

# Annual Report of the New Zealand Conservation Authority

TE POU ATAWHAI TAIAO O AOTEAROA

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2006



Cover photo: Kea on top of Avalanche Peak with Crow River Valley below, Arthur's Pass National Park, February 2006, photographer: Timothy Ensom

**Annual Report of the**  
**New Zealand Conservation Authority**  
**for the period**  
**1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006**

Presented to the Minister of Conservation and tabled in the House of Representatives pursuant to section 6E of the Conservation Act 1987

30 November 2006

Hon Chris Carter  
Minister of Conservation  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON

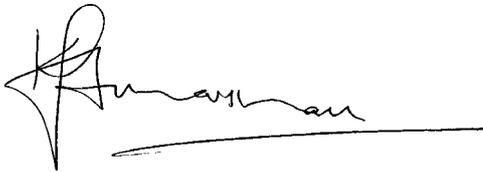
Dear Minister

I submit, in terms of Section 6E of the Conservation Act 1987, the fourteenth report of the New Zealand Conservation Authority covering the period of 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006. The Act requires that the Authority shall in each year make a report to the Minister on the exercise of its functions and powers.

This report includes information derived from the annual reports of the 14 conservation boards: full copies of their reports are available on request.

It is customary to commend to you the contributions made by individual members of the Authority and the conservation boards. I have pleasure in doing so in regards to their efforts in the past year. The Authority and conservation boards continue to make a difference in helping shape conservation management in New Zealand.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Marshall', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kerry Marshall  
Chairperson  
New Zealand Conservation Authority

## Vision Statement

*In its statutory role, the New Zealand Conservation Authority/Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa will show leadership as an independent adviser on conservation. It will be an advocate for conservation within the framework of the Treaty of Waitangi by promoting, initiating and drawing attention to major conservation issues, and will seek to have all people participate in conservation in all facets of their lives.*

## The New Zealand Conservation Authority Members



Photo: Brian Sheppard 2006

Left to right: Basil Morrison, Barbara Arnold, Linda Conning, David Chandler, Kerry Marshall (chairperson), Kay Booth, Robyn Jebson, Wendy Nelson, Charles Crofts, Lorraine Stephenson, Michael Crozier, John Nankervis, Hugh Logan (Director-General of Conservation).

Absent: Piri Sciascia

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority) is a statutory body established by section 6A of the Conservation Act 1987. It represents the long-term public interest in conservation and is closely involved in conservation planning and policy development affecting the management of public conservation lands administered by the Department of Conservation. The Authority is not a board of directors with governance responsibilities.

The functions of the Authority are set out in section 6B of the Conservation Act 1987, and in the National Parks Act 1980, 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 and the New Zealand Walkways Act 1990. It also has specified responsibilities with regard to consultation with tangata whenua set out in Treaty claims settlement legislation.

The Authority met formally on six occasions during the 2005/2006 reporting period – in August, October and December 2005, and in February, April and June 2006. Four of the meetings were held in Wellington, one in Shantytown (West Coast) in October 2005, and one in Nelson in February 2006.

In Shantytown and Nelson the Authority was able to meet with the West Coast Tai Poutini and Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Boards respectively. The opportunity was also taken to undertake joint field trips: on the West Coast to a number of sites in the Grey Valley, and in Nelson to the Abel Tasman National Park coast.

This year was the first on the Authority for seven of its members. They brought new energy and perspectives to the Authority's deliberations.

Following on from the concentrated effort of the previous three years in revising the General Policy for National Parks and contributing to the development of the Conservation General Policy, the Authority has been keen to see that work translated into the review of conservation management strategies. Engagement with the Department in the development of guidance for that task was a major interest of the Authority during the year.

Authority members welcomed the opportunity to discuss conservation issues with the Minister of Conservation twice during the year. The chairperson also met with the Minister on a number of occasions.

## 2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

Membership of the Authority during the reporting period was as follows:

	Number meetings attended*
Barbara Arnold, Palmerston North	5
Kay Booth, Christchurch	6
David Chandler, Auckland	5
Linda Conning, Te Teko	5
Charles Crofts, Diamond Harbour	5
Michael Crozier, Wellington	6
Robyn Jebson, Queenstown	5

Kerry Marshall, Richmond (chairperson)	6
Basil Morrison, Paeroa	6
John Nankervis, Wellington	5
Wendy Nelson, Wellington	6
Piri Sciascia, Wellington	6
Lorraine Stephenson, Dannevirke	4

\* includes part attendance

Authority members are appointed by the Minister of Conservation.

### **3. FEES AND ALLOWANCES**

The chairperson receives a daily meeting fee of \$290 and other Authority members receive a daily meeting fee of \$215. Members can also be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred while engaged on Authority business.

Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951.

### **4. THE CONSERVATION ACT 1987**

#### **4.1 Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987**

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 states “This Act shall so be interpreted and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi”. The Authority is established under the Conservation Act 1987 and section 4 applies to the Authority in the discharge of its functions.

The Authority has developed a template to assist it to give effect to section 4 in its work.

#### **4.2 Section 6B (1) of the Conservation Act 1987 – Functions of the Authority**

##### **(a) General Policy**

The review of the 1983 General Policy for National Parks was completed in April 2005, when the Authority adopted the statement and approved it for publication.

During the current reporting period the Authority received a request from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to amend the General Policy for National Parks to make specific provision for commercial customary use in national parks. Currently only non-commercial customary use has a specific policy. No discrimination is made in relation to commercial activities on the grounds of customary use in the General Policy. The request from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu was still under consideration at the end of the reporting period.

##### **(b) Conservation Management Strategies and Plans**

A conservation management strategy (CMS) outlines a ten-year plan for integrated conservation management in a conservancy. Each conservancy’s CMS is prepared by the Department in consultation with its conservation board. Once a CMS has been publicly

released and amended in light of public submissions, the conservation board reviews the amendments and refers the CMS to the Authority for approval.

All CMSs, except for the West Coast CMS, have been approved by the Authority. There are sixteen approved CMSs. A number of CMSs are now due to be reviewed, having reached the end of their ten-year working lives. The status of CMSs as at 30 June 2006 can be found in the First Schedule at the back of this annual report.

During the reporting period, the Department of Conservation, in consultation with the Authority, developed guidelines for the revision of CMSs. The purpose was to assist planners to interpret the new statements of general policy, and achieve greater national consistency, where appropriate, across the CMSs. This latter purpose should result in more nationally consistent implementation of policies, and facilitate reporting on implementation to build a national picture of the priorities and outcomes of conservation management.

### **(c) Review of the Effectiveness of the Department of Conservation's Administration of General Policies**

The Conservation General Policy was adopted by the Minister of Conservation in May 2005. The Authority undertook no work on the Conservation General Policy in the reporting period.

The statement of General Policy for Walkways (New Zealand Walkways Policy) was adopted in April 1995. A review of the effectiveness of the Department of Conservation's administration of this General Policy is desirable. The Authority has not undertaken such a review because for some years now the Government has been investigating public walking access generally. Almost inevitably, the outcome will have implications for Walkways, the General Policy, and the Authority's role in relation to Walkways.

### **(d) Conservation Matters of National Importance**

The Authority prepared a Briefing to the Incoming Minister of Conservation as a result of the General Election. The main issues addressed were the need to review conservation management strategies, the classification of stewardship areas, the treatment of national parks under the Crown Minerals Act, strategies for kiwi protection, the need for integrated conservation management, the need for better biosecurity in the marine and freshwater environments and to protect indigenous biodiversity generally. The full text can be read on the Authority's webpage ([www.conservationauthority.org.nz](http://www.conservationauthority.org.nz)).

The Authority received presentations from the Department, and/or submitted or provided advice to the Department or the Minister, on the following topics:

- Concessions and tourism
- Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act
- Ngāi Tahu customary use
- Deer farming regulations review
- Kaikoura Ranges – change of land status proposals
- Mining in Paparoa National Park (see also section 5.5)
- Nature conservation impacts of wind-farms

- Biosecurity issues
- Himalayan Thar Control Plan annual report
- Department of Conservation leadership in outdoor recreation
- Department of Conservation Strategic Direction
- Urgent repairs to the Wilmot Pass Road, Fiordland National Park
- Vehicles on beaches
- Outdoor walking access
- Benthic areas – closure of areas to bottom trawling
- *Undaria pinnatifida* – Fiordland Marine Area
- Southern saltmarsh mosquito - Coromandel

### Kiwi

In last year's annual report, the Authority noted differences of view between it and the Department with regard to the proposals in the draft Kiwi Recovery Plan for 2006 to 2016. The Authority is conscious that it has yet to deliver on its undertaking to the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board to try and arrange a meeting between the Authority and the Board with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance concerning the decline in kiwi populations. The Minister of Conservation asked that the Authority await a report he had commissioned from the Department of Conservation. This was still unavailable at the end of the reporting period. The draft Kiwi Recovery Plan for 2006 to 2016 was overdue for release for public comment at the end of the reporting period.

### **(e) Change of Status**

See section 5.3 of this report.

### **(f) Walkways**

No work specific to New Zealand Walkways was carried out by the Authority during the reporting period. (See also section 4.2(c))

### **(g) Education and Publicity**

Due to the redesign of the Department of Conservation's website which hosts the Authority's webpage, minimum new material was added during the year. However, copies of minutes and agendas and the Authority's functions can be found there ([www.conservationsauthority.org.nz](http://www.conservationsauthority.org.nz)).

Also available are several documents published by the Authority in recent years, such as the *General Policy for National Parks, Pests and Weeds: A Blueprint for Action*, the popular *New Zealand's Walkways* booklet, and its 1997 documents on Māori customary use.

At the end of the reporting period the Authority published a plain language guide: *Department of Conservation's statutory planning processes – "What they mean for you and how you can have your say"*.

## **(h) Priorities for Expenditure by the Department of Conservation**

Section 6B (1) (h) of the Conservation Act 1987 provides for the Authority “to advise the Minister and the Director-General annually on priorities for the expenditure of money”.

Authority members discussed priorities for 2006/2007 at its meeting in October 2005 and developed the following advice:

- ◆ Review of conservation management strategies and national park management plans to reflect the 2005 statements of general policy;
- ◆ Provide more funding for conservation boards for their role in those reviews;
- ◆ Monitor trends, pressure sites, pressure activities and new activities (including baseline research);
- ◆ Education and advocacy to win hearts and minds for conservation;
- ◆ Reclassification of stewardship land.

## **(i) New Zealand Fish and Game Council Liaison**

Section 6B (1) (i) of the Conservation Act 1987 provides for the Authority to liaise with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (the Council). The Authority provided the Council with copies of its agendas and meeting papers during the reporting period.

## **(j) Ministerial Delegations**

There were no Ministerial delegations during the reporting period.

### **4.3 Section 6C of the Conservation Act 1987 – Powers of the Authority**

#### **(a) Establishment of Committees**

The Conservation Act provides for the Authority to establish committees to carry out tasks delegated by the Authority. Just one committee was operative:

##### Tongariro National Park Management Plan Committee

John Nankervis (convenor), Barbara Arnold, Linda Conning and Piri Sciascia.

#### **(b) Advocate the Interests of the Authority**

Kerry Marshall was the opening speaker for the 2005 Conservation Week lunchtime addresses at St Paul’s Anglican Cathedral, Wellington.

The Authority wrote to the Minister for the Environment in support of concerns expressed by the Guardians of Fiordland that *Undaria pinnatifida* could invade the pristine waters of Fiordland on vessels traveling from Bluff Harbour. The Authority has long been disheartened at the lack of funding to eradicate alien invaders that threaten New Zealand’s unique environment and indigenous biodiversity.

John Nankervis represented the Authority at the Seachange 05 conference held in November 2005.

Kerry Marshall represented the Authority at the Tourism on Conservation Land Forum meetings through-out the year, supported by John Nankervis. The Authority was concerned at the light representation of conservation interests and the lack of senior departmental personnel in attendance.

In November, Kerry Marshall was interviewed by officers from the Office of the Auditor-General which undertook an audit of the Department of Conservation's performance in planning for, and managing, publicly-owned land.

## **5. FUNCTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL PARKS ACT 1980**

### **5.1 General Policy for National Parks**

See section 4.2 of this report.

### **5.2 National Park Management Plans**

Details of national park management plans' approval dates and/or status of reviews as at 30 June 2006 can be found in the Second Schedule at the back of this report.

At its December 2005 meeting, the Authority received the Tongariro National Park Management Plan for approval. Warwick Sylvester and Les Molloy represented the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board. Paul Green (conservator) and Rowena Cudby (planner) were present for the Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy. Two issues were highlighted – the Tongariro Crossing (as the biggest management issue needing resolution) and the Old Ohakune Coach Road (as an example of the benefits of the public submissions process). The Authority established a committee of John Nankervis (convenor), Barbara Arnold, Linda Conning and Piri Sciascia to lead the Authority's work on the plan.

### **5.3 Establishment of, Additions to, and Deletions from, National Parks**

In August 2005 the Authority approved the addition of three small parcels of land to Westland National Park. These parcels were former State Highway 6 land exchanged for former national park land needed for improvements to the approaches to the bridge over the Omoeroa River.

### **5.4 National Park Investigations**

No new national park investigations were begun during the reporting period.

### **5.5 Mining in a National Park**

An access arrangement was sought to mine in an area added to Paparoa National Park in 2002. Mining had occurred previously in the area and regeneration of natural vegetation was in the early stages. The Authority supported the application subject to a range of conditions, one of which being that no more than one hectare be disturbed at any one time.

## 5.6 **Ruakituri Wilderness Area**

The Authority welcomed the formal gazettal of the Ruakituri Wilderness Area in Te Urewera National Park in February 2006.

## 6. **MEMBERSHIP OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

### 6.1 **JD Stout Trust**

The Authority is a member of the JD Stout Trust. The Trust makes donations or interest-free loans for conservation and cultural purposes. Michael Crozier is the Authority's representative.

### 6.2 **The World Conservation Union (IUCN)**

The Authority is one of seven members of the New Zealand Committee of the IUCN. This committee holds meetings quarterly. The Authority is represented by John Nankervis. Wendy Nelson is the Authority's alternate representative.

### 6.3 **Treasured Species Trust**

The Authority chairperson is a trustee. There were no meetings of the Trust during the reporting period.

## 7. **CONSERVATION BOARDS**

### 7.1 **Conservation Board Nominations**

The Minister is required to consult with the Authority prior to appointing members to conservation boards. In May 2006 the Authority provided its advice to the Minister with respect to the conservation board appointments for 2006.

### 7.2 **Authority/Conservation Board Liaison**

One Authority member acts as an Authority liaison person with each conservation board. The following members are the liaison persons with the conservation boards indicated:

<b>Conservation Board</b>	<b>Authority Liaison Person</b>
Northland	Piri Sciascia
Auckland	David Chandler
Waikato	Basil Morrison
Bay of Plenty	Linda Conning
East Coast/Hawke's Bay	Lorraine Stephenson/Linda Conning
Tongariro/Taupo	John Nankervis
Taranaki/Whanganui	Barbara Arnold
Wellington	Michael Crozier
Chatham Islands	John Nankervis
Nelson/Marlborough	Kerry Marshall
West Coast Tai Poutini	Charles Crofts
Canterbury Aoraki	Kay Booth
Otago	Robyn Jebson

### 7.3 Meetings with Conservation Boards

The Authority meets away from Wellington once or twice a year and uses that opportunity to meet with conservation boards and discuss local conservation issues of national importance. As noted at the start of this report, the Authority met with the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board in October 2005 and the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board in February 2006.

The conservation matters of concern highlighted by the boards with both regional and national importance were (West Coast Tai Poutini): threats to natural quiet from motorised transport, loss of wetlands and other freshwater habitats, lack of funding to upgrade Department of Conservation's visitor centres, and (Nelson/Marlborough): wilding trees, hut fees for children, the marine environment and management planning processes.

### 7.4 Annual Reports

The fourteen conservation boards have furnished the Authority with their annual reports for the year ended 30 June 2006 in accordance with section 6O of the Conservation Act 1987.

### 7.5 Implementation of Conservation Management Strategies

Most conservation boards have adopted systematic processes for monitoring CMS progress and providing advice to the Department's conservancies as they implement CMSs. The boards have reported on this monitoring in their annual reports.

### 7.6 Conservation Management Plans

No plans were approved during the reporting period.

### 7.7 Conservation Board Chairpersons' Conference

On 18 and 19 May 2006, the Authority held a two-day conference for the chairpersons of the fourteen conservation boards at Porirua. The conference provided the chairpersons with the opportunity to receive presentations and hold discussions with senior managers of the Department of Conservation and to better understand national conservation initiatives and priorities. It included sessions on the Department's strategic direction with the acting Director-General and the draft conservation management strategy guidelines with the project leader. Unpublished research on how five conservation boards interpreted their role was thought provoking. Common concerns were erosion of natural quiet in the backcountry by motorised transport, particularly aircraft, other visitor-related pressures on natural values, threats to freshwater ecosystem health, and the benefits and policing of marine reserves.

### 7.8 Māori Conservation Leadership Hui

On 1 June 2006, the Authority arranged a Māori Conservation Leadership hui which was held at Te Herenga Waka Marae, Wellington. The main focus of the hui was to discuss

how to build capacity and capability of Māori to assist them to engage effectively in debates that impact on Māori conservation interests. Members of conservation boards who are Māori made up the majority of attendees, which was by invitation. At the end of the day, the Associate Minister of Conservation and the acting Director-General were on hand, along with the chairperson (who had attended throughout the hui) for the Authority, to hear the key messages formulated at the hui. As at the end of the reporting period the Authority had yet to consider the key messages.

## 7.9 Board Advice and Advocacy

The following lists some of the issues and activities of individual boards during the reporting period. These matters are more fully covered in the boards' individual annual reports. The contact details for the boards are given in the Third Schedule of this report.

<b>CONSERVATION BOARD</b>	Brief summary of the main issues and activities of the Board during the reporting period
<i>Northland</i>	Held a "Rural Sustainability Workshop" in July which involved a large cross-section of the community. Monitored the implementation of the Northland CMS. Progressed concept of "Marine Park". Key focus for the Board is sustainability and DOC's Strategic Direction.
<i>Auckland</i>	Development and strategic planning issues dominate in Auckland, and the Board has been active in advocating for conservation values. Other issues considered were benthic protected areas, white pointer sharks, cutting flax on Tiritiri Matangi, the regional pest management strategy, deer control, the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Bill and Long Bay structures plan.
<i>Waikato</i>	Meeting with Environment Waikato councillors, advocacy for the timely review of the Waikato CMS to ensure that the process is completed by December 2008; review of the Board's strategic plan; clearfelling of forests along waterways in the Coromandel; monitoring of progress with implementation of the CMS.
<i>Bay of Plenty</i>	Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve action plan; received and considered 6 CMS monitoring reports. Progressed the Board's Strategic Plan. Advised DOC on the Bay of Plenty electricity Kaituna hydro project application; supported legislative amendment for the Whirinaki Forest Park; submitted on Aquaculture Management Areas; advocated for conservation board legal contingency fund.
<i>East Coast/Hawke's Bay</i>	Indigenous vegetation clearance, erosion and flood risk – major issues. Seven submissions lodged. Welcomed formal gazettal Ruakituri Wilderness Area first proposed in 1976. Developed board strategic plan. Gave advice on all concession applications. Participation on the committees of the two marine reserves within the Board's area.
<i>Tongariro/Taupo</i>	Completed review Tongariro National Park Management Plan and handed it to the NZCA for approval; public hearings on submissions to review of Kaimanawa Park Management Plan held; 3 submissions lodged; advised on

	concessions applications which met pre-set criteria; received and considered 7 CMS monitoring reports.
<i>Taranaki/Whanganui</i>	Pre-consultation on review of Whanganui National Park Management Plan; received and commented on CMS reports on 6 ecological districts; continued kiwi advocacy; land exchange at Taunoka – public access issue; lodged 10 submissions; noted with pleasure approval of Paraninihi marine reserve after 15 year process; developed a strategic plan; member of Joint Advisory Committee with Ngati Tama and DOC for Whitecliffs and Paraninihi – met twice.
<i>Wellington</i>	Focus on issues arising from coastal development, threats to landforms, water quality and eel populations; future management of Kapiti Island northern end; received and commented on 5 CMS reports; 6 submissions lodged; focus on pest monitoring and control.
<i>Chatham Islands</i>	Received and considered 12 reports on CMS topics. Gave advice on 11 research proposals; gave advice on deformed tākō chick; submitted on the proposed biosecurity strategy for the Chatham Islands and the Chatham Islands Long Term Community Plan
<i>Nelson/Marlborough</i>	Received and commented on 3 CMS monitoring reports; gave advice on concessions hotspots, Mt Burnett access application, Takapourewa (Stephen's Island) tuatara viewing concession application, air access strategy for Kahurangi National Park; didymo. Involved in management planning for Puponga Recreation Reserve and Farewell Spit Nature Reserve, Te Waikoropupu Springs, Queen Charlotte Track and Abel Tasman National Park – draft plan notified for submissions. Horoirangi Marine Reserve opened.
<i>West Coast Tai Poutini</i>	Continuing development of the CMS. Advice given on a number of concession applications, access arrangements, visitor assets. Submitted/gave advice on a number of conservation issues of concern to the board e.g. deer in captivity, didymo, natural quiet, application by Solid Energy NZ Ltd to translocate <i>Powelliphanta</i> 'Augustus' snails, land disposals, visitor centre funding, great white shark management. Submitted on some resource consents & proposed plan changes.
<i>Canterbury Aoraki</i>	Operated the Pohatu Marine Reserve Advisory Committee; Te Waihora Joint Management Plan; Waitaki Catchment committee; several field inspections over wide conservancy area; official opening of Ahuriri Conservation Park.
<i>Otago</i>	Gave advice on 4 concession applications; received CMS monitoring reports on 19 topics; lodged 7 tenure review and 7 other submissions; considered Whatatorere Historic Reserve access issue; considered Milford Dart Ltd. proposal to amend the Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan; concerned at delays in reviewing the Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan as a whole.
<i>Southland</i>	Water issues are a major focus, submissions on regional plans, resource consents. Other issues; <i>Undaria</i> , Didymo,

	recreation. Most of the Board’s time during the reporting period has been devoted to work on the draft Fiordland National Park Management Plan. The Board held extra meetings to work solely on the draft Plan.
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**8. CONCLUSION**

The Authority is not an NGO; nor is it a Governance body. It has a statutory and mandatory role which revolves around Conservation Management Strategies and Plans that are submitted to it for approval. It then, as this element of the Authority’s work tends to be `tidal`, gives consideration to where it can have the most influence and make the greatest difference in other conservation matters. Significantly it has a special relationship with the Department of Conservation. The Department, through the Director – General and his senior management, recognizes that the Authority has a valuable role by discussing and advising on the strategic thinking and major policy issues that are core to the Department’s current and future operations. Increasingly both the department and the Minister seek the views of the Authority to test their thinking and proposed actions as a litmus test of the wider community’s views.

Seven new members were appointed to the Authority early in this financial year. They brought new perspectives and experiences to the Authority’s business as it entered a new era having completed the revision of the General Policy for National Parks in April 2005. I was asked to remain as chair of the Authority by the Minister for a further term and I am delighted to lead a team of such dedicated and remarkable conservation nous and energy.

The Auditor General’s audit report of the Department’s planning for and management of public conservation land highlighted that there had been slippage in meeting its statutory planning timelines. The Authority has been and continues to be an advocate for the timely review of conservation management strategies and national park management plans. It considers that if they are reviewed every 10 years as provided for in legislation and are forward looking and strategic in their approach, focusing on values and desired outcomes, that they should serve public conservation lands well.

It is worth noting that the Department has to make difficult choices as to priorities as its resources continue to be stretched. The ever increasing biosecurity threats, new and old, pose enormous challenges. We are barely holding the line and New Zealand’s unique flora and fauna are under continual siege. For example the Authority, along with the conservation boards, is particularly anxious about the future of our national icon – the kiwi. There are wonderful “Save the Kiwi” programmes and initiatives throughout the country that are making a major difference, but numbers of kiwi continue to decline. And all is not well in our marine environment either. The Guardians of Fiordland have taken up the cudgels to try and prevent *Undaria pinnatifida* invading the pristine waters of the Fiordland fiords – a pest beneath the waves, out of sight, but continuing to colonise and wreak havoc to our marine treasures. The Authority looks forward to the day when there is adequate resourcing ‘to turn the tide’ for both short and long-term necessary conservation work.

All that aside, we are fortunate in New Zealand that we have so much of our natural heritage which is protected. This provides a baseline to measure change against, a refuge for recreation and spiritual renewal as well as being a treasure house of tangibles and

intangibles of which the current generation is guardian until those who come after us are able to take their turn.

## **9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I should like also to thank Hugh Logan, who completed his tenure as the Director-General of Conservation in May 2006, for his support of the Authority throughout the period that he led the Department. While he might not always have agreed with the Authority's advice, he always showed it respect, attended its meetings, participated in its activities and, I believe, valued the opportunity for frank debate. The Authority for its part tried to transcend the partisan views of its individual members and give the Director-General wise counsel.

The staff who service the Authority and those other departmental officers who have made presentations, prepared reports, met with the Authority and organized field trips for it are all worthy of special mention. The periodic fieldtrips the Authority makes to conservancies are most enlightening. New Zealand is fortunate in having such a dedicated and enthusiastic Department team caring for our public conservation lands and their associated biodiversity.

I acknowledge the efforts of conservation board members and their conservancy staff for their work over the past year. There is no question that the demands on their time and commitment are becoming increasingly stretched as expectations rise and the public lands expand. Some have received recognition in the New Zealand Honours lists and I was gladdened at that recognition of their hard work and significant contributions to conservation.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge Kevin Smith who died in August 2005. At the time Kevin was the conservation private secretary to the Minister of Conservation but he had been an active conservationist throughout his adult life. The Authority had shared an evening with Kevin and the Minister the week before he died and members feel most fortunate that they had had that time with him so near to the sudden end of his life. Kua hinga te kahikatea o te wao nui a Tāne.

## FIRST SCHEDULE

### Conservation management strategies - approval dates

Conservation management strategy	Conservation management strategy activity
Northland	Approved 15 April 1999 on the understanding that a review would be considered after 3 years. The decision to develop general policy delayed the review.
Auckland	Approved 31 May 1995
Waikato	Approved 24 September 1996
Bay of Plenty	Approved 4 December 1997
East Coast	Approved 14 October 1998
Tongariro/Taupo	Approved 30 May 2002
Wanganui	Approved 9 April 1997
Hawke's Bay	Approved 19 October 1994
Wellington	Approved 13 March 1996
Chatham Islands	Approved 12 August 1999
Nelson/Marlborough	Approved 12 September 1996
West Coast	In working draft
Canterbury	Approved 14 June 2000
Otago	Approved 15 August 1998
Mainland Southland - West Otago	Approved 10 July 1998
Stewart Island - Rakiura	Approved 4 December 1997
Subantarctic Islands	Approved 16 July 1998

## SECOND SCHEDULE

### National park management plans - approval dates and/or status of reviews as at 30 June 2006

National park management plan	Date approved	Review update
Abel Tasman	July 1986	Currently under review
Aoraki/Mount Cook	14 August 2004	
Arthur's Pass	October 1994	Currently under review
Egmont	14 February 2002	
Fiordland	August 1991	Currently under review
Kahurangi	14 June 2001	
Mount Aspiring	October 1994	Currently under review
Nelson Lakes	10 October 2002	
Paparoa	18 November 1992	
Rakiura	To be prepared	
Te Urewera	13 February 2003	
Tongariro	December 1989	Currently under review
Westland Tai Poutini	13 December 2001	
Whanganui	March 1989	Currently under review

### THIRD SCHEDULE

#### Conservation board address list

Conservation Board	Board address (c/- Department of Conservation)	Board Support Officer
Northland	PO Box 842 Whangarei 0140	Jeannie Hogarth
Auckland	Private Bag 68908 Newton Auckland 1145	Rebecca Rush
Waikato	Private Bag 3072 Waikato Mail Centre Hamilton 3240	Des Williams
Bay of Plenty	PO Box 1146 Rotorua 3040	Leilani Fraser
East Coast/Hawke's Bay	PO Box 668 Gisborne 4040	Kerry Riddell
Tongariro/Taupo	Private Bag 2 Turangi 3353	Jo Hood
Taranaki/Whanganui	Private Bag 3016 Wanganui Mail Centre Wanganui 4540	Kelley O'Hara
Wellington	PO Box 5086 Lambton Quay Wellington 6145	Kerry Swadling
Chatham Islands	P O Box 114 Waitangi Chatham Islands 8942	Alex McKillop
Nelson/Marlborough	Private Bag 5 Nelson Mail Centre Nelson 7042	Louise Dowdell
West Coast Tai Poutini	Private Bag 701 Hokitika 7842	Janet Orchard
Canterbury Aoraki	Private Bag 4715 Christchurch Mail Centre Christchurch 8140	Brenda Preston
Otago	PO Box 5244 Moray Place Dunedin 9058	Mark Clark
Southland	PO Box 743 Invercargill 9840	Perry Ferguson

New Zealand Conservation Authority  
PO Box 10 420  
Wellington

[www.conservationauthority.org.nz](http://www.conservationauthority.org.nz)

