

Excerpt from status report from Department of Conservation to Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 14/10/24

Developing the next implementation plan for the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy

This item updates you on progress on the next implementation plan for Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (ANZBS).

DOC will provide a briefing to you (24-B-0279 refers) in the week of 14 October seeking your feedback on the direction of the implementation plan, including the approach to consultation.

Cabinet agreed to submit the 13 objectives of the ANZBS and a set of revised goals as New Zealand's national targets under the Global Biodiversity Framework (CAB-24-MIN-0366 refers). The next ANZBS implementation plan will be submitted next year as the delivery plan for these targets.

You advised Cabinet that you will seek their agreement in the final quarter of 2024 to publicly consult on a discussion document for the next ANZBS implementation plan.

We will provide a draft discussion document and Cabinet paper with the briefing for your consideration.

Actions and programmes in the implementation plan

The next implementation plan is intended to take a practical and focused approach, prioritising the most critical actions that central and regional government can take to make a difference for nature and to enable greater action from others.

The proposed actions align with your priorities and the Cabinet agreed national targets and can be delivered within available resources.

A number of existing supporting programmes and policies will continue across central and regional government to support achievement of the national targets, alongside the critical actions.

Proposed consultation approach

The ANZBS is a strategy for all New Zealand, and consultation ensures buy-in and alignment.

Extensive consultation was undertaken on the ANZBS when it was developed, and we are developing the next implementation plan with input from central and regional government and Iwi. We therefore propose targeted consultation with those who are most likely to be interested in the critical actions – key stakeholders (e.g. NGOs), Iwi/hapū and Māori organisations, while providing the wider public with the opportunity to make a submission if they wish to.

We are proposing to consult on the critical actions only. The national targets have already been agreed by Cabinet and strongly align with the existing strategy. Other aspects of the implementation plan largely reflect business as usual.

There is opportunity to align with other consultations planned for early next year (e.g. Predator Free Strategy) to tell a strong story about Government focus on biodiversity.

Next steps

DOC will provide you a briefing on the draft implementation plan along with a proposed Cabinet paper and discussion document in the week of 14 October, for your feedback.

Should you agree to public consultation, we will support you to seek Cabinet approval as soon as practicable before the end of the year. This will allow you to build on the previous discussion with Ministers about the Global Biodiversity Framework and enable public consultation to begin in February 2025.

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