

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 What is a Conservation Management Strategy?

Conservation Management Strategies (CMSs) are a statutory requirement of the Conservation Act 1987. All Conservancies of the Department of Conservation must prepare a CMS.

CMSs implement general policies and establish objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources, including any species, managed by the Department of Conservation under the:

- Conservation Act 1987
- Wildlife Act 1953
- Marine Reserves Act 1971
- Reserves Act 1977
- Wild Animal Control Act 1977
- Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978
- National Parks Act 1980
- New Zealand Walkways Act 1990

and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes.

In the past the Department prepared separate management plans for areas and species. The CMS is a new approach that provides for the integrated management of all areas, species and activities managed by the Department within a Conservancy.

The CMS provides an integrated picture of the Department's conservation management and advocacy, and a clear sense of strategic direction to develop over the ten-year span of the CMS. The Canterbury CMS answers the following basic questions:

- What are the conservation issues in Canterbury?
- What realistic objectives will be set for the next ten years?
- How will the Department liaise with individuals and groups to maximise conservation?
- What are the Department's statutory obligations?
- What are the Department's priority tasks in Canterbury?

The Canterbury CMS outlines the Department's role in the management of natural and historic resources within the Canterbury Conservancy area of the Department of Conservation. The Conservancy covers 48,500 square kilometres of land east of the main divide, from the Conway and Clarence Rivers in the north to the Waitaki River catchment in the south and the territorial sea (see Map 1).

The CMS identifies all areas - marine and terrestrial - managed by the Conservancy. They are identified and described in Volume 2, as required by section 17D of the Conservation Act.

The CMS covers the management of protected species, the protection of freshwater fish and marine mammals, and wild animal control - across all land, freshwater and ocean areas in the Conservancy. This is because the Department has the statutory responsibility for protecting the species across all ecosystems, even when the Department may not be responsible for managing that area.

Raising public awareness and knowledge on conservation issues helps protect natural and historic resources. The CMS outlines how this occurs, through interpretation and advocacy, for issues both on and off land managed by the Department.

The document will be a practical working guide for managers and staff, and will provide a clear conservation vision for this Conservancy. The CMS provides a reference for the public and other organisations on the future management of natural and historic resources in this Conservancy.

The CMS is intended to replace most of the existing conservation management plans (CMPs), which focused on particular areas or land units. The CMS also provides an overview of when CMPs and functional strategies will be required for this Conservancy. Current operative CMPs in Canterbury include the 2 national park management plans, 29 reserve management plans, and a number of conservation area management plans.



## 1.2 Functions and Roles

The Conservation Act 1987 promotes the conservation of New Zealand's natural and historic resources. The Department of Conservation, the New Zealand Conservation Authority and 17 regional conservation boards were established by the Act.<sup>1</sup>

The Authority and Boards have an oversight and advisory role on the Department's operations. The bodies provide a statutory link between the Department and the public, and help to ensure that the Department's management is in tune with the wishes of the community.

### New Zealand Conservation Authority

The New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) comprises thirteen members appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Five are appointed after consultation with the Ministers of Māori Affairs, Tourism and Local Government. A further four are appointed on the recommendation of the Royal Society of New Zealand, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Federated Mountain Clubs and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Four persons are appointed from public nominations. NZCA functions include:

- approving conservation management strategies, national park management plans and some conservation management plans
- approving national park general policy

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<sup>1</sup> The Act also established the New Zealand and regional Fish and Game Councils.

- advising the Minister on statements of general policy
- investigating and advising the Minister or Director-General on conservation matters of national importance
- reviewing and reporting on the Department's management and budget priorities
- liaising with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council

In approving a CMS, the Authority must have regard to any recommendations of the Minister. The Minister of Conservation approves all policy (except national park policy) and the Director-General then implements the policy.

### Conservation Boards

The 14 conservation boards have a regional focus with specific responsibilities for their area. The boards' members are mostly appointed from public nominations. Boards whose areas of jurisdiction lie wholly within the Ngāi Tahu Takiwā have at least two members appointed on the nomination of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Conservation board functions include:

- overseeing the preparation of a CMS for a region (also CMS reviews and amendments)
- overseeing the preparation of national park management plans (also reviews and amendments)
- approving conservation management plans (also reviews and amendments)
- advising the NZCA and Director-General on regional conservation matters
- advising on new walkways in the region
- liaising with regional Fish and Game Councils

Boards may also pursue these interests at public forums and statutory hearings.

The conservation board in the Canterbury Conservancy is the Canterbury/Aoraki Board.

### Canterbury Conservancy

The Canterbury Conservancy of the Department includes five area offices in Canterbury. The Conservancy office is in Christchurch. Area offices are Waimakariri (Arthur's Pass), North Canterbury (Christchurch), Raukāpuka (Geraldine), Twizel (Twizel), and Aoraki (Aoraki/Mount Cook). Smaller field centres with permanent staff are at Hanmer Springs, Akaroa and Mount Thomas (see Map 1).

The Department's functions include:

- administering the Conservation Act (including the enactments specified in the First Schedule of that Act)
- managing, for conservation purposes, all land and other natural and historic resources held by the Department or entrusted to it under the Conservation Act
- preserving so far as is practicable all indigenous freshwater fisheries, and protecting recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats
- advocating the conservation of natural and historic resources generally
- promoting the benefits to present and future generations of conserving natural and historic resources, and international co-operation on matters relating to conservation
- preparing, providing, disseminating, promoting and publicising educational and promotional material relating to conservation
- fostering the use of natural and historic resources for recreation and allowing their use for tourism, to the extent that the use of such resources is not inconsistent with their conservation,
- advising the minister on matters relating to any of those functions or to conservation generally.

Within Canterbury the Department manages:

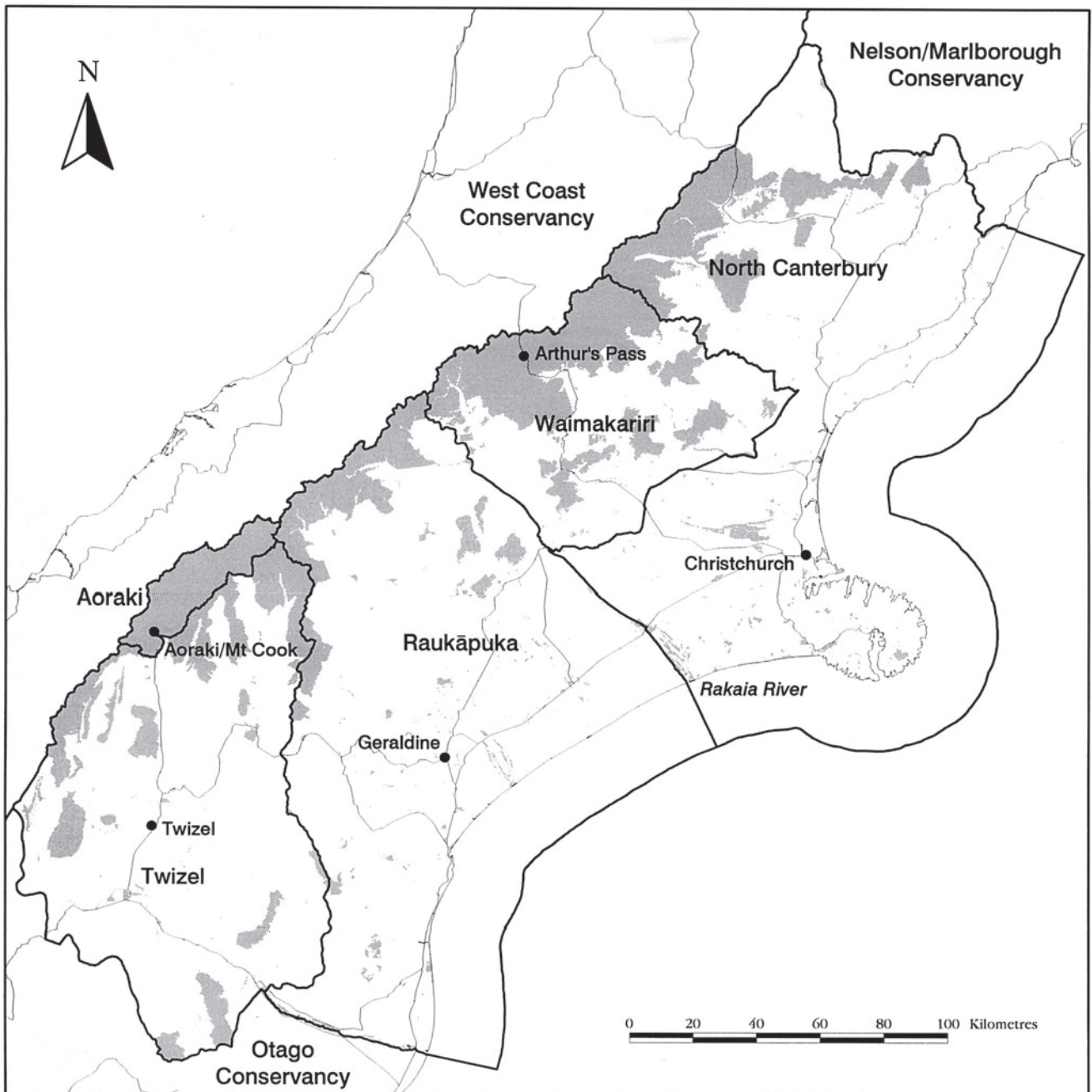
- part of the South-West New Zealand (Te Wāhipounamu) World Heritage Area (see 4.10 Waitaki, Map 13)
- two national parks
- three conservation parks
- other reserves and conservation areas
- about 770,000 hectares of land
- 800 kilometres of coastline (no marine reserves)

A marine mammal sanctuary has been set up on Banks Peninsula to protect Hector's dolphin.

Eight of Canterbury's thirteen commercial and club ski-fields are on land managed by the Department.

Map 1: Canterbury Conservancy

# Map 1 Canterbury Conservancy



- Area boundaries
- State highway
- Land managed by the Department
- Area Office