



**Auckland Conservation Board**  
*Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Tāmaki Makaurau*

**Annual Report 2024-2025**



Annual Report of the  
**Auckland Conservation Board**  
Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Tāmaki Makaurau

For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

*Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority / Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O  
Aotearoa pursuant to section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987*

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*Photographer:* Gayathri Govindarajulu

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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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Edward Ellison  
Chairperson, New Zealand Conservation Authority  
PO Box 10420  
Wellington 6143

Tēnā koe Edward

We are pleased to submit, the annual report of the Auckland Conservation Board (the Board) for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, in accordance with Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act 1987.

For our Board, the 2024/25 year has been characterised by collaboration, advocacy and opportunities to focus on specific high priority outcomes. As part of this mahi we continue to embed our priority to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and work in partnership with Tāmaki Makaurau iwi on advocacy and conservation project initiatives.

## Collaboration

Many hands make light work! And it has been very rewarding and productive this year to work alongside:

- Mina Pomare, Chair Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board – sharing her Board’s experiences preparing their Conservation Management Strategy.
- Our neighbouring Conservation Boards – in particular Te Hiku o Te Ika and Northland Conservation Boards on concerns arising from the Treaty Principles Bill and Waikato Conservation Board on shorebird/seabird conservation.
- Fletcher Beazley, Chair of the Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust – developing aligned outcomes and actions to deliver improved conservation outcomes for Aotea.
- A large number of Department of Conservation (DOC) staff actively engaged in our Board’s conservation priority areas.
- Iwi and community group representatives, particularly during, and following on from, our Aotea/Great Barrier visit.

The Board continues to work on raising our profile with key stakeholders and responding to any opportunities to accelerate iwi and community conservation endeavours.

## Advocacy

In response to a multi-faceted series of reforms over the year, our Board has increased efforts to input into government decision-making. Our advocacy approach is to be as constructive as possible - identifying issues based on our “on the ground” experience and suggesting solutions for government to consider.

Some of our substantive pieces of feedback during the 2024/25 year were to the:

- Minister of Conservation expressing concerns about the Treaty Principles Bill, in conjunction with the Te Hiku o Te Ika and Northland Conservation Boards (September 2024).
- Prime Minister and Minister of Conservation to advocate for enactment of the Tikapa Moana / Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill (June 2025).
- Department of Conservation – on plans to amend conservation legislation (February 2025), implement the Te Mana o Te Taio Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (June 2025) and review the Predator Free 2050 Strategy (June 2025).
- Finance and Expenditure Select Committee on the Regulatory Standards Bill.
- Auckland Council on future options to protect Auckland’s environment from biosecurity threats (December 2024).

At the end of the 2024/2025 year, we also embarked on our first contribution to the Expert Panel appointed under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 to decide on an application from Port of Auckland Ltd. to extend Bledisloe and Fergusson wharves (June 2025).

## Focus Areas

Our Board recognises the breadth and depth of conservation needs across our region and the risk of being spread too thin across these. To mitigate this risk, in addition to our ongoing collaborative relationship building and advocacy work, we are focusing on two of the region’s most pressing conservation needs. These are improved conservation outcomes for:

- Aotea/Great Barrier Island
- Marine ecosystems in particular shorebirds and seabirds.

Following on from our two-day visit to Aotea we are working in partnership with Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea to grow awareness of the island’s unique native ecosystems and advocate for more investment in improving conservation outcomes.

By the conclusion of the 2024/25 year, we were still in the process of determining optimum actions the Board can take to improve the health of our region’s marine ecosystems which are in dire straits from higher temperatures and acidity associated with climate change, contaminated catchment runoff, fishing and exotic species invasions such as *Caulerpa*.

We would like to acknowledge our departing members and welcome new members all of whom have and are contributing significantly to our mahi. And express our gratitude for the excellent assistance we receive from our departmental support team John Galilee (Statutory Manager) and Emma Smith (Board Support Officer).

No reira

E noho ora mai

Gael Ogilvie

Chairperson

Auckland Conservation Board (November 2024- ongoing)

Nicola Macdonald

Chairperson

Auckland Conservation Board (July 2024-October 2024)

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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This is the thirty-fourth Auckland Conservation Board Annual Report. Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (**Authority**) with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Auckland Conservation Board (**Board**) submits this annual report.

Conservation boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. They represent the community and offer interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation (**Department**), within their area of jurisdiction.

Conservation board members are appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987 (**Act**). Board functions are outlined in section 6(M) and the powers, which enable the conservation boards to carry out those functions, are under 6(N) of the Act. The Board has several statutory roles under various Acts, including:

- the recommendation of the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and the Authority on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice
- reporting on the implementation of the CMS
- the recommendation of national park management plans to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and Authority on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- liaising with the regional Fish and Game Council on conservation matters
- carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

Conservation boards also have several functions under the National Parks Act 1980 but there are no national parks within the Board's district.

## 2. ROHE

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The Auckland Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area of 2,430,884 hectares. This area extends from the west coast to the east coast in the narrowest part of New Zealand. The entrance to the Kaipara Harbour marks the north-western corner of the region and Mangawhai Heads marks the north-eastern point. In the south-west, the boundary follows the north bank of the Waikato River, and the south-eastern boundary is on the Firth of Thames at Pūkoro/Miranda. The Board's district also currently includes Aotea/Great Barrier Island, Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier and the islands of the Hauraki Gulf as well as the Kermadec Islands, located 800-1,000km northeast of the North Island.

The area also extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit. with respect to protected species.

Public conservation land and waters make up 44.97% of all the Board's total district. This consists of:

- 36,727 hectares of Public Conservation Land
- 336,858 hectares of Sanctuaries to Protect Marine Mammals

- 729,606 hectares of Marine Reserves, including the 716,509 ha Kermadec Islands Marine Reserve.

Part of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park lies within the Boards' jurisdiction.

The Board's area of jurisdiction was set in 1990 when conservation boards were established. Two areas (Kermadec Islands and Pūkoro/Miranda) are no longer managed from the Department's Auckland office. The Board has informal arrangements with the Te Hiku o Te Ika and Waikato Conservation Boards that they will respectively be responsible for those areas until such time as the boundaries of the three boards are formally re-defined.

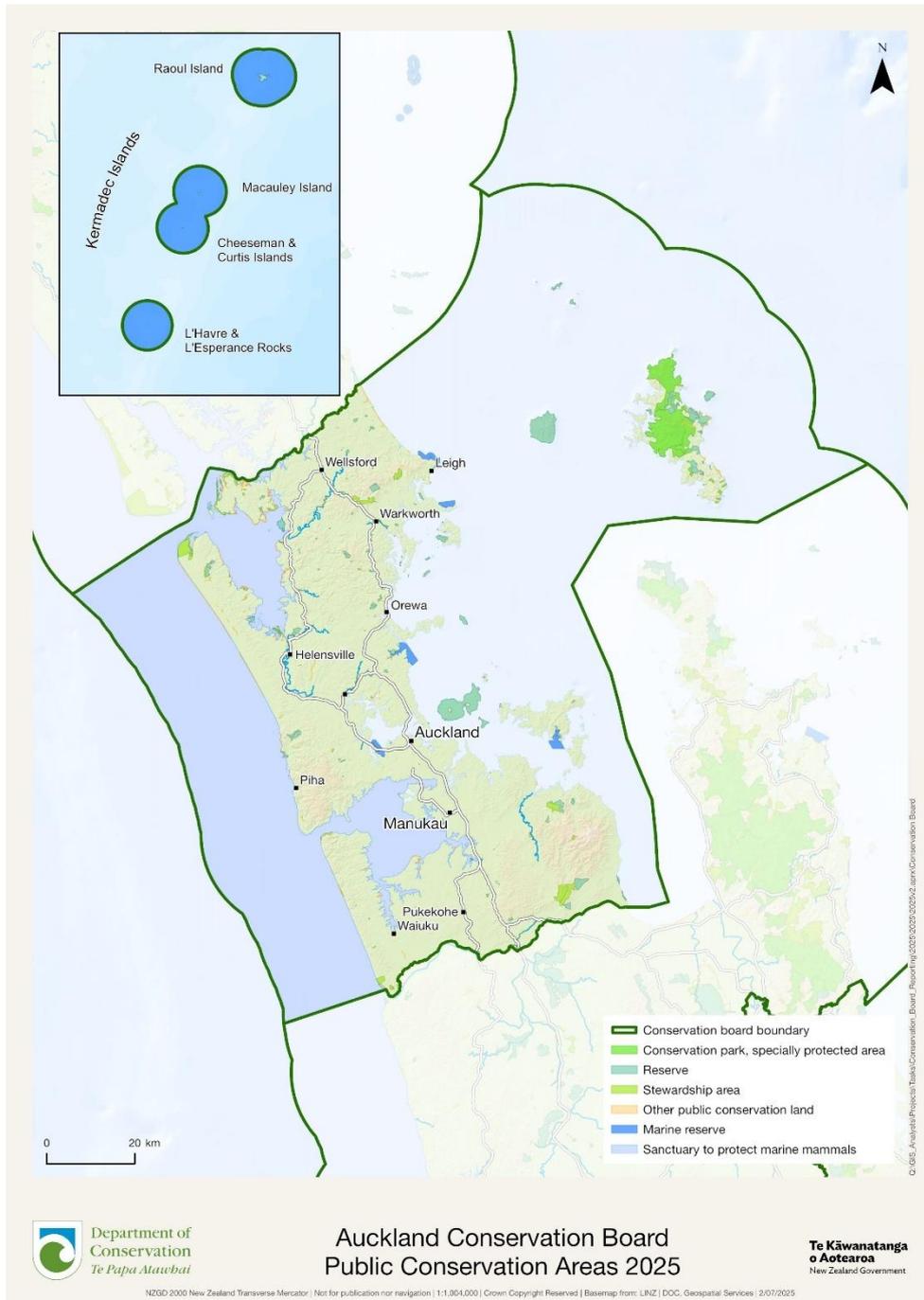


Figure 1. Auckland Conservation Board Jurisdiction

## 2.1 Tangata whenua

The Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland region has a strong and varied iwi landscape. 19 iwi groups have recognised interests in the region:

- Ngāti Manuhiri
- Ngāti Maru\*
- Ngāti Pāoa\*
- Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea
- Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki\*
- Ngāti Tamaoho\*
- Ngāti Tamaterā\*
- Ngāti Te Āta\*
- Ngāti Wai
- Ngāti Whanaunga\*
- Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara\*
- Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei\*
- Te Ākitai Waiohua\*
- Te Ahiwaru Waiohua
- Te Kawerau ā Maki\*
- Te Patukirikiri\*
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua\*
- Te Uri o Hau
- Waikato-Tainui

13 iwi, indicated by \*, are represented by Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau (the Tāmaki Collective), which signed the Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Deed with the Crown in 2012.

## 2.2 Conservation features of the area

The Board's district is a unique one in that it comprises the highly urbanised environment of the Auckland metropolitan area with one third of New Zealand's population, as well as extensive rural areas, remote offshore islands and marine environments. The Board recognises the importance of making conservation real for the 1.7 million people living in Auckland and delivering a first-class conservation experience for visitors to Auckland each year.

The Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland region encompasses areas of very significant European historical importance as well as areas of ecological, natural, and amenity value. They include the Firth of Thames, Kaipara Harbour, Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island, the Mokohinau island group, Aotea/Great Barrier Island, Rakitū, Tiritiri Mātangi and Motuora, and the inner Gulf Islands including Rangitoto, Motutapu and Te Motu-a-Ihenga/Motuihe, Mansion House on Kawau Island and the coastal defence installations at Fort Takapuna and Stony Batter on Waiheke Island. The Department manages about 60% of 28,000ha Aotea/Great Barrier Island, which is approximately 40% of all public conservation land in the region.

The area also extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit with respect to protected species. The marine environment is an especially important part of the Board's district and areas of interest, and its national significance was recognised by its declaration in 2000 as the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

The Hauraki Gulf/Tīkapa Moana/Te Moananui-ā-Toi contains 40 pest-free sanctuaries and is a stronghold for a huge number of indigenous species found nowhere else in the world, including threatened seabirds, shorebirds, marine mammals, fish and marine invertebrates.

The Board's area includes five marine reserves: Cape Rodney to Okakari Point (New Zealand's first marine reserve at Leigh), Motu Manawa/Pollen Island (in the inner Waitemata Harbour), Long Bay-Okura, Te Matuku (southwestern Waiheke Island), and Tāwharanui.

The main features of Public Conservation Land and Waters within the Board's boundaries are:

- Aotea Conservation Park – 12,896.05 ha
- 85 scenic reserves – 6,735.54 ha
- 13 historic reserves – 307.22 ha
- 38 recreation reserves – 3,335.35 ha
- 68 stewardship areas – 4,794.85 ha
- 223 marginal strips – 948.58 ha
- 6 marine reserves – 719,606.16 ha
- 1 marine mammal sanctuary – 338,096.97 ha



Photo: Port Fitzroy, Aotea/Great Barrier Island. March 2025. *Photographer:* Shane Lavery

### 2.3 Conservation issues in the area

Approximately 7.59% of all public conservation land in Aotearoa lie within the region. The large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- **The need to connect more Aucklanders with nature and to provide sufficient infrastructure and facilities to safely support access to conservation land for 1.7m Aucklanders, domestic visitors, and over 2.2m international visitors to Tāmaki Makaurau.**
- **The protection and management of the many threatened species and ecosystems in the region,** due to destruction of habitat and the impact of development. While a number of threatened species have populations on pest free islands in the Hauraki Gulf or within mainland sanctuaries, there are many more species that do not have enough management attention. Many marine and freshwater species in particular are under huge pressure and require better regulatory protection.
- **The risks to indigenous species and ecosystems from the effects of climate change.** The Board has particular concern for those species that are already threatened and for which climate change will exacerbate adverse trends, and for those ecosystems that are limited in geographic scale and vulnerable to the changes that climate change will bring.
- **Understanding how to give effect to the aspirations of mana whenua in relation to conservation, and to give full effect to Treaty settlements,** including preparation of the Tāmaki Makaurau Motu Plan and the development of fit for purpose management planning documents.
- **Ensuring that the resource management system and related decisions does not further degrade important ecosystems or erode populations of threatened species and their habitats.** The Board has actively opposed the continuation of sand mining off Pākiri beach and a proposed landfill at Wayby Valley in the upper Hoteo catchment. Under the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024, the Board is now actively providing input to Auckland developments meeting the criteria for conservation approvals.
- **Supporting the goals of the New Zealand Predator Free 2050 strategy.** In the short to medium term the Board is concerned about how it can support the communities on inhabited islands such as Kawau, Waiheke and Aotea/Great Barrier to work towards becoming predator free.
- **Protecting and enhancing access to heritage sites.** There are a large number of heritage sites located on public conservation land within the region that are not being actively managed. There is a disproportionate lack of resources for heritage work in Auckland, and for providing high quality interpretation so visitors can understand the stories related to those sites and their importance.
- **Restoring Tkapa Moana/Te Moananui-a-Toi/the Hauraki Gulf.** Since 2000 the series of “State of the Gulf” reports published by the Hauraki Gulf Forum have tracked an ongoing decline in the health of the Gulf, and there is widespread public concern about its ecological condition and support for efforts to restore the mauri of the Gulf. The Board considers that the Government’s “Revitalising the Gulf” is a starting point and is working towards the goal of the Hauraki Gulf Forum, for at least 30% of the Gulf under some form of marine protection. The Board is also advocating for removal of trawling and dredging from the Gulf and associated measures to preserve depleted marine species such as koura, scallops and paua, and for the protection of seabirds.

## 3. FUNCTIONS

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### 3.1 Board functions under section 6(M) of the Conservation Act 1987

The current functions of the Board are:

- 1) To recommend the approval by the Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments
- 2) To approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments
- 3) To advise the Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for the area within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 4) To advise the Authority or the Director-General on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance
- 5) To advise the Authority or the Director-General on any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board
- 6) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 7) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

### 3.2 Board powers under section 6(N) of the Conservation Act 1987

- 1) Every conservation board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.
- 2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each conservation board may –
  - i. Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
  - ii. Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.
- 3) The power conferred by subsection (2)(a) shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board's functions.

## 4. MEMBERSHIP

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The Minister of Conservation appoints Board members under section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987. The process of appointment ensures that a range of perspectives, life experiences, and knowledge contribute to the advice provided and decisions made by the Board.

Board members are appointed for 3-year terms and may be re-appointed, unless they are appointed in replacement of a prior member's term. There were 11 Board members for the reporting year. Nicola MacDonald was Chairperson and Kate Waterhouse was Deputy Chairperson up to October 2024. Gael Ogilvie was elected Chairperson in December 2024 and Shane Lavery elected Deputy Chairperson in March 2025.

As new appointments to the Board were not made until November 2024, three members of the previous Board continued in their roles until October 2024.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025:

Board Member	Area	Term start	Term end
Dr Achyut Aryal	Auckland	01 Jul 2022	30 Jun 2025
Rahul Chopra	Auckland	01 Jul 2022	30 Jun 2025
Pippa Coom*	Auckland	01 Jul 2023	31 Oct 2024
Repeka George-Koteka	Auckland	01 Nov 2024	30 Jun 2027
Alan Goldman	Auckland	01 Nov 2024	30 Jun 2027
Nerissa Henry	Auckland	01 Jul 2022	30 Jun 2026
Mervyn Kerehoma	Auckland – Ngāti Whātua rōpū	01 Jul 2020	30 Jun 2026
Shane Lavery	Auckland	01 Jul 2021	30 Jun 2027
Nicola MacDonald*	Auckland	01 Jul 2018	31 Oct 2024
Tori Ngataki	Te Kauwhata – Waiohua Tāmaki rōpū	01 Jul 2023	30 Jun 2026
Gael Ogilvie	Auckland	01 Jul 2021	30 Jun 2025
Chris Severne	Auckland	01 Jul 2024	30 Jun 2025
Kate Waterhouse*	Auckland/Great Barrier Island	19 Nov 2019	31 Oct 2024
Fred Wilson	Waiuku – Marutūāhu rōpū	01 Jul 2023	30 Jun 2026

\* These members continued in their role until replaced by new appointments made in November 2024 (pursuant to section 6R(5) Conservation Act 1987).



Photo: Auckland Conservation Board members with former member Kate Waterhouse on a visit to Okiwi Reserve, Aotea/Great Barrier Island (March 2025).

#### 4.1 Members profiles

**DR ACHYUT ARYAL:** Dr Aryal brings extensive international experience in research, teaching, and leadership. He has conducted significant work on conservation and has deep expertise in species and biodiversity conservation. He is currently Director of Research and Director at AKA Education Group, Auckland; Adjunct Professor at Tribhuvan University; and Adjunct Fellow at the University of Technology Sydney. He previously served as Senior Adjunct Lecturer at Massey University and as CEO of CC Training Academy/Auckland College of Tertiary Studies and is currently a co-owner.

**RAHUL CHOPRA:** Rahul R Chopra is a Principal Advisor at ARHA, specialising in energy resilience and climate adaptation. He advises on distributed energy systems and risk governance and serves as a Risk Review Commissioner at the Climate Change Commission. Rahul also leads the NZ Sustainability & Policy Leaders Forum and has held governance roles across several environmental and energy organisations.

**PIPPA COOM:** Pippa brings extensive experience and knowledge of community conservation, community engagement, cultural competency, governance and planning. Until recently Ms Coom was an elected member of the Auckland Council and a former Co-chair of the Hauraki Gulf Forum, with extensive knowledge of regional environmental issues. Ms Coom has wide networks and experience of working with Māori and has experience working as a lawyer.

**REPEKA GEORGE-KOTEKA:** Repeka George-Koteka brings extensive experience in community engagement, cultural leadership, and systems change. She serves on the steering groups of Le Moana West and Te Wānanga o Aotearoa's He Waka Hiringa, contributing to advocacy in Indigenous and Pacific spaces. Repeka holds a Master of

Applied Indigenous Knowledge and is the director of Ei Moana, a company supporting team development, cultural capability, and community wellbeing through Indigenous frameworks, wānanga, coaching, and strategic facilitation.

**ALAN GOLDMAN:** Alan brings a lifetime of international finance experience together with a sound knowledge of board governance and compliance. His passion for conservation started back in 1974. He has served as a board member of the South African Wildlife Society and prestigious Mauerberger Foundation. In New Zealand he is the Treasurer of the Auckland Flyfishing Angling Club. Alan has won a number of awards, is an internationally published author and continues to work in education and the wider Auckland community.

**NERISSA HENRY** (Ngāpuhi, Ngāi Takoto, Ngāti Awa): Nerissa brings experience and knowledge of community conservation, community engagement, cultural competency, governance and planning to the Board. Ms Henry sits on a number of public bodies including the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board, the Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority and the Tāmaki Estuary Environmental Forum, with wide connections to the Auckland community and volunteer sectors. Ms Henry has knowledge of kaitiakitanga and the Treaty of Waitangi / Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

**MERVYN KEREHOMA** (Ngāti Whātua o Ōrakei and Te Rarawa): Mervyn Dene Kerehoma. Mervyn has Whakapapa To. Te Rarawa Kaiwhare Ahipara. Wainui Marae. Ngāti Whatua Nui Tonu. Orakei Marae. Hokianga Nga Puhi. As a dedicated Ngāti Whātua Ōrakei representative Mervyn has led numerous ecological restoration projects across Tāmaki Makaurau, including Takaparawhau, Okahu Bay, and Kaipātiki. Mervyn plays a key role in infrastructure and environmental initiatives as an iwi representative at Auckland Council, CCOs, and government entities. He also serves on the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust and represents Ngāti Whātua in the Toi Tūhono forum.

**SHANE LAVERY:** Shane is an Associate Professor at the University of Auckland and offers over 40 years' experience in marine and terrestrial biological conservation research. He has extensive knowledge of biodiversity and has served on several advisory boards.

**NICOLA RATA-MACDONALD MNZM** (Ngāti Wai, Te Rarawa, Taranaki): Nicola is a strategic leader and environmental advocate. As Co-chair of the Hauraki Gulf Forum and lead technician for the National Iwi Chairs Forum Pou Tangaroa, she champions indigenous marine stewardship. Her achievements include large-scale mussel restoration, native tree planting, and marine innovation. Honoured as 2024 Environmental Hero of the Year and a 2025 MNZM recipient, she is the first indigenous woman to chair the Forum.

**TORI NGATAKI** (Ngāti Tamaoho, Te Waiohū, Waikato, Maniapoto): Tori is the Waiohū Tāmaki rūpū entity nominee. She is the current Chair of the Ngāti Tamaoho Settlement Trust. She completed her MBA in 2018 to support her aspirations to support her people regarding the revitalisation of their whakapapa, their taiao, and wellbeing. Currently they are working on revitalising indigenous fauna and flora around the Manukau Harbour and seeking to restore their cultural practices around these to enhance their whakapapa as Ngāti Tamaoho.

**GAEL OGILVIE** has extensive governance, strategic and operational experience in the conservation and broader environmental sector in Aotearoa NZ and overseas. She is currently Chair of the Auckland Conservation Board and a member of the National Waste Advisory Board, the Hazardous Substance and New Organisms Committee and the NZ Ecolabelling Trust. Gael is an adjunct lecturer at Open Polytech and the Founder/Director of Nature's Grace Aotearoa New Zealand.

**CHRIS SEVERNE:** Chris brings to the Board his extensive commercial acumen, as well as a long history of involvement in environmental organisations including Bluegreens, Foundation North and the Nature Heritage Fund. He also Chairs the Opito Bay Ratepayers Association on the Coromandel where he has initiated several environmental restoration projects including a rahui on scallop harvesting working with local Iwi Ngati Hei.

**KATE WATERHOUSE:** Kate is an experienced business and conservation leader with strategy, and project experience across the public and private sector in New Zealand and overseas. Kate advocates for a collaborative approach to ecosystems restoration. Kate is Chair of the Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust, holds multiple project governance roles, served six years on the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee and five years on the Auckland Conservation Board. She is currently a curator at the NZ Maritime Museum.

**FRED WILSON:** Fred Wilson represents the Marutūāhu Collective on the Auckland Conservation Board. With a background at the Department of Conservation, he has worked closely with iwi, hapū, and communities on restoration and cultural projects. He’s contributed to environmental efforts on the Āwhitu Peninsula and now serves as Principal Advisor at Kāinga Ora, focusing on the intersection of housing, whenua, and environmental outcomes. Fred is dedicated to strengthening Māori involvement in conservation and protecting te taiao for future generations.

## 5. MEETINGS AND FIELDTRIPS

The Board held 4 meetings during the reporting period. Venues for the meetings vary each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

Meeting date	Location/Venue
25 September 2024	Auckland Botanic Gardens, Manurewa, Auckland
4 December 2024	Ellen Melville Centre, CBD, Auckland
27 March 2025	Department of Conservation offices, Okiwi, Gt Barrier
4 June 2025	Studio One – Toi Tū, Grey Lynn, Auckland

The Board also held 4 workshops during the year to focus on specific matters, one of which was a joint workshop with the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee.

Workshop date	Location/Venue
24 July 2024	Department of Conservation offices, CBD, Auckland
12 February 2025	Department of Conservation offices, CBD, Auckland
28 March 2025*	Department of Conservation offices, Okiwi, Gt Barrier
14 May 2025	Ngāti Whātua Whai Maia offices, Ōrākei, Auckland

\*Joint workshop with Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee



Photo: Auckland Conservation Board joint workshop with Aotea Park Advisory Committee (ACPAC) as part of a visit to Aotea/Great Barrier Island, 27 March 2025. From left, Michael Ngatai (ACPAC), ACB Members Rahul Chopra, Repeka George-Koteka, Gael Ogilvie, Fred Wilson, Marilyn Stephens (ACPAC), Fletcher Beazley (DOC), Nerissa Henry, Chris Severne (ACB), Tania Stephens, Shane Lavery (ACB), John Galilee (DOC) and Don Prince (ACPAC).

*Photographer: Gayathri Govindarajulu (DOC).*

## 5.1 Agendas

The Board hosted and heard from 10 non-Departmental speakers at its public meetings:

- Mina Pomare, Chair Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board, presented to the Board about the development of the Te Hiku o Te Ika-a-Māui Conservation Management Strategy (25 September 2024 meeting).
- Fletcher Beazley, Chief Executive of the Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust (and who is also Operations Manager Aotea, Department of Conservation), welcomed the Board to Aotea/Great Barrier and provided an overview of the cultural significance of the island and its natural and cultural resources, and priorities for his iwi (27 March 2025 meeting).
- Representatives of five community groups spoke to the Board at its meeting on Aotea/Great Barrier Island (27 March 2025 meeting). They spoke about the objectives and locations of their projects, what their resourcing needs were and how the Board could support them. Speakers included:
  - Makere Jenner and Sonya Williams from Tū Mai Taonga
  - Raoul Stewart from Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision
  - Judy Gilbert from Windy Hill Sanctuary

- Clint Stannard from Motu Kaikoura Trust
- Kate Waterhouse from Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust
- At the same meeting a panel discussion was convened to discuss how to work together to amplify conservation outcomes on Aotea/Great Barrier Island. Panel members included:
  - Izzy Fordham, Chair, Aotea Great Barrier Local Board
  - Sam Hill, General Manager Environmental Services, Auckland Council
  - Alex Rogers, Director Operations, Department of Conservation
  - Fletcher Beazley, Operations Manager Aotea, Department of Conservation
- Katina Conomos, Kaihautū / Programme Director for the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust, presented to the Board about the work of the Trust to restore kūtai/mussel reefs in the Hauraki Gulf (4 June 2025 meeting).
- Steve Halley and Kathryn Lister, Fisheries New Zealand, updated the Board about the work undertaken by Fisheries New Zealand to implement the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan and about proposals for reform of the Fisheries Act 1983 (4 June 2025 meeting).

Department staff also attended public meetings throughout the year. Presentations included:

- Carl Walrond, Programme Manager – Future Visitor Network, Wellington, presented to the Board about planning for the future of the Department’s visitor network (25 September 2024 meeting).
- Kirsty Prior, Operations Manager Marine, Department of Conservation, presented to the Board to provide an overview of the Department’s preparations for implementation of the Hauraki Gulf /Tīkapa Moana Marine Protection Bill once it was enacted (4 June 2025 meeting).
- The Board received a presentation from the Department to update them on work on the recovery of the endangered species tuturuatu/shore plover (24 July 2024 workshop).

The agendas and minutes from all Board meetings can be found on the Board’s webpage.

Board workshops are not open to the public and minutes of workshops are not kept.

## 5.2 Field trips and site inspections

Field trips are an excellent opportunity for Board members to become more aware of conservation issues within their region.

- While the Board was on Aotea/Great Barrier former Board member Kate Waterhouse hosted the Board on several short field visits to Whangapoua beach and Okiwi reserve. On their return to the airport at Claris the Board visited Windy Canyon (27-28 March 2025).
- Board member Mervyn Kerehoma hosted the Board at the Ngāti Whātua Whaia Maia offices for a workshop. After the workshop concluded, Mervyn guided members around Takaparawhau and through the Ōrākei marae complex, explaining some of the history and the ecological restoration work undertaken by the iwi (14 May 2025 workshop).

### 5.3 Members' attendance 2024/25

Board Member	Meetings (total 4)	Fieldtrips (total 2)
Achyut Aryal	1	0
Rahul Chopra	4	1
Pippa Coom*	1	0
Repeka George-Koteka	3	2
Alan Goldman	2	0
Nerissa Henry	4	2
Mervyn Kerehoma	2	1
Shane Lavery	3	2
Nicola MacDonald*	1	0
Tori Ngataki	0	0
Gael Ogilvie	4	2
Chris Severne	3	2
Kate Waterhouse*	1	0
Fred Wilson	4	1

## 6. MAHI

### 6.1 Board Committees

The Conservation Act 1987 enables the Board to establish committees to carry out functions or tasks delegated by the Board. Committees that were active during the reporting period, and members involved in those committees included:

- **Communications:** the purpose of this committee was to co-ordinate the Board's public communications, in accordance with the Board's Communications Plan that had been recently revised and adopted in the 2024/2025 year. During the year the Board posted regularly on its Facebook page (also see section 8.5, Community Visibility).

**Members:** Achyut Aryal, Pippa Coom, Repeka George-Koteka

- **Statutory:** the purpose of this committee was to lead the Board's work on providing advice to the Department on applications for statutory consents and statutory land management proposals referred to the Board. Applications for concessions are referred to the Board under triggers it adopted in 2018.

A significant new responsibility for the Board, led by the Statutory Subcommittee, was introduced under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2014. Under the Act the Board is invited

to comment on applications that include a “conservation approval”, under tight timeframes and with no additional resourcing. During the year the Board’s comments were sought on 1 application from Port of Auckland Ltd. for consents for the extension of Ferguson and Bledisloe wharves.

During the reporting year the Board’s comments were sought on 7 applications for various types of consents (see section 8.2 for a list). In addition, the Board’s comments were sought on 3 statutory land management proposals (also see section 8.2).

**Members:** Kate Waterhouse\*, Mervyn Kerehoma, Nerissa Henry, Chris Severne

## 6.2 Special events

The Board had representatives attend several special events during the year including the annual Climate Change & Business Conference hosted by the Environmental Defense Society (9-10 September 2024), the annual North Island Hector's and Māui dolphin Forum (September 2024), the Oceans Symposium (12 May 2025) and the annual Tara-iti Forum in Wellsford (16 June 2025). As part of the Board’s visit to Aotea/Great Barrier Island members attended the opening pōwhiri for the Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust’s Taiao wānanga at Kawa marae (27 March 2025).

## 6.3 Training for members

Newly appointed members to the Board were provided with information during an induction on 21 November 2024.



Photo: Aotea/Great Barrier, March 2025. *Photographer:* Nerissa Henry

# 7. STATUTORY ACTIVITY

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## 7.1 Annual Work Plan

After receiving its Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation, the Board sets out its work plan for the upcoming year. The Board developed its Work Plan in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation sent to the New Zealand Conservation Authority dated 18 September 2024. Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

The Board's strategic priorities were:

- Meet Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsibilities and strengthen relationships with iwi/hapu
- Target high priority conservation outcomes
- Amplify community-led conservation and heritage protection.
- Support nature-based solutions to reduce carbon emissions and build resilience to climate change.

## 7.2 Auckland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The Auckland CMS was approved in 2014. It contains milestones that were designed to be measurable steps towards achieving the outcomes and policies in the CMS. During the year the Board agreed to a proposed programme of consolidated reporting on implementation by theme (25 September 2024 meeting). However, such reports were not commissioned for subsequent meetings due to other priorities which required the Board's focus.

The Board has in previous years indicated that it was satisfied overall with the progress made towards implementation of the CMS and with the range and amount of work completed. However, they had also noted concern that there are some pieces of work that were yet to be commenced or were not being completed within the timeframes indicated in the CMS.

The Board notes that the nominal term of the CMS term was 10 years and consider that it is no longer fit for purpose and is overdue for review. The Board has previously provided feedback to this effect through submissions. In February 2025 the Board submitted on proposals released by the Minister of Conservation to significantly amend the statutory management planning system. The Board expressed deep concern at the proposed dilution of its role in the development and approval of area plans, which were proposed to replace both CMSs and CMPs to create one single layer of plans.

## 7.3 Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Conservation Management Plan (CMP)

The Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island CMP was approved in 2017. It was developed by the Board in conjunction with the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and is an important part of redress for Ngāti Manuhiri under their Treaty settlement. The Board received a presentation from Terrance (Mook) Hohnock, Chair of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust, about the development of the CMP, its importance to Ngāti Manuhiri, and progress towards its implementation late in the previous reporting year (19 June 2024 meeting).

Nicola MacDonald, Chair of the Board until October 2024, was Acting Chief Executive of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust during that period. In that capacity she worked closely with the Department on monitoring and implementation of the CMP.

## 7.4 Tāmaki Makaurau Motu Plan (the Motu Plan)

The Board was disappointed that a further year passed without any progress to begin development of a Conservation Management Plan for the inner motu/islands of the Hauraki Gulf (ie. Rangitoto, Motutapu and Motuihe/Te Motu-a-Ihenga). The Motu Plan is a requirement under the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014. It is to be developed and approved by the Board in conjunction with the Tūpuna Taonga o Tāmaki Makaurau Trust, which represents the interests of the 13 iwi that comprise the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective. The Motu Plan is an important milestone in the Auckland CMS.

Despite the Board's advocacy about the importance of the Motu Plan over a number of years, no progress was achieved in the reporting year. Resolving the resourcing issues that are behind the delay are beyond the Board's scope of influence at this time. Given the

current Government’s proposed changes to conservation management legislation, it is likely that an "Area Plan" will be prepared for the inner Hauraki Gulf islands, in accordance with future legislative provisions.



Photo: Auckland Conservation Board field trip to Windy Canyon as part of their visit to Aotea/Great Barrier Island March 2025. From left: Nerissa Henry, Repeka George-Koteka, Rahul Chopra, Gael Ogilvie, John Galilee (DOC), Chris Severne.

*Photographer:* Nerissa Henry.

## 8. ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise, and some members have specific roles in liaison. The Board appointed a member to liaise with one key group during the year:

Board member	Organisation/Group/Agency
Shane Lavery	Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council

Kate Waterhouse also held an informal liaison relationship with the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee.

### 8.1 Board and Authority liaisons

The Board holds a liaison relationship with neighbouring conservation boards. Liaison roles for the reporting year were held by:

- Nicola MacDonald/Nerissa Henry – Liaison to Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board
- Kate Waterhouse/Rahul Chopra – Liaison to Northland Conservation Board
- Tori Ngataki/Chris Severne – Liaison for Waikato Conservation Board

During the year the Board worked in collaboration with:

- Te Hiku o Te Ika and Northland Conservation Boards to oppose any provisions in the proposed Treaty Principles Bill that would adversely affect Treaty partners
- Waikato Conservation Board to progress our shared focus on shorebird and seabird conservation

The Authority has a liaison member with the Board to facilitate communication. The Authority liaison attends Board meetings, and reports to the full Authority on matters raised. Ina Kara-France was the Authority’s liaison for the reporting year.

## 8.2 Advice to the Department

The Board provided formal written advice to the Department on the following issues:

- An application from the Matakana Trails Trust for a lease to construct and maintain a shared pathway through Lawries Scenic Reserve (October 2024)
- An application from the Kiwi Trust to translocate kiwi from Pōnui to Waiheke (November 2024)
- A proposal for an exchange of part of a marginal strip for an area of private land on Waiheke (December 2024)
- An application from Pou Tangata Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Community Development Trust to operate the Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp (MOEC) on Motutapu Island (December 2024)
- An application from the Ngāti Paoa Iwi Trust to lease a building in Glen Innes (April 2025)
- A proposal to appoint Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki to control and manage 8 small parts of Motutapu (April 2025)
- Public notification of a proposed reduction in the width of a marginal strip in Henderson (May 2025)
- An application from the Kau Fefine Fakana’ana’a Trust to renew their lease over a building in Mt. Roskill (June 2025)
- An application from Executive Trustees Ltd. to attach a pontoon to an existing wharf in Te Matuku Marine Reserve (June 2025)
- An application from Kawau Catering Ltd. who sought renewal of a lease to operate the café in Mansion House Valley on Kawau (June 2025).

## 8.3 Submissions

The Board advocated its interests during the reporting period through a number of submissions, available to read on its webpage:

- To the Auckland Council on future options to protect Auckland’s environment from biosecurity threats (December 2024)
- To the Department of Conservation on proposals for introducing access charging and amending conservation legislation to streamline land management (February 2025)

- To the Ministry of Primary Industries (Fisheries New Zealand) on proposed amendments to the Fisheries Act 1996 (April 2025)
- To the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee on the Regulatory Standards Bill (June 2025)
- To the Department of Conservation on the draft Te Mana o Te Taio Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Implementation-Plan 2025-2030 (June 2025)
- To the Department of Conservation on the Predator Free 2050 Strategy Review (June 2025)
- To the Expert Panel appointed under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 to decide on an application from Port of Auckland Ltd. to extend Bledisloe and Fergusson wharves (June 2025)
- To the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee on the Regulatory Standards Bill (June 2025).

The Board also wrote letters to advocate its views on several matters during the year, including”

- To the Minister of Conservation expressing concerns about the Treaty Principles Bill, in conjunction with the Te Hiku o Te Ika and Northland Conservation Boards (September 2024)
- To the Prime Minister and Minister of Conservation to advocate for enactment of the Tikapa Moana / Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill (June 2025).

#### 8.4 Iwi liaison and advocacy

The Board continues to prioritise giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi as part of its core commitment to achieving improved conservation outcomes through collaborative iwi partnerships.

The Board welcomes opportunities to meet with representatives of iwi to understand the perspective of mana whenua on conservation issues in the region. As part of every meeting the Board invites iwi representatives to share their history and local conservation perspectives and priorities with members. This provides a mechanism for building shared awareness among all members.

All Board submissions to the Government are prepared on the basis of our fundamental aspiration to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. During the year the Board advocated strongly against the Treaty Principles Bill in a letter to the Minister of Conservation jointly signed with chairs of the Te Hiku o Te Ika and Northland Conservation Boards (September 2024).

During the year the Board joined with Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea and participated in the pōwhiri which opened their Taio (Environment) Wānanga, at Kawa marae. At its meeting later that day the Board heard from Fletcher Beazley, Chair of the Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea Trust, about their history and the cultural landscape of Aotea (27 March 2025 meeting).

As part of a workshop held at the offices of Whai Maia, a charitable entity established to further the social and cultural development of Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei, Board member Mervyn Kerehoma described their history and took members on a tour of Takaparawhau/Bastion Point and through the Ōrākei marae complex.



Photo: Auckland Conservation Board workshop at Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei Offices, Ōrākei, July 2025. From Left: Mervyn Kerehoma, Nerissa Henry, Gael Ogilvie and Shane Lavery.

*Photographer: John Galilee.*

## 8.5 Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Meetings were held in different parts of the Auckland region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised.

The Board initiated a practice of inviting representatives from community organisations to present during the public forum at each meeting. The Board appreciated their input and efforts made to attend the meetings.

Public forum issues raised were:

- Makere Jenner and Sonia Williams from Tū Mai Taonga spoke about the opportunity to restore the environment on Aotea/Great Barrier Island through their rodent and feral cats' eradication program, their a 100-year vision, and the incorporation of Te Ao Māori values and tikanga, learning te reo and turangawaewae. (27 March 2025 meeting).
- Raoul Stewart from Oruawharo Medlands Ecovision (OME) spoke about their project to undertake wetland restoration, and which has now moved into landscape-scale pest control, and their priorities which include improved pest control and public education (27 March 2025 meeting).
- Judy Gilbert from the Windy Hill Sanctuary spoke about their work over the last 25 years on integrated pest management, supporting local translocations, creation of conservation jobs and the involvement of community, and which now covers 18 properties with 56 landowners, plus three DOC areas (27 March 2025 meeting).

- Clint Stannard from the Motu Kaikoura Trust spoke the history of Motu Kaikōura, a large island next to Aotea covering over 560 hectares over which they undertake a restoration programme including pest eradication aimed at keeping rats at low densities (27 March 2025 meeting).
- Kate Waterhouse from the Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust spoke about the history and work of the Trust, and their priorities which are to remove pests and reintroduce species (27 March 2025 meeting).
- Katina Conomos from Revive Our Gulf spoke about the work of the Mussel Reef Restoration Trust (MRRT), highlighting the need for community collaboration due to variable funding, the challenges of marine restoration and the need for strategic approaches to protect the Hauraki Gulf. MRRT is also exploring ways to enhance natural processes for kutai/mussel reef restoration (4 June 2025 meeting).

These were predominantly voluntary groups carrying out huge amounts of conservation work within the community. The Board recognises and appreciates volunteers and thanks them for the work done in this area.

The opportunity to further protect and restore the significant biodiversity on Aotea/Great Barrier Island, which was highlighted by the speakers at the Board's meeting on the island on 27 March 2025, provided a basis for subsequent discussions with the Department of Conservation, the Auckland Council and the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee about how to better make the case for increased investment into conservation on Aotea/Great Barrier. Towards this end in June 2025 the Board funded the preparation of an investment case, which can be used to support engagement with agencies, philanthropists, funding bodies and others to highlight the benefits that would flow from investment in conservation on the island.

## 8.6 Community visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website, and via the quarterly Conservation Boards' Newsletter. The Board also maintained a Facebook page on which it posted about items of interest during the year.

It continues to be an objective of the Board to improve its public visibility and its effectiveness as a channel for the conservation concerns of the community. However, the Board is allocated minimal funds for operations and has no dedicated communications resources. The Board continues to consider this gap to be an area that the Department needs to address if it wishes to improve the Board's performance and outcomes in Tāmaki Makaurau.

As described above (section 8.4) during the reporting year the Board initiated a practice of inviting representatives from community organisations to present during the public forum at each meeting. This serves to raise the Board's profile and visibility among local communities. Raising the profile of the Board among Auckland's large urban population is however a significant challenge.

## 8.7 District and regional council advocacy and advice

The Board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the Auckland Council, which is a unitary authority for the Auckland Region. Many of the regional issues in which the Board is interested require collaboration with Auckland Council or individual Local Boards.

The Board invited to its meeting on Aotea/Great Barrier Izzy Fordham, Chair of the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board, and Sam Hill, General Manager Environmental Services in Auckland Council. During the meeting they participated in a panel discussion about conservation on the island and the case for greater investment.

Also, during the year, the Board submitted on an Auckland Council discussion paper on future options to protect Auckland’s environment from biosecurity threats (December 2024).

Board members also hold their own relationships with councillors, Local Board members and with Council officers, facilitating communication on specific issues.

## 9. FEES AND ALLOWANCES

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Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951. The chairperson receives a daily meeting fee of \$330, and other Authority members receive a daily meeting fee of \$250.

## 10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The Board wishes to acknowledge three members who continued as members for an additional four months pending the appointment of new members in November 2024. All three members contributed significantly to the Board’s work during their terms. Nicola MacDonald was a member for 6 years, serving as chair for 3 years up to October 2024. Kate Waterhouse also served for 6 years and led much of the Board’s statutory and advocacy work as chair of its Statutory (formerly Concessions) Subcommittee. Pippa Coom served for just over 1 year and was a member of the Communications Subcommittee.

The Board would also like to acknowledge and thank John Galilee (Statutory Manager) and Emma Smith (Board Support Officer) for their support during the year.



Photo: Auckland Conservation Board boarding their flight to Aotea/Great Barrier (March 2025). From left: Gayathri Govindarajulu, Sam Hill (Auckland Council), Nerissa Henry, Repeka George-Koteka, Gael Ogilvie, Shane Lavery and Fred Wilson.

*Photographer:* Nerissa Henry.

## **Auckland Conservation Board Work Programme**

### **1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025**

This Auckland Conservation Board (ACB) annual work programme has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation sent to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (18<sup>th</sup> September 2024) and with reference to Conservation Board responsibilities as currently set out in the Conservation Act 1987.

The four focus areas for the remainder of the 2024/2025 year for the Auckland Conservation Board are to:

- Meet Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsibilities and strengthen relationships with iwi/hapu
- Target high priority conservation outcomes
- Amplify community-led conservation and heritage protection.
- Support nature-based solutions to reduce carbon emissions and build resilience to climate change.

Throughout this work programme, the ACB will work effectively to maintain a positive and trusted relationship with Te Papa Atawhai and contribute to the Conservation Regulatory Reform.

The work programme does not include further progress on the Auckland Conservation planning documents (the Conservation Management Plan and the Conservation Management Strategy) as these are the subject of proposed reform during 2025.

This work programme is structured into three parts:

- Part A: Priority Focus Areas
- Part B: Working effectively
- Part C risk and opportunities

The work programme will be used to inform ACB meeting agendas and actions and will form the basis for the 2024/2025 annual ACB report. Status of the proposed actions will be updated using traffic light colour coding.

Status indicator:

Colour	Indicates
Green	Completed
Yellow	Started and is ongoing
Red	Not started yet

## **Part A: Priority Focus Areas**

### **1. Meet Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsibilities and strengthen relationships with iwi/hapu**

*The Board will improve its understanding of its responsibilities under section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, to give effect to the principles of the Treaty.*

*The Board will improve the cultural competency of all members so they can all engage with mana whenua and have an understanding of Te Ao Māori.*

#### **Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones**

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
<b>A</b>	Continue to support as required Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust to review progress on the Hauturu-o-Toi CMP, and plan for its review.		The Chair of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust provided an update to the Board on implementation of the CMP and their desire for a review immediately before the reporting period (June 2024).
<b>B</b>	Support mana whenua by advocating to Ministers for progress on the Motu Plan.		The Board sought occasional updates from the Department, but understood that until resourcing issues are resolved progress is unlikely.
<b>C</b>	Include education awareness of Treaty responsibilities and the Conservation Act, section 4 in board discussions.		Gaining a greater understanding of the cultural context for mana whenua was a focus. The Board invited representatives from iwi to speak about their history, cultural context and aspirations, when the Board met in their rohe. The Board heard from Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea (March 2025) and Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei (May 2025) representatives. The Board sought to uphold section 4, including by advocating against the Treaty Principles Bill (September 2024).
<b>D</b>	Support alliances and relationships with Te Papa Runanga boards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Te Hiku o te Ika</li> <li>• Te Taitokerau</li> <li>• Waikato</li> </ul>		While the Board did not hold any joint meetings or workshops during the year, it did maintain its liaison roles and attendance at meetings of neighbouring boards. The Board invited the Chair of Te Hiku o te Ika Conservation Board, Mina Pomare, to present to it about the development of the Te Hiku o Te Ika-o-Māui CMS (September 2024).

<b>E</b>	Board develops high-level understanding of Treaty Settlements.		As part of its efforts to gaining a greater understanding of the context for mana whenua, the Board learnt about respective Treaty settlements when it heard from invited representatives of iwi who spoke to the Board when meetings were held in their rohe.
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## 2 Target High Priority Conservation Outcomes

*The Board will take up opportunities to advocate for nature and the protection and restoration of biodiversity in the Auckland region, with a particular focus on marine and freshwater ecosystems. The Board will strengthen its knowledge on the new regulatory and consenting systems to better advance environmental protection and outcomes.*

### Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
<b>A</b>	Advocate for increased marine protection, including the protection of seabirds and their habitats.		The outgoing chair, Nicola MacDonald, was also chair of the Exotic Caulerpa Advisory Group and strongly advocated for greater resources to combat the invasive seaweed. The Board advocated for improved outcomes for fisheries in its submission on proposals to amend the Fisheries Act 1996 (April 2025).
<b>B</b>	Support implementation of <i>Revitalising the Gulf: Government Action on the Sea Change Plan</i>		The Board wrote to the Prime Minister and Minister of Conservation immediately before the reporting period (June 2024) and again in June 2025, to encourage them to enact the Tikapa Moana / Hauraki Gulf Marine Protection Bill.
<b>C</b>	Advocate and where possible amplify current conservation work in Aotea		The Board visited Aotea/Great Barrier in March 2025 and used the opportunity to hear from Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea, island-based community groups and the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board about the restoration potential of the island and the need for greater investment in conservation on the island. The Board funded preparation of an investment case which can be used to promote Aotea as a place where conservation needs increased funding (June 2025).
<b>D</b>	Work with Te Papa Atawhai/the Department to understand the new regulatory and consenting systems.		Conservation board chairs received a presentation on the role of conservation boards under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2014 (March 2025), which was then shared with members. Additional advice and support was sought from the Department during the latter part of the

			reporting period. The Board was invited to provide comment on an application under the Act from Port of Auckland Ltd (June 2025).
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### **3 Amplify community-led conservation and heritage protection**

*The Board will seek to increase public support for conservation and restoration outcomes by advocating for improved access to nature and heritage.*

*The Board will gain an improved understanding of local community priorities and needs for the conservation of nature and heritage at place.*

#### **Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones**

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
<b>A</b>	Advocate in support of increased opportunities for improved access to nature and heritage.		The Board submitted on the discussion paper released by the Minister of Conservation about the possible introduction of access charging for selected high volume visitor sites, supporting the introduction of access charging provided that the revenue earned was directed towards maintaining and upgrading facilities at those sites.
<b>B</b>	Use Board channels to celebrate successful examples of mana whenua and community led conservation.		The Board maintained a Facebook page during the reporting year, publishing posts from time to time which highlighted examples of mana whenua or community led conservation, including those groups who spoke to the Board during the public forum on Aotea/Great Barrier (27 March 2025 meeting).
<b>C</b>	Increase the reach of community engagement with the board through various channels and platforms.		The Board maintained a Facebook page during the reporting year, publishing posts from time to time which helped to engage with a wider audience. The Board proactively invited a number of mana whenua and community groups to engage with it at its meetings during the year, which raised the Board's profile among those groups and helped to identify ways by which the board could support and amplify their work.

#### **4 Support nature-based solutions to reduce carbon emissions and build resilience to climate change**

*The Board will support measures required for climate change adaptation and resilience, including nature-based solutions, and factor climate change into its advice and advocacy.*

*The Board will lead by example and reduce its own carbon footprint and maintain a low carbon emissions profile.*

#### **Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones**

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
<b>A</b>	Advocate in support of nature-based solutions for carbon sinks, as a mechanism for generating sustainable revenue for conservation and for adaptation and resilience.		Advocacy for nature-based solutions for carbon sinks was incorporated into a range of submissions as relevant. These included the Board's submission on Conservation Land Management (Feb 2025) and the draft Te Mana o Te Taio Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Implementation Plan for 2025-2030 (June 2025).
<b>B</b>	Increase awareness of climate impacts and support building climate resilience across DoC reserves and public spaces.		Highlighted climate impacts in workshop and meeting discussions. In particular, provided input to DOC plans for track rebuilds following Auckland flooding events.
<b>C</b>	Understand how climate change will impact biodiversity and heritage in the region, and advocate for the management of impacts.		The Board continued to express its desire to better understand the impacts of climate change on Auckland's biodiversity and heritage and raised awareness among key agencies such as the Department and Auckland Council of the need for better alignment and shared information. The Board sought an update from Auckland Council on the likely impacts of climate change on the marine environment of the Hauraki Gulf, but this was postponed to the next reporting period (August 2025).  Updated understanding through attendance at Climate Change & Business Conference (September 2024).

## **Part B: Working Effectively**

### **5 Working Effectively**

*The Board will:*

- *maintain a positive and trusted working relationship with Te Papa Atawhai/the Department*
- *work closely with neighbouring conservation boards (Te Hiku o te Ika, Te Taitokerau, Waikato) and develop a common position on shared issues of significance*
- *contribute to proposed Conservation Reforms and fulfil its statutory obligations*

#### **Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones**

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
<b>A</b>	Work closely with Te Papa Atawhai/the Department to understand issues so the Board can advise and advocate with most effect.		The Board worked closely with the Department throughout the reporting period. The Chair met weekly with support staff and regularly engaged directly with the Director Regional Operations. The Board regularly sought and received information and advice from the Department, with examples including conservation work being undertaken on Aotea/Great Barrier and the Board's role under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.
<b>B</b>	Create strong working relationships with neighbouring conservation boards, including joint wānanga on subjects of shared concern.		The Board maintained strong working relationships with the chairs of the Te Hiku o Te Ika, Northland and Waikato Conservation Boards, with the emphasis depending on the nature of the issues being considered at the time. As an example, the Chair co-signed a letter with the Chairs of the two northern conservation boards advocating against the Treaty Principles Bill (September 2024). While no joint wānanga were held during the year, the Board's liaison members attended a number of meetings of the three adjoining Boards.
<b>C</b>	Build a working relationship with the NZCA through their designated liaison member for Tāmaki.		The Board maintained a working relationship with the NZCA liaison member for Auckland, Ina Kara-France. Ms Kara-France attended most of the Boards' meetings during the year and contributed updates about the NZCA's work and

			<p>advice on issues that the Board was considering. She was invited to all Board meetings and workshops.</p> <p>Attended NZCA Fast-Track subcommittee meeting (June 2025) to assist coordination of Commentaries on first Project.</p>
<b>D</b>	Understand and fulfil the Board's statutory obligations and provide advice or advocate when comments are sought from the Board or opportunities arise.		<p>The Board understood its statutory obligations to provide advice when its comments were sought, and to advocate for conservation when opportunities arose that were either of national or regional import. During the year the Board provided comments to the Department on ten statutory applications or proposals. As noted above, during the year the Board took steps to learn about and understand its role under the new Fast-track Approvals Act 2024, and submitted comments on one application made under the Act.</p>
<b>E</b>	Contribute to relevant submission opportunities as they arise.		<p>The Board took up a number of opportunities during the year to submit on matters that were of significance to conservation in the region and nationally. During the year the Board lodged seven submissions, including on a far-reaching set of proposed changes to conservation legislation released by the Minister of Conservation.</p>

## **Part C: Risks and Opportunities**

### **6 Risks identified from the Board's perspective**

<b>A</b>	A change of Ministerial expectations and priorities in relation to prioritisation of developing revenue-generating systems over environmental outcomes.
<b>B</b>	No visibility of how Te Mana o te Taio will be implemented in the region.
<b>C</b>	No visibility of how agencies are working together to prepare for the effects of climate change on biodiversity.
<b>D</b>	Limited resources to deliver the Board's statutory functions and Ministerial expectations.
<b>E</b>	Resourcing available to the Department to meet the expectations of mana whenua, the wider community and the Government.

### **7 Opportunities for conservation growth in the Board's rohe**

<b>A</b>	Leveraging <i>Revitalising the Gulf</i> proposals to support increased marine protection, including local community management of coastal areas.
<b>B</b>	Increasing relevance to attract other sources of funding such as philanthropic avenues to support large scale conservation outcomes.
<b>C</b>	Leadership by mana whenua in the region to achieve environmental outcomes ki uta ki tai.
<b>D</b>	Growing public awareness of the need to take action to address biodiversity loss and the impacts of a warming climate.
<b>E</b>	Increasing public interest in connecting to nature and the benefits of participating in conservation and restoration projects.



This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act 1987 and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend conservation board meetings.

If you would like more information on the Auckland Conservation Board please see the website [www.conservationboards.org.nz](http://www.conservationboards.org.nz) or contact the board support officer, at the Department of Conservation by e-mail to [aucklandconservationboard@doc.govt.nz](mailto:aucklandconservationboard@doc.govt.nz).