

18 October 2024

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 20 September 2024, in which you asked for:

1. *Can you please summarise the DOC work on national monitoring of cumulative effects on Indigenous fauna from land use activities outside of conservation land? Can you provide any reports, advice, or research documents about the DOC national monitoring the cumulative effects on Indigenous fauna since 2017? If there has been no monitoring, can you summarise why the DOC does not monitor the cumulative effects of land use on indigenous fauna?*
2. *Can you please summarise how the DOC works with territorial authorities to monitor cumulative environmental effects?*

Regarding my requests for summaries, I would be very happy to have a one-pager or bullet points from the relevant people to help me understand DOC's role in those spaces.

Context:

This response is one of several the Department commissioned after considering how best to approach your initial wide-ranging request received 12 September 2024. This approach enables us to answer your queries in an accurate and prompt manner with material provided when ready for release (without delay). You will receive our responses to your other queries over the coming weeks.

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *Can you please summarise the DOC work on national monitoring of cumulative effects on Indigenous fauna from land use activities outside of conservation land? Can you provide any reports, advice, or research documents about the DOC national monitoring the cumulative effects on Indigenous fauna since 2017? If there has been*

no monitoring, can you summarise why the DOC does not monitor the cumulative effects of land use on indigenous fauna?

We have provided a bullet point summary in relation to this question:

- Monitoring the effects of land use is not a function of the Department of Conservation under the Conservation Act. Monitoring the state of the environment is the responsibility of local authorities (section 35(2)(a) of the RMA) overseen by the Ministry for the Environment and reported through Land and Water Aotearoa (www.lawa.org.nz).
- DOC does not specifically monitor for the impacts of Land Use change. DOC focuses its national Tier 1 data collection on broadscale species monitoring for state and trend reporting.
- DOC does not specifically collect species data from non-public conservation land. We have however located a single document that illustrates the use of a Cumulative Impact Assessment. This document is attached and accompanies our response as item 1 (outlined in the table below).

In lieu of being able to supply any further information please refer to the below publicly accessible links which may be of some interest.

- At a national level MfE report on state and trends – see [Our land 2024 | Ministry for the Environment](#) and DOC reports on biodiversity via our Annual Report – see [Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai Pūrongo-ā-tau Annual Report 2022/23 - English version \(doc.govt.nz\)](#).
- DOC contributed to the 2019 report [Environment Aotearoa 2019 | Ministry for the Environment](#), produced by the Ministry for the Environment and Stats NZ, which discussed the impacts of Land Use change on biodiversity.
- The most significant report DOC have produced itself that covers the impacts of Land Use change is the 2020 [Biodiversity in Aotearoa - an overview of state, trends and pressures \(doc.govt.nz\)](#)

2. *Can you please summarise how the DOC works with territorial authorities to monitor cumulative environmental effects?*

We have provided a bullet point summary in relation to this question:

- As above the monitoring of effects on land use is not a function of the Department of Conservation.
- Territorial Authorities are responsible for species monitoring on land managed by them.
- Our collective responsibility and shared strategic direction for biodiversity are articulated in Te Mana o te Taiao/Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (2020).

- Legislative responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the various impacts of pressures on our environment is complex and is spread across a number of different departments and sectors.
- DOC has collected national terrestrial state and trend data for the past 10 years, which it publishes annually (see [Reports from DOC's monitoring system](#)).
- DOC also shares this data with Territorial Authorities.
- DOC has been supporting some Regional Councils to start implementing Tier 1 collection methods consistent with its Public Conservation Land monitoring to support the creation of a national picture of biodiversity.
- Councils will sometimes work with environmental consultants or CRIs (such as Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research) to produce evaluative reports using multiple data sources.

In scope documentation on cumulative effects monitoring is outlined below. As previously noted, item 1 accompanies our response as an attachment for your reference. Remaining documentation is publicly accessible via the links provided.

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	26/02/2019	Cumulative and Point Impact Assessment 8 Drill Holes Denniston 26 Feb 2019	Released in part
2	2019 – Present	Ngā Awa river restoration programme: Our work (doc.govt.nz) Link to the DOC webpage and there are several documents linked in here	Released in full
3	2021	Effects of sediment on birds (doc.govt.nz) Link to the DOC webpage and the document is linked in here	Released in full

I have decided to release the relevant parts of document item 1 listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people.
- Out of scope information which does not assess cumulative effects on indigenous fauna.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on the Department's website.

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please contact [REDACTED], Fauna Advice Manager by email to [REDACTED].

Nāku noa, nā



Hilary Aikman
Director Terrestrial Biodiversity
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai