



Briefing: Cabinet paper for discussion document on the next ANZBS Implementation Plan

To	Minister of Conservation	Date submitted	24 October 2024
Action sought	Agree to begin Ministerial consultation on the draft Cabinet paper on 12 November	Priority	High
Reference	24-B-0279	DocCM	DOC-7690988
Security Level	In Confidence		
Risk Assessment	Medium A decision on this briefing is needed to ensure we can commence public consultation in the first quarter of 2025.	Timeframe	31 October 2024 If late, it will delay consideration by Cabinet and push public consultation further into 2025.
Attachments	Attachment A – Cabinet paper Attachment B – Discussion document Attachment C – Draft Ministerial foreword Attachment D – Table of agency feedback Attachment E – Indicative timeline		
Contacts			
Name and position			Cell phone
Stephanie Rowe, Deputy Director-General Biodiversity Heritage and Visitors			s9(2)(a)
Kirstie Knowles, Director Biodiversity System and Aquatic			s9(2)(a)

Executive summary – Whakarāpopoto ā kaiwhakahaere

1. This briefing seeks your agreement to:
 - the proposed content and approach for the next implementation plan for *Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (ANZBS)*;
 - the proposed consultation approach; and if approved,
 - begin Ministerial consultation on a Cabinet paper outlining a proposed consultation approach on 12 November 2024, and to take the paper to Cabinet before the end of 2024.
2. You have signalled to Cabinet (CAB-24-MIN-0366) your intention to replace the current ANZBS implementation plan, which is not fit for purpose, with a new, more targeted plan to direct resources towards biodiversity action and deliver on Government's priorities, within available resources.
3. The implementation plan will consist of New Zealand's national targets; critical actions and supporting programmes and policies to achieve those targets; and monitoring indicators.
4. The new plan takes a practical and prioritised approach, focusing on the most critical actions central and regional government can take to make a difference for nature and enable greater action from others. The critical actions align with your portfolio priorities and the national targets for the Global Biodiversity Framework which have recently been agreed by Cabinet (CAB-24-MIN-0366) and submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity (**the Convention**).
5. As the ANZBS is a strategy for all New Zealand, undertaking consultation on the next implementation plan will ensure that the critical actions are widely supported, well-aligned, effective, practical and achieve maximum benefit.
6. We recommend undertaking targeted consultation on the critical actions, focussing on Iwi/hapū, Māori organisations and key stakeholders, while offering the wider public the opportunity to submit on the discussion document, should they wish to.
7. The material attached to this briefing for your consideration and feedback includes:
 - a) A draft Cabinet paper (**Attachment A**) and discussion document (**Attachment B**).
 - b) A draft Ministerial foreword for the discussion document (**Attachment C**).
 - c) A summary of agency feedback (**Attachment D**).
 - d) An indicative timeline (**Attachment E**).
8. Following your feedback, we will finalise the Cabinet paper for you should you wish to begin Ministerial consultation.

We recommend that you ... (Ngā tohutohu)

		Decision
a)	Note that the next ANZBS implementation plan will consist of New Zealand's national targets; critical actions; supporting programmes and policies; and monitoring indicators.	Noted
b)	Note that the proposed critical actions deliver on your priorities and will be delivered within agency baselines.	Noted
c)	Provide feedback on the:	

	<p>i. Proposed themes and actions for the ANZBS implementation plan (Table 1)</p> <p>ii. Consultation approach - targeted consultation on proposed critical actions, focussing on Iwi/hapū, Māori organisations and key stakeholders, while offering the wider public the opportunity to submit on actions, should they wish to.</p> <p>iii. Cabinet paper (Attachment A)</p> <p>iv. Discussion document (Attachment B) and Ministerial foreword (Attachment C)</p>	<p>Yes / No</p> <p>Yes / No</p> <p>Yes / No</p> <p>Yes / No</p>
d)	<p>Subject to your feedback in recommendation c) above:</p> <p>v. Agree to take the Cabinet paper and discussion document to Cabinet before the end of 2024.</p> <p>vi. Agree to commence Ministerial consultation on 12 November, subject to receiving an updated draft Cabinet paper.</p>	<p>Yes / No</p> <p>Yes / No</p>
e)	Note that, subject to Cabinet approval, the implementation plan and existing ANZBS will be submitted to the Convention as New Zealand's revised national biodiversity strategy and action plan.	Noted



Date: 17/10/2024

Stephanie Rowe
Deputy Director-General Biodiversity
Heritage and Visitors

Date: / /

Hon Tama Potaka
Minister of Conservation

Purpose – Te aronga

9. To seek your feedback on the proposed content and approach for the next ANZBS implementation plan, including public consultation.
10. To provide you with a draft Cabinet paper and discussion document should you wish to proceed with public consultation.

Background and context – Te horopaki

11. The ANZBS is our national strategy for addressing the state of New Zealand's biodiversity and sets objectives to 2050. Implementation plans are developed to guide actions over the short term.
12. The current implementation plan was published in April 2022. It was developed as an interim document and listed more than two hundred actions that were planned or underway. It is not fit for purpose and a new approach is needed to direct effort into the most important work across the strategy.
13. DOC is working with central and regional government to develop the next implementation plan, to be delivered within current agency baselines.
14. On 23 September 2024 Cabinet gave approval for you to submit the existing objectives of the ANZBS and their associated goals, amended to reflect Government priorities, as New Zealand's national targets for the Global Biodiversity Framework (CAB-24-MIN-0366). This response was submitted to the Convention on 7 October 2024.
15. Submission of the next implementation plan and the existing ANZBS will form the second part of New Zealand's response to the Global Biodiversity Framework.
16. The implementation plan will consist of New Zealand's national targets; critical actions; supporting programmes and policies; and monitoring indicators.
17. The plan will support collective efforts across New Zealand to address the state of our biodiversity. It will enable a strong and effective partnership between central and regional Government to deliver New Zealand's national targets.

Thirteen critical actions will provide a more focused approach to ANZBS implementation

18. The proposed critical actions take a practical and focused approach, prioritising the most important actions central and regional government can take to make a difference for nature and enable greater action from others. The actions align with your priorities and can be delivered within available resources.
19. The actions cover prioritising investment, increasing revenue and non-government funding for biodiversity, growing capability and improving the evidence and knowledge base for more effective decision making for biodiversity. They are proposed to ensure the sector is investing in the right places based on a sound understanding of the costs and return on investment, and to build momentum to address the state of our biodiversity.
20. There are thirteen critical actions proposed within four themes (**Table 1**). The critical actions have been reviewed to ensure they align to the national targets agreed by Cabinet.
21. Existing supporting programmes and policies will continue alongside the critical actions to deliver the national targets.

Table 1: Proposed themes and critical actions

Themes	Critical actions
Agreed biodiversity priorities are driving investment and action.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a national picture of our most important biodiversity values and quantify the costs to protect and restore priority species and habitats. 2. Tackle biodiversity loss by prioritising programmes to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o protect and restore high-priority degraded habitats (e.g. impacts from browsers, weeds, predators) o recover native species o develop nature-based solutions for biodiversity and climate change (e.g. wetland restoration).
Increased external funding, revenue and support is delivering more work on biodiversity priorities.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Develop a biodiversity investment prospectus to attract and direct external investment into biodiversity priorities. 4. Generate new revenue from public conservation lands and waters to invest back into biodiversity. 5. Increase commercial investment in biodiversity by supporting the business sector to develop a system for private sector nature-based financial disclosures, reporting and investment. 6. Increase the protection of biodiversity on private and Māori land by improving the accessibility and coordination of government support and incentives.
An evidence- and knowledge-based approach is driving improvements in practice and decision making for biodiversity.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Agree and implement an achievable set of priority indicators for monitoring progress on national targets, monitoring the effectiveness of interventions and meeting statutory and international reporting requirements. 8. Support Māori to use knowledge systems, including mātauranga, in decision making and biodiversity management. 9. Capture and embed the lessons from existing partnership-based delivery models for biodiversity / biosecurity management to inform decisions on future programmes. 10. Drive greater investment in nature-based solutions, including the restoration and protection of native ecosystems for carbon and biodiversity benefits, by improving the evidence base, developing case studies and operationalising existing research.
Increased capability and support enables New Zealand to address the state of our biodiversity.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Develop a cross-sector plan to address the most important capability gaps in the biodiversity system. 12. Increase New Zealanders' awareness of the value of our biodiversity, show how they can make a difference to biodiversity in their communities, and drive urgency and momentum for action. 13. Establish cross-agency emerging risks capability for domestic biosecurity to horizon scan, share intelligence and support decision-makers in prioritising emerging risk management.

Consultation on the critical actions will be focused on key stakeholders

22. As the ANZBS is a strategy for all New Zealand, undertaking consultation on the next implementation plan will ensure that the critical actions are widely supported, well-

aligned, effective, practical and achieve maximum benefit. We recommend this takes place during February and March 2025.

23. To date, the critical actions have been developed with other central agencies and Te Uru Kahika – Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa and early drafts tested with Iwi/hapū, national Māori organisations and environmental NGOs.
24. We recommend that further consultation is targeted, focussing on key stakeholders, Iwi/hapū and Māori organisations, and environmental NGOs, while offering the wider public the opportunity to submit on a discussion document, should they wish to.
25. We would align our approach with other planned consultations being undertaken by DOC or other agencies and use the combined resources to reach individuals and organisations with a strong interest. A common narrative and messaging will be developed across DOC's upcoming consultations to show how they are linked and collectively delivering on Government priorities.
26. To meet New Zealand's commitment to the Global Biodiversity Framework, the final implementation plan should include New Zealand's national targets, actions, supporting programmes and policies, and monitoring indicators. However, we do not propose consulting on the indicators (which are prescribed by the Convention) or the supporting programmes (which are existing work already funded from agency baselines).

A draft Cabinet paper seeking approval to consult is ready for your feedback

27. You have previously advised Cabinet of your intention to bring this matter to Cabinet in the last quarter of 2024 (CAB-24-MIN-0366). The proposed draft Cabinet paper, which we seek your feedback on, is provided at **Attachment A**.
28. The draft Cabinet paper seeks agreement to release the discussion document for consultation on the next ANZBS implementation plan. It also seeks delegation for you to approve the next implementation plan in consultation with relevant portfolio Ministers, and to submit the ANZBS and new implementation plan to the Convention.
29. The paper describes how biodiversity supports New Zealand's economy and how this is threatened by biodiversity loss. It also outlines the need to grow revenue and third-party investment for conservation, to mobilise New Zealanders to take action, and for central and regional government to work together effectively for greater collective effort.
30. We will provide an updated draft Cabinet paper incorporating your feedback prior to Ministerial consultation, which we are recommending occurs from 12 – 26 November.

A draft Discussion Document is also ready for your feedback

31. We have prepared a draft discussion document for your feedback, provided at **Attachment B**. Subject to your feedback and Cabinet approval, the discussion document is planned for public release in February 2025 to support consultation. It seeks input on where central and regional government should focus efforts to continue implementation of the ANZBS and the national targets, in line with your priorities.
32. The draft discussion document includes sections on:
 - The ANZBS and its implementation to date
 - The relationship between the implementation plan and the Convention and Global Biodiversity Framework, including the national targets.
 - Proposed themes and actions and their relationship to the ANZBS, including agency accountabilities and timeframes for delivery of actions
 - Future progress reporting and implementation planning

33. We note that the draft discussion document may be subject to some changes in light of feedback and your decisions arising out of other consultations you have planned, concluding by the end of February 2025 (of particular relevance is your planned consultation on access charging).
34. A draft Ministerial foreword for the discussion document is attached to this briefing for your feedback (**Attachment C**)

Risk assessment – Aronga tūraru

35. s9(2)(g)(i)



Treaty principles (section 4) – Ngā mātapono Tiriti (section 4)

36. The ANZBS was developed in 2019 in collaboration with Iwi/hapū and Māori organisations, supported by a Te Ao Māori reference group. It sets strong expectations about the Crown's Treaty responsibilities and the aspirations of tangata whenua in the biodiversity system.
37. Early engagement on development of the next ANZBS implementation plan has been undertaken with national Māori organisations including the Pou Taiao of the Iwi Chairs Forum, Te Tira Whakamātaki and the Predator Free 2050 Kaitiakitanga Collaborative Group.
38. A Māori engagement plan was developed and reviewed by the Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti. Targeted engagement with Iwi/hapū and Māori organisations has commenced and would continue through the public consultation period. This will provide an opportunity to help shape the critical actions for the implementation plan.

39. s9(2)(f)(iv)



Consultation – Kōrero whakawhiti

40. The following agencies were provided the opportunity to review the content of this paper: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

and Trade, The Treasury, Ministry of Health, Department of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Education, Ministry for Primary Industries, Te Puni Kōkiri, The Office for Māori Crown Relations – Te Arawhiti, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry for the Environment, Land Information New Zealand, Ministry for Women, Statistics New Zealand, and the Environmental Protection Authority.

41. s9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
42. s9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
43. Key agency feedback and how this has been addressed is summarised in **Attachment D**.

Financial implications – Te hīraunga pūtea

44. There are no direct financial implications as the proposed actions are covered through agency baselines. Actions under the “Agreed biodiversity priorities are driving investment and action” theme will see investment shift towards high priority species, habitats and places and away from lower priority work in line with your goal that DOC is financially sustainable by 2026.
45. Additional actions may be proposed through engagement with Iwi/hapū and Māori organisations and public consultation. If there are additional financial implications as a result of this, they would be subject to Budget and reprioritisation processes and agreed by Cabinet before the implementation plan can be finalised.
46. s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]

Legal implications – Te hīraunga a ture

47. There are no legal or legislative implications associated with this briefing.

Next steps – Ngā tāwhaitanga

48. Should you agree to undertake targeted consultation, we recommend taking the Cabinet paper and discussion document to Cabinet before the end of the year, and as a good follow on from your previous paper “Seeking agreement to New Zealand’s national targets for the Global Biodiversity Framework.”

49. Subject to your agreement to this approach and discussion with officials, we will:
- a) Provide you with an updated draft Cabinet paper before Ministerial consultation on 12 November 2024.
 - b) Provide a list of Ministers who are likely to have an interest in the paper, for the purpose of Ministerial consultation.
 - c) Provide you with a final Cabinet paper and talking points to support you at ECO and Cabinet in December 2024.
50. The Cabinet paper will need to be lodged by your office on 28 November to be considered at ECO on 4 December and Cabinet on 9 December 2024.
51. If Cabinet agrees to the recommendations, we will provide you, with a final draft of the discussion document for your approval on 20 December 2024. Public consultation would run for eight weeks from 10 February 2025.
52. An indicative timeline for development of the next ANZBS implementation plan is provided in **Attachment E**.

ENDS

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Attachments B and C have been withheld, as later drafts of these documents are proactively released separately. Attachment D is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA

Attachment E: Indicative timeframes for ANZBS IP discussion document

Milestone	Date/timeframe
Ministerial consultation	12 – 26 November
Lodge Cabinet paper	28 November
ECO committee	4 December
Cabinet	9 December
Briefing seeking final approval of discussion document	20 December
Public consultation	10 February – 21 March

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