



TE RŪNANGA PAPA ATAWHAI O TE TAI TOKERAU
Northland Conservation Board

Annual Report 2024-2025



Annual Report of the
Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau
Northland Conservation Board

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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Northland Conservation Board

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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

Tēnā koe Edward

On behalf of the Board, it is our pleasure to present, in terms of section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987, the Annual Report of the Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau/Northland Conservation Board (the Board) for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

The Northland Conservation Board plays a critical role in guiding conservation efforts, providing community representation, and supporting the Department of Conservation (DOC) in managing natural and cultural heritage in Te Tai Tokerau/Northland.

Throughout the reporting period, the Board scheduled quarterly meetings, with additional meetings to address emerging issues. Regrettably as at 30 June 2025, there were only two board members. This made the role and the functionality of the board very difficult.

In the coming year, we look forward to new board members, continuing our priorities of supporting biodiversity recovery and to champion community-led conservation. Ongoing advocacy for sustainable resource management and the protection of taonga species will remain central to our work.

I wish to acknowledge the dedication of Board members, the support of DOC staff, and the enthusiasm of our community partners. Together, we are making a positive difference for Northland's environment and future generations.

Ngā mihi nui



Nyree Manuel
Chairperson
Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau/Northland Conservation Board

CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	5
2. ROHE.....	5
2.1 Conservation features of the area.....	8
2.2 Conservation issues in the area.....	8
3. FUNCTIONS.....	14
3.1 Board functions under section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987.....	14
3.2 Board power under section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987.....	15
3.3 Board functions under section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980.....	15
4. MEMBERSHIP.....	15
4.1 Members profiles.....	16
5. MEETINGS AND FIELDTRIPS.....	17
5.1 Agendas.....	17
5.2 Field trips and site inspections.....	17
5.3 Members' attendance 2024/25.....	18
6. MAHI.....	18
6.1 Board Committees.....	18
6.2 Special events.....	18
6.3 Training for members.....	18
7. STATUTORY ACTIVITY.....	19
7.1 Annual Work Plan.....	19
7.2 Northland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS).....	19
7.3 2024/2025 National Park Management Plan (NPMP).....	19
8. ADVICE AND ADVOCACY.....	19
8.1 Board and Authority liaisons.....	20
8.2 Advice to the Department.....	20
8.3 Submissions.....	20
8.4 Community advocacy and involvement –.....	20
8.5 Community visibility.....	23
8.6 District and regional council advocacy and advice.....	23
9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	24

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the 33rd 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 Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau | Northland 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 Northland 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 section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980. These functions include recommending the review or amendment of national park management plans and recommending approval of these plans by the Authority.

2. ROHE

The Northland Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area of 3,009,951 hectares. 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 13.11% of all the Board's total district. This consists of: 106,396 hectares of public conservation land 286,021 hectares of Sanctuaries to protect marine mammals 2,162 hectares of Marine Reserve

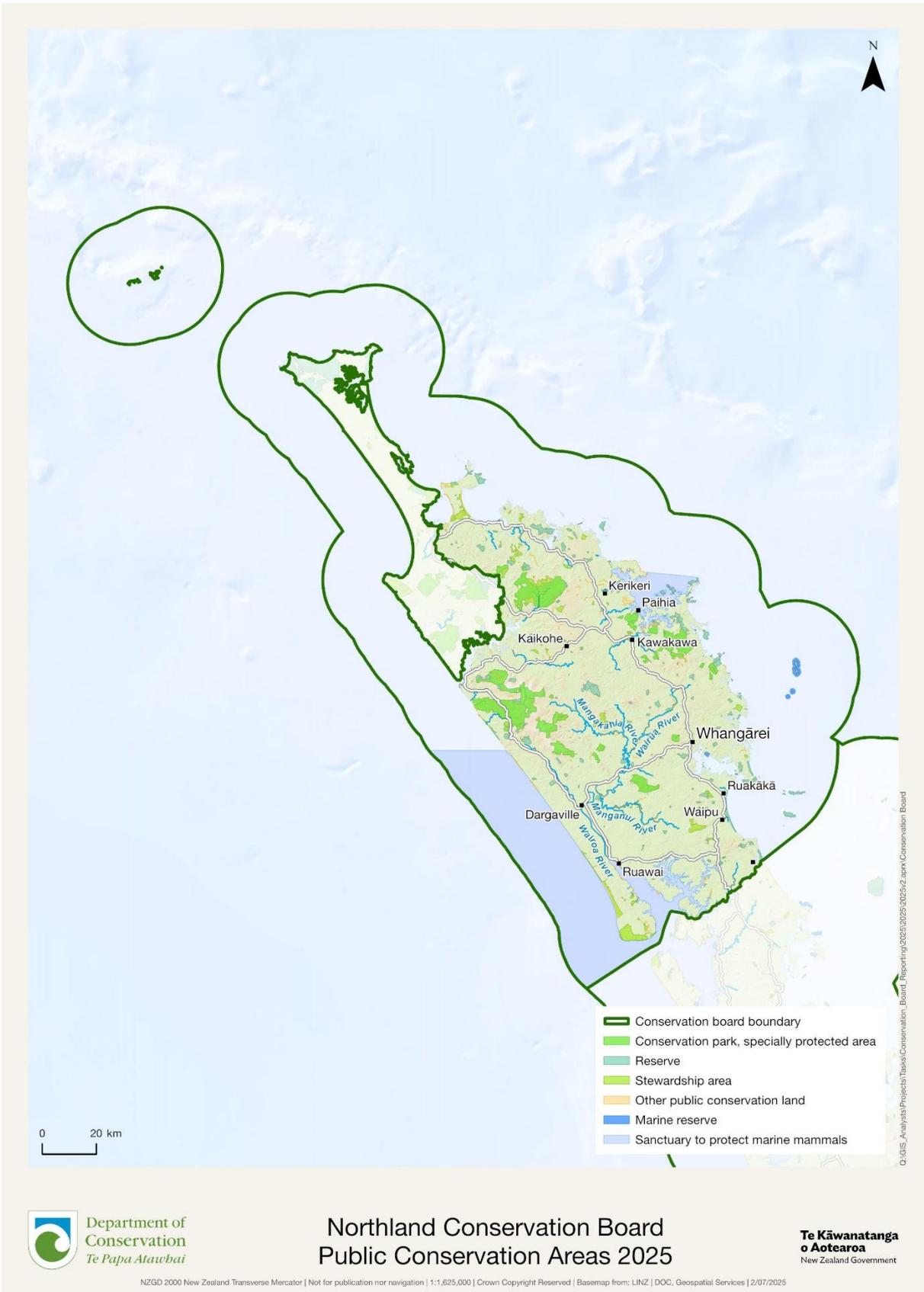


Figure 1. Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau | Northland Conservation Board Jurisdiction

2.1 Tangata whenua

Ngāti Kahu – Matarahurahu, Ngāi Takiora, Ngāti Taiuru me Takaware, Ngāi Tohianga, Ngāti Matakairiri / Ngāti Pikaahu, Ngāti Ruaiti, Ngāti Tara, Ngāti Taranga, Patu Kōraha, Te Paatu, Kaitote, Te Tahāwai, Te Whānau Moana me Te Rorohuri ngā Hapū, Ngāti Rūaiti,

Ngāti Kahu Ki Whangaroa | Rūnanga o Whaingaroa – Ngāti Aukiwa, Ngāti Rua, Whanau Pani, Pohotiare ki Waihapa, Ngāti Kairiri, Ngāti Rangimatakaka, Ngāti Rangimatamomoe Te Hōia (affiliated to Te Aroha wharenuī), Kaitangata, Ngaitupango, Whānau Pani Ngāti Kawau – Kaitangata, Ngāti Kura, Ngāti Pākahi, Ngāti Rēhia, Ngāti Ruamahue, Ngāti Uru, Tahaawai, Te Aeto,

Ngāpuhi

Te Roopu Takiwā o Mangakāhia - Te Parawhau, Te Uriroi, Te Parawhau, Ngāti Te Rino, Ngāti Whakahotu, Ngāti Horahia, Ngāti Toki, Te Kumutu, Ngāti Pongia, Ngāti Moe, Ngāti Horahia

Te Rūnanga o Taumāreke ki Rākaumangamanga - Patukeha, Ngāti Manu, Te Uri Karaka, Te Uri Karaka, Te Rauwera, Ngāti Kuta, Ngāti Pare, Te Kapotai, Te Uri Ongaonga

Ngā Ngaru o Hokianga - Ngāti Korokoro, Te Poukā, Ngāti Whārara, Ngāti Pākau, Te Māhurehure, Te Hikutū, Te Whānau Whero, Ngāti Kerewheti, Ngāti Tuapango, Ngāti Kairewa, Ngāti Pou, Ngāti Hau, Ngāti Kaharau, Ngāti Korokoro, Ngāti Whārara, Te Poukā, Ngāti Pākau, Ngāti Rauwawe, Te Roroa.

Te Takiwā o Ngāpuhi ki Whangāre - Ngāti Hau, Ngāti Kahu o Torongare, Ngāti Hine, Te Parawhau, Ngā Uri o Puhatahi, Te Uriroi, Uri o Te Tangata, Te Patuharakeke.

Ngāpuhi ki Te Hauāuru - Ngāi Tāwake ki te Waoku, Ngāti Rangī, Ngāti Kura, Takoto Kē, Te Uri o Hua, Ngāti Hinemutu, Ngāti Tautahi, Ngāti Ueoneone, Ngāi Tāwake, Ngāi Tū Te Auru, Ngāi Tāwake ki te Waoku, Ngāti Moerewa, Ngāti Rangī, Ngāti Māhia, Ngāti Hine Ngāti Tautahi, Ngāti Hinemutu, Ngā Whakaeke, Te Uri o Hua, Takoto Kē, Ngāti Kura, Ngāti Tautahi, Ngāti Moerewa, Ngāti Rangī, Ngāti Moerewa, Ngāti Māhia

Ngāpuhi Hokianga ki Te Raki – Ngātitoro, Te Mahurehure, Te Ngahengahe, Ngāti Toro Ngātitoro, Ngāti Hao, Te Honihoni, Te Ngahengahe, Te Popoto, Kōhatutaka, Te Uri Mahoe

Taiāmai ki Te Marangai - Ngāti Rēhia, Ngāti Kura, Ngāti Miru, Te Whiu, Ngāti Rangī, Whānau Wai, Te Uri Taniwha, Ngāti Kiriahi, Ngāti Mau, Te Uri Hoatau, Ngāti Kawa, Ngāti Rāhiri, Whānautanga, Ngāti Korohue, Te Uri Taniwha, Ngāti Hineira, Te Popoto, Te Kapotai, Ngāti Hine, Ngāti Tautahi, Ngāti Tūpango, Ngāti Tāwake ki Tuawhenua, Ngāti Hineira, Whānautara, Ngāti Karohue, Ngāti Kiripakapaka, Te Mōunga, Ngāti Korohue, Te Popoto, Te Uri o Hua, Ngāti Kawa, Ngāti Rāhiri, Ngāti Kawa, Ngāti Rāhiri, Ngāti Torehina, Ngāti Mau

Te Roroa – does not have hapu

Ngāti Hine - Ngāti Hine ki Waiomio, Ngāti Kahu o Torongare ki Waiomio, Ngāti Kōpaki, Ngāti Te Ara, Ngāti Te Tāwara, Te Ngaherehere, Ngāi Tai ki Kaikou, Te Orewai Tekau i Mua

Ngātiwai – Ngāti Rehua, Ngātiwai ki Aotea, Ngāti Manuhiri, Ngāti Tautahi, Te Waiariki / Ngāti Kororā, Te Waiariki / Ngāti Toki, Ngāti Rongou, Ngāti Kura, Ngāti Parenga, Ngāti Takapari

Ngāti Whatua – Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Kaiwhare, Ngāti Kauae, Ngāti Mauku, Ngāti Rangī, Ngāti Tāhinga, Te Uri o Hau

2.1 Conservation features of the area

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

- ✚ Waipoua Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) - 12,292 ha
- ✚ Puketī Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) - 7,325 ha
- ✚ Russell Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) - 7,121 ha
- ✚ Ōmahuta Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) - 6,585 ha
- ✚ Mataraua Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) - 5,421 ha
- ✚ Waimā Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) - 4,352 ha
- ✚ Marlborough Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) - 3,982 ha
- ✚ Tangihua Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) - 3,216 ha
- ✚ Kaihū Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) - 2,405 ha
- ✚ Ōpua Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) - 1,924 ha
- ✚ Kaiikanui Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) - 1,158 ha
- ✚ Maungataniwha Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) - 1,157 ha
- ✚ Waikino Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) - 974 ha
- ✚ Hōuto Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) - 938 ha
- ✚ Pukenui Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) - 594 ha
- ✚ Hūkerenui Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) - 404 ha
- ✚ Ruapekapeka Forest (Pt Northland Cons. Park) - 386 ha
- ✚ 179 Stewardship Areas - 19,142 ha
- ✚ 177 Scenic Reserves - 18,673 ha
- ✚ 42 Recreation Reserves - 1,707 ha
- ✚ 18 Historic Reserves - 193 ha
- ✚ 327 Marginal Strips - 2,004 ha
- ✚ 65 Other Reserves - 3,509 ha
- ✚ 3 Sanctuaries to Protect Marine Mammals - 286,021 ha
- ✚ 3 Specially Protected Areas - 901 ha
- ✚ 2 Marine Reserves - 2,162 ha
- ✚ 1 Ecological Areas - 33 ha

2.2 Conservation issues in the area

Approximately 2.73% of all public conservation land in Aotearoa lies within the region. The large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

Caulerpa

- Fronds up to 10 cm long that rise from long runners known as stolons.
- In favourable conditions, it can spread rapidly, forming vast, dense beds or meadows of many hectares.
- Species in the genus *Caulerpa* are known to be successful and aggressive invaders

Community Action and Outcomes

In response to the *Caulerpa* incursions and the impacts of recent weather events, the community came together to support clean-up efforts and raise awareness. Special thanks to NCB Chairperson, Nyze Manuel for assisting and calling for support, which helped bring people together to achieve strong results on the ground.



Outcomes:

- ❖ Enhanced understanding and knowledge among kaitiaki about Caulerpa and its management.



- ❖ Kaitiaki are now better equipped to educate and engage their communities on the issue.
- ❖ Increased potential for more effective community-led responses to future Caulerpa incursions.
- ❖ This mahi shows the power of local leadership, collaboration, and community resilience in protecting our coastal environments. [Link to report:](#)

RMS Niagara Shipwreck

The RMS *Niagara* sank in June 1940 after striking German sea mines in the Hauraki Gulf. The wreck lies 120 metres deep and is believed to contain 1,000–1,400 tonnes of furnace oil. The ship has been deteriorating for decades, and experts warn it poses a significant environmental threat to nearby marine reserves and coastal ecosystems.

- **Oil slicks up to 15 km long** have been observed near the wreck.
- **Rust damage and structural collapse** are accelerating.
- The wreck is located near **sensitive marine reserves** including Poor Knights, Goat Island, and Tawharanui.
- **No full underwater survey** has been conducted; only partial visual inspections were done in 2021 and 2022.

Government Position

Maritime NZ has recommended a two-part survey since 2019, estimated at NZ\$13.7 million.

The Associate Transport Minister James Meager stated in 2025:

“The government does not intend to conduct the survey of the Niagara at this time”.

Previous ministers declined funding despite warnings that a spill could cost up to NZ\$200 million to clean up

Bay of Islands Marine Mammal Sanctuary

Te Pēwhairangi (Bay of Islands) Marine Mammal Sanctuary (the Sanctuary) was established in 2021 to reduce the high levels of vessel and human interaction with marine mammals.

The restrictions within the Sanctuary are:

- ❖ people must keep out of the water within 300m of all marine mammals.
- ❖ vessels must maintain a 300m distance from all marine mammals (dolphins, whales, seals);
- ❖ vessels **must stop** if the person in charge becomes aware of any marine mammal closer than 300m and remains stopped until any marine mammal is farther away than 300m; and
- ❖ vessels must observe a 5-knot speed limit in two marine mammal safe zones.

Bottlenose dolphins are an indicator species; one whose presence and use of the Bay of Islands provides information about the condition of the Bay of Islands marine environment.

DOC undertook a desktop review in 2024 to evaluate how well Sanctuary restrictions are working, and to make management recommendations based on the evaluation. The National Marine Protection Programme team was tasked with conducting the review, with the support of the DOC Bay of Islands District Operations team and the Marine Species Team

The review focused on implementation of Sanctuary restrictions, successes, and challenges

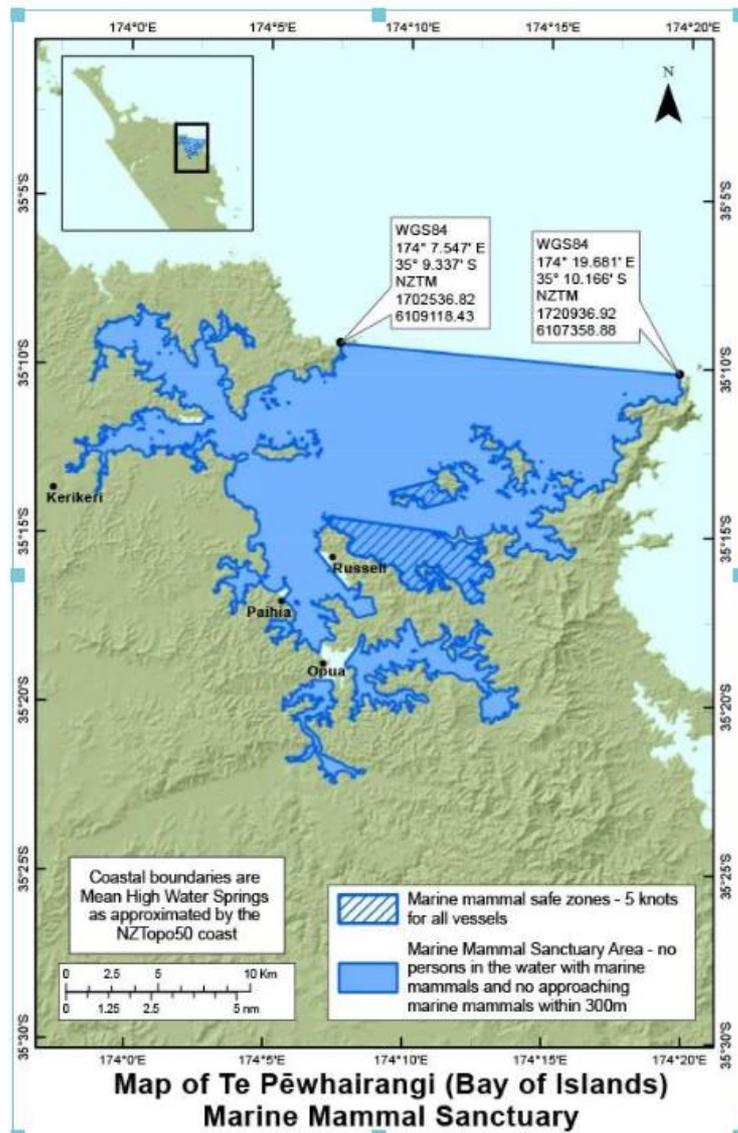
DOC regularly engages in advocacy and enforcement of the Sanctuary restrictions, especially during the summer months. One DOC ranger carries out enforcement patrols during the busy season. Patrol days and resources are limited in the shoulder seasons. There appears to be a low rate of compliance with the Sanctuary rules, which has been observed during on-water patrols and by an autumn 2024 study conducted by the Far-Out Ocean Research Collective (Far Out) and the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd. (NIWA).

For various reasons, the governing Rōpū has not met regularly since 2021, and robust co-governance and co-management of the Sanctuary is yet to be implemented.

Key recommendations:

To better protect marine mammals in the Sanctuary, we recommend that the DOC Bay of Islands District Operations team, with the support of the Marine Species team:

1. resets the Rōpū and re-engages members in on-going decision-making and management activities
2. plans for and install new, larger buoys to mark safe zones
3. utilise more of the Sanctuary budget and resources to expand compliance efforts, including on-water patrols in the shoulder seasons each year (March to May and September to November)
4. provides advance notice of patrols so Kaitiaki Rōpū and hapū members can regularly join patrols
5. revises and implements the Bay of Islands Marine Compliance Plan
6. undertakes regular population surveys and monitoring to assess key metrics of bottlenose dolphin population health including calf survival and number of dolphins using the Sanctuary and includes opportunities for mātauranga Māori.
7. works with the Rōpū to determine the timing and scope of future reviews of the Sanctuary.



The Board will continue to request progress on the recommendations.

Tara Iti (Fairy Tern) Conservation – Summary 2024-2025 Season. The New Zealand fairy tern (*Sternula nereis davisae*), or tara iti, is New Zealand’s rarest endemic breeding bird and is listed as nationally critical. This species is under intensive management by the Department of Conservation, aimed at protecting and increasing the remaining population across its four main breeding sites: Mangawhai, Papakānui, Waipū and Pākiri.



There were 10 breeding females active at tara iti breeding sites this season. From these females a total of twenty-six chicks hatched, eleven of these fledged in the wild and all eight fledged from the captive rearing program. Almost half of these chicks were sexed as female, with a male bias in the population this provides a much-needed boost to female numbers.

Settled weather conditions over the breeding season played a significant role in the high productivity observed. Fewer storms meant less nests were lost, enabling eight out of the ten pairs fledged at least one chick. Early egg retrievals for captive rearing facilitated timely re-nesting and the laying of second clutches, meant additional chicks could fledge.

In March 2025, using sightings from the breeding season and pre- and post-breeding flocks, the tara iti population was assessed as comprising 50 birds: 28 adults, 9 pre-breeding birds, and 13 first-year birds (5 captive reared and 8 wild reared).

The number of breeding females increased by *one* this year. The number of chicks fledged in the wild was higher than last year and the second highest number in the last fifteen years. With eight captives reared and eleven wild reared fledglings there's a total of nineteen fledglings which represents the most successful breeding season on record, surpassing the previous high in 2013 - 2014 when 12 chicks fledged.

Hokianga Harbour Wellbeing – Hokianga is a taonga to local iwi and hapū. Its wellbeing is important for the environment, kai moana, and cultural connection. Work has focused on cleaning waterways, planting natives, and stopping erosion with support from mana whenua, DOC, NRC, and community groups.

Outcomes:

- ❖ Healthier waterways and catchments.
- ❖ Stronger iwi and hapū leadership in local projects.
- ❖ Ongoing partnerships that support both nature and people.

Kauri Dieback Disease – Kauri dieback continues to harm our ancient kauri. Local kaitiaki, DOC, NRC, and MPI are working together to protect taonga trees through better track care, treatments, and community education. Mātauranga Māori is central to these efforts.

Outcomes:

- ❖ Reduced risk of disease spread through better hygiene.
- ❖ Iwi and hapū are leading kauri protection in their rohe.
- ❖ More people understand the role they play in protecting kauri.

Biosecurity – Caulerpa, bird flu, fan worm, sea splurge – Northland faces growing biosecurity threats from land and sea. Marine pests like Caulerpa and fan worm, and diseases like bird flu, can damage taiao, kai moana, and biodiversity. Local leaders and agencies are working together to raise awareness and respond quickly.

Outcomes:

- ❖ Quicker community led responses to new threats.
- ❖ Kaitiaki are supported to monitor and share knowledge.
- ❖ Stronger teamwork between iwi, hapū, DOC, NRC, and MPI.

Bird Flu - while New Zealand has never had a case of the highly pathogenic HPAI H5N1 Avian Influenza strain, also known as bird flu (currently circulating globally), the country is actively preparing for its potential arrival.

Outcomes:

- ❖ Keep pets away from wildlife – prevent cats from roaming, always keep dogs on leashes in areas with native wildlife.
- ❖ Take part in habitat restoration activities to improve local habitats. Activities include revegetation, predator control, weeding or removing rubbish from local natural areas.
- ❖ Keep footwear and clothing clean. This reduces the risk of disease spreading between places.

The Mediterranean Fan Worm is a large, tube-dwelling worm. It is the largest Fan Worm in New Zealand with its body measuring up to 20mm wide and 800mm long. The non-indigenous Mediterranean Fan Worm (*Sabella spallanzanii*) was first detected in NZ in 2008, and has since become established in Whangārei Harbour, Waitemata Harbour and Port Lyttleton. Increasing domestic spread through the movement of infested vessels has led to this fan worm being detected in a number of additional harbours nationally. Mediterranean Fan Worm is designated as an unwanted organism under the biosecurity act. The Species poses a serious threat to Northlands coastal ecosystems; they can form dense beds forcing out native species and interfering with other species' natural processes like breeding. Recent incursions include Mangonui in 2020, and Mangawhai Harbour in 2025, with NRC aiming to manage to eradication.

Eradication of fan worm in newly-infested areas is possible, but only if the population is caught early enough. Vigilance and advocacy are highly important to stop the spread and establishment of this pest species in Northland.

Sea Spurge is a long-lived herbaceous coastal plant native to Africa, temperate Asia, and many parts of Europe and is invasive in Australia. The plant is fleshy and glaucous (bluish grey/green), with stalks that turn reddish brown with age and grow up to 70cm tall. The stems contain a milky sap that is toxic to people and animals. The leaves are crowded and overlapping on stems that branch from a woody base and divide into 3-5 flowering branches. It produces a cluster of cup-shaped flower heads on a distinct stalk. Flowers are cyathia ('fake' flowers) consisting of a female flower surrounded by male flowers (reduced to stamen) and four crescent-shaped glands that contain nectar to attract pollinators. Flowers are surrounded by a pair of bracts (modified leaf or scale) measuring approximately 1.5mm long. Capsule-like fruits are produced containing three large seeds that are buoyant and can be carried vast distances by ocean currents. Sea spurge grows from deep taproots. The species forms dense infestations in



coastal, open sand areas and around beach debris, from the high-water flotsam line into the dunes. It is most likely to be found on the west coast of the north and south islands of New Zealand due to seed transferal from Australia, but there is also the possibility of currents moving seeds to northeastern beaches. The New Zealand climate is similar to that of the species native habitat and is not thought to be a barrier to establishment. This pest plant has the

potential to establish here and is capable of causing adverse effects to the environmental, economic, social or cultural values of the region.

Outcomes:

- ❖ If you suspect the presence of Sea Spurge, please contact the Northland Regional Council immediately.
- ❖ Specialised control methods are required to manage this pest and will be carried out free of charge by a Biosecurity Officer or approved contractor.

Myrtle Rust Disease – Myrtle rust is a fast-spreading fungal disease that attacks native trees like pōhutukawa, rātā, and manuka. It threatens biodiversity, especially in Northland’s warmer climate. DOC, NRC iwi and hapū are working together to monitor and report outbreaks, protect taonga species, and share information with local communities.

Outcomes:

- ❖ Better awareness of myrtle rust and how to spot it.
- ❖ More reporting and monitoring by communities and kaitiaki.
- ❖ Protection of important native trees through joint action.
- ❖ Report all myrtle rust finds via phone app iNaturalist



3. FUNCTIONS

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

The 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 an 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 power under section 6N 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.

3.3 Board functions under section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980

- 1) to recommend management plans, and the review or amendment of such plans, for parks within the jurisdiction of the Board in accordance with sections 45 to 47:
- 2) to consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks:
- 3) to make recommendations to the Minister for the appointment of honorary rangers under section 40:
- 4) to review and report to the Director-General or the Authority, as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the administration of the general policies for national parks within the jurisdiction of the Board:
- 5) to give advice to the Director-General or the Authority—
 - i. on the interpretation of any management plan for a park; and
 - ii. on any proposal for the addition of land to any national park or the establishment of a new national park; and
 - iii. on any other matter relating to any national park, within the jurisdiction of the Board.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The Minister of Conservation appoints Board members under section 6P 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 seven Board members for the reporting year. Nyree Manuel was re-elected Chairperson.

New Board Member appointments within the 2024/2025 year:

- Alex Flavell-Johnson
- Ralph Correa

- Elizabeth (Liz) Witehira

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

Board Member	Area	Term start	Term end
Nyree (Nyze) Manuel – Chair	Kaeo	01 July 2021	30 June 2027
Kārena Joyce-Paki	Dargaville	01 July 2023	30 June 2026
Alex Flavell-Johnson	Mangawhai	01 Nov 2024	30 June 2025
Ralph Correa	Whangarei	01 Nov 2024	30 June 2027
Elizabeth Witehira – resigned	Hikurangi	01 Nov 2024	28 Jan 2025

4.1 Members profiles

Nyree Porter (Chair): Nyze was appointed to the board on 1 July 2021 for a three-year term. Of Ngāpuhi ki Whangaroa, Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa, Te Arawa, and Ngāpuhi decent. She is on the Board of Te Runanga o Whāingaroa, Kaitiaki Whangaroa, and Karangahape Marae Trust. She is well-known in the community and offers an intricate knowledge of tikanga Māori. Nyree will be seeking re-appointment for a further 3-year term.

Kārena Joyce-Paki: Appointed to the Board in 2023, having previously worked at Te Papa Atawhai for 14 years based in the Kauri Coast. Mokopuna o Te Aupōuri, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whātua - living with her whānau in Kaihu just south of Waipoua Forest. Commits time working with youth as the Pou Whirinaki for Rangatahi Ora. A keen interest in governance previously with Kaipara District Council between 2016 – 2022, also holding Trustee roles in the community. Joined FENZ Local Advisory Committee in 2020, currently Vice Chair and a member of FENZ External Māori Advisory Roopū. Kārena is currently with Stats NZ, Tatauranga Aotearoa as the Regional Manager Te Tai Tokerau.

Ralph Correa - Ralph is a distinguished leader with expertise in governance, business, and community engagement. He has served as CFO of Ngāti Hine Health Trust, is a Company Director, founder of Organica Biotech NZ, and recipient of the Queen’s Service Medal for his contributions to the Indian community. Ralph chairs the Lottery Northland Community Committee, Whangarei Multiethnic Collective, and NIAI, and is a board member of Whangarei Area Neighbourhood Support and Multicultural Whangarei. He also serves as a Justice of the Peace, exemplifying integrity and leadership

Alex Flavell-Johnson, Mangawhai 01/07/2024 to 30/06/2025 (s6R(4B) replacement)

Alex is the Conservation Manager at Tara Iti Golf Course, and the Shorebirds Trust. He is an active member in several community conservation projects including Restore Rodney East.

Iwi affiliations: Ngāti Te Ata, Ngāpuhi, Tainui.

Elizabeth (Liz) Witehira, Hikurangi 01/07/2024 to 30/06/2025 (s6R(4B) replacement)

Liz is the founding Director of the Conquer Caulerpa Charitable Trust working to eradicate Caulerpa from Northland. Liz was the Director of Boarding and Residential Facilities at Hamilton Girls High School. Liz resigned 28/1/2025.

Iwi affiliation: Ngāpuhi

5. MEETINGS AND FIELDTRIPS

The Board held a total of 5 meetings (2 x Formal Meetings and 3 x Working Meetings) during the reporting period. They are a small but dedicated board, with Alex Flavell-Johnson and Ralph Correa joining the team. They are still short 3 members due to resignations.

Meetings were held in central locations due to the vast jurisdiction area of the board.

Meeting Date	Location/Venue
Formal Meetings	
21 February 2025	DOC, Whangarei
16 May 2025	MS Teams
Workshop	
30 January 2025	Innovation Hub, Kaikohe
21 February 2025	DOC, Whangarei
16 May 2025	MS Teams
Fieldtrips	
Nil	

5.1 Agendas

The agendas and minutes from all Board meetings can be found on the Board’s webpage. Click on this link: [Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai O Te Tai Tokerau/Northland Conservation Board](#)

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. Regrettably by 1st July 2024 the board was operating with only two members.

5.3 Members' attendance 2024/25

Board Member	Formal Meetings (total 2)	Workshop Meetings (total 3)	Site Visits (total 0)
Nyree (Nyze) Porter	2 / 2	2 / 3	0
Karena Joyce-Paki	2 / 2	2 / 3	0
Alex Flavell-Johnson	2 / 2	3 / 3	0
Ralph Correa	2 / 2	3 / 3	0
Liz Witehira – resigned	0 / 2	0 / 3	0

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.

- Communications Sub Committee – consisting of all four members
- Permissions Sub Committee – consisting of all four members

6.2 Special events

- PF2050 hui with NRC
- MOC visit re; Caulerpa
- Tara Iti Recovery Hui

6.3 Training for members

- Northland & Te Hiku joint Governance Workshop held January 2025. The workshop was facilitated by Carolyn Smith, Woven Consultants.
- Fast Track training workshop on 11 March to understand the new consenting legislation, its potential environmental implications, and the impacts on public participation.

7. STATUTORY ACTIVITY

7.1 Annual Work Plan

The Minister of Conservation no longer provides a Letter of Expectation to the conservation boards however his focus is to progress the Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 which covers four themes:

1. Prioritising species and habitats for action;
2. Increasing revenue and non-government funding for biodiversity;
3. Improving evidence and knowledge for effective decision making; and
4. Growing capability by developing the right skills.

The Board reaffirmed their priorities as a Board

- 1) to collaborate with Operation Managers from all four regions and members of Te Hiku Conservation Board - to engage and share their vision for the future.
- 2) to reaffirm their vision – Rangatahi ki Rangatira. By engaging with rangatahi and supporting te taiao wananga.

7.2 Northland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

Implementation monitoring

The board continues to monitor the milestones in the Northland CMS. Rather than looking at all the milestones, the board has decided to concentrate on those milestones that are due or overdue for completion.

7.3 2024/2025 National Park Management Plan (NPMP)

There are currently no National Parks within the Northland Conservation Board’s area of jurisdiction.

8. ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise, and some members have specific roles. All board members have a responsibility to identify ways for the Board to engage with relevant Iwi/Hapu throughout Northland. The Board appointed various members to liaise with other groups and agencies. Once new board members are appointed, liaison roles are reviewed annually based on members’ interests and skills.”

Board member	Organisation/Group/Agency
Nyree Manuel (Chair)	Department of Conservation
	New Zealand Conservation Authority
	Fish and Game Council – Northern Branch (Eastern Region)
	Whangarei Harbour Committee

	Hector's & Maui Dolphin NI Stakeholder Forum
	Arohatia Te Taiao
	Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board Liaison
	TKOT – Joint Climate Change Committee (JCC&ACC?)
	Northland Regional Council
	Ministry for the Environment
	Chairs' Steering Committee (appointed by DG)
Karena Joyce-Paki	Kaipara Moana Remediation
	Forest & Bird
Alex Flavell-Johnson	Tara Iti NZ Fairy Tern
	Liaison to Auckland Conservation Board
Ralph Correa	Fish & Game

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:

- Alex Flavell-Johnson – Liaison to Auckland Conservation Board
- Nyree Manuel – Liaison to Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board

We acknowledge Ina Kara-France, the Authority's liaison, not only for Tai Tokerau, but for Tāmaki Makaurau and Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Boards. Ina attends board meetings, and reports to the Authority on matters raised.

8.2 Advice to the Department

- Provided feedback on the two discussion documents – Modernising Conservation Land and Exploring Charging on Conservation Land.

8.3 Submissions

Our board uses submissions to speak-up for our communities and the environment. By working together on key issues like Predator Free 2050 and conservation land reforms, we help ensure local voices—whanau, hapū, iwi and communities—are heard in decisions that affect our whenua, waterways, and native species, now and for the future.

Our board has contributed to collective submissions on key conservation issues including Predator Free 2050 and Modernising Conservation Land.

8.4 Community advocacy and involvement –

The Board recognises the value of strong relationships with conservation groups, volunteers, and local communities. Community involvement is essential to the success of conservation outcomes in Northland.

Throughout the year, Board meetings were held in different locations across Te Tai Tokerau, with public attendance encouraged through local advertising. This allowed for greater visibility, kōrero, and engagement with communities on local issues.

The Board also acknowledges the incredible mahi of volunteers and community groups who contribute countless hours to protecting and restoring our natural environment. Their dedication and commitment are deeply appreciated.

Key highlights:

- Board meetings were made accessible to local communities across the region.
- The Board supported and encouraged partnerships with local conservation groups.
- Volunteers were recognised and appreciated for their vital contributions to conservation efforts.

Waipoua Forest Wildfire Event

A site visit to Waipoua Forest during the wildfire event, in March alongside Fire and Emergency NZ’s Readiness and Response Advisor and representative from Te Roroa Trust.



Deputy Chair Kārena Joyce-Paki, with Kim Pumipi-Boyce (left), Community Resilience and Response Advisor | Taken by K Joyce-Paki

The fire burned through approximately 70 hectares, mainly affecting iwi-owned land planted in pine.

Project Jonah – Rangatahi Tu Rangatira

Rangatahi Ora Mātai Puanga Hui Whakapūmau (Graduation) with 5 of the 10 Rangatahi who successfully completed the Project Jonah Marine Mammal Medics Training sponsored by DOC Kauri Coast earlier this year.

Massive thanks to Shelley and the team at DOC KC for their support.



Rangatahi Nixi, Phoenix, Kārena, Elayna, Kirimatou | photo credit Sharneece Joyce



DOC partnered with Rangatahi Ora, with another ten rangatahi successfully completing the Project Jonah marine mammal rescue training alongside Kauri Coast DOC staff at Lake Taharoa in April.

Elayna Smith Tane and Margaret Hepi | Taken by Sharneece Joyce

8.5 Community visibility

The Board maintains a visible presence through the Department of Conservation's website and features regularly in the quarterly Conservation Board Newsletter, helping to keep the public informed about key conservation issues and Board activities.

Board members also attend a wide range of community events in their own time, strengthening relationships and raising awareness of conservation kaupapa across Te Tai Tokerau. This presence helps build trust, share information, and hear directly from communities.

Key highlights:

- Ongoing visibility through DOC's website and newsletters.
- Strong presence at local hui, events, and conservation activities.
- Continued efforts to connect with communities and support local initiatives.

Board members attend many community events in their own time, some of which are listed below.

- Community Led Kaupapa e.g. Caulerpa Beach Clean Up
- Environmental Community Group Volunteer Days
- Hapū Advisory Hui (bi-monthly)
- Pasifika Networkers Talanoa (Monthly)
- Tara Iti Recovery Hui (Annual)

8.6 District and regional council advocacy and advice

The Board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the four local Councils as there are several regional issues it is interested in.

Overlapping spaces between DOC & NRC e.g., Puwheke

8.7 Fees and Allowances

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.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Finally, the Board would like to acknowledge the following people for their support, advice, and friendship in 2024 - 2025:

- Department of Conservation – Sue Reed-Thomas, Director of Operations NNI
- Department of Conservation – Bronwyn Bauer-Hunt and Staff, Operations Team, Bay of Islands.
- Department of Conservation – Joel Lauterbach and Staff, Operations Team, Whangarei
- Department of Conservation – Stephen Soole and Staff, Operations Team, Kauri Coast
- Department of Conservation – Phelan Pirrie, Statutory Manager, NNI Region
- New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) – Ina Kara-France – NZCA Liaison for the Northern North Island Region.
- Tāmaki Makaurau Conservation Board – Nicola MacDonald-Chair, and Kate Waterhouse-Board Deputy Chair / Liaison.
- Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board –Mina Pomare-Peita-Co-Chair / Board Liaison.
- Department of Conservation – Annwyn Buchanan, Conservation Board Servicing Officer (CBSO) - Āpiha Tautoko Poari



This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act 1987 and distributed to interested parties.

If you would like more information on the Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau |Northland Conservation Board, please see the website

www.conservationboards.org.nz
or contact the

Board Support Officer, at the Department of Conservation
on (027) 268-3179 or e-mail northlandconservationboard@doc.govt.nz.