

Department of Conservation Status Report

Item 1

for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 17 February 2025

Date: / /

Seen by Hon Tama Potaka
Minister of Conservation



In a milestone for West Coast
whio conservation efforts,
seven juvenile whio have been
released in the Moeraki valley
by DOC and Ngāti Māhaki. The
release of this taonga species
is the result of an ongoing
South Island breeding
programme involving several
conservation partners. Fewer
than 3000 whio remain in
Aotearoa.

 : Cassie Mealey, DOC



Department of
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Te Papa Atawhai

3.2 Abandoned Building: Chateau Tongariro

- In our January status report update [Item 2.3, Status Report 47], DOC advised that we would provide you with an updated draft Cabinet paper relating to Chateau Tongariro in February.
- Since that update, you instructed us to complete the expression of interest (EOI) process which was paused in September 2024.
 - » The EOI was paused to allow us to seek direction on the next steps from Cabinet following a report from CBRE Limited confirming that at least 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(i) would be required to bring the Chateau up to standard before there would be commercial interest in operating the hotel.
- CBRE are currently preparing information to be released as part of the EOI. They will confidentially test market interest with a select group of participants 9(2)(i) with whom they have existing relationships and will include individuals who have previously expressed an interest directly to DOC (we have reconfirmed that there 9(2)(i) interested parties).

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- The EOI process will begin in February following DOC's approval of the EOI information pack. CBRE anticipate completing the EOI in early March and providing a report on the outcomes by mid-March.
- Following this, the draft Cabinet paper will be updated and resubmitted to you at the end of March or in early April to allow incorporation of the EOI outcome.

Next steps

- DOC will provide you an updated Cabinet paper in March/April.

Contact: CJ Juby, Director Business Services 9(2)(a)

Department of Conservation Status Report

Item 2

for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 7 April 2025

Date: / /

Seen by Hon Tama Potaka
Minister of Conservation



The team on Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island is extending its work tackling climbing asparagus and pampas, thanks to recent IVL funding for weed control across the Hauraki Gulf islands. Drones are also being used to address pampas on the Mokohinau Islands and Hauturu-o-Toi.

 : DOC



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2.2 Abandoned Building: Chateau Tongariro

- This item provides an update on the expression of interest (EOI) process for the Chateau which was paused in September 2024.
- CBRE have now completed the EOI. 9(2)(j) 9(2)(j) These included parties who confirmed their interest to DOC in participating in the EOI.
- In summary:
 - » 9(2)(j)
 - »
 - »
 - »
- CBRE recommend that in order to determine whether the 9(2)(j) interested parties have a sound and reasonable commercial proposal, we should undertake a two-stage open tender process.
- We are currently considering CBRE's report which will inform advice to you and be included in the draft Cabinet paper.

Next steps

- We will provide you an updated Cabinet paper on 16 April.

Department of Conservation Status Report

Item 3

for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 5 May 2025

Date: / /

Seen by Hon Tama Potaka
Minister of Conservation

It's mushroom season on the Milford track. This is *Cortinarius porphyroideus*, or the purple pouch fungus, often found in beech forests. There are an estimated 22,000 species of fungi in New Zealand. Some of our native mushrooms are even bioluminescent, meaning they glow in the dark.

WMS : Lizzy Sutcliffe, DOC



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2.2 Abandoned Building: Chateau Tongariro

- In an earlier April update, we advised we would provide you with a draft Cabinet paper and had intended for that paper to go to the 4 June ECO Cabinet committee.
- We have now developed various long and short-term options and will need to seek Crown funding for some of these options.
- Treasury has advised that an out-of-cycle funding request (Request) needs to be completed and approved by the Minister of Finance prior to the Cabinet paper being submitted.
- As we move towards Budget 25, the Minister of Finance will not be available to consider the Request and Treasury advises that it should be submitted towards the end of June. Consequently, the estimated timeframe for submitting a Cabinet paper to the ECO Cabinet committee is now the end of July.
- We will provide an update once we have submitted the Request and confirm the new timeframes with you.

Next steps

- We will submit a Request to the Minister of Finance for approval.

Contact: CJ Juby, Director Business Services, 9(2)(a)

Department of Conservation Status Report

Item 4

for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 12 May 2025

Date: / /

Seen by Hon Tama Potaka
Minister of Conservation



Great progress is being made on the construction of the new Dolomite Point Nature Walk at Punakaiki, on the West Coast. The short, easy access track will take people through a mature oikau forest to a viewing area behind the new Punakaiki Visitor Centre. The track is expected to be completed by mid-winter.

DOC



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2.1 Abandoned Building: Chateau Tongariro

- On 29 April we advised that on advice from Treasury, we need to complete an out-of-cycle funding request (Request) prior to the Cabinet paper being submitted and that we would confirm the revised timeframes for the Cabinet paper.
- The Request is required when funding is sought through Cabinet outside of the Budget process, and we must demonstrate that the purpose of the Request cannot be funded through reprioritisation of lower value activities from within existing baselines or deferred until the next Budget. In the draft Cabinet paper, each option presented has an associated cost for which we intend to seek funding.
[Redacted]
 - [Redacted] 9(2)(f)(iv)
 - As previously advised, the expression of interest process confirmed there are 9(2)(j)
[Redacted] 9(2)(j)
 - [Redacted] 9(2)(f)(iv), 9(2)(h)
 - [Redacted] 9(2)(f)(iv)
 - [Redacted]
 - [Redacted]
 - [Redacted]
 - [Redacted]
 - [Redacted]
- Note that we have not yet consulted with iwi on any options and acknowledge that consultation needs to occur before any option is progressed.
- We are currently considering Treasury's feedback and the implications and will confirm the next steps with you as soon as possible.

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Next steps

- A draft of the Cabinet paper will be provided to you after the Officials meeting on 12 May.

Contact: CJ Juby, Director Business Services, 9(2)(a)

Department of Conservation Status Report

Item 5

for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 7 July 2025

Date: / /

Seen by Hon Tama Potaka
Minister of Conservation



A new biopic about Sherpa Tenzing will be filmed on the eastern side of Aoraki/Mt Cook. DOC has given approval for the work, subject to strict environmental conditions. DOC staff will be onsite daily to monitor compliance. The Malte Brun Pass will double as Everest Base Camp and the Hochstetler Icefall will be the famous Hillary Step.

 : Les Molloy



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2.3 Abandoned Building – Chateau Tongariro

Update

- At your regular meeting with DOC on 12 May, we discussed the direction of the draft Cabinet paper with you and at a high level, agreed there were three possible long-term options: lease, demolish, or defer a decision.
- We have updated the Cabinet paper and have now completed agency consultation. The key points of feedback are:

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9(2)(f)(iv)

- We are working on an updated draft Cabinet paper which we initially indicated to your office could be submitted to you on 7 July for a Cabinet meeting on 4 August. However, due to time required to work through agency feedback, we have had to adjust the timeframes to the following:
 - » Submit draft to your office: 21 July
 - » Ministerial consultation commences: 28 July
 - » Eco Cabinet Committee: 13 August
 - » Cabinet Meeting: 18 August

Next steps

- DOC will provide you with a copy of the draft Cabinet paper on 21 July.

Contact: Shan Baththana, Director Asset Management: 9(2)(a)