

Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai

ANNUAL REPORT
PŪRONGO-Ā-TAU

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 2022



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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Ngā kai o roto

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Te kupu whakataki a te Tumuaki Director-General's foreword

Ka nui rā taku hari ki te tāpae atu i taku pūrongo ā-tau tuatahi mō Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation (DOC), hei Tumuaki.

He haringa nui te noho hei kaihautū mō tēnei whakahaere mō ēnei marama e 8 ka hipa ake nei, ā, kei te tino ngākaunui au ki ngā mahi kei mua i a mātou. E hiahia ana au ki te waitohu atu ki a koutou, ka tino rerekē te pūrongo ā-tau ka tāpaetia atu e au hei tērā tau, he tira hautū kē, ā, ka hōhonu kē atu te arotahi rautaki ki ngā rerekētanga ka taea e mātou mō te taiao o te aotūroa.

I te marama o Paengawhāwhā, i whakanuia e Te Papa Atawhai tōna tau 35, mai o tōna whakatūranga. Ko Aotearoa te whenua tuatahi kia whai tari kāwanatanga e anga ana ki te mahi tautiaki taiao (ā, he ruarua tonu ngā whenua kua whai tari pērā ināianei). He mea tēnei e tū rangatira ai a Aotearoa i waenga i ngā iwi o te ao.

Ko te hōkaitanga mana a Te Papa Atawhai mai i Rangīāhua i te raki ki ngā moutere Ihupuku i te tonga.

Kua whai haepapa tātou mō te tautiaki i ngā taonga tuku iho o te aotūroa, tuku iho rānei, puta noa i Aotearoa, tae atu ki ōna moutere iti taratahi nei.

Ko tātou kei te kawē i ngā haepapa mō ngā rawa manuhiri, tae atu ki ngā ara hīkoi me ngā wharau, me te mahi nui kia haumarū, kia ngahau te noho mai o te hunga o te ao katoa, ina urutomo atu ki te aotūroa me ngā tukunga iho i ngā whenua tiaki taiao tūmatanui.

Otirā e mamau ana tātou ki ngā wero nui e rua o Aotearoa, o te hekenga o te matahuhua o te kanorau koiora ahurea, me te pānga o te panonitanga āhuarangi ki ngā momo koiora māori, ngā wāhi tūhāhā, me ngā wheako manuhiri.

He ahurei te kanorau koiora o Aotearoa, e kore nei e kitea i ētahi atu wāhi katoa o te ao Ki te ngaro ēnei taonga, kua mate ā-moa He take nui tēnei mō te ōhanga, mō te tuakiri me te hauora, mō te toiora hoki o ngā tāngata katoa o Aotearoa.

I am pleased to present my first annual report for the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) as Director-General.

It has been a privilege to lead this organisation over the past 8 months, and I am passionate about the work ahead of us. I want to signal that the next annual report I present will probably look quite different, reflecting a new leadership team, and a detailed strategic focus on how we will make a difference for the natural environment.

In April, DOC celebrated 35 years since its establishment. Aotearoa New Zealand was the first country (and remains one of the few) to have a government department dedicated to integrated conservation. That is something we in New Zealand can be proud of.

DOC's remit stretches from the Kermadec Islands in the north to the subantarctic archipelago in the south.

We have responsibility for conserving natural and historic heritage throughout Aotearoa New Zealand, including on its tiny offshore islands.

We're responsible for visitor assets, including tracks and huts, and making sure people from all over the world have a safe and enjoyable experience when they connect with nature and the cultural heritage on public conservation land.

And we're grappling with the twin challenges of the decline of Aotearoa New Zealand's special biodiversity and the impact of climate change on native species, wild spaces and visitor experiences.

Aotearoa New Zealand has unique biodiversity that cannot be found anywhere else on the planet. If this is lost, it's gone for good. This matters to the economy, and the identity and health and wellbeing of all New Zealanders.

Toitū te marae a Tāne Mahuta, toitū te marae a Tangaroa, toitū te tangata – if the land is well and the sea is well, the people will thrive.

When Papatūānuku thrives, we thrive.

I roto i ōku marama e 8 i tēnei tūranga, ka tae ki te mutunga o te tau ahumoni 2021/22, kua whakarewaina e mātou he mahere kōkiri hei hoa mō te rautaki e kīa nei Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy e arataki nei i ngā mahi tōpū hei tautiaki i ngā pūnaha rauropi o te whenua.

I ēnei marama tata kua whakarewaina e au tētahi rautaki whakahaere hou hei whakaturuki i te tūranga o Te Papa Atawhai hei kaitiaki mō te aotūroa, hei reo pakari mō te tiaki taiako mō ngā tau e tū mai nei.

Kua whakahoutia e mātou tā mātou arotahi ki ngā mahi tautiaki taiao taketake, kia toiora ai ngā pūnaha rauropi me ngā momo koiiora mai i ngā maunga ki te takutai. Kua whakahoutia hoki e mātou tō mātou ū ki te mahi hei hoa Tiriti pono.

I noho ko te ārai kīrearea me te pēhi kaihonihoni i ngā whenua papa atawhai me ngā wai hei arotahi mō te rautaki hou o Te Papa Atawhai. Kei te kainga nuitia ā tātou manu māori e te paihamu, e te kiore, e te toriura. He mea nui kia mahi tahi mātou me ō mātou hoa Tiriti, ki te hunga pupuru pānga me ngā hapori ki te ārai, ā, ā tōna wā kia haepapatia ēnei koiiora takakino hei taumata tuatahi, i mua i te mahi whakahaere momo koiiora.

I te Hakihea o tērā tau, ka huraina e te Kāwanatanga tana mahere kia arotake ngā ture tiaki taiao, kei roto nei te arotakenga o ngā whenua kaitiaki.

Hei te whakahounga kua wātea mātou ki te tīmata ki te whakawhiti kōrero ki te hunga o Aotearoa nui tonu mō te āhua o ngā tau 35 kei mua i te aroaro, ā, he aha ngā mea tika mō roto i te ture kia whakawāteatia te ara mō ēnei mahi. He mahi hira ēnei mā Te Papa Atawhai, mō te taha ki te whakahou i tā mātou ara whakahaere mahi tautiaki taiao.

Toitū te marae a Tāne Mahuta, toitū te marae a Tangaroa, toitū te tangata – if the land is well and the sea is well, the people will thrive.

When Papatūānuku thrives, we thrive.

In my first 8 months in this role, up to the end of the 2021/22 financial year, we've launched the action plan that accompanies 'Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy' and that drives collective action to protect the country's ecosystems.

I've also more recently launched a new organisational strategy that reinforces DOC's role as being a good steward of nature and a strong voice for conservation over the coming years.

We have renewed our focus on core conservation work, so ecosystems and species thrive from the mountains to the sea. We've also renewed our commitment to being an honourable Treaty partner.

Pest management and browser control on conservation lands and waters are a focus of the new DOC strategy. Our native birds are under attack from possums, rats and stoats. We need to work with our Treaty partners, stakeholders and communities to control and eventually eradicate these damaging creatures as an important first step before we progress into species management.

In December last year, the Government unveiled a plan to review conservation laws, which includes a review of stewardship land.

This reform provides us with an opportunity to start to discuss with New Zealanders what conservation could look like for our next 35 years and then, given that, what is needed in the legislation to enable us to do that. This is important work for DOC in terms of starting to modernise our approach to conservation management.

Ka kitea tonutia i tēnei pūrongo, he 12 marama nunui ēnei mō Te Papa Atawhai. Kei te whakamoemiti au ki ngā tāngata katoa o taku kāhui i ngā rohe katoa o te whenua mō ā rātou mahi nui i te tau ka hipa ake nei, ki tō rātou ngākau ū ki te tiaki, ki te whakapiki hoki i ngā momo koiora me ngā pūnaha rauropi puiaki o Aotearoa.

Ka kitea puta noa i tēnei pūrongo ā-tau, kua whakaurua e mātou he kōtaha o ētahi o ngā kaimahi a Te Papa Atawhai e takoha nei ki te mahi tiaki taiao ia rā. Me kī pēnei, ko ngā tāngata o Te Papa Atawhai tōna tino mauri.

Kei waenga i a mātou te tini o te hunga pukumahi kāore e mihia ā rātou mahi, e kore e taea te rapu kupu tika mō rātou, heoi anō, ko te tūmanako mā tēnei kōwhiringa kaimahi me ā rātou mahi whakahirahira hei whakaahua i te huhua o ā mātou mahi.

E harikoa ana mō ngā mahi kua tutuki i a mātou, ā, tēnei au te pōwhiri i a koutou kia pānui i ētahi atu kōrero mō ā mātou mahi i tēnei pūrongo.

Tēnei au te pōwhiri i a koutou kia takahi tahi mai koutou i te ara me mātou hei te tau e tū mai nei, i a mātou e tārei tūturu nei i te ara me ā mātou tikanga whakahaere, te āhua o tā mātou tūhono ki ētahi atu, me ngā painga mō Papatūānuku, mō ngā tāngata o Aotearoa.

As this annual report shows, it has been a big 12 months for DOC. I acknowledge every member of my team in every part of the country for their hard work over the past year and their absolute dedication to protecting and enhancing Aotearoa New Zealand's precious species and ecosystems.

Throughout the annual report, as part of celebrating our 35 years, we have included profiles for some of the DOC staff who contribute so much to conservation every day. After all, it's the people who make DOC successful.

We have so many unsung heroes, and we couldn't possibly do them all justice, but we hope this selection of staff doing world-leading work will highlight the breadth of what we do.

I am proud of what we have achieved, and I invite you to read more about our work in this report.

Then I invite you to come with us on the journey over the next year as we bring a sharp focus to the way we operate, the way we engage with others and the difference we make for Papatūānuku and the people of Aotearoa New Zealand.



Penny Nelson
Director-General

Ā mātou whāinga roa
taketake

Our core goals



The Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai is in transition to the new strategic direction outlined in the 2022–2026 Statement of Intent. However, for the 2021/22 financial year, we report against the purpose and outcomes in the 2021–2025 Statement of Intent (figure 1).

		Papatūānuku Thrives		
Purpose (50+ years)		Te ora o Papatūānuku Healthy nature	Te hunga Atawhai People who care	Te ora o te Hapori Thriving communities
Our roles		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Care for the land, the waters, our native species and our heritage Tell the stories of our nature and our history 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with whānau, hapū and iwi, and collaborate with others Advocate for nature, and be a regulator 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Foster recreation in nature
Our intermediate outcomes by year 25		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The diversity of our natural heritage is maintained and restored Our history is brought to life and protected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whānau, hapū and iwi are able to practise their responsibilities as kaitiaki of natural and cultural resources on public conservation lands and waters New Zealanders and international visitors contribute to conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Zealanders and international visitors are enriched by their connection to New Zealand's nature and heritage New Zealand's unique environment and heritage is a foundation for our economic, social and cultural success
Our stretch goals by year 10		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of New Zealand's natural ecosystems are benefiting from pest management 90% of our threatened species across New Zealand's ecosystems are managed to enhance their populations 50 freshwater ecosystems are restored from the mountains to the sea A nationwide network of marine protected areas is in place, representing New Zealand's marine ecosystems The stories of 50 historic Icon Sites are told and protected 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whānau, hapū and iwi are able to practise their responsibilities as kaitiaki of natural and cultural resources on public conservation lands and waters 90% of New Zealanders think the impacts of visitors on public conservation lands and waters are very well managed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of visitors rate their experiences on public conservation lands and waters as exceptional 90% of New Zealanders are connecting with nature and heritage in ways that improve their wellbeing 80% of New Zealanders are taking action to protect, restore and sustain nature and heritage
Priorities for years 1–4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mahi mō te Taiao – Jobs for Nature Review of Stewardship Land Regulatory Reform Te Ao Māori Visitor Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementing Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Whitebait regulation Climate change 	
Annual outputs		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest and weed control Ecosystems and species management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic and cultural heritage restoration Recreation and other resource-use concessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education and communication Visitor asset and experience management
Capable and safe Te Papa Atawhai		Strategies and operating models Legislation Capability Investments		

Figure 1: Our high-level purpose, outcomes, stretch goals and priorities for 2021/22



Kōtare/kingfisher. Photo: Nicole Baker

Kua whakatikatikangia kua whakaorangia te kanorau o tō tātou aotūroa

The diversity of our natural heritage is maintained and restored

Biodiversity in Aotearoa New Zealand is declining due to various threats: changes in land and water use, climate change, the ongoing threat of introduced pest species and weeds, and pressures on the marine environment. To maintain and restore this biodiversity, we need to increase current efforts to address those threats.

The New Zealand Threat Classification System is a tool for assessing the risk of population decline and extinction faced by New Zealand native species. The criteria are based on understanding the population state, size and trend, taking into account population status, effect of threats, recovery potential and taxonomic certainty.

The New Zealand Threat Classification System is administered by DOC, and underpins species management priorities for us as well as other agencies and communities that participate in conservation. To date, the threat status of over 14,391 species has been assessed using this system (see figure 2). This year, research was conducted on more than 200 Data Deficient species to resolve their taxonomy and undertake surveys to determine population sizes and conservation status, leading to a threat classification for them.

Some native and endemic species have been shifted to predator-free islands for a chance of survival, and the recovery of breeding populations on offshore islands shows how we might restore native plants and wildlife on mainland sites once introduced pests have been removed. The removal of invasive species from islands has been proven to protect biodiversity and prevent extinctions, and our Island Eradication Advisory Group has been instrumental in more than 50 successful eradication programmes worldwide.

The advisory group is recognised internationally for the leadership and collaborative approach it has provided to national and international island pest eradication programmes over the past 25 years. The group was formed to capture existing knowledge and provide technical advice to DOC projects, but its role has expanded to support community groups, maintain international networks, develop best practice guidance and support Pacific neighbours. Group members build and maintain their knowledge through international networking and participating in resolving challenging eradication issues worldwide, such as removing rodents from large, remote, tropical or inhabited islands.

Threat status	All species groups	Subset of species groups ¹							
		Bats	Birds	Freshwater fishes	Marine mammals	Invertebrates	Reptiles	Vascular plants	
Data Deficient	4,967	1	2	-	30	1,455	3	107	
Extinct	82	-	62	1	-	8	1	7	
THREATENED	Nationally Critical	529	1	18	4	4	194	10	213
	Nationally Endangered	209	-	14	6	1	83	16	76
	Nationally Vulnerable	306	1	37	12	2	103	22	114
	Nationally Increasing	17	-	11	-	-	5	1	-
	Total number of Threatened species	1,061	2	80	22	7	385	49	403
AT RISK	Declining	369	1	27	11	-	89	49	158
	Recovering	28	1	9	-	1	6	3	8
	Relict	166	-	25	-	-	108	8	23
	Naturally Uncommon	2,612		37	6	2	11,364	7	661
	Total number of At Risk species	3,175	2	98	17	3	1,567	67	850
Not Threatened	4,406	-	37	12	5	1,647	5	1,384	
Total number of assessed species²	14,391	6	491	76	57	5,393	134	2,786	

Figure 2: Breakdown of the threat status for all species groups and a subset of species groups

- ¹ This subset covers only a selection of all species groups for illustrative purposes. See <https://nztc.org.nz> for all species groups.
- ² These totals are higher than the sum of the rows because the totals include native non-resident and introduced and naturalised species.

STAFF PROFILE

Kate McAlpine

Science Advisor Threats



Kate has been researching environmental weeds at DOC for more than 20 years, with papers on the impacts of weeds, seed dispersal of weeds, native seedling recruitment in the presence of weeds and mammals, and shade tolerance of woody weeds. Most recently she has produced several papers about native plant succession replacing woody weeds, including guidelines for determining if this is likely to happen at any given site. Beyond weeds, Kate also made a big contribution to our understanding of the relationship between conservation and ecosystem services, producing a widely acclaimed report in 2009.

Kate is a long-standing, valued and respected DOC representative on several national governance groups, including the National Pest Plant Accord Steering Committee, the National Interest Pest Responses Technical Advisory Group, and the National Biocontrol Collective. Kate is also a strong believer in the power of citizen science and social media to pass on knowledge and help others to learn. She posts weedy work stories to her many enthusiastic followers on Instagram (@katemcweedatwork) and is a regular contributor to iNaturalist. Kate also facilitates the New Zealand Ecological Society Mentoring Scheme, matching up young or early career ecologists with experienced mentors.

STAFF PROFILE

Graeme Elliott

Principal Science Advisor



Graeme's interest in birds started young, chasing them around his parents' garden with binoculars, developed further while tramping as a teenager, and matured during his university years when he studied fernbirds, banded rails and then mohua. His discovery that the otherwise prolific mohua suffered catastrophically during rodent and stoat plagues that occurred after beech masts became part of a general realisation that a large number of native species were at risk of extinction.

Graeme spent 10 years with the kākāpō team during an exciting time when the kākāpō population trajectory changed from 'decline' to 'increase'. Since then, he has worked mostly on developing and improving predator control tools, particularly aerially applied 1080, to protect forest birds. Through doing this, Graeme has worked on a range of vulnerable forest animals including rock wrens, kea, kākā, kākārīki, mohua, robins, ruru and powelliphanta landsnails.

As a hobby, Graeme and his partner Kath Walker (also a DOC staff member) have spent the past 30 summers on the subantarctic Antipodes and Auckland islands studying wandering albatrosses. In recognition of his contributions to New Zealand ecology, Graeme received the New Zealand Ecological Society's Te Tohu Taiao Award in 2017.

Te Whakatinanatanga o Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy

Implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy

We are aligning our work programmes to ‘Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy’ through our organisational strategy and multi-year business planning process. DOC is the lead agency for several significant initiatives in the Implementation Plan for Te Mana o te Taiao, such as conservation law reform, Jobs for Nature and Predator Free 2050.

As the system lead for the strategy’s implementation, we focused on building the foundations for implementation: governance, implementation plan development, and monitoring and reporting. We assessed work already under way to deliver on the 2025 and 2030 goals, of which government activities are outlined in the 2022 Implementation Plan.

The Implementation Plan outlines important biodiversity activities across the Ministry for the Environment, Ministry for Primary Industries, Land Information New Zealand, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and local government. Initiatives such as the ‘Aotearoa New Zealand Emissions Reduction Plan’, the National Science Challenges, and biodiversity protection on private land are, together, tackling biodiversity loss and climate change across all land tenures.

An ongoing collaborative approach with Treaty partners, agencies, industry and communities is essential for delivering this transformational change to the biodiversity of Aotearoa.

Achievements in 2021/22:

- Published the first implementation plan for Te Mana o te Taiao, capturing work already under way by agencies and local government to deliver on the strategy’s goals.

- Established an interim oversight group, which has provided advice on optimum system-wide governance for the implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao.
- Started development of the monitoring and reporting framework for Te Mana o te Taiao, to measure progress against the strategy’s goals, using a common set of indicators to create an umbrella system that connects across agencies and local government.
- More than 50 iwi kaitiaki subject-matter experts from across the country met in May 2022 to understand iwi, hapū and/or whānau priorities that relate to biodiversity and consider the mechanisms and support needed to develop a te ao Māori, mātauranga-a-iwi approach to monitoring and reporting at local, regional and national levels. Ongoing investment and collaboration with iwi subject-matter experts is essential for this work to progress and deliver on expected benefits.
- Ongoing wānanga held with kaitiaki and tangata tiaki to increase the comprehension of how the outcomes and goals of Te Mana o te Taiao contribute to enabling kaitiakitanga and reconnection of communities to biodiversity.
- Started a system-wide assurance system to ensure actions in the Implementation Plan for Te Mana o te Taiao are on track for delivery and subject to regular performance reporting.
- Supported changes to DOC’s internal business planning to align with Te Mana o te Taiao through:
 - establishment of a DOC biodiversity action plan. This informed DOC’s integrated strategy, which is driving necessary change and evolution, to ensure we deliver on our roles in Te Mana o te Taiao
 - development of biodiversity strategic initiatives and their roll-out into the business.

STAFF PROFILE

Hugh Robertson

Principal Science Advisor Freshwater



Hugh is the Oceania representative to the Scientific and Technical Review Panel³ of the international Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) and the Ramsar National Focal Point (Science and Technical) for New Zealand.

In that role Hugh has led an international project to promote sustainable agriculture and wetland conservation,⁴ contributed to the Global Wetland Outlook 2021⁵ and helped define the future science needs for protecting wetlands around the world.

During the past 13 years at DOC, Hugh has also led the science underpinning the Arawai Kākāriki wetland restoration programme. This has included innovative research that has directly contributed to restoring water levels in drained wetlands, setting limits to reduce the sediment loads being deposited in Whangamarino Wetland, and setting appropriate lake levels to protect the significant values of Waituna Lagoon.

Mahi mō te Taiao Jobs for Nature

The DOC Jobs for Nature programme is part of the Government's Jobs for Nature – Mahi mō te Taiao programme. This invests in jobs that will restore Aotearoa New Zealand's rivers, protect precious places, and ensure native wildlife thrives. The programme provides \$488 million⁶ over 4 years through Vote Conservation for about 4,800 full-time equivalent positions.⁷ This comprises:

- Kaimahi for Nature: 800 nature-based jobs per year, both on and off public land, through regional partnership groups working with councils, iwi and local businesses throughout the country (\$200 million over 3 years)
- Restoring nature: 392 jobs⁸ per year in community-led biodiversity restoration projects for ecosystem restoration on public and private land (\$141 million over 4 years)
- Protecting Nature: 219 jobs⁹ per year in pest control and eradication, including advancing Predator Free New Zealand and working with iwi to prevent the collapse of North Island forests (\$147 million over 4 years).

To date, 218 projects have been approved, providing employment for 4,058 people with funding of \$459 million. Of the approved projects, 13 are completed and 198 are currently being delivered. The remaining seven are being contracted. See figure 3 for a regional breakdown.

3 See <https://ramsar.org/about/the-scientific-and-technical-review-panel>, for more information.

4 See Convention on Wetlands **Briefing Note No. 13: Wetlands and agriculture: Impacts of farming practices and pathways to sustainability** and **Policy Brief No. 6: Transforming agriculture to sustain people and wetlands**, for more information.

5 See www.global-wetland-outlook.ramsar.org/report-1, for more information.

6 Total funding was originally \$501 million, but \$13 million has since been reallocated from the 'Restoring nature' allocation to support work on Cameras on Boats.

7 About 6,000 nature-based job opportunities.

8 This number has been adjusted from 422 as a result of the reallocation of \$13 million to support work on Cameras on Boats.

9 This number was previously incorrectly reported as 532 due to an error in the calculation.

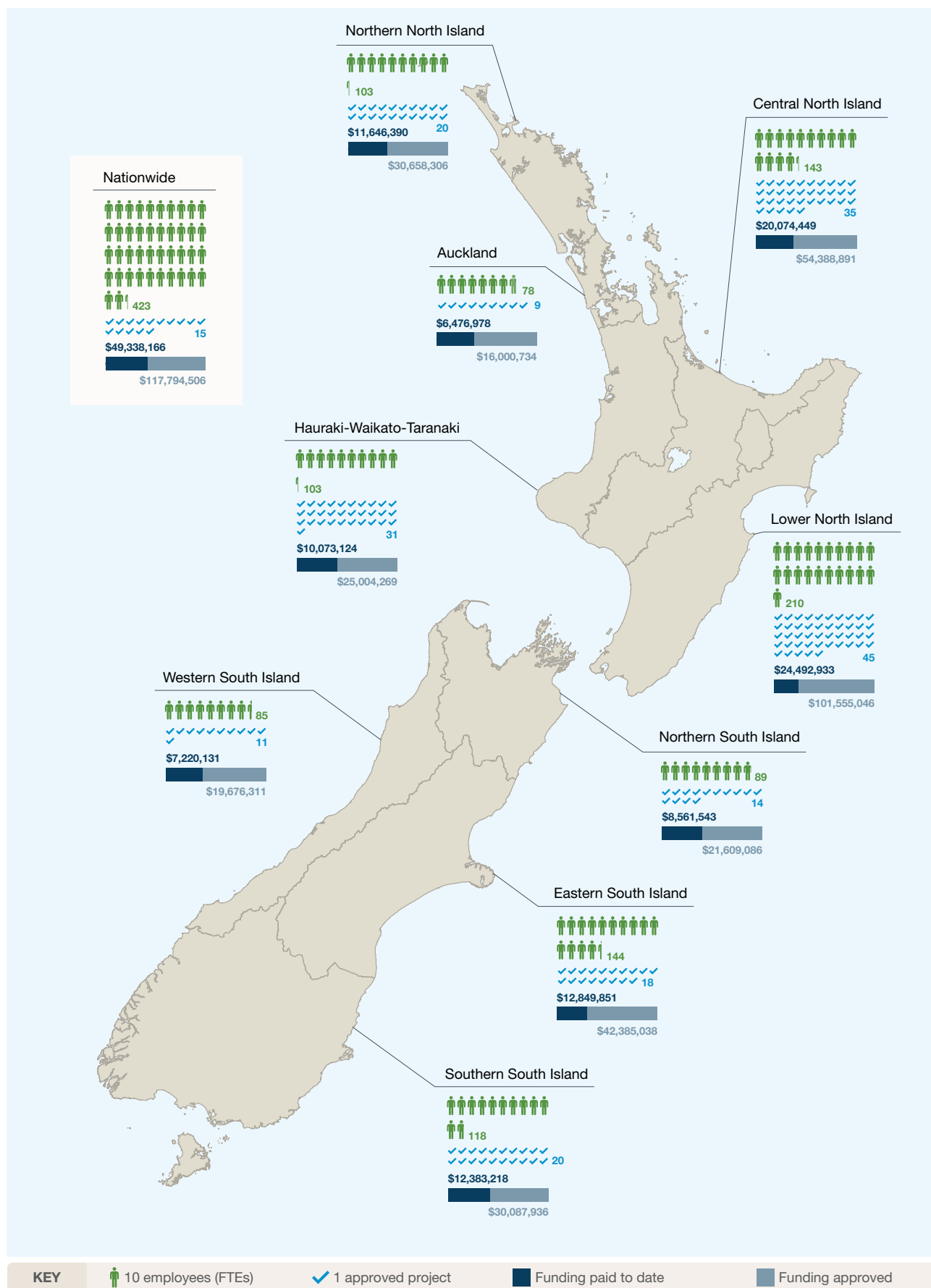


Figure 3: Jobs for Nature projects by region as at 30 June 2022, showing the number of people employed and the funding provided since the programme began in 2020

Below are highlights of some of the projects employing people through Jobs for Nature and the work they supported.

Te Papa Paorooro, Northland

The main goal of this project is to provide highly tangible outcomes for local communities, particularly training and employment, while reconstituting and revitalising what was once a pristine and healthy wetland.

The secondary goal is to provide employment by implementing riparian planting on four streams that radiate from the central wetland restoration area and include sections of the Waiomio, Waiharakeke, Otiria and Whangai streams.

Te Papa Paorooro (the Echoing Wetlands) lies next to the towns of Kawakawa and Moerewa and is at the centre of the Taumārere catchment. The Taumārere River flows from the top of the catchment, through streams and wetlands into this central watershed before entering the estuaries into the Bay of Islands. The wetland and respective tributaries largely follow SH1 and are visible to all travellers by road, cycleway, rail and even from the air.

The following employment and conservation milestones have been achieved:

- 13 people currently employed
- 15 employment starts
- 10 hectares treated for weeds.

Mana in Kaimahi, Auckland

This project uses Te Whāngai hubs as tūrangawaewae and reconnects people back to the land, with a focus on high-needs and marginalised communities. Te Whāngai hubs create year-long employment and guarantee supply of quality plants by eco-sourcing and growing the plants.

Employees gain transferrable skills in project management, ecology, propagation, weed and pest control, landscape and environmental planting, landscape design and water quality. Project partners provide expertise for freshwater ecosystems, water quality, biodiversity, biosecurity, sustainable land use, and cultural values on public, private and iwi land.

The following employment and conservation milestones have been achieved:

- 59 people currently employed
- 38 employment starts
- 136,660 plants produced
- 56,508 trees planted
- 256,651 plants weeded
- 132,878 plants planted in riparian, lake or wetland areas.

Punungairo/Bullock Creek Restoration Project and Punakaiki Wetland Restoration, western South Island

The Punakaiki restoration project is expected to employ up to 13 people per year for 4 years. It involves propagation, planting and maintenance of around 478,000 native trees over 153 hectares on sites surrounded by and next to the Paparoa National Park and Te Ara Tāiko Nature Reserve.

The work will also conserve the nationally significant Punungairo/Bullock Creek polje. A polje (pronounced ‘poll-yer’) is a large, flat-floored depression in a karst landscape. Bullock Creek is Aotearoa New Zealand’s only example, surrounded by tall cliffs and dense beech and kahikatea forest.

This project focuses on the large-scale restoration of prime conservation areas, using nursery facilities to produce eco-sourced plants, which are being planted to restore areas previously grazed and enhance wetland restoration at Bullock Creek. The project is being led by Conservation Volunteers New Zealand with support from DOC.

The following employment and conservation milestones have been achieved:

- 13 people currently employed
- 17 employment starts
- 125,003 plants produced
- 14.1 hectares restored by planting.

He mātai tūāhua Case studies

The following case studies highlight some of the work undertaken this year for this intermediate outcome.

- Brown kiwi bounce back
- National Marine Reserve Management Programme



Punungairo Bullock Creek main flat planting. Photo: Alison Maccoll, DOC



Brown kiwi bounce back

Now classified as 'Not Threatened' due to increasing numbers

What's the challenge?

Thirty years after the launch of the Kiwi Recovery Programme in 1991, the number of North Island brown kiwi is now increasing after a long period of decline and range contraction. The rate of increase led to their reclassification as 'Not Threatened' in the 5-yearly review of the conservation status of birds in Aotearoa New Zealand, published in 2021/22. This turnaround in population trend is largely due to the tremendous efforts of iwi, community groups and government agencies in controlling mustelids and dogs over many parts of the North Island. Kiwi aversion training and the general education about kiwi enabled a broader collaboration of community support and buy-in.

The change of threat classification comes with a qualifier: brown kiwi continue to be 'Conservation Dependent', which means conservation efforts cannot be relaxed because they will quickly return to the list of threatened species. We continue to work closely with 'Save the Kiwi' to maintain the positive momentum and work towards the goal of achieving a 2% gain per year.

What's our approach?

- A panel of internal and external bird experts reviews the conservation status of Aotearoa New Zealand birds every 5 years, using the consistent criteria of the New Zealand Threat Classification System.
- Population size and growth rate are important criteria.
- Population trend data for kiwi are gathered from multiple sources, including call counts, territory mapping and radio-tracking studies.

What has been accomplished?

- Mature brown kiwi now number more than 20,000, and this is projected to increase by more than 10% over three kiwi generations (around 60 years).
- Solid growth in Northland, Coromandel and the western North Island balances the ongoing decline in the eastern North Island.
- Predator trapping and aerial 1080 at the Moehau Kiwi Sanctuary, Coromandel, have led to brown kiwi numbers trebling over the past 21 years.



North Island brown kiwi on Hauturu. Photo: Ruud Kleinpaste



National Marine Reserve Management Programme

Improving our monitoring to inform management action

What's the challenge?

Aotearoa New Zealand's marine reserves extend from the warm, subtropical Kermadec Islands in the far north to the cold and wild subantarctic islands in the far south (see figure 4). Marine reserves protect the unique biodiversity of Aotearoa New Zealand by making it illegal to take anything from within their boundaries.

Marine reserves are managed using tools that include compliance, monitoring, education and advocacy. In the past, the lack of a consistent approach to compliance and monitoring of marine reserves has meant we have not managed some reserves as well as we could. The new marine reserve management programme has been developed to enable us to increase monitoring and compliance activities, and deliver on Aotearoa New Zealand's international reporting obligations.

What's our approach?

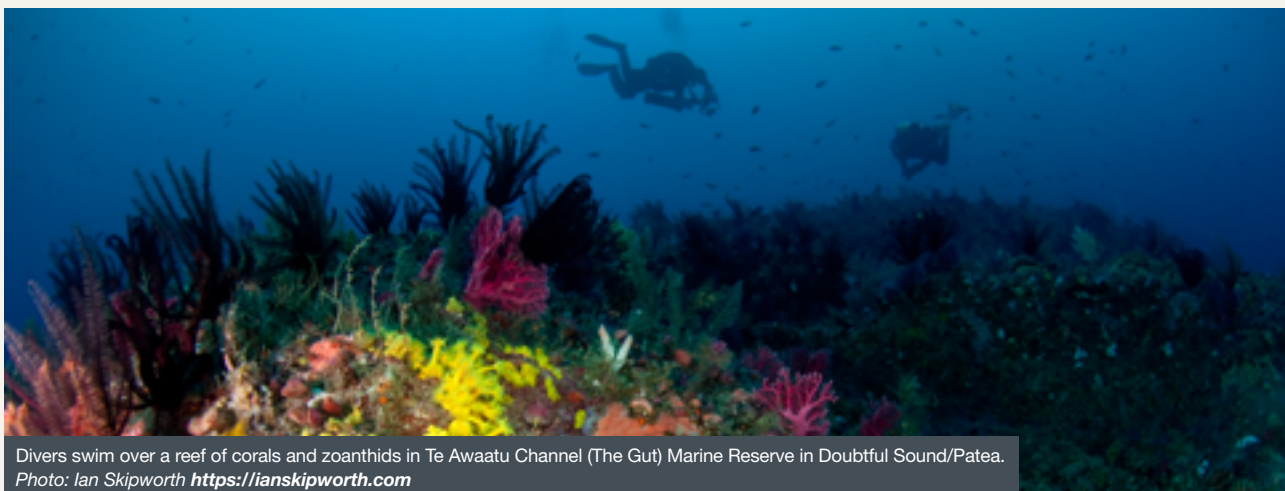
By bolstering our compliance and scientific monitoring work in marine reserves, we aim to:

- significantly reduce offending in marine reserves
- improve signage and infrastructure, including land markers and marine reserve marker buoys
- tell a more complete story of the ecological health of marine reserves
- work with tāngata whenua and the wider community on the co-development and co-implementation of site-specific monitoring and compliance plans

- use new technology to track offenders and collect information about the health of the reserves
- inform future marine protection planning.

What has been accomplished?

- Over the past 2 years, 12 dedicated marine reserve rangers have been employed to look after and deliver compliance and biodiversity monitoring at several marine reserves.
- Improved detection and response to marine reserve offending: 30% of all DOC compliance issues are associated with marine reserves.
- Several signs, land markers and buoys have been upgraded.
- We developed the Marine Monitoring and Reporting Framework, creating a new way of organising the monitoring of marine reserves.
- We are using citizen science and artificial intelligence to learn more about fish populations inside marine reserves.
- Ocean acidification sampling is informing the Aotearoa New Zealand and global ocean acidification observation networks. The sampling results help us to understand the effects of climate change and help communities prepare for local changes.



Divers swim over a reef of corals and zoanths in Te Awaatu Channel (The Gut) Marine Reserve in Doubtful Sound/Patea. Photo: Ian Skipworth <https://ianskipworth.com>

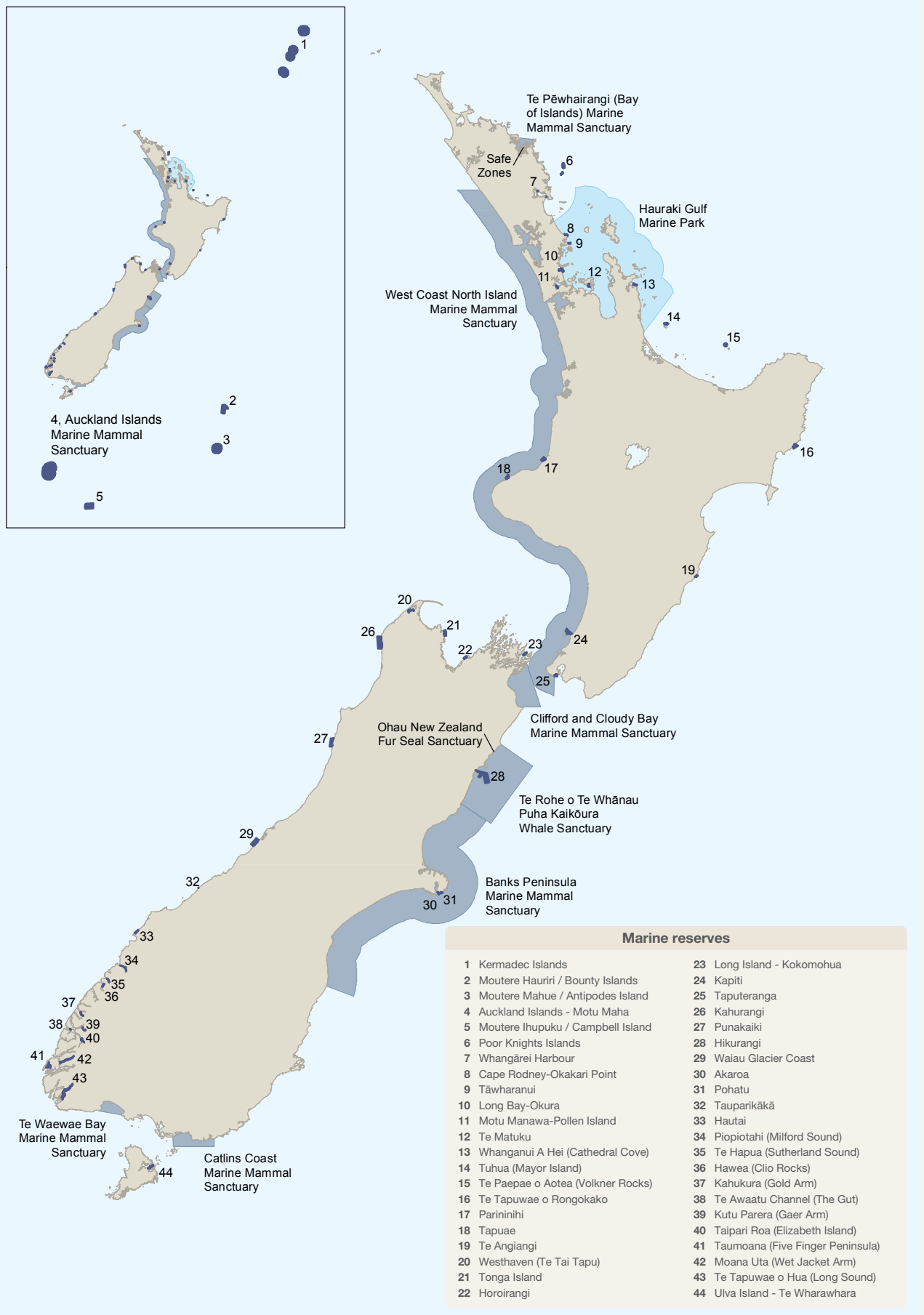


Figure 4: New Zealand's marine reserve network as at 30 June 2022

Statement of service performance for 2021/22

Output performance

	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual	Variance and commentary (if required)
Pest and weed control					
Hectares of land treated for:					
PossumsSM	245,560	224,720	160,000–260,000	202,218	Achieved¹⁰
Rats and/or mustelidsSM	1,012,516	804,253	760,000–1,045,000	669,936	Not achieved Weather affected the delivery of some operations in the central North Island and western and eastern South Island. Some work planned as treatment for rats was amended to be treatment for possums. Some work programmes were deferred in the Hauraki, Taranaki and Waikato regions due to the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic.
DeerSM	275,517	142,864	130,000–300,000	172,531	Achieved
GoatsSM	1,077,059	982,456	900,000–1,200,000	1,039,063	Achieved
WeedsSM	212,783	165,554	175,000–215,000	153,940	Not achieved Weather affected the delivery of some weed control operations in the northern South Island region. In the southern South Island, resources were redeployed to other work programmes.
Wilding conifersSM	300,056	168,069	95,000–150,000	241,554	Achieved
Number of island biosecurity programmes where a pest-free status has been maintained	44	47	44–63	47	Achieved
Ecosystems and species management					
Number of optimised ecosystem prescriptions providing active management of ecosystems SM	594	615	500–560	626	Achieved
Threatened species managed for persistence SM	256	254	220–250	248	Achieved
Threatened species under active management to ensure local security SM	464	463	300–500	442	Achieved
Crown contribution to regional pest management strategies					
Number of regional pest management strategies with completed Crown exacerbator weed and pest programmes	12	14	15	15	Achieved

10 We consider that performance has been achieved when it is within a tolerance level acceptable for the nature of the work. For significant measures (annotated with SM), this tolerance is 5%. When outside this range, a variance comment is provided.

Pest control through the contributions of others

This output reporting category represents the control activity undertaken associated with protecting public conservation land where the resources used to achieve the control for a pest are provided, or mostly provided, by others.

	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual
Possums – hectares treated through the contributions of others	58,267	50,728	38,975
Rats and/or mustelids – hectares treated through the contributions of others	185,670	174,065	66,642
Deer – hectares treated through the contributions of others	200	58,529	48,883
Goats – hectares treated through the contributions of others	21,452	20,937	24,812
Weeds – hectares treated through the contributions of others	757	10,973	31,358
Wilding conifers – hectares treated through the contributions of others	50,732	49,121	93,042

Output class operating statement 2021/22: Management of natural heritage

	30/06/21 Actual \$000	30/06/22 Budget \$000	30/06/22 Revised Budget \$000	30/06/22 Actual \$000
Revenue				
Crown	306,794	355,902	309,557	309,556
Other	24,426	24,959	24,959	22,556
Total revenue	331,220	380,861	334,516	332,112
Expenses	288,678	380,861	334,516	326,935
Surplus/(deficit)	42,542	0	0	5,177

Output class operating statement 2021/22: Crown contribution to regional pest management

	30/06/21 Actual \$000	30/06/22 Budget \$000	30/06/22 Revised Budget \$000	30/06/22 Actual \$000
Revenue				
Crown	2,966	3,212	3,278	3,278
Other	29	29	29	24
Total revenue	2,995	3,241	3,307	3,302
Expenses	2,732	3,241	3,307	2,547
Surplus/(deficit)	263	0	0	755



Hamilton's frog. Photo: Sabine Bernert

Kua whakaorangia ō tātou tātai kōrero, kua tiakina hoki

Our history is brought to life and protected

With thousands of heritage sites located on public conservation lands and waters, DOC has a statutory responsibility to conserve these sites for current and future generations. These heritage sites include some of Aotearoa New Zealand's most significant cultural heritage places, such as those at Pukerangiora Pā, Ōtātara Pā, Hapūawhenua Viaduct, Ruapekapeka Pā and Bannockburn Sluicings.

Our approach to cultural heritage follows two main principles:

1. **storytelling** – promoting and sharing stories about Aotearoa New Zealand's collective histories in ways that resonate with people, to generate connection and support for the conservation of the nation's cultural heritage
2. **protection** – protecting cultural heritage sites from harm and maintaining important places in stable condition to ensure they thrive and can be enjoyed by current and future generations.

To improve the protection of these important cultural heritage elements, we are developing a heritage action plan up to 2025 for positive and sustainable change. This year we shifted our focus to developing the Heritage Asset Management Plan and integrating internal planning processes.

We have also reset our heritage system to better deliver on our responsibilities and goals.

In managing Aotearoa New Zealand's cultural heritage inventory, we focus on three elements:

- wāhi – the physical places of heritage value that DOC manages
- tāngata – the people who connect to these places
- kōrero – the stories of these places.

In line with these three elements, we have undertaken conservation and storytelling work at three main sites this year:

- Smelting House ruins, Kawau Island, Auckland
- Rakiura Site Record Project, Stewart Island/Rakiura
- Repanga Lighthouse Keeper's Restoration, Cuvier Island (Repanga Island) (see the case study on page 27).

The increased focus on cultural heritage management will help us protect Aotearoa New Zealand's important places, connect people with their cultural heritage, and leave a thriving legacy for future generations.

He mātai tūāhua Case studies

The following case studies highlight some of the work undertaken this year for this intermediate outcome.

- Recladding 1880s lighthouse keeper's house Cuvier Island (Repanga Island)
- Rakiura Māori cultural sites

STAFF PROFILE

Deidre Vercoe

Operations Manager



Deidre has spent the past 25 years working with kiwi, kākāpō and takahē. Her past experience as a kākāpō ranger helps her support her team to work at the cutting edge of endangered species recovery. In recognition of her leadership, Deidre won a Blake Leader – Environment award in 2019.

One of her highlights this year was working on Anchor Island in Tamatea/Dusky Sound during the kākāpō breeding season, where they had 55 kākāpō chicks fledge across three sites.

She describes the current chapter of kākāpō and takahē recovery as both challenging and exciting. Using novel technologies and building strong partnerships helps her team keep pace with monitoring and managing the birds at remote locations, but with both populations growing (approaching 500 takahē and 250 kākāpō), one of the biggest challenges is finding new safe habitats.

STAFF PROFILE

Rosemary Miller

Technical Advisor Freshwater



Rosemary is one of DOC's senior freshwater technical advisors, based in Whanganui. Since 1996, she has been a champion for protecting Aotearoa New Zealand's freshwater biodiversity. Rosemary leads the Ngā Awa river restoration programme.¹¹ In this role, she has guided and embedded this initiative to restore the ecological health and cultural wellbeing of 14 of New Zealand's river systems, from source to sea.

Ngā Awa is a world leading programme, based on principles of collaboration and co-design with iwi, hapū and whānau.

Rosemary's leadership, along with a team of river restoration rangers and other advisors, has secured funding through Jobs for Nature to enable local communities to restore their rivers for future generations.

¹¹ See www.doc.govt.nz/nga-awa, for more information.

CASE STUDY



Recladding 1880s lighthouse keeper's house on Cuvier Island (Repanga Island)

Ensuring our cultural heritage is protected

What's the challenge?

Following the automation of lighthouses, most of New Zealand's light stations were partially or completely demolished. This means Cuvier Island (Repanga Island) has one of the three most complete historic light stations in Aotearoa New Zealand, along with Stephens Island and Tiritiri Matangi. Cuvier is the most distant of the offshore lighthouses, and has strict biosecurity requirements. It was established in 1889, automated in 1982, and now runs on solar power.

Buildings associated with the light station had some conservation work completed between 1995 and 2008. However, an assessment by an expert in 2020 identified that one of the houses needed urgent recladding on the two most exposed walls, to ensure it remained weathertight in the harsh marine environment. It was necessary to make sure work on the house was completed in line with best heritage practice. The unique weatherboard profiles on the house added to the complexity of the recladding work.

What's our approach?

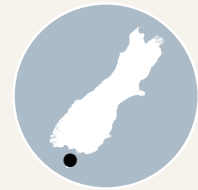
- Ensure the replacement weatherboards reflected the three different profiles on the historic building.
- Ensure all work met strict biosecurity conditions on the island.
- Carry out any urgent repairs identified following removal of damaged boards.
- Identify remaining priority heritage work within the light settlement to guide further work planning and management decisions.

What has been accomplished?

- All gear, including several tonnes of replacement weatherboards, passed through stringent biosecurity checks and was transported to the island.
- Rotten and split timber was removed, repairs to studs were made as required, and insulation was installed.
- New weatherboards were attached and painted, ensuring the timber profiles matched the three original profiles.



Contractors Jayden and Steve Brown completing recladding of the front of the Cuvier Island (Repanga Island) lighthouse keeper's house, with Gerry Martin starting the painting work. Photo: Cathryn Barr, DOC



Rakiura Māori cultural sites

Updating heritage site records of Māori pre-contact sites in Mason Bay, Rakiura

What's the challenge?

Seventy-three previously recorded Māori heritage sites are located in Mason Bay, Rakiura. Sites range from ovens on the coast to middens, burials, taonga/artefact find spots, tauranga waka/canoe launching areas, stone tool working areas and stone source sites. Together, they tell a valuable story about the Māori presence and use of Mason Bay before Pākehā arrived.

It is important to revisit and monitor these sites, not only to inform the management of heritage in Mason Bay, but to observe the effects of climate change and humans on Māori heritage, particularly on coastal erosion and the restoration of dunes. Revisiting the sites allowed us to understand changes since our last visit in 2015. Records held by the New Zealand Archaeological Association have been updated and new sites added.

What's our approach?

- Site records for Mason Bay were sourced from the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme (of which DOC is a partner).
- Fifty-six sites were sought; twenty-three were either gone or buried. Most of the affected sites were lost due to coastal erosion.
- By keeping records of sites up to date, decisions can be made on how best to manage these places in future.

What has been accomplished?

- Sites that were in danger were relocated, and data was recovered on the nature and extent of the sites.
- Six new sites were recorded.
- Site records are in the process of being updated and created.
- This work strengthened the relationship DOC holds with iwi in the management of Māori cultural heritage resources in the southern South Island.



DOC Heritage Rangers Nick Swinton and Andrew King and University of Otago ancient DNA specialist Kieren Mitchell standing next to a Māori oven site N48/66 at the back of dunes in Mason Bay, Rakiura. Note the regenerating orange native pīngao from the dune restoration work. Photo: Matt Schmidt, DOC

Statement of service performance for 2021/22

	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual	Variance and commentary (if required)
Historic and cultural heritage restoration					
Number of historic heritage assets for which remedial work is completed to standard	8	16	7	15	Achieved
Percentage of historic heritage assets for which regular maintenance work is on track to standard	83%	84%	75%	85%	Achieved
Percentage of historic or cultural heritage assessment reports completed to standard	61%	61%	40%	61%	Achieved

Output class operating statement 2021/22: Management of historic heritage

	30/06/21 Actual \$000	30/06/22 Budget \$000	30/06/22 Revised Budget \$000	30/06/22 Actual \$000
Revenue				
Crown	5,983	5,413	8,342	8,342
Other	48	76	76	36
Total revenue	6,031	5,489	8,418	8,378
Expenses	6,275	5,489	8,418	7,698
Surplus/(deficit)	(244)	0	0	680



Tuatara. Photo: Nicole Baker

Kua taea e te whānau, e te hapū, e te iwi ō rātou haepapa hei kaitiaki o ngā rawa aotūroa, ahurea hoki i ngā whenua me ngā wai tautiaki te kawē

Whānau, hapū and iwi are able to practise their responsibilities as kaitiaki of natural and cultural resources on public conservation lands and waters

To give effect to ensuring that whānau, hapū and iwi can be kaitiaki of nature and culture, of lands and seas, we have:

- engaged whānau with expertise in governance considerations for ‘Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy’
- considered how to maximise participation of whānau, hapū and iwi in species-recovery work
- worked with iwi on landscape areas such as the Raukūmara Pae Maunga and Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges restoration projects
- supported numerous iwi, hapū and Māori land trusts through the Ngā Whenua Rāhui Fund and Jobs for Nature programmes
- offered upskilling and resources.

Providing a blueprint for discussions about indigenous biodiversity is a core focus for DOC. Weaving te ao Māori perspectives through Te Mana o te Taiao and the strategic intentions

was achieved because of the expert membership of whānau of various backgrounds and experience in te ao Māori.

We are committed to species recovery and have been working alongside Ngāi Tahu at the rūnaka and iwi level to ensure their participation in the process. We are considering whether to broaden the way in which we interact with Ngāi Tahu for all species recovery, to provide continuity and learning for all participants from iwi and DOC.

The Raukūmara Pae Maunga and Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges restoration projects are examples of projects where DOC has worked with iwi because of their historical, cultural and mātauranga Māori contributions that can be made to restore the mauri of the forests. In the context of the Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges, this project has also evolved to develop an iwi and community model. The increased focus on partnership and co-management enables success by combining tikanga and mātauranga Māori with departmental tools and expertise.

While the examples of the Raukūmara Pae Maunga and Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges restoration projects are based on biodiversity outcomes, this year, the focus has increased on achieving partnership and helping whānau, hapū and iwi realise their aspirations to lead in this space. Biodiversity is still being achieved through these examples, but the main highlight this year has been the way in which DOC and iwi have worked together for the environment.

The Government's commitment to the Jobs for Nature investment was a catalyst for hapū and iwi to practise their cultural responsibility of kaitiakitanga over wāhi tapu (places of significance), whether it was Māori land, public conservation land or private land.

Ngā Whenua Rāhui continued to support Māori landowners with restoration and biodiversity projects on Māori freehold land. Nine projects are seeking Jobs for Nature funding at the time of writing, five of which have been approved and are in the early stages of planning and implementation. A further four projects are awaiting approval. These projects have provided a significant opportunity for Māori landowners to achieve their long-held conservation and protection aspirations at place over and above the standard protection and pest control work funded through Ngā Whenua Rāhui.

The five projects approved to date are:

- Ohuia Lagoon Restoration Project
- Tupoki Takarangi Trust Whenua Restoration
- Mangeroa Gully Restoration
- Mangaotane Farm Trust
- Te Rimu Trust Wetland Restoration.

This year we also continued our engagement as part of the Crown team in around 35 active Treaty settlement negotiations and with successful enactments of Treaty settlement legislation for Ngāti Rangitahi, Moriori, Ngāti Maru ki Taranaki, and Ahuriri hapū. The Wairarapa Joint Redress, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa and Maniapoto Settlement Bills are pending third readings by the end of 2022 calendar year.

We continue to consider how the implementation of the settlement obligations, the ongoing relationships with iwi, and the technical aspects of the settlements are planned for and achieved. The Mahi Oranga tool, developed to plan and prioritise work to undertake at the local level, incorporates Treaty settlement implementation and commitments.

He mātai tūāhua Case studies

The following case studies highlight some of the work undertaken this year for this intermediate outcome.

- Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges Restoration Project
- Raukūmara Pae Maunga Restoration



Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges Restoration Project

DOC supports iwi to be self-sustaining

What's the challenge?

In April 2022, project management for the Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges Restoration Project was handed over to the Manaaki Kaimai Mamaku Trust (the Trust), with only a small portion still managed by DOC. A formal handover between the Trust and DOC took place under the backdrop of the Wairere Falls in June 2022.

The goal for the Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges Restoration project has been the return of kaitiakitanga to iwi, with DOC providing support to navigate Jobs for Nature processes and sub-project management. For iwi and hapū sub-projects, we have provided health and safety training, as well as technical and data management support, to facilitate a genuine partnership with iwi and hapū.

What's our approach?

To work through how to increase the iwi-led scope of the project and reduce DOC's components:

- A Māori caucus was established.
- At various stages, multiple iwi and hapū worked within sub-projects under this overarching project, and DOC provided support to each sub-project.
- To highlight and value the success and symbolism of this project handover, the Minister of Conservation and senior DOC staff were invited to witness the handover.

What has been accomplished?

- We have worked alongside the Trust to develop and support the change proposal and ensuing financial reconciliation to reflect the shift of ownership.
- We have engaged and actively contributed to the review and funding model for the Māori caucus.
- Delivery management and DOC expertise were offered across multiple teams and projects in support of their aspiration to be active kaitiaki.
- Of the funded projects handed over to the Trust, all but one iwi project is in the operational stage, with the remaining one to be operationalised before the end of the year.
- Formal handover of the project has signalled to our Treaty partner that DOC values these evolving relationships. It has solidified effort to give effect to iwi-led aspirations.



Ngāti Ranginui – Kaimai kauri team advocating for the native kauri tree in their contribution to the Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges Restoration Project.
Photo: DOC



Raukūmara Pae Maunga Restoration

Picking up pace to restore the mauri of Raukūmara

What's the challenge?

The Raukūmara Pae Maunga Restoration Project was announced in August 2020. It is an iwi-Crown programme to restore the Raukūmara forest on the East Coast of the North Island and boost employment opportunities for whānau. Despite encountering unforeseen challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and severe flooding in Tairāwhiti, the project is now tracking well.

The relationship between Ngāti Porou, Te Whānau a Apanui and DOC is strong and supportive, and complex issues such as aerial 1080 use are guided by iwi in conjunction with DOC's standard operating procedure. Departmental support for iwi-led initiatives continues to foster partnerships between DOC and iwi. This restoration project will take on another level of partnership and kaitiakitanga by working with iwi to recruit additional operational roles.

What's our approach?

- A significant focus was connecting iwi to Raukūmara Pae Maunga management, to uphold their kaitiakitanga role.
- The biodiversity plan is being created with iwi input and is almost complete.
- Planning and discussion for 1080 aerial operation continues, with iwi and DOC agreeing on a pre-1080 operation phase.

What has been accomplished?

- Three managers started in March 2022, with the rangers starting in July 2022. Additional roles will be included and recruited as further work is implemented.
- We have supported iwi-led initiatives, such as Ngā Ara Tipuna.
- The three-way relationship between Ngāti Porou, Te Whānau a Apanui and DOC has been maintained throughout the project establishment and planning phases.



The vastness of the Raukūmara Range. Photo: P Morrison

STAFF PROFILE

Graeme Atkins

Ranger Biodiversity



Graeme is of Ngāti Porou, Rongomaiwahine and Ngāti Rakai Paaka descent. He is known on the East Coast as a Tohunga Taiao who specialises in rare and endangered plant recovery, for example ngutukākā/kākābeak (*Clianthus maximus*), mīkoikoi (*Libertia cranwelliae*) (a species thought extinct in the wild until he rediscovered it in 2006), and Putiputi O Te-Ao-Pouri (*Dactylanthus taylorii*), also known as Pua o te Rēinga.

Graeme came up with an ingenious survey method that uses the principal agent (possums) causing the decline of *Dactylanthus*, to quickly and effectively find new populations through stomach content analysis.

His interests stem from an early age when his mother and grandmother taught him about native plants and trees and their uses including rongoā, Māori medicines. Graeme is passing on his knowledge as a Tohunga to his children and wider community. He regularly runs rongoā and threatened species wānanga and has set up local citizen science groups on social media.

He is helping lead the myrtle rust response both locally and nationally, including employing 6 people with Jobs for Nature funding to monitor the spread and effect of myrtle rust. Graeme has also played a leading role in the Raukūmara Pae Maunga Restoration Project, a partnership between Ngāti Porou, Te Whānau a Apanui and DOC to restore the mauri of Raukūmara Pae Maunga.

The East Coast is a relatively understudied region, making his work more valuable for increasing botanical knowledge. In recognition of his contribution, Graeme was awarded the 2020 Loder Cup.¹²

STAFF PROFILE

Marie Long

Deputy Director-General Biodiversity



Marie has led the implementation of 'Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy', working with Treaty partners, national and regional government, and other stakeholders, to realign action for reversing Aotearoa New Zealand's biodiversity decline.

Marie has extensive knowledge of the public sector, with 30 years' experience in complex regulatory environments and change management projects in DOC, councils, and Fish & Game, working in Southland, the West Coast, Bay of Plenty and Wellington.

She has led significant system redesign for permissions and Resource Management Act processes in DOC, and built and held significant relationships with whānau, hapū, iwi; commercial companies, including in the tourism, mining and infrastructure sectors; leading non-governmental organisations; and the New Zealand Conservation Authority.

As the Deputy Director-General Biodiversity, Marie has worked to position DOC's value proposition for biodiversity resilience and the benefits that has for all New Zealanders. In her focus areas of governance and leadership, Marie is ensuring the sustainability of, and a strong collaborative approach for, vital conservation initiatives, including Predator Free 2050 and Jobs for Nature.

¹² The Loder Cup acknowledges outstanding achievements in flora conservation work. Gerald Loder donated the Loder Cup in 1926 to "encourage and honour New Zealanders who work to investigate, promote, retain and cherish our indigenous flora".



Milford Track. Photo: © Keri Moyle www.signsoflife.co.nz

Ka whai wāhi ngā tāngata o Aotearoa me te hunga o tāwāhi ki ngā mahi tautiaki

New Zealanders and international visitors contribute to conservation

The relationship between visitors and the environment is reciprocal, because visitors who benefit from healthy functioning ecosystems, recreation opportunities, and cultural heritage experiences are empowered to give back to the environment in many different ways. Examples of how people are giving back to conservation are:

- indirectly, through DOC's new accommodation pricing approaches and changes
- directly, through actively engaging with Predator Free New Zealand 2050, Jobs for Nature or the Backcountry Trust through hut and track maintenance.

With the borders shut for most of 2021–22, our role across the tourism sector has been to:

- support the tourism industry's recovery
- plan for the return of international visitors
- shift tourism to deliver greater environmental, social, cultural and economic benefits.

With the reopening of the borders, the tourism sector does not wish to return to pre-COVID-19 visitor pressures on communities and the environment.¹³ This means we need to take an active and strategic role in shaping a more sustainable and regenerative tourism system for the future.

Our heritage and visitor strategy, released in 2021, ensures we have a clear path to support the shift to a more sustainable and regenerative tourism system while delivering exceptional recreation experiences. It requires us to focus on protecting Aotearoa New Zealand's natural and cultural heritage through actively investigating ways to manage visitor impacts (by limiting numbers or use of cleaner technology) and ensuring visitors engage with and contribute to conservation. This approach is supported by cross-industry groups producing plans on regional destination management and tourism industry transformation that give guidance on the tourism workforce and environment.

To deliver these benefits, tourism and recreation on public conservation lands and waters must be sustainable and regenerative. We are proactively and strategically managing visitors to conservation areas, to protect both the nature and cultural heritage that visitors come to experience, while also responding to their needs.

He mātai tūāhua Case studies

The following case studies highlight some of the work undertaken this year for this intermediate outcome.

- Predator Free Rakiura
- Giving back to nature

¹³ See [Appendix B.1 – Unlocking Future Tourism – OnePicture and TNZ Research, October 2020 \(mbie.govt.nz\)](#), for more information.



Predator Free Rakiura

Empowering others to achieve conservation success at their place

What's the challenge?

Mana whenua and the community of Stewart Island/Rakiura are leading what will be one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most significant restoration projects. Predator Free Rakiura is a landscape-scale programme that aims to nurture the island as a taonga by working collaboratively towards removing predators, enabling ecosystems and the community to thrive and benefit from each other.

DOC has been working alongside mana whenua and the community to co-design an operating model to progress this vision. Three interconnected groups have been created to oversee the programme: governance provided through a Trust, programme management and a community advisory group. DOC is providing advice and support to all three groups.

Removing predators is a critical step to restoring the mauri of the island. Work is under way to develop a feasibility plan proposing to remove rats, possums, feral cats and hedgehogs from Rakiura and its surrounding islands. This will have huge benefits for threatened biodiversity. Many species of seabirds will recolonise the island; kākā, kererū and small forest birds will flourish; and it will provide much-needed habitat for the critically endangered kākāpō. Rakiura could become the world's largest inhabited predator-free island and provide social and economic benefits through additional employment, infrastructure and nature tourism opportunities.



Predator Free Rakiura aims to provide much-needed habitat for the critically endangered kākāpō. Photo: Jake Osborne CC BY-NC 2.0

What's our approach?

- Before engaging other parties, we worked with whānau, hapū and iwi to understand their needs and aspirations.
- A leadership group, representing mana whenua, government, businesses, agencies and the community, was formed to champion the project and build increased understanding and trust within the community and relevant stakeholders.
- We worked with whānau, hapū, iwi and the community to co-design an approach and robust operating model that meets the needs of all concerned.
- We facilitated the development of processes and systems, such as charters and trust deeds, to ensure clear roles and accountabilities, setting up the project to succeed.
- DOC provided seed funding to begin the design of a feasibility study to remove predators and support leverage from other funders.

What has been accomplished?

- Predator Free Rakiura has progressed from an ambitious concept to a funded feasibility study for what will be one of New Zealand's most significant restoration projects.
- Through the governance, programme management and community advice roles, whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations were enabled to lead as rangatira and kaitiaki.
- Establishment of the independent Te Puka Rakiura Trust enables longevity and meets community and mana whenua aspirations for Rakiura beyond the eradication.
- The programme brings together people of different backgrounds, perspectives and ideas. Programme planning will be stronger and more representative of the people involved and affected.



Giving back to nature

Understanding how people's connection to nature drives behaviour

What's the challenge?

Embedding regenerative principles within New Zealand's tourism system is an essential step in ensuring tourism contributes to conservation. When successful, a functioning regenerative tourism system will contribute strongly to DOC's core mandate to protect and care for the natural environment. Through tourists giving back to nature, we can deliver on our vision: Papatūānuku thrives.

To empower tourists to give back, DOC first needs to understand how tourism can make a difference in giving back to the places people visit. Without this, it is difficult to develop strategies to help drive 'giving back' that delivers more than just economic growth.

Building on previous customer segmentation research, targeted research is needed to gain a better understanding of visitor needs, motivations, attitudes to and behaviour in the outdoors. Research undertaken at the Queen Charlotte Track explored visitor experiences and how visitors connect with and relate to the places they visit.

What's our approach?

- Research focusing on understanding visitors' connection to nature and how they might 'give back' to nature was conducted along the Queen Charlotte Track in the Marlborough Sounds.
- Through semi-structured qualitative interviews, visitors provided DOC with a deeper understanding of why they walked the track, how they connect with nature and what 'giving back' means to them.
- This research allowed DOC to explore various ways to 'give back', from increased fees and donations through to engaging in active conservation work at the place.

What has been accomplished?

- The research showed that visitors connect to nature in different ways on a scale from 'spectators of nature' to 'participants in nature'.
- Different strategies are needed for encouraging regenerative 'giving back' actions from visitors with different motivations.
- We have developed an 'engagement spectrum' to guide people from awareness to connection to action.



View from the Queen Charlotte Track. Photo: Rachel Young

Statement of service performance for 2021/22

	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual	Variance and commentary (if required)
Recreation concessions					
Longer-term recreation concessions monitored	19%	26%	10–15%	18%	Achieved Out of 1,029 longer-term recreation concessions, 189 were monitored during the year.
Other resource-use concessions					
Other longer-term resource-use concessions monitored	8%	14%	5–10%	11%	Achieved Out of 3,571 other longer-term resource-use concessions, 376 were monitored during the year.

DOC concession and partnership revenue

	2017/18 Actual	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual	Change from 2020/21
Source of financial contribution	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000	(%)
Concessions, leases and licences	24,406	27,276	20,870	8,077	9,424	16.7%
Sponsorship/partnership revenue	12,437	13,511	14,473	20,430	20,607	0.9%



Mitre Peak sunrise. Photo: Brendan Bombaci

E whakapikingia ana te noho o ngā tāngata o Aotearoa me te hunga o tāwāhi mā tō rātou hono ki te taiao, ki te aotūroa tuku iho hoki

New Zealanders and international visitors are enriched by their connection to New Zealand's nature and heritage

DOC aims to ensure that New Zealanders and international visitors benefit through their connections with Aotearoa New Zealand's history, unique identity and cultural heritage. DOC conducted insight research that compared interviews with New Zealanders pre- and post-COVID-19, which showed that connection with others, participation in the outdoors and connection with nature all helped support people's wellbeing and build their resilience. During periods of lockdown, close-to-home access to nature became increasingly important for health and wellbeing, especially for urban dwellers.

With borders still closed for most of the year, we encouraged New Zealanders to explore their backyard, and examples are given below of some of the ways in which we did that.

- Working with other government partners (Oranga Tamariki/Tākaī (previously called SKIP), Sparklers, Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori), we ran several initiatives to help families, teachers and students engage with nature, including designing and promoting ideas for 'Outside adventures'¹⁴ and '40 ka pai things'.¹⁵
- In Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland, we partnered with WWF-New Zealand to bring Whale Tales,¹⁶ a highly visual art trail designed to bring ocean health to the fore in the country's largest city. The trail advocated for Bryde's whales (pronounced 'BROO-dus') because the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park is one of only three places in the world with a resident population. Over 12 weeks, 310,000 people went on the trail, 10,000 school children took part in the education programme, and \$650,000 of funds were raised for marine biodiversity conservation.

¹⁴ See www.doc.govt.nz/haerenga-mo-waho, for more information.

¹⁵ See www.doc.govt.nz/40-ka-pai-things, for more information.

¹⁶ See www.wwf.org.nz/take_action/wwf_whaletales/, for more information.

- The Conservation Week theme for 2021 encouraged people to 'take a moment for nature', and our web pages highlighted the wellbeing benefits of connecting with, and acting for, nature and heritage. Our Soundhub project¹⁷ enabled visitors to our website and social channels to boost their wellbeing by immersing themselves in sounds of nature for up to 5 hours.

The DOC website and digital channels continue to be a popular way for New Zealanders and international visitors to connect with Aotearoa New Zealand's nature and heritage, with around 4.7 million New Zealanders and 1.2 million international online visitors during the year. DOC's most-visited nature pages are those featuring birds, with 1.8 million views in 2021/22. Building on the success of 'Royal Cam' (the livestreaming camera that lets viewers get close to royal albatross during their breeding season), this year we also trialled a 'Kākāpō Cam', livestreaming two kākāpō chicks during the breeding season. For the two weeks of livestreaming, 'Kākāpō Cam' had 212,000 viewers.

We have continued to support conservation education and training in schools and tertiary institutes, and to provide work experience and employment opportunities through programmes like Jobs for Nature. We also continued to foster community participation in voluntary conservation work, such as Predator Free 2050 projects.

During the year, 250 community projects funded by the DOC Community Fund were active. Based on completed projects over the year, for every \$1,000 invested, the DOC Community Fund achieved (on average):

- 40 hectares of predator control
- 1 hectare of weed control
- 0.03 hectares planted
- 41 volunteer hours
- \$1,284 of additional funds.

An opportunity exists to encourage visitors to play their part in protecting and restoring the places they visit. This would help visitors have a more meaningful and memorable experience, and, over time, to care more deeply about the places they visit. We have developed an engagement spectrum framework that shows how people move from awareness to connection to action. We have found it works particularly well when people are involved over an extended time and build up their skills in conservation work.

He mātai tūāhua Case studies

The following case studies highlight some of the work undertaken this year for this intermediate outcome.

- The Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- Returning takahē to the wild
- Hector's dolphin campaign

17 See www.doc.govt.nz/natureforwellbeing, for more information.

STAFF PROFILE

Martin Rodd

Director Partnerships



Martin has increasingly become known for his collaborative work on landscape-scale conservation, sparked by seeing the results from working with inspirational people and organisations over the years. Examples have included chairing the Waimea Rural Fire Authority, the opportunity to help set up the Kaiteriteri Mountain Park and helping to initiate Project Janszoon¹⁸ to restore Abel Tasman National Park.

Growing the collaborative approach led to the establishment of Kotahitanga mō te Taiao, an alliance of DOC, eight iwi, all councils, and The Nature Conservancy,¹⁹ covering 3.5 million hectares across the top of the South Island. Focused on achieving what no one entity could on its own, this alliance is enabling the region to progress multiple landscape-scale biodiversity programmes. Martin co-chairs this alliance with Ngāti Kuia's General Manager, Dave Johnston.

Martin is now working on a wider collaboration, exploring how national and international philanthropy could help support the restoration of critically endangered species and ecosystems for New Zealand's three largest and globally significant conservation projects, estimated to cost more than \$200 million over 10 years.

STAFF PROFILE

Wendy Evans

Business Support Manager



Wendy's knowledge and respect for raranga/weaving has led her to develop alternative permit processes for access to cultural resources in a more enabling way. The Ngā Aitanga ā Nuku approach enables whānau, hapū and iwi to manage their members' access to cultural resources from public conservation land for rongoā/medicine, raranga/weaving and other cultural purposes.

When it comes to the use of feathers for kākahu/cloaks and bones for uhi/chisels for tā moko, Wendy has supported local conversations to lift the authorisation up to marae, hapū or iwi level so all members are legally covered. Otherwise individual permits would be required, which puts people off asking for feathers, which in turn means those skills are lost.

Wendy was taught raranga/weaving by expert weaver Erenora Puketapu Hetet (Te Atiawa) 25 years ago. Wendy's current weaving projects include use of traditional Māori dyes, such as raurēkau (*Coprosma grandifolia*), which is a dye plant as well as a rongoā/medicine. Wendy occasionally runs beginner raranga/weaving classes at our Wellington office to give her DOC colleagues an understanding of tikanga/practices, history and techniques.

18 Project Janszoon is a philanthropic trust funded through the NEXT Foundation to help restore and preserve Abel Tasman National Park.

19 The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is a global environmental non-profit agency working across more than 70 countries on projects that tackle climate change, preserve land and water, and secure sustainable food and water. TNC has established a New Zealand office based in Wellington.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

A community-based legacy planting project across New Zealand

What's the challenge?

In honour of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, we have partnered with Project Crimson's Trees That Count initiative to support the planting of 100,000 native trees across 15 native restoration projects in New Zealand. The selected planting projects represent diverse environmental and community benefits, and incorporate community-led restoration of catchments and public reserves, iwi- and hapū-led projects, and restoration of farm waterways and biodiversity corridors.

This project also supports and grows the connections between iwi, community groups and private landowners to achieve native ecological restoration. The Platinum Jubilee planting legacy will help accelerate the wider environmental, social and economic benefits of those projects, for example, through improved water quality, soil conservation, and contributions to Aotearoa New Zealand's climate change commitments.

What's our approach?

- The planting programme is being delivered nationally through Project Crimson's Trees That Count initiative.
- We have engaged with Project Crimson and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to develop a national native tree planting project that can be delivered within the 2022 planting season.
- DOC and Project Crimson have maintained a strong relationship over many years and so were able to work together within tight timeframes to deliver this project.

What has been accomplished?

- The programme supports and grows connections between iwi, community groups and private landowners. It also demonstrates conservation values within the rural primary sector.
- Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee is celebrated through a significant restoration planting of 100,000 native trees across the country involving a range of land tenures and people.
- The environmental and community benefits of iconic and well-established restoration projects are boosted through the Jubilee plantings.



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee planting launched with a ceremonial kauri planting at Government House in Wellington. From left to right: Dame Helen Winkelmann, Chief Justice (representing the Governor-General); Joris De Bres, Chair of Project Crimson; and former Conservation Minister, Hon. Kiritapu Allan. Photo: Government House



Returning takahē to the wild

Paving the way for takahē recovery in partnership with Fulton Hogan

What's the challenge?

Our partnership with engineering company Fulton Hogan on the Takahē Recovery Programme is a great example of how businesses are working alongside DOC, iwi, hapū and whānau to make a positive change across Aotearoa New Zealand. Our takahē recovery work with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Fulton Hogan is supported by the New Zealand Nature Fund and the network of takahē sanctuary sites around the country. Together, we are guided by the vision “to weave the takahē back into the korowai (traditional Māori cloak)”.

A taonga of Ngāi Tahu, the endangered takahē were thought to be extinct for nearly 50 years. With a rare second chance at ensuring their survival, the Recovery Programme is striving towards establishing, growing and securing populations in the wild. The total population of takahē is less than 500 birds. Fulton Hogan partnered with us in 2016 to support the work and has recently extended its partnership commitment to 10 years. Their support spans beyond the operational costs of the Takahē Recovery Programme, and includes volunteering, engineering expertise, and willingness to support DOC's emergency responses, all of which are providing broader benefits.



Releasing takahē into the Murchison Mountains, Fiordland National Park, to boost the population. From left to right: Graeme Johnson, Grant Sime and Stephen Lowe of Fulton Hogan with Glen Greaves, DOC Takahē Senior Ranger. Photo: Fulton Hogan

What's our approach?

- Our partnership's strategic objectives focus on:
 - seeking meaningful opportunities for both iwi, hapū and whānau to exercise rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga, and Fulton Hogan staff to contribute to the work
 - demonstrating leadership in business connecting with conservation, to inspire others to take action
 - delivering significant conservation outcomes through efficient and effective programme management and innovation.
- Our partnership is continually seeking to explore opportunities and combine expertise to help solve conservation challenges.
- We are enabling the expansion and ongoing support of the wild takahē populations through maximising the productivity, genetic robustness and security of the sanctuary sites' population.
- By aligning the programme and partnership with Predator Free 2050, and supporting the work of others, we are accelerating the availability of future wild sites.

What has been accomplished?

- In July 2021, Fulton Hogan extended its partnership commitment to the Takahē Recovery Programme for 10 years and building on the following achievements.
 - Within the first 2 years of our partnership, we achieved the 2016–26 Takahē Recovery goal of reducing the threat status of takahē from 'Nationally Critical' to 'Nationally Vulnerable'.
 - During the past year, we reached the milestone of half the total takahē population living in the wild. This shift away from a sanctuary dominant population, reliant on intensive management, demonstrates positive gains towards takahē recovery.
 - Our 2023 plans are to reintroduce takahē to a new wild site within the Ngāi Tahu takiwā (tribal area). This follows the partnership reintroducing takahē into Kahurangi National Park in 2018, the first wild population outside of their last refuge in Fiordland.

CASE STUDY



Hector's dolphin campaign

Increasing public sightings of Hector's dolphins

What's the challenge?

Hector's dolphins are one of the world's rarest dolphin species. With an estimated population of 15,000, the dolphins are classified as 'Nationally Vulnerable' and threatened by several factors including fishing, disease, boat strike, mining, tourism and noise.

To help us build an understanding of these taonga species, including where they are commonly found, and to help future planning for marine protection and management, we launched a campaign in December 2021 encouraging New Zealanders to report sightings of these dolphins. The campaign aims to engage all New Zealanders in Hector's and Māui dolphin conservation and increase public support for the management of human-induced threats to these dolphins. The campaign supports a threat management plan developed for both Hector's and Māui dolphins led by DOC and Fisheries New Zealand. Māui dolphins look similar to Hector's dolphins, face the same threats and have a 'Nationally Critical' status.

What's our approach?

- We ran a campaign called 'Rounded fin? Call it in!' from December 2021 to February 2022. This encouraged people to report any sightings of Hector's dolphins to DOC via 0800 DOC HOT, DOC's website, or a Hector's dolphin sightings app.
- The campaign targeted people visiting and living in coastal areas of the northern South Island (where Hector's dolphins are located), boaties and those interested in water-based activities.
- Campaign messaging was pushed out through targeted channels including social media, posters, digital banners, newspapers, and decals to place at marinas.

What has been accomplished?

- The campaign generated much media interest and public awareness demonstrating the power of 'citizen science' behavioural change campaigns to engage people in conservation action.
- Since the campaign started, 347 sightings of Hector's and Māui dolphins have been reported. This is a 131% increase in reported sightings compared with last summer over the same period.
- The campaign reached New Zealanders through media stories, social media and website activity as follows:
 - Social media: Total reach: 238,772 people. Total impressions: 1,974,147
 - Media: 55 media stories related to Hector's dolphins
 - Website: 4,723 marine mammal form page views. This is a 1238% increase from the previous year.



E whakapikingia ana te noho o ngā tāngata o Aotearoa me te hunga o tāwāhi mā tō rātou hono ki te taiao, ki te aotūroa tuku iho hoki
 New Zealanders and international visitors are enriched by their connection to New Zealand's nature and heritage

Statement of service performance for 2021/22

	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual	Variance and commentary (if required)
Engagement					
Number of community agreements enabling conservation work by others	411	447	310–540	461	Achieved
Education and communication					
Number of knowledge and skill-sharing initiatives provided	486	368	320–550	265	Not achieved Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, fewer initiatives were delivered.

Output class operating statement 2021/22: Conservation with the community

	30/06/21 Actual \$000	30/06/22 Budget \$000	30/06/22 Revised Budget \$000	30/06/22 Actual \$000
Revenue				
Crown	38,566	34,683	41,910	41,910
Other	3,300	1,580	4,840	3,607
Total revenue	41,866	36,263	46,750	45,517
Expenses	41,135	36,263	46,750	39,956
Surplus/(deficit)	731	0	0	5,561



Tui displaying its wings and tail feathers at Zealandia Ecosanctuary, Wellington Region. *Photo: Bon Wilton*

Hei tūāpapa te taiao me ngā taonga tuku iho o Aotearoa mō tō tātou ekenga taumata ōhanga, taumata pāpori, ahurea hoki

New Zealand's unique environment and heritage is a foundation for our economic, social and cultural success

DOC provides for and manages Aotearoa New Zealand's largest recreation network: over 14,000 kilometres of tracks, 331 campsites, 967 backcountry huts, 30 Heritage Icon sites, 13 national parks, 44 marine reserves, and various other reserves where people can undertake recreation.

He wheako wātea, haumaruru hoki **Accessible and safe experiences**

Our visitor services work this year was on the maintenance and promotion of accessible experiences, such as Tohu Whenua heritage sites, Short Walks and Day Hikes; places easily reached from large population centres.

We continue to appropriately manage the risks to visitors, maintain services and experiences that better meet the needs of visitors, protect conservation values, support visitor wellbeing, and enable our Treaty partners and communities to benefit from visitors.

Te whakamahere mō te hokinga mai o ngā manuhiri o tāwāhi

Planning for the return of international visitors

We supported the wider tourism sector to set up tourism to be more sustainable in the future.

We did this by looking at how we contribute to large-scale, destination management projects in a way that supports environmental, social, cultural, and economic success. Examples of the destinations we worked on during the year are:

- Milford Sound – DOC plays an important role in creating a more sustainable and regenerative tourism destination through the Milford Opportunity Project.
- Tongariro Alpine Crossing – Working with Ngāti Hikairo and Tūwharetoa, we are exploring ways to protect the environment and cultural and historic values of the location while allowing visitors to safely enjoy the alpine environment.

Te Rautaki Wāhi Tuku Iho, Manuhiri hou Heritage and Visitor Strategy

The Heritage and Visitor Strategy²⁰ (released in February 2021) has three goals: protect, connect, thrive. To benefit people and communities and achieve a sustainable future, we care for Papatūānuku, foster recreation in nature, and share stories of Aotearoa New Zealand's cultural heritage.

Creating the Heritage and Visitor Strategy was the first step in directing DOC's efforts for New Zealanders to protect, connect and thrive with nature and cultural heritage. This year a strong focus has been on the second step, that is, understanding how to use the Heritage and Visitor Strategy to make a difference to what people do at place.

The strategy's effectiveness relies on staff understanding it, applying it in planning processes, and then delivering it on the ground. By empowering our staff to engage with the strategy through practical tools and ways of thinking, we can achieve the goals of the Heritage and Visitor Strategy. We therefore developed a series of workshops to create behaviour change and new approaches. These workshops explored what the strategy means, how we can use it to inform planning, and to think differently about our work and places.

At a regional level, we have been able to outline significant pieces of work that will contribute to achieving the Heritage and Visitor Strategy's goals, and two pilot regions have drafted 10-year plans to achieve those pieces of work. Additionally, the management teams and staff in four regions have explored how to apply the strategy at place and regionally. These four regions have also created tools to help staff describe their work against the strategy and provided questions to help staff at destinations think about how they will achieve the strategic shifts in operating and behaviour.

He mātai tūāhua Case studies

The following case studies highlight some of the work undertaken this year for this intermediate outcome.

- A master plan for Milford Sound/Piopiotaahi
- Great Walks
- Pricing our recreation facilities

²⁰ See www.doc.govt.nz/heritage-and-visitor-strategy for more information.



CASE STUDY

A master plan for Milford Sound/Piopiotahi

Ensuring Milford Sound/Piopiotahi maintains its status as an important New Zealand visitor icon for generations to come

What's the challenge?

Milford Sound/Piopiotahi received 870,000 visitors in 2019, compared with 430,000 visitors in 2013. Infrastructure was not coping and cars were parked for kilometres up the state highway. At times, the place was noisy and congested and not the experience we want to showcase to the world.

To safeguard the World Heritage status, conservation values and visitor experience required new thinking. To achieve this, the Milford Opportunities Project was formed, consisting of representatives from iwi, local councils, DOC, Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and tourism business operators.

In June 2021, the Milford Opportunities Project delivered a 50-year master plan to Cabinet. One of the central elements of the master plan is to restrict private vehicle access and to develop a shared transport model for visitors. The next phase of the Milford Opportunities Project is now under way, with a detailed implementation plan being developed.

What's our approach?

- The Milford Opportunities Project was formed to address visitor experience and management issues.
- DOC has been a significant contributor to the project. DOC's contribution included staff time and operating costs.
- The Milford Opportunities Project unit is independent but hosted by DOC for its administrative and corporate functions.

What has been accomplished?

- In June 2021, the Milford Opportunities Project delivered a master plan to Cabinet aimed at protecting the place, while creating a world-class visitor experience.
- In 2021, Cabinet approved \$15 million for the final phase of this project, the design planning and implementation phase.
- A ministerial advisory board has been formed, with an independent chairperson.



DOC Regional Visitor Planning Manager, Claire Spencer, and Milford Opportunities Project Working Group member and DOC Partnerships Manager, John Twidle, discuss how to protect Milford Sound/Piopiotahi, while creating a world-class sustainable visitor experience. *Photo: Rachael McMillan, DOC*

CASE STUDY



Great Walks

Celebrating the 30th anniversary

What's the challenge?

Great Walks are one of Aotearoa New Zealand's most iconic outdoor activities, synonymous with exceptional visitor experiences and outstanding landscapes. This year marks 30 years of Great Walks and we have launched a year-long 'Get to Greatness' campaign, encouraging New Zealanders to connect with nature and spread the load to facilities with excess capacity.

Regeneration, restoration and the mitigation of visitor impacts have been central to Great Walks since their establishment in 1992. Today, biodiversity is flourishing around the Great Walks, and restoration projects are bringing back native species, thanks to the hard work of local iwi, community groups and businesses such as Air New Zealand.

Over the past 30 years, the Great Walks have become a crucial part of New Zealand's tourism offering. They have strong domestic and international appeal, helping nearby communities thrive. Our surveys have also highlighted the multiple ways in which doing a Great Walk supports people's wellbeing.

What's our approach?

- The Great Walks product set was originally created to reduce the impact of visitors on iconic tramping tracks.
- Ten Great Walks are now available around the country. Eight Great Walks were part of the original product set, then the Whanganui Journey was added later. In 2019, the new shared-use Paparoa Track was opened.
- Hump Ridge Track in Southland will become the 11th Great Walk in 2023/24.
- The most visited Great Walk is the Abel Tasman Coast Track, followed by the Routeburn, Kepler and Milford tracks.
- The Fiordland Great Walks typically have high occupancy rates in their huts through the season, and other Great Walks have high occupancy in huts at peak periods. To spread the load, we have been encouraging New Zealanders to consider alternative Great Walks that have spare capacity, such as the Abel Tasman, Heaphy and Rakiura tracks. We have also raised awareness of the option to camp alongside eight of the Great Walks.

What has been accomplished?

- Over the past 10 years, 1 million visitors have experienced a Great Walk.
- More people do the Great Walks now than they did 20 years ago, providing regional economic benefit.
- Great Walks are a drawcard for international tourists. In 2019, 11% of international visitors surveyed said they had done a Great Walk.
- Domestic travellers also love Great Walks. COVID-19 border closures prompted more New Zealanders to try a Great Walk; a 75% increase occurred in New Zealanders booked onto a Great Walk for summer 2020/21.
- The Get to Greatness campaign has increased publicity of Great Walks on their 30th anniversary. An estimated 40% increase in media coverage occurred for the opening of bookings, compared with the previous year.
- Opening week bookings this year were up around 5% on the previous year (excluding the Heaphy Track, which is partially closed due to storm damage). New Zealanders booked over 100,000 bednights in the first week alone, 85% of total bookings.



Campaign visual '30 Years of Great Walks'



CASE STUDY

Pricing our recreation facilities

Ensuring a fair return and spreading demand

What's the challenge?

One of the challenges in managing visitors to our facilities is ensuring a fair contribution is obtained for the use of the facilities. The fees we charge can offset delivery costs and provide additional funding to deliver conservation outcomes.

The introduction of a new booking system in 2018 has let us change how we manage access to recreational assets and how we price the facilities. The data is increasingly allowing us to use tools like pricing to influence and modify visitor behaviour and spread demand at our most popular facilities.

While we know certain huts or campsites are popular, the booking system has confirmed past assumptions by providing evidence through the data. Capturing more data through the booking process also helps us target marketing and social media advertising to be more effective and promote the booking of our recreational facilities outside of the traditionally busy seasons. Spreading demand can provide a better experience for visitors and potentially deliver more revenue from the facility than may have otherwise occurred.

As well as using the data to spread demand, it is also helpful in making pricing decisions for our facilities, and we reviewed campsite prices this year based on that data. We also used available data to determine the optimal size for the planned replacement of Pouakai Hut on the Taranaki Crossing.

What's our approach?

- We are progressively adding more facilities to the online booking system, and this year added 3 huts and 3 campsites.
- We are using the online booking system and web page data to inform our analysis.
- A regular cycle of price reviews is conducted for the different product sets (campsites, huts and Great Walks).
- We use the CPI (consumers price index) and market-based pricing to help determine pricing.

What has been accomplished?

- We now have 114 bookable campgrounds, excluding Great Walks.
- We also now have 40 bookable huts, excluding Great Walks.
- Seasonal pricing has been implemented at 15 of our busiest campsites.
- We can now actively promote places where bookings are still available.



One of the Great Walk huts on the Heaphy Track in Kahurangi National Park. Photo: Ray Salisbury, www.hotpixels.co.nz

Statement of service performance for 2021/22

	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual	Variance and commentary (if required)
Asset management					
Huts – percentage to standard SM	81%	89%	90%	89%	Achieved ²¹ Out of 967 huts, 863 are to standard.
Tracks – percentage to standard SM	55%	60%	45%	61%	Achieved Out of 14,729 kilometres of track, 8,984 kilometres are to standard.
Structures (bridges, boardwalks etc) – percentage to standard SM	94%	97%	95%	96%	Achieved Out of 13,580 structures, 13,056 are to standard.
			2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual	Variance and commentary (if required)
Search and Rescue Activities PLA (permanent legislative authority)					
Strategy and terms of reference for improved sector coordination signed off			Meets	Not met	Amendments to the draft strategy and terms of reference are expected to be finalised in August 2022.

Output class operating statement 2021/22: Management of recreational opportunities

	30/06/21 Actual \$000	30/06/22 Budget \$000	30/06/22 Revised Budget \$000	30/06/22 Actual \$000
Revenue				
Crown	166,054	161,124	154,327	154,327
Other	27,252	32,312	32,312	25,696
Total revenue	193,306	193,436	186,639	180,023
Expenses	184,559	195,436	188,639	184,775
Surplus/(deficit)	8,747	(2,000)	(2,000)	(4,752)

21 We consider that performance has been achieved when it is within a tolerance level acceptable for the nature of the work.
For significant measures (annotated with SM), this tolerance is 5%. When outside this range, a variance comment is provided.

Output class operating statement 2021/22: Search and rescue activities

	30/06/21 Actual \$000	30/06/22 Budget \$000	30/06/22 Revised Budget \$000	30/06/22 Actual \$000
Revenue				
Crown	465	359	115	115
Other	0	0	0	0
Total revenue	465	359	115	115
Expenses	69	359	115	150
Surplus/(deficit)	396	0	0	(35)

Revenue from key Department of Conservation products and services

	2017/18 Actual \$000	2018/19 Actual \$000	2019/20 Actual \$000	2020/21 Actual \$000	2021/22 Actual \$000	Change from 2020/21 (%)
Revenue received						
Backcountry huts	2,062	2,345	1,994	2,293	2,139	-6.7%
Conservation campsites	7,543	8,015	6,900	7,122	5,534	-22.3%
Great Walks	7,320	9,612	6,945	6,817	5,864	-14.0%
Visitor centre network – gross retail	3,198	3,227	2,613	1,555	960	-38.3%

STAFF PROFILE

Kate McInnes

Science Advisor/Vet



Kate grew up on Turrbal and Yuggera country near Mianjin (Brisbane River) before making Aotearoa New Zealand her home in 1998. The wildlife she was surrounded by growing up gave her a life-long love of animals and the outdoors.

Working for DOC allows her to combine her love of wildlife and the outdoors with her veterinarian skills, whether as a volunteer at Nelson Lakes to live-trap stoats for a tracking study, working in Tuatapere as a biodiversity ranger doing plant and bird surveys and pest control, or tree climbing for mohua nest monitoring in the Caples for rat control research.








Kate developed the original fully balanced kākāpō supplementary food pellets, which were used to boost breeding success in the 2002 bumper breeding season. She is regularly seen around the country providing training for disease diagnosis and treatment of wildlife. Her disease risk assessment tool for wildlife translocations was incorporated into the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) programme for international use. Kate manages the National Wildlife Pathology contract with Massey University, which recently passed its 10,000th case, providing immediate answers and long-term data for wildlife disease issues.



Tuhinga ahurei huritau-35

35-year
anniversary feature







Ā, mō ēnei tau 35 ka hori ake nei Conservation milestones over the last 35 years






	Then	Now
 Public conservation lands and waters		33% territorial sea, 30% land
 Marine mammal sanctuaries	1.4 million hectares (1988)	3.4 million hectares
 Marine reserves	700,000 hectares (1995)	1,768,900 hectares (2021)
 Ramsar sites	1990 – 3 Ramsar sites listed, bringing the total to 5	10 (including 3 UNESCO)
 Nature Heritage Fund	Established 1990	349,000 hectares private land purchased
 Species recovery plans	8 (1991), beginning with kōkako, kiwi, kakī (black stilt), ngutukākā/kākābeak, and 3 species of skink	64
 Signage and branding	1990 – DOC green and gold branding, including signs First National Park Management Plan (1988), first Conservation Management Strategy approved (1992)	20,000-plus signs in system 17 Conservation Management Strategies, 13 National Park Management Plans, 19 Conservation Management Plans

Community

	1989 – 606 working days, 373 volunteers	36,923 working-day equivalent
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Species

 Kākāpō	1990 – Total population of 43	197 birds
 North island kōkako	330 breeding pairs (about 1,000 individual birds)	1,600 pairs (2021)
	South Island kōkako thought extinct	2022 – A possible recording on the Heaphy Track
 Chatham Islands black robin	5 birds in 1980, with one breeding pair	290 adult birds
 Takahē	189 (1987)	440 (2021)
 Whio (blue duck)	6 captive-bred whio released into Egmont National Park in 1987, by 1988, 3 were still alive with 1 juvenile produced – release of captive-bred endangered birds in the past only rarely successful	2020 (Egmont National Park) – 15 pairs, 18 single and 17 juvenile birds 2021 – 863 breeding pairs
 Kakī (black stilt)	97 (1989)	170 adults (April 2021)

	Then	Now
Tangata whenua		
	First Treaty settlement that involved conservation redress was the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998	95 individual Treaty settlement commitments
	Ngā Whenua Rāhui established 1991	By 2020, 281 agreements protecting 182,775 hectares
Pest and weed control		
 Island pest eradication	1988 – Eradication of possums and weka on Codfish Island / Whenua Hou 1990 – Mice removed from 2 islands (Allports and Mana) 1990 – Rats eradicated from Double (Mercury Group), Noises, and Somes islands	Over 100 pest-free islands
Visitors		
 Tracks	1990 – 3,500 kilometres	14,673 kilometres
 Historic reserves	97	150

Te āheinga Capability



Te whai wāhi me te kanorau Inclusion and diversity

DOC places importance on developing a culture where everyone can participate and thrive. We are working towards being an organisation that is inclusive by default. Accordingly, we are continuing our work to incorporate inclusion and diversity into our organisational culture, through biculturalism, inclusive leadership, flexible working, employee wellbeing and cultural capability. To do this, we are focusing on the following three areas:

1. Papa Pounamu commitments
2. Gender, Māori and Ethnic Pay Gap Action Plan
3. Women in leadership research.

More detail on each of these areas is provided below.

1. Papa Pounamu commitments

We are continuing to work towards the five Papa Pounamu commitments, using our existing initiatives and systems. Our work programmes for these priorities are summarised below.

- **Strengthening cultural competence**

Implementing the first phase of 'Whāinga Amorangi: Transforming Leadership' has strengthened our commitment to lifting the organisation's bicultural capability through leadership. We will also be adapting and rolling out the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Mana Aki cultural competency module for all staff from the first quarter of 2023, starting with senior leaders.

- **Addressing bias and discrimination**

Our manager development programme aims to grow the capability of leaders in our changing context, and is offered to all directors, managers, supervisors, and team leaders. This 3-day course includes a 4-hour unconscious bias section that encourages

leaders to understand bias and its effects on behaviour and decision-making, and teaches tools and strategies to move beyond bias.

This year we have started to transition the content of this programme to an online format, to improve accessibility and self-directed learning.

- **Building inclusive leadership**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and recent structural changes, the building inclusive leadership initiative has not started. We are currently planning, however, to roll out the Leadership Development Centre's Inclusive Leadership Conversations in the first half of 2023, and expect all senior leaders (Tier 2 and Tier 3) will engage with the training during the year.

- **Developing relationships that are responsive to diversity**

Our people leaders continue to use the resources on our intranet to build sound professional relationships with their direct reports. We also promote the inclusive practice toolkit developed by Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission.

- **Supporting and engaging with employee-led networks**

We support an active Rainbow network, an internal accessibility community of practice, and regional groups that support employee-led te ao Māori, social and sustainability activities.

A guidance document promoting and encouraging the establishment of employee-led networks has been developed and will be made available to staff.

2. Gender, Māori and Ethnic Pay Gap Action Plan

As required by 'Kia Toipoto – Public Service Pay Gaps Action Plan 2021–24', we have developed the '2021 Gender, Māori and Ethnic Pay Gap Action Plan'²² to eliminate gender and ethnic discrimination at DOC.

The Department's gender pay gap is 2% as at March 2022. Based on the analysis informing the action plan, there is no evidence to show the pay gap is caused by unjustified factors, such as bias. The Māori pay gap is 7% (using average salaries), which is lower than the public service average of 9.3%.

As of 30 June 2022, 13% of our people identify as Māori, 3% as Asian and 1% as Pacific peoples. The number of employees who identify as Asian or Pacific peoples is low. At this stage, it is difficult to undertake detailed analysis to understand whether pay gap issues exist with these groups.

3. Women in leadership research

As part of our work on closing any unjustified gender pay gaps, we commissioned research during 2020/21 to understand why women are under-represented in senior leadership roles. A 12-month work programme has been developed to help reduce barriers to recruitment and progression. Planned initiatives include a mentoring programme, a targeted learning series and stories and symbols to show our organisation as being family and child friendly.

Ngā whakaōritenga whakawhiwhi mahi Equal employment opportunities

A set of employment principles underpins our approach to being a good employer. These include: impartial selection, recognition of the aims and aspirations of Māori and all ethnicity or minority groups, recognition of the employment requirements of women, persons with disabilities, and so on.

Other work relating to equal employment opportunities is included in our inclusion and diversity programme.

Ngā Pūmanawa Hononga Māori ki te Karauna Māori Crown Relations capability

Two main programmes of work are under way in the public service to build Māori Crown Relations capability.

1. Whāinga Amorangi: Transforming Leadership

DOC's Whāinga Amorangi phase one: Empowering people plan has been endorsed by Te Arawhiti – The Office for Māori Crown Relations. The plan builds on work undertaken over several years through our programme called Te Pūkenga, which sits at the centre of our Māori–Crown approach.

An important component of our Te Pūkenga programme is Te Pūkenga Atawhai. This is a week-long, marae-based wānanga that the organisation has delivered in association with Māori for over 20 years. It covers compulsory topics for te reo Māori, New Zealand history and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and touches on other competency areas, including tikanga/kawa, the Māori worldview, and engagement with Māori.

²² See www.doc.govt.nz/pay-gap-action-plan for more information.

We have proactively looked for opportunities to demonstrate our commitment towards building Māori Crown Relations capability, including:

- establishing Te Kawai Aho, a network of staff from iwi across Aotearoa New Zealand. The purpose of Te Kawai Aho is to provide an opportunity to share, debate and discuss kaupapa to strengthen our resolve as an organisation to be an honourable Treaty partner
- building organisational cultural capability through recruitment and partnerships, including the use of te reo Māori, and development of cultural etiquette and tikanga
- developing a recruitment framework for senior-level candidates to identify skills, knowledge and abilities that build on the Māori Crown Relations capability framework, workforce planning, career planning, induction and so on
- ensuring cultural capability development has a strong connection to 'place' and the unique considerations inherent in the location, Treaty claims, and whānau, hapū and iwi engagement and relationships
- reviewing our organisational design and functional structures, including the introduction of director-level kaihautū roles for every business group across the organisation. The role supports the Tumuaki-Ahurei (Director-General) or Tumuaki (Deputy Director-General) and helps guide each business group's leadership team to develop and operate as an honourable Treaty partner. It also provides opportunities for whānau, hapū and iwi to participate in all aspects of a group's activities. Infusing Māori perspectives, expectations and aspirations in our systems and processes, upholding Māori cultural protocols and practices consistently, building quality relationships with whānau, hapū and iwi, and applying the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi are supported by the kaihautū role.

2. Maihi Karauna – Māori language planning

As part of 'Maihi Karauna: the Crown's Strategy for Māori Language Revitalisation 2019–2023', we have been reviewing our current te Reo Māori language plan.

In February, we conducted a survey on te reo Māori needs and aspirations of staff. Nearly 60% of staff completed the survey, and 1-in-5 respondents indicated they are currently learning te reo Māori, and a further 131 respondents planned to learn in the next 6 months.

The use of te reo Māori is currently demonstrated in the following ways.

- We have integrated tikanga Māori into the workplace, for example the consistent use of karakia.
- We facilitate Sentinel Ā Nuku, a programme to prepare the next generation through workplace training, education, practical skills, personal development of conservation skills, and knowledge of the management of te taiao, in a tikanga Māori context and through the medium of te reo Māori.
- Our national induction programme includes the distribution of the publication 'Māori for the Office', published by Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori, aligning to the principles of acquisition, use and status of 'Te Pa Model'.

We have also supported Te Wiki o te reo Māori and other revitalisation activities, including using te reo Māori in publications and public signage.

Tō mātou kōtaha tira kaimahi Our workforce profile

Table 1 provides information on DOC's demographic profile, including a comparison with last year's numbers and a breakdown of gender and ethnicity at the leadership level.

Table 1: DOC staff demographics

	2021/22	Change since 2020/21
Total permanent and fixed term employees (FTE)	2,465.5	↓ (-70.4) ²³
Average age	44	↔ (no change)
Average length of service (years)	9.1	↑ (+0.1)
Percentage of staff reporting as having a disability	2.5%	↓ (-0.1)

	All staff		Leadership (tiers 1-3)	
	2021/22	Change since 2020/21	2021/22	Change since 2020/21
Gender:²⁴				
• Male	47.8%	↓ (-1.5)	50.8%	↓ (-9.5)
• Female	51.4%	↑ (+1.1)	49.2%	↑ (+9.5)
• Another gender	0.4%	↑ (+0.2)	-	↔ (no change)
Ethnicity:				
• European	70.1%	↑ (+3.2)	71.4%	↑ (+2)
• Māori	12.7%	↑ (+0.5)	19.1%	↑ (+1.4)
• Pacific peoples	1.2%	↑ (+0.1)	0%	↔ (no change)
• Asian	3.3%	↓ (-0.7)	3.7%	↑ (+0.5)
• Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	0.9%	↓ (-0.1)	0%	↔ (no change)
• Other ethnicity	21.6%	↓ (-1.7)	9.5%	↓ (-3.4)

Te hauora me te haumarū

Health and safety

Our critical health and safety risks are managed through a critical risk programme, with risk controls in place at several levels and monitoring of potentially fatal incidents to detect trends. The top eight critical risks are: chainsaw use, working at heights, scuba-diving, on-road vehicle driving, helicopter use, boat use, psychosocial and lone workers. The rate of Potentially Fatal Incidents has been decreasing over the past 3 years (see table 2).

Last year we developed an early intervention programme to address pain, discomfort and soft tissue injuries. It is easily accessed online by staff or their supervisor or manager. In 2020/21 (its first year), 157 referrals were made, down to 118 in 2021/22.

²³ The number of full-time equivalent staff (FTE) last year was incorrectly reported as 2,626. The correct number was 2,535.8.

²⁴ Gender statistics do not include staff who do not wish to specify their gender.

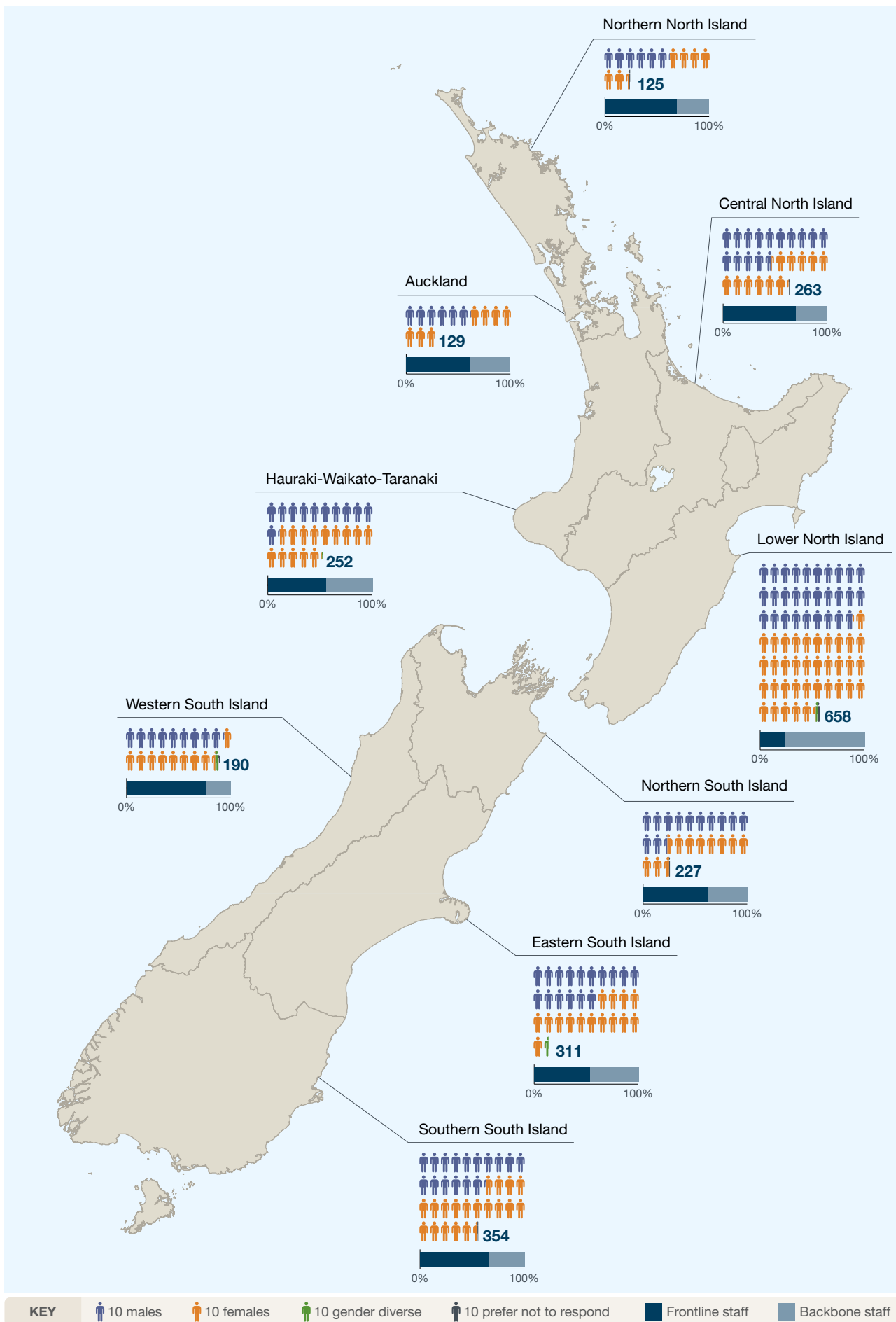


Figure 5: Key staff demographics for DOC, by region

Over the past year we have continued to refine health and safety governance arrangements, and the officers now govern through a bimonthly safety governance group, which includes independent external advice.

Other important work during the year was managing the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic and maintaining staff health, safety and wellbeing as we supported the Government's pandemic response. Our response included initiatives such as the introduction (and later suspension) of vaccine mandates for staff, contractors and visitors; masking policies; and flexible working arrangements. The deployment of these measures, alongside updated business continuity plans, meant no significant disruptions occurred to our conservation delivery outside of the national 'lockdown' periods.

Keeping our partners safe

We have continued to review and refine our system to support working with others, for example contractors, community groups and participants in Jobs for Nature programmes.

Table 2: Incidents with fatal potential by critical risk and year

Critical risk	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Chainsaw use	5	4	1
Helicopter use	30	27	15
On-road vehicle driving ²⁵	81	52	39
Working at heights	1	1	2

²⁵ Due to changes in reporting methodology, the 2019/20 and 2020/21 figures for on-road vehicle driving incidents are different from the figures reported last year.



Te panonitanga āhuarangi Climate change

Between Forest Burn and Hanging Valley shelters. Photo: Jake Osbourne

Aotearoa New Zealand's first emissions reduction plan is also one of the first in the world to outline a plan for responding to the climate and biodiversity emergencies together. DOC led the development of a dedicated chapter in the Emissions Reduction Plan on 'Working with nature'. A significant outcome is that climate policy, planning and regulation should protect, enhance and restore nature, and any effects on nature should be mitigated as much as possible. The commitments in the Emissions Reduction Plan will also help us achieve the goals of 'Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy'. Our work to address and mitigate the effects of climate change fall into three main areas: adaptation, mitigation, and sequestration.

Urutau Adaptation

DOC has the 'Climate Change Adaption Action Plan for 2020–2025' to prepare and guide its response to climate change, from managing visitor assets through to reducing the risk to native biodiversity on land, in rivers, and at sea.

Over the past year, we have:

- completed a vulnerability assessment detailing the effects of climate change on native frogs, as a case study for application to other threatened species
- updated and made available geospatial climate projection data on internal systems, to support management decision making, in collaboration with NIWA (the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research)
- completed a climate change vulnerability assessment for the Kelman Hut, in Aoraki Mount Cook National Park, providing adaptation options for a resilient visitor infrastructure and experience on the upper Tasman Glacier

- worked with the Ministry for the Environment to include the DOC Climate Change Adaption Action Plan in the draft National Adaptation Plan, to ensure consideration of climate effects on biodiversity, heritage, and visitor experiences
- participated in the New Zealand Government delegation to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Sixth Assessment Report Working Group II Summary for Policy Makers approval session.

Te whakamauru Mitigation

As part of the Carbon Neutral Government Programme, we are required to reduce DOC's carbon emissions in line with 1.5°C global warming. During the past year, we have:

- completed the roll-out of electric passenger vehicles (see figure 6 for our passenger fleet composition)
- reduced the total vehicle fleet size by 5%
- obtained emissions certification for our base year (2020/21)
- developed internal carbon dashboards, to enable visualisation of the data
- developed an internal carbon calculator, to enable emissions assessment
- recycled 2,500 kilograms of old uniforms through a New Zealand-based company
- upgraded the Mana Island and Takapourewa Island solar power systems, to enable remote reporting
- continued the work programme to replace coal used for stationary heating at 69 visitor sites and staff properties
- integrated climate change mitigation evaluation criteria into various tenders (for example the Tarn Ridge / Oturere Hut tender)
- carried out trials, through work scheduling, to identify options to reduce emissions from vehicle and helicopter use.

Te tāmau waro Sequestration

We are one of three government agencies exploring avenues to maximise carbon storage and increase natural sequestration within native ecosystems to achieve our future carbon goals. Using native ecosystems for carbon sequestration provides the benefits of establishing and enhancing long-term carbon sinks while also supporting the country's critical biodiversity goals. These advantages have been identified within 'Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy' and 'Te hau mārohi ki anamata Towards a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy: Aotearoa New Zealand's first emissions reduction plan'.

Over the past year we have developed a research programme to address knowledge gaps about carbon storage in indigenous forest and non-forest ecosystems. The 4-year programme includes:

- research to understand the drivers of changes in carbon storage, including the potential to enhance carbon storage in mature and regenerating forests through animal control and other interventions
- restoration practices that can maximise carbon sequestration and biodiversity outcomes across a range of ecosystem types
- whānau, hapū and iwi engagement supporting mātauranga Māori and opportunities for Māori to maintain traditions and exercise kaitiakitanga.

Te whakapūrongo i ngā tukuwaro Carbon emissions reporting

In December 2020, the Government launched its Carbon Neutral Government Programme. The programme's objectives are to reduce government emissions at an accelerated rate and achieve carbon neutrality by 2025. Participating agencies, including DOC, must:

- measure, verify and report emissions annually
- set gross emissions reduction targets and longer-term reduction plans
- introduce a phased work programme to reduce emissions
- offset remaining emissions to achieve carbon neutrality by December 2025.

We are a member of Toitū Envirocare's CarbonReduce programme, and this is our second year of reporting emissions. Our verified baseline emissions for 2020/21 were 11,091 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO₂e). This year we reduced that number to 9,326 t CO₂e, which is a 16% reduction on our base year. Our three largest emission sources are Jet 1 (from helicopter use), diesel and wastewater (see table 3).

Table 3: Comparison of DOC's verified baseline carbon emissions over time

Emission source	2020/21 t CO ₂ e	2021/22 t CO ₂ e	Change
Helicopter (Jet A1 and aviation gas)	2,943	2,732	↓
Diesel	2,600	2,170	↓
Wastewater	2,018	1,289	↓
Petrol	871	810	↓
Staff commute and working from home	–	630	n/a
Business travel	1,241	605	↓
Electricity and natural gas	658	548	↓
Landfill and composting	475	290	↓
Other fuels	125	135	↑
Refrigerants	143	111	↓
Paper use	17	7	↓
Total (all measured emissions) in t CO₂e	11,091	9,326	↓

Note: t CO₂e = tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

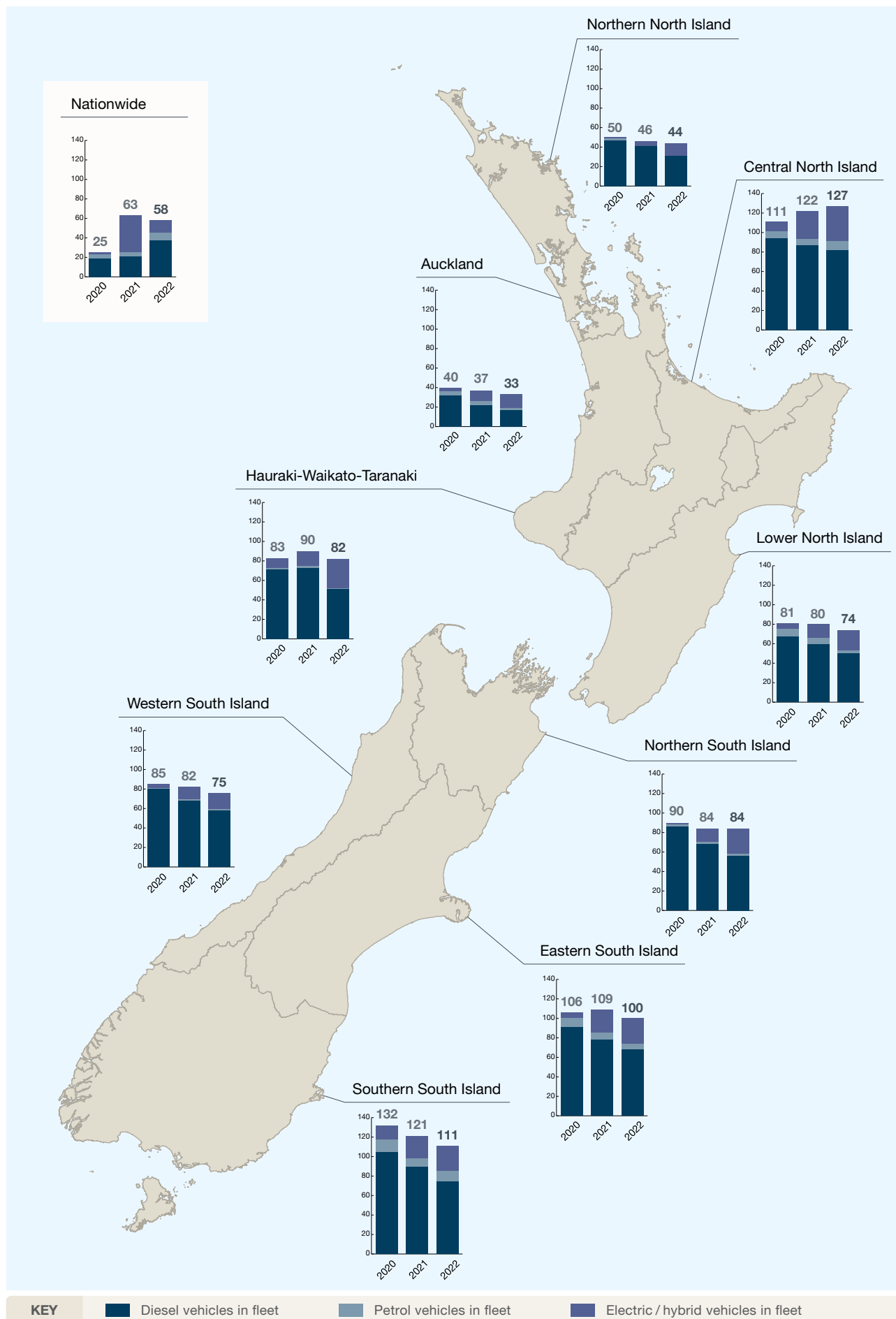


Figure 6: DOC passenger vehicle fleet composition, by region

Independent verification

Our greenhouse gas emissions measurement (emissions data and calculations) has been independently verified against ISO 14064-1:2018 by Toitū Envirocare (Enviro-Mark Solutions Limited), a wholly owned subsidiary of Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, which is a Crown research institute. Toitū CarbonReduce certification is accredited by the Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand and under ISO 14065.

A copy of our Toitū CarbonReduce certification disclosure can be viewed on the Toitū website.

Disclaimer: Quantifying greenhouse emissions is subject to uncertainty as the scientific knowledge and methodologies to determine the emissions factors and processes to calculate or estimate quantities of greenhouse gases sources are still evolving.

Our reduction targets

As part of the Carbon Neutral Government Programme, our reduction targets are:

- **2025 target:** a 21% reduction on our base year, so a total of 8,762 t CO₂e gross emissions across all categories
- **2030 target:** a 42% reduction on our base year, so a total of 6,433 t CO₂e gross emissions across all categories.

Based on initial projections, and the 16% reduction this year compared with our base year, we are on track to meet these targets (see figure 7).

We are in the process of developing a reduction plan to achieve the targets outlined above, and will focus on reducing the top five emission sources, because they make up 82% of our total emissions.

We will continue to improve data capture from supplier invoices, and we will also be improving the staff survey for gathering data on emissions from commuting and working from home.

Emission intensity by full-time equivalent staff and expenditure

To help us understand how additional funding and staff may affect carbon emissions, it is helpful to calculate the emission intensity (table 4).

Table 4: Comparison of emission intensity over time

	2020/21	2021/22
Total permanent and fixed-term staff (FTE)	2,535.8	2,465.5
Total emissions per FTE (t CO ₂ e)	4.4	3.8
Expenditure (\$)	546,312	576,471
Total emissions per million dollars of expenditure (t CO ₂ e)	0.02	0.02

Note: FTE = full-time equivalent staff; t CO₂e = tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

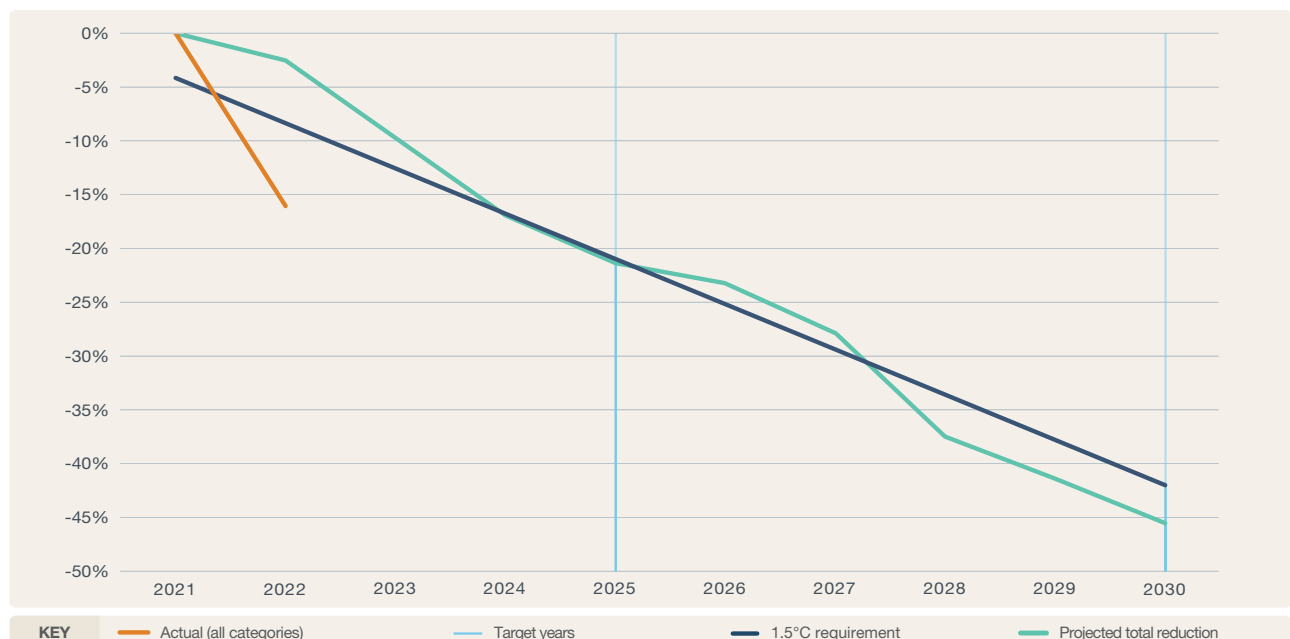


Figure 7: Current and projected percentage changes and targets for greenhouse gas emissions

A person is seen from behind, kayaking on a clear, shallow stream. The water is crystal clear, revealing the rocky riverbed. The person is wearing a black t-shirt, dark shorts, and a blue backpack. They are holding a black paddle. The stream flows through a lush, green forested valley. In the background, there are steep, forested hills under a blue sky with a few white clouds. The foreground shows a rocky bank with some dry grass and small plants.

Ngā whakamaherehere
me te āwhina minita

Policy advice and
ministerial servicing

We provide policy advice and analysis to support conservation outcomes and government priorities. Listed below are some of the policy initiatives we led or contributed to during 2021/22.

Initiating a review of the Wildlife Act 1953

DOC is undertaking a first principles review of the Wildlife Act 1953. The review is an opportunity to consider what New Zealanders want from a species management system. The review will also help establish the foundation for possible future comprehensive conservation law reform.

Progressing improvements to conservation legislation

DOC has developed proposals to reform targeted areas of conservation legislation to make management planning and concessions processes more workable. The changes will help concessions management systems to keep pace with societal and technological changes and improve the often slow and challenging process of reviewing out-of-date conservation management planning documents. We are engaging with tangata whenua and the public on the policy changes and aim to introduce a Bill to Parliament by the end of 2022.

This work has also included developing policy and public consultation on options to improve the process for reclassifying stewardship land, as part of a wider programme for national expert panels to reclassify stewardship land.

Developing improvements to our regime to better manage trade in endangered species

This has included preparing policy to repeal and replace the Trade in Endangered Species Act 1989, following feedback from consultation in late 2019. The changes will better fulfil international obligations and improve how requirements work at the border. Further work on proposals to better regulate trade in extinct species remains (such as moa bone) will be carried out following public consultation and tangata whenua engagement.

Progressing potential changes to the Conservation General Policy and General Policy for National Parks

The independent Options Development Group (ODG) was established in September 2020 and asked to develop recommendations or options for changes to the general policies to better reflect Treaty responsibilities in conservation. The ODG report was proactively released in April 2022. DOC is currently considering the ODG's recommendations and, after discussions between the Minister and New Zealand Conservation Authority, revised general policies will be drafted and put out for public consultation.

Contributing to the Emissions Reduction Plan

New Zealand's first emissions reduction plan outlines how we will get to net zero carbon emissions by 2050. DOC led the development of the 'Working with nature' chapter, outlining how the Government will ensure that climate and biodiversity policy are aligned. Important to this is the setting up of a cross-agency integrated work programme that focuses on areas such as native afforestation to deliver climate and biodiversity benefits.

Resource management reforms

DOC has supported the Minister of Conservation in her capacity as a member of a ministerial oversight group that is making decisions under delegation on policy for the resource management reforms. DOC has supported its director-general who is a member of the Strategic Planning Reform Board and a resource management reform governance board. DOC is involved in helping to generate policy options for ministers to consider for the proposed Spatial (Strategic) Planning Act, and is helping an interagency group within the Ministry for the Environment advising senior managers and ministers on the reforms. We have also engaged in policy option generation and analysis of the options across all policy topics in the reforms.

Contributing to proposed changes to wetland provisions

We have been working with the Ministry for the Environment on proposed changes to the wetland provisions in the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater, including those dealing with restoration of wetlands.

Hosting the Oceans Secretariat

The inter-agency Oceans Secretariat was established by Cabinet in June 2021. It is hosted by DOC and comprises officials from the Ministry for Primary Industries, including Fisheries New Zealand, and Ministry for the Environment.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade supports as required. The Oceans Secretariat provides advice on oceans policy issues to the Oceans and Marine Ministers Group, which consists of the Minister for Oceans and Fisheries, Minister for the Environment, Minister of Conservation, and the Under-Secretary for Oceans and Fisheries.

Launch of the Revitalising the Gulf – Government Action on the Sea Change Plan

Launched by government in June 2021, the plan outlines a package of marine conservation and fisheries management actions to restore a healthy Hauraki Gulf / Tīkapa Moana. This includes creating 18 new marine protection zones to increase marine protection in the Gulf almost threefold, a fisheries plan with various changes to fishing practices and catch settings, including restricting trawl fishing to within carefully selected ‘corridors’, and an expanded programme of protected species management.

Statement of service performance for 2021/22

	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual	Variance and commentary (if required)
Policy advice					
The satisfaction of the Minister of Conservation with the policy advice service, as per common satisfaction survey	3 out of 5	3 out of 5	4 out of 5	4	Achieved
Technical quality of policy advice papers assessed by a survey and robustness assessment	3 out of 5	3 out of 5	3 out of 5	3	Achieved
Statutory planning, services to Ministers and statutory bodies					
Number of ministerial briefings	896	971	840-910	904	Achieved
Official Information Act 1982 requests (OIAs) received and actioned within statutory requirements	826	743	800-900	704	Not achieved Out of 722 OIAs, 704 (98%) were actioned within the statutory deadline.
Parliamentary Questions received with 100% meeting the ministerial deadline	736	544	610-660	2,456	Achieved Out of the 2,897 questions responded to, 2,456 (85%) met the ministerial deadline.

Output class operating statement 2021/22: Management of policy advice, statutory planning and services to ministers and statutory bodies

	30/06/21 Actual \$000	30/06/22 Budget \$000	30/06/22 Revised Budget \$000	30/06/22 Actual \$000
Revenue				
Crown	14,936	14,800	17,903	17,904
Other	115	95	95	8
Total revenue	15,051	14,895	17,998	17,912
Expenses	13,199	14,895	17,988	16,809
Surplus/(deficit)	1,852	0	0	1,103

Output class operating statement 2021/22: Other expenses

	30/06/21 Actual \$000	30/06/22 Budget \$000	30/06/22 Revised Budget \$000	30/06/22 Actual \$000
Revenue				
Crown	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Total revenue	0	0	0	0
Expenses	0	0	0	0
Surplus/(deficit)	0	0	0	0

Te tautuku Compliance

When it comes to the effect of illegal activities on Aotearoa New Zealand's conservation lands, unique species and marine areas, information recorded in our enforcement system lets us identify trends in unlawful activity and to carry out proactive compliance. Through outreach, campaigns and engagement by community-facing staff, we are leading the way with enforcing conservation legislation and protecting Aotearoa New Zealand's special places and species.

Fishing in marine reserves is the most common form of offending, closely followed by commercial activities occurring without a permit or concession, dogs in national parks, and illegal whitebaiting.

During 2021/22, we focused on the following areas.

Capability building

We recruited staff to deliver specialised areas of regulatory work, such as outreach and concessions compliance monitoring. We have updated the training material for warranted officers, including developing e-learning training modules, to enhance relevance and lift engagement.

Our enforcement information technology system has been enhanced to improve usability, reporting and alignment with legislative changes. We provided support to districts for the 2021 whitebait season, with new regulations in place. We have also trained and deployed a reptile detector dog.

Traditional Chinese medicine

We conducted research into the social aspects of the use and importation of traditional Chinese medicine, to inform our approach to outreach as part of our CITES work.²⁶ We used the insights and findings from that research to advertise on Chinese digital and radio platforms and create one-off, short-term social media campaigns.

Concessions compliance

We developed targeted monitoring campaigns in the concessions compliance space, focusing on mining and ski fields in particular.

Marine reserve compliance

An additional six permanent marine reserve ranger positions were established to support the national marine reserve compliance programme. We upgraded signage and demarcation infrastructure and invested in outreach initiatives.

Staff safety

We have produced new standard operating procedures on stab vest use and clarified warranted officer roles and responsibilities. We also have a newly formed compliance health and safety committee to increase awareness of health and safety practices and fully embed these.

Working with others

We continued to build and maintain intelligence networks across other agencies and international groups, such as New Zealand Police, Ministry for Primary Industries, Combined Law Agencies Group and INTERPOL. We are also contributing to a performance measurement framework for Transnational Organisation Crime in New Zealand.

CITES

We have created an introductory video and e-learning modules on CITES for public awareness campaigns, social media use and training of border agencies.



26 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

Te taumahinga rawa

Asset performance



Asset management is a core part of our business: we manage assets valued at about \$8.5 billion (table 5). Land makes up about 90% of that, and the remainder is mainly visitor assets like roads, tracks and huts.

We use an asset management information system to support our asset management. For visitor assets (tracks, huts, structures and roads), this means we consider their fitness for purpose in terms of condition, functionality and utilisation.

Condition refers to the state of the asset. We inspect the assets to determine their condition, which we report in our output performance.

Functionality includes an assessment of whether an asset meets relevant safety standards, such as Standards New Zealand SNZ HB 8630:2004. One way we assess safety is through surveys like the Great Walk Guest Survey, which includes questions about walkers' safety perceptions and any safety issues.

Utilisation refers to the level of public use of conservation lands and waters. We use activity counters to measure the public's use of our facilities to inform planning, maintenance and capital investment. We have activity counters at nearly 700 locations on public conservation land.

Table 5: DOC asset profile, 2021/22 (Crown and departmental assets combined)

Asset group and class	Carrying amount (\$m) ²⁷	Depreciation (\$m)	Capital expenditure (\$m) ²⁸
Information and communication technology			
• Computer software	3.4	1.2	(0.1)
Fleet			
• Vessels	2.4	0.4	0.2
• Motor vehicles	14.9	2.0	5.4
Property			
• Plant and equipment (incl. radio)	16.2	1.8	7.1
• Furniture and fittings	4.8	0.7	0.3
• Buildings	71.7	2.5	1.5
• Infrastructure assets	52.8	1.4	6.6
Visitor and historic (cultural) assets	528.0	16.4	18.8
Land (Crown and dept.)	7,826.1		1.2
Fencing	27.4	6.6	1.0
TOTAL	8,547.7	33.0	42.0

²⁷ Includes assets under construction.

²⁸ Excludes transfers between departments.

A scenic landscape at Rotokare Scenic Reserve. The foreground is dominated by a large, moss-covered tree trunk on the right and tall, golden-brown grasses on the left. The middle ground shows a dense forest of green trees, with a misty valley below. The background features rolling hills under a soft, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

Te ine i tō mātou ahunga
whakamua

Measuring our progress

Te papatohu tūtohu mahinga wā roa (25 tau) Long-term performance indicator dashboard (25 years)

We measure progress towards our intermediate outcomes with key performance indicators that cover the natural and historic heritage, recreation, and engagement outcome areas.

Table 6 shows these indicators and identifies the desired state. These indicators measure the long-term effect of our work rather than the services provided by our annual work programmes. Most of these indicators reflect medium-term trends over time horizons of 3 years to 5 years. Others span horizons of annual to decadal scale.

Table 6: Key performance indicators and their desired state.

Natural heritage	Desired state
The full range of ecosystems (terrestrial, freshwater and marine) is protected somewhere	A full range of ecosystems is protected in a healthy and functioning state.
Species representation – preventing declines and extinctions (terrestrial, freshwater and marine)	Common and widespread species occupy most suitable habitats in protected areas. Nearly all threatened, at-risk or conservation-dependent species are receiving the management they need.
Ecological processes are natural	Terrestrial and freshwater: Managed ecosystems are healthy and functioning. Marine: Healthy functioning marine reserves are integrated well within marine environments.
Exotic species spread and dominance	Terrestrial pests and weeds: Contain the range of established exotic pests and limit their effect on vulnerable indigenous species and ecosystems. Freshwater pests: Contain the range of established exotic pests and limit their effect on vulnerable indigenous species and ecosystems. Marine pests: No unwanted organisms in our marine reserves.
Historic heritage	Desired state
The condition of Actively Conserved Heritage Places is stable and not deteriorating	Historic and cultural heritage is protected, conserved and maintained.
Visitor participation at heritage sites	Demand for historic and cultural heritage experiences is understood.
Visitor satisfaction with the quality of the experience provided at heritage sites	Understanding people's expectations, actual experiences, and related satisfaction guides improvement of experiences, facilities, standards and marketing.
Recreation	Desired state
Visitor participation in recreation on public conservation lands and waters	New Zealanders and international tourists engage in a range of nature- and heritage-based experiences. DOC understands what people want to do, and where, to direct the provision of these experiences to meet the greatest number of people's needs and to grow participation.
Visitor satisfaction with the quality of the experience and opportunities provided	DOC recreation-oriented facilities and services are diverse, fit for purpose, safe, and compliant with legal and public expectations.
Engagement	Desired state
Quality of DOC's engagement with key associates	All key stakeholder relationships are high engagement.

Ngā heketea whenua wā-tauwaenga kei te āta whakahaeretia māiretia Medium-term hectares of land under sustained control

Sustained control means the overall hectares covered by cyclical operations. Cycles of treatment may be continual or up to 7 years apart. These measures reflect the scale of ongoing control by DOC and others.

	2017/18 Actual	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual
Possums	1,508,000	1,563,000	1,576,600	1,598,565	1,598,656
Rats	1,179,000	1,353,600	1,390,000	1,370,213	1,370,213
Deer	980,000	980,000	998,000	1,001,097	1,001,097
Goats	2,180,000	2,200,000	2,169,400	2,242,103	2,242,103
Weeds	928,000	909,600	880,400	902,565	902,565
Wilding conifers	n/a	1,797,000	1,529,700	1,823,325	1,823,325

Whakarāpopototanga o te mahi whakaputa ā-tau mō ngā inenga hira Summary of annual output performance for significant measures

The table below shows our annual performance against the significant output measures during 2021/22, along with trend data from the past 4 years.

	2017/18 Actual	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual
Pest and weed control					
Possums – hectares treated for	256,601	188,537	245,560	224,720	202,218
Rats and/or mustelids – hectares treated for	763,514	807,493	1,012,516	804,253	669,936
Deer – hectares treated for	412,353	304,795	275,517	142,864	172,531
Goats – hectares treated for	1,072,448	1,082,596	1,077,059	982,456	1,039,063
Weeds – hectares treated for	291,942	248,716	212,783	165,554	153,940
Wilding conifers – hectares treated for	355,824	135,567	300,056	168,069	241,554
Number of island biosecurity programmes where a pest-free status has been maintained	63	51	44	47	47
Ecosystems and species management					
Number of optimised ecosystem prescriptions providing active management of ecosystems	561	577	594	615	626
Threatened species managed for persistence ²⁹	265	219	256	254	248
Threatened species under active management to ensure local security	252	421	464	463	449

29 This measure refers to the number of Threatened species under the New Zealand Threat Classification System with management in at least one site. This year, 443 Threatened species received some management in at least one site, while 248 Threatened species were being managed to standard in at least one site. And 68 Threatened species were reported as receiving management to standard at all required sites.

	2017/18 Actual	2018/19 Actual	2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Actual	2021/22 Actual
Historic and cultural heritage restoration					
Number of historic heritage assets for which remedial work is completed to standard	7	4	8	16	15
Percentage of historic heritage assets for which regular maintenance work is on track to standard	86%	83%	83%	84%	85%
Asset management					
Huts – percentage to standard	90%	88%	81%	89%	89%
Tracks – percentage to standard	62%	56%	55%	60%	61%
Structures (bridges, boardwalks etc) – percentage to standard	98%	95%	94%	97%	96%
Recreation and other resource-use concessions					
Longer term recreation concessions monitored	15%	23%	19%	26%	18%
Other longer term resource-use concessions monitored	7%	9%	9%	14%	11%
Engagement					
Community agreements enabling conservation work by others	450	312	411	447	461
Education and communication					
Number of knowledge and skill-sharing initiatives provided	1,033	557	486	368	265



Te pūrongo a te
kaiarotake motuhake
Independent
auditor's report



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE READERS OF DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Department of Conservation (the Department). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Brent Manning, using the staff and resources of KPMG, to carry out, on his behalf, the audit of:

- the financial statements of the Department on pages 92 to 121, that comprise the statement of financial position, statement of commitments, statement of contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2022, the statement of comprehensive revenue and expenses, statement of changes in taxpayers' funds, and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date and the notes to the financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information;
- the performance information prepared by the Department for the year ended 30 June 2022 on pages 9 to 83;
- the statement of expenses and capital expenditure of the Department for the year ended 30 June 2022 on pages 135 to 139; and
- the schedules of non-departmental activities which are managed by the Department on behalf of the Crown on pages 122 to 134 that comprise:
 - the schedules of assets; liabilities; commitments; and contingent liabilities and assets as at 30 June 2022;
 - the schedules of expenses; and revenues for the year ended 30 June 2022;
 - the statement of trust monies for the year ended 30 June 2022; and
 - the notes to the schedules that include accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Qualified Opinion

Qualified opinion on the financial statements

In our opinion, except for the possible effect of the matter described in the *Basis for our qualified opinion* section of our report:

- the financial statements of the Department on pages 92 to 121:
 - present fairly, in all material respects:
 - its financial position as at 30 June 2022; and
 - its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
 - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Reporting Standards.
- the statements of expenses and capital expenditure of the Department on pages 135 to 139 are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the requirements of section 45A of the Public Finance Act 1989.
- the schedules of non-departmental activities which are managed by the Department on behalf of the Crown on pages 122 to 134 present fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the Treasury Instructions:
 - the assets; liabilities; commitments; and contingent liabilities and assets as at 30 June 2022; and
 - expenses; and revenue for the year ended 30 June 2022; and
 - trust monies for the year ended 30 June 2022.



Unmodified opinion on the performance information

In our opinion the performance information of the Department on pages 9 to 83:

- presents fairly, in all material respects, for the year ended 30 June 2022:
 - what has been achieved with the appropriation; and
 - the actual expenses or capital expenditure incurred compared with the appropriated or forecast expenses or capital expenditure; and
- complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

Our audit was completed on 30 September 2022. This is the date at which our qualified opinion is expressed.

The basis for our qualified opinion is explained below, and we draw attention to the inherent uncertainties in the measurement of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Director-General and our responsibilities relating to the information to be audited, we comment on other information, and we explain our independence.

Basis for our qualified opinion - our work on Crown reserve land was limited

The Department is required to derecognise certain Crown reserve land, included in the total Crown land balance of \$7.8 billion (refer to Note 3 of the Non-Departmental Financial Schedules) as an asset, when title for the land is transferred to a local authority in accordance with the vesting provisions of section 26A of the Reserves Act 1977. We were unable to obtain sufficient appropriate evidence to determine whether \$338 million of the \$513 million Crown reserve land is owned by the Department. The information was not available because historically the Department has not always been notified when title for the land had been transferred. As a result, we were unable to determine whether any adjustments to the total Crown land balance were necessary.

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Responsibilities of the auditor* section of our report.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Inherent uncertainties in the measurement of greenhouse gas emissions

The Department included a measure of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in its performance information. Without further modifying our opinion and considering the public interest in climate change related information, we draw attention to pages 69 to 71 of the annual report, which outlines the Department's GHG emissions, including the uncertainty underlying the reported emissions. Quantifying GHG emissions is subject to inherent uncertainty because the scientific knowledge and methodologies to determine the emissions factors and processes to calculate or estimate quantities of GHG sources are still evolving, as are GHG reporting and assurance standards.



Responsibilities of the Director-General for the information to be audited

The Director-General is responsible on behalf of the Department for preparing:

- financial statements that present fairly the Department's financial position, financial performance, and its cash flows, and that comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.
- performance information that presents fairly what has been achieved with each appropriation, the expenditure incurred as compared with expenditure expected to be incurred, and that complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.
- statements of expenses and capital expenditure of the Department, that are presented fairly, in accordance with the requirements of the Public Finance Act 1989.
- schedules of non-departmental activities, in accordance with the Treasury Instructions, that present fairly those activities managed by the Department on behalf of the Crown.

The Director-General is responsible for such internal control as is determined is necessary to enable the preparation of the information to be audited that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the information to be audited, the Director-General is responsible on behalf of the Department for assessing the Department's ability to continue as a going concern. The Director-General is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless there is an intention to merge or to terminate the activities of the Department, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Director-General's responsibilities arise from the Public Finance Act 1989.

Responsibilities of the auditor for the information to be audited

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the information we audited, as a whole, is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures, and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of readers, taken on the basis of the information we audited.

For the budget information reported in the information we audited, our procedures were limited to checking that the information agreed to the Department's estimates information.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the information we audited.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Also:

- We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the information we audited, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is



higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department's internal control.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Director-General.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of the reported performance information within the Department's framework for reporting its performance.
- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Director-General and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Department's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the information we audited or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Department to cease to continue as a going concern.
- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the information we audited, including the disclosures, and whether the information we audited represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Director-General regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Our responsibilities arise from the Public Audit Act 2001.



Other information

The Director-General is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included on pages 5 to 7 and 141 to 149, but does not include the information we audited, and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the information we audited does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the information we audited or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on our work, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independence


We are independent of the Department in accordance with the independence requirements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1: *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners*

issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Other than in our capacity as auditor, we have no relationship with, or interests, in the Department.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brent Manning', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Brent Manning
KPMG
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Wellington, New Zealand

A scenic landscape at sunrise. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The foreground is dominated by tall, dry grasses and shrubs, some of which are illuminated by the low sun, creating a strong contrast. The background shows a range of hills or mountains under a sky with soft, wispy clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

Ngā tauāki whakahaere

Financial statements

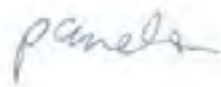
Statement of responsibility

In accordance with the terms of section 45C of the Public Finance Act 1989, I am responsible, as Director-General of the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai, for the preparation of the Department's financial statements, statements of expenses and capital expenditure, and for the judgements expressed in them.

I have the responsibility for establishing and maintaining, and I have established and maintained, a system of internal control procedures that provide reasonable assurances as to the integrity and reliability of financial reporting.

I have the responsibility for ensuring that end-of-year performance information on each appropriation administered by the Department is provided in accordance with sections 19A to 19C of the Public Finance Act 1989, whether or not that information is included in this Annual Report. I am responsible for the accuracy of any end-of-year performance information prepared by the Department, whether or not that information is included in the Annual Report.

In my opinion, the Annual Report fairly reflects the operations, progress, and organisational health and capability of the Department. In my opinion, the financial statements fairly reflect the financial position and operations of the Department for the year ended 30 June 2022, and the forecast financial statements fairly reflect the forecast financial position and operations of the Department for the year ending 30 June 2023.



Penny Nelson
Director-General
Department of Conservation
30 September 2022

Departmental financial statements

Statement of comprehensive revenue and expense

for the year ended 30 June 2022

Restated* 30/06/21		Notes	30/06/22 Actual \$000	30/06/22 Budget† \$000	30/06/22 Revised Budget† \$000	30/06/23 Forecast† \$000
	Revenue					
535,764	Revenue Crown	3	535,432	575,493	535,432	605,892
55,170	Other revenue	3	51,927	59,051	62,311	59,051
590,934	Total revenue	3	587,359	634,544	597,743	664,943
	Expenses					
236,225	Personnel costs	4	250,523	243,200	243,200	248,200
235,344	Operating costs	5	252,679	316,327	286,742	344,180
32,600	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment expense	10,11	32,737	37,059	32,059	32,032
36,447	Capital charge	6	37,742	39,958	37,742	42,531
3	Finance costs		-	-	-	-
921	Net loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment		2,790	-	-	-
541,540	Total expenses		576,471	636,544	599,743	666,943
49,394	Net surplus/(deficit)		10,888	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)
	Other comprehensive revenue and expense					
24,650	Gain on property revaluations	10	44,448	-	-	-
74,044	Total comprehensive revenue and expense		55,336	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)

* The prior year numbers have been restated due to the change in accounting policy for software intangible assets (refer to note 1 for details).

† The statement of accounting policies provides explanations of these figures, which are unaudited.

Refer to note 2 for an explanation of major variances between Actual and Revised Budget.

Statement of financial position

as at 30 June 2022

Restated* 30/06/21		Notes	30/06/22 Actual \$000	30/06/22 Budget† \$000	30/06/22 Revised Budget† \$000	30/06/23 Forecast† \$000
	Taxpayers' funds					
456,550	General funds	14	523,052	569,390	527,048	540,368
287,241	Property, plant and equipment revaluation reserves	14	329,785	263,858	287,241	287,241
743,791	Total taxpayers' funds		852,837	833,248	814,289	827,609
	Represented by:					
	Current assets					
15,132	Cash		27,581	29,727	19,975	15,665
2,468	Prepayments		2,529	3,000	3,000	3,000
3,402	Inventories		3,852	2,000	2,000	2,000
13,387	Trade and other receivables	8	12,141	15,000	15,000	15,000
3,371	Non-current assets held for sale		3,371	3,370	3,370	3,370
209,028	Debtor Crown	9	194,775	220,000	220,000	220,000
246,788	Total current assets		244,249	273,097	263,345	259,035
	Non-current assets					
660,734	Property, plant and equipment	10	711,002	648,561	670,537	687,357
5,782	Intangible assets	11	3,442	12,527	7,338	8,148
666,516	Total non-current assets		714,444	661,088	677,875	695,505
913,304	Total assets		958,693	934,185	941,220	954,540
	Current liabilities					
40,166	Trade and other payables		30,884	47,737	73,731	73,731
11,868	GST payable		2,407	5,000	5,000	5,000
24,814	Employee entitlements	12	28,319	18,000	18,000	18,000
-	Finance leases		-	200	200	200
3,725	Provisions	13	2,943	5,000	5,000	5,000
54,296	Return of operating surplus to the Crown	7	7,604	-	-	-
14,547	Revenue in advance		16,833	10,000	10,000	10,000
149,416	Total current liabilities		88,990	85,937	111,931	111,931
	Non-current liabilities					
18,918	Employee entitlements	12	15,633	15,000	15,000	15,000
-	Finance leases		-	-	-	-
1,179	Provisions	13	1,233	-	-	-
20,097	Total non-current liabilities		16,866	15,000	15,000	15,000
169,513	Total liabilities		105,856	100,937	126,931	126,931
743,791	Net assets		852,837	833,248	814,289	827,609

* The prior year numbers have been restated due to the change in accounting policy for software intangible assets (refer to note 1 for details).

† The statement of accounting policies provides explanations of these figures, which are unaudited.

Refer to note 2 for an explanation of major variances between Actual and Revised Budget.

The accompanying accounting policies and notes form part of, and should be read in conjunction with, these financial statements.

Statement of changes in taxpayers' funds for the year ended 30 June 2022

Restated* 30/06/21		Note	30/06/22 Actual \$000	30/06/22 Budget† \$000	30/06/22 Revised Budget† \$000	30/06/23 Forecast† \$000
724,162	Balance at 1 July		743,791	799,842	754,745	814,289
74,044	Total comprehensive revenue and expense		55,336	(2,000)	(2,000)	(2,000)
	Distributions to Crown					
(37)	Asset transfers		(90)	-	-	-
(82)	Capital repayments		(220)	-	-	-
(54,296)	Return of operating surplus	7	(7,604)	-	-	-
-	Other movement		-	-	(10,954)	-
	Contributions from Crown					
-	Capital contributions		61,624	35,406	72,498	15,320
743,791	Balance at 30 June		852,837	833,248	814,289	827,609

* The prior year numbers have been restated due to the change in accounting policy for software intangible assets (refer to note 1 for details).

† The statement of accounting policies provides explanations of these figures, which are unaudited.

Refer to note 2 for an explanation of major variances between Actual and Revised Budget.

Statement of cash flows

for the year ended 30 June 2022

Restated* 30/06/21		30/06/22	30/06/22	30/06/22	30/06/23
Actual \$000		Actual \$000	Budget† \$000	Revised Budget† \$000	Forecast† \$000
Cash flows – operating activities					
486,957	Receipts from Revenue Crown	547,826	575,493	535,432	605,892
55,181	Receipts from other revenue	56,409	59,051	62,311	59,051
(233,703)	Payments to employees	(250,236)	(242,700)	(242,700)	(247,700)
(222,797)	Payments to suppliers	(273,776)	(316,827)	(287,242)	(344,680)
(36,447)	Payments for capital charge	(37,742)	(39,958)	(37,742)	(42,531)
49,191	Net cash flow from operating activities	42,481	35,059	30,059	30,032
Cash flows – investing activities					
989	Receipts from sale of property, plant and equipment	1,460	-	-	-
(34,874)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(38,687)	(38,137)	(40,563)	(47,162)
(880)	Purchase of intangibles	87	(8,000)	(2,855)	(2,500)
(34,765)	Net cash flow from investing activities	(37,140)	(46,137)	(43,418)	(49,662)
Cash flows – financing activities					
-	Capital contributions	61,624	35,406	72,498	15,320
(144)	Finance lease payments	-	-	-	-
(82)	Capital repayments	(220)	-	-	-
(29,924)	Return of operating surplus to the Crown	(54,296)	(16,714)	(54,296)	-
(30,150)	Net cash flow from financing activities	7,108	18,692	18,202	15,320
(15,724)	Net increase/(decrease) in cash	12,449	7,614	4,843	(4,310)
30,856	Opening cash balance	15,132	22,113	15,132	19,975
15,132	Closing cash balance	27,581	29,727	19,975	15,665

* The prior year numbers have been restated due to the change in accounting policy for software intangible assets (refer to note 1 for details).

† The statement of accounting policies provides explanations of these figures, which are unaudited.

Refer to note 2 for an explanation of major variances between Actual and Revised Budget.

The goods and services tax (net) component of operating activities has been included under supplier payments and reflects the net GST paid to and received from Inland Revenue. The GST components have been presented on a net basis as the gross amounts do not provide meaningful information for financial statement purposes.

Reconciliation of net surplus to net cash flow from operating activities for the year ended 30 June 2022

30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
49,394	Net surplus/(deficit)	10,888
	Add non-cash items	
32,600	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment expenses	32,737
(7)	Donated assets	(908)
32,593	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment expenses	31,829
	Add items classified as investing or financing activities	
921	Net loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	2,790
	Add/(Less) working capital movements	
681	(Inc)/Dec in prepayments	(61)
(504)	(Inc)/Dec in inventories	(450)
3,522	(Inc)/Dec in trade and other receivables	1,246
(56,129)	(Inc)/Dec in Debtor Crown	14,253
11,029	Inc/(Dec) in trade and other payables	(10,340)
934	Inc/(Dec) in GST payable	(9,452)
2,409	Inc/(Dec) in employee entitlements	220
524	Inc/(Dec) in other provisions	(728)
3,817	Inc/(Dec) in revenue in advance	2,286
(33,717)	Net movement in working capital	(3,026)
49,191	Net cash flow from operating activities	42,481

Statement of commitments

as at 30 June 2022

30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
	Commitments by category	
	<i>Capital commitments</i>	
14,080	Property, plant and equipment	14,387
14,080	Total capital commitments	14,387
	<i>Operating commitments</i>	
62,446	Non-cancellable accommodation leases	54,257
1,643	Other non-cancellable leases	1,225
64,089	Total operating commitments	55,482
78,169	Total commitments	69,869
	Commitments by term	
23,177	Less than 1 year	22,186
9,648	1–2 years	9,367
19,809	2–5 years	17,839
25,535	Greater than 5 years	20,477
78,169	Total commitments	69,869

Capital commitments

Capital commitments are the aggregate amount of capital expenditure contracted for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets that have not been paid for or not recognised as a liability at the balance date.

Non-cancellable operating lease commitments (accommodation and other)

The Department leases property, plant and equipment in the normal course of its business. The majority of these leases are for premises, motor vehicles and computer hardware, and have non-cancellable leasing periods ranging from 3 to 15 years. The Department's non-cancellable operating leases have varying terms, escalation clauses and renewal rights. There are no restrictions placed on the Department by any of its leasing arrangements.

Statement of contingent liabilities

as at 30 June 2022

The public liability claims relate to claims against the Department and are disclosed without prejudice. As at 30 June 2022 there are 84 proceedings and potential claims, of which 13 are quantifiable. The remaining 71 claims cannot be quantified (2021: 74 proceedings and potential claims, of which 10 were quantifiable).

The Department's quantifiable contingent liabilities are broken down as follows.

30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
Court and Tribunal proceedings and other potential claims		
1,545	Claims for damage caused by events originating from DOC land	1,545
1,750	Earthquake strengthening of DOC buildings	1,750
-	- Non-compliance with the building code of DOC commercial properties	1,980
-	- Non-compliance with Residential Tenancies Act, 1986	1,002
700	Remediation of asbestos contamination	1,450
1,280	Claim for compensation for flooding of land – Whangamarino	-
941	Other quantifiable proceedings and potential claims	1,635
6,216	Total court and tribunal proceedings and other potential claims	9,362

The Department is aware that further sites requiring remediation (due to mining, asbestos, pollution or other factors) may exist throughout New Zealand and could require remediation at some point. As these potential sites are unknown, the Department does not currently have a commitment to restore the sites, thus no provision or contingent liabilities are recognised in their regard as at 30 June 2022.

The Healthy Homes Guarantee Act 2017 (the Act) came into effect on 1 July 2019. The Department is reviewing its residential accommodation portfolio in relation to this Act to determine whether any potential remediation is required to comply with the requirements of the Act. From 1 July 2024, all residential rental homes must comply with the Healthy Homes standards.

The Department is also reviewing its portfolio of residential accommodation for a potential tax liability relating to the calculation of allowances

connected to this work. No provision has been recognised for the aforementioned matters as the reviews have not yet progressed enough to reliably measure the potential liability.

Contingent assets

The Department has no contingent assets (2021: nil).

Indemnities

The Director-General of Conservation has a delegation from the Minister of Finance under the Public Finance Act 1989 to agree to indemnities in access agreements over private land. This provides the public and staff of the Department with access to land managed by the Department.

Indemnities to three parties via public insurance policies were provided in 2021/22 (2021: 3).

Statement of accounting policies

Reporting entity

The Department of Conservation (the Department) is a government department as defined by section 2 of the Public Finance Act 1989. The relevant legislation governing the Department's operations includes the Public Finance Act and the Conservation Act 1987. The primary objective of the Department is to provide services to the public rather than making a financial return. For financial reporting purposes, the Department is a public benefit entity (PBE).

Reporting period

The reporting period for these financial statements is for the year ended 30 June 2022. The forecast financial statements are for the year ending 30 June 2023.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the Director-General of the Department on 30 September 2022.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going-concern basis and in accordance with the requirements of the Public Finance Act 1989, which includes the requirement to comply with New Zealand generally accepted accounting practice (NZ GAAP), and the Treasury instructions. The Department has applied the suite of *Tier 1 Public Benefit Entity International Public Sector Accounting Standards (PBE IPSAS)* in preparing the 30 June 2022 financial statements.

The statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis, modified by the revaluation of certain items of property, plant and equipment. The accounting policies have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

These financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars, and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$000). The functional currency of the Department is New Zealand dollars.

Significant accounting policies

Significant accounting policies are included in the notes to which they relate. Significant accounting policies that do not relate to a specific note and which materially affect the measurement of financial results, the financial position and output statements are outlined below.

Budget and forecast figures

The budget, revised budget and forecast figures have been prepared in accordance with NZ GAAP, using accounting policies that are consistent with those adopted in preparing these financial schedules. They have also been prepared in accordance with *PBE Financial Reporting Standard 42: Prospective Financial Statements*. The budget, revised budget and forecast financial schedules are not subject to audit.

The budget figures for 2021/22 are those included in *The Estimates of Appropriations for the Government of New Zealand for the year ending 30 June 2022*. The revised budget figures for 2021/22 are those included in *The Supplementary Estimates of Appropriations for the Government of New Zealand for the year ending 30 June 2022*.

The forecast figures for 2022/23 are those included in *The Estimates of Appropriations for the Government of New Zealand for the year ending 30 June 2023*. The forecasts have been prepared in accordance with the Public Finance Act 1989 and reflect the existing government and ministerial policies at that time, in addition to the Department's purpose, strategic intentions and activities based on the estimates and assumptions that might occur in the 2022/23 year.

Cost allocation

The Department has determined the cost of outputs using the following cost allocation methodology.

Direct costs are charged directly to outputs. Depreciation and capital charge are charged on the basis of asset utilisation. Personnel costs are charged on the basis of actual time incurred.

Indirect costs are assigned to outputs based on the proportion of direct staff hours for each output.

For the year ended 30 June 2022, direct costs were 60 percent of the Department's costs and indirect costs were 40 percent of the Department's costs (2021: direct 61 percent and indirect 39 percent).

Cash on hand

Cash on hand includes petty cash and the amount in the current account bank balance.

Non-current assets held for sale

Non-current assets are classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. Non-current assets held for sale are measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell.

Trade and other payables

Short-term trade and other payables are recorded at their face value.

Goods and services tax (GST)

All items in the financial statements, including appropriation statements, are stated exclusive of goods and services tax (GST), except for receivables and payables, which are stated on a GST-inclusive basis. Where GST is not recoverable as input tax, it is recognised as part of the related asset or expense.

Income tax

Government departments are exempt from income tax as public authorities. Accordingly, no charge for income tax has been provided for.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

In preparing these financial statements, estimates and assumptions have been made concerning the future. These estimates and assumptions may differ from the subsequent actual results. Estimates and assumptions are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed in the specific notes.

Change in accounting policy

In April 2021, the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee (IFRIC) released an agenda decision which provides authoritative guidance on how a customer accounts for configuration or customisation costs in relation to Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) arrangements.

In February 2022, the Treasury published a guidance document that sets out the Crown accounting policy for the treatment of configuration and customisation costs in SaaS arrangements.

The approved decision is that costs are to be expensed as incurred, unless they relate to activities that create an intangible asset that the Department controls, and the intangible asset meets the recognition criteria. Costs to be expensed that are paid to the suppliers (or contractors of the supplier) of the cloud-based supplier can, under certain circumstances, be recorded as prepayments for services and amortised over the expected terms of the SaaS arrangement.

Following publication of the guidance document, the Department has reconsidered its accounting treatment, adopted the principles set out in the Treasury guidance document and has changed its accounting policy in relation to SaaS arrangements. As a result of this change in accounting policy, the Department has determined that certain intangible assets should be de-recognised, as the costs did not create separate intangible assets controlled by the Department.

The change in accounting policy has been applied retrospectively by restating the opening equity position (as at 1 July 2020) and the comparative financial statements as the impact of the change in accounting policy is material. The impact of this change in accounting policy is presented in the table on the next page.

Comparatives

The change in the accounting policy for Software-as-a-Service has resulted in the restatement of the balance sheet as at 30 June 2021, the income statement for the year ended 30 June 2021 and the statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2021. The restatement adjustments are detailed in the table on the next page.

Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022

Note 1: Comparative financial information

Statement of comprehensive revenue and expense

for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Previously reported \$000	SaaS adjustment \$000	Restated \$000
Expenses			
Operating costs	227,356	7,988	235,344
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment expense	34,406	(1,806)	32,600
Total expenses	535,358	6,182	541,540
Net surplus/(deficit)	55,576	(6,182)	49,394
Total comprehensive revenue and expense	80,226	(6,182)	74,044

Statement of financial position

as at 30 June 2020

	Previously reported \$000	SaaS adjustment \$000	Restated \$000
Taxpayers' funds			
General funds	465,076	(4,772)	460,304
Property, plant and equipment revaluation reserves	263,858	-	263,858
Total taxpayers' funds	728,934	(4,772)	724,162
Non-current assets			
Intangible assets	10,731	(4,772)	5,959
Total non-current assets	645,569	(4,772)	640,797
Total assets	855,651	(4,772)	850,879

Statement of financial position

as at 30 June 2021

	Previously reported \$000	SaaS adjustment \$000	Restated \$000
Taxpayers' funds			
General funds	467,504	(10,954)	456,550
Property, plant and equipment revaluation reserves	287,241	-	287,241
Total taxpayers' funds	754,745	(10,954)	743,791
Non-current assets			
Intangible assets	16,736	(10,954)	5,782
Total non-current assets	677,470	(10,954)	666,516
Total assets	924,258	(10,954)	913,304

Statement of changes in taxpayers' funds

for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Previously reported \$000	SaaS adjustment \$000	Restated \$000
Balance at 1 July	728,934	(4,772)	724,162
Total comprehensive revenue and expense	80,226	(6,182)	74,044
Distributions to Crown			
Asset transfers	(37)	-	(37)
Capital repayments	(82)	-	(82)
Return of operating surplus	(54,296)	-	(54,296)
Balance at 30 June	754,745	(10,954)	743,791

Statement of cash flows

for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Previously reported \$000	SaaS adjustment \$000	Restated \$000
Cash flows – operating activities			
Payments to suppliers	(214,809)	(7,988)	(222,797)
Net cash flow from operating activities	57,179	(7,988)	49,191
Cash flows – investing activities			
Purchase of intangibles	(8,868)	7,988	(880)
Net cash flow from investing activities	(42,753)	7,988	(34,765)

Note 2: Significant variances between Actual and Revised Budget

Statement of comprehensive revenue and expense

Revenue was \$10.4 million less than the Revised Budget. This was largely due to a reduction in third-party revenue, caused by a reduction in recreational activities, sponsorships and retail sales following reduced levels of international visitors. International-sourced revenues have continued to be affected by border closures and lockdowns as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Actual operating expenses for the year were \$23.3 million less than the Revised Budget, largely due to the timing of major programme deliveries, cancellation of field operations and unallocated central budgets for Jobs for Nature.

Statement of financial position

Current assets were \$19.1 million lower than the Revised Budget, mainly due to a higher than budgeted spend of Crown funding resulting in a reduced Debtor Crown receivable.

Current liabilities were \$22.9 million lower than the Revised Budget, largely due to reduced trade and other payables and timing of GST.

Statement of cash flows

Net cash flow from operating activities was \$12.4 million higher than the Revised Budget, due to lower payments to suppliers because of cancelled field operations.

Net cash flow from financing activities was \$11.1 million less than the Revised Budget, mainly due to capital contributions not being drawn down because of lower than planned levels of capital investment.

Note 3: Total revenue

The Department derives revenue through the provision of outputs to the Crown, for services to third parties, and from sponsorships, donations, bequests and grants. Revenue is recognised when earned, reported in the current financial period and measured at the fair value of the consideration received. With the exception of revenue received in the form of donations and bequests, all revenue from other income has been classified and treated as exchange revenue. The nature of exchange revenue streams is that approximate equivalent value is given in exchange.

Revenue Crown

Revenue from the Crown is measured based on the Department's funding entitlement for the reporting period. The funding entitlement is established by Parliament when it passes the Appropriation Acts for the financial year. The amount of revenue recognised takes into account any amendments to appropriations approved in the Appropriation (Supplementary Estimates) Act for the year and certain other unconditional funding adjustments formally approved prior to balance date.

There are no conditions attached to the funding from the Crown. However, the Department can incur expenses only within the scope and limits of its appropriations.

The fair value of Revenue Crown has been determined to be equivalent to the funding entitlement.

Other revenue

30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
18,372	Recreational and tourism charges	15,360
22,338	Donations and sponsorships	25,017
9,069	Administration cost recoveries	6,582
621	Leases and rents	595
2,081	Retail sales	1,406
2,555	Permissions cost recoveries	2,854
134	Resource sales	113
55,170	Total other revenue	51,927

Revenue from sponsorships is initially recorded as revenue in advance and subsequently recognised as revenue when the conditions of the sponsorship are satisfied.

Certain operations of the Department are reliant on services provided by volunteers. Volunteer services are not recognised as revenue or expenditure by the Department.

Note 4: Personnel costs

Salaries and wages are recognised as a separate expense as employees provide services.

30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
217,219	Salaries and wages	224,782
6,927	Superannuation subsidies	7,116
1,160	Annual, long service and retiring leave provisioning	796
1,061	ACC Partnership Programme	1,022
472	Uniforms	419
274	Termination entitlements	650
6,013	Temporary and secondment staff costs	12,678
3,099	Other	3,060
236,225	Total personnel costs	250,523

Note 5: Operating costs

Operating expenses are recognised in the period to which they relate.

30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
70,284	Operational contractors	63,433
17,353	Professional fees	22,065
37,213	Communications and computer expenses	34,801
16,817	Field supplies	18,794
12,392	Lease expenses	12,244
5,437	Travel	3,605
53,469	Grants	76,464
7,448	Accommodation	7,383
5,506	Motor vehicle and vessel expenses	4,822
1,879	Office supplies	1,568
864	Purchase of goods for retail sale	528
1,372	Printing	1,068
1,205	Insurance	1,402
	Fees paid to auditors:	
334	Fees for financial statement audit	401
3,771	Other	4,101
235,344	Total operating costs	252,679

Operating leases

An operating lease is a lease that does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset. Lease payments under an operating lease are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. The Department leases vehicles, office premises and office equipment. As all the risks and benefits are retained by the lessor. These leases are classified as operating leases and are expensed in the period in which the costs are incurred.

Note 6: Capital charge

The Department pays a capital charge to the Crown twice a year on the balance of taxpayers' funds, including revaluation reserve, as at 1 July and 1 January. The capital charge rate for the six-month periods ending 31 December 2021 and 30 June 2022 was 5.0% (2021: 5.0%).

Note 7: Return of operating surplus to the Crown

30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
55,576	Net surplus for the year	10,888
	Add/(less)	
(1,375)	Remeasurement gains on long service and retirement leave	(2,401)
(1,905)	Donated assets and third party contribution towards construction of assets	(2,883)
2,000	Other expenses	2,000
54,296	Total return of operating surplus to the Crown	7,604

The repayment of surplus is required to be paid by 31 October each year.

Note 8: Trade and other receivables

Short-term trade and other receivables are recorded at face value, less any provision for impairment. The Department applies the simplified expected credit loss model of recognised lifetime expected credit losses for receivables. In measuring expected credit losses, short-term receivables have been assessed on a collective basis based on the days past due.

Impairment of a receivable is recorded when there is a reasonable expectation that the Department will not be able to collect amounts due according to the original terms of the receivable. Overdue receivables that are renegotiated are reclassified as current (that is, not past due).

Accounting policy for impairment of receivables

Impairment of a receivable was only recognised when there was objective evidence that the amount due would not be fully collected. While trade and other receivables were subject to the expected credit loss requirement of PBE IFRS 9, no additional impairment provision was provided because the impact was immaterial.

30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
9,501	Trade receivables	7,800
(698)	Less provision for impairment	(528)
8,803	Net trade receivables	7,272
4,584	Accrued revenue	4,869
13,387	Total trade and other receivables	12,141

Note 9: Debtor Crown

The Debtor Crown balance of \$194.8 million (2021: \$209.0 million) represents operating funding (GST inclusive) not drawn down due to the timing of cash requirements.

Note 10: Property, plant and equipment

	Land \$000	Buildings \$000	Plant and equipment \$000	Infrastructure \$000	Fencing \$000	Vessels \$000	Motor vehicles \$000	Furniture and fittings \$000	Visitor and cultural assets \$000	Land formation \$000	Total \$000
Cost or valuation											
Balance at 1 July 2020	14,711	190,622	38,259	45,629	117,891	9,404	23,866	22,234	860,417	188,146	1,511,179
Additions	52	1,514	5,060	3,608	1,698	260	4,588	41	16,664	1,331	34,816
Revaluation movement	1,928	3,644	-	740	(54)	-	-	-	15,360	16,270	37,888
Disposals	-	(278)	(45)	(875)	(56)	(73)	(1,735)	-	(6,510)	-	(9,572)
Balance at 30 June 2021	16,691	195,502	43,274	49,102	119,479	9,591	26,719	22,275	885,931	205,747	1,574,311
Balance at 1 July 2021	16,691	195,502	43,274	49,102	119,479	9,591	26,719	22,275	885,931	205,747	1,574,311
Additions	-	1,506	7,133	6,218	1,207	244	5,447	275	16,768	2,037	40,835
Revaluation movement	1,638	14,726	-	3,972	9,584	-	-	-	86,672	7,475	124,067
Disposals	-	(3,297)	(101)	(194)	(89)	(196)	(3,854)	-	(4,152)	-	(11,883)
Balance at 30 June 2022	18,329	208,437	50,306	59,098	130,181	9,639	28,312	22,550	985,219	215,259	1,727,330
Accumulated depreciation and impairment losses											
Balance at 1 July 2020	-	123,359	30,955	22,331	81,676	6,637	13,443	16,289	581,651	-	876,341
Depreciation expense	-	2,504	1,466	1,088	6,924	392	1,412	744	17,013	-	31,543
Revaluation movement	-	2,409	-	380	(41)	-	-	-	10,490	-	13,238
Disposals	-	(220)	(32)	(875)	(48)	(49)	(1,087)	-	(5,234)	-	(7,545)
Balance at 30 June 2021	-	128,052	32,389	22,924	88,511	6,980	13,768	17,033	603,920	-	913,577
Balance at 1 July 2021	-	128,052	32,389	22,924	88,511	6,980	13,768	17,033	603,920	-	913,577
Depreciation expense	-	2,518	1,761	1,263	6,584	370	1,983	728	16,367	-	31,574
Revaluation movement	-	9,810	-	2,068	7,722	-	-	-	60,018	-	79,618
Disposals	-	(2,975)	(59)	(1)	(36)	(155)	(2,452)	-	(2,763)	-	(8,441)
Balance at 30 June 2022	-	137,405	34,091	26,254	102,781	7,195	13,299	17,761	677,542	-	1,016,328
Carrying amounts											
At 30 June 2020	14,711	67,263	7,304	23,298	36,215	2,767	10,423	5,945	278,766	188,146	634,838
At 30 June 2021	16,691	67,450	10,885	26,178	30,968	2,611	12,951	5,242	282,011	205,747	660,734
At 30 June 2022	18,329	71,032	16,215	32,844	27,400	2,444	15,013	4,789	307,677	215,259	711,002

Note 10: Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Property, plant and equipment consists of land, buildings, plant and equipment, infrastructure, fencing assets, vessels, motor vehicles, furniture and fittings, visitor assets and cultural assets and land formation costs. Land, buildings, infrastructure, fencing, visitor assets and land formation costs are measured at fair value, with all other assets measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Assets under construction are recognised at cost. Where an asset is acquired at no cost, or for a nominal cost, it is recognised at fair value as at the date of acquisition. Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the disposal proceeds with the carrying amount of the asset. Gains and losses on disposals are included in surplus or deficit. When a revalued asset is sold, the amount included in the property, plant and equipment revaluation reserve in respect of the disposed asset is transferred to general taxpayer funds.

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis on all property, plant and equipment except for land, land formation assets, cultural assets and assets under construction which are not depreciated.

Note 10: Property, plant and equipment (continued)

The useful lives of property, plant and equipment have been estimated as follows.

Asset class	Estimated useful life in years
Buildings	
Administrative buildings	20–40
Plant and equipment	
Plant and field equipment	10
Radio equipment	5–10
Infrastructure	
Industrial fire equipment	45
Landscaping	44
Roads	10–100
Sewerage	64
Stream control	98
Water supply	60
Fencing	
	25–40
Vessels	
Engines	10
Hulls	15
Motor vehicles	
Passenger (30% residual applied)	4
Utilities (40% residual applied)	5
Furniture and fittings	
Furniture, computers and other office equipment	5
Visitor and cultural assets	
Buildings/huts	35–65
Campsite, amenity areas and car parks	10–50
Roads (surface only)	25
Signs	10
Structures	25–100
Tracks	8

In accordance with *PBE IPSAS 17 Property, plant and equipment*, the useful lives of property, plant and equipment are assessed annually to determine whether they are appropriate, and the future depreciation charge adjusted accordingly. In some circumstances, and particularly for the revalued assets, this may lead to instances where the estimated useful lives vary, but not materially, from the standard policy presented above.

Note 10: Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Revaluations

The carrying values of revalued assets are assessed annually. Aside from land, the Depreciation Replacement Cost method and indexation model are used to measure assets at fair value.

The indexation model uses the appropriate capital goods index published by Statistics New Zealand to determine the movement in asset values over the intervening period. Land is valued using assessments conducted in accordance with the Rating Valuations Act 1998.

Significant assumptions applied in deriving depreciated replacement cost include:

- historical cost adjusted by movements in the appropriate capital goods price index reflects the present replacement cost
- the remaining useful life of assets is estimated
- straight-line depreciation has been applied in determining the depreciated replacement cost value of the asset.

The net revaluation results are charged to other comprehensive revenue and expense and are accumulated to an asset revaluation reserve in equity for that class of asset. Where this would result in a debit balance in the asset revaluation reserve, this balance is not recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense but is recognised in surplus or deficit. Any subsequent increase in revaluation that reverses a previous decrease in value recognised in surplus or deficit will be recognised first in surplus or deficit up to the amount previously expensed, and then recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense.

Land

Land is initially recognised at cost and is revalued annually based on rateable valuations provided by Quotable Value Limited. Individual land lots are only updated every 3 years by Quotable Value Limited using a mass-appraisal process. Land not matched to an assessment is valued using an average per hectare rate.

Buildings

Buildings were valued at fair value as at 30 June 2022.

Visitor assets

A number of different asset classes are included under the grouping 'Visitor Assets', including tracks, structures, buildings (predominantly huts) and signs. All visitor assets are revalued using price indices applicable for the year.

Note 10: Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Land formation

The land formation is fair valued using a price-index-based revaluation model and is measured in line with the Crown's policy on revaluations.

Other property, plant and equipment

Infrastructure assets were valued at fair value using price indices as at 30 June 2022. Fencing assets were valued at fair value as at 30 June 2022.

Property, plant and equipment under construction

The total amount of property, plant and equipment under construction is \$35.5 million (2021: \$22.5 million).

Community assets

The nation's land and historic buildings managed by the Department are the nation's natural and historic heritage. As these community assets belong to the Crown, their valuation is reflected in the 'Schedule of assets – Crown as administered by the Department of Conservation'. Typically, this land includes national, conservation and forest parks as well as Crown reserve land.

Note 11: Intangible assets

All intangible assets, including those not yet in use, are measured at cost and are reviewed for impairment at balance date. Any impairment in the value of an intangible asset is included in the surplus or deficit.

Costs that are directly associated with the development of software for internal use by the Department are recognised as an intangible asset.

Computer software is the largest category within intangible assets and is amortised on a straight-line basis over a period of 5–7 years.

Restated 30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
	Cost or valuation	
40,913	Balance at 1 July	33,291
8,868	Additions	(87)
(16,490)	Disposals	(1,095)
33,291	Balance at 30 June	32,109
	Accumulated depreciation and impairment losses	
30,182	Balance at 1 July	27,509
2,863	Amortisation expense	1,158
(5,536)	Disposals	-
27,509	Balance at 30 June	28,667
5,782	Carrying amount as at 30 June	3,442

There are no restrictions over the title of the Department's intangible assets, nor are any intangible assets pledged as security for liabilities.

Note 12: Employee entitlements

Short-term employee entitlements

Employee entitlements expected to be settled within 12 months of balance date are measured at nominal values, based on accrued entitlements at current rates of pay. These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date, accrued annual leave at balance date, retiring and long-service leave entitlements expected to be settled within 12 months, and sick leave.

Other employee entitlements include accrued annual leave, time off in lieu, vested long-service leave and a provision for sick leave.

30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
Current portion		
5,564	Accrued salaries and wages	6,382
2,995	Long service and retiring leave	3,253
16,255	Other employee entitlements	18,684
24,814	Total employee entitlements (current portion)	28,319

Long-term employee entitlements

Employee entitlements due to be settled beyond 12 months of balance date in which the employee renders the related service, such as long-service leave and retiring leave, are calculated on an actuarial basis. The calculations are based on likely future entitlements accruing to staff, based on years of service, years to entitlement, the likelihood that staff will reach the point of entitlement, contractual entitlements information, and the present value of the estimated future cash flows.

30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
Non-current portion		
18,918	Long service and retiring leave	15,633
18,918	Total employee entitlements (non-current portion)	15,633

The measurement of the retirement and long-service leave obligations depends on factors that are determined on an actuarial basis using a number of assumptions. Two key assumptions used in calculating this liability are the salary growth factor and the discount rate. Any changes in these assumptions will affect the carrying amount of the liability.

Discount rates and salary growth rates used in the actuarial valuation are as specified by the Treasury for valuations of this type and are effective for valuations as at 30 June 2022. An increase in the discount rates used in the actuarial valuation has resulted in a decrease of \$2.7 million in the value of the retirement and long-service leave liability.

Note 12: Employee entitlements (continued)

The demographic assumptions used are based on New Zealand population mortality and the experience of superannuation arrangements in New Zealand and Australia.

The table below shows the impact that varying the assumed rate of salary growth and discount rates has on the valuation result if all other assumptions are constant.

<i>Key assumption</i>	Increase/(Decrease) in liability \$000	
	<i>1% below assumed</i>	<i>1% above assumed</i>
Salary growth	1,519	(1,769)
Discount rates	(1,750)	1,479

Note 13: Provisions

The Department recognises a provision for future expenditure of uncertain amounts or timing where there is a present obligation (either legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, and it is probable that expenditure will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses. Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation.

Note 13: Provisions (continued)

30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
	Current portion	
2,725	Environmental	1,914
74	Onerous contracts	74
926	ACC – other provisions	955
3,725	Total current portion	2,943
	Non-current portion	
1,179	Environmental	1,233
1,179	Total non-current portion	1,233
4,904	Total provisions	4,176
	Movements in provisions:	
	Environmental	
3,485	Balance at 1 July	3,904
(1,663)	Provision utilised or reversed during the year	(2,337)
2,082	Provision made during the year	1,580
3,904	Balance at 30 June	3,147
	Onerous contracts	
74	Balance at 1 July	74
74	Balance at 30 June	74
	ACC – other provisions	
821	Balance at 1 July	926
(89)	Provision utilised or reversed during the year	(71)
194	Provision made during the year	100
926	Balance at 30 June	955
4,904	Total provisions	4,176

Note 13: Provisions (continued)

Below is a summary of the significant environmental provisions.

Waikato-Tainui Waikato River Conservation Accord

Provision was made in the 2014/15 financial year for \$0.8 million as the Department's share of the costs associated with the obligations arising under the above accord. This was increased by a further \$1.0 million from 2017/18 to 2021/22 to reflect the work plan over the next 3 years. To date, net costs of \$0.4 million have been incurred against the provision.

Cleaning up contaminated sites

Provisions have been made for remediation work relating to the Whakapapa Wastewater Treatment Plant to ensure compliance with resource consent (\$0.8 million). To date, net costs of \$0.4 million have been incurred against the provision.

A make good provision of \$0.3 million was provided on the Tokaanu Hot Pools returned to local iwi in the 2018/19 financial year. This was increased by a further \$0.6 million in 2019/20 and 2021/22. To date, net costs of \$0.7 million have been incurred against the provision.

Lake Whangape restoration

Under a multi-agency agreement, the Department has committed to a programme of work to improve Lake Whangape's habitat and water quality. A provision of \$0.4 million has been set aside for this project. The work is a five-year initiative. To date, net costs of \$0.3 million have been incurred against the provision.

Note 14: Taxpayers' funds

Taxpayers' funds represent the Crown's investment in the Department and are measured as the difference between total assets and total liabilities. Taxpayers' funds are disaggregated and classified as general funds and property, plant and equipment revaluation reserves. The latter relate to the revaluation of fixed assets to fair value.

30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
General funds		
460,304	Balance at 1 July	456,550
49,394	Net surplus for the year	10,888
1,267	Transfers from revaluation reserve on disposal	1,904
(82)	Capital repayments to the Crown	(220)
-	Capital injection from the Crown	61,624
(54,296)	Return of operating surplus to the Crown	(7,604)
(37)	Asset transfers between Department and Crown	(90)
456,550	Balance at 30 June	523,052
Property, plant and equipment revaluation reserves		
263,858	Balance at 1 July	287,241
24,650	Revaluation gains	44,448
(1,267)	Transfer to general funds on disposal	(1,904)
287,241	Balance at 30 June	329,785
743,791	Total taxpayers' funds at 30 June	852,837
Property, plant and equipment revaluation reserves consist of:		
15,835	Land revaluation reserve	17,473
49,273	Buildings revaluation reserves	52,939
204,451	Visitor assets revaluation reserves	237,900
17,682	Other revaluation reserves	21,473
287,241	Total property, plant and equipment revaluation reserves	329,785

Note 15: Financial instrument risks

Financial assets are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs.

The Department's activities expose it to a variety of financial instrument risks, including credit risk and liquidity risk. The Department has a series of policies to manage the risks associated with financial instruments and seeks to minimise exposure from financial instruments. These policies do not allow any transactions that are speculative in nature.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a third party will default on its obligation to the Department, causing the Department to incur a loss. In the normal course of its business, credit risk arises from debtors and deposits with banks.

The Department is only permitted to deposit funds with Westpac, a registered bank, and enter into foreign exchange forward contracts with the New Zealand Debt Management Office. These entities have high credit ratings. For its other financial instruments, the Department does not have significant concentrations of credit risk.

The Department's maximum credit exposure for each class of financial instrument is represented by the total carrying amount of cash and net receivables. There is no collateral held as security against these financial instruments, including those instruments that are overdue or impaired.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Department will encounter difficulty raising liquid funds to meet commitments as they fall due.

In meeting its liquidity requirements, the Department closely monitors its forecast cash requirements with expected cash drawdowns from the New Zealand Debt Management Office. The Department maintains a target level of available cash to meet liquidity requirements.

The following table analyses the Department's financial liabilities that will be settled based on the remaining period at the statement of financial position date to the contractual maturity date. The amounts disclosed are the contractual undiscounted cash flows.

	Less than 6 months \$000	Between 6 months and 1 year \$000	Between 1 and 5 years \$000	Over 5 years \$000
Liquidity risks				
2021				
Trade and other payables	40,166	-	-	-
Finance leases	-	-	-	-
2022				
Trade and other payables	30,884	-	-	-
Finance leases	-	-	-	-

Note 15: Financial instrument risks (continued)

The carrying amount of financial assets is represented by: Cash \$27.6 million (2021: \$15.1 million), Trade and other receivables \$12.1 million (2021: \$13.4 million) and Debtor Crown \$194.8 million (2021: \$209.0 million).

The carrying amount of financial liabilities is represented by: Trade and other payables \$30.9 million (2021: \$40.2 million).

Note 16: Related party transactions and key management personnel

The Department is a wholly owned entity of the Crown. The Crown significantly influences the roles of the Department as well as being its major source of revenue.

The Department enters into transactions with other government departments, Crown entities and state-owned enterprises on an arm's length basis. Those transactions that occur within a normal supplier or client relationship on terms and conditions no more or less favourable than those which it is reasonable to expect the Department would have adopted if dealing with that entity at arm's length in the same circumstance, are not disclosed as related party transactions.

Key management personnel compensation comprises the Director-General and the Senior Leadership Team. Total compensation includes long-service leave and retiring leave.

30/06/21 Actual		30/06/22 Actual
\$3,449,473	Salaries and other short-term benefits	\$3,042,251
\$179,899	Other long-term benefits	\$170,803
\$-	Termination benefits	\$-
\$3,629,372	Total key management personnel compensation	\$3,213,054
11	Total full-time equivalent staff	12

There were no other transactions carried out with related parties.

The previous Director-General (1 July to 13 September 2021) of the Department of Conservation is a member of the Kiwi Trust Board (Kiwis for Kiwi), Te Urewera Co-Governance Board and the Antarctic Heritage Trust. An amount of \$5,609,591 was paid to Kiwis for Kiwi (2021: \$5,414,709) and there is no balance outstanding at year end. An amount of \$70,425 was paid to the Te Urewera Board this year (2021: nil). No payments were made to the Antarctic Heritage Trust this year (2021: nil).

Note 17: Capital management

The Department's capital is its equity (or taxpayers' funds), which comprises general funds and revaluation reserves. Equity is represented by net assets. The Department manages its revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and general financial dealings prudently. The Department's equity is largely managed as a by-product of managing income, expenses, assets, liabilities and compliance with the Government Budget processes and with instructions issued by the New Zealand Treasury. The objective of managing the Department's equity is to ensure the Department effectively achieves its goals and objectives for which it has been established, while remaining a going concern.

Note 18: Events after balance date

No significant events that may impact on the financial statements have occurred between year end and the signing of these financial statements (2021: none).

Non-departmental financial schedules

Schedule of revenue – Crown as administered by the Department of Conservation for the year ended 30 June 2022

30/06/21			30/06/22	30/06/22	30/06/22	30/06/23
Actual \$000		Note	Actual \$000	Budget* \$000	Revised Budget* \$000	Forecast* \$000
Revenue						
8,077	Concessions, leases and licences	1	9,424	27,305	8,077	8,077
3,054	Other operational revenue		11,426	964	1,943	964
1,454	Gain on disposal of Crown PPE		1,746	-	-	-
12,585	Total revenue		22,596	28,269	10,020	9,041

* The statement of accounting policies provides explanations of these figures, which are unaudited.

Non-departmental income is administered by the Department of Conservation on behalf of the Crown. As this income is not established by the Department nor earned in the production of the Department's outputs, it is not reported in the departmental financial statements.

Schedule of expenses – Crown as administered by the Department of Conservation for the year ended 30 June 2022

30/06/21			30/06/22	30/06/22	30/06/22	30/06/23
Actual \$000			Actual \$000	Budget* \$000	Revised Budget* \$000	Forecast* \$000
Vote Conservation						
40,308	Appropriation for non-departmental output classes**		55,531	95,563	66,790	102,101
17,664	Appropriation for non-departmental other expenses		12,464	11,310	21,835	25,272
7,473	GST input on appropriations		8,337	11,736	11,737	17,696
(61)	Bad and doubtful debts credit		-	-	-	-
65,384	Total expenses		76,332	118,609	100,362	145,069

* The statement of accounting policies provides explanations of these figures, which are unaudited.

** Includes multi-category expenses and expenses in multi-year appropriations.

The Schedule of expenses – Crown as administered by the Department of Conservation summarises non-departmental expenses that the Department administers on behalf of the Crown. Further details are provided in the statement of expenses and capital expenditure incurred against appropriations on pages 135–137.

Schedule of assets – Crown as administered by the Department of Conservation as at 30 June 2022

Restated 30/06/21			30/06/22	30/06/22	30/06/22	30/06/23
Actual \$000	Notes	Actual \$000	Budget* \$000	Revised Budget* \$000	Forecast* \$000	
Current assets						
15,099	Cash	15,912	18,081	78,346	28,678	
151	Prepayments	227	200	200	200	
2,257	Trade and other receivables	4,293	6,340	6,340	6,340	
5,469	Non-current assets held for sale	10,465	-	-	-	
22,976	Total current assets	30,897	24,621	84,886	35,218	
Non-current assets						
7,053,512	Property, plant and equipment	7,833,440	6,756,058	7,172,009	7,177,337	
7,053,512	Total non-current assets	7,833,440	6,756,058	7,172,009	7,177,337	
7,076,488	Total assets	7,864,337	6,780,679	7,256,895	7,212,555	

* The statement of accounting policies provides explanations of these figures, which are unaudited.

Schedule of liabilities – Crown as administered by the Department of Conservation as at 30 June 2022

30/06/21			30/06/22	30/06/22	30/06/22	30/06/23
Actual \$000	Note	Actual \$000	Budget* \$000	Revised Budget* \$000	Forecast* \$000	
Current liabilities						
6,440	Trade and other payables	6,139	1,959	7,732	7,732	
490	Revenue in advance	581	-	-	-	
1,178	Provisions	1,170	-	-	-	
8,108	Total current liabilities	7,890	1,959	7,732	7,732	
8,108	Total liabilities	7,890	1,959	7,732	7,732	

* The statement of accounting policies provides explanations of these figures, which are unaudited.

Schedule of commitments – Crown as administered by the Department of Conservation as at 30 June 2022

30/06/21 Actual \$000	30/06/22 Actual \$000
- Other non-cancellable operating leases	-
- Total commitments	-

Expenses yet to be incurred on non-cancellable contracts that have been entered into on or before balance date are disclosed as commitments to the extent that there are equally unperformed obligations.

Schedule of contingent liabilities and contingent assets – Crown as administered by the Department of Conservation as at 30 June 2022

30/06/21 Actual \$000	30/06/22 Actual \$000
77 Quantifiable liabilities	107
77 Total contingent liabilities	107

As at 30 June 2022 there were 26 claims against the Crown, 24 of which are not currently quantifiable (2021: 29 claims of which 28 were not quantifiable). Contingent liabilities are disclosed unless the possibility of an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential is remote.

There were no contingent assets as at 30 June 2022 (2021: nil).

Statement of trust monies for the year ended 30 June 2022

	As at 30/06/21 \$000	Contributions \$000	Distributions \$000	Net Interest \$000	As at 30/06/22 \$000
Bonds/Deposits Trust	8,328	1,993	(59)	87	10,349
Conservation Project Trust	1,150	687	(730)	6	1,113
National Parks Trust	225	-	(190)	1	36
NZ Walkway Trust	12	3	-	-	15
Total	9,715	2,683	(979)	94	11,513

The Department has delegated authority to operate these trust accounts under sections 66 and 67 of the Public Finance Act 1989.

Trust accounts are mainly used to hold bonds and deposits from operators working on public conservation land, including those contracted by the Department. These are repaid when the operators have been cleared of all obligations.

Statement of accounting policies

Reporting entity

These non-departmental financial schedules present financial information on public funds managed by the Department of Conservation on behalf of the Crown.

These non-departmental balances are consolidated into the *Financial Statements of the Government of New Zealand for the year ended 30 June 2022*. For a full understanding of the Crown's financial position and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year, refer to the *Financial Statements of the Government of New Zealand for the year ended 30 June 2022*.

Reporting period

The reporting period for these financial schedules is for the year ended 30 June 2022.

The forecast financial statements are for the year ending 30 June 2023.

The financial schedules were authorised for issue by the Director-General of the Department on 30 September 2022.

Basis of preparation

The financial schedules have been prepared on a going concern basis, and in accordance with the requirements of the Public Finance Act 1989, which includes the requirement to comply with New Zealand generally accepted accounting practice (NZ GAAP), and the Treasury instructions. The Department has applied the suite of *Tier 1 Public Benefit Entity International Public Sector Accounting Standards (PBE IPSAS)* in preparing the 30 June 2022 financial schedules.

The statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis, unless otherwise stated.

The accounting policies have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

These financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars, and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$000). The functional currency of the Department is New Zealand dollars.

Budget and forecast figures

The budget, revised budget and forecast figures have been prepared in accordance with NZ GAAP using accounting policies that are consistent with those adopted in preparing these financial schedules. They have also been prepared in accordance with *PBE Financial Reporting Standard 42: Prospective Financial Statements*. The budget, revised budget and forecast financial schedules are not subject to audit.

The budget figures for 2021/22 are those included in *The Estimates of Appropriations for the Government of New Zealand for the year ending 30 June 2022*. The revised budget figures for 2021/22 are those included in *The Supplementary Estimates of Appropriations for the Government of New Zealand for the year ending 30 June 2022, adjusted for any transfers under 26A of the Public Finance Act*.

The forecast figures for 2022/23 are those included in *The Estimates of Appropriations for the Government of New Zealand for the year ending 30 June 2023*. The forecasts have been prepared in accordance with the Public Finance Act 1989 and reflect the existing government and ministerial policies existing at that time, in addition to the Department's purpose, strategic intentions and activities based on the estimates and assumptions that might occur in the 2022/23 year.

Goods and services tax (GST)

All items in the non-departmental schedules, including appropriation statements, are stated exclusive of GST except for receivables and payables, which are stated on a GST-inclusive basis. In accordance with instructions issued by the Treasury, GST is returned on revenue received on behalf of the Crown, where applicable. However, an input tax deduction is not claimed on non-departmental expenditure. Instead, the amount of GST applicable to non-departmental expenditure is recognised as a separate expense and eliminated against GST revenue on consolidation of the Government Financial Statements.

Trade and other receivables

Short-term trade debtors and other receivables are recorded at their face value, less any provision for impairment. The Crown applies the simplified expected credit loss model of recognised lifetime expected credit losses for receivables. In measuring expected credit losses, short-term receivables have been assessed on a collective basis based on the days past due.

The carrying amount of the asset is reduced through the use of a provision for impairment account and the amount of the loss is recognised in surplus or deficit. Overdue receivables that are renegotiated are reclassified as current (that is, not past due).

Accounting policy for impairment of receivables

Impairment of a receivable was only recognised when there was objective evidence the amount due would not be fully collected. While trade and other receivables were subject to the expected credit loss requirement of PBE IFRS 9, no additional impairment provision was provided because the impact was trivial.

Trade and other payables

Short-term trade creditors and other payables are recorded at their face value.

Restatement of Crown Land

The land numbers for the prior year have been restated by \$112 million due to the automatic vesting provision in the Reserves Act 1977 which allows local authorities to vest reserves land in their own name without notifying the Department. This has resulted in some reserves land vested in local authorities remaining in the Department's land record.

Comparatives

The restatement of Crown land has resulted in the restatement of the schedule of assets as at 30 June 2021. The restatement adjustments are detailed in the table on note 4.

Notes to the schedules for the year ended 30 June 2022

Note 1: Revenue

The Department collects revenue on behalf of the Crown. This is mainly from concession fees, rent/leases and licences from commercial users of Crown-owned land. Revenue is recognised when earned, reported in the current financial period and is treated as exchange transactions.

30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
625	Tourism occupations	981
1,332	Guiding	930
318	Aircraft landings	452
1,805	Telecommunications	2,111
916	Other occupations	1,100
1,259	Grazing	1,484
46	Ski areas	80
522	Boating	187
430	Residential/recreational	813
(135)	Vehicle transport	37
407	Easements	702
116	Filming	121
268	Miscellaneous	274
134	Extractions fees	123
34	Sporting and special events	29
8,077	Total concessions, leases and licences	9,424

Note 2: Non-current assets held for sale

Non-current assets held for sale are classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction, rather than through continued use. Non-current assets held for sale (including those that are part of a disposal group) are not depreciated, amortised or revalued while they are classified as held for sale. This accounting treatment is in line with Treasury Guidance.

30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
5,469	Land	10,465
5,469	Total non-current assets held for sale	10,465

Total non-current assets held for sale mainly comprise land that has been identified for settlement of Treaty of Waitangi claims.

Note 3: Property, plant and equipment

	Land \$000	Buildings \$000	Infrastructure \$000	Cultural assets \$000	Total \$000
Cost or valuation					
Balance at 1 July 2020	6,603,092	1,305	18,589	5,100	6,628,086
Additions	11,624	-	1,165	-	12,789
Revaluation movement	417,540	695	311	-	418,546
Disposals	(2,699)	-	-	-	(2,699)
Assets transferred to current assets	(94)	-	-	-	(94)
Balance at 30 June 2021	7,029,463	2,000	20,065	5,100	7,056,628
Balance at 1 July 2021	7,029,463	2,000	20,065	5,100	7,056,628
Additions	10,682	-	417	-	11,099
Revaluation movement	781,482	-	1,610	-	783,092
Disposals	(6,982)	-	-	-	(6,982)
Assets transferred to current assets	(6,889)	-	-	-	(6,889)
Balance at 30 June 2022	7,807,756	2,000	22,092	5,100	7,836,948
Accumulated depreciation and impairment losses					
Balance at 1 July 2020	-	1,147	1,607	-	2,754
Depreciation expense	-	2	199	-	201
Revaluation movement	-	130	31	-	161
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2021	-	1,279	1,837	-	3,116
Balance at 1 July 2021	-	1,279	1,837	-	3,116
Depreciation expense	-	11	206	-	217
Revaluation movement	-	-	175	-	175
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2022	-	1,290	2,218	-	3,508
Carrying amounts					
At 30 June 2020	6,603,092	158	16,982	5,100	6,625,332
At 30 June 2021	7,029,463	721	18,228	5,100	7,053,512
At 30 June 2022	7,807,756	710	19,874	5,100	7,833,440

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis at rates that will write off assets, less their estimated residual value, over their remaining useful life. Land and cultural assets are not depreciated.

Note 3: Property, plant and equipment (continued)

For revalued assets, a revaluation change is recognised against the revaluation reserve for that class of assets. Where this results in a debit balance in the revaluation reserve, the balance is recognised in surplus or deficit.

Land is initially recognised at cost and is revalued annually based on rateable valuations provided by Quotable Value Limited. Individual land lots are only updated every 3 years by Quotable Value Limited using a mass-appraisal process. Land not matched to an assessment is valued using an average per-hectare rate. These values were certified as fair value by an independent registered valuer. The valuation is effective as at 30 June 2022.

Land lots not subject to revaluations based on the triennial rateable valuations are revalued applying an index determined using regional/district sales data for comparable land types provided by CoreLogic.

The use and disposal of Crown land managed by the Department is determined by legislation. The main Acts are the Reserves Act 1977, the Conservation Act 1987 and the National Parks Act 1980. These Acts impose restrictions on the disposal of surplus areas and the use of reserves, conservation areas and national parks. Crown land is not subject to mortgages or other charges. Specific areas may be included in Treaty settlements if the Crown decides to offer those areas to claimants.

Crown infrastructure assets were valued at fair value using price indices effective as at 30 June 2022.

Historic buildings used for rental activities are stated at fair value using optimised depreciated replacement cost. The valuation is effective as at 30 June 2022.

Cultural assets are stated at fair value. These assets are not depreciated and were last valued as at 30 June 2012.

The Department has a number of heritage assets under its care due to the historical significance of these assets to New Zealand. The cost of heritage assets cannot be reliably measured given the nature of these assets and, accordingly, these assets are not able to be recognised on the schedule of assets.

Note 4: Prior period adjustments (restatement)**Schedule of assets – Crown as administered by the Department of Conservation
for the year ended 30 June 2021**

	Previously reported \$000	Land Adjustment \$000	Restated \$000
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	7,165,730	(112,218)	7,053,512
Total non-current assets	7,165,730	(112,218)	7,053,512
Total assets	7,188,706	(112,218)	7,076,488

Note 3: Property, plant and equipment

	Land Previously reported \$000	Land Adjustment \$000	Restated \$000
Cost or valuation			
Balance at 1 July 2020	6,714,180	(111,088)	6,603,092
Additions	11,624	-	11,624
Revaluation movement	418,670	(1,130)	417,540
Disposals	(2,699)	-	(2,699)
Assets transferred to current assets	(94)	-	(94)
Balance at 30 June 2021	7,141,681	(112,218)	7,029,463
Balance at 1 July 2021	7,141,681	(112,218)	7,029,463
Additions	10,682	-	10,682
Revaluation movement	669,264	112,218	781,482
Disposals	(6,982)	-	(6,982)
Assets transferred to current assets	(6,889)	-	(6,889)
Balance at 30 June 2022	7,807,756	-	7,807,756
Carrying amounts			
At 30 June 2020	6,714,180	(111,088)	6,603,092
At 30 June 2021	7,141,681	(112,218)	7,029,463
At 30 June 2022	7,807,756	-	7,807,756

Note 5: Provisions

The Crown recognises a provision for future expenditure of uncertain amount or timing when there is a present obligation (either legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, and it is probable that an outflow of future economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are not recognised for future operating losses.

Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as a finance cost.

Environmental provisions

This is the estimated cost of rectifying the environmental damage in the following affected or contaminated sites that the Crown has an obligation to remedy.

- The tailings and tunnels in numerous former goldmine sites in the Coromandel Peninsula which may have unsafe access and/or which may leach contaminants into waterways in the surrounding areas.
- Former landfill sites in the King Country District, at Mokau, Benneydale and Pureora.
- A number of abandoned coalmines, both underground and open cast, within the Benneydale, Mahoenui, Pirongia, Waitawhenua and Ohura coalfields. Risks of contamination from treatment ponds, tailing dams and underground drives.

Transfer of concession revenue

There is a provision of \$0.3 million for concession revenue payable to iwi relating to land transferred to them under Treaty settlements.

Note 6: Events after balance date

No significant events that may impact on the actual results have occurred between year end and the signing of these financial statements.

Additional financial information

Statement of expenses and capital expenditure incurred against appropriations for the year ended 30 June 2022

30/06/21		30/06/22	30/06/22	30/06/22	Location of end-of-year performance information
Actual \$000	Appropriation title	Actual \$000	Budget* \$000	Revised Budget* \$000	
	Departmental output expenses				
288,678	Management of natural heritage	326,935	380,861	334,516	page 23
6,275	Management of historic heritage	7,698	5,489	8,418	page 29
184,559	Management of recreational opportunities	184,775	195,436	188,639	page 58
41,135	Conservation with the community	39,956	36,263	46,750	page 51
2,732	Crown contribution to regional pest management	2,547	3,241	3,307	page 23
69	Search and rescue activities PLA	150	359	115	
523,448	Total departmental output expenses	562,061	621,649	581,745	
	Departmental other expenses				
-	- Software as a Service intangible asset derecognition	-	-	10,954	
	Departmental capital expenditure				
43,684	Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets	40,748	46,137	43,418	
	Non-departmental output expenses				
5,665	Community Conservation Partnerships Fund	18,520	27,976	11,740	
905	Management services – natural and historic places	936	946	946	
38	Moutoa Gardens/Pākaitore	38	38	38	
6,608	Total non-departmental output expenses	19,494	28,960	12,724	
	Non-departmental other expenses				
5	Compensation payments	-	60	60	
486	Mātauranga Māori fund	422	874	554	
241	Waikaremoana lakebed lease	241	241	241	
447	Subscriptions to international organisations	407	450	450	
942	Payment of rates on properties for concessionaires	1,024	999	1,099	
201	Depreciation – Crown PP&E	217	372	337	
-	- Provision for bad and doubtful debts	57	1,000	1,300	
-	- Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	2,525	930	
48	Vesting of reserves	4,349	150	4,853	
326	Impairment of public conservation land	-	50	1,425	
-	- Correction of Land-holding Records	4,445	-	5,000	
343	Administering bodies of Crown reserves	43	-	150	
14,043	Wildlife institutions relief fund	845	-	847	
17,082	Total non-departmental other expenses	12,050	6,721	17,246	

Statement of expenses and capital expenditure incurred against appropriations (continued)

for the year ended 30 June 2022

30/06/21		30/06/22	30/06/22	30/06/22	Location of
Actual		Actual	Budget*	Revised	end-of-year
\$000		\$000	\$000	Budget*	performance
				\$000	information
	Non-departmental capital expenditure				
2,240	Crown land acquisitions	-	2,000	2,000	
375	Purchase and development of reserves	24	3,600	4,472	
581	Flood recovery work	-	-	-	
3,196	Total non-departmental capital expenditure	24	5,600	6,472	
	Multi-category expenses and capital expenditure				
	Identification and implementation of protection for natural and historic places MCA				
	<i>Non-departmental output expenses</i>				
101	Nature Heritage Fund	933	1,803	1,302	
6,726	Ngā Whenua Rāhui	6,689	21,768	10,574	
4,412	Legal protection Queen Elizabeth II National Trust	4,712	5,412	5,012	
118	South Island Landless Natives Act	-	4,495	-	
	<i>Non-departmental capital expenditure</i>				
4,297	Nature Heritage Fund land purchases	1,167	-	3,307	
15,654	Total identification and implementation of protection for natural and historic places MCA	13,501	33,478	20,195	
	Policy advice, statutory planning, and services to Ministers and statutory bodies MCA				
	<i>Departmental output expenses</i>				
3,302	Policy advice	5,650	4,147	5,856	page 75
9,897	Statutory planning, services to Ministers and statutory bodies	11,159	10,748	12,142	page 75
13,199	Total policy advice, statutory planning, and services to Ministers and statutory bodies MCA	16,809	14,895	17,998	
	Provincial Growth Fund – Conservation projects MCA				
	<i>Non-departmental other expenses</i>				
582	Regional projects	414	4,589	4,589	
	<i>Non-departmental capital expenditure</i>				
584	Infrastructure projects	416	4,610	4,610	
1,166	Total Provincial Growth Fund – Conservation projects MCA	830	9,199	9,199	
30,019	Total multi-category expenses and capital expenditure	31,140	57,572	47,392	
624,037	Total annual and forecast permanent appropriations	665,517	766,639	719,951	
	Multi-year appropriations				
	Non-departmental output expenses				
22,343	Predator Free New Zealand (MYA)	23,703	33,125	37,178	
22,343	Total non-departmental output expenses	23,703	33,125	37,178	
646,380	Total annual and permanent appropriations and multi-year appropriations	689,220	799,764	757,129	

* The statement of accounting policies provides explanations of these figures, which are unaudited.

Actual expenditure for an individual category may exceed the revised budget for that category but must not exceed the revised budget for the multi-category.

Expenses and capital expenditure incurred in excess of appropriation

A planned transfer of funding from the 2021/22 year to 2022/23 for Non-departmental output expenses – Community Conservation Funds was duplicated due to an administrative error. This left insufficient funding available within this appropriation in the 2021/22 year to meet planned expenditure and as a result unappropriated expenditure of \$6.781 million was incurred.

(2021: Nil)

Expenses and capital expenditure incurred without, or in excess of, authority

In September 2021 the Department incurred expenditure against the appropriation for Non-departmental other expenses – Vesting of Reserves, with the completion of legal land transfer of a reserve area to a third party. This process had been delayed due to legal requirements and consultation with iwi and the relevant district council, and so the Department requested a funding transfer from the 2020/21 year to 2021/22 to reflect costs that would be incurred in the 2021/22 year.

This funding transfer was confirmed in November 2021 but the actual cost was incurred in September 2021, resulting in expenditure of \$3.130 million being incurred without authority against this appropriation.

(2021: Nil)

Statement of departmental capital injections

for the year ended 30 June 2022

30/06/21		30/06/22	30/06/22	30/06/22
Actual \$000		Actual \$000	Budget* \$000	Revised Budget* \$000
78	Asset transfers	183	-	-
-	Capital contributions	61,624	35,406	72,498
78	Department of Conservation – capital injection	61,807	35,406	72,498

* The statement of accounting policies provides explanations of these figures, which are unaudited.

Intra-departmental fencing assets transferred to the Department from Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) during the current budget year represent a capital injection from the Crown. During the current financial year, the Department received \$0.2 million of fencing assets from LINZ.

Summary of output class expenditure by output for the year ended 30 June 2022

30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
	Vote: Conservation	
	<i>Management of natural heritage</i>	
46,373	Jobs for Nature	79,896
28,870	Species persistence	32,278
103,463	Ecosystems conservation	101,609
12,728	Local treasure natural heritage partnerships	10,296
97,244	Lands held for now and future generations	102,856
288,678	Total management natural heritage	326,935
6,275	<i>Management of historic heritage</i>	7,698
6,275	Total management of historic heritage	7,698
	<i>Management of recreational opportunities</i>	
95	Recreation concessions	63
59,160	More visitors to iconic destinations	58,580
36,083	More New Zealanders enjoy gateway destinations	35,995
27,913	Locally treasured destinations	27,789
27,596	More people enjoy the backcountry	25,721
33,712	Accessing public conservation land	36,627
184,559	Total management of recreational opportunities	184,775

Summary of output class expenditure by output (continued)
for the year ended 30 June 2022

30/06/21 Actual \$000		30/06/22 Actual \$000
	<i>Conservation with the community</i>	
12,250	Effective implementation of Treaty settlements	11,482
11,103	Conservation identity/values	9,090
17,050	Conservation activity achieved by others	16,918
269	Conservation investment in NZ prosperity	1,873
316	Conservation outcomes from business partnerships	412
147	DOC products/services/brand	181
41,135	Total conservation with the community	39,956
	<i>Policy advice and ministerial servicing</i>	
3,302	Policy advice	5,650
9,897	Statutory planning, bodies, ministerial services	11,159
13,199	Total policy advice and ministerial servicing	16,809
2,732	Crown contribution to regional pest management	2,547
69	Search and Rescue Activities	150
536,647	Total output expenses	578,870
(1,375)	Unrealised remeasurement losses	(2,401)
-	- Office of Treaty Settlements – Memo of Understanding	-
86	Provincial Growth Funding – Memo of Understanding	2
-	- Te Arawhiti Funding – Memo of Understanding	-
535,358	Total expenses per statement of comprehensive revenue and expenses	576,471

Ngā tāpiritanga Appendices

He kuputaka mō te reo

Glossary of te reo terms

hapū	sub-tribe
iwi	tribe
kaihautū	leader
kaitiaki	guardian, trustee
kaitiakitanga	guardianship, stewardship, trusteeship, trustee
kākahu	cloak
karakia	ritual chant – a set form of words to state or make effective a ritual activity; also prayer, grace, blessing, service, church service
kaupapa	topic, policy, initiative
kawa	principles, protocols
kawenata	covenants
kōrero	talk, discuss, speak, discussion
mātauranga/ mātauranga Māori	the body of knowledge originating from Māori ancestors, including the Māori world view, perspectives and cultural practices
mātauranga-a-iwi	knowledge held by a tribe
mauri	life force, vital essence
Pākehā	non-Māori person of European descent
Papatūānuku	the natural world or Earth mother
raranga	weaving
rongoā	medicine
rūnaka	tribal council (Ngāi Tahu dialect – others use rūnanga)
takiwā	tribal area
tā moko	traditional tattoo
tāngata	persons (plural – singular, tangata)
tangata tiaki	guardian
taonga	treasure; something considered to be of value, including objects, resources or ideas
te ao Māori	the Māori world view – acknowledging the interconnectedness and interrelationship of all living and non-living things
te taiao	the natural world
Te Tiriti o Waitangi	Treaty of Waitangi
tikanga	custom, correct protocol
tauranga waka	canoe-launching areas
tūrangawaewae	place where one has the right to stand; place where one has rights of residence and belonging through kinship and whakapapa
uhi	chisels
wāhi	place
wāhi tapu	places of significance
wānanga	(v) to meet and discuss, deliberate, consider; (n) meeting, discussion
whānau	family

Ngā tūranga me ngā takohanga o Te Papa Atawhai DOC's roles and responsibilities

The Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) manages about 8.6 million hectares of land, 44 marine reserves (covering 1.77 million hectares) and 9 marine mammal sanctuaries (covering around 4.8 million hectares) (see figure 8). Much of our work focuses on relatively small areas of land or water where conservation values are high, whether for natural heritage reasons or in support of visitor experiences or community engagement.

DOC is also responsible for encouraging recreation on the lands and waters it manages. Accordingly, we provide and manage historic sites and visitor facilities, including walking, biking and 4WD tracks, huts, campsites, and visitor centres.

We work with tourism operators and others on public conservation lands and waters using a statutory concessions framework. Besides tourism, concession holders use public conservation lands and waters for grazing, mining and telecommunications.

DOC supports the Minister of Conservation in the management of the coastal environment (including the territorial sea), because the Minister has a specific role under the Resource Management Act 1991. DOC provides advice to the Minister and input into local government policies, plans and consent applications regarding the coastal and marine environment.

We also contribute to all-of-government activities in response to the Government's stated priorities for the public sector. The Government's 2021/22 priorities for conservation were as follows.

- Jobs for Nature
- Review of stewardship land
- Regulatory reform
- Te Ao Māori

- Whitebait regulation
- Implementation of Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy
- Marine management reform
- Climate change
- Kauri disease
- Hector's and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan
- Tourism Futures Taskforce

Our mandate and context are set by a statutory planning framework that supports the overarching legislation: the Conservation General Policy, the General Policy for National Parks, and the strategies and plans that flow from these policies. A series of conservation management strategies identify the places that DOC manages on behalf of all New Zealanders. These strategies establish 'outcomes at places' and high-level objectives that guide our management of, and reporting on, public conservation lands and waters.

DOC is also responsible for implementing conservation-related redress in more than 60 legislated Treaty settlements. Activities include land transfers to iwi, detailed relationship agreements, co-management arrangements (which can include enhanced involvement in statutory management planning processes) and transferring day-to-day management of sites of importance to iwi to reflect their cultural values.

DOC manages protected species and public conservation lands and waters to deliver economic, social and environmental benefits that, in combination, are significant contributors to New Zealanders' prosperity and wellbeing.

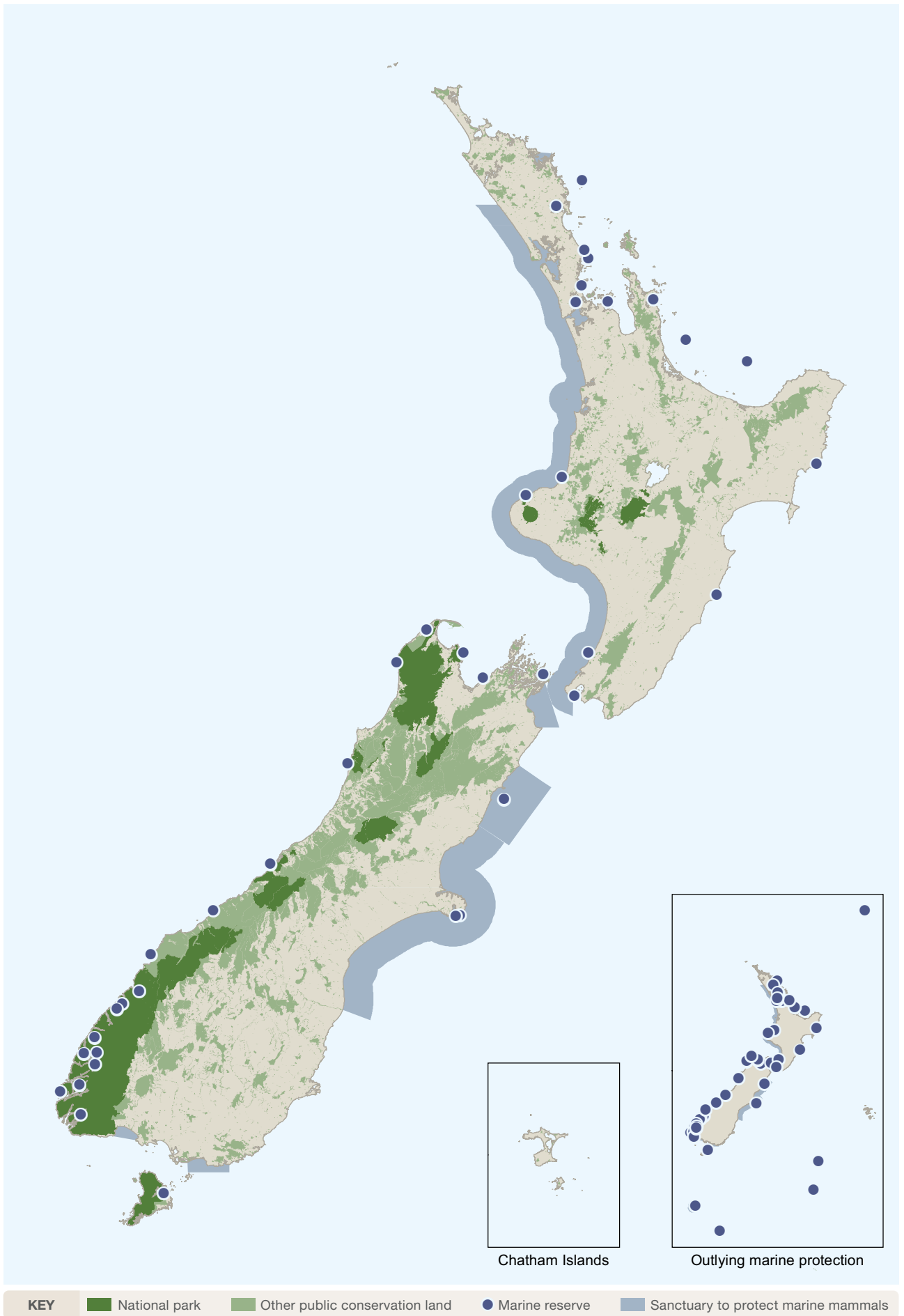


Figure 8: Map of public conservation lands and waters

Te tautiaki taiao i tutuki i ētahi atu Conservation achieved through others

Support for Māori Land

This funding programme exists to protect the natural integrity of Māori land and preserve mātauranga Māori. The Ngā Whenua Rāhui Fund provides protection for Māori landowners with 25-year reviewable kawenata (covenants).

	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual
Percentage of restoration programmes undertaken that meet the criteria for success set out in their programme plan	85%	100%
Hectares of land receiving treatment for small mammal predator control	75,202	24,085
Number of small mammal predator control operations undertaken that meet their targets for operational success	28	28
Hectares of land receiving treatment for goats	107,803	129,897
Number of other terrestrial animal pest operations undertaken that meet the criteria for success set out in their programme plan	1	1
Number of acutely threatened species that will have improved security for one or more populations as a result of active species conservation programmes	10	8
Number of agreements where biodiversity outcome monitoring is undertaken to measure the effectiveness of the agreement	19	5
Hectares of land receiving biodiversity outcome monitoring to measure the effectiveness of the agreement	31,359	9,916
Number of kawenata (covenants) approved in each of the three most threatened LENZ ²⁹ environments	Reported at year-end	2

Community Conservation Fund

This fund is directed at practical, on-the-ground projects. These projects will maintain and restore the diversity of Aotearoa New Zealand's natural heritage and allow more people to participate in recreation, enjoy and learn from historic places, and engage with and value the benefits of conservation.

	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual
Percentage of projects funded that meet deed and reporting standards	95%	99%

²⁹ Land Environments of New Zealand.

Legal Protection Queen Elizabeth II National Trust

This fund is aimed at identifying and implementing the protection of biodiversity on private land.

	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual
Number of new covenant registrations	120	103
Hectares for new covenant registrations	2,800	2,274
Percentage of all new covenants approved that secure protection of one or more of the four national priorities for biodiversity protection on private land and/or add to a protected corridor or protected landscape	90%	100%
Percentage of covenants monitored during the year	40%	39%

Predator Free New Zealand

This fund focuses on activities aimed at controlling and eradicating mammalian pests in Aotearoa New Zealand by 2050.

	2021/22 Target	2021/22 Actual
The Predator Free programme is on track to meet the Predator Free Trust disbursement milestones	Meets	Meets
The Predator Free programme is on track to meet funding allocations for tools resulting from the predator research priorities	Meets	Meets

Te pūrongo ā-tau mō ngā whāinga-mana rapurapu, tirotiro hoki

Annual reporting of search and surveillance powers

The Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai enforces laws that conserve Aotearoa New Zealand's natural and historic heritage.³⁰ Our conservation role includes legislative responsibilities for Aotearoa New Zealand's conservation matters under several Acts of Parliament.

To administer this legislation, we are charged with carrying out a compliance and law enforcement function across a range of geographic and species-related legislation in place to protect Aotearoa New Zealand's flora and fauna, both terrestrial and marine.

In carrying out this function, we must comply with the Search and Surveillance Act 2012. Section 171 of the Act relates to reporting the exercise of an entry power, a search power or a surveillance power while carrying out law enforcement activities.

Key matters to report for the year ended 30 June 2022

Section 171(a): the number of occasions on which entry or search powers were exercised without a warrant: **7 (seven)**.

Section 171(b): the number of occasions on which warrantless surveillance powers were exercised in the period covered by the report that involved the use of a surveillance device: **78 (seventy-eight)**.

Note: These surveillance activities were carried out in monitoring problem marine reserves and whitebait fishery sites.

Surveillance devices used: binoculars, telescopes, hand-held cameras, trail cameras, 1 x permanent CCTV camera operating 24/7 (Nelson Marlborough region) with footage over-writes every 7 days.

Section 171(c): in respect of each kind of surveillance device used without a warrant in the period covered by the report, the numbers of that kind of device used:

- (i) for a period of no more than 24 hours: **75 (seventy-five)**
- (ii) for a period of more than 24 hours but no more than 48 hours: **3 (three)**.

Section 171(d): the number of persons charged in criminal proceedings where the collection of evidential material relevant to those proceedings was significantly assisted by the exercise of a warrantless search or surveillance power in the period covered by the report: **3 (three)**.

These findings cover the year from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 and are compiled from a survey of 44 district offices that carry out compliance and law enforcement functions.

Hilary Aikman

Director, Operations Issues and Programmes
21 July 2022

30 See www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/our-role/compliance-and-law-enforcement/ for more information.

Ngā mahi o ngā poari punanga i tutuki Performance of reserve boards

Reserve boards are appointed under the Reserves Act 1977, where the board manages a reserve that is public conservation land, vested in the reserve board for management purposes. The Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai publishes annual summary financial statements of these reserve boards.

The details provided in table 7 are the most recent financial results available. The year of each result is shown in brackets after the name of each reserve board.

Table 7: Financial summary details from reserve board annual financial statements

Reserve board (and year of most recent financial results)	Type	Revenue \$	Expenditure \$	Cash in bank accounts \$	Significant resources \$
Northern North Island					
Coates (2019)*	Local purpose	1,110	880	1,127	250,000 (valuation)
Glorit (2020)*	Local purpose	13,640	17,808	6,185	170,000 (valuation)
Oakura (2021)*	Recreation	16,509	34,823	15,884	510,815 (valuation)
Ruakaka (2015)*	Recreation	566,888	475,391	119,439	1,020,773 (net equity)
Ruakaka Central (2021)*	Local purpose	51,056	40,681	17,135	1,095,000 (valuation)
Taurikura (2018)*	Hall	2,931	8,287	79	170,000 (valuation)
Waikiekie (2017)*	Recreation	4,521	6,484	22,556	162,000 (valuation)
Waipu Cove (2021)*	Recreation	1,362,572	1,302,962	402,284	3,360,134 (net equity)
Whatitiri (2021)*	Recreation	9,474	11,294	21,191	430,000 (valuation)
Central North Island					
Awakaponga (2020)	Local purpose	47,627	25,447	10,890	137,992 (net equity)
Pākaitore/Moutoa Gardens (2021)*	Historic	38,029	36,538	84,482	207,876 (net equity)
Lower North Island					
Lake Horowhenua (2019)*	Recreation	10,547	4,793	41,758	50,410 (net equity)
Poukiore (2020)	Recreation	14,786	3,556	55,156	190,000 (valuation)
Tiriraukawa (2020)	Hall	12	103	1,885	61,000 (valuation)
Northern South Island					
Homewood (2020)	Hall	1,529	326	10,037	63,770 (net equity)
Kaiteriteri (2021)*	Recreation	7,445,591	7,308,407	1,610,655	10,343,779 (net equity)
Eastern South Island					
Papanui (2019)	Hall	2	1	2,244	Nil
Western South Island					
Millerton (2021)	Hall	5,716	4,628	10,364	47,000 (valuation)
Charleston (2021)	Local purpose	12,695	4,903	15,247	205,000 (valuation)

* These results have not yet been audited by Audit New Zealand.

Ngā pūrongo rangahau i whakaputaina i roto i te tau Research papers published during the year

The Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai publishes a variety of documents on the work it does, such as scientific notes, threatened species recovery plans and management plans. Our science publications record science investigations by staff and contractors. We publish several series, stand-alone reports and books, science posters, and factsheets. A full list of publications for the 2021/22 financial year is available on our website alongside the Annual Report.

Ā mātou rautaki Our strategies

The Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) has several multi-year strategies that guide our work. The strategies current during 2021/22 are listed below.

**Te Mana o te Taiao –
Aotearoa New Zealand
Biodiversity Strategy 2020**

Te Mana o te Taiao sets out a strategic framework for the protection, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, particularly indigenous biodiversity, in Aotearoa New Zealand from 2020 to 2050.

www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/biodiversity/anzbs-2020.pdf

Predator Free 2050 Strategy

Predator Free 2050 aims to eradicate possums, rats and mustelids because, collectively, these animals inflict the worst damage of all the introduced pests on Aotearoa New Zealand's plants and wildlife.

www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/threats-and-impacts/pf2050/pf2050-towards-predator-freedom-strategy.pdf

**New Zealand-Aotearoa Government
Tourism Strategy**

This strategy is jointly held between DOC and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and sets out a more deliberate and active role for government in tourism. This is more important than ever as we welcome visitors back to Aotearoa New Zealand.

www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/5482-2019-new-zealand-aotearoa-government-tourism-strategy-pdf

**Heritage and Visitor Strategy –
He Rautaki Taonga Tuku Iho,
Manuhiri Tūārangi hoki**

This strategy guides our work to sustainably manage visitors to protect and enhance the values of Aotearoa New Zealand's natural, cultural and historic heritage.

www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/about-doc/role/policies-and-plans/heritage-and-visitor-strategy.pdf

**Visitor Centre Strategy
2020–2025**

We have 19 visitor centres across the country, and this strategy helps with future planning for visitor centres and making investment decisions.

www.doc.govt.nz/contentassets/85a4a89f2507424587629d5921e0d5f6/visitor-centre-strategy---doc-5947903.pdf

**Mātauranga Whakauka Taiao –
Environmental Education
for Sustainability**

This strategy refreshes the Government's approach across agencies to ensure we equip our young people with the understanding, skills and motivation they need to help address Aotearoa New Zealand's many environmental challenges (jointly held between DOC and the Ministry for the Environment).

www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/getting-involved/students-and-teachers/environmental-education-for-sustainability-strategy-and-action-plan.pdf

National Education Strategy 2010–2030	In this strategy, the approach to conservation is to focus on education activities with young people. Our aspirational goal is that, by 2030, 1 million conservation kids are connecting with nature, as kids have a wide span of outreach and influence in the community. www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/getting-involved/students-and-teachers/national-education-strategy-2010-2030.pdf
National Compliance Strategy 2017–2020	DOC has legislative responsibilities for Aotearoa New Zealand’s conservation, and carries out diverse activities and programmes. This strategy sets out our approach to our compliance and law enforcement function. www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/about-doc/policies-and-plans/national-compliance-strategy.pdf
Digital Strategy 2020: Te pae tawhiti whaia kia tata – Navigating to new horizons	This strategy represents our commitment to investment in technology to be more efficient, effective and safe when delivering conservation outcomes and working with conservation partners. www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/about-doc/policies-and-plans/te-papa-atawhai-digital-strategy.pdf
National Plan of Action – Seabirds 2020	This plan, jointly held between DOC and the Ministry for Primary Industries, outlines the Government’s ongoing commitment to reducing bycatch of seabirds in Aotearoa New Zealand’s fisheries. www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/40652-National-Plan-Of-Action-Seabirds-2020-Report
New Zealand Sea Lion/Rāpoka Threat Management Plan 2017–2022	This plan aims to halt the decline of the New Zealand sea lion population within 5 years and ensure the population is stable or increasing within 20 years (jointly held between DOC and the Ministry for Primary Industries). www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/native-animals/marine-mammals/nz-sea-lion-tmp/nz-sea-lion-threat-management-plan.pdf
Hector’s and Māui Dolphin Threat Management Plan 2020	The vision of the Hector’s and Māui Dolphin Threat Management Plan is to ensure these dolphins are resilient and thriving throughout their natural range. The plan is led by DOC and Fisheries New Zealand. www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/native-animals/marine-mammals/maui-tmp/hectors-and-maui-dolphin-threat-management-plan-2020.pdf
Te Kaweka Takohaka mō te Hoiho 2019–2029	This is an integrated strategy to support the health and wellbeing of hoiho across the marine and terrestrial ecosystems they inhabit. www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/native-animals/birds/sea-and-shore/te-kaweka-takohaka-mo-te-hoiho-2020.pdf
Critical Ecosystem Pressures on Freshwater Environments (CRESP) 4-year research strategy	This strategy informs annual investment priorities for research under DOC’s CRESP programme for 2020–2023. www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/land-and-freshwater/freshwater/cresp-research-strategy.pdf
Subantarctic Islands Research Strategy	This strategy helps managers decide the most appropriate research on the subantarctic islands and informs researchers as to where DOC has specific research needs. www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/conservation/land-and-freshwater/offshore-islands/subant-res-strat-05.pdf



**Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Government