

Department of Conservation Status Report

for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 5 July 2021

Date: / /

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

Date: / /

Seen by Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Acting Minister of Conservation

Status Report No. 030
DOCCM - 6705515

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Attachments

1. Jobs for Nature dashboard (regular item)
2. Cabinet Paper Report (regular item)
3. D-G Direct (fortnightly item)

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Current State (as at 29 June):

- 1084 Employment Starts have been realised for DOC's JFN programme, encompassing the total combined number of people who have started work across all employment types (full-time, part-time, casual) for the length of the programme. This equates to 249 FTE realised (based on a definition of 1FTE = 1560 hours worked).
- There are now 84 projects in delivery, with a further 98 projects in the process of negotiating funding agreements, including 49 of these being Community Fund and Private Landowner Fund projects.
- The SLU Ministers meeting on 1 July sought approval for nine projects over \$1 million., following which the projects will move into the contracting phase. There were 10 projects under \$1 million to be noted in the SLU Minister meeting that have already received approval-in-principle by DOC and moved into the contracting phase.
- We expect one further round, including a limited number of projects to be ready to present for your feedback and endorsement in early July.
- Quarterly reporting by Jobs for Nature projects is due by 14 July. As we have been revising the system to gather this data (moving from an excel template to a survey-style questionnaire), there was a one-week-delay in having this distributed to projects while final privacy assessments were undertaken. The quarterly reporting survey and instructions were distributed to projects on 30 June, and we will work closely with projects who indicate timeframes are too tight.
- A GIS-enabled 'project viewer' dashboard is now available for DOC staff. This important tool will give Directors, Managers and Delivery Managers an overview of the current state of approved projects in their region and across the whole programme, including pulling through data from the Rātaka Taiao Reporting App. The tool will be presented to Delivery Managers at a weekly Q&A session and through internal comms channels.

Reference Group and SLU Ministers Update

- SLU Agencies have considered an external review of the programme and proposed a structure to reflect the need for ongoing governance through to end of June 2024.
- Agencies' proposed structure includes:
 - SLU Ministers' overall programme accountability (with six monthly SLU Ministers group meetings post-funding allocation).
 - Quarterly cross-agency Chief Executives meetings to provide programme governance and oversight.
 - Monthly (as needed) cross-agency Deputy Chief Executives meetings.
 - Quarterly cross-agency Audit and Risk Committee chairs meetings. This is in addition to annual external programme audit/reviews.
 - Continue the cross-agency Secretariat which provides co-ordination, quarterly reporting, communications, and programme support.
 - Improved connection and sharing between funding recipients in the regions (through a community of practice, to be scoped).
- Agencies are not recommending the external Reference Group be reappointed in its current form through the delivery phase of the programme.

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- Members of the Reference Group attended the first part of the SLU Ministers' meeting on 1 July to present their case regarding an ongoing role and strategic opportunities presented by the programme.

Updates - Workstreams and projects

Community and Landowner Fund

- No further update.

Māor Land Grant

- We are responding to your additional queries from 9 June regarding the proposed approach.

Ngā Awa

- Media releases for announcements of the Lower Rangitata and Upper Rangitata projects are now with your office.
- All six Ngā Awa projects have been approved. Three are in delivery phase, another three are in contract negotiation and are expected to be contracted by end of September 2021.

Relationship Scan

Institute of Skills

- Progress has been slower than anticipated as Te Pūkenga is still in the process of defining their operating model and have been involved in extensive consultation across the sector.

Ministry of Social Development

- DOC will conduct a survey by the end of July to ensure transition from Partnerships Managers to Delivery Managers for the relationship with MSD within regions.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: [REDACTED]

1.2 RMA Advocacy

No items this week

1.3 Health, Safety & Wellbeing

- An update on the COVID-19 pandemic response, and part of the Health, Safety and Wellbeing system.

COVID-19

- DOC staff in the Wellington region made the transition to Alert Level 2 with no issues. Conservation House and two Operations Districts were affected by the change in level status.

- Six DOC staff from Wellington were reported as being Close Contacts of the Australian visitor. All have been in self-isolation following Ministry of Health guidance, and all six have returned negative Day-5 tests.
- Communications and guidance to people leaders and staff for the week beginning 28 June was focussed on managing the Wellington situation and the change in Alert Level status.

Health, Safety & Wellbeing – Worker Rehabilitation

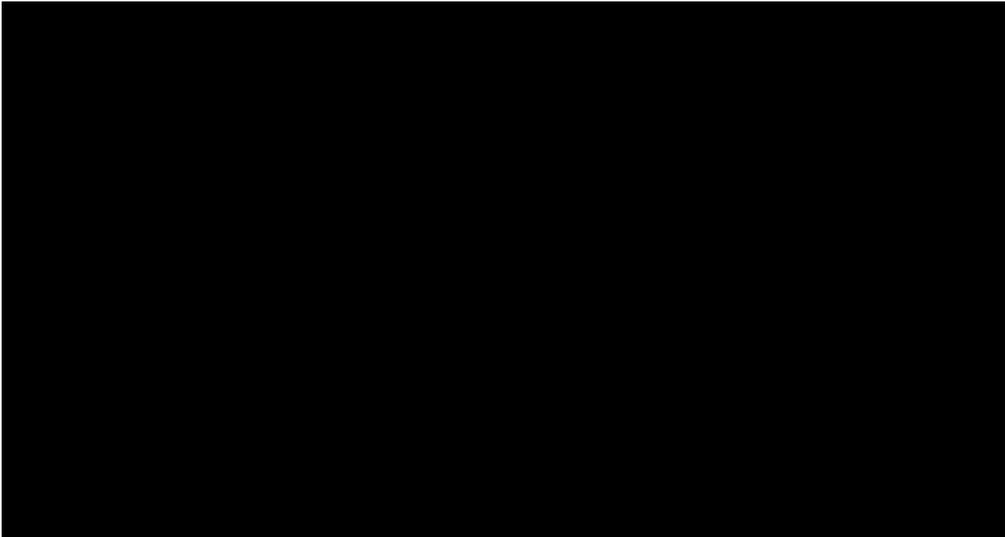
- DOC has been in the ACC Accredited Employer Programme since 2011. We are currently at “Secondary” level and manage around 200 ACC claims each year.
- In July 2020 we introduced an ‘Early Intervention Programme’ (EIP) for all staff. EIP is a proactive low-grade-injury/pain and discomfort treatment programme that provides early treatment and workplace rehabilitation.
- One of the purposes of the EIP is to provide injured staff with quick access to qualified help to prevent delays in treatment which can lead to ongoing ACC claims and compensation.
- Data over the last 12 months indicates that the introduction of the EIP has had a tangible positive impact in lowering the number of ACC claims that go through to ‘weekly compensation’ stage.



Contact: [REDACTED]

2 Updates

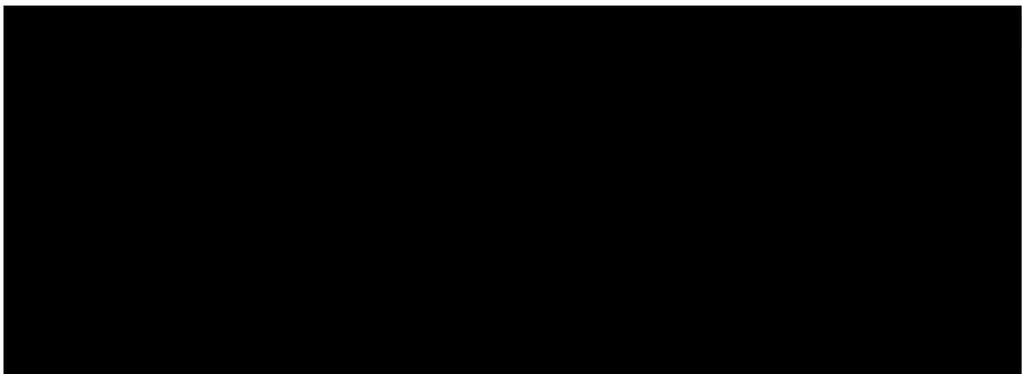


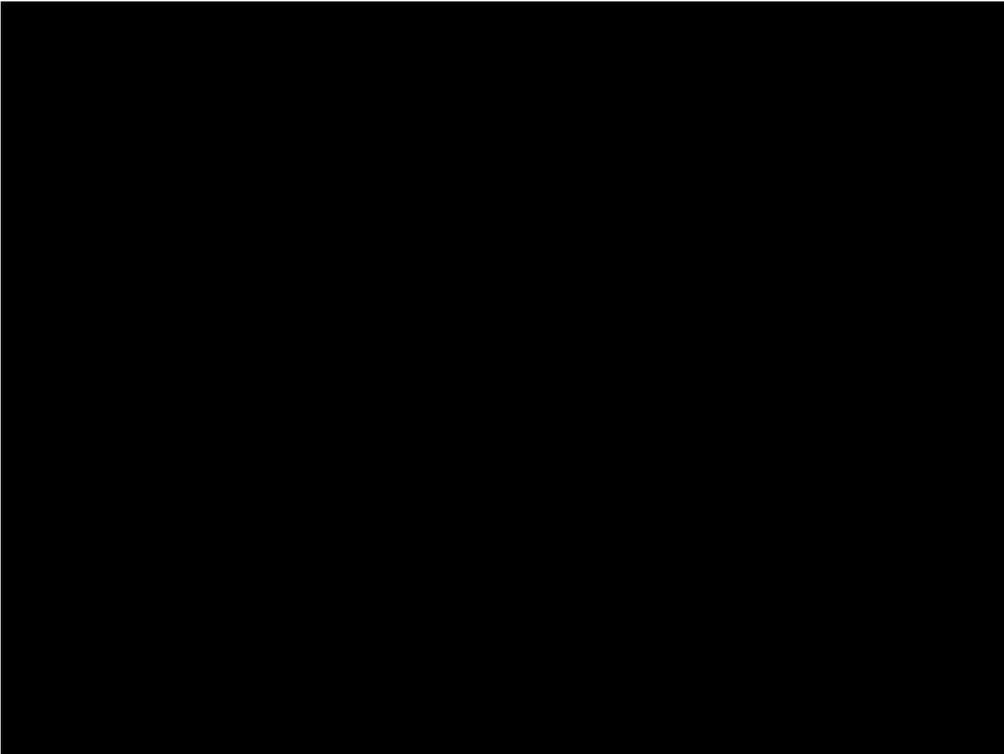


2.4 Marine protected areas science now publicly available

- In 2016, a joint agency (DOC, MfE, MPI/FNZ) MPA Science Advisory Group was established primarily to provide agencies with collective advice on science and technical matters related to marine protected areas.
- As part of DOC's Budget 2018 funding a dedicated four-year Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Research Programme was established. Its intent is to inform a more effective and planned approach to establishing marine protection, with fit for purpose science and policy settings to support this. The MPA Science Advisory Group has been guiding this Research Programme.
- A range of science and technical outputs have been delivered by the MPA Science Advisory Group and through the MPA Research Programme. These have recently been made public via the DOC website (www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/mpas-research-programme/). This includes guidance on MPA network design and a new analysis of gaps in the current MPA network.
- In addition to informing potential future marine protection reform, output from the MPA Research Programme will have broader applicability around marine spatial planning and management. There may be particular interest in the outputs from stakeholders given potential links with marine protection and resource management reform.

Contact: [Redacted]





2.6 Tourism Evidence and Insights Centre (TEIC)

- On 30 June MBIE released the Tourism Evidence and Insights Centre (TEIC); a one-stop-shop for accessing tourism data, research, and reports. MBIE collaborated with representatives from the tourism industry academia, and central and local government to develop the TEIC. DOC was part of this collaboration and contributed information on the customer experience of our core products such as Great Walks, Short Walks and Day Hikes.
- We are supportive of the TEIC as it will allow communities stakeholders, industry, and government to access insights, data, and information about tourism in New Zealand.
- This resource aims to address the limitations of current tourism insights data and information, an important priority in the New Zealand-Aotearoa Government Tourism Strategy.
- An important feature of the TEIC is the Sustainable Tourism Explorer, an interactive hub to help measure the impact of tourism on Aotearoa.
- We intend to add further DOC datasets to the Sustainable Tourism Explorer over time. The aspiration for the website is to make it a home for a wide range of data and research.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

3.1 Jobs for Nature

- There are several press releases in the train with announcement dates to be confirmed. We are working closely with your office to progress these, including:
 - the two Myrtle Rust projects,
 - two projects in Tairāwhiti,
 - funding for the QEII Trust
 - and Jobs for Nature investment into a \$15 million Predator Free project in the Bay of Islands led by the Northland Regional Council.
- We have prepared press releases for the Private Land Fund and Community Funds to be announced, following the SLU Minister's meeting on 1 July.
- We are continuing to develop Jobs for Nature regional announcements in batches where partnership agreements have been completed or where synergies between projects exist.
- With many projects now operational our storytelling is starting to focus on "boots-on-the-ground-stories", telling of the impact the projects are having across the country.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: [REDACTED]

Not Released

4 Director-General Engagements

July

05 July	Matariki Stakeholder luncheon, DOC Wellington
05 July	████████████████████ (MPI, MfE, DOC) with Minister Parker, Beehive
06 July	Matariki celebration with Spark, National Library Wellington
08 July	Fulton Hogan partnership signing event, Christchurch
09 July	70 th Anniversary closure of Waiuta (Whenua Tohunga Landmarks), Waiuta, Hokitika
20-21 July	SLT Retreat, Pounui Homestead

August

04 August	Senior Leaders Hui, Wellington
04-05 August	Environmental Defence Society Conference, Christchurch Town Hall
19-20 August	NZ Conservation Authority, Wellington
19-20 August	Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Brackenridge Martinborough
21-22 August	Conservation Board Chairs hui, Wellington

September

07 September	Conservation Week Stakeholder function, Auckland
08-09 September	Conservation Week Stakeholder function, Christchurch
09 September	Conservation Week Stakeholder function, Wellington
16 September	Te hāpai hāpori Spirit of Service Awards, Te Papa

Released

5 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support this status report:

1. Appendix 1 – JFN Dashboard (regular item, Status Report item 1.1 refers)
2. Appendix 3 – Cabinet Paper Report (regular item)
3. Appendix 4 – Forthcoming items (regular item)

Not Released

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Department of Conservation Status Report

for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 12 July 2021

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

DOCCM -6713004



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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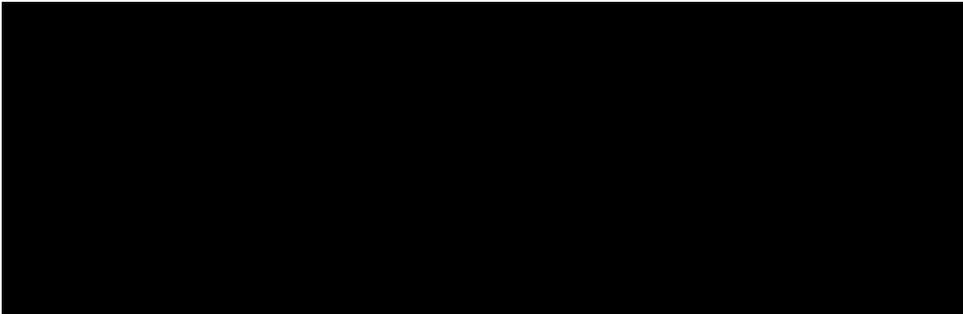
Attachments

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2. D-G Direct (fortnightly item)
3. JFN Dashboard (regular item)

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Current State (as at 6 July)



A summary for the end of the 2020/21 financial year is below:

As at 30 June 2021;

- 49 of the projects in the contracting phase are from the Community Fund and Private Landowner Fund rounds. These projects are expected to be contracted within the month of July.
- Approval in Principle letters have been sent for the nine projects over \$1 million, approved by SLU Ministers in July.
- You will be sent a briefing by 8 July for the next round of projects for approval. This is expected to contain five projects and will allocate the remaining funding available. Your feedback will be requested by 14 July to meet the deadline for the Reference Group.
- Requests for quarterly reports from Jobs for Nature projects were sent out on 30 June and are due by 14 July. These requests were sent to all projects who have been in the delivery/execution phase for longer than four weeks. Projects which have been in the delivery/execution phase for less than four weeks were sent a request for monthly reporting (i.e. the collection of employment data only).
- Quarterly reports are due from 36 projects in June 2021 for assurance checks and milestone payments.

Reference Group and SLU Ministers Update

- The Acting MOC met with other SLU Ministers and members of the Jobs for Nature Reference Group on 1 July, during which time the following decisions were taken:
 - a Reference/Advisory Group role should be continued but that the role that this group would play, and the capabilities needed, should be reviewed and further advice put to Ministers.
 - 9 projects >\$1 million had funding approved and other projects were noted.
 - Ministers also noted that agencies will establish a cross-agency risk and assurance leads group; that the Secretariat will start scoping the establishment of a 'community of practice'; and that the Secretariat will continue in its current role.

The next reference group meeting is scheduled for 21 July.

Updates - Workstreams and projects

Community and Landowner Fund

- The Funds Team is working through negotiating funding agreements with partners and the appointment of regional delivery managers.

Prevention of North Island Indigenous Forest Collapse

- A project manager is in place and two support roles are currently being recruited for the Kaimai-Mamaku restoration project. The project manager will move into detailed work on the operational plan for the project. 12 new employment starts are expected in July.
- The Rakumara project is moving from development into engagement and a design is underway on the future arrangements for governance/accountability and project management. Monitoring for pest control has been completed and the use of thermal imaging has been highly successful.
- Both business cases have now been signed by the Director General and funding has been released to Operations.

South Island Threatened Species Prevention

- DD-G Operations has approved the recruitment of a Senior Ranger and another Supervisor role for this project.

Ministry of Social Development

- DOC will conduct a survey by the end of July to ensure the transition from Partnerships Managers to Delivery Managers for the relationship with MSD within regions.

Ministry for the Environment

- We are currently seeking expression of interests for a six-month secondment for a DOC staff member into the Secretariat.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: [REDACTED]

1.2 RMA Advocacy

DOC's recent RMA work is as follows:

Hearings

Appeals on Otago Regional Council Plan Changes 7 and 8

- DOC staff recently attended Environment Court and mediation on the topics of short-term water take consents (PC7) and discharge management (PC8), respectively.
- The Director-General (D-G) is seeking to refine the provision of the short-term water takes to allow for more effective management of effect on threatened non-migratory galaxiids. We are pushing for six-year maximum consent duration, and a non-complying activity framework for anything that does not meet certain criteria to ensure the water management framework is consistent with the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 and safeguard the life-supporting capacity of the waterways for galaxiids.

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- All but two matters (animal waste storage and application, and animal effluent discharge) relating to PC8 have been resolved and appropriate consent orders signed. It is expected these matters will be mediated with a positive resolution and avoid going to Environment Court.

Appeals

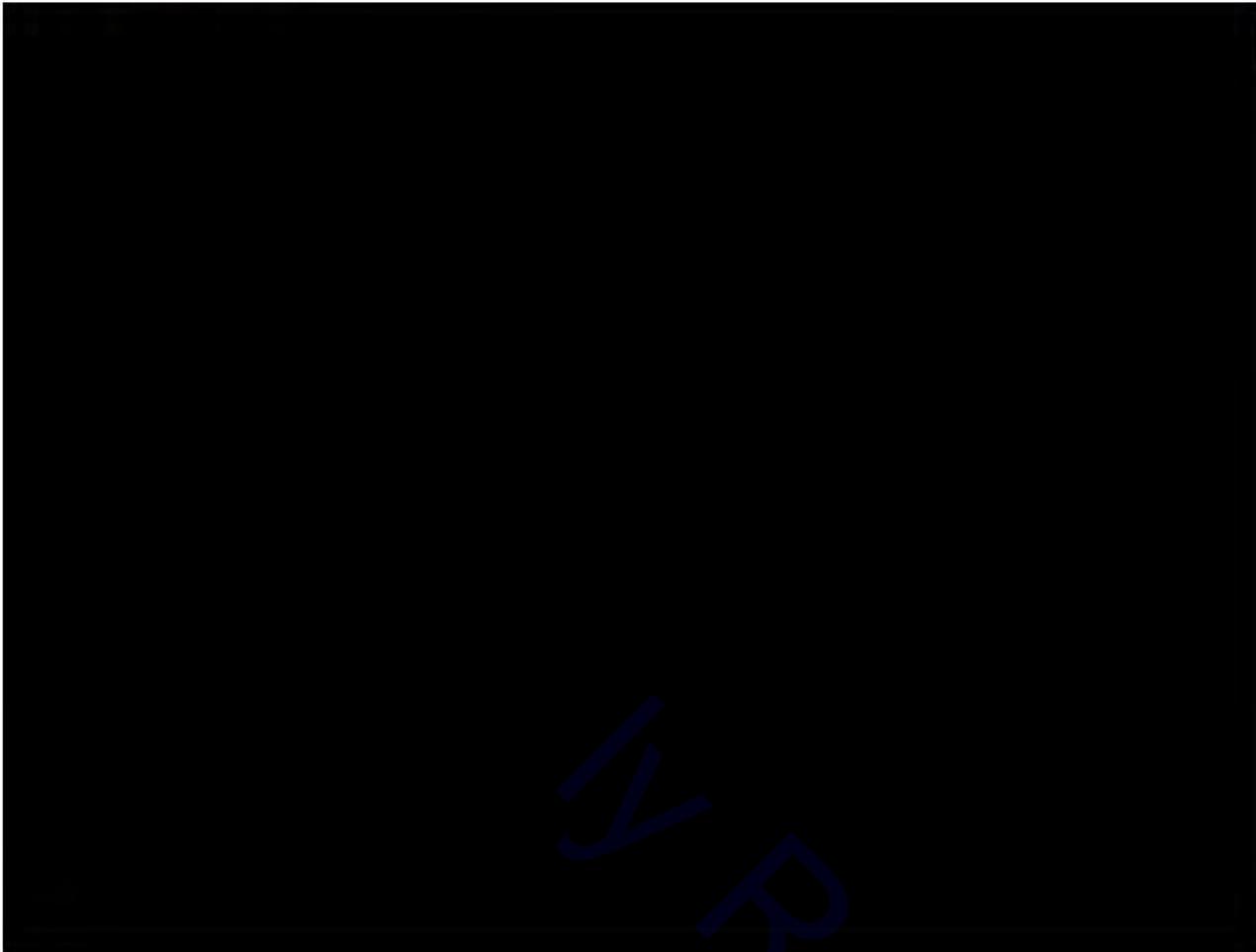
Auckland Council Resource Consent Decision: WMNZ Dome Valley Landfill

- On 26 May 2020, the D-G lodged a submission opposing the application for the above proposal in its entirety. This was based on the critical issues of habitat loss, significant risk to the environment and native species on and downstream of the site, inadequate assessment of cultural effects, and inadequate biodiversity offsetting and compensation package.
- The application was heard by Hearing Commissioners between 9 November 2020 and 28 January 2021 and the application was granted with conditions. The D-G has appealed that decision as staff consider the initial concerns regarding threatened species and habitat remain, and have not been appropriately addressed.

Contact: [REDACTED]

Not Released

2 Updates



2.2 Predator Free 2050 Limited – Statement of Performance Expectations 2021-22

- On 21 May 2021, Acting Minister of Conservation Verrall provided feedback to the company on its draft Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE).

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

[REDACTED]

2.5 Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu v Minister of Conservation – Conservation Board appointments

- Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (Te Rūnanga) filed judicial review proceedings last year challenging the then Minister of Conservation's decision on appointments to the West Coast Conservation Board. A statement of defence has been filed and a judicial conference is scheduled for Monday 12 July in Christchurch. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.6 The Trustees of Te Haupapa Kohatu Trust v Minister of Conservation – draft Bay of Plenty CMS and Mōtītī hapū.

- This item is further to our memo (accompanying CORM-309) to Acting Minister Verrall on 21 May 2021.
- On 11 November 2020, Te Haupapa Kohatu Trust (the Trust) of Mōtītī Island brought judicial review proceedings regarding the decision to notify the draft Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy (BOP CMS). The Trust claimed that DOC had not met its section 4 obligations by failing to recognise and consult with Mōtītī hapū, and that Mōtītī Island was underrepresented in the draft.
- In January, DOC revoked public notification to engage with the Trust on the draft BOP CMS and met twice with the Trust in February and March. The judicial review proceedings were adjourned to allow this further engagement to occur.
- On 6 May 2021, counsel for the Trust wrote to the Acting Minister and the Director-General expressing their dissatisfaction with DOC's engagement and seeking intervention by the Minister and/or D-G. Both the Acting Minister and D-G declined to intervene.
- At a case management conference on 6 July 2021 in the judicial review proceedings, the Judge ordered that the plaintiffs must elect whether to pursue the proceedings (and, if so, file an amended statement of claim) by

6 August. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

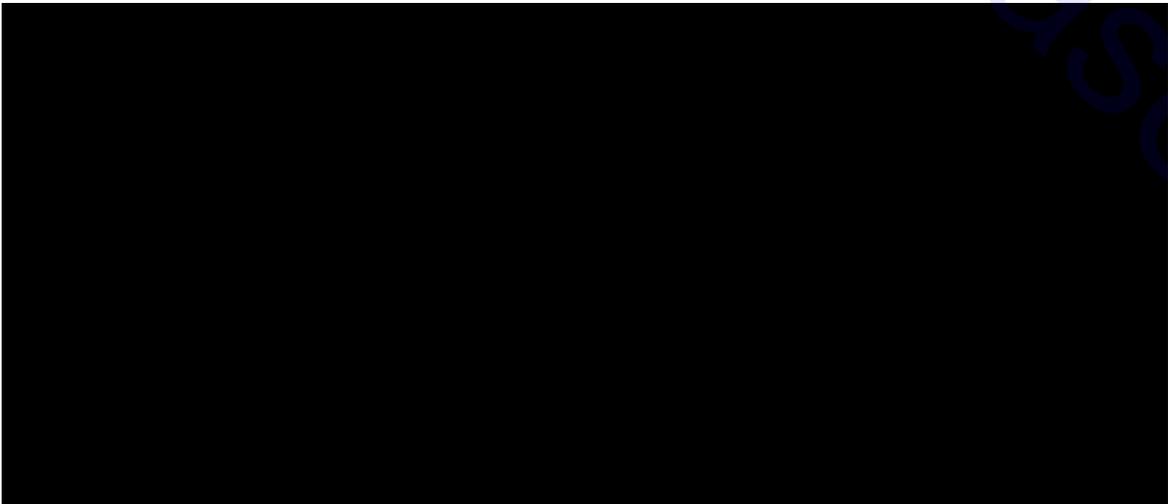
- We will update you further once the plaintiffs have made their election.

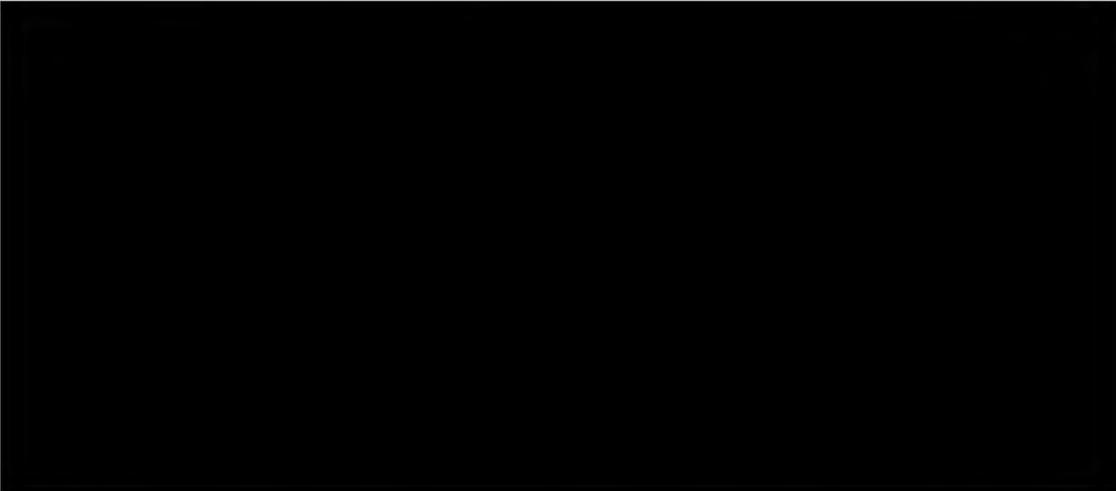
Contact: [REDACTED]

2.7 Auckland: Tūturuatu / shore plover return to Motutapu Island

- On Monday 5 July, four critically endangered tūturuatu (shore plover) were returned to Motutapu Island in the Hauraki Gulf, despite a continued active stoat incursion on Motutapu and adjoining Rangitoto.
- In February 2021 the tūturuatu were evacuated from Motutapu following the death of two male tūturuatu by stoat predation (see Status Report 8 February 2021). Unfortunately, five of the ten evacuated tūturuatu died in captive facilities resulting from avian malaria and pox, which can be stress induced. Four of the remaining birds have returned to Motutapu, with the remaining bird sick with pox and unable to return until it has fully recovered.
- The tūturuatu were returned to Motutapu because of the lack of alternative safe habitats. All other alternative islands are already near population limits. Furthermore, the tūturuatu could not be returned to another Hauraki Gulf island as they are site-fixed and will attempt to return to their home on Motutapu.
- Nearly 600 traps are currently in place across Rangitoto/Motutapu to catch the remaining stoat(s).
- The tūturuatu will be closely monitored after their release, including using radio transmitters to track their movements, and additional predator control in their nesting areas.
- Tūturuatu are a small, colourful shorebird that vanished from mainland Aotearoa by the 1870s due to introduced mammalian predators. Today they exist on only a few predator-free islands with a total population of approximately 250 birds.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]





2.9 Te Tai o Poutini Western South Island: Heritage Site – Historic Waiuta township

- The 70th Anniversary of the closure of the Waiuta townships mine is being marked with a public event this Friday 9th July, with our Director-General attending.
- A book “Of Mice and Mining Men” is being launched at this event. The book is about a neighbouring mine that supported the local mining industry. A co-author is Jim Staton, who has worked for DOC for many years. DOC sponsored the editing and production of the book.
- The Heritage New Zealand Board has also recently confirmed to our staff the listing of Waiuta as a Category I Historic Place. Heritage New Zealand may also announce this at the event.
- Heritage New Zealand received several enthusiastic submissions in support of their proposal to include this township as a Category I Historic Place. They have worked with representatives from Ngāti Waewae to identify text for the Category I listing.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2.10 Te Tai o Poutini Western South Island Region: Burglary on the Heaphy Great Walk

- On Saturday 12 June a man told the owner of the Karamea Four Square that he was going to walk the Heaphy Great Walk with his dog. The owner logged the information with DOC.
- The man started walking the Heaphy Great Walk and met an ex-DOC ranger who told him to leave as dogs are not permitted in Kahurangi National Park. The man ignored him and continued with his dog.
- The following day a hut warden encountered the man and his dog and asked him to leave the National Park and return to Karamea.
- Later it was discovered that the man had broken into building equipment at Lewis Shelter and entered Mackay Staff Hut by breaking a window and sleeping in the bunkroom with his dog. Tools, food, and other items were discovered missing.

- Our Tākaka Office staff liaised with Police who were able to arrest the man on Wednesday night; after he walked out the other end of the Heaphy Great Walk and broke into a car taking jewellery and money.
- The man was charged; he pleaded guilty to providing false details, two burglaries of DOC huts and breaking and entering a car. He has been sentenced to one year and three months in prison. The stolen property was returned to its owners.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2.11 Rangitāhua archaeological material – (Kermadecs)

- DOC carried out an archaeological investigation on Rangitāhua (Raoul Island) in 1990. Initial analysis indicated a culturally significant early site, possibly linked with early waka voyaging from Hawaiki to Aotearoa.
- As part of the MBIE Endeavour funded research project, Te Mana o Rangitāhua, which was jointly awarded to Ngāti Kuri and Auckland Museum in 2020, Auckland Museum equated the artefacts from the investigation for the purpose of redating them to clarify the time that the site was occupied.
- Locating these artefacts and associated field notes in DOC's stores and systems took longer than expected but we plan to hand this information over to the Museum for inventory in the week of 12 July.
- Discussions are ongoing with Ngāti Kuri, Auckland Museum and the Ministry of Culture and Heritage regarding the permanent location of the assemblages.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2.12 Wildlife Institutions Relief Fund (WIRF) – Funding approval for 2021-22

- Call for Expressions of Interest (EoI) for 2021-22 WIRF funding was held from 8-15 June. As only \$4.3m remains in the Fund, Acting Minister of Conservation Verrall agreed to a targeted EoI approach. We invited 18 of the 34 institutions that received WIRF funding for 2020-21, to make an application for 2021-22 funding.
- Seventeen invited institutions submitted applications, requesting a total \$5.2m. Applications were assessed by an internal DOC panel and recommendations made to senior management.
- On 30 June, it was agreed to support 16 institutions for a total \$3.4m. Funding for one institution – West Coast Wildlife Centre (WCWC) – was not supported. While WCWC will be disappointed not to receive further WIRF support (it received \$245k in 2020-21), we are confident with the rigour applied to the assessment process and the decision made.
- Of the 16 institutions to receive funding, eight will receive the full amount applied for, with the remaining eight receiving moderated levels of funding. Grants represent 20% to 100% of the funds requested and range from \$34k to \$552k for individual institutions.

- We are currently drafting contracts for institutions, with payments expected to be made by the end of July.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.13 Intergovernmental Science – Policy Platform for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Service and the 8th Plenary outcomes

- This item updates you on item 2.7 in Status Report 026, 7 June 2021.
- The eighth plenary of IPBES was held online between 14-24 June 2021. Two DOC officials engaged in all agenda items. More than 430 participants participated in the Plenary over the 10 working days.
- Highlights of the meeting included:
 - approval of the scoping report for a thematic assessment of the interlinkages among biodiversity, water, food, and health (nexus assessment);
 - approval of the scoping report for a thematic assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, determinants of transformative change, and options for achieving the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity (transformative change assessment); and
 - approval of the interim workplan of the five IPBES task forces for the intersessional period 2021–2022. These taskforces address issues associated with policy and support tools, information and knowledge, capability and capacity building, recognising and engaging indigenous and local knowledge holders, and scenarios and models.
 - New Zealand's IPBES focal point will facilitate the call for experts to contribute to these assessments through a network of contacts across government, scientific institutions, and other environmental stakeholders.
 - Other opportunities for New Zealand to engage with the IPBES work over the coming year include reviewing the summary for policy makers for both the Invasive Alien Species assessment, and the Sustainable use of Wild species. These global assessments will be finalised and approved at IPBES 9 in 2022.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.14 New Zealand's Approach to Deep Sea Mining

- We have provided comments on a briefing from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade to the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the issue of New Zealand's approach to deep sea mining. The briefing recommends that it is referred to you.
- Deep sea mining will cause irreversible changes to the marine environment. Where present, deep sea coral will be subject to physical damage and smothering. Marine mammals, including those that migrate into or reside within New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone, could be impacted by noise and pollution.
- We have also provided input into Aotearoa New Zealand's submission on the draft Standards and Guidelines that support the draft Regulations on the

exploitation of mineral resources in the seabed beyond national jurisdiction (known as the Area) released by the International Seabed Authority (ISA).

- The draft Standards and Guidelines are part of the ISA's work to develop a regulatory regime for the exploitation of minerals in the Area (known as the Mining Code).
- We anticipate further engagement on this issue, as Nauru has recently triggered a rule that requires the ISA to complete the development of the Mining Code within two years.

We will keep you updated on future engagement as applicable.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2.15 Toyota/DOC Partnerships Renewal

- In November 2015 Te Papa Atawhai and Toyota New Zealand entered a partnership with the purpose of connecting children, and their whānau, with nature, while also helping them become active guardians.
- The Toyota Kiwi Guardians (TKG) programme was launched in 2016, and to date has helped connect over 50,000 children and their families with nature.
- Representatives from DOC and Toyota's senior leadership will launch a new Toyota Kiwi Guardians Adventure site at the Kererū Loop Track, Wooded Gully (North Canterbury) on 8 July 2021.
- The event will also announce the partnership commitment for the next five years. A formal Partnership Agreement renewal signing, involving the D-G, will be organised for a later date.
- No media will be present; a media release and social posts will be released subsequently.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2.16 Fulton Hogan/DOC Partnerships Renewal

- Fulton Hogan is renewing their national partnership with Te Papa Atawhai in support of the Takahē Recovery Programme.
- Since July 2016, Fulton Hogan's partnership and support has enabled the Takahē Recovery Programme to increase the genetic health and breeding potential of the population and establish a second wild takahē population.
- The next five years will allow further investigation into wild takahē population management and help establish a further wild recovery population.
- The partnership has seen strong engagement with Fulton Hogan staff and their families, together with their active support during incidents e.g. the Kaikoura earthquake and whale stranding events.
- A renewal signing event was held at Willowbank Wildlife Reserve on 8 July 2021.
- A media release was issued to announce the partnership renewal, with local media targeted to share the takahē release event.

IN-CONFIDENCE

Minister of Conservation, Minister of Conservation's office, and Department of Conservation eyes only.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Not Released

3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities



3.2 Jobs for Nature

- We are continuing to progress preparation of media releases and other communications. Operations staff have been tasked to co-ordinate an announcement event in Taranaki during the Parliamentary recess and several other project announcements are also ready for you to make in that period should you choose to.
- Northern North Island region is planning for an August event to announce projects totalling \$20,378,000 and creating over 323 jobs. Details have been provided as a separate item in this update.
- We have worked with other secretariat agencies to mark the first anniversary of the Mahi mō te Taiao/Jobs for Nature programme. This includes a video comprising clips from projects run by each of the agencies which has been distributed through Facebook and a series of "Day in the Life" vignettes of people placed in jobs through the programme on Instagram.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature [REDACTED]

3.3 Northern North Island: Jobs for Nature

- A portfolio of twelve Jobs for Nature projects have now been approved in Te Tai Tokerau.
- The portfolio focuses effort in high value ecological sites – forests, wetlands and dune lakes - and will enable employment opportunities for mana whenua in some of our most vulnerable communities. This investment will create 324 FTE over the next three years.
- We have worked collaboratively with leaders from Te Kahu O Taonui (a forum of 11 Te Tai Tokerau Iwi leaders), Northland Regional Council, and MSD, ensuring strong connections to regional leadership for COVID recovery. This collaboration will endure as focus moves to sustain the outcomes for the environment and people.
- We are developing an event with the partners, to announce this investment. A date is yet to be confirmed but it is likely to be in the middle two weeks of August.
- Once a date is confirmed more details will be sent through, with an invitation for you to attend and make the announcement if the dates allow.

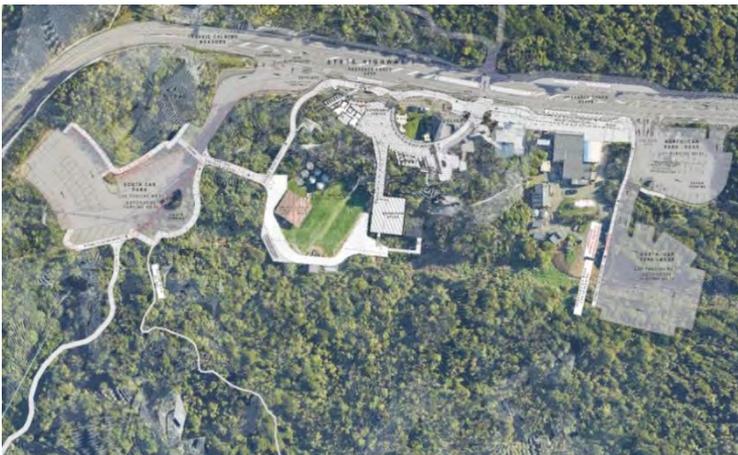
Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3.4 Te Tai o Poutini Western South Island: Dolomite Point Redevelopment Project (DPRP)

IN-CONFIDENCE

Minister of Conservation, Minister of Conservation's office, and Department of Conservation eyes only.

- The Dolomite Point Redevelopment Project (DPRP) is a \$25.6M project funded by the Provincial Growth Fund and located in Punakaiki on the South Island's West Coast.
- The project design is nearly complete after almost 18 months of intensive planning and stakeholder consultation, and opportunities to fast-track construction have been pursued where possible.
- The first major construction works at the main precinct will commence in mid-July, commencing with redevelopment of the northern carpark. A suite of early works will ready the site for the main construction phase to commence at the end of this calendar year. These works are seen as a significant and symbolic milestone in an eagerly awaited project.
- A sod-turning event is planned for Saturday 17 July (10:00 – 11:30am) at the site and will involve brief formalities, a blessing, and a physical sod-turning. The Chair of Te Runanga o Ngāti Waewae Francois Tumahai will lead this. Mayors from Buller and Grey Districts will be in attendance.
- The project's goal is to significantly enhance dated and unfit visitor infrastructure facilities and experience at the site, an anchor of the West Coast visitor economy. It will do this by creating a new visitor Experience and Exhibition Centre, significant upgrade and/or create new parking, toilets, walkways, viewing points, pedestrian/cycle access, potable water supply, and general safety improvements.
- A key thrust of the project is the re-establishment of a cultural footprint and mana at place for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae who will own and operate the new visitor Experience and Exhibition Centre at the site. DOC will co-habit in the Experience Centre and continue delivery of core Visitor Centre services. The project involves an intimate working relationship between the Crown and iwi and Francois Tumahai, Chairperson of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae has said "*The project heralds one of the deepest and most significant working partnerships with iwi on the West Coast*".
- You visited the site in mid-December 2020 to participate in the sod turning for the pedestrian and cycleway component of this project.
- The event on Saturday 17 July is an opportunity for you to further your relationship with this project and Te Tai Poutini leadership.



Contact: Mark Davies, Operations Director Western South Island: 027 474 6330

4 Director-General Engagements

July

20-21 July SLT Retreat, Pounui Homestead

August

04 08/2 Senior Leaders Hui, Wellington

04- 5/08 21 Environmental Defence Society Conference, Christchurch Town Hall

19-20 August NZ Conservation Authority, Wellington

19-20 August Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Brackenridge Martinborough

21-22 August Conservation Board Chairs hui, Wellington

September

07 September Conservation Week Stakeholder function, Auckland

08 September Conservation Week Stakeholder function, Christchurch

09 September Conservation Week Stakeholder function, Wellington

16 September Te hāpū hāpori | Spirit of Service Awards, Te Papa

Not Released

5 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support this status report:

1. Appendix 1 – JFN Dashboard (regular item, Status Report item 1.1 refers)
2. Appendix 3 – Cabinet Paper Report (regular item)
- . Appendix 4 – Forthcoming items (regular item)

Not Released

IN-CONFIDENCE

Minister of Conservation, Minister of Conservation's office, and Department of Conservation eyes only.

W Released

IN-CONFIDENCE

Minister of Conservation, Minister of Conservation's Office, and Department of Conservation eyes only.

Department of Conservation Status Report

for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 19 July 2021

Date: _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

DOCCM - 6720203



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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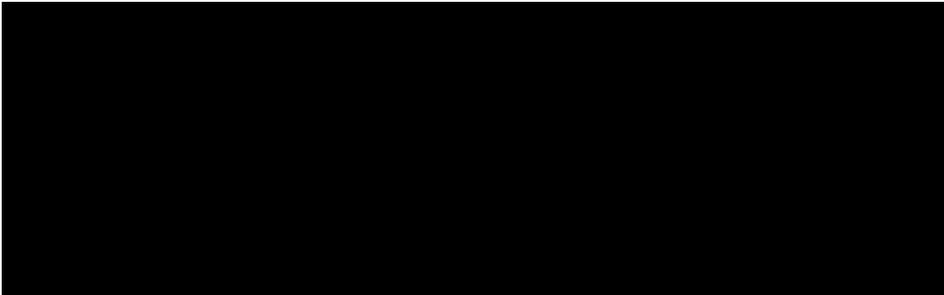
Attachments

1. Cabinet Paper Report (regular item)
2. Jobs for Nature Dashboard

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature

Current State (as at 12 July):



- The redesigned quarterly report process is now more complete and effective, which will enable us to provide the MfE Secretariat with a fulsome 2020/2021 annual report on the programme, due mid-August.
- Requests for quarterly reporting by Jobs for Nature projects were due by the 14 July, and the current reporting data was provided to the MfE Secretariat on 15 July.

- [Redacted]

Updates - Workstreams and projects

QEII-Protecting the Gains

- The Funding Agreement has now been signed. This funding will enable QEII to offer legal protection of sites for Jobs for Nature projects on private land.
- This will be across the whole Jobs for Nature programme not just DOC recipients. We are linking QEII and the Secretariat together to offer the same opportunity to other Jobs for Nature government agencies

Nga Awa

- You requested further information about the status item on how the Lower and Upper Rangitata projects are impacted by and/or address flooding and flood risk. An update on your request is provided below:
 - Initial assessments for the key restoration sites show they were mostly undamaged
 - Some farms in the upper catchment have been damaged (though not the specific sites on those farms that were identified for the restoration work) and this may affect when some work is done
 - Flooding of the wider area has not impacted the JFN projects, all of which are progressing well.

South Island Threatened Species Prevention

- The Senior Ranger and Supervisor roles for the project were advertised on 12 July.

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]

[REDACTED]

Contact: Bruce Parkes, Deputy Director-General Policy and Visitors:

[REDACTED]

Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

- We have recruited a new Principal Communications Advisor for JFN who will take up the role in August.

Relationship Section

Institute of Skills

- The consultation process on the potential to establish a Conservation Academy is on track and in line with the necessity for wide and thorough consultation on a project of this size and scale. The project has now been accepted on to the NZ Growth Accelerator programme which commences on 16 August. The project represents an important opportunity for Te Pukenga and Te Papa Atawhai to partner with iwi to define what Conservation education looks like for the future of Aotearoa.

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: [REDACTED]

1.2 RMA Advocacy

Hearings

Kuku Holdings Limited – Pelorus Sound, Marlborough

- DOC staff attended a Marlborough District Council hearing on 6 July for a consent application for expansion to mussel farming in Tawhitiui Bay, Marlborough. The hearing will reconvene and be completed on 26 July.
- DOC opposes the development as it occupies water in front of a scenic reserve managed by DOC, and will have significant adverse effects on the natural character and natural amenity of the reserve and adjacent water. The activity encroaches on an area that DOC has actively sought to protect through RMA advocacy since the early 1990s.

Barrytown JV Limited – resource consents for sand mining – Barrytown Flats, West Coast

- DOC is a submitter on a suite of consent applications for development of a sand mining operation on private land at Barrytown Flats. A council hearing is scheduled to begin on 6 August.
- The DOC submission opposed the lack of detail on mitigations proposed to protect or enhance adjacent natural wetlands and waterways from sedimentation and altered hydrology, and consideration of effects on Westland petrel (At risk – naturally uncommon). DOC will prepare evidence for the hearing covering these matters.

Appeals

New four-lane State Highway from Warkworth to Wellsford – consent and designation applications

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- Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (WK) lodged applications for a new 25 km four-lane state highway bypassing Warkworth and Wellsford, north of Auckland. The decision on the consents was released in March, and on the designation in July.
- DOC has joined an appeal by WK on the consent decision and has lodged an appeal on the designation decision. WK's appeal seeks changes to the ecological mitigation and offsetting conditions. DOC is opposing some of these changes. Our appeal seeks the reinstatement of a condition that requires the ongoing protection of areas that have been replanted and rest ed as part of the ecological mitigation package.
- We expect to resolve most, if not all, of the points of contention through direct negotiation with WK, in keeping with a Memorandum of Underst dding between the two parties.

Submissi n

Christchurch City Council: Plan Change 7 – Managing indigenous vegetation

- On 28 June we lo ged a submission on Plan Change 7 to the Christchurch District Plan, which s eeks to amend provisions to better manage indigenous vegetation clearance on t e Port Hills and Banks Peninsula. The proposed amendments sought to ame d provisions relating to indigenous vegetation clearance (including sign icant indigenous vegetation), improved pasture and the management of h e s activities within the coastal environment. This plan change is also related to re ent court action and activities occurring on Kaitōrete, attempting to clari y provisions relating to activities within indigenous vegetation and significant ndigenous vegetation.
- Our submission seeks a number of am ndments, either supporting or opposing provisions. Generally, DOC oppo ed the amended provisions relating to improved pasture, and supported th se which recognised that further work needs to be done by the Christc urch City Council to better identify Significant Indigenous Vegetation

Contact: [REDACTED]

2 Updates

2.1 Te Pēwhairangi Marine Mammal Sanctuary

- The public submission period for Te Pēwhairangi marine mammal sanctuary proposal concluded on 18 May, with 645 submissions received in total: 68% in support, 27% opposed, and 5% suggesting another option. Submission analysis has identified that:
 - interest groups in support include environmental groups, the general public, whānau, hapū or iwi that exercise kaitiakitanga, the science and research community, local community groups, and Northland / Te Pēwhairangi community members
 - interest groups opposed include recreational maritime vessel operators, local business owners and commercial maritime vessel operators.
- We are developing advice for you which will include detailed analysis of submissions and recommendations for the proposal. We expect to provide this advice in late August / early September for your decision.
- Te Papa Atawhai is preparing to publicly release all submissions (with appropriate redactions) on or about 19 July.
- We continue to meet with Ngā hapū regularly and are close to agreeing potential co-management arrangements including proposed terms of reference for a Te Papa Atawhai-hapū marine mammal advisory committee, should you decide to proceed with a sanctuary.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



2.3 Report on nutrient reductions needed to protect Canterbury high-country lakes

- DOC and Environment Canterbury jointly commissioned a technical report to determine the nutrient reductions needed to protect the Ashburton Lakes (Ō Tū Wharekai) and Waimakariri lakes.
- The report, prepared by the Cawthron Institute, concludes that nutrient inputs to the Ashburton Lakes remain a critical issue and many lakes require significant (>60%) reductions in nitrogen and/or phosphorus inputs to meet ecosystem health targets.
- The findings provide further evidence that current land use may not be ecologically sustainable and support the need for Environment Canterbury, farmers, hapū/iwi, DOC and others to work together to implement a catchment response.
- The findings have been shared with Ngāi Tahu and local rūnanga we have been working with at Ō Tū Wharekai. A hui with key stakeholders is proposed for 26 July.
- The report will be publicly released by Environment Canterbury following the hui. There is potential for the report to be picked up by media once it is released. A joint DOC-Environment Canterbury approach to communications has been developed. We consider any risk to be relatively low. We are not the lead agency in terms of water and catchment planning.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.4 International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) annual performance review

- We are informed by MBIE that the Minister of Tourism has approved for publication the IVL annual performance review for 2019/20. The report provides a financial and progress summary of the IVL, with a particular focus on progress of projects already invested in.
- The report covers the first year of the IVL's operation (1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020). DOC and MBIE originally prepared the report last year; however, MBIE delayed the report's finalisation whilst it focussed on responding to the impacts of COVID-19 on the tourism sector.
- We understand that MBIE will publish the report on its website on 15 July. MBIE anticipates a moderate level of media coverage on the issue and is preparing some messaging to explain why the publication was delayed.
- Following publication, MBIE plans to immediately begin preparing the next report for 2020/21.

Contact: [REDACTED]



2.6 Nature Heritage Fund (NHF) update, including the next funding round

- The NHF permanently protects high-value ecosystems on private land through direct land purchase or covenanting.
- The independent NHF Committee provides you with recommendations, and as Minister you make the funding decisions (note that land purchases typically fall under ongoing DOC management).
- The current funding available is \$4.5M.
- The Committee is keen to host you to discuss your priorities for the NHF at one of their meetings (usually held in Wellington). The next meeting date is yet to be set.
- The existing NHF criteria focus on national priorities for protecting rare and threatened native biodiversity on private land. Many purchases will meet the definition for an SNA under the proposed NPSIB.
- The NHF Committee is proposing to run the next funding round, which can occur in the near future based on the current criteria.

- Should you wish to provide more specific direction for NHF funding for the upcoming funding round, the NHF Committee Chair is available to discuss this with you.
- We can either liaise with your office to arrange a call for you to discuss NHF priorities with the Chair, or proceed with the funding round based on existing criteria and invite you to meet with the Committee at its next meeting in Wellington.
- We can also liaise with your office on a media release, should you wish to announce the next funding round.
- You will shortly receive a further recommendation from the Committee in relation to last year's South Island West Coast wetland round.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2.7 Recreation facility price reviews: Price reviews for 22/23:

- DOC is undertaking two significant recreation price reviews this financial year. It is expected that the recommendations would be implemented from the 22/23 season.
- Exploring whether to extend differential pricing beyond Great Walks for people not ordinarily resident in, or a citizen of, New Zealand. The department will investigate where applying differential price for huts, campsites and sole occupancy facilities will deliver a more equitable return for conservation.
- A full review of campsite pricing. This review will consider a range of objectives including how to optimise revenue, manage demand pressures and ensure a range of price options to meet different segments of the market.
- Engagement with key external stakeholders will commence within the next few weeks.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2.8 Changes to freedom camping rules

- [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- At the Minister of Tourism's direction, the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) ran a public consultation process from 9 April to 16 May on several proposals to strengthen freedom camping rules.
- Currently, freedom camping is allowed by default anywhere on council or DOC managed land within 200 m of a motor vehicle accessible area or the coast. However, councils and DOC can restrict or prohibit freedom camping in particular areas if necessary. This rule is set out in the Freedom Camping Act 2011, which is jointly administered by DOC and the Department of Internal Affairs.

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.9 IUCN World Conservation Congress

- The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (WCC) - held every four years - will take place in Marseille, France from 3 to 11 September as an in-person event with some live-streamed sessions.
- The IUCN is a network of government and civil society organisations focussed on the conservation of nature and accelerating the transition to sustainable development.
- DOC is the State Party representative to the IUCN. DOC staff will not be traveling to the WCC, but will participate via the live streamed session, where available.
- The WCC involves a Member Assembly where all members may vote on governance items, elect officials, and vote on motions that, if adopted, become part of the IUCN's general policy.
- DOC is currently engaging with other agencies to develop the New Zealand voting position on these items. You will be provided with a briefing and recommendations for your decision on how DOC will vote.
- The IUCN has advised members that voting during the Member Assembly on the motions can only be in person or by proxy through another member, in accordance with its statutes.
- We are currently considering options for voting by proxy and will request a decision from you once the options have been fully explored.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.10 Update on new global biodiversity goals - Convention on Biological Diversity

- Negotiations on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework are continuing virtually under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, including to define long-term goals, targets for 2030 and the implementation framework. An updated draft of the goals was released last week. MFAT, supported by DOC, MPI and other agencies, lead New Zealand's involvement in the negotiations. New Zealand's objectives are guided by a 2019 Cabinet mandate, and by more specific advice approved in February 2020.
- The most publicised global target is the proposal to protect 30% of the planet by 2030, in either protected areas or 'other effective area-based conservation measures.' A group of countries known as the 'High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People' (HAC) is campaigning in support of this target. New Zealand is not a member of the HAC.

- [Redacted]
 - [Redacted]
 - [Redacted]
 - [Redacted]
 - [Redacted]
 - [Redacted]
 - [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

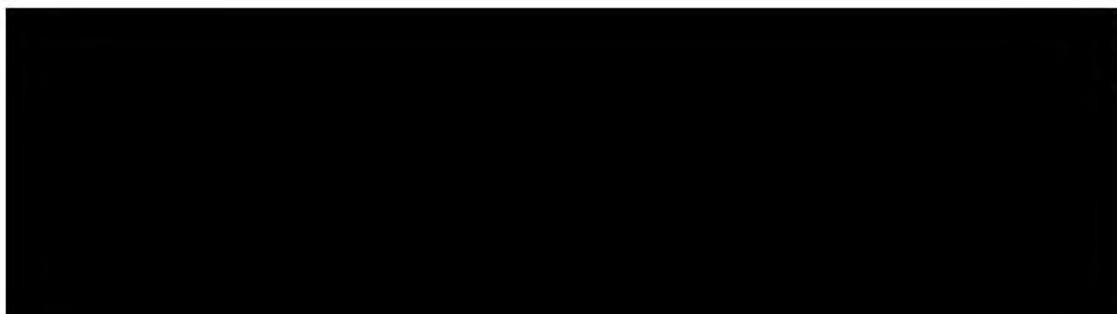
[Redacted]



2.12 Western South Island: Waiuta Tohu Whenua Site – 70th Anniversary celebration and Category 1 Heritage listing

- The 70th Anniversary of the closing of the Waiuta Mine occurred on 9 July and the community group “Friends of Waiuta” (FOW) organised a day to celebrate the milestone on site at Waiuta lodge.
- Over 180 people attended from all across the country the event, at which Heritage NZ announced the inclusion of Waiuta in the NZ Heritage List/ Rārangī Kōrero as a Category 1 Historic Place.
- A book “Of Mice and Mining Men” about a neighbouring coal mine (Alborns Mine) was also launched at the event. The book was co-authored by Jim Staton, who has had a long career with DOC and we made a contribution to its publishing via FOW.

Contact: [Redacted]





2.14 New Zealander of the Year – Environmental Hero

- DOC and MfE are co-sponsoring the new category “Environmental Hero” in the Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Awards 2022.
- These long-running awards recognise New Zealanders doing exceptional work across the country and enjoy extremely high recognition (nine out of ten New Zealanders are aware of the awards).

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- The award will be named "The Department of Conservation and Ministry for the Environment New Zealand Environmental Hero of the Year". It will also have a title in Te Reo Māori, which is in development.
- The award recognises a person or group that has made a remarkable contribution to restoring our environment. To be eligible, the nominee must have taken tangible action with proven impact towards protecting and restoring the natural environment in Aotearoa.
- Nominations open on 19 July for six weeks. Individuals or groups must be nominated by others (no self-nomination) via the awards website, zawards.org.nz.
- The overall campaign for the awards is promoted by the awards office with a marketing spend of \$1M+ (across TV, digital billboards, print, radio, digital and billboards).
- DOC's Deputy Director-General Partnerships and Engagement will be our spokesperson for the awards.
- Other sponsors across the seven categories are: Kiwibank, Mitre10, Ryman Healthcare, Trade Me and the University of Canterbury.
- You may wish to share DOC or MfE social media content to further encourage New Zealanders to nominate their environmental heroes. The content will use the campaign creative and is available upon request.
- The awards are typically held in March and as part of the sponsorship DOC and MfE have a table of 10 – please advise if you would like to attend. More details will be provided closer to the date.
- Further information on the awards can be provided if required.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.15 Health, Safety & Wellbeing

This update is in response to your questions from the Status Report item on EIP referrals. [REDACTED]

- EIP referrals in DOC, as a proportion of total FTEs are low for this type of programme compared with other organisations with similar physical risk and diversity of employment to those that exist within DOC.
- Injury incidents are assessed soon after occurrence by qualified health and safety practitioners. If necessary, the injured person is referred to the EIP provider who conducts triage and allocates the appropriate level of service. This may include the injury being registered as an ACC claim.
- The health provider is an experienced registered organisation, complying with the Health Practitioner's Competency Assurance Act and has professional body accreditation.
- All referrals to EIP are quality reviewed by DOC's internal H&S practitioners.
- The EIP is available to all DOC staff and is generally well understood and supported. At those locations where uptake has been lower, direct support is provided from the H&S Unit.

Contact: [REDACTED]

3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

No entries this week.

4 Director-General Engagements

July

19-20 July	SLT Retreat, Pounui homestead
21-22 July	Ngāi Tahu Hui with Minister of Conservation, Christchurch
23 July	Visit with Ngāti Maru and Venture Taranaki, New Plymouth
27 July	Predator Free NZ Trust Apprentices workshop, Silverstream Retreat

August

04 August	Senior Leaders Hui, Worsler Bay, Wellington
04-05 August	Environmental Defence Society Conference, Christchurch
19-20 August	NZ Conservation Authority, Wellington
19-20 August	Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Martinborough
21-22 August	Conservation Board Chairs Hui, Wellington
25-26 August	Visit with Te Hiku, Northland

September

07 September	Conservation Week Stakeholder function, Auckland
08 September	Conservation Week Stakeholder function Christchurch
09 September	Conservation Week Stakeholder function, Wellington

5 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support this status report:

1. Appendix 1 – JFN Dashboard (regular item, Status Report item 1.1 refers)
2. Appendix 3 – Cabinet Paper Report (regular item)
3. Appendix 4 – Forthcoming items (regular item)

Proactively Released

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Minister of Conservation, Minister of Conservation's Office, and Department of Conservation Eyes Only.

Department of Conservation Status Report for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 26 July 2021

Date: _____ / _____

Seen by Hon Kiritapu Allan
Minister of Conservation

DOCCM - 6725665



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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Attachments

1. Cabinet Paper Report (regular item)
2. D-G Direct (fortnightly item)
3. Jobs for Nature Dashboard

1 Standing and Priority Items

1.1 Jobs for Nature Summary

Current State (as at 20 July):



- The five projects endorsed by you in the week of 19 July, were submitted to the Reference Group for its meeting on 21 July. The projects have a total recommended value of \$6,135,000 to create up to 97.51 FTE. These projects will go to SLU Ministers at their next meeting on 5 August 2021.
- The Decision Paper and Approval-in-Principle letters for the three projects under \$1 million will be progressed in parallel this week (beginning 26 July).
- The focus this week is on progressing the next round of instalment payments. The redesigned quarterly reporting process resulted in a significantly improved response rate. Final reports are still being received.

Updates - Workstreams and projects

Māori Land Grant

- The revised briefing paper is with your office for approval.

South Island Threatened Species Prevention

- We have received the first quarterly report for the project.
- The first Governance Group meeting was held in the week beginning 12 July.

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Contact: Reg Kemper, Chief Advisor Jobs for Nature: [Redacted]

1.2 RMA Advocacy

No items this week

2 Updates

2.1 Western South Island: Damage from the severe weather event 16 – 18 July

- Damage to visitor facilities from the recent severe weather event occurred mostly in the Buller and Grey Districts, in Kahurangi and Paparoa National Parks.

We were comprehensively briefed by the National Institute of Water and Air (NIWA) about the weather event 24 hours prior to its arrival. This proactive approach by NIWA demonstrates the capability of the new weather forecasting system and services provided to DOC by NIWA.

- Inter-Agency liaison and coordination by the Regional Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group occurred throughout the weather event; DOC Buller staff are still assisting with Civil Defence work as directed.
- The new Great Walk Booking System enabled staff to contact booked visitors in advance to advise them of the approaching weather event and encourage them to reschedule their visit.
- Hut rangers on the Great Walks provided support and advice to trampers who had to bunk in for an additional night.
- The Punakaiki Visitor Centre remained open during the severe weather incident enabling visitors to contact friends and family in the area and take advice about road conditions.
- Several tracks and facilities in the Buller and Grey districts were closed at the start of the weather event as a precautionary measure.
- Full condition assessments of these facilities are now being carried out and will continue into the coming week. In some instances, structural engineering assessments will be required.
- A number of condition assessments have already been completed. As a result, sites such as Dolomite Point, Bullock Creek Road/Cave creek Memorial and track, the Seal Colony Walkway, and Denniston are now open.
- Two staff properties remain evacuated. Staff are being supported with clean-ups at their properties.
- We are advising people to check the DOC website for the latest information before venturing into the outdoors and to be prepared to change their plans

Status on Tuesday 20 July 2021, 5pm:

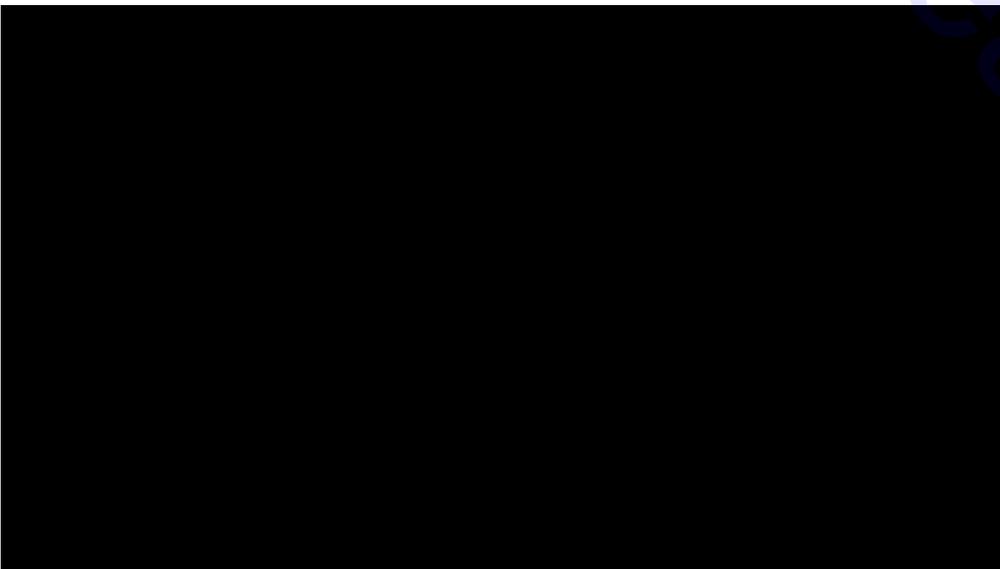
<i>DOC Facility</i>	<i>Damage</i>	<i>Reinstatement</i>
Heaphy Track	Walk closed from Mackay Downs (Bridge gone north of Heaphy Hut)	Engineer assessment required At least 2-weeks to repair
	Heaphy Hut closed (Slip behind it, potential effect on the gas storage)	Engineer assessment required At least 2-weeks to repair
	Kōhahai to Heaphy River coastal section closed (Sea erosion damage)	Assessment underway
Old Ghost Road	Closed (Treefall and slips)	Assessment underway
Paparoa Track	Staff have completed track inspections and windfall removal	

IN-CONFIDENCE

Minister of Conservation, Minister of Conservation's Office, and Department of Conservation Eyes Only.

	today (20.7.21) and as a result the Paparoa Track is fully open. Bikers should take care and expect some surface damage in places on the descent from the escarpment. The Croesus Road has had repairs by the Grey District Council and is now useable.	
Ōparara Basin	Access road to caves and track closed (Slip on entrance road approximately 4 kms in and windfall)	Assessment underway
Kawatiri Beach Reserve Campsites	Closed (Water and windfall)	Assessment underway
Truman Track	Warning signs in place (Unknown condition but likely coastal section damage from water and high seas)	Assessment underway
Kawatiri Cycle Trail	Closed (No access as public road closed)	A Council Road requires repair
Various Short Walks	Unknown condition	Second priority assessments will be completed by end of this week
Various Campsites	Unknown condition	Second priority assessments will be completed by end of this week

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]





2.3 Claims of New Freeland and Associated Groups

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- In the last two months DOC's Security Team has been made aware of [Redacted] separate land claims issued by individuals [Redacted]. Claims have been made over [Redacted], Blumine Island in Marlborough Sounds, and Whakaipo Bay on Lake Taupō by separate individuals.
- These claims have no legal basis, and DOC has developed a templated response guidance document to respond to recent claims received. [Redacted]

Contact: [Redacted]

2.4 Northern North Island: Pātaua Occupation

- Further to advice provided to you on 30 March [21-B-0257], members of the Te Matakīrea o Pātaua (Ngātiwai) continue to occupy part of Pātaua Island Recreation Reserve, north-east of Whangārei.
- The occupation stems from opposition to a vesting of part of the reserve in the Whangārei District Council for the purposes of formalising an existing road. The rōpū argues there is continued alienation of ancestral lands and seek the return of those lands to tribal ownership.
- The Director Operations Northern North Island (NNI) and local managers have met with the rōpū on two occasions to hear their concerns and to discuss a way forward. We are committed to working through the issues and looking for opportunities to work more collaboratively with whānau/hapū/iwi at Pātaua.

- A solicitor representing Te Matakīrea o Pātaua wrote to you and the Director-General, seeking a discussion with DOC on the return of reserve lands and a partnership project to restore the Taiharuru and Pātaua Rivers. A response was supplied for your signature, acknowledging the points raised, and encouraging the rūpū to engage further with DOC staff in Whangārei to find a way forward at Pātaua.
- [REDACTED]
- The Director Operations NNI will meet with Te Matakīrea o Pātaua later this month to discuss a way forward and options for management of the land at Pātaua South. The Director will hold an additional hui with the Te Waiariki/Ngāti Korora/Ngāti aka Hapū Trust (who also have interests at Pātaua South) on 29 July
- Along with the Director Operations NNI, the Whangārei Mayor and councillors, and the Ministers for Treaty Negotiations, Crown Māori Relations, Local Government and Māori Development, you received a letter from Te Matakīrea o Pātaua on 19 July. The letter reiterates concerns raised in previous correspondence and, further, raises local government matters related to Resource Management Act processes and the sale of land at Pātaua South.

Contact: [REDACTED]

2.5 Northern North Island: Dog management challenges in the Far North

- Wild dogs are an increasing problem in the Far North, Kaitaia District. Since April this year, stock on two farms adjoining Te Paki Recreation Reserve (Te Paki and Shenstone) have been subject to dog attacks.
- The Dog Control Act 1996 is the overarching legislation for this issue, and places responsibilities on dog control bodies (i.e., district councils) and dog owners. Section 57 authorises anyone to seize or destroy any dog that attacks domestic animals, stock, or wildlife.
- The adjoining farm owners perceive the wild dogs to be 'owned' by DOC, which we dispute. DOC authorises recreational pig hunting on Te Paki Recreation Reserve. The farmers allege that when hunting dogs are lost, the dogs become wild, living within the Reserve, and accessing neighbouring properties.
- The Shenstone farm owners are calling for one organisation to be accountable for dealing with this issue, and for a suite of tools to remove the dogs including the use of toxins. There are no pesticide toxins registered in New Zealand for controlling dogs. The owners are also asking DOC for financial compensation for their loss of stock.
- In the interests of resolving this issue, DOC Kaitaia District staff are working with the district and regional councils, the two neighbouring farms, and farmers further south to assess, map, and understand the problem (the

Northland Conservation Management Strategy lists wild dogs as a Northland-wide pest animal threat).

- We are working collaboratively to practically resolve this issue, while ensuring that all parties are clear on the legal responsibilities.

Contact: [REDACTED]



2.7 Western South Island: Old Westland Tai Poutini National Park Franz Josef Visitor Centre building promotion

- After the Christchurch Earthquakes in 2010 and 2011, departmental structures were investigated for seismic risk.
- The then Westland Tai Poutini National Park Visitor Centre, located adjacent to the Alpine Fault rupture zone in the Franz Josef township, was assessed as being at risk from an earthquake.
- In 2014, DOC decided to partner (by way of a Joint Venture) with Ngāi Tahu Properties and Ngāi Tahu Tourism / Franz Josef Glacier Guides Limited to design and construct a new facility to house both the Franz Josef Glacier Guides operations and the DOC District Office and Westland Tai Poutini National Park Visitor Centre.
- This facility opened in 2016 with the decommissioning of the ex-Franz Josef Visitor Centre within the project scope. Due to business priorities at that time the decommission of the old visitor centre site was deferred. We have

recently been able to proceed with the demolition of the old building and have cleared the site.

- There is currently some commentary on social media from a group of retired National Park Rangers claiming that the demolition of the building is a loss of Westland National Park heritage and a lost opportunity for heritage storytelling. They assert the building should have been earthquake strengthened and refurbished.
- Our process for demolishing the building was sound. The building was not a heritage building and was not listed in the District Plan.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

2.8 Western South Island: Government House - Hokitika

- Heritage NZ acquired Government House in the second quarter of 2021, with the purpose of leasing the building to DOC as an office.
- Heritage NZ has progressed redevelopment planning and a project governance structure has been proposed, with DOC having appropriate input as the tenant.
- We are now working through our fit-out requirements in consultation with various stakeholders.
- Due to the building's heritage status, there is local interest in the development and its progress.

Contact: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3 Events, Announcements & Media Opportunities

No items this week.

Proactively Released

4 Director-General Engagements

July

27 July Predator Free NZ Trust Apprentices workshop, Silverstream Retreat

August

04 August Senior Leaders Hui, Worsler Bay, Wellington
 04- 5 August Environmental Defence Society Conference, Christchurch
 19-20 August NZ Conservation Authority, Wellington
 19-20 August Public Service Leadership Team Retreat, Martinborough
 21-22 August Conservation Board Chairs Hui, Wellington
 25-26 August Visit with Te Hiku, Northland

September

07 September Conservation Week Stakeholder function, Auckland
 08 September Conservation Week Stakeholder function, Christchurch
 09 September Conservation Week Stakeholder function, Wellington

5 Appendices

The following appendices are provided to support this status report:

1. Appendix 1 – JFN Dashboard (regular item, Status Report item 1.1 refers)
2. Appendix 3 – Cabinet Paper Report (regular item)
3. Appendix 4 – Forthcoming items (regular item)

Proactively Released