

Foreword

This review of the Egmont National Park Management Plan has been prepared in accordance with Section 47 of the National Parks Act 1980. The previous plan, prepared by the Department of Lands and Survey, became operative in May 1986. The plan is a statutory document which implements the Wanganui Conservancy Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) and establishes objectives for the integrated management of the natural, historic, cultural and recreational values of Egmont National Park.

A conservation management plan is a statement of intent and does not override the provisions of legislation, general policy and agreements. The goals of this plan express the Department's overall management intentions for the park for the next 10 years and beyond. Achievement will be determined by the availability of resources and level of community support. The plan does not establish a promised level of funding. Nonetheless, the stated objectives and policies are underscored by a commitment to endeavour to obtain the necessary funding and support. The plan is intended to stand-alone, although the resolution of some specific issues may be found in the Conservation Management Strategy or National Parks Act 1980.

Any new legislation must be taken into account in the ongoing use of this plan. The Department recognises that management plans are always being developed and implemented in an environment of evolving legislation and policy.

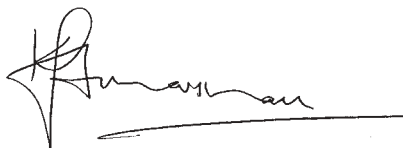
This plan has been prepared by the Department in consultation with Tangata Whenua, the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board and other interested groups and individuals. The review involved an initial public notice in September 1995 advising of the plan review and inviting comment. Letters inviting comment were also sent to interest and user groups, concessionaires and Tangata Whenua. Several meetings were held with these and other groups to discuss the review. A flyer explaining the review and identifying a range of key issues to be dealt with was circulated widely within the Taranaki Region in December 1996 to coincide with summer time use of the park. The reviewed draft plan was released for public submissions in January 2000 and hearings were held in April 2000. Further meetings and hui were held to discuss the review. These submissions were taken into account in the development of this revised draft plan. The plan was then referred to the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board and then to the NZCA for approval.

While the name of the maunga is officially "Mount Taranaki or Mount Egmont" the national park is officially known as Egmont National Park. The Department acknowledges the debate over the park naming. Under section 7 of the National Parks Act 1980, the Governor General, by order-in-council may change the name of an existing national park on the recommendation of the Minister of Conservation. The Minister's recommendation is based on the recommendation of the New Zealand Conservation Authority after consultation with the relevant Conservation Board. This overall process sits outside the management plan and will be dealt with separately.

It is now 100 years since Egmont National Park was created. A great deal of effort has gone into protecting the Park since its inception. In the next 100 years the battle to protect the Park from animal pests and predators will be won or lost. We need to continue the effort to ensure the battle is won.

The number of visitors will dramatically grow, and their appreciation will increase. We can also expect the Park to take its place as a regional, national and international site of importance for conservation. This plan will guide management in the first decade of the new century.

This Plan will be effective for 10 years from its date of approval.

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

Kerry Marshall
Chairman
New Zealand Conservation Authority
February 2002

Vision

THE PLAN

The Egmont National Park Management Plan, as a statutory document, has been prepared to provide direction for the preservation of the park through a framework of policy, objectives and a series of actions. The overall outcome desired is embodied in the vision for the park.

VISION

Taranaki Te Maunga He tapu! He tapu! He tapu!

*Taranaki
Te Maunga
He tapu! He tapu!
He tapu!*

The scenery, ecosystems and natural features of Egmont National Park are preserved. The full range of indigenous plants and animals remain and all major animal and weed threats to the park have been eradicated or controlled. The intrinsic worth of the park is recognised. The park is renowned for the preservation of its natural, historic, cultural and landscape values.

Recreation is fostered and tourism allowed where it is not inconsistent with conservation and national park values. The public has freedom of entry and access to the park for inspiration, enjoyment and recreation.

The increasing numbers of visitors are aware of how their activities impact on the environment and natural features of the park, and know more about the park's natural, cultural and historic values. The impacts of people on the park are managed effectively and reduced where possible. Land adjacent to the park is managed to protect and enhance the natural, historic and landscape values of the park.

To achieve this vision a number of issues need to be addressed over the life time of the plan.

Treaty

Recognising the special role of Tangata Whenua as kaitiaki, working co-operatively with Iwi and acknowledging their cultural values in the management of the park will aid its preservation.

Ecological biodiversity and ecological significance

Egmont National Park is a significant area of indigenous vegetation and wildlife. The streams and rivers are healthy and support a diverse range of life. Preservation of the ecosystem which links all living things in the park is a fundamental purpose of the plan.



Threatened species

The numbers of and range of threatened indigenous species are maintained and enhanced within the national park.

Weed and animal pest species

Threats to the natural values of the national park will be controlled or eradicated in order to enhance the indigenous species in the park. This effort is paramount if the park is to be sustained in its natural state.

Fencing

Fencing of the entire boundary of the national park is a priority for the preservation of plant species and the control of stock.

Historic

Historic features of the park will be preserved and protected.

Landscape

The park is an icon for the region which it sustains. Its natural landscape features are valued and protected.

Visitor facilities and information

The park will provide opportunities and information for people to explore, appreciate and respect the natural and historic heritage of the park.

Concessions

Concessions will be processed with the preservation of conservation and national park values as the primary consideration.

Community Relations

The community values the park and its protection.

The management plan has been prepared in accordance with the National Parks Act 1980, the Conservation Management Strategy for the Department of Conservation Wanganui Conservancy 1997, and the General Policy for National Parks. The plan will guide the work of the Department in the park from 2002 until 2012.