



Vote Conservation

Te Papa Atawhai

Addendum Report in relation to Non-departmental Appropriations
for the year ended 30 June 2014

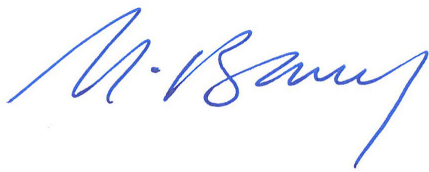
Foreword

As Minister of Conservation I am required under section 32A of the Public Finance Act 1989 to report on outputs that are predominantly supplied by third parties paid directly by the Crown where these are not separately reported to Parliament.

This report covers activities related to the Biodiversity Advice and Condition Fund. This is funded under the Vote Conservation Non-departmental Output Class:

- New Zealand Biodiversity Funds

This report is an addendum to the Vote Conservation Te Papa Atawhai report in relation to selected Non-departmental Appropriations for the year ended 30 June 2014.



Hon Maggie Barry
Minister of Conservation

Statement of Service Performance

NON-DEPARTMENTAL OUTPUT EXPENSES

NZ Biodiversity Advice and Condition Funds

1 Intended impacts, outcomes or objectives

- The diversity of our natural heritage is maintained and restored.
- More people engage with conservation and value its benefits.

The Advice Fund assists organisations and landowners with training, advice or management plans to directly support the protection and enhancement of biodiversity on private land.

The Condition Fund provides assistance to landowners and organisations to improve and maintain indigenous vegetation, species and habitats on private land, through fencing, weed control, animal pest control and planting projects.

This was the last year of providing approvals for funding for new projects through the NZ Biodiversity Advice and Condition Funds. Funding for community conservation initiatives is now managed within the Community Conservation Partnerships Fund Pūtea Tautiaki Hāpori (CCPF).

CCPF has been designed to broaden the range of projects that are eligible for funding and make it easier for applicants to apply. It is administered by DOC and applications assessed by DOC with Conservation Boards.

While the Biodiversity Advice Fund and the Biodiversity Condition Fund were specifically for biodiversity projects on private land, the new Community Conservation Partnerships Fund will cover community-led conservation projects on both private and public land and waters.

2 Description of activities

Funding Round 18

Funding Round 18 began during the 2012/13 reporting period.

Funding for Round 18 of the Biodiversity Condition and Advice Funds is allocated over the three year period of 2013/14 to 2015/16 financial years.

The funding round closed on 30 April 2013. Applications were assessed in July 2013 and a total of 90 projects were approved. Thirty Advice Fund projects were approved, totalling \$1,100,974 and 60 Condition Fund projects approved, totalling \$2,583,338.

Examples of Round 18 Biodiversity Advice Fund approvals are;

- employing a Project Manager to work with Te Runanganui o Ngāti Porou to develop Ngāti Porou's conservation management strategy;
- providing for the development of a restoration plan for the range of ecological sites owned and/or managed by the Ngi Tamanuhiri Iwi; and

- a position of Roroa (Great Spotted Kiwi) Field Officer - Advocacy Officer with the Paparoa Wildlife Trust (PWT) to develop relationships with the community to increase awareness and promote engagement of local communities in kiwi conservation.

Examples of Round 18 Biodiversity Conditions Fund approvals are;

- the extension of traps and bait stations in the Omataroa forest in Eastern Bay of Plenty;
- funding the continued eradication and permanent exclusion of introduced mammals from 3,400ha of indigenous forest in the Waikato, the continued maintenance and repairs of 47km of pest proof fence and the implementation of the Pest and Weed Strategy; and
- follow up work to control the gorse and broom infestations in the surrounding area of a conservation project already commenced in the Upper Waihopai Valley, to protect the wider catchment and the investment already made.

3 Output Service performance—non-financial

Performance measures	2012/13 Actual standard	2013/14 Budgeted standard	2013/14 Actual standard
Advice projects funded	18	20	30
Condition projects funded	47	50	60

Project management

On 30 June 2014, 330 active projects were being managed in the Biodiversity Condition and Advice Funds.

Comments on variance

The Fund has operated as open and contestable, and consequently application numbers and the quality of applications has varied between funding rounds. This has created variances in the number of applications approved each year. Additionally the number of funding rounds can influence the application numbers.

4 Output service performance—financial

Expenses and revenue	2012/13 Actual \$000	2013/14 Budget \$000	2013/14 Revised Budget \$000	2013/14 Actual \$000
Biodiversity Advice and Condition Funds	2,939	10,812	3,920	2,546

Comment on variance—Advice and Condition Funds

Total expenditure for 2013/14 includes project costs from funding rounds 17 and 18, both still currently running. The variance between the actual financial performance and Revised Budget is \$1,374,000. This reflects the multi-year nature of some projects being funded with some ongoing commitments still to be realised.