

19 June 2023

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, received on 22 May 2023 in which you asked for:

- 1) Confirmation on whether the *Leonohebe* (now *Veronica*) *cupressoides* recovery plan was reviewed and superseded by a new plan.
- 2) Whether we have further information or reports on how recovery is going.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. Was the *Leonohebe* (*Veronica*) *cupressoides* recovery plan superseded by a revised recovery plan?

When the term of the recovery plan ended in 2010 it was not reviewed or replaced by another recovery plan. Instead, conservation management of this species is now guided by a species management prescription that identifies priority management sites and describes the management activities needed to ensure its long-term persistence. Conservation management activities for *Veronica cupressoides* are undertaken annually by DOC Operations teams. Over time these have included collecting of seed, germinating seeds, and propagating of plants, planting of new areas, weed control and construction and maintenance of stock fences. Survey and monitoring of populations is also undertaken regularly.

2. How is recovery going?

While reports summarising the delivery of management activities for this species exist, specific reports assessing the overall the recovery of *Veronica cupressoides* are not available.

At a national level the conservation status of species classified using the New Zealand Threat Classification System can provide an indication of their recovery trajectory. Since the term of the recovery plan ended in 2010 the conservation status of *Veronica cupressoides* has remained unchanged. Conservation assessments in 2004, 2012 and 2017 have resulted in a classification of Nationally Endangered.



Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department's website.



Nāku noa, nā



Shannon Patterson
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Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai