

Department of Conservation Tai Poutini West Coast

Presentation to the Westland District Council
27 February 2020

Working together on the West Coast



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

2020

Mark Davies:
Director Operations
Western South Island Region

Karen Jury:
**Business Improvement
Manager**

Nicole Kunzmann
Hokitika Operations Manager

Wayne Costello
South Westland Operations
Manager

Department of Conservation: Tai Poutini West Coast

Our vision, values and aspirations

- Ensure the protection of the West Coast's natural heritage
- Enable tangata whenua goals and aspirations to be achieved
- Support our communities to thrive
- Connect residents and visitors to nature and heritage
- Deliver integrated outcomes that serve the district



It is important to us
that we

- Cement our good working relationship with you
- Ensure we continue to work collaboratively with you

The door is open for us to work together



There are 2 Operations Managers in the Westland District

Taramakau River to
Waitaha
= Nicole Kunzmann

South of Waitaha to Big
Bay
= Wayne Costello



The work we do in Westland



- Biodiversity
- Recreation/Historic
- Community



The Regional Hub is in Hokitika

Other Operations Managers (and their teams) are based in District Offices in Westport, Greymouth and South Westland



Between us, we can work
together by

- Aligning iwi and multiple agency statutory and strategic planning
- Establishing collaborate relationships, including participation in governance and working groups
- Agreeing about future focused scenarios
- Developing integrated road maps to guide future work on the West Coast
- Pushing traditional boundaries through innovation and feasibility testing

Our foundations & responsibilities



Iwi are our Treaty partner

—
The Conservation Act
1987 requires we give
effect to the principles of
the Treaty of Waitangi in
all aspects of our work.

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Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai





we are a central government
Department

The Minister of Conservation's
priorities

“Enhance our relationship with Treaty Partners”

“Deliver increased predator control”

“Ensure a significant proportion of 1 billion trees planted are native”

“Improve protection of land with conservation values”

“Review mining on PCL”

“Whitebait management”

The NZ Conservation Authority is a
statutory body appointed by the MOC to
provide her with advice at the national
level

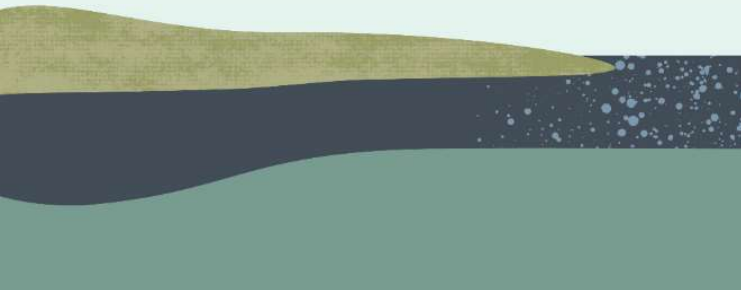
Tai Poutini West Coast Conservation Board

This is an independent body, also appointed by the MOC, to provide for **interaction** between the West Coast public & the department

The Board represents the community within the West Coast area

It is made up of 9 community representatives and 2 Ngai Tahu representatives

The Board provides policy and strategic advice to the department and to the NZ Conservation Authority (NZCA)



Our responsibilities

There is 2.8 million ha of land in the West Coast region

Public Conservation Land makes up 1.91 million ha of this (84%)

Westland Tai Poutini and Paparoa National Parks

Part of Kahurangi, Arthurs Pass, Mt Aspiring National Parks

Part of Te Wai Pounamu South West World Heritage Area

Victoria Conservation Park

5 Marine Reserves

1252 km of tracks

145 huts + 11 campsites

45 toilet blocks that are accessible by public road (+ additional toilets in huts, at Back Country Campsites and at Visitor Centres)

2048 structures

105 historic sites

187 km of roads + 94 carparks

3 Visitor Centres (+ additional i-SITE arrangements)

Native and endangered flora and fauna

In the Westland District



Recreation opportunities

- hunting
- whitebaiting
- back country tracks & huts
- short & day walks
- camping
- lake and river activity (kayak, rafting, boating etc)

Commercial opportunities

- mining, pounamu
- grazing
- concessions for recreation (eg rafting, guiding, Treetop Walkway)
- Tourist service industry

Working together

- The One Plan
- a digital hub
- Pounamu Trail and storytelling
- Arahura River catchment restoration
- Chesterfield Skink
- Hokitika Gorge upgrade
- WC Wilderness Trail
- Permalat & Back Country Trust
- Community Groups
- Franz Josef & Fox Glacier

Some of our key work



Predator Free 2050

The recurring problem

The native trees in our West Coast forests seed heavily, this drives rodent & stoat numbers (“mast years”)

These predators prey on our threatened species

Currently we have declining biodiversity across the West Coast – our strategy is to turn that around

- Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP) have been undertaking innovative pest control measures with great success in the Perth Valley with our support



We want to eradicate possums, rats and stoats by 2050

On the West Coast, we will be:

- ▶ Treating 458,000ha (that's around half of the national treatment)
- ▶ Working on Maturanga (knowledge), science and innovation to improve our tools
- ▶ Inspiring and enabling other agencies and communities to take part

We are working on managing goat and tahr numbers

- ▶ We will continue to control goat and tahr on Public Conservation Land.
- ▶ We work with commercial and other animal recovery/hunting agencies and recreational hunters to achieve this.

Protecting, & connecting people to, nature & heritage

DOC is the guardian of some of NZ's most beautiful natural, cultural and historic heritage. This is a drawcard and backdrop for the Westland recreation and tourism sectors

- DOC have made significant investment in the capacity and quality of the visitor experience across the West Coast

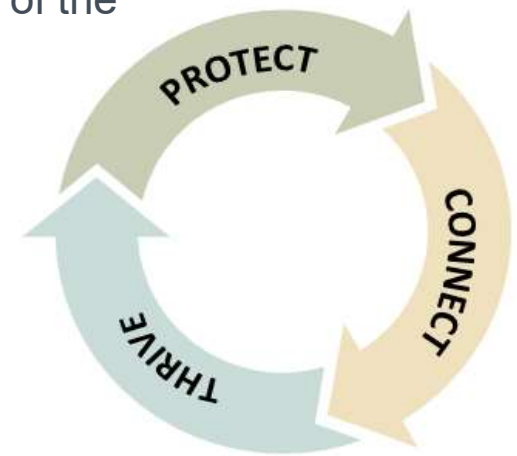
ICON sites

Gateway sites

Local Treasure & Tohu Whenua (Landmark) sites

Great Hikes and Short Walks

- DOC manages the largest portfolio of cultural heritage sites in New Zealand. These sites play a critical role in our national identity and provide visitors with a powerful connection to Kiwi identity, life and culture.



Opportunities

- ▶ Support and grow our visitor industry whilst protecting our environment and meeting our section 4 obligations to tangata whenua (**Tourism spend comprises between 17% and 24% of the West Coast economy**)
- ▶ Partner Iwi and tangata whenua in management of places, wāhi taonga and wāhi tapu sites
- ▶ Increase sustainable employment of local people, whanau, through investment in tourism and other business initiatives
- ▶ New and innovative solutions to respond to the growing pressures on our species
- ▶ Work together



Challenges

- ▶ Readiness (to develop, spend, react to opportunities)
- ▶ Our communities questioning the social license of tourism
- ▶ Our communities questioning the tools we use to manage predators
- ▶ Nature



Thanks, questions?



Rowi Kiwi, Franz Josef