

Wellington Conservation Board

**Te Runanga Papa Atawhai O Te
Upoko O Te Ika A Maui**

Strategies and Priorities 2008

The Wellington Conservation Board is appointed by the Minister of Conservation to carry out a range of functions prescribed in the Conservation Act. The Department of Conservation has provided some guidance as to the role of Conservation Boards and the way in which they might operate. Conservation Boards have evolved over time, according to the focus, style and priorities of various Chairs and Conservators.

This document sets out the Wellington Conservation Board's mandate, functions, key strategies and priorities for 2008.

The Board has agreed these overarching strategies to guide its work within the time and resources available to it. At each meeting the Board will agree actions and tasks, allocate these to members, and review achievements against the schedule.

Mandate

The functions of Conservation Boards prescribed in the Conservation Act are:

1. To recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant Acts:
 - The Wildlife Act 1953
 - The Marine Reserves Act 1971
 - The Reserves Act 1977
 - The Wild Animal Control Act 1977
 - The Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978
 - The National Parks Act 1980
 - The New Zealand Walkways act 1990
 - The Conservation Acts. 6M(1)(a)
2. To approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant Acts;
 - The Wildlife Act 1953
 - The Marine Reserves Act 1971
 - The Reserves Act 1977
 - The Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978
 - The Conservation Acts.6M(1)(b)
3. To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on implementing conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for areas within the Board's jurisdiction s.6M(1)(c)
4. To advise the Conservation Authority or the Director-General –
 - on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and
 - on any other conservation matter relating to any area within the Board's jurisdictions.6M(1)(d)
5. To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on proposals for new walkways in any area within the Board's jurisdiction s.6M(1)(e)
6. To liaise with the Fish and Game Council on matters within the Board's jurisdiction s.6M(1)(f)
7. To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this act or any other Acts s.6M(1)(g)

The Board also has all powers that are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions, including:

- advocating its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process s.6n(2)(a)
- appointing committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegating to them functions and powers s.6N(2)(b)
- appearing before courts and tribunals in NZ and being heard on matters affecting or relating to the board's functions s.6N (3)

The Board is required to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in exercising its functions and powers s.4

Key Strategies and Priority Actions for 2008

Strategy 1. Participate in the review of the Wellington CMS to enable the Board to recommend approval of the CMS by the Conservation Authority.

Project 1.1 Reach agreement with DoC on how DoC and the Board will work together to achieve their respective responsibilities and aspirations for the statutory and non-statutory stages of the review of the CMS.

Project 1.2 Make a submission on the pilot draft CMS (Bay of Plenty) with a view to influencing the evolution of the national template.

Project 1.3 Continue to develop our knowledge of places and issues throughout the Conservancy with a view to identifying potential shifts in direction or emphasis, for example, Lake Wairarapa

Project 1.4 Provide input to and advice on drafts of the draft CMS as opportunities and sections become available.

Strategy 2 Monitor the implementation of the current Wellington CMS to enable the Board to advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on implementation of the CMS. (The Board remains committed to the Vision for the Wellington Conservancy, as set out in the current CMS and attached here as Appendix 1.)

Project 2.1 Monitor the performance of the Conservancy in managing the conservation estate in Wellington; hold DOC accountable for achieving the objectives and milestones in the current (2005) Wellington CMS ⁽ⁱ⁾ or other agreed indicators.

Project 2.2 Provide a mechanism for the public/community to input to, comment on, or 'enquire' about the performance of DOC in the Wellington Conservancy ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾

Project 2.3 Continue to work with the Conservator to find ways of fulfilling the Board's statutory responsibility to monitor implementation of the CMS that will also contribute to the prioritisation by the Conservancy of its operational activities.

Project 2.4 Report at least annually to NZCA on implementation of the CMS by way of the Board's Annual Report.

Strategy 3 Advise on implementation of various statutory and non-statutory management plans within the Wellington Conservancy.

Project 3.1 Participate in the Kapiti Marine Reserve Committee, to which the Board has delegated its role in relation to the (statutory) Kapiti Marine Reserve Management Plan; provide support to the 2008 review of the Plan.

Project 3.2 Undertake possible new statutory roles in relation to Kupe Kevin Smith Marine Reserve and other potential new reserves under the Marine Reserves Act.

Project 3.2 Respond to any requests from the Area Manager Ponoke for comments on the revised draft of the (non-statutory) Matiu/Somes Plan.

ⁱ Whilst maintaining continuity with actions agreed in the current CMS, the Board will ask questions in a way that focuses on performance and looks forward to the new CMS.

ⁱⁱ After the Public Forum at each meeting the Board will allocate a member to thank and acknowledge the submitter and to seek advice from DOC for the next meeting; then the Board will advise DOC on the matter if warranted; and will provide feedback to the submitter.

Project 3.3 Contribute to the achievement of the objectives in the (non-statutory) Lake Wairarapa Action Plan by participating in the Lake Wairarapa Co-ordinating Committee.

Strategy 4 Advocate for conservation interests within statutory planning processes and public forums to protect or advance conservation interests

Project 4.1 Maintain an oversight of the statutory processes, policies, plans and activities of statutory bodies within the Conservancy in terms of their potential impact on conservation interests.

Project 4.2 Analyse Long Terms Council Community Plans within the Conservancy with a view to identifying potential areas of focus for the Board's advocacy activities or CMS process.

Project 4.3 Develop a process to prioritise, focus, allocate and prepare written and oral Board submissions into statutory, non-statutory and regulatory processes where there are significant conservation interests to be protected or advanced.

Project 4.4 Make submissions in accordance with a prioritised schedule reviewed and updated at each Board meeting.

Project 4.5 Develop a process to publicise the Board's submissions where appropriate.

Strategy 5 Advise the NZCA or the Director-General on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance (statutory obligation).

Project 5.1 Form a view on the proposed Regional Wetland Park for Lake Wairarapa, especially the draft terms of reference for the new governance body, and then act on that view.

Project 5.2 Monitor the implementation of new management regimes for areas of land where the status of land has been changed to enhance conservation values, for example, Whareroa Farm.

Strategy 6 Advise the Conservator on matters relating to the Wellington Conservancy (discretionary)

Project 6.1 Provide advice to the Conservator on applications for concessions within the Conservancy, in accordance with the agreed process.

Project 6.2 Proactively provide advice to the Conservator on relevant issues, drawing on the expertise available to the Board.

Project 6.2 Provide advice to the Conservator on the Priorities and Directions project (process, priorities and weightings) for the 2008/09 Business Plan. Engage in the working groups to advise on priorities across the Conservancy.⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾

Project 6.3 Encourage DOC to review the tradition of hosting the Wellington Conservation Awards at Parliament in Conservation Week.

ⁱⁱⁱ This project also contributes to monitoring the current CMS and will be most useful if it converges with the process for developing the new CMS.

- Strategy 7 Build relationships with other bodies which have an impact on conservation matters within the Wellington Conservancy.**
- Project 7.1 Liaise with the Wellington Fish and Game Council on matters within the Wellington Conservancy (statutory responsibility).
- Project 7.2 Explore the potential for joint field inspections with Greater Wellington.
- Project 7.3 Appoint member and maintain relationship with National Wildlife Centre Trust.
- Project 7.4 Establish a relationship with the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust.
- Strategy 8 Advise the New Zealand Conservation Authority or the Director-General on matters which need to be progressed at Conservancy or national level.**
- Project 8.1 Advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on proposals for new walkways in any area within the Board's jurisdiction (statutory obligation until disestablished).
- Project 8.2 Advise the NZ Conservation Authority or the Director-General on matters relating to the Wellington Conservancy which need to be progressed at national level.
- Project 8.3 Advocate within appropriate processes for resources to address conservation issues within the Wellington Conservancy.
- Project 8.3 Establish a closer working relationship with the NZCA liaison person for the Wellington Conservation Board and provide regular updates to the NZCA on progress by the Conservancy in reviewing the CMS.
- Project 8.5 Advise the Director General on draft DOC policies, strategies and action plans referred to the Board or of which the Board becomes aware e.g. whale strandings
- Strategy 9 Enhance the capacity of the Board to fulfil its functions effectively**
- Project 9.1 Develop an understanding of the Treaty claims underway in the Conservancy and their implications for conservation and the CMS.
- Project 9.2 Decide whether and to what extent the Board wishes to exercise a "community voice" function.
- Project 9.3 Develop a Strategic Plan for the Wellington Conservation Board.
- Project 9.4 Agree principles and procedures for communications from the Wellington Conservation Board.
- Project 9.5 Seek to fill gaps in expertise and geographic coverage, by advice to the Conservator, the NZCA and the Minister in relation to appointments and co-options to the Board.

WELLINGTON CMS (2005) - THE VISION OF WELLINGTON ^{iv}

Protected and restored, the natural and historic resources of Wellington are contributing to the wider community's spiritual, mental and physical well-being.

Wellington Conservancy is a place where:

- All natural areas are managed to protect and enhance their natural and historic values;
- where indigenous flora and fauna are flourishing and are distributed throughout the Conservancy in their appropriate habitats
- natural areas are linked by corridors of natural vegetation and buffer zones protect these areas
- sustainable populations of threatened species are again established on the mainland
- waterways are supporting a diverse range of aquatic life, and riparian and catchment management has improved water quality
- in the marine areas, a network of marine reserves is established, protecting a range of marine habitats where the marine flora and fauna are flourishing
- the historical and cultural resources of the Conservancy are identified and protected from inappropriate management and development, and, where appropriate, these resources are accessible and interpreted for the public
- the Department has a co-operative working relationship with tangata whenua to manage natural and historic resources of interest to them
- conservancy staff are in regular contact with local marae
- iwi and the Department have developed an understanding of each other's perspectives about conservation
- Treaty of Waitangi claims have been resolved
- areas have been set aside for the growing of plant material for cultural use, to complement the resources available on areas managed by the Department
- tangata whenua are managing the collection and distribution of traditional customary materials
- the department has effective working relationships and liaison with local government, other managers of natural and historic resources, conservation and recreation groups, and the wider community to achieve the conservation of natural and historic resources
- conservation of indigenous biodiversity and historic resources is seen as of vital importance to the whole community

^{iv} Pages 5,6

- the overall quality of the environment is improving as New Zealanders' environmental awareness increases
- people are working alongside Department staff on projects to maintain and enhance natural and historic resources
- the Department is working on joint projects with regional and local government, volunteer organisations and landowners
- individuals and organizations are also, with DoC support, initiating and implementing their own projects to conserve natural and historic resources
- more people, both from urban areas and from elsewhere in the Conservancy and elsewhere in NZ as well as overseas, are enjoying the education, fun, excitement relaxation and inspiration provided by visits to areas managed by the Department
- more people are able to enjoy the back country experiences in Forest Parks, due to the upgraded walking tracks and huts in more accessible locations, while further into the back country, others are enjoying a more remote experience
- people are visiting and appreciating land administered by the Department close to urban areas and on the coast
- more people are learning about the indigenous species of NZ due to their visits to significant wildlife habitats (Kapiti Island, Mana Island, the National Wildlife Centre and Lake Wairarapa wetlands) as well as from awareness of the greater number of indigenous species now present throughout the Conservancy
- the Department is fully aware of the needs and expectations of visitors and provides an excellent service for visitors, while protecting the natural and historic resources
- the Department is a well-resourced and outward-looking organisation with skilled and committed staff and with good relations and links into the entire Wellington Conservancy community
- the Department is able, through research and monitoring, to evaluate and refine its management actions and is constantly increasing its knowledge of the natural and historic resources it manages in partnership with the community.