

4. Confirmation of minutes of meeting of Friday 9 August 2009

Correction: Page 15 at the beginning of the second paragraph where Steve said that “Kay Booth from the NZCA had requested a delegation of authority for the ...” At that time Kay was speaking in a private capacity not as a member of the New Zealand Conservation Authority.

5. Matters arising from previous minutes

(i) Comment on Aircraft Access Guidelines

Ines was to comment on the Aircraft Access Guidelines, not Jimmy.

(ii) Taxon plan for kiwi

Joseph will forward Brenda a draft of this submission for circulation to other board members.

Recommendation:

That subject to the aforementioned correction, the minutes of the meeting of the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board held on Friday 21 August be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Mal Clarbrough/Wiki Baker

Carried

6. Late agenda items

(i) Concession application – Discovery Tours Ltd

(ii) Board comment on the Conservation Management Plan Progress Report

7. Section 4 matters

There were no section 4 matters for recording

8. Canterbury Conservator’s verbal report and update from Area Managers

O Tu Wharekai and State of the Takiwa

Mike reported on the State of the Takiwa¹, cultural inventory for O Tu Wharekai and said that the field inventory work has now been completed and

¹ State of the Takiwā describes a culturally-based environmental monitoring and reporting system being developed by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu as part of the overall Ki Uta Ki Tai - Mountains to the Sea Natural Resource Management framework outlined in the tribal vision, Ngāi Tahu 2025.

Its main purpose is to allow Ngāi Tahu whānui to assess and report on the cultural health of the natural resources and environment in the Ngāi Tahu Takiwā.

State of the Takiwā (SoT) is a play on words from the conventional, largely western science based approach to environmental monitoring called State of the Environment Reporting. The difference is that State of the Takiwā is a monitoring approach that will take into account Ngāi Tahu cultural values, such as mauri, mana and mahinga kai.

work on the field site monitoring was to begin shortly. The lead contractor for this is Craig Pauling. George Hadler, Raukapuka Area Manager, is working with Mandy Waaka-Home to get this work underway.

Wild Animal Recovery Permitting and Concessions Process

Mike reported that Canterbury Conservancy is managing the national concessions process for the recovery of game animal carcasses for food processing. Canterbury Conservancy has the expectation that all of the concessions will be issued and operational by 1 December 2009.

Of the original 94 Wild Animal Recovery Operator concession holders, 33 have applied for a new permit.

The old five-year permits issued between 2004 to 2009 had been used for a variety of purposes, some which were not related to the activity of wild animal carcass recovery. The new permits are for the specific purpose of game carcass recovery.

Heli-hunting has been put into a separate category under the Wild Animal Control Act.

Heli-hunting is far more extensive than originally thought, with more operators undertaking this activity than DOC staff previously understood. Operators were using a liberal interpretation of their original concession permits to engage in heli-hunting. The new permits have brought a stop to this but the department now has to deal with heli-hunting as an activity. Because it has “flown under the radar” it has never previously come up as an issue when completing conservation management strategies, and it has never come up in National Park Management Plan reviews, so there has been no previous specific consideration of the activity.

Operators have formed an association and DOC staff have attended two meetings with them at Luggate, and are working with them to complete maps of the areas they wish to operate in and areas they claim they have been operating in the past, including Nelson/Marlborough, Canterbury, the West Coast, Otago and Southland. A third meeting is planned for 4 December.

“It was previously understood that this activity was primarily a Canterbury and West Coast activity based around Himalayan tahr and chamois but that is not the case. “Operators have been hunting chamois to the north and to the south and essentially using their old WARO permits to fly pretty much wherever they wanted to go”, Mike Cuddihy said. It is now clear they have been operating in national parks and wilderness areas.

Mike reported that staff had undertaken a substantial non-statutory consultation process for Wild Animal Recovery Operation permits and issued non-notified concessions. However, given the huge public interest in heli-hunting, this concession process will have to be advertised. There won't be

time to have the concessions completed before the next season starts so there is a need for an interim transitional process to allow the activity to occur during the 2010 winter. The permits will be issued for a period of five years.

There will be section 4 issues and Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement issues. Some of the areas operators may wish to operate in may be Tōpuni² sites or they may be Deed of Recognition sites.

Department staff have done a lot of work interpreting the national park management plans and the national parks policies so staff have a better idea about how they apply. The West Coast is currently completing its CMS and it is the first of the statutory documents that has attempted to address this issue. The New Zealand Conservation Authority and the West Coast Conservation Board also have issues with the interpretation of the policies and plans and this has to be factored into this process as well.

The only wilderness area within Canterbury's boundaries is the Adams Wilderness Area and that doesn't contain any tahr considered hutable by the industry.

Aoraki Mount Cook Management Plan will go through an amendment process to explicitly undertake public and Ngāi Tahu consultation on how the department should address the issue of heli-hunting within Aoraki Mount Cook National Park so that it is put on a proper statutory basis. Poma Palmer, a department planner, has done some work and will be presenting the board with information about what the current management plan says, how that can be interpreted and what, if any, changes could be made to the management plan to be clear about this issue.

Stephen asked "given that the activity has taken place on a larger scale than the department had previously been aware of what does that say about the department's ability to monitor what might happen into the future?"

Mike responded, "it will mean that the new concessions for game recovery will utilise new technology such as constant GPS tracking and logging of all the kill sites. The department can make that technology mandatory in the

² Tōpuni

The concept of Tōpuni derives from the traditional Ngāi Tahu custom of rangatira (chiefs) extending their mana (power and authority) over areas or people by placing their cloaks over them. Tōpuni status therefore confirms the overlay of Ngāi Tahu values on these public conservation areas. The Tōpuni does not override or alter the existing status of the land, but ensures that Ngāi Tahu values are recognised, acknowledged, and provided for.

The Tōpuni involves three levels:

- Statement of the Ngāi Tahu values;
- A set of principles for avoiding diminishing those values; and
- Agreed actions to give effect to these principles.

The Tōpuni provides a public symbol of Ngāi Tahu manawhenua and rangatiratanga over the most prominent features of these public conservation areas. It is an enduring symbol of the tribe's commitment to conserving areas of high natural and historic values as well as ensuring an active role for Ngāi Tahu in the management of the area.

machines, which will tell it who was where and what they are doing. It won't be perfect but it is becoming increasingly effective in controlling activity”

John said, “he got the impression from Kay Booth that the West Coast CMS is going to include a very stringent method of policing the whole thing and that there seemed to be quite a reluctance to issue heli-hunting concessions”. Mike said “one of the complexities to focus on is that this activity is a tourism-based industry that probably brings \$10 - \$30 million to the NZ economy so it is an important commercial activity. It is clear that Himalayan tahr, in particular, are clearly valuable to this industry and at the moment, the Crown, through its management of the land and the animals, doesn't receive any direct benefit from the activity. There is an opportunity for a significant revenue stream to the department out of this activity but the contra is that it is costing the department probably \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year to cull surplus females, because the industry isn't taking females; it is only taking 5 year and older trophy bulls worth \$3,500 to \$5,000 each and leaving the department with the expense of controlling the breeding population. Staff looked at some of the data and it showed that Canterbury alone, in three years, as part of its control work, spent \$70,000 on control work that could have been worth \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 to the industry as trophy animals, so clearly it is a complex situation where the department is using taxpayer funding to destroy animals that are actually the basis of a tourism industry and yet some of the places this is happening are places where the department would not normally allow this sort of recreation activity so that poses some complex issues for the department to address. The Board will have a very important role in looking at this whole activity”.

Akaroa Harbour Marine Reserve Application

The application has been completed and sent to the Minister of Conservation for his consideration. If the Minister of Conservation decides that none of the objections have been upheld he then requires the concurrence of the Minister of Fisheries. There are section 4 of the Conservation Act and Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement issues and Mark Solomon has requested that as the Minister of Conservation considers his decision that he also consult with Ngāi Tahu. The Minister has said that he wants to get a resolution to this matter as soon as possible as it has taken 10 years to get the process this far.

Emissions Trading Scheme

Legislation has just been passed on the Emissions Trading Scheme. An arrangement was reached with the Maori Party as a support party to the Government on the legislation. Mike understands that the department will now be tasked with looking for 30 to 40,000 hectares of public conservation land that will provide the opportunity for carbon sequestration. It may be planted in indigenous or exotic forest. As the department learns more about the details it will keep the board informed. Part of this will go towards the Treaty Settlement with Ngāi Tahu and other iwi where forestry assets were used as part of the Treaty Settlement.

Hurunui Water Conservation Order

A special tribunal was commissioned and heard all of the evidence from all of the parties including the department. The department supported the Water Conservation Order, which is featured as an objective in the Lake Sumner section of Canterbury's CMS. The department was looking for no dams and a flow regime. The Special Tribunal supported a Water Conservation Order for the North Branch of the Hurunui but not for the South Branch and it didn't support a flow regime. There have been appeals against that by various parties and it will go to the Environment Court.

Those who didn't want any conservation order said there should be none, those who wanted a Water Conservation Order and got it for the North Branch would support that and still argue for the South Branch. Mike reported that the department couldn't continue with a flow regime case because it simply didn't have enough technical data to make a case.

What has now come into play is the Canterbury Water Management Strategy which is a regional strategy that is community based and takes a consultative approach in examining what land can be irrigated, where the water can come from, storage options etc. Hurunui Mayor, Gary Jackson, has been leading a process in which he wants the applicants for the water conservation order and the applicants for an irrigation proposal that would have dammed the two branches of the Hurunui to agree that the Water Conservation Order is put on hold while the Canterbury Water Management Strategy is worked through.

Several meetings have occurred and at the last meeting Mike presented the department's position on the "let's put the water conservation order process on hold" and it was his view at that meeting that the North Branch, which is linked to Lake Sumner, and is public conservation land, and the Lake Sumner Conservation Park, clearly had merit nationally as an outstanding river and it was the department's view that there should be no dams on it. It was also the department's view that the Environment Court should hear that and that all parties should support the view that there should be no dams on the river down to Maori Gully which is the section that the kayakers use.

When it came to the South Branch, the Tribunal made it clear in its evidence that there was insufficient weight for the South Branch to be included in the Water Conservation Order. Mike's view is that the department would be happy for considerations about how the South Branch might be used in the future to go forward into the Canterbury Water Management Strategy process. In order for this to work it means that the irrigators would have to support a Water Conservation Order on the North Branch with an opportunity to consider the South Branch, with no pre-determination about what the outcome would be but it would be open for discussion through the strategy process. If it comes to considering the South Branch for irrigation it is rather hard to see how the South Branch could be dammed because all of its features and attributes meet the criteria in the Strategy of a river that shouldn't be dammed, but the department has to argue that it meets the national significance for a Water Conservation Order. If it doesn't meet the criteria for national significance it doesn't mean it will automatically be dammed, because it has other regionally significant features.

Jan asked Mike what the Hurunui Water Project people are doing now. Mike said he thought the Regional Council had requested more information from their application but it may depend on the outcome of the process Gary Jackson is running. Mike said “it is very interesting because the Judge from the Environment Court would actually have to hear parties’ applications for an adjournment and it is unclear whether this has ever been done before, in the way it is being proposed, and also whether the judge would actually agree to it. There are currently a lot of unknowns but from the department’s point of view it agrees to a deferment of consideration of the South Branch but not to the North Branch and the process at the moment is whether there will be sufficient other parties to agree to this to present a united case. The benefit of this would be that if all the parties agree to that then the Judge doesn’t actually have a case to hear on the North Branch because all the parties have agreed that there can be a Water Conservation Order on it and of course that leads to the next step that any recommendation from the Environment Court goes to the Minister who then makes the final decision. So if all the parties agree to a Water Conservation Order on the North Branch then there is no basis for the Environment Minister to say “no” because the irrigators and everyone else have then opened up the South Branch as an opportunity. The other thing it does is that if the irrigators and other parties won’t agree to that then it clearly means they have ambitions to dam the North Branch of the Hurunui and if that is clearly their ambition then we may as well have that out in the Environment Court under the umbrella of a Water Conservation Order process rather than trying to argue it under the Canterbury Water Management Strategy process”.

Schedule 4 and mining

Steve asked Mike to tell the Board about any work that may be occurring in relation to Schedule 4 and mining. Mike said they were asked to comment on some documentation that had been prepared by the West Coast. The conclusion was that there are no mineral zones on this side of the main divide of interest to the mining industry.

Pete Brady – Community Relations Programme Manager Waimakariri

St James Station

Pete said the Board would look at this more closely tomorrow on its field trip. The Operational Plan is now in the process of being signed off but Kingsley will explain this tomorrow.

Kiwi in Riccarton Bush

The birds are being readied to be moved back from Riccarton Bush to Arthur’s Pass National Park. There is an issue with some sickness at the moment and the birds have been moved back to Willowbank for some antibiotic treatment before they are returned to the park.

Loch Katrine

At Lake Sumner, in Hurunui, there are a few issues with Loch Katrine which is a place the department had drawn up a management plan for, where it identified that it wanted to get rid of a number of old huts. The department gave a concession to an association formed from some of the hut owners to build some huts that can be used by the Association but would also be available for the public to use on a booking basis. The department granted a concession for 10 huts and at the moment they are building two. The other huts were to be removed by February 2010 but over the winter some people have gone in and are starting to build some new huts so we currently have a compliance issue which we are trying to sort out.

Road to Lake Sumner

There are issues with members of the public breaking down the gate and the farmer taking locks off so the department has asked the Hurunui District Council to complete a review of what is best for the location because it is using up a lot of Waimakariri Area's resources at the moment.

Spittle Hill

Waimakariri staff have been working on a land exchange with Castle Hill Station and are currently busy finalizing boundaries with the Nature Heritage Fund.

New Office

Waimakariri Area staff are excited that they moving into their new office next week. Kingsley said that Board members would be invited to the opening.

Cycle Trail at Castle Hill

John asked if any progress had been made on the proposed cycle trail close to the Castle Hill Village. Mike Cuddihy said he hadn't heard about it for some time. Part of the reason was probably that the Mt Cheeseman road down to the State Highway was not officially opened.

9. Reports requested by the Board

9.1 Report from Raukapuka on O Tu Wharekai

9.2 Update on Lake Heron Road

9.3 St James Station Operational Plan

10. Land

10.1 Mining on public conservation land

Stephen advised that he had written a letter to the Minister of Conservation in relation to the proposal to mine public conservation land. He had forwarded the letter to board members and that letter will now be forwarded to the Minister to add to the point being made by other boards.

10.2 Canterbury Regional Pest Management Strategy discussion paper – 5 year review

Ines reported that some public meetings had already taken place and said this is an important issue for the board to follow up on. Public submissions will be called for in June 2010.

10.3 Proposed land exchange – Hakatere NHF purchase

Recommendation

That members of the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board endorse the proposal for an exchange of land between the Department of Conservation and Strathallan Farms Ltd, as set out in Board Paper 2009/103.

*John Keoghan/Wiki Baker
Carried unanimously*

Jimmy asked if anyone was based at Hakatere or whether it was all managed from Geraldine. Mike said it is all managed from Geraldine but as part of the purchase the department had acquired some buildings, including an historic stone building at the turn off to Lake Heron and there is consideration about whether some of those buildings could be used for seasonal staff doing monitoring work in the summer.

Jimmy said without a presence in the area there is an unfortunate minority who will ruin it. Mike said that the community at Lake Clearwater is increasingly aware that this is conservation land that is provided for their enjoyment and is taking increasing responsibility for monitoring these areas.

11. Visitor management and concessions

11.1 O Tu Wharekai discussion document

Consultation will close on Monday 30 November 2009

11.2 Concession Applications

- (a) Application by Airwest Helicopters Ltd (PAC 12-13-101)**
- (b) Application by the New Zealand Conservation Trust for a concession at Craigieburn Forest Park**
- (c) Application by Coast to Coast NZ Ltd**

11.3 Status of concession applications before the board.

Ines referred to number 18, an application by Grand Properties to build motels at Aoraki. The board had not yet commented as it was still waiting for the Architectural Panel's report. Brenda will forward the report to Concessions Committee members.

Stephen asked how much the department appreciated the board's comments on concession applications, especially given the amount of energy that goes into

some of the work. He said some feedback would be appreciated as to what sort of value is placed on the comments the board makes.

Cheryl said “the board would recall that Janine Sidery gave a presentation to the board recently on what the department would like the board to provide on concession applications. Janine also provided some written guidelines on what the department was looking for from the board in terms of comments provided to the department”. Cheryl suggested that it may be useful for members of the concessions committee to come into the department and go through that material with concessions staff. Brenda will send a copy of those guidelines to board members and organise a meeting for the board’s concession committee and concessions staff.

Cheryl said “the department takes the board’s comments seriously and incorporates those comments into its decisions and provides feedback once a decision is made”.

Ines said that Janine Sidery had been exceptional in her commitment and her co-operation when the board had asked for additional information and the communication with her compared with what has happened or not happened in the past has been great. Cheryl thanked Ines and said that Janine was an exceptional staff member.

12. Planning

12.1 Board submission to the Waimakariri District Council on Better Beaches: The control of motor vehicles on beaches within Waimakariri District: Proposed Plan Change 26.

12.2 Board submission to the Waimakariri District Council on Better Beaches: Proposed Pegasus Bay Bylaw 2010.

12.3 Board submission to the Hurunui District Council on the Proposed Northern Pegasus Bay Bylaw

Recommendation

That the Board endorse the actions its Planning Committee, as set out in board papers: 2009/109; 2009/110; 2009/111; 2009/114 and 2009/121.

***Steve Lowndes/Ines Stager
Carried***

12.4 Mainpower’s appeal against the decision of the Hurunui District Council to reject the proposal to establish a wind farm on the Mt Cass ridgeline – report on mediation.

Jimmy said that mediation has been set down for the 1st to the 4th of December, which the board would be attending. Cheryl said that this week

there has been caucusing of the expert witnesses for all parties and that will then flow into the mediation.

12.5 Progress report on Application for Hurunui Water Conservation Order

Please see comments provided by Mike Cuddihy under the Conservator's Report.

12.6 Management planning – Poma Palmer

John Keoghan said that he presumes that the check sheet sent to boards by the New Zealand Conservation Authority was to provide guidelines. Catherine Tudhope said "the Authority thought it would be helpful to boards and the department if it set out its expectations of what it wants in a CMS". In the letter sent with the guidelines the Authority stated it would like feedback on the guideline sheet so if boards find what the Authority is saying is unclear or obscure, the Authority would welcome feedback but would want to know why a board has a particular view and what it thinks would be more helpful.

The Authority is its own decision maker and sets its own procedures and makes its own judgements and basically what it is trying to say is that if boards follow these standards then with any luck the Authority may be able to simply tick a CMS off, but if boards don't follow these guidelines then the Authority may want to have a discussion with a particular board because the CMS doesn't meet the standards that it feels confident to defend. Boards need to remember that the Authority, as decision maker, has to defend a CMS and every provision which is in it.

12.7 Upper Waitaki Water Consents

Ines said she would attend the informal meeting at the Mackenzie District Council set for 9 December 2009.

12.8 Board submission to Mackenzie District Council on application for land use consents by S.J. and P. Cameron to establish a forestry block consisting of *Pseudotsuga menziesii* and *Pinus ponderosa*.

No acknowledgement has been received for this submission.

13 Water

13.5 Board submission to Environment Canterbury re the Draft Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

Ines Stager completed the submission to ECan re the Draft Canterbury Water Management Strategy.

14 Matters of general business

15 Correspondence

15.5 Inward

15.6 Outward

A letter of response was received from Kate Wilkinson in response to Peter Foley's letter re Harrison's Bight.

A letter was sent to Anne Braun-Elwert thanking her for her contribution to the Board Award.

Jimmy said "the volume of correspondence could be described as a deluge, with half a dozen appeals to the Environment Court, Mt Cass Wind Farm, Tenure Review and all sorts of papers. They would fill the average person's computer and it would be interesting to know how many the board is involved in. We obviously can't respond to all of them but the amount of material in three month period is enormous and, even digesting it, a person would need an enormous amount of time". Jimmy questioned for example whether the board should be involved in the Mackenzie District Plan. Ines said the board had not attended the Hearing.

Jimmy said if it keeps up at this rate there is enough here for years and years. Steve said he thinks Jimmy is right and as a group of voluntary people who have other work to do it is a daunting task to be involved in so many processes and really it would be up to each committee to think hard about what the board enters into.

16 Administrative Matters

16.5 Financial report

A breakdown of the costs associated with the Board Award was provided to the Board.

Steve reported that the board had a discussion in its informal meeting re money in the Board Award account and its purpose, which was to provide money for the Award, materially, as an object. Discussions about the Award process will continue. Brenda will be asked to circulate the criteria and guidelines for the awards so that members can consider them in the interim and the board will continue the discussion at its next meeting.

16.6 Sub-committee membership

The new sub-committee membership is as follows:

Land: John Keoghan, Mal Clarbrough, David Round, Jan Finlayson.

Water: Joseph Hullen, Jan Finlayson, John Keoghan

Resource Consent: Jimmy Wallace, Mandy Waaka-Home, David Round

Iwi: Wiki Baker, Fiona Sloan

Concessions: Mal Clarbrough, Wiki Baker, John Keoghan

Liaisons

Otago Conservation Board
Raukapuka Area Office

David Round
Jan Finlayson

Board endorsed its election of the aforementioned appointments as liaison people for the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board.

16.7 Location and date of February 2010 board meeting

The February 2010 meeting will be held on 25th and 26th of February. The November 2010 meeting will also need to be moved to Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th as the original dates of 11 and 12 November clash with Canterbury Show Day.

Peter suggested the board could look at the Waitaki River and its associated issues at its next meeting. Some of the issues are the North Bank Tunnel and the water consent applications and the possibility of dairying on both sides of the river. Brenda will explore accommodation and conference possibilities for the Board's February meeting in the Waitaki area.

Jan suggested O Tu Wharekai area.

Mal suggested the Waitaki would be a good idea. David suggested we ask the Otago Board first if they are available to look at the Waitaki and if not we could fall back on the Geraldine option.

Recommendation:

That the Board endorse the actions of its Visitor Management Concessions Committee as set out in board papers: 2009/105; 2009/106; 2009/107 and 2009/120

That the Board endorse the actions its Planning Committee, as set out in board papers: 2009/109; 2009/110; 2009/111; 2009/114 and 2009/121.

That the Board receive information, as set out in board papers 2009/094; 2009/095; 2009/097; 2009/098; 2009/099; 2009/100; 2009/101; 2009/102; 2009/103; 2009/104; 2009/108; 2009/112; 2009/115; 2009/116 and 2009/117

***Steve Lowndes/Fiona Sloan
Carried***

17 Presentations 4.00 p.m.

Steve welcomed both boards to the meeting and asked Maurice to do the mihi and get the meeting going.

17.1 Presentation to the Nelson Marlborough and the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Boards on Wild Animal Recovery Operations – Neil Bolton, Mark Beardsley and Janine Sidery.

- The WARO team Neil Bolton, Mark Beardsley and Janine Sidery have run a rigorous process for developing a WARO framework on behalf of Canterbury Conservancy.
- Feedback has been received from key stakeholders through workshops that were run as part of the process. Comments and opinions were then analysed and incorporated into the decision making process.

Key stakeholders were identified as:

- DOC
- Iwi
- Recreational hunters
- Operators
- Processors
- Recreational users
- New Zealand Food Safety Authority
- Civil Aviation Authority
- Non-active members of the public
- Conservation boards
- Other non-governmental organisations

- A draft permit and maps of land available for this activity were then drawn up.
- A second feedback process was run and the department received circa 150 comments through that process and from that the framework and permits were finalised for the next five years.
- Canterbury Conservancy received applications for 35 WARO permits, two of which were subsequently withdrawn. Seven of the remaining applications are for the North Island and twenty five for the South Island and one application for the North and the South Island.
- Neil explained that the business environment for wild animal recovery no longer resembles that of five years ago when there was a boom and bust cycle. The industry is now at a “tipping point” in terms of its viability.
- The operators wanted to achieve some consistency and expressed a wish to get rid of the “cowboys” in the industry. Businesses also wanted the confidence to invest in the industry.
- Recreational hunters wanted viability for future generations of hunters.
- The permits were developed within the framework of the department’s general policies and legislation but the team strove to develop a product that was as innovative as possible but at the same time worked well for all stakeholders.
- WARO permits are legal documents and can be challenged at any time by any party, so decisions need to be legally defensible and in line with policy.
- All the permits will expire together and have been put through a non-notified process. There is a North Island and a South Island schedule.

The North Island Schedule covers:

Deer carcass recovery (all species)
 Live deer capture (all species)
 Pig and goat carcass recovery
 Live pig and goat capture

The South Island Schedule covers:

Deer carcass recovery (all species)
 Live deer capture (all species)
 Pig, goat, wallaby and chamois carcass recovery only

Tahr carcass recovery and live capture (South Island) will be one-off, non-notified permits issued by Canterbury and/or the West Coast. These permits will have nationally-standardised conditions as well as site-specific conditions.

Live capture of chamois, pigs, goats, wallaby (South Island only) will be one-off, non-notified permits issued by local South Island Conservancy, also with nationally-standard conditions including site-specific conditions.

Heli-hunting concession permits (separated out into a different permit)

The term of these permits is yet to be advised.

They will be publicly notified and have nationally standard conditions as well as site specific conditions.

Land

- Land justifications are a key cornerstone of the permitting process
- With the advent of GIS we have moved from a paper-based process to a more reliable monitoring method.

Value of the WARO business activity

- Deer control \$5-6 million
- Heli-hunting \$10 million
- Processing and export - \$15 million
- Value added tourism activities - \$50 million

17.2 Freshwater fauna of the Nelson and Canterbury Areas – Bob McDowall

Bob McDowall, a relatively new member of the Conservation Authority, presented a very interesting research paper he had written on Galaxiid species.

He said the northern South Island in some ways is the most exciting area of the country in terms of earth history, in terms of evolutionary history, in terms of diversity.

He talked about three different groups of species of galaxiids: the dwarf galaxia, the alpine galaxia and the upland long-jawed galaxia.

Bob showed a slide which illustrated the distribution of these species of non-migratory galaxiids that spend all their life in fresh water. When examining the distribution of the dwarf galaxia it looks as though it acts as though Cook Strait isn't there. But you will notice it doesn't spread across the south east side of the Southern Alps. There is an area of mixing in the Clarence and the top of the Wairau. Alpine galaxia (aka pencil galaxia due to the fact they are about the size of a pencil in circumference) is quite a small species and the distribution patterns show there is an area of overlap in the Clarence and the Wairau – we don't really know what is happening here but there are some interesting issues going on in the top of the Wairau in relation to the Pelorous and the Rai and we have to be very careful that we don't disrupt these distribution patterns so that we can go back and reinterpret history, Bob said. Alpine galaxiids are present right down the eastern side of the Southern Alps and are in nearly all of the river systems and are quite widespread.

The next slide showed the upland long-jawed galaxia. This galaxia buries itself in gravel (up to 30cm down). The protruding lower jaw enables it to pick insects from under rocks. The distribution map showed that this species

is not nearly as widely spread as the alpine galaxia but there is a population at the top of the Maruia River. DOC has been back there time and time again but has been unable to find them again. Bob said he knows they are there because he has a photo of one. It is only present in the big river systems like the Hurunui but it never got back into the Waimakariri following the retreat of the glaciers. When the ice retreated about 10,000 years ago these little fish have followed the icy waters back up the river systems and reoccupied the inter-montane basins, except they never made it back up the Waimakariri River and we don't know why. That is why understanding the distribution patterns is so important, because they tell us something about history. During the glaciation all of the inter-montane areas were completely filled with ice. Ice came right down the Waimakariri and came spilling out onto the plains at Springfield. When the ice retreated about 10,000 years ago these little fish followed the ice back up the river systems and reoccupied the inter-montane valleys.

The next slide showed a species called a big-nosed galaxia that Simon Elkington discovered in the Waitaki River. It is a Waitaki endemic, and is found only in the Waitaki River.

The next slide showed a photo of the low-land long-jawed galaxia and this is also a Waitaki endemic with small populations in the bottom of the Kakanui. The only reason that population is present is because those fish were able to find cold water welling up from out of the gravel – they are very sensitive to warm temperatures. Bob found them in a little area of seepage of really cold water and that little population is a residue of the glacial period.

The next slide showed a photo of *Galaxia vulgaris* or common river galaxia. Bob said he thought this was only one species throughout the whole of the South Island. Then the geneticists got together and we now think there are eight different species. It is common in all the upper reaches of the South Island east coast rivers and you will find little shoals swimming in the backwaters.

One of these species is now known as *Galaxia northern* and it is spread through the top of the Clarence over into the top of the Wairau. There is a large population in Motueka and there is another population over in the Maruia. Upland-long-jaw is also present in the upper Maruia. From this it was deduced that some sort of river capture process had taken place but the problem is that the species on the north western side of the Lewis Pass is in fact a different species from the one in the Waiau. We actually don't really know the reasons for this but glaciation would have been a factor and we are still struggling to understand what actually happened Bob said.

There are a number of threats to these species from irrigation extraction and trout predation and their numbers are still in retreat.

17.3 Briefing on St James field trip – Kingsley Timpson

Kingsley introduced Chris Stewart and Pete Brady who would host both boards on the field trip to St James Station the following day.

Kingsley showed some slides of St James Station and outlined some of the highlights of the trip both boards would undertake the next day.

18. Public awareness

Board to identify items for media release

19. Karakia

Public Session

Field Trip to St James Station, Friday 27 November

Members of the Nelson/Marlborough and Canterbury Aoraki conservation boards and department staff visited St James station in 4WD vehicles. This expedition was arranged by Waimakariri Area Staff supported by other Canterbury/Aoraki Conservancy staff. Our first stop was to look at the old farm buildings, which will be conserved as part of the area's rich colonial heritage.

We also saw some of the St James cattle herd on the river flats. Kingsley Timpson explained the possible use of various parts of the station for the future, including de-stocking of cattle.

During the course of the day Philip Simpson from the Nelson/Marlborough Board and members of the Canterbury Aoraki Board identified some interesting plants including several species of tōtara. The damaging effect of past grazing by cattle on plants was also witnessed.

We drove through some spectacular countryside with steep scree slopes and snow-covered gullies in the Clarence and Waiiau valleys and admired the potential of the land for active recreation of all kinds.

Our trip went through the Maling Pass and on to Lake Guyon for a picnic lunch. Members of both boards enjoyed the chance to talk to each other over stops en route and lunch. Thanks are extended to Canterbury staff, particularly Kingsley Timpson, Pete Brady and Chris Stewart, for their work in organizing and supporting the field trip so ably.