

Kaupapa

Department of Conservation Mission Statement

The Department's mission is to conserve the natural and historic heritage of New Zealand for the benefit of present and future generations.

Ko ta Te Papa Atawhai he ata whakaute i a Papatuanuku kia u tonu ai tona whakawaiutanga hei whangai i a tini, i a mano, huri ake nei, haere atu nei.

The commitment of the Auckland Conservancy is to:

- know and understand the heritage values we have inherited
- ensure that this heritage is preserved, protected and passed on intact and enhanced to future generations
- provide opportunities for people to enjoy and learn about their heritage
- ensure that knowledge is readily available to the public through accessibility to places and/or information about them
- give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi
- be accountable to the public for the progressive achievement of these undertakings

There are three themes which support and structure this strategy: heritage protection, accessibility and the Treaty of Waitangi.

Heritage Protection

We have inherited a rich and diverse natural and historic heritage. It consists of things both living and non-living, of things which have a well recognised beauty, or which remain essentially unknown. Some parts of our heritage have an intrinsic life or being of their own. Others derive meaning or give meaning to human society.

In all sorts of ways Auckland society and its heritage have an inter-related life force or mauri and a shared well being. This heritage is central to Aucklanders' identity and sense of place. Much is also of high value to both the national and international community.

The well-being of the natural world is also linked to the maintenance of biological diversity - maintaining the full range of species and the natural systems they belong to. In New Zealand, the health of our natural systems is declining and has been since the beginning of human settlement. A large number of indigenous species are threatened, particularly on the

[Conservation Management Strategy Auckland Conservancy 1995 - 2005](#)

mainland, the quality of protected areas is declining under the impact of introduced animals and weeds, and many unprotected sites are threatened.

The Department of Conservation is guardian of a significant portion of the natural and historic heritage of Auckland and its surrounding environment. The Department's first responsibility is to know and understand the heritage it is looking after and to ensure that this heritage is preserved and protected, and passed on intact or enhanced to future generations. This is the first theme that underpins this Strategy: Heritage Protection.

The image of the Department's Maori name Te Papa Atawhai likens the jewels of our heritage to heirlooms in a treasure box. Both the individual items and the collection are treasures that are central to our well being and sense of belonging. They are our taonga: if we look after them, they will look after us.

To appreciate these "jewels" of Auckland, we must first get to know them. This knowledge engenders respect, a sense of belonging and the motivation to help look after the things of value we have inherited. A key principle of this strategy is therefore to ensure the accessibility of heritage to people. This is the second theme woven through this Strategy: Accessibility.

Accessibility

Accessibility is achieved not only through an ability to be physically present in a place, it is also achieved indirectly through pamphlets, and other interpretive and educational material. Some places like Rangitoto Island Scenic Reserve are capable of absorbing many visitors, without detracting from the quality of the place or the experience. Other places, like Little Barrier Nature Reserve, are less robust, and emphasis is better placed on indirect ways of "getting to know" the island.

The community's appreciation of heritage and sense of belonging is further enhanced by participation in conservation activities. The creation of links between people and their heritage ensures a conservation awareness and shared sense of guardianship which is the necessary foundation for heritage protection.

Treaty of Waitangi

New Zealand is a bicultural nation and a multicultural society. Our lives are enriched by having different cultural perspectives on our knowledge and appreciation of heritage matters, and on our relationship with the past, with places and with species of plants and animals. The Conservation Management Strategy draws on and promotes the cultural bases of both Maori and Pakeha, and gives effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. The principles of the Treaty also anticipate that the objectives in the Strategy for integrated management of natural and historic resources will incorporate regard for tribal rangatiratanga and for mana whenua interests.

This is the third theme that recurs throughout the Strategy: Treaty of Waitangi. This embodies the Department's commitment to bicultural approaches to conservation

management which give effect to the Treaty of Waitangi. (See Appendix 5).

Ko nga taonga katoa o te taiao
Te mauri o te ora
(Treasures of the universe
Sustainers of life)

Desired Conservation Outcomes For Next 10 Years

Heritage Protection

To care for and respect the heritage we have inherited, and pass it on intact to future generations.

Accessibility

To provide opportunities for the community to know and enjoy its heritage and to participate in its conservation.

Treaty of Waitangi

To achieve bicultural management of the natural and historic resources of the Auckland Conservancy, by giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

