

28 November 2025

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai / Conservation  
House Head Office  
PO Box 10420  
Wellington 6140  
doc.govt.nz  
Ref: OIAD-5799

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 31 October 2025, in which you asked for:

1. *"A current draft of the proposed national conservation policy statement (pNCPS);*
2. *2. A list of changes (if any) proposed to the current policy 10 (h) of the Conservation General Policy and 9(h) of the General Policy for Parks (Existing private accommodation to be phased out), and any related changes to other policies;*
3. *3. Who the person in DOC is that is responsible for this project and their contact details;*
4. *4. Copies of any work that has been done on the issue of phasing out private baches on PCL associated with the new proposed pNCPS) (any papers/discussion documents prepared, memoranda, meetings had, draft policy proposed, decisions made, expert advice obtained, e-mails etc);*
5. *5. Who has been consulted/who is to be consulted on the proposed contents of the pNCPS; and*
6. *6. Whether there will be a draft available prior to the select committee for the public to submit on and what a timeline for the proposed changes and select committee process etc.*
7. *7. What is the timeframe leading up to the select committee process."*

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

#### Background information related to your request

In June 2025, Cabinet agreed to a suite of changes to reform conservation land management, including the establishment of a single National Conservation Policy Statement (NCPS).

Targeted consultation on policy proposals for the NCPS took place in July and August 2025. Cabinet is expected to make final policy decisions on the content of the NCPS in early 2026,



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

Te Kāwanatanga  
o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government

ahead of the planned introduction of the Conservation Acts (Land Management) Amendment Bill (the Bill) next year.

The draft NCPS policies are proposed to be submitted to select committee to allow consideration of the NCPS policies alongside the Bill.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *A current draft of the proposed national conservation policy statement (pNCPS);*

Unfortunately, I am not able to provide you with a draft of the NCPS under section 9(2)(f)(iv) as advice on these matters is under active consideration.

2. *A list of changes (if any) proposed to the current policy 10 (h) of the Conservation General Policy and 9(h) of the General Policy for Parks (Existing private accommodation to be phased out), and any related changes to other policies;*
4. *Copies of any work that has been done on the issue of phasing out private baches on PCL associated with the new proposed pNCPS) (any papers/discussion documents prepared, memoranda, meetings had, draft policy proposed, decisions made, expert advice obtained, e-mails etc);*

I have identified two documents in scope of the above request. These documents are listed in the document schedule below. I am releasing the relevant parts of one document, subject to information being withheld under the applicable sections of the OIA and withholding the other in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) as advice on these matters is under active consideration.

We can identify 13 internal meetings held since 1 July 2025 (following Cabinet decisions on the Bill) to discuss the approach to private accommodation matters in the NCPS. Please note, the issue may have been discussed at meetings regarding the NCPS more broadly but not otherwise recorded. I am withholding any further information about the meetings, as the matter is still under active consideration (section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA refers).

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

3. *Who the person in DOC is that is responsible for this project and their contact details;*

Sam Thomas, Director Policy, Department of Conservation ([samthomas@doc.govt.nz](mailto:samthomas@doc.govt.nz)).

5. *Who has been consulted/who is to be consulted on the proposed contents of the pNCPS;*

Public consultation on potential changes to reform conservation land management took place from November 2024 to February 2025, including 25 regional hui with Iwi. More than 5,500 submissions were received.

In July 2025, DOC released a consultation paper on some policy matters for the NCPS, seeking feedback from a targeted group of key stakeholders (statutory organisations, recreational, commercial, and conservation organisations) and Iwi.

A select committee process will take place in 2026 and will provide an opportunity for the public to provide feedback on the Bill and NCPS policies.

6. *Whether there will be a draft available prior to the select committee for the public to submit on and what a timeline for the proposed changes and select committee process etc.*
7. *What is the timeframe leading up to the select committee process.*

Final policy approvals for the NCPS are expected to be taken in early 2026. Advice will be proactively released once final policy decisions have been taken.

The draft NCPS policies are proposed to be submitted to select committee to allow consideration of the NCPS policies alongside the Bill. The select committee process is expected to take place early-mid 2026.

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 OIA.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on DOC's website.

Nāku noa, nā

[REDACTED]

Emma Hill  
Policy Manager  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## Document schedule

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	2 July 2025	25-B-0278 - Briefing: Policy matters for targeted consultation – National Conservation Policy Statement.	Released in part with information withheld under sections 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials; and 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons.
2	13 November 2025	25-B-0350 - Briefing - Conservation Acts (Land Management) Amendment Bill - Policy decisions relating to the National Conservation Policy Statement.	Withheld in full under section 18(a) of the Act, by virtue of 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.