the mauri of the Gulf. It considers that the Government’s “Revitalising the Gulf” is a starting point but working towards the goals of the Hauraki Gulf Forum, for at least 30% of the Gulf under some form of marine protection, as well as the removal of trawling and dredging, measures to preserve depleted marine species such as koura, scallops and paua, and the protection of seabirds.

### 3. FUNCTIONS

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#### 3.1 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 an 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 on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance
- 5) To advise the Authority or the Director-General on any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board
- 6) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matter within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 7) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

#### 3.2 Board power 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 -
  - i. Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
  - ii. 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. MEMBERSHIP

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The Minister of Conservation appoints Board members under section 6P of the Conservation Act 1987. The process of appointment ensures that a range of perspectives, life experiences, and knowledge contribute to the advice provided and decisions made by the Board.

Board members are appointed for 3-year terms and may be re-appointed, unless they are appointed in replacement of a prior member's term. There were 11 Board members for the reporting year. Nicola MacDonald was first elected Chairperson in February 2021 and continued in this role during the 2023/2024 year. Kate Waterhouse was first elected Deputy Chairperson in June 2023.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024 (\* denotes that the member resigned during the year):

Board Member	Area	Term start	Term end
Dr Achyut Aryal	Auckland	01 July 2022	30 June 2025
Robert Bruce*	Auckland	01 July 2022	19 July 2023
Rahul Chopra	Auckland	01 July 2022	30 June 2025
Pippa Coom	Auckland	01 July 2023	30 June 2024
Nerissa Henry	Auckland	01 July 2022	30 June 2026
Mervyn Kerehoma	Auckland – Ngāti Whātua rōpū	01 July 2020	30 June 2026
Shane Lavery	Auckland	01 July 2021	30 June 2024
Nicola MacDonald	Auckland	01 July 2018	30 June 2024
Tori Ngataki	Te Kauwhata – Waiohua Tāmaki rōpū	01 July 2023	30 June 2026
Gael Ogilvie	Auckland	01 July 2021	30 June 2025
Kate Waterhouse	Auckland/Great Barrier Island	19 November 2019	30 June 2024
Fred Wilson	Waiuku – Marutūāhu rōpū	01 July 2023	30 June 2026



Photo: Auckland Conservation Board, from back left Rahul Chopra, Gael Ogilvie, Shane Lavery, Nicola MacDonald, Mervyn Kerehoma, Sue Neureuter (The Noises Trust), Pippa Coom, Kate Waterhouse, John Galilee (DOC), front left: Nerissa Henry, Achyut Aryal, Emma Smith (DOC) visit to Otata Island, February 2024. *Photographer:* Nicole Steven

## 4.1 Members profiles

**DR ACHYUT ARYAL:** Dr Aryal offers excellent diversity of perspective from his experiences working and studying abroad, having worked and researched extensively on Nepalese methods of conservation. He is the CEO of CC Training Academy, an Associate with Massey University, and holds other senior roles with the University of Sydney. Dr Aryal also has varied and significant experience, particularly in academia in relation to species and biology conservation.

**ROBERT BRUCE:** Robert offers knowledge and experience of the recreation and tourism sectors, as a current tourism operator and guiding concessionaire. He has co-ordinated conservation activities such as tree planting and beach clean ups around Auckland. Robert also has wide experience in governance, strategy, and business leadership.

**RAHUL CHOPRA:** Rahul is a Sustainability and Climate Action Consultant and provides expertise in issues relating to climate change adaptation and mitigation and sustainable environmental management. He is experienced in public policy, communications, and stakeholder relations, and in developing transformative outcome-based strategic guidance, as well as specialist scientific and technical advice. Rahul is currently a Board Member of Pest Free Kaipatiki Restoration Society, and Principal Consultant, Forum Director, and Editor of New Zealand Sustainability & Policy Leaders Forum.

**PIPPA COOM:** Pippa brings extensive experience and knowledge of community conservation, community engagement, cultural competency, governance and planning. Until recently Ms Coom was an elected member of the Auckland Council and a former Co-chair of the Hauraki Gulf Forum, with extensive knowledge of regional environmental issues. Ms Coom has wide networks and experience of working with Māori and has experience working as a lawyer.

**NERISSA HENRY** (Ngāpuhi, Ngāi Takoto, and Ngāti Awa, and Cook Islands Māori): Nerissa has extensive experience working in waste minimisation and environmental initiatives. She brings experience and knowledge of community conservation, community engagement, cultural competency, and governance to the board. Nerissa is a current Local Board member and sits on the Tamaki Estuary Environmental Forum and the Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority. She has deep knowledge of kaitiakitanga and the Treaty.

**MERVYN KEREHOMA** (Ngāti Whātua o Ōrakei and Te Rarawa): Mervyn is nominated by Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau / Ngāti Whātua rōpū. He serves Ngāti Whātua o Ōrakei on the whenua as a poutaki lead. As an active kaitiaki his cultural leadership guides the communities he works within by leading karakia, mihi and kapa haka. Mr Kerehoma has led big projects within Tāmaki Makaurau such as the Wynyard Quarter Rain Gardens and the Ecological Restoration of Pourewa. He has experience in cultural engagement and as a relationship liaison, and has knowledge of ecology restoration planning, pest management and biodiversity monitoring.

**SHANE LAVERY:** Shane is an Associate Professor at the University of Auckland and offers over 40 years' experience in marine and terrestrial biological conservation research. He has extensive knowledge of biodiversity and has served on several advisory boards.

**NICOLA MACDONALD** (Ngāti Rehua, Ngāti Wai, Te Rarawa, Te Atiawa, and Ngāti Maru ki Taranaki): Nicola is a current member of a number of governance bodies, including the Hauraki Gulf Forum and the Māori Women's Welfare League. She has experience in leading environmental programmes such as the Restore Rakitū and Bring Back Kōkako projects.

**TORI NGATAKI** (Ngāti Tamaoho, Te Waiohū, Waikato, Maniapoto): Tori is the Waiohū Tāmaki rūpū entity nominee. She is the current Chair of the Ngāti Tamaoho Trust and of the Settlement Trust. She completed her MBA in 2018 to support her aspirations to support her people regarding the revitalisation of their whakapapa, their taiao, and wellbeing. Currently they are working on revitalising indigenous fauna and flora around the Manukau Harbour and seeking to restore their cultural practices around these to enhance their whakapapa as Ngāti Tamaoho.

**GAEL OGILVIE**: Gael is the Director of Nature’s Grace Aotearoa. She has extensive governance experience, serving on a number of Boards and Steering Groups concerned with environmental sustainability. She is currently a Board member of the NZ Ecolabelling Trust.

**KATE WATERHOUSE**: Kate is an experienced business and conservation leader with strategy, facilitation and change experience across the public and private sector in New Zealand and overseas. Kate advocates for a collaborative approach to biodiversity and ecosystems restoration. She is Chair of the Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust, a member of the Tū Mai Taonga Steering Committee (Aotea), a trustee of the Hauturu Supporters Trust and served six years on the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee. She recently completed a Masters in Creative Writing at the University of Auckland.

**FRED WILSON** (Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Whanaunga, Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Maru, Te Kawerau ā Maki, Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara): Fred is the Marutūahu rūpū entity nominee for the Board. He has been involved in conservation on the Awhitu Peninsula, with the Shoreline Kids programme, riparian planting, coastal planting for sand dune stabilisation and native planting programmes. He has a strong understanding of te ao Māori including the iwi landscape of the Auckland region.

## 5. MEETINGS AND FIELDTRIPS

The Board held 5 meetings during the reporting period. Venues for the meetings vary each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

Meeting date	Location/Venue
30 August 2023	The Barracks, Fort Takapuna Recreation Reserve, Narrow Neck, Auckland
18 October 2023	Nathan Homestead, Manurewa, Auckland
15 March 2024	Department of Conservation offices, CBD, Hamilton
10 April 2024	Arataki Visitor Centre, Oratia, Waitākere Ranges
19 June 2024	Te Awataha marae, Northcote, Auckland

The Board also held 5 workshops during the year to focus on specific matters. The 15 March 2024 workshop was held jointly with the Waikato Conservation Board.

Workshop date	Location/Venue
19 July 2023	Department of Conservation offices, CBD, Auckland
20 September 2023	Department of Conservation offices, CBD, Auckland
22 November 2023	Department of Conservation offices, CBD, Auckland
15 March 2024	Department of Conservation offices, CBD, Hamilton
15 May 2024	Department of Conservation offices, CBD, Auckland



Photo (left): Wētāpunga populations thriving on Otata Island. (Right): Auckland Conservation Board from left Pippa Coom, Nerissa Henry and Achyut Aryal, enjoying a break during a guided tour of Otata Island, February 2024. *Photographer:* Nicola MacDonald

## 5.1 Agendas

The Board hosted and heard from three non-Departmental speakers at its public meetings:

- Dave Allan, Manager Natural Environment Strategy, and Kath Coombes, Team Leader Regional Planning, both of Auckland Council, presented to the Board about planning for the forthcoming review of the Regional Coastal Plan and how it might protect biodiversity (18 October 2023 meeting).
- Edward Ashby, Chief Executive, accompanied by Mihi McMahon, both of the Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust, spoke to the Board about Te Kawerau-a-Maki’s aspirations, including the development of a Deed of Acknowledgment under the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008, and the construction of a marae at Te Henga (10 April 2024 meeting).
- Tim Fraser, Engagement Specialist Caulerpa Response, Biosecurity New Zealand, provided an update on the response to the spread of exotic Caulerpa seaweed (19 June 2024 meeting).

Department staff also attended public meetings throughout the year. Presentations included:

- Brooke Jamieson, Senior Heritage Advisor, Auckland, and Janet Shankland, Senior Visitor Advisor, Auckland, presented to the Board about how the Department manages heritage sites that are prone to visitor pressure (30 August 2023 meeting).
- Jill Hetherington, Senior Advisor, Dunedin, presented to the Board about implementation of the Te Mana o Te Taiao the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (18 October 2023 meeting).
- Emma Kearney, Strategy Manager Regional Treaty Partnerships, Auckland, and her team presented about Treaty settlements in the region and progress towards their implementation (19 June 2024 meeting).
- Michael Harbrow, Principal Strategy implementation Advisor, and Mike Oates, Principal Governance and Engagement Advisor, both of Wellington, spoke about engagement during development of the second implementation plan for Te Mana o Te Taiao the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (19 June 2024 meeting).

The agendas and minutes from all the Board's public meetings can be found on the Board's webpage.

Board workshops are not open to the public and minutes of workshops are not kept. The Board received presentations from Departmental staff and representatives of several other entities at some of its workshops.

- They received presentations from the Department about the responsibilities of the Board under the Treaty of Waitangi and an update on progress with the review of the Wildlife Act (22 November 2023 workshop).
- At a joint workshop with the Waikato Conservation Board the two Boards received presentations from Chris Gaskin and Edin Whitehead of the Northern New Zealand Seabirds Trust, Kirsty Prior, Operations Manager Aotea/Great Barrier, about the Department's preparations for implementation of new marine protected areas in the Hauraki Gulf, and Alex Rogers, Executive Officer of the Hauraki Gulf Forum (15 March 2024 joint workshop).
- A presentation from the Department about the future of several walking tracks that had been damaged during Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023 (15 May 2024 workshop).

## 5.2 Field trips and site inspections

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

- Brooke Jamieson, Senior Heritage Advisor, and Janet Shankland, Senior Visitor Advisor, both of the Department of Conservation, Auckland, guided the Board around the Fort Takapuna Historic Reserve to view damage that had been caused during Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023 (30 August 2023).
- Sue Neureuter hosted the Board on a visit to the Noises islands, which included a walk across the largest island Ōtata. Issues discussed with the Board included the proposed High Protection Area around the Noises that was included in the Tikapa Moana Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill, kina/sea urchin barrens in the waters around the islands, and work to restore populations of threatened species on the islands (20 February 2024).



### 5.3 Members' attendance 2023/24

Board Member	Meetings (total 5)	Fieldtrips (total 2)
Achyut Aryal	5	2
Robert Bruce*	0	0
Rahul Chopra	5	2
Pippa Coom	4	2
Nerissa Henry	4	2
Mervyn Kerehoma	3	2
Shane Lavery	4	2
Nicola MacDonald	4	2
Tori Ngataki	1	0
Gael Ogilvie	4	1
Kate Waterhouse	4	1
Fred Wilson	3	1

## 6. MAHI

### 6.1 Board Committees

The Conservation Act 1987 enables the Board to establish committees to carry out functions or tasks delegated by the Board. Committees that were active during the reporting period, and members involved in those committees included:

- **Communications:** the purpose of this committee was to co-ordinate the Board's public communications, in accordance with the Board's Communications Plan that had been adopted in the 2020/2021 year. The Board commissioned a review of its Communications Plan during the year from an external communications specialist and a revised Plan was submitted to the Board in June 2024. During the year the Board posted regularly on its Facebook page (also see section 8.5, Community Visibility).

**Members:** Nicola MacDonald, Gael Ogilvie, Achyut Aryal, Pippa Coom

**Concessions:** the purpose of this committee was to assess applications for concessions that are referred to the Board under its agreed triggers and to provide advice to the Department. It also leads the Board's work on providing advice to the Department on other statutory proposals referred to the Board. During the reporting year the Board's comments were sought on an application from the Tamaki Regeneration Company to lease a small part of a recreation reserve in Glen Innes for an electrical transformer, and an application from the Rangitoto Island Historic Conservation Trust to lease five restored baches on Rangitoto. Their further comments were sought on a proposal for a reduction in the width of a marginal strip on a property in Henderson.

**Members:** Kate Waterhouse, Mervyn Kerehoma, Nerissa Henry

## 6.2 Special events

The Board had representatives attend several special events during the year including the announcement by the Government of the Tikapa Moana Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill (August 2023), the release of the Hauraki Gulf Forum’s “State of the Gulf 2023” report (August 2023) and the launch event for the 2023 New Zealand Sculpture OnShore exhibition held at Ft. Takapuna (November 2023).

## 6.3 Training for members

Newly appointed members to the Board were provided with information during an induction on 29 August 2023. The Board used one of its workshops to learn about its responsibilities under the Treaty of Waitangi (22 November 2023 workshop).



Photo: Auckland Conservation Board from left Achyut Aryal, Nerisa Henry, Rahul Chopra, Nicola MacDonald, Mervyn Kerehoma, Kate Waterhouse, Shane Lavery, Pippa Coom, Sue Neureuter (Noises Trust), Steve Imrie (DOC Skipper), Gael Ogilvie, John Galilee (DOC) disembarking the DOC vessel Taikehu onto Ōtata Island, February 2024. *Photographer:* Emma Smith

# 7. STATUTORY ACTIVITY

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## 7.1 Annual Work Plan

After receiving its Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation, the Board sets out its work plan for the upcoming year. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

During the first part of the year the Board revised its Work Plan in response to the Minister’s priorities in her Letter of Expectation dated 1 May 2023, and to address matters that the Board also decided to focus on. The Board’s strategic priorities were:

- Treaty of Waitangi.
- Biodiversity.
- Community and heritage.
- Climate change.

## 7.2 Auckland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The Auckland CMS was approved in 2014. It contains milestones that were designed to be measurable steps towards achieving the outcomes and policies in the CMS. During the year the Board received a consolidated “traffic light” report for all the milestones (April 2024 meeting).

Members were satisfied overall with the progress made and the range and amount of work completed. However, they also noted concern that there are some pieces of work that are yet to be commenced or is not being completed within the timeframes indicated in the CMS.

The Board notes that the nominal term of the CMS term was 10 years and consider that it is no longer fit for purpose and is overdue for review. The Board has previously provided feedback to this effect through submissions. The Board has noted the success of the Te Hiku CMS process and awaits next steps to ensure the Auckland CMS can be reviewed in a timely fashion.

In the 2019/2020 year the Board developed “supplementary milestones” for some parts of the CMS, to better define how to measure and monitor progress in those areas.

## 7.3 Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Conservation Management Plan (CMP)

The Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island CMP was approved in 2017. It was developed by the Board in conjunction with the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and is an important part of redress for Ngāti Manuhiri under their Treaty settlement. The Board received a presentation from Terrance (Mook) Hohneck, Chair of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust, about the development of the CMP, its importance to Ngāti Manuhiri, and progress towards its implementation (19 June 2024 meeting).

Nicola MacDonald, Chair of the Board, was Acting Chief Executive of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust during the year. In that capacity she worked closely with the Department on monitoring and implementation of the CMP.

## 7.4 Tāmaki Makaurau Motu Plan (the Motu Plan)

The Board was disappointed that yet another year passed without any progress to begin development of a Conservation Management Plan for the inner motu/islands of the Hauraki Gulf (ie. Rangitoto, Motutapu and Motuihe/Te Motu-a-Ihenga). The Motu Plan is a requirement under the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014. It is to be developed and approved by the Board in conjunction with the Tūpuna Taonga o Tāmaki Makaurau Trust, which represent the interests of the 13 iwi that comprise the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective. The Motu Plan is an important milestone in the Auckland CMS.

Despite the Board’s advocacy about the importance of the Motu Plan over a number of years, no progress was achieved in the reporting year. Resolving the resourcing issues that are behind the delay are beyond the Board’s scope of influence at this time.

## 8. ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

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All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise, and some members have specific roles in liaison. The Board appointed one member to liaise with one key group during the year:

Board member	Organisation/Group/Agency
Shane Lavery	Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

Kate Waterhouse held an informal liaison relationship with the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee:

### 8.1 Board and Authority liaisons

The Board holds a liaison relationship with neighbouring conservation boards. Liaison roles for the reporting year were held by:

- Nicola MacDonald – Liaison for Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board
- Kate Waterhouse/Pippa Coom – Liaison for Northland Conservation Board
- Tori Ngataki – Liaison for Waikato Conservation Board

The Authority has a liaison member with the Board to facilitate communication. The Authority liaison attends Board meetings, and reports to the full Authority on matters raised. Ina Kara-France was the Authority's liaison for the reporting year.

### 8.2 Advice to the Department

The Board provided formal written advice to the Department on the following issues:

- A proposal for the reduction in the width of a marginal strip that would be retained by the Crown on the disposal of land in Henderson (20 July 2023 and 8 February 2024).
- Feedback to the Department of Conservation on a proposed new approach to managing biking (26 October 2023).
- An application from the Rangitoto Island Historic Conservation Trust to lease four restored baches on Rangitoto for providing overnight accommodation to the public (9 February 2024).
- An application from the Tamaki Regeneration Company to lease a small part of a recreation reserve in Glen Innes for an electrical transformer (19 April 2024).
- Advice on the future of storm damaged tracks in the Auckland region (24 April 2024).

### 8.3 Submissions

The Board advocated its interests during the reporting period through a number of submissions, available to read on its webpage:

- To the Environment Select Committee on the Hauraki Gulf Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill (22 October 2023).
- To the Ministry for the Environment on a proposed biodiversity credit system (3 November 2023).
- To Fisheries New Zealand on proposed options for bottom fishing access zones (trawl corridors) in the Hauraki Gulf (6 November 2023).

- To Waikato Regional Council on the Proposed Waikato Regional Coastal Plan (14 November 2023).
- To Eke Panuku Development Auckland on the proposed Te Ara Tukutuku vision for the future of Wynyard Point (24 November 2023).
- To Auckland Council on a proposed approach to implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (4 December 2023).
- To the Environment Select Committee on the Fast-track Approvals Bill (19 April 2024).

#### 8.4 Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Meetings were held in different parts of the Auckland region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised.

Members of the public attended the Public Forum at several of the year's meetings and a range of issues were raised. The Board appreciated their input and efforts made to attend the meetings and responded by letter with a response to questions asked or concerns raised.

Public forum issues raised were:

- Jacqui Knight, supported by Maurice Mehlhopt and Mark Bateman, all of the Moths & Butterflies of New Zealand Trust, presented to the Board about their plans for development of a national butterfly centre in Auckland (10 April 2024 meeting).

#### 8.5 Community visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website, and via the quarterly Conservation Board Newsletter. The Board also maintained a Facebook page on which it posted about items of interest during the year.

It continues to be an objective of the Board to improve its public visibility and its effectiveness as a channel for the conservation concerns of the community. However, the Board is allocated minimal funds for operations and has no dedicated communications resources. The Board considers this gap to be an area that the Department needs to address if it wishes to improve the Board's performance and outcomes in Tāmaki Makaurau.

#### 8.6 District and regional council advocacy and advice

The Board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the Auckland Council, which is a unitary authority for the Auckland Region. Many of the regional issues in which the Board is interested require collaboration with Auckland Council or individual Local Boards.

During the year the Board:

- Received a presentation from officers of Auckland Council about planning for the forthcoming review of the Regional Coastal Plan and how it might protect biodiversity (18 October 2023 meeting).
- Submitted to Auckland Council, Eke Panuku Auckland Development (a Council Controlled Organisation) and Waikato Regional Council on a number of matters (see Section 8.3 above for details).
- Presented to an Auckland Council hearing about the council's Draft Long Term Plan 2024-2034.

Members also hold relationships with councillors, Local Board members and with Council officers, facilitating communication on specific issues.

## 8.7 Iwi liaison and advocacy

The Board welcomes opportunities to meet with representatives of iwi to understand the perspective of mana whenua on conservation issues in the region.

During the year the Board held one of its meetings at the Te Awataha Marae in Northcote, which has affiliations to Te Kawerau-a-Maki and Ngāti Manuhiri.

The Board had the following engagements with iwi representatives during the year:

- Edward Ashby, Chief Executive, accompanied by Mihi McMahon, both of the Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust, spoke to the Board about Te Kawerau-a-Maki's aspirations, including the development of a Deed of Acknowledgment under the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008, and the construction of a marae at Te Henga (10 April 2024 meeting).
- Terrance (Mook) Hohneck, Chair of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust, supported by Delma O'Kane (Kaitakawaenga, Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust) and Maximus Smitheram (Duenorth Ltd.), about the development of the Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island CMP, its importance to Ngāti Manuhiri, and progress towards its implementation including the establishment of a kainga on land returned to Ngāti Manuhiri under their Treaty Settlement (19 June 2024 meeting).

The Board continued to support Ngāti Manuhiri in opposition to the applications to mine sand off Pākiri beach.

## 9. FEES AND ALLOWANCES

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Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951. The chairperson receives a daily meeting fee of \$330, and other Authority members receive a daily meeting fee of \$250.

## 10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Board wishes to acknowledge Andrew Baucke, who retired in April 2024 after serving eight years as the Director Regional Operations in Auckland. In May 2024 the Chair of the Board, Nicola MacDonald, and several other members participated in the mihi whakatau to welcome Alex Rogers when he assumed the role of Director Regional Operations.

The Board would also like to acknowledge and thank John Galilee (Statutory Manager) and Emma Smith (Board Support Officer) for their support during the year.



Photo: Auckland Conservation Board Meeting, from left Terrence 'Mook' Hohneck (Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust (NMST)), Michael Wharepouri (DOC), Emma Kearney (DOC), Freya Schaumkel (DOC), Leona White (DOC), Maria Amoamo and Anthony Wilson (Te Awataha Marae), Kawa MacDonald (NMST), Gael Ogilvie, Matt Williams(NMST) , Nicola MacDonald, Ihipera OKane (NMST), Ayla Walker (NMST), Ina Kara-France (NZCA), Shane Lavery, Alex Rogers (DOC), Maximus Smitheram (Duenorth Ltd), John Galilee (DOC) at Te Awataha Marae, Northcote, June 2024.

*Photographer:* Emma Smith





### **Auckland Conservation Board Work Programme 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024**

#### **Work Programme overview**

This Work Programme has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation dated 1 May 2023. It is structured in three parts, namely:

- **Part A:** Planned Board activities aimed at meeting the regional Work Programme contained in the letter:

#### *Government and ministerial priorities*

- Support the implementation of Te Mana o te Taio – the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy.
- Embed the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in accordance with the obligations of section 4 of the Conservation Act in all aspects of work.
- Support the transition to a lower-carbon conservation delivery model, having regard to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019.

#### *Board specific priorities [from the Minister]*

- Support initiatives to protect and restore the mauri of the Hauraki Gulf, including implementation of *Revitalising the Gulf: Government action on the Sea Change Plan*.
- Advocate for the protection and restoration of threatened species in the Auckland region, particularly tara-iti/fairy tern.
- Champion community conservation groups and volunteers, including those working on public conservation lands and waters in the Auckland region.
- Maintain strong working relationships with whānau, hāpū, iwi and mana whenua.
- Continue to increase Board engagement and networking with the community, in particular to understand and reflect their interests in the work of the Board.
- Proactively advocate support for conservation-based recovery work in the cyclone-affected areas.

*Board specific priorities [from the Board]*

- Addressing the crisis of Auckland’s declining indigenous biodiversity, particularly in the marine and freshwater environments.
  - Enhancing relationships with Treaty partners by supporting the implementation of Treaty of Waitangi partnerships and the requirements of section 4 of the Conservation Act.
  - Supporting the transition to a lower-carbon conservation delivery model, having regard to the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 and reducing the Board’s own carbon emissions.
- **Part B:** Planned Board activities aimed at general expectations contained in the letter:
    - Working with the community.
    - Working with the Department of Conservation (the Department).
    - Working with other conservation boards and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the NZCA).
    - Adopting a no surprises approach so that the Minister and the Department are given early advice about any significant issues.
    - Understanding conservation board’s legal obligations.
    - Planning the annual work programme.
  - **Part C:** Risks/issues from the Board’s perspective, and opportunities for conservation growth not covered above.

Status indicator:

Colour	Indicates
Green	Completed
Yellow	Started and is ongoing
Red	Not started yet

## PART A: REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

### 1 Treaty of Waitangi

#### 1.1 Board objectives:

*The Board will improve its understanding of its responsibilities under section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, to give effect to the principles of the Treaty.*

*The Board will improve the cultural competency of all members so they can all engage with mana whenua and have an understanding of Te Ao Māori.*

#### Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
<b>A</b>	Hold at least one hui with Ngāti Manuhiri to review progress on the Hauturu-o-Toi CMP, and plan for its review.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust provided an update to the Board on implementation of the CMP (meeting 19 Jun 2024)</li> </ul>
<b>B</b>	Support mana whenua by advocating to Ministers for progress on the Motu Plan.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussed context for development of the Plan that had been provided to the Board at a workshop (in 2022/23) by the former Chief Treaty negotiator for Tāmaki</li> </ul>
<b>C</b>	Include a Treaty and section 4 component in all Board workshops.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Treaty has been a focus for several workshops, including a presentation from DOC about the history of the Treaty and the Board's responsibilities under the Treaty</li> <li>Invited Te Kawerau-a-Maki to present at a meeting to speak to their aspirations (10 Apr 2024)</li> <li>Treaty awareness and education resources made available to members</li> </ul>
<b>D</b>	Hold a combined noho-wananga with one of the Te Papa Runanga boards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Te Hiku o te Ika</li> <li>Te Taitokerau</li> <li>Waikato</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held a joint workshop with the Waikato Conservation Board, focussing on the Hauraki Gulf (15 Mar 2024)</li> <li>Noho-wananga scheduled with the Waikato Conservation Board but postponed to the 24/25 year</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developed strategic alliances and relationships with all three conservation boards for mutual sharing, knowledge and advocacy</li></ul>
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## 2 Biodiversity

### 2.1 Board objectives:

*The Board will take up opportunities to advocate for nature and the protection and restoration of biodiversity in the Auckland region, with a particular focus on marine and freshwater ecosystems.*

*The Board will understand how it can support implementation of Te Mana o Te Taio in the Auckland region.*

#### Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
<b>A</b>	Advocate for the protection of seabirds and their habitats, with a particular focus on tara-iti/fairy tern and tākoketai/black petrel.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Received from MPI a summary of feedback on submissions on proposed Surface Longline mandatory seabird mitigation measures</li> <li>Presentation from Northern NZ Seabirds Trust (15 Mar 2024) and advice received from the Trust about research priorities (April 2024)</li> <li>Lodged submission on vision for Te Ara Tukutuku (Wynyard Point) including advocating for protection of dotterel that nest on the site</li> <li>Deputy Chair (Kate Waterhouse) convened the Aotea Seabird Island Working Group to progress collaboration between Auckland Council, DOC, tangata whenua and community conservation projects on Aotea on seabird monitoring and habitat restoration</li> <li>Agreed to set joint goals with Waikato Conservation Board for advocacy related to seabirds</li> </ul>
<b>B</b>	Advocate for increased marine protection, with a focus on biosecurity issues and fishing methods.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lodged submission on Hauraki Gulf Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill, and members (Shane Lavery and Mervyn Kerehoma) presented to the Environment Select Committee (11 Mar 24)</li> <li>Lodged submission on proposed restrictions on bottom fishing</li> </ul>

			<p>access zones (trawl corridors) in Hauraki Gulf (led by Shane Lavery)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received update from Auckland Council about planning for the review of the Regional Coastal Plan</li> <li>• Lodged submission on proposed Waikato Regional Coastal Plan including support for marine biodiversity protection (led by Shane Lavery)</li> <li>• Chair Nicola MacDonald and Deputy Chair Kate Waterhouse actively advocated for a more urgent response from MPI to the invasion of exotic <i>Caulerpa</i> in the region, and sought information from DOC about its role in relation to the invasive seaweed</li> </ul>
<b>C</b>	Support implementation of <i>Revitalising the Gulf: Government Action on the Sea Change Plan</i> .		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended a Government announcement of their intention to introduce a Bill, and release of the HG Fisheries Plan (9 Aug 23)</li> <li>• As above, submitted and presented to a Select committee hearing on the Hauraki Gulf Tikapa Moana Marine Protection Bill</li> <li>• As above, submitted on proposed restrictions on bottom contact fishing access zones (trawl corridors) in Hauraki Gulf</li> <li>• Chair and members attended launch by Hauraki Gulf Forum of State of our Gulf 2024 report</li> <li>• Received update from DOC about its preparations for implementation of the proposed new marine protected areas (15 Mar 2024)</li> </ul>
<b>D</b>	Work with Te Papa Atawhai/the Department to advance Te Mana o te Taiao in Auckland.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presented to Auckland Council's Planning, Environment &amp; Parks Committee advocating for increased resources for biodiversity work (3 Aug 2023)</li> <li>• Presented submission to Auckland Council (26 March 2024) on the proposed Long Term Plan goals and priorities, and related</li> </ul>

			<p>investment in biodiversity protection, support for community conservation, mana whenua led conservation, marine biosecurity and monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Received update from DOC about progress with the review of the Wildlife Act</li> <li>• Participated in the annual North Island Maui and Hector's Dolphin Forum (26 Oct 2023)</li> </ul>
E	<p>Support community led actions to protect freshwater including development of catchment management plans.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Endorsed a presentation by a Mahurangi catchment restoration group to Auckland Council's Planning, Environment &amp; Parks Committee (3 Aug 2023)</li> <li>• Lodged a submission with Auckland Council about their proposed approach to the implementation of the NPS: Freshwater (led by Gael Ogilvie)</li> <li>• Engaged with Auckland Council's Healthy Waters term on ways to collaborate on catchment management plans</li> <li>• As an appellant against the proposed Wayby Valley regional landfill consent application, monitored the progress of the appeals in the Environment Court by DOC, tangata whenua and community groups</li> </ul>

### 3 Community and heritage

#### 3.1 Board objectives:

*The Board will seek to increase public support for conservation and restoration outcomes by advocating for improved access to nature and heritage.*

*The Board will gain an improved understanding of local community priorities and needs for the conservation of nature and heritage at place.*

#### Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
<b>A</b>	Advocate in support of increased opportunities for improved access to nature and heritage.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members attended a workshop for conservation boards about a new approach to developing policy in CMSs for managing biking and provided feedback on proposals</li> <li>Provided advice to DOC on options for maintaining access to storm damaged tracks (Apr 2024)</li> <li>Received a detailed update from DOC about the management of heritage sites under visitor pressure, and inspected storm damage to Fort Takapuna historic Reserve (30 Aug 2023)</li> </ul>
<b>B</b>	Use Board channels to celebrate successful examples of mana whenua and community led conservation.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintained a Facebook account with regular updates marking the achievements of groups in the region</li> <li>Highlighted the conservation work achieved on the Noises Islands, following a field trip to see the work in progress (20 Feb 2024)</li> <li>Members supported and participated in Predator Free 2050 projects on Aotea/Great Barrier (Tū Mai Taonga) and Kawau</li> </ul>
<b>C</b>	Invite members of the public and groups to present at Board meetings about their concerns and needs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Invited a group to present at meetings and workshops (Northern NZ Seabirds Trust)</li> <li>Received a presentation from a group in the public forum part of</li> </ul>



	and identify how the Board can support them.		meetings (Moths & Butterflies of NZ Trust) (10 Apr 2024)
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## 4 Climate change

### 4.1 Board objectives:

*The Board will support measures required for climate change adaptation and resilience, including nature-based solutions, and factor climate change into its advice and advocacy.*

*The Board will lead by example and reduce its own carbon footprint and maintain a low carbon emissions profile.*

#### Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
<b>A</b>	Advocate in support of nature-based solutions for carbon sinks and for adaptation and resilience.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lodged a submission on proposed biodiversity credit system, including advocacy for nature-based solutions and amendments to the ETS to incentivise businesses (led by Gael Ogilvie)</li> </ul>
<b>B</b>	Support mana whenua and community led action to develop and implement locally driven, sustainable solutions to climate change.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust invited the Board to join them onboard for a drop of shellfish off Motuketekete, a site for restoration of shellfish reefs</li> <li>Ongoing support for community led actions in response to requests</li> </ul>
<b>C</b>	Maintain a low carbon emissions profile by taking steps such as minimising travel and working online.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members attended meetings and workshops online as an option</li> <li>Members were briefed on the internal measures being taken by DOC to reduce operational greenhouse gas emissions, for example across its vehicle fleet</li> <li>Members moved to receiving only electronic copies of agenda papers</li> </ul>
<b>D</b>	Understand how climate change will impact biodiversity and heritage in the region, and advocate for the management of impacts.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As above, submitted on proposed biodiversity credit system, including advocacy for nature-based solutions and amendments to the ETS to incentivise businesses</li> <li>Received a presentation from DOC about management of heritage in the region, including potential climate change impacts (30 Aug 2023)</li> <li>Provided advice and feedback to DOC regarding remediation of track</li> </ul>

			<p>networks affected by severe weather events with a view to increasing the resilience of the network under future climate change scenarios</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discussions on aligning with Auckland Council to share information on how climate changes will exacerbate threats to existing native ecosystems and endangered flora and fauna</li></ul>
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## PART B: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

### 5 Working effectively:


#### 1.1 Board objectives:

*The Board will maintain a positive and trusted working relationship with Te Papa Atawhai/the Department.*

*The Board will work closely with neighbouring conservation boards (Te Hiku o te Ika, Te Taitokerau, Waikato) and develop a common position on shared issues of significance.*

#### Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
<b>A</b>	Work closely with Te Papa Atawhai/the Department to understand issues so the Board can advise and advocate with most effect.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair held weekly meetings with DOC senior staff</li> <li>• Operations managers and the Director provided regular reports to each meeting, and attended when available</li> </ul>
<b>B</b>	Create strong working relationships with neighbouring conservation boards, including joint wananga on subjects of shared concern.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular liaison between the Chairs of the three northern boards</li> <li>• Held a joint meeting with the Waikato Conservation Board</li> <li>• Prepared and submitted a submission on the Fast-track Approvals Bill, jointly with the Te Hiku and Te Tai Tokerau/Northland Conservation Boards, and all three chairs jointly appeared before the Environment Select Committee (10 June 2024)</li> <li>• Maintained relationships with the Chair and members of the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee</li> </ul>
<b>C</b>	Build a working relationship with the NZCA through their designated liaison member for Tāmaki.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contact made between the Chair and new NZCA liaison member (Ina Kara-France)</li> <li>• Ensured NZCA liaison member (Ina Kara-France) was invited to all meetings and workshops</li> <li>• Encouraged reporting from the NZCA about their work</li> </ul>

<p><b>D</b></p>	<p>Understand and fulfil the Board's statutory obligations and provide advice or advocate when comments are sought from the Board or opportunities arise.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided advice to DOC on concession applications (Rangitoto Island Historic Conservation Trust, Tāmaki Regeneration Company) and land transaction proposals (Henderson marginal strip reduction) when requested</li> <li>• Advocated to DOC on matters such as options for storm damaged tracks</li> </ul>
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## PART C: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### 6 Risks identified from the Board's perspective

A	A change of government may result in a change of Ministerial expectations and priorities.
B	No visibility of how Te Mana of te Taio will be implemented in the region.
C	No visibility of how agencies are working together to prepare for the effects of climate change on biodiversity.
D	Limited resources to deliver the Board's statutory functions and Ministerial expectations.
E	Resourcing available to the Department to meet the expectations of mana whenua, the wider community and the Government.

### 7 Opportunities for conservation growth in the Board's rohe

A	Leveraging <i>Revitalising the Gulf</i> proposals to support increased marine protection, including local community management of coastal areas.
B	Auckland Council's investment in the natural environment and support for community led conservation.
C	Leadership by mana whenua in the region to achieve environmental outcomes ki uta ki tai.
D	Growing public awareness of the need to take action to address biodiversity loss and the impacts of a warming climate.
E	Increasing public interest in connecting to nature and the benefits of participating in conservation and restoration projects.





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 Auckland Conservation Board please see the website [www.conservationboards.org.nz](http://www.conservationboards.org.nz) or contact the board support officer, at the Department of Conservation by e-mail to [aucklandconservationboard@doc.govt.nz](mailto:aucklandconservationboard@doc.govt.nz).