



Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee

Minute of Decision

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Targeted Improvements to Conservation Planning Processes and Initiating a Review of the Wildlife Act 1953

Portfolio **Conservation**

On 30 September 2021, the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the proposals in the paper under ENV-21-SUB-0056 support the government's manifesto commitment to protect, preserve and restore New Zealand's natural heritage and biodiversity, and the cooperation agreement commitment to work with the Green Party to achieve the outcomes of *Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020*;
- 2 **noted** that one of the goals identified in *Te Mana o te Taiao – Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020* is to review natural resource legislation to ensure it enables thriving biodiversity;
- 3 **noted** that, regarding comprehensive conservation law reform:
 - 3.1 decisions will be for a future government to make;
 - 3.2 the reform will require a phased approach;
 - 3.3 the Department of Conservation is doing work internally to prepare for future reform of the conservation legislation system;
 - 3.4 recent and upcoming analysis, reviews, and reports from within and outside of government will provide some options for possible reform pathways;
- 4 **noted** that future legislative reform proposals will consider and appropriately manage interaction with existing Treaty settlements and current Treaty settlement negotiations;
- 5 **noted** that while early preparatory policy analysis is underway, there are other opportunities to deliver direct, incremental improvements to address government priorities;
- 6 **noted** that in December 2016, the previous government agreed to policy directions for some conservation management planning and concessions amendments [EGI-16- MIN-0334];
- 7 **noted** that streamlining conservation management planning and concessions processes and decision-making would improve environmental outcomes and provide benefits to stakeholders, tangata whenua, local government, and central government;

- 8 **noted** that initiating a review of the Wildlife Act 1953 will support future reform of species legislation or comprehensive conservation legislation reform;
- 9 **agreed to:**
- 9.1 progress targeted amendments to conservation management planning and concessions legislation;
- 9.2 initiate a review of the Wildlife Act 1953;
- 10 **authorised** the Minister of Conservation to release the conservation reform roadmap, which will be periodically updated;
- 11 **invited** the Minister of Conservation to report back to the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee (ENV) during the OIA S9(2)(f)(iv) seeking policy decisions on amendments to conservation management planning and concessions provisions;
- 12 **invited** the Minister of Conservation to report back to ENV during the OIA S9(2)(f)(iv) with an update on the review of the Wildlife Act 1953.

Vivien Meek
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Grant Robertson
Hon David Parker (Chair)
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Michael Wood
Hon Kiri Allan
Hon Phil Twyford
Rino Tirikatene, MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for ENV

Released by the Minister of Conservation