



Milford Sound Piopiotahi Programme Board meeting summary

Date:	18 - 19 February 2026
Venue:	Waihōpai Invercargill and Piopiotahi Milford Sound
Chair:	Penny Nelson (DOC)
Board members:	Jenn Bestwick (Independent), Nora Burghart (MBIE), Rob Phillips (Environment Southland), Jana Davis (Ngāi Tahu), Nadia Wesley-Smith (Ngāi Tahu), Barry Bragg (Ngāi Tahu), Dave Beeche (Independent), Sarah Greaney (Community Representative), Stephanie Rowe (DOC)
Apologies:	Phil O'Reilly (Independent)
Other attendees:	Michael Skerrett, Muriel Johnstone (Ngāi Tahu), John Twidle (Southland District Council), Aaron Fleming (DOC), Catherine Wilson (DOC), DOC Piopiotahi Programme Team members

Summary

- The Board had their third meeting in Invercargill on 18 February, where they welcomed new community representative Sarah Greaney. Sarah is a Te Anau resident committed to advocating for her local community, and a tourism business operator (with links to hospitality, transport, accommodation and both the Queenstown and Te Anau markets). Serving on the Southland District Council since 2022, and a member of the Milford Community Trust, she brings extensive governance experience.
- Discussions included current seasonal activity at Piopiotahi, updates on DOC's visitor experience improvements and work to protect and restore biodiversity in the area.
- Transport planning remains a top priority for the Board and DOC will connect with the Te Anau community and key stakeholders on this work in March. The Programme will examine options for the short, medium and longer-term and consider initiatives to support summer 2026/27.
- The Board visited Milford Sound Piopiotahi on Thursday 19 February, during the busy lunar new year period. Travelling along the Milford Road on such a busy day made the challenges and opportunities of operating in such a spectacular and demanding landscape very clear to all Board members.
- Board members were grateful for the manaakitanga they received from Ngāi Tahu and to be joined by Michael Skerrett and Muriel Johnstone, the Ngāi Tahu representatives who served on the MOP Board, who shared their deep knowledge and connections.
- The Board has committed to holding another hui in Te Anau and Piopiotahi Milford Sound before the next summer season.

Next meeting

The next Programme Board meeting will be held on 1 April 2026 in Queenstown.