

Bay of Plenty Conservation Board  
Te Poari o Te Papa Atawhai o Te Rohe o Waiariki

Annual Report 2024- 2025



Bay of Plenty Conservation Board  
Te Poari o Te Papa Atawhai o te rohe o te Waiariki  
Annual Report  
1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

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## Co-Chair's report



E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā karangatanga maha, tēnā koutou katoa.

It is our privilege to present the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board's annual report for 2024/25. Over the past year, the Board's work has been shaped significantly by a shifting policy landscape, with numerous legislative reforms proposed and enacted by the current Government. Many of these changes pose substantial risks to the conservation estate and the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

In this challenging context, the Board has remained steadfast in its commitment to upholding the Crown's obligations under Te Tiriti, and to advocating for the protection and restoration of our unique taiao. Our role as a statutory advisory body has never been more critical, and we have focused our efforts on providing informed responses to policy changes, ensuring the voice of conservation is not lost in the legislative process.

We continue to support and work alongside the Department of Conservation, iwi, hapū, whānau, and a wide range of community groups across the region. Their enduring commitment to kaitiakitanga is inspiring. Together, we strive to ensure that our natural heritage — the forests, wetlands, coasts, and species that define the Bay of Plenty — are protected and cherished for generations to come.

On behalf of the Board, we wish to thank all those who contribute to the care of our whenua, wai, and ngahere. Your work is invaluable, and your partnership essential.

Nāku iti nei, nā

Erin Green and Ora Barlow

## Introduction

This is the 11<sup>th</sup> Conservation Board Annual Report as Bay of Plenty Conservation Board. 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 Bay of Plenty 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 Bay of Plenty 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.

# Conservation Board Region / Rohe

The Bay of Plenty Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area of 2,602,857 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 12.05% of all the Board's total district.

**This consists of:**

- 311,402 hectares of Public Conservation Land
- 2,333 hectares of Marine Reserve

## Conservation features of the area

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

- Raukumara Conservation Park - 59,315 ha
- Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tane Conservation Park - 56,677 ha
- Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park - 40,133 ha
- Whakarewarewa State Forest Park - 292 ha
- Land held for National Park Purposes - 2 ha
- 167 Stewardship Areas - 106,604 ha
- 87 Scenic Reserves - 42,998 ha
- 18 Recreation Reserves - 423 ha
- 243 Marginal Strips - 2,488 ha
- 10 Historic Reserves - 187 ha
- 2 Ecological Areas - 389 ha
- 2 Marine Reserves - 2,333 ha
- 1 Specially Protected Areas - 500 ha
- 47 Other Reserves - 1,394 ha

The Bay of Plenty has a range of significant issues of relevance throughout the rohe that the Board maintains a keen interest in and monitors' progress. In the absence of an up-to-date CMS which would provide a formal reporting mechanism, the Board's work programme has focused on progressing these priority areas:

- Progressing the reclassification of Stewardship Land in the Bay of Plenty rohe
- Effective engagement with the significant number of iwi/hapū/whānau in the Bay of Plenty rohe
- Progressing the protection of significant marine ecosystems throughout the Bay of Plenty rohe
- Management of pest species:
  - Deer, possums, pigs, goats
  - Dama Wallaby
  - Wilding pines
- Biodiversity and Biosecurity
  - Protection of Kauri from dieback
  - Ecosystem management
  - Threatened species management e.g. Kōkako, Kiwi, Whio

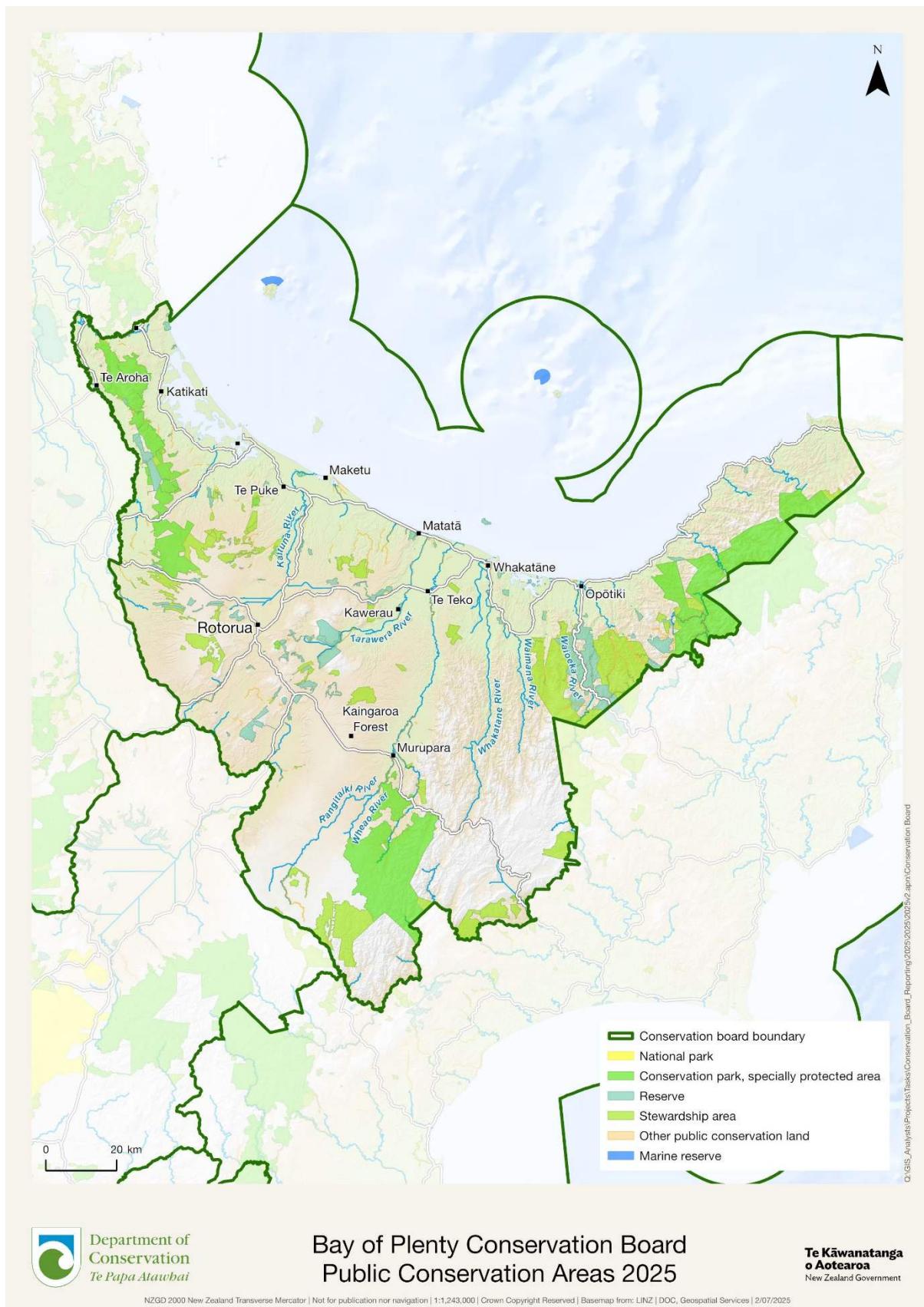


Figure 1

## Board functioning.

### Board functions under section 6m of the Conservation Act 1987

The functions of the Board are:

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

### Powers of the Board under section 6n of the Conservation Act 1987

- Every conservation board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.
- Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each conservation board may –
  - Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
  - Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.
- 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.

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

- There are no National Parks within the Board's region

## Board membership.

The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board has 10 members appointed by the Minister of Conservation 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 10 Board members for the reporting year.

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

**Table 1: Board membership**

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end	Years served
Erin Green (Co-Chair)	Whakatāne	01/07/2022	30/06/2025	3 years
Ora Barlow (Co-Chair)	Te Kaha	01/07/2024	30/06/2027	1 year
Michal Akurangi	Whakatāne	01/07/2024	30/06/2027	1 year
Sara Carley	Tauranga	01/07/2020	30/06/2026	5 years
Laura Crossan	Te Puke	01/07/2022	30/06/2025	3 years
Pim De Monchy	Tauranga	16/08/2023	30/06/2025	2 years
Lyndal Kennedy	Kawerau	16/08/2023	30/06/2026	2 years
Matthew (Matt) Newman	Tauranga	16/08/2023	30/06/2026	2 years
Te Maiora Rurehe	Rotorua	16/08/2023	30/06/2026	2 years
Tim Taylor	Rotorua	01/07/2024	30/06/2027	1 year

## Members profiles

### **Erin Green (Co-Chair)**

Erin provides experience in environmental science and policy, with particular expertise in marine science, conservation, and management. As Co-Founder of Te Puna Taiao Charitable Trust, she has excellent community engagement and advocacy skills, and an understanding of issues facing our children, communities, and planet as a whole.

### **Ora Barlow (Co-Chair)**

Ora (Te Whānau-a-Apanui) holds extensive experience in conservation particularly advising on large scale pest control. She currently sits as Hapū Chair for Te Whānau-a-Hikarukutai/Ngati Horomoana Hapū; Governor for Raukūmara Pae Maunga; Co-Chair for Mangaroa Incorporation; Trustee on Waikawa Lands Trust and sits on other multiple committees and land block trusts. She works for Save the Kiwi travelling nationally advising iwi Māori in designing their restoration potential.

### **Michal Akurangi**

Michal has a professional background in environmental management and her career has spanned both public and private sector including local council, regional Council, central government and Post settlement governance entity. Michal is a strong advocate for Māori rights and interests and environmental decision making that recognises the mana of hapu and the interconnected nature of the Taiao.

### **Sara Carley - resigned 30 April 2025**

Sara is semi-retired, with a background in the public service as an International Development Manager with experience in the Pacific Islands and Asia. She has strong policy, planning, and analysis skills, with strength in programme planning, financial management, and cultural awareness.

### **Laura Crossan**

Laura works in the financial management sector providing assistance for rural land users including dairy, drystock, and horticulture. She provides a perspective from rural and youth communities.

### **Pim De Monchy**

Pim has a strong background in nature conservation, specifically in the management of coastal catchments. He is involved with a range of conservation groups across the Bay of Plenty, including the Kiwi Recovery Group, Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum, and Rangitaiki Wetlands Project.

### **Lyndal Kennedy**

Lyndal brings strong competency in Te Ao Māori and conservation experience with a Mātauranga Māori lens, which is considered a current skills gap on the Board. Her appointment would help the Board to better understand the landscape of the region and build partnerships with iwi, whānau and hapū. Ms. Kennedy also lives in an area of the Whakatane District which does not have Board representation.

### **Matthew (Matt) Newman**

Matt has strong lived experience of Te Ao Māori through previous employment where he spent two years living and working in Te Whaiti and amongst Tūhoe. Mr Newman has developed a specialised education curriculum engaging young people with significant conservation issues within Te Urewera and East Coast ngāhere.

### **Te Maiora Rurehe**

Te Maiora (Tūhoe, Te Arawa) is a solicitor working in Waitangi Tribunal claims, which may be useful in helping the Board work with iwi, and keep the Board updated on legal development.

### **Tim Taylor**

Tim is the owner of Ruahine Composites which is New Zealand's largest manufacturer of composite kayaks and waka ama. While his professional background is on the water, he balances this with a strong passion for hunting and the bush. He is currently the Vice President for the BOP Deerstalkers Association and sits on the Board for the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association as a North Island representative

## **Board meetings.**

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

**Table 2: Board meeting dates and location**

<b>Board Meeting Dates</b>	<b>Meeting location and venue</b>
1 August 2024	99 Sala Street, Rotorua – Department of Conservation Office
3 October 2024	9 Louvain Street, Whakatane – Department of Conservation Office
<b>16 December 2024</b>	<b>No Quorum</b>
26 February 2025	9 Louvain Street, Whakatane – Department of Conservation Office
1 May 2025	9 Louvain Street, Whakatane – Department of Conservation Office
<b>23 June 2025</b>	<b>No Quorum</b>

## Attendance

The table below summarises the number of Board meetings attended by members out of the total number of meetings held during the year.

Members attended other meetings and events in their role as Board members, including subcommittee meetings and representative roles.

**Table 3: Board meetings attended by members.**

Board members & Meeting Dates	1 Aug 24	3 Oct 24	26 Feb 25	1 May 25
Erin Green (Co-Chair)	☒	☒	☒	☒
Laura Crossan	☒	☒	☐	☒
Lyndal Kennedy	☐	☒	☒	☒
Matthew (Matt) Newman	☐	☒	☒	☒
Michal Akurangi	☒	☒	☒	☒
Ora Barlow (Co-Chair)	☒	☐	☒	☒
Pim De Monchy	☒	☒	☐	☐
Sara Carley	☒	☒	☒	☒
Te Maiora Rurehe	☒	☐	☐	☒
Tim Taylor	☐	☐	☒	☒

## Field trips and site inspections

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

**Table 4: Field trips and site inspections**

Field trip date	Field trip destination
28 April 2025	Te Tiriti Wānanga - Whangaparāoa
19 June 2025	Raukumara Pae Maunga Restoration Project - Te Kaha

28 April 2025 - Te Tiriti Wānanga - Kauaetangohia (Whangaparāoa) Marae



*Figure 3*

Kauaetangohia (Whangaparāoa) Marae



*Figure 4*

19 June 2025 – Raukumara Pae Muanga Restoration Project



*Figure 5*

**Raukumara Pae Muanga**



*Figure 6*

Raukumara Pae Muanga



*Figure 7*

Raukumara Pae Muanga



*Figure 8*

## **Department involvement in Board meetings**

Department staff attended throughout the year.

**Jade King-Hazel** (ENI Director Operations), **David Hayes** (Acting ENI Director Ops) Regional Directors, attended meetings and provided Directors updates.

**Wihi Meelker-Ngatai** (2024), and **Marion Nieuwland** (2024-2025) Statutory Managers, attended meetings and provided Statutory Managers' updates.

**Wihi Meelker-Ngatai** (Whakatane Operations Manager - 2024-2025), **Zane Jensen** (Rotorua Operations Manager 2024-2025), **Kristine Theiss** (Tauranga Operations Manager 2024-2025), Shelley Paul (Tauranga Operations Manager - 2024), & Manu John on behalf of Tauranga Operations Manager (2024)

**Administrative Support** is provided to the Board by the Board Support Officer (Courtney Reneti - 2024-2025 and Claire Jacobs - 2025), who arranged, attended, and provided administration services to Board Meetings.

**Raukumara Pae Maunga Restoration Project Team**

## **Annual Work Plan**

Please refer to Appendix 1 Annual Work Plan

## **Statutory activity**

### **Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)**

The CMS is currently on hold.

## 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 various members to liaise with other groups and agencies.

**Table 5: Board liaisons and representatives**

Board member	Group/agency/organisation
Ora Barlow (Co-Chair)	Raukumara Pae Muanga Project North Island Wallaby Coordination Group ( <i>From 1 May</i> )
Michal Akurangi	Te Tapatoru ā Toi
Sara Carley ( <i>resigned end of April 25</i> )	North Island Wallaby Coordination Group Bay Of Plenty Wetlands Forum
Laura Crossan	Manaaki Kaimai Mamaku Trust Liaison Tongariro Taupō Conservation Board Liaison
Lyndal Kennedy	Waikato Conservation Board Fish and Game Bay Of Plenty Wetlands Subcommittee ( <i>from 1 May</i> )
Matthew (Matt) Newman	East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board Liaison
Te Maiora Rurehe	FastTrack Legislation Subcommittee
Tim Taylor	North Island Wallaby Coordination Group ( <i>From 1 May</i> )

## Other Conservation Boards liaison

The Board allocates liaison roles with their immediate neighbouring Boards.

Rena Kohere – East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board

## Authority liaison

Tak Mutu NZCA liaison with the Board, BOP CB NZCA Liaison.

The Board receives the agenda, papers, and minutes of the NZCA meetings, and the Board Chair receives regular communication from the NZCA.

## Department advice

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

- The board was involved in the ENI Strategy Plan

## Community visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website. Updates from the Board were provided throughout the year on activities undertaken.

## Public Forum

There were no members of the public that attended the Public Forum for the reporting year.

## Visitors

Catherine Ball, Amy Board and Dr Chantel Pagel were invited and attended the Wānanga in April with the Bay of Plenty Conversation board.

## Iwi liaison and advocacy

In addition to Board meetings, board members work closely with iwi and hapū in the rohe.

# Appendix I: Annual Work Plan

## A. STRATEGIC PRIORITY - CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

### BOPCB role:

Statutory (review and recommend)

### BOPCB Goals:

*(a) to recommend the approval of Conservation Management Strategies to the Conservation Authority, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments.*

### BOPCB Actions:

1. Seek feedback from within the board before deadlines.
2. Any Settlement arrangements applicable will direct what the Boards involvement
3. If Settlement arrangements are silent on this matter extend the BOPCB recommendation to Conservation Authority
4. To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of Conservation Management Strategies within the jurisdiction of the Board
5. Act in a manner consistent with Section 4, Conservation Act and Te Tiriti o Waitangi

## B. STRATEGIC PRIORITY - CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

### BOPCB role:

Statutory (Review and approve)

### BOPCB Goal:

To approve Conservation Management Plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments

### BOPCB Actions:

1. BOPCB to ensure DOC provides documentation pertaining to CMP.
2. Any Settlement arrangements applicable will direct what the Boards involvement is
3. To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of Conservation Management Plans for areas within the jurisdiction of the Board –
4. The Board to Understand Settlement arrangement as applicable to CMP
5. Act in a manner consistent with Section 4, Conservation Act and Te Tiriti o Waitangi

## C. STRATEGIC PRIORITY - RELATIONSHIPS

### BOPCB role:

Statutory and Advisory

### BOPCB Goals:

1. Meet requirements for BOPCB as specified in Iwi Settlement legislation;
2. Give on-going effect to the principles of the Treaty (per Section 4);
3. That the Board ensures an understanding of iwi within their region
4. That the Board work towards having an understanding of taiao programmes within their region

### BOPCB Actions:

1. Ensure Conservation Act 1987 section 4 considerations are appropriately addressed in Conservation Management Plans and Conservation Management Strategies
2. Demonstrate openness and good faith when giving advice (if consulted) on alternative models for conservation oversight and management.

3. Maintain open and ongoing communication with iwi leaders.
4. Maintain open communication with DOC regional to add to an effective strategy for building relationships with iwi
5. The Board to determine up to 3 field trips per year, ensuring at least one is an iwi led taiao programme.
6. Board meetings to convene in (up to) 3 marae visits a year

#### **D. STRATEGIC PRIORITY: INFLUENCE AND ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES**

##### **BOPCB role:**

Advisory and Advocacy.

##### **BOPCB Goal:**

Be respected as an independent, and influential source of strategic advice for conservation.

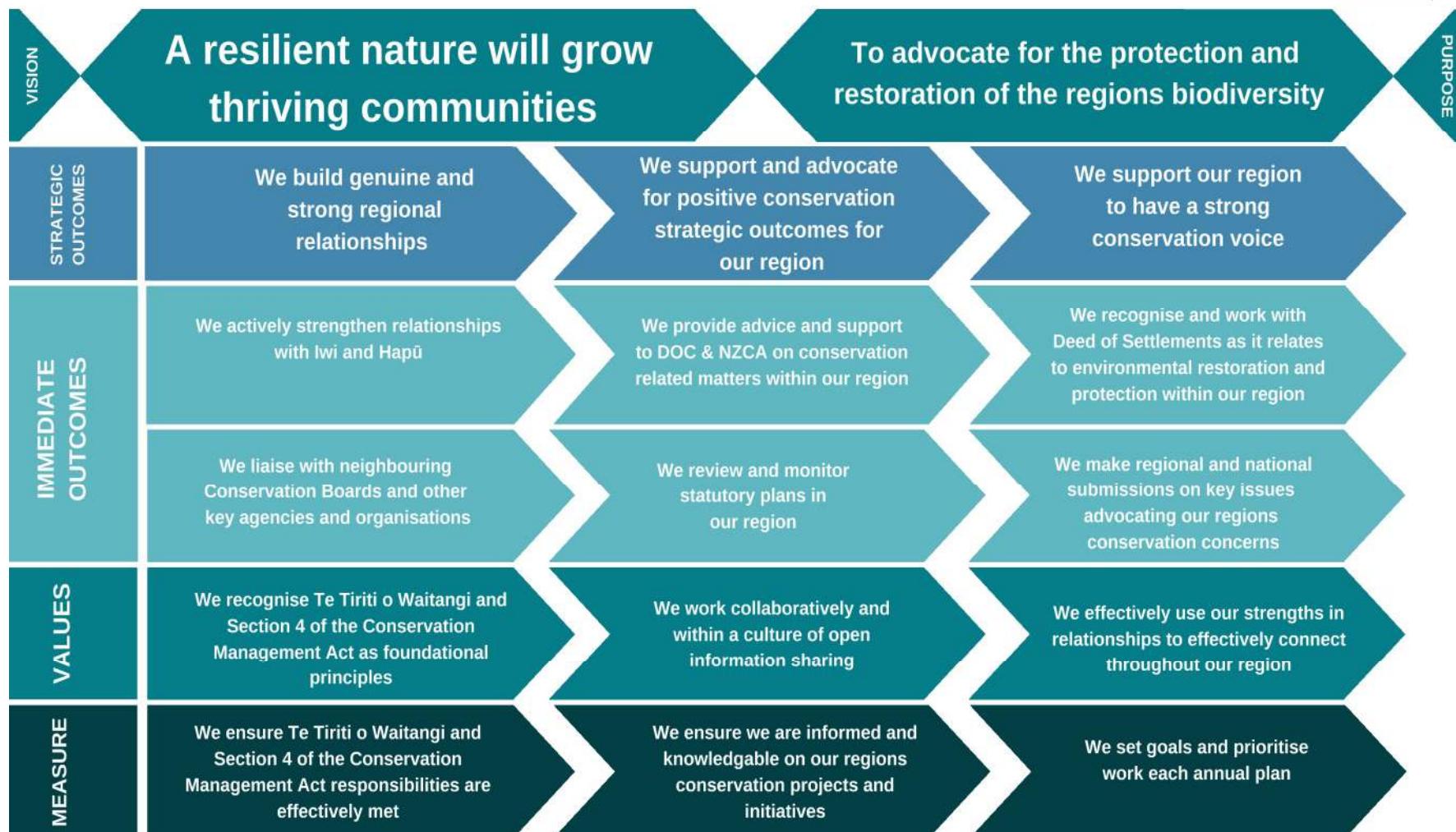
##### **BOPCB Actions:**

1. To ensure robust internal mechanism of responding to requests
2. Give clear, considered and timely advice on matters relevant to the BOPCB and, where this can be influential in achieving better conservation outcomes.
3. Maintain an active environmental scan to ensure the current and future operating context for conservation is well understood by the board.
4. Maintain active links with other conservation boards and the community.
5. Write submissions to better advocate for conservation
6. Board to develop their cultural competency with at least 1 workshop a year
7. Engage with other Conservation Board's, NZCA relationships, attend groups of interests meetings and annual Chairs Conservation Board's conference

#### **E. STRATEGIC PRIORITY: CONSERVATION BOARDS SYSTEMS**

1. We assign Board member portfolio roles first meeting of every year
2. We effectively use the Board's strengths in relationships to connect throughout our region
3. We actively schedule Board meetings in different rohe and invite iwi to meet and discuss their projects and or priorities
4. We meet with the Director and regional leadership to discuss conservation strategic priorities beginning of each year

## Appendix II: Bay of Plenty Conservation Board Strategic Plan





*Ohiwa Oyster Farm*

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 Bay of Plenty 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 in Palmerston North phone 027 417 5246 or e-mail Claire Jacobs [cjacobs@doc.govt.nz](mailto:cjacobs@doc.govt.nz).