

8 September 2022



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 11 August 2022 in which you asked:

*Kia ora: Budget 2018 announced \$16.2 million for DOC to strengthen its core capability and capacity to deliver on the Government's priorities and increase work to back New Zealand's wildlife, plants and landscapes <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/budget-backs-nature>*

*Official documents state the money would be used to increase capability in organisation development, human resources and policy, and ensure assets are safe and fit for purpose. Please provide the latest assessment of this spending.*

As part of the organisational capacity and capability initiative, extra staff have been deployed in accounting, recruitment, and payroll to support the process of recruiting and bringing new staff into the organisation. There has also been an investment in policy expertise to drive freshwater, marine, climate change, tourism, natural capital, and biosecurity outcomes.

This initiative also included funding to upgrade properties to address health and safety and compliance resulting from deferred maintenance.

A review has been put in place to identify remedial maintenance, primarily focused on residential assets and maintenance was carried out to achieve overall compliance with LPG, insulation and electrical legislation. In parallel to this, 60 residential assets achieved Healthy Homes Standard compliance. Repairs were also undertaken on commercial and infrastructure assets to support operational demand.

The overall uplift in performance will be reflected in Annual Reports. The latest assessment of this spending is covered in the Department of Conservation's Annual Report <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/about-doc/annual-reports/annual-report-2021/annual-report-2021.pdf> .

Nāku noa, nā





Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

Kevin Martin  
Chief Financial Officer  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*