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# Wellington Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Upoko o te Ika Conservation Board

Annual Report  
1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019

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# Wellington Conservation Board Annual Report 2018-2019

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority  
pursuant to Section 6 (O) of the Conservation Act 1987

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## **Photographs**

**Front Cover:** Lake Onoke & Lake Ferry, Feb 2019 Photographer: Peter Moore

**Back Cover:** Kapiti Island Sunset, Photographer: Tom Raven

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# 1. Chairperson's report

## Chairperson's Annual Report 2018-19

July 2019.

I have now chaired the Wellington Conservation Board for two years and continue to work with a committed team of board members and Department of Conservation (DOC) personnel. We all are continuing to understand the real challenges that face our region's biodiversity and ecosystems inside the DOC-managed estates. Boards, such as ours, who are involved with the protection of our environment, are facing dramatic potential changes in the not too distant future, and if we don't support courageous decisions by DOC, such as the need to use 1080 where needed, then much of our present biodiversity will no longer exist.

It is important to remind ourselves that New Zealand's flora and fauna is found nowhere else in the world, that almost 4000 of our indigenous species are currently threatened with, or at risk of, extinction. The need for every single one of us to make changes to halt the decline and manage these valued resources that are part of our national identity, is now. There is no better time to have a national discussion about a Biodiversity Strategy, so we can act in a targeted and coordinated way, locally, regionally and nationally.

### Board Activities

Over the last year, we have travelled throughout the region, meeting with local groups and listening to their concerns, engaging with local conservation issues, and undertaking site visits.

### Visits

- The hinterland of Taihape and the Wairarapa, where we witnessed the growth and destruction of such deadly weeds as Old Man's Beard and the impact that is having on the local bush and threatening the Ruahine Ranges;
- The valuable long-term planning and planting project on the edge of Lake Wairarapa, and the restoration of lake Pou Aruhe; and
- The Remutaka Ranges with the ongoing perplexing matter of pest eradication and controlling wilding pines.

### Local issues:

- Engagement in the ongoing debate with local white-baiters about whitebait/habitat protection;
- Familiarisation with, and understanding of, the pollution issues affecting Lake Horowhenua;
- Supporting the establishment of the Waikanae River Master Conservation Plan, the improved management of the Carter Reserve.
- The Kapiti Marine Reserve has an active group raising funds for webcam cameras to go on the island to help police the illegal fishing that continues to plague the marine reserve.

### Local Conservation Management:

- Board representation on the Whareroa collaboration group in Queen Elizabeth Park on the Kapiti Coast, the busiest recreational park in the region, owned by DOC and managed by GWRC. Includes an ongoing review of the impact of farming on this land, and the GWRC-managed retreat process in preparation for pending Climate Change impacts.

- Participation in the Wainuiwhenua Paekakariki community initiative, working with NZTA and other agencies around 550 hectares of land, surplus to the Transmission Gully project, on the potential to enhance the environmental and conservation features of the area.
- Ongoing concern about the local destruction of bush by pests (including deer), and the loss of water quality in some of our lakes and rivers. Board member participation at local Hui by the Wellington Mountain to Sea group, throughout the region.
- Board member attendance at “*The Crazy and Ambitious Biological Heritage, Partnering for Impact*” conference in May which focused on biodiversity and predator control.
- Board representation on the Kapiti Island Reserves Strategic Advisory Committee, presently focused on initiating the Conservation Management Plan.

## Treaty of Waitangi

Following the significant Supreme Court decision bought down in favour of Ngai Tai ki Tamaki in December 2018, the Treaty of Waitangi obligations under Section 4 of the Conservation Act are under review. That decision underscores the strength of Section 4, which requires DOC to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi under that Act.

The judgement confirms the relevance of Iwi/hapū economic interests in relation to concession decisions and has broader implications for DOC’s work with Treaty Partners. This is likely to result in changes to the way that DOC grants concessions and may affect the range of concession arrangements across the Wellington Board’s region. It also may impact the way DOC implements Section 4 obligations in other areas of their work. Working through this decision is a complex process and will take time with likely implications for all Conservation Boards.

## Conservation Management Strategy

Following more than 3 years of hard work, the Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) came into force on 20 Jan 2019. This is a significant achievement of the Board and DOC and, because of its progressive and innovative format, sets a path for all CMSs across the country. The CMS provides an overview of conservation issues in the Wellington Region and gives direction for the management of public conservation land and waters, and species for which DOC has responsibility through to Jan 2029. In its own unique way, the CMS is the “handshake” between the community and DOC, facilitated by the Board, for the way those conservation land and waters, and species will be managed.

DOC has provided extensive strategic leadership and operational support to ensure successful completion and implementation of the CMS. During the 2018/19 year, the Board focused much of its attention on ensuring that the CMS is embedded in the DOC Wellington regional business plan, and on the development of good reporting systems against objectives and outcomes. We have actively worked to ensure that the milestones are considered in business planning so that conscious decisions are being made about timing and approach and resources allocated accordingly.

Transparency and consistency in reporting to the Board is vital, with communication processes in place so that the whole CMS and its reporting can be easily understood by the general public.

Our meeting agendas will now change to bring the CMS milestones and other reporting needs to the fore. Plans are also underway to start working with the regional DOC managers on their new reporting process.

The Board is also very aware of the national projects at play and are taken into account as an integral part of the CMS reporting. The Tiakina Ngā Manu programme (formerly Battle for our Birds), the

Predator Free 2050 projects, the One Billion Trees, all bring their own issues, most of which we will work through in the CMS.

## **Board Meetings**

Minister Sage has highlighted the importance of Conservation Boards and the need for the work of the Boards to be valued and respected. To reflect this, she has increased the number of meetings from four to six per year and increased the sitting fees for Board members. Over this year, we have been readjusting to this new requirement and I feel we can now have a more consistent approach to our role. Meeting every two months also means we can move our meetings around the region more.

Our meeting agendas have a different emphasis to those Boards that have National Parks, and other national plans to manage. The issues in our region are, however, no less important.

The attendance of the public to our meetings is still low, but the groups we have met with have presented valuable learning experiences for both parties. I have referred to site visits and meetings with groups earlier in this report, and I want to thank all those groups and individuals that we met with for their time and commitment to the significant conservation work they are doing in their communities.

Over the past year, we have been reminded again that in order for many of the national projects to have any traction, this has to be supported by the local voluntary groups in their communities. It is always humbling to see what is being done on the ground.

## **New Zealand Conservation Authority**

Once a year, the NZCA hosts a meeting for the Conservation Board Chairs, a welcomed opportunity for the chairs to come together and share their ideas and concerns, to network and discuss our thoughts and issues with the Minister and Director General. I acknowledge and thank NZCA for its leadership for our board in providing this annual session.

The 2018 meeting provided a valuable forum for consideration of our newly developed CMS, and the wider importance of these strategies being completed and becoming fully operative.

We wish to acknowledge the passing of Waana Davis who was the Wellington board's NZCA representative for many years. She worked tirelessly for the Board and our region; we are grateful to have known her.

Kia kaha to you Waana.

Our current NZCA representative is David Barnes, who has been very helpful in acting as a guide through the process of our CMS with NZCA.

## **Relationships with other Boards**

Board members have responsibilities with neighbouring Boards and, where possible, we attend other Board meetings at least once a year to maintain these relationships and be aware of other Boards' issues. We have connections with the East Coast Hawkes Bay, Taranaki/Whanganui, and Tongariro-Taupo Boards.

## **Fish and Game**

We are working to develop stronger ties with the Fish and Game committees. DOC continues to work closely with them in our region over the challenging issues, such as managing deer and goats and, more recently, the gun law changes. The Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO) operators and hunters

have had productive discussions with DOC in order to establish a new National Wild Animal Recovery Operations permit that will be offered to WARO operators.

This is a topical issue for our Board. We recognise the Wildlife Act and the Wild Animal Control Act and consider the deer in our conservation estate as pests and the need to significantly reduce their numbers. But we understand that arrangements have to be in place to manage this pest, and look forward to the day when their numbers are such that their impact on our flora and fauna is not so destructive.

It is good to see the outcomes to these complex discussions that have been realised this past year, and the direct link for our regional CMS. I thank all of those who made a commitment to working through the process.

### **Restoration day**

There was a great gathering of volunteers, and agencies on the 18<sup>th</sup> May at the Waikanae Restoration day. I gave an opening address and welcomed the opportunity to acknowledge the significant work of volunteers in the area. It was also timely to bring local climate change issues to the discussion.

Jim Dahm was the guest speaker as an expert on coastal management and community restoration. This followed and continued the theme of concern about the pending impacts of climate change on coastlines, and how best to manage them in the future.

### **Conservation Week**

Board members attended public DOC organised Conservation Week activities within the region, including in Wellington and the Wairarapa.

### **Wellington Regional Biodiversity Framework – Collaborative Working Group**

This important initiative, jointly run by the Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) and DOC, has now seen the establishment of an active committee (CWG) made up of mana whenua, NGOs, community groups, industry groups and other agencies.

We congratulate the Regional Council and DOC for this leadership coming out of two years of community consultation and workshops, and the establishment of a working group to develop a planning framework for biodiversity in the Wellington region. The group is independently co-chaired in partnership with mana whenua, and the underpinning kaupapa is to take a strong cultural holistic approach to the development of the framework.

### **Wairarapa Pūkaha to Palliser Alliance**

A Board member is actively working with this group providing a connection for the Board in this exciting project. They meet regularly and work with community and catchment groups. The main two issues for the group are water quality monitoring and, under the Tonganui initiative, bringing the South Wairarapa people together to talk about future landscapes projects around Wairarapa Moana.

Minister Sage has an interest in the Wairarapa Moana project and is supporting their application for RAMSAR endorsement.

## The Harbour Island Kaitiaki Board

I represent the board on this committee, focussed on the development planning discussions for these islands in the Wellington harbour. Through a Kaitiaki plan, Matiu/Somes Island has had information panels being developed, telling the powerful story of the Island and its place in our bi-cultural history.

A significant development is the position of an island ranger. The DOC staff representative on the committee has worked to make this possible. It is a full-time position and will add real value to the island and the visitor experience and could have a wider role inside the Taranaki Whānui.

## Community Fund Panel

A member of the Board sits as a panel member for the DOC Community Fund. There was \$800,000 distributed this last year, and \$8m worth of applications were received. This was the largest number of applications for any region and included an increased number of applications from the Chatham Islands.

## Submissions/ Feedback

The Board has submitted on the following issues:

- The DOC Heritage and Visitors Strategy.
- Te Ahu a Tūranga; Manawatu Tararua Highway/walkway
- The New Marine Protected Areas Act
- Wellington Regional Pest Management Plan
- Continued use of 1080

## Board Representation

In June 2019, we farewelled Jim Rainey and Christy Kimble as they retired from the Board.

Jim brought to our discussion important matters relating to farming and represented his Taihape community with a passion. We wish him well for the future and thank him for his many years of service to the Board.

Christy was only with us for twelve months and, as a young man, brought his skills with technology to our operation, setting up our webpage in an effort to raise the profile of the Board. We enjoyed his company and wish him well on his life's journey.

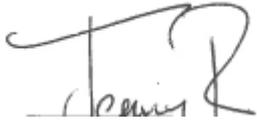
## Conclusion

In May of this year, I was fortunate to attend a conference in Scotland on "*Climate Change and Consciousness*". This conference highlighted that we only have ten years to slow down the temperature rise that is already impacting on our planet.

I have brought this urgent matter to the Conservation Board agenda, as I would like us to look at the many decisions, we make with the climate change lens over them. It is encouraging to hear more climate change comment, but courageous leadership is required now.

Our Board is working well, and our agenda is widening. Again, it has been a pleasure to chair this Board - we are a great team, and we are providing advice and feedback more readily.

With the increase in our meetings, I look forward to continuing that work over the coming year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Rowan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jenny Rowan QSO JP  
Chairperson

## 2. Introduction

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

Conservation boards are appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987. 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.

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

Conservation boards have several statutory roles under various Acts including:

- the recommendation of the Wellington 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 approval of conservation management plans
- 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.

## 3. Conservation board region

The Wellington Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction extends from the bottom of the North Island to the mouth of the Turakina River in the West, up the Turakina River and over the top of the Ruahine Forest Park, down the eastern boundary of the Forest Park and then out across to the east coast near Waimārama. It includes the three Wellington harbour islands, Matiu/Somes, Moko-puna and Makaro/Ward as well as Kapiti and Mana islands.



Figure 1. Wellington Conservation Board Jurisdiction

Of all the public conservation land in New Zealand lie within the Region. The large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

#### Manawatu

- Ruahine Forest Park
- Manawatu Gorge Scenic Reserve
- Manawatu Estuary
- Manawatu/Horowhenua Coastal Dunes

#### Wairarapa

- Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre
- Tararua Forest Park
- Aorangi Forest Park
- Lake Wairarapa and Lake Onoke

#### Wellington

- Remutaka Forest Park
- Turakirae head Scientific Reserve
- Waikanae Estuary
- Kapiti Marine Reserve
- Kapiti Island Nature Reserve
- Mana island Scientific Reserve
- Mātū/Somes Island Scientific and Historic Reserves
- Taputeranga Marine Reserve



Kaka feeding at Pukaha, Mount Bruce  
Photographer: Russell Street

## 4. Board functioning

### 4.1. 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
- 5) On any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and
- 6) On any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board
- 7) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matter within the jurisdiction of the Board

- 8) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

#### 4.2. Powers of the Board 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 –
  - a) Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
  - b) 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.

#### 4.3. Board Functions under section 30 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.

#### 4.4. Board membership

There were 9 Board members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Jenny Rowan was elected Chairperson and Barry Wards was elected Deputy Chairperson.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2019 and their term of office.

Table 1: Board membership

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end	Term served
Jenny Rowan	Kapiti	17 Aug 2015	30 June 2021	2
Barry Wards	Upper Hutt	1 May 2014	30 June 2019	2
Esther Dijkstra	Wairarapa	1 July 2016	30 June 2019	1

<b>Bill Day</b>	Wellington	1 September 2016	30 June 2020	2
<b>Raewyn Moss</b>	Wellington	1 July 2016	30 June 2021	2
<b>Jennie Smeaton</b>	Porirua	1 July 2017	30 June 2020	1
<b>Jim Rainey</b>	Taihape	1 May 2014	30 June 2019	2
<b>Ann-Sophie Page</b>	Palmerston North	1 July 2018	30 June 2021	1
<b>Christy Kimble</b>	Wellington	1 July 2018	30 June 2019	1

#### 4.5. Members profiles

##### Jenny Rowan (Chairperson)

Jenny has extensive local government experience – Mayor Inglewood DC (1986-1989) and Kapiti Coast DC (2006-2013). 15 years; experience as an Environment Court Commissioner (1991-2006). Extensive community involvement (awarded QSO).

##### Barry Wards (Deputy Chairperson)

Barry has experience in environmental/conservation advocacy, project management, leadership, and engagement with community conservation groups. Current Chair of Forest & Bird Upper Hutt. Member of the Wellington Restoration Day Committee.

##### Esther Dijkstra

Esther is a Consultant for EcoAgriLogic Ltd, a sustainable land management consultancy. Experience in land and environmental management, policy planning and analysis. Sound knowledge of environmental science, soil science and geography. PhD in geo-ecological research.

##### Bill Day

Bill has an MNZN for services to the community and health. Experience in governance, management, leadership, financial market, health and safety, and strategic planning. Member of multiple boards e.g. Life Flight Trust, Medial Research Institute of NZ, Council of Outward Bound.

##### Raewyn Moss

Raewyn has sound knowledge of environmental science, ecology, geographical processes, statutory policy and planning and public planning processes.

##### Jennie Smeaton

Jennie had a previous role as a Manager in Resource Management at Te Runanga O Toa Rangatira and has represented Ngāti Toa on many committees regionally and nationally. She is currently a Principal Advisor at Te Puni Kōkiri. Iwi affiliations: Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Mutunga, Te Ātiawa.

## Jim Rainey

Jim is passionate about environmental sustainability. Involved in many local tourism activities. Chairs Kawhatau Outdoor Education Centre.

## Anne-Sophie (Annie) Page

Annie is a student at Massey University studying veterinary science. She is the environmental advocacy coordinator for Manawatu Branch of Forest & Bird, is an experienced wildlife guide and, a published environmental writer.

## Christy Kimble

Christy is a passionate young environmentalist with a love for social media and modern storytelling. He has been involved in a series of environmental groups that have focused on youth leadership and community engagement. He loves New Zealand flora and fauna and is particularly passionate about native birdlife. He studied a post graduate degree in journalism at the University of Canterbury.

### 4.6. Board meetings

The Board held 5 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.

Table 2: Board meeting dates and location

Board meeting date	Meeting location and venue
20 September 2018	Kenepuru; DOC Office
23 November 2018	Palmerston North, DOC Office
1 & 2 February 2019	Masterton; DOC Office
22 March 2019	Upper Hutt, Riding for the Disabled, Hutt Valley
14 & 15 June 2019	Taihape; Council Chambers; Town Hall

### 4.7. 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 member	Board meetings	Liaison meetings	Special events
Jenny Rowan	5/5		
Barry Wards	4/5		
Bill Day	5/5		
Esther Dijkstra	4/5		
Raewyn Moss	3/5		
Jim Rainey	3/5		
Jennie Smeaton	3/5		
Christy Kimble	5/5		
Anne-Sophie Page	2/5		

#### 4.8. 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 and purpose
24 November 2018	The Manawatu Gorge
1 February 2019	Lake Wairarapa
14 June 2019	Gravity Canyon Look out Point, Mangaweka

Rangitikei River in Manawatu-Rangitikei Place



Photographer: Shellie Evans

#### 4.9. Training for members

In addition to the regular updates on the Department's activities provided in the status report which is considered at each meeting, the Board received additional briefings and updates. Topics covered this year were:

- The Board were informed of the local threats from anti-1080 protesters and how the local office had additional security measures installed.
- The Board was updated on the work of DOC in response to the Supreme Court's decision on the Ngai Tai case.

The Department also provided an update on conservation activities within the local area at each meeting location.

#### 4.10. Department involvement in Board meetings

Department of Conservation staff attend each Board meeting as required to provide information. The presence of these staff members at meetings has facilitated open dialogue and good working relationships between the Board members and the Department. Board members regularly communicate with DOC staff between meetings and participate in DOC events. DOC staff regularly attending our meetings include:

Reg Kemper, Regional Director, LNI attended meetings and provided a Director's update.

Chris Visser, Statutory Manager, LNI attended meetings.

Jack Mace, Operations Manager (Kapiti/Wellington); Kathy Houkamau, Operations Manager (Wairarapa), Allannah Irvine, Operations Manager and Moana Smith-Dunlop, Operations Manager (Manawatu) attended meetings in person when in their operational District, or through teleconference, to provide District Context and District Operations Report.

Administrative Support was provided to the Board by the Board Support Officer (Sara Robinson).

#### **4.11. Annual Work Plan**

Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

## **5. Statutory activity**

### **5.1. Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)**

The Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) became live on 20 January 2019.

The Wellington CMS describes the conservation values present in Wellington and provides guidance for DOC's work in the form of a vision, objectives, outcomes for Places, policies and milestones and translating DOC's strategic outcomes to Wellington.

The major themes identified in this CMS are engagement with tangata whenua and the community, partnering with others to deliver conservation and restoration of indigenous biodiversity. The CMS has been developed through a lengthy public process and is the result of input from many.

The CMS will have effect for 10 years, or until formally amended or reviewed in full or in part.

## **6. 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.

### **6.1. Other conservation boards liaison**

The Board allocates liaison roles with their immediate neighbouring Boards, and includes their minutes in the Board papers, and had a representative from The East Coast Hawkes Bay attend meetings during the year. These were beneficial when discussing topics of mutual interest. A Wellington Board member also attended an East Coast Hawkes Bay meeting and was able to report on the implementation of its newly approved CMS.

### **6.2. Authority liaison**

David Barnes is the NZCA member liaison with the Board. David attended some Board meetings during the year, at which time he updated the Board on the activities of the NZCA.

The Board receives the agenda, papers and minutes of the NZCA meetings. The NZCA also communicates on a regular basis with the Board's Chairperson

### **6.3. Department advice**

Bill Day represented the Board at the DOC Community Fund meeting to assist the department on selecting possible recipients for the Lower North Island region. The original 64 applications showed were from a wide range of projects in the region that demonstrate how communities are increasingly getting more involved in conservation. \$800,000 was allocated to Lower North Island projects.

## 6.4. 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 Wellington Conservation Board's region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised.

Members of the public attended the Public Forum at several of the year's meetings and a range of issues were raised. The Board appreciated their input and efforts made to attend the meetings and responded by letter with a response to questions asked or concerns raised.

Public forum issues raised were:

- **22 March 2019 Meeting**

Graeme Bellamy, Pat van Berkel and, Margaret Craigie attended from the Upper Hutt Branch of Forest & Bird. They gave an update on the activities of the Upper Hutt Branch and also mentioned the issues with the Hutt river which was many flow and quality issues.

Ben Knight and Chris Paulin attended from the Guardians of the Kāpiti Marine Reserve and gave the following recommendations to DOC:

- There needs to be a better response from DOC and the Boat being kept permanently at Kāpiti Island would be ideal.
- Local Marine Reserve Management Group re-established.
- DOC Patrol Boat based at Kāpiti.
- Investigate options for renewing voluntary no trawl agreement.
- Have a Kāpiti Marine Reserve Management Plan.

- **14 & 15 June 2019 Meeting**

Members of the Rangitikei Environment Group took the Board on a site visit to show what is being done to control Old Man's Beard and discussed what further needs to be done.

The Board has a practice of inviting representatives from community organisations to present at each meeting. Speakers this year have represented:

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.

## 6.5. Community visibility

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

## 6.6. District and regional council advocacy and advice

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

## 6.7. Iwi liaison and advocacy

The Board has an informal relationship with iwi roopu and through the district offices information relating to Board meetings are advised.

The Board will attend iwi hui when requested. Interactions over the past year have been in regard to finalising the Conservation Management Plan and where invitations to attend events and hui have been extended.

## 7. Appendix I – Annual Work Plan

### **Wellington Conservation Board Work Programme 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019**

#### **Work Programme Overview**

This Wellington Conservation Board work programme is structured in three parts, namely:

- Part A: Planned Board activities
  - Review/development/monitoring of statutory management plans including Conservation Management Strategies (CMS);
  - Other statutory functions for the Board;
  - Advocacy; and
  
- Part B: Planned Board activities:
  - working with the Department;
  - taking into account any directives from the Minister of Conservation
  - working with adjoining Boards and the NZCA;
  - understanding the Board’s contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;
  - general engagement with the community, including raising the profile of the Board; and
  
- Part C: risks/issues from the Board’s perspective, and opportunities for conservation growth that are not covered above.

## PART A: REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

### 1 Development of statutory management plans including Conservation Management Strategies

#### 1.1 Board Objective:

##### Planned Board Activities

- (a) Finalisation of Wellington Conservation Management Strategy

#### 1.2 Board Objective: *Determine priorities for implementation of the Conservation Management Strategy, in conjunction with the Department.*

##### Planned Board Activities

- (a) Work with the Department on system to implement CMS commitments via business planning 2018/2019 and beyond.
- (b) Monitor delivery of CMS commitments via Departmental Reports to the Board.

### 3 Other statutory functions<sup>1</sup>

#### 3.1 Board Objective: *Nurture working relationships with Fish and Game Councils regarding issues of mutual interest within the WCB Area*

##### Planned Board Activities

- (a) Continue to have at least one representative liaise with the Fish and Game councils in the WCB area and receive minutes of their meetings.
- (b) On occasion, invite the Senior Fish and Game representative for the WCB region (or NZ) to present at a Board Meeting.

#### 3.2 Board Objective: *The Board will advise on proposed changes of status for nationally and internationally important areas, when sought by the Department*

##### Planned Board Activities

- (a) Consider and provide advice to the Department on proposed changes of status for national or internationally important areas.
- (b) Continue to support the community to engage with the Department on areas of potential international and national interest.

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<sup>1</sup> This section should include Board functions relating to statutory functions under section 6M of the Conservation Act

## 4 Advocacy

- 4.1 **Board Objective: *Pursue all reasonable opportunities to advocate at hui and community forums and in any statutory planning processes relevant to conservation***

### **Planned Board Activities**

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| (a) | Board members will be alert and responsive to opportunities to attend and advocate at appropriate hui and community forums, with the approval of the Chair. |
| (b) | Board members will engage in statutory planning processes and use these as opportunities to advocate for the Board's priorities.                            |

- 4.2 **Board Objective: *Supporting Biodiversity Improvement Actions for our regions***

### **Planned Board Activities**

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| (a) | Support for collaborative landscape scale projects promoting local ecological networks (core areas, corridors, and buffer zones)  |
| (b) | Predator Free NZ 2050 projects.   |
| (c) | Board to engage with regional and national work that promotes ecological integrity of freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems. |

## **PART B: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

### **5 Working with the Department**

**Board Objective: *Board members will maintain good working relationships and open dialogue with Directors, Managers and Board Support Officers in order to engage strategically in conservation for the region***

#### **Planned Board Activities**

- (a) Board members will engage constructively with DOC staff when opportunities arise, including by attending events at DOC offices and training opportunities, and by calling-in to DOC offices when they have the opportunity.
- (b) Board members will allow their professional profile to be on Conservation Board communications media, including the website and any relevant brochures, in order to increase the profile of the Board Members among DOC staff, and within the community.
- (c) Board members will ensure that the provision of advice is focused at the governance level, and not at an operational or management level.
- (d) Board members will advocate for conservation initiatives in our communities - includes both Conservation and Kaitiaki Armies, supporting DOC staff and spreading awareness of these programmes to upskill and initiate local workers into conservation.

## 6 Taking account of Ministerial priorities for the Department<sup>2</sup>

**Board Objective:**

### Planned Board Activities

	To be Confirmed

## 7 Working with adjoining Boards and the NZCA

**Board Objective:**

*Board members will liaise with neighbouring conservation boards in order to progress cross boundary CMS issues and other matters of mutual interest*

### Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

(a)	Continue to have nominated Board members to be liaison points with all neighbouring Boards.
(b)	Ensure advance notice and any relevant materials are given to liaison nominees from neighbouring Boards, in order to support timely and meaningful engagement.
(c)	Consider neighbouring Board views on relevant issues, challenges and opportunities

## 8 Understanding the Board's contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

**Board Objective:**

*The Board will understand and support the Board's and Department's obligations under Treaty settlements as well as principles under section 4 of the Conservation Act*

### Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

(a)	Request and receive progress reports on the implementation of the Department's obligations under Treaty Settlements. These reports are to be a specific section in the regular reports from the Department for the Board.
(b)	Have particular regard to Treaty Settlement and section 4 obligations in the review of the Conservation Management Strategy.

## **9 Engaging with the community, including raising the profile of the Board**

### **Board Objective**

***Board members will liaise regularly with other conservation entities, such as district and regional councils, NGOs and community groups, in order to enhance the profile of the Board and pursue good working relationships on issues of mutual interest and concern***

### **Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones**

(a)	Develop relationships with conservation management entities such as the QEII Trust and Nga Whenua Rahui and invite them to Board meetings to acknowledge significant achievements and ways to work together on conservation goals.
(b)	Allocate specific members to be the Board's lead representative in engaging with groups across the rohe/area, including those leading Conservation Community Partnerships Funded projects. Liaison representative will provide a verbal update at each meeting of the Board.
(c)	Maintain relationships with Councillors across the rohe and report relevant matters to Board meetings, as required.
(d)	Members will seek out opportunities in their own communities of practice to connect with the community and gauge community reaction to conservation initiatives planned or implemented by DOC.

### **10 Board Objective:**

***Board members will take the initiative to meet with community groups and the general public to gauge community reaction to conservation initiatives planned or implemented by DOC***

### **Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones**

(a)	Board to explore new ways to effectively engage with the community and to improve existing mechanisms
(b)	Board to enhance engagement with youth - to deepen their awareness of conservation intrinsically and as an industry as well as the natural environment they live, study, play and work in. (This will include helping to build links within communities for youth, mentors, DOC, and education providers.)
(c)	Board to continue relationship with deer management proposals – engage with concerned parties to ensure agreement and implementation is best for conservation in our region.

## PART C: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### 11 Risks from the Board's perspective

(a)	<b>CMS</b>
(b)	Implementation of Treaty Settlement and section 4 obligations. Continual improvement is sought in the meeting of Department obligations to whanau, hapu and iwi through the CMS. Increased resourcing and/or prioritisation could support this. ‘ Proposed Risk Mitigation – The Board will openly engage with the Department to explore options to improve meeting its obligations, including increased resourcing and/or prioritisation. The Board will work with the Department to engage community in support of section 4 obligations.
(c)	Staffing disruptions within the Department, coupled with delays in recruitment of staff to fill vacancies. Continued restructuring and staff changes could impede Board support and administration, delay advice being considered and implemented and result in Board requests and information provision being delayed. Proposed Risk Mitigation – The Board will urge the Department to move swiftly on recruitment of department staff and where possible to have back-up resourcing in place, adequate Board administrative procedures documented and ensure Board requests and documentation provisions are dealt with as soon as practicable.
(d)	Board not having enough visibility and opportunity to add sufficient value. In order to effectively fulfil its statutory obligations, the Board needs to be visible to the community, widely communicate its purpose, activities and achievement and encourage the community to use it as a voice for conservation to the department. Failure to do this adequately will reduce its value. Proposed Risk Mitigation – Fulfil tasks identified in this work programme.

### 12 Opportunities for conservation growth

(a)	Increased alignment between work of the Department and partners (including conservation groups, conservation agencies, Councils, farmers, and organisations, such as OSPRI).
(b)	Improved water management through initiatives to realise the Land and Water Management Strategy and the National Policy Statement for freshwater management.
(c)	Working more closely with whanau, hapu and iwi.
(d)	Further development and enhancement of urban conservation through community partnerships on pest management and biodiversity strategy.
(e)	Securing and developing business partnerships with local businesses and land owners.



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 Wellington Conservation Board please see the website [www.conservationboards.org.nz](http://www.conservationboards.org.nz) or contact Sara Robinson the board support officer, at the Department of Conservation in Palmerston North phone (027) 611 2442 or e-mail [sarobinson@doc.govt.nz](mailto:sarobinson@doc.govt.nz).

