

# The Role of the New Zealand Conservation Authority



## What is the NZCA?

The New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) provides for interaction between the public and the Department of Conservation and represents the long-term public interest in conservation generally, and national parks in particular. It is an independent statutory body appointed by the Minister of Conservation to advise on the Department's priorities, policies and practices at the national level. The NZCA focuses on policy and strategic direction, not day-to-day operational detail.

## Membership

The NZCA has thirteen members. Two are appointed after consultation with the Minister of Maori Affairs, two after consultation with the Minister of Tourism and one after consultation with the Minister of Local Government. The Royal Society of New Zealand, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society and Federated Mountain Clubs each recommend one appointee. Four members are appointed following the receipt of public nominations. Arising from the Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, the NZCA also has one member nominated by Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu. The majority of public conservation land generally, and national parks in particular, are located within the Ngai Tahu rohe.

## Functions

The functions of the NZCA are set out in section 6B of the Conservation Act 1987 and in the National Parks and Reserves Acts. A major responsibility is the approval of conservation management strategies and national park management plans. The NZCA may also investigate conservation issues of national importance and advise on national initiatives, policies and strategies affecting public conservation resources.

## NZCA establishment

Hon Philip Woollaston, Minister of Conservation, 3 June 1990, announcing the establishment of the NZCA – *This is the beginning of a new era in the way we manage the conservation estate. The New Zealand Conservation Authority is based on a proven formula. It will retain the powers and responsibilities of the National Parks and Reserves Authority and Boards as they apply to the national parks. That proven active partnership between the Government and citizen is to be extended to the entire conservation estate.*

*Fact sheet 1*

*Factsheet for members of the New Zealand Conservation Authority and the conservation boards*

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