



Milford Sound Piopiotahi Programme Board meeting summary

Date:	1 April 2026
Venue:	Queenstown
Chair:	Penny Nelson (DOC)
Board members:	Jenn Bestwick (Independent), Nora Burghart (MBIE), Jana Davis (Ngāi Tahu), Nadia Wesley-Smith (Ngāi Tahu), Barry Bragg (Ngāi Tahu), Dave Beeche (Independent), Phil O'Reilly (Independent), Sarah Greaney (Community Representative), Stephanie Rowe (DOC), Lucy Hicks (attending on behalf of Rob Phillips Environment Southland)
Other attendees:	Pip Fox (DOC), Tracey Fraser Emergency Management Southland, Andy Roberts (DOC), Tania Short (DOC), Celia Haden (DOC), Cat Wilson, Director Heritage and Visitors (DOC), DOC Piopiotahi Programme Team members

Summary

- The Board had its fourth meeting in Queenstown on 1 April.
- The Board agreed that interventions to manage private vehicle congestion are the top priority for next season. These will need to include upgrades to support pedestrian safety; a behaviour-change campaign; investigation of the introduction of further paid carparking; and potential improvements to the overflow carparking system offered in summer 2025/26.
- They were updated on work underway on emergency planning and noted that resource constraints are a challenge to progress. Environment Southland and DOC have committed to work with Emergency Management Southland to ensure this work is sufficiently resourced for progress to be made.
- The Board acknowledged that all operators at Piopiotahi will need to collaborate to ensure any future emergency situation can be well resolved, and that the Te Anau community also have an important supporting role.
- They endorsed the Programme commissioning a study to investigate the future use of Pariora (Little Tahiti) as this former landfill site has now been remediated. The investigation will include an assessment of the suitability of this site for various uses, including as possible staff and/or visitor accommodation.
- Board members considered how the spatial plan/layout at Piopiotahi could change in future.
- Board members were pleased to hear that the Milford Sound Piopiotahi Programme Team has been engaging with community members in Te Anau and at Piopiotahi. They encouraged the team to continue to connect locally, and to seek further community input into thinking around transport and a future spatial plan for the area.

Next meeting

The next Programme Board meeting will be held on 9 July 2026