

# Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservation Board

## Te Runanga Papa Atawhai O Te Upoko O Te Ika A Maui

# Strategies and Priorities 2010-2011

The Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservation Board is appointed by the Minister of Conservation to carry out a range of functions prescribed in the Conservation Act. The Department of Conservation has provided some guidance as to the role of Conservation Boards and the way in which they might operate. Conservation Boards have evolved over time, according to the focus, style and priorities of various Chairs and Conservators.

This document sets out the Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservation Board's mandate, functions, key strategies and priorities for 2010/11.

The Board has agreed these overarching strategies to guide its work within the time and resources available to it. At each meeting the Board will agree actions and tasks, allocate these to members, and review achievements against the schedule.

**Helen Algar**  
Chair  
Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservation Board

# Mandate

The functions of Conservation Boards prescribed in the Conservation Act are:

1. To recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant Acts:
  - The Wildlife Act 1953
  - The Marine Reserves Act 1971
  - The Reserves Act 1977
  - The Wild Animal Control Act 1977
  - The Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978
  - The National Parks Act 1980
  - The New Zealand Walkways act 1990
  - The Conservation Act. s.6M(1)(a)
2. To approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant Acts:
  - The Wildlife Act 1953
  - The Marine Reserves Act 1971
  - The Reserves Act 1977
  - The Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978
  - The Conservation Act. s.6M(1)(b)
3. To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on implementing conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for areas within the Board's jurisdiction. s.6M(1)(c)
4. To advise the Conservation 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 within the Board's jurisdiction s.6M(1)(d)
5. To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on proposals for new walkways in any area within the Board's jurisdiction. s.6M(1)(e)
6. To liaise with the Fish and Game Council on matters within the Board's jurisdiction. s.6M(1)(f)
7. To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this act or any other Acts . s.6M(1)(g)

The Board also has all powers that are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions, including:

- advocating its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process s.6n(2)(a)
- appointing committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegating to them functions and powers s.6N(2)(b)
- appearing before courts and tribunals in NZ and being heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board's functions. s.6N (3)

The Board is required to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi in exercising its functions and powers. s.4

# Key Strategies and Priority Actions for 2010/11

**Strategy 1**    **Participate in the development of the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for the Conservancy so that the Board is able to recommend approval of the CMS by the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) when the development process is completed.**

Project 1.1    Appoint a sub-committee of the Board to work with the Conservator to agree the timing, process and respective responsibilities and aspirations of the Department of Conservation (DoC) and the Board for the non- statutory and statutory stages of the development of a new CMS for the Conservancy.

Project 1.2    Work within the new approach to CMS development as agreed between the NZCA and DoC. Look to retain content where appropriate from the CMS development and consultation processes in contributory conservancies in 2008/09 and 2009/10.

Project 1.3    Continue to develop Board members' knowledge of places and issues throughout the Conservancy with a view to identifying potential shifts in direction or emphasis within the CMS.

Project 1.4    Provide input to and advice on drafts of the non-statutory and statutory draft CMS as opportunities and sections become available.

**Strategy 2**    **Monitor the implementation of the current Wellington CMS to enable the Board to advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on implementation of the CMS.**

The current Wellington and East Coast Hawke's Bay CMS were approved in 1995. Given that these are increasingly dated, the Board focuses instead on monitoring progress against the Conservation Action Plans (CAPs) for the Areas within the Conservancy.

Project 2.1    Monitor the performance of DoC in managing the conservation estate in the Conservancy; hold DOC accountable for achieving the objectives and milestones in the current CMSs <sup>(i)</sup> where relevant, the CAPs or other agreed indicators.

Project 2.2    Provide a mechanism for the public/community to input to, comment on, or 'enquire' about the performance of DoC in the Conservancy <sup>(ii)</sup>

Project 2.3    Continue to work with the Conservator to find ways of fulfilling the Board's statutory responsibility to monitor implementation of the CMS that will also contribute to the prioritisation of operational activities within the Conservancy.

Project 2.4    Report at least annually to the NZCA on implementation of the CMS by way of the Board's Annual Report.

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<sup>i</sup> Whilst maintaining continuity with the current CMS, the Board will ask questions in a way that focuses on performance in relation to the CAPs and looks forward to the new CMS.

<sup>ii</sup> After the Public Forum at each meeting the Board will allocate a member to thank and acknowledge the submitter and if appropriate to seek advice on from DOC for the next meeting; the Board will the advise DOC on the matter if warranted; and will provide feedback to the submitter.

- Strategy 3 Advise on implementation of various statutory and non-statutory management plans within the Wellington Hawke’s Bay Conservancy.**
- Project 3.1 Participate, by appointing a member, in the Kapiti Marine Reserve Committee, to which the Board has delegated its role in relation to the (statutory) Kapiti Marine Reserve Management Plan.
- Project 3.2 Participate, by appointing a member, in the Te Angiangi Marine Reserve Committee; to which the Board’s has delegated its role in relation to the Te Angiangi Marine Reserve
- Project 3.3 Undertake any new statutory roles or agreed non-statutory roles in relation to Plans under any relevant statutes.
- Project 3.4 Contribute to the achievement of the objectives in the (non-statutory) Lake Wairarapa Action Plan by participating in the Lake Wairarapa Co-ordinating Committee.
- Project 3.5 Advise the NZCA or the Director-General on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance (statutory obligation).
- Strategy 4 Advocate for conservation interests within statutory planning processes and public forums to protect or advance conservation interests**
- Project 4.1 Maintain an oversight of the statutory processes, policies, plans and activities of statutory bodies within the Conservancy in terms of their potential impact on conservation interests.
- Project 4.2 Analyse Long Terms Council Community Plans within the Conservancy with a view to identifying potential areas of focus for the Board’s advocacy activities or CMS process.
- Project 4.3 Prioritise and allocate available resources to prepare and make written and oral submissions into statutory, non-statutory and regulatory processes where there are significant conservation interests to be protected or advanced, and where the Board’s submission can add value to any submission which DoC is likely to make.<sup>iii</sup>
- Project 4.4 Make submissions in accordance with an agreed process.<sup>iv</sup>
- Project 4.5 Review at each meeting a schedule of submissions made and underway.
- Project 4.6 Develop a process to publicise the Board’s submissions where appropriate.
- Strategy 6 Advise the Conservator on matters relating to the Wellington Hawke’s Bay Conservancy (discretionary)**
- Project 6.1 Provide advice to the Conservator on applications for concessions within the Conservancy, in accordance with the agreed process.
- Project 6.2 Proactively provide advice to the Conservator on relevant issues, drawing on the expertise available to the Board.

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<sup>iii</sup> At each meeting the Board will consider a report from the Conservancy planners on submissions underway; identify matters on which the Board might submit; identify members with expertise and time to prepare a submission; and agree whether to make a submission. A similar process may occur by email between meetings.

<sup>iv</sup> If the Board agrees to make a submission, one member is prepared to take the lead and at least two members are prepared to contribute, they will prepare a draft for approval at the next meeting (or approval by round robin and confirmation at the next meeting).

Project 6.3 Advise as invited by the Conservator in processes to agree priorities and activities across the Conservancy. <sup>(v)</sup>

**Strategy 7 Build relationships with other bodies which have an impact on conservation matters within the Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservancy.**

Project 7.1 Liaise with the regional Fish and Game Councils on matters within the Conservancy. (Statutory responsibility)

Project 7.2 Co-sponsor with the Conservancy and Greater Wellington the Encore Awards at Parliament in Conservation Week; consider extending the concept to other regions within the Conservancy. Continue to identify opportunities for joint field inspections with Regional Councils.

Project 7.3 Appoint a member to , and maintain a relationship with, the National Wildlife Centre Trust.

Project 7.4 Review the range of bodies with which the Board has relationships.

**Strategy 8 Advise the NZCA or the Director-General on matters which need to be progressed at Conservancy or national level.**

Project 8.1 Advise the NZCA and the Director-General on proposals for new walkways in any area within the Board's jurisdiction (statutory obligation until disestablished).

Project 8.2 Advise the NZCA or the Director-General on matters relating to the Conservancy which need to be progressed at national level.

Project 8.3 Advocate within appropriate processes for resources to address conservation issues within the Conservancy.

Project 8.3 Maintain a working relationship with the NZCA liaison person for the Board and provide regular updates to the NZCA on progress by the Conservancy in reviewing the CMS.

Project 8.5 Advise the Director General on draft DoC policies, strategies and action plans referred to the Board or of which the Board becomes aware.

**Strategy 9 Enhance the capacity of the Board to fulfil its functions effectively**

Project 9.1 Maintain awareness and understanding of the Treaty claims underway in the Conservancy and their implications for conservation and the CMS.

Project 9.2 Decide whether and to what extent the Board wishes to exercise a "community voice" function.

Project 9.4 Agree principles and procedures for communications from the Wellington Conservation Board, including a media policy.

Project 9.5 Seek to fill gaps in expertise and geographic coverage, by advice to the Conservator, the NZCA and the Minister in relation to appointments and by co-options to the Board.

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<sup>v</sup> This project also contributes to monitoring the current CMS and will be most useful if it converges with the process for developing the new CMS.