



# Abel Tasman National Park Management Plan

2008 - 2018



Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

# Abel Tasman National Park Management Plan

2008 - 2018

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Cover photo: Abel Tasman coast track leading to Anatakapau Bay and Mutton Cove, by Garry Holz.

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# Preface

The previous management plan for Abel Tasman National Park, which was approved in 1986, has been reviewed and this new management plan was prepared in accordance with sections 46 and 47 of the National Parks Act 1980. This statutory document implements the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy and provides for the management of Abel Tasman National Park in accordance with the Act and General Policy for National Parks 2005.

The Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy of the Department of Conservation has prepared this Management Plan in consultation with the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board, representatives of tangata whenua, other interested groups and individuals, and utilising a public submissions process.

There has been a significant delay in the planning process, which began in 1995. This resulted in the need to re-notify the draft plan for public submissions.

The Department re-notified its intention to review the plan on 19 March 2005 and received 22 written suggestions. The Abel Tasman National Park Draft Management Plan was notified on 28 January 2006 and 277 submissions were received. The Department has taken into account those public suggestions and submissions, as well as comments on the initial (1996) draft plan, in the development of this Plan.

The amended plan was received by the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board for consideration, and, following some further changes, was then recommended by the Board to the New Zealand Conservation Authority for approval.

This plan will be effective for up to ten years from the date of approval, but a review may occur at any time due to increased knowledge or changes in circumstance.

This plan was approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority on this 9th day of October 2008.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W. D. Ross', is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Don Ross  
Chairperson  
New Zealand Conservation Authority



## **Te Oriori a Riri-koko**

This is the lament of Riri-koko, who, on the death of his daughter, followed her to Cape Reinga (the place of departed spirits) and brought her back to Golden Bay. He welcomes her back to the rohe and marks out its boundaries.

It is one of the few treasured traditions preserved from Ngāti Tūmatakōkiri.

*Nau mai, E te tau! ki roto nei taua,  
Titiro iho ai taku taonga-rerewa  
E tomo, E Hine! ki Mirumiru-te-po, ko Te Tatau-o-te-po  
Ko te whare tena o Rua-kumea o Rua-Toia, O Miru ra e!  
No Tu-horo-punga, no Kai-pono-kino.*

*Nana koe i maka i te kopae o te whare  
Ki te ata ki a Te Kamu  
Ka huri mai hoki to wairua-ora e Hine! ki a au.  
He motoi taniwha no roto i te kopa  
Na to whaea no to tuakana na Hinekorangi  
He awe toroa no runga i a Karewa  
Nana i unu ake, tukua mai kai rere.*

*E Tama ma e! tauwhitirotia mai  
Te waka o te makau  
Me tuku kai whano nga mata kurae  
Ki Rua-taniwha e --  
Kia wawe ia te ihu  
Ki Otama-i-ea  
Tahuri atu ki tua ki One-tahua -- e --  
Te whenua ra e, kihai ai i kite,  
E takahia mai ra, e Tu-ki-Hawaiki.*

Welcome back, my love! To this our home,  
And let me gaze upon my treasure found --  
You have entered, O lady! Mirumiru-te-po by the door of Hades,  
place of departed spirits  
There is the house of Rua-kumea -- (where spirits are dragged to their  
doom)  
Of Rua-toia, spirit holder - of Miru (Goddess of Hades).  
There is also the house of Tohu-horo-punga of Kai-pono-kino  
(The powerful god of sorcery and spells)

It was Miru that cast thee into the corner, to the shade of the firmly-  
grasped;  
From there your living spirit was returned, O Lady, to me  
My precious one from the treasure-trove;  
Once your mother's, sister's, even Hinekorangi's<sup>a</sup>  
You are like the albatross plume, from Karewa<sup>b</sup>

Plucked from its wing and brought here.  
O friends! Welcome with beckoning hand the canoe that bears my loved  
one  
And let it pass on by the many capes that lead to Ruataniwha<sup>c</sup>  
Quickly will the bow reach the strand at famed Otama-i-ea<sup>d</sup>,  
Then turn away to One-tahua<sup>e</sup> to that land I have never seen  
Where the great chief Tohu-ki-Hawaiki<sup>f</sup> goes to and fro.

He kura kaianga e hokia; he kura tangata e kore e hokia.  
The treasures of the land will persist; human possessions will not.

---

a Hine-korangi, sister of the departed

b Karewa, an island off Kawhia, home of the albatross

c Rua-taniwha, an inlet near Aorere, Collingwood

d Te Tahuna I Otama-i-ea, the Boulder Bank at Nelson

e One-tahua is Farewell Spit

f Tohu-ki-Hawaiki was formerly the principal chief of Ngāti Tūmatakōkiri of Tasman Bay

# Vision

The purpose of this management plan is to preserve Abel Tasman National Park in perpetuity for its intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public. Underlying all decisions must be the need to preserve the park as far as possible in its natural state. Public use is provided for to the extent that it is compatible with the preservation of native plants and animals and the welfare of the park.

The long-term vision for Abel Tasman National Park is a coastal park where:

- Indigenous vegetation has fully regenerated;
- Indigenous flora and fauna have been restored and are not threatened by introduced plants or animals;
- Scenic and geological values have been preserved;
- The cultural and historical heritage of the park has been protected and preserved;
- People come to experience the unique and accessible coastal setting and the beauty and tranquillity of the park, in harmony with nature and each other; and
- The adjacent coastal environment is managed in a way that is integrated with the management of the park.

The purpose of this plan is to advance towards this Vision.

## Primary objectives

General Policy for National Parks 12(b)(v) requires this plan to identify objectives (and policies) for the integrated management of the park (see section 1.1.1.2 'Objectives, policies, implementations and outcomes'). The Primary Objectives for the Abel Tasman National Park are as follows:

1. Preservation of the landscape, indigenous ecosystems, and natural features of Abel Tasman National Park, in their natural state in perpetuity.
2. Restoration of indigenous ecosystems and processes within Abel Tasman National Park.
3. Preservation of the essential character of Abel Tasman National Park as a natural area of great beauty and tranquillity, history and spiritual significance and of value for recreation, appreciation and culture.
4. Effect given to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, to the extent that they are consistent with the provisions of the National Parks Act 1980.
5. Provision of opportunities for the public to receive inspiration, enjoyment, recreation and other benefits that may be derived from the mountains, forests, rivers and other natural features of the park, to the extent compatible with the National Parks Act 1980 and the Objectives above.



# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 MANAGEMENT PLANNING

The purpose of this management plan is to provide for the management of Abel Tasman National Park in accordance with the National Parks Act 1980, the General Policy for National Parks 2005 and the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy. This plan seeks to give guidance and clear directions for management by the Department of Conservation (the Department) for the next ten years, while remaining flexible enough to provide for changing circumstances within that period.

A national park management plan is prepared through the process set out in section 47 of the National Parks Act 1980. The stages are:

1. Advertise an initial notice asking for suggestions from interested persons and organisations.
2. Prepare a draft management plan.
3. Release the draft management plan for formal public submissions.
4. Hear submissions.
5. Amend the draft for consideration by the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board.
6. The Board considers and revises the draft.
7. When satisfied, the Board forwards the plan to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval.
8. The NZCA considers the plan and then refers the plan to the Minister, before the NZCA finally approves it.

The Department undertook the review of the management plan for Abel Tasman National Park in accordance with the National Parks Act 1980. It was a complete review of the previous plan of 1986.

The objectives of this plan express the overall management intentions for Abel Tasman National Park over the next ten years. Achievement will be determined by the availability of resources and the level of community support. The plan does not establish a promised level of funding. Nonetheless, the stated objectives and outcomes are underscored by a commitment to endeavour to obtain the necessary funding and support.

The Department administers Abel Tasman National Park through its Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy Office, located in Nelson. Area Offices located in Motueka and Takaka are responsible for operational management.

## 1.1.1 Plan structure

### 1.1.1.1 *Format - outcome at place*

This management plan focuses on 'outcome at place', with detailed descriptions and management outcomes for specific 'places' within the park. The Abel Tasman National Park has been divided into three different 'places': the Coast; the Interior; and the Islands.

This management plan sets out the legislative context and then describes each of the 'places' in detail, as well as the long term objectives of management in those 'places'. This is followed by an explanation of the significance of the Treaty of Waitangi in relation to the whole of the park.

The plan then addresses issues relating to the functional roles of the Department. Under each of the 'Natural and Historical Heritage Preservation' and the 'Access and Use' sections there is a sub-section relating to the park as a whole followed by a sub-section for each 'place', which includes policies, implementation statements and outcomes. The final two chapters of the plan, 'Community Relations' and 'Administration, Implementation and Review' address issues, provide policies, implementation statements and outcomes for the park as a whole, and are not divided into 'places'. This is because these functions overarch the whole park and separating them into 'places' would be repetitious.

There is a footnote at the bottom of each page to indicate which section of the plan you are in.

### 1.1.1.2 *Objectives, policies, implementations and outcomes*

Within this plan 'Objectives' are long term goals, with a 20 to 50 year timeframe; 'Policies' set out what the Department intends to do; 'Implementation' statements explain how the Department will implement the Policies; and the Outcomes illustrate what results will be achieved. The Policies, Implementations and Outcomes relate to a timeframe within the life of the plan, provided sufficient funding is available.

Each section of this plan contains parts that are informative and parts that are operative (have statutory weight). The operative parts are used to make decisions or guide actions, and include the Primary Objectives, the Long-term Objectives for the places, and all policies, implementations and outcomes in each section. The informative parts describe the values present; provide context and scene setting; identify issues; and outline the rationale for, clarify the intention behind, and aid in the interpretation of, the objectives, policies, implementations and outcomes.

The General Policy for National Parks 2005 is a statutory document which sets policies that give direction and guidance on the exercise of discretions provided under the National Parks Act 1980 (see section 1.2 'Legislative context'). General Policy for National Parks 1(d) must be used to interpret the use of the words 'will', 'should' and 'may' in the Implementation statements contained in this plan. As set out below:

*"1(d) The words 'will', 'should' and 'may' have the following meanings:*

- i) policies where legislation provides no discretion for decision-making, or a deliberate decision has been made by the Authority to direct decision-makers, state that a particular action or actions 'will' be undertaken;*
- ii) policies that carry with them a strong expectation of outcome, without diminishing the constitutional role of the Minister and other decision-makers, state that a particular action or actions 'should' be undertaken;*
- iii) policies intended to allow flexibility in decision-making, state that a particular action or actions 'may' be undertaken."*

Note that when the term 'should' is used it is anticipated that there will only be very exceptional circumstances where the outcome will differ to that expressed in the Implementation statement. While it is essential to acknowledge the discretionary nature of decision making, this plan and its Implementation statements are designed to give as much certainty as possible of management practice.

During the life of this plan, if an exceptional circumstance arises, where there is no clear guidance for decision-makers, then decisions will be guided by the primary objectives for the park and the outcome statements for each place. Such decisions must be made by the Conservator or may be referred to another person with a higher level of authority for consideration and/or a decision.

#### **1.1.1.3 *Adjacent foreshore and coastal waters***

The coastal boundary of Abel Tasman National Park is the Mean High Water Mark, which means that the foreshore (beaches and estuaries) and the coastal waters are all outside the national park. This management plan can only directly manage activities on land and fresh waters that are within the national park boundaries (see section 7.1.6 'Additions to the park'). This plan cannot directly manage issues related to the management of the adjacent sea and foreshore. However, the Department will seek integrated management through working with the Tasman District Council towards developing common outcomes for the Abel Tasman coastal environment as a whole.

The foreshore adjoining Abel Tasman National Park and adjoining the private lands and settlements was gazetted as a scenic reserve in February 2007. The Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve is jointly administered by the Tasman District Council and the Department. A separate management plan for the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve will be prepared, in consultation with the public, under the Reserves Act 1977.

#### **1.1.1.4 *Animal and plant classification***

There are references to animals and plants throughout the plan. In general, the main text uses the common name. Appendix 1 lists species likely to be found in the park by their common, scientific and Māori names.

## 1.2 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

### 1.2.1 The National Parks Act 1980

Section 4 - Parks to be maintained in natural state, and public to have right of entry:

- “(1) It is hereby declared that the provisions of this Act shall have effect for the purpose of preserving in perpetuity as national parks, for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use, and enjoyment of the public, areas of New Zealand that contain scenery of such distinctive quality, ecological systems, or natural features so beautiful, unique, or scientifically important that their preservation is in the national interest.*
- (2) It is hereby further declared that, having regard to the general purposes specified in subsection (1) of this section, national parks shall be so administered and maintained under the provisions of this Act that:*
- (a) They shall be preserved as far as possible in their natural state;*
  - (b) Except where the Authority otherwise determines, the native plants and animals of the parks shall as far as possible be preserved and the introduced plants and animals shall as far as possible be exterminated;*
  - (c) Sites and objects of archaeological and historical interest shall as far as possible be preserved;*
  - (d) Their value as soil, water, and forest conservation areas shall be maintained;*
  - (e) Subject to the provisions of this Act and to the imposition of such conditions and restrictions as may be necessary for the preservation of the native plants and animals or for the welfare in general of the parks, the public shall have freedom of entry and access to the parks, so they may receive in full measure the inspiration, enjoyment, recreation, and other benefits that may be derived from mountains, forests, sounds, seacoasts, lakes, rivers, and other natural features.”*

This management plan has been prepared under section 46 of the Act and will provide for the management of the park in accordance with the Act.

#### 1.2.1.1 *Bylaws*

Section 56 of the National Parks Act 1980 provides for the Minister of Conservation to make bylaws for controlling access and various activities in national parks. Bylaws were made for the park in 1981 (and amended in 1996). These will need to be replaced with new bylaws that are consistent with this management plan (see section 7.1.8 ‘Bylaws’).

## **1.2.2 General Policy for National Parks 2005**

The New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) has prepared the General Policy for National Parks 2005, under section 44 of the National Parks Act 1980, as a guide for the interpretation and exercise of discretions contained in that Act.

This management plan must be in accordance with the General Policy for National Parks.

## **1.2.3 The Conservation Act 1987**

The Conservation Act 1987 established the Department of Conservation. It directs the administration and management of all land and resources under the Department's control. The Act also contains provisions regarding concessions (leases, licences, permits and easements) on land administered by the Department. It requires applicants for concessions to identify all possible effects of their proposed activity and suggest ways in which adverse effects may be avoided, remedied or mitigated. It also states that concessions shall not be granted for structures where they could be reasonably located elsewhere.

### **1.2.3.1 *The Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)***

In terms of section 17 of the Conservation Act 1987, each Conservancy must prepare a ten year Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) which applies to all land administered by the Department in that Conservancy. The NZCA approved the Nelson/Marlborough CMS in September 1996.

Section 17D(1) of the Conservation Act 1987 states that the purpose of a CMS is: "*to implement general policies and establish objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources, including any species, managed by the Department under the Wildlife Act 1953, the Marine Reserves Act 1971, the Reserves Act 1977, the Wild Animal Control Act 1977, the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978, the National Parks Act 1980, the New Zealand Walkways Act 1990, Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 or this Act, or any of them, and for recreation, tourism, and other conservation purposes.*"

The CMS is an overarching document which sets the general direction for the management of all land administered by the Department in the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy, including this national park. This management plan comes under the CMS and must be in accordance with policies contained within the approved Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy.

## **1.2.4 The National Park Management Plan**

This management plan gives effect to the Conservation Act 1987, the National Parks Act 1980, the General Policy for National Parks 2005, and the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy. Where any inconsistencies arise between this management plan and the legislation or these other statutory documents then the legislation shall prevail in the first instance, followed by the General Policy for National Parks 2005 and the Conservation Management Strategy.

### 1.2.5 The Resource Management Act 1991

Section 5 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) states:

- "(1) The purpose of this Act is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.*
- (2) In this Act, "sustainable management" means managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety while -*
- (a) Sustaining the potential of natural and physical resources (excluding minerals) to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and*
  - (b) Safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems; and*
  - (c) Avoiding, remedying, or mitigating any adverse effects of activities on the environment."*

The RMA is administered by regional and local government and implemented through Regional Policy Statements and Regional and District Plans prepared by local authorities. The activities of the Department are bound by the provisions of the RMA, the Policy Statements and the Plans. The Department must apply for resource consents for activities as required under the RMA or the Plans. However, section 4(3) of the RMA does allow for a limited exemption for the Department in relation to the use of any land where that activity is consistent with a conservation management strategy, conservation management plan or management plan and where it does not have a significant adverse effect beyond the boundary of the area of land.

Sections 61(2)(a)(i), 66(2)(c)(i) and 74(2)(b)(i) require a regional council and/or territorial authority to have regard to any management plans and strategies prepared under other Acts when preparing a regional policy statement, a regional plan or a district plan. Councils therefore need to have regard to the CMS for the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy and this management plan when preparing or reviewing their plans and strategies.

#### 1.2.5.1 *The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement*

The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 1994 (NZCPS) is required by section 57 of the RMA, and its purpose is to state policies in order to achieve the purpose of the RMA in relation to the coastal environment of New Zealand. The NZCPS is prepared and recommended by the Minister of Conservation.

Maintaining and managing the protected areas of Abel Tasman National Park (and the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve) gives effect to the following policies.

Policy 1.1.2 states:

*"It is a national priority for the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment to protect areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna in that environment ..."*

Policy 1.1.3 states:

*"It is a national priority to protect the following features, which in themselves or in combination, are essential or important elements of the natural character of the coastal environment:*

- (a) landscapes, seascapes and landforms, including:*
  - (i) significant representative examples of each landform which provide the variety in each region;*
  - (ii) visually or scientifically significant geological features; and*
  - (iii) the collective characteristics which give the coastal environment its natural character including wild and scenic areas;*
- (b) characteristics of special spiritual, historical or cultural significance to Maori identified in accordance with tikanga Maori; and*
- (c) significant places or areas of historic or cultural significance."*

#### **1.2.6 The Crown Minerals Act 1991**

The Crown Minerals Act 1991 (section 61(1A)) prohibits the Minister of Conservation from entering into any access arrangement for mining within any national park held and administered under the National Parks Act 1980. This effectively prohibits mining in the park.

However, the Minister can permit a few low impact, small-scale activities, which are described in the Act (see section 5.3.4.1.4 'Mining').

#### **1.2.7 Other strategies and plans**

The Department produces plans, strategies and reviews of particular issues on a local and national basis. Relevant documents include (see Bibliography also):

- Policy Statement on Deer Control (2001);
- Visitor Strategy (1996);
- Recreation Opportunities Review (2005);
- Historic Heritage Strategy (1995);
- Historic Resources Strategy: Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy (1997);
- Kaupapa Atawhai Strategy: Atawhai Ruamano Conservation 2000 (1997);
- recovery plans for threatened native species; and
- local animal/plant pest control plans.

The Department and the Ministry for the Environment also produced The New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (2000), in response to the state of decline of New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity. The strategy reflects New Zealand's commitment, through ratification of the international Convention on Biological Diversity, to help stem the loss of biodiversity worldwide. The purpose of the strategy is to establish a strategic framework for action, to conserve and sustainably use and manage New Zealand's biodiversity.

This management plan is informed by these documents and strategies where their intent is consistent with the National Parks Act 1980 and the General Policy for National Parks.

### **1.2.8 Other bodies with administrative responsibilities**

Tasman District Council – a unitary authority responsible for regional and district planning implemented through its Regional Policy Statement and Resource Management Plan; water safety and navigation through its Navigation Safety Bylaw; and civil defence emergency management.

New Zealand Police - responsible for law and order and search and rescue.

Ministry of Health - responsible for public health.

New Zealand Fire Service - responsible for determining standards of fire prevention, safety and control.

Ministry of Transport: Civil Aviation Authority - responsible for aviation safety and regulation; and Maritime New Zealand (Maritime NZ) - responsible for promoting a safe maritime environment, and providing effective marine pollution prevention and an effective marine oil pollution response system.

Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council - responsible for the issue of sports fish and game bird licences and for the sustainable management of sports fisheries and game birds.

New Zealand Historic Places Trust – responsible for providing the identification, protection, preservation and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand and, in particular, the protection of archaeological sites and the registration of historic places.

Ministry of Fisheries – responsible for managing fisheries (other than sports fish and whitebait) within the freshwaters of the park and in the coastal waters adjoining the park.

# Map 1 – Location of Abel Tasman National Park



### 1.3 BACKGROUND

The 23,000 hectare Abel Tasman National Park is located on the coast in the northwest of the top of the South Island, straddling Tasman Bay and Golden Bay, as shown on Map 1 (page 21).

The park was created in 1942 on the 300th anniversary of the first contact between Māori and Europeans, which occurred when Dutch explorer Abel Tasman visited the area on December 18, 1642. The park has significant historical and archaeological values.

In a country where national parks commonly exceed 75,000 hectares and are usually in a largely unmodified condition, Abel Tasman National Park stands out as unique. It is the smallest national park in New Zealand and it is recovering from a century of massive modification including several major fires. Pioneering settlers cleared and burned the land, destroying coastal forests and shrublands. Farmers eventually abandoned the infertile soils of Abel Tasman and left their pastures to the weeds. Many weed species, including gorse, pines and hakea, are now present throughout the modified coastal parts of the park.

Abel Tasman National Park is an example of landscape recovery, as the areas cleared by humans regenerate back to native forest. The process is slow and involves a series of dominant vegetation types taking over from the previous phase of growth - from ferns to kānuka; from gorse to broadleaved shrubs and then to young forest. Despite the almost imperceptible rate of this progression, the park is an ecological dynamo of healing. Each phase of regeneration has its own intrinsic values and the park provides a great example of how the land can heal when given the opportunity and time.

The Abel Tasman coast is internationally significant in terms of its scenic values. The Tonga Island Marine Reserve adjoins the national park, while Tonga Island itself is part of the park, along with all the islands and stacks within 2.4km of the coast. The coastal boundary of the park is the Mean High Water Mark, which means that the foreshore (beaches), estuaries and coastal waters are outside the park.

Within the park there is a wide diversity of natural ecosystems ranging from sub-alpine bogs and tussocklands to lowland coastal forests and dunes. The integrity of these ecosystems contributes greatly to the natural, scenic, recreational and scientific values of the park, influencing its surface geology, soils and hydrology, and providing habitats for its flora and fauna. The huge contrast between fertile calcareous soils and infertile granite soils contributes significantly to the biodiversity of the park.

The wide variety of habitats within the park, from sub-alpine tops to sandspits and islands results in a wide variety of birdlife. Over 70 species have been recorded. Native birds dominate forest, estuary and seashore habitats, but the reverting farmlands are home to thriving populations of introduced birds.



## 2. Places

The park lends itself to being divided into three distinct 'places': the Coast, the Interior; and the Islands, as shown on Map 2 (page 29). These places all have distinctive characteristics, both in terms of values and usage, and therefore require different management approaches.

### 2.1 THE COAST

For the purposes of this management plan, the Coast covers the following areas of the national park:

- (a) from the Mean High Water Mark, or the boundary of adjacent private land or legal road along the coastline, to 500m inland of the Coast Track;
- (b) the Gibbs Hill Track;
- (c) the Awaroa road end carpark;
- (d) the Falls River Track; and
- (e) the Abel Tasman Memorial at Ligar Bay.

It does not include the islands, adjacent private lands and settlements, legal roads, or the foreshore and seabed.

#### **Long-term Objectives**

- 1. Restoration of the natural values of the Coast.**
- 2. Preservation of the natural, historical and cultural values of the Coast.**
- 3. Provision of a range of recreational experiences for visitors to the Coast, focusing on naturalness, self-reliance, the enjoyment of natural quiet, and a sense of history; while recognising that some southern areas can be busy, with more social group experiences, compared to more isolated, quieter experiences in the north.**
- 4. Integrated management of the Coast with the adjacent foreshore and coastal waters.**

#### **2.1.1 Values**

##### **2.1.1.1 Topography**

The coastline is an internationally significant scenic landscape. It is deeply indented with drowned river valleys, forming estuaries, and rocky headlands that separate beaches of coarse golden sand, while offshore there are islands and reefs. There is little flat land on the Coast.

#### **2.1.1.2 Climate**

The coastal area is characterised by a mild climate with sea breezes, summer droughts and some winter frosts. Rain falls on average 125 days per year, with about 1800 mm in total per year, and the sun shines around 2200 hours per year. The average summer high is 24°C, with overnight lows of around 13°C. Winter temperatures range from an average high of 12.5°C to a low of 4°C.

During late spring and throughout summer the Coast is subject to strong westerly winds while the autumn and winter months are generally calm.

#### **2.1.1.3 Geology**

The rock underlying much of the park is granite, the weathering of which is responsible for the golden sands, rock-strewn streambeds and the many interesting coastal formations. It also gives rise to characteristically infertile soils. Despite this infertility, the damp gullies just above sea level support rich lowland forest. The site of the Abel Tasman Memorial is on limestone, as is Taupo Point, which has adjacent coal seams and quartzose sandstones.

#### **2.1.1.4 Plants**

The vegetation on the Coast is characterised by lush gully forests with nikau and pukatea, dry kākūka forests, mānuka scrub and māhoe, with ngaio and akeake on the coastal fringe. Early pioneers cleared and burned most of the coastal area for timber and farming. It is now undergoing progressive regeneration, through various seral stages back to mature forest. Regeneration in this area is slow due mainly to the low fertility of the predominantly granite soils. In spite of the dominance of heavily modified vegetation, the coastal area supports some threatened species, and there is a significant tract of mature podocarp/broadleaved coastal forest at Totaranui. On the less fertile coastal sites, hard beech and black beech are the dominant canopy trees, with a less diverse under-storey that includes tough cutty-grasses.

There are 12 species of plants found in the Coast that are classified as threatened and at risk (see Appendix 2). The threatened plants are: coastal peppergrass (*Lepidium banksii*), which is nationally critical; and rorippa (*Rorippa divaricata*) and swordleaf pūhā (*Kirkianella "glauca"*), which are nationally vulnerable. The other 9 are at risk and declining, relict or naturally uncommon. Over a third of the park's threatened and at risk plants are confined to the Coast. There are also three at risk species in estuaries adjacent to the park.

#### **2.1.1.5 Animals**

The Coast supports some significant remnant communities, such as pristine streams with short-jawed kōkopu, and other at risk species, including waders such as the variable oystercatcher and banded dotterel. The many sandspits are roosting areas and a few are important nesting sites for waders. Blue penguins nest along rocky sections of the coast and pied shags have small colonies in the coastal forest.

Those parts of the estuaries and coastal wetlands below the Mean High Water Mark are technically outside the park. However, the upper vegetated zones of these areas (above Mean High Water Mark) and wetlands within the park provide habitat for pūkeko, ducks, fernbirds, reef herons and pied stilts, as well as the at risk marsh crake and banded rail. Other seabirds present include red-billed and black-backed gulls; Caspian and white-fronted terns; black, little, spotted and pied shags; fluttering shearwaters and gannets.

#### **2.1.1.6 *Historical and cultural values***

People have been coming to the Abel Tasman Coast for perhaps 700 years, with Māori occupation and traditions extending back to Waitaha and possibly earlier. The Coast contains many known sites of Māori occupation and natural and human disturbances occasionally reveal new ones. The Coast has extensive wāhi tapu and urupā areas, most of which are recorded in the New Zealand Archaeological Association files, but none are registered by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. The Abel Tasman National Park covers one of the few contiguous pieces of coastline managed by the Department in the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy, providing protection for many of the archaeological sites located on the Abel Tasman Coast.

There are six, relatively small, former fortified sites known on the Coast, and several historically recorded, defined villages at Taupo Point and on the southern coast. Archaeological excavations at some sites show a dependence on estuarine shellfish species with surprisingly little evidence of fish remains, even though the coastal waters were rich in kai moana. Certainly, in early colonial times, traditional Māori practices of drying fish were taking place close to the park at Marahau, Riwaka and near Motueka.

Tradition records that, in succession, the Waitaha and Rapuwai peoples, followed by Ngāti Wairangi, occupied the coast before 1600, but from about 1600 Ngāti Tūmatakōkiri were in occupation. Tūmatakōkiri controlled the area until they were defeated by Ngāti Apa about 1800 AD.

The earliest recorded contact between Māori and European in New Zealand occurred on 18 December 1642, when the Dutch explorer Abel Tasman anchored his two ships near Wainui Bay in Mohua (Golden Bay). He subsequently lost four crew members in a skirmish with the local Māori, Ngāti Tūmatakōkiri. At Ligar Bay there is a memorial commemorating Abel Tasman's visit. The Memorial itself, which is looked after by the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, is highly significant as it was designed by architect Ernst Plischke, with oversight from historian J.C. Beaglehole.

When Dumont D'Urville visited in 1827, Māori habitations were observed and visited in several bays along the park coastline and inland, but only a few people appeared to be in residence. However, at that time the local tribes had recently been involved in a disastrous attack on Kapiti Island (1825-26) where many had been killed or captured. The survivors who

had managed to escape back to Tasman Bay were living under serious threat of retributive raids from the north. These came two years later (about 1828-29) with the raupatu (conquest/invasion) by Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama and Te Ātiawa.

Records and sketches from Tasman's visit, and later journeys by other explorers such as D'Urville (1827) and the first settlers, particularly Heaphy and Barnicoat (1842), record many details of the daily life of Māori in the area.

The early European settlers felled the lowland forests for timber and cleared the land for farming in several bays. Other industries included shipbuilding (at Awaroa, and Torrent Bay (Rakauroa)), bark-stripping for tanning (at Bark Bay (Wairima)) and quarrying at Tonga Bay. The steps at Nelson Cathedral and the Wellington Post Office were built using granite blocks from Tonga Quarry. Several small settlements were established, including Torrent Bay (Rakauroa) and Awaroa, and these private lands and settlements remain to this day surrounded on all landward sides by national park.

Totaranui is a significant heritage landscape within the park and the first farm was established there in 1855. Other large farms were set up at Awaroa (1862), Bark Bay (Wairima) (1870) and Whariwharangi (1897). Most of the smaller farms failed within a few decades. Farming continued in adjacent areas until they were added to the park (some as late as the 1950s). At Totaranui farming continued within the park until 1974.

The Department took over a few of the historic farm buildings as park facilities when the land was added to the park. They include Whariwharangi Hut and 'Ngarata' (Pratt's Homestead) at Totaranui, which is used, in conjunction with its associated amenities block, as an outdoor education lodge for schools. From the 1920s the Abel Tasman coast became popular with holidaymakers who gradually established baches in many of the sandy bays. Later, some of these occupied areas became part of the park.

From as early as the 1890s people considered protecting the Abel Tasman coast. The first firm proposals were made in the 1930's. In 1936, Perrine Moncrieff set aside her property near the Astrolabe Roadstead as a private scenic reserve and began a concerted campaign to set aside the whole area as a national park. The tercentenary of Abel Tasman's 1642 visit provided the final impetus to her efforts and the Abel Tasman National Park was created in 1942, as a permanent memorial to his visit.

### **2.1.2 Access and use**

The coastal boundary of the national park is the Mean High Water Mark (essentially the high tide mark). This means that a large proportion of the beaches and all the estuaries (the foreshore), and the coastal waters and seabed are outside the park boundaries.

Abel Tasman National Park is the smallest national park in New Zealand and yet has very high visitor numbers, with the Coast Track being by far the most heavily used Department of Conservation 'tramping track'

## Map 2 – Places



in the country. The Coast Track is one of only nine Great Walks<sup>1</sup> in New Zealand. Table 1 illustrates that, when compared with other major tracks in the country, visitor levels on the Abel Tasman Coast Track are extremely high. It should be noted that some of the other Great Walks receive only seasonal use due to severe winter weather conditions.

TABLE 1: ANNUAL NUMBER OF VISITS TO SOME MAJOR DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION TRACKS IN NEW ZEALAND (2006/7)

TRACK	DAY VISITS	OVER-NIGHTERS	TOTAL
Abel Tasman Coast Track	120,000	31,100	151,100
Tongariro Alpine Crossing	60,000	12,500	72,500
Routeburn Track	49,400	14,400	63,800
Queen Charlotte Walking Track	20,000	10,000	30,000
Milford Track	1,500	13,800	15,300
Kepler Track	4,000	8,500	12,500
Heaphy Track	500	4,500	5,000

Commercial vessels and freedom kayak rentals, along with private boats and bareboat charters, provide easy access to most bays, including some that are not readily accessible on foot from the Coast Track. Visitors can reach almost any part of the park's coastline within two hours by sea from either Totaranui or Marahau. Kaiteriteri and Nelson are also launching points for private boats and commercial vessels visiting the park. Water-based access has grown considerably over the last ten years.

At the height of the summer holiday season there are about 2000 people entering the southern part of the park per day, excluding Totaranui; of those about 1500 use boat access and 500 walk in. Appendix 3 shows the most recent visitor use data for the park.

The Coast Track and its adjacent beaches are the main attractions for visitors, with 95% of park use being within 500 metres of the coastline. Use is highly seasonal with January as the peak month, accounting for more than 20% of annual use. The six summer months (November to April) account for 82% of use and the six winter months (May to October) account for the remaining 18% of visitors. Most New Zealanders visit the park in December and January.

1 Great Walks are the Department's premier walking tracks, through some of New Zealand's most striking conservation places. The huts and tracks on the Great Walks are of a higher standard than other tramping tracks, and many of the Great Walks have booking systems to manage visitor pressure.

The vast majority of visitors come to the park for a day trip and do not stay overnight. Around 150,000 visitors walk some of the track each year, with about 30,000 doing a multi-day trip staying overnight in Department of Conservation huts and campsites.

#### **2.1.2.1 Totaranui**

Totaranui is the most intensively used area in the park. It has a large campground and an historic outdoor education lodge ('Ngarata'). It is a key transport centre with boat, bus and road vehicle access and a high level of use. There are around 1200 visitors per day (including campers), in the peak period, from December to March, concentrated on the campground and the adjacent beach. A 2006 survey showed that 68% of the campground users are South Island New Zealanders.

The Totaranui Campground provides a classic, no-frills family camping experience and, like most well established campgrounds, is an institution for a core of regular visitors each summer. At the height of the summer season, the camp is at capacity (850 visitors per night). There is an additional short-term campsite for up to 40 Coast Track users (the Totaranui Coast Track Campsite).

The historic outdoor education lodge ('Ngarata') is an important facility for schools in the region and is well used throughout the year.

#### **2.1.3 Facilities**

Coast Track facilities have a combined total capacity of 753 people overnight, excluding Totaranui Campground which has a capacity of 850. There are four huts and 21 campsites along the Coast Track (see Map 4, page 101). The collective capacity of the huts is 109 people, with the majority of accommodation provided in the 21 campsites, which have a combined capacity of 644 people (excluding Totaranui Campground).

Facilities such as toilets and cooking shelters are located at hut sites and campsites (only four have cooking shelters). The sewerage facilities on the Coast Track were upgraded between November 2001 - 2003 with new, larger capacity septic systems installed at the busiest huts and campsites and sealed vault systems at all of the smaller camps.

### **2.2 THE INTERIOR**

The Interior covers that part of the park from the boundary of the Coast to the inland boundaries of the park. See Map 2 (page 29).

#### **Long-term Objectives**

- 1. Preservation and restoration of the natural, particularly freshwater and karst, historical and cultural values of the Interior of the park in perpetuity.**
- 2. Provision of challenging, quiet, natural, and remote experiences for visitors to the Interior.**

## **2.2.1 Values**

### **2.2.1.1 Topography**

The Pikikiruna Range forms the backbone of the park, extending from the top of Takaka Hill to Separation Point. It gives rise to four of the park's main rivers, the Wainui, Awapoto, Awaroa and Falls. The lower reaches of the Awapoto and Awaroa rivers meander through flat, coastal wetland areas and alluvial terraces before discharging through delta areas (which are within the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve) into the Awaroa Inlet. Mt Evans (1156m) and Murray Peak (1101m) are the highest elevations in the park. However, they are merely peaks on ridges, as there are no individual massifs in the area.

The Interior of the park is rugged, with a complex system of ridges and deep valleys. The Canaan area forms a high plateau separated from the down-warped Takaka Valley by the dramatic scarp of the Pikikiruna Fault. Several deep gorges cut through the scarp from the plateau edge.

### **2.2.1.2 Geology**

The rock underlying much of the park is granite. The granite was intruded into older sediments some 114 million years ago, altering the nature of the rocks where they made contact. During the Tertiary Period (about 45 million years ago) a sequence of sediments (coal seams, mudstones and limestones) covered the then low-lying weathered granite surface, reflecting the slow sinking of the area beneath the sea. These sediments were stripped from the rising landmass in the late Tertiary Period and only fragments remain.

Much of the Canaan area is marble which, at about 450 million years old, is among New Zealand's older rocks. Erosion of the soluble marble rock has created a classic karst landscape characterised by sinking streams, dry valleys, resurgent springs, areas of intricately carved karren formations and ubiquitous sinkholes. Cave systems are numerous and sometimes extensive. One particular feature, the vertical shaft of Harwoods Hole, is the deepest natural shaft in the country (176m deep).

Marble and granite alike were uplifted during the Kaikoura Orogeny, a late Tertiary to Recent period of mountain building which also saw the down-faulting of the Takaka Valley. Uplift leads to increased erosion rates, with erosion proceeding fastest in the deeply weathered zones of the granite. Solution rates in Takaka Hill marble are considered high by New Zealand standards, resulting in continuous lowering of the marble surface.

### **2.2.1.3 Soils**

The park's granite is generally deeply weathered, reduced to a soft mass of clays and quartz grains, producing Kaiteriteri Hill soils and low fertility Pokororo Steepland soils, the latter being low in available phosphorus, calcium and magnesium. This weathered material is very prone to slipping when water-saturated. Low fertility soils derived from granite cover much of the park. There are also areas of higher fertility soils derived from

limestone and marble, like the Pīkikiruna Steepland soils, which have higher nutrient levels and contain many rock outcrops. The Sherry soils of the coastal flats, near the Awaroa Inlet, have low-moderate fertility and appear to have an iron pan, which makes them poorly drained in low-lying areas and prone to flooding.

#### **2.2.1.4 *Climate***

Along the Pīkikiruna Range there is an almost montane climate, with winter snowfalls, much higher rainfall, less sunshine and cooler year-round temperatures compared to the Coast.

During late spring and throughout summer the Interior is subject to strong westerly winds, while the autumn and winter months are generally calm.

#### **2.2.1.5 *Waters***

Much of the Interior lies on weathered granite bedrock, which has developed a complicated drainage pattern. Zones of weakness in the rock have controlled the courses of the rivers, especially on the eastern side. Several parallel northward-flowing river systems run through the central and western park, including the Awaroa River, but in the east only the Falls and Torrent Rivers have cut across the grain of the bedrock and flow eastwards to the sea.

West of the Pīkikiruna Range, the park drains westward onto marble karst, both within the park and on adjacent private lands. Most of this water goes underground within the karst, to travel through several drainage systems. The largest and most significant karst drainage system within the park is that feeding The Gorge Creek rising, about 500-600 metres below the Canaan karst plateau. Three major stream sinks on the plateau, on the Canaan Downs Scenic Reserve, have been dye-traced to this rising, with maximum flow-through times, from sink to rising, of as little as 72 hours. The rising is fed from a large and moderately shallow aquifer within the marble. This aquifer receives water from most or all of Canaan Downs Scenic Reserve and much of the forested karst adjacent to it, probably including most of the remaining private land as well as the park.

Downstream of The Gorge Creek rising, within the park, the water sinks underground again in the creek bed at several points. Some of this water resurges in a spring on private land in the Takaka Valley, but most of it stays underground, ultimately joining the large and complex aquifer which feeds Te Waikoropupu Springs. Under high rainfall conditions, excess flow runs down the surface creek bed to join the Takaka River.

The Gorge Creek system is therefore fed by waters from both farmland and forest. As with many karst systems, the rapid through-flow of water means that there is no time for significant purification processes to take place, so the quality of water arising in The Gorge Creek reflects the quality of the input waters.

South of The Gorge Creek system, the southern portion of the karst plateau and, probably, the upper Ironstone Creek valley drain underground to the Ironstone Creek rising, just within the park boundary. Most of

the catchment of this karst drainage is likely to be contained within the National Park but a small amount probably derives from private land on the Canaan plateau. North of The Gorge Creek, forested non-karst park land drains onto karst on private land to sink underground in the headwaters of Dry Creek and Rameka Creek.

#### **2.2.1.6 *Freshwater communities***

One of the more overlooked features of Abel Tasman National Park is its native freshwater fish communities. The native fish communities within Abel Tasman waterways are almost pristine, benefiting from the lowland nature of the park (most other national parks being alpine) and its proximity to the sea. A native fish survey found that the rivers and streams contain a diversity of native freshwater fish, with 14 species recorded, including threatened migratory species such as the short-jawed and giant kōkopu, and the long-fin eel. The rivers also contain excellent examples of invertebrate communities with a diverse range of species, reflecting the high water quality. The freshwaters are free of pest fish species like koi carp and *Gambusia*, and there has been no commercial eeling.

The geology of Abel Tasman also appears to have prevented the establishment of sea-run brown trout, except for very low density populations in the Awaroa and Marahau Rivers, which has meant that native invertebrate and fish communities are essentially unmodified. The freshwaters are therefore nationally significant because of their pristine condition and the almost complete absence of introduced fish.

Healthy, mature or regenerating lowland podocarp/broadleaved/beechn forest cloaks most of the river catchments in the park, with significant coastal wetland areas (80 ha) in the lower reaches of the Awaroa and Awapoto rivers. This is in stark contrast to many lowland areas elsewhere in New Zealand where urbanisation, agriculture and other human impacts have resulted in the degradation of lowland waterways to a point where they can no longer support many of the migratory native fish species.

The karst aquifers of the park are home to subterranean aquatic invertebrates, including hydrobiid snails, amphipods, isopods, aquatic worms and other species. Some of these may be endemic to the park.

#### **2.2.1.7 *Plants***

The park comprises one of the largest tracts of lowland (below 600m) forest remaining in the Nelson region. The Interior is rugged, colder, and wetter than the Coast. The main vegetation types in the Interior are lowland forest of mixed podocarp, beech and broadleaved species, especially rimu, hard beech, red beech, thin-barked tōtara, pigeonwood and mahoe. Pukatea, nikau, kiekie and tree ferns are common species in the gullies and valleys. The areas and percentages of each main vegetation type in the park are shown in Table 2.

TABLE 2: APPROXIMATE AREAS OF MAIN ECOSYSTEM TYPES IN THE PARK

ECOSYSTEM TYPE	ORIGINAL EXTENT (% OF AREA)	PROPORTION OF ORIGINAL EXTENT REMAINING (%)	AREA OF ECOSYSTEM (HA)
Coastal sand dune and flat	3	9	60
Fertile lowland wetland and pond	1	48	40
River, stream and riparian ecosystems	2	71	304
Lowland podocarp forest	1	1	10
Lowland mixed forest	20	51	2376
Lowland beech forest	47	65	7062
Upland beech forest	20	91	4222
Shrubland: kanuka, manuka, mixed	1 (now 20)	NA	9045
Frost flat communities: red tussock	1	100	100
Miscellaneous: grass, bracken, gorse	NA	NA	550

Modified from Walls and Simpson - Tasman District Biodiversity Overview, Tasman District Council, 2004.

Note: 1200 ha of estuarine wetland lies adjacent to the park.

In unmodified areas of the park the vegetation strongly reflects the influence of climate and soil. On flood plains and more fertile hill soils, up to 400m above sea level, there is a rich podocarp/broadleaved/mixed beech forest characterised by a 3 or 4-tiered structure, with lianes and epiphytes, many large-leaved shrub species and nikau palms. The wetland areas around the lower reaches of the Awaroa and Awapoto rivers are extensive, with the Awapoto wetland supporting one of the largest remaining stands (~10ha) of kahikatea forest in the Nelson region, as well as harakeke (flax), putaputawētā and wetland sedges and rushes.

At higher altitude, red beech dominates on deep valley-floor soils, giving way to silver beech in less fertile sites, whilst mountain beech occurs in pure stands on dry ridges and crests. The under-storey of the upland forests is characterised by the large-leaved neinei and a simple shrub layer. Kānuka occurs where there have been windfalls or a history of fires and mānuka occurs where repeated burning has degraded the soil.

On north facing, drier slopes and infertile ridges, mānuka/kānuka shares an association with introduced gorse and regeneration of native flora is slow. On southern, shady slopes and near gully bottoms, broad-leaved shrub communities thrive. Seral associations over half a century old containing podocarp and beech regeneration exist on good soils, but progress is slower on less fertile sites.

The highest and coolest parts of the Interior of the park support mountain beech, silver beech, southern cedar, mountain neinei and southern rata. At Moa Park infertile soils, cold climate and impeded drainage have produced special red tussock-scrublands, which include sphagnum, bog pine, hebes and many other alpine herb, grass and dwarf shrub species. This shallow, rock-floored basin has vegetation rather like that of Goulard Downs, in Kahurangi National Park. Mixed broadleaved forests occur on marble substrates on the western flanks of the park. These contain lacebark, mahoe, pigeonwood and a diversity of other broadleaved species.

Settlers removed many canopy trees during the farming and milling era, and destroyed vegetation by fire in some areas. However, a lush understorey of trees and shrubs, such as tree ferns, kiekie and supplejack, remains and the gullies lead the regeneration process.

There are 21 threatened and at risk plants in the Interior (see Appendix 2). The most threatened are shovel mint (*Scutellaria novae-zelandiae*) and limestone groundsel (*Senecio* aff. *glaucophyllus*), which are nationally critical. Another 19 are at risk and declining, relict or naturally uncommon. Over half of these threatened and at risk plants are restricted to limestone or marble substrates on the northern side of the park and a quarter are endemic to the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy.

The park is rich in fungal species, particularly those areas of the Interior that have relatively undisturbed beech and mixed forest. There is at least one fungus present, *Russula solitaria*, which is 'nationally critical'.

#### **2.2.1.8 Animals**

The more common native bird species such as tui, bellbird, tomtit, robin, fantail, grey warbler, brown creeper and rifleman are widespread. Kereru (New Zealand wood pigeon) are also widespread and in good numbers. Both shining cuckoo and long-tailed cuckoo are present seasonally. Fernbirds are found in the Awaroa/Awapoto wetlands. Falcon, kea and yellow-crowned parakeet may be seen or heard infrequently and the kaka is now seldom encountered. Blue duck (whio) are either no longer present or are in very low numbers.

D'Urville found South Island kokako in the forests around Torrent Bay (Rakauroa); but since that time these and several other native bird species have become extinct. The park was once a stronghold for yellowheads (mohua), but the last sighting was in the 1970s. Weka were abundant throughout the park but have declined over the last 20 years. However, this species is known to have recovered from similar events in the past. Weka have recently been reintroduced to Totaranui.

Long-tailed bats have been recorded in the area and the common gecko and the Nelson green gecko are widespread in the region and are expected to be present in the park.

The Department has undertaken some studies of invertebrates in the park. One of the most prominent species studied to date is the giant native land snail *Powelliphanta hochstetteri*, found mainly in the beech forests at higher altitudes. Other species of interest include another large

landsnail and several species of ground beetles with limited distributions. The terrestrial and freshwater invertebrate species in the park can be expected to reflect the full range of forest, freshwater and coastal habitats found there.

#### **2.2.1.9 *Historical and cultural values***

Tangata whenua consider the entire park to be wāhi tapu, particularly the caves. In the Interior of the park, Harwoods Hole is tapu and of great significance to tangata whenua. All caves in the park (including those in the Coast) are considered spiritually important to tangata whenua because of their connection with the goddess Hine-nui-te-pō.

Although they told different stories about her, nearly every iwi knew Hine-nui-te-pō (Great woman of the night) as the woman who brought death into the world. In some regions it was believed that after Tāne married his daughter Hine-titama and, when she discovered her father's identity, she was greatly shamed and rushed down to the underworld. There, it was often said, her name changed to Hine-nui-te-pō. Tāne followed and begged her to return, but she told him to go back to the world and rear their offspring. She would remain below to receive them when they died. Caves are the domain of the goddess Hine-nui-te-pō. As such, they were often used as burial sites and storage places for battle trophies and other taonga. See Appendix 4 for the full legend of Hine-nui-te-pō.

The only significant European historical sites in the Interior are found around the Awaroa Inlet. This area was settled in the early 1860's and much of the land was farmed from the late 1800's. There are a number of house sites and exotic trees, as well as remnants of the sawmilling that occurred in this area for boat building purposes.

#### **2.2.2 Access and use**

The Canaan Road provides access to the karst areas in the south-west of the park, which have a distinct geology and vegetation and attract a moderate level of predominantly day visits, particularly to Harwoods Hole. The cave and karst formations and vegetation there are vulnerable to damage by visitors. There is also a public road from Golden Bay to Totaranui and Awaroa which passes through the park.

The Interior of the park has largely unmodified vegetation and tracks are less developed and more demanding. Visitor use is increasing, but is still at a relatively low level compared to the Coast and in keeping with more remote parts of a national park. Visitors are primarily experienced trampers seeking a more remote and challenging experience than that provided by the Coast Track.

#### **2.2.3 Facilities**

There are currently three huts and two shelters in the Interior of the park (see Map 4, page 111). These are Awapoto Hut (12 bunks), Wainui Hut (4 bunks), Castle Rock Hut (8 bunks), Moa Park Shelter and Holyoakes Clearing Shelter. There is also the Inland Track, linking Marahau to

Wainui Bay via Pigeon Saddle on the Takaka-Totaranui Road, the Wainui Track and the Harwoods Hole Track. The Rameka Track is mostly on a legal road, technically outside the park, but it will be referred to in the plan as it is partially on, and surrounded by, park land.

## 2.3 THE ISLANDS

All the islands and stacks within 2.4 km of the coast are part of the national park, but only down to Mean High Water Mark (see Map 2, page 29). This includes Ngaio Island in the south and the Tata Islands in the north. Neither the foreshore of the islands nor the coastal waters are within the park. The islands form important landscape features punctuating the coast and are unmodified by facilities or structures.

### Long-term objectives

1. **Preservation of the natural, historical and cultural values of the Islands.**
2. **Restoration of the sanctuary values of the major Islands.**
3. **Keeping the Islands free from facilities and commercial use (except for limited facilities and commercial opportunities on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui)).**

### 2.3.1 Values

#### 2.3.1.1 *Geology*

The Tata Islands, along with some stacks off Taupo Point, are the only limestone islands in the Conservancy. The remaining islands and stacks in the park are granite.

#### 2.3.1.2 *Climate*

The Islands are subject to essentially the same climate as the Coast, which has a mild climate with sea breezes, summer droughts and some winter frosts. Rain falls on average 125 days per year (with about 1800 mm in total per year) and the sun shines around 2200 hours per year.

The average summer high is 24°C, with overnight lows of around 13°C. Winter temperatures range from an average high of 12.5°C to a low of 4°C.

#### 2.3.1.3 *Plants*

Tata, Tonga, Adele (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman (Motuarero-iti) Islands are the largest of the many islands and stacks that lie within the park boundaries. Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) is the largest and most recently modified and is covered mainly in mānuka/kānuka shrubland and forest. The other islands support broadleaved forest and shrublands, often dominated by mahoe or coastal flax/waiharakeke.

Adele Island (Motuarero-nui), Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti), Tonga Island and one of the Tata Islands have large-leaved milk trees growing on them. These trees are at their southern limit in this region and are rare on the mainland. Several other islands contain significant coastal vegetation remnants.

#### 2.3.1.4 *Animals*

Except for the Tata Islands, the islands are important refuges for wildlife as they are free of mammalian pests.

Several islands are important nesting places for birds such as reef herons, little blue penguins and other seabirds. Tonga Island has a large seal colony, the second largest breeding colony of New Zealand fur seals in the top of the South Island. The seals use several other islands, stacks and mainland sites in the park as haul out areas and have also started to breed on Pinnacle Island.

Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) and Tonga Island have breeding colonies of little blue penguins and a few sooty shearwaters are also known to breed on Tonga Island. Some spotted shags are resident throughout the year and breed on the Tata Islands, while many more arrive for the winter months, and roost on rocky promontories. The Nelson green gecko has been recorded on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui).

#### 2.3.1.5 *Historical and cultural values*

The offshore islands within the park have a long history of human modification. Māori occupied all the larger islands and Europeans attempted to farm Adele Island (Motuarero-nui). The larger of the Tata Islands was quarried for limestone and Ngaio Island and Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) were quarried for granite.

Tangata whenua have lodged a Waitangi Tribunal claim over Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti).

TABLE 3: SUMMARY OF THE VALUES OF THE MAJOR ISLANDS

ISLAND/ GROUP	SIZE (HA)	NATURAL VALUES AND PEST STATUS	HISTORICAL VALUES
Tata Islands (both)	4 (total)	Well advanced regeneration, milk trees, limestone, spotted shag breeding colony, possum, stoat and mice free	Pit sites and cultural values
Tonga Island	8	Milk trees, seal rookery, breeding blue penguin and sooty shearwater colonies, only mice present	Terraces and cultural values
Adele Island (Motuarero-nui)	87	Milk trees, coastal remnant forest, Nelson green gecko, possum and rat free, stoats controlled	Pit site Under Treaty claim
Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti)	4	Milk trees, blue penguin breeding colony, possum and rat free, stoats controlled	Pit sites and terraces Under Treaty claim

### **2.3.2 Access and use**

The islands and stacks have distinctive and significant flora and fauna and are culturally significant to tangata whenua. They are also an important scenic attraction, providing a sense of isolation and adventure. Nevertheless, apart from Adele Island (Motuarero-nui), the Tata Islands, and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti), public use of the islands is low because most have poor landing sites and cliffs along the shoreline. Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) has popular picnic beaches on the shoreward side and some use is made of the interior of the island. Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) is also popular, with good landing sites for picnics.

### **2.3.3 Facilities**

There are currently no facilities on the islands (see sections 5.1.4.3 'Human waste' and 5.2.4.1 'Facilities'), apart from signage.



## 3. Treaty of Waitangi

### 3.1 GIVING EFFECT TO THE TREATY

Under section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, the Department is required to interpret and administer the National Parks Act 1980 to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. However, where there is clearly an inconsistency between the provisions of the National Parks Act 1980 and the principles of the Treaty, the provisions of the National Parks Act 1980 will prevail<sup>2</sup>. This is reflected in the Primary Objectives for the park.

This plan is subject to the developing jurisprudence of the courts on the interpretation of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and to the outcome of Treaty Settlement negotiations, and should be read together with the General Policy for National Parks 2005, particularly Chapter 2; and policies 4.4(f)(v), 5(c) and 11(c).

In this plan 'tangata whenua' are the iwi who hold mana over the whenua (lands) of the Abel Tasman National Park and includes Ngāti Tama Ki Te Tau Ihu (Ngāti Tama), Te Ātiawa Ki Te Tau Ihu (Te Ātiawa) and Ngāti Rārua (Ngāti Rārua). The rohe (tribal boundaries) of Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa and Ngāti Rārua include the Abel Tasman National Park (known to tangata whenua as 'Te Tai Tapu').

The Department seeks to work co-operatively with Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Rārua, and any other iwi who may be recognised by the Crown as being tangata whenua of the park, in a spirit of partnership (based on mutual good faith, co-operation and respect) to achieve the objectives of this plan. A partnership approach recognises the mana of tangata whenua and the desire to work together to maintain and support the national park.

Tangata whenua need to be given the opportunity to be actively involved in the preservation of national park values, including wāhi tapu and other taonga. The Department recognises and respects the desire of tangata whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga (customary practices of guardianship) in relation to places or resources that have spiritual or historical and cultural significance for them. Active involvement by tangata whenua will be supported and achieved in a number of different ways. Some of these ways are:

- providing tangata whenua with information and technical advice;
- communicating with tangata whenua about proposed work associated with the park;

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<sup>2</sup> Ngai Tahu Māori Trust Board v Director-General of Conservation [1995] 3 NZLR 555, 558 lines 33- 35.

- consulting tangata whenua regarding the protection of wāhi tapu and other taonga (see sections 4.3.1.2 'Protected objects' and 4.3.1.3 'Māori sites');
- establishing partnerships with tangata whenua on restoration and pest management projects, where appropriate (see section 4.1.1.3 'Introduced plants and animals');
- enabling customary use by tangata whenua on a case-by-case basis (see section 3.2 'Customary use');
- consulting with tangata whenua on concession applications that affect their interests (see section 5.3.1.4 'Māori cultural values');
- developing public information and interpretation which refers to places or resources of spiritual or historical and cultural significance to Māori, in consultation with tangata whenua (see section 5.2.1.3 'Interpretation and information').

Consultation from the early stages of any proposed undertaking that may affect the interests of tangata whenua and full consideration of their views is essential.

At the time of approval of this plan there were claims registered with the Waitangi Tribunal that affected the park, including Adele Island (Motuarero-nui), Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) and some land at Anchorage. In the event that the settlement of any Treaty claim affects the management of the park, this should be addressed through the Treaty settlement legislation. The Department will seek to avoid actions which would be a breach of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

### **3.1.1 Policy**

- 1. To give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, to the extent that they are consistent with the provisions of the National Parks Act 1980.**

### **3.1.2 Implementation**

- 1. Encourage and support tangata whenua involvement and participation in the conservation of the national park, with information and technical advice.*
- 2. Regularly communicate with tangata whenua about management work proposed for the park.*
- 3. Actively consult with tangata whenua throughout the term of this plan regarding its implementation.*
- 4. Recognise that this management plan will be implemented in an environment of evolving legislation and statutory policies.*

### **3.1.3 Outcome**

- 1. Tangata whenua and the Department have a relationship based on partnership, mutual good faith, co-operation and respect, and work together to preserve the values of both tangata whenua and the national park.**

## RELEVANT IMPLEMENTATION STATEMENTS FROM OTHER PARTS OF THIS PLAN

The following Implementation statements regarding the involvement of tangata whenua can be found throughout the rest of the plan:

1. Work with local communities and tangata whenua on pest control and restoration projects, where opportunities arise. *(section 4.1.1.9, Implementation 15)*
2. Undertake wetland restoration projects at Totaranui as a medium priority and involve tangata whenua, visitors and the community where practicable. *(section 4.1.2.8, Implementation 4)*
3. Consult with tangata whenua regarding the management of historic Māori plantings. *(section 4.1.2.8, Implementation 9)*
4. Prepare a Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy Cave and Karst Management Strategy, which includes the park, in consultation with the general public and key stakeholders, particularly the Nelson Speleological Group, the New Zealand Speleological Society and tangata whenua. *(section 4.2.3.5, Implementation 1)*
5. Prior to any proposed activities involving earthworks or ground disturbance, carry out an archaeological assessment, obtain authority to modify the site where necessary and avoid damage to sites where practicable. *(section 4.3.1.8, Implementation 1)*
6. Invite tangata whenua to participate in the identification, preservation and management of their historical and cultural heritage in the park. *(section 4.3.1.8, Implementation 4)*
7. Work with tangata whenua where an archaeological survey or management of a Māori site is proposed. *(section 4.3.1.8, Implementation 5)*
8. Ensure that wāhi tapu are conserved and managed in a way that complies with the Protected Objects Act 1975 and Historic Places Act 1993 and incorporates consultation with tangata whenua and the exercise of kaitiakitanga and appropriate tikanga. *(section 4.3.1.8, Implementation 6)*
9. Provide for tangata whenua input and involvement at sites of significance to them and where archaeological impacts are likely. *(section 4.3.1.8, Implementation 7)*
10. Provide information to visitors about the prohibition on damaging or removing historic features, protected New Zealand objects and relics in the park, and inform them of the cultural importance of protected New Zealand objects, including ngā taonga tuturu. *(section 4.3.1.8, Implementation 10)*

11. Inform tangata whenua of any discovery of taonga tuturu in the park and, subject to the requirements of the Protected Objects Act 1975, seek their advice on the appropriate protocols for its care. (*section 4.3.1.8, Implementation 11*)
12. Consult with tangata whenua where interpretation of a Māori site or a Māori tradition is proposed. (*section 4.3.1.8, Implementation 12*)
13. Consult with tangata whenua about erecting pou whenua at the entrances to the park. (*section 4.3.1.8, Implementation 15*)
14. Consult with tangata whenua where kōiwi (human bones) are exposed by coastal erosion and provide for the appropriate management of those areas. (*section 4.3.2.8, Implementation 5*)
15. Consult with tangata whenua regarding management of archaeological sites and cultural values of significance to them on Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) and Adele Island (Motuarero-nui). (*section 4.3.4.3, Implementation 1*)
16. Ensure that public information and interpretation that refers to places or stories of spiritual, historical, or cultural significance to Māori is developed in consultation with tangata whenua. Include Māori place and species names, make appropriate use of te reo Māori and draw attention to Māori values. (*section 5.2.1.6, Implementation 6*)
17. Provide new interpretation information at Canaan and Hadfield's Clearing, and consider developing cultural interpretation for Harwoods Hole, in association with tangata whenua, the Nelson Speleological Group and the New Zealand Speleological Society. (*section 5.2.3.4, Implementation 6*)
18. Concession applicants and existing concessionaires providing, or intending to provide, interpretation or information regarding Māori sites, history or values, should be encouraged to consult with and obtain the support of tangata whenua for their interpretation information. (*section 5.3.1.7, Implementation 4*)
19. Meet with tangata whenua, local communities, Tasman District Council, associates, and key stakeholders on a regular basis with regard to the implementation of this management plan and issues of common concern. (*section 6.1.8, Implementation 1*)

## 3.2 CUSTOMARY USE

Māori have traditionally gathered certain plants and animals from the land and water for customary use (the gathering and use of natural resources by tangata whenua according to tikanga). There is a present day revival of former traditions and the use of natural materials. Traditional customary materials include, but are not limited to, native plants used in weaving and for rongoā (medicine) and native birds and animals for their feathers and for food. Many of the traditional materials and indigenous species remaining today are found on lands administered by the Department and may be requested by tangata whenua. When tangata whenua intend to undertake customary use they should contact the Pou Kura Taiao (Department's Iwi Manager) in the first instance.

### 3.2.1 Legislation

The national park status of Abel Tasman National Park provides a high degree of protection to its plants and animals. The National Parks Act 1980 states that:

*4(2)(b) "...the native plants and animals of the parks shall as far as possible be preserved..."*

A permit from the Minister is required for customary use (see section 5.3.4 'Other authorisations'). General Policy for National Parks 2(g) states that the customary use of traditional materials and indigenous species may be permitted on a case-by-case basis where:

- there is an established tradition of such use;
- it is consistent with all relevant Acts and this management plan;
- the preservation of the species is not adversely affected;
- the effects on national park values are not significant; and
- tangata whenua support the application.

In addition, General Policy for National Parks 4.4(f) and 4.4(g) apply to the customary use of indigenous fish species.

Given the national park context both the Department and tangata whenua, as kaitiaki/guardians, have a responsibility to ensure that native plants and animals are preserved for future generations.

### 3.2.2 Historic plantings

Māori planted useful materials such as harakeke (coastal flax) in this area in the past, prior to it becoming a national park (see also section 4.1.2.5 'Exotic plantings'). Access to maintain and use these materials is sought by tangata whenua. Such access is considered to be consistent with this plan, as long as it does not adversely affect the values of the park.

### 3.2.3 Fishing

Customary fishing for indigenous species requires written consent from the Minister (see section 5.3.4 'Other authorisations').

The long-fin eel is an at risk species that is declining nation-wide, due to fishing pressure and habitat loss. The preservation of indigenous species is one of the key principles to be applied in national parks, so applications to fish for eels or any other threatened species in the park should be declined. Under General Policy for National Parks 4.4(f), applications for non-commercial customary fishing of other indigenous species may be considered. In relation to General Policy for National Parks 4.4(g), any application for commercial customary fishing should be declined.

#### **3.2.4 Dead animals and plants**

When an animal of cultural significance to tangata whenua dies, or when a tree of cultural significance to tangata whenua has died and/or fallen over, the Department should offer the materials to tangata whenua for customary use. In addition, where a tree or plant is to be removed for facility development or track maintenance, the material should be offered to tangata whenua where appropriate and practicable.

#### **3.2.5 Policy**

- 1. To provide for the customary use of traditional materials and indigenous species in the park by tangata whenua in accordance with General Policy for National Parks 2005, and the provisions of this plan.**

#### **3.2.6 Implementation**

- 1. Applicants for the gathering of traditional materials and indigenous species for customary use should consult with tangata whenua, prior to the application being considered.*
- 2. Consider applications for the customary use of traditional materials and indigenous species in accordance with General Policy for National Parks 2005 and the provisions of this plan.*
- 3. Permits for customary use should meet the criteria set out in section 3.2.1 'Legislation', above.*
- 4. Permits for customary use should also meet the following conditions:*
  - the species to be taken is not a protected species under the Wildlife Act 1953, unless it is already dead;*
  - take is minimal and the protection and preservation of the species is ensured; and*
  - as kaitiaki, tangata whenua avoid any adverse effects of customary use.*
- 5. Tangata whenua should be encouraged to carry out any proposed customary use elsewhere than the national park.*
- 6. When an animal of cultural significance to tangata whenua has died, or a tree of cultural significance to tangata whenua has died and/or fallen over, the Department should offer the materials to tangata whenua, for customary use.*

7. *Where a tree or plant is to be removed for facility development or track maintenance, the Department should offer the material to tangata whenua, for customary use where appropriate and practicable.*
8. *Customary use should not be permitted where it could adversely affect ecological values or the viability of a species.*

### **3.2.7 Outcome**

1. **Tangata whenua can access traditional materials and indigenous species for customary use from within the park, in a manner consistent with statutory requirements, and biodiversity and park values are not adversely affected.**



## 4. Natural and historical heritage preservation

### 4.1 INDIGENOUS SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEMS

#### 4.1.1 Whole park

##### 4.1.1.1 *Survey, monitoring and research*

The New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (2000) requires the Department to improve and maintain its biological resource databases by way of general surveys, inventories and vegetation mapping. That Strategy informs this management plan.

The top priorities are to survey, monitor, and/or undertake research, particularly on indigenous species that are threatened or at risk, as well as species that are very localised in the park. This will include ascertaining species distributions, numbers and ecology, identifying threats, determining whether active management is required, and if so, establishing management programmes and recovery plans to ensure their preservation.

Survey, monitoring and research priorities in the park focus on threatened and at risk species, such as land snails (*Rhytida oconnori* and *Powelliphanta hochstetterii*), and a ground beetle species (*Mecodema costellum obesum*). Appendix 2 lists the threatened and at risk plants in the park, with coastal peppergrass (*Lepidium banksii*), shovel mint (*Scutellaria novae-zelandiae*), limestone groundsel (*Senecio* aff. *glaucophyllus*), swordleaf pūhā (*Kirkianella "glauca"*) and rorippa (*Rorippa divaricata*) being the most threatened plants in the park.

Given that the park represents one of the most significant tracts of coastal forest remaining in the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy, a general biological survey is required. The park has medium-high priority within the context of the Conservancy's general survey programmes.

##### 4.1.1.2 *Restoration and preservation*

The low fertility granite soils of the park, by their very nature, produce their own specific types of forest cover. The vegetation associations in these areas are rare and unusual in the country and the Department should preserve them for their intrinsic values.

National species recovery plans exist for coastal cresses, land snails, ground beetles, and native fish and the preservation of these species can be achieved through the implementation of these recovery plans. Other native species may also require special management regimes from time to time, including the re-introduction into the park of native species that inhabited the area previously.

For the great majority of species it is not practical to address their needs directly within individual species management programmes, particularly for invertebrates. Consequently the maintenance and restoration of the full range of indigenous habitats and ecosystems within the park will be the primary means of preserving native species. This includes adding a number of rivers to the park that are currently outside its boundaries (see section 7.1.6 'Additions to the park' and Map 5, page 149).

The most important management action for conservation of terrestrial plants and animals is the control of browsers and predators. Control should be undertaken on the mainland and the islands where values are highest and where control is most likely to be effective.

#### **4.1.1.3 *Introduced plants and animals***

Many introduced plants, fungi and animals are pests that pose serious threats to the survival of native species and the functioning of indigenous ecosystems. The National Parks Act 1980 requires introduced plants and animals to be exterminated as far as possible. However, in most cases sustained control or localised extermination is the best that can be achieved using current methods. Sports fish (e.g. trout) and game birds are exempt from this provision and the Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council manages their populations (see also section 5.3.4.1.3 'Sports fishing and game bird hunting').

The General Policy for National Parks 4.3(d) prioritises pest management programmes for national parks in the following order:

- Preventing introduced plants, fungi and animals becoming established, including illegal and inadvertent transfers;
- Eradicating new incursions of introduced plants, fungi and animals where practicable;
- Eradicating, where practicable, and containing and reducing the range of established introduced plants, fungi and animals; and
- Controlling widespread introduced species where necessary to maintain the general welfare of national park indigenous species, habitats and ecosystems, or to maintain scenic and landform values.

National priority ranking systems currently determine priorities for pest control, and are reflected in pest control plans such as the Policy Statement on Deer Control, the Feral Goat Control Plan, the Possum Control Plan and the Weed Strategy. At a national level, the Department directs funds where they will have the most long-term effect (based on a process of ranking and prioritising control effort nationally) and to research into more effective control methods.

The Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy (1996) sets out priority areas for pest control within the Conservancy. Tables 4 and 5 (pages 54 and 56) of this plan show the priorities for pest control in the park. However, these are also subject to national priorities and Abel Tasman does not currently rate highly enough, in relation to other conservation lands nationally, to receive funding for all the pest control work identified in the tables. If further funding becomes available then the Department can do all this work.

Where practicable and meeting the objectives of the plan, the Department's pest control programmes should be co-ordinated with those of adjoining land managers to maximise efficiency. The Department should also work with local communities and tangata whenua on pest control and restoration projects, where opportunities arise.

#### **4.1.1.4 *Animal pests***

Introduced animals adversely affect native plants and animals in the park through browsing, competition and predation. These pests should be eradicated or controlled using the most efficient and appropriate means available. This includes hunting, trapping, bio-control, ground baiting and aerial poisoning.

Possums have been present in the park for over 100 years and are a serious threat to native land snail species (*Powelliphanta* and *Rhytida*). They also destroy vegetation and are known to kill native birds and eat their eggs. Possum control activities will be concentrated in areas with high biodiversity values. Currently, aerial poisoning is the most effective method for possum control throughout large areas with difficult terrain and vegetation cover. Where the Department intends to use toxins, such as 1080, it is required to consult with the affected parties prior to carrying out poisoning operations. This is in accordance with Departmental policies, the Resource Management Act 1991 and Tasman District Council's Resource Management Plan.

Wasps can be in high numbers throughout the park in some seasons. They are a key predator of native insects and compete with, and sometimes attack and kill, native nectar-eating birds. They are also a major concern to visitors in the late summer and autumn.

Deer browse native vegetation and retard the regeneration of native forest. Deer are not present in high numbers in the park and the Department currently relies on the assistance of recreational hunters. However, if deer numbers build up the Department will need to undertake targeted control operations.

Recreational hunters are also encouraged to assist the Department in the control of goats and pigs, which between them threaten land snails, karst systems and plant communities. Dogs can be an effective management tool for pig hunting but their use must be managed to prevent adverse effects on native fauna and other users (see also section 5.1.1.7 'Dogs').

The park is closed to all aircraft landings. However, if recreational hunters are not adequately controlling deer numbers, then the Department will use other methods of control, including the use of commercial helicopter hunters, for specific operations of a set duration (see also section 5.3.3.1.4 'Aircraft'), as well as other appropriate methods, including 1080 poison.

Other animal pests such as mustelids (e.g. stoats) are difficult and expensive to control effectively over large areas using known methods, with accessibility and terrain also restricting control. Hares are present on the old grasslands and on the coast and are also difficult to control.

However, the Department can target smaller areas of the park for local control of these pests using intensive ground-based methods, where this is justified by the special values of those areas.

Further research into new methods of control and eradication is required and is currently being undertaken by the Department and other organisations. Such research includes the use of biological control methods for eradicating possums.

The Department should target its funds to control priority animal pests in the highest value areas of the park using the most effective methods at its disposal. Priorities for animal pest control are set out in Table 4, below.

TABLE 4: PRIORITIES FOR ANIMAL PEST CONTROL

ANIMAL PEST	PRIORITY	LOCATION	CONTROL METHOD
possums	1	Areas of high biodiversity –Canaan, Torrent Bay, northern coast, karst areas, Moa Park, Totaranui, Awaroa headwaters	Toxins/trapping and encourage commercial hunters Biological control when available
mustelids	1	Islands, coastal strip, Torrent Bay	Trapping/future toxin use possible
rodents	2	Islands, Canaan	Trapping/toxins
goats	2	All of park, esp. Coast and marble areas	Department hunting (with dogs) and encourage recreational hunters
pigs	2	All of park, esp. the Coast, the interior north of Onetahuti, Marahau to Mt Evans and land snail populations	Department hunting (dogs) and encourage recreational hunters
hares	3	Huts/campsite areas and coastal spits	Department hunting/toxins
deer	3	All of park, esp. Coast, marble areas	Department and recreational hunters, may use commercial hunters and other methods
wasps	3	Tracks, huts/campsite areas	Toxins

#### 4.1.1.5 *Plant Pests*

Weeds are one of the biggest threats to the park and are concentrated along the coast. Plant pests include old man’s beard, banana passion vine, African club moss, wandering willy (*Tradescantia*), pampas, hakea, Japanese honeysuckle, Himalayan honeysuckle, Spanish heath, wattle, ice plant, marram grass, pines and gorse. In many areas, especially along the coast, natural regeneration of native forest is slowly displacing some introduced plants, particularly gorse.

The Department should eradicate plant pests, including fungi, where possible; otherwise control them to prevent their establishment in the less modified areas of the park. The Department should urgently remove any localised plant pest species that is likely to be a significant permanent threat to the native flora before seed production makes removal more difficult. The Department should also undertake surveillance to prevent

the establishment of new plant pests in the park and waterweeds (e.g. *Lagarosiphon* and *Egeria*) in the rivers and adjacent coastal waters. The Department intends to eradicate new invasions, wherever possible.

The Department should selectively remove any plant pests that may be a significant visual intrusion into the landscape. This includes scattered pines in the coastal area and, as a lower priority, a plantation of pines above The Gorge Creek and other areas along the Pikikiruna Range where they grow inside the park boundaries.

The Department should remove any plant pest that is moderately invasive, localised around old homesteads and habitation sites, and not of historical value (e.g. *Montbretia*). For plant pests that are widespread and pose a significant threat (e.g. prickly hakea), the Department should survey their distribution and undertake control to prevent their spread, where possible.

Where a plant pest species is likely to be displaced by native species, and acts as a significant nursery crop for native species (e.g. gorse) it does not need to be actively controlled in most areas, as native species should eventually replace it. However, in some areas, such as the coastal fringe, where the dynamic dune system is continually eroding and accreting, gorse will not be naturally replaced by native species as it is the most aggressive pioneer species and the first to populate new dune areas. Along the coastal fringe gorse should be controlled at those locations where the specific objective is the restoration of the natural character of the beach (e.g. at Mutton Cove). Gorse should also be controlled where it poses a significant fire risk, encroaches on visitor facilities and tracks, or as part of integrated pest management (e.g. in the Canaan area).

Priorities for plant pest control in the park are set out in Table 5. In addition, the Department must control certain plant pests such as boxthorn, buddleia, spartina, pampas, broom, and blackberry as agreed with Tasman District Council and set out in their Regional Pest Management Strategy.

Plant pests such as German ivy, climbing asparagus, Kikuyu grass, yellow jasmine, buddleia, tutsan, English ivy and Mexican daisy are widespread in areas adjacent to the park and many of these have already invaded The Gorge Creek. The Department must take immediate control action in The Gorge Creek and prevent these species from further establishing in the park, through early detection and immediate removal.

The Department should monitor plant pests to ensure they are controlled and new pest species do not continue to invade the park. The help of the public in plant pest surveillance, monitoring and control is encouraged in areas surrounding the park and in the private lands and settlements within the larger park boundaries. This includes educating visitors about cleaning muddy boots that may contain weed seeds before entering the park.

The prevention of fires is one of the most important weed management tools. Burning encourages weeds because most native species are not adapted to fire. The seeds of plant pests such as gorse, broom, pine and

hakea, survive in the ground, or in tough seed capsules that germinate after an area has been burnt, but native seeds are destroyed by fire (see section 4.1.1.7 'Fires').

TABLE 5: PRIORITIES FOR PLANT PEST CONTROL

SPECIES	PRIORITY	CONTROL AREA	IMMEDIATE AND ONGOING ACTION
pampas, sycamore	1	Totaranui	remove existing plants, maintain zero density
old man's beard	1	Southern end & fringes	remove existing plants, maintain zero density
banana passionfruit	1	Totaranui	remove existing plants, maintain zero density
African club moss ( <i>Selaginella</i> )	1	Totaranui, Anapai, Pigeon Saddle	remove new populations, sustained control or containment
Mexican daisy, cotoneaster, yellow jasmine, ivy, Himalayan honeysuckle	1	The Gorge Creek, Awaroa	remove existing plants, sustained control
Wandering willy ( <i>Tradescantia</i> ), <i>Montbretia</i> , periwinkle, willow and buddleia	2	Totaranui, Onetahuti and Tonga Quarry campsites, and various former house sites	remove, sustained control, eradicate isolated infestations, report new sites to Historic staff as indicators of old house sites
Japanese honeysuckle	2	Totaranui, Awaroa	containment
Cotoneaster, bamboo	2	Tinline, Awaroa	remove, sustained control
Agapanthus	2	Tonga Quarry	remove, maintain zero density
willow	2	Tinline, Coquille Bay, western Anchorage wetland, Awaroa/ Awapoto wetland	remove, sustained control
wilding pines	3	widespread	remove from coastal localities and Pikikiruna Range, sustained control
pine plantation	3	The Gorge Creek, Anchorage	remove, sustained control
macrocarpa	3	Totaranui	remove (for safety), maintain zero density
black wattle, karo, puriri, kumerahou, Corokia	3	Totaranui	remove, maintain zero density (refer to section 4.1.2.5 'Exotic plantings')
broom	3	localised	remove, sustained control for isolated infestations, containment to current distribution
Tasmanian ngaio, purple akeake	3	Totaranui, Anchorage, Wainui, Tinline	remove, sustained control
hakea - prickly	3	Anchorage south	survey and containment to current distribution

SPECIES	PRIORITY	CONTROL AREA	IMMEDIATE AND ONGOING ACTION
Pohutukawa	4	Totaranui	remove seedlings, sustained control
ice plant	4	Anchorage, Bark Bay, Awaroa, Mutton Cove	remove, sustained control
Spanish heath, hawthorn, privet, mugwort, wisteria, barberry	4	Awaroa/Awapoto river flats	remove, sustained control
marram	4	coastal areas, particularly Mutton Cove	sustained control at priority sites, containment to current distribution and plant pingao and spinifex
gorse	4	Mutton Cove, Canaan area (as part of integrated pest control), for fire control, where it encroaches on huts, tracks, campsites	remove, sustained control, eradicate in the Canaan area

#### 4.1.1.6 *Biosecurity*

There is a risk that foreign visitors may bring exotic plant diseases, fungi, or invertebrates into the park in their camping/tramping equipment, particularly where the park is their first camping stop after entering the country. The Department recognises the need to monitor this risk and take immediate action to eradicate any accidental pest introduction. Abel Tasman is a national priority site for this type of biosecurity monitoring.

There also exists the threat of further deliberate introductions of game animals such as pigs or deer into the park by hunters, which has occurred in the past. As it is an offence against the National Parks Act 1980 to introduce exotic organisms into a national park, the Department should manage this through education and monitoring, along with compliance and law enforcement.

Pest fish have also been illegally introduced into other conservation areas in the past. If freshwater pest fish such as koi carp, gambaia, or rudd were to be illegally introduced to the park waters, the Department would need to undertake eradication as soon as possible and prohibit any recreational fishing of that species through a bylaw, in line with General Policy for National Parks 4.4(e).

Biosecurity threats can also arise from the inadvertent introduction of freshwater pests, such as Didymo, on fishing gear, waders and other recreational equipment (e.g. kayaks). If such a threat becomes significant, the Department should close the rivers in the park to sports fishing and other recreational activities using equipment brought into the park. The support of the Fish and Game Council should be sought with regard to closing park waters to sports fishing.

#### **4.1.1.7 Fires**

Fire is a major threat to the park, through the destruction of native plants and animals and the reversion of regenerating forest back to early seral stages. Fire also provides an opportunity for weeds to establish over large areas, and the loss of vegetation cover can make the soil prone to slipping. If fire can be prevented the native forest will begin to close out most of the introduced weeds such as gorse and hakea within a few decades.

The Department must do all it can to prevent fires in the park through education, advocacy, facility and visitor management and fire bans (see also section 5.2.2.7 'Fires'). The Department sets general management policies for dealing with fires when they occur through the preparation of an annual Fire Plan.

#### **4.1.1.8 Policies**

- 1. To preserve the intrinsic natural values of the park.**
- 2. To preserve threatened and at risk species and restore the integrity and functioning of natural ecosystems throughout the park wherever possible.**
- 3. To eradicate and control pests as far as possible throughout the park, in line with this plan.**
- 4. To prevent forest fires from occurring in the park.**

#### **4.1.1.9 Implementation**

- 1. Carry out survey, monitoring and research on threatened and at risk plants and animals as a high priority.*
- 2. Establish and implement management programmes for threatened and at risk species and habitats, consistent with this plan and departmental priorities for ecosystem management.*
- 3. Manage threatened and at risk animal species according to any applicable approved Species Recovery Plans.*
- 4. Make special provisions for the management of threatened or at risk plants and animals as and when required.*
- 5. Allow for the re-introduction of native species that existed naturally in the park previously.*
- 6. Carry out animal pest control operations consistent with priorities identified in Table 4, national pest control plans and Tasman District Council's regional pest management strategy.*
- 7. Encourage recreational hunters to assist with deer, goat, possum and pig control.*

8. *Commercial helicopter hunters may be used for deer control for specific operations of set duration where necessary for the preservation and/or regeneration of indigenous habitats.*
9. *Use whatever method or combination of methods necessary for animal pest control to maintain ecosystem health.*
10. *Encourage research into new methods of plant and animal pest control and eradication.*
11. *Carry out plant pest removal/control consistent with priorities identified in Table 5, national pest control plans and Tasman District Council's regional pest management strategy.*
12. *Prevent the establishment of new populations of plant and animal pests through continued surveillance and the timely removal of any individuals or groups that are found outside their established range.*
13. *Encourage the public to assist in plant pest surveillance and control, especially in the adjacent private lands and settlements and on the park boundaries.*
14. *Where practical and where they meet the objectives of this plan, co-ordinate pest control programmes with those of adjoining land managers.*
15. *Work with local communities and tangata whenua on pest control and restoration projects, where opportunities arise.*
16. *Monitor the park for risks to biosecurity and take immediate action to remove any new foreign organism.*
17. *Where any introduced fish species are illegally introduced into the park take steps to eradicate them as soon as possible and seek a bylaw to prohibit any recreational fishing of illegally introduced fish species.*
18. *Where a biosecurity threat to the freshwaters of the park, such as Didymo, becomes significant, the rivers in the park should be closed to sports fishing and other recreational activities using equipment brought into the park.*
19. *Take all necessary steps, including fire bans, to prevent fires in the park.*

#### 4.1.1.10 Outcome

1. **Indigenous species are recovering and indigenous ecosystems continue to function, assisted by active management including the re-introduction of appropriate indigenous species and pest control undertaken by the Department, communities and tangata whenua.**

## 4.1.2 The Coast

(See also section 2.1 'The Coast')

### 4.1.2.1 *Survey, monitoring and research*

Small remnants of original coastal vegetation can still be found in the park, most notably at Totaranui, where northern rata forest forms almost pristine stands right down to the shore at the head of the beach. The Department should monitor these remnant areas and take preventive action to maintain forest health.

There is unique vegetation on the coastal limestone at the western and southern ends of the park and the Department should monitor these areas and take preventive action to maintain forest health.

### 4.1.2.2 *Restoration and preservation*

The most effective way to preserve native species is to restore natural ecosystems and processes, through the control of plant and animal pests.

After severe historical modification, the vegetation along the Coast is now in the process of natural regeneration back to native forest. Part of that process involves a sequence of vegetation types that, over time, outgrow and replace the previous community. The park has value as a place where visitors can see this process at all stages, from gorse-covered hills to full native forest and every stage in between. These seral stages, including some plant pests, have their own intrinsic values, both aesthetically and ecologically, and should not be undervalued just because they are not "proper" forest. The management regime for these regenerating areas is to allow nature to take its course, while controlling animal pests and invasive weeds and protecting these areas from their other major enemy, fire.

The Department has discovered new populations of the threatened plants coastal peppergrass (*Lepidium banksii*) and rorippa (*Rorippa divaricata*) in the park in recent years. The Department is actively managing coastal peppergrass through fertilising and spraying for aphids and white cabbage butterfly infestations. It is also transplanting coastal peppergrass to supplement existing populations, as well as creating new ones.

The low sand dunes on the coastal edges of the park are subject to natural erosion and accretion and are also under threat from introduced plant species like gorse, marram and ice plant. The Department should restore the dunes in specific areas (such as Mutton Cove) using weed control and active planting of native sand-binding plants such as pingao and spinifex. Large scale dune restoration is impossible, given the dynamic nature of coastal processes and the aggressiveness of gorse as a pioneer species.

The paddocks at Totaranui have high potential for restoration projects. There is some need for sediment removal from the stream to prevent flooding in the Campground, but there are wet areas that could be enhanced to create wetland ecosystems. Such projects are medium priority and should involve tangata whenua, visitors and the local community where practicable.

#### **4.1.2.3 *Animal pests***

The Coast is a priority area for possum, deer and pig control, which is carried out with the assistance of recreational hunters. The Coast is also a priority for mustelid control, which is primarily carried out by the Department. Wasps and hares also need to be controlled where practicable, particularly at huts and campsites.

The Torrent Bay (Rakauroa) community, Tasman District Council and the Department are currently working together, carrying out integrated pest control for possums, stoats and weeds on private land in Torrent Bay (Rakauroa) and in the adjoining park from Stilwell Bay through to Frenchman Bay. This partnership should continue to be supported.

#### **4.1.2.4 *Plant pests***

Human activities have destroyed much of the original forest vegetation along the Coast. Recent studies indicate that the pre-European Māori began deforestation in the Torrent Bay (Rakauroa) area and may have cleared much of the bare ridge-top country in this part of the park some centuries ago. European impact was sudden and drastic, with logging, burning and farming destroying large areas of forest.

In these modified areas, now reverting to woody vegetation, exotic plants have gained easy access. Therefore, as well as being New Zealand's smallest national park, Abel Tasman is probably the weediest. Plant pests are one of the biggest threats to the park and include old man's beard, banana passionfruit, African club moss, pampas, pines, wandering willy (*Tradescantia*), hakea, gorse, Japanese honeysuckle, Himalayan honeysuckle, Spanish heath, wattle, ice plant and marram grass.

In many areas, especially along the Coast, natural regeneration of native forest is slowly displacing some introduced plants, particularly gorse. This process is evident at Torrent Bay (Rakauroa) and around Totaranui. The Department does not generally consider gorse to be a permanent problem because it acts as a 'nursery' plant, protecting native seedlings from browsing and exposure. The native plants eventually over-top the gorse and shade out the light so the gorse dies off leaving just the new native forest, except on the coastal margin where gorse is not replaced by native plants (see 4.1.1.5 'Plant pests').

#### **4.1.2.5 *Exotic plantings***

The Coast contains some examples of exotic plantings in areas where historic buildings are located or previously existed. In some cases,

these exotic plants are protected because of their significant historical values (see section 4.3.2.4 'Historic plantings').

When Māori arrived in this area from the North Island they planted useful traditional materials, such as flaxes. They also planted indicator species, such as karaka, beyond their natural range. The flowering and fruiting of these indicator species would tell tangata whenua what season it was in their new environment. Some karaka plantings still exist in the park (including at Taupo Point, Tonga Island and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti)) and have historical and cultural values to tangata whenua.

Sometimes the protection of plants with historical values conflicts with the protection of native species, particularly if the exotic plant is an invasive one, in which case preservation of species native to the park will prevail. In the case of the Māori plantings, the Department should consult with tangata whenua regarding the management of these plantings.

### **Totaranui**

Totaranui is an open predominantly grassed area, where several plant pests are already present, making it a priority area for integrated plant pest control.

The avenue of plane trees at Totaranui has historic protection (see section 4.3.2.4 'Historic plantings'). Totaranui is also home to some mature pōhutukawa trees, which were planted in the 1960s for amenity value, but are not native to the South Island. It is almost certain that they will crossbreed with the native northern rata, creating pōhutukawa x northern rata hybrid seedlings. However, the Department does not intend to remove the mature pōhutukawa as they are popular and of some historical value and the risk of crossbreeding is considered to be manageable through the removal of any pōhutukawa or pōhutukawa x northern rata hybrid seedlings. Any change in this approach would involve a full public consultation process.

Tree lucerne has previously been planted at Totaranui for campers' privacy. This plant is non-invasive and does not have a long lifespan. Therefore, these trees will eventually be replaced by local native species, including northern rata, as they die off. Some karo and pūriri were also planted at Totaranui, outside their natural range, and the Department should remove these plants to prevent their spread. There is also evidence that plantings of Corokia cultivars are spreading at Totaranui. This plant does not occur naturally, is not fulfilling a useful function, and should be removed.

#### **4.1.2.6 Other threats**

The regenerating coastal scrublands are highly vulnerable to fire during the hot, dry summer period. The main fire risks arise from recreational activities, especially camping, smoking and illegal beach fires (see section 5.2.2.7 'Fires').

Human impacts such as trampling and pollution can also threaten park values. This includes sand dune erosion due to visitors hauling kayaks up onto land and visitors not taking their rubbish with them (see section 5.1 'Visitor management').

#### 4.1.2.7 Policies

1. To restore and preserve indigenous biological values, particularly threatened plants, on the Coast.
2. To control and monitor major animal and plant pests and prevent new pests becoming established at Totaranui and within the coastal forest and shrublands.

#### 4.1.2.8 Implementation

1. *Carry out survey, monitoring and research on threatened habitats along the Coast as a high priority.*
2. *Carry out ecological restoration in specific dune areas, in conjunction with pest control, as a high-medium priority.*
3. *Actively manage threatened plants along the Coast.*
4. *Undertake wetland restoration projects at Totaranui as a medium priority and involve tangata whenua, visitors and the community where practicable.*
5. *Carry out integrated plant pest control at Totaranui as a priority.*
6. *Carry out pest control in association with residents of the adjacent private lands and settlements, where practical.*
7. *Carry out plant and animal pest control on the Coast as set out in Tables 4 and 5.*
8. *Monitor camp and hut sites along the Coast Track as a priority, to detect exotic pests and diseases accidentally introduced by travellers and prevent their establishment.*
9. *Consult with tangata whenua regarding the management of historic Māori plantings.*
10. *Retain the mature pōhutukawa at Totaranui, but remove any seedlings.*
11. *If the removal of pōhutukawa and pōhutukawa x northern rata hybrid seedlings is shown to be insufficient to preserve the northern rata in the park, consult the public and tangata whenua regarding the option of removing the mature pōhutukawa trees at Totaranui.*
12. *Replace the tree lucerne at Totaranui, as it dies off, with local native species.*

#### 4.1.2.9 Outcomes

1. Threatened species, particularly rorippa and coastal peppergrass, are recovering and indigenous forest and coastal communities continue to regenerate on the Coast, assisted by active management.
2. Plant pests have not spread into the park or increased their ranges on the Coast.

### **4.1.3 The Interior**

(See also section 2.2 'The Interior')

#### **4.1.3.1 *Survey, monitoring and research***

Moa Park has significant biodiversity values, with its mosaic of sub-alpine forest, shrublands and tussocklands. There is also unique vegetation on the marble/karst areas of the park, including the Canaan area, as well as extensive wetlands on the lower reaches of the Awapoto and Awaroa rivers, including a significant stand of kahikatea. The Department should monitor these areas and take preventive action to avoid deterioration, particularly where the threatened plants shovel mint (*Scutellaria novae-zelandiae*) and limestone groundsel (*Senecio* aff. *glaucophyllus*) are found.

The Interior of the park is largely biologically uncharted and there is little information on which to base management decisions in this area. A general survey of the Interior of the park is required as a priority.

#### **4.1.3.2 *Animal pests***

Possoms have been present in the park for over 100 years and occur in high numbers throughout the park. Pigs were liberated by early settlers and are also found throughout the park, with higher numbers in the north. Goats are found mainly in the south of the park, especially along the Pikikiruna Range and Marahau Valley, where the park shares boundaries with partly cleared land. The park has a relatively low, scattered population of red deer. Smaller pests include hares (in old grasslands and on the coast), mustelids, ship rats, mice and wasps.

Priority areas for pig control are the Interior north of Onetahuti, Marahau to Mt Evans and areas where there are land snail populations. Priority areas for deer control are marble/karst areas and Moa Park. Priority areas for goat control are marble/karst areas. Priority areas for possum control are areas of high biodiversity, including areas where there are land snail populations, such as the Canaan area and Moa Park.

The Canaan area is a priority area for integrated pest control due to the vulnerability of its biological communities.

#### **4.1.3.3 *Plant pests***

Plant pests such as German ivy, yellow jasmine, cotoneaster, fan palm, English ivy, hawthorn, Himalayan honeysuckle, barberry, stinking iris, Centranthus, Mexican daisy and others have recently invaded The Gorge Creek from adjacent areas. Action must be taken to remove these plant pests as soon as practicable, to preserve The Gorge Creek's concentration of natural values and prevent further spread of these plant pests into the park.

Some of the above plants are also found in the Awaroa and Awapoto river-flat areas, as a result of the historical European settlement and farming that took place. In addition, other plant pests include Spanish heath, pine trees, Japanese honeysuckle, Buddleia, privet and mugwort.

There are also a number of exotic plants, such as rhododendrons, oaks and fruit trees. Those plants that are invasive and have no historical value should be removed where possible or controlled.

#### **4.1.3.4 Policies**

- 1. To preserve areas of high biological value in the Interior, as a priority.**
- 2. To increase knowledge of biological values in the Interior of the park.**
- 3. To control plant and animal pests and prevent new species from invading the Interior.**

#### **4.1.3.5 Implementation**

- 1. Carry out a general survey of the Interior of the park as a high-medium priority.*
- 2. Carry out research, survey and monitoring of Moa Park and threatened habitats in marble/karst areas, such as the Canaan area, as a high priority.*
- 3. Carry out a survey and monitoring of the wetland areas on the lower reaches of the Awapoto and Awaroa rivers, particularly where threatened plants may be found.*
- 4. Carry out plant and animal pest control as set out in Tables 4 and 5.*
- 5. Undertake integrated plant pest control at The Gorge Creek as a priority, to prevent further spread into the park.*
- 6. Undertake integrated pest control in the Canaan area as a priority to protect its special values.*

#### **4.1.3.6 Outcomes**

- 1. High value, vulnerable communities in the Interior, including Moa Park, the Canaan area and The Gorge Creek, are viable and not under threat from plant or animal pests.**
- 2. Healthy populations of threatened and at risk plants and animals are maintained in the Interior.**
- 3. Knowledge of the biodiversity values of the Interior is improved.**

#### **4.1.4 The Islands**

(See also section 2.3 'The Islands')

##### ***4.1.4.1 Restoration and preservation***

The Islands are highly significant habitats, particularly as they are essentially free of mammalian pests (see section 4.1.4.2 'Animal pests'). However, they are easily affected by human disturbances and introduced

pests, such as stoats and rats. These pests have been eradicated on all of the islands, except the Tata Islands, but in many cases the risk of re-invasion is high. Where stoats and rats are absent, islands provide important nesting places for seabirds, such as sooty shearwaters, and blue penguins.

Adele Island (Motuarero-nui), Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti), Tonga Island and one of the Tata Islands have large-leaved milk trees growing on them. These trees are at their southern limit in this region and are rare on the mainland due to possum browse and rodents eating the seeds, preventing regeneration. Several other islands contain significant coastal vegetation remnants that need to be preserved.

These islands do not have a great diversity of wildlife but would provide a suitable sanctuary for threatened and at risk native plant and animal species, such as the Nelson green gecko if it was to be re-introduced. Tonga Island provides a suitable site for a small colony of sooty shearwater. The resulting soil fertility (from guano) may provide a good habitat for some local threatened and at risk plants, such as coastal peppergrass.

#### **4.1.4.2 *Animal pests***

The Islands are one of the priority areas for animal pest control in the park. Due to the high natural values and sensitivity of the Islands, only the Department or well supervised groups should carry out pest control.

All the islands, except the Tata Islands, are free of mammalian pests. Continued trapping and monitoring deals with the occasional animal that swims from the mainland. The benefits of being stoat-free are most obvious in the relative abundance of nesting blue penguin, in comparison with the mainland.

Only rats are present on the Tata Islands, as these islands are too close to the mainland to eradicate rats.

#### **4.1.4.3 *Seals***

Tonga Island Marine Reserve surrounds Tonga Island, which is home to the second largest of only three New Zealand fur seal breeding colonies in the top of the South Island, although seals are now beginning to breed on Pinnacle Island as well. Seal rookeries are highly sensitive to human intrusion and the delicate mother-pup bond can be broken when animals are disturbed, causing the mother to abandon her young. If the colony is disturbed, stampedes may kill pups.

There are also serious safety issues for people, as bulls are very aggressive during the mating season and will chase and attack those who venture too close. There has been an ongoing problem with people landing on the island and entering the breeding colony area, causing disturbance. Because of this, the Department intends to designate Tonga Island and Pinnacle Island as Specially Protected Areas (under section 12 of the National Parks Act 1980), which will be closed to the public, to protect the breeding colonies (see also section 5.1.4.2 'Access').

Seals are rapidly increasing in numbers and further haul-out sites and rookeries are likely to establish in the next decade. Some of these sites may also require protection in the future. This may be achieved by signage that informs visitors of appropriate behaviour around seals, including separation distances, or by the restriction of public access through Specially Protected Area status.

Existing holders of permits (issued under the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992) to view or swim with seals (and dolphins) will be unaffected by any Specially Protected Area status (see section 5.3.2.3.1 'Preservation'), as these activities occur outside the park boundaries.

#### **4.1.4.4 Policies**

- 1. To restore, protect and maintain the sanctuary values of the larger Islands.**
- 2. To protect seal breeding colonies on the Islands from human disturbance.**

#### **4.1.4.5 Implementation**

- 1. Carry out ecological restoration on the larger islands, in conjunction with pest control, as a high-medium priority.*
- 2. Animal pest monitoring and control on the pest-free-islands should be carried out by the Department, and may be assisted by supervised groups.*
- 3. Threatened and at risk native plants and animals may be transferred/re-introduced to the larger islands once restoration and pest control have provided suitable habitats.*
- 4. Recommend to the Minister that Tonga Island and Pinnacle Island be given Specially Protected Area status in order to close them to the public, for the protection of the seal breeding colonies.*
- 5. If new seal breeding colonies establish in the future, erect signs that inform visitors of appropriate behaviour around the seals, including separation distances, or obtain Specially Protected Area status, where appropriate and necessary.*

#### **4.1.4.6 Outcomes**

- 1. Apart from the Tata Islands, the Islands are free of mammalian pests and provide suitable habitats for re-introduced, threatened and at risk species.**
- 2. Tonga and Pinnacle Islands are Specially Protected Areas (closed to the public), their seal colonies are thriving and breeding is undisturbed by visitors.**

## 4.2 LANDSCAPE AND LANDFORMS

### 4.2.1 Whole park

#### 4.2.1.1 *Preservation*

The characteristics that contribute to the landscape values of the Abel Tasman include: high levels of natural character with limited human elements; distinctive coastal landforms and other natural features; a diverse and distinctive coastal margin, with estuarine areas and offshore islands; high visual values, particularly the qualities of coherence, memorability and scenic beauty; the forested steep interior; and the karst landforms of the Canaan area<sup>3</sup>.

A number of sites within the park have been recommended for geo-preservation, based on their earth science values (geological features, landforms, soil sites and/or active physical processes).

A deep mantle of sandy, gravelly, weathered material, which is highly susceptible to erosion, forms the upper layer of the granite basement rock in much of the park. This top layer is prone to slipping during storms, particularly where animal pests or fire have damaged the forest cover. Pest control and the preservation of native vegetation cover can help to preserve landscape and geological values (see sections 4.1.1 'Whole park' and 4.1.3 'The Interior').

#### 4.2.1.2 *Development*

The development of visitor facilities, such as toilets, buildings, huts, signs, bridges, fences and tracks, can adversely affect landscape and ecological values, so they must meet the criteria set out in section 5.2.1.1 'Facilities'. However, route markers need to be highly visible, for safety reasons. For all other facilities, specific attempts should be made to reduce the visual effects of development. New tracks should be carefully sited to avoid visual intrusion and consideration should be given to re-routing existing tracks with high visual impacts.

Any facilities associated with concession activities (see section 5.3 'Concessions') also need to avoid adverse effects on landscape values, as well as meeting other criteria, as set out in section 5.3.3.1.2 'Structures'.

#### 4.2.1.3 *Views*

Visitors can appreciate the waterfalls, boulder streams and broken nature of the forest-clothed interior from the sea or from vantage points along the tracks. The appreciation of landscape values is an important aspect of park use. There may be instances where the Department can facilitate this by careful removal of trees to open up significant views. However, this should only be considered where it is on a limited scale and would not significantly affect vulnerable ecosystems, or affect views from other

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3 Based on Tasman District Coast Landscape Character Assessment, August 2005.

locations. The approval of the Conservator would be required for such a specific exception to the primary objective of preservation of indigenous species and natural values.

#### **4.2.1.4 Policies**

- 1. To preserve the landscape, geological and scenic values of the park.**
- 2. To ensure that any new facility development avoids diminishing the quality of the geological values or landscape features.**

#### **4.2.1.5 Implementation**

- 1. Manage the visual, geological and landscape impacts of facility development in the park as set out in section 5.2.1.1 'Facilities'.*
- 2. Ensure that any new track development is carefully sited to avoid significant visual effects on landscape values and consider re-routing existing tracks with high visual effects.*
- 3. Provide obvious route markers for safety reasons.*
- 4. Seek approval from the Conservator for limited removal of vegetation adjacent to huts and tracks to open up significant views where this does not adversely affect significant natural values.*

#### **4.2.1.6 Outcomes**

- 1. Landscapes and landforms are preserved through the protection of indigenous ecosystems and visitor management.**
- 2. Facilities and signs have been sensitively located and designed so as not to diminish the visual quality of the scenic, geological and landform values and features.**

### **4.2.2 The Coast and the Islands**

(see also sections 2.1 'The Coast' and 2.3 'The Islands')

#### **4.2.2.1 Preservation**

The granite rock stacks, boulders, islands and broad golden sandy beaches of the coastal area contribute to a significant natural landscape widely appreciated by visitors. The many sand spits protect sheltered and pristine estuaries and the accessible yet undeveloped nature of many of the beaches is an important landscape quality. However, the beaches and estuaries (below Mean High Water Mark) are outside the national park boundary.

Taupo Point and the Tata Islands are significant limestone features of the park. Separation Point headland (regionally important) is the only site on the Coast recommended for geo-preservation, as it is a large and prominent headland of visual and landform significance.

#### **4.2.2.2 *Development***

Development within the adjacent private lands and settlements is subject to controls set out in the Tasman Resource Management Plan, administered by the Tasman District Council. The Department will advocate for sensitive development in these areas, due to their proximity to the park and the coastal environment and the potential to affect landscape values (see also section 6.1.3 'Neighbouring lands').

#### **4.2.2.3 *Policy***

- 1. To preserve the significant landscape and scenic values of the Coast and the Islands.**

#### **4.2.2.4 *Implementation***

- 1. Protect the geological values of Separation Point headland as a priority.*
- 2. Advocate for sensitive development and controls on activities in the adjacent private lands and settlements and coastal marine area to protect the coastal landscape values of the park.*

#### **4.2.2.5 *Outcomes***

- 1. Coastal landscape features are preserved along with the geological values of Separation Point.**
- 2. Development in the adjacent private lands and settlements is in harmony with the landscape and scenic values of the park.**

### **4.2.3 *The Interior***

(see also section 2.2 'The Interior')

#### **4.2.3.1 *Preservation***

The Interior of the park is characterised by rugged hills, ranges and gullies cloaked in native forest, plus significant wetland areas at the head of the Awaroa Inlet. For the majority of visitors to the park, who only visit the Coast, the Interior forms a backdrop to the landscape of the Coast and contributes significantly to the overall landscape of the park.

Geological features listed as geo-preservation sites include Canaan Valley scheelite mineralisation (nationally important), Canaan Valley skarn (regionally important), Harwoods Hole (nationally important) and Harwoods-Starlight cave system (nationally important). Harwoods Hole is the country's deepest natural shaft and the Harwoods-Starlight cave

system beyond is aesthetically outstanding, due to a combination of features, including speleotherms (stalactites etc), passage shapes, crystal facets, and water flow.

#### **4.2.3.2 *Caves and karst***

The caves and karst landforms of the park are highly susceptible to damage. The vegetation is susceptible to trampling and browsing by introduced animals and, in some sites, to the impacts of visitors. Many of the karren formations, especially the finer sharp-edged forms that develop on bare karst pavements, are fragile and susceptible to damage from even the careful visitor. Karst features can also be affected by facility development (e.g. tracks and toilets), which should be carefully considered and any adverse effects avoided.

Drainage from land outside the park can adversely affect cave systems, especially where the drainage lies on non-karst areas upstream of the granite/marble interface. Forest clearance, cultivation, and overstocking can lead to increased sediment loads in the cave systems, which raise cave flood levels, inundating sections of cave that have not been subject to inundation for thousands of years. This can be detrimental to cave ecosystems, cave fauna, cave formations and fossil deposits and can adversely affect other cave values. Fertiliser use, high stock levels, effluent disposal and rubbish dumps can also introduce pollutants into cave systems.

Visitors can easily damage cave features also, especially sediment deposits, fossils and cave formations, so visitors need to be managed so as to protect such features (see section 5.1.3.3 'Caves').

The Department intends to prepare a Cave and Karst Management Strategy for the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy, including Abel Tasman National Park, which will address management of caves and karst on public conservation lands as well as advocacy on privately owned lands. The general public and key stakeholders should be consulted during the preparation of this Strategy, particularly the Nelson Speleological Group, which has a high degree of local knowledge, the New Zealand Speleological Society and tangata whenua. If this Strategy makes any recommendation regarding the management of cave and karst systems in the park that is inconsistent with this plan, then the Department should consider carrying out an amendment to this plan.

#### **4.2.3.3 *Development***

The Tasman District Council has identified the Takaka Hill Landscape Priority Area in the Tasman Resource Management Plan. Parts of this Landscape Priority Area overlay the park in the vicinity of the Canaan area. The purpose of the Landscape Priority Area status is to protect the outstanding landscape and features from the adverse effects of subdivision, use, or development of the land, particularly adjoining the park. The Department supports this status.

#### 4.2.3.4 Policies

1. To protect the geological and landform values of karst areas and caves in the Interior.
2. Protect listed geo-preservation sites, including Harwoods-Starlight cave system and sections of the Canaan Valley scheelite mineralisation and Canaan Valley skarn that occur in the Interior.

#### 4.2.3.5 Implementation

1. *Prepare a Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy Cave and Karst Management Strategy, which includes the park, in consultation with the general public and key stakeholders, particularly the Nelson Speleological Group, the New Zealand Speleological Society and tangata whenua.*
2. *Consider amending this plan if the above Cave and Karst Management Strategy makes any recommendation that is inconsistent with this plan.*
3. *Advocate for appropriate land use activities and rules within cave catchment areas on private land adjacent to the park.*
4. *Support initiatives by Tasman District Council to protect the Takaka Hill Landscape Priority Area.*

#### 4.2.3.6 Outcomes

1. Cave systems and karst features, and sites with geo-preservation status, within the Interior are preserved.
2. Landscape values of the Interior are preserved through avoiding inappropriate development of land adjacent to the park.

### 4.3 HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

#### 4.3.1 Whole park

##### 4.3.1.1 *Protection of historic places*

The Historic Places Act 1993 seeks to promote the identification, protection, preservation, and conservation of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand. This includes historic places, such as archaeological sites and wāhi tapu. Under this Act it is an offence to destroy, damage, or modify any historic place or historic area without authority from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. The Department must prevent the accidental destruction of these sites and must get an authority from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust for any site restoration or modification. The Act also requires an authority if there is a reasonable cause to suspect

that an archaeological site (recorded or unrecorded) may be damaged, modified, or destroyed by any activity. To this end, it is important to identify and record previously unknown sites so that the Department can protect them from inadvertent damage.

The Department regularly monitors known historical and archaeological sites and actively manages them where appropriate. Wherever possible, works that might threaten a site should be re-evaluated to avoid or at least minimise any disturbance.

To promote long-term site protection, the Department should develop Conservation Plans specific to the values and nature of the historical and archaeological resources and heritage landscapes of the park.

The Department should continue to identify and protect archaeological sites and historic places according to the priorities and procedures set out in the national Historic Resource Strategy and the Conservancy's Historic Resource Strategy, including consultation with tangata whenua.

Protection may include discouraging access to sites by diverting tracks away from an area and by placing special conditions on concessions granted within an area with historical values (see section 5.3 'Concessions').

#### **4.3.1.2 *Protected objects***

The Protected Objects Act 1975 provides for the protection of certain objects, including regulating the export of protected New Zealand objects, and establishing and recording the ownership of ngā taonga tuturu. Any taonga tuturu found anywhere in New Zealand is the property of the Crown. However, where any taonga tuturu has been recovered from the grave of any person/s whose identity is known, the Māori Land Court determines who is/are the proper person/s to have custody of the taonga tuturu. Māori have protocols for action following the discovery of any taonga tuturu. This could include reburial in the place they were found, removal to a marae, or placement in a museum, or urupā.

Protected New Zealand objects are important to our understanding of archaeological and historical sites. In terms of section 60 of the National Parks Act 1980, it is an offence to remove or damage any protected New Zealand object (including old bottles) or relic in the park without written authorisation from the Minister.

#### **4.3.1.3 *Māori sites***

Tangata whenua need to be actively involved in the management of wāhi tapu. They need to be given the opportunity to care for these sites in traditional ways, which may include keeping the location of the site confidential. All caves in the park are culturally significant to tangata whenua, particularly Harwoods Hole (see Appendix 4 for the legend of Hine-nui-te-pō). The Department must ensure that it works with tangata whenua in the management of sites of significance to them and provides the opportunity for a representative to be present at archaeological excavations or surveys.

#### **4.3.1.4 Threats**

Both natural processes and human impacts easily damage archaeological sites and historic places. These include erosion, earthquakes, fire, decay, neglect, track building, increasing pressures of visitor use and facilities, trampling and even tree planting. These effects need to be avoided where possible.

The reforestation of an archaeological site can destroy the historical values of that site through root damage to the human-made structures. In such circumstances, the Department must have regard to section 4(1) of the National Parks Act 1980 and ensure sites and objects of archaeological and historical interest are preserved as far as possible.

#### **4.3.1.5 Interpretation**

Interpretation and information can enhance visitor understanding of historical sites and can help the visitors gain an appreciation for the historical values preserved in the park. The Department should evaluate opportunities for interpretation of historical sites, in terms of the historical significance and suitability of the site in relation to public access and interest. In some cases, it may be more appropriate to protect a site through not publicising its existence to the public, as some sites are better able to cope with visitor impacts than others. Where a Māori site is well placed for interpretation, tangata whenua should be consulted as to the appropriateness of interpretation and its content.

Information should be made available to visitors about the requirement not to interfere with or damage the historic features of the park, or to damage or remove protected New Zealand objects in the park; the need to inform the Department of any items found; and about the cultural importance of protected New Zealand objects.

#### **4.3.1.6 Memorials**

General Policy for National Parks 5(g) allows for monuments, pou whenua, plaques or other memorials to be sited in national parks where they are associated with people, traditions or events of exceptional importance in the history of the park, such as the Abel Tasman Memorial at Ligar Bay. There are some existing plaques on rocks in the park and these may remain. However, in future such plaques and memorials cannot be attached to or engraved into natural features. Plaques may be attached to structures such as huts in the park, where they meet the criteria and are appropriate.

Tangata whenua have expressed an interest in erecting pou whenua (marker posts) at the entrances to the park and the Hadfield family wish to erect a memorial at Hadfield's Clearing to reflect the history of the area and its importance as an addition to the park. The Department should consider both of these.

#### 4.3.1.7 Policies

1. To work actively with tangata whenua to protect sites of significance to them, including wāhi tapu, historical and archaeological sites, as well as relics and ngā taonga tuturu in the park.
2. To protect historical and archaeological sites, and protected New Zealand objects and relics in the park.

#### 4.3.1.8 Implementation

1. *Prior to any proposed activities involving earthworks or ground disturbance, carry out an archaeological assessment, obtain authority to modify the site where necessary, and avoid damage to sites where practicable.*
2. *Carry out archaeological and historical surveys within the park and actively protect, restore and interpret historical sites and ngā taonga tuturu in line with national and Conservancy Historic Resources Strategies and the Historic Places Act 1993 and the Protected Objects Act 1975.*
3. *Develop Conservation Plans for historical and archaeological resources in the park to promote long-term site protection.*
4. *Invite tangata whenua to participate in the identification, preservation and management of their historical and cultural heritage in the park.*
5. *Work with tangata whenua where an archaeological survey or management of a Māori site is proposed.*
6. *Ensure that wāhi tapu are conserved and managed in a way that complies with the Protected Objects Act 1975 and Historic Places Act 1993 and incorporates consultation with tangata whenua and the exercise of kaitiakitanga and appropriate tikanga.*
7. *Provide for tangata whenua input and involvement at sites of significance to them and where archaeological impacts are likely.*
8. *Minimise the impacts of visitor use on known archaeological sites.*
9. *Where preservation of historical values conflicts with the preservation of ecological values evaluate each case carefully on its own merits but ensure sites and objects of archaeological interest are preserved as far as possible.*
10. *Provide information to visitors about the prohibition on damaging or removing historic features, protected New Zealand objects and relics in the park, and inform them of the cultural importance of protected New Zealand objects, including ngā taonga tuturu.*

11. *Inform tangata whenua of any discovery of taonga tuturu in the park and, subject to the requirements of the Protected Objects Act 1975, seek their advice on the appropriate protocols for its care.*
12. *Consult with tangata whenua where interpretation of a Māori site or a Māori tradition is proposed.*
13. *Memorials such as plaques, which commemorate events of exceptional importance in the history of the park, may be permitted on man made structures in the park, where appropriate.*
14. *Memorials of a monument type may only be permitted where the historical association of the site, individual or event is of exceptional importance, in line with General Policy for National Parks.*
15. *Consult with tangata whenua about erecting pou whenua at the entrances to the park.*
16. *Consult with the Hadfield family about erecting a memorial at Hadfield's Clearing.*

#### **4.3.1.9 Outcomes**

1. **Tangata whenua are actively involved in the management of wāhi tapu and other sites of significance to them.**
2. **Archaeological and cultural sites and heritage landscapes, protected New Zealand objects, relics and ngā taonga tuturu are protected.**

#### **4.3.2 The Coast**

(see also section 2.1 'The Coast')

##### **4.3.2.1 Protection**

The historical and archaeological sites within the park are significant because they occur on a continuous piece of coast in public ownership, so there is an expectation that these sites can be preserved. They have legal protection under section 4(2)(c) of the National Parks Act 1980 and section 10 of the Historic Places Act 1993 and, where exposed, may be given physical protection. Sites on adjacent private land may be affected by development but are also subject to the provisions of the Historic Places Act 1993.

##### **4.3.2.2 Māori sites and ngā taonga tuturu**

Ngā taonga tuturu and other archaeological evidence of Māori settlements have been found in almost every bay and on many significant headlands in the park. There are over 70 recorded archaeological sites distributed around the park coastline, including coastal villages and seasonal camps, garden areas and food storage pits, and at least six small fortified pa.

However, the protection of these sites presents a particular challenge to the Department because many of the most significant Māori sites are located in the major hut and camp areas, including Torrent Bay (Rakauroa), Bark Bay (Wairima) and Awaroa. Increased public use of the park and the subsequent upgrading of facilities have also increased the disturbance and damage to these sites. Long-term management should improve protection of these sites, or the cultural and archaeological values of these places will be significantly diminished or lost. Any facility development should avoid or minimise impacts on archaeological sites (see also section 5.2.1.1 'Facilities'). Natural processes, particularly coastal erosion, are also a significant threat to retaining these sites (see sections 4.3.2.5 'Threats' and 4.3.2.6 'Kōiwi').

#### 4.3.2.3 *European sites, protected New Zealand objects and relics*

Relics, protected New Zealand objects and archaeological sites from the period of European settlement and farming include buildings, sheep dips, pack tracks, bush tramways from logging, quarry workings at Tonga Bay, and a steam engine used to mill beech bark at Awaroa, for the tanning industry. The old farm homestead at Totaranui ('Ngarata' – Pratt's Homestead), which is used as an outdoor education lodge, and the old farm house at Whariwharangi, which is used as a hut, have been retained and are managed to preserve their historical values. 'Ngarata' is of national significance as an early example of the bungalow style of architecture.

#### 4.3.2.4 *Historic plantings*

Exotic trees remain along the Coast from the early European settlement period (late 1800's – early 1900's), including small groups of macrocarpa and an avenue of plane trees at Totaranui, as listed in Table 6.

TABLE 6: EXOTIC TREES ON THE COAST WITH HISTORICAL VALUES

LOCATION	SPECIES	NUMBER	MANAGEMENT	HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Whariwharangi	Macrocarpa	Several	Retain	Farmhouse site
	Fig	1	Retain	
Mutton Cove	Macrocarpa	Several	Retain	Farmhouse site
	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Several	Retain	
Anapai	Macrocarpa	Several	Retain	Farmhouse site
Totaranui	Plane	Avenue	Actively maintain and under-plant	Planted in 1860 and protected trees in the TRMP
	Macrocarpa	Several	Remove if there is a safety issue	Farming
	Gum	Several	Retain	Farming
	Rhododendron	1	Actively maintain	Ngarata Homestead, protected tree in the TRMP

LOCATION	SPECIES	NUMBER	MANAGEMENT	HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Totaranui (continued)	Pear	2	Actively maintain	Ngarata Homestead
	Paulownia	1	Actively maintain	Ngarata Homestead, protected tree in the TRMP
	Bay Laurel	1	Actively maintain	Ngarata Homestead
Awaroa	Pinus species	1	Retain	Old school site
Wallaby Creek (south of Abel Head)	Pinus species	Grove	Retain	
Bark Bay	Japanese cedar	Several	Retain	Huffam house site
Anchor Bay	Macrocarpa	Several	Retain	Farmhouse site

These trees are of varying significance, but all have historical value as indicators of homestead sites, old shelter belts or as public landmarks. While some are invasive, and any seedlings should be removed, they may be retained, where they do not pose safety risks to the public or significantly threaten native ecosystems.

The exotic plants around 'Ngarata' (Pratt's Homestead) at Totaranui are seen as an integral part of the house and are actively maintained along with the building. The avenue of plane trees at Totaranui was planted by the Gibbs family, in 1865. These trees are a very important part of the heritage landscape of Totaranui. They are also the parent trees of all the plane trees along Nelson city streets. These trees have historic protection under the Tasman Resource Management Plan and need to be actively maintained and inter-planted with cuttings from the parent trees in order to ensure that they are perpetuated.

The remaining trees in Table 6 are acknowledged as part of the heritage landscape, but are not actively managed, other than pruning or removal for safety reasons. For example, some of the Macrocarpa in the Totaranui Campground and at Whariwharangi have been removed as the ageing trees posed safety risks to the public. As these trees die off and/or are removed they will not be replaced.

Māori also planted customary materials in the park, which have historical and cultural values for tangata whenua (see section 4.1.2.5 'Exotic plantings').

#### 4.3.2.5 *Threats*

Many of the existing coastal huts and campsites lie on or near to significant Māori and early European archaeological sites and care is required to ensure their protection in the face of increasing visitor numbers and facility development. Any new development should minimise damage to these sites where possible.

Many other archaeological sites in the park are located on the coastline and are being eroded by the sea.

#### **4.3.2.6 Kōiwi**

Kōiwi (human bones) are sometimes exposed by natural coastal erosion processes. Where this occurs, tangata whenua should be consulted over the management of the exposed kōiwi. This usually results in the area being temporarily protected from the public and further erosion, prior to the bones being removed for reburial. If tangata whenua wish to allow the natural erosion process to continue, access to the area may be restricted until that process is complete and the kōiwi have been removed naturally.

#### **4.3.2.7 Policies**

- 1. To protect the archaeological, historical and cultural values of the Coast and minimise the impacts of visitors on historical and archaeological sites.**
- 2. To protect the heritage landscape of Totaranui.**
- 3. To actively involve tangata whenua in the management of wāhi tapu and other sites of significance to them along the Coast.**

#### **4.3.2.8 Implementation**

- 1. Preserve and actively maintain the historical values of 'Ngarata' (Pratt's Homestead) and Whariwharangi hut.*
- 2. Preserve the historic avenue of plane trees at Totaranui by inter-planting with cuttings from the parent trees.*
- 3. Retain, or actively maintain, the exotic trees with historical values as set out in Table 6.*
- 4. Remove historic trees that pose a danger to the public or significantly threaten native ecosystems.*
- 5. Consult with tangata whenua where kōiwi (human bones) are exposed by coastal erosion and provide for the appropriate management of those areas.*
- 6. Ensure visitor use and any proposed development of visitor facilities has minimal impacts on archaeological sites and landscapes.*

#### **4.3.2.9 Outcomes**

- 1. The archaeological values and heritage landscapes of Totaranui are preserved.**
- 2. Tangata whenua are actively involved in the management of wāhi tapu and other sites of significance to them.**
- 3. Archaeological and cultural sites and heritage landscapes on the Coast are protected.**

### **4.3.3 The Interior**

(see also section 2.2 'The Interior')

#### **4.3.3.1 Protection**

There are no recorded archaeological sites of significance to tangata whenua in the Interior. However, the possibility of their existence should be considered when any facility development is being carried out.

Relics, protected New Zealand objects and historical sites from the period of European settlement are mainly confined to the area around the head of the Awaroa Inlet that was settled and milled from the 1860's and farmed from the late 1800's. They include old mill, boat building, school, and house sites. The steam engine at the mill site is being actively managed. An historical and archaeological assessment of the other sites around Awaroa Inlet will be carried out to determine which sites should be actively managed, while all will be recorded and as far as possible protected against human damage.

#### **4.3.3.2 Historic plantings**

Some exotic trees are found adjacent to the old house sites on the Awapoto River flats. They include oaks, rhododendrons, pines, a sitka spruce, an Olearia agenta and orchard trees. These trees all have historical value, due to their association with the European settlement of this area. Historic trees may be retained where they are not invasive and do not pose safety risks to the public or significantly threaten native ecosystems. As these trees die off and/or are removed they will not be replaced.

#### **4.3.3.3 Threats**

The main threat to the historical and archaeological sites in the Interior is from damage by visitors. Visitor impacts need to be monitored to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to minimise such damage.

#### **4.3.3.4 Policy**

- 1. To preserve the archaeological, historical and cultural sites and values of the Interior.**

#### **4.3.3.5 Implementation**

- 1. Carry out an historical and archaeological assessment of sites around the Awaroa Inlet.*
- 2. Retain the exotic trees around the old house sites on the Awapoto River flats that are historic, non-invasive and do not pose a danger to the public or significantly threaten native ecosystems.*
- 3. Monitor visitor use and any propose development of visitor facilities to ensure that they have minimal impacts on archaeological and historical sites.*

#### **4.3.3.6 Outcome**

- 1. The archaeological, historical and cultural sites and values of the Interior are preserved, and knowledge of these sites and values is increased.**

#### **4.3.4 The Islands**

(see also section 2.3 'The Islands')

##### **4.3.4.1 Protection**

Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) and Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) are under Treaty of Waitangi claims due to their historical and cultural values to Māori. Tangata whenua should be consulted regarding the management of historical and archaeological sites of significance to them on these islands.

Relics, protected New Zealand objects and archaeological sites from the period of European settlement include the quarry workings at the Tata (Motu and Ngāwhiti) Islands and Ngaio Island. Middens and pits and other archaeological evidence have also been found on these islands and these sites need to be monitored.

Tonga Island and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) require full archaeological assessments.

##### **4.3.4.2 Policy**

- 1. To preserve the archaeological, historical and cultural values of the Islands.**

##### **4.3.4.3 Implementation**

- 1. Consult with tangata whenua regarding management of archaeological sites and cultural values of significance to them on Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) and Adele Island (Motuarero-nui).*
- 2. Carry out a full archaeological assessment of Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) and Tonga Island.*
- 3. Monitor archaeological and historical sites on the islands.*

##### **4.3.4.4 Outcomes**

- 1. The historical, archaeological and cultural values of the islands are preserved and knowledge of the archaeological and historic sites and cultural values of the islands is increased.**
- 2. Tangata whenua are actively involved in the management of archaeological sites and cultural values of significance to them on the islands.**



# 5. Access and use

## 5.1 VISITOR MANAGEMENT

### 5.1.1 Whole park

#### 5.1.1.1 *Background*

National parks are areas preserved in perpetuity for their intrinsic worth and for the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public. The public has the general right of free access to the park, but the Department also has the ability to limit access if necessary to protect the natural values or general welfare of the park. The Department cannot charge for access into the park itself, only for the use of facilities, such as huts and campsites.

People of all ages and backgrounds visit Abel Tasman National Park for a variety of reasons: to be inspired by the scenery, unique features, sights and sounds of wild nature; to experience solitude, remoteness, peace and natural quiet; to experience nature on nature's terms; to experience the challenge of being self-reliant and adventurous; to explore, enjoy and learn about nature; to share experiences; to maintain active, healthy lifestyles; and to 'get away from it all'.

However, visitors can have an adverse impact on the very qualities that attract them to the park in the first place and the enjoyment of some can be at the expense of others. A range of activities and behaviours, facilities and services, and large groups, can erode enjoyment of the park in its natural state and as a place of refuge from commercialism and urbanisation.

The Abel Tasman coast has attracted visitors for over a century and businesses have been established to cater to their needs and enhance their experiences. This commercial activity has become part of the experience of visitors to the Coast (see section 5.3.2 'Recreation concessions').

Since the 1990's there has been a perception that the park is overcrowded. This plan attempts to address this issue by recognising the different and sometimes potentially conflicting aspirations of visitors wishing to enjoy the park. The plan seeks to preserve the park in its natural state for future generations and to maintain what is distinctive about recreation in this park, as well as facilitating visitor benefit, use and enjoyment while respecting the rights of other visitors to do the same.

#### **National context**

Abel Tasman National Park is a national and international icon, characterised by its coastal track and magnificent bay scenery. It has a high level of importance for New Zealanders as a coastal holiday destination. It also makes a significant contribution to the marketing of the country as a worldwide tourism destination.

To visitors, the key qualities of the park are good weather, easy access, forest from the mountains to the sea, clean uncrowded golden beaches, blue sea, forested islands and an adjacent marine reserve. The combination of these features within a national park context is unique in the region and rare in the country, in terms of public conservation lands. It is therefore of utmost importance to preserve these values and the park's intrinsic values as far as possible whilst allowing for sustainable visitor use.

Abel Tasman National Park provides part of a range of visitor experiences available both regionally and nationally. At both a national and international level the park is strongly associated with easy walking and water-based activities, such as kayaking.

There are nine Great Walks in the country (at the time of approval of this plan); the Coast Track is one of these and one of only two that are coastal. This status, along with its high level of accessibility at all points and closeness to the well developed tourist destinations of Nelson, Motueka and Takaka, results in an expectation that the Coast Track and associated facilities are managed to carry a relatively high number of walkers. This use is supported by a generally well formed track surface suitable for people with limited backcountry experience, and facilities such as toilets, huts and campsites.

Whilst accepting that the Coast Track and associated facilities are to be managed for a level of recreational use that is relatively high, there is a clear intention to provide a distinctly 'national park' and predominantly natural visitor experience. This intention permeates this management plan in terms of the visitor management approach, recreational zones and concession management regimes described below and in the following sections.

### **Conservancy context**

At the Conservancy level there is a conscious attempt to manage public conservation land in a way that provides a range of recreational opportunities for visitors. The Department manages around 53% of all land within the geographical area covered by the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy (at the time of approval of this plan). This includes a number of reserves held for their natural, scientific, historic, scenic or recreational values, as well as three national parks (Abel Tasman National Park, Kahurangi National Park, Nelson Lakes National Park). These conservation areas vary in size from reserves of a few hectares to national parks of hundreds of thousands of hectares.

Within the context of all conservation areas within the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy, Abel Tasman National Park is at the higher end of the visitor use scale. This is in contrast to the other two national parks in the Conservancy. Through their respective management plans, Kahurangi and Nelson Lakes National Parks are predominantly managed to retain the essential character of each as remote, large, natural areas of great beauty and natural quiet. In Abel Tasman National Park visitor management differs from Kahurangi and Nelson Lakes National Parks because its characteristics are different. It is coastal; its biodiversity value

is lower; it is highly accessible, both to day visitors and overnights; and it has traditionally had a high level of visitor use. It is reasonable in this context to continue managing the Abel Tasman National Park for a relatively high level of visitor use, particularly on the Coast Track.

However, this is high visitor use in a national park context, where the primary experiences that need to be protected in the park are naturalness, self-reliance, a sense of history and the enjoyment of natural quiet.

#### **5.1.1.2 Recreational zones**

The park has been divided into Recreational Zones, for visitor management purposes, in order to protect park values and achieve the conservation outcomes identified in this plan.

This approach aims to reconcile the potentially conflicting demands of preserving national park values while allowing visitors to enjoy those values, by placing appropriate controls on visitor and commercial activities in the park. This is particularly the case with recreational values, where there can be so many visitors engaged in a particular activity in a certain place that the quality of the experience for each participant is adversely affected. Such activities can also adversely affect the enjoyment of the park by other visitors.

The level of access and servicing for visitors needs to be balanced with the expectations of those visitors to have a positive 'national park' experience, involving self-reliance and naturalness in a quiet, natural environment. The iconic images of the park portray coastal areas of great scenic beauty and few people.

The Recreational Zones aim to strike a balance between providing easy access into the park for visitors and maintaining the primarily natural and quiet 'national park' experience. The plan aims to reconcile the popular images of the coastal parts of the park with the reality of being there. To achieve this seven Recreational Zones have been developed, as shown on Map 3 (page 87):

- Totaranui
- Coastal Access Points
- South Coast
- North Coast
- Inland Tracks
- Remote
- Island

These zones are based on facilities, activities, settings and experiences, combined with user types, group sizes and current and expected patterns of use, along with the ease and means of access. Visitor numbers in each zone are managed to achieve the outcomes for visitor experiences in that zone, within the capacity of the infrastructure provided.

The following 'place' based sections describe the characteristics of each Recreational Zone and the visitor experience outcomes sought for each zone.

Concessions (see section 5.3 'Concessions') need to be managed in a way that is consistent with the character of and outcomes sought for the Recreational Zones. This plan defines maximum levels of concession activity to protect national park values and visitor experiences of naturalness, self-reliance and natural quiet (see section 5.3.2 'Recreation concessions').

However, it should be noted that, given the current legislative directive to allow the public to have freedom of entry and access to the park, there are constraints to what the Department can do to control visitor numbers in the park. There is the possibility that these numbers may continue to increase and erode the very values of the park that visitors are there to experience. In this regard, the Department should work with Tasman District Council to impose maximum levels of activity for the commercial vessels that bring visitors to the park across the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve. Also, to ensure preservation of the park's values, it may become necessary to restrict the public's use of parts of the park through the use of bylaws, in accordance with section 56(1) of the National Parks Act 1980.

#### **5.1.1.3 *Monitoring***

The Department should monitor the visitor experience in each Recreational Zone and the extent to which the provisions in this plan have been successful in achieving the desired outcomes for each zone. This information will contribute to any future review of the visitor and concession management provisions in this plan (see section 5.3.2 'Recreation concessions').

#### **5.1.1.4 *Roads***

Several public roads provide access to the park (see Map 3, page 87). This includes road ends at Marahau, Wainui Bay and Bird's Clearing, as well as roads that traverse parts of the park. These are the Totaranui and Awaroa Roads, which provide access to Totaranui and Awaroa, and the Canaan Road, which provides access to Harwood's Hole and the Interior of the park. The Department must work with road control authorities to ensure access roads are maintained to a standard appropriate to the national park (see section 6.2.1 in respect of Totaranui access road).

Existing bylaws control the use of vehicles in the park. These need to be amended, in accordance with General Policy for National Parks 8.6(f), to prohibit powered vehicles within the park except on public roads formed and maintained for vehicle use, in designated parking areas, in the Totaranui Campground and in areas used for domestic purposes.

There are few park roads or vehicle tracks within the park. The Department considers that the park has sufficient roading and has no plans for further roading development.

# Map 3 – Recreational Zones



#### **5.1.1.5 Mountain bikes**

General Policy for National Parks 8.6(g)-(k) provides for the use of non-powered vehicles (including mountain bikes) on routes specifically approved for use by specified types of non-powered vehicle in accordance with this management plan. There are requirements for the minimisation and monitoring of adverse effects on the park and the protection of the experiences of other visitors. There are also management options that include trial periods, restricted seasons, limits on numbers, one way flow and adherence to a national user code.

The Department intends to permit some mountain biking in the Gibbs Hill area (see section 5.1.2.15 'Mountain biking') and the Canaan area (see section 5.1.3.2 'Mountain biking'), and to continue to permit the use of bicycles in the Totaranui Campground (see section 5.1.2.12 'Vehicles in Totaranui'). Existing bylaws that control the use of vehicles in the park need to be amended to address the use of mountain bikes in the park.

The Department should liaise with Mountain Bike New Zealand in order to disseminate relevant information to mountain bikers, including maximum group sizes, permitted routes, open season and behaviour (see section 5.2.1.3 'Interpretation and information').

#### **5.1.1.6 Aircraft**

An existing bylaw prohibits aircraft landings in the park except for essential management purposes or emergencies and this bylaw will be retained. However, the Department cannot control over-flight of the park by aircraft, as this is under the jurisdiction of the Civil Aviation Authority. Civil Aviation rules state that aircraft cannot fly below 500 feet unless they have filed a flight plan, or are landing or taking off. There is a private airstrip at Awaroa (outside the park) and helicopters can land in the adjacent private lands and settlements. The Department should work with aircraft operators to develop operational guidelines for over-flying the park, to minimise disturbance to native birds and marine mammals (on the islands), and to protect natural quiet and other park values.

#### **5.1.1.7 Dogs**

Under the National Parks Act 1980 (Part 5A) dogs are not allowed in a national park without a permit, unless they are guide, companion (legally defined), search and rescue, police or customs dogs, or used by the Department for management purposes.

Permits are generally only issued for the use of pig hunting dogs (that are permanently marked) in the park, as they assist in pest control. These permits are subject to conditions that prohibit such dogs from staying in the park overnight, restrict access times and places, and specify requirements for handling on tracks (e.g. on a leash). This minimises potential adverse effects on native fauna and conflicts with other recreational users of the park.

The only other exception is to allow a dog within the farm house site at Hadfield's Clearing, in accordance with the lifetime lease (see section 5.3.3.1.1 'Private and/or commercial accommodation').

#### **5.1.1.8 *Mechanical and electronic noise***

Natural quiet is an important part of a national park experience and needs to be preserved. Existing bylaws prohibit the use of generators and public address systems and these should be retained. Amplified noise (e.g. electronic audio devices) can also threaten natural quiet. A bylaw needs to be sought to control the use of mechanical and electronic devices in the park so that they do not produce an excessive noise that is likely to unreasonably disturb or annoy other visitors. An exception will be made for communication devices used for operational or safety purposes.

Mechanical and electronic noise from adjacent coastal waters and aircraft over-flight can impact on park values and controls on these activities should be advocated for (see section 5.1.2.10 'Advocacy' and 6.2.6 'Water and land-based commercial activity').

Noise from off-road vehicles, such as quad bikes, on the foreshore adjoining private land can also impact on park values. This is a matter which can be addressed through the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan process (see section 1.1.1.3 'Adjacent foreshore and coastal waters').

#### **5.1.1.9 *Neighbouring conservation lands***

The Department administers areas of land adjacent to the park, including near Torrent Bay (Rakauroa) and the Wainui River, and the Canaan Downs Scenic Reserve. The Department should manage recreational use and facilities on these and any other adjacent public conservation lands to ensure that the use does not compromise national park values. Where appropriate and where they meet national park criteria, adjacent conservation lands should be added to the park (see section 7.1.6 'Additions to the park' and Map 5, page 163).

#### **5.1.1.10 *Policies***

- 1. To reconcile the conflicting demands of preserving park values while allowing visitors to enjoy those values, by managing visitor activities in a way that meets the Primary Objectives for the park.**
- 2. To provide a range of appropriate visitor experiences in the park, through the implementation of the Recreational Zones.**

#### **5.1.1.11 *Implementation***

- 1. Protect the intrinsic values of the park by managing recreational use of the park to maintain the character of and achieve the outcomes sought for the Recreational Zones.***

2. *Work with Tasman District Council to manage visitors accessing the park across the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve and consider the use of bylaws to restrict the public's use of the park, to preserve the park's values.*
3. *Monitor the visitor experience in each Recreational Zone to determine whether the outcomes are being met.*
4. *Co-operate with road control authorities to ensure existing public access roads into the park are maintained to acceptable standards.*
5. *Amend the existing bylaw to prohibit the use of all motorised vehicles within the park except: on roads formed and maintained for vehicle use; or in designated parking areas; or in the Totaranui Campground; or for search and rescue, management, or facility servicing purposes, in line with General Policy for National Parks 8.6(f).*
6. *Amend the existing bylaw to prohibit the use of all non-motorised vehicles within the park except: on roads formed and maintained for vehicle use; or for search and rescue, management, or facility servicing purposes, in line with General Policy for National Parks 8.6(g).*
7. *Provide for an exception to the above bylaw in terms of General Policy for National Parks 8.6(g)-(k) to permit the use of mountain bikes under conditions as specified in section 5.1.2.15 'Mountain biking', on the Gibbs Hill loop route and the section of track linking the Rameka Track to the Wainui Track in the Canaan area (as shown on Map 4, page 101 as Mountain bike track); and permit the use of bicycles in the Totaranui Campground.*
8. *Work with Mountain Bike NZ to disseminate information to mountain bikers on the use of mountain bikes in the park.*
9. *Ensure that dog permits are issued only for pig hunting, where the dogs are permanently marked and the permits contain conditions which state where the dogs can be taken, and prohibit the dogs from remaining in the park overnight.*
10. *Retain the existing bylaw prohibiting aircraft landings in the park and work with aircraft operators to develop operational guidelines for over-flying the park.*
11. *Seek a bylaw to control the use of mechanical and electronic devices in the park so that they do not produce an excessive noise that is likely to unreasonably disturb or annoy other visitors, except for communication devices used for operational or safety purposes.*
12. *Work with relevant authorities to manage mechanical and electronic noise from adjacent coastal waters and aircraft over-flight so that noise does not impact on park values adversely.*

13. *Work with Tasman District Council to manage mechanical and electronic noise on the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve so that noise does not impact park values adversely.*
14. *Ensure that the management of public conservation lands adjacent to the park is consistent with the values of the park.*

#### **5.1.1.12 Outcomes**

1. **The park provides a range of visitor experiences that emphasise nature, self-reliance, and natural quiet.**
2. **Park values are preserved by managing visitors in terms of the Recreational Zones and minimising the impacts of visitor activities.**

### **5.1.2 The Coast**

(see also section 2.1 'The Coast')

#### **5.1.2.1 Access**

The Coast Track is easily accessible from the sea by freedom kayak rentals, canoes, private boats, bareboat charters, and commercial vessels. Commercial vessel and road transport services link with other regional transport services to places such as Nelson, Takaka and the start of the Heaphy Track. Marahau and Kaiteriteri are the major departure points for water transport services into the park. Most visitor activity occurs along the coast between Marahau and Totaranui as this is where the commercial vessels mainly operate.

Visitors can also access the Coast Track via aircraft (landings are outside the park, see section 5.1.1.6 'Aircraft').

#### **5.1.2.2 Visitor experiences**

The Coast Track is by far the busiest part of the park and is predominantly frequented by day visitors. Many families and young people, including international travellers, visit the Coast Track and many New Zealand families go to Totaranui Campground for their annual Christmas holidays year after year. School groups also use the park regularly. This engenders a friendly sociable atmosphere in the park.

The visitor experience of the Coast is one of a park managed primarily for its natural beauty, with opportunities to experience nature close at hand in a relatively safe environment. Facilities provided by the Department are kept at a minimal level and include huts, campsites, toilets, cooking shelters, signs and interpretation panels. The huts and campsites are designed to provide a simple, quiet, close to nature experience. As such, visitors should not expect to hear mechanical or electronic noise from generators or other devices, or to be able to buy food or drink, or to hire recreational equipment within the park itself. The use of private generators is currently prohibited under the existing bylaws and this will continue.

The Department does not propose to develop any more huts or campsites on the Coast, as the current number is considered optimum for the overall Coast Track experience. Huts and campsite facilities need to be kept at their current level (while meeting the requirements of standards for a Great Walk), to offer a traditional New Zealand tramping experience at the lower end of the scale of challenge (see section 5.2.2 'The Coast'). The hut and campsite network complements the range of accommodation offered by the private sector on the margins of the park and in adjacent private lands and settlements, rather than competing with it.

### **5.1.2.3 *Recreational Zones for the Coast - overview***

The Coast has four Recreational Zones (as shown on Map 3, page 81), which are described in detail below. The zones are: Totaranui; Coastal Access Points; South Coast; and North Coast.

Management within the zones is closely linked to the management of concessions (see section 5.3.2 'Recreation concessions') because in the Abel Tasman National Park the activities of some types of commercial operators can have significant impacts on park values, particularly in certain areas.

High impact activities associated with commercial vessels picking up/dropping off groups of walkers, kayakers or other clients; kayak launch and retrieval; initial trip briefing/training; and equipment transfers; are concentrated into four nodal points zoned 'Coastal Access Points', which are located strategically along the Coast. These points have been chosen because they have the infrastructure and facilities, such as accommodation and toilets, to cope with large numbers of visitors doing a variety of activities, with minimal adverse effects.

This concentration of the most disruptive elements of visitor activities, which are most likely to impact adversely on the enjoyment of the park by other visitors, at these Coastal Access Points will ensure that the other zones along the Coast can be managed as more peaceful and natural settings, in keeping with the Primary Objectives for this national park.

The 'South Coast' Zone provides for walkers, kayakers and other visitors to use the park for picnics and smaller group camping, with toilets provided. This zone provides visitors with a quieter, more natural 'national park' experience, but with the expectation of reasonably high levels of interaction with other visitors. These places have been chosen because they have the appropriate natural values for the intended visitor experience and the facilities to cope with visitor use. The exceptions are:

- Watering Cove, which needs to be accessible as a starting or finishing point for commercially guided kayak groups for: (i) safety reasons due to weather conditions; or (ii) kayak exchanges with clients who walk from or to Marahau (see section 5.3.2.1.4 'Concession conditions', 'South Coast Zone'); and
- the Abel Tasman Memorial, which has vehicle access.

Commercially guided walking groups are the only commercial recreational activities allowed in the 'North Coast' zone and the walking group sizes are reduced, compared with the South Coast Zone, to preserve a more remote experience.

Totaranui Campground forms a separate zone, 'Totaranui', as its traditional use and level of facility development makes it atypical, offering a large-scale family camping experience that differs significantly from experiences in any other part of the park.

The Recreational Zones for the Coast are described in detail below. The Department should continue to monitor social effects on the Coast and where necessary take action to preserve the appropriate visitor experience for each zone.

#### **5.1.2.4 Totaranui Zone**

##### **Area**

Totaranui Campground (as shown in the insert on Map 3, page 87).

##### **Characteristics**

- (a) A family campground for up to 850 people overnight, managed to the Department's Standard Campsite service standard, with grassed camping bays, a camp office, amenity buildings, some hardened car parking and vessel storage areas.
- (b) Facilities include flush toilets, cold showers, treated water and a day room, but there is no power, no hot water and no sporting amenities; and private generator use is not permitted.
- (c) There is mechanical and electronic noise from buses, cars and small private radios on site, motorised vessels in adjacent coastal waters (under the control of Tasman District Council), and aircraft over-flight.
- (d) Visitor numbers are managed to a maximum of 1200 people per day, which can be reached at times, such as during the summer school holidays (late December to early February).
- (e) Accessibility from the sea, Coast Track and road means that visitor interactions are likely to be frequent and all year round.
- (f) Large groups may be encountered.
- (g) Basic essential goods are available for purchase.

##### **Outcomes**

- (i) Visitors experience a traditional, self-reliant, classic New Zealand family beach holiday camp in a national park setting.
- (ii) Visitors experience regular interactions with other visitors, particularly during the summer school holidays.
- (iii) Visitors experience some mechanical and electronic noise from vehicles, radios and adjacent coastal waters. There is no noise from private generators.

### 5.1.2.5 *Coastal Access Points Zone*

#### **Areas**

Anchorage, Bark Bay (Wairima), Onetahuti, Totaranui coast (excluding the Campground), as shown on Map 3 (page 87). [Note: until a bridge or boardwalk is installed at the northern end of Onetahuti Beach (see Appendix 6) commercial vessels will be permitted to use the northern end of the beach at high tide to pick up and drop off clients.]

#### **Characteristics**

- (a) Transport nodes with commercial vessels dropping off and picking up clients, and other visitors, and their equipment between 7am-6pm and briefing/ training clients.
- (b) Good infrastructure, with large campsites (for: 100 people at Anchorage; 80 at Bark Bay (Wairima); 40 at Onetahuti; and 40 at the Totaranui Coast Track Campsite), huts at Anchorage (for 24 people) and Bark Bay (Wairima) (for 34 people), high capacity flush toilets, cooking shelters and treated water supply (except at Onetahuti).
- (c) Large numbers of visitors and large campsite areas.
- (d) Groups of visitors using facilities in association with water-based activities, or as part of commercially guided walking tours.
- (e) Busy periods in the early morning and late afternoon as groups arrive, or prepare to depart from the park.
- (f) Baggage, equipment and kayaks awaiting pick up by commercial vessels for periods of time.
- (g) Visitor numbers are managed to a maximum of 700 per site per day within the Zone.
- (h) Visitors can expect to experience frequent interactions with others during peak periods (December to March and Easter).
- (i) Commercially guided group sizes of up to 16 clients with 1 or 2 guides may be expected.
- (j) Some noise from adjacent coastal waters (under the control of Tasman District Council), such as commercial vessels and private motorised vessels, and also from generators at Anchorage and Bark Bay (Wairima) huts and in adjacent private lands and settlements, as well as noise from aircraft over-flight.

#### **Outcomes**

- (i) Visitors experience a place with facilities that cater for high numbers of visitors entering and leaving, as well as staying in, the park.
- (ii) Visitors experience frequent interactions with other visitors during the months of December through to March (and Easter), particularly in the early morning and late afternoon.

- (iii) Visitors experience some mechanical and electronic noise from adjacent boat traffic and private lands and settlements. There is no noise from generators or electronic devices, except from adjacent private lands and settlements, communication devices used for operational or safety purposes, and occasional noise from the generators at the Bark Bay (Wairima) and Anchorage huts (which are used to pump water and sewage when there is insufficient solar power).

#### **5.1.2.6 South Coast Zone**

##### **Areas**

That part of the Coast (as described in section 2.1 'The Coast') from Tinline Bay in the south to Totaranui in the north (excluding the areas covered by the Totaranui and Coastal Access Points Zones, and the Abel Head promontory), plus the inland Falls River track, Pukatea Walk and the Abel Tasman Memorial (as shown on Map 3, page 87).

##### **Characteristics**

- (a) A largely natural setting with a hut (for 22 people), campsite (for 36 people), treated water and flush toilets at Awaroa; and campsites for 40 visitors (at Mosquito Bay) to 6 (at Akersten Bay), toilets (flush or non-flush) and untreated water.
- (b) Commercially guided walking groups and non-motorised water based commercial activities (e.g. guided kayakers) visiting for short periods of time, or to stay overnight.
- (c) No commercial vessels associated with commercially guided kayak groups, except at Watering Cove for (i) safety reasons or (ii) to transport any excess kayaks and associated equipment for client exchanges with groups walking to or from Marahau.
- (d) No training of kayak groups or active team sports by commercially guided groups.
- (e) Visitor numbers are managed to a maximum of 500 per site per day within the Zone.
- (f) Commercially guided group sizes of up to 16 clients with 1 or 2 guides may be encountered.
- (g) Visitors can expect to experience regular interactions with others during peak periods (December to March and Easter).
- (h) Minimal noise from activities carried out within the park except from communication devices used for operational or safety purposes. Some noise from activities carried out adjacent to the park, such as: vessels on the water, including water skiers at Stilwell Bay (under the control of Tasman District Council); aircraft over-flight (under the control of the Civil Aviation Authority); and generators or electronic devices on adjacent private lands and settlements.
- (i) At the Abel Tasman Memorial bus loads of visitors may be encountered.

### **Outcomes**

- (i) Visitors experience a relatively un-crowded place managed primarily for natural values, with minimal intrusions from mechanical or electronic noise, but with facilities appropriate to this Zone.
- (ii) Visitors experience regular interactions with other visitors during the months of December through to March (and Easter).

#### **5.1.2.7 North Coast Zone**

##### **Areas**

The area north of Totaranui to Wainui Bay, including Anapai Bay, Mutton Cove, Separation Point and Whariwharangi Bay, plus the Gibbs Hill Track and the Abel Head promontory (as shown on Map 3, page 87).

##### **Characteristics**

- (a) A more natural setting than the other coastal zones.
- (b) Facilities include a hut (for 20 people) and campsite (for 40 people) at Whariwharangi with flush toilets and treated water; and campsites (for 40 people at Mutton Cove and 12 at Anapai Bay) with flush toilets and a tap stand with untreated water.
- (c) Visitor numbers are managed to a maximum of 200 per site per day within the Zone.
- (d) Groups of up to 8 mountain bikers using the tracks from Wainui Bay road end, over Gibbs Hill, to Totaranui (or vice versa), between 1 May and 1 October.
- (e) Commercially guided walking groups of up to 8 clients and 1 guide could be encountered, as well as occasional larger school groups on trips from Totaranui.
- (f) Visitors experience fewer interactions with others than in the South Coast Zone, with the peak period (December through to March) being busier than the rest of the year.
- (g) No water-based commercial guiding activity (e.g. guided kayaking) and no pick-up or drop-off of commercially guided groups by commercial vessels.
- (h) Very limited noise from motorised private vessels on the water and visiting the park. There is no noise from generators or electronic devices.

##### **Outcome**

- (i) Visitors experience tranquillity and solitude in a largely natural setting, with minimal intrusion from mechanical or electronic noise and few interactions with other visitors, but with facilities appropriate to this Zone.

#### **5.1.2.8 *Overnight stays and booking systems***

Existing bylaws and a booking system are used to manage visitors staying overnight on the Coast Track and prevent damage to the park. The Department introduced a year-round internet-based booking system for the huts and campsites along the Coast Track in July 2005, as part of a national system for all the Great Walks. The booking system assists in controlling visitor numbers and protecting the visitor experience. It also helps to ensure that the capacity of facilities, such as toilets and their associated disposal systems, is not exceeded, and aids in protecting the natural values around the campsites, which can be adversely affected when campsites are overcrowded.

Existing bylaws require Coast Track campers to stay in one of the 20 campsites provided (camping anywhere else within 500 metres of the Coast Track is not allowed), and people staying in huts are limited to two consecutive nights. The booking system restricts overnight stays at the campsites (except Totaranui) to two consecutive nights at any one facility, throughout the year. The Department intends to alter this regime to enable (non-commercial) visitors to stay in huts and campsites for up to 5 consecutive nights between 1 May and 30 September. The existing bylaws need to be amended to give effect to these restrictions on overnight stays.

At Totaranui, the booking system restricts Coast Track trampers to one night in the 40 person Totaranui Coast Track Campsite. This is to ensure Coast Track trampers keep moving and do not stay longer, thus preventing other trampers from using this campsite. A bylaw should be sought to give effect to this one night restriction. If visitors wish to stay longer at Totaranui, the Campground and the outdoor education lodge ('Ngarata') are available and both have booking systems that allow for this.

#### **5.1.2.9 *Day use***

Day use poses completely different management challenges compared with overnight stays. Controls on commercial vessels using the foreshore are necessary to manage day visitor numbers in the park and the Department will need to advocate for such controls, as outlined below.

#### **5.1.2.10 *Advocacy***

Whilst this plan can only deal with activities within the Abel Tasman National Park, it is clear that the visitor experience of the park is closely linked to activities occurring on the foreshore, and adjacent coastal waters and private land. Consequently, integrated management of the park, the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve, and adjacent coastal waters and private land, in collaboration with Tasman District Council is required to preserve the national park values and visitor experiences.

The Department will advocate to appropriate bodies for outcomes that are consistent with the character and outcomes sought for the Recreational Zones on the Coast (see sections 6.2.3 'Adjacent coastal waters' and 6.2.6 'Water and land-based commercial activity').

There are currently water ski lanes at Stilwell Bay, Adele Island (Motuarero-nui), Totaranui and Browns Beach (adjacent to Anchorage), which are managed by Tasman District Council. Ideally there should be no water ski lanes located adjacent to the park, because of the impacts on natural quiet and other values in the park. The Department will oppose the introduction of any new ski lanes around the coast adjacent to the park and will seek the removal of existing water ski lanes, where possible. However, the need to control and manage water skiing to avoid congestion and conflicts is recognised.

The Department will work with Tasman District Council to ensure there are no commercial activities associated with water skiing, or other similar activities, undertaken on the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve.

#### **5.1.2.11 *Educational and other large groups***

The outdoor education lodge 'Ngarata' (Pratt's Homestead) at Totaranui is an important accommodation facility for primary, intermediate and secondary schools in the region. School groups staying at 'Ngarata' often use the northern Wainui – Whariwharangi - Awaroa area of the park.

School, and other not-for-profit groups do not require a concession, and they are encouraged to use the park. However, they are often large and provision needs to be made to manage them.

School groups booking at campsites need to be limited to a maximum of 40, plus adult supervisors, and restricted to appropriate (large) campsites, to minimise their effects on other visitors. School groups also need to be encouraged to split up into groups of up to 16 plus adult supervisors when walking in the park. This is consistent with the Recreational Zones and will help minimise adverse effects on the experiences of other visitors. Schools need to be informed of these new requirements and the new booking system (see also section 6.1.5 'School groups').

The Department should also advocate to other organised, not-for-profit groups that they separate into groups of 16 or less plus supervisors when they visit the park, in order to preserve the recreational setting and the experiences of participants and other visitors.

#### **5.1.2.12 *Vehicles in Totaranui***

The General Policy for National Parks 8.6(f) and (g) prohibits the use of powered and non-powered vehicles anywhere other than on roads formed and maintained for vehicle use within a national park, unless specified in a management plan. The use of private vehicles and bicycles is currently allowed in the Totaranui Campground and their use will continue to be permitted there.

#### **5.1.2.13 *Human waste***

People toileting on and beside the Coast Track is a significant issue and is unacceptable. The Department does not consider that the provision of more toilets is necessarily the answer, as there are a significant number of high standard facilities already in the park and fouling sometimes

still occurs very near to toilets. However, the new flush toilets have improved visitor use of the toilet facilities and additional and/or improved toilet facilities may be considered in future if necessary. The management approach is aimed at directing larger groups of visitors to the Coastal Access Points, which have high standard and capacity facilities, and away from the bays with minimal or no facilities, as part of the natural visitor setting. It is therefore not intended to provide more toilets in those places with minimal or no facilities.

The Department needs to better inform visitors of the locations of toilets and raise the level of awareness of the Environmental Care Code. Where there are no toilet facilities, the recommendation is that people walk at least 50m from the track or waterways and bury their waste. This recommendation should be publicised in park information brochures.

#### **5.1.2.14 *Use of motorised vessels on rivers***

General Policy for National Parks 8.6(d) states that jet skis and other powered personal watercraft should not be used in national parks, while General Policy for National Parks 8.6(e) states that other powered watercraft may be provided for where it is consistent with the outcomes planned for places. The use of motorised vessels, including personal watercraft (e.g. jet skis), in rivers along the Abel Tasman coast is very low at present. The only significant river use occurs on the Falls River between the river mouth and the bridge. This part of the river is within the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve. The Department should work with Tasman District Council to manage the use of motorised vessels in this area.

The use of motorised vessels, or other similar activities, on rivers can cause a number of significant and inappropriate adverse effects, including pollution, noise, damage and the introduction of pests. This use is considered to be incompatible with the preservation of natural quiet, the high biodiversity values and near pristine nature of the freshwaters (see section 2.2.1.6 'Freshwater communities'), other river users (e.g. swimmers) and the management approach for the park. In order to manage the use of motorised vessels on the rivers, not all of which are currently within the boundary of the park, the Department should seek to add the rivers of the Abel Tasman coast to the park (see section 7.1.6 'Additions to the park'). A bylaw can then be sought to prohibit inappropriate use of all rivers in the park, including the use of personal watercraft and other motorised vessels.

Until all the rivers become part of the park, the Department should advocate to Tasman District Council for the necessary controls for activities on the surface of the freshwaters.

#### **5.1.2.15 *Mountain biking***

Under General Policy for National Parks 8.6(g) non-powered vehicles, including mountain bikes, should not be ridden or used in the park except on roads formed and maintained for vehicle use, and on routes specifically approved for use by this management plan.

Recreational, non-commercial mountain biking is considered to be appropriate in the North Coast Zone, on a loop track through Wainui Bay road end - Gibbs Hill - Totaranui and back, via the Totaranui Road (or vice versa), as shown on Map 4 (page 111). However, bylaws should be sought to implement the following measures to ensure safety, prevent conflicts with other park users and to preserve the recreational setting and natural values of the area:

- Mountain biking permitted (on the route specified above) between 1 May and 1 October only; and
- A maximum of 8 riders per group.

Baseline monitoring, in accordance with Departmental standards, will be carried out prior to mountain bike use commencing. An initial trial period of two full seasons of mountain biking can then take place, from the date of approval of this plan, once the necessary bylaws have been promulgated. There will be ongoing monitoring of potential adverse effects on natural and recreation values (in line with General Policy for National Parks 8.6(h)-(k)) and compliance with the bylaws during this trial period. If this monitoring shows effects are minimal and acceptable in terms of General Policy for National Parks 2005, recreational mountain biking should be allowed to continue. If the monitoring shows that the effects are not acceptable then recreational mountain biking should be discontinued and the bylaws revoked.

#### **5.1.2.16 Promotion**

The promotion of the park to both domestic and overseas visitors can increase visitor use and contribute to overcrowding on the Coast in the peak period. The Department should work with Nelson-Tasman Tourism, Tourism New Zealand, the Ministry of Tourism, travel publications such as the Lonely Planet Guide, and other such agencies to manage the promotion of Abel Tasman National Park in a way that is consistent with the recreational opportunities the park is being managed for. Public information should ensure visitors have realistic expectations and understand the diverse experiences available through the management approach in the different Recreational Zones and in different seasons in the park.

#### **5.1.2.17 Policies**

- 1. To provide a variety of visitor experiences appropriate to this national park, through identifying and managing the Recreational Zones along the Coast - from social group experiences in the south, to more isolated, quiet experiences in the north.**
- 2. To manage the pattern and frequency of visitor use and activities on the Coast in a manner that meets the Primary Objectives of this plan and the Long-term Objectives for the Coast.**
- 3. To trial, and if appropriate, provide mountain biking opportunities in the North Coast recreational zone.**

### 5.1.2.18 Implementation

1. *Protect park values by managing use of the Coast in accordance with the characteristics and outcomes of the Recreational Zones for the Coast, as described in sections 5.1.2.3 - 7 above.*
2. *Monitor visitor satisfaction, in terms of the achievement of outcomes intended for Recreational Zones and visitor experiences, along with visitor numbers at sites and environmental effects on the Coast Track, as an ongoing priority.*
3. *Continue to manage the Coast Track as a Great Walk and maintain it to Great Walk standards.*
4. *Work with Tasman District Council, user groups and commercial operators to control and manage the effects of activities and visitors on the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve, and coastal waters and private land adjacent to the park, so that the use is consistent with the Vision, Objectives and outcomes sought in this plan for the park.*
5. *Administer a year-round booking system for the campsites and huts on the Coast Track.*
6. *Strongly encourage schools and other groups not requiring concessions to limit their group sizes to a maximum of 16 plus supervisors when walking on the Coast Track.*
7. *Set booking limits for school groups of up to 40 students, plus adult supervisors, and restrict use to appropriate large campsites.*
8. *Continue to allow the use of bicycles and private vehicles in the Totaranui Campground.*
9. *Seek a bylaw prohibiting the use of motorised vessels in rivers in the park.*
10. *Seek bylaws allowing recreational mountain biking on a loop track, through Wainui Bay road end - Gibbs Hill - Totaranui and via the Totaranui Road, between 1 May and 1 October, with a maximum of 8 riders per group.*
11. *Carry out baseline monitoring prior to mountain biking starting.*
12. *Monitor the effects of mountain biking on natural and recreational values, during the initial trial period of two full seasons (1 May - 1 October) and implement a management regime to minimise adverse effects, if necessary and practicable. If the trial period shows effects are minimal and acceptable, recreational mountain biking should be allowed to continue.*

13. *Provide information and education to visitors regarding the Environmental Care Code, the location and use of toilets and the procedure for toileting where no facility is provided.*
14. *Amend the existing bylaws to give effect to the requirements and restrictions of the booking system for campsites and huts on the Coast Track, as set out in section 5.1.2.8 'Overnight stays and booking systems'.*
15. *Alter the booking system to allow for stays of up to 5 nights in huts and campsites on the Coast Track between 1 May and 30 September.*
16. *Work with the tourism industry and tourism agencies to manage the promotion of Abel Tasman National Park in a way that reflects the provisions of this management plan.*

#### **5.1.2.19 Outcomes**

1. **A range of settings and experiences along the Coast enables visitors to be self-reliant and enjoy nature, natural quiet and a sense of history.**
2. **Visitors enter and leave the park via road ends and the four Coastal Access Points and then disperse into less busy areas of more natural quiet along the Coast. North of Totaranui visitors experience a higher level of natural and more remote coastal settings.**
3. **Mountain bikers using specified tracks in the North Coast recreational zone enjoy the natural setting, without adversely affecting the experiences of other park visitors or damaging park values.**
4. **Management of the park, the foreshore and the adjacent coastal waters is integrated and activities are compatible with visitor's expectations of their recreational experience along the coast.**

#### **5.1.3 The Interior**

(see also section 2.2 'The Interior')

##### **5.1.3.1 *Recreational Zones for the Interior***

The Interior of the park has rugged terrain and tracks that are less developed, providing back country and remote experiences for trampers seeking a more challenging, self-reliant and solitary experience than that offered by the Coast Track. Visitor use of the Inland Track, which links Marahau to Totaranui via Pigeon Saddle, the Rameka Track (legal road) and Wainui Track, through the Interior of the park, is relatively low. However, there is a moderate level of use concentrated at the Canaan Road end, which provides access to Harwoods Hole. Use of the area around the Awaroa Inlet may also increase if visitor facilities are developed (see section 5.2.3.1 'Huts and tracks'). Hunters and highly

experienced trampers seeking solitude visit the remote, un-tracked centre of the park, but only rarely.

The Interior of the park has Inland Tracks and Remote Recreational Zones, as shown on Map 3 (page 87).

### *Inland Tracks Zone*

#### **Areas**

The Inland Track, Waiharakeke Track, Wainui Falls Track, Wainui Track, Rameka Track, Harwoods Hole Track, Moa Park Track, Torrent Bay/Holyoake Clearing Track, and a possible future track around the Awaroa Inlet (as shown on Map 3, page 87).

#### **Characteristics**

- (a) A large scale natural setting with minimal facilities including tramping tracks, small standard huts, non-flush toilets and untreated water.
- (b) Visitors will have to travel on foot to reach these areas.
- (c) Mountain biking on the Rameka Track (legal road), the section of track linking the Rameka Track with the Wainui Track turn off year-round, and possibly in the vicinity of the Awaroa Inlet (with a maximum group size of 8).
- (d) Visitor numbers are managed for a maximum of 100 people per day in the zone and a maximum of 12 per site.
- (e) Commercially guided walking groups of up to 8 walkers plus 1 guide will occasionally be encountered.

#### **Outcome**

- (i) Visitors experience a more remote, quiet, natural place, with minimal intrusion from mechanical or electronic noise or other visitors.

### *Remote Zone*

#### **Areas**

The un-tracked interior of the park (as shown on Map 3, page 87).

#### **Characteristics**

- (a) Large completely natural setting with no facilities provided.
- (b) Requiring significant time, physical ability, skill and experience.
- (c) Very few visitors, either alone or in small widely spaced groups.
- (d) Commercially guided groups of up to 4 clients and one guide may be encountered, very rarely.
- (e) No commercial recreation activity, apart from commercially guided walking and hunting groups.

## **Outcome**

- (i) Visitors experience solitude, remoteness, natural quiet and nature on its own terms, with virtually no intrusions from the outside world.

### **5.1.3.2 Mountain biking**

(Also see section 5.1.1.5 'Mountain bikes')

The Rameka Track (see Map 4, page 111) is on a legal road (i.e. is not national park land) and can therefore be used year-round by mountain bikers. Non-commercial mountain biking should be allowed year round on the section of track linking the Rameka Track with the Wainui Track turn off (see Map 4, page 101), and the appropriate bylaw sought. This is on an old formed farm track and will provide access to the Canaan Downs Scenic Reserve adjacent to the park (see Map 5, page 163), where the Department intends to develop mountain biking opportunities. There may be an opportunity for mountain biking on existing farm tracks around the Awaroa Inlet, that may be developed following public consultation (see section 5.2.3.1 'Huts and tracks'). A maximum group size of 8 would apply to all mountain biking allowed in the Interior, to preserve the essence of the recreational setting.

### **5.1.3.3 Caves**

Cave systems in the park have nationally and internationally significant natural and scientific values. They also have high cultural values to tangata whenua (see Appendix 4 for the legend of Hine-nui-te-pō) and are very vulnerable to damage by visitors. Popular caves, particularly the Harwoods-Starlight cave system, need to be monitored for adverse effects. Limits on the number of people permitted to descend into Harwoods Hole as a group, or on a daily basis, may need to be considered in future if crowding is occurring and/or visitors are adversely affecting the cave system. This would require either a bylaw, or making the Harwoods-Starlight cave system a Specially Protected Area, which would mean that a permit would be required to enter. The Cave and Karst Management Strategy should help provide guidance on any actions required (see section 4.2.3.2 'Caves and karst').

### **5.1.3.4 Policies**

- 1. To provide an Inland Tracks recreational setting for trampers on the Inland Track and other tracks in the Interior of the park.**
- 2. To preserve the Remote recreational setting in the un-tracked Interior of the park.**
- 3. To provide limited mountain biking opportunities in the Interior.**

#### 5.1.3.5 Implementation

1. *Monitor visitor numbers and activities in the Interior of the park and take appropriate action to preserve natural values and the quality of the recreational experience appropriate to the Inland Tracks and Remote Zone classifications.*
2. *Seek bylaws allowing mountain biking year round, with a maximum group size of 8 on the section of track linking the Rameka Track and the Wainui Track turn-off, to provide access to the Canaan Downs Scenic Reserve.*
3. *Monitor visitor impacts on the Harwoods-Starlight cave system and consider seeking a bylaw to limit visitor numbers, or Specially Protected Area status, if adverse effects become unacceptable.*

#### 5.1.3.6 Outcomes

1. **Visitors experience a high degree of naturalness, self-reliance and natural quiet in the Interior, away from crowds and noise.**
2. **Mountain bikers using the specified track in the Interior enjoy the natural setting, without intruding on the experiences of other park visitors or damaging park values.**

#### 5.1.4 The Islands

(see also section 2.3 'The Islands')

##### 5.1.4.1 *Recreational Zone for the Islands*

The islands are managed primarily for their natural values. The islands and stacks currently have no visitor facilities, but upgrades may be required on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) to manage the effects of increased visitor numbers to these islands (see the following sections and section 5.2.4.1 'Facilities'). Many islands are difficult to land on and even more difficult to penetrate. Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) is the largest island and has beaches (below Mean High Water Mark) that are popular picnic spots for day visitors and water skiers. There are pest control tracks on the island, but they are not maintained for public use.

The islands provide a different type of experience and so need to have their own Recreational Zone:

##### *Island Zone*

##### **Area**

All the islands and stacks within 2.4 km of the national park coast (as shown on Map 3, page 87).

### **Characteristics**

- (a) Water access by private vessel only, except on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) (see section 5.3.2.3 'Concessions - The Islands').
- (b) Tonga and Pinnacle Islands are closed to public access.
- (c) No visitor facilities, except on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) (see following sections and section 5.2.4.1 'Facilities').
- (d) Picnicking and water-based activities (adjacent), small groups of private kayakers or boaties.
- (e) No commercial activity, except on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) (see section 5.3.2.3 'Concessions - The Islands').

### **Outcomes**

- (i) Other than on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti), visitors experience relatively undisturbed natural island environments free from obvious evidence of human presence.
- (ii) On Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) visitors experience island sanctuaries with some visitor facilities.

#### **5.1.4.2 Access**

Except for Adele Island, access to the interior of the islands should not be encouraged, to prevent damage to the islands' regenerating ecosystems and to minimise the risk of fire. The public can walk into the interior of Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) by using existing pest control tracks. A new track, to enable visitors to undertake a short walk to a viewpoint, may be developed to walking track standards. In which case, use of the pest control tracks will be discouraged, to protect the sanctuary value of Adele Island (Motuarero-nui). Until such a track is formed, it should be made clear on signage that the pest control tracks are not managed to visitor-use standards. A bylaw should be sought to prohibit visitors staying overnight on the islands to protect their natural and cultural values.

A breeding colony of New Zealand fur seals inhabits Tonga Island and there is also a small breeding colony on Pinnacle Island. Seals are generally increasing in number along the whole coast. Tonga Island and Pinnacle Island should be made Specially Protected Areas, closed to public access, in order to protect the seal breeding colonies (see section 4.1.4.3 'Seals'). The Department may also need to close, or restrict access to, other areas in the future if necessary to protect the seals.

#### **5.1.4.3 Human waste**

There is a fouling issue on the coasts of Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti). Visitors need to be informed through a number of means, including visitor information publications, that there are currently no facilities on the islands and discouraged from toileting on the beach. The Department may consider installing toilet facilities on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) if it becomes necessary.

#### **5.1.4.4 Policy**

1. To preserve the natural, cultural and landscape values of the islands for visitors to enjoy with minimal impacts.

#### **5.1.4.5 Implementation**

1. *Provide information regarding toileting and toilet locations in the park via signage and visitor information publications.*
2. *Maintain discrete signs on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui), Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) and other significant islands to discourage toileting and to explain why their values need to be protected and the purpose of the pest control tracks.*
3. *Seek a bylaw to prohibit visitors staying overnight on the islands.*
4. *Place signs on Tonga Island and Pinnacle Island to explain why the seal breeding colonies need to be protected and that these islands are Specially Protected Areas closed to public access.*
5. *Consider development of a short walk to a viewpoint, to visitor-use standards, on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui).*
6. *Consider installation of toilet facilities on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti).*

#### **5.1.4.6 Outcomes**

1. Visitors appreciate and respect the relatively undisturbed natural island environments.
2. Except for Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti), the islands are free from obvious evidence of human presence, apart from minimal signage.

## 5.2 VISITOR FACILITIES

### 5.2.1 Whole park

#### 5.2.1.1 *Facilities*

The Coast Track and bay areas appeal to inexperienced and less confident visitors due to the good quality track and easy accessibility. The Interior tracks provide more challenging, natural experiences for seasoned trampers. The Department provides a standard level of visitor accommodation in the park in the form of seven huts; two shelters; 20 campsites; and the Totaranui Campground (see Map 4, page 111). The capacity of the huts and campsites (as listed in Appendix 5) places a limit on the number of visitors who can stay in the park overnight, although visitors can generally camp anywhere in the Interior, but very few do.

The Department carried out a review of all its visitor facilities in the park in 2003/04 as part of a Recreation Opportunity Review for the Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy. This identified those facilities that needed to be upgraded, particularly along the Coast Track, or replaced. See Appendix 6 for details. The current level of facility provision (along with those set out in Appendix 6) is designed to preserve the National Park experience and as a result there are no plans to increase the number of huts or campsites, however, there remains some flexibility in their capacity.

The number and capacity of toilets is considered appropriate. However, more toilets or increased capacity may be considered in future, if required.

General Policy for National Parks 9(e) states that all accommodation and related facilities, including replacements, additions and extensions and signage in national parks should:

- Be consistent with the outcomes planned for places;
- Minimise adverse effects on national park values and on the existing benefit, use and enjoyment of the public, including public access;
- Avoid proliferation of the built environment;
- Complement existing accommodation and related facilities;
- Be located, designed, constructed and maintained to:
  - Preserve a sense of naturalness;
  - Where possible, be close to other buildings;
  - Meet all legal requirements and standards;
  - Minimise risks from natural hazards; and
  - Avoid adverse effects on natural surface and underground waters and all water bodies;
- Be of such a scale, design and colour as to harmonise with the landscape and seascape;
- Provide for disabled people in places to the extent required by law; and
- Be available for use by the public.

However, the accommodation provided for staff at Totaranui and hut wardens (see section 7.1.7 'Staff facilities'), is not available to the public.

Effects on historical, archaeological and cultural values also need to be avoided where possible, or minimised if disturbance is necessary.

#### **5.2.1.2 *Commercial accommodation***

Commercial accommodation is not appropriate within the park itself, as it is not compatible with the primary objectives of this plan, or the undeveloped nature of the recreational setting of the park, and is readily available on private land adjoining the park. For example, lodges at Torrent Bay (Rakauroa) and Awaroa provide visitors with the option of high quality accommodation and facilities during their visit to the park (see section 5.3.3 'Non-recreation concessions').

The Department should advocate for appropriate accommodation development in the adjacent private lands and settlements and local communities, which complements the surrounding national park environment (see also section 6.1.3 'Neighbouring lands').

#### **5.2.1.3 *Interpretation and information***

There are park maps, information pamphlets and displays available to the public at Department of Conservation offices, visitor information centres, Totaranui Campground, Wainui Bay car park and at the start of the Coast Track at Marahau. It is important that maps and information are kept up to date and relevant for visitor safety and enjoyment. The Department needs to promote visitor compliance with the Environmental Care Code and the toileting policy, as well as emphasising visitor safety, particularly on the inland tracks, through publications and other advice given. A mountain biking Code of Conduct, which includes group size limits, permitted routes, open season and behaviour, also needs to be made available to the public (see section 5.1.1.5 'Mountain biking').

Interpretation panels are located in the park, particularly along the Coast Track and at Wainui Bay, Totaranui and Marahau road ends. Themes include European and Māori history, coastal ecology and the adjacent Tonga Island Marine Reserve. Interpretation provides an important educational opportunity for visitors, promoting careful use of the park. Priority areas for further interpretation are the Coast Track, the Canaan Road end (currently within the Canaan Downs Scenic Reserve, see section 7.1.6 'Additions to the park') and Totaranui.

Information and interpretation that refers to places or stories of spiritual, historical, or cultural significance to Māori should be developed in consultation with tangata whenua. Māori place and species names and te reo Māori should be appropriately used and attention drawn to Māori values.

# Map 4 - Facilities



#### 5.2.1.4 **Rubbish**

Visitors need to remove their rubbish from the park using a pack in - pack out system. Visitors are also encouraged to abide by the Environmental Care Code to minimise their effects on the natural environment. The Department provides rubbish bins at Totaranui Campground and does not intend to provide rubbish bins elsewhere. However, the Department should assist with the removal of rubbish at Marahau, as many visitors dispose of their rubbish on exiting the park there.

#### 5.2.1.5 **Policies**

1. **To provide suitable visitor facilities at appropriate locations within the park to manage visitor impacts and preserve the natural, historical and cultural values of the park.**
2. **To maintain the number of huts and campsites in the park at existing levels**
3. **To review the provision of toilet facilities and consider alternate measures for managing toilet waste, if demand exceeds current capacity.**

#### 5.2.1.6 **Implementation**

1. *Manage and maintain toilet, hut, camp and track facilities and carry out rationalisation and additional works as set out in the Recreation Opportunities Review (Appendix 6,) the Recreational Zones and this plan.*
2. *Review toilet capacity in future if necessary.*
3. *Prior to the development of any new facilities, or upgrading of existing facilities, carry out an environmental, archaeological and social effects assessment and ensure any adverse effects are avoided and any development is consistent with the Recreational Zone and General Policy for National Parks (see also section 4.2.1.2 'Development').*
4. *Ensure park information and maps are up to date and relevant, include safety information and are readily available to the public.*
5. *Develop further interpretation along the Coast Track, at Canaan and at Totaranui.*
6. *Ensure that public information and interpretation that refers to places or stories of spiritual, historical, or cultural significance to Māori is developed in consultation with tangata whenua. Include Māori place and species names, make appropriate use of te reo Māori and draw attention to Māori values.*
7. *Continue to provide rubbish bins at Totaranui Campground, assist in the management of rubbish at Marahau and promote the pack in - pack out system for the management of visitors' rubbish in the rest of the park.*

### 5.2.1.7 Outcomes

1. Facilities are provided and maintained to a standard level, consistent with the Recreational Zones and the natural, self-reliant character of the park.
2. Facilities harmonise with the natural environment and do not threaten park values.

### 5.2.2 The Coast

(see also section 2.1 'The Coast')

#### 5.2.2.1 *The Coast Track*

The Coast Track is the focal point for visitors to the park and the Department must maintain facilities to an appropriate standard and carrying capacity in this area as a priority. The Coast Track huts and other facilities were reviewed in 2003/04 and as a result the Department intends to undertake work on several facilities (see Appendix 6). This includes putting in a new bridge at the northern end of Onetahuti. This work will need to be carried out in line with the criteria and requirements set out in section 5.2.1.1 'Facilities'.

#### 5.2.2.2 *Toilets*

The greatest pressure is on the toilet facilities along the Coast Track and in the private lands and settlements, adjacent to the Coast Track. There is estimated to be an average of 3000 people along the Coast Track on a peak summer day.

In 2001 the Department replaced the sewerage systems at Anchorage, Bark Bay (Wairima) and Onetahuti with higher capacity systems, so that they could cope with the increasing number of visitors. At the same time two full-containment (12500L) systems were trialled at Akersten and Apple Tree Bays. Over the following two years a further eight full-containment systems were constructed in the southern end of the park. Septic systems have also been installed at Anapai and Whariwharangi, in the northern end of the park, and a new toilet block installed at the Marahau carpark. The Recreation Opportunity Review requires further facility upgrades (see Appendix 6), including a possible additional toilet at Apple Tree Bay. These upgrades need to be carried out in line with the criteria and requirements set out in section 5.2.1.1 'Facilities'.

There are toilets and a camp ground, on a recreation reserve (vested in Tasman District Council) to the west of Torrent Bay Village, that are managed by the Department on behalf of the Council and this arrangement should continue. However, there are issues arising from the high numbers of visitors congregating in Torrent Bay (Rakauroa), 500m from the toilets, while awaiting transport out of the park. The Department should look at options for installing a new toilet, closer to the beach, to cater for these visitors. This may involve working in conjunction with Tasman District Council, as the toilet may need to be located on council land.

### **5.2.2.3 Donations/sponsorship**

Cooking shelters have been built along the Coast Track in the highest use camping areas at Awaroa, Onetahuti, Bark Bay (Wairima) and Anchorage. The Department received a donation from Contact Energy in 2001 to build three of the shelters.

In the present funding environment, the Department should consider offers of assistance or sponsorship from other organisations for the provision of new public facilities for free visitor use, where they are appropriate and compatible with the facility review (Appendix 6) and this plan. Sponsorship may not accord any privilege to the sponsor, nor provide any opportunity for on-going advertising, other than any initial publicity. However, small, discrete plaques attached to sponsored facilities acknowledging sponsorship may be appropriate.

### **5.2.2.4 Huts and campsites**

Huts and campsites on the Coast Track are now managed through a year-round booking system, introduced in July 2005. There is currently a limit of two nights at any one site, except for the 40 person campsite at Totaranui for Coast Track walkers, which has a one night limit. The Department intends to alter the booking system to allow for overnight stays of up to 5 consecutive nights between 1 May and 30 September, except at the Totaranui Coast Track campsite. Bylaws should be sought to give effect to these limits.

The combined capacity of the 4 huts (109 people) accounts for 14% of the bed-night capacity of the Coast Track (excluding Totaranui Campground). The 20 campsites provide the remaining 86% (316 sites/632 people) on the Coast Track. In addition, Totaranui Campground has a capacity of 850 people. The Department charges fees for use of campsites and huts in the park. On the Coast Track, camping is only permitted in the campsites provided (through an existing bylaw), to protect park values and visitor experiences.

The Department considers the current number of huts and campsites on the Coast Track to be appropriate and the booking system provides the means to manage overnight visitor numbers.

### **5.2.2.5 Totaranui Campground**

Totaranui is the most intensively used area in the park. It has a large grassed campground and features 'Ngarata' (Pratt's Homestead), an historic farmhouse with an associated amenities block, which is used by schools as an outdoor education lodge, as well as for private functions and departmental workshops.

Shelter plantings provide a degree of privacy. The adjacent beach (outside the park boundary) is the northernmost scheduled drop off point for commercial vessels from Kaiteriteri and Marahau. It has a high level of day use concentrated on the campground area and the adjacent beach. At the peak of the summer, all facilities are at capacity with 850 campers and around 350 day visitors. Bookings are required for the busy period

(1 December to 1 February) and are currently allocated through a ballot system. The Department is considering a national booking system for all Department of Conservation campsites, which may come into effect for the Totaranui Campground in the future.

The Totaranui Campground provides a no-frills, classic family camping experience, which is highly valued by visitors. The facilities are minimal and include ablution blocks, with flush toilets and cold showers, fireplaces, a small camp office/shop for basic supplies and a filtered water supply, but no power or hot water.

There is no intention to develop a formal visitor centre, but visitors are currently provided with orientation information and can use public telephones at Totaranui to make bookings for transport and commercial activities in the park. The Department does not intend to expand, sell or lease the Totaranui Campground.

The Department upgraded toilet facilities in 2001. A major sewerage upgrade has been completed including new underground systems and the provision of an additional ablution block. A cooking shelter is programmed for the Totaranui Coast Track Campsite.

From time to time, some visitors ask for power, cabins, sports amenities, or similar facilities, but this kind of development is not considered to be appropriate, given the national park status of the land, the character of the campground, the 'Totaranui' recreational setting (see section 5.1.2.3 'Recreational Zones for the Coast') and the camping experience desired by the majority of campers.

The Department has some camping supplies for sale at Totaranui and needs to ensure that only appropriate basic items are provided. Some commercial operators are also permitted to sell basic goods at Totaranui (see also section 5.3.2.1.8 'Totaranui Campground').

#### **5.2.2.6 *Water***

Rivers and streams in the park can contain faecal coliforms from animal dung and some contain giardia bacteria, both of which can cause serious illness in humans. There is potable (filtered and treated) water provided at Totaranui and at some taps in Anchorage, Bark Bay (Wairima), Whariwharangi and Awaroa huts and campsites. However, there is no intention to provide further potable water on the Coast Track.

#### **5.2.2.7 *Fires***

The lighting of any fires in the park has the potential to cause severe damage to natural, cultural and historical values and is a safety risk to visitors. An existing bylaw restricts the circumstances under which fires can be lit in the park. The bylaw should be amended to further restrict fires on the Coast to the formed fireplaces provided at some campsites on the Coast Track (Anchorage, Bark Bay (Wairima), Awaroa, Whariwharangi, Waiharakeke, and Mutton Cove) and at Totaranui. Contained fires in the formed fireplaces, with firewood provided by the Department, are not considered to be a significant risk and offer visitors an enhanced

experience. Most visitors carry their own gas cookers and the Department will continue to advise overnight visitors to carry gas, or liquid fuel, cookers throughout the park.

All fires, including those in formed fireplaces, are prohibited in the park during a total fire ban, which the Department can impose on the region in dry summers, under the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977. No one can light a fire on the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve adjacent to the park without a permit as it is within the Waimea Rural Fire District, which has a 'Restricted Fire Season' over the area all year round.

Smoking in the park is a major fire risk. Discarded cigarettes have caused park fires in the past. Visitors need to be discouraged from smoking, educated about the threats fire poses to the park, and informed that they are personally liable for the cost of extinguishing any fire they cause in the park.

#### **5.2.2.8 Policies**

- 1. To provide a variety of facilities for visitors on the Coast, consistent with the character and outcomes sought for the Recreational Zones along the Coast Track and the national park status of the land.**
- 2. To provide a classic, minimalist, no-frills family camping experience at Totaranui Campground.**
- 3. To minimise the risk of fire damage to the Coast.**

#### **5.2.2.9 Implementation**

- 1. Retain the existing number of huts and campsites on the Coast Track.*
- 2. Continue to manage the existing council toilet and camp ground at Torrent Bay (Rakauroa).*
- 3. Consider options for the provision of a better located toilet at Torrent Bay (Rakauroa) for the use of park visitors.*
- 4. Consider offers of assistance or sponsorship for the development or maintenance of visitor facilities, including historic huts, for general public use (not as commercial or private facilities) where appropriate.*
- 5. Consider allowing the placement of a small discreet plaque on a facility acknowledging sponsorship, where appropriate.*
- 6. Alter the national Great Walk hut and campsite booking system on the Coast Track to allow for overnight stays for up to 5 consecutive nights between 1 May and 30 September.*
- 7. Continue to provide only standard facilities and essential goods at Totaranui Campground.*
- 8. Advocate visitor compliance with the Environmental Care Code and the toileting policy.*

9. *Continue to provide treated, potable water at Totaranui, Anchorage, Bark Bay (Wairima), Whariwharangi and Awaroa huts and campsites.*
10. *Amend the existing bylaw to restrict the lighting of fires on the Coast to the formed fireplaces at Anchorage, Bark Bay (Wairima), Awaroa, Whariwharangi, Waiharakeke, Mutton Cove and Totaranui.*
11. *Publicise the need for overnight visitors to carry gas or liquid fuel cookers on the Coast Track.*
12. *Discourage visitors from smoking in the park and inform them of their responsibilities with regard to fires.*

#### **5.2.2.10 Outcomes**

1. **Visitors use the well-maintained walking track and the adjacent foreshore to access a variety of natural experiences along the Coast, supported by a range of complementary standard facilities, from huts with gas heaters and flush toilets to camps with pit toilets and unfiltered tap water.**
2. **At Totaranui Campground visitors enjoy a self-reliant family camping experience with standard facilities such as cold showers, toilets, potable water, a cooking shelter, open fireplaces, no electricity and no generators.**
3. **No open fires are lit, except in the fireplaces provided, and visitors are aware of the risks posed by fire.**

### **5.2.3 The Interior**

(see also section 2.2 'The Interior')

#### **5.2.3.1 *Huts and tracks***

There are some challenging multi-day tracks in the Interior of the park for more experienced trampers capable of handling longer distances between huts. These include the Inland Track and the Wainui Track (see Map 4, page 111). These tracks are zoned Inland Tracks (see section 5.1.3.1 'Recreational Zones for the Interior'). The Rameka Track is on legal road, so is technically outside the park. The Department intends to maintain the tracks in the Interior to a reasonable standard, appropriate to their Inland Tracks setting, as part of its aim to provide a range of recreational opportunities within the park. Also, within the lifetime of this plan, the Department may develop tracks (for walking and mountain biking) in and around the Awaroa Inlet, following public consultation.

The present hut, facility and track network in the Interior of the park has recently been reviewed and as a result the Moa Park Hut has been converted to a shelter, and the Department intends to replace Holyoake's shelter with a new shelter in a slightly different location (see Appendix 6). The total standard hut capacity on the Inland Track is 20. There are no campsites in the Interior, but camping is permitted.

The central part of the park is un-tracked and has no facilities; accordingly it has a Remote recreational setting. The special remote experience of nature, peace and solitude available in this area should be preserved, for those visitors experienced and skilled enough to explore this remote place.

#### **5.2.3.2 Interpretation**

The Department should provide new interpretation and information at Canaan Road end (currently within the Canaan Downs Scenic Reserve, see section 7.1.6 'Additions to the park') to help visitors to appreciate and care for its special values. Harwoods Hole should be considered for opportunities to develop historic and cultural interpretation, in conjunction with tangata whenua, the Nelson Speleological Group and the New Zealand Speleological Society. In addition, interpretation and information about Hadfield's Clearing, including the history of the area, should be developed, as agreed with the previous owners.

#### **5.2.3.3 Policies**

- 1. To provide appropriate visitor facilities on the inland tracks, in line with the Inland Tracks setting.**
- 2. To preserve the remote experience of nature, peace and solitude available in the un-tracked Remote areas of the Interior by ensuring no facility development.**

#### **5.2.3.4 Implementation**

- 1. Implement facility review decisions as set out in Appendix 6.*
- 2. Consider the development of walking and mountain biking tracks in and around the Awaroa Inlet, following public consultation.*
- 3. Maintain the current standard huts at their present size and capacity.*
- 4. Maintain the tracks in the Interior of the park to an appropriate standard for an Inland Tracks setting.*
- 5. Preserve the remote experience available in the un-tracked Interior of the park through ensuring no facility development.*
- 6. Provide new interpretation information at Canaan and Hadfield's Clearing, and consider developing cultural interpretation for Harwoods Hole, in association with tangata whenua, the Nelson Speleological Group and the New Zealand Speleological Society.*

### 5.2.3.5 Outcomes

1. **Visitors experience quieter, more remote trips on well-maintained tracks with standard facilities in the tracked Interior of the park.**
2. **Self-reliant, experienced, adventurous visitors enjoy nature, quiet and solitude in the remote un-tracked parts of the Interior.**

### 5.2.4 The Islands

(see also section 2.3 'The Islands')

#### 5.2.4.1 *Facilities*

Visitor facilities are not considered appropriate on any of the islands, except Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti). This is because of the high biological values of the islands and their vulnerability to threats posed to them by visitors and the associated risks of damage, pest introduction, pollution and fire. Being more accessible, Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) enable visitors to appreciate the sanctuary values as a result of restoration. Visitor facilities may be necessary to provide for increased use and to enhance visitor appreciation of the restoration work. In the first instance, due to ongoing fouling issues, the Department may install toilet facilities on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) if this becomes necessary.

Signs need to be erected on the larger islands to inform visitors of the islands' values and to discourage them from exploring the interiors, except if a track is formed to visitor-use standards on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui). Tonga Island and Pinnacle Island are to become Specially Protected Areas and signage will be required to inform visitors that they are closed to public access. Signage (in conjunction with information in publications) is also required on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) to discourage toileting on the beaches and direct visitors to the nearest facility(see section 5.1.4.3 'Human waste').

There are tracks on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) for pest control purposes, which are sometimes used by the public. These tracks are likely to remain for park management purposes, in which case their use should be discouraged by signage and other visitor information. However, a new track and viewing facilities may be developed on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) to recreational visitor-use standards. These visitor facilities will assist in managing increased visitor use on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui), resulting from the restoration work undertaken on this island.

#### 5.2.4.2 Policy

1. **To keep the islands facility-free, except Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti), and ensure the public is informed of their special values and how to protect them.**

#### 5.2.4.3 Implementation

1. *Retain all islands as facility-free, except Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti).*
2. *Consider installing toilet facilities on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) if it becomes necessary.*
3. *Add information to existing signs on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) explaining which tracks are for park management purposes (pest control) and that they are not maintained for visitor use.*
4. *Include information in signage on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) and Fisherman Island (Motuarero-iti) that discourages toileting on the beach and directs visitors to the nearest toilet on the mainland.*
5. *Consider forming a new track and viewing facilities to visitor-use standards on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui).*
6. *Erect signs on Tonga Island, Pinnacle Island and the adjacent mainland explaining that the islands are Specially Protected Areas closed to the public (see section 4.1.4.3 'Seals').*

#### 5.2.4.4 Outcome

1. **Visitors to the accessible islands enjoy an environment uncluttered by evidence of human presence, apart from some necessary structures and interpretation.**

## 5.3 CONCESSIONS

### 5.3.1 Whole park

(see also section 5.1 'Visitor Management')

#### 5.3.1.1 *Definition*

A concession is an official authorisation to carry out a commercial activity on land administered by the Department. Concessions include leases, licences, permits, profit à prendre and easements. Concessions are required for activities including, but not limited to, transport services, commercial education or instruction services, commercial guiding, commercial attractions and services, grazing, scientific research, recreational events, filming, the taking of materials, commercial hunting, trading, operating a business, building or occupying a structure, easements or occupation of land.

In this plan, concessions have been divided into two types: recreation concessions, which cover commercial activities that provide services to visitors, such as transportation and guiding (see section 5.3.2 'Recreation concessions'); and non-recreation concessions, which cover other commercial activities that do not directly benefit visitors, such as scientific research and filming (see section 5.3.3 'Non-recreation concessions').

#### 5.3.1.2 *Legislation*

Section 49 of the National Parks Act 1980 makes the provisions of Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987 applicable to national parks. This places responsibilities on concession applicants to identify possible effects of their proposed activities and to suggest ways in which any adverse effects can be avoided, remedied, or mitigated. It also specifies the matters that the Minister must consider when deciding whether or not to grant a concession. The matters to be considered include the degree to which adverse effects can be adequately avoided, remedied or mitigated; whether the activity is consistent with the purpose for which the land is held; and whether or not the proposed activity is consistent with the relevant Conservation Management Strategy and management plan. In addition, applications for structures shall not be granted where they can reasonably be located outside the park. An application may also be declined for other reasons, including if the applicant does not provide sufficient information.

#### 5.3.1.3 *Processing concessions*

Any application for a concession or other authorisation must comply with, or be consistent with, the provisions of the National Parks Act 1980; Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987; any other relevant Acts; the General Policy for National Parks 2005; the statutory purposes of the place where the activity is located; the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy; and this national park management plan.

In line with General Policy for National Parks 10.1(c), all activities requiring a concession should:

- be consistent with the outcomes planned for places;
- be consistent with the preservation as far as possible of the national park in its natural state;
- minimise adverse effects, including cumulative effects, on other national park values;
- not have any adverse effects on the existing recreational opportunities in the area;
- be restricted to the use of existing access; and
- minimise adverse effects on the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public, including public access.

Recreation concession activities need to provide appropriate, safe, high quality, 'national park' experiences to visitors. Conditions need to be placed on concessions to ensure these requirements are met.

#### **5.3.1.4 *Māori cultural values***

Where a proposed concession is likely to affect Māori cultural values, or where interpretation by a concessionaire includes Māori history and/or values, tangata whenua should be consulted by the concessionaire; and tangata whenua's views should be considered by the Minister. The Department has an efficient process to manage this consultation.

#### **5.3.1.5 *Concession management***

Recreation concessions contribute to the regional economy and provide visitors with transport options. They also offer visitors an enhanced recreational or educational experience of the park, through quality interpretation, and implementing responsible group conduct and safe practices. Other concessions can be for scientific purposes, filming, sports events, or for the occupation of park land for things such as easements and the siting of telecommunication facilities. All these activities have the potential to cause adverse effects on natural, historical and cultural values and visitor experiences. However, they can also assist in achieving the Department's wider conservation goals.

National park status reflects the high natural values of the Abel Tasman coastal and inland areas. The park has significant intrinsic natural, historical, cultural and recreational values. One of the Department's primary purposes is to preserve the park as far as possible in its natural state. Use by visitors and commercial interests is secondary and may not occur at the expense of the primary purposes (see section 1.2.1 'The National Parks Act 1980'). It is appropriate for the Minister to take a precautionary approach in a national park, such that where little is known about the effects of an activity or use, then that activity or use should not be permitted. Where there is a conflict, the primary purposes of the National Parks Act 1980 prevail.

The management of concessions should be consistent with the outcomes sought for each Recreational Zone (as described in section 5.1.1.2 'Recreational Zones'). Concessions can be granted for activity over a set number of years, or for 'one-off' activities.

Carrying out a commercial operation in a national park is a privilege and carries with it a responsibility to preserve national park values. Concessions are of limited duration and do not confer rights beyond those contained in the concession, nor an expectation that similar rights will be granted in the future.

The sections below address specific management intentions (controls and conditions on concessions) for each 'place' in the park.

#### **5.3.1.6 Policy**

- 1. To provide for concession activities in the park, in a manner which is consistent with the Primary Objectives of this plan and the protection of the park's intrinsic natural, historical, cultural and recreational values.**

#### **5.3.1.7 Implementation**

- 1. The Minister should have regard to all relevant factors including, but not limited to, those listed under section 5.3.1.3 'Processing concessions', when assessing applications for concessions.*
- 2. Any concession application for any activity should be declined where it:*
  - a. is not consistent with the Primary Objectives or any other provisions of this plan; or*
  - b. threatens the preservation of the national park in its natural state; or*
  - c. is not consistent with the Recreational Zone and/or outcomes planned for a place; or*
  - d. threatens to cause unacceptable adverse effects, including cumulative effects, on national park values; or*
  - e. cannot use existing access; or*
  - f. threatens to affect adversely the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public, including public access; or*
  - g. does not provide appropriate, high quality, safe, national park experiences to visitors.*
- 3. Conditions should be included in any approved concession to ensure that the activity is consistent with the Recreational Zones and that any actual or potential adverse environmental and/or social effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated.*

4. *Concession applicants and existing concessionaires providing, or intending to provide, interpretation or information regarding Māori sites, history or values, should be encouraged to consult with and obtain the support of tangata whenua for their interpretation information.*
5. *An efficient process should be maintained to manage concessionaire consultation with tangata whenua, for relevant concession applications.*

#### **5.3.1.8 Outcome**

1. **Appropriate concession activities take place in keeping with the Recreational Zones, providing enhanced visitor experiences and protecting park values.**

### **5.3.2 Recreation concessions**

#### **5.3.2.1 The Coast**

(see also section 5.1.2 'Visitor management - The Coast')

The majority of commercial activity in the park occurs along the Coast. The Department can manage only those activities which take place within the park boundaries (such as commercially guided walking) and/or make use of park facilities (such as commercially guided kayaking).

##### **5.3.2.1.1 Concession management on the Coast**

The Department recognises the positive contribution concessionaires make and seeks to work closely with them as a means of providing visitors with an enhanced experience of the park. Concession activity on the Coast should be managed in a way that is consistent with the character and outcomes sought for each of the Recreational Zones (see section 5.1.1.2 'Recreational Zones').

Appropriate concession activities (with conditions) may take place in the park up to a maximum level (see Table 10). The aim of setting these maximum levels of activity is to ensure that all visitors have a quality, safe, national park experience.

The maximum level of commercially guided water-based activity was established following consultation with the concessionaires who were operating prior to the draft plan being publicly notified, and is based on the level of activity undertaken in the 2004/5 and 2005/6 seasons. For commercially guided walking activity, the maximum level is based on the level of activity occurring prior to the draft plan being publicly notified. This was considered appropriate as the commercially guided walking activity only comprised 33% of the total number of visitors walking on the Coast Track on any given day. The processes and principles involved in setting the maximum levels for both these types of activities are set out in Appendix 7.

The effects of these levels of activity will be monitored to ensure they are appropriate and effective (see sections 5.1.1.3 and 5.3.2.1.2 'Monitoring'). If necessary, they may be reviewed. This will protect national park values and visitor experiences, while providing for sustainable tourism over the long-term.

Table 10 (page 130) lists those concession activities that are considered to be appropriate on the Coast, both in relation to the national park context and in terms of acceptable effects on park values. These activities need to be managed in a way that is consistent with the Recreational Zones. Limits are set for each activity and it should be noted that some or all of that activity may already be allocated to existing concessionaires.

All commercially guided water-based and walking activities on the Coast have been divided into 'trips' (see Table 7, page 127 and Table 8, page 128). A 'trip' is a basic unit of activity that establishes the maximum number of clients, guides and vessels (in the case of water-based activities) in a group, and how often the trip can be used in one day. The following criteria apply:

- (i) With respect to numbers of clients, guides and vessels – a trip may be divided into smaller groups, provided a guide accompanies each group, and the maximum numbers allowed are not exceeded. For example, a trip of 16 clients and 2 guides may be divided into two groups of 8 clients and 1 guide.
- (ii) With respect to timing – a trip may be utilised two times a day. Using the scenario in (i) above, 16 clients and 2 guides, totalling 18 people, may enter and leave the park in the morning; while in the afternoon, another group of 18 people may utilise that trip.

Combinations of the two criteria above may occur, but at no time should there ever be more than the maximum number of clients, guides and vessels allowed for by that trip in the park; nor should the numbers exceed what is available based on the trip being utilised two times a day.

There is a maximum number of commercially guided water-based or walking trips available for use in the park (see Table 10, page 130), which also limits the number of people associated with those trips. This system has been developed as a tool to manage the maximum level of concession activity and the maximum number of people undertaking recreation concession activities on the Coast. If demand for these activities exceeds the maxima set out in this plan then an allocation process may be used (see section 5.3.2.1.3 'Management of effects').

**(i) Water-based commercially guided activity**

Water-based commercial guiding activities can only take place on the Coast, in the Coastal Access Points and South Coast Zones. Table 7 sets out the trip criteria for each type of water-based commercially guided activity in these Recreational Zones.

TABLE 7: WATER-BASED COMMERCIALY GUIDED TRIPS

WATER-BASED COMMERCIALY GUIDED ACTIVITY	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CLIENTS	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF GUIDES	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VESSELS
Kayaking	8*	2	6
Rowboats	16	4	4
Dug-out canoe	6	1	1
Waka	16	2	1
Outrigger Waka (medium)	16	2	2
Outrigger Waka (small)	16	4	4

\* The limit of 8 clients reflects the Sea Kayak Operators Association of New Zealand safety recommendations.

The trip may involve camping overnight at any time of the year; and the option of staying overnight in huts from 1 May to 30 September (except during school holidays). Overnighting is subject to a 50% occupancy limit (see 'General conditions' in section 5.3.2.1.4 'Concession conditions').

The total number of water-based commercial guiding trips that can occur in the park, on the busiest day in the peak period (1 December – 31 March) is 66 (see Table 10, page 130). This is made up of: 56 kayak and row boat trips; 1 dug-out canoe trip; 5 waka trips; 2 one-off trips (see '(iii) One-off concessions' below); and 2 educational institution group trips (see '(iv) Educational groups' below). In the off-peak period there are 2 additional one-off trips available.

These trip numbers are considered to be appropriate for water-based commercial guiding activity, in terms of acceptable effects on park values and facilities, and the experiences of clients and other visitors. This is because several factors influence the ability of concessionaires to utilise their trips fully, particularly weather and sea conditions. In reality, previous monitoring has shown that usage is generally 50% of that available. However, if future monitoring shows adverse effects then the maximum number of trips may need to be reduced, or further controls introduced, such as weekly or monthly limits (see section 5.3.2.1.2 'Monitoring').

#### **(ii) Commercially guided walking activity**

The maximum number of clients and guides allowed on a commercially guided walking trip is based on the Recreational Zone, as set out in Table 8:

TABLE 8: COMMERCIALY GUIDED WALKING TRIPS

RECREATIONAL ZONE	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CLIENTS	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF GUIDES
Coastal Access Points and South Coast	16	2
North Coast	8	1

The clients and guides comprising a commercially guided walking trip not associated with a water-based commercially guided trip have the option of camping or staying in huts overnight at any time of the year. Overnighting is subject to a 50% occupancy limit (see 'General conditions' in section 5.3.2.1.4 'Concession conditions').

Commercially guided walking trips held by a concessionaire are based on a yearly maximum, which in turn determines the number of trips they can take into the park (on the Coast) on a daily or weekly basis, as shown in Table 9.

TABLE 9: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NUMBER OF COMMERCIALY GUIDED WALKING TRIPS PER YEAR AND NUMBER OF TRIPS PER DAY

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TRIPS HELD PER YEAR	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TRIPS PER DAY
1199	11
1099	10
999	9
899	8
799	7
699	6
599	5
499	4
399	3
299	2
199	1
25	1 per day/2 per week

For example, under this system a concessionaire with 536 commercially guided walking trips per year could have up to five trips per day.

This system recognises that concessionaires who undertake a large amount of activity annually are likely to have a higher number of trips per day. At the lower end of the scale, it is reasonable that a concessionaire visiting the park less than 26 times each year should have to spread their two trips out over a week.

This system puts a cap on the total level of commercially guided walking activity within the Coast. The total number of trips available for commercially guided walking activity per year is limited to 3500 trips, which represents approximately one third of the total number of visitors to the park annually. The upper limit of 50 trips per day operating within the Coast (see Table 10, page 130), is considered to be the maximum for commercially guided walking activity.

There is currently no limit set for the maximum number of commercially guided walking trips in the North Coast Zone. However, a limit of 5 trips per day (10% of the total available) should be implemented as a limited opportunity when current concessions expire in 2011 (see section 5.3.2.1.3 'Management of effects').

Prior to 2011 (see section 5.3.2.1.3 'Management of effects'), where a concession for commercially guided walking activity is directly associated with a concession for commercially guided water-based activity (enabling the water-based clients to be guided in the park) the Minister should decline the transfer of the guided walking concession without the complementary guided water-based concession, and vice versa.

### **(iii) One-off concessions**

It is recognised that there is a demand for commercially guided kayaking and walking activity on an occasional basis, where applicants wish to apply for a one-off concession for the activity. A one-off concession could be used by applicants who wish to use the park occasionally, or by existing concessionaires with a low number of trips who need an extra one or two to cater for an occasional large group. Large groups such as educational institutions (from New Zealand and overseas), cruise ship groups and charity treks visit the park on occasion, usually outside the peak period.

To provide for these one-off concessions, an amount of activity is available for allocation each year, on a first come first served basis. A total of 10 trips for commercially guided kayaking and 10 trips for commercially guided walking is available in the peak period (1 December - 31 March), and 20 each in the off-peak period, as shown in Table 10 (page 130). A daily maximum of two one-off trips per day in the peak period and four one-off trips per day for the rest of the year, for each one-off activity also applies. There are more one-off trips available per day in the off-peak period in recognition that the overall pressure on the Coast is much lower at this time.

One-off concessions have the same conditions as longer term concessions, depending on the Recreational Zone. For example, large groups seeking a one-off commercially guided walking concession (e.g. cruise ships) would have to be split into groups of 16 clients plus up to 2 guides, or 8 clients plus 1 guide in the North Coast Zone. They would only be able to carry out activities in the park as a single group in the Totaranui Zone, as that is the only Recreational Zone that provides for large groups.

#### (iv) Educational groups

Tertiary educational institutions that charge for their courses require a concession. For example, the Nelson/Marlborough Institute of Technology, Whenua Iti Outdoors Pursuit Centre, and Tai Poutini Polytechnic sometimes use the park for kayak training and for walking. Some have long-term concessions, while others utilise one-off concessions. These activities are considered appropriate, as long as they remain small scale. To this end, 150 kayak trips and 150 walking trips have been allocated per year, for tertiary educational institution groups, with a maximum of 4 trips per day in total (see Table 10). Trips will be allocated using the standard concession application process.

TABLE 10: MAXIMUM LEVELS FOR CONCESSION ACTIVITIES ON THE COAST

COMMERCIAL GUIDING ACTIVITY (ON THE COAST)	COMMERCIALY GUIDED ACTIVITY SUB-TYPE	MAXIMUM NO. CLIENTS : GUIDES PER TRIP	MAXIMUM NO. OF VESSELS & TYPE PER TRIP	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TRIPS AVAILABLE
Human powered vessels	Kayak	8:2	6	56/day (kayak & rowboat)
	Rowboat	16:4	4	
	Dug-out canoe	6:1	1	1/day
	Waka	16:2	1	5/day (all waka sizes)
	Medium Outrigger Waka	16:2	2	
	Small Outrigger Waka	16:4	4	
	One-off trips using human powered vessels	8:2	6 kayaks or 1 waka/ canoe etc	10/yr peak*, max 2/day 20/yr off-peak, max 4/day
	Educational Institution kayak trips	8:2	6 kayaks	150/yr, max 2/day
Walking	Walking trips	16:2 or 8:1 depending on zone	n/a	50/day
	One-off walking trips	16:2 or 8:1 depending on zone	n/a n/a	10/yr peak*, max 2/day 20/yr off-peak, max 4/day
	Educational Institution walking trips	16:2 or 8:1 depending on zone	n/a n/a	150/yr, max 2/day
<b>TOTAL MAXIMUM NUMBER OF TRIPS</b>				<b>120 peak</b> <b>124 off-peak</b>

\* The peak period is defined as 1 December - 31 March

#### Concession activities and management

Under these systems the maximum level of concession activity in the park at its busiest time on any day in the peak period (1 December - 31 March) would be:

- 62 Commercially guided water-based trips
- 50 Commercially guided walking trips

- 4 one-off trips (2 commercially guided walking and 2 water-based activity)
- 4 Commercial educational institution trips (2 kayaking and 2 walking)

For the off-peak period (1 April – 30 November) it would be:

- 62 Commercially guided water-based trips
- 50 Commercially guided walking trips
- 8 one-off trips (4 commercially guided walking and 4 water-based activity)
- 4 Commercial educational institution trips (2 kayaking and 2 walking)

In practice, it is expected that client numbers in the off-peak period would be considerably less than the maximum stated above, as by definition there are fewer visitors in the park in the off-peak period.

Once the maximum levels in Table 10 have been reached, any new applications for these activities should be declined and applicants advised to use existing concessionaires to undertake their activity. This table of activities is not exhaustive and applications for activities not included in this table would need to be assessed in line with the criteria outlined in '5.3.1.3 Processing concessions' above.

Mountain biking will be permitted for the public on a loop track from Wainui Bay road end through Gibbs Hill to Totaranui and back (see section 5.1.2.15 'Mountain biking'), but concessions for commercially guided mountain biking are not considered appropriate for the North Coast Zone.

If other new, appropriate, commercial activities emerge during the life of this plan, which are not covered by the plan, the Department may identify an appropriate maximum level for that activity and recommend that the opportunity be allocated in a suitable trip format. Any new recreation concessions should expire in 2011, so that all recreation concessions have a common expiry date. This will enable concession activity in the park to be managed in an overall way, rather than piecemeal.

When considering a concession application where part of the activity takes place outside the park, but has potentially adverse effects on park values (e.g. the use of powered personal watercraft combined with commercially guided walks in the park), these effects should be carefully considered and taken into account when assessing the application.

#### *5.3.2.1.2 Monitoring*

There is a charge on each concession to contribute to monitoring of:

- Any adverse environmental effects of concession activity.
- The visitor experience in each Recreational Zone (see section 5.1.2.3 'Recreational Zones for the Coast - overview') and the extent to which the provisions in this plan and the maximum levels set for concession activities have been successful in achieving the desired outcomes for each zone. This monitoring will include visitor surveys and observations at particular points.

- Compliance with concession conditions.

This information will contribute to any future review or amendment of the concession management provisions in this plan, including the maximum levels for commercially guided water-based and walking activities.

#### *5.3.2.1.3 Management of effects*

Concession management will be monitored and reviewed to ensure it is effective and fair. In order to achieve this, all concessions should expire at the same time. The date of the next round of applications is likely to be 2011. If anyone is granted a concession before 2011, the concession should be issued for the balance of time remaining to 2011. If there is a demand for more activity in 2011 than provided for by this plan, the Minister should consider the use of a national allocation mechanism. Individual concession applications should not be considered outside this process.

If, at any time during the lifetime of this plan, monitoring shows that the terms and conditions of concessions should be changed due to adverse effects occurring, the Department will consult with the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board regarding the need to undertake a partial review of this plan. This may include a change to the total number of packets or trips available, or the types of activities that may be undertaken in the Recreational Zones.

#### *5.3.2.1.4 Concession conditions*

The character of each Recreational Zone along the Coast has been described in section 5.1.2.3 'Recreational Zones for the Coast - overview'. Conditions should be placed on concessions to ensure that concession activity is consistent with the character and outcomes planned for each Recreational Zone and to preserve the values of the park. Within a zone, conditions should be the same for each trip issued for the same activity. The only difference between individual concessions will be the level of activity that can be carried out, which will be determined by the number of trips allocated to each concessionaire.

Specific conditions that should be placed on guiding concessions depending on the Recreational Zone, include, but are not limited to the following:

##### *Totaranui Zone*

**Area:** Totaranui Campground, as shown on Map 3 (page 87).

- bus tours, cruise ships to drop-off and pick-up
- briefings for commercially guided groups
- activities for cruise ship groups and commercially guided groups
- sale of goods concessions to be located adjacent to the camp office and confined to this zone only
- sale of goods to be small scale and limited to essential, basic goods

### *Coastal Access Points Zone*

**Areas:** Anchorage, Bark Bay (Wairima), Onetahuti and Totaranui coast, as shown on Map 3 (page 87).

- drop off/pick up of commercially guided clients, luggage and equipment by motorised vessels confined to this zone only, between the hours of 7am and 6pm
- pre-departure briefing, training and induction for commercially guided water-based (kayak/waka etc) groups confined to this zone only
- maximum group sizes:
  - 8 clients plus 2 guides for kayakers
  - 16 clients plus 4 guides for waka and medium outrigger waka
  - 6 clients plus 1 guide for dug-out canoes
  - 16 clients plus 4 guides for rowboats and small outrigger waka
  - 16 clients plus 2 guides for walkers
- overnight stays in campsites/huts – up to 50% of capacity (see 'General Conditions' below)
- huts can only be used by commercially guided water-based groups (e.g. kayakers) between 1 May and 30 September, except during the school holidays

### *South Coast Zone*

**Areas:** The Coast Track (plus 500m each side or to Mean High Water Mark) and side tracks (including Falls River Track and Pukatea Walk) from Tinline Bay to Totaranui (excluding Coastal Access Points above and any private land), as shown on Map 3 (page 87).

- commercially guided walking and water-based (human and wind powered vessels) groups can visit for short stops, or overnight stays
- Watering Cove may be used by commercially guided kayak groups to start or finish a trip where it is associated with the change over of walking and kayaking clients to/from Marahau. Watering Cove may also be used by commercially guided kayak groups to finish a trip where, for safety reasons, the clients are unable to travel any further along the coastline. These groups may be supported by a commercial vessel, and provision of a toilet may be a condition of use of this bay
- no pre-departure training of commercially guided kayak groups, or group games or exercises by concessionaire groups, in this zone. Safety briefings and passive activities such as park interpretation are permissible
- maximum group sizes:
  - 8 clients plus 2 guides for kayakers
  - 16 clients plus 2 guides for waka and medium outrigger waka
  - 6 clients plus 1 guide for dug-out canoes
  - 16 clients plus 4 guides for rowboats and small outrigger waka
  - 16 clients plus 2 guides for walkers

- overnight stays in huts/campsites – up to 50% of capacity (see ‘General conditions’ below)
- huts can only be used by commercially guided water-based groups between 1 May and 30 September, except during the school holidays

### *North Coast Zone*

**Areas:** The Coast Track (plus 500m each side or to Mean High Water Mark) and side tracks north of Totaranui to Wainui Bay, plus the Abel Head promontory, as shown on Map 3 (page 87).

- commercially guided walking only with a maximum group size of 8 clients plus 1 guide
- no commercially guided water-based activity (e.g. guided kayaks and waka/canoes/outriggers) in this zone
- no commercial vessel pick ups/drop/offs of guided clients, luggage or equipment
- overnight stays in huts/campsites – up to 50% of capacity

### **Exception**

There is part of one existing concession, based on visiting a private bach at Stilwell Bay, which does not fit into this system. The concession holder is permitted to pick up/drop off commercially guided walking groups at Stilwell Bay and drop off groups at Coquille Bay, up to a maximum of 40 times per year. This part of the concession:

- should be allowed to continue, within the constraints of the other concession provisions of this plan and legislation, until such time as the existing concession holder ceases to hold a concession for this activity; and,
- is non-transferable and cannot be sold or operated by anyone other than the existing concession holder.

### **General conditions**

To preserve the natural setting, no concessionaire should rent out equipment from within the park. Guides who are staying in campsites or huts overnight with their clients can have the equipment directly linked to those clients with them in the park for each night of their stay.

On the Coast Track, the high level of use of the huts during the summer means that commercially guided walking groups should be able to use the huts, while commercially guided water-based groups should not. This is due to the large amount of equipment associated with water-based activities and the amount of space this can take up in a hut. From 1 May to 30 September (except during the school holidays), when visitor use is lower, commercially guided water-based groups should also be able to use the huts.

All clients and guides are required to use the booking system to pre-book huts and campsites on the Coast Track and to abide by all Departmental policies relating to the use of the booking system, such as the number

of consecutive nights at any one site and arrangements for pre-booking. Commercially guided groups can only occupy, in total, up to 50% of the available space at any one hut or campsite. Checks will be carried out to ensure that concessionaires are not block-booking, in order to gain advantage over their competitors.

Any actions necessary for safety reasons at a particular time, in response to a specific event, are acceptable, regardless of concession conditions.

### **Changes to concession conditions**

If an amendment is made to any part of this plan that has implications for concession conditions, section 17W(7) of the Conservation Act 1987 will apply. This provides for any necessary changes to individual concessions to ensure that they are in accordance with this plan. If a change is made to the maximum levels of commercially guided water-based and/or walking activity, then the Department will initiate a separate process to reduce individual allocations or offer extra activity. This may be incorporated into the allocation process when concessions expire in 2011.

#### *5.3.2.1.5 Freedom kayak rental*

Freedom kayak rental involves visitors hiring kayaks and travelling into the park without a guide. This plan sets maximum levels for commercially guided kayak and other non-motorised water-based commercial guiding activity. However there remains a need to consider the impact of freedom kayak rental usage in the park, as distinct from commercially guided users. An increase in the use of freedom kayak rentals could lead to an increase in adverse effects on the park from activities associated with kayak usage, despite the controls on commercially guided trips. In the absence of guides (who are managed through concession conditions) there is the added risk of greater cumulative adverse effects on the park from the use of rented kayaks. The Department should work closely with the Tasman District Council to find ways of controlling the effects of freedom rental activity on the park, Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve and adjacent coastal waters (see section 6.2.6 'Water and land-based commercial activity').

#### *5.3.2.1.6 Mechanical and electronic noise*

Concession activity associated with mechanical or electronic noise including, but not limited to engine noise; public address systems; electronic devices (other than communication devices used for operational or safety purposes); and generator use, is not considered to be appropriate and should not be approved, as it would adversely affect natural quiet and other users. The Department recognises the practical difficulties of setting and enforcing noise limits on coastal activities and in remote locations. However, the Department does have an obligation to preserve natural quiet in the park and will work with the noise control authority, Tasman District Council, on appropriate control measures (see sections 5.1.2.10 'Advocacy' and 6.2.6 'Water and land-based commercial activity').

#### 5.3.2.1.7 *Sporting events*

Concessions for organised sporting events are not considered to be appropriate on the Coast and should not be granted, as they are inconsistent with the Recreational Zones. However, it is recognised that there are two existing annual running races: one on the Coast Track from Awaroa to Marahau (the Coastal Classic), which involves up to 350 people, in September; and another on the inland tracks north of Totaranui (the Gibbs Hill Challenge), which involves up to 70 people, in August. These races should be allowed to continue.

#### 5.3.2.1.8 *Totaranui Campground*

The Totaranui Campground is valued for its undeveloped setting and lack of commercial activity. On-site provision of some basic food items to campers is considered appropriate. There is an existing concession allowing the sale of fruit and vegetables from a visiting vehicle. Concessions for the sale of goods would be inappropriate anywhere else in the park and should be restricted to Totaranui only, in a stationary location adjacent to the camp office. Even at Totaranui, there is a need to minimise sale of goods concessions, with just the provision of essential camping supplies (such as bread, milk, fruit, vegetables and gas canisters), to preserve the undeveloped and self-reliant nature of the camp and the visitor experience.

#### 5.3.2.1.9 *Advertising*

Advertising is an intrusion that many visitors to the park are trying to escape so it is not generally appropriate. Exceptions may be made for advertising directly relating to the park, which is of a size and scale that does not detract from park values. The following forms of advertising may be appropriate:

- trade sign writing normally carried on vehicles and vessels;
- brand names normally carried on equipment and supplies;
- a small, discrete plaque on a facility acknowledging sponsorship, where appropriate;
- pamphlets or small notices setting out timetables or availability of relevant services for the benefit of park users, placed in huts or shelters; and
- advertisements in a book or approved hut folder, at the discretion of the Department.

#### 5.3.2.1.10 **Policy**

1. **To manage recreation concessions on the Coast to ensure that they are consistent with the Primary Objectives of this plan, the Long-term Objectives for the Coast, and the character and outcomes sought for the Recreational Zones, in order to protect park values.**

#### 5.3.2.1.11 Implementation

1. *Recreation concessions on the Coast should be managed and meet the criteria as set out in section 5.3.2.1.1 'Concession management on the Coast' and Tables 7 - 10 above.*
2. *Monitor recreation concession activity and visitor experience in each Recreational Zone to assess whether the outcomes for each zone are being achieved and whether a partial review of this plan is required to change the concession management.*
3. *All recreation concessions issued on the Coast should have a common expiry date.*
4. *In 2011, consideration should be given to using a national allocation mechanism for the offer of recreation concessions on the Coast.*
5. *Where an application for a recreation concession activity in the park involves parts of the activity occurring outside the park, which have potential adverse effects on park values or are inconsistent with the Recreational Zone, these factors should be taken into account.*
6. *All guiding concessions should include relevant conditions as set out in 5.3.2.1.4 'Concession conditions' above.*
7. *Work with Tasman District Council to manage the effects of freedom kayak rentals on the park, Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve and adjacent coastal waters.*
8. *Recreation concession applications for activities using powered vehicles or equipment and/or producing mechanical or electronic noise (other than communication devices used for operational or safety purposes) should be declined.*
9. *Concessions for the sale of goods should be restricted to Totaranui only, adjacent to the camp office, and should be kept small-scale and only allow for the sale of essential, basic food items and camping necessities.*
10. *Advertising for services other than those relating to the park should not be permitted and any advertising permitted should meet the criteria listed under 5.3.2.1.9 'Advertising' above.*
11. *The existing sporting event (the Coastal Classic) should be limited to one event annually, on one day in September, for 350 participants including support staff.*
12. *The existing sporting event (the Gibbs Hill Challenge) should be limited to one event annually, on one day in August, for 70 participants including support staff.*
13. *No further sporting events on the Coast should be permitted.*

#### 5.3.2.1.12 Outcomes

1. Concession groups are dropped off, briefed/trained, do group games or exercises, and are picked up from the four Coastal Access Points. They travel along the Coast south of Totaranui and enjoy short stops and overnight stays in the park. North of Totaranui, smaller groups of commercially guided walkers enjoy a quieter, more natural experience.
2. The Coast is free from the sale of goods, except for a small amount at Totaranui, and there is no unnecessary signage, no equipment hire and only two sporting events annually.

#### 5.3.2.2 *The Interior*

(see also section 5.1.3 'Visitor management - The Interior')

##### 5.3.2.2.1 *Commercial guiding*

In the Inland Tracks Zone in the Interior of the park, there should be a maximum of 8 clients plus 1 guide for commercially guided walking groups and 4 clients plus 1 guide for commercially guided hunting groups. Concessionaires should be limited to a total of 50% of the capacity of the huts, with no more than one concessionaire group per hut per night. Any other proposed recreation concession activities should be carefully assessed to ensure they are appropriate in this zone. Group numbers should be limited to preserve the character of the recreational setting and the back country experience for visitors.

Recreation concession activity should be carefully considered and strictly controlled in the untracked Remote Zone in the centre of the park, in order to preserve the remoteness and naturalness values of the zone. Commercially guided hunting assists with animal pest control, so is considered acceptable (with a maximum of 4 clients and 1 guide). However, such concessions should be limited and managed to ensure the remote Interior of the park is not over-used.

##### 5.3.2.2.2 *Caves*

Cave systems have significant natural, scientific and cultural values and are very sensitive to damage by visitors. Concession activities in caves within this national park are inappropriate, given the primary mandate of protecting park values in perpetuity, and because damage to cave structures and features is essentially irreparable and permanent, on a human timescale. There are opportunities for commercial caving adjacent to the park, in the Takaka Hill area. The public should generally have free access to caves in the park, but limits may need to be set in some cave systems in future if damage occurs (see sections 4.2.3.2 'Caves and karst' and 5.1.3.3 'Caves').

#### 5.3.2.2.3 *Sporting events*

The high numbers of people involved in organised sporting events make them inappropriate in the Interior of the park, particularly given the Inland Tracks recreational setting, which places limits on other concessionaires of up to 8 clients plus 1 guide. Concessions for sporting events should not be granted in the Interior.

#### 5.3.2.2.4 *Mountain biking*

Mountain biking will be permitted for the public on the section of track linking the Rameka Track with the Wainui Track turn off, and potentially around the Awaroa Inlet (see section 5.1.3.2 'Mountain biking'). While providing a recreational opportunity, mountain biking has the potential to be disruptive to other visitors and to damage tracks, so its effects must be monitored. Concessions for some commercially guided mountain biking activity, appropriate for the Inland Tracks Zone and natural values, may be considered on the Rameka Track – Wainui Track link, provided monitoring shows that the effects of non-commercial mountain biking are minimal and acceptable. A maximum of 8 riders and 1 guide per group should apply.

#### 5.3.2.2.5 *Rivers*

The high biodiversity values and near pristine condition of the rivers in the park are rare in the country and are therefore nationally significant (see section 2.2.1.6 'Freshwater communities'). This means that any proposed concession activity with the potential for adverse effects, including pollution, either chemical or biological (e.g. human waste), biosecurity threats (e.g. Didymo), or physical damage to the river bed or habitats, would be unacceptable and should be declined.

#### 5.3.2.2.6 *Mechanical and electronic noise*

Concession activity associated with mechanical and electronic noise should not be approved in the Interior, as it would adversely affect natural quiet, the character of the recreational settings and other users.

#### 5.3.2.2.7 **Policy**

1. **To ensure that recreation concession activities in the Interior of the park are consistent with the Primary Objectives of this plan and the character of the Recreational Zones, in order to preserve the park's natural, historical, cultural and recreational values.**

#### 5.3.2.2.8 **Implementation**

1. *No recreation concessions, other than guided walking, guided hunting, or guided mountain biking should be granted for the Inland Tracks Zone in the Interior of the park.*
2. *All guided walking concessions for the Inland Tracks Zone should include conditions that limit the maximum number of people per group to 8 clients plus 1 guide.*

3. *Guided hunting concessions may be granted for the Interior of the park, with a maximum of up to 4 clients plus 1 guide per group.*
4. *Any other proposed recreation concessions in the Interior of the park should be carefully considered and groups should be limited and strictly controlled, to be consistent with the Recreational Zones.*
5. *No recreation concessions should be granted for any cave system in the park.*
6. *No concessions for sporting events should be granted in the Interior of the park.*
7. *Applications for commercially guided mountain biking on the section of track linking the Rameka Track with the Wainui Track turn off may be considered if monitoring of recreational bikers shows that effects are minimal and acceptable. Limits should be set at appropriate levels for the recreational setting and the maximum group size should be 8 riders and one guide.*
8. *No recreation concessions involving the use of any rivers in the Interior of the park should be granted where there are any potential adverse effects on natural values.*
9. *No recreation concessions using powered vehicles or equipment and/or producing mechanical or electronic noise in the Interior of the park should be granted.*

#### **5.3.2.2.9 Outcomes**

1. **The Interior of the park retains a high level of natural beauty and tranquillity and recreation concession activities are indistinguishable from other visitor use and have very low impacts.**
2. **Cave systems are protected from visitor impacts.**

#### **5.3.2.3 *The Islands***

(see also section 5.1.4 'Visitor management - The Islands')

##### **5.3.2.3.1 *Preservation***

Public access to the islands and stacks is generally difficult due to natural physical barriers. It is also discouraged because of the special values of islands as sanctuaries for threatened and at risk plants and animals and their sensitivity to damage. Concession activity on the islands, except Adele Island (Motuarero-nui), is considered to be inappropriate, due to their high values and vulnerability.

Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) is a popular place for visitors and it is considered appropriate to allow some recreation concessions on this island only, under strict conditions. These include:

- maximum group size of 16 clients and two guides, limited to the coastal edge of the island (10m from the Mean High Water Mark on the landward side);
- maximum group size of 8 clients and one guide, and no more than 5 groups at the same time, in the interior of the island;
- there is no overnighing;
- all operators should provide either on-board toilet facilities (in the case of motorised or sailing vessels), or portable toilet facilities (in the case of kayaks etc) for all clients landing on the island;
- recognition of the cultural values of the island; and
- all possible steps are taken to ensure that no pests are re-introduced. All concession activities should be consistent with the objectives, recreational setting, and outcomes for the Islands.

The main commercial activities carried out near the islands (but outside the park boundaries) are seal watching and swimming with the seals. These are managed through a permit system under the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations 1992. Permittees can carry out this activity without landing on the islands. Closing Tonga and Pinnacle Islands to the public as Specially Protected Areas will protect the seal breeding colonies (see section 4.1.4.3 'Seals'), but will not affect seal watching permits.

#### **5.3.2.3.2 Policy**

- 1. To preserve the natural values of the islands and stacks.**

#### **5.3.2.3.3 Implementation**

- 1. Concessions for recreational activities on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) may be granted, provided they are in accordance with the conditions set out in section 5.3.2.3.1 'Preservation' above.*
- 2. Applications for recreation concessions for any activities on all other islands or stacks should be declined.*

#### **5.3.2.3.4 Outcomes**

- 1. Appropriate recreation concessions occur on Adele Island (Motuarero-nui) only and its landscape, biodiversity, cultural and historic values are preserved.**
- 2. All other islands and stacks are free from recreation concession activities and their landscape, biodiversity, cultural and historical values are preserved.**

### **5.3.3 Non-recreation concessions**

#### **5.3.3.1 Whole park**

##### **5.3.3.1.1 Private and/or commercial accommodation**

The need to protect park values and the recreational experiences of visitors makes commercial accommodation developments within the park inappropriate. They are not consistent with the Primary Objectives of this plan, or the undeveloped nature of the Recreational Zones of the Coast. The current hut and campsite capacity provides an optimum level of overnight visitor accommodation in the park. A range of private and commercial accommodation is readily available in the adjoining private lands and settlements, complementing the more minimalist accommodation provided in the park.

In addition, under section 17U(4) of the Conservation Act 1987 and General Policy for National Parks 9(d), any applicant for a concession to establish accommodation and related facilities must first show that the facility cannot reasonably be located outside the national park. There is existing commercial accommodation and further opportunities for development are available in the private lands and communities adjacent to the park, so applications for commercial and/or private accommodation in the park should not be granted, either as a concession or as a permit under section 50 of the National Parks Act.

#### **Private baches**

Three private baches exist in the park. These are at Bark Bay (Wairima), Tinline, and Uarau Point (Wainui Bay). They remain because when the land was acquired for the National Park, they were subject to existing occupancy agreements which the Crown agreed to honour. These agreements evolved into lifetime occupancy for these bach owners. There is also a house at Hadfield's Clearing with a lifetime occupancy agreement for the previous owner. There are restrictions on modification and extension of these baches and house. General Policy for National Parks 9(g) states that new accommodation and related facilities, including encampments, for exclusive private use should not be permitted in national parks. General Policy for National Parks 9(h) requires that private accommodation and related facilities located in national parks should be phased out.

Following the expiry of the lifetime occupancy rights, the baches and house will be removed from the park unless, following assessment, they are shown to have significant historical values, in which case the bach or house will be retained by the Department for public use.

#### **Tarakohe Sea Anglers Bach**

The Tarakohe Sea Anglers Club owns a bach at Totaranui under a permit, with no fixed term, issued in 1959 by the now disestablished park board. The existing permit remains a legal contract under section 28(1)(f) of the National Parks Act 1952 and includes restrictions on use, extension

and modification. This occupation needs to be formalised as a concession under the National Parks Act 1980, but may continue as it meets the requirements of General Policy for National Parks 9(a) by being available for public use.

#### *5.3.3.1.2 Structures (other than accommodation)*

Park values must be protected as a priority and private structures are not considered to be appropriate in this park as they are inconsistent with the Primary Objectives of this plan. For private or commercial structures (including utilities), the applicant must first show that there are no practicable alternative sites outside the park and should also show that the structure is in the national interest.

Mitigation measures are required for any approved structural development and these should ensure that the structure, or the building of the structure:

- does not diminish geological, biological, fresh-water, recreation, landscape, archaeological, historical or cultural values;
- is consistent with the Primary Objectives and outcomes sought for places in this plan;
- requires minimal vegetation and earth disturbance;
- is not visually or aurally intrusive;
- is designed to blend in sensitively with the natural environment;
- is coloured in sympathy with the surrounding environment;
- is of high quality (to departmental standards);
- is located away from ridge tops, coastlines and other sensitive areas, or located adjacent to existing structures; and
- complies with relevant legislation.

#### **Utilities**

Utilities include structures and infrastructure for telecommunications, energy generation and transmission, sewage disposal systems, water supply and flood control, hydrological and weather stations. Telecommunication facilities exist at Totaranui, Wainui Inlet and on Gibbs Hill. There are also power lines at Totaranui and Gibbs Hill. Any new utilities would first need to meet the requirements set out above. General Policy for National Parks 10.3(a) states that utilities may be provided for in a national park where:

- they cannot be reasonably established in a location outside the national park or elsewhere in the park where the potential adverse effects would be significantly less;
- they cannot reasonably use an existing structure or facility;
- their provision, uses and the means of access to them is not inconsistent with the recreational uses and opportunities of the site; and
- they have minimal impact on ecological values, scenery and natural features and on the qualities of solitude, remoteness, wilderness, peace and natural quiet.

Utilities must be in the national interest and need to be of a scale, design and colour that harmonises with the landscape and seascape and not have adverse effects on the natural state of the park or its historic and archaeological values. The construction or extension of utilities should also take into account cultural values and avoid detrimental effects on wāhi tapu.

### **Hydroelectric power generation**

The fresh waters of the park are nationally significant because of their near pristine condition and the abundance of native fish species present (see section 2.2.1.6 'Freshwater communities'). Because of this and the Primary Objectives of this plan, neither large nor small scale hydro-electric power generation is seen as appropriate in this national park and applications for such activities should not be approved.

However, easements for the taking of small amounts of water for domestic micro-hydro schemes, for those living adjacent to the park, may be acceptable in some cases, provided that they meet legislative requirements and the following criteria:

- there is no alternative water source available outside the park;
- the generating structure is located outside the park;
- cumulative adverse effects of all water takes (including of domestic purposes) on in-stream values and park values are acceptable;
- adequate fish passage is provided and the entrainment of fish within any intake or outlet structure is avoided;
- any adverse effects on aquatic ecosystems are avoided wherever possible, or otherwise remedied or mitigated; and
- adverse effects are monitored.

Applications should be considered on a case-by-case basis, with special regard to the cumulative effects of such schemes. As a guide, the cumulative take should not exceed 5% of the Mean Annual Low Flow of the stream/river.

#### *5.3.3.1.3 Easements*

The presence of private lands and settlements within the larger park boundaries occasionally results in requests for easements to convey water from rivers and streams within the park for domestic purposes. These may be approved where they are appropriate and do not adversely affect park values. Consideration should be given to potential effects on freshwater habitats, including the cumulative effects of water takes, and the effects of any associated pipe networks on park values.

#### *5.3.3.1.4 Aircraft*

The park is closed to all aircraft landings under existing bylaws, which will be retained, except for management purposes, emergencies, search and rescue, and in accordance with the Defence Training Agreement. Use by the Defence Force is discouraged unless there is a net conservation benefit to the park, such as providing air support for the building of

park facilities. Helicopter hunting for commercial deer recovery may be permitted for specific pest control programmes, of a set duration, where appropriate (see section 4.1.1.4 'Animal pests').

Over-flight of the park by aircraft is outside the control of the Department and is under the jurisdiction of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The Department should advocate to the CAA for the minimum flight level over the park to be raised. The Department also intends to work with aircraft operators to develop operational guidelines for over flying the park to preserve natural quiet, to prevent disturbance to native fauna, and to avoid the effects of engine emissions (see section 5.1.1.6 'Aircraft').

#### *5.3.3.1.5 Commercial filming and photography*

Filming and photography generally focuses on the scenic coastline and is usually undertaken outside the park boundaries. In line with General Policy for National Parks 10.7, commercial filming and photography in the park should be:

- consistent with the character of the Recreational Zone in which it takes place;
- subject to the same conditions as other uses regarding the landing or hovering of aircraft, the use of off road vehicles and animals and the construction of facilities; and
- restricted to the use of existing means of access.

Filming should also be carried out in line with the 'Filming on Public Conservation Lands' Code of Practice, developed jointly by the Department and Film New Zealand (available on the Department's website).

#### *5.3.3.1.6 Quarrying and sand and gravel extraction*

Limestone quarrying occurred historically on the largest of the Tata Islands and granite quarrying occurred at Tonga Bay and on Ngaio Island. However, new applications for such activities are unlikely.

A concession is required for quarrying and for sand and gravel extraction. These activities are not considered to be appropriate in this park, due to the potential for adverse effects on natural values and inconsistency with the Primary Objectives of this plan, and concessions for these activities should not be granted.

#### *5.3.3.1.7 Scientific research*

Scientific research has the potential to provide useful information to assist in the management of plants, animals, habitats, geological features, archaeological and historical sites, pests, and visitors in the park. Scientists and organisations outside the Department require a concession to undertake scientific research in the park and may also require a permit under section 5 of the National Parks Act 1980 if they wish to take plant or animal samples (see section 5.3.4.1.1 'Scientific research').

Applications for scientific research and monitoring should be allowed where it:

- informs national park and conservation management, contributes to interpretation and education, or improves knowledge of natural processes;
- does not pose unacceptable risks to, and has little adverse impact on, national park values; and
- does not significantly affect the benefit, use and enjoyment of the public.

This is in accordance with the provisions of legislation and General Policy for National Parks 11(a).

#### **5.3.3.1.8 Policy**

1. **To ensure non-recreation concession activities in the park are appropriate and consistent with the Primary Objectives of this plan in order to preserve the natural, cultural, recreational and historical values of the park.**

#### **5.3.3.1.9 Implementation**

1. *Any applications for new private and/or commercial accommodation in the park should be declined.*
2. *Lifetime occupation licences should be issued to the current bach licencees and all private occupation terminated on the expiry of those occupation rights.*
3. *Any of the three private baches or the house at Hadfield's Clearing that have significant historical values will be retained by the Department for public use and all others will be removed on the expiry of the private occupation rights.*
4. *The existing occupation permit for the Tarakohe Sea Anglers bach at Totaranui may continue and will be formalised as a concession under the National Parks Act 1980.*
5. *Any new structures should meet the requirements and criteria set out under section 5.3.3.1.2 'Structures (other than accommodation)' above.*
6. *Applications for utilities should be considered in terms of the requirements and criteria set out under section 5.3.3.1.2 'Structures (other than accommodation)' above.*
7. *Applications for large or small scale hydro-electric power generation should be declined.*
8. *Applications for easements for domestic micro-hydro schemes should be considered on a case-by-case basis, provided they meet the criteria listed in sections 5.3.3.1.2 'Structures (other than accommodation) - Hydroelectric power generation' and 5.3.3.1.3 'Easements' above.*
9. *Applications for easements to convey water may be granted where appropriate and where national park values are preserved.*

10. *The Defence Force will be discouraged from using the airspace above the park for training flights, and any Defence Force activities should comply with the Defence Training Agreement.*
11. *Advocate to the Civil Aviation Authority for the minimum flight level above the park to be raised.*
12. *Work with aircraft operators to develop operational guidelines to avoid or minimise flights over the park to preserve natural quiet, prevent disturbance to native fauna, and to avoid the effects of engine emissions.*
13. *Applications for filming and photography should be considered with regard to the factors listed in section 5.3.3.1.5 'Commercial filming and photography' above.*
14. *Any applications for quarrying, or gravel or sand extraction activities in the park should be declined.*
15. *Applications for scientific research concessions should be granted where they meet the criteria in General Policy for National Parks 11(a).*

#### **5.3.3.1.10 Outcomes**

1. **There is no commercial and/or private accommodation in the park.**
2. **Any structures (such as telecommunication towers or water pipes) that must be located in the park have minimal visual impacts and do not adversely affect other park values.**
3. **There is no hydro-electric power generation in the park.**

#### **5.3.4 Other authorisations**

##### **5.3.4.1 Whole park**

Some activities in the park are not encompassed by section 49 of the National Parks Act 1980 and are not termed 'concessions'. A permit from the Minister is required, under section 5 of the National Parks Act 1980, for the cutting or taking of plant material, and the trapping, killing, or taking of animals. A permit under section 53 of the Wildlife Act 1953 is also required where an application is made to take living or dead native animals or birds. In addition, a permit under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations is required for the taking of freshwater fish. Such permits are also required for customary use (see section 3.2 'Customary use'). Other authorities may also be required under other Acts or Regulations.

A precautionary approach is appropriate in a national park. Where little is known about a species or the effects of an activity or use, then that use should not be permitted.

#### *5.3.4.1.1 Scientific research*

Scientists and organisations outside the Department require a concession to undertake scientific research in the park (see section 5.3.3.1.7 'Scientific research'). They also require a permit under section 5 of the National Parks Act 1980 if they wish to take plant or animal samples, or trap animals. In addition, they will need a permit under section 53 of the Wildlife Act 1953 if they wish to move, take, or capture animal species protected under that Act.

Although the primary mandate of the Department is to protect the park in its natural state, which makes the taking of native plants or animals generally inappropriate, improving the management of indigenous species, habitats, ecosystems and natural features in the park is important. Applications to take samples for scientific purposes should be allowed where it is in accordance with the provisions of the legislation, General Policy for National Parks 11(d), and the Primary Objectives and Outcomes of this plan. Collection should be essential and not able to be carried out outside the park, the amounts to be collected should be minor and the adverse effects on park values minimal.

#### *5.3.4.1.2 Eel fishing*

The native long-fin eel, which occurs throughout the park, is an at risk species and declining nation-wide because of fishing pressure and habitat loss. A permit under section 5 of the National Parks Act 1980, as well as a permit under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, would be required to take eels from the park. However, there is no record of any past commercial eel fishing within the park and it is not considered to be an appropriate activity, due to the vulnerability of the species and the high natural values of the freshwaters in the park. In addition, indigenous animals in national parks are to be preserved as far as possible. Any applications for eel fishing should be declined.

#### *5.3.4.1.3 Sports fishing and game bird hunting*

The Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council manage trout fishing and game bird hunting and issue the required licences. Trout fishing in the park is not a popular sport and trout are only present in limited numbers in the Awaroa and Marahau Rivers. Due to the nationally significant biodiversity values of the waterways in the park and the general lack of introduced fish (see section 2.2.1.6 'Freshwater communities'), any application by the Fish and Game Council for the release of sports fish into the park, under section 26ZM of the Conservation Act, is considered to be inappropriate and should be declined by the Minister of Conservation.

The hunting of introduced game birds in the park is supported, in line with General Policy for National Parks 8.4(b), which requires that populations of indigenous species are not adversely affected; visitor safety is not put at risk; and a valid licence is held.

#### 5.3.4.1.4 Mining

The Crown Minerals Act 1991 (section 61(1A)) prohibits the Minister of Conservation from entering into any access arrangement for mining within the Abel Tasman National Park. This effectively prohibits mining in the park.

However, the Minister can permit a few low impact, small-scale activities, which include:

- construction, use, maintenance, or rehabilitation of an emergency exit or service shaft for underground mining activities which may extend beneath the park from outside, where they cannot be safely located elsewhere;
- the removal of no more than 16 m<sup>2</sup> of vegetation, with no permanent adverse impact on the profile or surface of the land;
- minimum impact activities;
- gold fossicking carried out in a designated area; and
- activities carried out in accordance with a special purpose mining permit for demonstrating historic mining methods.

Mining has never taken place in Abel Tasman National Park, but there was some gold mining adjacent to the park in the Canaan area.

The park is unlikely to come under pressure for mining activities in the future. However, in assessing any application for the limited range of mining activities allowed for by the Crown Minerals Act, the national park status of the land and the Primary Objectives of this management plan, as well as the actual and potential adverse effects of any such activity on the natural, recreational, historical and cultural values of the park should be taken into account and such applications should be declined.

#### 5.3.4.1.5 Policy

1. **To ensure authorities and permits are appropriate and consistent with the Primary Objectives of this plan in order to preserve the intrinsic natural, historical, recreational and cultural values of the park.**

#### 5.3.4.1.6 Implementation

1. *Applications to take plants or animals, or parts thereof, for scientific research should be granted where it is in accordance with the primary purposes of a national park, General Policy for National Parks 11(d), and the Primary Objectives and Outcomes of this plan.*
2. *Any applications for eel fishing in the park should be declined.*
3. *Liaise with the Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council regarding the management of permits involving sports fish and/or game birds, in line with this management plan.*

4. *Any applications for the release of sports fish into the waters of the park should be declined, in terms of section 26ZM(3) of the Conservation Act 1987.*
5. *Any applications for mining activities in the park should be declined.*

**5.3.4.1.7 Outcomes**

1. Park values are preserved and not adversely affected by activities such as scientific research or sports fishing.
2. There is no mining, eel fishing or sports fish releases in the park.

## 6. Community relations

(See also section 1.2.8 'Other bodies with administrative responsibilities')

The Department administers the park under the National Parks Act 1980. The park is also within the jurisdiction of the Tasman District Council under the Resource Management Act. In terms of the Resource Management Act, the Department can advocate, through the planning processes carried out by Tasman District Council, for the protection of natural values and the control of activities outside the park that could potentially have adverse effects on natural values within the park.

The park has several communities of various sizes located close to its boundaries, including Kaiteriteri, Marahau, Pohara, Takaka and Motueka. There are also private lands and settlements within the larger park boundaries at Anchorage, Awaroa and Torrent Bay (Rakauroa). Nelson is the closest city to the park.

In addition, the Department can carry out land use activities within the park, as a permitted activity under the Resource Management Act, provided it is in accordance with the Conservation Management Strategy.

### 6.1 WHOLE PARK

#### 6.1.1 Local economies

The presence of the national park provides significant benefits to the surrounding communities, particularly in terms of bringing tourism and its associated income to the area. A study in 2005<sup>4</sup> showed that the Abel Tasman National Park contributed 45 million dollars a year to the Nelson/Tasman region. Use of the park also provided 370 full time job equivalents, which in turn contributed 11 million dollars per year in extra household income to the region.

The management of the park can therefore have an effect on the economy of communities, both local and regional. It is important for the Department to foster a constructive relationship with these communities and commercial operators and, where possible, allow for their use of the park for activities that do not adversely affect the natural and heritage values of the park. It is important for the communities located on the periphery of the park to feel a sense of being involved in the management of the park and the protection of its natural values.

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<sup>4</sup> "Regional Economic Impacts of Abel Tasman National Park and Queen Charlotte Track", Butcher Partners Ltd, July 2005.

### **6.1.2 Consultation**

Consultation is an ongoing and evolving process which calls for regular meetings and liaison with affected and interested parties and key stakeholders such as the local community (through Community Forums), Tasman District Council, tangata whenua, neighbouring landowners, farming, conservation and recreation groups, tourism organisations and commercial operators. Such consultation is required in order to achieve effective management of the park and public support for that management regime.

### **6.1.3 Neighbouring lands**

There are private lands and small settlements surrounded by the park (on their landward boundaries). The people who live in these areas value the park environment and their lifestyle choice, so their interests and experiences need to be protected, along with those of the visitors.

The park provides benefits to neighbouring lands including ecosystem services such as carbon absorption, water filtration, reduced flooding and sediment generation, landscape stability, soil conservation and amenity values. Communities and adjacent land managers provide benefits to the park in terms of assistance with pest control (e.g. at Torrent Bay (Rakauroa)) and ecological restoration. However, neighbouring lands and the park can also have adverse effects on each other. Neighbouring lands can have adverse effects on the park through increasing visitor numbers, commercial use, runoff, wandering stock, pollutants, and weed spread. Conversely, the park harbours some plant and animal pests which may encroach onto neighbouring land, increasing maintenance costs for land owners.

Private lodges and other commercial accommodation for visitors to the park are located in the adjacent private lands and settlements. Future development of the surrounding lands and the settlements at Awaroa, Anchorage and Torrent Bay (Rakauroa) and in several other small bays will have a marked effect on the nature and level of use of the park. The Department should continue to advocate for a management regime in the adjacent private lands and settlements that is complementary to that for the park. The most important issues are the type and scale of business development permitted in these areas, restrictions on subdivision and environmental constraints on any building or site modifications.

The scale of development, particularly buildings, should be in keeping with the landscape. Therefore, the Department would generally oppose tall or visually intrusive buildings within the adjacent private lands and settlements. Some examples of types of development that would be opposed are those that are noisy, industrial, or polluting.

Further development may also result in additional requests for water takes from within the park. In some areas, water takes from the streams have already reached maximum levels and no further takes are desirable due to adverse effects on freshwater values. This may effectively place a limit on development in some areas (see section 5.3.3.1.3 'Easements').

Three baches and one house with lifetime tenure licences are located within the park and they are to be removed on the expiry of those tenures unless they are found to have historical values (see section 5.3.3.1.1 'Private and/or commercial accommodation – private baches').

#### **6.1.4 Coastal waters**

Coastal waters adjacent to the park are under the jurisdiction of Tasman District Council. The Department should advocate for appropriate controls and rules in Council plans to ensure that management of the adjacent coastal waters is complementary to the management approach for the park. Particularly in relation to the minimisation of mechanical and electronic noise, boat wakes, pollution, commercial and non-commercial activities (see also sections 5.1.2.10 'Advocacy' and 6.2.3 'Adjacent coastal waters').

#### **6.1.5 School groups**

Schools need to be informed of the new booking system for the Coast Track and the new rules regarding group sizes in the different Recreational Zones in the park (see also section 5.1.2.11 'Educational and other large groups').

#### **6.1.6 Fencing**

Fencing provides important protection to the park from wandering stock. The Fencing Act 1978 does not require the Department to share the cost of boundary fencing. However, the Department has a policy of working with landowners on a case-by-case basis and negotiating, subject to resources, assistance with fencing costs. Priority should be given to high risk boundaries, such as deer farms, and the maintenance of boundary fences to a high standard should be encouraged.

#### **6.1.7 Policy**

- 1. To establish and maintain a constructive relationship with commercial operators, local communities, neighbours, Tasman District Council and associates, to preserve the natural, cultural and heritage values of the park and enhance opportunities for these groups to be involved in park management.**

#### **6.1.8 Implementation**

- 1. Meet with tangata whenua, local communities, Tasman District Council, associates and key stakeholders on a regular basis with regard to the implementation of this management plan and issues of common concern.*
- 2. Work with neighbouring communities on pest control and ecological restoration projects where practicable.*
- 3. Seek provisions in the Tasman Resource Management Plan to protect natural quiet, water quality and quantity, and other natural and amenity values within the park and adjacent coastal area.*

4. *Continue to work with and advocate to Tasman District Council for controls on development within adjacent private lands and settlements so that it is of a type and scale that complements park management objectives.*
5. *Inform schools about the new booking system and encourage group sizes of no more than 16 plus supervisors in the park.*
6. *Encourage landowners to fence and maintain their boundaries adjoining the park to a high standard and work with them on a case-by-case basis to consider assisting with fencing costs, giving priority to high risk boundaries.*

#### **6.1.9 Outcome**

1. **The values of the park are preserved through communities, stakeholders and the Department working together.**

## **6.2 THE COAST**

(see also section 2.1 'The Coast')

### **6.2.1 Totaranui Road**

The Totaranui Road is an unsealed, narrow and winding public road maintained by Tasman District Council and can be subject to closure due to slips and windfalls. The Council has done some upgrading but the nature of the road helps to conserve the undeveloped camping experience at Totaranui. Further surface upgrading or widening is not desirable.

The Department should seek to stop (under Section 116 of the Public Works Act 1981) part of Totaranui Road, from the point where it leaves the formed road at the start of the Totaranui Campground, and add it to the national park. Unformed roads were transferred to Tasman District Council, without compensation, under Section 316 of the Local Government Act 1974 (LGA). The Government retained the right of the Crown to take back (resume) the roads at no cost (Sections 323 and 345 of the LGA). Action should be undertaken in liaison with the Minister of Lands, and written consent sought from Tasman District Council, to stop the roads.

Adding this part of the road to the park will enable the Department to control activities and prevent commercialisation of the area, particularly the hawking of goods and parking of campervans, which currently occur on the road and detract from the character of the park and the recreational setting.

### **6.2.2 Moncrieff covenant**

Perrine Moncrieff set aside her 195 hectare property near the Astrolabe Roadstead as a private scenic reserve in 1936 and began the campaign that led to the formation of the Abel Tasman National Park in 1942. In

1995 the Moncrieff family registered a protective conservation covenant over the whole 195ha property.

The covenant allows the public to pass through the Moncrieff property on the Coast Track, between Akersten Bay and Anchorage, and on to Watering Cove, as well as on the Torrent Bay/Holyoake Clearing Track that links up with the Inland Track. There is also a campsite and several short tracks in the area. An agreement with the land owners allows the Department to manage all these facilities for public use and also provides for the co-ordination of pest control programmes. Ongoing liaison with the owners of the Moncrieff property is essential to the management of the park, particularly the track network, to ensure that a consistent approach is applied to both the park and the private land.

### **6.2.3 Adjacent coastal waters**

The Coast is an important focus for activities within and adjacent to the park, and activities on the water form an important part of the visitor experience. Commercial water-based activities within the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve will be jointly managed by the Department and Tasman District Council. This includes controls on the use of commercial vessels that complement visitor and recreation concession management in the park.

Commercial water-based activities outside of the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve and all recreational water-based activities in the coastal waters are the responsibility of Tasman District Council and Maritime New Zealand. Tasman District Council manages these activities through their Navigation Safety Bylaws and the provisions of the Tasman Resource Management Plan. The main water-based issues relate to potential conflicts between water skiers, swimmers, kayakers, fishers, personal watercraft and other motorised vessels and other water users; and the noise, wash and pollution resulting from some water-based activities. Water safety and biosecurity are also issues, due to the large number and variety of vessels using the area.

Integration of the administration of the coastal waters with that of the park and Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve will improve management along the Coast. The Department should work with Tasman District Council to manage activities on the foreshore and coastal waters where activities may adversely affect national park values and land-based activities.

### **6.2.4 Water skiing**

There are water ski lanes at Stilwell Bay, Adele Island (Motuareronui), Totaranui and Browns Beach (adjacent to Anchorage). Ideally the Department would prefer that water ski lanes were not located adjacent to the park and opposes the introduction of any new ski lanes around the coast adjacent to the park. However, the Department supports the control and management of water skiing and the towing of other aquatic equipment in a way that ensures the effects are minimised.

### **6.2.5 Discharges from boats**

The discharge of sewage and the dropping of litter from private and commercial boats adjacent to the park are of concern. The Resource Management (Marine Pollution) Regulations 1998 require boats to go more than 500m off shore, and more than 200m from Tonga Island Marine Reserve, before discharging sewage. The Department should advocate for the active enforcement of these regulations.

### **6.2.6 Water and land-based commercial activity**

The potential to operate commercial enterprises on the water and adjacent private land is of concern, as the Department cannot manage their impacts on the adjoining park. For instance floating shops, bars, equipment rental operations and accommodation have the potential to increase visitor use and crowding of the adjacent park facilities, to intrude visually, to create noise and to pollute the surrounding waters and generally detract from the enjoyment of the Coast in its natural state. There are two existing floating accommodation operations. The Department should advocate to Tasman District Council that there be no further, and no increase in the number or scale of, commercial enterprises permitted in waters adjacent to the park.

There are commercial vessels transporting tens of thousands of visitors per year to the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve adjoining the park. These visitors, often day visitors, can have a big impact on the recreational experiences of other visitors in the park. The Department should work with Tasman District Council to ensure that commercial vessels only use the bays zoned Coastal Access Points, for picking up and dropping off passengers and equipment, with some exceptions in the South Coast Zone (see sections 5.1.2.3 'Recreational Zones for the Coast' and 5.3.2.1 'Recreation concessions – The Coast').

The Department, in association with Tasman District Council, will be able to manage commercial and other activities that occur on the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve. However, the Department cannot control freedom kayak rentals (non-guided) through this management plan and should work with the Tasman District Council to manage this activity (see section '5.3.2.1.5 'Freedom kayak rental').

The Department will continue to work with and advocate to Tasman District Council to manage activities on the coastal waters and private land adjacent to the park in an integrated manner.

### **6.2.7 Moorings, jetties and boat ramps**

Moorings are administered by Tasman District Council and exist at several points along the Abel Tasman Coast, mostly adjoining private land and settlements, which is appropriate. Elsewhere, they can detract from the scenic values of the park and the Department should oppose applications for moorings on parts of the coast directly adjoining the park.

Jetties and boat ramps are within the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve and are administered by Tasman District Council and the Department under the Reserves Act 1977, as well as the Council's responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991. Therefore, a concession, as well as a resource consent, will be required for any private structure within the reserve. There are no jetties along the coast directly adjoining the park, but there are several adjoining the private lands and settlements. The only boat ramp adjoining the park is at Totaranui and is maintained by the Department. Although road access for boat launching is limited to Totaranui and Awaroa, pressure exists at various places to allow boat ramps and jetties so that visitors can haul boats from the water, at least overnight. Such structures can interfere with coastal processes and can be a major intrusion on the natural character of the Coast. For these reasons, a concession should not be granted for any new structures within the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve where it directly adjoins the park.

Moorings, jetties and ramps within the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve adjoining private land and settlements are appropriate in certain circumstances. However, any application for a concession should be considered on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the potential adverse effects of the structures on the coastal environment and the natural character of the neighbouring national park.

#### **6.2.8 Policy**

- 1. To work with adjacent communities, Tasman District Council and other stakeholders to manage the park, the foreshore and coastal waters adjacent to the park in an integrated manner.**

#### **6.2.9 Implementation**

- 1. Advocate for routine maintenance of the Totaranui Road to a high standard, but oppose major upgrading or sealing.*
- 2. Seek to stop that part of Totaranui Road that lies within the Totaranui Campground area, and add it to the national park.*
- 3. Liaise with the managers of the Moncrieff property regarding pest control and the management of public facilities undertaken by the Department on the covenanted land.*
- 4. Maintain liaison and good working relationships with adjacent landowners regarding issues of concern to either the Department or the landowners.*
- 5. Work with Tasman District Council to manage activities on the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve, adjacent private land and coastal waters which may adversely affect national park values and land-based activities.*
- 6. Oppose the provision of any further water-ski lanes adjacent to the park.*

7. *Advocate to Tasman District Council for active enforcement of all maritime regulations.*
8. *Advocate to Tasman District Council to prohibit further water-based commercial operations on coastal waters adjacent to the park that are likely to adversely affect park values.*
9. *Work with Tasman District Council to achieve integrated management of activities on the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve and coastal waters adjacent to the park.*
10. *Work with Tasman District Council to prevent the construction of further structures such as boat ramps and jetties along the coast directly adjoining the park.*

#### **6.2.10 Outcomes**

1. There is integrated management of the park and adjacent foreshore and coastal waters.
2. Activities on adjacent lands and waters do not compromise park values.

# 7. Administration, implementation & review

## 7.1 WHOLE PARK

The Department administers the park primarily under the National Parks Act 1980, but also other Acts, the General Policy for National Parks 2005, other General Policies, and the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy. Management of the park requires the Department to undertake a range of administrative activities to meet its legislative obligations and to implement this management plan and other strategies.

### 7.1.1 The Conservation Board

The Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board is comprised of private individuals appointed by the Minister. Members come from diverse backgrounds such as conservation, tourism, farming and business, and are drawn from the local communities including the tangata whenua of the area.

The role of the Conservation Board is to advise the Department and to carry out statutory duties relating to the approval of management plans and strategies. The Conservation Board also oversees the implementation of management plans and strategies and ensures that the Department fulfils its obligations through the annual Business Plan.

### 7.1.2 Implementation and review

The Department puts management priorities identified in the Conservation Management Strategy and management plans into effect through the annual Business Plan. Each year every Conservancy prepares a business plan setting out the activities it intends to complete in that financial year. This forms the basis for managing finances allocated to the Department and directed for use in the Conservancy.

An annual appropriation from Parliament funds the Department's work, in accordance with a purchase agreement between the Director-General and the Minister of Conservation to carry out an agreed range of activities that the Minister and the government of the day want the Department to achieve.

One of the main purposes of this management plan is to provide a guide to the priorities the Department will pursue in Abel Tasman National Park over the next ten years. This management plan establishes outcomes that the Department will aim to achieve. Annual business plans will seek to reach these outcomes as personnel and finances permit and depending on the priorities of the government of the day.

This management plan has a statutory term of 10 years from the date of its approval by the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA). To keep up with increased knowledge and changing circumstances it may require periodic review and amendment, which can occur as a whole or in part. This is likely to occur within ten years due to the significant issues associated with the management of the Abel Tasman National Park. Major amendments will require a full public consultation process. However, where an amendment is of a minor nature and does not alter the general intent of the document it requires only the approval of the Conservation Board and the NZCA in terms of section 46(5) of the National Parks Act.

### **7.1.3 Priorities**

Priorities in any one year may vary from those set out in the Conservation Management Strategy and this management plan, according to national priorities and the extent to which the Department completed priorities in previous years. Threats to natural, historical and recreational values, finances, national priorities and many other factors can redirect the priorities from year to year. The Department will implement this management plan within these constraints.

### **7.1.4 Compliance and law enforcement**

In order for the park to receive the level of protection accorded to it under the National Parks Act, the Department seeks to discourage offences through education. Should an offence occur it can be pursued through law enforcement. Conservation Rangers and warranted Compliance and Law Enforcement officers of the Department are responsible for dealing with offences in the park.

### **7.1.5 Unformed legal roads**

There are several unformed legal roads within the park and for consistency of management it is desirable that some of these, as shown on Map 5 (page 163), be added to the national park. These unformed legal roads are administered by Tasman District Council, but the Department can request that these roads be stopped and added to the park where they do not provide access to other properties.

A few private baches are located on some of the unformed legal roads administered by Tasman District Council. There is no intention to seek to have those parts of the road, where the baches are located, added to the park while the baches are occupied, in line with whatever authorisations or agreements the owners may have with Tasman District Council. These roads are therefore not shown on Map 5 (page 163).

### **7.1.6 Additions to the park**

The Department should seek to add the following areas of land and waters to the Abel Tasman National Park through the processes outlined in the National Parks Act 1980 (sections 7 – 9):

- Areas of existing conservation land adjacent to the park that meet national park criteria. This includes, within the lifetime of this plan, those areas of the Canaan Downs Scenic Reserve that meet national park criteria and where existing recreational use can continue;
- The rivers identified in Map 5 (page 163), in order to be able to protect the significant natural values of these waters;
- The areas of accreted and unalienated Crown land between the current coastal boundary of the park and the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve, including such areas as Apple Tree Bay; and
- Land adjacent to the park, which meets the criteria for national park status that becomes available to the Department in the future.

#### **7.1.7 Staff facilities**

The camp office, staff houses, and workshop area at Totaranui are on national park land (see insert, Map 3, page 87). In these areas some routine activities can be in contravention of the National Parks Act 1980, unless specifically allowed for. Under section 50(1)(c) of the National Parks Act 1980 and General Policy for National Parks 9(b) the Minister can authorise the erection of accommodation for the use of rangers or other staff involved in administration, control or management of the park and the facilities related to this accommodation, such as having a private vegetable garden. The use of vehicles off formed roads is provided for by a bylaw.

There are four wardens' huts on the Coast Track, these are at Anchorage, Bark Bay (Wairima), Awaroa and Whariwharangi. The Department intends to continue to maintain these, but not expand them.

#### **7.1.8 Bylaws**

In terms of the National Parks Act, the Minister may make bylaws for park management that are consistent with the management plan. This management plan recommends a number of bylaws in order to give effect to the implementation statements. The 1981 bylaws for the park will need to be replaced, to be consistent with this management plan.

#### **7.1.9 Signs**

The Department will need to produce all signage relating to the park to its national sign standards, and locate them in safe and appropriate locations on public conservation land. The Department will liaise with Transit New Zealand and Tasman District Council regarding signs on roadsides.

#### **7.1.10 Communications**

The Department relies on radio communication within the park and may require the installation of repeater stations to enhance communication systems for operational or search and rescue purposes. In constructing any such structures, the Department will need to consult with stakeholders and follow the guidelines for building structures as set out in section 5.2.1.1 'Facilities'.

### **7.1.11 Helicopter and vehicle use**

The Department utilises helicopters and other vehicles for park management purposes. Helicopter over-flight and vehicle noise can have adverse effects on the experiences of some visitors. In order to minimise effects the Department should, where practicable, seek to carry out activities requiring vehicles or helicopter support at times of the day or year when visitors are least likely to be disturbed by the noise and visual effects.

### **7.1.12 Hazards**

General Policy for National Parks 7 deals with natural hazards in national parks. Policy 7(c) states that when a high level of risk to people, places, taonga or property from a natural hazard in a national park has been identified, the Department should develop a hazard and risk management plan. A hazard and risk management plan should be developed for the Totaranui Campground as a high priority, given the high use of facilities and the potential for flooding. A hazard and risk management plan should also be developed for the park as a whole, during the life of this plan.

### **7.1.13 Policies**

- 1. To administer the park in line with the National Parks Act 1980, any other relevant legislation, the General Policy for National Parks, the Conservation Management Strategy, and this management plan.**
- 2. To implement this management plan through the annual Business Plan and maintain its integrity through review and amendment where necessary.**

### **7.1.14 Implementation**

- 1. Manage the park in line with relevant legislation, General Policies, and this management plan.*
- 2. Ensure that annual business planning for the park reflects the priorities set out in this management plan.*
- 3. Report to the Conservation Board on the implementation of this plan on an annual basis.*
- 4. Review or amend this management plan where changes in circumstance or legislation, or new knowledge cause the provisions in the plan to become inconsistent with legislation, outdated or irrelevant.*
- 5. Undertake a full review of this management plan within ten years of the date of approval.*
- 6. Carry out compliance and law enforcement activities in the park in line with the National Parks Act, other relevant legislation, and any bylaws.*

# Map 5 – Adjacent protected land and proposed additions to Abel Tasman National Park



7. *Seek to stop and incorporate the unformed legal roads within the park shown on Map 5 (page 163), following liaison with Tasman District Council.*
8. *Seek to add the adjacent lands and waters identified in section 7.1.6 'Additions to the park', which meets the necessary criteria, to Abel Tasman National Park.*
9. *Retain the hut wardens' quarters and maintain at their present sizes.*
10. *Seek relevant amendments to any existing bylaws and the passing of any new bylaws necessary to facilitate the implementation of this management plan.*
11. *Ensure signs are produced to Departmental national design standards and that the siting of any roadside signs complies with Tasman District Council and Transit New Zealand requirements.*
12. *Carry out consultation with stakeholders prior to the construction of communication facilities for Departmental use, and ensure that the communication facilities comply with the relevant requirements listed in section 5.2.1.1 'Facilities', regarding minimising adverse effects on park values.*
13. *Seek to minimise the effects of helicopter and vehicle use by the Department on visitors, where practicable.*
14. *Develop a hazard and risk management plan for the Totaranui Campground and other areas as and when necessary, in line with General Policy for National Parks 7.*

#### **7.1.15 Outcomes**

1. **The park is managed in accordance with this management plan and relevant legislation, General Policy for National Parks and the Conservation Management Strategy.**
2. **This management plan is implemented to the satisfaction of the Conservation Board.**



# Glossary

**access (public):** On foot only unless otherwise qualified.

**activity:** Includes a trade, business, or occupation. (National Parks Act 1980)

**advocacy:** The collective term for work done to promote conservation to the public and outside agencies by the Department of Conservation, Conservation Boards and the New Zealand Conservation Authority. Advocacy includes taking part in land use planning processes and using a range of methods to inform and educate the public and visitors on conservation issues.

**agreement:** Mutual understanding; covenant; treaty; arrangement undertaken by and legally binding on parties. (The Concise Oxford Dictionary)

**aircraft:** Any machine 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. (Civil Aviation Act 1990)

**archaeological site:** A site that was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900; or is the site of a wreck of any vessel where that wreck occurred before 1900; and is or may be able through investigation by archaeological means to provide evidence relating to the history of New Zealand. (Historic Places Act 1993)

**Astrolabe Roadstead:** The coastal area between Adele Island (Motuareronui) and the mainland.

**at risk (species):** Taxa that, although declining, have small populations or have small areas of occupancy, but are not facing imminent extinction. There are four 'at risk' categories: Declining; Recovering; Relict; and Naturally Uncommon.

**bareboat charter:** A vessel that is offered for hire or reward and is not accompanied by a guide and/or skipper. It does not include freedom kayaks or other similar self-propelled vessels.

**biodiversity/biological diversity:** The variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems. (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992)

**commercial vessel:** A vessel that is offered for hire or reward and is accompanied by a guide and/or skipper.

**community (biotic):** A recognisable group of plants and animals living together in one place.

**concession or concession document:** A lease, licence, permit or an easement granted under Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987 with reference to section 49 of the National Parks Act 1980, to enable the carrying out of a trade, occupation or business, and includes any activity authorised by the concession document.

**concessionaire:** A person who is: a lessee; or a licensee; or a permit holder; or the grantee of an easement, under Part IIIB of the Conservation Act with reference to section 49 of the National Parks Act 1980.

**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 the Conservation Act 1987 and the National Parks Act 1980 (sections 6M and 6N, Conservation Act 1987 and section 30, National Parks Act 1980)

**consultation:** An invitation to give advice and consideration of that advice. To achieve consultation, sufficient information must be supplied and sufficient time allowed by the consulting party to those consulted to enable them to tender helpful advice. It involves an ongoing dialogue. It does not necessarily mean acceptance of the other party's view, but enables informed decision-making by having regard to those views. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**containment:** Ongoing control to prevent a species spreading beyond a defined distribution. (Department of Conservation Strategic Plan for Managing Invasive Weeds, 1998)

**cultural:** Societal values with an emphasis on New Zealand/European history and Māori tikanga that are handed down through the generations. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**cumulative effects:** An effect which arises over time or in combination with other effects (section 3, Resource Management Act 1991). (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**customary use:** Gathering and use of natural resources by tangata whenua according to tikanga. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**declining:** Moderate to large population and low ongoing or predicted decline; or large population and low to moderate ongoing or predicted decline; or very large population and low to high ongoing or predicted decline.

**Department:** Department of Conservation.

**Director-General:** Director-General of Conservation.

**ecology:** The study of organisms in relation to one another and to their surroundings. (NZ Pocket Oxford Dictionary)

**ecosystem:** A biological system comprising a community of living organisms and its associated non-living environment, interacting as an ecological unit. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**effect:** Regardless of the scale, intensity, duration, or frequency of the effect, includes: any positive or adverse effect; any temporary or permanent effect; any past, present, or future effect; any cumulative effect which arises over time or in combination with other effects. Also includes any potential effect of high probability and any potential effect of low probability which has a high potential impact. (Resource Management Act 1991)

**endemic:** Refers to species of plants and animals which are unique to an area or animals which may migrate but breed only in the area. (Red Data Book of New Zealand 1981)

**Environmental Care Code:** guidelines published by the Department (and available on the website [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)) to help visitors protect the natural environment.

**eradication:** The permanent removal of all individuals of a species from an area. It differs from zero-density as control has a definite end point because there is little or no likelihood of reinvasion. (Department of Conservation Strategic Plan for Managing Invasive Weeds, 1998)

**excessive noise:** Any noise produced by a machine or electronic device that is under human control and is of such a nature as to unreasonably disturb or annoy any person.

**exotic:** Introduced species, including indigenous species that are not native to the Abel Tasman National Park.

**fauna:** Animals of a region. (Concise Oxford Dictionary)

**flora:** Plants of a region or environment. (Concise Oxford Dictionary)

**foreshore:** Any land covered and uncovered by the flow and ebb of the tide at mean spring tides and, in relation to any such land that forms part of the bed of a river, does not include any area that is not part of the coastal marine area (section 2, Resource Management Act 1991 to which section 2, National Parks Act 1980 refers as successor to the Harbours Act 1950). (General Policy for National Parks, 2005) In relation to the Abel Tasman National Park, the boundary between the park and the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve is the Mean High Water Mark.

**fossil:** A relic or representation of a plant or animal that existed in a past geological age, occurring in the form of mineralised bones, shells, etc.

**freedom:** Non-guided activity, which may involve the rental of equipment (e.g. kayaks) for use in, or for access to, the park.

**freshwater fish:** Includes finfish and shellfish which must at any time in the life history of the species inhabit freshwater, and includes finfish and shellfish that seasonally migrate into and out of freshwater. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**General Policy for National Parks:** A policy to implement the National Parks Act 1980 and to provide consistent national direction for the administration of national parks through conservation management strategies and national park management plans. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**geo-preservation site:** A site that is recognised as having such significance for the interpretation and understanding of New Zealand geological or landforming processes, that it is listed in the New Zealand Geo-preservation Inventory as worthy of protection.

**Great Walks:** The Department's premier walking tracks, through some of New Zealand's most striking conservation places. The huts and tracks on the Great Walks are of a higher standard than other tramping tracks, and many of the Great Walks have booking systems to manage visitor pressure.

**habitat:** The environment within which a particular species or group of species live. It includes the physical and biotic characteristics that are relevant to the species concerned. For example, the habitat of the short-jawed and giant kōkopu consists of clean, clear water with an abundance of freshwater insects.

**hapū:** Sub-tribe, clan.

**heritage landscape:** a landscape, or network of sites, which has heritage significance to communities, tangata whenua, and/or the nation.

**historic area:** an area of land that (a) Contains an inter-related group of historic places; and (b) Forms part of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand; and (c) Lies within the territorial limits of New Zealand. (section 2, Historic Places Act 1993)

**historic place:** (a) Means: i) any land (including an archaeological site); or ii) any building or structure (including part of a building or structure); or iii) any combination of land and a building or structure; or iv) any combination of land, buildings or structures, and associated buildings or structures (including any part of those buildings or structures, or associated buildings or structures) - that forms a place that is part of the historical and cultural heritage of New Zealand and lies within the territorial limits of New Zealand; and (b) Includes anything that is in or fixed to such land. (section 2, Historic Places Act 1993)

**historic resource:** An historic place within the meaning of the Historic Places Act 1993. Includes any interest in an historic resource. (Conservation Act 1987)

**historical and cultural heritage:** Any building or other structure, archaeological site, natural feature, wāhi tapu, or object, associated with people, traditions, events or ideas, which contributes to an understanding of New Zealand's history and cultures. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**indigenous animal:** Native animal.

**indigenous plant:** Native plant.

**indigenous species:** Refers to plants and animals that have established in New Zealand without the assistance of human beings and without the assistance of vehicles or aircraft. This includes species that are unique to New Zealand as well as those that may be found elsewhere in the world. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**integrate:** Bring together.

**integrated (conservation) management:** The management of natural resources, and historical and cultural heritage, and existing or potential activities in a manner which ensures that priorities are clear and that the effects of each activity on others are considered and managed accordingly. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**interpretation:** Conveying information about the origin, meaning or values of national or cultural heritage via live, interactive or static media. It occurs in the vicinity of the subject and is designed to stimulate visitor interest, increase understanding and promote support for conservation.

**intrinsic value/worth:** This is a concept which regards the subject under consideration as having value or worth in its own right independent of any value placed on it by humans. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**invertebrates:** Animals without backbones - including snails, insects, worms, etc.

**iwi:** Tribe, people, nation, race.

**kai moana:** Sea food.

**kaitiaki:** Guardian. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**kaitiakitanga:** The exercise of customary practices of guardianship, protection, stewardship and sustainable use by the tangata whenua in relation to ancestral lands, waters, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**karren:** A collective term used to describe the forms of sculpturing (millimetres to a few metres in size) of exposed marble/limestone produced by rainwater, including solution channels, hollows or enlarged fissures on the surface of the rock.

**karst:** Type of landscape formed by solution of limestone rocks by rainwater.

**kaupapa:** An abstract word with many meanings. Within the Department it is generally used in the sense of vision, philosophy, cause, idea or theme.

**land status:** Legal protection given to land by the Act under which it is classified.

**lease:** A grant of an interest in land that gives exclusive possession of the land, and makes provision for any activity on the land that the lessee is permitted to carry out. (National Parks Act 1980)

**licence:** A profit à prendre or any other grant that gives a non-exclusive interest in land, or a grant that makes provision for any activity on the land that the licensee is permitted to carry out. (National Parks Act 1980)

**mana:** Prestige; authority. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**management planning:** The process of setting and confirming objectives for the management of natural and historic resources, and recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes, and specifying the actions and resources necessary to achieve those objectives. (Management Planning Guidelines, Department of Conservation)

**Mean High Water Mark:** The average height of all high water levels. (NZ Institute of Surveyors, 1991)

**mining:** To take, win, or extract, by whatever means, a mineral existing in its natural state in land, or a chemical substance from that mineral, for the purpose of obtaining the mineral or chemical substance; but does not include prospecting or exploration. To “mine” has a corresponding meaning. (Crown Minerals Act 1991)

**Minister:** The Minister of Conservation.

**motorised vessel:** Any boat or craft used in navigation, not primarily powered by sail or solely powered manually, and including hovercraft and a seaplane while it is on the surface of the water. (Adapted from Maritime Rules: Part 91 – Navigation Safety Rules)

**nationally critical:** Very small population (natural or unnatural); or a small population (natural or unnatural) with a high ongoing or predicted decline; or a population (irrespective of size or number of sub-populations) with a very high ongoing or predicted decline (>70%).

**nationally endangered:** Small population (natural or unnatural) that has a low to high ongoing or predicted decline; or a small stable population (unnatural); or a moderate population and high ongoing or predicted decline.

**nationally vulnerable:** Small, increasing population (unnatural); or a moderate, stable population (unnatural); or a moderate population, with population trend that is declining; or a moderate to large population and moderate to high ongoing or predicted decline; or a large population and high ongoing or predicted decline.

**natural:** Existing in or produced by nature. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**natural character:** The qualities of an area which are the product of natural processes and, taken together, give it a particular recognisable character. These qualities may be ecological, physical, spiritual or aesthetic in nature. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**natural quiet:** Natural ambient conditions in a natural area; the sounds of nature. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**natural state:** Unmodified by human activity or introduced flora and fauna. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**naturally uncommon:** Taxa whose distribution is naturally confined to specific substrates, habitats, or geographic areas, or taxa that occur within naturally small and widely scattered populations, that may be stable or increasing.

**New Zealand Conservation Authority, (NZCA):** A national body of 13 appointed members established under section 6A of the Conservation Act 1987. Amongst other functions, it has the statutory responsibility for adopting General Policy for national parks, and approving conservation management strategies and plans and national park management plans. (section 6B, Conservation Act 1987 and section 18, National Parks Act 1980). (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**ngā taonga tuturu:** Means 2 or more taonga tuturu. (Protected Objects Act 1975)

**objectives:** Long term goals with a 20-50 year timeframe.

**outcome:** A goal or end result of a conservation action or series of actions. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**permit:** A grant of rights to carry out an activity for a purpose referred to in section 49 of the National Parks Act 1980 that does not require an interest in land. (National Parks Act 1980)

**personal watercraft (including, but not limited to, jet skis):** Power-driven vessel that has a fully enclosed hull, does not retain water on board if it capsizes, and is designed to be operated by a person standing, sitting or kneeling on the vessel, but not seated within the vessel; and may include space for one or more passengers. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**pest:** Any organism, including animal, plant, pathogen and disease, capable or potentially capable of causing unwanted harm or posing significant risks to indigenous species, habitats and ecosystems. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**place:** An area identified in a conservation management strategy, conservation management plan, or national park management plan for the purposes of integrated management. It may include any combination of terrestrial, freshwater and marine areas and may be determined by a range of criteria including, but not limited to: ecological districts, geological features, catchments, internal departmental, regional or district council or rohe/takiwā boundaries, land status, major recreation or tourism destinations, commonality of management considerations and unique management needs. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**podocarp:** A predominant Southern Hemisphere family of coniferous plants which includes the kahikitea (white pine), tötara, Hall's tötara, miro, rimu, tānekaha (celery pine) and mountain pine.

**pou whenua:** A marker pole or post. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**private accommodation:** Place to live or lodge that is not available to the general public on an open basis. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**private land:** Any land that is any Māori land within the meaning of Te Ture Whenua Māori (Māori Land) Act 1993 or has been alienated from the Crown, or is land held in fee simple (freehold title).

**profit à prendre:** A right to enter upon land to take some part of the land that is capable of being owned e.g. soil, mineral, vegetation.

**protected New Zealand object:** An object forming part of the movable cultural heritage of New Zealand that – (a) is of importance to New Zealand, or part of New Zealand, for aesthetic, archaeological, architectural, artistic, cultural, historical, literary, scientific, social, spiritual, technological, or traditional reasons; and (b) falls within 1 or more of the categories of protected objects set out in Schedule 4. (Protected Objects Act 1975) This includes any taonga tuturu.

**rare:** Species with small world populations that are not at present endangered or vulnerable but are at risk. (Setting priorities for the conservation of New Zealand's Threatened Plants and Animals, Department of Conservation.)

**recovering:** Moderate population (1000 – 5000 mature individuals, or area of occupancy  $\leq 100$  ha) or moderate to large population (5000 – 20,000 mature individuals, or area of occupancy  $\leq 1000$  ha) with ongoing or predicted increase of  $>10\%$  in the total population or area of occupancy.

**regional policy statements:** These set out the objectives for managing resources and are prepared by regional councils and unitary authorities in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991. They provide the overall framework for achieving sustainable management in the region and are binding on regional and district plans. (Resource Management Act 1991, Regional Policy Statements and Plans, Ministry for the Environment.)

**relic:** An object that is interesting because of its age or historical association.

**relict:** Taxa that have undergone a documented decline and now occupy  $<10\%$  of their former range and have: 5000 – 20,000 mature individuals and are stable; or have  $>20,000$  mature individuals and are stable or increasing at  $>10\%$ .

**resource management plan:** The Tasman Resource Management Plan, prepared by the Tasman District Council according to the requirements of sections 63 and 72 of the Resource Management Act 1991 for the purpose of sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

**restoration:** The active intervention and management of modified or degraded habitats, ecosystems, landforms and landscapes in order to restore indigenous natural character, ecological and physical processes and their cultural and visual qualities. For historic heritage: to return a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**review:** In relation to any conservation management strategy or management plan means to consider all objectives and policies of those provisions under review and to approve a new strategy or plan, having regard to increased knowledge or changed circumstances. (Conservation Act 1987)

**rohe:** Geographical territory of an iwi or hapū. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**sailing vessel:** Any boat or craft used in navigation primarily powered by sail.

**self-reliance:** Apart from the facilities provided by the Department, visitors to the park are self sufficient in terms of their provisions and equipment.

**seral:** (in relation to vegetation) A vegetation type that is a successional phase in the sequential development of vegetation toward a stable, long-term vegetation type.

**site** For the purposes of managing and monitoring visitor numbers in the Recreational Zones, a site can be any point in the Zone, which may be the busiest point.

**skarn:** (in relation to Canaan Valley) An iron rich layer of rock formed within the contact zone where molten rock has been forced into the pre-existing limestone or dolomite.

**Specially Protected Area:** Any part of a national park set apart as a specially protected area under section 12 of the National Parks Act 1980. (National Parks Act 1980)

**species recovery plan:** A plan of action intended to halt the decline of a threatened species and increase its population.

**sports fish:** Every species of freshwater fish that the Governor-General may declare, by Order-in-Council, to be sports fish for the purposes of the Conservation Act 1987; examples are trout and salmon. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**standard campsite:** Campsites with a limited range of facilities, varying in size from very large to just a few sites. They may be booked and may have a camp manager. They are accessible by road and/or boat, may have showers (cold only), and will have toilets and toilet paper. Water will be treated at large campsites but is unlikely to be at all others. A "take away" policy for rubbish will apply at most campsites and a cooking shelter is likely to be provided. They will not have cabins, powered sites or lighting.

**standard huts:** Huts catering for Backcountry Adventurers that have mattresses, a toilet, and, if below the bush-line, may have heating, but will not have heating fuel, wardens and a number of other minor services and facilities.

**stronghold:** An area where a significant proportion of the total population of a species is found.

**sustained control:** Reducing and maintaining a population at or below defined densities. (Department of Conservation Strategic Plan for Managing Invasive Weeds, 1998)

**taking:** In relation to plants this includes breaking, cutting, destroying, digging up, gathering, plucking, pulling up and removing the plant. In relation to fish it means fishing.

**tangata whenua:** Iwi or hapū that has customary authority in a place. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005). For Abel Tasman National Park – tangata whenua includes Ngāti Tama Ki Te Tau Ihu (Ngāti Tama), Te Ātiawa Ki Te Tau Ihu (Te Ātiawa) and Ngāti Rārua Ki Te Tau Ihu (Ngāti Rārua).

**taonga:** Valued resources or prized possessions held by Māori, both material and non-material. It is a broad concept that includes tangible and intangible aspects of natural and historic resources of significance to Māori, including wāhi tapu and intellectual property. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**taonga tuturu:** An object that - (a) relates to Māori culture, history, or society; and (b) was, or appears to have been, - (i) manufactured or modified in New Zealand by Māori; or (ii) brought into New Zealand by Māori; or (iii) used by Māori; and (c) is more than 50 years old. (Protected Objects Act 1975)

**tapu:** Sacred. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**taxa:** genera, species, subspecies, varieties and forma.

**territorial:** Relating to an area or territory.

**threatened (species):** Taxa that are facing imminent extinction. There are three main threatened categories: Nationally Critical; Nationally Endangered; and Nationally Vulnerable.

**tikanga:** Customary values and practices related to specific iwi and hapū. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**vehicle:** Any device that is powered by any propulsion system and moves on rollers, skids, tracks, wheels, or other means; and includes any device referred to previously from which the propulsion system has been removed; or the rollers, skids, tracks, wheels, or other means of movement have been removed; and does not include: (a) a pushchair or pram; (b) a child's toy; or (c) a personal mobility device used by a disabled person. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**wāhi tapu:** Place sacred to Māori in the traditional, spiritual, religious, ritual, or mythological sense. (section 2, Historic Places Trust Act 1993)

**wetlands:** Permanent or intermittently wet areas, shallow water or land-water margins. They include swamps, bogs, estuaries, braided rivers, and lake margins. (General Policy for National Parks, 2005)

**zero density:** A sustained control operation where the desired density is nil adult plants. It differs from eradication as regrowth from the seedbank or persistent reinvasions required ongoing sustained control to maintain the zero-density. (Department of Conservation Strategic Plan for Managing Invasive Weeds, 1998)

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Wild Animal Control Act 1977

Wildlife Act 1953

# Appendix 1

## NATIVE ANIMAL AND PLANT SPECIES LIKELY TO BE FOUND WITHIN THE VICINITY OF, OR IN, THE PARK

TABLE 1: NATIVE ANIMAL SPECIES IN AND AROUND ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	MĀORI NAME
Australasian Harrier	<i>Circus approximans</i>	Kāhu
Banded dotterel	<i>Charadrius bicinctus</i>	Tūturiwhatu
Banded rail	<i>Rallus philippensis</i>	Moho-pererū
Bar-tailed godwit	<i>Limosa lapponica</i>	Kuaka
Bat (long-tailed)	<i>Chalinolobus tuberculatus</i>	Pekapeka
Bellbird	<i>Anthornis melanura</i>	Makomako/Korimako
Black-backed gull	<i>Larus bulleri</i>	Karoro
Black oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus unicolor</i>	Tōreapango
Black shag	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Kawau pū
Blue penguin	<i>Eudyptula minor</i>	Kororā
Brown creeper	<i>Mohoua novaeseelandiae</i>	Pipipi
Caddisfly spp		
Caspian tern	<i>Sterna caspia</i>	Taranui
Cicada	<i>Melampsalta subalpina</i>	Tātarakihi
Damselfly spp	<i>Austrolestes colenonis</i> , <i>Xanthocnemis zealandica</i>	Kēkēwai/Kihitara
Dragonfly spp	<i>Uropetala</i> spp	Kapowai
New Zealand Falcon	<i>Falco novaeseelandiae</i>	Kārearea
Fantail	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i>	Piwakawaka
Fernbird	<i>Bowdleria punctata</i>	Mātātāa
Fluttering shearwater	<i>Puffinus gavia</i>	Pakaha
Freshwater crayfish	<i>Parenehraps planifrons</i>	Kōura
Gannet	<i>Morus serrator</i>	Tākapu
Giant landsnails	<i>Powelliphanta hochstetteri</i> , <i>Rhytida oconnori</i>	
Giant kokopu	<i>Galaxias argenteus</i>	Kōkopu
Grey duck	<i>Anas superciliosa</i>	Pārera
Grey warbler	<i>Gerygone igata</i>	Riroriro
Ground beetle spp		
Kaka	<i>Nestor meridionalis</i>	Kākā
Kea	<i>Nestor notabilis</i>	Kea
Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon sancta</i>	Kōtare
Little shag	<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucos</i>	Kawau paka
Long-finned eel	<i>Anguilla dieffenbachii</i>	Örea
Long-tailed cuckoo	<i>Eudynamis taitensis</i>	Koekoeā
Marsh crake	<i>Porzana pusilla</i>	Koitareke
Morepork	<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>	Ruru
New Zealand fur seal	<i>Arctocephalus forsteri</i>	Kekeno
New Zealand pigeon	<i>Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae</i>	Kererū

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	MĀORI NAME
New Zealand Pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	Pihoihoi
Paradise shelduck	<i>Tadorna variegata</i>	Pūtangitangi
Pied oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus finschi</i>	Tōrea
Pied shag	<i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Kāruhiruhi
Pied stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Poaka
Pukeko	<i>Porphyrio melanotus</i>	Pukaki/Pūkeko
Red-billed gull	<i>Larus novaehollandiae</i>	Tarapunga
Reef heron	<i>Egretta sacra</i>	Matukutuku
Rifleman	<i>Acanthisitta chloris</i>	Titipounamu
New Zealand Robin	<i>Petroica australis</i>	Toutouwai
Sandfly	<i>Austrosimulium sp</i>	Namu
Shining cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx lucidus</i>	Pipiwaharuroa
Shortjaw kokopu	<i>Galaxias postuetis</i>	Kōkopu
Silvereye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	Tauhou
Sooty shearwater	<i>Puffinus griseus</i>	Titi
Southern black-backed gull	<i>Larus dominicanus</i>	Karoro
Spotted shag	<i>Stictocarbo punctatus</i>	Parakareka
Tomtit	<i>Petroica macrocephala</i>	Ngirungiru
Tui	<i>Prothemadera novaeseelandiae</i>	Tūi
Weka	<i>Gallirallus australis</i>	Weka
Welcome swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	Warou
White-faced heron	<i>Ardea novaehollandiae</i>	Matuku-moana
White-fronted tern	<i>Sterna striata</i>	Tara
Yellow-crowned parakeet	<i>Cyanoramphus auriceps</i>	Kākāriki

TABLE 2: NATIVE PLANT SPECIES PRESENT IN AND AROUND ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	MĀORI NAME
black beech	<i>Nothofagus solandri</i> var. <i>solandri</i>	tawhairauriki
blueberry	<i>Dianella nigra</i>	turutu
bog pine	<i>Halocarpus bidwillii</i>	
broadleaf	<i>Griselinia littoralis</i>	papauma
bush clematis	<i>Clematis paniculata</i>	pua wānanga
bush lawyer	<i>Rubus cissoides</i>	tātaramoa
cabbage tree	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	tī kōuka
coprosma spp.	<i>Coprosma lucida</i> , <i>C. robusta</i> , <i>Coprosma repens</i>	taupata karamū
cutty grass	<i>Carex secta</i> , <i>Gahnia xanthocarpa</i>	pūkio
fivefinger	<i>Pseudopanax arboreus</i>	puahou
flax	<i>Phormium tenax</i> , <i>P. cookianum</i>	harakeke, wharariki
fungi		
hard beech	<i>Nothofagus truncata</i>	tawhairaunui
hebe species	<i>Hebe</i> spp.	koromiko
hīnau	<i>Elaeocarpus dentatus</i>	hīnau
hütü	<i>Ascarina lucida</i>	Hütü
kahikatea (white pine)	<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	kahikatea
kaikōmako	<i>Pennantia corymbosa</i>	kaikōmako
kāmahi	<i>Weinmannia racemosa</i>	kāmahi

COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	MĀORI NAME
kānuka	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	kānuka
kawakawa	<i>Macropiper excelsum</i>	kawakawa
kiekie	<i>Freycinetia banksii</i>	kiekie
lacebark	<i>Hoheria ovata</i>	houhere
leather leaf	<i>Olearia lacunosa</i>	
lichens		
liverworts		
māhoe (whiteywood)	<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	māhoe
mānuka (tea tree)	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	mānuka
marsh ribbonwood	<i>Plagianthus divaricatus</i>	mākaka
matai (black pine)	<i>Prumnopitys taxifolia</i>	matai
mingimingi	<i>Leucopogon fasciculatus</i>	
Coprosma propinqua	<i>mingimingi</i>	
miro	<i>Prumnopitys ferruginea</i>	miro
mosses		
mountain beech	<i>Nothofagus solandri</i> var. <i>cliffortioides</i>	tawhairauriki
mountain cedar, southern cedar	<i>Libocedrus bidwillii</i>	pahautea
mountain celery pine	<i>Phyllocladus alpinus</i>	toatoa
mountain neinei (spiderwood)	<i>Dracophyllum traversii</i> , <i>D. elegantissimum</i>	neinei
mountain ribbonwood	<i>Hoheria glabrata</i>	houhere
mountain tōtara	<i>Podocarpus hallii</i>	tōtara
native passionvine	<i>Passiflora tetrandra</i>	kōhia
nikau palm	<i>Rhopalostylis sapida</i>	nikau
northern rātā	<i>Metrosideros robusta</i>	rātā
orchids		
peppertree	<i>Pseudowintera axillaris</i>	horopito
pigeonwood	<i>Hedycarya arborea</i>	porokaiwhiri
pukatea	<i>Laurelia novae-zelandiae</i>	pukatea
putaputawētā	<i>Carpodetus serratus</i>	putaputawētā
quintinia	<i>Quintinia serrata</i>	tāwheowheo
raupō	<i>Typha orientalis</i>	raupō
red beech	<i>Nothofagus fusca</i>	tawhairaunui
red tussock	<i>Chionochloa rubra</i>	
rimu (red pine)	<i>Dacrydium cupressinum</i>	rimu
silver beech	<i>Nothofagus menziesii</i>	tawhai
silver fern	<i>Cyathea dealbata</i>	ponga
silver tussock	<i>Poa cita</i>	wī
southern rātā	<i>Metrosideros umbellata</i>	rātā
speargrass	<i>Aciphylla colensoi</i>	taramea
sphagnum		
spinifex	<i>Spinifex hirsutus</i>	kōwhangatara
supplejack	<i>Ripogonum scandens</i>	kareao
tarata (lemonwood)	<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>	tarata
toro	<i>Myrsine salicina</i>	toro
tōtara	<i>Podocarpus totara</i>	tōtara
tree daisy	<i>Olearia</i> spp., <i>Brachyglottis</i> spp.	heketara
tree ferns	<i>Cyathea</i> spp., <i>Dicksonia</i> spp.	mamaku, wheki, wheki
		ponga
turpentine bush	<i>Dracophyllum filifolium</i> , <i>D. urvilleanum</i>	inaka
wineberry	<i>Aristolelia serrata</i>	makomako



# Appendix 2

## THREATENED AND AT RISK NATIVE PLANTS OF ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

THREAT RANKING	SPECIES	COMMON NAME	THREAT RANKING*	RANGE
THREATENED	<i>Lepidium banksii</i>	coastal peppergrass	nationally critical	c e
	<i>Scutellaria novae-zelandiae</i>	shovel mint	nationally critical	m e
	<i>Senecio</i> aff. <i>glaucophyllus</i>	limestone groundsel	nationally critical	m
	<i>Kirkianella "glauca" Ψ</i>	swordleaf pūhā	nationally vulnerable	c
	<i>Rorippa divaricata</i>	rorippa, matangoa	nationally vulnerable	c
AT RISK	<i>Anemanthele lessoniana</i>	gossamer grass	declining	c
	<i>Carex litorosa</i> #	estuary sedge	declining	c
	<i>Meliccytus crassifolius</i>	Coastal porcupine shrub	declining	c
	<i>Peraxilla colensoi</i>	scarlet mistletoe	declining	i
	<i>Peraxilla tetrapetala</i>	red mistletoe	declining	i
	<i>Solanum aviculare</i>	poroporo	declining	i
	<i>Teucrium parvifolium</i>	native germander	declining	i & m
	<i>Tupeia antarctica</i>	tupeia mistletoe	declining	c
	<i>Desmoschoenus spiralis</i>	pīngao	relict	c
	<i>Sonchus kirkii</i>	pūhā	relict	c
	<i>Streblus banksii</i>	large-leaved milk-tree	relict	c
	<i>Carex cremnicola</i>	Pikikiruna sedge	naturally uncommon	m e
	<i>Dracophyllum urvilleanum</i>	Weeping inaka	naturally uncommon	c e
	<i>Hymenophyllum atrovirens</i>	black filmy fern	naturally uncommon	i
	<i>Korthalsella salicornioides</i>	coral mistletoe	naturally uncommon	c
	<i>Meliccytus obovatus</i>	limestone māhoe	naturally uncommon	m e
	<i>Mimulus repens</i> #	coastal musk	naturally uncommon	c
	<i>Molloybas cryptanthus</i>	hidden spider orchid	naturally uncommon	i
	<i>Myosotis brockiei</i>	limestone forget-me-not	naturally uncommon	m
	<i>Myosotis spathulata</i>	round-leaved forget-me-not	naturally uncommon	i & m
	<i>Myosotis venosa</i>	flush forget-me-not	naturally uncommon	i
	<i>Petalochilus variegatus</i>	pink orchid	naturally uncommon	i
	<i>Poa xenica</i>	Pikikiruna poa	naturally uncommon	m e
	<i>Pseudopanax ferox</i>	fierce lancewood	naturally uncommon	i & m
	<i>Pseudopanax macintyreii</i>	limestone five-finger	naturally uncommon	i & m
	<i>Sophora longicarinata</i>	limestone kōwhai	naturally uncommon	m e
	<i>Tetragonia tetragonioides</i> #	native spinach	naturally uncommon	c
	<i>Thelymitra formosa</i>	large sun orchid	naturally uncommon	i
	<i>Uncinia obtusifolia</i>	bog tussock hookgrass	naturally uncommon	i
	<i>Wahlenbergia matthewsii</i>	limestone harebell	naturally uncommon	i & m e
	<i>Diplodium alveatum</i>	a greenhood orchid	coloniser	c

\* Threat rankings from: de Lange, P.J., et al (compilers). New Zealand extinct, threatened and at risk vascular plant list, (in press) 2008, Department of Conservation, Wellington. Additional information from: Shannel Courtney, Technical Support Officer – Threatened Plants, Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy, Department of Conservation

### Key:

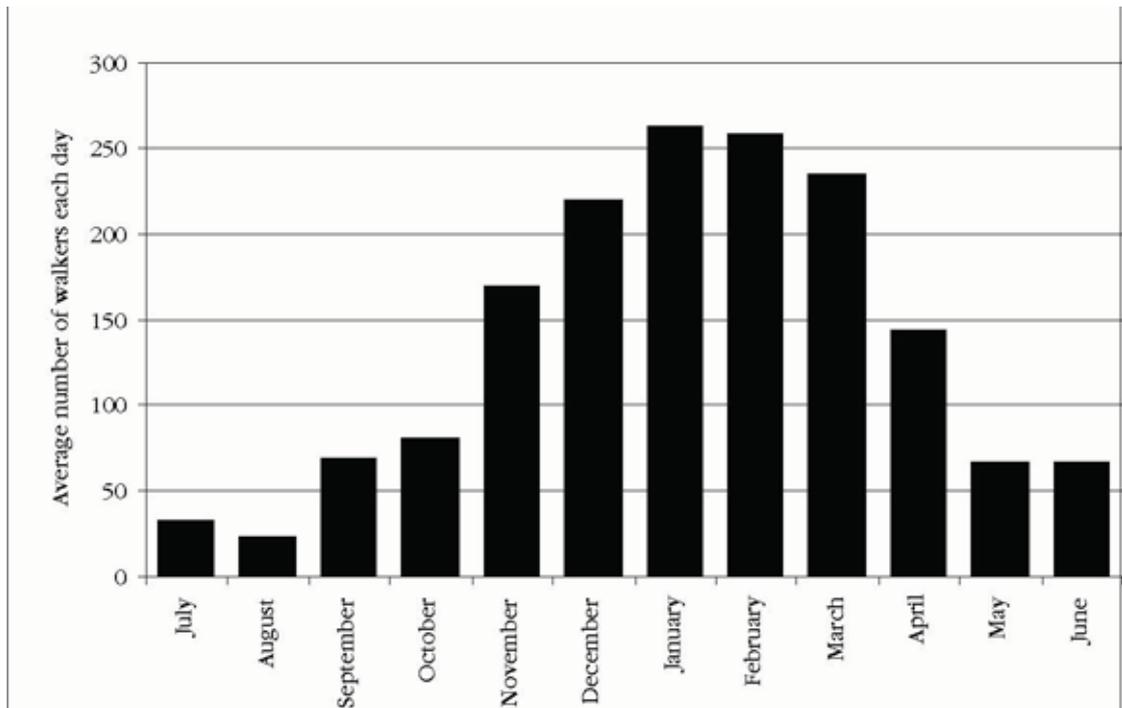
- Ψ = species is presumed extinct in the park,
- # = species in estuaries adjoining the park,
- c = species found in the Coast place in the park (<500m inland),
- i = species found in the Interior of the park,
- m = growing on marble and limestone substrates in the park,
- e = endemic to Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy



# Appendix 3

## VISITOR STATISTICS FOR ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

FIGURE 1: GRAPH OF COAST TRACK SEASONAL VISITOR USE



From Falls River counter 2003/04

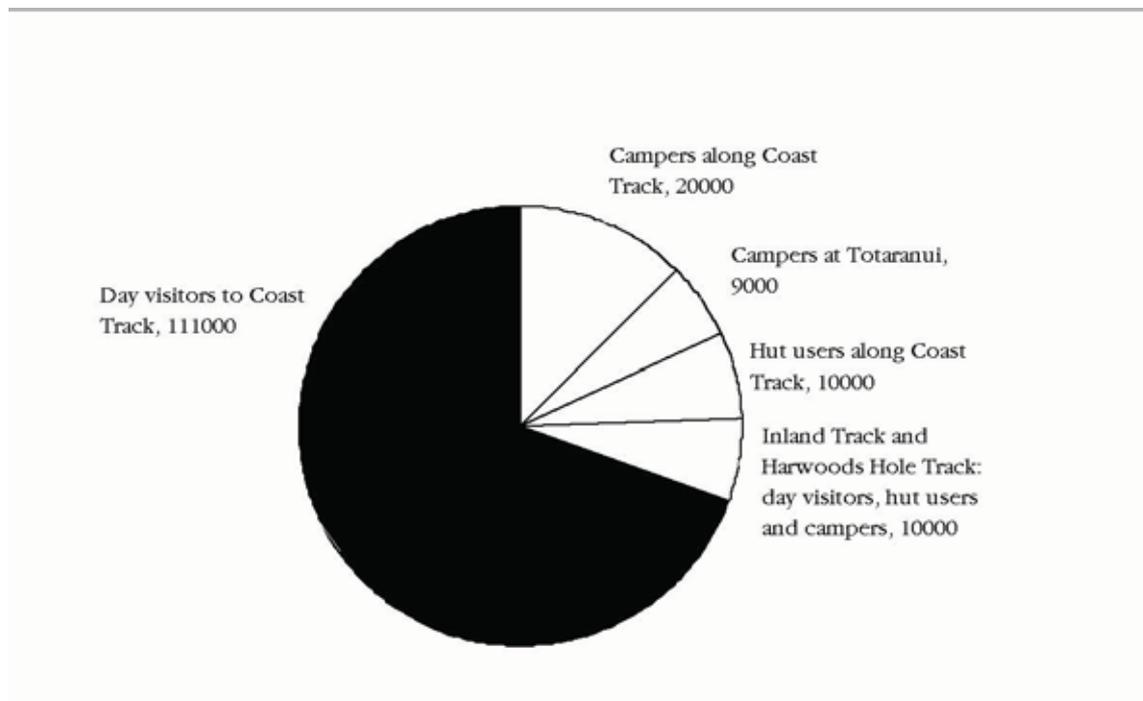
TABLE 1: VISIT OR ACTIVITIES IN ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

ACTIVITY (VISITORS COULD TICK AS MANY ACTIVITIES AS REQUIRED)	PERCENTAGE OF ALL RESPONDENTS
Relaxing	77%
Walking/tramping/trekking	74%
Swimming	64%
Sightseeing	60%
Sunbathing	56%
Picnicking	50%
Water taxi or ferry trip	45%
Guided kayak trip	21%
Boating (power boating/sailing)	20%
Kayak hired	10%
Water-skiing	8%
Snorkelling	7%
Guided walk	7%
Fishing/scalloping	6%
Kayak private	3%
Diving	1%
Jet skiing	1%
Seal swim	1%

Activities done = 5,888  
 Visitors asked = 1,156

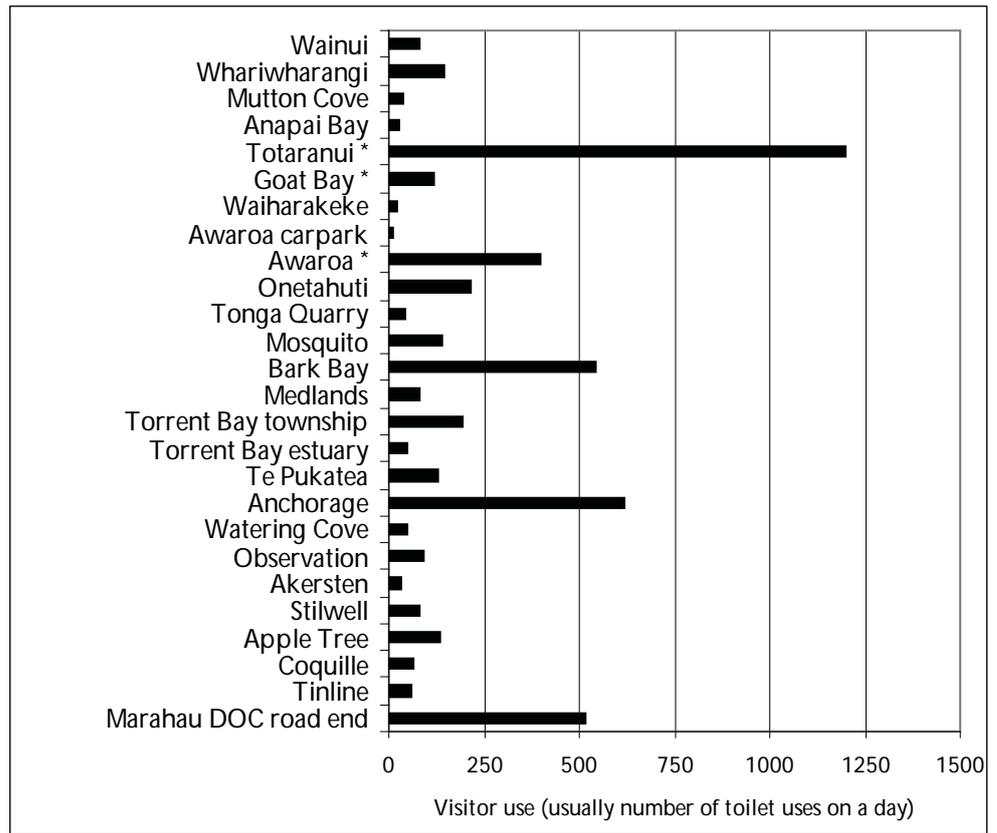
The average number of activities done by each visitor was 5. From page 27 of 'Abel Tasman National Park Coast Visitor Research 2002/2003', Department of Conservation, August 2003

FIGURE 2: ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK ANNUAL VISITOR NUMBERS BY TYPE



Data from 2004/05

FIGURE 3: VISITOR NUMBERS AT SITES ON THE COAST TRACK 2004/05



\* These figures are not calculated from toilet door counters.

TABLE 2: DATA TABLE OF VISITOR NUMBERS AT SITES FOR CHART ABOVE (FIG 3).

SITE	ANNUAL TOILET COUNT	PEAK MONTH	AVERAGE JANUARY
Wainui	12,000	2,542	82
Whariwharangi	42,475	4,530	146
Mutton Cove	5,380	1,085	35
Anapai Bay	N/A	806	26
Totaranui <sup>1</sup>	N/A	N/A	1,200
Goat Bay <sup>2</sup>	N/A	N/A	120
Waiharakeke	21,411	713	23
Awaroa <sup>3</sup> (Department of Conservation hut and campsite)	59,410	N/A	400
Onetahuti	24,690	6,616	213
Tonga Quarry	4,368	1,335	43
Mosquito	14,936	4,301	139
Bark Bay	98,440	16,795	542
Medlands	13,734	2,514	81
Torrent Bay township	28,250	5,951	192
Torrent Bay estuary	6,743	1,537	50
Te Pukatea	19,218	3,931	127
Anchorage	99,037	19,177	619
Watering Cove	5,533	1,454	47
Observation	9,097	2,851	92
Akersten	3,703	956	31
Stilwell	9,065	2,501	81
Appletree	14,588	4,209	136
Coquille	7,854	2,079	67
Tinline	7,244	1,910	62
Marahau Department of Conservation road end	61,995	16,007	516

Note: 1, 2, 3 are not calculated from toilet door counters

# Appendix 4

(refer to sections 2.2.1.9 'Historical and cultural values', 4.3.1.3 'Māori sites', and 5.1.3.3 'Caves')

## HINE-NUI-TE-PÖ-THE WOMAN WHO BROUGHT DEATH

Caves are the domain of the goddess Hine-nui-te-pō. As such, they were often used as burial sites and storage places for battle trophies and other taonga. Although they told different stories about her, nearly every iwi knew Hine-nui-te-pō (Great Woman of the Night) as the woman who brought death into the world.

In some regions it was believed that Tāne married his daughter Hine-tītama and, when she discovered her father's identity, she was greatly shamed and rushed down to the underworld. There, it was often said, her name changed to Hine-nui-te-pō. Tāne followed and begged her to return, but she told him to go back to the world and rear up their offspring. She would remain below to receive them when they died.

Hine-nui-te-pō has within her the power of the renewal of life. Māui noticed that the sun and moon always come back to life because they bathe in Tāne's waters of life (te wai-ora a Tāne). He decided to do the same and to enter the womb of Hine-nui-te-pō, for that is the underworld, where the waters of life are situated.

It was believed that Māui, after performing many marvellous deeds, determined to overcome death by conquering Hine-nui-te-pō. Although warned not to do so, he approached her as she lay sleeping, intending to enter her body by the path through which children enter this world. But the little birds that accompanied him laughed when they saw Māui's head and shoulders disappear inside the great woman's vagina, and their laughter woke her. She brought her legs together, and Māui was crushed to death.

Hine-nui-te-pō draws all into her womb, but permits none to return. Māui determined to try, trusting to his great powers, but the fantail laughed, the woman awoke, and Māui was cut in two. If the fantail had not laughed, Māui would have drunk from the waters of life and human beings would have lived forever.

In some stories, Māui's fishing up the land angers Hine-nui-te-pō, when his hook catches in the bargeboard of her house under the ocean and draws her house up too. In other traditions, Māui discovers that Hine-nui-te-pō has taken Tuna (Eel) as a lover, so he kills Tuna. In retaliation, Hine-nui-te-pō sends the mosquito against him; the mosquito takes a drop of blood from Māui's forehead, and Hine-nui-te-pō's sorcery, performed over the blood, destroys him.

Yet while Hine-nui-te-pō is the cause of death, she is also a mother who cares for her children after their death. Her darkness is associated not only with death but with the beginning of the world; she is the most important of the gods of the night who were there in the beginning, before the gods of the light, and she is therefore the ancestor of all who followed. Hine-nui-te-pō is the goddess of dreams, and all revelations made to men in dreams proceed from her. Prayers were regularly said to her every night as the great guardian of night and the giver of rest.

# Appendix 5

## VISITOR CAPACITY OF CAMPSITES AND HUTS ON THE COAST TRACK

LOCATION	CAMPSITE CAPACITY	HUT CAPACITY
Akersten Bay	6	
Anapai Bay	12	
Anchorage	100	24
Apple Tree Bay	30	
Awaroa	36	22
Bark Bay	80	34
Medlands Beach	10	
Mosquito Bay	40	
Mutton Cove	40	
Observation Beach	12	
Onetahuti Bay	40	
Te Pukatea Bay	14	
Tinline Bay	30	
Tonga Quarry	20	
Torrent Bay Village	20	
Totaranui	40	
Waiharakeke Bay	20	
Watering Cove	10	
Whariwharangi	40	20



# Appendix 6

## RECREATION OPPORTUNITY REVIEW (ROR) DECISIONS

In 2003/2004 the Department consulted nationally with the public over the network of recreation facilities provided by the Department of Conservation. For most sites the decision was to maintain. Below are the decisions for sites in the Abel Tasman National Park where the decision was anything other than 'maintain'.

TABLE 1: RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY REVIEW DECISIONS FOR ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

SITE	DECISION	EXPLANATION
<u>GOLDEN BAY AREA</u>		
Moa Park Hut*	Remove and replace with shelter.	Moa Park Hut is in poor condition, and has less capacity than other huts on the Inland Track. It receives very low use. Castle Rocks Hut is only 1 to 1.5 hours down the track. Canaan carpark is approximately 1 hour away. Awapoto Hut is 4 hours to the north. The Inland Track caters primarily for experienced trampers capable of handling the 5 to 6 hours between the two huts. Submitters opposed the proposal to remove the hut. While submitters would like to see the hut remain, a large number want at least a day shelter and lunch stop facility especially with changeable alpine weather.
Awaroa Tidal Stream Road	Replace – bigger size.	Remove bridge across stream. Bridge on road to Awaroa carpark and replace with concrete culvert.
Wainui Falls Carpark & new toilet	Upgrade size/capacity.	Upgrade required. Proposal for joint funding with Tasman District Council.
Totaranui sewerage upgrade*	Upgrade to higher standard.	Upgrade underground systems to mitigate environmental impacts.
Totaranui cooking shelter	Provide a cooking shelter at the Coast Track Campsite.	Cooking shelter required to prevent trampers using inappropriate camp office facilities.
Canaan carpark and toilet*	Upgrade to higher standard.	Upgrade to a standard for existing use. New toilet system required that will operate suitably in a karst environment.
Harwoods Hole track	Upgrade to higher standard.	Track through karst requires upgrading (possibly with structures) to reduce visitor impacts.

SITE	DECISION	EXPLANATION
<u>MOTUEKA AREA</u>		
Holyoake's Clearing Shelter	Replace with new shelter and toilet.	The shelter is popular as day shelter, lunch stop, shade on a hot day and a good point for regrouping a party. A better site will be chosen in consultation with key visitor groups.
Marahau Carpark toilets (2)*	Provide an additional toilet block at Marahau carpark. Upgrade sewerage system.	Crowding and environmental impacts need to be addressed.
Marahau Coastal Walk	Upgrade to higher standard (disabled access).	High use site, ideal for provision of disabled access.
Apple Tree Bay toilet	Provide an additional pit toilet at Apple Tree Bay.	Additional pit toilet required at southern end of beach to mitigate environmental impacts.
Onetahuti	Construct a new bridge to facilitate high tide access/ egress from this site.	

\*These facilities have been completed as at October 2008.

# Appendix 7

## PROCESSES AND PRINCIPLES FOR SETTING MAXIMUM ACTIVITY LEVELS FOR COMMERCIALY GUIDED WATER-BASED AND WALKING ACTIVITY

### **Commercially guided water-based activity**

- (i) During the re-initiation of the management plan review, data was available for the actual number of visitations to the park by guided water-based groups, particularly kayakers (being 8 clients and up to 2 guides and 6 kayaks), and the number of clients, during the 2004/5 and 2005/6 seasons. While there was no historical measure of how this commercially guided water-based activity affected the experiences of visitors to the park, there was a growing community and park user perception that at certain times of the year, and in some places, some activities in the park were approaching capacity in terms of maintaining visitor experiences.
- (ii) Kayaking was/is the predominant commercial water-based activity that makes direct use of the park, and so the focus has been on setting limits for this activity type.
- (iii) Commercially guided kayaking occurs mainly on the water, with some activity on the foreshore. Since both of these activities occur outside the park any direct controls are outside the scope of this plan. The impact on the park is confined to the bays where the groups start and finish, and during meal breaks, when kayaks and clients congregate on the coastal margin above the Mean High Water Mark.
- (iv) This plan aims to minimise the impacts of commercially guided kayaking activity on the park by requiring the operators, through concession conditions, to start and finish at the Coastal Access Points. The Department intends to advocate to the Administration Committee of the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve to only allow commercial vessels (such as water taxis) that support the kayaking activity to land at the Coastal Access Points. For all visitors to the park, there would be surety about the impact of the commercially guided kayaking activity, as it would be confined to the Coastal Access Points and occur at certain times of the day.
- (v) In addition to the controls on starting and finishing, there was also a need to control the overall number of commercially guided kayaking trips able to operate in the park. In the absence of historical data, this plan sets a maximum limit for activity of 56 trips, which has been determined following a process of consultations with key

stakeholders, including concessionaires and public interest groups, and analysis of the activity returns for the 2004/5 and 2005/6 seasons. This limit takes into account the daily peaks and averages of individual operators and is set in such a way that they have had their peaks cut-back, but can generally operate to a level higher than their daily average.

- (vi) The intention is to then carry out monitoring to determine the effects of this level of activity on visitor experiences as well as other national park values. The maximum limit may then be increased or decreased if monitoring shows that a change is necessary.
- (vii) According to the data collected over the 2004/5 and 2005/6 seasons, the commercially guided kayaking operators did not experience their peak numbers on the same days. The result of this is that while there is the potential for all 56 trips of activity occurring at the same time, the way in which this activity currently operates makes this unlikely. (Weather is just one factor that influences where and when kayaking occurs).
- (viii) If there is a change to the way this activity operates such that the maximum of 56 trips is being achieved on a regular basis, and that monitoring shows that there are adverse effects on visitor experiences and/or national park values, then the maximum can be lowered. This can be done through an amendment to the plan under section 46 of the National Parks Act 1980. Conversely, the maximum limit could be raised if monitoring and further assessment shows this to be acceptable.
- (ix) The Department acknowledges that having a maximum limit of 56 commercially guided kayaking (and rowboat) trips allows for potential increases in use, if demand and other circumstances (such as weather) allow. This is particularly the case in the shoulder and off-seasons (April – November), which aligns with the regional tourism strategy, but may also occur to some degree within the peak season.

### **Commercially guided walking activity**

- (i) The Department considers that commercially guided walking should be allowed, up to a point, as it provides an enhanced experience for visitors to the park from the interpretation and explanation provided by guides on the natural, historical and cultural values of the park. The concessionaires also protect the park values by ensuring that their clients adhere to the Environmental Care Code, which is a condition of the concessions.
- (ii) The maximum level of 50 trips for commercially guided walking represents 30% of the usage (in the 2004 – 2006 seasons) on the Coast Track. The Department envisaged that 50 trips would not result in more visitors in the park, but would provide for a proportion of the freedom walkers to become guided. (Note that the total number of walkers staying overnight in the huts and campsites will always be constrained by the spaces available, the booking system, and the limits on concessionaire use of these facilities.)

- (iii) A number of commercially guided kayaking operators have products that involve a combination of walking and kayaking activity. The walking activity was traditionally carried out on a freedom basis. Following consultation with the kayaking operators, it was agreed to allocate them commercially guided walking concessions as well, in order to allow them to convert the freedom walking element of their product to commercially guided walking. In recognition of the linkage between the two activities the Department will not approve the transfer of a concession for commercially guided walking activity unless it accompanies the transfer of the associated concession for commercially guided kayaking activity (and vice versa).
- (iv) The implementation of an identification system for guides means that many groups travelling through the park are now required to operate under concessions, whereas previously they were guiding illegally. The apparent increase in commercially guided walking activity therefore reflects this legalisation of the activity and is not an actual addition to the number of walkers.
- (v) As for the commercially guided kayaking activity, monitoring of the commercially guided walking activity will also be carried out to determine whether any adverse effects occur and whether the maximum level should be reduced (or increased).