




OIAD-4820  
26 February 2025



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 10 January 2025, in which you asked for:

*All plans, meeting notes and reports regarding biodiversity monitoring on Stewart Island, from 2020 onwards.*

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

On 19 January 2025 you refined your request to:

1. *Any plans and reports specifically addressing monitoring or managing biodiversity (the variety of organisms) or ecosystems on Rakiura, from 2020 onwards*
2. *Any plans and reports specifically addressing tier one monitoring and forest health monitoring from 2020 onwards*

As per communication on 17 January 2025 your request has been considered and interpreted to be key documents for DOC-led work such as monitoring reports, and management plans.

On 13 February 2025 we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 26 February 2025 due to the large quantity of information to search through, and the third-party consultation necessary.

Your questions (in bold) and our responses are listed below:

1. ***Any plans and reports specifically addressing monitoring or managing biodiversity (the variety of organisms) or ecosystems on Rakiura, from 2020 onwards***

I am providing you with a document that outlines the outcomes for threatened vascular plant species on Rakiura. This report has been released in full; please refer to the attached document schedule.

I am providing you with several Dune Restoration program reports, and a report compiling available information on *Gunnera hamiltonii*. Some information has been withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- information and photographs of staff assisting with monitoring work under section 9(2)(g)(ii), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment.

For key documents regarding the management or monitoring of biodiversity on Ulva Island/Te Wharawhara please refer to the relevant information provided to you by the Department on 13 February in response to OIAD-4818 point 3.

For key documents regarding the management or monitoring that has occurred through the Southern New Zealand dotterel/pukunui project, please refer to the relevant information provided to you by the Department on 13 February in response to OIAD-4818 point 5.

Statutory planning documents are publicly available on DOC's website. Your request for this information is therefore declined under s18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982. To assist you in locating the statutory planning documents, here is a link to the *Stewart Island/Rakiura Conservation Management Strategy* and *Rakiura National Park Plan* on the DOC website below:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/about-doc/role/policies-and-plans/cms/stewart-island-rakiura-cms-and-rakiura-np-mp-2012.pdf>

The key documents regarding the management or monitoring of the New Zealand sea lion/pakake on Rakiura are publicly available on DOC's website. Therefore, your request for this information is declined under s18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982. To assist you in locating these reports here is a link to New Zealand sea lion/pakake research and fieldwork information:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/native-animals/marine-mammals/seals/new-zealand-sea-lion/research-and-fieldwork/>

The strategy for management or monitoring of yellow-eyed penguins/hoiho on Rakiura is publicly available on DOC's website. Therefore, your request for this information is declined under s18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982. To assist you in locating these reports here is a link to a five-year action plan/Te Mahere Rima Tau for yellow-eyed penguins/hoiho:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/native-animals/birds/sea-and-shore/te-mahere-rima-tau-five-year-action-plan-2024-2029.pdf>

A scientific paper published by DOC's Biodiversity Group on the monitoring of Stewart Island brown kiwi/Rakiura tokoeka on Rakiura is publicly available on the Birds New Zealand website. Therefore, your request for this information is declined under s18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982. To assist you in locating this report here is a link:

[https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/RoberstonColbourne\\_69\\_147-157.v3.pdf](https://www.birdsnz.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/RoberstonColbourne_69_147-157.v3.pdf)

**2. Any plans and reports specifically addressing tier one monitoring and forest health monitoring from 2020 onwards**

I have provided you with a report on the status and trend of Rakiura National Park and a data summary of Tier one monitoring within Rakiura National Park. These reports are released in full; please refer to the attached document schedule.

I have provided you with a Rakiura forest health report memo and a Rakiura monitoring 2010 to future presentation which was presented to the Southland Conservation Board in 2024. Some information has been withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Official Information Act.

The annual reports produced by the Tier one monitoring teams are publicly available on DOC's website. Therefore, your request for this information is declined under s18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982. To assist you in locating these reports here are the links to the relevant monitoring reports produced from 2020 to 2021. Please note that these reports cover monitoring across all public conservation land (PCL) in New Zealand.

2020/2021:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/national-status-and-trend-reports-2020-2021/bird-species-2020-2021/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/national-status-and-trend-reports-2020-2021/nocturnal-birds-2020-2021/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/national-status-and-trend-reports-2020-2021/tagged-stems-2020-2021/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/national-status-and-trend-reports-2020-2021/possums-2020-2021/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/national-status-and-trend-reports-2020-2021/ungulates-2020-2021/>

2021/2022:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/national-status-and-trend-reports-2021-2022/bird-species-2021-2022/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/national-status-and-trend-reports-2021-2022/nocturnal-birds-2021-2022/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/national-status-and-trend-reports-2021-2022/tagged-stems-2021-2022/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/national-status-and-trend-reports-2021-2022/possums-2021-2022/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/national-status-and-trend-reports-2021-2022/ungulates-2021-2022/>

2022/2023:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/national-status-and-trend-reports-2022-2023/bird-species-2022-2023/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/national-status-and-trend-reports-2022-2023/nocturnal-birds-2022-2023/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/national-status-and-trend-reports-2022-2023/possums-2022-2023/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/national-status-and-trend-reports-2022-2023/ungulates-2022-2023/>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/national-status-and-trend-reports-2022-2023/pekapeka-2022-2023/>

Three reports on the Tier One monitoring framework were prepared by Manaaki Whenua for DOC. One is publicly available at the following link, titled “Tier One monitoring framework: design evaluation”:

[https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/assets/researchpubs/tier\\_one\\_review\\_mwlr.pdf](https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/assets/researchpubs/tier_one_review_mwlr.pdf)


The other two Manaaki Whenua reports are provided to you in full; please see the appended schedule of documents.

Regarding the information withheld under section 9 of the Official Information Act, I have considered section 9(1) and determined that there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

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.

Nāku noa, nā



Aaron Fleming MNZM  
Regional Operations Director, Southern South Island  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

**Table 1 - Schedule of documents**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	29/08/2024	Rakiura Vascular Plants Outcome Plans	Released in full
2	12/10/2023	2022-23 Stewart Island/Rakiura Dune Restoration Program Report	Released in part
3	03/10/2024	Report to Dune Restoration Advisory Group August 2023	Released in part
4	21/10/2024	Report to Dune Restoration Advisory Group– Monitoring /Research	Released in part
5	26/07/2024	Gunnera hamiltonii - information compilation	Released in part
6	16/06/2021	National parks status and trend report – Rakiura National Park	Released in full
7	02/09/2024	Park level results of Tier 1 monitoring	Released in full
8	16/01/2024	Rakiura forest health report memo	Released in part
9	30/06/2024	Rakiura monitoring 2010 to future DOC Monitoring	Released in part
10	June 2024	Contrasting the ecological integrity of naturally unforested ecosystems and deforested ecosystems on public conservation land throughout New Zealand	Released in full
11	May 2024	Monitoring the ecological integrity of the indigenous forests of Rakiura, 1970–2024	Released in part