

November 2025

Sika Herd of Special Interest

Herd management plan consultation support document



**Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Government

Cover: Mountain beech tree in flower. *Photo: Department of Conservation*

Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan Consultation Support Document

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Purpose of this document

This document provides information to support public notification and submissions on the *Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan* (the Plan).

It includes additional context and background information, as well as series of questions and answers related to the Plan.

If you are interested in the Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest, please see the *Fiordland Wapiti Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan* and related consultation support document.

How to have your say

- The public submission period on the Plan opens on Monday 10 November 2025 and closes on Monday 8 December 2025.
- Submissions are sought on the content of the Plan. It is important to note that submissions on the content of this consultation support document or the ministerial decision on whether to designate sika as a herd of special interest are out of scope for this submission process and will not be considered.
- Submissions on the Plan should be made using this link: www.doc.govt.nz/sika-hosi-consultation
- This link the fastest and easiest way to have your say and make a submission on the Plan.

Alternatively, you can:

- email your submission to sikahosihmp@doc.govt.nz; or
- mail your submission to:
Sika HOSI Draft HMP Submissions
C/- Department of Conservation
PO Box 4715
Christchurch 8140

If you are sending an attachment by email, please send it in Microsoft Word or a searchable PDF format.

Summary of submissions and privacy

After the submission period closes, the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (The Department) will publish a summary of submissions on its website (doc.govt.nz). All submissions are subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and may be released, if requested, under that Act. If you have any objection to the release of any information in your submission, please clearly indicate which parts you consider should be withheld, together with the reasons for withholding the information and the grounds under the Official Information Act that you believe apply. The Department will consider this when making any assessment about the release of submissions.

Please clearly indicate in your submission **if you do not wish your name, or any other personal information, to be disclosed** in any summary of submissions or external disclosures. Please refer to the Department's privacy statement for further information: doc.govt.nz/privacyandsecurity.

What happens next?

The Department will review all the feedback on the Plan and report back to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing (the Minister). Your feedback will help to shape the Plan.

After the consultation period and revision of the Plan based on submissions, the Minister will decide whether and how to proceed with the Plan and whether to designate sika as a herd of special interest.

Key context

Statutory context

A 'herd of special interest' is a statutory management tool set out in the Game Animal Council Act 2013. The herd of special interest tool enables the responsible Minister (currently the Minister for Hunting and Fishing) to designate a species of game animal in a specified area on public conservation land to be managed for hunting purposes.

Before the Minister can designate a species of game animal in an area as a herd of special interest, a herd management plan must be prepared. This herd management plan should specify how the herd of special interest will be managed, including management objectives and strategies.

The herd of special interest management tool is part of the overall conservation management framework, and the Game Animal Council Act specifies that the herd management plan must be consistent with relevant statutory plans and policies for the area where the herd of special interest is to be set up (see 'Overriding considerations' below).

Process to consider designating a Sika Herd of Special Interest

1. Proposal and process initiation

In March 2025, the Minister for Hunting and Fishing received a proposal from the Central North Island Sika Foundation (the Sika Foundation) to formally designate sika as a herd of special interest in parts of Kaimanawa Forest Park, Kaweka Forest Park and Kaweka Conservation Area.

The proposal was endorsed by the New Zealand Game Animal Council (the Game Animal Council), a statutory body established by the Game Animal Council Act with a range of functions in relation to game animals (deer, tahr, chamois and wild pigs). These functions include advising and making recommendations to the Minister, raising awareness of the views of the hunting sector, providing information and education, promoting codes of conduct and operating certification schemes, and liaising with hunters, representatives of tangata whenua and organisations to improve hunting opportunities.

The Minister agreed to initiate the statutory process to consider designating a herd of special interest for sika and tasked the Department to undertake the process and develop a draft herd management plan.

2. Initial engagement

On behalf of the Minister, the Department has been working since early 2025 to discuss the process with representatives of Treaty partners and understand their perspectives on the potential designation of a Sika Herd of Special Interest.

The Department has also been consulting with the statutory stakeholders identified in the Game Animal Council Act. These include the Minister for Primary Industries, the Game Animal Council, the Director-General of the Department, relevant regional councils (in this case Waikato, Horizons and Hawke's Bay Regional Councils), the New Zealand Conservation Authority and the relevant conservation boards (in this case the Tongariro Taupō and East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Boards). Consultation was also undertaken with the Central North Island Sika Foundation.

3. Drafting the herd management plan

A herd management plan must be made for any species of game animal to be designated as a herd of special interest by the Minister.¹ The herd management plan sets out objectives and strategies for the management of a herd of special interest to achieve the expected benefits and must be consistent with the overriding considerations (see below).

¹ Game Animal Council Act 2013, section 19.

The Sika Foundation proposal, the Game Animal Council Act and the overriding considerations were the starting point for drafting the *Sika Herd of Special Interest Draft Herd Management Plan*. The Minister considered the Plan and decided to proceed to notification.

4. Notification

The Plan is available online through the Department's website, and can be accessed through this link: www.doc.govt.nz/sika-hosi-consultation

Submissions open on Monday 10 November 2025 and close on Monday 8 December 2025.

Before making a plan, the Minister is required to publish a notice of his intention to do so in the New Zealand Gazette and daily newspapers in Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

Notices regarding the Minister's intention to make a plan for the proposed Sika Herd of Special Interest have been posted in the Gazette and these newspapers for Monday 10 November 2025.

Notices have also been placed in *Hawke's Bay Today* and *Taupō & Tūrangi News*.

5. Submissions analysis and updating the Plan

After the submission period closes, all submissions will be considered and analysed, and a summary of submissions will be put on the Department's website. The Plan will be updated to reflect the submission process, ongoing conversations with Treaty partners and any follow-up engagement undertaken with statutory stakeholders as appropriate.

6. Minister's decision making

The revised Plan and a range of supporting materials will be provided to the Minister, who will decide whether to finalise the Plan and designate a Sika Herd of Special Interest.

If designated, the Minister can delegate some of his management powers to the Game Animal Council under section 20 of the Game Animal Council Act.

The timing of final decision making is at the Minister's discretion.

Other information relevant to the Plan

Ecological objectives and monitoring

The following ecological objectives are outlined in section 3 of the Plan:

- Sika are managed in a manner that allows for the maintenance of forest ecosystem processes, including canopy regeneration, and protects threatened species and their habitats.
- Knowledge and understanding of the dynamics between sika and indigenous species and ecosystems are improved.

Specific actions to achieve these objectives will be designed, planned and delivered as part of an annual operational plan.

A more specific ecological target is not set in the Plan, as a blanket target would not recognise variations in local conditions, including topography, habitat type, species distribution and sika behaviour, or effects throughout the Sika Herd of Special Interest Area (the Sika Area).

Ecological targets will require ongoing revision based on management results and updated monitoring information. It is intended that publicly accessible annual reports will provide information on activities undertaken to achieve the objectives.

Interim targets that show positive change, or at least no net decline in the components of the objective, could be considered for inclusion in the annual operational plans. This would allow management and targets to be adapted over time. This could include, for example:

- no loss of representation of plant functional groups in the browse tier;

- maintenance of palatable plant size class structures;
- maintenance of canopy species size class structures; or
- reduced incidence of browse on palatable plants.

Related monitoring actions will also be undertaken, in accordance with relevant standardised protocols and standards that are used or set by the Department. These may include, but are not limited to, the following methods and tools:

- Seedling ratio index
- Permanent 20 x 20 metre plots
- Alpine deer browse
- Faecal pellet counts

Key development steps in monitoring programmes include design, piloting, implementation and systems development. Each step is critical to ensure that monitoring is effective, efficient and aligned with management objectives. Reporting is then required to allow the collected data to be used to evaluate progress in achieving the objectives and determine if management is effective.

It is intended that the monitoring programme undertaken as part of the Sika Herd of Special Interest will follow these steps.

Fees

No fees to hunt sika are proposed as part of the Sika Herd of Special Interest.

Overriding considerations

The Plan is designed to be consistent with overriding considerations, as required by the Game Animal Council Act.

Under that Act, 'overriding considerations' means:

- (a) the welfare and management of public conservation land and resources generally;
- (b) any statement of general policy that is made, or has effect as if it were made, under—
 - (i) section 17B of the Conservation Act 1987;
 - (ii) section 44 of the National Parks Act 1980;
 - (iii) section 15A of the Reserves Act 1977;
 - (iv) section 14C of the Wildlife Act 1953;
- (c) any conservation management strategy made under section 17D of the Conservation Act 1987;
- (d) any conservation management plan made under—
 - (i) section 17E of the Conservation Act 1987;
 - (ii) section 40B of the Reserves Act 1977;
- (e) any management plan made under—
 - (i) section 47 of the National Parks Act 1980;
 - (ii) section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977;
- (f) any wild animal control plan made under section 5 of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977;
- (g) any pest management strategy, pest management plan, pathway management plan, or operational plan made under the Biosecurity Act 1993.

(Game Animal Council Act 2013, section 4)

The policy, strategy and plan overriding considerations that are relevant to the Plan are the:

- *Conservation General Policy 2005*;²
- *Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy 2002*;³
- *Hawke's Bay Conservation Management Strategy 1994*;⁴

² Department of Conservation. 2005. Conservation General Policy. Wellington: Department of Conservation. doc.govt.nz/general-policy

³ Department of Conservation. 2002. Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy 2002–2012. Turangi: Department of Conservation. doc.govt.nz/tongariro-taupo-cms

⁴ Department of Conservation. 1994. Conservation Management Strategy for Hawke's Bay Conservancy 1994–2004. Napier: Department of Conservation. doc.govt.nz/hawkes-bay-cms

- *Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan 2007*,⁵
- *Kaweka Forest Park Conservation Management Plan 1991*,⁶
- *Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022–2032*,⁷
- *Horizons Regional Council Regional Pest Management Plan 2017–2037*,⁸ and
- *Hawke's Bay Regional Council Regional Pest Management Plan 2018–2038*.⁹

Conservation General Policy 2005

The Plan has been written to reflect provisions in the *Conservation General Policy*,¹⁰ including:

- section 2: Treaty of Waitangi Responsibilities – regarding consultation with tangata whenua;
- section 3: Public Participation in Conservation Management;
- section 4.2: Biosecurity and management of threats to indigenous species, habitats and ecosystems – regarding the following items:
 - 4.2 (e) Commercial hunting of wild animals and animal pests should be encouraged to maximise the effective control of them, while minimising any adverse effects of hunting on planned outcomes at places.
 - 4.2 (f) Recreational hunting of wild animals and animal pests should be encouraged where this does not diminish the effectiveness of operations to control them and is consistent with planned outcomes at places.
- section 9.1: Planning and management for people's benefit and enjoyment – regarding the following items:
 - 9.1 (a) Recreational opportunities will be provided on public conservation lands and waters. Where provided, they should be consistent with the values of, and outcomes planned for places.
 - 9.1 (f) Recreational opportunities at places should be managed to avoid or otherwise minimise any adverse effects (including cumulative effects) on:
 - i. natural resources and historical and cultural heritage where required by the relevant Act;
 - ii. the qualities of peace and natural quiet, solitude, remoteness and wilderness, where present; and
 - iii. the experiences of other people.
- section 9.3: Hazards to people – regarding the following item:
 - 9.3 (b) Recreational activities that create hazards for other people should be managed to reduce the risk of harm.

Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy 2002

The Plan reflects provisions in the *Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy*,¹¹ including:

- section 2.1.2: Key management principles – regarding the following principles:
 - Principle 1: Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment within the Conservancy
 - Principle 3: Development of an Effective Conservation Partnership with Tangata Whenua
 - Principle 4: Fostering Recreation Use of Public Conservation Land
- section 3.1.4: Animal Pests – regarding the objective 'To maintain indigenous biodiversity through appropriate management of animal and pest species';
- section 3.5.2: Recreation Use – regarding items 2 (Aircraft Access), 8 (Firearms and Other Weapons) and 10 (Visitor Health and Safety);

⁵ Department of Conservation. 2007. *Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan*. Wellington: Department of Conservation. doc.govt.nz/kaimanawa-management-plan

⁶ Department of Conservation. 1991. *Kaweka Forest Park Conservation Management Plan*. Napier: Department of Conservation. doc.govt.nz/kaweka-management-plan

⁷ Waikato Regional Council. 2022. *Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022–2032*. Tūtohu Mahere Whakahaere Ā-Roheo Waikato Mō Ngā Kīrearea. Hamilton: Waikato Regional Council. waikatoregion.govt.nz/services/publications/rpmp-2022-2032

⁸ Horizons Regional Council. 2017. *Regional Pest Management Plan 2017–2037*. Palmerston North: Horizons Regional Council. horizons.govt.nz/HRC/media/Media/Pests/2017-2037-Regional-Pest-Management-Plan.pdf

⁹ Hawke's Bay Regional Council. 2023. *Regional Pest Management Plan 2018–2038*. Napier: Hawke's Bay Regional Council. hbrc.govt.nz/environment/pest-control/biosecurity/regional-pest-management-plan

¹⁰ doc.govt.nz/general-policy

¹¹ doc.govt.nz/tongariro-taupo-cms

- section 4.4.6: Threats – the control of deer in the region is largely by recreational hunting, although commercial recovery by helicopter has been and remains a management tool in more difficult and isolated areas; deer numbers are high over parts of Kaimanawa–Moawhango, and even at a low density, the presence of deer has some ecological cost; and
- section 4.4.10: Management Objectives – regarding the following item:
 - 7 To manage introduced animal species so as to minimise or remove their adverse effects on native ecosystems.

Hawke's Bay Conservation Management Strategy 1994

The Plan reflects provisions in the *Hawke's Bay Conservation Management Strategy*,¹² including:

- section 3.4.4 Animal Pest Control – regarding the following objective:
 - ii To control, and where possible, eradicate animal pests in accordance with national priorities, where they are threatening natural or historic values.
 - iii To encourage other user groups and authorities to act on animal pest problems, and co-ordinate their actions where appropriate.
- section 3.4.6: Restoration Objectives – regarding the following objective:
 - ii. To attempt to restore areas of high natural or historic value which have been degraded by events such as fires, inappropriate use, or wild animals and plant pests, as resources allow.
- section 3.5.4.2: Priorities for Management/Protection of Threatened Plant Species – regarding the following objective:

To maintain the diversity of native plant species and communities found in the Conservancy and to enhance populations of the most threatened species where possible.
- section 3.8: Recreation Opportunities – Access, Facilities, Services;
- section 3.8.2.7: Visitor Health and Safety; and
- section 3.10.2.1: Consultation with Tangata Whenua.

Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan 2007

The Plan reflects the provisions in the *Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan*,¹³ including:

- section 2.5: Recreation – regarding the hunting of sika and red deer;
- section 3.2.1: Managing Threats to Biodiversity – regarding deer;
- section 6.1.1: Ecological Management Areas – regarding the objectives and policies;
- section 6.1.2 Indigenous Flora – regarding the objectives;
- section 6.1.4: Indigenous Fauna – regarding the objectives;
- section 6.1.5: Animal Pests – regarding the following objective:
 - a To remove or control animal pests that threaten the park's natural values.
- section 6.1.5: Animal Pests – regarding policies 1–5;
- section 7.7: Recreational Hunting – regarding objectives a and b;
- section 7.7: Recreational Hunting – regarding policies 1–12;
- section 8.3: Aircraft – regarding policy 5 on recreational hunting; and
- section 8.5: Wild Animal Recovery – regarding policies 1–4.

Kaweka Forest Park Conservation Management Plan 1991

The Plan reflects the provisions in the *Kaweka Forest Park Conservation Management Plan*,¹⁴ including:

- section 2.7: Fauna – regarding red deer and sika;
- sections 2.8: Recreation and 2.9: Recreational Importance – regarding hunters as the largest user group;
- section 3: Management Objectives;
- section 4.2: Wild Animal Control;
- section 5.1.5: Indigenous Plants;

¹² doc.govt.nz/hawkes-bay-cms

¹³ doc.govt.nz/kaimanawa-management-plan

¹⁴ doc.govt.nz/kaweka-management-plan

- section 5.1.10: Introduced Animals – regarding policies i, iv, v, vi, vii and ix; and
- section 5.2.6: Recreational Hunting – regarding policies ii, iii, iv and v.

Regional council regional pest management plans

Overriding considerations require the Plan to be consistent with any relevant regional council regional pest management plans. For this Plan, these include the:

- *Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan 2022–2032*;
- *Horizons Regional Council Regional Pest Management Plan 2017–2037*; and
- *Hawke's Bay Regional Council Regional Pest Management Plan 2018–2038*.

The *Waikato Regional Pest Management Plan*¹⁵ acknowledges the Department as the lead agency in managing feral deer in the region.

The *Horizons Regional Council Regional Pest Management Plan*¹⁶ references the Department as having the statutory authority to act on wild animals (including deer) not otherwise covered in the Plan.

The *Hawke's Bay Regional Council Regional Pest Management Plan*¹⁷ lists feral deer, including sika, as pests included in site-led programmes to protect areas of ecological importance. Objective 16 states:

Over the duration of the Plan, support sustainable control of population levels of feral cats, feral deer, feral goats, feral pigs, hedgehogs, mustelids, possums and rats at sites of ecological importance to levels appropriate for the protection of ecological values, recreational values and economic well-being within the Hawke's Bay region.

Recreational hunting areas

There are currently two gazetted recreational hunting areas in parts of Kaweka Forest Park and Kaimanawa Forest Park. These areas were established in the 1980s under the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 and total approximately 54,800 hectares. The purpose of these recreational hunting areas was to set aside areas where wild animal recovery operations by helicopter would be excluded and recreational hunting would be designated the primary method of deer control.

It is anticipated that the recreational hunting areas will be revoked if the Sika Herd of Special Interest is designated. This is because designation of the Sika Area would mean that the animals become 'game animals' subject to the Game Animal Council Act, rather than being 'wild animals' subject to the Wild Animal Control Act.

Additional Q&As

Additional questions and answers are provided below to support submissions on the Plan.

Sika Herd of Special Interest Area

Q. How many sika are there in the Sika Area? What is the best estimate the Department can give?

It is not possible to count the number of deer in forest habitats. Wild animal populations are mostly monitored by carrying out faecal pellet counts (which provide an index of abundance) and using these as an indicator of population trends over time.

The lack of understorey vegetation and the poor condition of many sika indicate that the sika population is at carrying capacity in those places, negatively impacting forest health and recreational hunting values.

¹⁵ waikatoregion.govt.nz/services/publications/rpmp-2022-2032

¹⁶ horizons.govt.nz/HRC/media/Media/Pests/2017-2037-Regional-Pest-Management-Plan.pdf

¹⁷ hbrc.govt.nz/environment/pest-control/biosecurity/regional-pest-management-plan

Q. Why should we be protecting introduced species on public conservation land?

The designation of a Sika Herd of Special Interest, and development of a related herd management plan, is not about protecting sika. The designation of a herd of special interest allows a herd of a specific game species in a specific area to be managed sustainably for both hunting and conservation outcomes.

Management actions for a herd of special interest are informed by a herd management plan, which is reviewed every 5 years.

Q. How does the Department measure the impacts of sika in the Sika Area?

The Department measures the impacts of wild animals on forest communities by comparing the plant species deer eat, particularly the preferred ones, with species deer avoid eating.

In forested areas, we use the seedling ratio index (SRI) method. This measures the ratio of tall to short seedlings grouped into preference classes to assess browsing impact. More short records (negative SRI) indicates that regeneration of the group is impeded, while more tall records (positive SRI) suggests that regeneration is likely. When animal numbers are very high, negative scores are more likely for plants that are preferred by deer compared with those that are avoided. This method has been used in nine management units in the Sika Herd of Special Interest Area, most recently by the Sika Foundation as part of a programme of adaptive deer management.

In addition, mountain beech saplings are measured to ensure that enough can grow above the browse height of sika to allow any gaps in the forest canopy to be closed over time.

Q. How would the designation of a Sika Herd of Special Interest differ from existing management of sika in the area?

Some people value wild deer, pigs, tahr and chamois for food, sporting or business purposes.

New Zealand's conservation framework generally seeks to reduce the impacts of wild animals, along with other threats, on public conservation land to maintain and enhance the regeneration of native vegetation and protect indigenous ecosystems.

A herd of special interest designation would allow sika to also be managed for hunting purposes, while ensuring that conservation values continue to be protected.

Hunting

Q. What does 'managed for hunting purposes' mean?

The Minister is required to have regard to the advice of a range of parties when considering whether animals can be 'managed for hunting purposes'. This could be to manage a healthy population of animals with a specific herd composition (for example, a specific ratio of young to old animals, or males to females) that produces the animal traits (for example, hides, meat, antlers) that hunters value, and to manage or coordinate hunting demand.

Q. What authorisations or permits will I need if I want to hunt in the Sika Area?

Hunters will need to obtain a hunting authorisation to hunt sika within the Sika Area. This requirement will apply at all times of the year.

This authorisation will be similar to the hunting permit that hunters are currently required to obtain from the Department before hunting sika in this same area.

Q. What conditions will apply to hunting sika within the Sika Area? Why aren't these discussed in detail in the Plan?

It is anticipated that hunting conditions for sika will be similar to existing arrangements – but this will be confirmed as part of annual operational herd of special interest planning, in accordance with the requirements of the Game Animal Council Act.¹⁸

¹⁸ For example, Game Animal Council Act 2013, section 18(1)(d).

The Plan

Q. Who does the Plan apply to?

The Plan sets out a range of objectives and strategies that determine how the Minister's powers for managing the herd of special interest are to be exercised. Any entity undertaking management activities for the Sika Herd of Special Interest, whether the Game Animal Council, the Sika Foundation or the Department, will be required to act in accordance with the Plan.

Q. Why has the Plan been prepared at the direction of the Minister for Hunting and Fishing rather than the Minister of Conservation?

The Game Animal Council Act provides a ministerial power to establish herds of special interest, by way of notice, and to manage herds of special interest. The Minister for Hunting and Fishing is the relevant Minister for the purposes of the Game Animal Council Act, including for the designation of a herd of special interest and development of the Plan.¹⁹

The Minister for Hunting and Fishing has exercised these powers in the making of the Plan and the proposed designation of the Sika Herd of Special Interest.

Q. Why doesn't the Plan set out a target animal density for the Sika Area?

Effective population management focuses on whether the ecological objectives are being achieved. The appropriate animal density to achieve this may be variable or change over time due to various factors. The correlation between deer density and the level of browse is difficult to quantify and depends on several factors, including herd composition and demographics (age, weight and sex) and the characteristics of the plant community (density and presence of more palatable or less palatable species). Therefore, it is not desirable to fix set density targets.

Q. The Plan mentions 'adaptive management'. What does that mean?

Adaptive management is a term used in environment and resource management to describe a learning-based approach where management responds to changing conditions and new information.

An adaptive management approach acknowledges that there is uncertainty about how ecological systems function and respond to management actions. It is designed to improve understanding of how a system works and use this knowledge to move towards the desired outcomes.

As a result, an adaptive management approach is often used to make decisions in an environment with multiple management objectives, constrained management authorities, dynamic ecological systems and uncertainty about the responses to management actions.

Adaptive management often requires the participation of multiple stakeholders to help assess the problem, design activities to solve it, implement and monitor the activities, and evaluate the results.

Q. Recreational hunters can contribute to managing populations, so why does the Plan mention professional animal control?

Hunting deer in the remote and rugged terrain of Kaimanawa Forest Park and Kaweka Forest Park is challenging. Where deer numbers are high, it is not possible for recreational hunting alone to reduce the deer population to more healthy and sustainable levels. Professional control using helicopters and focusing on hinds is the most efficient and effective way to reduce the population and achieve benefits for the composition and quality of the herd and forest health.

¹⁹ Further information on ministerial portfolios is available at dpmc.govt.nz/cabinet/portfolios/hunting-and-fishing.

Q. The Plan mentions benefits expected to be gained by managing the animals for hunting purposes. Benefits are also discussed in the Minister’s Foreword. Why are these benefits not fully set out in the Plan?

The benefits expected to be gained by managing sika for hunting purposes will be set out in a future Gazette notice, should the Minister ultimately decide to designate a Sika Herd of Special Interest. This reflects the requirements and process set out in the Game Animal Council Act.²⁰

Q. How often will the Plan be reviewed?

The Game Animal Council Act requires that the Plan is reviewed at intervals of not more than 5 years.

²⁰ Game Animal Council Act 2013, section 16(3).