

CMS

CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Wellington 2019, Volume I



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Cover: McKinnon Hut, 2012. This is a standard six-bunk hut in Ruahine Forest Park.

Photographer: Jonathan Astin

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Long-term vision for the Wellington region

The Wellington region has the best backyard in New Zealand.
Conservation is in everyone's interest.

Kāore he waahi tikanga, pērā i o Te Whanganui-a-Tara.
He manawa reka tō te tiakitanga taiao mō tātou.



Whakataukī

Manaaki whenua, manaaki tangata, haere whakamua

Care for the land, care for the people, go forward.

The most important things are place, people and facing towards the future.

He waka eke noa

A canoe which we are all in, with no exceptions.

We are all in this together.

Ma whero ma pango ka oti ai te mahi

With red and black, the work will be complete.

This refers to cooperation where if everyone does their part, the work will be complete. The colours refer to the traditional kōwhaiwhai patterns on the inside of a whareniui/meeting house.



At the Wellington Weed Swap 2009. Photographer: Sue Galbraith

He kupu whakataki

Foreword

E te tī, e te tā, e rarau, e rarau. Rarau mai ki te taumata kōrero nei o Te Papa Atawhai.

Greetings to the multitudes. We bring you this important document.

Ko ngā kaupapa matua o roto i tēnei Rautaki Whakahaere Whāomoomo ko te pāhekoheko ki te tangata whenua me te hapori, te whakahoahoa ki ētahi atu ki te tiaki, ki te whakaora anō hoki i te rerenga rauropi Māori.

The major themes identified in this Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) are engagement with tangata whenua and the community, partnering with others to deliver conservation and restoration of indigenous biodiversity.

Ko tā tēnei Rautaki Whakahaere Whāomoomo, he pāhekoheko i ngā whakaarotau ā-motu, ā-rohe anō hoki, ā, he tautohu hoki i ngā whāinga e matenuitia ana ki ngā wāhi whakahirahira ki te tangata whenua me ngā hapori.

This CMS integrates national and local conservation priorities at particular places and identifies desired outcomes for places that are special to tangata whenua and communities.

Ko tētahi aronga nui o tēnei Tari, ko te kōkiri me te mahi tahi me ētahi atu kia kaha ake ai te tiakina o te rerenga rauropi Māori. Ka mahi tahi tēnei Tari me te tangata whenua, ngā umanga ā-ture, ngā mana whakahaere ā-takiwā, ā-rohe anō hoki, ngā pakihī, ngā kura, ētahi kaiwhakahaere whenua me te hapori whānui kia tutuki ai ngā putanga whāomoomo o roto i tēnei Rautaki Whakahaere Whāomoomo.

The Department will focus on taking a lead in working with others to achieve increased protection for indigenous biodiversity. It will be working with tangata whenua, statutory agencies, regional and local authorities, businesses, schools, other land managers and the wider community to achieve the conservation outcomes in this CMS.

E hia nei ngā whakaaro i kohia mai me te roa o te tukanga kōhi whakaaro i te tūmatanui kia puta ai tēnei Rautaki Whakahaere Whāomoomo. Ka mihi i tā taua hunga tuku whakaaro mai, i tō taua hunga hīkaka mai, ā, na konā i kitea ai e mātau te pae tawhiti o te whāomoomo ki roto i Te Whanganui-a-Tara hai ngā tau tekau e tū mai nei, ki tua noa atu.

This CMS has been developed through a lengthy public process and is the result of input from many. Their input, enthusiasm and active engagement is acknowledged and has helped to direct the future of conservation in Wellington over the next ten years and beyond.

I whakarewanga te Rautaki Whakahaere Whāomoomo i te 20 o ngā rā o Hānuere 2019.

This CMS became operative on 20 January 2019.

Kerry Prendergast
Chair, New Zealand Conservation Authority



Jenny Rowan
Chairperson, Wellington Conservation Board



Reg Kemper
Director, Operations Lower North Island



Introduction



The Wellington Conservation Management Strategy

The Wellington region (shown in Figure 5) contains a number of distinctive features – forest parks, major rivers, lakes and wetlands, dunelands, a diverse marine environment and a rich cultural heritage that is central to the region’s identity. The relationship people have with these resources affects the way they value, use and interact with public conservation lands and waters.

The Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) describes the conservation values and issues for the Wellington region and how these will be managed by the Department of Conservation.

The CMS is also the community’s document. In carrying out its work, the Department is supported through long-established and newly evolving relationships and partnerships with Treaty partners, volunteers, community groups, private landowners, local authorities, businesses and the public, many of whom contributed to the review of this CMS. (See Appendix 19).

This CMS recognises the important role that these kaitiaki and other conservation partners play in the Wellington region, both on and off public conservation lands and waters.¹ Figure 1 outlines the partnership concept the CMS employs. At its core are the Department’s functions under the Conservation Act 1987, the vision for Wellington and New Zealand, and Treaty partnerships. The core influences the work we do to achieve the Department’s four intermediate outcomes. The outer ring reflects that some of this work will be delivered in partnership with others.

Conservation benefits all New Zealanders and, therefore, is of interest to many. To meet the challenge of the long-term vision for the Wellington region, the Department will need to continue to grow conservation by working with kaitiaki and other conservation partners.

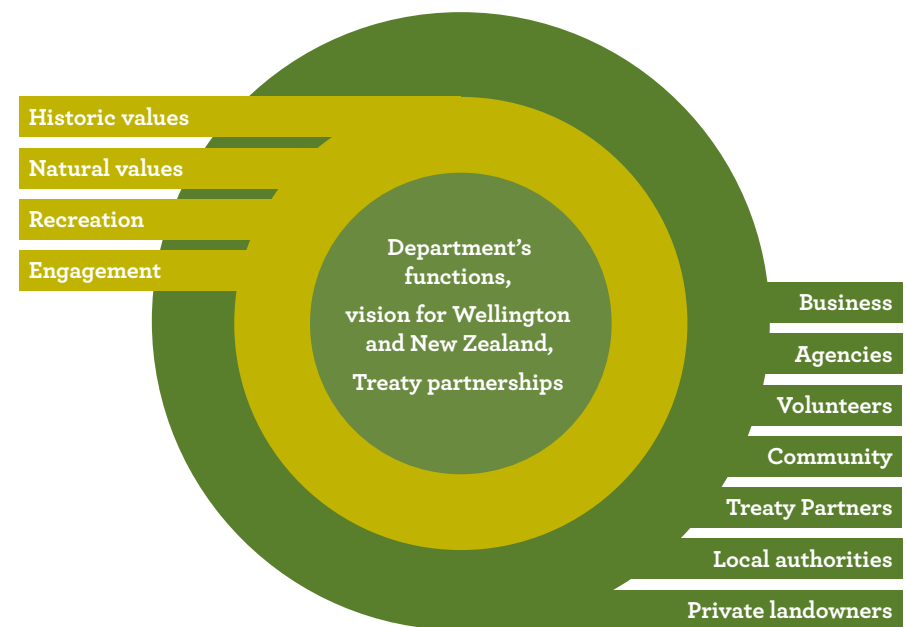


Figure 1: Partnership concept for the Wellington CMS

¹ In this document, ‘conservation partners’ includes local authorities, private landowners, community groups and the public.

Purpose of conservation management strategies

The purpose of a CMS is to implement general policies, and to establish objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources – including species managed by the Department – and for recreation, tourism, and other conservation purposes. Integrated conservation management is described in the Conservation General Policy 2005.

Conservation, as defined in the Conservation Act 1987 (the Act), is the ‘preservation and protection of natural and historic resources for the purpose of maintaining their intrinsic values, providing for their appreciation and recreational enjoyment by the public, and safeguarding the options of future generations’. A CMS is not an operational plan although it does provide direction as to how conservation values and issues should be managed at an operational level.

“The CMS is the community's document.”



Relationship to legislation and other statutory documents

The CMS is part of a suite of legislation and documents that provide the planning framework for all conservation lands and waters in New Zealand (see Figure 2). The Department must administer and manage the public conservation lands and waters in the Wellington CMS region in accordance with this legislation and policy. These documents also guide the Department when it is advocating for the protection of conservation values beyond public conservation lands and waters.

At the top of the hierarchy is the Conservation Act. The Conservation General Policy 2005 is next, and below that are the conservation management strategies and conservation management plans. Lower level documents cannot be inconsistent with documents higher in the order.

In the Wellington region, there are 34 operative conservation management plans – most of which will be revoked or withdrawn².

Other legislation in which the Minister of Conservation has a role, or that is relevant to this CMS, includes the Wildlife Act 1953; Marine Reserves Act 1971; Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978, Protected Objects Act 1975; Reserves Act 1977; Wild Animal Control Act 1977; Crown Minerals Act 1991; Electricity Act 1992; Walking Access Act 2008; Freedom Camping Act 2011; Game Animal Council Act 2013; and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

² These plans are all reserve and Crown land management plans from the 1980s and are intended to be revoked or withdrawn after the approval of this CMS. The intent of the Conservation Amendment Act 1996 was that CMSs provide any required management detail for individual areas of public conservation lands and waters.

The approach taken in this CMS is to not restate the provisions of legislation or other documents; this CMS should be read in conjunction with legislation and other documents. Departmental policy documents can be found at www.doc.govt.nz and New Zealand legislation can be found at www.legislation.govt.nz.

Activities undertaken on public conservation lands and waters also need to comply with regional and district plans prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991, unless an exemption has been granted pursuant to section 4(3) of that Act. The Department is also bound by ‘good neighbour’ rules in regional pest management plans prepared under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

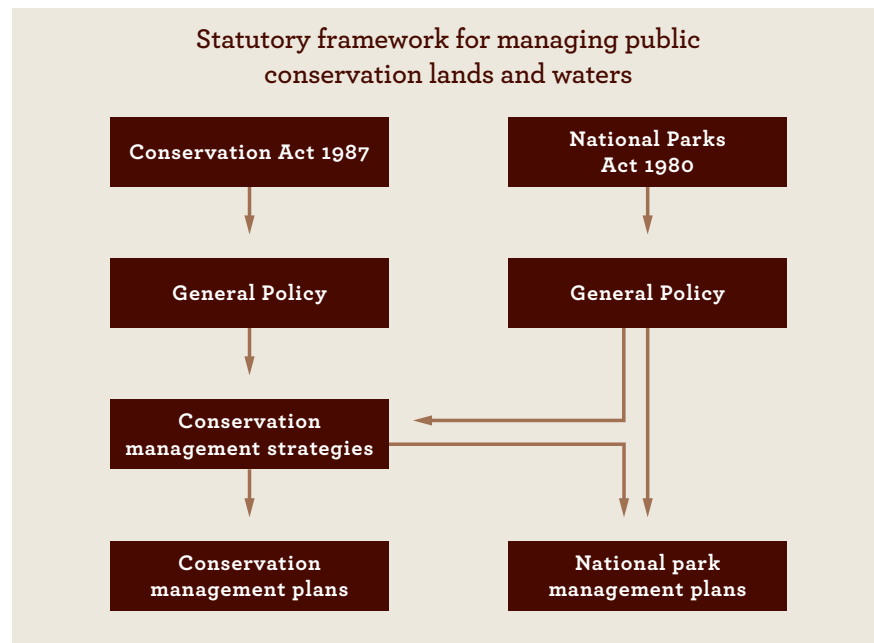


Figure 2: Statutory framework for managing public conservation lands and waters

Relationship to Statement of Intent and business planning

The strategic intentions of the Department are captured within the Statement of Intent³, which states this long-term vision:

New Zealand is the greatest living space on Earth

Kāore he wāhi i tua atu i a Aotearoa, hei wāhi noho i te ao

To progress towards achieving this vision, the Department has four intermediate outcomes around which its work is organised. These are shown in the Conservation outcomes model (Figure 3).



Figure 3: Conservation outcomes model

³ This document is prepared for the Minister of Conservation under section 39 of the Public Finance Act 1989 and reviewed regularly.

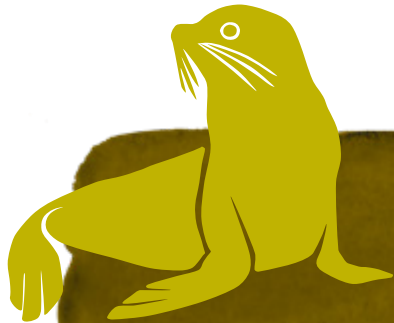
For each intermediate outcome, the Department identifies objectives, milestones and priorities. These inform the Department's annual business planning processes, which directs resources within the Department at a national level.

The long-term vision for Wellington and Part One of this CMS show how these intermediate outcomes are to be applied at a regional level. Part Two provides more detail about those activities that will be undertaken at each Place within the Wellington region.

The national priorities in the Statement of Intent and the regional direction in the CMS inform and direct the Wellington region's annual business planning. Business planning is the Department's process used to plan ahead for the work it and others will do regionally. It sets priorities for actions for the next financial year.

Milestones within the CMS provide a link between the policy direction set out in the CMS and business planning, and provide measurable steps against which the Wellington Conservation Board monitors and reports on CMS implementation.

As described in the introduction, this CMS employs the partnership concept (see Figure 1) to protect, restore and manage the region's natural places and indigenous species. Throughout the CMS, an outcomes focus is adopted, and provisions focus on identifying where the Department will work with conservation partners to achieve outcomes rather than identifying individual partners or projects. This level of detail will be addressed at a local operational level, supported through business planning processes.



Milestones within the CMS provide a link between the policy direction set out in the CMS and business planning.

CMS structure and interpretation

Structure

This CMS is made up of three volumes.

- **Volume I** describes the conservation values and issues for the Wellington region and how these will be managed. It contains:
 - **Part One – Region:** An overview and vision for the Wellington region; a description of Treaty of Waitangi relationships within the region; and national and regional objectives and policies that are linked to the Department’s intermediate outcomes.
 - **Part Two – Places:** Descriptions of the values, issues and opportunities at Places, outcomes being sought for each Place and the actions (policies) that will be taken to achieve those outcomes. Part Two also contains major milestones that will be used to monitor progress towards achieving those outcomes.
 - **Part Three – Implementation, monitoring and reporting:** A framework by which the Department and Wellington Conservation Board will implement, monitor and report on progress towards achieving the outcomes and objectives of the CMS.
 - **Glossary**
- **Volume II** contains appendices that provide further information about the values, opportunities, threats and management approaches referred to in Volume I.
- **Volume III** contains maps and a public conservation lands and waters inventory.

The information in Volumes II and III may be amended from time to time to keep it accurate, in accordance with section 17I of the Conservation Act 1987.

Note: All provisions (including milestones) in Parts One and Two of Volume I should be read in conjunction with each another, as many are interconnected. Often the provisions in Part One address the issues and opportunities identified in Part Two. If there is an inconsistency between provisions in Parts One and Two, the more specific provision in Part Two applies. Parts One and Two ensure integrated conservation management across the Wellington CMS region and nationally (see Figure 4).

Legislative requirements, Conservation General Policy and other requirements (such as regulations or bylaws) are not repeated in this CMS.

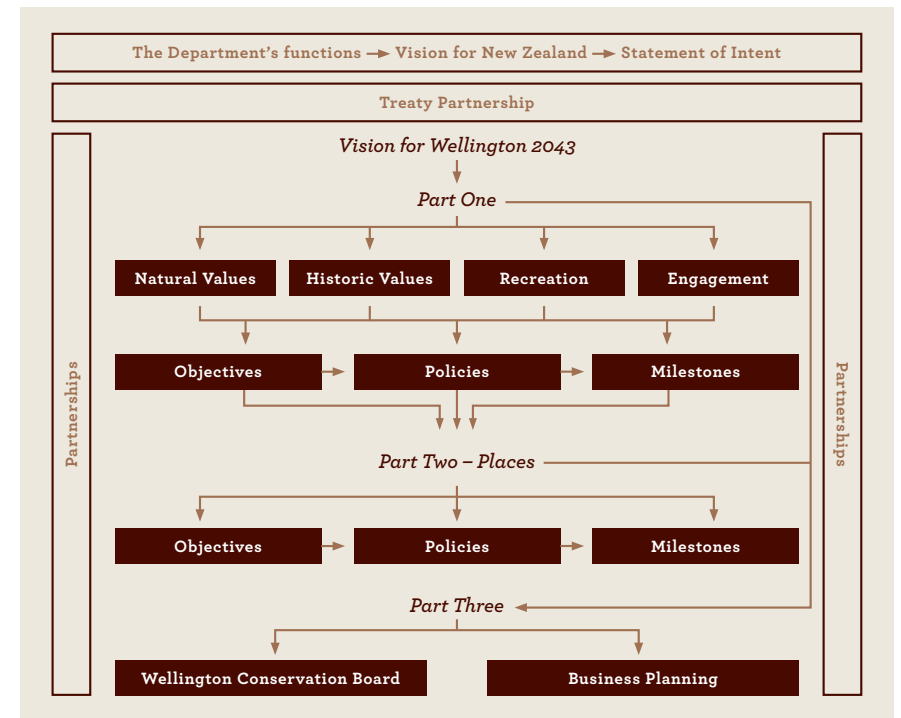


Figure 4: CMS structure and interpretation

Interpretation

Objectives describe what the Department wants to achieve across the Wellington region. They support national directions and community aspirations to achieve integrated conservation management and guide decision-making.

Outcomes describe the future state of a Place, including its values, and reflect the expected changes at that Place over the term of the CMS. They guide conservation management and decision-making at Place.

Policies provide detailed guidance as to how an objective and/or outcome can be achieved. They describe the course of action or guiding principles to be used for conservation management and decision-making.

Values are Place-specific values that the Department wants to protect and enhance. The values link to the outcomes to be achieved at Place.

Issues are activities or actions undertaken at Place that cause, or may cause, conflict with the values of the Place.

Opportunities are activities or actions that help, or may help, to enhance or protect the values of the Place.

Milestones are specific measurable steps to achieve the objectives, outcomes and vision for the Wellington region. They enable the Wellington Conservation Board to monitor and report on CMS implementation. Milestones are described in the past tense and are written as if preceded by the words: 'the Department has...'. The CMS includes both Place-based (Part Two) and region-wide milestones (Part One). There is no hierarchy between these.

The **Glossary** defines words and phrases.

CMS interpretation policies

1. Give legal effect to the objectives, outcomes, policies, and glossary in this CMS.
2. Apply the objectives and policies in Part One to all lands, waters and resources managed by the Department in the Wellington region.
3. Apply the outcomes and policies for each Place in Part Two to all lands, waters and resources managed by the Department in that Place.
4. Give precedence to the outcomes and policies in Part Two, where they differ from the objectives or policies in Part One.
5. Interpret the words 'will', 'should' and 'may' in the policies as follows:
 - a) 'will' is used where legislation provides no discretion for decision-making or a deliberate decision has been made by the Minister to direct decision-makers;
 - b) 'should' is used where there is a strong expectation of the decision to be made by the decision-maker, and a departure from such a policy requires the decision-maker to be satisfied that exceptional circumstances exist; and
 - c) 'may' is used where the intention is to allow flexibility in decision-making.
6. Give primacy and effect to approved conservation management plans until they are withdrawn or revoked, except where they clearly derogate from this CMS.

Part One – Region

The objectives and policies in Part One apply to all public conservation lands, waters and resources in the Wellington region.

1. Wellington region overview

The Wellington region covers the area shown in Figure 5.

The geology of the region is dramatic and dynamic. The rugged landscape is the result of many interrelated tectonic and geomorphic processes. The geological features and landforms are also shaped by the climatic conditions and coastal forces that continue to influence the region.

The variety of landscapes is reflected in the diversity of the many important ecosystems and habitats contained here. Some distinctive features of this region are:

- Mountain ranges incorporating four forest parks;
- Major rivers, lakes and wetlands;
- New Zealand’s second largest area of duneland and dune wetlands;
- A diverse marine environment; and
- A rich cultural heritage.

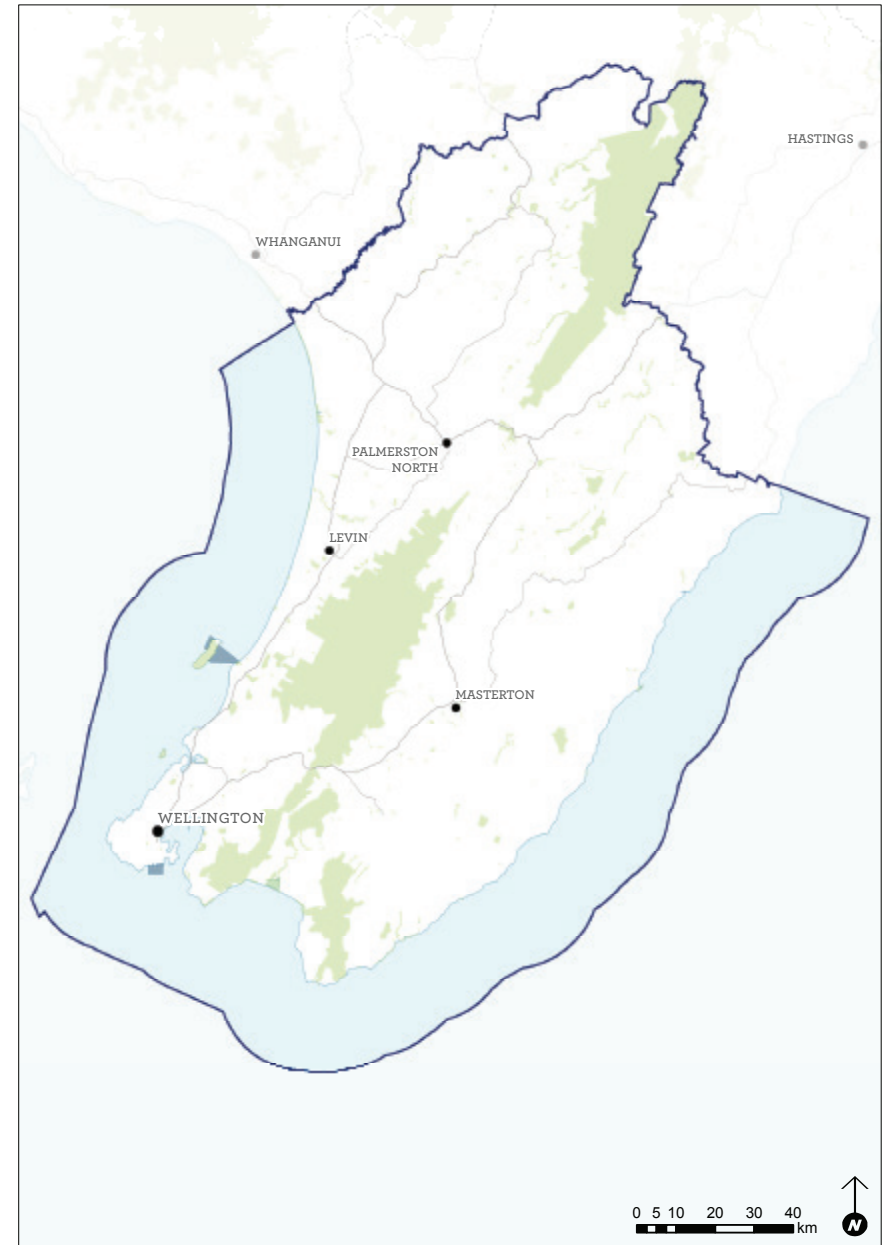


Figure 5: Area covered by Wellington CMS (shaded areas are public conservation lands and waters)

Mountain ranges incorporating four forest parks: Ruahine, Tararua, Remutaka and Aorangi

Ruahine, Tararua, Remutaka⁴ and Aorangi forest parks (the forest parks) form the central spine and visual backdrop of the Wellington region. All contain relatively unmodified indigenous forest and subalpine shrubland, wildlife habitat and the upper catchments of many rivers.

The forest parks provide habitat for many indigenous bird species, including North Island brown kiwi (*Apteryx mantelli*), North Island kākā (*Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis*), whio/blue duck (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*), and plant species such as the leafless mistletoe (*Korthalsella salicornioides*) and endemic shrub hebe (*Hebe evenosa*) (see Appendices 2 and 5).

The forest parks are valued by post-settlement governance entities (PSGEs) and tangata whenua in the region for access to materials for cultural reasons, rongoā/medicine, and mahinga kai/food gathering sites. They also contain many Māori tracks, and were used as pā punanga or refuges during tribal wars.

The forest parks offer the opportunity to improve people's health and wellbeing and sense of connection to nature. They offer a range of recreational experiences and facilities, including backcountry tramping, mountain biking, hunting and fishing. They are valued by the communities and visitors from the cities and towns adjoining them for these opportunities and for their stunning, natural landscapes.

One of the most immediate issues for the forest parks is managing pests and wild animals. Pest animals and plants and wild animals can adversely impact the ecological integrity of indigenous forests through

competition, herbivory and predation. Pests include rats (*Rattus* spp.), goats (*Capra hircus*), stoats (*Mustela erminea*), possums (*Tricosurus vulpecula*), cats (*Felis catus*), climbing asparagus (*Asparagus scandens*), banana passionfruit (*Passiflora mixta*, *P. mollissima*, *P. tripartite*), and old man's beard (*Clematis vitalba*) (see Appendix 6).

Major rivers, lakes and wetlands

Rivers, lakes and wetlands in the region are important ecosystems for indigenous plants and animals, including hauhau/brown mudfish (*Neochanna apoda*), giant kōkopu/galaxiid (*Galaxias argenteus*) and swamp nettle (*Urtica linearifolia*) (see Appendix 5).

There are four major river catchments in the Wellington region: Rangitikei, Manawatū⁵, Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt and Ruamahanga. These rivers are presently under pressure from water abstraction and nutrient inputs. Their catchments dominate the local landscapes and provide recreational opportunities.

Many of the wetlands in the Wellington region, including Wairarapa Moana (made up of Lake Wairarapa Wetland Conservation Area and its associated wetlands and reserves), are also important habitats for indigenous and introduced waterfowl, the latter providing a valued recreational hunting resource.

These areas provide fertile soils and have been a traditional supply of food, including tuna/eel (*Anguilla* spp.) and inanga/whitebait (*Galaxias* spp.). Early Māori lived in many of these areas, and wāhi tapu/sacred sites and historically important sites to PSGEs and tangata whenua are found here.

⁴ As a result of the Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tamaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017, the name of Rimutaka Forest Park changed to Remutaka Forest Park.

⁵ Manawatū is the officially recognised name for the river and region.

These rivers, lakes and wetlands are also an important recreation destination in the region, offering valued and traditionally used gamebird hunting and fishing sites.

Threats to rivers, lakes and wetlands include pest plants and animals, surface water and groundwater abstractions, diffuse run-off causing nutrient enrichment and sedimentation, modification and development.

New Zealand's second largest area of duneland and dune wetlands

There are significant historic and dynamic coastal dune systems on public conservation lands and waters within the Wellington region (see Appendix 2), and off, for example Queen Elizabeth Park managed by Greater Wellington Regional Council. Dunes are among the most threatened ecosystem types in New Zealand. There has been a large reduction in the areas covered by dune habitat over the past 100 years.

Coastal dune ecosystems support a range of rare and threatened flora and fauna, including katipō spider (*Latrodectus katipo*), tūturiwhatu/New Zealand dotterel (*Charadrius obscurus*), and pīngao (*Ficinia spiralis*) (see Appendix 5). Many of these species depend on intact dune ecosystems for their survival.

The dunes are of great significance to Māori, both spiritually and as a source of kai/food, pīngao for weaving, and carving materials. Many important cultural sites, including middens and urupā/burial grounds, can be found in the sand dunes.

Threats to dune and dune wetland ecosystems include vehicle use (especially four-wheel drive vehicles), disturbance, trampling, mining, grazing, land use and development, pest animals (including domestic predators, rabbits and hares) and pest plants. Increasing numbers of

people living and enjoying recreation by the coast have resulted in development pressures causing serious loss and degradation of dune and dune wetland ecosystems.

Diverse marine environment

Wellington region's marine environment contains a diverse range of habitats and species, from giant kelp forests, to rhodolith (red algae) beds at Kāpiti, soft sediment red algae beds in Wellington Harbour and rare tube worms associated with methane seeps offshore from the Wairarapa Coast (see Appendix 7). There are also two marine reserves, the Kāpiti Marine Reserve and Taputeranga Marine Reserve. A number of islands are found around the coastline including Kāpiti and Mana Islands, along with those in Wellington Harbour.

There is a wide variety of marine mammals inhabiting the marine environment, such as the kekeno/New Zealand fur seal (*Arctocephalus forsteri*), aihe/common dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*), and tohorā/southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*). Many seabirds can also be found here, including matuku moana/reef heron (*Egretta sacra sacra*), tarāpunga/red-billed gull (*Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus*), and kororā/Northern blue penguin (*Eudyptula minor iredalei*). In addition, the region contains a number of major estuaries; Manawatū, Waikanae, Pāuatahanui, Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, Makara, Otaki, Lake Onoke, and Pahaoa estuary.

Coastal areas were a crucial political and economic asset, an important means of transport and a rich source of resources for early Māori. The coastal and marine environment is an important provider of kaimoana, including pāua (*Haliotis* spp.), kōura/saltwater crayfish (*Jasus* spp.), kina

(*Evechinus chloroticus*) and kuku/mussels (*Perna canaliculus*) and other fish species.

Given the increasing human population and its associated activities in the coastal area, the marine environment is now more vulnerable. Adverse effects include pollution from untreated shoreline discharges, and siltation and turbidity caused by some poor land management practices. This area is also most at risk from storm surges accompanying extreme weather events.

Rich cultural heritage

According to Māori kōrero tuku iho – stories passed from generation to generation – Māui fished up a large ika/fish. This is now known as the North Island of New Zealand or Te Ika-a-Māui.

There are several landmarks in the Wellington region associated with this story. Wellington Harbour and Lake Wairarapa are referred to as the eyes of the fish, Palliser Bay on the south coast of Wairarapa as the mouth, and Cape Palliser and Turakirae Head, the jaws. Remutaka, Tararua and Ruahine Forest Parks make up the spine of the fish.

Kupe, a great chief of Hawaiki, is generally considered to be the first Polynesian explorer to come to the Wellington region. During his journeys, he overcame numerous taniwha/water monsters, including the great octopus Te Wheke-a-Muturangi. His influence is evident in the names of places around the region, including Mātiu/Somes Island, named after one of his daughters, and Ngā Rā o Kupe (the sails of Kupe), the rock formations near Cape Palliser.

The Wellington region has a rich Māori heritage. Settlement by Māori occurred over many hundreds of years. For early Māori, rivers such as the

Manawatū and Rangitikei provided access to inland forests and many sheltered places, which were ideal for settlement and food cultivation. The dunes and wetlands along the Foxton Coast were known for their pīngao and harakeke/flax. Kāpiti Coast, Wellington Harbour and Palliser Bay on the Wairarapa coast were favoured areas to settle because of their proximity to the South Island for trading purposes, and the plentiful coastal waters.

These areas were also strategic for trading with whalers, sealers, and ships from Australia and beyond. Because of the sheltered harbour and the proximity to the South Island, Wellington was also favoured by European settlers.

2. Treaty of Waitangi relationships

The Conservation Act 1987 and all the Acts listed in its First Schedule must be interpreted and administered so as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Conservation Act 1987, section 4). Where there is an inconsistency between the conservation legislation and the principles, the provisions of the relevant Act apply.

Section 2 of the Conservation General Policy outlines the Department's Treaty of Waitangi responsibilities. For practical purposes, the Department applies the Treaty principles most relevant to its work in the following ways: partnership and interacting with good faith and reasonableness, informed decision-making considering others' interests and points of view, active protection of Māori interests, and redress and reconciliation with involvement in management of public conservation lands and waters.

In addition to Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, the Treaty of Waitangi settlement processes between iwi claimant groups and the Crown guide the ongoing relationships between the Department and tangata whenua. An ordinary output of the Treaty settlement process is a Deed of Settlement, much of which is then legislated as a Claims Settlement Act. The Deeds of Settlement and Settlement Acts provide further opportunity and direction for the Crown and post-settlement governance entities (PSGEs) to work together to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi within the Wellington region.

The Department acknowledges the kaitiaki role of PSGEs and tangata whenua, and their special relationship with the land and resources within the Wellington region. The region contains places with significant cultural and ancestral significance to PSGEs and tangata whenua, with several being on public conservation lands and waters.

The Department recognises the principles of kaitiakitanga and mātauranga Māori, and works with PSGEs and tangata whenua to enable them to express these principles by working in partnership with the Department, contributing to the management of public conservation lands and waters.

The Department is committed to recognising tangata whenua who are at various stages of the Treaty settlement process. The Department acknowledges that during the development of the CMS, many tangata whenua have had a primary focus on Treaty settlements and other needs. This, and the resulting settlements, need to be considered in the ongoing management and implementation of this CMS.

2.1 Treaty settlements (as at CMS approval)

2.1.1 *Ngāti Apa (North Island)*

The Ngāti Apa area of interest on the west coast begins at approximately Omarupapako/Round Bush Scenic Reserve, and extends north beyond the Wellington region (Turakina River) to Mōtū Karaka in the Department's Whanganui District. In the Wellington region, Puketohe is indicative of the most northern extent of Ngāti Apa's area of interest, then to the east through Orangipongo and then the Oroua River at Mangoira.

The Ngāti Apa (North Island) Claims Settlement Act 2010 provides for the vesting of 12 sites in Ngāti Apa, and Deeds of Recognition for a number of sites that register the special association Ngāti Apa has with an area (see Part Two for detail). A Protocol has been agreed with the Minister of Conservation to encourage good working relationships on matters of cultural importance to Ngāti Apa (see Appendix 16, Manawatū-Rangitikei Place and Coastal Dunes Place).

2.1.2 *Ngāti Toa Rangātira*

The Ngāti Toa Rangātira area of interest in the North Island, according to Ngāti Toa Rangātira tradition, spans from the northernmost point of Whangaehu, extends eastwards to Turakirae Head and encompasses Te Moana o Raukawa (Cook Strait). In the South Island, the Ngāti Toa Rangātira rohe includes all of Te Tau Ihu (upper South Island); its southernmost point on the West Coast is the outlet of the Arahura River and Kaikoura on the eastern coast. The Ngāti Toa Rangātira Claims Settlement Act 2014 provides for Deeds of Recognition for a number of sites (see Part Two). It also provides for the return or vesting of 20 sites

of cultural significance to Ngāti Toa Rangātira, and three sites jointly vested in Ngāti Toa Rangātira and one or more other Te Tau Ihu iwi.

Kāpiti Island is a place of immense significance to Ngāti Toa Rangātira. As such, the Ngāti Toa Rangātira Claims Settlement Act 2014 provides for the gift and gift back of the Kāpiti Island Nature Reserve, the vesting of the Kāpiti Island North Nature Reserve site in Ngāti Toa Rangātira, the return of a discrete site at the northern end of Kāpiti Island, and a Ngā Paihau overlay classification for Kāpiti Island. The Reserve will be gifted back to the people of New Zealand, and the Department remains responsible for its management.

The Settlement Act provides for the preparation of a conservation management plan for Kāpiti Island, and the establishment of a Strategic Advisory Committee. The conservation management plan for Kāpiti Island will be jointly approved by the Strategic Advisory Committee and the Wellington Conservation Board (see Appendix 16, Wellington-Kāpiti Place, Islands Place and Coastal and Marine Place).

2.1.3 Rangitāne o Manawatū

The Rangitāne o Manawatū area of interest follows the Manawatū River, extending north to the Rangitikei River, from the Tararua and Ruahine ranges to the west coast, and south to the Manawatū River mouth.

The Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 provides for: an overlay classification/whenua rāhui over part of Himatangi Bush Scientific Reserve and Makurerua Swamp Wildlife Management Reserve (being Makurerua Swamp Wildlife Reserve); Deeds of Recognition for 11 sites (see Part Two for detail); and a conservation Protocol setting out the basis for the Department's interaction with the trustees of the Rangitāne

o Manawatū Settlement Trust (see Appendix 16, Manawatū-Rangitikei Place, Coastal Dunes Place and Central Spine Place).

2.1.4 Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika

Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika is a collective. It comprises people of Te Atiawa, Taranaki, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāti Tama and others, including Ngāti Mutunga, from a number of Taranaki iwi whose ancestors migrated to Wellington in the 1820s and 1830s and who signed the Port Nicholson Block Deed of Purchase in 1839. The Port Nicholson Block runs from the Remutaka Summit to the southwest coast at Pipinui Point (Boomrock), south and east along the coastline to Turakirae Head, and then north along the Remutaka Range ridgeline to the summit.

The Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) Claims Settlement Act 2009 provides for the return or vesting of 18 sites, which include reserves such as Mātiu/Somes Island, Mokopuna Island and Mākaro/Ward Island, together with the lakebeds of Lake Kohangatera and Lake Kohangapiripiri (the Parangarahu Lakes, commonly referred to as the Pencarrow Lakes), and two esplanade reserves. Under the settlement legislation, the existing reserve status will be maintained (except for the lakebeds and esplanade reserves, which instead will have a conservation covenant on their title).

The settlement legislation provides for the establishment of a Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board to administer the Harbour Islands (but the Department will be responsible for day-to-day management), Deeds of Acknowledgement for a number of sites (see Part Two for detail), and a Protocol to be issued by the Minister of Conservation to encourage good working relationships on matters of cultural importance to Taranaki

Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika (see Appendix 16, the Central Spine Place, Wellington-Kāpiti Place, Coastal and Marine Place, and Islands Place).

The settlement legislation also provides for the development of the Wellington Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Plan, implemented by the Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board. The Department will support the management of the Harbour Islands through the implementation of this plan.

2.1.5 Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Tamaki-nui-ā-Rua

The Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Tamaki-nui-ā-Rua (Rangitāne) area of interest spans from north of Dannevirke to Mākaramu (near Porangahau on the east coast), and south to Cape Palliser. The Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Tamaki-nui-ā-Rua Deed of Settlement was signed in August 2016.

The Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tamaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017 provides for the return or vesting of eight sites in Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Rangitāne o Tamaki-nui-ā-Rua (Rangitāne), the joint vesting of three sites in Rangitāne and in Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tamaki nui-ā-Rua, including the bed of Lake Wairarapa, the vesting of the Pukaha/Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre in Rangitāne and gift back to the Crown and people of New Zealand. It also provides for an overlay classification over Haukōpuapua Scenic Reserve, Pukaha/Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre Reserve and Pukaha/Mount Bruce Scenic Reserve, to acknowledge the traditional, cultural, spiritual, and historical association Rangitāne have with certain sites.

Shared redress legislation provides for an overlay classification over the Castlepoint Scenic Reserve with Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahungunu

ki Wairarapa Tamaki nui-ā-Rua, being a site of significance to both iwi. It also provides for the establishment of a Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board, Deeds of Recognition for a number of sites (see Part Two for detail), and a relationship agreement with the Department that outlines how it will work with Rangitāne (see Appendix 16 and the Central Spine, Wairarapa, and Coastal and Marine Places).

2.1.6 Heretaunga Tamatea

Heretaunga Tamatea and its hapū are one of six large natural groupings negotiating the settlement of the historical Treaty of Waitangi claims of Ngāti Kahungunu. Heretaunga Tamatea's area of interest extends from the Tūtaekuri⁶ River in the north, following the ridge of the Ruahine Range south to Takapau, and turns seawards to Pōrangahau in the south.

The Heretaunga Tamatea Claims Settlement Act 2018 provides for a Deed of Recognition within the Wellington region (including several areas in the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board region) and a relationship statement with the Department (see Appendix 16 and the Central Spine Place).

2.1.7 Ngāti Tūwharetoa

Ngāti Tūwharetoa is the fifth largest iwi in New Zealand. The Ngāti Tūwharetoa area of interest is centred on Lake Taupo (Taupomoana) and the central plateau and covers most of the central North Island and Te Arawa regions. The Deed provides for a partnership agreement (Te Piringa) with the Department of Conservation and for the development of a conservation management strategy over sites of significance to Ngāti Tūwharetoa. These sites are not within the boundary of this CMS.

6 Tutaekuri is the official name for the river and reserve. It is shown throughout this CMS as Tūtaekuri.

Their area of interest includes an area on the Rangitikei north of Feilding in Manawatū-Rangitikei Place, with Te Ara Ki Te Tonga, which follows the Rangitikei River from their area of interest around Taupomoana to the site in Feilding. Ngāti Tūwharetoa and the Crown signed a Deed of Settlement on 8 July 2017. At the time of writing this CMS, the Ngāti Tūwharetoa Claims Settlement Bill is yet to be finalised.

2.1.8 *Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tamaki nui-ā-Rua*

Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tamaki nui-ā-Rua has a population of approximately 12,000 according to census figures and consists of two of the six taiwhenua (regions) that make up the Ngāti Kahungunu iwi: Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tamaki nui-ā-Rua. Their area of interest spreads throughout the wider Wairarapa and Tamaki nui-ā-Rua regions from north of Dannevirke to just beyond Cape Turnagain, down to Cape Palliser, and encompasses the area east of the Tararua, Ruahine and Rimutaka ranges.

The Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tamaki nui-ā-Rua Deed of Settlement provides for the vesting of a number of sites to Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tamaki nui-ā-Rua, to the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board, and the joint vesting of three sites in Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tamaki nui-ā-Rua and Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Rangitāne Tamaki nui-ā-Rua. The Deed provides for the establishment of a Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board to act as a guardian for the Wairarapa Moana and Ruamhanga River catchment, an overlay classification for Castlepoint Scenic Reserve, the vesting of Castlepoint Scenic Reserve and gift back to the Crown as a gift to all New Zealanders.

The Deed also provides for deeds of recognition over areas of significance (see Part Two) and a relationship agreement with the Department of Conservation that sets out the objectives and basic terms to enable them to work constructively on cultural and environmental matters and other matters of mutual interest (see Appendix 16 and the Central Spine, Wairarapa and Coastal and Marine Places).

2.2 **Treaty claims yet to be finalised or negotiated (as at CMS approval)**

Tangata whenua in the region are at various stages in their settlement of historical claims under the Treaty of Waitangi (see the Treaty of Waitangi claims website⁷). The resolution of Treaty settlements with Ngāi Iwi nui tonu o Mōkai Pātea, (the confederated iwi of Mōkai Pātea, which includes Ngāi Te Ohuake, Ngāti Hauiti, Ngāti Whitikaupeka and Ngāti Tamakōpiri iwi), Ngāti Hinemanu me Ngāti Paki, Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, Muaūpoko, Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai and other iwi or hapū will facilitate the development of new partnerships and provide a firm platform for enduring and positive relationships between these iwi and the Department.

The objectives, policies and milestones below are about building the partnership framework with post-settlement governance entities (PSGEs) and tangata whenua to work together over the life of this CMS.

7 Treaty of Waitangi Claims website: www.govt.nz/browse/history-culture-and-heritage/treaty-of-waitangi-claims.

2.3 Objectives and policies

2.3.1 Objective	2.3.2 Policies
<p>2.3.1.1 Treaty relationships with PSGEs and tangata whenua are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) maintained and strengthened to enhance conservation and recognise the Treaty settlement partnership and kaitiakitanga; and b) based on the Department's responsibilities with respect to the Treaty principles, Deeds of Settlement and Settlement Acts. 	<p>2.3.2.1 Seek and maintain relationships with PSGEs and tangata whenua to enhance conservation, based on mutual good faith, cooperation, and respect.</p> <p>2.3.2.2 Actively consult and work with PSGEs and tangata whenua, ensuring consultation is early, ongoing, informed, and effective on conservation activities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) when statutory planning documents are being developed; b) on specific proposals involving places, taonga species or resources of spiritual, historical or cultural significance to PSGEs and tangata whenua; and c) when developing public information and interpretation referring to places or resources significant to PSGEs and tangata whenua. <p>2.3.2.3 Encourage PSGE and tangata whenua involvement and participation in conservation management on public conservation lands and waters.</p> <p>2.3.2.4 Enable customary practices and the customary use of traditional materials and indigenous species by PSGEs and tangata whenua, where consistent with kaitiakitanga, the relevant legislation, regulations or bylaws, Conservation General Policy, and the purposes for which the land concerned is held.</p> <p>2.3.2.5 Consider relevant iwi environmental plans in conservation management and the operations of the Department.</p> <p>2.3.2.6 Work with PSGEs and tangata whenua to explore, identify and implement opportunities, consistent with legislation and the Department's statutory functions, for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the intergenerational wellbeing of PSGEs and tangata whenua; b) enhancing conservation through the integration of kaitiakitanga; c) using customary conservation practices such as rāhui (restriction on resources) to achieve shared conservation goals; and d) support in undertaking conservation projects of strategic priority to tangata whenua's natural, cultural, and historic values on public conservation lands and waters.

2.3.1 Objective

2.3.2 Policies

- 2.3.2.7 Ensure Departmental staff are aware of, and implement, the Department’s responsibilities under the Deeds of Settlement and Settlement Acts and any associated protocols and guidance documents.
- 2.3.2.8 Work with PSGEs, where relevant to their Treaty settlement outcomes, to:
- a) promote integrated conservation management for areas adjoining public conservation lands and waters that have been returned to PSGEs;
 - b) promote integrated advocacy where the Department has a common interest on resources located outside public conservation lands and waters; and
 - c) establish, implement and review formal protocols or guidance documents.
- 2.3.2.9 Work with PSGEs and tangata whenua to provide signage in te reo Māori at Deed of Recognition sites or other culturally significant sites.
- 2.3.2.10 Support PSGEs and tangata whenua to establish Ngā Whenua Rāhui covenants to protect the natural values of Māori land and preserve mātauranga Māori.

3. National and regional objectives, policies and milestones

The Department's intermediate outcomes (see the Introduction, Relationship to legislation and other statutory documents) are reflected in Sections 3.1 to 3.4 below. The national objectives and policies provide for integrated conservation management across the country. The regional policies focus on the Wellington region and address regional issues and opportunities. Section 3.5 contains the regional milestones.

Section 4 gives more detailed policy guidance for specific activities across the whole region.

Natural values



3.1 Natural values

Internationally, nationally, and regionally significant geological and landscape features for the region are listed in Appendix 8. The presence of the New Zealand transcurrent fault zone with a series of north-east to south-west trending faults (Ohariu, Wellington and West Wairarapa faults) has defined the Wellington and Wairarapa landscape of mountain ranges with broad flood plains. The Manawatū landform is characterised by the dissected uplands of the Ruahine and Tararua ranges grading both east and west to river terraces, alluvial plains and sand country.

These geological and landscape features influence the ecosystem and habitat types present (see Appendix 2). As such, the Wellington region is recognised nationally as an area where a diverse range of significant habitats and ecosystems support many threatened and at-risk species, such as Gardner’s tree daisy (*Olearia gardneri*), hauhau/brown mudfish, and matuku-hūrepo/Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*).

In the Wellington CMS, the term ‘priority ecosystem unit’ refers to a site where conservation work will most effectively contribute to protecting the full range of ecosystems nationally and the threatened and at-risk species associated with them. It is one of the tools used to set priorities, and this CMS focuses the Department’s effort on these. Work outside the priority ecosystem units will still happen, for example, through threatened species recovery work and partnering with others. Research, monitoring and increased knowledge will result in adaptations to management approaches.

Places that the Department considers nationally important for natural heritage management are listed in Appendices 2, 3, 4, and 7 and include:

- Beech and podocarp forests;
- Coastal and marine areas;
- Dune ecosystems;
- Wetlands; and
- Freshwater ecosystems.

Threatened and at-risk species present in the Wellington region are listed in Appendix 5.

The future protection of the region’s natural heritage is dependent on ensuring that a considered level of protection and management is undertaken by the Department in partnership with PSGEs, tangata whenua, the public and others to ensure that further biodiversity loss does not occur in natural areas. These can then be progressively restored for future generations. This priority is consistent with working towards achieving Predator Free 2050⁸, an ambitious goal to rid New Zealand of the most damaging introduced predators threatening our natural taonga.

Management activities such as wild animal control and eradication, pest plant eradication and management, biosecurity surveillance, maintenance of pest-free status, and monitoring and advocacy, are likely to be undertaken with PSGEs, tangata whenua, local authorities, recreational and commercial hunters, and the public. These partnerships are integral to conservation outcomes in the Wellington region. It is important to support these collaborative efforts, particularly in the matters of pest and wild animal control programmes and improving ecological corridors, which are valued priorities in the Wellington region.

8 See: www.doc.govt.nz/predator-free-2050.

National conservation initiatives, such as Battle for our Birds and Predator Free 2050, are all operational programmes aimed at achieving the intermediate outcomes and objectives of the Statement of Intent, and the Department's 2025 stretch goals (as developed in 2015). These national conservation initiatives are reflected throughout this CMS, particularly through their implementation at a regional level, such as Predator Free Wellington and local initiatives to tackle old man's beard.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) is responsible for managing fires nationally, under the Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017. The Department works with and supports FENZ to minimise and mitigate the threat of fires on public conservation land.

Natural values

3.1.1 Objective	3.1.2 Policies
<p>3.1.1.1 The diversity of natural values in New Zealand is maintained and restored, with priority given to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) conserving a full range of New Zealand’s ecosystems to a healthy functioning state, with an emphasis on the priority ecosystems in Appendices 4 and 7; b) conserving threatened species to ensure persistence⁹, with an emphasis on those species listed in Appendix 5; c) supporting the work of others to maintain and restore locally treasured natural values, including ecosystem types and species selected from Appendices 2 and 5; and d) conserving significant geological features, landforms and landscapes, including those identified in Appendix 8, where they are on public conservation lands waters. 	<p>National</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1.2.1 Engage in cooperative processes to build a nationally representative network of marine reserves and other marine protected areas, with an emphasis on the priority marine ecosystems identified in Appendix 7. 3.1.2.2 Advocate for the protection of natural values, such as priority ecosystem units and threatened species identified in Appendices 2, 4 and 5 and significant geological features, landforms and landscapes identified in Appendix 8, at risk of permanent degradation. 3.1.2.3 Work with landowners, Ministry for Primary Industries, Fish & Game Councils, local authorities and other agencies, and advocate for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) protection of freshwater ecosystems, fisheries, fish habitat and fish passage; b) preservation of threatened indigenous freshwater species; and c) maintenance and improvement of habitat connectivity and water quality from the headwaters of waterways to the coast. 3.1.2.4 Work with conservation partners to manage or avoid threats to marine mammals and their habitats. 3.1.2.5 Contain or control pest plants and animals and wild animals, as identified in Appendix 6, through a targeted strategic and sustainable multi-threat management approach. 3.1.2.6 Foster management action on pest plants and animals and wild animal control with inter-agency, concessionaire, community and other conservation partners’ involvement. 3.1.2.7 Support relevant agencies in the implementation of pest management plans (subject to any good neighbour rules) and pathway management plans¹⁰. 3.1.2.8 Work cooperatively with Fire and Emergency New Zealand to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) increase awareness of, assess, and where necessary reduce, vegetation fire risks relating to public conservation lands and waters, Ngā Whenua Rāhui kawenata and any land where the Department has fire protection suppression and other response capability obligations, including those resulting from Deeds of Settlement; and b) provide information to visitors about how to mitigate the fire risks and identify escape routes or safe areas should vegetation fires occur.

⁹ Persistence is achieved when there is a 95% probability of a species surviving over the next 50 years or three generations (whichever is longer).

¹⁰ See the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Natural values continued

3.1.1 Objective	3.1.2 Policies
	<p data-bbox="674 288 786 320"><i>Regional</i></p> <p data-bbox="674 355 2063 488">3.1.2.9 Encourage management of any area listed as a Wetland of International Importance under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (also referred to as the Ramsar Convention) to maintain the criteria for which it was nominated and be consistent with New Zealand’s obligations under the Convention, as identified in Appendix 15.</p> <p data-bbox="674 507 1951 571">3.1.2.10 Contribute to multi-agency management of water bodies and catchments, with a particular focus on improving water quality.</p> <p data-bbox="674 590 1984 654">3.1.2.11 Support the formation of a regional marine protection forum by working with the Ministry for Primary Industries, PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners.</p> <p data-bbox="674 673 1984 769">3.1.2.12 Prioritise the protection of, and management of threats to, threatened and at-risk species selected from Appendix 5, including but not limited to: whio/blue duck, North Island brown kiwi, and dactylanthus (<i>Dactylanthus taylorii</i>).</p> <p data-bbox="674 788 1928 820">3.1.2.13 Monitor ecosystems and their indigenous species to inform how they are maintained and restored.</p>

Historic values



Castlepoint Lighthouse. Photographer: Virginia McMillan

3.2 Historic values

The Wellington region contains approximately 195 recorded archaeological sites. Appendix 9 contains important sites associated with 19th century whaling, immigration and settlement, railways, timber milling, recreation, nature conservation, 19th and 20th century defence actions, and New Zealand government. The whaling station on Kāpiti Island contains New Zealand's oldest building associated with nature conservation.

Other sites of cultural and historic significance within the Wellington CMS region include:

- Tararua Forest Park, which holds a special place in the history of New Zealand tramping, being home to the first tramping club (Tararua Tramping Club 1919);
- A naval base, tunnels, gun emplacements (Makara Coast, Moa Point and Point Gordon), important for military history;
- The Remutaka Incline, which is regarded as a special part of New Zealand's historic heritage and one of the 10 most significant railway heritage sites in the world;
- Infrastructure associated with whaling along the south coast, including the whaling station on Kāpiti Island;
- Featherston military camp;
- One of the first Māori parliament locations (Pāpāwai);
- Lighthouses at Cape Palliser and Castlepoint;
- Historic tramping and deer cullers' huts and tracks in Tararua and Ruahine forest parks; and
- Numerous shipwrecks around the coast.

Places of significance to PSGEs and tangata whenua are often culturally sensitive. The Department aims to work with PSGEs and tangata whenua to identify and protect wāhi tapu and sites of cultural significance and, where appropriate, tell their stories and improve interpretation for visitors.

Under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014, it is an offence to destroy or modify an archaeological site without first obtaining an archaeological authority. The Department works with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga to ensure compliance with this.

A priority for the Department is to manage its actively conserved historic places and increase the number of places where stories are being told so that visitors enjoy more meaningful and memorable experiences. The Department also aims to increase cooperative relationships with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, the public and other interested parties in the restoration and maintenance of historic sites in the Wellington region.

Many other historic sites with less public profile are managed by the Department and are highly valued by local communities. Given the large number of archaeological sites and historic places located on public conservation lands and water, it is not possible for the Department to manage all recorded sites. Actively conserved historic places in the region are listed in Appendix 9.

Historic values

3.2.1 Objective	3.2.2 Policies
<p>3.2.1.1 New Zealand's history is brought to life, protected, and conserved for future generations, with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) engaging more New Zealanders in their heritage; and b) increasing the benefits of historic values to New Zealanders. 	<p>National</p> <p>3.2.2.1 Work with PSGEs, tangata whenua, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and other conservation partners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) identify the location, value, significance, and condition of historic places¹¹ and wāhi tapu sites on public conservation lands and waters; b) ensure that records of the location, value, significance and condition of these places are up to date; and c) consult and share relevant information before any significant earthworks or development occurs that may affect the value, significance or condition of an historic place or wāhi tapu site on public conservation lands and waters. <p>3.2.2.2 Add new sites to the actively conserved historic places listed in Appendix 9 based on their historical, cultural and physical significance, their value to PSGEs and tangata whenua and the community, and their conservation requirements.</p> <p>3.2.2.3 Profile any Historic Icon sites, and actively conserved places selected from Appendix 9, through quality interpretation, both on- and off-site, to enable visitors to identify with the places and their stories.</p> <p>3.2.2.4 Understand the expectations of PSGEs and tangata whenua, the community and others regarding the conservation and management of historic places on public conservation lands and waters.</p> <p>3.2.2.5 Undertake conservation work (repair and maintenance) at actively conserved historic places having regard to any heritage assessments and conservation plans, national and international best practices, and the ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) New Zealand charter.</p> <p>Regional</p> <p>3.2.2.6 Work with PSGEs, tangata whenua, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and others to utilise expertise and shared interests to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) conserve and protect historic places and wāhi tapu on public conservation lands and waters; b) tell the stories of some historic places and wāhi tapu on public conservation lands and waters; and c) integrate and enhance visitor experience. <p>3.2.2.7 Work with local authorities through their district and regional plan review processes, to ensure identification and protection of historic heritage.</p>

¹¹ See the Glossary definition. Historic places include archaeological sites.

Recreation

Tawa Loop Track. Photographer: Department of Conservation

3.3 Recreation

The Wellington region provides a wide range of recreational opportunities. These range from passive activities such as picnicking, birdwatching and camping, through to more active activities, such as fishing, scuba diving, hunting, tramping, four-wheel vehicle driving and mountain biking.

The Department acknowledges that the Wellington region is expected to see a significant increase in population during the life of the CMS, as well as an increase in domestic and international visitors. Therefore, the management, prioritisation, provision and monitoring of recreation opportunities must be carefully considered.

The Department uses a combination of approaches to manage recreation, settings and activities on public conservation lands and waters, including visitor management zones and destination management.

Visitor management zones (see Map 5 and Appendix 13) are based on the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum¹² and help identify and plan for a range of recreation opportunities characterised as Urban, Rural, Front-country, Backcountry, Remote and Wilderness. The zone characteristics (prescriptions) guide departmental decision making, including the provision of facilities and assessment of concession applications.

The intent of destination management (see Glossary and Appendix 10) is to increase recreational use on public conservation lands and waters. This is a holistic approach that considers marketing and the contribution of community and business to the visitor experience, and focuses on

the predominant visitor groups accessing different destinations (see the Glossary for a fuller definition of destination categories):

- Icon destinations – people travelling on holiday;
- Gateway destinations – new participants;
- Local Treasure destinations – the recreation needs of local communities;
- Backcountry – the recreation needs of the backcountry community and others wanting more challenging experiences.

The Department has identified Icon and Gateway destinations in the region (see Appendix 10).

People seeking recreation experiences do not necessarily recognise differences in land tenure when planning or undertaking their activities. Therefore, the Department works with other managers of public land and recreation providers to plan for and provide recreation opportunities in the Wellington region.

Places that are important for increasing participation in recreation include:

- Icon destinations of Pukaha/Mount Bruce Scenic Reserve and Kāpiti Island Nature Reserve.
- Scattered reserves, surrounded by private land throughout the Wellington region, where public access is difficult. Similarly, those areas of private land adjoining some of the forest parks where improved public access is required. The Department intends to work with PSGEs and tangata whenua, Land Information New Zealand, New Zealand Walking Access Commission, local authorities, regional Fish & Game Councils, other agencies and landowners to improve access and connectivity.

¹² *The New Zealand Recreation Spectrum – Guidelines for users* (1993), Hillary Commission and Department of Conservation

- Gateway destinations within the Ruahine, Tararua, Remutaka and Aorangi forest parks that provide a wide range of tramping and hunting opportunities.
- Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve for walking, cycling and mountain biking.
- Wairarapa Moana provides a range of activities on and around the lake, with sailing, duck shooting, bird watching, walking, picnics and camping being the most common.
- 75 Local Treasure destinations within the region, such as Waikanae River estuary, Makino Scenic Reserve, Taputeranga Marine Reserve, Rangituhi/Colonial Knob Walkway, and Turakirae Head.
- Backcountry destinations cover the tracks, huts and lookouts that mostly sit within the forest parks, some of which form part of Te Araroa Trail.
- The Remutaka Cycle Trail.

Recreation

3.3.1 Objective	3.3.2 Policies
<p>3.3.1.1 The outdoor experiences of visitors are enriched, with an emphasis on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) supporting the growth and development of Icon and Gateway destinations; and b) encouraging more people to enjoy Local Treasure and Backcountry destinations. 	<p><i>National</i></p> <p>3.3.2.1 Identify, provide and maintain a range of outdoor recreation opportunities on public conservation lands and waters where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) they are consistent with the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) protection of natural, historic, and cultural values; ii) purposes for which the lands and waters concerned are held; iii) outcomes and policies for the relevant Place; and iv) visitor management zones identified in Map 5 and described in Appendix 13. b) demand is evident and expected to be maintained; and c) the effects of climate change have been considered. <p>3.3.2.2 Contribute to a national network of visitor opportunities by promoting the Icon and Gateway destinations identified in Appendix 10 as strategic attractions within the network of opportunities offered in the Wellington region.</p> <p>3.3.2.3 Contribute to a national network of visitor opportunities by promoting the Local Treasure and Backcountry destinations, respectively, as locally important locations and as more challenging attractions, within the network of opportunities offered in the Wellington region.</p> <p>3.3.2.4 Work with Land Information New Zealand (LINZ), New Zealand Walking Access Commission (NZWAC), local authorities, regional Fish & Game Councils, other agencies and landowners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) progressively enhance connectivity and access to, and between, public conservation lands and waters and other public open space, road and rail corridors and regional and local trail networks; and b) achieve priorities (as identified in Part Two) for improved access to public conservation lands and waters for recreation, and to enhance public access to the coastal margin, lakes and rivers).

Recreation continued

3.3.1 Objective	3.3.2 Policies
	<p data-bbox="573 288 689 316"><i>Regional</i></p> <p data-bbox="573 355 2047 416">3.3.2.5 Avoid, or otherwise minimise, adverse effects on the qualities of peace and natural quiet, solitude and remoteness in places where this is an important feature and expectation of the visitor experience.</p> <p data-bbox="573 440 2047 501">3.3.2.6 Work with the Te Araroa Trust on developing the Te Araroa Trail experience, including provision of visitor facilities and information.</p> <p data-bbox="573 525 2047 585">3.3.2.7 Work with user groups and others to assist the Department with management and retention of the network of huts in the Wellington region.</p> <p data-bbox="573 609 2047 791">3.3.2.8 Work with the New Zealand Walking Access Commission, local authorities, Te Araroa Trust, user groups and others to:</p> <ul data-bbox="667 649 2047 791" style="list-style-type: none">a) monitor impacts of recreation use on natural, historic and cultural values, tracks and other facilities;b) understand the needs and preferences of visitors; andc) understand the contribution that recreation opportunities on public conservation lands and waters are making to recreation opportunities in the Wellington region.

Engagement



Meeting kākā on Kāpiti Island. Photographer: Julie Percival

3.4 Engagement

The Department's aim is to grow conservation through working with and enabling others, and engaging in strategic partnerships across governmental and non-governmental sectors to gain efficiencies and make a stronger collective impact.

'Engagement' describes a range of approaches used to involve people who may be affected by activities undertaken by the Department, or who can influence or contribute to implementing and achieving the outcomes in the CMS. Engagement approaches include education, volunteering, advocacy, collaboration and partnerships. The approach used reflects the outcomes sought both by the Department and other parties. Other sections of the CMS also describe engagement being undertaken or proposed to address a wide range of conservation challenges.

Informed and active communities are essential for developing and sustaining conservation actions to achieve outcomes sought by this CMS. Conservation education plays an important role in this as it strengthens people's ability to understand conservation issues, take individual action and influence others to also take an active role as kaitiaki/guardians of public conservation lands and waters. Some targeted conservation education occurs through schools, tertiary education organisations such as Victoria and Massey Universities, and other conservation education providers. Awareness and understanding of conservation is also increased indirectly through education activities.

The Wellington region has a long and rich history of community engagement with conservation activities. For example, the public had early interaction with the forest parks through tramping because of the close proximity to urban centres. Also, there is the immense influence that volunteers and the public have had at Kāpiti and Mana Islands,

playing a central role in developing New Zealand's conservation and restoration ethos. This strong connection with the environment has meant that the Wellington region is home to a large number of conservation groups.

The Department acknowledges the work of non-governmental organisations such as the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society (Forest & Bird), New Zealand Landcare Trust, Federated Mountain Clubs, the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association, and many others doing conservation work both on and off public conservation lands and waters.

The Department has an important role in facilitating partnerships and supporting others to engage in conservation through working with PSGEs, tangata whenua, local authorities, tramping and other recreation clubs, individuals, landowners, volunteers and the public generally.

Activities supported by community groups, landowners and volunteers within the Wellington region are wide ranging and include:

- Pest and wild animal management and control;
- Indigenous flora planting;
- Restoration activities on freshwater habitats, such as stream channels and wetlands;
- Active protection of land – there are 690 approved, registered and formalised QEII covenants in the region, covering just over 14,000 ha;
- Support for huts and tracks in the Ruahine, Tararua, Remutaka and Aorangi forest parks;
- Support services for a range of campgrounds, such as those within the Wairarapa and Rangitikei area; and
- Coastal restoration.

During the term of the CMS, changes in understanding, knowledge or technology may occur and the range of activities supported by these groups may change. For example, increasing knowledge about climate change/sea level rise and possible impacts could result in changes to coastal restoration activities.

The Department has an opportunity to work with these community groups and private landowners by providing support and resources to contribute towards a range of conservation gains.

The Department works with a wide range of statutory agencies to achieve common objectives and mutually agreed priorities. Appendix 18 identifies these agencies, their responsibilities and some of the areas of common interest.

There is an opportunity to develop business partnerships across the Wellington region to support a variety of creative and innovative conservation projects.

Engagement

3.4.1 Objective	3.4.2 Policies
<p>3.4.1.1 New Zealanders and businesses connect and contribute to our nature by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) ensuring conservation is seen as an essential investment in New Zealanders' wellbeing and is core to their identity, values and thinking; and b) increasing the amount of conservation achieved. 	<p>National</p> <p>3.4.2.1 Enable New Zealanders and others to develop the knowledge and skills to support and sustain their conservation actions by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) actively engaging with young people in schools and other education settings; b) providing on-site information about values, threats to these values and how people can take an active role as kaitiaki/guardians of public conservation lands and waters; and c) strengthening networks with PSGEs, tangata whenua, other conservation partners, government departments and agencies, and community groups to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) foster cohesive and co-ordinated conservation education; and ii) build the capability, capacity and motivation for New Zealanders to engage with conservation. <p>3.4.2.2 Build enduring relationships with others to support the conservation outcomes in this CMS.</p> <p>3.4.2.3 Raise awareness of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the contribution that public conservation lands and waters within the Wellington region make to the wellbeing and economic prosperity of the region and New Zealanders; and b) the importance of intact, functioning ecosystems to New Zealand's economy, both directly and indirectly. <p>3.4.2.4 Work with concessionaires and other businesses to enhance the conservation experience of their customers and others.</p> <p>3.4.2.5 Work with tourism organisations, local authorities, other promotional groups, and businesses to create and develop opportunities to promote conservation initiatives, products and services.</p> <p>3.4.2.6 Work with local authorities and relevant agencies to avoid duplication of regulatory controls on public conservation lands and waters, and to streamline and seek efficiencies in statutory processes.</p>

Engagement continued

3.4.1 Objective	3.4.2 Policies
	<p><i>Regional</i></p> <p>3.4.2.7 Give priority to education programmes that support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the achievement of outcomes, objectives and policies identified in this CMS; b) the achievement of a predator-free New Zealand by 2050; c) conservation programmes in schools, particularly those connected to, or near, sites with high biodiversity values; d) increased understanding of the effects of climate change on indigenous species, ecosystems and biodiversity values. <p>3.4.2.8 Enter into formal management agreements with community groups to support conservation work and maintenance of recreational facilities on public conservation lands and waters.</p> <p>3.4.2.9 Support research into ecosystem services and natural capital provided by public conservation lands and waters to better understand and quantify these services, and make this information publicly available.</p> <p>3.4.2.10 Maintain effective working relationships with adjoining landowners and occupiers through communication and cooperation on matters of mutual interest, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) management and control of pest plants and animals; b) management and control of livestock; c) maintaining and improving habitat connectivity; d) access; and e) mitigating fire risk.

3.5 Regional milestones

The milestones below apply to one or more Places within this document and give effect to the objectives set out in Part One. They are grouped using the priority headings set out in the Statement of Intent 2016–2020 where possible.

The regional milestones should be read in conjunction with the more specific milestones for Places contained in Part Two.

Treaty of Waitangi relationships	Natural values	Historic values	Recreation values
<p>Strategic projects</p> <p>3.5.1 Developed mutually agreed processes for identifying projects of significance to PSGEs and tangata whenua (Year 1).</p> <p>3.5.2 Prioritised projects of significance to PSGEs and tangata whenua identified in Year 1 (Year 4).</p> <p>3.5.3 Progress made on priority projects of significance (Years 7, 10).</p> <p>Enhancing te reo Māori</p> <p>3.5.4 Identified sites suitable for interpretation in te reo Māori, supported by PSGEs and tangata whenua (Year 1).</p> <p>3.5.5 Installed and updated interpretative, instructional and identifying signs in te reo Māori at sites identified in Year 1 (Years 4, 7, 10).</p>	<p>Ecosystems</p> <p>3.5.11 Undertaken work in the priority ecosystem units listed in Appendix 4 which has maintained or improved the ecological functioning of these units (Years 1, 4, 7, 10).</p> <p>Threatened species</p> <p>3.5.12 Increased the security of threatened species listed in Appendix 5 (Years 1, 4, 7, 10).</p> <p>Landscape-scale restoration</p> <p>3.5.13 Supported the following projects: Pukaha to Palliser; Remutaka Restoration Project; Manawatū River Source to Sea (led by Environment Network Manawatū); Predator Free Wellington (led by Wellington City Council) and Wairarapa Moana (led by Greater Wellington) (Years 1, 4, 7, 10).</p> <p>Community involvement and partnerships</p> <p>3.5.14 Identified collaborative restoration opportunities for ecosystems and species in Wellington region. (Years 1, 4, 7, 10)</p>	<p>Bringing history to life</p> <p>3.5.16 Evaluated existing storytelling for all the actively conserved sites and developed a prioritised programme for enhancing storytelling at these sites (Year 4).</p> <p>Actively managed places</p> <p>3.5.17 Enhanced storytelling and marketing of the ‘Historic Landmarks’ sites, identified as part of the interagency Landmarks Whenua Tohunga programme, which are on public conservation lands and waters in the Wellington CMS region (Year 4).</p> <p>3.5.18 Prepared a baseline report on the condition of all actively conserved historic places listed in Appendix 9 (Year 1).</p> <p>3.5.19 Minimised deterioration of 13 of the actively conserved historic places listed in Appendix 9 under the guidance of approved conservation plans (Year 7).</p>	<p>Gateway destinations</p> <p>3.5.23 Established visitor satisfaction monitoring for priority sites in Appendix 10 (Year 4).</p> <p>3.5.24 Analysed visitor satisfaction for 15 (90%) of the destinations in Appendix 10 and established an improvement programme (Year 4).</p> <p>3.5.25 Evidence that visitor satisfaction has increased for destinations in Appendix 10 (Year 10).</p> <p>3.5.26 Established mechanisms for gathering and analysing baseline visitor count data at all destinations in Appendix 10 (Year 4).</p> <p>3.5.27 Evidence that more people are recreating at all destinations in Appendix 10 (Year 10).¹³</p> <p>Engaging others in locally treasured destinations</p> <p>3.5.28 Developed an improvement plan for the most popular destinations where facilities are below standard for the target visitor group (Year 4).</p>

13 See Part Two 9 Islands Place for how visitor numbers are to be managed for Kāpiti Island Nature Reserve.

Treaty of Waitangi relationships	Natural values	Historic values	Recreation values
<p>Sites of cultural significance</p> <p>3.5.6 Identified sites supported by PSGEs and tangata whenua suitable for having their stories told (Years 1, 4, 7, 10).</p> <p>3.5.7 Supported PSGEs and tangata whenua to tell their stories and associations with sites of cultural significance (Years 4, 7, 10).</p> <p>Enhancing understanding of cultural values</p> <p>3.5.8 Supported development of plans for cultural materials (Years 1, 4, 7, 10).</p> <p>Education</p> <p>3.5.9 In collaboration with PSGEs and tangata whenua, applied cultural monitoring approaches based on mātauranga Māori (Māori traditional knowledge and cultural values) (Year 4).</p> <p>3.5.10 Collaboratively educated the public on these methods, increasing understanding of mātauranga Māori and respect for species and the environment (Years 4, 7, 10).</p>	<p>Marine</p> <p>3.5.15 Supported processes that have resulted in new marine protected areas being created. (Year 10)</p>	<p>3.5.20 Minimised deterioration of all of the 22 actively conserved historic places listed in Appendix 9 under the guidance of approved conservation plans (Year 10).</p> <p>Engaging others</p> <p>3.5.21 Partnerships with others who manage 5 of the 22 actively conserved historic places listed in Appendix 9 (Year 7).</p> <p>3.5.22 Partnerships with others who manage 11 of the 22 actively conserved historic places listed in Appendix 9 (Year 10).</p>	<p>3.5.29 Demonstrated that the number of community partnerships to support the management of Local Treasures has increased (Year 10).</p> <p>Backcountry destinations</p> <p>3.5.30 Developed an improvement plan for the most popular destinations where facilities are below standard for the target visitor group (Year 4).</p> <p>3.5.31 Obtained partner/community support to maintain 60% of all Departmental huts, excluding serviced huts (Year 4).</p> <p>3.5.32 Obtained partner/community support to maintain 80% of all Departmental huts excluding serviced huts (Year 10).</p> <p>Te Araroa Trail</p> <p>3.5.33 Investigated the provision of facilities to meet user demand (Year 4).</p> <p>3.5.34 Provided facilities identified in Milestone 3.5.33 (Year 10).</p> <p>Public access</p> <p>3.5.35 Identified priority destinations for improving public access to and from public conservation lands and waters (Year 4).</p> <p>3.5.36 Achieved improved public access to and from priority sites (Year 7).</p>



The silver sea. Photographer: Stewart Baird



4. Regional policy requirements for the Wellington region

These policies apply across the whole of the Wellington region for the purposes of integrated conservation management. Unless enabled by other legislation¹⁴, various activities on public conservation lands and waters require an authorisation. The most common authorisations are concessions (for a trade, occupation or business) and permits.

Note: *Legislative requirements, Conservation General Policy and other requirements (such as Regulations or Bylaws) are not repeated in this CMS.*

4.1 Regional general

The Department aims to provide for a range of activities consistent with relevant legislation and Conservation General Policy, and the recreation settings and planned outcomes and policies in Part Two – Places. All applications for authorisations are assessed against the policies in this section as well as against any activity-specific policies in Sections 4.2 to 4.15.

Policies in this section also apply to the Department when undertaking works on public conservation lands and waters.

¹⁴ Examples are the Electricity Act 1992 and associated regulations and the Cadastral Survey Act 2002.

Policies (Regional general)

- 4.1.1 Should not grant authorisations where they are inconsistent with the:
- Conservation General Policy 2005, including any amendments to these policies;
 - outcomes, objectives, and policies in this CMS;
 - purposes for which the lands and waters concerned are held; and
 - visitor management zones on Map 5 and as described in Appendix 13, except in accordance with (filming and sporting events) Policy 4.4.1.
- 4.1.2 Apply an integrated approach to management of the public conservation lands and waters within the Wellington region and adjoining regions.
- 4.1.3 Restrict or close access to conservation areas or specified parts of conservation areas or specified facilities where necessary for reasons of public safety or emergency, or to:
- protect natural, historic, or cultural values;
 - control biosecurity risks;
 - enable the control or eradication of pests using aerial bait operations;
 - allow military exercise operations; or
 - allow tree felling.
- 4.1.4 Determine, when undertaking any work or activities, whether they are covered by Appendix 1 and, therefore, meet the requirements of Section 4(3) of the Resource Management Act 1991 for exemption from land use consents.
- 4.1.5 Encourage people and require concessionaires undertaking activities on public conservation lands and waters to comply with activity-specific minimum impact codes (care codes) as notified from time to time on the Department's website.
- 4.1.6 Reclassify areas of public conservation lands and waters in accordance with, and as identified in, Appendix 11.
- 4.1.7 Improve the resilience of public conservation lands and waters to climate-change-related impacts through adaptive planning and actions based on best scientific information.
- 4.1.8 Work with Land Information New Zealand, the New Zealand Walking Access Commission, local authorities, the relevant Fish & Game Council, adjoining landowners, other agencies and the public, to achieve integrated management of legal roads adjoining public conservation lands and waters, where actual or potential activity on or near these roads creates difficulties, by:
- seeking that the public voluntarily manage their use of these roads consistent with the management of adjoining public conservation lands and waters;
 - enabling the Department to manage and facilitate recreation on these roads consistent with the management of adjoining public conservation lands and waters;
 - seeking active management and facilitation of recreation on these roads by local authorities consistent with the management of adjoining public conservation lands and waters; or
 - stopping or resuming these roads and adding them to the adjoining public conservation lands and waters.

4.2 Aircraft

All aircraft, including remotely piloted aircraft (drones)¹⁵, require a concession or authorisation to land on, take off from, or hover over (collectively referred to as 'landings') public conservation lands and waters, other than for certain activities, such as: search and rescue; Departmental management purposes; emergency situations; maritime navigational-aid management; land survey work; aircraft operated by the New Zealand Defence Force or the Civil Aviation Authority; or any mining activity authorised under the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

To manage aircraft landings in the Wellington region there are four, nationally consistent aircraft access zones (as shown in Map 6). These zones reflect the different management methodologies required and the likelihood of granting concessions for aircraft landings, as follows:

- Red Zones are areas where a concession application to land an aircraft should be declined (with some exceptions).
- Yellow Zones are areas where a concession application to land an aircraft should be granted where it meets the nationally consistent limits for this zone.
- Orange Zones are areas where there are complex issues to be managed, requiring limits and/or other criteria to guide whether concessions for aircraft landings can be granted.
- Green Zones are areas where a concession application to land an aircraft is likely to be granted subject to any relevant outcome and/or criteria in the policies.

For the Wellington region, the number of aircraft landings is low relative to other areas of the country and the demand for aircraft landings is also low. However, the Department acknowledges that demand could increase during the life of this CMS and this in turn could have adverse effects on recreation and conservation values. The Department intends to monitor the effects of aircraft use in the Ruahine, Tararua, Remutaka and Aorangi forest parks to establish evidenced-based thresholds that indicate when these values are being adversely affected. See the Central Spine Place for how the Department will manage aircraft use for the forest parks.

¹⁵ Drones are considered an aircraft. They are controlled by the Department on or over public conservation lands and waters under the Conservation Act 1987 and by the Civil Aviation Authority under the Civil Aviation Act 1990 and the Ministry of Transport's Civil Aviation Rules Part 101 and 102 over other areas.

Policies (Aircraft)

- 4.2.1 May require the following conditions in concession for aircraft landings¹⁶:
- a) no landings near specified tracks, huts or car parks;
 - b) the use of global positioning systems and other technologies for monitoring purposes; and
 - c) the holding of and compliance with certification in a noise management scheme approved by the Department, in specified locations.
- 4.2.2 Should not grant concessions for aircraft landings in the Red Zone, as shown on Map 6, except:
- a) for the construction, operation and/or maintenance of equipment (e.g. meteorological, seismic) or utilities (e.g. communication systems, transmission lines) authorised by the Department;
 - b) for wild animal control activities¹⁷ in accordance with (Wild and game animals) Policy 4.15.1 and Policy 6.3.4.8 (Central Spine Place); or
 - c) to support research, monitoring or the collection of material authorised by the Department.
- 4.2.3 Should grant concessions for aircraft landings in the Yellow Zone, as shown on Map 6, only in accordance with:
- a) Policy 4.2.6, 4.2.7 or 5.3.4.9 (Central Spine Place); or
 - b) the following limits:
 - i) for commercial purposes, two landings per concession per day at any one site (defined as any landing site within a 1-kilometre radius of the initial landing site) and a maximum of 20 landings per site per concession per year; or
 - ii) for recreational purposes, two landings per aircraft per day at any one site (defined as any landing site within a 1-kilometre radius of the initial landing site) and a maximum of 20 landings per aircraft per site per year.
- 4.2.4 Should grant concessions for aircraft landings in the Green Zone, as shown on Map 6, including in accordance with Policy 4.2.6 or 4.2.7.
- 4.2.5 Should grant concessions for aircraft landings in the Orange Zone, as shown on Map 6, only in accordance with:
- a) Policy 4.2.6, 4.2.7 or 5.3.4.9 (Central Spine Place); or
 - b) criteria as set out in Table 4.16.1.
- 4.2.6 May grant concessions for aircraft landings associated with commercial filming and photography, or sporting and other competitive events, where they do not meet the limits and/or criteria in the Yellow, Green and Orange Zones where mechanisms are used to address any adverse effects, including:
- a) the use of a remotely piloted aircraft; and
 - b) low-level flying (i.e. hovering) but no actual landing on the ground.

¹⁶ This includes landings, take-offs and hovering.

¹⁷ These activities assist the Department in providing a means of effective control (via concerted action) of wild animals. Public conservation lands and waters are available for commercial hunting unless consideration of the statutory provisions establishes reasons for restrictions or closures (see Conservation General Policy 4.2 (e) and (f)).

Policies (Aircraft continued)

- 4.2.7 May grant concessions for aircraft landings where they do not meet the limits and/or criteria in the Yellow, Green and Orange Zones for:
 - a) the construction, operation and/or maintenance of equipment (e.g. meteorological, seismic) or utilities (e.g. communication systems, transmission lines) authorised by the Department; or
 - b) wild animal control activities in accordance with (Wild and game animals) Policy 4.15.1.
- 4.2.8 May grant concessions for aircraft landings on moveable marginal strips with no identified aircraft access zone shown on Map 6 in the following circumstances:
 - a) where the moveable marginal strip adjoins or is adjacent to other public conservation lands and waters with an aircraft access zone, apply Policy 4.2.1 and the relevant aircraft policies for that aircraft access zone; or
 - b) where the moveable marginal strip does not adjoin or is not adjacent to other public conservation lands and waters, apply Policy 4.2.1, and, where relevant, Policy 4.2.6 or 4.2.7.
- 4.2.9 Advocate to aviation controllers and aircraft operators to manage flight paths to avoid adverse effects on public conservation lands and waters.
- 4.2.10 Work with aircraft operators overflying public conservation lands and waters to establish voluntary codes of conduct that reflect the requirements of visitor management zones for those lands and waters.

4.3 Beehives

A concession is required to place beehives on public conservation lands and waters. There is a range of known potential effects of bees on sensitive ecosystems; however, knowledge about the extent of these effects is developing and monitoring will enable a better understanding.

Policies (Beehives)

- 4.3.1 May grant concessions for the placement of beehives in the Wellington region subject to the proposed location being suitable by:
 - a) avoiding conflicts with other users, including requiring a buffer between beehive sites and facilities and structures used by Departmental staff and public;
 - b) placing beehives only in areas of natural clearance where vegetation clearance is not required; and
 - c) the Department being satisfied that adverse effects on indigenous species are appropriately minimised or mitigated.

4.4 Commercial filming and photography and sporting and other competitive events

Concessions are required for filming and photography (filming activity) undertaken for gain or reward. Filming activities can include crew, film equipment, vehicles, aircraft, animals, sets and special effects.

Conservation General Policy 2005 states that filming should be subject to the same assessment procedures and conditions as other users, and particular care should be taken to ensure that filming does not adversely affect the values of sites of significance, including those of significance to tangata whenua.

Competitive sporting and other events, including endurance races, multi-sport or orienteering events, require a concession. These events are part of a spectrum of recreation opportunities and may be suited to some areas within the Wellington region.

Policies (Commercial filming and photography and sporting and other competitive events)	
General	<p>4.4.1 May grant authorisations for commercial filming and photography, or sporting and other competitive events where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) they are not in accordance with (Aircraft) Policies 4.2.3–4.2.5, or the visitor management zones on Map 5, and as described in Appendix 13; and b) mechanisms are used to address any adverse effects, including: c) informing neighbours and potential visitors to the site that the event or activity is to occur or is occurring; d) avoiding peak visitor times; and e) avoiding or protecting sites with high natural, historic or cultural values.
Commercial filming and photography	<p>4.4.2 Should grant concessions for commercial filming and photography on public conservation lands and waters located outside national parks only where any conflicts between recreation/tourism uses and filming activity are avoided (e.g. separated in space and time), remedied or mitigated.</p> <p>4.4.3 Should require compliance with the latest version of the <i>Code of Practice: Filming on Public Conservation Lands</i>¹⁸ in all concessions for filming activities.</p>
Sporting and other competitive events	<p>4.4.4 May grant authorisations for organised sporting or other competitive events where adequate public notification of the event can occur before the event.</p> <p>4.4.5 May waive or reduce the requirement for public notification in circumstances where details of a sporting or other competitive event are not disclosed to participants in advance, if satisfied the adverse effects will be minimal and following consultation with the Wellington Conservation Board on a confidential basis.</p> <p>4.4.6 May require the authorisation holder to ensure participants in a sporting or other competitive event comply with a code of conduct developed with the authorisation holder.</p> <p>4.4.7 Should, in all authorisations for sporting and other competitive events, require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) fire safety contingencies in high fire risk areas, including events being cancelled at short notice; and b) participants to be provided with information on conservation values, including cultural values in consultation with PSGEs and tangata whenua, and opportunities for involvement in conservation programmes.

¹⁸ Jointly developed by the Department and Film New Zealand.

4.5 Fishing and game bird hunting

The Department is responsible for protecting and preserving tuna/eel and their habitats within public conservation lands and waters. The Ministry for Primary Industries manages commercial eeling under the Fisheries Act 1996, the Fisheries (Commercial Fishing) Regulations 2001 and other associated regulations. Commercial eel fishers require a concession to access public conservation lands and waters. Within areas administered under the Conservation Act 1987, concessions can be limited to protect natural resources, including tuna/eels. The recreational and commercial take of indigenous fauna, such as tuna/eel and whitebait from reserves administered under the Reserves Act 1977 is also subject to section 50(1) of that Act.

Regional Fish & Game Councils manage sports fish and fishing and game bird hunting in the Wellington region. The Department works with these councils to manage sports fish and fishing on public conservation lands and waters, including preventing the introduction of salmonid fish to waters where they are not legally present, to protect habitat values.

Policies (Fishing and game bird hunting)	
Commercial eeling	4.5.1 Should not grant concessions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) commercial eeling on public conservation lands and waters; or b) access over public conservation lands and waters, where it is required to reach a proposed commercial eeling site, to ensure the preservation of tuna/eel species.
	4.5.2 Work with PSGEs and tangata whenua, the Ministry for Primary Industries, commercial eelers and the community to protect indigenous tuna/eel populations and their habitats on and off public conservation lands and waters.
Recreational whitebaiting and eeling	4.5.3 Should grant authorisations for recreational whitebaiting and eeling from waters in reserves where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the effects of the fishing are understood; and b) adverse effects on indigenous species or ecosystems within those waters are avoided, remedied or mitigated.
Sports fishing and game bird hunting	4.5.4 Should not approve the introduction of salmonid fish to waters where they are not already present.
	4.5.5 Work with the Wellington, Hawke’s Bay, and Taranaki Fish & Game Councils and others: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to preserve indigenous freshwater fisheries; b) to protect recreational freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats at risk of loss or decline; and c) in their management of sports fishing and game bird hunting on public conservation lands and waters.

4.6 Fixed anchors

The placing of fixed anchors into rock (also called bolting) is used for roped access activities such as rock climbing, abseiling, caving and canyoning. These anchor points are usually drilled or glued in place and remain permanently in the rock face.

The Department works with the New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC), a representative advocate for climbers, on these issues. NZAC has developed a *Rock Climbing Access Framework* (2017), *Landowner Guidelines* (2017), *Bolting Philosophy and Standards (for Route Developers)* (2017), and *Code of Conduct for Rock Climbers* (2017) to help ensure safe and consistent bolting and environmental responsibility. Liaison with other recreation groups also occurs.

The natural environment can inherently have risks, and people are responsible for their own decisions on risks they are prepared to take on public conservation lands and water. The use of fixed anchors has inherent risks to the user, which are known and accepted by users.

Policies (Fixed anchors)

- 4.6.1 Work with the New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and other recreational groups to identify unauthorised fixed anchors in the Wellington region, and remove any that are unsafe.
- 4.6.2 Work with NZAC and other recreational groups to identify areas suitable for the placement of fixed anchors in the Wellington region by:
 - a) avoiding adverse effects on priority ecosystem units, threatened or at-risk species, and significant geological features, landforms and landscapes;
 - b) avoiding adverse effects on sites of significance to PSGEs and tangata whenua; and
 - c) addressing public safety issues.
- 4.6.3 May authorise the placement of fixed anchors in the Wellington region where:
 - a) consultation with the NZAC, other recreational groups, PSGEs, tangata whenua and other stakeholders has been undertaken; and
 - b) the activity is in accordance with NZAC's *Rock Climbing Access Framework* (2017), *Landowner Guidelines* (2017), *Bolting Philosophy and Standards (for Route Developers)* (2017), *Code of Conduct for Rock Climbers* (2017), and any other updated guidance.
- 4.6.4 Encourage and support NZAC to take the lead on fixed anchor management:
 - a) in accordance with NZAC's *Rock Climbing Access Framework* (2017), *Landowner Guidelines* (2017), *Bolting Philosophy and Standards (for Route Developers)* (2017), *Code of Conduct for Rock Climbers* (2017), and any other updated guidance; and
 - b) in consultation with the Department and the local climbing community.

4.7 Grazing and farming

Grazing concessions, or management agreements for exotic vegetation control, must be consistent with Policy 11.2 of the Conservation General Policy 2005 as well as the policy below.

Policies (Grazing and farming)

- 4.7.1 Should authorise grazing and farming on public conservation lands and waters only where:
- a) the land is suitable for grazing and farming;
 - b) the catchment is not sensitive to increased sediments or nutrients;
 - c) there is no increased flooding risk;
 - d) livestock is kept out of waterways; and
 - e) waterway protection measures in the Horizons Regional Council One Plan and Greater Wellington Proposed Natural Resources Plan, and any other updated plan, and any national regulations, are complied with.

4.8 Marine mammal viewing

Marine mammals are protected under the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978 and the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992. Commercial viewing of marine mammals must be authorised by the Director-General.

Policies (Marine mammal viewing)

- 4.8.1 Should grant marine mammal viewing permits only where:
- a) a precautionary approach is taken to the viewing effort of commercial operators involved in marine mammal operations in the area;
 - b) a high standard of interpretation is provided to the clients; and
 - c) breeding and nursing areas and seasons for the threatened marine mammals listed in Appendix 5 are avoided.
- 4.8.2 Encourage passive, land-based marine mammal viewing operations in the first instance.
- 4.8.3 Support research by others into the effects of human interactions with marine mammals.
- 4.8.4 Implement and review, at regular intervals, a marine mammal tourism site plan for the Wellington region which sets out desired goals for management of the marine mammal tourism industry.

4.9 Mining

The prospecting, exploration for, and mining of Crown-owned mineral deposits is managed by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment in accordance with the Crown Minerals Act 1991. Under that Act the Minister of Conservation's role is limited to approving access arrangements over public conservation lands and waters. Access arrangements cannot be granted for land in Schedule 4 of the Act (which includes all national parks, wilderness areas, nature reserves, scientific reserves and marine reserves) except in very limited circumstances, as set out in the Act.

Policies (Mining)

- 4.9.1 Should not enter into access arrangements where there is the potential to adversely affect threatened or at-risk species identified in Appendix 5 or the priority historic, cultural, natural or recreational sites identified in Appendices 4, 8, 9 and 10.
- 4.9.2 May include specific conditions (which may be by way of a bond) in access arrangements to require:
 - a) the public conservation lands and waters to be restored to as natural a condition as possible; or
 - b) off-site mitigation.

4.10 Private accommodation

Existing structures on public conservation lands and waters include some private accommodation and related facilities not available for use by the general public. Some of these structures have been authorised, but several have been erected and used unlawfully (see Appendix 12). Under the Conservation General Policy 2005, the use of private accommodation and related facilities – including encampments – solely for private purposes, is to be phased out, except where specifically provided for in legislation.

Policies (Private accommodation)

- 4.10.1 Should not authorise new private accommodation and related facilities, including encampments, on public conservation lands and waters.
- 4.10.2 Should phase out all existing private accommodation and related facilities, including encampments, on public conservation lands and waters that are not otherwise specifically provided for or allowed in legislation¹⁹ by either:
 - a) phasing in public use of the building(s); or
 - b) removing the building(s), unless retained by the Department.
- 4.10.3 Should consult with the Wellington Conservation Board when assessing a concession application for existing unauthorised private accommodation and related facilities, including encampments, as identified in Appendix 12, to determine whether an authorisation for a temporary arrangement may be granted and, if so and where relevant, how the phase-out Policy (4.10.2) should be applied.

¹⁹ Such as section 7(2) of the Conservation Amendment Act 1996 or section 11(4) of the Reserves Amendment Act 1996.

Policies (Private accommodation continued)

- 4.10.4 Should specify the following conditions if accommodation and related facilities, including encampments, are authorised in accordance with Policy 4.10.2:
- a) in the case of Policy 4.10.2a), the building(s) are to be made available for use by the public with specific conditions on how this is enabled, including the requirement for any costs charged to the public to be reasonable; or
 - b) in the case of Policy 4.10.2b), the building(s) are to be removed, remove the building(s) within 18 months of the death of the person named on the authorisation as at 14 December 2016 or within 20 years of approval of this CMS, whichever occurs first.
- 4.10.5 Should specify the following conditions if accommodation and related facilities, including encampments, are authorised in accordance with Policy 4.10.2:
- a) the style and character of all buildings are to remain essentially unmodified;
 - b) the floor area and footprint of all buildings are not to increase beyond those existing at the time of granting of the authorisation;
 - c) all buildings must comply with the Building Act 2004, Building Code and local authority requirements;
 - d) transfer/assignment of the authorisation to another party should not be authorised;
 - e) the concessionaire must indemnify the Department against any loss resulting from the use of the buildings or the cost of removing the buildings; and
 - f) a standard clause covering public liability implications, including adequate insurance/bonds to cover the indemnity.
- 4.10.6 Should, where an existing authorisation contains a right of renewal, grant (subject to the terms of the existing authorisation) the renewal²⁰ of authorisations for private accommodation and related facilities, including encampments, on public conservation lands and waters only to the existing authorisation holder²¹, if:
- a) the right of renewal is exercised by the authorisation holder before the existing authority expires; and
 - b) the person holding the authorisation has complied with all of the terms and conditions of the authorisation.
- 4.10.7 Should not authorise the substantial repair or replacement of private accommodation and related facilities, including encampments, if:
- a) a building falls into substantial disrepair and needs work requiring a building consent under the Building Act 2004²²; or
 - b) a building is destroyed or so damaged by an event (e.g. fire, flood) as to render it untenable.

²⁰ Where the existing/previous authorisation does not contain a right of renewal and is due to expire (or has expired) and the authorisation holder applies for a new concession, the application should be considered against the other policies in this section and the relevant general policy.

²¹ That is, should not grant transfers/assignments to other parties.

²² Minor repair and maintenance using comparable materials does not generally require building consent under this Act.

4.11 Sand and shingle extraction

Sand, shingle and gravel extraction from riverbeds or coastal areas is managed and allocated by regional councils under the Resource Management Act 1991. However, any person wanting to undertake this activity on public conservation lands and waters also requires authorisation from the Department.

Policies (Sand and shingle extraction)

- 4.11.1 Should authorise the removal of sand, shingle or other natural material from public conservation lands and waters only from Oteranga Bay Marginal Strip or where adverse effects can be avoided, remedied or mitigated.
- 4.11.2 May, in authorisations for sand, shingle, or other natural material extraction, seek compensation to assist in indigenous ecosystem management.
- 4.11.3 Work with local authorities to achieve integrated management of sand, shingle, and other natural material extraction on and off public conservation lands and waters.

4.12 Structures, utilities and facilities

Most structures on public conservation lands and waters relate to one of the following purposes:

- the Department's operational requirements;
- facilities, such as huts and tracks, to enable the public's appreciation and enjoyment of the intrinsic natural, historic and cultural values consistent with the purposes for which the land concerned is held; and
- utilities that provide essential public services such as: telecommunications; energy generation and transmission; sewerage; water supply and flood control; oil and gas transmission; roads and airstrips; hydrological and weather stations; and seismic monitoring.

Policies (Structures, utilities and facilities)

- 4.12.1 May authorise the erection or retention of structures, utilities and facilities or the adaptive reuse of existing structures, utilities and facilities on public conservation lands and waters where the activity promotes or enhances the retention of a historic structure, utility or facility.

4.13 Vehicles and other means of transport

A 'vehicle' includes powered land vehicles such as cars, four-wheel drives, motorcycles and electric power-assisted pedal cycles (e-bikes), as well as non-powered vehicles, such as mountain bikes. Vehicles are only allowed on public conservation lands and waters within the Wellington region in locations identified in this CMS, except where necessary for Departmental management purposes. Vehicle use can adversely affect the conservation and recreation values identified in Section 3: National and regional objectives, policies and milestones, and Part Two – Places and associated appendices. The locations suitable for vehicle use were identified having regard to the protection of these values. In some circumstances, additional restrictions and conditions are necessary.

Most watercraft-usable waterbodies within the Wellington region are not part of public conservation lands and waters, and watercraft control is limited to within wildlife refuges. Outside these areas, other watercraft controls exist through navigation and safety bylaws and local authority surface water activity rules.

Policies (Vehicles and other means of transport)	
General	<p>4.13.1 Liaise with vehicle and watercraft users to identify opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) be involved in conservation programmes; and b) maintain the roads, tracks, routes, or waterways they are permitted to use. <p>4.13.2 Review vehicle and watercraft use where monitoring shows adverse effects are occurring, in consultation with relevant user groups and the community.</p> <p>4.13.3 Identify, on the Department's website, signs, and in other information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) where people are permitted to take vehicles and watercraft onto public conservation lands and waters; and b) what conditions apply to the taking of such vehicles and watercraft, including, where vehicles are restricted to identified tracks or roads, and the requirement to remain on the track or road formation at all times. <p>4.13.4 Undertake consultation with user groups, adjoining landowners, tramping clubs, other interested parties and the public, when considering new opportunities for the use of vehicles and watercraft on public conservation lands and waters.</p> <p>4.13.5 Apply the following criteria when considering new opportunities for the use of vehicles and watercraft on public conservation lands and waters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) is consistent with the outcome and policies for the Place where the road, track or site is, or is proposed to be, located; b) is consistent with the visitor management zones on Map 5 and as described in Appendix 13; c) adverse effects (including cumulative adverse effects) on the road, track, or site and on natural, historic, or cultural values can be avoided, remedied or mitigated; d) adverse effects (including cumulative adverse effects and conflicts) on the safety and enjoyment of other recreational users can be avoided, remedied or mitigated;

Policies (Vehicles and other means of transport continued)

<p>Motor vehicles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e) measures such as trial periods, restricted seasons, daylight use only, limits on numbers and one-way flow, can be applied, if necessary; f) facilities, including those associated with overnight use, can be provided, if necessary; g) risks of fire and biosecurity (including the introduction or spread of pest plants and pathogens) can be avoided or otherwise carefully managed; and h) the ongoing management implications of providing vehicle and watercraft (e.g. in terms of ongoing maintenance costs) are taken into account. <p>4.13.6 Should allow motor vehicles on public conservation lands and waters only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) on the roads identified in Table 4.16.2, or; b) for authorised farming operations, restoration activities and the construction, operation, and/or maintenance of authorised utilities. <p>4.13.7 May restrict motorised vehicle access at any time in the following situations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) there is a health and safety risk; b) there is a fire risk; c) adverse effects are evident or likely; d) priorities change for the provision of the road; or e) where damage to the structure of the road is evident or likely. <p>4.13.8 Work with local authorities, the New Zealand Police and other relevant agencies to manage motor vehicle use on beaches, lake shores and river beds, to protect conservation values.</p>
<p>Electric power-assisted pedal cycle</p>	<p>4.13.9 Should allow independent electric power-assisted pedal cycle use (not exceeding 300 watts), and may grant concessions for guided electric power-assisted pedal cycling, only on the tracks and roads or other areas identified in Table 4.16.2.</p>
<p>Mountain biking</p>	<p>4.13.10 Should allow independent mountain biking, and may grant concessions for guided mountain biking or mountain bike events, only on the tracks and roads or other areas identified in Table 4.16.2.</p>
<p>Watercraft</p>	<p>4.13.11 Should allow motorised watercraft only on Lake Wairarapa and Lake Onoke.</p> <p>4.13.12 May restrict access across public conservation lands and waters for watercraft, where adverse effects associated with the watercraft use may occur to public conservation lands and waters or wildlife.</p> <p>4.13.13 Work with local authorities to manage watercraft use on waters adjacent to public conservation lands and waters in an integrated manner, consistent with this CMS.</p>

4.14 Animals

(See also Sections for 4.5: Fishing and game bird hunting, 4.7: Grazing and farming, and 4.15: Wild and game animals)

Animals cannot be taken onto public conservation lands and waters unless it is consistent with legislation, provided for in a CMS or conservation management plan, and a permit is granted.

Taking a dog onto public conservation lands and waters requires a permit, except in some limited circumstances (refer Policies 4.14.6, 4.14.7, 4.14.8 and Table 4.16.3). Permits may contain conditions to protect conservation values. The Department works with dog owners and others to encourage dog use and behaviours that protect conservation values and reduce the potential for dogs to adversely affect the enjoyment of other visitors.

Policy 4.14.4 and Table 4.16.4 identify the locations suitable for use by horses and other pack animals.

Policies (Animals)	
General	<p>4.14.1 Liaise with dog owners and horse riders to identify opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) be involved in conservation programmes; andb) maintain the roads, tracks, routes, or waterways they are permitted to use. <p>4.14.2 Review dog, and/or horse (and pack animals) use where monitoring shows adverse effects are occurring, in consultation with relevant user groups and the community.</p> <p>4.14.3 Identify, on the Department’s website, signs, and other information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) where people are permitted to take dogs, and horses (and pack animals) onto public conservation lands and waters; andb) what conditions apply to the taking of animals, including, where animals are restricted to identified tracks or roads, the requirement to remain on the track or road formation at all times. <p>4.14.4 Undertake consultation with user groups, adjoining landowners, tramping clubs, other interested parties and the public, when considering new opportunities for the use of dogs or horses (and pack animals) on public conservation lands and waters.</p> <p>4.14.5 Apply the following criteria when considering new opportunities for the use of dogs or horses (and pack animals) on public conservation lands and waters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) is consistent with the outcome and policies for the Place where the road, track or site is, or is proposed to be, located;b) is consistent with the visitor management zones on Map 5 and as described in Appendix 13;c) adverse effects (including cumulative adverse effects) on the road, track, or site and on natural, historic, or cultural values can be avoided, remedied or mitigated;d) adverse effects (including cumulative adverse effects and conflicts) on the safety and enjoyment of other recreational users can be avoided, remedied or mitigated;

Policies (Animals continued)

General continued

- e) measures such as trial periods, restricted seasons, daylight use only, limits on numbers and one-way flow can be applied if necessary;
- f) facilities, including those associated with overnight use, can be provided if necessary;
- g) risks of fire and biosecurity (including the introduction or spread of pest plants and pathogens) can be avoided or otherwise carefully managed; and
- h) the ongoing management implications of providing dog and/or horse access (e.g. in terms of ongoing maintenance costs) are taken into account.

Dog

- 4.14.6 Should allow dogs to be taken onto public conservation lands and waters within the Wellington region without a permit where the person taking the dog is undertaking official activities in the capacity of:
- a) a Police employee;
 - b) a warranted officer;
 - c) an officer or employee of the Department;
 - d) a Customs officer; or
 - e) a search or rescue person.
- 4.14.7 Should allow disability assist dogs to be taken onto public conservation lands and waters without a permit provided:
- a) the person that the dog is accompanying, including a person engaged in the dog's training, keeps the dog under control at all times; and
 - b) the dog is currently certified with, and wears a Disability Assist Dog identification tag from, a relevant Disability Assist Dog organisation.
- 4.14.8 Should allow dogs to be taken onto public conservation lands and waters within the Wellington region without a permit only on the roads, tracks and sites identified in Table 4.16.3.
- 4.14.9 Should ensure, if a permit is required to take a dog onto public conservation lands and waters, that the permit contains conditions to protect the values for which those lands and waters are held, including:
- a) owners/handlers must keep the dog under control at all times;
 - b) dogs must not go into or be under public buildings, including huts;
 - c) dogs must be certified by an approved avian aversion trainer where there are ground-dwelling or ground-nesting birds;
 - d) dogs must be micro-chipped; and
 - e) compliance with any identified access arrangements between the Department and adjoining landowners.

Policies (Animals continued)

Dog continued

- 4.14.10 Should not allow dogs onto the public conservation lands and waters listed below due to the likely adverse effects on the natural values of the areas:
- a) Pukaha/Mount Bruce Scenic Reserve;
 - b) Kāpiti Island Nature Reserve and Mana Island Scientific Reserve;
 - c) the Remutaka Landcare Research Site; and
 - d) kiwi sanctuary areas and wildlife sanctuaries.
- 4.14.11 Educate the community about the threats that dogs can pose to conservation values.
- 4.14.12 Work with local authorities to ensure consistency of dog control in areas containing protected wildlife and important wildlife habitats.
- 4.14.13 Work with hunting clubs and Fish & Game Councils to encourage responsible hunting by:
- a) promoting the use of high quality hunting dogs;
 - b) promoting the use of tracking collars on pig hunting dogs;
 - c) offering avian aversion training for dogs; and
 - d) targeting the control of pest and wild animals at priority sites identified in Appendix 6.

Horse and other animals

- 4.14.14 Should allow the use of horses (and pack animals) only on the roads, tracks and sites identified in Table 4.16.4.
- 4.14.15 Should not permit livestock, other than horses (and pack animals), in accordance with Policy 4.14.16, on public conservation lands and waters unless under a grazing and farming concession or management agreement.
- 4.14.16 Should not permit any other types of animals, including pets, other than dogs in accordance with (dogs) Policies 4.14.7-4.14.13, on public conservation lands and waters.

4.15 Wild and game animals

Wild animals are goats, deer (*Cervus elaphus*, *Cervus nippon*, *Dama dama*, *Rusa unicolor*) and pigs (*Sus scrofa*) not in captivity, including the whole or any part of the carcass. They are managed under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 and the Minister has responsibility for the granting of:

- concessions for commercial wild animal recovery operations involving aircraft (issued under the Conservation Act 1987);
- permits for commercial and recreational hunting; and
- permits for holding wild animals in captivity in safari parks or deer farms.

The Minister must consider this CMS when deciding on applications for commercial wild animal recovery activities. Any requirements or regulations promulgated under the Game Animal Council Act 2013 are also relevant. Other concessions may also be required under the Conservation Act 1987; for example, aircraft access for recreational hunting.

Game animals are deer and wild pigs, including the whole or any part of the carcass managed under the Game Animal Council Act 2013. Under the Act, the Minister may designate any species of game animal in a specified area on public conservation lands to be a 'herd of special interest' if the required criteria are met. A herd management plan is developed for each herd of special interest, setting out the objectives and strategies for the management of the herd to achieve the expected benefits to be gained from managing the animals for hunting purposes. As at 24 April 2018, no herds of special interest were gazetted within the Wellington region.

The Game Animal Council (see Appendix 18) has a range of functions associated with the hunting of game animals. The Department works with the Council to effectively manage game animals on public conservation lands and waters.

Policies (Wild and game animals)

- 4.15.1 Should grant concessions for deer, pig and goat carcass recovery, and deer live capture on public conservation lands and waters only:
- a) in accordance with the Wild Animal Control Act 1977; and
 - b) where the frequency, timing and location of the activity can be managed.
- 4.15.2 Work with the Game Animal Council and others to facilitate the hunting of game animals on public conservation lands and waters in accordance with the Game Animal Council Act 2013 and the Wild Animal Control Act 1977.

4.16 Authorisation tables

Table 4.16.1 Aircraft criteria for aircraft landings in the Orange Zone (see Policy 4.2.5)

Conservation unit (listed generally north to south)	Criteria
Ruahine Forest Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 30 landings per designated landing site per operator, per year; • Only on an occasional basis; • At designated landing sites only (see Appendix 17); • Sensitivity of cultural sites has been taken into consideration; and • It is consistent with the aspirations of Treaty partners for the site, including relevance of a site to a Treaty settlement.
Tararua Forest Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than 100 landings per operator per year; • No landings within a 1 km radius/buffer of serviced huts and campgrounds from 20 October to 30 April inclusive; • No fixed-wing landings; • Sensitivity of cultural sites has been taken into consideration; and • It is consistent with the aspirations of Treaty partners for the site, including relevance of a site to a Treaty settlement.
Aorangi Forest Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only on a rare basis; • No landings within a 1 km radius/buffer of Putangirua Pinnacles campsite and Pinnacles rock formation; • No fixed-wing landings; • Sensitivity of cultural sites has been taken into consideration; and • It is consistent with the aspirations of Treaty partners for the site, including relevance of a site to a Treaty settlement.
Kāpiti Island North Public Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis in line with the conservation values of Kāpiti Island's status as a nature reserve; • Only on a rare basis; • All required biosecurity processes are followed; • It is consistent with the aspirations of Treaty partners for the site, including relevance of a site to a Treaty settlement; • Landings at designated sites only; • No landings occur during the nesting season of resident bird populations.

Table 4.16.2: Motor vehicle, electric power-assisted pedal cycle and mountain bike access

Place	Conservation unit	Track/road	Motor vehicle	Electric power-assisted pedal cycle	Mountain bike	Criteria
Central Spine Place	Ruahine Forest Park	Takapari Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Wharite Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Kumeti Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Kashmir Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Yeomans Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Swamp Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Daphne Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		No Mans Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Holmes Ridge Track		Subject to Policy 5.3.4.5 and 5.3.4.6	Subject to Policy 5.3.4.5 and 5.3.4.6	Investigate whether the track could be suitable for mountain biking if upgraded.
		Coppermine Loop Track		Subject to Policy 5.3.4.5 and 5.3.4.6	Subject to Policy 5.3.4.5 and 5.3.4.6	Investigate whether the track could be suitable for mountain biking if upgraded.
Coppermine Track		Subject to Policy 5.3.4.5 and 5.3.4.6	Subject to Policy 5.3.4.5 and 5.3.4.6	Investigate whether the track could be suitable for mountain biking if upgraded.		

	Ruahine Forest (West) Conservation Area	Kawatau Access Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve	Te Ara O Mahurangi mountain bike track		Yes	Yes	
	Tararua Forest Park	Mangahoa Dams Access Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Waikawa Campsite Access Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Kaipatangata Mount Dick Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Waiotauru-Akatarawa Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	No vehicle access north of the Waiotauru Hut on Waiotauru-Akatarawa Road.
		Holdsworth Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Kiriwhakapapa Road end to Mikimiki Road End Track		Yes	Yes	
		North Manakau Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Otaki Forks Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Waiohine Gorge Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Bucks Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Remutaka Summit to Pylon Road		Subject to Policy 5.3.4.5 and 5.3.4.6	Subject to Policy 5.3.4.5 and 5.3.4.6	Investigate whether the track could be suitable for mountain biking if upgraded.

		Pylon Road - SH2 to Western Forest Park		Yes	Yes	
		Pylon Road Eastern Branch		Yes	Yes	
		Frith Track - Pylon Road to Tauherenikau		Subject to Policy 5.3.4.5 and 5.3.4.6	Subject to Policy 5.3.4.5 and 5.3.4.6	Investigate whether the track could be suitable for mountain biking if upgraded.
		Tokomaru Valley/ Burtons Track		Yes	Yes	
	Boar Creek Conservation Area	Boar Bush Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	Remutaka Forest Park	Corner Creek to Windy Point Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Orongorongo Valley Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Catchpool Valley Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Campground Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Cattle Ridge Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Cross Creek to Summit Tunnel Track (Remutaka Rail Trail)		Yes	Yes	
		Catchpool Road to Mount Baker		Yes	Yes	
		Mount Baker return		Yes	Yes	

	Aorangi Forest Park	Te Kopi to Waikuku 4WD Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Cape Palliser Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Ngapotiki Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
		Kawakawa Hut to Mangatoetoe Hut		Subject to Policy 5.3.4.5 and 5.3.4.6	Subject to Policy 5.3.4.5 and 5.3.4.6	Investigate whether the track could be suitable for mountain biking if upgraded.
	Putangirua Pinnacles Scenic Reserve	Putangirua Access Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Wairarapa Place	Lake Wairarapa Wetland Conservation Area	JK Donald Access Road	Yes	Yes	Yes	
	W A Miller Memorial Scenic Reserve	W A Miller Scenic Reserve Track		Yes	Yes	
	Matthews & Boggy Pond Wildlife Reserve	Access tracks	Yes			Access by employees or contractors of the Department and Fish & Game staff for conservation management purposes only.

Coastal Dunes Place	Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area	Pukepuke Lagoon Access Road	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	Moutoa Conservation Area Scenic Reserve	Track on stop back		Yes	Yes		
Wellington-Kāpiti Place	Whareroa Recreation Reserve	Whareroa Access Road	Yes	Yes	Yes		
		Farm Race Walk		Yes	Yes		
		Downhill Track		Yes	Yes		
		Link Track		Yes	Yes		
	Colonial Knob Scenic Reserve	Colonial Knob Broken Hill Road/Reservoir Track			Yes	Yes	
		Colonial Knob Farm road to summit			Yes	Yes	
		Seven Pines Track			Yes	Yes	
		Seven Pines to Summit Track			Yes	Yes	
Coastal and Marine Place	Turakirae Head Scientific Reserve	Wild Coast Track		Yes	Yes		

Table 4.16.3: Dog

Place	Conservation unit	Dogs are allowed on the following public conservation lands and waters without a permit	Criteria	
Central Spine Place	Tararua Forest Park	Mangahoa Makahika Track	Dogs on a leash only	
		Kapakapanui Track	Dogs on a leash only	
		Otaki Gorge walks	Dogs on a leash only	
Central Spine Place	Tararua Forest Park	Pukeatua Track	Dogs on a leash only	
		Waiohine Gorge Campsite	Dogs on a leash only	
		All of Tararua Forest Park (excluding the above listed tracks)	Dogs must be kept under control at all times	
Central Spine Place	Remutaka Forest Park	Tracks in Catchpool Valley	Dogs on a leash only	
		Whakanui Track	Dogs on a leash only	
		Corner Creek Campsite	Dogs on a leash only	
Central Spine Place	Remutaka Forest Park	All of Remutaka Forest Park (excluding the above listed tracks, kiwi sanctuary and Landcare Research area)	Dogs must be kept under control at all times	
		Aorangi Forest Park	All tracks within Pinnacles Scenic Reserve	Dogs must be kept under control at all times
		Wairarapa Place	Carter Scenic Reserve	Kahikatea Walk tracks
Castlepoint Scenic Reserve	All tracks		Dogs on a leash only	
Holdsworth	Campsite		Dogs on a leash only	
Wellington-Kāpiti Place	Kaitawa Scenic Reserve	Listed track only	Dogs on a leash only	
	Hemi Matenga Memorial Park Scenic Reserve	Kohekohe Walk Tracks	Dogs on a leash only	
		Parata Walking Track		
		Te Au Route		

Table 4.16.4: Horse

Place	Conservation unit	Access	Criteria
All Places	Any public conservation lands and waters		Where grazing is authorised
Central Spine Place	Aorangi Forest Park	Te Kopi to Waikuku	Track maintained by Akatarawa Recreation Committee
	Remutaka Forest Park	Cattle Ridge Road, Mid Slope Road, Mukamuka Stream to South Saddle Remutaka Rail Trail	Access via Coast Road
		Old Logging Road/Mid-Loop Track	Track maintained by community group under the guidance of the Department
Wellington-Kāpiti Place	Whareroa Recreation Reserve	Whareroa Farm Tracks	Car park to Campbell's Mill Road

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Part Two – Places

This section addresses Places in the Wellington region that have been identified for the purposes of integrated conservation management and require some specific management direction. Each Place has a description, an outcome statement (outcome), and tables (that include values, issues and opportunities, policies, and milestones) covering Treaty of Waitangi relationships, natural values, historic values and recreation. See the Introduction for the interpretation of terms within this section and guidance on how to use this conservation management strategy (CMS).

The Places identified in this CMS were chosen based on:

- common values and issues, and a commonality of management considerations, e.g. the forest parks in Central Spine Place; and
- areas of particular importance, e.g. Manawatū Estuary Wetland of International Importance and dune systems in Coastal Dunes Place, and Kāpiti and Mana islands in Islands Place.

The boundaries defined for these Places are solely for the purposes of this CMS and management of these Places, while recognising that areas of association, ecosystems, habitats and species of post-settlement governance entities (PSGEs) and tangata whenua move across these boundaries.

Part Two must be read in conjunction with Part One, the Appendices and maps. Part Two focuses on the values and issues or opportunities that need to be addressed at Place. For example, a Place may have specific Place-based issues regarding biodiversity, but more regionwide issues associated with historic values. As such, the natural values table may

contain more information and policies than the historic values table. The Part One regional natural values provisions would still apply. There is more historic heritage information, such as actively conserved sites and management direction, in Appendix 9.

Note: *The Treaty of Waitangi relationships table does not contain issues, opportunities or policies. Its intent is to acknowledge Treaty settlement partnerships, PSGEs and tangata whenua, and their cultural and spiritual connections and values at Place. All tables within the Places should be read in conjunction with one another, as many are interconnected. At the heart of this CMS is the commitment to work closely with our Treaty partners in all aspects of the Department’s work. This commitment is evident in the issues, opportunities and policies in the natural, historic and recreation tables in each Place, as well as in the Treaty of Waitangi relationships, natural values, historic values, recreation and engagement section in Part One.*

Where the provisions in Part Two are more specific than the provisions in Part One, the more specific provisions of Part Two prevail.

The Places in the Wellington region are:

- [Section 5: Central Spine Place](#)
- [Section 6: Manawatū-Rangitikei Place](#)
- [Section 7: Wairarapa Place](#)
- [Section 8: Coastal Dunes Place](#)
- [Section 9: Islands Place](#)
- [Section 10: Wellington-Kāpiti Place](#)
- [Section 11: Coastal and Marine Place](#)



5. Central Spine Place





5.1 Description

Central Spine Place is made up of the Ruahine, Tararua, Remutaka, and Aorangi forest parks (the forest parks), Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve and a number of public conservation lands and waters next to the forest parks (see Map 7.1). The forest parks are managed to protect their natural, cultural and historic values and resources, and subject to this purpose, to facilitate public recreation and enjoyment.

The forest parks form the spine of the region, covering the chain of mountains extending from East Cape to Cook Strait. They are characteristically steep and rugged, with sharp-crested ridges and steep-sided valleys typical of a deeply dissected landscape. They encompass mountainous landscapes containing extensive tracts of relatively unmodified indigenous vegetation, including emergent podocarps, kohekohe, beech forests, and sub-alpine shrubland, with areas of alpine grasslands. Similarly, Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve forms part of the spine, and its landscape provides the community and visitors with a stunning sight, with its steep greywacke ranges rising on both sides of the Manawatū River and with indigenous forest and shrublands remaining on its steep sides.

Central Spine Place is indicative of many of the values in the Wellington region. It plays a significant role in the cultural history of PSGEs and tangata whenua, features notable geological features – including landforms created by faults and uplift – has historic and recreation significance, and contains threatened fauna and flora, including whio/blue duck, North Island brown kiwi, North Island kākā, kākārīki/red-crowned parakeet (*Cyanoramphus novaeseelandiae*), kārearea/New Zealand falcon (*Falco novaeseelandiae*), small-scaled skink (*Oligosoma microlepis*), pekapeka/short-tailed bat (*Mystacina tuberculata rhyacobia*), pua o te reinga/woodrose (*Dactylanthus taylorii*), black matipo/kōhūhū (*Pittosporum tenuifolium*), pikirangi/red mistletoe (*Peraxilla tetrapetala*), and tāpia/white mistletoe (*Tupeia antarctica*).

A focus for the Department in the Wellington region is to improve people's connection with, and enjoyment and use of, nature. In turn, this enhances health and wellbeing. Central Spine Place embodies this goal by providing the community and visitors with access to special places where they can escape the urban environment and engage in recreation and backcountry experiences, learn about nature through education initiatives, and immerse themselves in nature by becoming involved in conservation activities supported by the Department.

5.2 Outcome

Central Spine Place is valued for its spectacular natural features and expansive landscapes. Communities value the ecosystem services provided by this Place. Geological features remain in their natural state. Structures such as huts and bridges complement natural features.

Extinctions of threatened species, including whio/blue duck, North Island kākā and giant land snail (*Powelliphanta* spp.) have not occurred, and populations are safe and improving where sustained pest and wild animal management and monitoring is occurring. Ecosystems are recovering or are in a healthy functioning state as a result of Department-led programmes, which are integrated with PSGEs and tangata whenua, and other conservation partners²³. Pest and wild animal control work, undertaken with others, means that users of the forest parks and Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve detect an increase in indigenous bird song, including from North Island kākā, tūi (*Passeriformes novaeseelandiae*), and kākārīki/red-crowned parakeet.

The Department works alongside PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners by implementing new technologies and predator-control tools to undertake collaborative landscape-scale, predator-control and restoration projects that see a decrease in predator numbers. As a result, the number and range of protected and thriving species and ecosystems has increased and New Zealanders are inspired by the work undertaken in this Place.

²³ In this document, 'conservation partners' includes local authorities, private landowners, community groups and the public.



The ecosystem services provided by the waters in this Place are better understood and enhance freshwater ecosystems away from public conservation lands and waters.

The network of historic sites – which includes huts, tracks and cultural sites – is protected, and stories enable visitors to connect with the past. A direct connection with history occurs through ongoing public use of historic huts. The Department is engaged with the community, PSGEs and tangata whenua to identify historic and cultural values, and they are actively involved in telling these stories to visitors.

More people participate in recreation in this Place. Visitors enjoy a wide range of experiences, from small group activities to easily accessible walking, hunting, mountain biking and vehicle use areas, and accommodation areas such as huts and campsites. Recreation networks and new opportunities are managed in cooperation with PSGEs and tangata whenua, commercial concessionaires and users. Access to the forest parks, including helicopter access, is managed to balance impacts on all forest park users and the environment. Visitors encounter aircraft occasionally in the Ruahine, Tararua, and Remutaka Forest Parks, and only rarely in Aorangi Forest Park.

Recreational hunting is a popular and supported recreation activity in the forest parks. Wild animal numbers are managed so that natural habitats and ecosystems are recovering or in a healthy state. Hunting is encouraged to assist with the control of deer, goats and pigs, in collaboration with national and local hunting groups, and commercial concessionaires.

A network of backcountry destinations providing access and accommodation is maintained within the parks in accordance with Department and community priorities, funding and visitor demand. Access and accommodation are also provided or maintained by community volunteer organisations and partners. Supporting this network, access points to the forest parks – particularly to Aorangi

and Ruahine forest parks – have been legally formalised with private landowners, local authorities and the New Zealand Walking Access Commission. Users of the forest parks are aware of the restrictions and their responsibilities when crossing private lands, through improved communications and information. Conflicts between users of the forest parks are managed.

The natural playground and the range of recreation opportunities in the forests parks are suitable for all ages and abilities, and demonstrate how conservation and recreation can exist together.

The cooperative relationship between the Department, PSGEs and tangata whenua, and their involvement in the management of the forest parks, is greatly enhanced through their input into decision-making and sharing of knowledge and skills, particularly in biodiversity and recreation projects. The Department is engaging with PSGEs and tangata whenua early on its processes, ensuring that they are meaningfully involved in decision-making for sites of importance to them.

Through successful and positive partnerships between the Department, PSGEs and tangata whenua, and other conservation partners, Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve's biodiversity, scenic and recreational values are preserved, sustained and enhanced. Biodiversity threats are assessed and are sustainably managed. The reserve is managed as a special place, with re-introduction of indigenous birdlife alongside high visitor use and community support.

Private accommodation huts in Orongorongo and Corner Creek valleys have been, or are being phased out, or are publicly available. The publicly available huts are managed predominantly by groups and clubs whose membership is readily open. Hut access is not restricted, and they are used for short, temporary stays.



5.3 Policies

5.3.1 Treaty of Waitangi relationships ²⁴	
Treaty settlement information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deeds of Recognition set out an agreement between the Minister of Conservation and a claimant group in recognition of their special association with identified sites, and specify the nature of their input into the management of the sites.
PSGE and tangata whenua within this Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) Claims Settlement Act 2009 provides for a Deed of Recognition for Remutaka Forest Park. The Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 provides for Deeds of Recognition for Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve, the Ruahine and Tararua forest parks, and five rivers – Manawatū, Rangitikei, Pohangina, Oroua and Mangahao rivers – with headwaters in this Place. The Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tamaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017 provides for Deeds of Recognition for Pukeahurangi/Jumbo and Pukeamoamo/Mitre peaks, both in Tararua Forest Park, and two rivers with headwaters in this Place. The Heretaunga Tamatea Deed of Settlement 2015 provides for Deeds of Recognition for Ruahine Forest (East) Conservation Area and part of Ruahine Forest Park. The Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua Deed of Settlement 2018 provides for a Deed of Recognition for Remutaka Forest Park. Other tangata whenua with ancestral lands in this Place, at different stages of the Treaty settlement process, are Muaūpoko, Ngā Iwi nui tonu o Mōkai Pātea (the confederated iwi of Mōkai Pātea, which includes Ngāi Te Ohuake, Ngāti Hauiti, Ngāti Whitikaupeka and Ngāti Tamakōpiri iwi), Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, and Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai. <p>See Section 2 (Treaty of Waitangi relationships) in Part One and Appendix 16 for more information.</p>
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Māori values for the Place are considerable, relating to Māori tracks, pā punanga/refuges, mahinga kai/food-gathering sites and the whakapapa/genealogy to the land that comes with place names, stories and wāhi tapu/sacred places. Māori names for features in the forest parks, such as rivers, peaks and valleys, convey the close relationships and associations Māori have with the forest parks. The forest parks and headwaters were used as refuges during tribal wars, for food sources, and for routes to the interiors. There is plenty of archaeological evidence throughout the forest parks, including recovered adzes, obsidian flakes and hāngi pits, showing that Māori regularly travelled through the parks. This Place is important for access to materials for cultural reasons such as pikopiko/fern shoot and watercress. There are also indicators of mauri, such as specific plants which indicate health. Kaitiakitanga/guardianship of ngahere/forest and the taonga flora and fauna here is important to tangata whenua within this Place.

²⁴ See also Table 5.3.3 Historic values.



5.3.2

Natural values

Values

- There are four priority ecosystem units within this Place: Manawatū Gorge (Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve), Northern Ruahine (Ruahine Forest Park), Upper Waiohine River (Tararua Forest Park), and Mount Barton (Aorangi Forest Park). These areas are prioritised for the indigenous species, habitats and ecosystems they support, including North Island brown kiwi, whio/blue duck, North Island kāka, giant land snail, barking gecko (*Naultinus elegans punctatus*) and areas of mixed conifer-broadleaved and beech forests on greywacke ranges (see Appendix 4).
- Ecosystem services are the direct and indirect contributions of ecosystems to human wellbeing. The forest parks provide important services to the community, including:
 - protection of water quality and quantity;
 - soil creation and retention, and carbon sequestration to mitigate human production of carbon dioxide and its effects on the climate, due to the extensive forest cover; and
 - water supply catchments for many towns and adjoining lands.
- The forest parks are valued for their indigenous forest habitats, including podocarp, alpine herbfields, extensive tussock grasslands, open alpine tops and subalpine vegetation, and beech and fuchsia forests. These habitats support a large diversity of plants and animals, such as the pua o te reinga/woodrose, leafless mistletoe, North Island kākā, and kārearea/New Zealand falcon (see Appendices 2 and 5). These forest habitats and vegetation contribute to the flow of clean water, identified in the ecosystem services above.
- Improvements in pest and wild animal control and monitoring in certain parts of the forest parks, with a focus on the pests and wild animals that are the greatest threat to indigenous fauna and forest systems, have resulted in significant drops in pest numbers. They have also resulted in increasing populations of some indigenous bird species, including tītipounamu/North Island rifleman (*Acanthisitta chloris granti*), pōpokotea/whitehead (*Mohoua albicilla*) and kākārīki/red-crowned parakeet. Project Kākā, conducted in the Tararua Forest Park, is a positive example of this type of ongoing work throughout the forest parks.
- There are two gazetted Ecological Areas in Tararua Forest Park: Penn Creek and Manakau. These contain successions of montane to alpine vegetation, including a sequence of montane hardwood conifer forests, and lowland and montane forests respectively.
- Central Spine Place has many significant landscapes, namely the Ruahine, Tararua, Remutaka, and Aorangi ranges, and the Putangirua Pinnacles. These landscapes provide the neighbouring communities and visitors with an immense forested skyline and mountain range backdrop, and dramatic prominent pinnacles (see Appendix 8).

Issues and opportunities

- Threats to public conservation lands and waters, protected wildlife, and ecosystem services within this Place include pest animals such as possums, mustelids, rats and feral cats (*Felis catus*); plants including wilding pines and the potential threat of didymo; wild animals (see Appendix 6); unauthorised grazing; stock trespassing; and fire. Managing these threats will be important to minimise damage to ecosystems and enhance the ecological resilience of the forests and vegetation.



5.3.2

Natural values continued

Issues and opportunities continued

- Greater partnerships with others in pest and wild animal management, and improvements in monitoring, may lead to expansions of remnant populations of threatened plants and animals and re-introductions of locally extinct species within the Place. Protecting existing whio/blue duck and North Island brown kiwi populations is a priority for the Department.
- Deer, pigs and goats are present throughout the forest parks and require management, but are recognised as a recreational and commercial hunting resource. The Department recognises that recreational hunters in the Wellington region have been a traditional control method for wild animals for many decades, but also that commercial aerial hunting provides effective control. While it is a function of the Department to foster the use of natural and historic resources for recreation, this must be managed so it is not inconsistent with their conservation. The Department's primary function under section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987 is to 'manage for conservation purposes, all land, and all other natural and historic resources, for the time being held under this Act, and all other land and natural and historic resources whose owner agrees with the Minister that they should be managed by the Department'. Preservation and protection of indigenous species and their habitats and ecosystems is a core role of the Department. Understanding the numbers, trends and impacts of wild animals on biodiversity can assist in their management. An adaptive management approach is needed to allow control to be varied in response to the observed effects of wild animals.
- Recreational and commercial hunting is encouraged for its contribution to wild animal and pest control, in addition to its recreational importance.
- Private landowners adjoining the forest parks, PSGEs, tangata whenua, local authorities, agencies and community groups are undertaking restoration initiatives and pest plant control in this Place, particularly in northern Ruahine Forest Park and Aorangi Forest Park. Building on this community commitment, and Predator Free 2050 and Predator Free Wellington opportunities, there is growing support to work towards a collaborative landscape-scale restoration project in this Place. The Department will continue to work with and support these groups to undertake this work.
- Pest and wild animal control undertaken in this Place and on adjoining lands by the Department, Greater Wellington Regional Council, private landowners and others continues to benefit water storage capacity and water quality.

Policies

- 5.3.2.1 Lead and work with PSGEs, tangata whenua, hunters and other conservation partners in Central Spine Place to:
- a) control pest and wild animal populations to protect indigenous species and encourage regeneration of forests and other vegetation;
 - b) identify areas for re-introduction of indigenous species; and
 - c) investigate opportunities to initiate wide-scale landscape pest control programmes.
- 5.3.2.2 Partner with recreational and commercial hunting groups and others to create a deer management plan for Ruahine Forest Park that applies an adaptive management approach and is consistent with the statutory functions of the Department and the values, outcomes and policies for Central Spine Place.
- 5.3.2.3 Revoke the Ruahine Forest Park Conservation Management Plan 1992 following the development and implementation of the deer management plan for Ruahine Forest Park, as provided for in Policy 5.3.2.2.



5.3.3 Historic values	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are several important cultural and historic sites throughout this Place, telling the stories of early Māori, genealogical links, whakapapa and old trails. They are also a resource for kai, rongoā/medicine and refuge. The forest parks were used as areas of exploration by early moa hunters, for tribal settlement, and for trails traversing east to west. • The Manawatū Gorge was used as a means of transport by Māori, who would haul their waka upstream through the rapids. It was used as an access point from east to west. • There is also much evidence of European settlement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the presence of log haulers, tramlines, logging tracks, timber mill sites, tramping huts, and sites associated with Remutaka Incline Railway; - areas such as the Colenso basin in the Ruahine Forest Park (associated with missionary William Colenso, who may have been the first European to cross the Ruahine Range), that reflect the stories of early Europeans attempting to traverse the terrain, which was new to them. • These tangible historic places allow the communities of Central Spine Place to immerse themselves in the history and contribution this Place has had on early settlement, industry, and backcountry recreation (see Appendix 9). • The Remutaka Incline Railway is a historic site at the northern entrance to the Remutaka Forest Park (see Appendix 9) and is also registered with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga as a historic area. Communities and visitors value the Remutaka Incline Railway as a special part of New Zealand’s national railway network history, especially as it is one of the 10 most significant railway heritage sites in the world (see Appendix 9). • Tararua Forest Park was the first forest park to be created in New Zealand, in 1954. The history of tramping is particularly significant in the Tararua Forest Park, as this was one of the first areas in New Zealand to attract recreational tramping and the formation of tramping clubs.
Issues and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The profile of the historic huts in the forest parks can be raised so visitors learn about some of the oldest surviving buildings in New Zealand’s mountain regions, their associated histories, and how they were constructed in remote circumstances. • Improving interpretation and how historic stories are told will encourage Central Spine Place to be seen as a destination for historical and cultural significance, as well as recreation. These values complement one another.
Policies	<p>5.3.3.1 Improve interpretation and people’s understanding of the historic importance of Central Spine Place to backcountry and outdoor recreation by working with Federated Mountain Clubs and other local tramping and outdoor clubs.</p> <p>5.3.3.2 Work with PSGEs and tangata whenua to identify important natural and cultural sites within the forest parks, and together, develop a method of telling the stories of their connection to areas within this Place.</p>



5.3.4

Recreation

Values

- The sense of nature enjoyed by visitors to Central Spine Place is central to their experience. The ability to challenge oneself with a multi-day tramp or a family-friendly day walk provides spiritual nourishment and wellbeing to users of this Place, and a sense of connection to special places and conservation.
- A number of recreational destinations within Central Spine Place help introduce New Zealanders to the outdoors and improve their understanding of conservation. Examples include the Mount Holdsworth–Jumbo Circuit, tracks within the Manawatū Gorge, Waiohine River gorge, Orongorongo River valley, the Remutaka Rail Trail, and walks to Sunrise and Rangiwahia huts (see Appendix 10).
- This Place is valued by the people of the Wellington region because of the diverse range of recreation opportunities it offers at their back door, including tramping, hunting, walking and mountain biking, as well as Te Araroa Trail.
- Central Spine Place has a long history of backcountry and remote recreation opportunities, and holds meaning and value for the public as the stamping grounds of New Zealand’s first tramping clubs.
- Each of the forest parks provides a range of recreation opportunities from backcountry tramping and adventuring, to four-wheel driving, mountain biking, horse-riding and other family-friendly activities catering to many capabilities, and the ongoing needs of users.
 - Aorangi Forest Park is the only gazetted Recreational Hunting Area²⁵ (RHA) in the Wellington region. The predominant visitors to Aorangi Forest Park are recreational deer and pig hunters, who use and value a series of huts and tracks in the Park.
 - The close proximity and accessibility of the forest parks to urban centres such as Palmerston North, Napier, Hastings, Wellington and Masterton, makes them a popular recreation spot for trampers, hunters, day walkers and families.
 - The network of recreation facilities in the forest parks provides both challenging and easier outdoor experiences.
- Users of Central Spine Place value it for the recreational opportunities they can undertake in a diverse range of environments and landscapes, which include tussock and rocky ridges, tussock basins and plateaus, montane forest, lower altitude forest, subalpine scrub, mountain streams, gorges and river flats.

25 Haurangi Recreational Hunting Area



5.3.4

Recreation continued

Issues and opportunities

- Some parts of the forest parks are not easily accessible because of the need to cross private land. Visitors may not always be aware of these restrictions and their responsibilities when using access points across private lands. Formalising agreements with landowners at specific access points is a priority for the Department. The Department recognises the public good that private landowners do in providing visitors with access for recreation to this Place, and intends to work in a collaborative and mutually beneficial way to ensure that this continues.
- There is an opportunity to partner with conservation partners to jointly promote recreational activities and encourage new types of visitors. For example, attracting visitors who may be more used to easily accessible recreation opportunities in an urban or front country setting, building their confidence and ability, so that they can experience more challenging backcountry adventures and experiences. In particular, highlighting the different recreational opportunities available in the regional parks – which are managed by the Greater Wellington Regional Council – and the forest parks – managed by the Department – to encourage complementary use.
- Recreational and commercial aircraft in this Place can facilitate use and enjoyment by the public by providing access to difficult-to-reach places. Conversely, aircraft activity can have adverse effects on values such as amenity, natural quiet, wildlife and remoteness. The Department acknowledges that demand for access could change during the life of the CMS and that there is a need to balance access demands with recreational and conservation values. The Department is committed to monitoring the effects of aircraft use in this Place and using this to establish evidenced-based thresholds that indicate when recreational and conservation values are being adversely affected. These thresholds will allow the Department to manage aircraft use in an adaptive way through its concessions process. Any concessions issued or renewed before the thresholds are established could include an ability to review limits once the thresholds are established.
- Designated aircraft landing sites within Ruahine Forest Park allow some areas to be used by aircraft, but also ensure that the natural quiet and backcountry experience of other users are protected. Over the life of the CMS, the Department may increase the number of designated landing sites in consultation with PSGEs and tangata whenua, concessionaires, user groups and other conservation partners.
- Aorangi Forest Park does not have designated aircraft landing sites, but conditions for all aircraft landings within these forest parks ensure that sensitive cultural sites and the experience of other users of the forest parks are protected. Aircraft access to Aorangi Forest Park needs to be balanced with its management as a Recreational Hunting Area (RHA).
- There is an opportunity to create a safe multi-day backcountry tramping experience in Tararua Forest Park, from Kaitoke Carpark Track to the Mount Holdsworth Track. If the investigation shows that it will contribute to the recreation facilities, there is evidence of demand, and there are no adverse effects on criteria – including wildlife and vegetation, visitor experience, or historic or cultural values – then further development of this opportunity may occur, including the repair and maintenance of the existing track. There may also be possibilities to investigate whether tracks in Ruahine Forest Park would be suitable for such an experience.



5.3.4

Recreation continued

Issues and opportunities continued

- The Department is running a trial over two years on selected tracks (see Policy 5.3.4.5) to assess whether they are suitable for mountain biking and electric power-assisted pedal cycling, in response to user demand.
- Private accommodation on public conservation lands and waters within Central Spine Place is located in the Orongorongo and Corner Creek valleys within Remutaka Forest Park (see Appendix 12). The owners of huts in Orongorongo River valley have been issued with licences for the duration of their personal lifetime or for a term of 60 years, whichever is earliest. Any licence running for 60 years will expire in 2050. At Corner Creek, some hut owners have been granted licences for the duration of their personal lifetime or licences are due to expire in 2019, whichever is earliest. Licences for both Orongorongo River and Corner Creek valleys are non-transferable and include conditions to protect the environment and ensure that the buildings are maintained to a reasonable standard and not extended in size. The private accommodation and related facilities are not currently available for general public use. Under the Conservation General Policy 2005²⁶, the use of private accommodation for private purposes is to be phased out, unless public use on an open basis has been phased in, or the private accommodation has been retained by the Department for public use. The Department acknowledges that phasing out private accommodation is a difficult and contentious issue for owners, many of whom have a long history of occupation. In many cases the accommodation may have been passed down through several generations. However, the Department manages public conservation lands and waters for the benefit of the people of New Zealand and visitors, and it is not appropriate for individuals to have and maintain private accommodation and related facilities for exclusive private use. For the option of phasing in public use, the Department recognises that owners have concerns about how this would be applied and managed. These details do not need to be in the CMS as they will be negotiated case-by-case between the Department and hut owners, but they are issues that the Department intends to work through collaboratively with hut owners, in keeping with the national approach to private accommodation. Once these licences expire or the owner dies, the Department intends to work with hut owners to phase in public use (potentially by management agreements) or to remove the buildings.
- Management of deer, pigs and goats is important to ensure that the Department can continue to preserve and protect natural habitats and ecosystems in this Place. The Department recognises hunting as a method for wild animal control, but also as a valued recreational activity in its own right. The Department also acknowledges there are tensions between the activity of recreational hunting and wild animal recovery operations (WARO). The Department intends to work with both groups to manage these tensions to protect both the recreational benefits of hunting and the natural habits and ecosystems by managing the impacts of deer on indigenous forests. A condition associated with WARO concessions is that the activity must be consistent with a CMS, and the decision-maker will need to take that into consideration with assessing an application for WARO in the Wellington region.

²⁶ Conservation General Policy on private accommodation and related facilities: www.doc.govt.nz/cgp-accommodation-facilities



5.3.4

Recreation continued

Policies

- 5.3.4.1 Promote recreational opportunities and their integrated management through joint projects and shared initiatives with local authorities, cycle trail Trusts, private landowners, and other interested parties.
- 5.3.4.2 Work with private landowners and the New Zealand Walking Access Commission to improve public access to the forest parks by:
- improving access at sites the Department manages;
 - identifying specific access points over private land to the forest parks; and
 - formalising workable access agreements over these access points.
- 5.3.4.3 Investigate the feasibility of new multi-day backcountry tramping experiences in Ruahine Forest Park and in Tararua Forest Park – from Kaitoke Carpark Track to the Mount Holdsworth Track.
- 5.3.4.4 Should allow vehicles²⁷ within Central Spine Place in accordance with Policies 4.13.6 and 4.13.10 (Section 4.13 Vehicles).
- 5.3.4.5 Investigate the demand for and feasibility of providing mountain biking and electric power-assisted pedal cycling on the following tracks:
- Coppermine Loop Track and Coppermine Track (Ruahine Forest Park);
 - Kawakawa Hut to Mangatoetoe (Aorangi Forest Park); and
 - Remutaka Summit to Pylon Road, and Frith Track–Pylon Road to Tauherenikau (Tararua Forest Park).
- 5.3.4.6 Depending on the outcome of Policy 5.3.4.5, may allow mountain biking and electric power-assisted pedal cycling subject to the track being upgraded to mountain biking standards, and in accordance with Policy 5.3.4.4.
- 5.3.4.7 Phase out private-only use of the private accommodation and related facilities from the Orongorongo River and Corner Creek valleys, within Remutaka Forest Park, in accordance with Policies 4.10.1–4.10.7 (Section 4.10 Private accommodation) and in consultation with hut owners.
- 5.3.4.8 Should assess concession applications for deer, pig and goat carcass recovery, and deer live capture in Central Spine Place against the following criteria:
- consistency with Policy 4.15.1 (section 4.15 Wild and game animals in Part One);
 - consideration of the Ruahine Forest Park deer management plan (when it is developed in accordance with Policy 5.3.2.2);
 - effects on visitors;
 - consultation with affected parties and stakeholders, including PSGEs, tangata whenua and recreational and commercial hunters; and
 - effect on recreational hunters during the roar period.

²⁷ See Section 4 and Glossary.



5.3.4	Recreation continued
Policies continued	<p>5.3.4.9 Work with aircraft operators, the Wellington Conservation Board, tangata whenua and user groups to monitor aircraft in this Place to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) assess its impacts on visitor experience and natural and cultural values; andb) establish an evidenced-based threshold for acceptable aircraft use. <p>5.3.4.10 If any adverse effects monitored in 5.3.4.9 are more than minor or values are vulnerable to degradation, the Department may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) reduce the number of aircraft landing concessions allowed in this Place; and/orb) work with concessionaires and other interested parties to protect impacts on visitor experience and natural and cultural values.



5.4 Milestones

Please note: These milestones should be read in conjunction with the regionwide milestones in Section 3.5.

Treaty of Waitangi relationships	Natural values	Historic values	Recreation values
<p><i>Sharing of knowledge and skills</i></p> <p>5.4.1 Improved understanding of the Māori world view of ecosystem services provided by the waters in this Place (Year 10).</p>	<p><i>Thriving indigenous species</i></p> <p>5.4.2 Established whether short-tailed bat population exists in Tararua Forest Park (Year 4).</p> <p><i>Biodiversity threats – plants</i></p> <p>5.4.3 Ensured Ruahine and Tararua forest parks remain free of old man’s beard (Years 1, 7, 10).</p> <p>5.4.4 Controlled wilding conifers in accordance with the New Zealand Wilding Conifer Management Strategy 2015–2050 to the point where the alpine and subalpine areas are free from wilding conifers (Year 10).</p> <p><i>Goats</i></p> <p>5.4.5 Quantified goat populations in Ruahine and Tararua forest parks (Year 4).</p>	<p><i>Stories of historic places told</i></p> <p>5.4.12 Improved storytelling along the Remutaka Rail Trail (Year 1).</p> <p>5.4.13 Improved storytelling at timber industry actively conserved historic places at Otaki (Year 4).</p> <p><i>Historic sites protected</i></p> <p>5.4.14 Completed heritage assessments and conservation plans for Cone and Pararaki huts (Year 1).</p>	<p><i>Public access</i></p> <p>5.4.15 Developed a strategy to secure access into areas of Ruahine and Aorangi forest parks without permanent legal access (Year 1).</p> <p><i>Recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities</i></p> <p>5.4.16 Installed a new Siberia Bridge and upgraded Remutaka Incline Track to meet New Zealand Cycle Trails Grade 2 standard (Year 1).</p> <p>5.4.17 Investigated the feasibility of developing an easy, family-friendly tramping experience in Ruahine and/or Tararua forest parks (Year 7).</p>



5.4 Milestones continued

Treaty of Waitangi relationships	Natural values	Historic values	Recreation values
	<p>5.4.6 Ensured goat populations in Ruahine and Tararua forest parks are the same or less than those at Year 4 (Year 10).</p> <p>5.4.7 Eradicated goats from Aorangi Forest Park (Year 10).</p> <p>5.4.8 Maintained goat-free status of Manawatū Gorge Scenic Reserve (Years 1, 4, 7, 10).</p> <p><i>Pest control</i></p> <p>5.4.9 Extended pest control over all of Remutaka Forest Park in partnership with the community (Year 7).</p> <p><i>Ruahine deer management</i></p> <p>5.4.10 Developed a deer management plan for Ruahine Forest Park (Year 4).</p> <p>5.4.11 Evaluated the effectiveness of the deer management plan for Ruahine Forest Park (Year 10).</p>		<p><i>Orongorongo huts</i></p> <p>5.4.18 Completed an inventory, including ownership, of all huts and accommodation (Year 1).</p> <p>5.4.19 Made decisions on the future use and management of huts and accommodation with expired licences (Year 4).</p> <p>5.4.20 Removed or re-purposed any huts not subject to licence or management agreement (Year 10).</p> <p><i>Aircraft monitoring</i></p> <p>5.4.21 Developed a monitoring system for the effects of aircraft use in this Place (Year 2).</p> <p>5.4.22 Established an evidenced-based threshold for aircraft use and managed aircraft consistently within this Place (Years 4, 7, 10).</p>

6. Manawatū-Rangitikei Place



Rangitikei River in Manawatū-Rangitikei Place. Photographer: Shellie Evans



6.1 Description

Manawatū-Rangitikei Place comprises land of low elevation and relief north-west of the Tararua Range and extends north to steep rolling hill country, with prominent landscape features of river valleys and terraces – such as the Rangitikei and Pohangina – and dramatic cliffs to the west of the Ruahine Range. Geologically, Manawatū-Rangitikei Place is distinct within Te Ika-a-Māui/the North Island, with a mix of basement greywacke hills and ignimbrite and volcanic ash in valleys grading to wide alluvial terraces with ash and loess cover. The sequence of rocks within the Rangitikei River valley is the oldest part of the Whanganui basin succession – part of New Zealand’s Plio-Pleistocene record.

The Place contains several large river systems, including the Rangitikei and Manawatū rivers, forming mosaics of river channels meandering within their beds. The river systems provide much of the life flowing through this Place in terms of their ecological, recreational, cultural and economic importance to the Wellington region. These river systems are also major settings for recreation, with canoeing, white water rafting, jetboating and trout fishing enjoyed here. The importance of the Rangitikei River for recreation has been recognised through the granting of a Water Conservation Order (1992) for the upper reach, recognising its highly valued wild and scenic characteristics and outstanding recreational and fisheries values.

When European settlement of the Manawatū-Rangitikei Place began, the plains were the easiest to develop for timber resources and pastoral farming. As a result of this, much of the tall podocarp-broadleaf forests that once covered this Place were removed and wetlands were drained, leaving only scattered remnant reserves now under protection. The remaining indigenous forests and wetlands generally have high ecological significance and are home to five taxa of the giant land snail, the nationally critical daisy *Celmisia* aff. *gracilentia*, pekapeka/indigenous bats, pua o te reinga/woodrose, hauhau/brown mudfish and threatened wetland birds. Protection of these areas with high natural values is a priority for the Department.

Much of the land within this Place comprises privately-owned pastoral land, scattered towns including Taihape, Hunterville, Bulls, Feilding and Levin, and the urban centre of Palmerston North. For many of the people living here, and for visitors, the important remnant indigenous reserves within this Place provide an avenue of protection for nature.



6.2 Outcome

The distinctive large-scale landforms in the Rangitikei Hills give visitors a sense of isolation in which to appreciate the wildness of the landscape while following the Rangitikei River from Mangaweka to Ohingaiti. These landscapes of geological significance are managed within a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development among the Department, local authorities and others.

Remnant and important ecosystems are recovering and, in some areas, thriving. They are supported by an integrated network of wildlife²⁸ and freshwater corridors linking protected areas on both public and private lands and waters, due to the combined work of PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners. Intensive pest management at these sites, including mammal and weed control, supports healthy, predominantly indigenous ecosystems and thriving threatened species populations. Threatened species populations are improving where this intensive management is occurring, both on and off public conservation lands and waters.

Stock grazing continues to be authorised on suitable public conservation lands, but no longer occurs where there are significant conservation values, including freshwater values, in a joint effort with PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners. Careful management of fire enables ecosystem recovery.

The Department is working closely with PSGEs and tangata whenua to make sure that their relationship with the Place is acknowledged and respected. The Department has engaged PSGEs and tangata whenua early on in its processes, ensuring that they are meaningfully involved in decision-making for sites of importance to them.

Access to landlocked reserves is improved and enhanced by establishing easements and other agreements on private land. Safe and reliable access to these reserves is provided to the public through constructive work between the Department, New Zealand Walking Access Commission, PSGEs and tangata whenua, and other conservation partners.

Reserves, such as Bruce Park and Mangaweka scenic reserves, and others along State Highway 1, are receiving an increase in visitors through joint initiatives and programmes developed with local tourism agencies and interested stakeholders.

Successful conservation initiatives and community-led projects are protecting a representative range of lowland reserve ecosystems, providing corridors for wildlife, and people are recognising the biodiversity and ecosystem services that these provide. Rare ecosystems on private land are integrated into the hill country ecosystem, through the Department's advocacy and work with PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners.

²⁸ See Glossary for definition.



6.3 Policies

6.3.1 Treaty of Waitangi relationships ²⁹	
Treaty settlement information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deeds of Recognition set out an agreement between the Minister of Conservation and a claimant group in recognition of their special association with identified sites, and specify the nature of their input into the management of the sites.
PSGE and tangata whenua within this Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ngāti Apa (North Island) Claims Settlement Act 2010 provides for Deeds of Recognition for Ruakiwi, situated in Simpson Scenic Reserve, north of Hunterville. • The Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 provides for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deeds of Recognition for Manawatū, Rangitikei, Pohangina, and Oroua rivers; and - an overlay classification/whenua rāhui for Makurerua Swamp Wildlife Management Reserve (being Makerua Swamp Wildlife Management Reserve). • Other tangata whenua with ancestral lands in this Place, at different stages of the Treaty settlement process, are Ngā Iwi nui tonu o Mōkai Pātea (the confederated iwi of Mōkai Pātea, which includes Ngāi Te Ohuake, Ngāti Hauiti, Ngāti Whitikaupeka and Ngāti Tamakōpiri iwi), Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga and Ngāti Tūwharetoa. <p><i>See Section 2 (Treaty of Waitangi relationships) and Appendix 16 for more information.</i></p>
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manawatū-Rangitikei Place was, and continues to be, a significant area for tangata whenua, with many living beside, and basing their economies on, the numerous river valleys interspersed throughout this Place. • The rivers and river valleys provided fertile soils and a plentiful supply of food, leading to the many wāhi tapu/sacred sites and historically important sites to tangata whenua found here. • Traditional and customary Māori fisheries for species, including tuna/eel, kōkopu/galaxiids, piharau/lamprey (<i>Geotria australis</i>) and inanga/whitebait, hold special significance for tangata whenua as taonga. • Many of the reserves within this Place, including Simpson Scenic Reserve, Pohangina Conservation Area, and Makerua Swamp Wildlife Management Reserve, were sources of mahinga kai/food gathering and of raupō, maire, harakeke/flax and other resources. • Resources within the Place were used for mahi toi/art and, in certain areas, tōtara were felled and floated downstream to make waka.

²⁹ See also Table 6.3.3 Historic values.



6.3.2

Natural values

Values

- There are two priority ecosystem units within this Place, Koputaroa flaxlands (Koputaroa Scientific Reserve) and Titirangi Scenic Reserve. These areas have been chosen based on the threatened habitats and species they contain, including rare kahikatea and pukatea forest, powelliphanta snails, hauhau/brown mudfish, and pua o te reinga/woodrose (see Appendix 4).
- As much of the original indigenous vegetation in this Place has been removed, the remnant reserves generally have a high ecological significance, such as Kohitere Scenic Reserve with vegetation consisting predominantly of tawa, rewarewa and kāmahi, and Makahika Scientific Reserve with vegetation consisting predominantly of tawa-kāmahi forest interspersed with regenerating podocarps (miro, rimu and mataī) (see Appendix 2).
- Both Kohitere Scenic Reserve and Makahika Scientific Reserve are home to the endemic large indigenous land snail species (*Powelliphanta* spp.) found nowhere else in the region. In addition, both pua o te reinga/woodrose and *Celmisia* aff. *gracilent*a are found in the Mangaweka Scenic Reserve (see Appendix 5).
- This Place is of national importance for the diversity of powelliphanta snails it contains. Two subspecies of *Powelliphanta traversi* exist here. All have very restricted distributions and are limited to just a few sites.
- Within Manawatū-Rangitikei Place there are many QEII covenants registered. These covenants play an important role in connecting conservation spaces, and assist in producing thriving ecosystems both on and off public conservation lands and waters. Private landowners continue to enter into these agreements voluntarily to protect the special natural features in this Place, and the Department acknowledges this work.
- A range of conservation issues, including weeds, water quality, and indigenous species protection, are managed cooperatively with PSGEs and tangata whenua, and other conservation partners.
- The Rangitikei River has cut through the local rock exposing 500,000 years of sedimentary record, showing glacio-eustatic sea-level fluctuations. This contributes towards the understanding of global climate change.
- With the many river systems in this Place, both the Manawatū and Rangitikei rivers provide for education and community awareness opportunities about freshwater management issues from ‘mountains to the sea’. PSGEs, tangata whenua, local authorities, private landowners and the communities of this Place are committed to improving the state of the rivers, to sustain fish species and recreational opportunities.
- The stratigraphic sequence from Mangaweka south down to Ohingaiti along the Rangitikei River provides a near complete geological record of late Pliocene sedimentation.



6.3.2

Natural values continued

Issues and opportunities

- Controlling pest plants is a challenge throughout Manawatū-Rangitikei Place and access can often be difficult over steep terrains. The invasive vine, old man’s beard, is an issue in the Rangitikei area. Pest animals such as possums damage indigenous plants like pua o te reinga/woodrose and rātā, while hedgehogs, rodents and mustelids prey on indigenous snails, birds and lizards (see Appendix 6).
- In some areas, domestic stock can enter reserves, browsing on understorey plants, eroding water courses, and disrupting vegetation processes. The Department is seeking fencing initiatives, community involvement and that landowners meet their legal boundary obligations.
- There are gaps in the network of protected areas – many areas are fragmented and isolated by developed land. Many special and rare species and ecosystems are on private land, including pekapeka/long-tailed bat (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*), large land snail, pua o te reinga/woodrose, mistletoe, the non-migratory dwarf inanga/whitebait and Gardner’s tree daisy.
- Land management issues in this Place are leading to degraded water quality and exacerbated erosion, and negatively affecting the habitats of indigenous species. The Department seeks opportunities for further development of partnerships with local authorities, particularly Horizons Regional Council, to work together to address some of these issues.
- The task of restoring and maintaining the remnant reserves is difficult. Increased involvement in conservation issues, conservation engagement and involvement by PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners, can result in the establishment of cross-boundary programmes to manage these reserves.
- The water quality of the Manawatū River is quite degraded. Sediment has reduced the variety and abundance of fish, invertebrates and other life. The Manawatū River’s ability to sustain fish species and improvement of the mauri/life force of the Manawatū River Catchment are a focus for the Manawatū River Leaders’ Forum. This forum is led by Horizons Regional Council and comprises the Department, PSGEs and tangata whenua, local authorities and representatives of the farming, industry and environmental sectors.

Policies

- 6.3.2.1 Manage a range of issues, including pest plants, water quality, and indigenous species protection.
- 6.3.2.2 Develop, with neighbouring landowners, awareness about the condition of fencing within the Place, the importance of good stock-proof fences, and develop an internal prioritised planning programme to regularly check fences.
- 6.3.2.3 Encourage and support landowners of non-protected areas containing significant natural values to seek and implement practical and statutory protection measures.
- 6.3.2.4 Advocate for, and educate the community about, remnant reserve maintenance and restoration, and facilitate increased community involvement in pest plant and animal control.
- 6.3.2.5 Establish wildlife and freshwater corridors to create an integrated network of protected areas across the Place.



6.3.3 Historic values	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manawatū-Rangitikei Place is notable for its extensive history of farming, forestry, and flax milling, particularly at the Miranui Flaxmill in Shannon. Understanding historic heritage allows the public and visitors to learn about the past and the previous cultures in this Place.• There is an easy walk through a podocarp and broadleaf forest remnant in Bruce Park Scenic Reserve, which features a memorial to Robert Cunningham Bruce, a noted pioneer and conservationist who gifted the district several preserved forest remnants (see Appendix 9).• Within Simpson Scenic Reserve was Ruakiwi, a traditional hunting and bird snaring site used extensively by Ngāti Apa (North Island) hapū. They also used Ruakiwi as a nohoanga/camping ground, enabling them to access the abundant resources found in the area. During times of conflict, Ruakiwi and the wider reserve area provided vital food supplies for many kāinga and pā located in the area.• There is a rich cultural history throughout the Manawatū-Rangitikei Place. There are specific areas where traditional hunting and bird snaring took place. There are also significant pā sites along the Rangitikei River.
Issues and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Few cultural and historic sites are recorded on public conservation lands and waters within Manawatū-Rangitikei Place.• Kōiwi tangata/human remains within this Place, especially along the riverbanks, are being disturbed due to natural changes and, sometimes, earthworks.
Policies	See Policies 3.2.2.1-3.2.2.7 in Section 3.2 (Historic values).



6.3.4 Recreation	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserves within this Place provide the public with an alternative recreation opportunity to the nearby forest parks, and cater to a range of ages, fitness levels and capabilities, particularly recreation opportunities at Bruce Park and Mangaweka Scenic Reserves. • The Rangitikei, Hautapu and Oroua rivers are valued for their remote fishing, with both rainbow and brown trout throughout the river systems. • The Rangitikei River is valued by the public and visitors for its plentiful recreational opportunities, including rafting, jetboating, kayaking, swimming and other activities.
Issues and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many of the reserves in this Place are landlocked by private land, which restricts access and use of these reserves by the public for recreation activities. • Water abstraction from the tributaries of the Rangitikei and Hautapu Rivers is potentially having an adverse effect on recreation activities, such as rafting and trout fishing, during summer months. • State Highway 1 brings visitors and travellers through the Manawatū-Rangitikei Place. Promotion of recreation opportunities close to this thoroughfare can lead to increased awareness and more visitors to these areas. • As well as affecting freshwater fish habitats, water quality is also important in terms of people’s ability to enjoy recreation in it. The river systems in this Place are highly valued for activities such as fishing, canoeing, rafting and other water-based activities. The Department will continue its involvement in addressing these ongoing issues (see Policy 6.3.2.1), and seeks to improve the recreational value of rivers and reserves alongside rivers.
Policies	<p>6.3.4.1 Improve public access to public conservation lands and waters, by working with the New Zealand Walking Access Commission and private accommodation.</p> <p>6.3.4.2 Ensure trout fishery, wetland and game bird hunting values are maintained, by working with Fish & Game New Zealand.</p> <p>6.3.4.3 Minimise the adverse effects of water abstraction on recreational use of the rivers flowing through this Place, by working with Horizons Regional Council.</p> <p>6.3.4.4 Develop a programme with local tourism agencies, local authorities and community groups to promote recreation opportunities close to State Highway 1.</p>



6.4 Milestones

Please note: These milestones should be read in conjunction with the regionwide milestones in Section 3.5.

Treaty of Waitangi relationships	Natural values	Historic values	Recreation values
<p>Freshwater</p> <p>6.4.1 Improved and restored the mauri/life force of river systems and their catchments, including the Manawatū, Rangitikei and Pohangina rivers (Years 1, 4, 7, 10).</p>	<p>Integrated wildlife and freshwater corridors</p> <p>6.4.2 Developed a common prioritisation approach to natural values with Horizons Regional Council and local authorities (Year 1).</p> <p>Stock exclusion</p> <p>6.4.3 Identified priority sites to exclude stock from, and undertake fencing (Year 1).</p> <p>6.4.4 Agreed a strategy to exclude stock from priority sites (Year 4).</p> <p>6.4.5 Stock has been excluded from priority sites (Year 10).</p> <p>Biodiversity threats</p> <p>6.4.6 Taken measures to progressively eradicate white bryony from Makino Scenic Reserve and surrounding area (Years 4, 7, 10).</p>	<p>Stories of historic places told</p> <p>6.4.12 Improved historic interpretation and storytelling at Bruce Park and RC Bruce memorials (Year 4).</p> <p>Historic sites protected</p> <p>6.4.13 Assessed the Simpson Scenic Reserve Bridge as a historic asset (Year 1).</p>	<p>Increased visitation to reserves along State Highway</p> <p>6.4.14 Enhanced visitor experience at Bruce Park (Year 1).</p> <p>6.4.15 Increased recreational use of reserves near State Highway 1 (Year 4).</p> <p>6.4.16 Increase the campground services offered at Simpson Scenic Reserve (Year 10).</p>



Treaty of Waitangi relationships	Natural values	Historic values	Recreation values
	<p><i>Old man's beard</i></p> <p>6.4.7 Completed a baseline report detailing the location and extent of old man's beard in Manawatū-Rangitikei Place (Year 1).</p> <p>6.4.8 Established programmes to educate the public about old man's beard control (Year 4).</p> <p>6.4.9 Reduced old man's beard infestations at Titirangi and Utiku scenic reserves to below Year 1 levels (Year 7).</p> <p>6.4.10 Ensured no infestations of old man's beard have occurred on sites that were free of it in Year 1 (Year 10).</p> <p>6.4.11 Ensured old man's beard is not present within 2000 m of Ruahine Forest Park (Years 4, 7, 10).</p>		



7. Wairarapa Place



Wairarapa scene. Photographer: Peter Moore



7.1 Description

Wairarapa Place comprises the Wairarapa plains, formed from gravel deposited by those rivers emanating from the Tararua Range, with the Ruamahanga River and its tributaries being the dominant feature across the plains. The eastern Wairarapa is made up of steep hill country with narrow valleys and a distinctive band of erosion-resistant sandstone-forming jagged hills (taipo), and broader river valleys and intervening hills to the north. This Place contains geomorphic features highlighting its active tectonic history, with marine and alluvial terraces and coastal cliffs acting as reminders of the past.

As with Manawatū-Rangitikei Place, much of Wairarapa Place's original vegetation was removed and wetlands were drained to establish farming and forestry. The remnant reserves have high ecological significance, such as Carter Scenic Reserve and Lowes Bush Scenic Reserve, both containing stands of original wetland and swamp forest vegetation. This Place also includes a range of reserves prized for hunting and fishing, particularly in the eastern hill country.

Two particularly important sites that the Department manages with other partners are Wairarapa Moana and Pukaha/Mount Bruce. Wairarapa Moana is the largest wetland complex in the southern Te Ika-a-Māui/ North Island. It comprises the Lake Wairarapa Wetland Conservation Area and its associated wetlands and reserves, such as Matthews & Boggy Pond Wildlife Reserve, Allsops Bay Wildlife Reserve, and Turners Lagoon Wildlife Reserve. The wetland complex has high

natural heritage value, with a high diversity of wetland habitats, and is an important stop-off for migratory birds. Wairarapa Moana meets the criteria for a Wetland of International Importance for vegetation, culture, waterfowl, waders and fisheries.

Pukaha/Mount Bruce comprises the Pukaha/Mount Bruce Scenic Reserve and the Pukaha/Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre. The wildlife centre, managed by the Pukaha/Mount Bruce Board, offers opportunities for the public to learn about the conservation of indigenous species and is an important captive breeding facility for threatened species. The scenic reserve contains approximately 940 hectares of regenerating indigenous forest, with stands of rimu, northern rātā and kahikatea. The captive breeding programme has contributed towards an increase in species, including Campbell Island teal (*Anas nesiotis*), tuturuatu/shore plover (*Thinornis novaeseelandiae*), kōkako (*Callaeas wilsoni*) and hihi/stitchbird (*Notiomystis cincta*).

With the Government's announcement of Predator Free 2050, there has been enhanced commitment from PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners in this Place for a co-ordinated effort to work towards a vision of a predator-free and ecologically reconnected Wairarapa.



7.2 Outcome

The ongoing viability of the remaining small remnant indigenous forests and wetlands within Wairarapa Place is improving through the cooperative initiatives and efforts with PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners. Unfenced stock, pests, and wild animals are being managed. Remnant areas of indigenous forest and bush provide ecological stepping stones for indigenous fauna, such as North Island kākā and kererū (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*), to move from the coast to the Remutaka and Tararua ranges. This is supported by ever increasing numbers of Ngā Whenua Rāhui and QEII covenants of indigenous forest and bush, which are actively managed by community groups, local authorities and local landowners to control mammalian and pest plants. These new natural heritage areas expand the mountains to sea network, enabling the public and landowners to directly experience previously rare species.

Alongside the Department and with PSGEs and tangata whenua, additional community and public involvement in the management of public conservation lands and waters within this Place is resulting in improved restoration, fencing and ecological mosaic and corridor strategies. The integrated reserves and ecosystems are contributing to better quality water, resulting in improved habitat for freshwater fish, including inanga/galaxiids, tuna/eel and piharau/lamprey.

Alongside PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners, the Department is implementing new technologies and predator control tools to undertake collaborative landscape-scale predator control and restoration projects that result in a decrease in predator numbers.

Wairarapa Place provides appealing recreational opportunities for multiple user groups of differing abilities, including family-friendly and accessible opportunities.

The large range of hill country reserves used for deer, goat and pig hunting are promoted as a recreational destination. Animal numbers are managed with local and national hunting groups and associations, with nationally sought-after trophy animals. Hunting opportunities on public conservation lands and waters within the eastern hill country complement those available on private land. Trout fishing is valued in this Place due to its numerous rivers with good water quality and quantity and easy access.

The Department, alongside its Treaty partners, tells the stories of historic and culturally significant sites within Wairarapa Place. PSGEs and tangata whenua have identified wāhi tapu appropriate to be shared with the public, and together, PSGEs and tangata whenua and the Department educate schools, visitors and the public about respect for wāhi tapu, species and the environment.

The Department works with other key stakeholders, such as local authorities and private landowners, to manage pest species on private land, helping to significantly increase the numbers of threatened and at-risk indigenous flora and fauna in this Place.



Wairarapa Moana

Wairarapa Moana is classified as a Wetland of International Importance. It has a resilient ecosystem, with thriving populations of indigenous flora and fauna, including the rare sand tussock (*Austrofestuca littoralis*), pīngao, matuku-hūrepo/Australasian bittern, and tētē/grey teal (*Anas gracilis*). Wairarapa Moana has a full range of wetland habitats, with the associated indigenous species actively protected and enhanced through Departmental and local initiatives. The Department and the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board³⁰ are actively targeting pest fish (see Appendix 6), which is resulting in shortfin and longfin tuna/eels, common bully (*Gobiomorphus cotidianus*) and hauhau/brown mudfish becoming abundant.

PSGEs and tangata whenua are telling the cultural history of Wairarapa Moana. Significant wāhi tapu/sacred sites and historical sites are identified and protected. Traditional values associated with harvesting harakeke/flax and raupō are re-established with PSGEs and tangata whenua, and the area is rich with kaimoana.

Wairarapa Moana is a well-visited nature tourism destination where visitors can experience a vibrant place with numerous wading birds and a number of family-friendly day walks. Access has been improved and visitors enjoy a range of recreational opportunities complementing those available on and off public conservation lands and waters. On-site interpretation highlights the cultural and natural values, such as birdlife and the coastal wetland ecosystem of Wairarapa Moana.

³⁰ The Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board will be established as a result of the Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016. At the time of writing, this board has not yet been established.

Pukaha/Mount Bruce

Pukaha/Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre and Pukaha/Mount Bruce Scenic Reserve are internationally renowned for captive breeding of indigenous threatened species, re-introducing threatened species and for ecosystem restoration. The captive breeding programme enables a large number of indigenous birds, such as kōkako and North Island kākā, to recover in sufficient numbers to be released throughout Wairarapa Place and the adjoining forest parks. The Department works closely with the Pukaha/Mount Bruce Management Board to achieve these goals.



7.3 Policies

7.3.1 Treaty of Waitangi relationships ³¹	
Treaty settlement information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deeds of Recognition set out an agreement between the Minister of Conservation and a claimant group in recognition of their special association with identified sites and specify the nature of their input into the management of the sites.
PSGE and tangata whenua within this Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017 provides for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pukaha/Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre and the Pukaha/Mount Bruce Scenic Reserve to be vested in Rangitāne, which will then gift them back to the Crown and the people of New Zealand; - Deeds of Recognition for Lowes Bush Scenic Reserve, Oumakura Scenic Reserve and Rewa Bush Conservation area; - an overlay classification for Haukōpuapua Scenic Reserve, Pukaha/Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre and Pukaha/Mount Bruce Scenic Reserve; and - the establishment of a Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board. • The Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua Deed of Settlement 2018 provides for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deeds of Recognition for Rewa Bush Conservation Area, Rocky Hills Sanctuary Area, Carter Scenic Reserve, Lowes Bush Scenic Reserve and Oumakura Scenic Reserve; and - the establishment of a Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board. <p><i>See Section 2 (Treaty of Waitangi relationships) and Appendix 16 for more information.</i></p>
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The great forest Te Tapere-nui-o-Whātonga (known as Seventy Mile Bush) offered rich cultivations and a plentiful supply of timber for buildings, firewood and waka. • Wairarapa Moana supplied abundant kai and other resources for tangata whenua, plentiful in tuna/eel, pātiki/flounder, inanga/whitebait, kōkopu, fern root and kōrau/root vegetable. • There are many wāhi tapu/sacred places and urupā/burial grounds in Wairarapa Place, including at Castlepoint Scenic Reserve. • Tangata whenua used many of the once swamp-covered lowland forests for bird-snaring, and the creeks and swamps for providing tuna/eel and other fish species.

³¹ See also Table 7.3.3 Historic values.



7.3.2

Natural values

Values

- Many of the reserves on public conservation lands and waters, including the six priority ecosystem units of Lowes Bush Scenic Reserve and Carter Scenic Reserve, Tuhitarata (Tuhitarata Bush Scenic Reserve), Red River (Akitio) (Red River Scenic Reserve), Rewa Bush Conservation Area and Lake Onoke (Lake Wairarapa Wetland Conservation Area), have high ecological significance and provide habitats, such as lowland forest, predominated by kahikatea, for a variety of species including tētē/grey teal, kererū, hauhau/brown mudfish and *Coprosma pedicellata* (see Appendices 2, 4 and 5).
- Prominent landscape features within Wairarapa Place include Pukemuri Stream's uplifted marine benches, and Onoke Spit (see Appendix 8).
- The remnant reserves generally have a high ecological significance for this Place. For example: Rocky Hills Sanctuary is home to indigenous forest types, including tōtara, miro and rimu and broadleaved forest, which is rare in the Place; Puketoi Conservation Area contains subalpine vegetation and limestone overlying other rocks, which makes the range interesting from a botanical point of view; and Waewaepa Scenic Reserve's vegetation goes from lowland podocarp hardwood forest to montane and subalpine species.
- This Place is also home to many threatened and local plants, such as *Fissidens berteroi* (rare species of moss) and jersey fern (*Anogramma leptophylla*). There are also threatened fauna, such as the variable oystercatcher (*Haematopus unicolor*) and kōaro (*Galaxias brevipinnis*). These threatened species are found both on and off public conservation lands and waters (see Appendix 5).
- The Wairarapa Moana is of national and international importance for indigenous flora and fauna communities, such as raupō, mingimingi, tūturiwhatu/New Zealand dotterel, tarāpuka/black-billed gull and the matuku-hūrepo/Australasian bittern, and is the largest wetland complex in the southern North Island. It supports a high diversity of wetland habitats, including open lake and pond water, shallow water, bare sandflats, marshlands, including extensive areas of indigenous turf and short rushes, emergent swamp vegetation especially raupō, and areas of mingimingi dominant shrubland (see Appendix 2).
- A National Water Conservation Order was placed over Lake Wairarapa in 1989, recognising that the wildlife habitat is an outstanding feature.
- This Place has good habitats and connections for migratory species from mountains to sea; a fish highway of sorts for galaxiid, tuna/eel, piharau/lamprey, hauhau/brown mudfish and other species.
- The Department, Greater Wellington Regional Council, South Wairarapa District Council, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Pāpāwai and Kohunui Marae work together in partnership to protect and restore the ecology and recreational and cultural opportunities around Lake Wairarapa and Lake Onoke.
- Pukaha/Mount Bruce Scenic Reserve is under the guardianship of a strong partnership between the Department, the Pukaha/Mount Bruce Board, and Rangitāne o Wairarapa, supported by local authorities and landowners through their ongoing predator control programmes on neighbouring lands.



7.3.2 Natural values continued

Issues and opportunities

- A critical issue threatening the remnant indigenous forest in this Place is the invasion and spread of plant pests, including willows and other wilding trees (see Appendix 6).
- There are large gaps in the network of protected areas and many areas are fragmented and isolated by developed land, which makes it hard for species to translocate throughout the Wairarapa Place.
- Significant habitats, landscapes and historic sites are poorly represented or unrepresented, putting more pressure on the remnant sites both on and off public conservation lands and waters.
- The value of providing ecological corridors linking remnant areas of indigenous vegetation and assisting movement of indigenous species needs to be better promoted to ensure a wider understanding of how this could benefit conservation throughout this Place. In support of this, there is a desire by tangata whenua to create an ecological corridor between Wairarapa Moana and the Remutaka Forest Park. There is also community support to extend these ecological corridors to Aorangi Forest Park by working with private landowners, community groups and others to achieve this.
- The Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board, comprising iwi, the Department and local authorities, will act as a guardian of Wairarapa Moana and the Ruamahanga River catchment. This provides an opportunity to build on the cooperative work already happening, and improve the ecology and habitats found here, particularly bird and fish habitat.
- Sediment and nutrients are putting pressure on water quality and freshwater fish habitats in this Place. Improving the health and condition of the water quality of the entire catchment is critical to the health and condition of the receiving waters in Lake Onoke and on freshwater aquatic values in the lowlands of Wairarapa. Continued involvement in statutory processes under the Resource Management Act 1991, and community initiatives, are required to address these ongoing issues.
- Biodiversity and community groups are proactively involved in restoration initiatives in this Place, such as the southern Wairarapa groups involved in planting indigenous species, creating a corridor from the forest parks to Lake Wairarapa.
- There are a number of threatened species and indigenous vegetation on privately-owned land in this Place. There are already concerted efforts and willingness among private landowners and community groups to work with the Department to protect these. Building on this community commitment to restoration initiatives, there is growing support and desire to work towards a collaborative landscape-scale restoration project in this Place, colloquially described as ‘Pukaha to Palliser’. The Department is developing this concept with PSGEs, tangata whenua, local authorities, community and other interested parties.

Policies

- 7.3.2.1 Work with the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board to:
 - a) seek classification of Wairarapa Moana as a Wetland of International Importance in partnership with local authorities and Wellington Fish & Game Council; and
 - b) manage issues, such as pest plants and animals (see Appendix 6) and water quality, within Wairarapa Moana.
- 7.3.2.2 Raise awareness of the vulnerability of remnant indigenous wildlife, forest and bush to the adverse effects of human impacts.
- 7.3.2.3 Gain the active involvement of PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners in initiatives to restore habitats and improve water quality.
- 7.3.2.4 Identify and undertake or advocate for management at sites suitable for creating ecological corridors.
- 7.3.2.5 Investigate opportunities to initiate landscape pest control programmes within this Place.



7.3.3 Historic values	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The great forest Te Tapere-nui-o-Whātonga (known as Seventy Mile Bush) was a pātaka, which provided food and other natural resources as well as safe occupation sites.• Te Aho a Māui is the ancestral name for Cape Turnagain on the Wairarapa coastline. The name means Māui’s fishing line, which is part of the well-known story of Māui and his brothers fishing up the land mass known as Te Ika-a-Māui.• PSGEs and tangata whenua used numerous places along the length of the coastline as bases to harvest kōura/saltwater crayfish, pāua, inanga/whitebait, and other fish species. The beaches were used to dry and/or smoke the harvest.• Evidence of Māori settlement and wāhi tapu can still be seen today, particularly along the coastal area at Palliser Bay. It was traditional for sand dunes to be used for burials, and urupā/ burial grounds can be found along the coastline.
Issues and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Department has inherited the Anzac Bridge at Kaiparoro (North Anzac Bridge Unnamed Scenic Reserve), north of Pukaha/ Mount Bruce Scenic Reserve, a small one-way bridge decorated with plaques representing local soldiers who died in World Wars I and II.
Policies	7.3.3.1 Maintain the Anzac Bridge in cooperation with the Friends of Anzac Bridge and other interested parties.



7.3.4 Recreation	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wairarapa Moana and Pukaha/Mount Bruce Scenic Reserve are highly valued by residents and visitors alike for the recreation opportunities they provide, including from hunting, bird watching, walks and interactions with indigenous species such as kiwi, North Island kākā, and matuku-hūrepo/Australasian bittern. • Recreational hunting of deer and pigs, game bird shooting, and sport fishing, particularly the regionally important trout fishery, are popular and are valued within the Place. • There are many rivers within the Wairarapa Place which provide recreational opportunities, such as recreational fishing, boating, canoeing, bird and wildlife viewing and other family-friendly activities.
Issues and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an opportunity to encourage the increased recreational use and enjoyment of the Wairarapa wetland complex by focusing on the restoration and maintenance of the ecology and habitats present, updating and creating new recreational opportunities, improving access to the lakes, and promoting the site as a research and educational opportunity. These developments and opportunities need to be managed to minimise any adverse effects on birdlife, the wetland ecosystem, and the existing visitor experience. This requires careful consideration about track use, the impact of the duck hunting season, and where or whether dogs can be allowed. • Hunting is a popular activity within this Place. The Department acknowledges that recreational hunting as a traditional control mechanism to help reduce pest and wild animal numbers, but also is a valued recreational activity in its own right and for food gathering/mahinga kai. The Department also recognises the demand for hunting within Wairarapa Place and Wellington region generally. • Pukaha/Mount Bruce Wildlife Centre offers opportunities for the public to learn about the conservation of indigenous species, and it includes a large visitor education centre with interpretative displays. • Trout fishing opportunities exist on many rivers throughout this place, with opportunities to fish from the upper catchments down towards the sea. • The rivers and waterbodies are places of enjoyment for the community and visitors of Wairarapa Place. However, as identified in 7.3.2 Natural values, working with others to improve the health and quality of water in this Place is a focus for the Department. Not only can this improve the ecological health of the catchments, but it can ensure that these areas continue to be enjoyed and utilised for recreation activities.
Policies	<p>7.3.4.1 Support the Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board, Fish & Game, duck hunters, PSGEs, tangata whenua and others to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) increase participation in recreation and any future proposed recreation projects planned for Wairarapa Moana; and b) ensure any proposed projects do not adversely affect other users and associated activities. <p>7.3.4.2 Work with the Pukaha/Mount Bruce Management Board and others to enhance the recreation opportunities at Pukaha/Mount Bruce Scenic Reserve.</p> <p>7.3.4.3 Should allow vehicles³² within Wairarapa Place in accordance with Policies 4.13.6 and 4.13.10 (Section 4.13 Vehicles).</p>

32 See Section 4 and Glossary.



7.4 Milestones

Please note: These milestones should be read in conjunction with the regionwide milestones in Section 3.5.

Treaty of Waitangi relationships	Natural values	Historic values	Recreation values
<p><i>Culturally significant sites</i></p> <p>7.4.1 Increased the active involvement of PSGEs and tangata whenua in culturally significant sites, including: Akitio/Red River Scenic Reserve, Haukōpuapua Scenic Reserve, Lowes Bush Scenic Reserve, Allen Bush addition to Lowes Bush Scenic Reserve and Carter Scenic Reserve (Years 1, 4, 7, 10).</p> <p><i>Wairarapa Moana Statutory Board</i></p> <p>7.4.2 Restored an 18 ha area of pasture near Lake Onoke to wetland and renamed the area Onoke Lagoon (Year 1).</p> <p>7.4.3 Supported the development of the Ruamāhanga Catchment Plan (Year 4).</p> <p>7.4.4 Increased visitors to Wairarapa Moana by 25% without adversely affecting other users and associated activities (Year 7).</p>	<p><i>Mountains to sea network expanded</i></p> <p>7.4.5 Developed a strategy to link remnant sites between Wairarapa Moana and Remutaka Forest Park (Year 4).</p> <p>7.4.6 Created additional connections between Wairarapa Moana and Remutaka Forest Park (Year 10).</p> <p><i>Landscape-scale predator control and restoration</i></p> <p>7.4.7 Commenced landscape-scale pest and wild animal control (Year 4).</p> <p>7.4.8 Undertaken landscape-scale pest and wild animal control over 20% of Place (Year 7).</p> <p>7.4.9 Undertaken landscape-scale pest and wild animal control over 40% of Place (Year 10).</p>	<p><i>See the regional milestones in Section 3.5.</i></p>	<p><i>See the regional milestones in Section 3.5.</i></p>



8. Coastal Dunes Place





8.1 Description

Coastal Dunes Place extends from the Turakina River mouth south to Waikawa Beach, and comprises a variety of ecosystem and habitat types, including estuaries, coastal dune lakes, extensive sand dunes, semi-swamp and dune forest, remnants of sand-country forest and coastal dune forest. It encompasses beach settlement towns, including Tangimoana, Himatangi Beach and Foxton Beach. It also includes the Manawatū Estuary Wetland of International Importance (see Appendix 15 for more information) and Lake Horowhenua.

The Place's topography is built on landforms resulting from the combined action of water and sand movement under the influence of the prevailing westerly winds. Sand continues to be brought to the coast by rivers, such as the Manawatū and Rangitikei rivers. On meeting the sea, it is carried to the shore then blown inland. Wind sculpts the sand into dunes, parallel to the shore near the coast but aligned with the prevailing wind further inland.

In July 2005, the Manawatū Estuary was declared a Wetland of International Importance following a nomination from Forest & Bird, with support from others. This status acknowledges the ecological importance of the Manawatū Estuary as a site for shorebirds and for its vegetation and landforms. Protecting and restoring the biodiversity values of the dune and remnant forest habitats and the Manawatū Estuary is a high priority for the Department within this Place. The Department has a focus on working cooperatively with the PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners, particularly in controlling pest animals and plants and wild animal in areas containing threatened species.

8.2 Outcome

The dune habitats and remnant forest reserves are valued by the community and visitors as somewhere they can immerse themselves in nature, with an abundance of bird and plant species and mixed indigenous forest types (kahikatea, tōtara and mātai). Remnant forest reserves, particularly at Omarupapako/Round Bush Scenic Reserve, have healthier canopy trees and a flourishing understorey of shrubs, ferns and young trees. Wetland and coastal forests, such as those in Papaitonga Scenic Reserve, are seeing the benefits of collaborative planting and pest control initiatives, with improving wetland habitats providing important refuges to waterfowl and wading birds such as matuku-hūrepo/Australasian bittern. PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners proactively contribute to pest and predator management as they value the natural and cultural values that these reserves contribute to the Coastal Dunes Place.

Ecological functioning and habitat connectivity, both on and off public conservation lands and waters, has increased through intensive pest plant and animal management. The Department partners with PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners to achieve these goals.

Significant sites of the past are identified and their stories brought to life, enhancing the community and visitors' understanding of the historic and cultural values associated with this Place. PSGEs, tangata whenua and the community are actively involved in telling these stories.

The natural and aesthetic setting of Coastal Dunes Place provides a range of low-impact, family-friendly recreational opportunities, in keeping with the values and fragility of this Place. The Department partners with conservation partners to expand recreational opportunities within this Place, and increase use and enjoyment.



8.3 Policies

8.3.1 Treaty of Waitangi relationships ³³	
Treaty settlement information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deeds of Recognition set out an agreement between the Minister of Conservation and a claimant group in recognition of their special association with identified sites, and specify the nature of their input into the management of the sites.
PSGE and tangata whenua within this Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ngāti Apa (North Island) Claims Settlement Act 2010 provides for Deeds of Recognition for Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area and Omarupapako/Round Bush Scenic Reserve. • The Rangitāne o Manawatū Claims Settlement Act 2016 provides for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deeds of Recognition for Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area, Omarupapako/Round Bush Scenic Reserve, Tawhirihoe Scientific Reserve, Manawatū and Rangitikei rivers; and - an overlay classification/whenua rāhui for part of Himatangi Bush Scientific Reserve. • Other tangata whenua with ancestral lands in this Place, at different stages of the Treaty settlement process, are Muaūpoko and Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga. <p><i>See Section 2 (Treaty of Waitangi relationships) and Appendix 16 for more information.</i></p>
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Dunes Place is of great significance to Māori, both spiritually and as a source of mahinga kai (including toheroa and kahawai), pīngao for weaving, and carving materials. • Dune lakes were prized for tuna/eel and gathering kiekie, and the wetlands were also an important resource for harakeke/flax weaving material, raupō and kākaho/toetoe seed stalks for wall linings. • The open dunes were the habitat of pīngao, which was woven into kete/basket and tukutuku/latticework panels. Within this Place, sand dunes contain many important cultural sites reflecting historical activities, including middens and urupā/burial grounds. There are a number of large shell middens, indicating that shellfish were abundant here. • Traditionally the rivers in this Place were used as a means of gaining access to settlement, cultivation and mahinga kai sites, and were important for communication and trade.

³³ See also Table 8.3.3 Historic values.



8.3.2

Natural values

Values

- Coastal Dunes Place contains a variety of ecosystem and habitat types, including semi-swamp and dune forest, remnants of sand-country forest, coastal dune forest, wetlands, estuaries and marine, and coastal dune lakes and ephemeral wetlands (see Appendix 2).
- This Place includes the six priority ecosystem units: Tangimoana (includes Tawhirihoe Scientific Reserve, Moanaroa Conservation Area and Tangimoana Beach Conservation Area), Manawatū Estuary, Himatangi Scientific Reserve, Round Bush (Omarupapako/Round Bush Scenic Reserve), Lake Papaitonga (Papaitonga Scenic Reserve) and Awahou Conservation Area. These form important refuges for wetland and shorebirds and are home to threatened species, including *Pimelea actea*, tarāpuka/black-billed gull, mātātā/North Island fernbird (*Bowdleria punctata vealeae*), *Powelliphanta traversi*, *Powelliphanta traversi florida*, hauhau/brown mudfish, red katipō spider and barking gecko (see Appendix 4 and 5).
- The Himatangi dunes are a nationally significant landscape, with the largest holocene dune area in the country and several dune-dammed lakes. The dunes are the national stronghold for the threatened plant *Pimelea actea* (see Appendix 8).
- The Manawatū Estuary was declared a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention, acknowledging the ecological importance of the area in the lifecycle of many indigenous and migratory bird and fish species, including kuaka/bar-tailed godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), huahou/lesser knot (*Calidris canutus rogersi*), ngutu pare/wrybill (*Anarhynchus frontalis*), tarāpuka/black-billed gull, taranui/Caspian tern (*Hydopogne caspia*), kotuku-ngutupapa/royal spoonbill (*Platalea regia*), giant kōkopu, and inanga/whitebait (see Appendix 2, 5 and 15).
 - The Estuary has a diverse range of habitat; mudflat, saltmarsh and dune. Threatened plant species recorded here include sea sedge (*Carex litorosa*), New Zealand sow thistle (*Sonchus kirkii*) and New Zealand musk (*Thyridia repens*) (see Appendices 2 and 5).



8.3.2

Natural values continued

Issues and opportunities

- The fragile dune ecosystem in Coastal Dunes Place is under many threats. Erosion is a particular threat, through vehicle damage, pest plants and animals – including hedgehogs which prey on powelliphanta species (see Appendix 6) – natural processes and land use change and intensification.
- Pest plants are a significant issue, particularly at the Manawatū Estuary and Tangimoana Beach Conservation Area. The most notable of these include field horsetail, pampas, willow, spartina, marram and sharp rush. This Place contains a large number of animal pests, including feral cats, mustelids, rats, rabbits and possums.
- There are significant control and trapping efforts in place to mitigate these pests, but the invasiveness, particularly of the pest plants, means that ongoing effort is required by the Department, which needs the support of PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners.
- Many dunes, dune wetlands and other important habitats are not on public conservation lands and waters, but play an important role in maintaining functioning coastal processes and erosion control. Development along the coast is affecting dune stability, causing the introduction and spread of pests, and affecting sedimentation, contamination and eutrophication of coastal waters. The Department intends to work with local authorities, PSGEs and tangata whenua to manage development in this Place.
- Papaitonga Scenic Reserve has high species and cultural values, with giant kōkopu and giant land snail (*Powelliphanta traversi*) present, and has seen an improvement in its habitats through extensive plantings. Further collaborative efforts in planting and pest plant and animal control between the Department, PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners could see further restoration of wetland habitats and an increase in threatened species numbers.
- Many of the reserves within this Place are surrounded by private land and isolated from other forest remnants. Working with private landowners, PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners to improve ecological corridors between remnant reserves could improve habitat connectivity.
- The management of the Manawatū Estuary is a positive example of a collective conservation effort to make the Manawatū Estuary sustained, known, respected and enjoyed. A number of organisations, including the Manawatū Estuary Trust, local iwi, local authorities and the New Zealand Landcare Trust, play a significant role in the site, as part of a management group with the Department.
- The water quality of the Manawatū River is quite degraded. Sediment has reduced the variety and abundance of fish, invertebrate and other life. The Manawatū River's ability to sustain fish species and improvement of the mauri/life force of the Manawatū River catchment is a focus for the Manawatū River Leaders' Forum. This forum is led by Horizons Regional Council and comprises the Department, PSGEs and tangata whenua, local authorities and representatives of the farming, industry and environmental sectors.
- Lake Horowhenua is being restored through a collaborative Accord partnership, of which the Department is one of five parties. The learning from these cooperative restoration projects can be applied to other projects within the Place and Wellington region.



8.3.2

Natural values continued

Policies

- 8.3.2.1 Manage (including when considering authorisation applications) those parts of Coastal Dunes Place that are identified as the Manawatū Estuary Wetland of International Importance to maintain the criteria for which it was nominated under the Convention of Wetlands of International Importance (also referred to as the Ramsar Convention) and New Zealand's obligations under the Convention (see Appendix 15).
- 8.3.2.2 Support the mapping of pest plant densities and distribution in this Place, and prioritise and undertake management of those species.
- 8.3.2.3 Increase the protection and enhancement of important coastal dune habitats and wetlands, both on and off public conservation lands and waters, from the adverse effects of development, the spread of pest plants and animals, vehicle use, and stock incursions.
- 8.3.2.4 Undertake planting initiatives to improve sand dune stability.
- 8.3.2.5 Seek to increase the participation and involvement of conservation partners and the public in pest plant control, animal trapping, and planting initiatives, particularly at Tangimoana Beach Conservation Area, the Manawatū Estuary and Papaitonga Scenic Reserve.
- 8.3.2.6 Protect and enhance coastal dune habitats and wetlands by partnering with local authorities and others, and share relevant technical knowledge and studies.
- 8.3.2.7 Identify and advocate for work to be undertaken at sites where ecological corridors and habitat restoration can occur, both on and off public conservation lands and waters.
- 8.3.2.8 Actively contribute to the Manawatū River Leaders' Forum to advocate for improved water quality of the Manawatū River and its tributaries.
- 8.3.2.9 Contribute to the improvements of the water quality and use of Lake Horowhenua through the Horowhenua Lake Accord and any successor entities.



8.3.3 Historic values	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many of the reserves, including Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area and Tawhirihoe Scientific Reserve, were used by PSGEs and tangata whenua for overnight stops while travelling along the coast to replenish food stocks and to rest.• Omarupapako/Round Bush was an area rich with mahinga kai/food gathering sites; surrounding lands were cultivated and, from there, the surrounding dune lakes, such as Koputara and Pukepuke, were accessed for their resources.• Many of the reserves contain significant pā where many significant battles occurred, or housed war parties on their way to do battle, including the Puketotara Pā in the Himatangi area, which could accommodate up to 600 warriors.
Issues and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is little information about historic places on the land that the Department manages within this Place. Threats to their values are unknown, but likely to include disturbance from earthworks, erosion and vegetation growth.• It is likely that kōiwi/human remains and other sites of importance may be uncovered by earthworks or the shifting and moving of dunes. This can lead to the destruction of unidentified archaeological sites and wāhi tapu/sacred places.
Policies	See Policies 3.2.2.1-3.2.2.7 in Section 3.2 (Historic values).



8.3.4 Recreation	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coastal Dunes Place has important aesthetic and natural values, due to the natural character of the coast and many easy access walking tracks, including ready access to the beach. These aesthetic and natural features contribute to the experience, and the community enjoys the ability to witness important wildlife such as pūweto/spotless crane (<i>Porzana tabuensis tanuensis</i>) and kuruwhegi/Australasian shoveler (<i>Anas rhynchotis</i>). The community also enjoys the abundance of recreational and swimming activities this Place provides. Many of the recreation opportunities here are water-based, including fishing, jet skiing, boating (engine and sail), and boarding sports. • The Manawatū Estuary is used extensively for recreational activities, including fishing, whitebaiting, boating, walking, bird watching and kite-surfing. Its close proximity to where people live and work makes it a popular destination for holidaymakers and day trippers, and also allows people to interact with, and witness, threatened and indigenous species while recreating. • Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area is popular for waterfowl during gamebird hunting season. • Manawatū Estuary is valued as one of the best bird-watching sites in the country, due to the diversity and numbers of shorebirds visiting this site.
Issues and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of off-road vehicles, such as trail bikes and four-wheel drive vehicles, threatens the vulnerable sand dune and wetland ecosystems, both on and off public conservation land, by damaging sensitive dune vegetation, accelerating erosion and exposing areas to pest plant invasion. The dunes support some critically-threatened plant populations such as <i>Pimelea actea</i>, and wildlife such as katipō spiders, particularly at Himatangi Beach and Omarupapako/Round Bush. Therefore, it is important that the Department works with local authorities and other relevant agencies to ensure recreational activities that occur on the beach and dunes avoid damaging dune vegetation. • Use of the Manawatū Estuary is encouraged; however, recreation opportunities must be managed in balance with the biodiversity values of the site in order to manage and mitigate potential issues, particularly the effects of human disturbance on roosting shorebirds, fragile vegetation and erosion to the dunes. • The provision of hunting opportunities should be carefully planned for because of the small size of some of the reserves, their accessibility, proximity to populated areas, and recreation use. Hunting in some of these reserves, such as Tawhirihoe Scientific Reserve, may need to be phased out.
Policies	<p>8.3.4.1 Work with local authorities, relevant agencies, the public and users of this Place to educate them on the fragility of the dunes, the threatened species they support, and make them aware of appropriate ways to enjoy recreation here, particularly in the use of vehicles.</p> <p>8.3.4.2 Support awareness initiatives and management decisions to educate and encourage recreational users to mitigate the impact of their activities on the values within the Manawatū Estuary Wetland of International Importance.</p> <p>8.3.4.3 Assess the necessity for, and potential conflicts of, issuing hunting permits in small local reserves within Coastal Dune Place as other recreational activities in these reserves increase.</p> <p>8.3.4.4 Should allow vehicles³⁴ within Coastal Dunes Place in accordance with Policies 4.13.6 and 4.13.10 (Section 4.13 Vehicles).</p>



8.4 Milestones

Please note: These milestones should be read in conjunction with the regionwide milestones in Section 3.5.

Treaty of Waitangi relationships	Natural values	Historic values	Recreation values
<p><i>Enhancing understanding of cultural values</i></p> <p>8.4.1 Supported development of a cultural materials plan for pīngao (Years 1, 4, 7, 10).</p>	<p><i>Healthier forest remnants</i></p> <p>8.4.2 Reduced populations of possums, stoats, rats and sambar deer within Omarupapako/Round Bush Scenic and Himatangi Bush Scenic Reserves (Year 10).</p> <p><i>Enhanced wetland habitats</i></p> <p>8.4.3 Ensured Lake Waiwiri is sufficiently healthy to support mahinga kai harvest (Year 10).</p> <p><i>Manawatū Estuary</i></p> <p>8.4.4 Maintain and/or support pest management initiatives at Manawatū Estuary Ramsar site to protect resident and migratory bird populations (Years 1, 4, 7, 10).</p>	<p><i>Historic sites protected</i></p> <p>8.4.5 Re-evaluated the 1997 assessment³⁵ of the value, significance and threats to historic places in Coastal Dunes Place (Year 7).</p>	<p><i>Expand recreational opportunities</i></p> <p>8.4.6 Improved visitor facilities at Papaitonga to increase visitor numbers by 20% (Year 7).</p>

35 McFadgen, B. 1997: Archaeology of the Wellington Conservancy: Kāpiti-Horowhenua: a prehistoric and palaeoenvironmental study. Department of Conservation, Wellington.



9. Islands Place



Kāpiti Island sunset. Photographer: Tom Raven



9.1 Description

There are nine offshore islands in the Wellington region, only two of which (Kāpiti Island and Mana Island) are managed by the Department (see Map 7.5). The other islands are either privately owned or have been returned to, or vested in, PSGEs and tangata whenua as a result of Treaty settlements (see Part One and Table 10.3.1 below). Islands Place provides an exciting opportunity for the Department to work in a post-Treaty settlement environment, seeking to marry Māori traditions and western science in the continued restoration and conservation of the region's islands.

Kāpiti Island is also known as Te Waewae-Kāpiti-o-Tara-raua-ko-Rangitāne, the dividing line between the tribal lines of the Ngāi Tara and Rangitāne peoples. Mana is an abbreviation of Te Mana o Kupe ki Aotearoa, the ability of Kupe to cross the ocean to Aotearoa and to commemorate his defeat of Maturangi. For the purposes of this CMS, they will be referred to as Kāpiti and Mana Island.

Both islands have played significant roles in the conservation culture of New Zealand. Kāpiti Island's conservation potential was seen as early as the 1870s. Much of the island was reserved as a bird sanctuary in 1897, making it one of the country's oldest nature reserves. It also played a central role in the formation of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society (Forest & Bird). The abundant and diverse forest bird community contains the largest population of kiwi pupupuku/little spotted kiwi (*Apteryx owenii*), and significant populations of North Island kākā and toutouwai/North Island robin (*Petroica longipes*), as well as being a source for translocations.

Similarly, Mana Island is home to one of the most complex and ambitious ecological restoration projects in the region, supported by community-led restoration, particularly Friends of Mana Island and Forest & Bird Protection Society. The projects include massive planting initiatives, wetland creation, and innovative sound systems for attracting tākapu/Australasian gannet (*Morus serrator*) and hākēkeke/sooty shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*). Most of the original vegetation was cleared to create one of New Zealand's earliest pastoral farms. Sheep were removed in 1978 after a suspected scrapie outbreak, and the last cattle were removed in 1986. The Department took over management of the island in 1987. Extensive pest animal control resulted in the removal of introduced mammals – including mice – by local Forest & Bird branches. Subsequent restoration has been led by Friends of Mana Island, with the support of the Department. The complex history of ecosystem protection and management, species conservation, community involvement and recreational use is why Kāpiti and Mana islands are of such high conservation value, and have been afforded the land classifications of nature and scientific reserve respectively.

Matiu/Somes Island was also subject to a major planting restoration and pest eradication programme led by local Forest & Bird branches, supported by the Department and community volunteers, creating a new green cloak for the island. This work has led to Matiu/Somes Island and the other islands in the harbour, Makaro/Ward Island and Mokopuna Island (collectively called the Harbour Islands), becoming free of mammalian predators. The islands also support wildlife re-introductions, and fauna research and protection programmes, for species such as tōrea pango/variable oystercatcher (*Haematopus unicolor*), kororā/ blue penguin (*Eudyptula minor*), hākēkeke/sooty shearwater, rūrū/morepork



(*Ninox novaeseelandiae*), tūi, tuatara (*Sphenodon punctatus*), and lizards. Matiu/Somes Island is notable for its historic significance with remnants of quarantine, military and internment uses.

The Harbour Islands are also culturally and spiritually important to PSGEs and tangata whenua, with a number of pā sites present. The Harbour Islands were vested in the Trustees of the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust, as part of the cultural redress to settle the historical Treaty claims of Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika (see Section Two). The Department is a member of the Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board, an Iwi-Crown partnership model, responsible for administering the Harbour Islands by implementing the operative Wellington Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Plan. The Department is responsible for day-to-day management of the Harbour Islands.

The Ngāti Toa Rangātira Claims Settlement Act 2014 established the Kāpiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee, made up of Ngāti Toa Rangātira and Department of Conservation representatives. Under this Act, the Department is required to prepare a conservation management plan for Kāpiti Island, in consultation with the Kāpiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee and the Wellington Conservation Board. In preparing the CMS, particular regard has been given to the views of Ngāti Toa Rangātira in respect of their values and the Ngāti Toa Rangātira Claims Settlement Act 2014 (see Section Two). The three small islands east of Kāpiti Island – Tokomapuna, Motungarara and Tahoramaurea – are privately owned.

Taputeranga Island is vested in the trustees of Ngāti Toa Rangātira Trust, and is administered by Wellington City Council.

9.2 Outcome

New Zealanders and international visitors recognise and value the biodiversity and historic conservation contributions and significance of Islands Place. The islands are viewed as the jewels in the crown of the Wellington region with high cultural significance to PSGEs and tangata whenua. Kāpiti and Mana Islands continue to showcase New Zealand's biodiversity, cultural and historic heritage, and conservation management. The islands are renowned as nationally and internationally important refuges for threatened species and as places where people can see and learn about indigenous species.

Kāpiti and Mana islands are free of introduced mammals, there are few pest plants, the forests are thriving, the birdlife is prolific, and there is an abundance and diversity of other indigenous plants, reptiles and invertebrates.

School groups, universities, students and other interested parties use the islands for research, education and advocacy. Studies are shared with the Department to contribute to the islands' ongoing management.

All visitors maintain island biosecurity and respect the sites they visit. Visitors and others gain an understanding and appreciation of PSGEs and tangata whenua values and association with the islands, through interpretative displays and stories.

The interests of PSGEs and tangata whenua with yet-to-be-finalised settlement claims and affiliations with Kāpiti Island are actively protected and provided for.



Kāpiti Island

The cooperative relationship between the Department, Ngāti Toa Rangātira and other PSGEs and tangata whenua greatly enhances their involvement in the management of Kāpiti Island. The mana of Ngāti Toa Rangātira is restored to the island, and their cultural footprint and kaitiaki role is strengthened and supported by the Department. The Department and PSGEs and tangata whenua maintain the ecological integrity of the island and ensure that no nationally threatened species present on the island becomes extinct. PSGEs and tangata whenua stories and history are brought to life.

The island's pest-free status is sustained by regularly monitoring the effect of visitors on biodiversity and the island's facilities and by implementing stringent biosecurity measures. Active pest plant control supports the island's ecosystem in recovering naturally from the effects of previously introduced pest plants. Kāpiti Island's significant contribution to New Zealand's conservation history is promoted, interpreted, and understood by visitors. Historic heritage sites are protected and enhanced.

Suitable threatened species are translocated to the island and viable populations are established. Kāpiti Island is a stronghold for rare birds such as North Island kōkako, tīeke/North Island saddleback (*Philesturnus rufusater*), and kiwi pukupuku/little spotted kiwi (*Apteryx owenii*), attracting wildlife and bird enthusiasts from all over the world.

PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners, supported by the Department, are working together to ensure integrated protection of the land and sea around Kāpiti Island, particularly where the nature reserve adjoins Kāpiti Marine Reserve.

The number of visitors to the island remains restricted, but has increased with a steadily growing number mid-week. These visitors experience Kāpiti Island's scenic beauty, abundant birdlife, history and cultural values, and largely unmodified natural environment, by exploring the island through the limited number of tracks. Visitors to the island rarely encounter aircraft. All buildings are sensitively sited and designed in keeping with the natural, historic and cultural values of the landscape, as are the limited number of new recreational opportunities available to visitors. The Department works with PSGEs and tangata whenua and concessionaires to ensure that both the Department's and commercial operators' experiences are integrated and well managed.

Mana Island

Mana Island is notable for its diverse lizard community, as a source for pioneering research and for translocations. As well as its lizard community, other threatened species are enhanced on the island, including nationally significant populations of wētā punga/Cook Strait giant wētā (*Deinacrida rugosa*), McGregor's skink (*Oligosoma macgregori*), goldstripe gecko (*Woodworthia chrysosiretica*), rowi/Ōkārīto brown kiwi (*Apteryx rowi*), and takahē (*Porphyrio hochstetteri*). Other notable species on the island include flax weevil (*Anagotus fairburni*) and Cook's scurvy grass (*Lepidium oleraceum*).

Visitors land at Mana Island by boat, within a designated timeframe, and the boats are anchored offshore.



The Department works constructively with Ngāti Toa Rangātira to establish cooperative working relationships, and supports their kaitiakitanga, ensuring continued recovery and protection of the island and enabling Ngāti Toa Rangātira aspirations for the island.

The Department, PSGEs and tangata whenua, the Friends of Mana Island and other community groups work together closely to achieve species re-introductions, plantings of rare, naturally uncommon and threatened species, and conduct pest plant control. As a result, the diverse and fragile ecosystems and habitats of Mana Island are healthy and functioning, and sustain viable populations of indigenous flora and fauna.

Mana Island's extensive cultural and historic associations for PSGEs, tangata whenua and the community are recognised and interpreted. The Department works cooperatively with PSGEs, tangata whenua and the community on continued restoration, maintenance, and stories about the sites of cultural and historic significance, such as pā sites, the lighthouse, the woolshed and other archaeological sites along the eastern beach.

Harbour Islands

The Department works constructively with Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika and the Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board and the community to strengthen the mouri³⁶ of the Harbour Islands, and in implementing the operative *Wellington Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Plan*. Effective and cooperative relationships and liaison with the owners of the other offshore islands has improved the quality and functioning of island ecosystems, and minimised biosecurity risks.

The number of buildings has been reviewed by the Department and the Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board, ensuring that management of Matiu/Somes Island is improved and sustainable. Redundant buildings, not protected for their historic reasons, have been removed in consultation with the Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board.

³⁶ 'Mouri' is Taranaki dialect and the preferred spelling of the Wellington Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board. It may be referred to as 'mauri' in other documents.



9.3 Policies

9.3.1 Treaty of Waitangi relationships ³⁷	
Treaty settlement information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deeds of Recognition set out an agreement between the Minister of Conservation and a claimant group in recognition of their special association with identified sites, and specify the nature of their input into the management of the sites.
PSGE and tangata whenua within this Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ngāti Toa Rangātira Claims Settlement Act 2014 provides for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the vesting and gift back of Kāpiti Island Nature Reserve; - Deed of Recognition for Mana Island; - an overlay classification/Ngā Paihau for Kāpiti Island; and - establishment of the Kāpiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee. • The Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) Claims Settlement Act 2009 provides for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the vesting of Matiu/Somes, Mokopuna, and Makaro/Ward islands (the Harbour Islands) in Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika; - the Department to manage assets and infrastructure on the islands, although the islands are vested in the Trust; and - the establishment of the Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board to administer the Harbour Islands. • Other tangata whenua with ancestral lands in this Place, at different stages of the Treaty settlement process, are Muaūpoko, and Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai. <p><i>See Section 2 (Treaty of Waitangi relationships) and Appendix 16 for more information.</i></p>
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many outstanding historic sites associated with the islands' strong Māori presence since the earliest times, and the early contact between Māori and Europeans. • Kāpiti Island was an important asset to tangata whenua. Its streams and natural springs provided plentiful water supply, the coastline abounded in kaimoana/seafood, a thriving population of birds inhabited the forests, and fertile soils grew kumara, potato and other kai. • Mana Island has archaeological evidence of occupation from as early as 600 years ago, with middens, pā sites, urupā/burial grounds, gardens and pits present. It was an important area for customary fishing and a source of kōura/saltwater crayfish, pāua, kina and other fish species. • Both Kāpiti and Mana Islands were important due to their proximity to Cook Strait (Raukawa Moana), allowing extensive maritime trading and frequent travel. • Matiu/Somes Island had several pā or kāinga/settlements that provided resources to sustain tangata whenua, including karengo/sea lettuce and kaimoana/shellfish.

³⁷ See also Table 9.3.3 Historic values.



9.3.2

Natural values

Values

- Both Kāpiti and Mana islands are important for their significant natural geological features, including Kāpiti Island's uplifted sea caves and phyllonite, and Mana Island's uplifted peneplain (see Appendix 8).
- The islands are refuges for threatened species such as the North Island kōkako, the North Island weka (*Gallirallus australis greyi*) and takahē (see Appendix 5), sites for ecological restoration programmes, sources for translocation, sources of knowledge for restoration goals and methods, and sites where the public can learn about conservation.
- Kāpiti and Mana islands' classifications, as a nature and scientific reserve respectively, afford them some of the highest levels of protection in conservation legislation.

Kāpiti Island

- The nature reserve status protects and preserves – in perpetuity and as far as possible in its natural state – values such as rare indigenous flora and fauna and natural features.
- Kāpiti Island is a priority ecosystem unit due to its unique assemblage of indigenous plants, with the main forests on the island today being dominated by kohekohe, tawa and kānuka. The island is now one of the nation's most important sites for bird recovery (see Appendix 4).
- Successful eradication programmes have removed all pest mammals, allowing the regeneration of forest (see Appendix 2). Due to its lack of pests, it is renowned internationally as a bird sanctuary. An abundant and diverse forest bird community contains nationally significant species, such as kōkako, North Island weka, and takahē (see Appendix 5).
- A third of Kāpiti's Island's coastline abuts the Kāpiti Marine Reserve, which in turn extends to the Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve. This provides a continuum of protection: freshwater river through estuary, soft-bottom marine, open sea, rock reef and cobble bottom marine, to cliff, cobble and sand shore, and forested island nature reserve.

Mana Island

- The scientific reserve status protects and preserves – in perpetuity – values such as indigenous plant and animal communities and geomorphological phenomena, for scientific study, research, education and the benefit of the country.
- Mana Island is also a priority ecosystem unit with a mix of ngaio, taupata treeland, pasture, broadleaved scrub and shrubland ecosystem types (see Appendix 4).
- The island is pest free, which allows a wide range of plant, bird, lizard, and invertebrate species to exist there, such as Cook's scurvy grass, the brown skink, the speckled brown skinks, McGregor's skinks, Cook Strait giant wētā, the rowi/Ōkārito brown kiwi and takahē (see Appendix 5).
- The restoration work on Mana Island is a complex and ambitious ecological restoration project in the Wellington region. An extensive planting programme, led by Friends of Mana Island and supported by the Department, has restored much of the island to early successions/seral vegetation. Eventually this will form a closed canopy of coastal forest over the entire island.



9.3.2

Natural values continued

Issues and opportunities

- Threats to the islands and their ecosystems include fire, invasion by pest animals such as the Argentine ant, and colonisation by exotic plant species such as pink ragwort (see Appendix 6).
- The Department encourages increased, but regulated, visitor numbers to the islands, to ensure there are no adverse effects to the endangered species on the islands.
- Both Kāpiti and Mana islands are fortunate to have popular volunteer programmes, where members of the community contribute to track maintenance, pest plant control, cleaning and other tasks. Particularly at Kāpiti Island, often more volunteers apply than the island can accommodate.
- Much of the restoration work on Mana Island has been a joint venture between the Department and volunteers, including those organised by Forest & Bird, Friends of Mana Island and other community groups. These ventures have achieved positive outcomes, such as species re-introductions and plantings of rare and uncommon threatened species, and carried out weed control as well as other work.
- The islands are used by students from local and international universities, to study their biodiversity and ecology.

Policies

- 9.3.2.1 Prevent the introduction and spread of new pests on the islands by creating, maintaining and implementing biosecurity plans with the Kāpiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee, PSGEs and tangata whenua, and require concessionaires to ensure that all members of their party are aware of, and implement, appropriate biosecurity measures.
- 9.3.2.2 Maintain strict biosecurity measures to prevent the islands' ecological values being adversely affected by the introduction of diseases, or pest plants and animals.
- 9.3.2.3 Support priority research on the islands that benefits conservation management or the understanding of the islands' ecology and history.
- 9.3.2.4 May set aside days where no visitor access is permitted to Kāpiti and Mana islands to provide for Departmental management purposes.
- 9.3.2.5 Ensure the integrated management of Kāpiti Island with the Kāpiti Marine Reserve in collaboration with the Kāpiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee, PSGEs, tangata whenua, and other conservation partners.
- 9.3.2.6 Manage the islands in accordance with the purposes for which they are held, and the guidance provided and issues identified in Appendix 3.



9.3.3 Historic values	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both islands are culturally and historically significant to PSGEs and tangata whenua, with many traces of Māori settlement remaining (see Appendix 9). • Kāpiti Island was seen as an impenetrable stronghold to PSGEs and tangata whenua, due to its high vantage points, sheer cliffs, and because access points could be easily monitored. This was tested during the battle of Waiorua in 1824, when Ngāti Toa Rangātira were successful in defending the island and their presence on it. • Both islands have fascinating human histories, with many traces of Māori and European settlement remaining. Both Kāpiti and Mana Islands had shore whaling stations in the 1820s and 1830s. The Department preserves many artefacts from the whaling period, such as the trypots on Kāpiti Island that were used for boiling down blubber, giving the public an insight into the whaling period. • Both islands were farmed before eventually being protected as reserves. • The Whare is an early farm cottage and conservation accommodation on Kāpiti Island associated with Richard Henry, the noted New Zealand conservationist. It is the oldest building on the island, and the oldest building associated with nature conservation in New Zealand (see Appendix 9). • Kāpiti Island has played an important role in the conservation history of New Zealand, with its conservation potential seen as early as 1870, and being one of the catalysts for the formation of Forest & Bird. • Mana Island was the first area in New Zealand where sheep and cattle were farmed. The country's second wool shipment was sent from here. The island's farming history is evidenced in the iconic woolshed, which is actively preserved by the Department (see Appendix 9).
Issues and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The islands' contribution to successful conservation initiatives in restoration and species re-introductions should not be undervalued. When action was taken to return the islands to their natural state, many thought it would be an impossible task, particularly due to Kāpiti Island's size. • Some significant historical Treaty claims have been completed in this Place. There is now an opportunity to better articulate the cultural significance and stories of these islands, while being mindful of claims to be completed.
Policies	<p>9.3.3.1 Promote Kāpiti and Mana islands' significant conservation history and contributions, in both onshore and offshore interpretation, and by working with the Wellington International Airport, the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, and other tourism operators.</p> <p>9.3.3.2 Work with the Kāpiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee and PSGEs, tangata whenua and other interested parties to identify stories that could be promoted and told about these islands, and determine how these stories can be told to the public.</p>



9.3.4

Recreation

Values

- Part of Kāpiti Island's reputation is due to its relative accessibility. It is one of the few nature reserves the public can visit and enjoy a remote experience. There is a limited number of tracks allowing visitors to interact with both historic artefacts and indigenous species, such as hihi/stitchbird, kōkako and others.
- Mana Island is important for endangered species, but visitors can access it subject to controls. Activities on the island include day walks and wildlife viewing.
- The rich historic landscape of the islands allows visitors to experience the stories of significant events and people associated with the islands.

Issues and opportunities

- The Department aims to enhance the visitor experience on Kāpiti Island, but not to the detriment of the strict biosecurity measures in place. Optimising biosecurity is ongoing. Alongside the Kāpiti Island Strategic Advisory Board, PSGEs and tangata whenua, and the Kāpiti District Council, the Department intends to investigate the feasibility of establishing a gateway centre/visitor facility at Paraparaumu.
- Kāpiti Island is an iconic landmark; however, visitor numbers have remained static over recent years. Management focus, in cooperation with the Kāpiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee, needs to evolve to incorporate monitoring and maintenance alongside visitor management. The process for booking permits to Kāpiti Island also needs improving.
- There is an opportunity to create a new Coastal Trail on Kāpiti Island, linking Rangatira Point to the northern end of the island, and provide more track options to make the island more accessible to visitors.
- To protect conservation values, maintain visitor experience and ensure that visitors do not adversely impact on management activities, the Department will continue to administer a permit system allowing day visitors to travel on commercial boats, and access public tracks at Rangatira and the north end of the island.
- There are huts on Kāpiti Island used for management and research purposes. It may be possible to allow the public to have limited overnight stays in these huts.
- Similarly, as Mana Island is so important for endangered species, access should be regulated.



9.3.4

Recreation continued

Policies

- 9.3.4.1 Should permit public access to Kāpiti Island only at:
- a) Rangatira Point, North End and defined tracks; and
 - b) a maximum of 100 visitors per day at Rangatira and 60 visitors per day at North End; until such time as there is an operative Kāpiti Island Conservation Management Plan.
- 9.3.4.2 May permit access to Kāpiti Island for volunteers, researchers and others who are supporting Kāpiti Island's management in addition to the criteria set out in Policy 9.3.4.1.
- 9.3.4.3 Monitor visitor numbers on Kāpiti Island, to ensure there are no adverse effects on the outstanding conservation values of the island and on the visitor experience.
- 9.3.4.4 Investigate amending the visitor number limits in Policy 9.3.4.1 during the development of the Kāpiti Island Conservation Management Plan with the Kāpiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee. When the Kāpiti Island Conservation Management Plan becomes operative, apply the relevant visitor limits in the Plan.
- 9.3.4.5 Should permit public access to Mana Island only in accordance with the following conditions:
- a) landings are restricted to the bay between the old woolshed and the boat ramp; and
 - b) boats remain offshore after visitors have landed.
- 9.3.4.6 Work with the Kāpiti Island Strategic Advisory Committee, PSGEs, tangata whenua, Kāpiti Coast District Council, other tourism operators and other conservation partners to:
- a) encourage increased visitor numbers, and maximise the quality of the visitor experience to both Kāpiti and Mana Islands; and
 - b) plan for an increase in visitor numbers, including biosecurity requirements, enhanced interpretation, accessibility and a cooperative approach to marketing.
- 9.3.4.7 Investigate the feasibility of establishing a gateway centre/visitor facility at Paraparaumu to enhance visitor experience and help to optimise biosecurity practices on Kāpiti and Mana islands, with the Kāpiti Coast District Council, PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners.



9.4 Milestones

Please note: These milestones should be read in conjunction with the regionwide milestones in Section 3.5.

Treaty of Waitangi relationships	Natural values	Historic values	Recreation values
<p><i>Kaitiakitanga</i></p> <p>9.4.1 Joint conservation management plan for Kāpiti Island approved (Year 4).</p> <p>9.4.2 Supported Ngāti Toa Rangātira in the vesting and gifting back of Kāpiti Island Nature Reserve and Mana Island Scientific Reserve (Year 7).</p> <p><i>Tangata whenua values recognised and appreciated</i></p> <p>9.4.3 Erected pou whenua/ cultural markers on Mana Island (Year 4).</p>	<p><i>Species abundance and diversity</i></p> <p>9.4.4 Supported introduction of white-faced petrels to Mana Island (Year 4).</p> <p>9.4.5 Increased genetic diversity of kōkako population on Kāpiti Island (Years 4, 7, 10).</p> <p><i>Pest-free status sustained</i></p> <p>9.4.6 Kāpiti and Mana islands remain free of mammalian pests (Years 1, 4, 7, 10).</p>	<p><i>Sites protection and enhancement</i></p> <p>9.4.7 Developed conservation plan for Te Kahu-o-terangi Whaling Station (Year 1).</p> <p>9.4.8 Developed heritage assessment and conservation plans for Mana Island lighthouse, woolshed and habitation sites (Year 7).</p>	<p><i>Kāpiti Island</i></p> <p>9.4.9 Investigated the feasibility of constructing a coastal (connector) track to Te Kahu-o-terangi Whaling Station, Kāpiti Island (Year 4).</p> <p>9.4.10 Established robust visitor satisfaction monitoring for this Icon destination (Year 4).</p> <p>9.4.11 Analysed visitor satisfaction and established an improvement programme (Year 4).</p> <p>9.4.12 Evidence that visitor satisfaction has increased (Year 7).</p>



10. Wellington-Kāpiti Place





10.1 Description

Wellington-Kāpiti Place comprises land west of Remutaka Forest Park and just north of Otaki, the Kāpiti Coast, Wellington and Porirua cities, and the Hutt Valley. While predominantly an urban environment, this Place includes a range of recreational opportunities, historic sites and remnant indigenous forest in close proximity to the urban areas.

Visitors are greeted with a variety of landscapes, varying from fault-induced landscape features, the broad floor of the Hutt Valley and the lowland floodplain deposits along the coast north to Otaki. Wellington-Kāpiti Place is considered a stepping stone into the surrounding environment, with easy access to the forest parks, local islands and the coastal marine area. Scenic and recreation reserves within this Place, such as Whareroa Recreation Reserve, provide a range of recreational opportunities, from easy access walks to horse trekking and mountain biking. Part of Te Araroa Trail winds its way along the Kāpiti Coast and through Wellington City. Recreational opportunities are also provided by other organisations, such as local authorities, which complement those provided by the Department.

The Wellington-Kāpiti Place has a close connection to the surrounding forest parks of the Central Spine Place and is home to many long-established tramping, mountain climbing and hunting clubs.

The presence of a number of archaeological sites and the proximity of accessible historic sites to a large population allows the rich and diverse heritage stories of the Place to be told. These sites include the Government Buildings, gun emplacements, and the historic steam-powered sawmill at Sheridan Creek, Otaki Forks, regularly enjoyed by

visitors. Having the seat of government, this Place is prominent in New Zealand history, with a number of historic buildings and artefacts.

Little remains of the original indigenous forest, much of which was cleared by the early 1900s, with mature forest remnants existing in isolated patches on the Eastbourne and Hutt Valley foothills. Regenerating forest throughout Wellington-Kāpiti Place forms ecological corridors, allowing the movement of vegetation and wildlife from the surrounding forest parks into the urban and rural areas, and from these areas to public conservation land. They provide natural habitats to support expanding indigenous populations, such as North Island kāka, and turepo/large leaved milk tree (*Streblus banksii*) (see Appendix 5).

The Department works with PSGEs and tangata whenua, the community and local authorities to protect these habitats and engage in pest control at many sites, such as Rangituhi/Colonial Knob and Hemi Matenga Memorial Park scenic reserves, preserving some of the most significant areas of indigenous forest within this Place (see Appendix 2). Protection of native habitats and species is also undertaken successfully by others with Otari-Wilton's Bush and Zealandia being notable examples.

Wellington-Kāpiti Place provides an opportunity for the Department to engage with large numbers of communities and visitors for advocacy and education about conservation programmes, threatened species that live in their urban areas, and how to get people involved in pest plant and animal control initiatives.



10.2 Outcome

The remnant reserves within this Place are actively protected. Threatened and at-risk species are secure in thriving ecosystems, especially where intensive pest management is occurring. The public and visitors encounter a diverse range of plants, lizards and birds, including kererū, kākārīki/red-crowned parakeet and North Island kākā, which migrate through ecological corridors established in partnership with PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners.

The communities of Wellington-Kāpiti Place value conservation and the Department works with them to improve the state of indigenous biodiversity within the Place. They engage in a variety of biodiversity enhancement programmes, helping reduce pest plants and animals and protect threatened and at-risk species, both on and off public conservation lands and waters.

PSGEs, tangata whenua, conservation partners, research organisations and the Department work together to achieve integrated management across public conservation lands and waters and adjoining land. Local plans and strategies are aligned between the Department and other agencies, supporting communities and volunteer groups in their work. The Department is involved in establishing relationships with others, enabling them to independently undertake conservation projects and be involved in other conservation programmes.

Predator numbers have decreased through the use of new technologies, pest control initiatives and predator control techniques through collaborative landscape-scale predator control and restoration projects.

Well-functioning ecological corridors between populous areas and public conservation lands and waters are facilitating increased biodiversity.

With the support of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, PSGEs, tangata whenua and others, people are able to discover the stories associated with the historic sites within Wellington-Kāpiti Place. Visitors learn and appreciate the historic significance of this Place, associated with New Zealand's culture and history.

Wellington-Kāpiti Place provides the community and visitors with recreational experiences at easily accessible locations where they can be immediately immersed in nature, and undertake a range of activities including camping, mountain biking, picnicking, walking and sightseeing. Areas of high visitor use such as Rangituhi/Colonial Knob Scenic Reserve are monitored to ensure that effects on natural and cultural values are minimised. The Department works cooperatively with other landowners and local authorities to provide a range of recreation opportunities complementing those available on public conservation lands and waters.



10.3 Policies

10.3.1 Treaty of Waitangi relationships ³⁸	
Treaty settlement information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deeds of Recognition set out an agreement between the Minister of Conservation and a claimant group in recognition of their special association with identified sites, and specify the nature of their input into the management of the sites.
PSGEs and tangata whenua within this Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) Claims Settlement Act 2009 provides for a Deed of Recognition for Wainuiomata Scenic Reserve. The Ngāti Toa Rangātira Claims Settlement Act 2014 provides for Deeds of Recognition for reserves on the Wellington-Kāpiti Coast, dealt with in Coastal and Marine Place. Ngāti Toa Rangātira has a strong connection and presence in this Place. <p><i>See Section 2 (Treaty of Waitangi relationships) and Appendix 16 for more information.</i></p>
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Settlement of Wellington-Kāpiti Place occurred over many hundreds of years, and a succession of Māori people from different tribes arrived and occupied the area. Kāpiti Coast and Wellington Harbour were favoured areas to settle because of the ngahere/forest, waterways and ready access to plentiful coastal waters. The Place contains considerable evidence of Māori settlement, including pā sites, middens and gardens amongst others.
10.3.2 Natural values	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Four priority ecosystem units are located within this Place – Rangituhi/Colonial Knob (Rangituhi/Colonial Knob Scenic Reserve), Paraparaumu (Paraparaumu Scenic Reserve), Hemi Matenga Memorial Park Scenic Reserve and Kiripiti Scientific Reserve. These sites are prioritised for the indigenous species and the habitats and ecosystems they support – including the barking gecko – areas of original tawa/kohekohe forest – including canopies of tōtara, tītoki and matai – and other coastal and lowland forest (see Appendix 4). Wellington-Kāpiti Place contains the regionally significant geological feature of the Black Gully uplifted marine terraces at Terawhiti Hill. This provides the community and visitors with the opportunity to view an area of high natural character, as well as drawing attention to the geological history of this Place (see Appendix 8). There are a number of indigenous species present in this Place, including North Island kāka, kārearea/New Zealand falcon, pōpokotea/whitehead and kākāriki (see Appendix 5).

³⁸ See also Table 10.3.3 Historic values.



10.3.2 Natural values continued	
Issues and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Within Wellington-Kāpiti Place, relatively small reserves of indigenous vegetation remain. Threats to these reserves are pest plants and animals, including cathedral bells (<i>Cobaea scandens</i>), banana passionfruit, old man's beard and rodents (see Appendices 5 and 6).• Protecting these remnant reserves and the flora and fauna present is an ongoing priority. The Department, PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners are engaged in many projects. These projects include forest and wetland restoration in the Wainuiomata catchment and Whareroa Recreation Reserve; improving freshwater quality with private landowners; concerted weed and pest control and networks of bait stations; and improving natural regeneration and succession processes at Rangituhi/Colonial Knob Scenic Reserve.• Significant ecological sites, both on and off public conservation lands and waters, even within a highly modified and urban environment, benefit from pest plant and animal control. This contributes towards significant reduction and some eradication of pests, in support of a predator-free Wellington City, and Predator Free 2050. This is achieved with conservation partners and businesses. There is growing community commitment to enhance restoration efforts already happening in this Place, including those at Zealandia and other community conservation projects, and to improve the ecological corridors between urban areas and public conservation lands and waters.• Threatened plant species are a focus for Wellington City Council, with a strategy in place that is focusing on their protection and subsequent propagation within Wellington City. Opportunity exists for complementary biodiversity plans to integrate with other conservation outcomes, and partner with other conservation partners in this work.• The Department receives important research and data from the rich supply of tertiary institutes and other research resources within the Wellington region. This research assists in the management and monitoring of threatened and endangered species and habitats on public conservation lands and waters within this Place.
Policies	<p>10.3.2.1 Showcase indigenous species and habitats typical of this Place in highly visible locations, such as Wainuiomata River catchment and Rangituhi/Colonial Knob Scenic Reserve.</p> <p>10.3.2.2 Identify and advocate for management at sites, both on and off public conservation lands and waters, within this Place where ecological corridors and connections for species could be created.</p> <p>10.3.2.3 Investigate and support opportunities to initiate landscape pest control programmes across urban areas and public conservation lands and waters.</p> <p>10.3.2.4 Work with Wellington City Council and other conservation partners to coordinate an integrated approach to protect prioritised threatened plant species across this Place, and to identify those species that are to be prioritised.</p>



10.3.3 Historic values	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellington-Kāpiti Place has much evidence of a rich cultural history as a place of exploration, settlement and warfare, with many significant places including pā and habitation sites. Similarly, this Place also has evidence of its historic history with military fortifications, historic government buildings and areas, such as Shields Flat Stone Walls Historic Reserve, where stone walls were built during the depression of the 1930s and give an insight into early settlement, farming, depression labour tasks and the location of communities within the Otaki River gorge. From 1916, the first official seismological observations from within New Zealand were recorded at the Dominion Observatory, and it continues to measure local seismological activity today.
Issues and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department endeavours to protect its historic resources within this Place from unnecessary change, but needs to prioritise those historic sites it actively conserves (see Appendix 9). The Department works closely with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and local authorities in managing historic assets in this Place. Ensuring that the relevant organisations are managing various historic sites means that management responsibilities for some historic sites in Wellington-Kāpiti Place may change to another agency within the life of the CMS. The conservation of historic values is an important consideration in any such change. There are still historic and cultural assets that have yet to be identified with PSGEs, tangata whenua and the public within this Place, and some of them may be suitable for preservation.
Policies	<p>10.3.3.1 Identify sites of cultural and historic importance within Wellington-Kāpiti Place by working with PSGEs, tangata whenua, the public and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga.</p> <p>10.3.3.2 Investigate whether those sites identified in Policy 10.3.3.1 are appropriate to be acquired by the Department as part of their Historic asset network.</p> <p>10.3.3.3 Where appropriate, seek involvement from PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners in the ongoing management of historic sites.</p> <p>10.3.3.4 Improve the availability of information and interpretation material about the Place’s historic heritage, particularly for the historic sites managed by the Department, by working with Positively Wellington Tourism, the Wellington International Airport and the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.</p> <p>10.3.3.5 Identify those sites of historic and heritage significance that require resourcing and priority management with PSGEs, tangata whenua, Treasury Kaitohutohu Kaupapa Rawa, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and the community.</p>



10.3.4 Recreation	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellington-Kāpiti Place provides recreational opportunities for most ages and fitness levels, and for people from other urban centres outside this Place. Recreational activities include walks (Te Araroa Trail goes through much of this Place) and mountain biking, with tracks of varying difficulty allowing users to immerse themselves in the diverse landscape and forests, and to get up close to indigenous species and environments. The landscape and natural character of the hills within this Place can provide more challenging walks to exposed ridges than in the urban areas, and provide panoramic views that contrast with some of the other recreational opportunities enjoyed in this Place. Popular sites managed by the Department include Rangituhi/Colonial Knob Scenic Reserve and Hemi Matenga Memorial Park Scenic Reserve, where visitors are treated to panoramic views and can undertake a range of safe and family-friendly activities. Whareroa Recreation Reserve (Whareroa Farm), which is close to urban centres, is notable for providing a variety of activities such as walking, mountain biking, horse riding and picnicking. It is a successful example of land being managed for multiple purposes, such as conservation, recreation and farming.
Issues and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introductory recreation experiences that are accessible in Wellington-Kāpiti Place are important for providing opportunities on public conservation lands and waters to all ages and capabilities, but also as a mechanism to get younger people into the outdoors, and encourage them to progress to more challenging experiences provided by adjoining Places such as Central Spine Place. The large population of Wellington-Kāpiti Place can put demand and pressure on the recreational areas that the Department manages, such as Rangituhi/Colonial Knob Scenic Reserve and Whareroa Recreation Reserve. Increased environmental awareness and a desire to participate, experience and interact with nature puts a pressure on the natural resources. Most of the recreational opportunities within this Place are provided by the local authorities. However, the Department can work with them, PSGEs and tangata whenua, the community and user groups, to identify new opportunities and promote recreation in this Place, such as the regional trails framework.
Policies	<p>10.3.4.1 Monitor the effect of recreational activities and use on natural heritage values on public conservation lands and waters, particularly at Rangituhi/Colonial Knob Scenic Reserve and other high use areas.</p> <p>10.3.4.2 When planning for and providing recreation opportunities, both on and off public conservation lands and waters, encourage the participation of PSGEs, tangata whenua, other conservation partners and user groups when working with local authorities to create a coordinated network of recreation opportunities.</p> <p>10.3.4.3 Should allow vehicles³⁹ within Wellington-Kāpiti Place in accordance with Policies 4.13.6 and 4.13.10 (Section 4.13 Vehicles).</p>



10.4 Milestones

Please note: These milestones should be read in conjunction with the regionwide milestones in Section 3.5.

Treaty of Waitangi relationships	Natural values	Historic values	Recreation values
<p><i>See the regional milestones in Section 3.5.</i></p>	<p><i>See the regional milestones in Section 3.5.</i></p>	<p><i>Historic sites protected</i></p> <p>10.4.1 Investigated the adaptive reuse of the Dominion Observatory building (in particular the basement space) to tell the stories of this site (Year 7).</p>	<p><i>Accessible recreation experiences</i></p> <p>10.4.2 Investigated the feasibility of creating a camping site at Whareroa Farm (Year 4).</p> <p>10.4.3 Made Makara Walkway more accessible to a range of people by achieving ‘Day visitor’ track standard (Year 10).</p> <p>10.4.4 Upgraded the ‘Wild Coast Ride’ portion of the Remutaka Wild Coast Ride to the mountain bike track grade: Grade 2 (Year 1).</p>



11. Coastal and Marine Place



Diver in Taputeranga Marine Reserve. Photographer: Vincent Zintzen



11.1 Description

Coastal and Marine Place extends from south of Waikawa Beach on the west coast southwards down the Kāpiti coast, around the Wellington coast to Cape Palliser, and north along the east coast to Cape Turnagain. It extends offshore to 12 nautical miles (22.2 km), taking in most of Cook Strait, but it does not include Kāpiti Island, Mana Island or the Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson) islands, which are covered in Islands Place. The boundary defined for this Place is solely a boundary for the purposes of this CMS and management of this Place, while recognising that marine and coastal influences and species continuously move across boundaries.

The Coastal and Marine Place includes two marine reserves – Kāpiti and Taputeranga marine reserves (collectively referred to as the marine reserves). The coastal and marine environment includes a series of steep cliffs, backing wave-cut rocky platforms and narrow gravel and sand beaches from Paekakariki, around the Wellington south coast, long exposed beaches of alluvial gravel broken by the estuarine Lake Onoke at Palliser Bay; and wave-swept rock platforms backed by boulder and cobble beaches along the Wairarapa coast. Habitats range from sandy seabed on the west coast to rocky platforms and reefs on the Wellington south coast and Wairarapa coast, and estuaries at Pāuatahanui Inlet and some river mouths.

Kāpiti Marine Reserve is located between Kāpiti Island and the mainland and contains the largest rhodolith beds (benthic marine red algae that resembles coral) in the country. It has a complex bathymetry, which

results in high intertidal and subtidal habitat diversity, including a wide range of high current habitats. The latter support diverse assemblages of filter feeding benthic invertebrates including sponges, anemones, and frame-building bryozoans, such as *Celleporaria agglutinans* and black coral (*Lillipathes lillei*). The marine reserve is an important nursery area for commercial species, such as tipa/scallops, pāpaka/crabs and various fish species (see Appendix 7).

Taputeranga Marine Reserve is next to Wellington City and includes Owhiro Bay, Island Bay, and Houghton Bay. The marine reserve is a popular recreation destination. Activities include a snorkelling trail to help visitors discover some of the marine species present, diving around the numerous shipwrecks and marine habitats in the area, including the recently scuttled *HMNZS Wellington*, or visiting the Island Bay Marine Education Centre.

Waikanae River estuary provides indigenous habitat and a safe corridor for wildlife moving between the forest park ranges and the sea. The Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve is connected to Kāpiti Island Nature Reserve by the Kāpiti Marine Reserve, providing a sequence of protection for animals which move between sea, river and land habitats. Another notable feature is Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour (Pāuatahanui Arm), including the Pāuatahanui Wildlife Reserve, a nationally significant site for plant and birdlife. The Department's management of this area contributes to the implementation of Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and Catchment Strategy and Action Plan, which seeks to



address issues of sedimentation, pollution and habitat loss. It is the largest relatively unmodified estuarine area in the southern half of Te Ika-a-Māui/the North Island and one of the largest areas of saltmarsh vegetation in the region. It provides habitat for a diverse range of flora and fauna and supports numerous waterfowl and wading birds.

The Wellington coast is an important part of this region's identity, whether it is as a source of kaimoana, a day spent fishing or exploring the rock pools, diving the many shipwrecks that are found in the area, sailing in Wellington Harbour or just taking a leisurely walk along the beach or waterfront. There are a number of internationally ranked surf breaks along the Wairarapa coast, and it also provides a highly prized recreational and commercial inshore fishery.

Coastal and Marine Place is home to a wide variety of marine mammal species, including kekeno/New Zealand fur seals and aihe/common dolphins. At times, the threatened kākahi/orca (*Orcinus orca*), tohorā/southern right whale and tūpoupou/Hector's dolphin (*Cephalorhynchus hectori hectori*) have been recorded here (see Appendix 5).

11.1 Outcome

Marine environments in Coastal and Marine Place are valued and cared for by the local community. The ecological health of marine ecosystems and the marine and coastal land interface within the Place is improving, and marine species thrive.

People have the opportunity to observe marine mammals and sea birds at various locations along the coast, and increased public awareness ensures that wildlife remain safe and undisturbed. Coastal recreation use is increasing in ways that enhance public understanding and appreciation of coastal ecosystems and species, while avoiding adverse effects on those ecosystems and species. Any vehicle use avoids wildlife disturbance, vulnerable ecosystems and historic sites.

The Department advocates for, and works with, PSGEs, tangata whenua, other conservation partners and other interested groups to restore and maintain land along the coast. This results in thriving populations of priority threatened and at-risk coastal species.

A network of marine protected areas, representative of ecosystems, habitats and species requiring protection, has been created within Coastal and Marine Place in cooperation with PSGEs, tangata whenua, Ministry of Primary Industries and other conservation partners.

Recognising their values for the marine and coastal environment, PSGEs and tangata whenua, as well as the community and other interested parties, are actively involved in protecting marine ecosystems and the



marine coastal interface, including within the marine reserves, and are supported by the Department in this work.

Private accommodation baches at Ocean Beach Conservation Area have been, or are being, phased out, or are publicly available. The baches that are made publicly available are managed predominantly by groups and clubs whose membership is readily open, access to the bach is not restricted, and the bach is used for short, temporary stays.

Marine reserves

The ecosystems and habitats of the marine reserves sustain diverse populations of indigenous flora and fauna. Their conservation values are recognised and appreciated for their contribution to the biodiversity of the wider marine environment. Knowledge of the marine reserves' natural values is enhanced through collaborative research and monitoring, and is promoted through off-site opportunities. Visitors and users of the marine reserves understand and value their role in the overall protection of the marine environment.

PSGEs and tangata whenua and other conservation partners are actively involved in managing the marine reserves, and the wider marine environment outside the reserves contributes to their socio-economic wellbeing.

The marine reserves continue to feature as popular destinations for educational visits from schools and other groups. Scientific research is encouraged there, but does not compromise the integrity of the marine environment, contributing to Coastal and Marine Place being seen as a valuable natural laboratory.



11.3 Policies

11.3.1	Treaty of Waitangi relationships ⁴⁰
Treaty settlement information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deeds of Recognition set out an agreement between the Minister of Conservation and a claimant group in recognition of their special association with identified sites, and specify the nature of their input into the management of the sites.
PSGE and tangata whenua within this Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) Claims Settlement Act 2009 provides for a Deed of Recognition for Turakirae Head Scientific Reserve. • The Ngāti Toa Rangātira Claims Settlement Act 2014 provides for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deeds of Recognition for Pariwhero/Red Rocks and Pukerua Bay scientific reserves, Oteranga Bay Marginal Strip, Pāuatahanui Wildlife Reserve, and Horokiri Wildlife Management Reserve; and - an overlay classification/Ngā Paihau for Kāpiti Marine Reserve. • The Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā (Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua) Claims Settlement Act 2017 provides for an overlay classification for Castlepoint Scenic Reserve with Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahunungu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua. • The Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki nui-ā-Rua Deed of Settlement 2018 provides for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deeds of Recognition for Pāhaoa Scientific Reserve and Turakirae Head Scientific Reserve; and - an overlay classification for Castlepoint Scenic Reserve. • Other tangata whenua with ancestral lands in this Place, at different stages of the Treaty settlement process, are Muaūpoko, Te Ātiawa ki Whakarongotai, and Te Ātiawa (Wellington). <p><i>See Section 2 (Treaty of Waitangi relationships) and Appendix 16 for more information.</i></p>
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The history of Māori settlement within this Place stretches back to the earliest known New Zealand occupation dates and, as a result, there are hundreds of important wāhi tapu/sacred sites, stone walls and kūmara ridges throughout Coastal and Marine Place. • Coastal areas were crucial as a political and economic asset, and were important as a means of transport and a rich source of various resources, particularly Cook Strait and Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour, and Wellington Harbour (Port Nicholson). • Many of the oldest sites are found in Palliser Bay. • The sustainability and protection of kaimoana and traditional, cultural and historic values, both spiritual and physical, are important to all tangata whenua within this Place.

⁴⁰ See also Table 11.3.3 Historic values.



11.3.2

Natural values

Values

- The community and visitors to this Place are greeted by rugged features and landforms reflecting the sedimentary origins and the tectonic and coastal forces which continue to shape Coastal and Marine Place, including the internationally significant Turakirae Head uplifted beach ridges, Castlepoint marine terraces and Palliser Bay Plio-Pleistocene section and uplifted and tilted benches (see Appendix 8).
- Turakirae (Turakirae Head Scientific Reserve) is a priority ecosystem unit in Coastal and Marine Place. The scientific reserve provides valuable habitat for a variety of plants – including the nationally threatened shrubby tororaro (*Muehlenbeckia astonii*) – and wildlife – most notably kekeno/fur seals – and preserves a well-defined sequence of earthquake-raised beaches (see Appendix 4).
- The marine habitats and ecosystems in Coastal and Marine Place are diverse and contain 10 ecological districts (see Appendix 7).
- Other habitats and values found in this Place include freshwater seeps in Wellington Harbour, deep sea methane-rich cold seep areas off the Wairarapa coast, deep sea wood habitats off Palliser Bay on the Wairarapa coast, fish spawning areas and reef areas.
- This Place is home to a wide variety of marine mammal species, including kekeno/seals, aihe/common dolphin, the threatened orca, tohorā/southern right whale and tūpoupou/Hector’s dolphin (see Appendix 5).
- As outlined in the description, the Pāuatahanui Wildlife Reserve is a nationally significant site for plant and birdlife, including poaka/pied stilt (*Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus*), matuka moana/white-faced heron (*Egretta novaehollandiae*) and mātātā/fernbird. Restoration efforts undertaken by the Pāuatahanui Reserve Management Committee and Forest & Bird, with the assistance of the Department, has led to the site becoming the North Island’s southernmost population of mātātā/fernbird.
- Castlepoint Scenic Reserve’s fossiliferous limestone outcrop is a spectacular feature and is one of only few coastal vegetation communities protected on the Wairarapa coast. It is the type locality for the rare species *Brachyglottis compacta*, and has high botanical values.

Kāpiti Marine Reserve

- Kāpiti Marine Reserve links Kāpiti Island Nature Reserve with the protected Waikanae River estuary on the mainland, creating a continuum of protected land and sea.
- There are three distinctive habitats represented here, containing silt, sand and gravel, narrow boulder-rock reefs with patches of sand and moderate seaweed cover, and extensive boulder reefs and large blocks of rock at headlands. Collaborative work between the Department, the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) and others is occurring to map habitats within the reserve (see Appendix 7).
- Due to the habitat mapping work (described above), it has been shown that Kāpiti Marine Reserve contains a varied topography of seafloor types, and results in the reserve supporting a diverse range of habitats and species.
- The Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve adjoins the Kāpiti Marine Reserve at the mouth of the Waikanae River. The hydrodynamic processes of this estuary are dominated by the ocean, which connects it to the marine reserve. The estuary, and its mudflats and vegetation, is a productive ecosystem and provides food for marine species, such as amphipods, pāpaka/crabs, bivalves, snails and fishes.



11.3.2 Natural values continued

Values continued

Taputeranga Marine Reserve

- Three ocean currents of different temperatures come together within the marine reserve, and it contains a varied topography of seafloor types. This results in the marine reserve supporting a diverse range of habitats and species (see Appendices 5 and 7).
- The marine reserve is rich in marine species, including tākapu/Australasian gannet, kororā/little penguin, and kekeno/fur seal among many others. The marine reserve also provides habitat, food and shelter for almost half of New Zealand's seaweed species.
- Research institutions such as NIWA and Victoria University's Wellington Coastal Ecology Laboratory are also located near the marine reserve. The marine reserve provides an excellent opportunity for research, education, enjoyment and appreciation of the marine environment.

Issues and opportunities

- The main threats in this Place are illegal fishing, grazing stock entering reserves, habitat modification, pest plants (aquatic and terrestrial), climate change, and pollution, including from untreated shoreline discharges on the Wellington south coast, the Kāpiti coast, and in the Wellington (Port Nicholson) and Te Awarua-o-Porirua harbours (see Appendix 6).
- Seabird nesting colonies are a feature of the coastal marine interface and rely on protection measures at sea and on land. Unsupervised and unleashed dogs can be an issue within this Place as they can disturb nesting shore birds.
- There are a number of kekeno/seal colonies within Coastal and Marine Place that are accessible for viewing, particularly off the Wairarapa coast. The increasing kekeno/seal population in this Place is an issue for some users.
- The Department has a goal of establishing a comprehensive network of marine protected areas (MPA) representative of New Zealand's marine habitats and ecosystems. Potential MPAs include, but are not limited to, marine reserves, mātaītai and taiāpure areas, seasonal closures and areas closed to certain fishing methods. The Department is committed to minimising the impact of new protected areas on Treaty settlement obligations and on existing users of the marine environment.
- Habitats and species within Coastal and Marine Place are sensitive to activities on its periphery, such as siltation and turbidity caused by land management practices. The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 sets objectives and policies to achieve the purposes of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), in relation to the coastal environment. Working with PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners to control these activities, through means such as advocacy in RMA processes, helps to restore this Place to a more natural state and protects its kaimoana/seafood gathering sites.
- Wellington's south coast has long been the focus of marine research. The close proximity of the marine reserves to Wellington City and other urban centres and the universities within the Wellington region gives it the potential to become one of the most valuable natural laboratories in New Zealand.
- The ecosystem complexities of the marine environment remain relatively unknown. Kāpiti Marine Reserve has been a focal area for research over the past 25 years, and a number of tertiary institutions conduct research projects here. The marine reserves in Coastal and Marine Place provide generous opportunities to students and researchers to utilise this Place for scientific research, education, enjoyment and appreciation of the marine environment.
- Marine reserves provide an opportunity for increasing public awareness, understanding and support for marine conservation. This is achieved through the provision of high-quality information obtained from monitoring and research activities, interpretation and educational activities, promoting the social and economic benefits of marine reserves, and working with others to deliver education and awareness programmes.



11.3.2 Natural values continued

Issues and opportunities continued

- The Department supports The Friends of Taputeranga Marine Reserve and other community groups and interested parties to implement compliance, advocacy and education initiatives. These initiatives can optimise protection of the marine reserves and involve engagement with PSGEs and tangata whenua. For Kāpiti Marine Reserve, there is an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of a ‘mountains to sea’ conservation approach, providing a protected area from the Tararua Range, along the Waikanae River catchment, to the marine reserve and Kāpiti Island.
- Taputeranga Marine Reserve’s proximity to urban areas means that it can be adversely affected by land management activities on adjoining coastal lands. This proximity to the coastal lands can also provide benefits through coordinated interpretation and storytelling with conservation partners. It is important that a collaborative approach is taken with conservation partners to ensure that this is managed effectively.

Policies

- 11.3.2.1 Seek that vulnerable wildlife and kekeno/New Zealand fur seals are able to carry out their natural behaviours without disturbance from humans or domestic animals.
 - 11.3.2.2 Undertake advocacy and conservation law compliance, with particular emphasis on wandering dogs in shorebird habitats and fishing in marine reserves.
 - 11.3.2.3 Maximise the benefits of monitoring and research of marine species and ecosystems by working cooperatively with research and tertiary institutions and other conservation partners.
 - 11.3.2.4 Advocate for the conservation of marine species and significant marine habitats and ecosystems through statutory processes; for example, through resource consents.
 - 11.3.2.5 Investigate establishing a network of marine protected areas within the Coastal and Marine Place, particularly along the Wairarapa coast, with the Greater Wellington Regional Council, Horizons Regional Council, PSGEs, tangata whenua, marine users and those with an interest in marine biodiversity.
 - 11.3.2.6 Increase awareness of marine biodiversity values, manage any adverse impacts on the marine ecosystem and promote positive involvement in, and protection and enjoyment of, marine protected areas in collaboration with PSGEs, tangata whenua, the community, fishers and the tourism industry.
 - 11.3.2.7 Involve PSGEs and tangata whenua, the Friends of Taputeranga Marine Reserve, Guardians of Kāpiti Marine Reserve and any other committees/ organisations and the community in protecting and managing coastal ecosystems, in particular, the marine reserves.
 - 11.3.2.8 Support the ‘mountains to sea’ conservation project at Waikanae River estuary and Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve.
- Marine reserves**
- 11.3.2.9 Work with conservation partners to advocate for integrated conservation management of the areas adjacent to the marine reserves.
 - 11.3.2.10 Ensure effective compliance and law enforcement within the marine reserves, working with PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners.
 - 11.3.2.11 Should grant authorisations for scientific study within the marine reserves only where the adverse effects to the marine environment are of a minor and temporary nature.
 - 11.3.2.12 Regularly monitor marine reserves to identify changes in the marine environment being protected.



11.3.3 Historic values	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indications of early settlement are still evident in the landscape, with middens, gardens, fortifications, and wrecks of sailing and steam ships strewn along the shores of Cook Strait and this Place. World War II also had an influence on the landscape, with gun emplacements, lookouts and ammunition stores dominating some prominent hilltops. • The rich Māori oral history is a unique feature of this Place, particularly along the south Wairarapa coast. • The public is given an insight into the treacherous conditions that early Māori, whalers and traders had to contend with off Palliser Bay through the remains of the wreck of the American barquentine <i>Addenda</i>, built in 1895, which ran aground in 1904. <p>Taputeranga Marine Reserve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the rugged nature of the sea in this area, numerous shipwrecks have occurred on the south coast and some are located in the marine reserve, including both the <i>Cyrus</i> and the <i>Wellington</i> in 1874, the <i>Progress</i> in 1931, and the <i>Yung Pen</i> in 1982. The history of these shipwrecks, their location and availability for diving, means the community and visitors can add to their interest and understanding of the marine reserve.
Issues and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some of the gun emplacements at the top of the cliffs on the Makara Walkway are dangerous for visitors to access due to rock falls on sections of the track. An investigation needs to be done, with some emplacements requiring maintenance and strengthening, and others removal. • There are opportunities to have the stories of this Place told and passed on, including the maritime history of the lighthouses and the approaches to Wellington Harbour. • There has been some damage to the <i>Addenda</i> in the past, both by human damage and by natural processes. There is little interpretation at the site.
Policies	<p>11.3.3.1 Inspect the gun emplacements on the Makara Walkway, remove those assessed to be a health and safety risk to the public, and strengthen the remaining structures, in conjunction with the community and others.</p> <p>11.3.3.2 Improve the interpretative displays telling the cultural stories of significance to PSGEs and tangata whenua within Coastal and Marine Place, particularly along the Wairarapa coast.</p> <p>11.3.3.3 Work with the community and other interested parties to raise visitors' awareness of the <i>Addenda</i> shipwreck, to tell its story, and its significance to the Place, and to protect it from human disturbance and adverse effects.</p>



11.3.4. Recreation	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land and water-based recreation opportunities are wide ranging and are right on the urban population’s doorsteps, including a number of internationally renowned surf breaks. The accessibility of this Place by foot, boat and swimming adds to these experiences. • Recreational diving for crayfish and pāua is a highly valued resource in this Place. • The stunning landscape and natural values (see Appendix 8) – which include a mix of coastal escarpments and cliffs, and gentler topography – provide much enjoyment of visitors to this Place. • Currently, the public interacts with kekeno/New Zealand fur seals at various sites within Coastal and Marine Place, including Pariwhero/Red Rocks, Sinclair Head/Te Rimurapa, Cape Palliser and Turakirae Head. Turakirae Head Scientific Reserve has the largest kekeno/seal colony in the Wellington region. • The Wellington coastline contains many shipwrecks, with over 20 spread around the coast, as well as at the Turakirae Head scuttling ground. • Castlepoint Scenic Reserve is home to many marine species and is a popular place for coastal recreation activities due to its stunning natural features, long stretches of beach and sheltered lagoon. Visitors can enjoy some easy day walks that are suitable for families and all ages and capabilities. <p><i>Taputeranga Marine Reserve</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deliberate sinking of the <i>F69 HMNZS Wellington</i> in 2005 provides a valuable diving resource in the marine reserve. • The marine reserve is next to the Island Bay Marine Education Centre, which provides a valuable asset for the public to interact with a range of local marine species, and the Victoria University research facility is nearby.
Issues and opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The kekeno/New Zealand fur seal is not threatened but, as numbers grow, the potential for conflict between humans and seals increases. They are readily accessible and frequently visited by the public, creating both opportunities and issues. Any interaction needs to ensure that the safety of both the animals and the public is not compromised, and that human disturbance does not affect the animals’ behaviour. • Castlepoint Scenic Reserve is visited by a range of educational groups, due to its suitability for the study of geological, biological and marine species. It provides opportunities for young people and visitors to get up close with nature through its several walks, which are suitable for most age and fitness levels. • Ocean Beach Conservation Area has a number of baches that are used as private accommodation (see Appendix 12). These baches have not been authorised by the Department. The private accommodation and related facilities are not available for use by the general public. Under the Conservation General Policy 2005⁴¹, the use of private accommodation solely for private purposes is to be phased out, unless public use has been phased in, or the private accommodation has been retained by the Department for public use. The Department acknowledges that phasing out private accommodation is a difficult and contentious issue for

41 Conservation General policy on private accommodation at www.doc.govt.nz/cgp-accommodation-facilities.



11.3.4. Recreation	
Issues and opportunities continued	<p>owners, many of whom have a long history of occupation. In many cases the accommodation may have been passed down through several generations. However, the Department manages public conservation lands and waters for the benefit of the people of New Zealand and visitors, and it is not appropriate for individuals to have and maintain private accommodation and related facilities for exclusive private use. The Department intends to work with the Ocean Beach bach owners to phase out and remove the private accommodation buildings, or phase in public use (potentially by management agreements).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The location of Taputeranga Marine Reserve next to a city makes it easy for a relatively large number of people to access and enjoy it.• The Island Bay Marine Education Centre runs education initiatives in and around The Bait Shed at Island Bay. The Department supports its work and promotes it as a key advocate for recreation and education opportunities in the marine reserve. The Department also maintains relationships with dive clubs, the Friends of Taputeranga Marine Reserve and the Guardians of Kāpiti Marine Reserve to promote enjoyment of the marine reserves.
Policies	<p>11.3.4.1 Educate the public on the importance of Coastal and Marine Place for providing valuable habitat for a variety of plants and wildlife, including kekeno/seals, and how to behave around them.</p> <p>11.3.4.2 Should phase out the private-only use of the private accommodation and related facilities in the Ocean Beach Conservation Area, in accordance with Policies 4.10.1–4.10.7 (Section 4.10 Private accommodation) and in consultation with the Ocean Beach bach owners.</p> <p>11.3.4.3 Work with the Greater Wellington Regional Council, local authorities, concessionaires and local tourism operators to promote the vast array of recreational opportunities within this Place, including diving opportunities.</p> <p>11.3.4.4 Ensure that conditions in recreational concessions/permits approved within this Place support the work of the Department in protection and restoration of public conservation lands and waters along the coast.</p> <p>11.3.4.5 Should allow vehicles⁴² within Coastal and Marine Place in accordance with Policies 4.13.6 and 4.13.10 (Section 4.13 Vehicles).</p> <p>Marine reserves</p> <p>11.3.4.6 Maintain open access to the public to Kāpiti and Taputeranga marine reserves, and only restrict public access where it is necessary to protect specific marine flora and fauna, or to avoid disturbing temporary scientific experiments.</p> <p>11.3.4.7 Ensure that the duration of closure of any part of the reserve is limited to the minimum time needed to carry out the scientific study.</p> <p>11.3.4.8 Monitor the effects of commercial ventures on the marine habitat.</p>

42 See Section 4 and Glossary.



11.4 Milestones

Please note: These milestones should be read in conjunction with the regionwide milestones in Section 3.5.

Treaty of Waitangi relationships	Natural values	Historic values	Recreational values
<p>Restoration</p> <p>11.4.1 Supported PSGE and tangata whenua-led restoration plans at Castlepoint Scenic Reserve and Cape Palliser (Years 1, 4).</p>	<p>Marine reserves</p> <p>11.4.2 Supported investigations for a new marine protected area off the Wairarapa coast (Year 7).</p> <p>Knowledge of marine reserves</p> <p>11.4.3 Reported to public on marine reserve monitoring (Years 4, 10).</p>	<p>Historic sites protected</p> <p>11.4.4 Developed a conservation plan for the management of the gun emplacement on the Makara Walkway (Year 4).</p> <p>11.4.5 Completed a heritage assessment for Ngā Rā o Kupe (Kupe's Sail) (Year 1).</p> <p>Stories of historic places told</p> <p>11.4.6 Investigated and determined options to enhance the storytelling at Ngā Rā o Kupe (Year 4).</p>	<p>Ocean Beach baches</p> <p>11.4.7 Completed an inventory including ownership of all baches and accommodation (Year 1).</p> <p>11.4.8 Made decisions on the future use and management of baches and accommodation with expired licences (Year 4).</p> <p>11.4.9 All unauthorised baches and accommodation managed under temporary licence or management agreement (Year 4).</p> <p>11.4.10 Removed or re-purposed any baches and accommodation not subject to licence or management agreement (Year 10).</p> <p>Marine reserves</p> <p>11.4.11 Investigated the development of an underwater interpretation package for the snorkel trail at Taputeranga Marine Reserve (Year 4).</p> <p>Family-friendly recreation</p> <p>11.4.12 Investigated opportunities to increase visitor use of Castlepoint Scenic Reserve Gateway Site (Year 7).</p>

Part Three – Implementation, monitoring and reporting

Part Three provides a framework on which the Department and Wellington Conservation Board (the Board) may review progress in achieving the desired outcomes and objectives of the Wellington CMS.

The CMS is implemented through:

- applying business planning processes, where decisions are made about priorities and resourcing for Departmental activities;
- making decisions on concessions and other authorisations;
- working with the Wellington Conservation Board;
- working with others; and
- advocating for conservation outcomes.

The Department reports regularly to the Board on priorities for implementing the CMS, and reports to the Board annually on progress in achieving milestones and outcomes. The Board, in turn, reports annually to the New Zealand Conservation Authority. Additional monitoring is identified in the Department's Statements of Intent and Annual Reports. This reporting focuses particularly on matters related to the Department's Intermediate Outcomes that form the basis for the policy direction included in Part One of the CMS.

The Department will also use the CMS to inform the Wellington CMS region's annual business planning. Business planning is what the Department does to plan ahead for the work the Department and others will do at a local level. It sets priorities for actions for the next financial year to achieve the milestones and long-term outcomes in the CMS.

The framework included in this section should be read alongside the Conservation General Policy and Conservation Act 1987, which provide direction on monitoring, reporting and review of CMSs. The Conservation General Policy requires the CMS to include 'major milestones towards planned outcomes' (see Appendix 20). Over time, the Department and the Board may expand this monitoring and reporting framework during the life of the CMS, in conjunction with PSGEs, tangata whenua and other conservation partners.

The CMS will have effect from the time of approval by the New Zealand Conservation Authority until it is formally amended or reviewed in full or in part under section 17H or 17I of the Conservation Act 1987.

12. Implementation, monitoring and reporting policies

- 12.1 Report, at least annually, to the Wellington Conservation Board on progress in achieving the regional milestones (Table 3.5 in Part One), Place-based milestones (Part Two) and Outcomes in this CMS (see Appendix 20).
- 12.2 May, with the agreement of the Wellington Conservation Board, expand the monitoring and reporting framework in Policy 12.1 to include:
 - a) additional milestones or monitoring indicators;
 - b) reasons for delays or failures in implementation or achievement;
 - c) the nature and level of compliance/non-compliance with the provisions of this CMS;
 - d) an analysis of concession and statutory approval activity and activity monitoring; and
 - e) recommendations for improving the management of public conservation lands and waters in the Wellington region.
- 12.3 Seek the agreement of the Wellington Conservation Board when the Department considers an amendment or review of this CMS is necessary, including the contents of Appendices 2, 4, 5 and 10.
- 12.4 Seek the approval of the New Zealand Conservation Authority, on the recommendation of the Wellington Conservation Board, to any amendment to the CMS to correct a factual error, reflect changes in legislation, update information, or provide clarification of a policy without altering its intent.
- 12.5 Report, at least annually, to the Wellington Conservation Board on changes, additions, and updates to content, information and supporting links on the Wellington CMS page on the Department's website.

Glossary

Any definitions from legislation or General Policy are referenced in grey below and not repeated in full.

All Acts are online at www.legislation.govt.nz.

A

Actively conserved historic place

Historically significant site managed by the Department to preserve and maintain its historic features.

Activity (Conservation Act 1987: section 2)

Aerially-assisted trophy hunting

- 1) A wild animal recovery operation activity authorised under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 (whether or not for hire or reward) to carry out the activity of aerially-assisted trophy hunting, where an aircraft is used for all of the following purposes and no other:
 - a) to carry by aircraft recreational hunter(s), their guide(s), associated firearms and ammunition;
 - b) to actively search for wild animals with trophy potential;
 - c) the on-the-ground guiding of the client and killing of the wild animals; and
 - d) the recovery of such wild animals.
- 2) The activity is still considered to be aerially-assisted trophy hunting if one or more of the above components is performed or achieved.

This definition excludes the following activities:

- i) live capture and carriage of wild animals;

- ii) killing of any deer species during the period 23 March to 9 April and, when it falls outside this period, the four days of Easter;
- iii) killing and recovery of wild animals or any part thereof for supply to a New Zealand Food Safety Authority-approved processing facility; and
- iv) carriage or use of a shotgun.

Aircraft (Civil Aviation Act 1990: section 2)

See also *Aircraft, non-powered* and *Aircraft, remotely piloted*.

Aircraft, control line model

A model aircraft primarily controlled in flight by a single or multiple wire system operated by the person flying the aircraft and restricted to circular flights about a central point.

Aircraft, free flight model

A model aircraft with a maximum wing loading of 62 g/dm² (20 oz/ft²), with a flight path that, once launched, is uncontrollable.

Aircraft, non-powered

Any machine not driven by a powered device that can derive support in the atmosphere from the reactions of the air otherwise than by the reactions of the air against the surface of the earth. This is an

inclusive definition that includes non-powered gliders, non-powered hang gliders, parachutes, balloons and any other non-powered aircraft that may become regulated by Civil Aviation Rules from time to time.

See also *Aircraft*.

Aircraft, remotely piloted

An unmanned aircraft that is piloted from a remote station and:

- a) includes a radio-controlled model aircraft, but;
- b) does not include a control line model aircraft or a free flight model aircraft;

or as regulated by Civil Aviation Rules from time to time.

Airstrip

Any specified area of public conservation land specifically maintained for the landing and take-off of fixed-wing aircraft, which may also be used by rotary-wing aircraft. It does not include a certified aerodrome as defined by the Conservation Act 1987 or an airport as defined by the Airport Authorities Act 1966.

Animal (Reserves Act 1977: section 2; National Parks Act 1980: section 2; Conservation Act 1987: section 2)

Archaeological site (Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014: section 6)

At risk (species)

Taxa that do not meet the criteria for any of the ‘Threatened’ species categories, but are declining (though buffered by a large total

population size and/or a slow decline rate), biologically scarce, recovering from a previously threatened status, or survive only in relictual populations. (NZ Threat Classification System Manual 2008).

Authorisation (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Authorised

Approved in a statutory process.

B

Backcountry destination

Destination that provides for more challenging adventures, including popular walks and tramps, within the body of a large-scale natural setting.

Biodiversity (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Biosecurity

(Conservation General Policy 2005)

The Department has functions which it performs under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

Building (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Bylaw

A bylaw made by the Minister of Conservation under section 56 of the National Parks Act 1980 or section 106 of the Reserves Act 1977. Bylaws may apply to national parks and reserves, whereas Regulations may apply to reserves and conservation areas.

C

Climate change (Resource Management Act 1991: section 2)

Commercial hunting (General Policy for National Parks 2005)

Community

Any individual or group (whether statutory or non-statutory, formal or informal, commercial or non-commercial) having an interest in a particular conservation issue.

Concession

A lease, licence, permit or easement, granted under Part 3B of the Conservation Act 1987, section 49 of the National Parks Act 1980, section 59A of the Reserves Act 1977, section 22 of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 or section 14AA of the Wildlife Act and includes any activity authorised by the concession document.

Concessionaire

A person granted a concession by the Minister for Conservation for a lease, licence, permit or easement.

Conservation (Conservation Act 1987: section 2)

Conservation board

Conservation boards are established under section 6L of the Conservation Act 1987. The primary functions and powers of conservation boards are set out in sections 6M and 6N of the Conservation Act 1987, and section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980. Their functions include overseeing the preparation of conservation management strategies and national park management plans for their areas, approval of conservation management plans (e.g. for

conservation parks), and advising the New Zealand Conservation Authority and Director-General of the Department of Conservation on conservation matters of importance in their area. They also have an important conservation advocacy role. The relevant conservation board for this CMS is the Wellington Conservation Board.

Conservation General Policy

A policy prepared under section 17C of the Conservation Act 1987 to provide unified policy for the implementation of the Conservation, Wildlife, Marine Reserves, Reserves, Wild Animal Control and Marine Mammals Protection Acts. It provides guidance for the administration and management of all lands and waters, and all natural and historic resources managed for the purposes of those Acts, excluding reserves administered by other agencies under the Reserves Act 1977. It also provides guidance for consistent management planning for the wide range of places and resources administered or managed by the Department, including the preparation of conservation management strategies, conservation management plans and sports fish management plans.

Conservation legislation

A term that applies collectively to the statutes administered by the Department, including the Conservation Act 1987 (and the legislation listed in Schedule 1 of that Act), the Reserves Act 1977, the Wildlife Act 1953, the Marine Reserves Act 1971 and the National Parks Act 1980.

Conservation management

Any activity that is carried out by the Minister or the Director-General (and their contractors and authorised agents) in the exercise of his or her functions, duties or powers under conservation legislation.

Conservation management plan (Conservation Act 1987: section 17E)

Conservation management strategy (CMS) (Conservation Act 1987: section 17D)

Control line model aircraft

See *Aircraft, control line model*.

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat 1971 (Ramsar Convention)

An intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for national action and international cooperation for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.

See *Wetland(s) of International Importance*.

Conservation partners

For the purposes of this CMS, ‘conservation partners’ includes local authorities, private landowners, community groups and the public.

Conservation Protocol

An agreement between the Department of Conservation and a post-settlement governance entity (PSGE) that promotes working relationships and participation in areas of decision-making.

Cultural (General Policy for National Parks 2005)

Cumulative effect (Resource Management Act 1991: section 3)

Customary use (Conservation General Policy 2005)

D**Department, the**

The Department of Conservation.

Destination management

A programme aimed at increasing the number of people enjoying public conservation lands and waters. It focuses the Department on five key areas for success: understanding what people want; delivering quality experiences; optimising resources; working with others; and improving marketing and promotion. Destinations are a geographic area and/or group of facilities that are the focus of a single typical visitor trip, and are categorised into Icon, Gateway, Local Treasure and Backcountry destinations. Destination management is the coordinated management of all the elements that make up a destination including its values, attractions, people, infrastructure, access and how the destination is marketed.

Deed of Recognition

A document that requires the Department of Conservation to consult with a Post Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE), and have regard for the PSGE’s special association with identified areas for which they have a Statement of Association, and may (in certain Deeds) specify a PSGE’s input into the management of those areas. Deeds are administered by the Department of Conservation.

Director-General

The Director-General of Conservation.

Disability assist dog (Dog Control Act 1996: section 2)

E

Ecological integrity (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Ecological corridor

An area of vegetation used by wildlife that provides a connection and potentially allows the movement of plants and animals between two habitats. Ecological corridors do not have to be linear and/or physically connected, just close enough so that plants and animals can disperse along them (Hilty et al. 2006; Wildland Consultants 2007a).

Ecosystem

(Conservation General Policy 2005)

An 'indigenous ecosystem' is comprised of indigenous species.

Ecosystem services (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Effect (Conservation Act 1987: section 2 and Resource Management Act 1991: section 3)

Electric power-assisted pedal cycle (E-bike)

A pedal cycle to which is attached one or more auxiliary electric propulsion motors having a combined maximum power output not exceeding 300 watts.

Encampment (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Endemic (General Policy for National Parks 2005)

Eradicate (Conservation General Policy 2005)

F

Facilities (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Fish (Fisheries Act 1996: section 2)

Fish and Game Council (Conservation Act 1987: section 26Q (1))

Fishery (Conservation Act 1987: section 2)

Fixed anchor

A device, such as a bolt or piton, placed permanently into rock to facilitate climbing and caving activities.

Foreshore (Conservation Act 1987: section 2)

Four-wheel drive road

A road that can be traversed by a four-wheel drive vehicle capable of handling conditions including grade and side slopes, width, surface material, waterway fords, entry and exit angles to fords and depressions, and seasonal snow and ice, without causing adverse effects to the adjoining areas or the road. The road, through maintenance and managed traffic densities and/or seasonal closures, can be retained at this four-wheel drive standard, and can be shared with other vehicles, including trail bikes and mountain bikes.

See also *Road*.

Free flight model aircraft

See *Aircraft, free flight model*.

Freshwater fish (Conservation Act 1987: section 2)

G

Game (Wildlife Act 1953: section 2)

Game animal (Game Animal Council Act 2013: section 4)

Gateway destination

A destination that helps to introduce New Zealanders to the outdoors and allows them to learn about conservation. These destinations may provide for a diverse range of activities and include many traditional camping and tramping destinations.

General Policy for National Parks

A policy prepared under section 44 of the National Parks Act 1980 to provide unified policy for the implementation of the Act.

Geomorphology

The study of the physical features of the surface of the earth and their relation to its geologic structures.

H

Habitat (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Historic and cultural heritage (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Historic area (Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014: section 6)

Historic place (Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014: section 6)

Historic resource (Conservation Act 1987: section 2)

Hover

An aircraft flight at a constant height and position over a surface.

Hovercraft

A motorised vessel that derives full or partial support in the atmosphere from the reaction of air against the surface of the land or water over which it operates.

I

Icon destination

A high-profile, popular destination that underpins national and international tourism, and provides memorable visitor experiences in New Zealand.

Ika

Fish, marine animal, aquatic animal – any creature that swims in fresh or salt water, including marine mammals.

Inanga

Whitebait, *Galaxias maculatus* – a small, silvery-white indigenous fish with a slender body. Found in streams, rivers, lakes, swamps and pools throughout the coastal regions of New Zealand.

Indigenous species

(Conservation General Policy 2005)

‘Indigenous’ and ‘native’ have the same meaning in this CMS.

Integrated conservation management (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Interpretation

Conveying information about the origin, meaning or values of natural, historic or cultural heritage via live, interactive or static media in a way that stimulates interest, increased understanding of and support for conservation.

Intrinsic value (Conservation General Policy 2005)

K

Kāinga

Home, address, residence, village, settlement, habitation, habitat, dwelling.

Kaitiaki (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Kaitiakitanga (Conservation General Policy 2005)

L

Livestock (Conservation Act 1987: section 2)

Local authority

(Local Government Act 2002: section 5(1))
The local authorities in the Wellington CMS region are Rangitikei District Council, Manawatū District Council, Hastings District Council, Central Hawke's Bay District Council, Horowhenua District Council, Kāpiti Coast District Council, Tararua District Council, Masterton District Council, Carterton District Council, South Wairarapa District Council, Palmerston North City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council, Hutt City Council, Wellington City Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, Horizons Regional Council, and Greater Wellington Regional Council.

Local Treasure destination

Locally important, vehicle-accessible location that provides recreation opportunities for, and grows connections with, nearby communities.

M

Mahinga kai

Garden, cultivation, food-gathering place.

Mana (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Marine mammal (Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978: section 2)

Marine protected area

(Conservation General Policy 2005)

Includes marine reserves.

Marine reserve (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Mātaitai Reserve

A management tool created under Part IX of the Fisheries Act 1996 to recognise use and management practices of Māori in the exercise of non-commercial fishing rights. Tangata whenua may apply to the Minister of Fisheries to establish a Mātaitai Reserve on a traditional fishing ground for the purpose of recognising and providing for customary management practices and food gathering.

Mātauranga Māori (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Mauri (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Milestone

A specific action that is a measurable step towards achieving an objective or outcome.

Mining (Crown Minerals Act 1991: section 2)

Motor vehicle (includes motorised vehicle)

(Land Transport Act 1998: section 2)

A motor vehicle does not include any electric power-assisted pedal cycle.

Note: any motor vehicle (which includes trail and quad bikes) taken onto public conservation lands and waters must be registered and/or licensed, where it is required to be registered and/or licensed under the Land Transport Act 1998.

Motorised watercraft

A vessel or other watercraft that:

- a) is used on or in water; and
- b) is not powered solely by hand, solely by sail, or solely by a combination of hand and sail.

Mountain bike

A non-powered bicycle that can be used off formed roads.

N**Native (species)**

Plants and animals that have established in New Zealand without the assistance of human beings, vehicles or aircraft. This includes

species that are unique to New Zealand as well as those that may be found elsewhere in the world. 'Indigenous' and 'native' have the same meaning in this CMS.

Natural (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Natural character (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Natural quiet (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Natural resources (Conservation Act 1987: section 2)

Natural state (Conservation General Policy 2005)

New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Non-motorised watercraft

A vessel or other watercraft that:

- a) is used on or in water; and
- b) is powered solely by hand, solely by sail, or solely by a combination of hand and sail.

O

Outcome (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Overlay classification (Clauses for Standard Elements of Treaty Settlement Bills 2015)

P

Participation (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Partnership (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Personal mobility device

(Conservation General Policy 2005)

For the purposes of this CMS, this does not include electric power-assisted pedal cycles.

Pest (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Place

(Conservation General Policy 2005)

For the purposes of this CMS, the Places are: Central Spine Place, Manawatū-Rangitikei Place, Wairarapa Place, Coastal Dunes Place, Islands Place, Wellington-Kāpiti Place, and Coastal and Marine Place.

Post-settlement governance entity (PSGE)

A PSGE needs to be set up before a Treaty settlement becomes final and is made law. The group will represent the claimant group after the settlement is complete, and decide how to manage the redress package for the benefit of everyone. (<https://www.govt.nz/browse/history-culture-and-heritage/treaty-of-waitangi-claims/>)

Pou whenua (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Preservation (Conservation Act 1987: section 2)

Priority ecosystem unit

An ecosystem unit identified through the Department's natural heritage prioritisation processes as being one of the most effective locations to work to ensure that a representative range of ecosystems is protected.

Private accommodation (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Protected areas (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Protection (Conservation Act 1987: section 2)

Public accommodation (General Policy for National Parks 2005)

Public conservation lands and waters

Lands and waters administered by the Department of Conservation for their respective legislative purpose, including the preservation and protection of natural and historic resources of those areas covered by this CMS. Reserves administered by other agencies are not included in this definition.

R

Rāhui

To put in place a temporary ritual prohibition, closed season, ban or reserve. Traditionally a rāhui was placed on an area, resource or stretch of water as a conservation measure or as a means of social and political control for a variety of reasons which can be grouped into three main categories: pollution by tapu, conservation and politics. A rāhui is a device for separating people from tapu things.

Railway line (Railways Act 2005: section 4)

Ramsar

See *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat* and *Wetland(s) of International Importance*

Recreational freshwater fisheries (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Regulation

A Regulation made by the Governor-General, by Order in Council, under the relevant section of the conservation legislation.

Related facilities

Any structure or piece of equipment that is used in conjunction or association with accommodation. Examples include garages, outhouses and outdoor showers.

Relationship Agreement

An agreement that outlines how the Department of Conservation will work and engage with a post-settlement governance entity (PSGE).

Relationship Statement

A commitment to a post-settlement relationship between the post-settlement governance entity (PSGE) and the Department of Conservation.

Relict

Population of a species whose distribution has been severely modified and disturbed with dispersed fragments remaining.

Remotely piloted aircraft

See *Aircraft, remotely piloted*.

Reserve

(Reserves Act 1977: section 2)

Includes the following categories of reserve: recreation, historic, scenic, nature, scientific, government purpose, and local purpose.

Restoration (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Road

(Conservation General Policy 2005)

A road may or may not pass over a defined legal road.

See also *Four-wheel drive road*.

Roar period

The primary recreational deer hunting period, from 23 March to 9 April (inclusive).

Rohe (Conservation General Policy 2005)

S

Site (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Species (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Sports fish (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Statement of Intent (SOI)

A document that sets out a rolling four-year direction for the Department. Its primary purpose is to enable Ministers, select committees, and the central and audit agencies that support them to assess the performance of government departments.

Statement of Association

Statements of a PSGE's particular cultural, spiritual, historical and traditional association with identified areas.

Structure (Resource Management Act 1991: section 2)

T

Taiipo

A prominent, serrated, dark-coloured hill or ridge of steeply dipping strata which contrasts with the surrounding low-lying, lighter-coloured, more eroded rocks, and more moderate slopes.

Takiwā (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Tangata whenua (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Taonga (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Threatened (species)

Includes all species categorised as 'Nationally Critical', 'Nationally Endangered' or 'Nationally Vulnerable' under the New Zealand Threat Classification System 2008.

Tikanga (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Translocation

Movement by human intervention of a species from place to place, usually with the intention of improving the status of the species.

U

UNESCO Global Geopark

A single, unified geographical area where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development.
<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/environment/earth-sciences/unesco-global-geoparks/frequently-asked-questions/what-is-a-unesco-global-geopark/>

Urupā

Burial ground.

Under control (dogs)

- a) Not causing nuisance or danger to:
 - i) people, or
 - ii) any indigenous fauna; and
- b) able to respond immediately and appropriately to controls including a leash, voice commands, hand signals or whistles.

Utilities (Conservation General Policy 2005)

V

Vehicle (Land Transport Act 1998: section 2)

Visitor

For the purpose of this CMS, visitors are people using areas and facilities managed by the Department. They include adults and children from both New Zealand and overseas, and they may either arrange their own visit or use the services of a concessionaire.

W

Wāhi tapu (Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014: section 6)

Warranted officer (Conservation Act 1987: section 2)

Water conservation order

(Resource Management Act 1991: section 200)

Recognises the outstanding amenity or intrinsic values of water bodies.

Wetlands (Conservation General Policy 2005)

Wetland(s) of International Importance

A wetland designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 1971 as meeting the Criteria for Identifying Wetlands of International Importance; either sites containing representative, rare or unique wetland types, or sites of international importance for conserving biological diversity.

Wild animal (Wild Animal Control Act 1977: section 2)

Wildlife (Wildlife Act 1953: section 2)

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