

Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangi

Agenda & Meeting Papers

Meeting No. 5

9 July 2026

NGĀMOTU HOUSE

LEVEL 4/139 DEVON STREET WEST

NEW PLYMOUTH

Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Meeting

9 July 2026, 9:00am – 12:30pm

Venue: MS Teams / Level 4, Ngāmotu House, 139 Devon Street West, New Plymouth

I = Information A = Advice required D = Decision required

#	Wā	Kaupapa	Mahi	Whārangi
	9.00am	Karakia / Hui Opening		
		Introductory Comments		
1		Apologies / Attendees	D	3
2		Previous Hui Minutes - 2.1 Confirm Board Minutes – 29 May 2026	I/D	4
3		Actions Register	D	18
4		Interests Register	D	20
5		Correspondence Register	I/D	24
6	10:00am	Public Forum - Danielle Gibas & Lisa Berndt, Wild for Taranaki - Thom Adams, Te Puna Umanga / Venture Taranaki	I/A	25
	10.30am	<i>Paramanawa / Morning Tea break</i>		
7	10.45am	Conservation Amendment Bill Submission	I/D	26
8		He Kawa Ora mō Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki - Project Update and Formal Consultation Approval	I/D	43
9		DOC Operational Reporting Template	I/D	54
10	11:45am	Public Excluded Session	I/A/D	59
11		Te Mana Arotake / The Audit Office	I/D	61
12		General Business	I/D	64
	12.30pm	Karakia / Hui Closing		

Kaupapa: **Apologies / Attendees**
Prepared By: Lesa Bevin, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Secretariat
Meeting Date: 9 July 2026

Recommendation	<u>It is recommended the Board:</u> a) Notes the apologies and attendees list for this meeting
Context	<u>Attendee list for the 9 July 2026 meeting:</u> • Sean Zieltjes – Planner, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī • Laura Buttimore – Planner, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī • Tokatūmoana Walden – Acting Regional Director, Te Papa Atawhai / Department of Conservation • Evaan Aramakutu – Performance Audit Manager, Te Mana Arotake / The Audit Office • Esme Stark – Senior Performance Auditor, Te Mana Arotake / The Audit Office • Ethan McKenzie – Senior Performance Auditor, Te Mana Arotake / The Audit Office <u>Apologies</u> • Hemi Sundgren – Deputy Chair, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī • Stephen Daysh – Board Member, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī <u>Public forum registrations</u> • Danielle Gibas & Lisa Berndt – Wild for Taranaki • Thom Adams – Te Puna Umanga / Venture Taranaki

Kaupapa: **Previous Hui Minutes**

Prepared By: Lesa Bevin, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Secretariat

Meeting Date: 9 July 2026

Recommendation	<u>It is recommended the Board:</u> a) Note and approve the Minutes of Board meeting – 29 May 2026
Context	The draft minutes of the Board meeting held on 29 May 2026 were circulated to members following the meeting. Any corrections received have been incorporated into the revised minutes. The Board is asked to confirm that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting. It is also noted that there are no sub-committee minutes requiring Board approval at this meeting.

Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangi

Minutes of Meeting held 29 May 2026, 9am

Ngamotu House, 139 Devon Street West, New Plymouth.

Members in Attendance: Liana Poutu - Chair, Hemi Sundgren – Deputy Chair (online), Acushla Sciascia, Rex Hendry, Te Aroha Hohaia, Nicola Ngarewa and Bruce Clarkson

Other Attendees: Lesa Bevin - Secretariat, Sean Zieltjes - Planner, Laura Buttimore - Planner, Tinaka Mearns - DOC (online), Peter Galvin - DOC (online), Kerena Wano - DOC, Fern Brand – DOC, and Andy Johnston – DOC.

Public Forum Attendees: Justus Martin (online), Ngaire Riley, and Julia Collins

Apologies: Stephen Daysh

Karakia

Hui opened with karakia from Te Aroha Hohaia at 9.00am.

1. Apologies

The Board noted and accepted Stephen Daysh as an apology for this meeting.

The Board approves the recommendation for item #1:

- a) **That** the apologies for this meeting be received and accepted.

2. Previous Hui Minutes

2.1. Confirm Board Minutes – 20 March 2026

The Board noted and approved the minutes from the 20 March 2026 meeting by consensus. There are no further amendments.

The Board approves the recommendation for item #2.1:

- a) **Note** and **approve** the Minutes of Board meeting - 20 March 2026

2.2. Receive Minutes – Concessions, Consents, & Approvals Sub-Committee – 1 April & 13 May 2026

The Board received the minutes from the 1 April and 13 May meetings for the Concessions, Consents, & Approvals ('CCA') Committee. The following amendments were made to the minutes from 13 May:

- Action #CCA-004 – Amend 'Chair to return to DOC to ask who the primary concession holder of each concession' to 'Chair to return to DOC to ask who the primary concession holder of each concession is and a list of each of the concession's holders for these sites'
- General Telecommunication Licences/Leases:
 - Amend 'magnetic fields' to 'electromagnetic fields' under para.1
 - Amend 'to see where the quiet areas of the park are' to 'to see where the quiet areas of the park are in comparison to Telecommunication sites' fields' under para.1
- Action #CCA-005 – Amend 'the committee will return to TRC' to 'the committee will ask DOC to return to TRC'

The amendments will be presented at the next CCA Committee meeting to be approved by the Committee.

The Board approves the recommendation for item #2.2:

- b) **Receive** the Minutes of the Concessions, Consents, & Approvals Sub-Committee – 1 April & 13 May 2026

2.3. Receive Minutes – Relationships Sub-Committee – 13 April, 29 April, & 11 May 2026

The Board received the minutes from the 13 April, 29 April, and 13 May meetings for the Relationships Committee. There are no further amendments.

The Board approves the recommendation for item #2.3:

- c) **Receive** the Minutes of the Relationships Sub-Committee – 13 April, 29 April, & 11 May 2026

2.4. Receive Minutes – Statutory Planning Sub-Committee – 2 April & 6 May 2026

The Board received the minutes from the 2 April and 6 May meetings for the Statutory Planning Committee. There are no further amendments.

The Board approves the recommendation for item #2.4:

- d) **Receive** the Minutes of the Statutory Planning Sub-Committee – 2 April & 6 May

3. Actions Register

The Chair proposed a process for formally closing out actions on the Actions Register and how any completed actions will remain on the register and be recommended for closing at the next meeting of the Board. The active actions were discussed, and the following amendments were made to the Actions Register:

- #TTK-003 – Close from Actions Register
- #TTK-013 – Complete after 29 May meeting
- #TTK-020 – Complete
- #TTK-025 – Complete
- #TTK-028 – Complete

An updated Actions Register is attached as an appendix to these minutes

The Board approves the recommendations for item #3:

- a) **Receives** the items in the Actions Register
- b) **Notes** the items in the Actions Register

4. Interests Register

It was noted there were three amendments on the Interests Register for Te Aroha Hohaia:

- Amend 'Toi o Taranaki Ki Te Tonga Trust' to 'Toi o Taranaki Maunga Trust'
- New entry of a Trustee to 'Te Whare Rikoriko o Te Kāhui Maunga Trust'
- Removal of Parihaka Papakāinga Trust

Action – amend the listed entries for Te Aroha Hohaia on the Interests Register

There were no particular interests in any agenda items to note for the Board members.

The Board approves the recommendations for item #4:

- a) **Receive** the Register of Interests
- b) **Notes** any particular interest in any agenda item

5. Correspondence Register

The items from EnZed Energy and Te Tōpuni Ngārahu on the incoming correspondence was queried and clarified to the Board, all items were received and noted.

The Board approves the recommendations for item #5:

- a) **Receive** the inwards correspondence
- b) **Notes** the outwards correspondence

6. Draft Annual Board Budget 2026 / 2027

The Chair explained that the proposed budget had been revised from a three-year to a one-year budget. Each line item was outlined to the Board, with clarification that member fees apply only to Crown appointees and do not include Te Tōpuni Ngārahu Trust appointees. The member fees provide for ten Board meetings per year, and that any additional meetings would require further discussion with the Department of Conservation ('DOC' / 'Department').

The Board discussed remuneration for work undertaken outside formal meetings, including attendance at He Kawa Ora engagement activities. It was confirmed that Board members would be remunerated for additional time spent outside scheduled Board meetings.

The Board noted that while the proposed budget is comparatively high, it reflects the scale of the current work programme and that subsequent years may require a lower level of funding. The Chair further clarified that the budget relates to Board expenses only and does not include costs associated with He Kawa Ora.

The Board approves the recommendations for item #6:

- a) **Notes** the proposed annual Board budget for Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī for the 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027 financial year.
- b) **Discusses** the proposed annual Board budget for Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī for the 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027 financial year.
- c) **Approves** the proposed annual Board budget for Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī for the 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027 financial year.

7. DOC Operational Report

Tinaka introduced the DOC Operational Report, noting that the report had been requested by the Board at its 20 March 2026 meeting. Fern Brand and Andy Johnston were introduced to the Board, and Fern opened the presentation with a mihi.

The Board discussed the internal DOC concession process. Tinaka advised that all internal decisions involving Te Kāhui Tupua would be made locally, either by the Regional Director or the local Operations Manager, depending on the level of complexity. It was noted that applying values within decision-making requires place-based assessment and cannot be undertaken remotely, and assurance was provided that this approach is being embedded within Departmental processes. Ongoing discussions regarding Te Whenua Taurikura process were also noted, Fern noted collaboration and relationships are very important to the local team.

The Department's outward-facing communications encourage early engagement and are intended to assist applicants to understand how Ngā Pou Whakatupua are to be applied. It was

further noted that changes have been made to application forms relating to Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki, including revised messaging and additional information requirements. Applications will not be treated as complete unless this information is provided, with a preference to identify incompleteness at an early stage rather than recirculate matters through committee processes.

The Board then discussed the future scope of regular DOC operational reporting to the Board. Bruce raised the need for reporting to provide a clearer picture of ecosystem condition, including trends in recovery for flora and fauna, particularly in relation to predator control. It was suggested that future reporting would benefit from a broader ecosystem-level focus, rather than concentrating solely on individual threatened species, and from information on the monitoring network operating across the park, including when monitoring was last undertaken. This discussion would continue under the He Kawa Ora agenda item. The Board also acknowledged the benefit of receiving presentation slides in advance.

Discussion took place regarding how the Department would report against the Statement of Priorities, including the development of a reporting template and dashboard-style reporting to enable progress to be tracked over time. It was noted that further work would be undertaken to clarify what standard reporting to Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangi should look like.

Action – DOC to report against the Statement of Priorities for future updates

Action - The Board to determine and clarify to DOC its reporting requirements for future updates

The Board approves the recommendation for item #7:

a) **Note** and **Receive** the Operational Report by Department of Conservation

8. Public Forum

Kerena Wano joined hui at 11:50am. Liana welcomed Justus, Ngaire, and Julia to the public forum and held introductions around the table.

Justus Martin – University of Edinburgh

Justus Martin, a first-year PhD student at the University of Edinburgh, introduced himself and provided background to his proposed research. He advised that his research interest is in legal personhood, the development of rights of nature frameworks, and co-governance, including the extent to which these concepts are supported by Māori legal philosophy. He noted a prior connection to New Zealand, having spent time in the country as a teenager.

The Board acknowledged Justus's presentation and his interest in undertaking research relating to Te Kāhui Tupua, and expressed support for the intent of the research and noted the importance of an approach that seeks to build connection rather than extract information.

The Board discussed whether any further support was required at this stage and whether ethical approvals would be necessary for the proposed research. Justus advised that no immediate support was required and confirmed that approval from the relevant university

ethics board would be sought. Tinaka offered assistance from a DOC concessions perspective, if required.

Justus advised that he is intending to undertake twelve months of fieldwork in due course, which was noted as aligning well with the current He Kawa Ora work programme. The Board discussed providing a letter of support in principle for the research project.

Action – provide a letter of support for the proposed research project for Justus Martin

Ngaire Riley & Julia Collins – Te Rōpū o Hikoi o Ngāmotu

Ngaire Riley and Julia Collins introduced themselves and outlined the work of the New Plymouth Tramping Club / Te Rōpū o Hikoi o Ngāmotu. The Board was advised that the club has approximately 350 members, organises two to three walking trips each week, and publishes a quarterly newsletter advising members of upcoming and recent activities. Ngaire and Julia spoke to the club's long-standing relationship with the maunga, including volunteer contributions such as track clearing from the Stratford Mountain House to Waingongoro Hut, and maintenance at Maketawa, Waiaua Gorge, and the Matemateāonga Huts. These activities were described as an expression of service, a way of giving back, and an opportunity to build members' knowledge of the maunga's history, flora, and fauna.

The Board acknowledged and recognised the important contribution of groups affiliated with and connected to Te Kāhui Tupua. It was noted that He Kawa Ora is a key current work programme and remains in the pre-engagement phase, during which consideration is being given to matters of importance for Te Rōpū o Hikoi o Ngāmotu. Te Aroha expressed support for this engagement.

Action – hold engagement with Te Rōpū o Hikoi o Ngāmotu for He Kawa Ora development

Kerena Wano introduced herself to the Board. Kerena outlined her dissertation on the implementation of Te Ture Whakatupua mō Te Kāhui Tupua 2025 / Taranaki Maunga Collective Redress Act 2025 (the 'Act') and may speak to this at a future Board meeting.

The Board approves the recommendation for item #8:

- a) **Note** and **receive** any presentations to the Public Forum; and
- b) **Determine** any appropriate response.

9. Sub-Committee – Concessions, Consents, & Approvals

9.1. Approval of Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference ('TOR') for the CCA Committee were received by the Board and approved by consensus. The Committee will monitor the ongoing alignment of the TOR and, should any amendments be required in future, will refer these to the Board for approval.

The Board approves the recommendation for item #9.1:

- a) **Receive** and **approve** the Terms of Reference for the Concessions, Consents, &

9.2. Appointment of Chair

The appointment process for the CCA Committee Chair was noted and endorsed by the Board by consensus.

The Board approves the recommendation for item #9.2:

- a) **Endorse** the appointment of Rex Hendry for Chair of the Concessions, Consents, & Approvals Sub-Committee

9.3. Applications for consideration

The CCA Committee have met with the local DOC team to discuss three applications that were lodged prior to the effective date of the Act, noting all three have not given effect to Ngā Pou Whakaturua and Te Kāhui Tupua status. The committee sought legal advice for these three applications and were advised the Board can provide their views and a recommendation to the Department on applications that are deemed incomplete, noting they are not the decision makers for these particular applications.

The applications were discussed at length, the Chair giving a summary of the discussion at the last Committee meeting regarding the Telecommunication concessions. The Taranaki Regional Council must provide clarification regarding the addition of the water tanks – the Committee have actions to address this.

While it was noted these applications were received by DOC before the effective date of the Act, one application was received only one day prior. The Board also noted Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo was signed in 2023. Section 17U (2) under the Conservation Act 1987 ('CA') gives the Minister of Conservation the ability to decline applications if there is insufficient or inadequate information to assess effects of the activity, reinforcing the provisions under the Act. It was agreed an appropriate course of action is to recommend for these three applications to be declined to progress in their current form. The Chair noted the proposed triaging process and ranking system to assess application relevancy, with the CCA Committee providing views prior to going to the Board.

Laura provided an overview of the Carrington Road application and invited feedback on the recommendations presented. It was noted that BTW is undertaking an assessment against Ngā Pou Whakaturua and that a consent application has not yet been received officially, with the current work sitting at a pre-application stage. The Board discussed the draft conditions and the extent to which protection provisions could appropriately be explored at this stage.

The Board noted that district plan provisions alone may not provide sufficient long-term protection, given the possibility of future amendment or removal. Discussion also considered the extent and durability of Significant Natural Area ('SNA') protection on the balance lot, including whether multiple landowners are involved and the temporary nature

of such protection where landowner interests may take priority. It was noted that Queen Elizabeth II National Trust ('QEII') mechanisms may offer support for pest management and more formal protection, and that these matters have been discussed with BTW. The Board also considered whether conditions of this nature should, where appropriate, inform a more consistent approach for Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī in future, noting the limitations on requiring third parties to obtain or implement external protection mechanisms. The Board confirmed they are comfortable with the draft conditions.

Action – the Board to send a recommendation letter to DOC regarding the three applications

The Board approves the recommendation for item #9.3:

- a) **Receive** and **note** the proposed direction and approach for the Concessions, Consents, & Approvals Committee; and,
- b) **Endorse** and **adopt** the advice to the applicant on the subdivision at 1621 Carrington Road that effects can be appropriately addressed subject to condition of consent; and,
- c) **Endorse** committee recommendation to decline the DOC applications

10. Sub-Committee – Relationships

10.1. Approval of Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the Relationships Committee were received by the Board and approved by consensus. Nicola acknowledged the work undertaken by the team in preparing the Terms of Reference.

The Board approves the recommendation for item #10.1:

- a) **Receive** and **approve** the Terms of Reference for the Relationships Sub-Committee

10.2. Appointment of Chair

The appointment process for the Relationships Committee Chair was noted and endorsed by the Board by consensus.

The Board approves the recommendation for item #10.2:

- a) **Endorse** the appointment of Nicola Ngarewa for Chair of the Relationships Sub-Committee

10.3. He Takapou Tupua Update

Sean provided an update on He Takapou Tupua. The aim is to finish the draft within the next week, then progress for review at the next Board meeting. It was noted the current Director-General of Conservation is leaving the Department, with her last day on 30 June. There is an appetite to streamline He Takapou Tupua so it can be signed prior to her departure.

Te Ahi Ngārahu, the relationship agreement between Te Tōpuni Ngārahu, the Minister of Conservation and DOC, is currently going through legal review and is operating on same timeline as He Takapou Tupua. There is a desire to hold a joint conversation between the three parties in the agreement to ensure transparency and comfortability.

Action – The Board to request a copy of Te Ahi Ngārahu after legal review

Action – The Board to circulate the draft of He Takapou Tupua to Te Tōpuni Ngārahu after legal review

The Board approves the recommendation for item #10.3:

- a) **Receives** the update on the development of He Takapou Tupua

11. Conservation Law Reform Update

Introductions were made around the room. Peter gave an overview his role with the Conservation Law Reform, and update on the process.

The Conservation Amendment Bill (the ‘**Bill**’) is now at the Select Committee stage, with public submissions closing on 2 July. The National Conservation Policy Statement (‘**NCPS**’) submissions close 9 July. Noting the Bill introduces access charging, and a change in how wildlife applications are issued.

Peter discussed the outcomes sought through the proposed Bill, including support for economic growth on conservation land, improved regulatory efficiency, revenue generation, and greater clarity regarding the Crown’s Treaty obligations. Peter advised that, under the current proposal, He Kawa Ora would become an area plan covering Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki, with a potential ‘boundary’ outside of this. Discussion noted the relationship between the National Park boundary and surrounding areas, and the potential implications for how He Kawa Ora would interact with other statutory planning instruments, including conservation management strategies and national park management plans. It was noted that further work is required to ensure that the proposed NCPS framework is not inconsistent with the Act or the National Parks Act 1980 (‘**NPA**’).

The Board discussed the status of Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki as public conservation land and the interaction between the CA and NPA. It was noted that, through the settlement process, title was transferred from the Crown to Te Kāhui Tupua, while administration of the area would continue to be managed by DOC under the NPA. Peter noted that clause 6 of the NPA is not a provision to override the Act, and discussion highlighted the need to carefully work through how these statutory frameworks operate together.

Discussion then focused on proposed changes to concession processes, including competitive allocation, concession transfers, and the introduction of exempt and pre-approved concession categories for lower-impact activities. Questions were raised regarding how these mechanisms would apply within national parks and how consistency with Ngā Pou Whakaturua would be maintained, particularly where a concession is transferred to a new operator. Peter advised that the relevant statutory requirements would still apply. The Board expressed concern that while activities assessed as low physical impact may have significant cultural implications, and noted there should be no exempt or pre-approved concessions within Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki. It was further noted that the proposed reforms allow for the disapplication of these categories in relation to entities with settlement redress arrangements.

The Board also discussed the process for securing a specific carve-out for Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki within the Bill, Peter noting this would occur through a separate process following public consultation, with explicit engagement required with post-settlement governance entities holding redress arrangements. Peter advised if Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī is not comfortable with the application of exempt or pre-approved concession categories, those categories would not be applied. Members noted the importance of ensuring that any carve-out is reflected in primary legislation, rather than subordinate policy instruments, to provide greater certainty and weight. The Board agreed that a separate workshop with Peter would be useful to further consider the NCPS proposals and their implications.

Further discussion addressed section 4 of the CA and the practical challenges of giving effect to Treaty principles within current legislative settings. It was noted that settlement redress arrangements continue to operate and that further analysis will be needed regarding how He Kawa Ora will interact with conservation management strategies under the proposed reforms. The Board also discussed the timing of HKO public notification and when submissions close for the Bill and NCPS, the need to develop a clear position in advance of any submission to the Select Committee, and whether a derogation test may be required to protect settlement arrangements from inconsistency. Members also raised the need for further clarification regarding Te Whenua Taurikura and the extent to which expectations should be articulated beyond Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki.

Action – The Board to organise a separate workshop with Peter regarding the NCPS

The Board approves the recommendation for item #11:

- a) **Note** and **receive** the information paper on Conservation Legislation Reform

12. Sub-Committee – Statutory Planning

12.1. Approval of Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the Statutory Planning Committee were received by the Board and approved by consensus, noting Stephen Daysh as an apology.

The Board approves the recommendation for item #12.1:

- a) **Receive** and **approve** the Terms of Reference for the Statutory Planning Sub-Committee

12.2.Appointment of Chair

The appointment process for the Statutory Planning Committee Chair was noted and endorsed by the Board by consensus.

The Board approves the recommendation for item #12.2:

- a) **Endorse** the appointment of Stephen Daysh for Chair of the Statutory Planning Sub-Committee

12.3.He Kawa Ora Update

The Board acknowledged the contributions of Kerena to He Kawa Ora and noted the substantial progress achieved over recent months. It was noted that 19 groups have been engaged to date. The Board noted that road end parking is likely to be a significant issue during the submissions process and that engagement to date has generated valuable feedback and ideas for inclusion in the plan. The visitor component of the plan is progressing well and remains closely linked to road end discussions.

The Board noted recommendations from iwi and hapū with translocation experience and recorded that the New Zealand Conservation Authority ('**NZCA**') has requested regular updates on the plan. Discussion also covered the need to strengthen ecosystem-level information, noting the importance of considering broader ecosystem health alongside individual species. It was further noted that the planning team met with DOC staff in Wellington during the week, where this matter was also discussed. A workshop will be held in June to focus on deeper planning for He Kawa Ora.

The Board noted that two workstreams will work alongside He Kawa Ora, including documenting assumptions around implementation, and if current management plan framework is fit for purpose or if a revised framework will be required.

The 20 July public notification date for HKO remains achievable and communication with relevant parties regarding this date is being progressed. There will continue to be opportunities for engagement during the formal consultation period for those who did not participate in pre-engagement. Discussion took place regarding the most effective engagement methods for HKO. It was observed that online tools may be less effective and that face-to-face engagement across the three-month period may be preferable. Drop-in information sessions and smaller workshops may be useful

Further discussion addressed how Statements of Association should sit within the plan. It was noted that Ngā Pou Whakatupua were established to uplift from more complex statements. The Board discussed how Statements of Association might be appropriately incorporated into He Kawa Ora as part of the plan's collective structure.

The Board approves the recommendation for item #12.3:

- a) **Receives** and **notes** the direction and the update on the progress of He Kawa Ora to date

13. General Business

Te Awe Māpara

Acushla attended a recent Volcanic Hazard hui with Te Awe Māpara, providing background on the role and functions of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī. The discussions at the hui included the volcanic hazard model, transition scenarios, future volcanic activity, and appropriate research engagement. The Board reaffirmed the importance of recognising both science and mātauranga in this work, and how these discussions may be relevant for He Maunga Puia in Taranaki.

Discussion noted the desire to establish volcanic observatories and that work has been undertaken with Ngāti Rangi and Tūwharetoa. It was also observed that there is significant activity occurring in the volcanic hazard space, including iwi and hapū preparedness planning.

The Board noted that Taranaki Emergency Management Office ('**TEMO**') has a statutory role in the event of volcanic activity. Discussion also addressed the relationship between legal person entities and iwi, including the distinction between Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī and Te Tōpuni Ngārahu and the need for further clarity regarding roles, pathways, and triaging of relevant matters. It was noted that the Relationships Committee may be an appropriate forum for this discussion.

The Board approves the recommendation for item #13:

- b) **Note** Formally addresses general business matters and,
- c) Where appropriate, revisit previous agenda items to ensure all relevant issues are thoroughly considered and documented

Hui closed with karakia at 3:08pm.

Appendix - Actions Register – 29 May 2026

TE TŌPUNI KŌKŌRANGI ACTIONS REGISTER				
Date	Action #	Action	Lead	Status
20/02/2026	TTK-013	Produce a forecasted budget for the next three years incorporating all costs associated with the Board <i>Update 29/04 – budget will be forecasted for the 26/27 financial year only.</i>	T.M	Completed

20/02/2026	TTK-020	Send Resource Management Reform letter to the 8 PSGEs, giving commentary on the course of action	L.B	Completed
20/02/2026	TTK-021	Share the Submission to the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill with the Taranaki Members of Parliament (David Macleod, Barbara Kuriger, Carl Bates, Debbie Ngarewa-Packer and Glenn Bennett) and invite them to meet with Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī to discuss the submission and have a briefing on He Kawa Ora	L.B	In progress
20/02/2026	TTK-025	Implement the He Kawa Ora Schedule of Engagement as approved	S.Z / L.Bu	Completed
20/02/2025	TTK-026	Send request to LINZ, NZTA, MetService and other relevant parties to update maps and signage with name changes	L.B	In progress
20/02/2025	TTK-028	Update He Kawa Ora risk register with climate change and biosecurity threats	S.Z / L.Bu	In progress
20/03/2026	TTK-031	Draft a follow-up letter to the Minister of Conservation to reinforce Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī's role and concerns	L.B	Not started
29/05/2026	TTK-032	Amend the listed entries for Te Aroha Hohaia on the Interest Register	L.B	In progress
29/05/2026	TTK-033	DOC to report against the Statement of Priorities for future updates	T.M	Not started
29/05/2026	TTK-034	The Board to determine and clarify to DOC its reporting requirements for future updates	L.P	Not started
29/05/2026	TTK-035	Provide a letter of support for the proposed research project for Justus Martin	L.B	In progress
29/05/2026	TTK-036	Hold engagement with Te Rōpū o Hīkoi o Ngāmotu for He Kawa Ora development	S.Z / L.Bu	Not started
29/05/2026	TTK-037	The Board to send a recommendation letter to DOC regarding the three applications	L.B	In progress
29/05/2026	TTK-038	The Board to request a copy of Te Ahi Ngārahu after legal review	L.P	Not started
29/05/2026	TTK-039	The Board to circulate the draft of He Takapou Tupua to Te Tōpuni Ngārahu after legal review	S.Z / L.Bu	Not started
29/05/2026	TTK-040	Organise a separate workshop with Peter Galvin regarding the NCPS	L.B	In progress

Kaupapa: **Actions Register**

Prepared By: Lesa Bevin, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Secretariat

Meeting Date: 9 July 2026

Recommendation	<u>It is recommended the Board:</u> a) Receives and notes the items in the Actions Register b) Close completed and / or redundant items in the Actions Register as in Table 2
Context	The Actions Register is provided to update Board members on actions arising from previous meetings and to track progress towards completion. For continuity and oversight purposes, completed actions will remain listed in the Actions Register for an additional meeting cycle before they are archived. A list of the current and completed actions are provided in the table below. From this list, five actions have not been started, six are in progress, and five have been completed since the last Board meeting. Recommended updates to actions are found in table 2 below.

TE TŌPUNI KŌKŌRANGI ACTIONS REGISTER				
Date	Action #	Action	Lead	Status
20/02/2026	TTK-013	Produce a forecasted budget for the next three years incorporating all costs associated with the Board <i>Update 29/04 – budget will be forecasted for the 26/27 financial year only.</i>	T.M	Completed
20/02/2026	TTK-020	Send Resource Management Reform letter to the 8 PSGEs, giving commentary on the course of action	L.B	Not started
20/02/2026	TTK-021	Share the Submission to the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill with the Taranaki Members of Parliament (David Macleod, Barbara Kuriger, Carl Bates, Debbie Ngarewa-Packer and Glenn Bennett) and invite them to meet with Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī to discuss the submission and have a briefing on He Kawa Ora	L.B	Not started
20/02/2026	TTK-025	Implement the He Kawa Ora Schedule of Engagement as approved	S.Z / L.Bu	Completed
20/02/2025	TTK-026	Send request to LINZ, NZTA, MetService and other relevant parties to update maps and signage with name changes	L.B	In progress

20/02/2025	TTK-028	Update He Kawa Ora risk register with climate change and biosecurity threats	S.Z / L.Bu	In progress
20/03/2026	TTK-031	Draft a follow-up letter to the Minister of Conservation to reinforce Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī's role and concerns regarding the Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill	L.B	Not started
29/05/2026	TTK-032	Amend the listed entries for Te Aroha Hohaia on the Interest Register	L.B	In progress
29/05/2026	TTK-033	DOC to report against the Statement of Priorities for future updates	T.M	In progress
29/05/2026	TTK-034	The Board to determine and clarify to DOC its reporting requirements for future updates	L.P	In progress
29/05/2026	TTK-035	Provide a letter of support for the proposed research project for Justus Martin	L.B	In progress
29/05/2026	TTK-036	Hold engagement with Te Rōpū o Hīkoi o Ngāmotu for He Kawa Ora development	S.Z / L.Bu	In progress
29/05/2026	TTK-037	The Board to send a recommendation letter to DOC regarding the three applications	L.B	In progress
29/05/2026	TTK-038	The Board to request a copy of Te Ahi Ngārahu after legal review	L.P	Not started
29/05/2026	TTK-039	The Board to circulate the draft of He Takapou Tupua to Te Tōpuni Ngārahu after legal review	S.Z / L.Bu	Not started
29/05/2026	TTK-040	Organise a separate workshop with Peter Galvin regarding the NCPS	L.B	In progress

Table 1: Actions Register

Action #	Status	Recommendation
TTK-020	Not started	Close as no longer required
TTK-021	Not started	Close as no longer required
TTK-031	Not started	Close as no longer required
TTK-032	In progress	Close as completed
TTK-037	In progress	Close as completed
TTK-040	In progress	Close as completed

Table 2: Recommended updates to Actions Register

Kaupapa: **Register of Interests**

Prepared By: Lesa Bevin, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Secretariat

Meeting Date: 9 July 2026

Recommendation	It is recommended the Board: a) Receive the register of interests; and b) Note any particular interest in any agenda item.
Context	Register of interests is provided below.

TE TŌPUNI KŌKŌRANGI REGISTER OF INTERESTS

As at 29 May 2026

BOARD MEMBER	ORGANISATION	ROLE	DATE OF DISCLOSURE
Liana Poutu (Chair)	Edward Rongomai Ira Tamati Whanau Trust	Trustee	31 October 2025
	Kaipakopako 2C2 Ahu Whenua Trust	Chair / Trustee	31 October 2025
	Parininihi Ki Waitōtara Incorporation	Committee Member	31 October 2025
	Parininihi Ki Waitōtara Trust	Chair / Trustee	31 October 2025
	Taranaki Crossing Project Steering Group	Chair	31 October 2025
	Te Atiawa Corporate Trustee Limited	Chair / Director	31 October 2025
	Te Atiawa Iwi Holdings Management Limited	Director	31 October 2025
	Te Atiawa (Taranaki) Holdings Limited	Director	31 October 2025
	Te Hunga Rōia Māori o Aotearoa	Member	31 October 2025
	Te Kāhui Raraunga Charitable Trust	Trustee	31 October 2025
	Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa Trust	Chair / Trustee	31 October 2025
	Te Reo o Taranaki Charitable Trust	Trustee	31 October 2025

	Te Tōpuni Ngārahu Trust	Trustee	31 October 2025
	Toi Foundation	Trustee	31 October 2025
	Toi Foundation Holdings Limited	Director	31 October 2025
	Toi Foundation Investments Limited	Director	31 October 2025
	TSB Bank	Director	31 October 2025
Dr. Acushla Dee Sciascia	Māpuna Consultants Limited	Director	31 October 2025
	Parininihi Ki Waitōtara Incorporation	Committee Member	31 October 2025
	Parininihi Ki Waitōtara Trust	Trustee	31 October 2025
	Te Kura Māori o Porirua	Board of Trustee Member	31 October 2025
	Te Pōtiki National Trust	Director	31 October 2025
	Vision Mātauranga Capability Fund	Member	31 October 2025
Dr. Te Aroha Hohaia	Bashford-Nicholls Trust	Trustee	31 October 2025
	Bishop's Action Foundation	Trustee	31 October 2025
	Federation of Mountain Clubs	Member	31 October 2025
	Hohaia van Paassen Limited	Shareholder & Director	31 October 2025
	Institute of Directors	Member	31 October 2025
	Louise Rauhuia Manuera Hohaia Whānau Trust	Responsible trustee	31 October 2025
	Ngā Rere Ora Limited	Consultant	31 October 2025
	Taranaki Crossing Governance Group	Member	31 October 2025
	Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika: Finance Audit & Risk Committee	Member	31 October 2025
	Te Papa Atawhai / Department of Conservation	Volunteer	31 October 2025
	Te Whare Rikoriko o Te Kāhui Maunga Trust	Trustee	29 May 2026
	Toi o Taranaki Maunga Trust	Trustee	29 May 2026
	Trinity Home and Hospital Limited	Director	31 October 2025
	Waiōkura Marae & Reserves Trust	Responsible trustee	31 October 2025
Nicola Ngarewa	Ako Mātatupu	Trustee	31 October 2025
	Ngāti Ruanui Tahua	Director	13 February 2026
	NZ Asia Foundation	Honorary Advisor	13 February 2026
	Spotswood College	Principal	31 October 2025

	Te Pāti Māori	Sister is co-leader	31 October 2025
	Te Rārama Trust	Trustee	13 February 2026
	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui Trust	Trustee	31 October 2025
	Toi Foundation	Trustee	31 October 2025
	Te Honoa Ltd	Shareholder / Director	13 February 2026
Hemi Sundgren	Ka Uruora Aotearoa Trustee Limited	Director	31 October 2025
	Ka Uruora Te Taihu Foundation	Chair	31 October 2025
	Ka Uruora Te Taihu Housing Trust	Chair	31 October 2025
	Ka Uruora Kainga Limited	Director	31 October 2025
	Ngāti Tama ki Te Taihu Custodian Trustee Limited	Director	31 October 2025
	Ngāti Tamai ki Te Waipounamu Trust	Chief Executive Officer	31 October 2025
	Taranaki Mounga Project Limited	Director	31 October 2025
	Te Here-ā-Nuku Working Group	Trustee	31 October 2025
Prof. Bruce Clarkson	Aongatete Forest Restoration Trust	Patron	31 October 2025
	Aotearoa New Zealand World Heritage Tentative List Review	Expert Panel Member	24 February 2026
	BD & BR Clarkson Waingaro Forest (Lot 1)	Investment	31 October 2025
	Friends of Hamilton Zoo	Chair	31 October 2025
	New Zealand Botanical Society	Member	31 October 2025
	Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society	Patron	31 October 2025
	Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust	Trustee	31 October 2025
	Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society	Member	31 October 2025
	Royal Society of New Zealand	Member	31 October 2025
	Society for Ecological Restoration	Member	31 October 2025
	Waiwhakareke Advisory Group	Chair	31 October 2025
	West Waikato Coastal Community Catchment Group Inc	Member	31 October 2025
Stephen Daysh	Audacious Gems Limited	Director	31 October 2025
	Bridge Pā Vinyard Limited	Director	31 October 2025
	Howden Energy Limited	Director	31 October 2025
	Iona College Council	Board member	31 October 2025
	Mitchell Daysh Limited	Director	31 October 2025

	Mitchell Daysh Limited (Port of Taranaki)	Director	20 March 2026
	NZGA (NZ Geothermal Association)	Member	31 October 2025
	NZPI (NZ Planning Institute)	Member	31 October 2025
	RMLA (Resource Management Law Association)	Member	31 October 2025
	Te Kauwae Education Trust	Chair	31 October 2025
Rex Hendry	NZ Antarctic Society	Vice-President	31 October 2025

Kaupapa: **Correspondence Register**
Prepared By: Lesa Bevin, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Secretariat
Meeting Date: 9 July 2026

Recommendation	It is recommended the Board: a) Receives the inwards correspondence; and b) Notes the outwards correspondence.
Context	Correspondence Register provided below. Copies of any item of correspondence may be requested by members from the Board Secretariat.

TE TŌPUNI KŌKŌRANGI CORRESPONDENCE REGISTER

March – May 2026

INWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Date	From	Kaupapa	Status
11/06/2026	Minister of Conservation	Response to Notification of He Takapou Tupua Progress letter	Received
11/06/2026	Office of the Auditor-General	Request to meet	Reply sent
17/06/2026	Estelle Clark	Update on Taranaki Maunga French Documentary	Reply sent
19/06/2026	Mainland Dairy	Approval for product packaging design	Reply sent
19/06/2026	Wild for Taranaki	Request for meeting dates of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī	Reply sent
30/06/2026	Venture Taranaki	Public Forum Registration	Reply sent

OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE

Date	To	Kaupapa	Status
22/06/2026	Department of Conservation	Follow up letter to DOC on Conservation Amendment Bill & National Conservation Policy Statement	Sent

Kaupapa: **Public Forum**

Prepared By: Lesa Bevin, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Secretariat

Meeting Date: 9 July 2026

Recommendation	<u>It is recommended the Board:</u> a) Note and receive any presentations to the Public Forum; and b) Determine any appropriate response.
Context	Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī holds a public forum during each meeting to give the community an opportunity to attend and speak to Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī on any matters relating to Te Kāhui Tupua or Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki. A public notice of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī's meeting and public forum timing is published on a dedicated Te Kāhui Tupua website ten working days prior to the Board meeting.

The following representatives have registered their attendance and/or presentation to Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī at this 9 July hui:

Attendee	Role	Organisation
Danielle Gibas	General Manager	Wild For Taranaki
Lisa Berndt	Strategic Lead – Biodiversity Corridors	Wild For Taranaki
Thom Admas	Innovation Lead	Te Puna Umanga / Venture Taranaki

Kaupapa: **Conservation Amendment Bill – Approval of Submission**

Prepared By: Sean Zieltjes, and Laura Buttimore, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Planning Team

Meeting Date: 9 July 2026

Recommendation	<u>It is recommended the Board:</u> a) Receive this report. b) Receive the recommended submission on the Conservation Amendment Bill (Attachment A). c) Authorise the Chair to approve any minor editorial amendments prior to the lodgement d) Confirm that Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī wishes to appear before the Select Committee to speak to the submission.
Context	The Conservation Amendment Bill (‘the Bill’) proposes significant reforms to New Zealand's conservation planning framework, including the introduction of a National Conservation Policy Statement (‘NCPS’). These reforms have the potential to directly affect the future management of Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki and the wider Te Kāhui Tupua landscape. The recommended submission identifies several areas where the Bill does not adequately recognise the unique legal framework established under the <i>Te Ture Whakaturua mō Te Kāhui Tupua 2025 / Taranaki Maunga Collective Redress Act 2025</i> (‘Te Kāhui Tupua Act’). In particular, it raises concerns regarding the recognition of Te Kāhui Tupua as a legal person, the statutory role of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī, the relationship between the proposed NCPS and He Kawa Ora, and the potential fragmentation of management across the wider Te Kāhui Tupua landscape.

Executive summary – Whakarāpopototanga matua

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī with an overview of the Conservation Amendment Bill and seek approval of the attached draft submission.
2. While Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī supports efforts to modernise New Zealand's conservation legislation, the Bill does not sufficiently recognise the legal personhood framework established by Parliament through the Te Kāhui Tupua Act.
3. The proposed reforms create uncertainty regarding the relationship between the NCPS, He Kawa Ora, and the statutory responsibilities of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī.

4. The development of the Bill has not followed the agreed process for conservation law reform set out in Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo (the Collective Redress Deed).
5. The submission opposes the Bill in its current form and seeks amendments to ensure the new legislative framework operates consistently with the Te Kāhui Tupua settlement and does not derogate from the arrangements in Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo.

Purpose – He aronga matua

6. The purpose of this paper is to:
 - a) provide an overview of the Conservation Amendment Bill and its implications for Te Kāhui Tupua;
 - b) outline the key matters raised in the attached submission;
 - c) seek approval to lodge the submission with the Environment Committee; and
 - d) seek approval to be heard before the Select Committee (if the opportunity arises)

Background and context – He kupu whakamarama

7. The Conservation Amendment Bill proposes significant reform of the conservation planning framework, including replacing existing planning instruments with a National Conservation Policy Statement and Area Plans.
8. The reforms are intended to simplify planning processes and improve consistency across conservation land administered under the Conservation Act 1987.
9. Since the enactment of the Te Kāhui Tupua Act, a unique legal framework recognising Te Kāhui Tupua as a legal person and Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī as its statutory body acting as the face and voice of Te Kāhui Tupua has been established. The development of He Kawa Ora is a key component of that statutory framework and represents the integrated management plan for Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki.
10. Given the significance of these recent legislative reforms, it is important that the Conservation Amendment Bill is consistent with, and does not derogate from, the legal framework established for Te Kāhui Tupua and the vision for He Kawa Ora as a management plan.

Key Matters Raised in the Submission

11. The submission supports the intent to modernise conservation legislation but identifies several significant concerns that require amendment before the Bill can be supported.
12. The principal concerns include:
 - a) That the development of the Bill has not followed the agreed process for conservation law reform set out in Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo.
 - b) the absence of explicit recognition of Te Kāhui Tupua as a legal person;
 - c) insufficient reliance on a transitional period to resolve treaty settlement issues;

- d) uncertainty regarding the relationship between the National Conservation Policy Statement and He Kawa Ora;
 - e) uncertainty regarding the application of the National Conservation Policy Statement to Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki and the wider Te Kāhui Tupua landscape;
 - f) the potential fragmentation of management across different parts of Te Kāhui Tupua through differing statutory planning frameworks; and
 - g) the lack of provisions recognising legal personhood arrangements established through Treaty settlement legislation.
13. The submission concludes that unless amended, the Bill risks creating inconsistency between the Conservation Act 1987 and the Te Kāhui Tupua Act, potentially weakening the legal framework for Te Kāhui Tupua. As a result, the submission opposed the Bill in its current form.

Risk Assessment– He aronga tūraru

14. If enacted without amendment the Bill will derogate from the arrangements for Te Kāhui Tupua in Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo.
15. If enacted without amendment, there is a risk that the new conservation planning framework will create uncertainty regarding statutory decision-making affecting Te Kāhui Tupua.
16. This uncertainty may result in inconsistent planning frameworks, duplication of statutory processes and reduced clarity regarding the role of He Kawa Ora as the integrated management framework for Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki.
17. There is also a broader strategic risk that the reforms may inadvertently diminish the enduring effect of the Treaty settlement arrangements enacted by Parliament through the Te Kāhui Tupua Act.

Consultation – Toronga

18. No consultation has been undertaken for this matter.
19. The recommended submission will be circulated to Te Tōpuni Ngārahu is adopted.

Legislation – He aronga ture

20. Te Kāhui Tupua has standing to make submissions and be heard in respect of those submissions for any matter in accordance with section 53 of Te Kāhui Tupua Act 2025.

Recommendation – He kupu whakatau

21. It is recommended that Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī:
- a) Receive this report
 - b) Receive the recommended submission on the Conservation Amendment Bill
 - c) Authorise the Chair to approve any minor editorial amendments prior to the lodgement

- d) Confirm that Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī wishes to appear before the Select Committee in support of its submission

Decision comments

Attachment A: Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Conservation Bill Submission

Te Kāhui Tupua
C/- Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī
info@tekahuitupua.nz

2 July 2026

Committee Secretariat
Environment Committee
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Via email: en.legislation@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koutou,

RE: Submission to the Conservation Amendment Bill 2026 and First Draft National Conservation Policy Statement

Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī acknowledges and appreciates the opportunity to provide this submission to the Conservation Amendment Bill (the ‘**Bill**’). This submission also addresses the proposed National Conservation Policy Statement (‘**NCPS**’), as to understand the impact of the Bill, an understanding of the content and impact of the NCPS is required.

From the outset, the Environment Committee must understand that Te Kāhui Tupua is not a special interest to be balanced; Te Kāhui Tupua is a legally recognised person whose integrity must be maintained through any system reform. This status of personhood and standing that is afforded to Te Kāhui Tupua is the basis of our submission.

Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī has only recently been engaged by officials developing the Bill and NCPS, after the proposal was substantially formed and notified for submissions. No substantive engagement occurred before that point. Although the later discussions and clarifications from officials are appreciated, they do not address the core issue: the Bill and NCPS do not yet adequately recognise or preserve the statutory framework Parliament has recently enacted for Te Kāhui Tupua.

Based on discussions with officials, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī understands that the primary mechanisms relied on to address Te Kāhui Tupua are:

- the proposed exclusion of Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki from the NCPS;
- the implications of that exclusion for management planning, concession and other approval processes; and

- the two-year transition negotiation period for the Crown and ngā iwi o Taranaki to discuss how Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo will be upheld under the proposed new system.

Those mechanisms are inadequate. The Bill itself must provide clear legal recognition and protection. It is not sufficient to rely on an exclusion in secondary legislation or on later negotiations after the Bill once enacted has already altered the statutory framework.

Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī is concerned about the precedent the proposed Bill and NCPS set, and the potential for this to erode confidence in the Crown's commitment to honouring Treaty Settlements and Redress over time.

Summary of Key Submission Points

The key shortcomings of the Bill and NCPS are:

1. The proposed transition arrangements do not meet the requirements of Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo, including the requirement that the integrity, intent and effect of the settlement arrangements be upheld.
2. The Bill appears to rely too heavily on generic Treaty settlement and section 4 processes, rather than expressly recognising the legal personality of Te Kāhui Tupua and the role of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī.
3. The Bill does not adequately provide for Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī as the human face and voice of Te Kāhui Tupua, or distinguish that statutory role from other general public, iwi authority, PSGE, or stakeholder participation.
4. The Bill and NCPS create uncertainty about the status of He Kawa Ora mō Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki ('**He Kawa Ora**'), its relationship with Area Plans, and the way Area Plans affecting Te Kāhui Tupua must give effect to Te Kāhui Tupua status and Ngā Pou Whakatupua.
5. The Bill risks fragmenting the management of Te Kāhui Tupua by applying planning requirements according to land status and administrative boundaries, rather than recognising Te Kāhui Tupua as a single, living and indivisible legal person.

Te Kāhui Tupua and Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī

In 2025 new legislation passed in relation to Taranaki Maunga: Te Ture Whakatupua mō Te Kāhui Tupua 2025 (Taranaki Maunga Collective Redress Act 2025) ('**Te Kāhui Tupua Act**').

Te Kāhui Tupua Act implements the agreement reached between the eight iwi of Taranaki and the Crown in Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo (the collective redress deed) signed on 1 September 2023 following more than nine years of negotiations. These arrangements are set out in the deed as He Kawa Tupua.

Te Kāhui Tupua Act establishes a significant new framework in relation to Te Kāhui Tupua which is recognised in legislation as follows:¹

Te Kāhui Tupua is a living and indivisible whole comprising Taranaki Maunga and other tūpuna maunga, including Pouākai and Kaitake, from their peaks to, and including, all the surrounding lands, and incorporating all their physical and metaphysical elements.

Surrounding lands means the lands located within the Taranaki Region that form part of Te Kāhui Tupua.

Te Kāhui Tupua is also recognised as a legal person with all the rights, powers, duties, responsibilities and liabilities of a legal person.²

Te Kāhui Tupua Act includes an acknowledgement of Te Iho Tāngaengae, which is the statement by ngā iwi o Taranaki of their cultural, spiritual, historical, and traditional association with their tūpuna maunga and Te Kāhui Tupua, as set out in section 3 of the Act.

Te Kāhui Tupua Act also sets out ‘Ngā Pou Whakatupua’ (Maunga values) which are the intrinsic values that represent the essence of Te Kāhui Tupua and are intended to reflect the cultural, spiritual, ancestral and historical relationship between ngā iwi o Taranaki and Te Kāhui Tupua.³

Te Kāhui Tupua status and Ngā Pou Whakatupua are the foundation for the governance, management, and administration of Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki under this Act.⁴

Te Kāhui Tupua status and Ngā Pou Whakatupua may be considered by persons exercising performing powers, functions, or duties under any legislation that relate to, or may affect, Te Kāhui Tupua.⁵

Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangi is established by the legislation as the human face and voice of Te Kāhui Tupua and to act and speak for and on behalf of, and in the name of, Te Kāhui Tupua. Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangi is made up of four members appointed by Ngā Iwi o Taranaki and four members appointed by the Crown.⁶

Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangi is recognised as having an interest in Te Kāhui Tupua greater than, and separate from, any interest in common with the public generally, and is entitled to

¹ Section 17(1) of Te Kāhui Tupua Act, Section 5 of Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo

² Section 18(1) of Te Kāhui Tupua Act, Section 5 of Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo

³ Section 19 of Te Kāhui Tupua Act

⁴ Section 20(1) of Te Kāhui Tupua Act

⁵ Sections 20(5) and 20(6) of Te Kāhui Tupua Act

⁶ Section 28 and 29(a) of Te Kāhui Tupua Act

make submissions and entitled to be heard on that matter if a hearing, proceeding, or inquiry is held in relation to that matter.⁷

No other party can perform this statutory role. Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī is not merely a stakeholder, submitter, iwi authority, PSGE, Māori group with relevant interests, or member of the public. It is the statutory human face and voice of a legal person recognised by Parliament.

These arrangements all draw from and remain connected with the collective mātauranga Māori of ngā iwi o Taranaki. He Kawa Tupua⁸, including Te Iho Tāngaengae and Ngā Pou Whakatupua, all derive from kōrero tuku iho. The legal personhood recognition of Te Kāhui Tupua in western legal frameworks is a best approximation responding to this mātauranga.

As a collective redress agreement, Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo is also inter-related with the individual Treaty settlement arrangements of ngā iwi o Taranaki. It cannot be interpreted or applied in isolation, just as the mātauranga that informs He Kawa Tupua does not exist in isolation.

Conservation Law Reform

Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo is designed to integrate with existing conservation law and provide for unique arrangements for Te Kāhui Tupua relative to those established statutes. Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo builds on and connects with the individual Te Tiriti Settlement arrangements of ngā iwi o Taranaki, and the requirement at section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo expressly contemplate Conservation Law Reform.⁹

However, it is not clear that the process to develop the Conservation Amendment Bill has followed the process described in Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo. Clause 18.14.1 of Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo requires that for any reform *the integrity, intent and effect of the agreements in, and mechanisms provided through, this deed and Te Ture Whakatupua mō Te Kāhui Tupua must be upheld.*

The Bill collapses the existing two-tier national policy framework into a single NCPS replacing the Conservation General Policy, General Policy for National Parks, and other relevant statements of general policy. It also collapses the existing Conservation

⁷ Section 53 of Te Kāhui Tupua Act

⁸ See section 2 of Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo. He Kawa Tupua is the framework that underpins the redress arrangements. He Kawa Tupua comprises 1. Te kāhui Tupua as a legal personality; 2. Ngā Pou Whakatupua (Te Kāhui Tupua values); 3. Ko Te Kāhui Tupua me Ngā Pou Whakatupua ētia nei He Kōtore Huia, He Pikikōtuku (the effect of Te Kāhui Tupua status and Ngā Pou Whakatupua); 4. Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī (the human face and voice of Te Kāhui Tupua) along with a range of other matters set out in Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo.

⁹ Clause 18.13-18.15 of Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo

Management Strategies, Conservation Management Plans, and National Park Management Plans into a single layer of non-overlapping Area Plans.

Section 20(9) of Te Kāhui Tupua Act requires that *statements of general policy, including the general policy for national parks and any conservation management strategy, must not derogate from this Act or Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo.*

Overall as the integrity, intent and effect of the arrangements for Te Kāhui Tupua must be upheld it is expected that this requirement would translate to the proposed Bill and NCPS.

Transition arrangements are inadequate

Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī note the misalignment between the transitional arrangements proposed in the Bill and the requirements for any reform set out in Clause 18.14 and 18.15 of Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo.

The Bill inserts a new Part 3 into Schedule 1AA of the Conservation Act 1987 that contains these arrangements. Specifically new clause 24(1) requires that:

To assist in the transition from this Act's previous land management provisions, the Crown will work with any post-settlement governance entity and the ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou governance entity, if they wish to do so, to seek agreement on how their Treaty settlement redress or arrangements will operate with the same or equivalent effect to the greatest extent possible under the amendments made by the amendment Act.

The transition arrangements identify a two year period through which those discussions are to be held, afterwhich amendments to redress legislation may be developed.

That approach is out of step with Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo. The deed requires the integrity, intent and effect of the agreements in, and mechanisms provided through, Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo and Te Ture Whakatupua mō Te Kāhui Tupua to be upheld.¹⁰

It is also out of step with the Crown's commitment to engage with Te Tōpuni Ngārahu early in, and throughout, any conservation law review and reform process, for the purpose of working through and agreeing in principle what may be required to uphold the integrity, intent and effect of the redress mechanisms within the context of any amended conservation legislation.¹¹

Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo further holds that the reforms may amend aspects of existing conservation legislation in a manner which enables alternate or additional mechanisms to those provided under this deed and Te Ture Whakatupua mō Te Kāhui Tupua and, in

¹⁰ Clause 18.14.1 of Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo

¹¹ Clause 18.14.2 of Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo

that event, the Crown and Te Tōpuni Ngārahu will explore in good faith the potential for such mechanisms to be developed and agreed.¹²

That required process has not occurred in a manner that matches the deed. As a result, the proposed consequential and minor amendments to the Te Kāhui Tupua Act in Schedule 6 of the Bill are premature.

The proposed amendments to Te Kāhui Tupua Act are primarily for approval processes¹³, including those where Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī act in a co-decision making role.

However, Te Kāhui Tupua Act envisions and relies on bespoke concession process insertions to realise the commitments in the redress arrangements for Te Kāhui Tupua; that Te Kāhui Tupua Status and Ngā Pou Whakatupua are the foundation for the governance, management, and administration of Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki under this Act.¹⁴

The Bill must not proceed on the assumption that a later two-year negotiation period can resolve these issues. The Bill must be amended now to preserve the settlement framework and to require any transition to occur consistently with Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo.

Legal standing for Te Kāhui Tupua and the role of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī

Parliament has now enacted multiple settlement statutes that recognise natural entities as legal persons. Starting with Te Urewera Act 2014, followed by Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017, and most recently Te Ture Whakatupua mō Te Kāhui Tupua 2025.

These Acts are not symbolic.

Each establishes legal personality, a values framework that expresses the entity's intrinsic integrity, a mandated human face and voice, governance bodies with standing beyond the public at large, and an expectation that these arrangements will operate through the resource management and planning system.

Legal personhood for natural areas and features now forms a distinct and deliberate class of entities within the New Zealand legal system. This reflects both Treaty settlements and the Crown's evolving approach to environmental governance.

Te Kāhui Tupua, Te Awa Tupua, and Te Urewera were deliberately designed to override fragmentation resulting from various administrative functions and boundaries, narrow land tenure concepts, and purely biophysical or quantifiable assessments.

¹² Clause 18.14.3 of Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo

¹³ Section 110 and Schedule 4 of Te Kāhui Tupua Act

¹⁴ Section 20, Te Kāhui Tupua Act

The Bill as currently drafted fails to adequately recognise the unique legal landscape established through these legislations. While the Bill contains general references to Treaty settlements, it does not expressly provide for Te Kāhui Tupua as a legal person, nor does it recognise the statutory role of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī as the face and voice of Te Kāhui Tupua.

While the Bill and the NCPS provide for iwi and Māori participation in various forms they do not ensure that the unique statutory role and status of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī is provided for in area plan-making and decision-making processes that may affect Te Kāhui Tupua. In the absence of explicit recognition in primary legislation there is substantial risk that Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī will be treated as one stakeholder among many rather than as the legal representative of Te Kāhui Tupua.

Decisions relating to Te Kāhui Tupua are no longer solely decisions about Crown-owned conservation land. They are decisions affecting a legal person with its own statutory rights, interests, values and governance arrangements established by Parliament. The Bill should therefore expressly acknowledge this legal framework rather than relying on generic Treaty settlement provisions.

The omission creates uncertainty regarding how decision-makers are expected to exercise powers under the amended Conservation Act where those powers intersect with Te Kāhui Tupua. In particular, there is no clear direction requiring decision-makers to recognise or provide for:

- the legal personality of Te Kāhui Tupua (both within and beyond Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki);
- the statutory purpose and effect of Ngā Pou Whakatupua;
- the governance and statutory functions of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī; and
- the planning framework established through He Kawa Ora.

Without explicit recognition there is a real risk that the new statutory framework will derogate from settlement arrangements that were carefully negotiated and recently enacted by Parliament in direct contravention of Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo. This would undermine both the integrity of the settlement and the certainty that Treaty settlement legislation is intended to provide.

Accordingly, the Bill must be amended to include specific provisions requiring all functions and powers under the Conservation Act to be exercised in a manner that recognises and gives effect to the legal personality of Te Kāhui Tupua and the statutory roles, responsibilities, and planning framework established under the Te Kāhui Tupua Act. This would ensure the Conservation Act operates consistently with Parliament's intention in establishing Te Kāhui Tupua and preserves the integrity of New Zealand's evolving legal framework for legal personhood and Treaty settlement governance.

Area Plans and Te Kāhui Tupua, and the status of He Kawa Ora mō Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki

The Bill introduces additional purpose statements to section 6 of the Conservation Act, new section 6(e) and 6(ea) that read as follows:

(e) to foster the use of land and other natural resources and historic resources managed by the Department for recreation to the extent consistent with their conservation:

(ea) to recognise the economic opportunities that arise from the use and development of land and other natural resources and historic resources managed by the Department, and to enable this use and development to the greatest extent practicable under this Act and other enactments:

These new/amended purposes sit within the broader section 6 that sets the overall functions and requirements for the Department in managing conservation land. Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī note that section 6(g) requires that administration also implements *every other function conferred on it by any other enactment*.¹⁵

Section 6 should not be read as permitting the new economic opportunities function to dilute or override the more specific statutory requirements established by the Te Kāhui Tupua Act. For Te Kāhui Tupua, the more directive requirements in Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo and the Te Kāhui Tupua Act must remain central.¹⁶

The Bill sets out that a NCPS replaces general policies in guiding the implementation of Listed Acts.¹⁷

Although the transition arrangements set out how the NCPS is to provide for some settlement or redress arrangements across the country, it is silent on Te Kāhui Tupua Act. As a result, the Bill creates considerable uncertainty regarding the application of the proposed NCPS to the statutory arrangements established under the Te Kāhui Tupua Act, or how the development of various plans and associated processes set out in Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo operate under the Bill.

The Bill also establishes the framework for preparing, amending and implementing the NCPS and Area Plans. This includes proposed new section 4A. Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī is concerned that section 4A may narrow or confine the practical operation of section 4 of the Conservation Act if it is treated as an exhaustive and mandatory checklist rather than as a non-exhaustive statement of minimum Treaty obligations.

¹⁵ Section 6(g), Conservation Act 1987

¹⁶ See for example sections 15, 18 and 20 of Te Kāhui Tupua Act.

¹⁷ Listed Acts are defined as including the Conservation Act 1987, the Marine Mammals Protection Act 1978, the Marine Reserves Act 1971, the National Parks Act 1980, the Reserves Act 1977, the Wild Animal Control Act 1977, the Wildlife Act 1953.

It is unclear how section 4A and the Area Plan process are intended to operate where conservation land forms part of a legal person, or where a statutory entity acts as the human face and voice of that legal person.

Uncertainty about the application of the NCPS

This issue is further compounded where one reading of the proposed NCPS does not apply to the area of Te Kāhui Tupua that lies within Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki.

Specifically, Clause 2(b) of the proposed NCPS provides that:

"This Policy Statement does not apply to reserves with administering bodies, appointed as part of Treaty Settlements, to control and manage them."

This clause implies that Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki would be excluded from the scope of the NCPS because of the Treaty settlement arrangements established under the Te Kāhui Tupua Act. However, this outcome is not expressly stated, and the NCPS does not specifically identify or recognise legal personhood arrangements such as Te Kāhui Tupua. Confirmation of the Bill's intended application clearly specifying this exclusion outcome, is therefore required.

If this interpretation is correct, it raises a further question regarding development of Area Plans. If Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki is excluded from the NCPS, then the development of Area Plans (including section 4A processes) would appear to have little or no practical relevance to the management of Te Kāhui Tupua within Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki. Instead, the Area Plan development process would only apply to conservation land outside the park boundary that nevertheless forms part of the wider Te KāhuiTupua landscape. This creates an anomalous outcome whereby the principal statutory framework established by the Bill would apply to only part of the legal person recognised by Parliament.

This uncertainty is compounded by the unique statutory status of Te Kahui Tupua. The Bill does not explain whether the NCPS is intended to apply to land held under these arrangements, nor does it clarify the relationship between the NCPS and He Kawa Ora. If Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki is excluded from the NCPS, then He Kawa Ora would not be required to align with the NCPS. Conversely, if the NCPS is intended to apply, the Bill provides no guidance on how any overlap, inconsistency or conflict between the NCPS and He Kawa Ora is to be resolved.

Uncertainty becomes more pronounced when considering the wider Te Kāhui Tupua landscape. Te Kāhui Tupua extends beyond the boundaries of Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki and includes surrounding reserves and conservation land that remain integral to the legal person recognised by Te Kahui Tupua Act. On a plain reading of clause 2(b) of the NCPS, many of these surrounding reserves would remain subject to the NCPS while Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki itself may be excluded. This would result in different statutory planning

frameworks applying across different parts of the same legal person, creating fragmented management of what Te Kāhui Tupua Act has deliberately recognised as a single, living and indivisible whole.

This issue reflects a broader structural inconsistency within the Bill. The NCPS has been drafted around traditional land tenure concepts—such as reserves, conservation areas, administering bodies and post-settlement governance entities. By contrast, the Te Kāhui Tupua Act establishes a fundamentally different legal model. Rather than organising management according to categories of land ownership or administration, it recognises Te Kāhui Tupua as a single legal person whose identity, health, and wellbeing extend across an interconnected landscape that transcends administrative boundaries.

As a consequence, the Bill appears to apply different statutory planning requirements based on the legal status of individual parcels of land rather than recognising the landscape-scale legal person established by Parliament. This risks fragmenting the management of Te Kāhui Tupua and undermining the integrated approach that the settlement legislation was specifically designed to achieve.

Area Plan content and risk of fragmentation

The draft NCPS provisions reinforce this concern. Clause 5 provides:

"Area plans must only include content provided for in the NCPS unless the area plan content applies specifically to a visitor amenities area. There may be exceptions for some area plans which provide roles for co-preparation and/or co-approval with PSGEs or that are developed under Treaty Settlement."

Although clause 5 recognises some Treaty settlement arrangements, it does not contemplate legal personhood frameworks such as Te Kāhui Tupua. Te Kāhui Tupua is not a post-settlement governance entity with co-preparation responsibilities. It is a legal person represented by Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī, with He Kawa Ora being developed as the integrated management framework for the Te Kāhui Tupua landscape within Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki.

Clause 5 does not clarify whether Area Plans must give effect to the requirements of Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo, whether He Kawa Ora prevails where inconsistencies arise, or how these statutory instruments are intended to operate together.

The uncertainty is compounded by clauses 6 to 19 of the NCPS, which prescribe the mandatory content of Area Plans. Without explicit recognition of Te Kāhui Tupua, Ngā Pou Whakatupua and He Kawa Ora, these provisions risk limiting the ability of Area Plans to reflect the statutory values and integrated management outcomes established under the Te Kāhui Tupua Act.

The Bill needs to provide clear directions on the relationship between the NCPS, Area Plans and other plans such as He Kawa Ora. Without that clarity, there is a significant risk that the legislation will unintentionally create multiple planning frameworks across different parts of the same legal person contrary to Te Kāhui Tupua Act's intention of establishing Te Kāhui Tupua as a unified and indivisible legal entity.

Relief sought

Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī respectfully requests that the Committee recommend amendments to the Bill to ensure it operates consistently with the statutory framework established by the Te Kāhui Tupua Act and does not inadvertently undermine the legal personhood model enacted by Parliament.

In particular, the Bill should be amended to:

1. Expressly recognise Te Kāhui Tupua as a legal person and acknowledge the statutory role of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī as the human face and voice of Te Kāhui Tupua. It is not sufficient to rely on exclusions in the NCPS, which is secondary legislation.
2. Clarify the application of the NCPS to Te Kāhui Tupua, both within and outside Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki. It is our view that the NCPS does not apply to Te Kāhui Tupua, and the bespoke arrangements for plan making across Te Kāhui Tupua must apply to the legal person in their entirety.
3. Confirm the legal status of He Kawa Ora and clarify whether it is an Area Plan, an Area Plan equivalent, or a bespoke Treaty settlement planning instrument. It is our view that it is a bespoke Treaty settlement instrument that has the same standing and effect as an Area Plan. This is the same way He Kawa Ora is to be treated as having the same effect as a National Parks management plan pursuant to the National Parks Act 1980.
4. Require any Area Plan that applies to land within Te Kāhui Tupua to be developed consistently with He Kawa Ora, Te Kāhui Tupua status and Ngā Pou Whakatupua, with Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī recognised as the statutory human face and voice of Te Kāhui Tupua.
5. Clarify the relationship between the NCPS, He Kawa Ora, Area Plans and Ngā Pou Whakatupua, including how these instruments are intended to operate together and which framework prevails where there is overlap or inconsistency.
6. Ensure section 4A and the NCPS framework expressly provide for legal personhood arrangements, including the standing of Te Kāhui Tupua and Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī, rather than relying solely on traditional land tenure, reserve classification, iwi authority or PSGE models.
7. Avoid fragmentation by ensuring the statutory framework supports integrated management across the full Te Kāhui Tupua landscape, recognising that Te Kāhui

Tupua extends beyond Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki and has been recognised by Parliament as a single, living and indivisible legal entity.

8. Require Te Kāhui Tupua status and Ngā Pou Whakatupua to be the foundation for any Area Plan that applies to land forming part of Te Kāhui Tupua.
9. Confirm that nothing in the Bill derogates from, limits, overrides or diminishes the rights, obligations, governance arrangements or integrated management framework established under the Te Kāhui Tupua Act, unless Parliament expressly intends that outcome.
10. Withdraw or defer the proposed consequential amendments to the Te Kāhui Tupua Act until the Crown has completed the engagement required by Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo and reached agreement on any amendments required to uphold the integrity, intent and effect of the settlement arrangements.

These amendments would provide greater legal certainty, ensure consistency between the Bill and existing settlement legislation, and give effect to Parliament's intention of establishing a coherent and enduring legal framework for the management of Te Kāhui Tupua.

At minimum, the Bill should include an express non-derogation and recognition provision along the following lines:

Nothing in this Act, the National Conservation Policy Statement, or any Area Plan limits, overrides, diminishes or derogates from Te Ture Whakatupua mō Te Kāhui Tupua 2025 or Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo. A person exercising or performing a function, power or duty under this Act in relation to land, resources, activities, plans or decisions that relate to or may affect Te Kāhui Tupua must recognise and provide for the legal personality of Te Kāhui Tupua, Ngā Pou Whakatupua, the statutory role of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī as the human face and voice of Te Kāhui Tupua, and He Kawa Ora mō Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki.

The final drafting should be developed with Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī and Te Tōpuni Ngārahu in accordance with Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo.

Conclusion

Te Kāhui Tupua is not a discretionary cultural interest. It is a legally recognised entity, acknowledged by Parliament as a living and indivisible whole that encompasses both physical and metaphysical elements, with its intrinsic values expressed through Ngā Pou Whakatupua.

The Bill as currently drafted does not adequately recognise or provide for this legal status, nor does it sufficiently embed the statutory role of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī as the face and voice of Te Kāhui Tupua. Without explicit legislative direction, there is a real risk that the transition to the proposed conservation framework will materially weaken and derogate from the carefully negotiated arrangements established through Te Ruruku Pūtakerongo and the Te Kāhui Tupua Act. This includes creating uncertainty regarding the role and status of He Kawa Ora as the integrated management framework for Te Kāhui Tupua and diminishing the enduring effect of Parliament's Treaty settlement commitments.

Parliament has a responsibility to ensure that legislative reform is consistent with, and does not derogate from the outcomes of Treaty settlements it has entered into. The relief sought in this submission is intended to provide the certainty necessary for the new conservation framework to operate coherently alongside the unique legal personhood framework established for Te Kāhui Tupua.

Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī cannot support the Bill in its current form until the matters raised in this submission are addressed and the relief sought is provided for.

Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī wishes to appear before the Committee to speak to this submission.

Noho ora mai,

Liana Poutu

For Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī, on behalf of Te Kāhui Tupua

Kaupapa: **He Kawa Ora mō Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki (He Kawa Ora)
– Project Update and Formal Consultation Approval**

Prepared By: Sean Zieltjes, and Laura Buttimore, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Planning Team

Meeting Date: 9 July 2026

Recommendation	<u>It is recommended the Board:</u> a) Receive this update on the progress of He Kawa Ora mō Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki. b) Receive the update on the process before the preparation of He Kawa Ora begins, specifically the discussions with parties identified in clause 3(2) of Schedule 3. c) Resolve to give public notice stating that the draft He Kawa Ora is to be prepared, and inviting written comments on <u>20 July 2026</u>. d) Approve the draft public comment survey (Attachment A) for release as part of the formal consultation period commencing on <u>20 July 2026</u>. e) Note the upcoming August 2026 engagement programme.
Context	Since the previous Board update, feedback from Schedule 3 engagement has informed the development of the draft plan, consultation material and public engagement programme. The project team is now preparing to commence the formal public comment period on 20 July 2026. This paper provides Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī with an update on progress to date, resolves to give public notice stating that the draft He Kawa Ora is to be prepared, and inviting written comments on 20 July 2026, and seeks approval of the draft public comment survey to assist in the public comment process. The paper also outlines the upcoming programme of engagement activities throughout August 2026.

Executive summary – Whakarāpopototanga matua

1. The purpose of this paper is to update Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī on progress made in the development of He Kawa Ora since the previous Board meeting and to seek approval for the next stage of formal engagement in accordance with clause 3(3) of Schedule 3 of Te Ture Whakātupua mō Te Kāhui Tupua 2025 / Taranaki Maunga Collective Redress Act 2025 ('**Te Kāhui Tupua Act**').

2. Since the last Board meeting, work has focused on continuing engagement with a number of entities (including those listed in clause 3(2) of schedule 3), preparing the draft consultation material, developing the public engagement programme, and finalising the consultation survey to support the formal public comment period commencing on **20 July 2026**.
3. The paper seeks approval of the draft survey attached as Attachment A. The purpose of this survey is to assist in framing any comments any party may wish to make. Anyone making a comment is not required to use the survey, and ultimately any comments will be received.
4. It is proposed to update the tekahuitupua.nz website to host the comment/survey and the key comment portal.
5. The paper also outlines the planned engagement programme throughout the formal comment period and notes the key engagement opportunities with iwi, hapū, stakeholders, agencies and the wider community. This is to make the planning team available to proactively seek out comments over this next phase of the project.

Purpose – He aronga matua

6. The purpose of this paper is to:
 - (a) provide an update on progress made in developing He Kawa Ora;
 - (b) report on early discussions in accordance with clause 3(2) of Schedule 3.
 - (c) seek approval of the draft public consultation survey as one method of receiving formal comments;
 - (d) outline the communications approach for the public comment period, including hosting the comment portal on the tekahuitupua.nz website; and
 - (e) note the planned engagement programme during August 2026.

Background and context – He kupu whakamarama

6. Schedule 3 of Te Kāhui Tupua Act requires Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangi to prepare He Kawa Ora mō Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki and to seek the views of iwi, hapū, statutory agencies, key stakeholders, and the wider public before commencing drafting of the Plan.
7. Since the previous Board meeting, the project has continued to progress through targeted engagement with Schedule 3(2) parties, development of the consultation material, and refinement of the emerging framework for He Kawa Ora.
8. The Appointed Planning team has been engaging with as many parties as possible over the last few months. This is set out in the correspondence register found at this link  [HKO Engagement Spreadsheet.xlsx](#)
9. The nature of the conversations has generally been to introduce the broader Te Kāhui Tupua arrangements, some early thoughts on the content of He Kawa Ora, and to outline the process to develop the Plan.
10. A draft survey has been prepared to support the formal comment period and is attached to this paper for approval. The survey has been designed to encourage meaningful feedback from iwi, hapū, organisations, user groups, and members of the public while remaining accessible and easy to complete.

11. Subject to Board approval, the survey will be made available from 20 July 2026 on the Te Kāhui Tupua website. This survey is not intended to be the only engagement tool and will sit alongside ongoing public engagement and intended drop-in sessions around the region to support and sit alongside this survey.
12. It is proposed to utilise the tekahuitupua.nz website as the key comment portal for this next stage of plan development. The online platform will improve accessibility, provide a central location for consultation material, and enable efficient collection and reporting of information gathered throughout the public comment period which is intended to run from 20 July – 20 October 2026.

Upcoming Engagement Programme

10. Following commencement of the public comment period, a programme of engagement sessions will be carried out across the comment period to provide opportunities for proactive seeking of comments in specific interest areas while also enabling engagement with the wider community to learn more about He Kawa Ora and provide feedback.
11. The proposed engagement programme is summarised below in Table 1.

Table 1: He Kawa Ora Future Engagements

He Kawa Ora Future Engagements		
Date	Engagement topic	Location
August 11 th 6.30pm – 8.30pm	Alpine Clubs workshop	Fitzroy Golf Club (TBC)
August 17 th 9.30am – 12.30pm	Rangatahi South workshop	Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga, Hāwera Library,
August 18 th (time TBC)	Translocation workshop	Wharepuni Marae, Normanby
August 19 th 9am – 12pm	Rangatahi North workshop	Toi Foundation, New Plymouth
August 19 th 3pm – 4pm	DOC Local area office workshop	DOC Office
August 20 th (time TBC)	Research & Monitoring workshop	Manganui Lodge – query
TBC	Ngāti Ruanui workshops	TBC
Varying dates across September	Open days (drop-in centres)	Hāwera Ōpunakē Stratford New Plymouth Pātea Ōkato Ōakura Waitara Urenui
September 2026	Kura Taiao	Te Kāhui o Taranaki.

Table 1: engagement dates over the comment period

Risk assessment – He aronga tūraru

12. Successful delivery of the formal engagement programme relies on effective communication and broad participation from iwi, hapū, stakeholders, and the wider community.
13. The combination of online engagement, targeted stakeholder meetings, and public drop-in sessions is intended to maximise participation and ensure all interested parties have a

reasonable opportunity to provide feedback. This alongside the online consultation survey tool should enable a broad range of feedback to be obtained a wide range of inputs.

14. Any feedback received during the consultation period will be analysed and reported back to Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī before preparation of the drafting of He Kawa Ora.

Consultation – Toronga

15. Pre-engagement with Schedule 3 parties has occurred with all those parties that have responded to the formal letters circulated in March this year, and has informed the preparation of the consultation material.
16. Formal consultation will commence on 20 July 2026 and remain open for a three month period. The scheduled engagement listed above in Table 1 is to sit alongside this open period.
17. Feedback received through the online survey, workshops, drop in centres and engagement events will be considered during preparation of the drafting of He Kawa Ora.

Legislation – He aronga ture

18. Schedule 3 of Te Ture Whakatupua mō Te Kāhui Tupua 2025 / Taranaki Maunga Collective Redress Act 2025 sets out the plan making process for He Kawa Ora mō Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki.

Recommendation – He kupu whakatau

19. It is recommended that Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī:
 - a) Receive this report.
 - b) Approve the draft public comment survey attached as Attachment A.
 - c) Approve the engagement of Nowadays Studio to develop and host the online consultation platform on the Te Kāhui Tupua website.
 - d) Note the proposed August 2026 engagement programme.

Decision comments

Appendix A: 20 July Survey content

He Kupu Arataki / Background and purpose

Background

The area formerly known as Egmont National Park is now known as **Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki**. This reflects the cultural, historical, and legal changes established through the settlement arrangements recognising the relationship of iwi with Taranaki Maunga.

Under the settlement legislation, **Taranaki Maunga** has been recognised as a legal person. This legal personality extends beyond the boundaries of Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki and encompasses the wider ancestral landscape known as **Te Kāhui Tupua**. Te Kāhui Tupua includes Taranaki Maunga and its surrounding peaks, lands, and interconnected natural and cultural features as defined in the settlement legislation.

As a legal person, Te Kāhui Tupua has its own rights, interests, values, and wellbeing that must be recognised and provided for. Decisions relating to Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki should therefore be considered within the broader context of Te Kāhui Tupua and its long-term health and wellbeing.

Te Tōpuni Kōkōurangi is the governance entity established to act as the face and voice of Te Kāhui Tupua. It is responsible for representing and advocating for the interests of Te Kāhui Tupua and ensuring that its values, purpose, and wellbeing are upheld.

He Kawa Ora mō Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki is being developed within this unique context, recognising both the statutory management requirements for Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki and the wider aspirations for the wellbeing of Te Kāhui Tupua.

Ngā Pou Whakatupua are the foundational values and principles of Te Kāhui Tupua. They express the intrinsic values, tikanga, and enduring relationships that connect Taranaki Maunga, the surrounding environment, and the people who hold relationships with it. Ngā Pou Whakatupua provide guidance for decision-making and help ensure that actions affecting Te Kāhui Tupua are undertaken in a manner that upholds its mana, mauri, and wellbeing.

Maunga values

Ngā Pou Whakatupua comprises the following intrinsic values that represent the essence of the wider ancestral landscape, Te Kāhui Tupua, and are intended to reflect the cultural, spiritual, ancestral, and historical relationship between Ngā Iwi o Taranaki and Te Kāhui Tupua:

- ***Ko Te Kāhui Tupua, he rārangi maunga here ā-nuku, here ā-rangi: Te Kāhui Tupua, the mountain range binding heaven and earth***
Te Kāhui Tupua is a living and indivisible whole incorporating all of its physical and metaphysical elements:
- ***Ko Te Kāhui Tupua, koia ko ō mātou nei okiokinga, ko mātou nei tō rātou okiokitanga: Te Kāhui Tupua, our embodiment in life and death***

Te Kāhui Tupua represents and upholds the ancestral, historical, cultural, and spiritual relationship between Ngā Iwi o Taranaki and their tūpuna maunga:

- ***Ko Te Kāhui Tupua, ko te puna i heke mai ai te tangata: Te Kāhui Tupua, from which we descend and take our identity***

Te Kāhui Tupua and its health and well-being are fundamental to the identity, tikanga, reo, and health and well-being of Ngā Iwi o Taranaki:

- ***Ko Tupua Kawa, ko Tawhito Kawa, he kawa ora: The ancestral knowledge, the ancient law, the law of existence***

Te Kāhui Tupua is a source of spiritual, cultural, and physical well-being of—

- (i) the lands, waters, flora, fauna, and other natural resources of Taranaki; and*
- (ii) the people of Taranaki:*

- ***Ko Te Kāhui Tupua, he puna koropupū, he manawa whenua, hei mou ake nei i te tini mokopuna: Te Kāhui Tupua, a spring, a source of enduring naturally filtered water and life, protected for future generations***

Ngā Iwi o Taranaki, the Crown, and all of the communities of Taranaki have an intergenerational responsibility actively to protect the health and well-being of Te Kāhui Tupua.

How it will work

Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī invites iwi, hapū, whānau, stakeholders, partners, landowners, users and the wider community to share early comments to help shape He Kawa Ora, the national park management plan for Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki.

He Kawa Ora will guide how Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki is protected, restored, accessed, used, cared for, and experienced over time.

This comment period is a formal step in creating He Kawa Ora. It is a chance to identify important places, values, risks, opportunities, issues, and hopes before a draft plan is written. It is **not** consultation on a draft.

People can comment on anything related to Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki – the whole area or a specific place, track, road end, waterway, hut, facility, ecological area, cultural site, activity, issue, or future idea.

Please share your comments:

- Via the survey below; or
- Write to us at info@tekahuitupua.nz

Where possible, please identify:

- the matter you want He Kawa Ora to address;
- why it matters;
- where it applies; and
- what outcome or response you would like to see.

Survey / comments

These questions are helped to inform and guide keys areas of interests and concerns around the management of Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki. The survey information is for information gathering and will not be publicly available or published. The intention being for the survey to inform us on person / entities interests, concerns, and vision for He Kawa Ora. All responses will be held confidentially by Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī.

Background information to collect

Section 1: Personal information (compulsory inputs needed)

1. Name (optional)

2. Organisation, entity, iwi, hapū, whānau or group
If applicable.

3. Gender

Select option that applies:

- *Male*
- *Female*
- *Non-binary*
- *Other*

4. Age

Select option that applies:

- *Age bracket options*

5. Ethnicity

Drop down with options to select multiple fields

6. Where do you live

Select option that applies

- *Taranaki*
- *North Island, New Zealand outside of Taranaki – free text box to add connection to Taranaki*
- *South Island, New Zealand – free text box to add connection to Taranaki*
- *Other – please specify*

7. What is your association with Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki?

Select all that apply.

- *Iwi/hapū/whānau connection - text box for what iwi / hapu*
- *Te Tōpuni Ngārahu / Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī / governance interest*
- *Local resident or community member*

- *Recreational user*
- *Visitor*
- *Conservation / environmental organisation*
- *Education / research*
- *Commercial operator*
- *Tourism / visitor sector*
- *Local government / public agency*
- *Adjoining landowner or land manager*
- *Volunteer / restoration group*
- *Other – please describe*

Section 2: Values and vision (optional)

8. What does Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki mean to you or your whānau, organisation or community?
9. Are there any specific places that are special to you and why?
Where and why
10. What would a healthy, thriving and respected Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki look like in 10, 30 or 100 years?

Section 3: Management Plan focus and provisions (optional)

11. What topics below do you think He Kawa Ora needs to focus on?

Select all that apply.

- *Te Kāhui Tupua status and Ngā Pou Whakatupua*
- *Cultural values, identity, tikanga, mātauranga, and whakapapa*
- *Iwi, hapū, and whānau relationships and responsibilities*
- *Biodiversity, ecological restoration, and species protection*
- *Freshwater areas, wetlands, rivers and catchments*
- *Climate change and natural hazards*
- *Visitor access and recreation*
- *Visitor experience, interpretation, and education*
- *Infrastructure, tracks, huts, roads, and facilities*
- *Commercial activities and concessions*
- *Research, monitoring, and information management*
- *Landscape, natural character, and quiet / remote values*
- *Management of impacts from surrounding land use*
- *Other – please describe*

Free textbox: Please describe why you feel these topics are important

12. What environmental issues should He Kawa Ora prioritise?

Select as many as are applicable.

- Pest or predator animal control
- Pest plant control
- Native biodiversity restoration
- Threatened species protection
- Freshwater, wetland and catchment health
- Climate change adaptation
- Natural hazards and visitor safety
- Erosion, slips or track impacts
- Visitor pressure and cumulative effects
- Waste and human impacts
- Protection of cultural sites and sensitive places
- Restoration of ecological connections beyond the park boundary
- Monitoring, research and reporting
- Other – please describe

Free textbox: Please describe why you feel these environment issues are important

13. How do you feel He Kawa Ora should give life to the Maunga values

- Ngā Pou Whakatupua (see main page for explanation of values)?

Section 4: Visitors (optional)

14. What visitor behaviours, activities or impacts need management in Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki?

Select all that apply

- *High-volume visitation*
- *Noise, crowding or conflict between users*
- *Walking or climbing to sensitive places*
- *Camping or overnight use*
- *Cycling or other forms of access*
- *Commercial guiding or tourism*
- *Events*
- *Waste, toileting or water quality impacts*
- *Dogs or other animals*
- *Drones*
- *Aircraft use*
- *Other (please specify)*

Free textbox: Please describe about the specific impacts and how you think they need to be managed. E.g. camping ban or provide free camping everywhere within Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki

- 15.** Are there any visitor opportunities you wish to see accommodated in Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki.
- 16.** What information should be available for visitors before and during their visit?
Please consider the visitors whole experience e.g. planning their journey / activities, understanding the area, way-finding, safety and tikanga.
- 17.** Are there areas within Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki where there is issues, conflicts or areas of degradation – where and why
- 18.** Other comments

Thank you for taking your time to participate in preparation of He Kawa Ora. Please provide any other feedback, thoughts or questions through to us on info@tekahuitupua.nz. All personal information collected as part of this survey will be held by Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī and handled in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020.

Following this comment period all of the feedback will be collated and help support us in the drafting of He Kawa Ora. The intention is to publicly notify He Kawa Ora in mid-2027.

Kaupapa: **Department of Conservation Operational Reporting Template**

Prepared By: Tinaka Mearns, Regional Director Hauraki Waikato Taranaki

Meeting Date: 9 July 2026

Recommendation	<u>It is recommended the Board:</u> a) Receive, note, and discuss the Operational Reporting Template b) Approve that the Operational Reporting Template be provided twice annually, at mid-year and year-end
Context	The Department of Conservation (‘DOC’) is required, through the Statement of Priorities and section 101(c) of <i>Te Ture Whakatupua mō Te Kāhui Tupua 2025 / Taranaki Maunga Collective Redress Act 2025</i>, to provide annual operational reporting for Te Kāhui Tupua. The proposed reporting template has been developed to support Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī’s governance oversight of operational activity, progress against priorities, and matters requiring discussion or direction. In developing the template, DOC has considered the nature of the reporting information and the expected pace of progress. On that basis, twice-yearly reporting – at mid-year and year-end – is proposed as an appropriate reporting cycle. This approach is intended to provide a consistent and meaningful basis for oversight, while avoiding reporting intervals that may not generate substantive updates. A draft operational reporting template is provided for Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī’s consideration.

Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki: Statement of Priorities Reporting Template

Reporting period: 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2027

Prepared for: Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī

Prepared by: Te Papa Atawhai / Department of Conservation

Date: [Insert date]

1. Executive Summary

Provide a concise overview of progress against the Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Statement of Priorities for the reporting period. Summarise the overall delivery position, key achievements, significant risks or constraints, and any matters requiring Executive Board attention or decision.

Overall delivery status	[On track / At risk / Off track]
Key achievements	[Summarise the most material achievements in 3–5 points]
Key risks or constraints	[Summarise the most material risks, constraints, or dependencies]
Board attention / decisions required	[List any decisions, endorsements, trade-offs, or escalations required]

2. Progress Against Statement of Priorities

Priority area	Expected outcome	Progress and evidence	Status
Forming and deepening relationships	Relationships with ngā iwi o Taranaki and communities are strengthened and reflected in operational planning and delivery.	[Describe engagement undertaken, joint work completed, relationship improvements, and evidence of iwi/community involvement.]	[G/A/R]
Alignment with Ngā Pou Whakatupua	Activities planned, funded, or delivered within Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki demonstrably align with Ngā Pou Whakatupua.	[Describe how alignment was tested, documented, and applied to operational decisions.]	[G/A/R]

Te Kāhui Tupua as a living and indivisible whole	Operational management recognises the physical and metaphysical elements of Te Kāhui Tupua.	[Describe how planning, delivery, monitoring, and decision-making reflected this approach.]	[G/A/R]
From aspiration to action	Values-led expectations are translated into clear operational outputs and outcomes.	[Describe practical actions delivered and how they connect to Ngā Pou Whakatupua.]	[G/A/R]
Reciprocity and benefit	Operational programmes articulate how they give back to, restore, or enhance Te Kāhui Tupua.	[Describe benefits delivered, including restoration, biodiversity, visitor management, cultural, or community outcomes.]	[G/A/R]

3. Examples of Operational Alignment

Operational area	Key actions delivered	Evidence of impact / benefit	Next steps
Visitor access and facility management	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]
Restoration and biodiversity	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]
Concessions and commercial activity	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]
Research and monitoring	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]

4. Ngā Iwi o Taranaki Aspirations

Summarise how DOC has engaged in good faith with Te Tōpuni Ngārahu and Ngā Iwi o Taranaki to understand emerging aspirations, and how these have been incorporated as far as practicable.

Aspiration / priority	Extent incorporated	If not incorporated, reason	Proposed response / next cycle action
[Insert]	[Fully / Partially / Not yet]	[Insert reason, constraint, or dependency]	[Insert action, timeframe, or escalation]

5. Use of Concession Revenue and Other Fees

Revenue / fee source	Amount	Use of funds	Benefit to Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki
[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]

6. Opportunities, Risks, Constraints, and Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Direction

Opportunity / risk	Impact	Mitigation / response	Board direction required
[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]

Kaupapa: **Public Excluded Session**

Prepared By: Lesa Bevin, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Secretariat

Meeting Date: 9 July 2026

Recommendation	<u>It is recommended the Board:</u> a) Resolve to move into a publicly excluded session
Resolution to exclude the public	In accordance with section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 ('LGOIMA'), and section 9 (1) of the Official Information Act 1982 ('OIA'), it is moved that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely: Agenda Item 11. It is also moved that the following persons be permitted to remain at the meeting, after the public has been excluded, because of their knowledge of these topics and/or their role in supporting Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī: - Lesa Bevin, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Board Secretary; - Sean Zieltjes, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Planner; and - Laura Buttimore, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Planner These stated persons have had input into, advised on or been advised of the matters sought to be excluded.
Context	The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of LGOIMA for the passing of this resolution are set out below. Papers for publicly excluded matters will be circulated to members separately.

<i>General subject of each matter to be considered</i>	<i>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</i>	<i>Grounds under section 48(1) of the OIA for the passing of this resolution</i>
Agenda Item 11 Maintaining legal professional privilege for the Office of the Auditor-General review.	To maintain confidentiality and to enable Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in any relevant proceeding.	s.9(2)(h)

Kaupapa: **General Business**
Prepared By: Lesa Bevin, Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī Secretariat
Meeting Date: 9 July 2026

Recommendation	<u>It is recommended the Board:</u> a) Formally addresses general business matters and, b) Where appropriate, revisit previous agenda items to ensure all relevant issues are thoroughly considered and documented
Context	This approach will help maintain transparency and facilitate informed decision-making on outstanding or ongoing matters. The Board may establish a standing procedure whereby general business and earlier items are reviewed at each meeting, allowing members to raise concerns or seek updates as necessary.