

**Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai
o Te Tai Tokerau
Northland Conservation Board**

Annual Report 2021-2022



Annual Report of Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau Northland Conservation Board

For the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority / Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa pursuant to section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987.

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Edward Ellison
Chairperson, New Zealand Conservation Authority
PO Box 10420
Wellington 6143

Tēnā koe Edward

I submit, in terms of section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987, the annual report of the Northland Conservation Board (the board) for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022. The Conservation Act requires that the board report each year to the New Zealand Conservation Authority on its operations.

While another challenging year, both working within the Covid environment and sadly, personal challenges within our team, we have been productive.

The Board has worked together on a number of strong submissions. These include advocating against sand mining at Pakiri and the government review of reclassification of stewardship land, in which there are some serious concerns, both in process and approach.

A key focus for 2021/22 was the rollout of a pilot initiative – Arohatia te Taiao, supported by the Department of Conservation.

With a community-led, independent approach, the aim was to provide a foundation for the development of our next CMS, along with identifying key priorities and articulating Northlanders' aspirations. In a nutshell, to help ensure strategy and action align with community aspirations - to create a legacy that we can all be proud of.

The Findings are insightful. There's a call for 'community-led; government facilitated' approaches to addressing the numerous challenges facing Northland. Community asking leaders to 'flick the switch,' to be part of resetting our approach in how we interact with the natural environment.

The key is to put Te Taiao/the natural environment back at the centre of all decision-making. To recognise and learn to work with the flow of Mother Nature – a Te Ao Māori approach, which simply acknowledges the interconnectedness and interrelationship of all living and non-living things.

The collective wisdom freely offered by our communities proposed a systems approach that is localised to meet the needs and desires of our local communities, recognising that local success can and will have a positive impact on the wider challenges that humanity faces.

The findings show a perceived disconnect between humanity and our natural environment. Our current trajectory suggests the continued demise of our natural resources and serious challenges moving forward if we continue as we are. It will require a rethink. A move from take, use and dump to a circular system that mitigates all aspects of the process.

For full details on the findings, we encourage you to visit:
<https://www.arohatietetaiao.kiwi/>

We are grateful to our neighbours for their continuing mahi; Te Hiku Conservation Board and the Auckland Conservation Board. We continue to enjoy a strengthening relationship with both and are eager to support the revitalised CMS for Te Hiku.

Attending the National Chair's Conference late last year, was a personal highlight. It was great to meet with like-minded leaders and hear of all the amazing mahi being undertaken around the country.

Hugely grateful to our Northland Iwi, Hapu and communities that are at the 'coal face' of much of this mahi. They undertake and deliver some serious outcomes, in what can be an overwhelming and difficult journey at times. Our backyard is so much better for them.

This is my last report as a member of the Board, having stepped down as Chair at the end of March. In my almost five years working alongside other committed and passionate Board members, it has been my pleasure to be part of an evolving kaupapa. I believe that there is much Boards can offer in this sector, as independent advocates for their communities.

They just need to be empowered to do so.

Nō reira

E noho ora mai



Tania McInnes

Chairperson July 2021 – March 2022

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau / Northland Conservation Board

'Manawa ora o te taiao – hope for our natural world'

CONTENTS

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	6
2.	ROHE.....	7
2.1	Conservation features of the area.....	8
2.2	Conservation issues in the area.....	9
3.	FUNCTIONS.....	9
3.1	Board functions under section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987.....	9
3.2	Board power under section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987.....	9
3.3	Board functions under section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980.....	10
4.	MEMBERSHIP.....	10
4.1	Member profiles.....	11
5.	MEETINGS AND FIELDTRIPS.....	14
5.1	Agendas.....	14
5.2	Field trips and site inspections.....	16
5.3	Members' attendance 2021/22.....	16
6.	MAHI.....	16
6.1	Board Committees.....	16
6.2	Special events.....	16
6.3	Training for members.....	16
7.	STATUTORY ACTIVITY.....	17
7.1	Annual Work Plan.....	17
7.2	Northland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS).....	17
7.3	National Park Management Plan (NPMP).....	17
8.	ADVICE AND ADVOCACY.....	17
8.1	Board and Authority liaisons.....	18
8.2	Advice to the Department.....	19
8.3	Submissions.....	19
8.4	Community advocacy and involvement.....	19
8.5	Community visibility.....	20
8.6	District and regional council advocacy and advice.....	20
8.7	Iwi liaison and advocacy.....	20
9.	FEES AND ALLOWANCES.....	21
10.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	21
11.	APPENDIX 1 (2021/2022 Annual Work Programme).....	22

1. INTRODUCTION

This is the 31st Northland Conservation Board Annual Report. Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (**Authority**) with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement, the Northland Conservation Board (**Board**) submits this annual report.

Conservation boards are independent advisory bodies established by statute. They represent the community and offer interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation (**Department**) within their area of Jurisdiction.

Conservation board members are appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987 (**Act**). Board functions are outlined in section 6(M), and the powers, which enable the conservation boards to carry out those functions, are under 6(N) of the Act. The board has several statutory roles under various Acts, including:

- the recommendation of the Northland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and the Authority on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice
- reporting on the implementation of the CMS
- the recommendation of national park management plans to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and Authority on conservation matters, and proposed changes to the status of the land of national and international significance
- liaising with the regional Fish and Game Council on conservation matters
- carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act, or any other Act.

Conservation boards also have several functions under section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980. These functions include recommending the review or amendment of national park management plans and recommending approval of these plans by the Authority.

2. ROHE

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau/Northland Conservation Board's area of Jurisdiction covers 3,009,950.76 hectares. The jurisdiction covers the area south of Rangaunu Harbour to Hokianga Harbour, and down south to Kaipara Heads and across to Mangawhai Heads. It includes groups of offshore islands, Taranga, Marotiri and Tūturu / The Hen and Chickens and Tawhitirahi and Aorangi / Poor Knights. Although the Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board sits above it, Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau/Northland Conservation Board still manages the coastal area around the Te Hiku rohe. The area extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues and out to the 200-nautical mile limit with respect to protected species.



Figure 1 – Northland Conservation Board Jurisdiction

Approximately 2.73% of all public conservation land and area lies within the jurisdiction of Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau.

Public Conservation Land (PCL) and areas make up 13.1% of all land in Te Tai Tokerau (excluding the Te Hiku area). This consists of:

- 106,015.96 hectares of Public Conservation Land
- 286,021.13 hectares of Sanctuaries to Protect Marine Mammals
- 2,161.8 hectares of Marine Reserves

2.1 Conservation features of the area

The main features of Public Conservation Land and Waters within the board's boundaries are:

- Hōuto Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 941.17 ha
 - Hūkerenui Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 405.38 ha
 - Kaihū Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 2,405.17 ha
 - Kaiikanui Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 1,157.30 ha
 - Marlborough Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 3,981.86 ha
 - Mataraua Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 5,402.55 ha
 - Maungataniwha Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 1,156.91 ha
 - Ōmahuta Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 6,588.71 ha
 - Ōpua Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 1,923.83 ha
 - Pukenui Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 594.50 ha
 - Puketī Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 7,325.26 ha
 - Ruapekapeka Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 384.70 ha
 - Russell Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 7,121.22 ha
 - Tangihua Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 3,218.37 ha
 - Waikino Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 973.95 ha
 - Waimā Forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 4,352.23 ha
 - Waipoua forest (Pt Northland Conservation Park) – 12,291.83 ha
-
- 1 Ecological Area – 33.54 ha
 - 175 Scenic Reserves – 18,663.77 ha
 - 18 Historic Reserves – 195.18 ha
 - 42 Recreation Reserves – 1,672.15 ha
 - 179 Stewardship Areas – 19,143.73 ha
 - 324 Marginal Strips – 2,013.30 ha
 - 1 Specially Protected Area – 547.60 ha
 - 2 Marine Reserves – 2,161.8 ha
 - 1 Sanctuary to protect Marine Mammals – 286,021.13 ha

2.2 Conservation issues in the area

The large number of issues that are of interest to the board include:

- Hokianga Harbour Wellbeing
- Kauri Ora / Kauri Dieback Disease
- Myrtle Rust Disease
- RMS Niagara Shipwreck
- Bay of Islands Marine Mammal Sanctuary
- Tara Iti (Fairy Tern) Conservation
- Stewardship Land Policy

3. FUNCTIONS

3.1 Board functions under section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987

The functions of the board are:

- 1) To recommend the approval by the Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments.
- 2) To approve conservation management plans and the review and amendment of such plans under the relevant enactments.
- 3) To advise the Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for the area within the jurisdiction of the board.
- 4) To advise the Authority or the Director-General on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance.
- 5) To advise the Authority or the Director-General on any other conservation matter relating to any area with the Jurisdiction of the Board.
- 6) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the board.
- 7) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

3.2 Board power under section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987

- 1) Every conservation board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.
- 2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each conservation board may –
 - i. Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
 - ii. Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.

- 3) The power conferred by subsection (2)(a) shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in Aotearoa and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the board's functions.

3.3 Board functions under section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980

There are currently no National Parks within the area of jurisdiction for Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai O Te Tai Tokerau.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The Minister of Conservation appoints Board members under section 6P of the Conservation Act 1987. The appointment process ensures that a range of perspectives, life experiences, and knowledge contribute to the advice provided and decisions made by the board.

Board members are appointed for 3-year terms and may be re-appointed unless they are appointed in replacement of a prior member's term.

There were 7 Board members for the reporting year. Tania McInnes was elected Chairperson (12 June 2020), and Lydia Draper was elected Deputy Chairperson (11 September 2020).


New Board Member appointments within the 2021/2022 year:

- Nyree (Nyze) Porter – 3 Year Term

The following table lists the membership of the board between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022:

Board Member	Area	Term start date	Term end date
Tania McInnes (Chair)	Bay of Islands	01 July 2017 01 July 2019	30 June 2019 31 May 2022
Lydia Draper (Deputy Chair)	Waipū	01 July 2018 01 July 2021	30 June 2021 30 June 2024
Georgina Garon	Mangawhai/ Waitākere	01 July 2019	30 June 2022
Kayla Raines	Matapōuri/Taemaro Bay	01 July 2020 01 July 2021	30 June 2021 30 June 2024
Robert (Blue) Newport	Ōkaihau	01 July 2020	30 June 2023
Edward Ashby	Wellsford	01 July 2020	30 June 2022
Nyree (Nyze) Porter	Kāeo	01 July 2021	30 June 2024


4.1 Member profiles


Tania McInnes	Chair – Appointed 12 June 2020
	<p>Although born in Waikato, Tania has resided in the Far North for much of her life. She has a passion for our people and our place. She has proven skills in visioning, leadership, and strategising. She is also gifted in ‘bringing people together’, community facilitation and project management. From 2013 to 2019, she was Deputy Mayor of the Far North District.</p> <p>One of her favourite quotes is, ‘We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors - we borrow it from our children.’</p> <p>Tania currently works for the Ministry of Social Development.</p>


Lydia Draper	Deputy Chair – Appointed 11 September 2020
<p>Lydia is the Chairperson for the Waipū River Walk community-led project (funded by the Whangārei District Council), supporter of the Bream Bay Coastal Care Trust and founding member of a water quality group focused on the Waipū catchment area. Prior to this, she worked for three years as communications officer for the Marine Megafauna Foundation (until 2021), a conservation charity with headquarters in Mozambique, Africa.</p> <p>Lydia is actively concerned with the state of Aotearoa’s waterways, and the impact their degradation is having on our moana (and, therefore, all life on earth). Of Pākehā lineage, Lydia writes poetry to be (and become) a conscious citizen of Aotearoa.</p>	




Georgina Garon	Board Member
<div data-bbox="256 815 501 1111" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="533 808 957 1084"> Ko Ngātokimatawhaorua te Waka Ko Ngāpuhi te Iwi Ko Te Mahurehure te Hapu Ko Otātara te Marae Ko Whakatere te Maunga Ko Moehau te Āwa No Waima ahau Ko Georgina Garon taku ingoa </p> <p data-bbox="252 1106 1334 1346"> Born in Kawakawa and raised in the Hokianga, I am proud to be a born and bred Northlander. I am a wife, mother of two and a passionate Kaitiaki on a mission to protect our environment for our children and mokopuna yet to come. It is my hope that someday our mokopuna will be able to see kauri trees standing healthy and strong, swim in clean waterways that are free of pollutants, be deafened by the sound of birdsong as they walk through the ngahere and be able to gather kai from an abundant Taiao where resources are plentiful. </p> <p data-bbox="252 1368 1334 1503"> Georgina (of Ngāpuhi and Te Mahurehure decent) holds a Bachelor of Māori Development, a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health and is currently working towards a Master of Public Health. She is self-employed as the Director of medical consultancy Global MD Ltd. </p> <p data-bbox="252 1525 1334 1585"> Georgina is committed to wearing a Te Ao Māori lens whilst working in the field of science. </p>	

Kayla Raines	Board Member
<p>Kayla is a native nursery production worker. She has previous experience as a floriculturist within the horticultural sector. She has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Biodiversity Management. She is involved in several community conservation and land care projects involving species monitoring and restoration planting.</p>	
	

Robert (Blue) Newport	Board Member
<p>Blue is a sheep and beef farmer from Ōkaihau. He is currently Chair of the Pou Herenga Tai Twin Coast Cycle Trail Trust (Opua to Horeke) and has chaired the Ōkaihau Community Association for the last 30 years. Recently retired from a 40 + year teaching career in tourism and social sciences, he is involved in the Ōkaihau community in various beautification and environmental maintenance projects. He is a Queen Elizabeth II National Trust covenant owner.</p>	
	

Edward Ashby	Board Member
<p>Edward (of Ngāpuhi and Ngāti Whatua decent) is Senior Kaitiaki at Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust. He is involved in various conservation initiatives, including pest management and control, kauri dieback monitoring, water quality, and beach stranding aid. Through his multiple commitments, he has built relationships with several government agencies and professionals. Edward was appointed to the board on 1 July 2020 for a three-year term. Due to ever-increasing outside commitments, he has decided to resign 1 year prior to the end of his term. Edward's knowledge of tikanga and kaitiakitanga will be missed. We know his conservation mahi will continue.</p>	
	

Nyree (Nyze) Porter	Board Member
<p>Nyze was appointed to the board on 1 July 2021 for a three-year term. Of Ngāpuhi ki Whangaroa, Ngatikahu ki Whangaroa, Te Arawa, and Ngāpuhi decent. She is on the Board of Te Runanga o Whāingaroa, Kaitiaki Whangaroa, and Karangahape Marae Trust. She is well-known in the community and offers an intricate knowledge of tikanga Māori.</p>	
	

5. MEETINGS AND FIELDTRIPS

The Board held 7 meetings during the reporting period (3 Formal Public Meetings, 4 Working Meetings, and no Field Trips). Venues for the meetings vary each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the board.

Meeting date	Location/Venue
30 July 2021	New Member Induction – Bay of Islands DOC Office
12 August 2021	Working Meeting – Whangārei DOC Office
7 October 2021	Formal Meeting – Virtual MS Teams
2 December 2021	Formal Meeting – Whangārei DOC Office/MS Teams
9 February 2022	Working Meeting – Virtual MS Teams
3 March 2022	Formal Meeting & Working Meeting – Whangārei McKay Stadium
12 May 2022	Working Meeting - Te Rūnanga O Whaingaroa/MS Teams

5.1 Agendas

The Board hosted and heard from numerous speakers at its meetings, including:

- **7 October 2021** – Wallace Rivers and Waitai Petera – (Te Hiku Conservation Board Co-Chair/Board Liaison) – Report. Nicola Macdonald – (Auckland Conservation Board – Board Chair/Board Liaison) – Report. Nicole Anderson – (New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) – Representative for Northland) – Report. Marty Robinson – (Northland Regional Council - Counsellor for Coastal North Constituency - Report
- **2 December 2021** – Abraham Witana and Steve Sanson – (Te Hiku CMS Development) – Report. Kate Waterhouse – (Auckland Conservation Board Member/Board Liaison) – Report. Dean Baigent-Mercer – (New Zealand Forest and Bird) – Presentation: Northland’s native forest collapse and climate change.
- **3 March 2022** – Kate Waterhouse (Auckland Conservation Board – Board/Board Liaison) – Report. Waitai Petera (Te Hiku Conservation Board – Board Co-Chair/Board Liaison) – Report. Marty Robinson (GE Free Tai Tokerau – Northland Regional Council). Amanda Bennet (Kaipara District Council/Kaihu Valley Trail) and Mark Bell (Kaihu Valley Trail) – Presentation: Kaihu Valley Trail Initiative. Zelka Grammar (GE Free Tai Tokerau) and Marty Robinson (GE Free Tai Tokerau/Northland Regional Council) – Presentation to Board.
- **2 June 2022** - Kate Waterhouse (Auckland Conservation Board – Board/Board Liaison) – Report.

Department staff also attended throughout the year.

- **7 October 2021** – Carolyn Smith (Partnerships Manager – Whangārei Office) – Report: Predator Free 2050 – Action Plan for Te Tai Tokerau. Craig Deal (Operations Manager – Whangārei Office) – Introduction and Report. Cat Peters (Bay of Islands Senior Ranger Biodiversity) – Update: Marine Mammal Sanctuary.
- **2 December 2022** - Nil
- **3 March 2022** – Sue Reed-Thomas (NNI Director of Operations) – Report. Georgia Rastovich (Statutory Support Officer – Hamilton Office) – RMA Report Ayla Wiles (NNI Biodiversity Ranger) – Update: Tara iti breeding season.
- **2 June 2022** – Sue Reed-Thomas (NNI Director of Operations) – Report. Mark Calder (NNI Biodiversity Ranger) – Kauri Coast Predator Control Operation Report.

- The agendas and minutes from all Formal Public Board meetings can be found on the board's webpage

5.2 Field trips and site inspections

Field trips are an excellent opportunity for Board members to become more aware of conservation issues within their region. Due to the unavailability of Board members, due to resignation and health issues, and disruptions from COVID restrictions, there were no field trips completed during the 2021-2022 period.

5.3 Members' attendance 2021/2022

The table below summarises the number of meetings attended by members out of the total number of meetings held during the year.

Members attended other meetings and events in their function as Board Members, including representative roles.

Board Member	Formal Meetings (3)	Working Meetings (4)	Field Trips (0)
Lydia Draper	3/3	3/4	0
Georgina Garon	2/3	2/4	0
Kayla Raines	3/3	4/4	0
Robert (Blue) Newport	3/3	4/4	0
Edward Ashby	2/3	1/4	0
Nyree (Nyze) Porter	2/3	4/4	0

6. MAHI

6.1 Board Committees

The Conservation Act 1987 enables the board to establish committees to carry out functions or tasks delegated by the board.

Membership of Board Committees was reviewed in July, at the beginning of the Board year. No subcommittees were appointed.

6.2 Special Events

- 6/7 November 2021 – Conservation Board Chairs Conference – Area Events, Wellington: Attended by Tania McInnes (Board Chair), on behalf of the Northland Conservation Board.

6.3 Training for members

- 30 July 2021 - New Board Member Induction – Bay of Islands DOC Office: Attended by new Board member – Nyree Porter

- 29 July 2021 – Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group (IKHMG/KMR) Hui – Te Ao Marama Cultural Centre, te Hana: Attended by Board member, Edward Ashby, on behalf of the Northland Conservation Board.
- 4/5/6 August 2021 – EDS 50th Anniversary Conference 2021 – Christchurch Town Hall: Attended by Board member, Kayla Raines, on behalf of the Northland Conservation Board.
- 2 March 2022 – Stewardship Land Presentation – via Microsoft Teams: Attended by Lydia Draper (Chair), Robert Newport (Board member), Nyree Porter (Board member).

7. STATUTORY ACTIVITY

7.1 Annual Work Plan

After receiving its Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation, the board sets out its work plan for the upcoming year. Please refer to Appendix 1 (Page 23) for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

7.2 Northland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The board continues to monitor the milestones in the Northland CMS. Rather than looking at all the milestones, the board has decided to concentrate on those milestones that are due or overdue for completion.

7.3 2021/2022 National Park Management Plan (NPMP)

There are currently no National Parks within the Northland Conservation Board’s area of jurisdiction.

8. ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

All Board members have a role and a responsibility to liaise with other groups when opportunities arise, and some members have specific liaison roles. The Board appointed various members to liaise with other groups and agencies:

Board member	Organisation/Group/Agency
Tania McInnes	NZCA Liaison
Tania McInnes Georgina Garon	Northland Regional Council
Tania McInnes Nyree Porter	Far North District Council
Edward Ashby	Kaipara District Council
Tania McInnes	Whangārei District Council
Edward Ashby	Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group /

	Kaipara Harbour Remediation Joint Committee
Georgina Garon	The Aotearoa Fairy Tern Charitable Trust
Lydia Draper	Whangārei Harbour Marine Reserve Advisory Committee
Kayla Raines	Tutukākā Landcare Trust, in collaboration with NRC HVA Working Group S.W.A.T (Special Weeds Assistance Team)
Robert (Blue) Newport	Northland Fish and Game Council
Robert (Blue) Newport Kayla Raines	Hikurangi Flood Management Scheme
Robert (Blue) Newport Georgina Garon	Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society Northern Branch
Kayla Raines	Kapakaitiaki Group, in collaboration with NRC Matapōuri Whānau, Rangihakaahu hapū
Robert (Blue) Newport Nyree Porter	Bay of Islands Marine Mammal Sanctuary
Lydia Draper	DOC Community Fund
Robert (Blue) Newport Kayla Raines	Guardians of the Bay of Islands / Project Island Song
Kayla Raines	Kiwis for Kiwi - Northland
Kayla Raines	Northland Environmental Protection Society Swamp Kauri Protection
Edward Ashby	Ngunguru Catchment Working Group
Kayla Raines	Kiwi Coast Landcare group, in collaboration with NRC
Lydia Draper	Bream Bay Coastal Care Trust

8.1 Board and Authority liaisons

The Board holds a liaison relationship with neighbouring conservation boards. Liaison roles for the reporting year were held by:

- Georgina Garon & Lydia Draper – Liaison to Auckland Conservation Board
- Tania McInnes – Liaison to Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board

Special Liaison Events:

20 September 2021 – Arohata Te Taiao Inaugural project Meeting: Attended by Nyree Porter (Board member) and Carla Dixon-West (Board Support Officer), on behalf of the Board.

27 October 2021 – Hector’s and Maui Dolphin NI Stakeholder Forum: Attended by Karla Raines (Board member) on behalf of the Board.

23 February 2022 – Auckland Conservation Board Formal Hui: Attended by Lydia Draper (Deputy Chair) as board liaison representative on behalf of the Board.

21 June 2022 – Hokianga Freshwater Hui: Attended by Karla Raines (Board member) on behalf of the Board.

The Authority has a liaison member with the board to facilitate communication. The Authority liaison attends Board meetings and reports to the full Authority on matters raised. The Authority’s liaison for the 2021/2022 year was:

- Nicole Anderson

8.2 Advice to the Department

The Board provided advice to the Department on the following issues:

- Niagara shipwreck.
- Support for the Bay of Islands Marine Mammal Sanctuary.

8.3 Submissions

The Board did make submissions on the following issues:

- In Shore Pakiri Sand Extraction site.
- Mid Shore Pakiri Sand Extraction site.
- Ōpononi Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Stewardship Land Reclassification.

8.4 Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Board meetings were held in different parts of the Northland region and advertised not fewer than five days before the meeting, inviting the public to attend.

Members of the public attended the Public Forum at several of the year’s meetings, and a range of issues were raised. The board appreciated their input and efforts to participate in the discussions and responded by letter to questions asked or concerns presented.

Public forum issues raised were:

- **3 March 2022 – Zelke Linda Grammer and Marty Robinson – (Representing GE Free Tai Tokerau)**– Presentation on GE Free Tai Tokerau.

The Board has a practice of inviting representatives from community organisations to present at each meeting. Speakers this year have represented:

- **3 March 2022 – Amanda Bennett and Mark Bell – (representing Kaihu Valley Trail)**
– presentation of Kaihu Valley Trail initiative.

These were predominantly voluntary groups carrying out vast amounts of conservation work within the community. The Board recognises and appreciates volunteers and thanks them for the work done in this area.

8.5 Community visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website and via the quarterly Conservation Board Newsletter.

The Board also enjoys continued growth in popularity with their social media presence on Facebook. Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau has a Facebook page, with an increase from 300 to 400 followers in this period. We share content with a strong focus on Te Tai Tokerau and te taiao. The Board is strategizing how to increase its visibility through a social media engagement strategy.

www.facebook.com/NorthlandConservationBoardNZ

Although this has been a difficult period for the Board, with resignations and health issues, the Board has still managed to engage with the community.

Board members have been actively engaged in the community through their individual involvement, including some of the following initiatives:

- Waipū River Walk
- Matapōuri Kaitiaki Project
- Fairy Tern Charity Art Auction
- Tara iti Recovery Group
- Kāeo/Tauranga Bay Area Waterway clean up
- Kaipara Remediation Programme
- Jobs for Nature Launch

8.6 District and regional council advocacy and advice

The board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the four local Councils as there are several regional issues in which it is interested.

During the year, the Chair presented to the Northland Mayoral Forum on various topics.

8.7 Iwi liaison and advocacy

With the support of local hapu in the Hokianga, the Board wrote to the Northern Regional Council, advocating for a formal commitment to improve the Ōpononi Wastewater treatment Plant, thus, honouring the wairua of the Hokianga Harbour. We also support the call to have this area formally recognised as a national (heritage) site and encourage moves to formally protect it for now and future generations.

The Board made a submission to the Department of Conservation on Stewardship Land Reclassification, advocating for Tāngata Whenua (the correct hapū for each area that holds Mana Whenua for that specific piece of stewardship land) to have input when determining the cultural and historical significance of the land for reclassification.

9. FEES AND ALLOWANCES

Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951. The Chairperson receives a daily meeting fee of \$330, and other Authority members receive a daily meeting fee of \$250.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Finally, the Board would like to acknowledge the following people for their support, advice, and friendship in 2021 - 2022:

- Auckland Conservation Board – Nicola MacDonald, Chair, and Kate Waterhouse, Board Member/Liaison.
- Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board – Wallace Rivers and Waitai Petera, Co-Chairs/Board Liaison.
- Northland Regional Council - Marty Robinson, Councillor.
- Department of Conservation - Sue Reed-Thomas, Director Operations NNI.
- Department of Conservation – Bronwyn Bauer-Hunt and Staff, Operations Team, Bay of Islands.
- Department of Conservation – Stephen Soole and Staff, Operations Team, Kauri Coast.
- Department of Conservation – Craig Deal and Staff, Operations Team, Whangārei.
- New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) - Nicole Anderson - NZCA Liaison for Northern North Island Region.

Te Rūnunga Papa Atawahai O Te Tai Tokerau Northland Conservation Board Annual Work Programme 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022

Overview

This Work Programme has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation dated 2021. It is structured in three parts, namely:

- **Part A: Planned Board activities aimed at meeting the regional Work Programme contained in the letter:**
 - Review/development/monitoring of statutory management plans, including Conservation Management Strategies (CMS).
 - Advice relating to stewardship land.
 - Other statutory functions for the board.
 - Advocacy.

- **Part B: Planned Board activities aimed at general expectations contained in the letter:**
 - Working with the Department of Conservation (the Department).
 - Taking account of the Ministerial priorities for the Department as contained in the Department's Four-year Plan.
 - Working with adjoining conservation boards and the Aotearoa Conservation Authority (the Authority).
 - Understanding the board's contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
 - General engagement with the community, including raising the profile of the board.

- **Part C: Risks/issues from the board's perspective and opportunities for conservation growth that are not covered above.**

Status indicator

Colour	Indicates
	Completed
	Started - Ongoing
	Not started yet

PART A: REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

1 Review/Development of Statutory Management Plans, including Conservation Management Strategies (CMS)

1.1 Board objective:

In conjunction with the Department, the board will determine priorities for implementing the approved Northland CMS according to the National Implementation Monitoring Guidelines.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	CMS monitoring “traffic light” presented to Board members as a mandatory process at Board meetings by the Department of Conservation.		2-6-2022 3.1 Presented Milestones report. The Statutory Manager and Board Support Officer completed a ‘reset’ of the CMS Milestones. Milestones that are no longer relevant or completed were identified and put into a separate tab in the spreadsheet. Moving forward the milestones will be presented annually. Each meeting will be held in a different district each time. The district office where the meeting is held will provide a report to the Board on the progress of the milestones in their district and any other relevant work being undertaken.
B	Regional areas of Board members will monitor CMS objectives/implementation of projects by the Department of Conservation.		

1.2 Board objective:

In conjunction with the Department, the board will determine priorities for implementation of the approved Northland CMS.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
A	Chair to hold regular meetings with the Department of Conservation Director of Operations to prioritise projects within the CMS.		Meetings were held to discuss mostly the completion of Aroha Te Taiao
B	Chair engage with Department of Conservation regional managers to prioritise and monitor the progress of CMS within regional areas.		

2	Stewardship Land		
2.1	Board Objective: <i>The board will provide the Minister and Department with advice on priorities for reclassification of stewardship areas that require increased protection because of their significant conservation values.</i>		

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Advise the Department of Conservation/Minister of any issue that would require increased conservation protection (<i>and cultural protection</i>) of stewardship areas.		The Board has an ongoing interest in the Stewardship Land work and is watching the progress in South Island.
B	Ensure Treaty Settlements in Tai Tokerau are finalised before any Stewardship areas within settlement rohe are reclassified.		Treaty Settlement process in Tai Tokerau still ongoing.

3 Other statutory functions¹

3.1 Board objective:

The board will nurture ongoing working relationships with the Fish and Game Council regarding issues of mutual interest within the region.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Maintain ongoing and regular engagement with Fish and Game Council.		
B	Report on engagement and areas of mutual interest or concern the board may have with Fish and Game Council.		

3.2 Board objective:

The board will advise on proposed status changes for nationally and internationally important areas when sought by the Department.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

¹ This section should include conservation board functions relating to statutory functions under section 6M of the Conservation Act

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Advise on any change of status for nationally and internationally important areas and give advice to the Department as and when required.		
B	The board will advise the Department of any concern or interest when establishing <i>Change of Status</i> with Iwi/hapu or communities.		

4 Advocacy

4.1 Board objective

The board will pursue all reasonable opportunities to advocate at public forums and in any statutory planning processes.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
A	The board will continue to advocate its interest at any public forum or in any statutory planning processes.		
B	The board will proactively promote and advocate its position on 'Hokianga Harbour Wellbeing', 'Tara Iti', 'Niagara Vessel', 'Kauri Ora' and 'BOI Marine Mammal Sanctuary'.		<p>27.10.21 – Hectors and Maui Dolphin NI Stakeholder Forum 15.12.21 - Opononi Wastewater Treatment Plant Submission 21.06.22 - Hokianga Freshwater Hui</p> <p>Ongoing updates at formal meetings from DOC operations re: Tara Iti, BOI Marine Mammal Sanctuary, Kauri Ora. Board member involvement with Tara Iti Recovery Group, Fairy Tern Charity Art Auction.</p>

4.2 Board objective
RMA (Resource Management Act).

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
B	The board will monitor the statutory planning process and advise/make submissions where appropriate.		17.03.2022 – Stewardship of Land Submission

PART B: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

5 Working with the Department

- 5.1 Board objective:
Board members will maintain good working relationships and open dialogue with Directors, Managers, and Board Support Officers to engage strategically in conservation for the region.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Board members will actively engage and enhance working relationships with their regional office managers and staff.		Directors' and Operations managers ongoing invitation to attend and provide reports at formal meetings. Participation noted in agenda and minutes.
B	The board chair will continue to enhance relationships with Department Operations Director, Area managers, statutory managers and staff.		

6 Taking account of Ministerial priorities for the Department²

- 6.1 Board objective:
The board will identify opportunities to support North Island community conservation.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Board members will continue to engage & advocate for Tara Iti habitat.		Board member involvement with Tara Iti Recovery Group, Fairy Tern Charity Art Auction.

² This section could include where conservation boards are consulted on pest control operations

C	Board to promote public awareness of the plight of Tara iti in Northland.		Providing funding for information signage.
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6.2 Board objective:

The board will identify opportunities for building relationships with community.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Board encourages public involvement and ownership through all Board communication channels.		Facebook Page utilised for promotion. Creating a communications strategy to increase community engagement.

7 Working with adjoining conservation boards and the Authority

7.1 Board objective:

Board members will liaise with neighbouring conservation boards in order to progress cross-boundary CMS issues and other matters of mutual interest.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The board will continue to liaise and participate with Auckland Conservation Board.		23.02.22 – NCB Deputy Chair attended ACB formal hui. ACB Chair has attended NCB formal hui, as noted in agenda and minutes. 09.12.2021 – Pakiri Sand Extraction Submission made – supporting ACB. Shared interests – i.e Pakiri and Niagara Vessel. The planning of a combined hui to be held in later 2022.
B	The board will establish a relationship with Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board.		THCB Co-Chairs have attended NCB formal hui, as noted in agenda and minutes.
C	The board will encourage Auckland and Te Hiku o Te Ika members to attend our Board meetings.		ACB Chair has attended NCB formal hui, as noted in agenda and minutes. THCB Co-Chairs have attended NCB formal hui, as noted in agenda and minutes.
D	The board will continue its ongoing relationship with NZCA.		NZCA representative attends NCB formal hui, as noted in agenda and minutes.

8 Understanding the board's contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

8.1 Board objective:

The board will understand and support the Board's and Department's obligations under Treaty settlements as well as principles under section 4 of the Conservation Act.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The board recognises and acknowledges the Treaty principles.		17.03.22 – Stewardship of Land Submission – recognizing the Mana Whenua of Tangata Whenua when policies made. Regular engagement with Hapu and Marae as noted in Board Liaison Reports.

9 Engaging with the community, including raising the profile of the Board

9.1 Board objective:

Board members will liaise regularly with other conservation entities, such as district and regional councils, NGOs, and community groups, to enhance the board's profile and pursue good working relationships on issues of mutual interest and concern.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The board will continue to enhance its relationship with the district and regional councils, NGO's and community groups.		20.09.21 – Arohata Te Taiao Inaugural Project Meeting 21.06.22 – Hokianga Freshwater Hui See also – Board member liaison groups list in report.

9.2 Board objective:

Board members will take the initiative to meet with community groups and the general public to gauge community reaction to conservation initiatives planned or implemented by the Department.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The board will continue to support & promote community events.		

PART C: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

10 Risks from the board's perspective

A	Lack of resourcing to fulfil aspirations and objectives.
B	Deterioration to the point of the terminal decline of the health of forests and ecosystems.
C	No ongoing funding of pest management and co-managed areas.

11 Opportunities for conservation growth

A	Opportunity for conservation growth from enhanced resourcing and collaboration with communities/Hapu/Iwi.
B	Opportunity to build and strengthen relationships, E.g., reconnecting Northland & Northland Regional Council ("NRC") including Hapu/Iwi.



Photo:

Title: Mangawhai Sandspit.

Photographer: Ayla Wiles (DOC Ranger Biodiversity - Whangārei).

Description: This photo is chosen to represent whakaauaha - We innovate. How do we protect something that is always changing? Pest control on a sand dune was always going to be a challenge. We have invented and trialled many different methods of installing (and not losing!) bait stations and traps on the Mangawhai Sandspit as we strive to protect not only a unique ecosystem but also an important breeding ground for shorebirds, including the critically endangered New Zealand Fairy Tern.

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act 1987 and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend conservation board meetings.

If you would like more information on the Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau / Northland Conservation Board, please see the website: www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodies/conservation-boards or <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodies/conservation-boards/> or contact the Board Support Officer at the Department of Conservation in Whangārei Phone: (09) 470 3300 or Email: northlandconservationboard@doc.govt.nz