

2016–2017

# Operational report

for Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa



Department of  
Conservation  
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Cover: Boardwalk to the bird hide at Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area.

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# Contents

<b>Executive summary</b>	<b>5</b>
Initial work under the Protocol has begun	5
Work at DOC-managed sites in the Protocol area has progressed this year	5
Other Treaty settlement implementation work is under way	5
<b>1. Introduction</b>	<b>7</b>
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	7
<b>2. The Ngāti Apa (North Island) DOC Protocol</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Implementation and communication</b>	<b>10</b>
<i>The new Wellington Conservation Management Strategy</i>	10
<i>Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa Tamariki Taiao Programme</i>	10
<i>Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area work</i>	11
<b>Business planning</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Cultural materials</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Historic resources – wāhi tapu</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Natural heritage</b>	<b>11</b>
<i>Prioritising ecosystems and threatened native species: ‘EMUs’</i>	12
<b>Freshwater fisheries</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Marine mammals – process for strandings in the Protocol Area</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Pest control</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Concession applications</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>3. DOC-managed sites in the Ngāti Apa (North Island) DOC Protocol Area</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Omarupapako/Round Bush Scenic Reserve</b>	<b>14</b>
<i>Pest control</i>	14
<i>Revegetation 2016</i>	15
<b>Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area (Pukepuke)</b>	<b>17</b>
<i>Pest control</i>	17
<i>Concessions</i>	17
<b>Rangitikei River mouth coastal reserves and conservation areas</b>	<b>18</b>
<i>Weed control and maintenance at Tawhirihoe Scientific Reserve</i>	19
<i>Concessions</i>	19
<b>Simpson Scenic Reserve (Simpsons)</b>	<b>19</b>
<i>Seed collection with Manawatu District Council nursery</i>	20
<b>Whitia Scientific Reserve</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Taukoro Conservation Area</b>	<b>21</b>

<i>Concessions</i>	21
<b>4. Implementing the Treaty settlement</b>	<b>22</b>
Reserve management for Lake Koitiata, Mōtū Karaka and Pākiki scenic reserves	22
<i>Pest control at Pākiki Scenic Reserve</i>	22
Developing the Pukepuke Natural Heritage Plan	23
<i>Working in partnership to restore Pukepuke</i>	23
<i>A geomorphological assessment of Pukepuke is under way</i>	24
<b>Appendix: Table of active concessions 2016/2017</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>29</b>

## List of figures

Figure 1: Ngāti Apa (North Island) DOC Protocol area	9
Figure 2: Omarupapako/Round Bush Scenic Reserve	14
Figure 3: Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area	17
Figure 4: Rangitikei River mouth – coastal reserves and conservation areas	18
Figure 5: Simpson Scenic Reserve	19
Figure 6: Whitiāu Scientific Reserve	20
Figure 7: Taukoro Conservation Area	21

## List of tables

Table 1: Tracking rates of rats and mice	15
Table 2: Mustelid boxes trap-kill records (Omarupapako) 2016/17	15
Table 3: Plant species and numbers planted at Omarupapako in 2016	16
Table 4: Mustelid boxes trap-kill records (Pukepuke) 2017	17
Table 1.1: List of active concessions on public conservation land	25

## **Executive summary**

This is the second annual operational report for Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa. It summarises the work that is carried out between Ngāti Apa and the Department of Conservation in relation to the Ngāti Apa (North Island) DOC Protocol issued by the Crown on 8 October 2008.

### **Initial work under the Protocol has begun**

Key areas of progress are as follows:

- The new Wellington Conservation Management Strategy for 2016–2025 outlines changes which overlap with the DOC Protocol area. The Governance Entity submitted to DOC on the new CMS. DOC has provided feedback, and we are awaiting the next steps in the process to finalise the CMS.
- DOC has provided a grant to the Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa Tamariki Taiao programme, enabling whānau and tamariki to be involved in and engaged with the environment.
- Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area work has begun, where DOC has commissioned two reports: the Pukepuke Natural Heritage Plan and the Pukepuke Geomorphological Report.
- Ongoing annual business planning between DOC and the Governance Entity.
- Update of the Manawatu marine mammals operational plan.

### **Work at DOC-managed sites in the Protocol area has progressed this year**

DOC manages six sites in the Protocol area on behalf of the Governance Entity:

- Omarupapako/Round Bush Scenic Reserve
- Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area
- Rangitikei River mouth coastal reserves and conservation areas (which includes Tawhirihoe Scientific Reserve)
- Simpson Scenic Reserve
- Whitiau Scientific Reserve
- Taukoro Conservation Area

Progress highlights:

- Pest control continues at Omarupapako/Round Bush Scenic Reserve, and a new pest control trapping program has started at Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area.
- Ongoing weed control at Tawhirihoe Scientific Reserve.
- Seed collection at Simpsons Scenic Reserve.

### **Other Treaty settlement implementation work is under way**

DOC has also progressed extra work in Treaty settlement implementation in relation to the Protocol, as agreed with Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa. DOC has appointed a Treaty Implementation Ranger, and the Palmerston North and Whanganui district offices maintain a working relationship with Ngāti Apa (North Island).

Work achieved for the 2016/2017 year:

- Input into reserve management for three scenic reserves vested to Ngāti Apa as part of the Treaty settlement package.

- Pest control at Pākiki Scenic Reserve continues.
- A natural heritage plan for Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area is being developed by Wildlands Consultants Ltd.
- A geomorphological assessment for Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area has been commissioned from Roger Shand (Coastal Systems Ltd).

## 1. Introduction

This is the second annual report-back to Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa (the Governance Entity) on the Department of Conservation's (DOC) work related to the Ngāti Apa (North Island) DOC Protocol (the Protocol) issued by the Crown. It sets out:

1. DOC's approach and responsibilities under the Protocol in relation to implementation, communication and consultation with the Governance Entity, and business planning; cultural, historical and natural heritage resources; and active concessions.
2. Activities and progress at specific DOC-managed sites within the Ngāti Apa (North Island) DOC Protocol area (Protocol area), including pest and weed control, and other activities.
3. Treaty settlement implementation work in 2016/17 within the Protocol area.

DOC is the Crown agency responsible for managing and promoting conservation of New Zealand's historic natural heritage on behalf, and for the benefit, of present and future New Zealanders.

As part of the Ngāti Apa (North Island) Claims Settlement Act 2010, the Crown has issued, through the Minister of Conservation, a DOC Protocol. This Protocol sets out a framework to enable DOC and the Governance Entity to establish a constructive working relationship that gives effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987.<sup>1</sup>

The following Ngāti Apa statutory areas are managed by DOC: Omarupapako/Round Bush Scenic Reserve, Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area, and Simpson Scenic Reserve. There are deeds of recognition between Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Apa and the Minister of Conservation for these reserves, and also for Whitiāu Scientific Reserve (south of Mōtū Karaka) and Taukoro Conservation Area. Other lands managed by DOC in the Protocol area are:

- at Tangimoana: Tangimoana Dunes Recreation Reserve, Tawhirihoe Scientific Reserve and Moanaroa Conservation Area
- near Hunterville: Bruce Park Scenic Reserve, Silverhope Scenic Reserve and Glenmorven Scenic Reserve.

There are two iwi settlements in the Manawatu DOC Operational District that are legislated and require implementation; one of which is Ngāti Apa (North Island). In mid-January 2017, a Treaty Implementation Ranger was appointed to implement and support Treaty settlement work with the Governance Entity.

### ***Acknowledgements***

DOC is grateful to:

- Chris Shenton – Kaitiaki Taiao: General Manager Lands and Environment Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa
- Grant Huwyler – Group Manager Te Runanga o Ngāti Apa
- Mark Pirikahu – Environmental Officer
- Albert Thompson and hapū Ngāti Rangiwahakaturia trustees/whānau
- Katarina Hina and hapū Ngā Wairiki ki Uta trustees/whānau

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<sup>1</sup> Conservation Act 1987 Section 4: This Act shall so be interpreted and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

- Mike Paki (Turakina Marae representative)
- whānau, hapū and iwi of Ngāti Apa
- the team at Wildlands Consultants Ltd
- Roger Shand from Coastal Systems Ltd

Heoi anō rā, he mihi miharo ki a koutou katoa a Ngāti Apa.

## 2. The Ngāti Apa (North Island) DOC Protocol

The Protocol aims to achieve, over time, the conservation policies, actions and outcomes sought by both DOC and the Governance Entity. It sets out a framework for DOC and the Governance Entity to establish a constructive working relationship; it also provides for the Governance Entity to input meaningfully into certain policy, planning and decision-making processes in DOC's management of conservation lands and fulfilment of its statutory responsibilities, within the Protocol area.

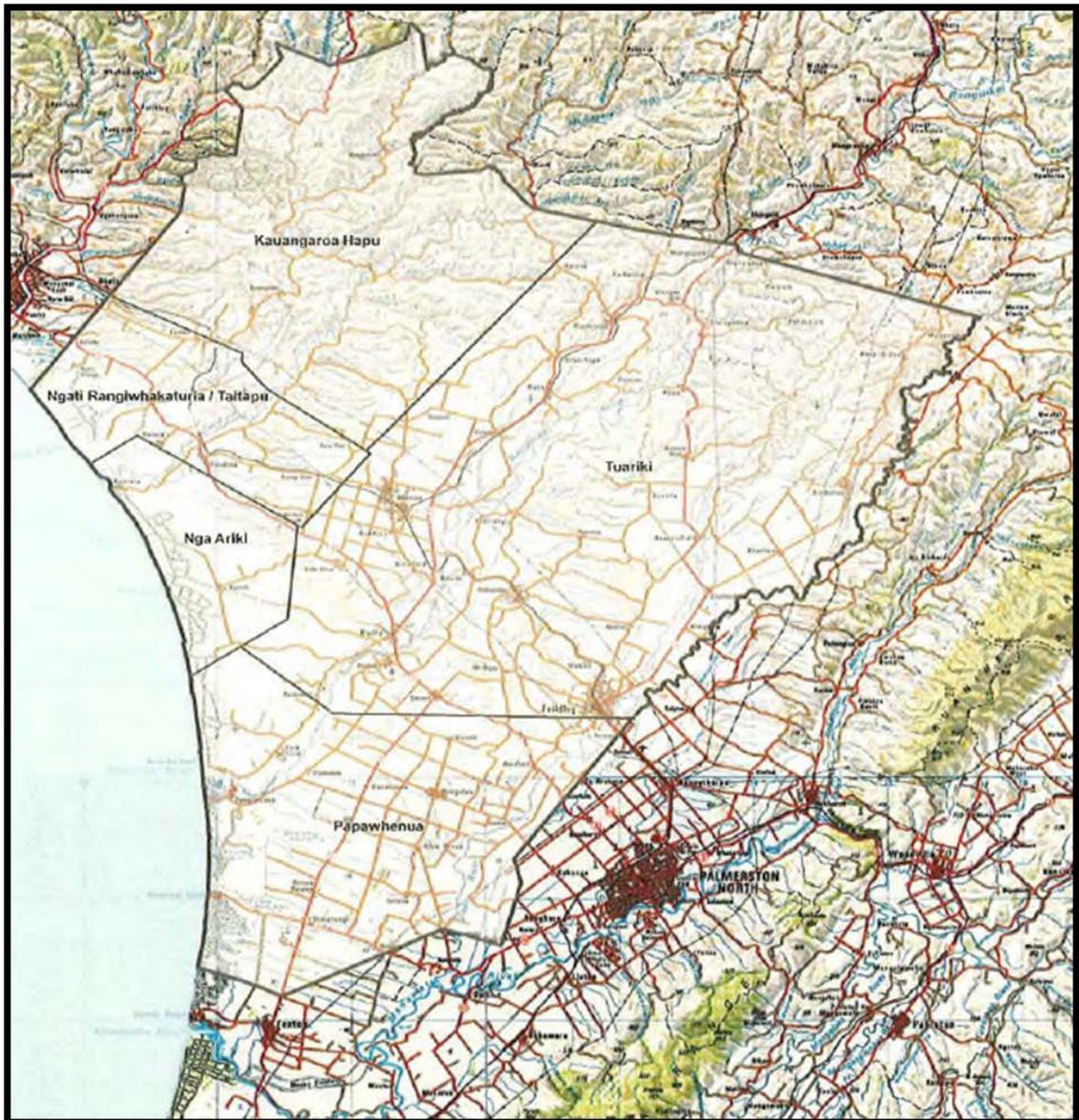


Figure 1: Ngāti Apa (North Island) DOC Protocol area

Source: Schedule to the Deed of Settlement of the historical claims of Ngāti Apa.

## Implementation and communication

DOC's primary contact for the Governance Entity is Chris Shenton, Kaitiaki Taiao – General Manager: Lands and Environment. DOC also meets annually with Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa Group Manager Grant Huwyler and has contact details for the group's Runanga office in Bulls.<sup>2</sup>

DOC and the Governance Entity meet regularly to discuss reserve management, education and engagement. This year, DOC's Lower North Island Operations Director Reg Kemper joined one of these meetings, during which he shared current and future work, and potential opportunities for DOC to support the Governance Entity's work to grow conservation.

### *The new Wellington Conservation Management Strategy*

A new Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) (2016–2026) will replace the current Wellington CMS 1996–2005. The new CMS will outline changes to the current Wellington CMS region's boundaries that overlap with those of the Protocol. These proposed changes include:

- some of the Manawatu-Rangitikei area, which was previously covered by the Whanganui CMS (1997–2008)
- the Ruahine Forest Park and adjoining land, which was previously covered in the Hawke's Bay CMS (1994–2004).

The new Wellington CMS is simpler, more concise and place-based. It is consistent with the other newly reviewed CMSs, integrating DOC's national priorities with local priorities identified with tangata whenua, the community and others.

The Governance Entity sought DOC's feedback on its submission on the draft CMS, at their regular and business planning meetings.

Submissions on the draft CMS closed on 4 April 2017. DOC's responses to submissions and the revised draft CMS were referred to the Wellington Conservation Board (the Board).

The next steps of the process are:<sup>3</sup>

1. The Board considers the changes DOC has made in the revised CMS draft in response to submissions. The Board may ask DOC to further revise the draft CMS.
2. The draft CMS is sent to the NZCA for approval. It may require further changes to the draft CMS.
3. The draft CMS is referred to the Minister of Conservation for comment.
4. The NZCA approves the CMS and the strategy is notified as operative.

### *Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa Tamariki Taiao Programme*

Enabling whānau and tamariki to be involved in and engaged with the environment at significant sites is critical to growing conservation in Aotearoa. DOC is pleased to have provided a grant to the Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa Tamariki Taiao Programme, and is excited to learn about the programme's successes this year with tuna/eel and pīngao/golden sand sedge.

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<sup>2</sup> Under clauses 5.1.1 and 5.1.2 of the DOC Protocol, DOC is required to maintaining information on the Governance Entity's office holders, and their address and contact details; and provide the Governance Entity with a primary departmental contact to act as a liaison person with other departmental staff.

<sup>3</sup> Process updates are posted at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/all-consultations/2016/draft-wellington-cms-consultation>.

### ***Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area work***

DOC coordinated a meeting between Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa; Jacobs (independent consultants); Peter Barber, a local landowner; Horizons Regional Council (Horizons); and Manawatu District Council (MDC), to discuss the history and work at Pukepuke.

- Te Runanga o Wairiki Ngāti Apa is the owner of Māori land near Lake Kaikopu, which is close to Pukepuke.
- Peter Barber and his family have farmed the area for decades; Mr Barber has local knowledge and has worked with DOC.
- Horizons has contracted Marianne Watson to collect historical data from Pukepuke to feed into Jacobs' forthcoming report on catchment water (commissioned earlier by Horizons).

DOC has commissioned two plans:

1. **Wildlands Consultants Ltd** (Wildlands) will complete a natural heritage plan for Pukepuke, looking at the current state and future aspirations to manage and enhance the area.
2. **Roger Shand** (Coastal Systems Ltd) has been commissioned to conduct a geomorphological survey describing hydrology and naturally occurring changes, and to predict future changes.

These documents are discussed further in section 3.

## **Business planning**

DOC's annual business-planning process determines its conservation work priorities. On 23 February 2017, DOC and the Governance Entity met to discuss business planning for the 2017/18 year. DOC informed the Governance Entity of work at Ngāti Apa's Statutory Acknowledgement areas and on other DOC-managed lands in the Protocol area.

## **Cultural materials**

Cultural materials are defined in the Protocol as:

*...plants, plant materials, and materials derived from animals, marine mammals or birds for which the Department is responsible within the DOC Protocol Area, and which are important to Ngāti Apa (North Island) in maintaining and expressing its cultural values and practices.*

Under current legislation, some form of concession or permit is required for any gathering and possession of cultural materials from public conservation land. DOC welcomes the opportunity to find practical ways for Ngāti Apa to exercise kaitiakitanga on public conservation land in the Manawatu district.

## **Historic resources – wāhi tapu**

Some sites significant to Ngāti Apa (North Island) are acknowledged in the settlement legislation. DOC manages some of these sites in accordance with its statutory role to conserve historic resources in protected areas. DOC also accepts that Ngāti Apa (North Island) may choose non-disclosure to preserve the wāhi tapu nature of certain places.

## **Natural heritage**

DOC aims to conserve the full range of New Zealand's ecosystems, maintain or restore the ecological integrity of managed sites, and ensure the survival of threatened species – especially those most at risk of extinction.

In recognition of the cultural, historical and traditional association of Ngāti Apa (North Island) with indigenous flora and fauna of the Protocol area, DOC will:

- a) inform the Governance Entity of the national sites and species programmes on which it will be actively working
- b) provide opportunities for the Governance Entity to participate in these programmes.

### ***Prioritising ecosystems and threatened native species: 'EMUs'***

DOC and community biodiversity specialists have identified 12 potential work locations – known as 'ecosystem management units' (EMUs) – within the Protocol Area, representing a range of New Zealand's terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems of great ecological value.<sup>4</sup>

EMUs in the Protocol Area are:

- Omarupapako/Round Bush
- Lake Koputara
- Himatangi Beach
- Pukepuke Lagoon (refer to section 3 and the commissioned Pukepuke Natural Heritage Plan)
- Tangimoana
- Lake Alice
- Koitiata
- Whitiāu
- Lake Pauri
- Mangara Stream
- Lake Ngaruru
- Lake Namunamu.

Note: these EMUs cover DOC's Whanganui and Manawatu districts.

## **Freshwater fisheries**

Freshwater fisheries are managed under two sets of legislation: the Fisheries Act 1983 and 1996 (administered by the Ministry for Primary Industries) and the Conservation Act 1987 (administered by DOC). DOC's functions include the preservation of indigenous freshwater fisheries and habitats; DOC welcomes the opportunity to work with Ngāti Apa in the conservation, management and research of customary freshwater fisheries and freshwater fish habitats.

## **Marine mammals – process for strandings in the Protocol Area**

All marine mammal species within New Zealand and New Zealand's fisheries waters are protected under the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978. Under the Act, DOC is responsible for the protection, conservation and management of all marine mammals, including their disposal, and the health and safety of staff and volunteers under its control. DOC recognises the opportunity in these circumstances to meet the cultural interests of Ngāti Apa (North Island) and to help gather scientific information.

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<sup>4</sup> About 1,000 EMUs have been identified across New Zealand. EMUs range from 1–50,000 ha, and often include several ecosystem types at one location. The selection includes high-quality examples of ecosystems, previously identified sites with great ecological value, and places where work is already being done (to ensure previous gains are not lost).

Because the on-site recovery of bones raises public safety risks;<sup>5</sup> DOC aims to ensure that protocols around marine mammal strandings are followed. the Governance Entity will notify DOC If Ngāti Apa (North Island) does not wish to recover the bones or participate in any other way.

### ***Update of the Manawatu Operational Plan for Marine Mammal Incidents***

The Operational Plan for Marine Mammal Incidents for the Manawatu District was recently updated. The plan sets out the process DOC will follow when there is a stranding in this district. In the event of a stranding where there is an overlapping interest all iwi will be contacted, and the lead iwi will be determined through ‘turnabout’ (an iwi notifies DOC if it swaps, passes or allocates its ‘lead’ turn to another iwi.

The indicative rohe in this plan only captures the area within the Manawatu Operations District. The Marine Mammal Stranding Plan for the Whanganui Operations District sets out where iwi interests extend into those districts.<sup>6</sup> The plan also notes the indicative rohe that may need to be updated in the future because of Treaty settlement processes. The plan can also be updated if other details (eg contact details) change, or if Ngāti Apa (North Island) decides it would like to be contacted for specific strandings (eg of seals). An amended version of the plan will be sent to the Governance Entity if details change.

## **Pest control**

One of DOC’s main objectives and functions is to prevent and manage threats to natural, historic and cultural heritage values from animal and weed pests. This has to be done in a way that maximises the value from limited resources. Where appropriate, DOC will consider coordinating its pest control programmes with those of the Governance Entity where the Governance Entity owns adjacent land.

Sites managed by DOC within the Protocol Area have received varying degrees of pest control in the 2016/2017 operating year; this work is discussed later in this report.

## **Concession applications**

A concession is an official authorisation to operate in a DOC-managed area, in the form of a lease, licence, permit or easement. Activities requiring a concession include accommodation facilities; water, air or land transport services; commercial education or instruction activities; guiding; attractions such as bungy jumping, and services such as shops, tearooms, restaurants, garages, or hire services. Concessions are also required for grazing, baches, telecommunication facilities, filming and beehives. Although DOC occasionally offers (tenders) concession opportunities publicly, most concessions are initiated by an individual or firm that approaches DOC seeking permission for an activity.

DOC consults the Governance Entity regarding any concession applications, or application renewals, within the Protocol Area. This allows the Governance Entity to indicate whether applications affect Ngāti Apa (North Island) cultural, spiritual and historic values. Prior to issuing a concession, DOC advises a concessionaire of any impacts on Ngāti Apa (North Island) values and encourages communication between the concessionaire and the Governance Entity, if appropriate.

### ***Table of active concessions 2016/2017***

See the **Appendix** for a list of active concessions on public conservation land. In the 2016/2017 year, DOC received 32 concession applications for activities in the Protocol Area.

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<sup>5</sup> Such as potential infection from dead and decaying tissue.

<sup>6</sup> The Ngāti Apa (North Island) DOC Protocol Area includes Manawatu and Whanganui DOC district offices.

### 3. DOC-managed sites in the Ngāti Apa (North Island) DOC Protocol Area

#### Omarupapako/Round Bush Scenic Reserve

Omarupapako ranks as number 52 of New Zealand's 1,000 EMUs previously addressed under 'natural heritage'. This reserve covers 51.47 ha and is located north of Foxton between Wiley Road and State Highway 1 (see **Figure 4**); the main access is from Wiley Road. The reserve is one of only a few remnants of coastal swamp forest on the west coast; it consists of coastal forest and wetland vegetation growing on a sand dune and dune slack system. The forest is dominated by kahikatea, pukatea and tītoki, with some tawa and māhoe and various other broadleaved species in the subcanopy. The swamp is dominated by flax, raupō and cabbage tree; *Olearia* and *Coprosma* species in drier areas. The swamp also hosts the threatened swamp greenhood orchid *Pterostylis micromega*.

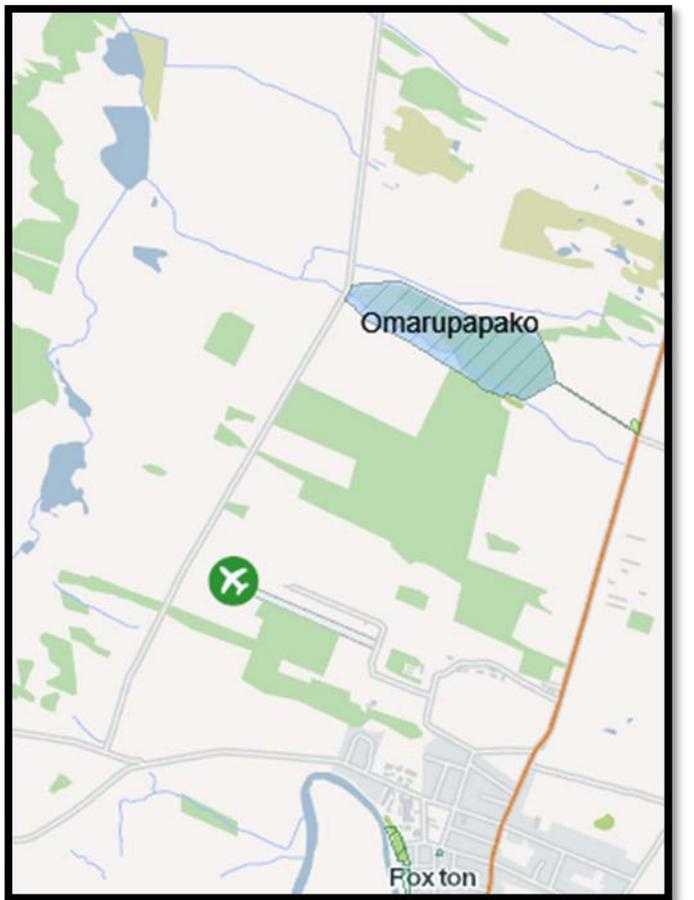


Figure 2: Omarupapako/Round Bush Scenic Reserve

#### *Pest control*

Both plant and animal pest control has been undertaken at Omarupapako. In the 2016/17 operating year, weed control work at Omarupapako focused on periwinkle, pampas, Formosan lilies and tradescantia.

The successful possum and rat control regime continues at Omarupapako. For rat control, 94 large Philproof bait stations are placed at 50-m intervals for the pesticide diphacinone

(0.5g/kg). For possum control 2 or 3 Feracol strikers (cholecalciferol 8g/kg) were positioned at bait stations; however, leg-hold trapping was subsequently used to prevent possums consuming the diphacinone intended for rats. Uptake of the Feracol strikers indicates a decrease in the possum population, and **Table 1**, below, demonstrates the success of rat control. DOC's Manawatu rangers maintain and check these stations; the resulting data is provided in **Table 1**.

**Table 1: Tracking rates of rats and mice**

Species	Tracking rate (%)*				
	Oct 2012 (pre-bait)	Oct 2013	Oct 2014	Jul 2016	Oct 2017
Rat	13.3% (± 5.2%)	0.0% (± 0.0%)	0.0% (± 0.0%)	0.0% (± 0.0%)	0.0% (± 0.0%)
Mouse	23.3% (± 7.5%)	0.0% (± 0.0%)	16.7 (±3.9%)	16.7 (± 5.0%)	33.0% (± 7.7%)

\*October 2012 – October 2014 data provided for comparison with this year's data.

In addition to the possum and rat control regime at Omarupapako, mustelid boxes are also used for hedgehogs and mustelids to protect small forest birds and invertebrates. This programme is monitored monthly by volunteers. Trap-kill records for 2016/17 are in **Table 2**.

**Table 2: Mustelid boxes trap-kill records (Omarupapako) 2016/17**

Species	Month/year*										Total
	07/2016	08/2016	10/2016	11/2016	12/2016	01/2017	02/2017	04/2017	05/2017	06/2017	
Hedgehog	1		5		1	4	4	5	2		22
Mouse										1	1
Ferret	1										1
Rat				3		2		2		2	9
Stoat	2	1	2	1	4		2				12
Weasel			1						2	1	4
Total	4	1	8	4	5	6	6	7	4	4	49

\*No data was collected for March 2017.

### **Revegetation 2016**

A total of 741 plants were planted at Omarupapako on 4 August 2016. Seeds of these plants were eco-sourced from the site. Plant species and numbers are in **Table 3**.

**Table 3: Plant species and numbers planted at Omarupapako in 2016**

<b>Traditional Māori name</b>	<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Number planted</b>
Māhoe	<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i>	50
Kahikatea	<i>Dacrycarpus dacrydioides</i>	52
Wīwī	<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	66
Closest species: maurea	<i>Carex virgata</i>	34
Harakeke	<i>Phormium tenax</i>	210
Toetoe	<i>Austraderia toetoe</i>	68
Mingimingi	<i>Coprosma propinqua</i>	46
Tīkōuka	<i>Cordyline australis</i>	33
Akeake	<i>Dodonaea viscosa</i>	20
Kānuka	<i>Kunzea ericoides</i>	50
Mānuka	<i>Leptospermum scoparium</i>	84
Ngaio	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	23
Closest species: akeake	<i>Olearia solandri</i>	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>741</b>

## Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area (Pukepuke)

Pukepuke covers 82.70 ha and is located between Himatangi Beach and Tangimoana, approximately 5 km west of State Highway 1 (see **Figure 5**); the main access is from Pukepuke Rd off State Highway 1. The lagoon is a dune lake that resulted from the formation of sand dunes along the coast near Tangimoana, which prevented inland water escaping out to sea; it is a shallow lake (only up to 2 m deep) that can dry up in summer. The kōtuku-ngutupapa/royal spoonbill and tōrea pango/variable oystercatcher visit occasionally.

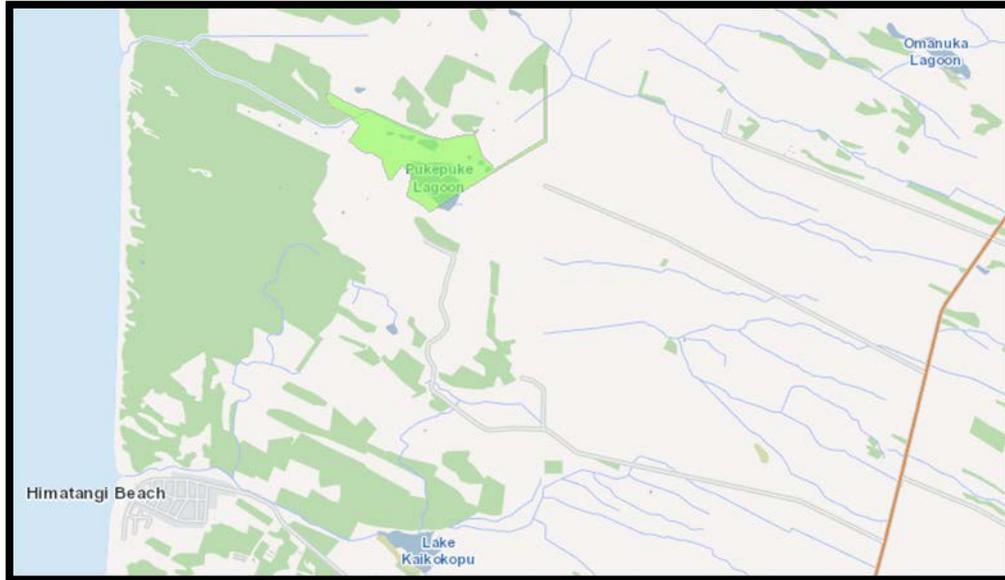


Figure 3: Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area

### *Pest control*

DOC 200/250 mustelid traps are used at this site to protect nationally threatened birds, migratory birds, rare plants and native fish. This programme is monitored monthly by volunteers. Trap checking began in 2017; records gathered so far are in **Table 4**.

Table 4: Mustelid boxes trap-kill records (Pukepuke) 2017

Animal	Month/year						Total
	01/2017	02/2017	03/2017	04/2017	05/2017	06/2017	
Hedgehog	6	3	3	3	2	4	21
Mouse				1			1
Other	1			1 – cat			2
Rat	3				2	1	6
Stoat	3	2		4		2	11
Weasel					4	4	8
Ferret					1		1
Total	13	5	3	9	9	11	50

### *Concessions*

Pukepuke has the following active concessions:

- WA-219 Manawatu District Council (MDC) for an easement to drain stormwater. This concession is subject to special conditions for spraying, vegetation clearance, use of

machinery, the existing weir, a spillway and water-level monitoring. The concession term is 30 years (from 1 December 2000 to 30 November 2030).

- 43024-RES Horizons Regional Council (Horizons), to collect up to 12 L of water. Samples are taken quarterly (usually in June, September, December and March) to determine the lake's health using its trophic lake index. The concession term is from 8 May 2015 to 31 January 2025.

## Rangitikei River mouth coastal reserves and conservation areas

DOC manages sites on both sides of the Rangitikei River mouth at Scotts Ferry and Tangimoana (see **Figure 6**). At Scotts Ferry, these sites are Moanaroa Conservation Area (covering 36.9 ha) and Part Run 23 Conservation Area (8 ha); these sites are accessed via Bulls. At Tangimoana, these sites are Tawhirihoe Scientific Reserve (152.42 ha), Tangimoana Dunes Recreation Reserve (6.65 ha) and Tangimoana Beach Conservation Area (9.82 ha).

The Tangimoana dune system of foredunes, parabolic dunes, dune slacks and gravel plains is a significant dune area on the North Island's west coast. It provides important habitat for two rare and threatened plants: spiked sand sedge (*Eleocharis neozelandica*), and a species of sand daphne (*Pimelea* sp.) (Singers, 1998).

Work at these sites is to benefit sand daphne; its seed was collected from Turakina, propagated and later planted at Tangimoana in the early 1990s (Dawson et al, 2005); its scientific name is *Pimelea Turakina*, acknowledging its limited range (Tangimoana, Himatangi and Turakina).



Figure 4: Rangitikei River mouth – coastal reserves and conservation areas

### **Weed control and maintenance at Tawhiriho Scientific Reserve**

Tawhiriho Scientific Reserve is a 152-ha area of dune country lying in the Foxton Ecological District, just south of the Tangimoana township. The reserve contains one of the last examples of a dynamic dune and ephemeral wetland system,<sup>7</sup> as well as a population of North Island fernbirds (*Bowdleria punctata vealeae*), and was recommended for protection under the Protected Natural Areas Programme.

Weed control has focused on reducing the spread of field horsetail and reducing the impacts of other weeds on threatened plant sites. Fencing is maintained at the site.

### **Concessions**

The only active concession at Tawhiriho is: 36991-OTH, a right-of-way for farm stock, farm vehicles and farm staff. The concession term is 30 years (1 July 2013 to 30 June 2043).

### **Simpson Scenic Reserve (Simpsons)**

Simpsons is known as Ruakiwi in the Ngāti Apa (North Island) Statement of Association and Deed of Recognition. It covers 36.4 ha (see **Figure 7**) north of Hunterville; the entrance to the reserve is from Murimotu Road, left from State Highway 1 before crossing the train tracks. The south-eastern boundary of the reserve lies on recent river terraces, perhaps on what is now Porewa Stream. There is a clearing that is increasingly being used for camping activities; around the clearing are good remnants of (predominantly) kahikatea, rimu and tawa forest, and evidence of miro, hīnau, māhoe, maire, black matipo and lacebark.

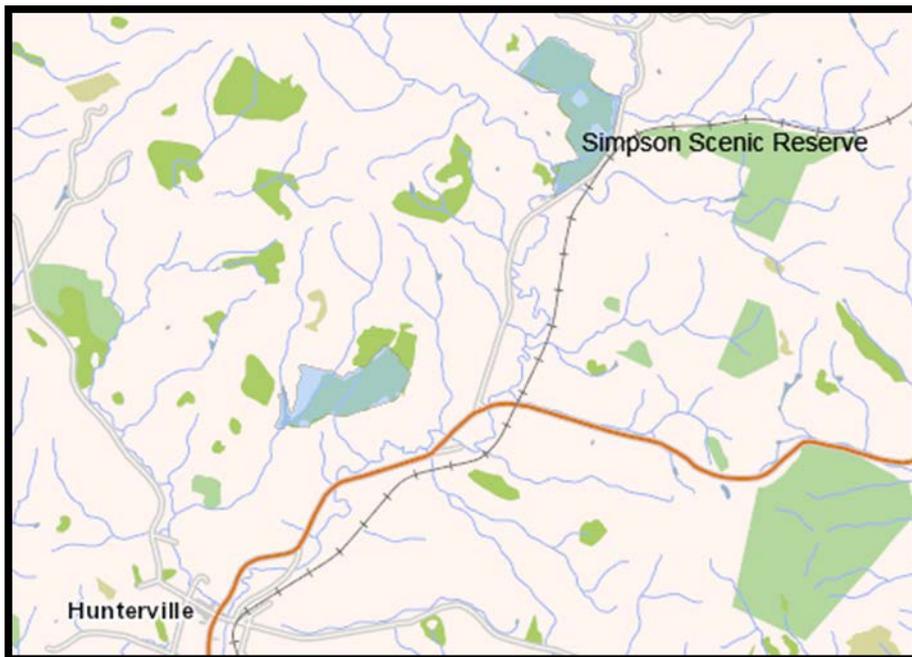


Figure 5: Simpson Scenic Reserve

<sup>7</sup> This system once stretched along the west coast from Levin to Hawera.

### *Seed collection with Manawatu District Council nursery*

DOC, Manawatu District Council nursery manager and students collected seeds for restoration at Simpsons and/or nearby sites.

### **Whitiau Scientific Reserve**

Whitiau Scientific Reserve (Whitiau) (see **Figure 8**) is located between the true right of the Whangaehu River mouth and Mōtū Karaka (35 ha), which is one of three reserves vested in fee simple to Ngāti Apa (North Island) as part of the Treaty settlement. Whitiau covers almost 243 ha; it was protected as a scientific reserve in 1991 as a rare example of a comparatively natural dune ecosystem. (Ogle, 1994) It accommodates healthy populations of spinifex and sand coprosma. Whitiau has also catered for *Sebaea Ovata*, an endangered annual herb found in only one other location in New Zealand.<sup>8</sup> Other threated plants seen here include mīkoikoi/sand iris (*Libertia peregrinans*), and a dwarf musk with large white flowers (*Mazus novaezeelandiae*).



Figure 6: Whitiau Scientific Reserve

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<sup>8</sup> This herb is listed as Nationally Critical under the New Zealand Threat Classification System. For more information visit <http://www.doc.govt.nz/nztcs>.

## Taukoro Conservation Area

Taukoro Conservation Area (see **Figure 9**) is found north of Mangamahu near State Highway 4, south of Kakatahi. North of Mangamahu on Creek Road is Pākiki, another reserve vested fee simple to Ngāti Apa (North Island) as part of the Treaty settlement. Taukoro Conservation Area is a distinctly different site to the adjacent Taukoro Forest Conservation Area; the conservation area covers almost 336 ha, with 300 ha remaining in bush (predominantly lowland podocarp tawa forest).

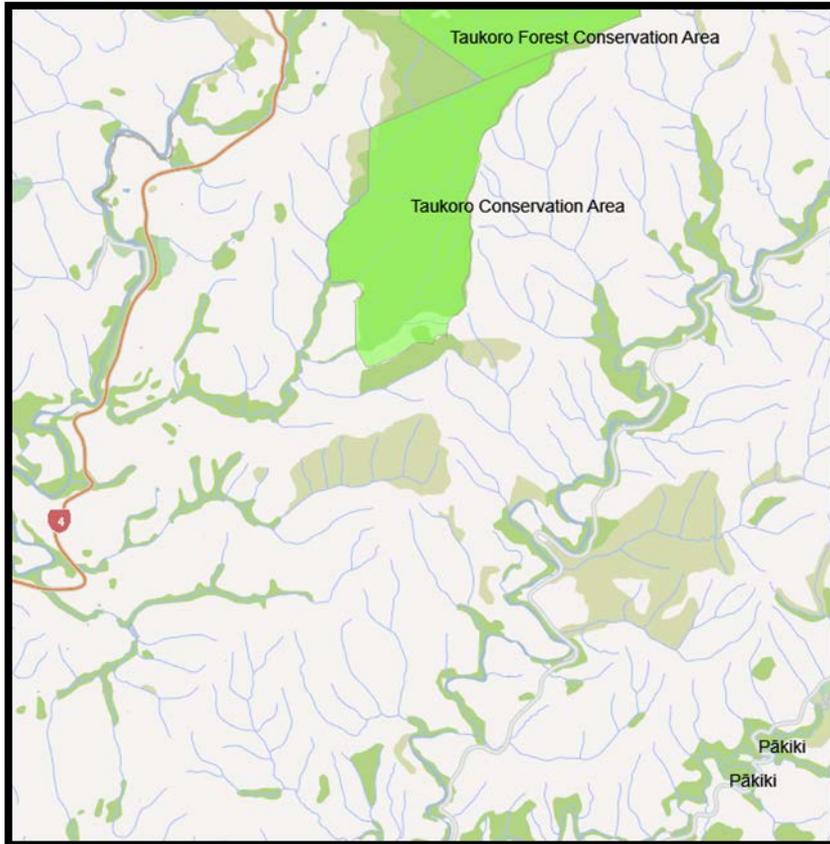


Figure 7: Taukoro Conservation Area

### Concessions

Taukoro Conservation Area is subject to a perpetually renewable lease issued under the Land Act 1948. Although the lease is over the entire block, only 25 ha is in pasture and grazed; the remainder is protected from clearance by a clause in the lease. The lease expires on 30 June 2025. The lease means that the area is ‘landlocked’ – there is no public access and, therefore, little active management of the site.

## 4. Implementing the Treaty settlement

This year, DOC also achieved extra work in Treaty settlement implementation, as agreed between DOC and Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa. Initiatives achieved together in the 2016–2017 year include:

- input into reserve management for three scenic reserves vested to Ngāti Apa as part of the Treaty settlement package
- pest control at Pākiki Scenic Reserve
- developing a natural heritage plan for Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area
- a geomorphological assessment for Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area.

### Reserve management for Lake Koitiata, Mōtū Karaka and Pākiki scenic reserves

As part of the Ngāti Apa (North Island) Treaty settlement, three sites were vested in fee simple to be administered as scenic reserves for the purposes specified in section 19(1)(a) of the Reserves Act 1977 (the Act): Lake Koitiata, Mōtū Karaka and Pākiki.<sup>9</sup>

A reserves administration training presentation was held on 16 March 2017 at DOC's Whanganui office, to discuss scenic reserve classification, reserve administering bodies, and rights and responsibilities of the Minister and administering body. Matthew Kidd (DOC's Treaty settlement solicitor), members of hapū, and DOC's staff from Palmerston North and Whanganui attended.

Wildlands completed the reports for input into a reserve management plan for Lake Koitiata, Mōtū Karaka and Pākiki. In doing so, Wildlands completed field surveys to obtain information on the current state of (and threats to) the sites, and held hui with hapū (in person, and by email and phone) to discuss aspirations and management issues.

Wildlands recommended:

- restoration of Mōtū Karaka – pest animal and weed control and planting
- restoration of Lake Koitiata – ecosystem health and monitoring and protection of mahinga kai
- protection and preservation of Pākiki – pest animal and weed control.

The reserve management plan process will take time to complete. DOC is ready to support the Governance Entity in any future work.

#### *Pest control at Pākiki Scenic Reserve*

One of the restoration objectives (from the Wildlands report discussing input into management of the reserve) for Pākiki Scenic Reserve was to control pest animals;<sup>10</sup> this is a medium-high priority.

DOC aims to protect indigenous fauna species and improve natural forest processes by reducing pest animal populations. However, the long and narrow shape of the reserve makes effective and sustainable control more difficult; self-setting traps are likely to be effective within the reserve.

<sup>9</sup> Sections 19, 40, 42 and 64 of the Act that apply to the relevant provisions of the governance/governing bodies can be found at <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1977/0066/52.0/DLM444305.html#DLM444672>.

<sup>10</sup> Wildlands Consultants Limited, 2017: Input into a reserve management plan for the protection and preservation of Pākiki Scenic Reserve: Milestone 2. Department of Conservation, Palmerston North, 41 p.

Goodnature A24 traps control rats and stoats, and Goodnature A12 traps control possums. Each trap uses a pressurised canister – rat traps can deliver up to 24 kills, and possum traps up to 12 kills, before a replacement canister is needed. Self-setting traps are expensive but (in theory) require less labour over time.

Accordingly, DOC Manawatu has purchased 30 traps on behalf of Ngā Wairiki ki Uta – 15 each of the A12 and A24 Goodnature traps – for pest control in the Reserve. The following conditions have been agreed between DOC rangers and the Ngā Wairiki ki Uta chair:

- DOC provides initial training for placement, installation and maintenance, and technical advice as requested (when available).
- Wairiki ki Uta monitors the network, ie checks the success rates of the traps (number of carcasses) at least once a month.
- Wairiki ki Uta nominates a leader to be responsible for the trap network, ie:
  - trap maintenance
  - gas canister replacement
  - bait replenishment
  - a roster (if applicable) for monitoring and carcass recovery.

DOC Whanganui will be working with Ngā Wairiki ki Uta to initiate the trapping network.

## Developing the Pukepuke Natural Heritage Plan

Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area (Pukepuke) is a stewardship area under the Conservation Act 1987. DOC's intermediate outcome objective for Pukepuke is 'a full range of New Zealand's ecosystems is conserved to a healthy functioning state'.

Pukepuke has very significant historic heritage values and is a significant site for Ngāti Apa (North Island). From a Ngāti Apa (North Island) perspective, an immense amount of work is required to restore this ecosystem to health. For example, the Governance Entity expressed concern about weeds near one of its wāhi tapu sites at Pukepuke; DOC has offered support to enable this work.

Pukepuke is also important for its native fauna. Several bird species found here are rare in the Manawatu region, including New Zealand dabchick (*Poliiocephalus rufopectus*) and Australasian bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). Threatened or At Risk plant species have also previously been recorded at the site and may still be present, including *Zannichellia palustris* and dwarf musk (*Mazus novaezeelandiae* subsp. *novaezeelandiae*). There is also a large population of shortfin eel (*Anguilla australis*) at this site; longfin eel (*A. dieffenbachii*) and inanga (*Galaxias maculatus*) are also present. The site is also used for game-bird hunting between May and August.

### **Working in partnership to restore Pukepuke**

There is a desire for DOC and Ngāti Apa (North Island) to work in partnership to restore Pukepuke, with a vision of the site being returned to a healthy functioning state by 2030. There is no recent cohesive document for integrated management at Pukepuke – the last management plan was drafted in 1987 (Avis, 1987).

In early 2017, Wildlands gathered information through field surveys on the current state and threats to the sites. Wildlands also met with Chris Shelton (the Governance Entity representative) to discuss aspirations and management issues. As a result of this work, the Wildlands natural heritage report includes:

- a description of the site, including background information and its physical characteristics
- an outline of the site's ecological values and threats

- an assessment of what a functional healthy site may look like for Pukepuke
- goals, objectives, and actions
- milestones and direction for day-to day work.

DOC would like to support the Governance Entity in future work at Pukepuke.

***A geomorphological assessment of Pukepuke is under way***

Knowledge of the geomorphological processes that have shaped Pukepuke’s physical characteristics over thousands of years is fundamental to formulating and enacting future management.

Roger Shand from Coastal Systems Ltd was commissioned in May 2017 to complete a geomorphological assessment of Pukepuke. The assessment describes (and predicts) hydrology and naturally occurring changes at the site. At the time of writing, the draft assessment has been completed and is awaiting feedback from iwi and DOC.

Geomorphological assessments underpin many environmental studies, including coastal environment definitions, natural character appraisals, hazard assessments, management investigations and tangata whenua interests. They explain:

- 1) what is there - a description of the current landform and its geographical setting
- 2) why it is there - explaining why the landform is in its current form (ie the formative processes)
- 3) how it will change - predicting the future landform
- 4) initial recommendations relating to restoration management.

## Appendix: Table of active concessions 2016/2017

Active permits that apply generally to the Protocol Area are included in the table; each of these is subject to special conditions, which might include the:

- period of notification to District Operations Manager prior to proceeding with an activity
- period required for iwi consultation
- type of activity.

Any active permits specific to a site can be found under that site in the table. In the 2016/2017 year, DOC received 32 concession applications for activities in the Protocol Area.

**Table 1.1: List of active concessions on public conservation land**

Permit Number	Permit type	Sites	Activity	Term
35196-FAU	Wildlife Act permit – low impact	Excluding: scientific and ecological reserves, wildlife sanctuaries, and special ecological areas.	Capture, hold, transfer, release and take samples of all lizard species.	31/12/2012 to 31/12/2018
35818-FAU	Wildlife Act permit – low impact	All PCL	National authorisation for trapping (leghold, kill and live capture) possums.	1/3/2013 to 28/2/2018
WC-27582-LAN	Concession permit – conforming	All PCL with some exclusions not relevant here.	National permit for driving, parking and embarking/ disembarking passengers on PCL throughout New Zealand (with some exclusions).	1/7/2010 to 30/6/2020
CA-31615-OTH	Concession permit – non-notified reissue	Entry to nature and scientific reserves, and wilderness and specially protected areas, subject to entry permits. Other exclusions not relevant here.	Low impact scientific study.	1/11/2011 to 31/10/2021
36927-DAM	Wildlife Act permit – high impact	All PCL	Hunt/trap ferrets ( <i>mustela furo</i> ).	1/7/2013 to 28/2/2018
50560-FAU	Wildlife Act permit – high impact	All PCL	Capture, handle and survey of frog and lizard species.	22/08/2016 to 30/11/2022

Permit Number	Permit type	Sites	Activity	Term
48320-FAU	Wildlife Act permit – low impact	All public and private land in New Zealand	Nationwide authority under the Wildlife Act to capture, band and release birds on public conservation and non-public conservation land. Note: the authority will only be for the capture, measurement and recording, banding and subsequent release of birds.	01/03/2016 to 28/02/2026
WA-28308-DOA	Wildlife Act permit – low impact	Marton	Authority to hold mounted specimens of 1 shining cuckoo, 1 long-tailed cuckoo, 1 kea, 2 black shags, and 1 brown kiwi.	28/05/1998 to 28/05/2048
WE-33581-FAU	Wildlife Act permit – low impact	Bulls	Permit to hold and release gamebirds.	14/03/2012 to 14/06/2201
WA-12183-DOA	Wildlife Act permit – low impact	Marton	Cultural use of feathers.	19/03/2003 to 18/03/2103
WA-14237-DOA	Wildlife Act permit – low impact	Huntermville	Hold feathers.	13/02/2004 to 13/02/2104
38895-FAU	Wildlife Act permit – low impact	All land within Manawatu District office boundary	Authority to band all seabirds, waders and passerines in the lower North Island region.	01/06/2014 to 31/05/2024
38732-FAU	Wildlife Act permit – low impact	All land within Manawatu District office boundary	National authorisation to catch alive and mark gamebirds.	01/01/2017 to 31/12/2036

*Operational report for Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa 2016–2017*

<b>Permit Number</b>	<b>Permit type</b>	<b>Sites</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Term</b>
39991-FAU	Wildlife Act permit – low impact	All public and private land in New Zealand	To handle, weigh, measure and photograph (for ID purposes), protected species of herpetofauna at events organised by the 'Society for Research on Amphibians and Reptiles in New Zealand' (chiefly field trips).	12/01/2015 to 11/01/2025
39635-MAR	Marine mammal research	Nationwide	Deceased marine mammals.	10/08/2015 to 09/08/2025
39239-MAR	Marine mammal research	Nationwide	Deceased marine mammals.	28/10/2014 to 27/10/2024
43176-MAR	Marine mammal permit	Nationwide	Oil spill seal rescue and rehabilitation permit.	29/10/2015 to 28/10/2020
HO/2009/02	Marine mammal research	Nationwide	Research (non-invasive).	15/07/2008 to 14/07/2018
45780-MAR	Marine mammal research	South Taranaki Bight	Investigation of blue whale ecology in the South Taranaki Bight.	16/11/2015 to 15/11/2025
39645-MAR	Marine mammal research	Nationwide	To take and possess specimens and biological samples from dead marine mammals, for both scientific and display purposes.	20/08/2013 to 19/08/2023
WA-247	Concession easement – non-notified	Bruce Park Scenic Reserve	Right of way.	26/09/1992 to 26/09/2022
WA-219	Concession easement – notified	Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area	Weir at Pukepuke Lagoon, and ongoing raupō clearance.	01/12/2000 to 30/11/2030
WA-22665-OTH	Concession easement – non-notified	Bruce Park Scenic Reserve	Right of way.	01/09/2009 to 31/05/2039

Permit Number	Permit type	Sites	Activity	Term
WA-291	Concession easement – non-notified	Tutaenui Stream Marginal Strip	Easement over Tutaenui Stream.	01/11/2003 to 01/11/2103
36991-OTH	Concession easement – non-notified	Tawhirihoe Scientific Reserve	Easement.	01/07/2013 to 30/06/2043
NM-29413-GUI	Concession permit – non-notified	All PCL	National Concession for ProGuides New Zealand and individual members of that organisation.	01/04/2012 to 31/03/2022
45646-OTH	Concession easement – non-notified	Rangitikei River No.5 Marginal Strip	Easement for retrospective wastewater discharge in Bulls.	01/01/2016 to 31/12/2030
36225-GRA	Concession permit – non-notified	Whale Conservation Area	Reissue of grazing.	01/07/2013 to 30/06/2023
39191-RES	Research or collection permit – low impact	Nationwide	Authority for a nationwide electric fishing authority for research purposes.	01/01/2015 to 31/12/2024
43024-RES	Research or collection permit – low impact	Pukepuke Lagoon Conservation Area	Authority to collect up to 12 L of water.	08/05/2015 to 31/01/2025
WA-21375-RES	Research or collection permit – low impact	Lake Koiitiata	Collecting data from monitoring to determine whether there are any impacts caused by groundwater extraction on neighbouring farm.	01/01/2008 to 31/12/2021
39095-GRA	Management agreement	Bruce Park Scenic Reserve	Vegetation management agreement.	11/06/2014 to 10/06/2019

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