



Council Meeting Agenda

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

17 October 2026

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Saturday 17 October 2026

10:00am

TET MultiSports Centre

Stratford

AGENDA TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL MEETING

Saturday 17 October 2026

TET MultiSport Centre, 62 Portia Street, Stratford

Commencing at 10:00am

1	Welcome	Welcome message / korero powhiri		1
2	Apologies			2
3	Conflict of Interest	Declaration of Conflicts of Interest		3
4	Minutes of Previous Meeting	a. Minutes of Meeting 15 August 2026		5
5	Matters Arising	a. Action List Summary		20
		b. Other Matters Arising		
6	NZ Council Business	a. NZ Council Meeting #184 – 28 August 2026	Info	24
		b. NZ Council – Summary of other NZC Business	Info	27
7	Public Forum	Open Session for Public		34
8	Regional Business – Governance	a. Wellington Regional Business – Chair's Report	Info	35
		b. Resource Allocation Discussion	Feedback	36
		c. Meeting Schedule	Feedback	37
		d. Receive Annual Project Reports – attached compendium	Receive	
9	Inter-Regional Business	a. Chairs' Forum Update	Info	40
		b. Shared Resources Update	Info	40
		c. Access Stamp Proposal	Feedback	41
10	Proposed F&G Legislative Changes	a. Consideration of Proposed Legislative Changes - Update	Info	46
11	Draft Budget 2026 2027	a. Confirmed Budget Based on Bulk Funding Figures	Info	48
12	Strategic Matters	a. Risk Management Review	Info	58
		b. Strategic Discussion	Info	64
		c. Iwi Engagement Strategy	Info	
		d. Draft Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan	Info	
13	Policy and Legislation	a. Resource Management Act Review	Info	65
		b. Local Government Reform	Info	
		c. Conservation Amendment Bill	Info	
		d. NZ Council Policy Consultation: draft HPAI Response Policy	Feedback	67
		e. NZ Council Policy Consultation: Game Bird Nuisance Policy	Feedback	74
		f. Operational Policy – draft Procurement Policy	Decision	78
		g. Operational Policy – Vehicle Procurement & Disposal Policy	Decision	83
		h. Policy Review Schedule	Info	
14	Health and Safety	a. Health and Safety Report July/August 2026	Info	85
		b. Proactive Health and Safety Initiatives	Info	
		c. Operational Policy – managing critical risks	Decision	88
15	Species Management	a. Research Update	Info	93
		b. Draft Game Bird Monitoring Policy	Info	
16	Habitat Advocacy & Management	a. Regional Planning advocacy	Info	94
		b. Resource Consent advocacy	Info	
		c. Habitat Enhancement and Management	Info	100
17	Participation	a. Information to Clients	Info	128
		b. Licence Holder Engagement – incl. R3	Info	
		c. Access Management	Info	129
18	Public Awareness/Comms	a. Iwi Engagement	Info	134
		b. Public Awareness	Info	
		c. Communication	Info	
19	Licence Sales	a. Licence Sales Update to 30 September 2026 – Fish 25/26	Info	136
		b. Licence Sales Update to 30 September 2026 - Game	Info	137
		c. Licence Management Systems Performance July/Aug 26	Info	138
		d. Licence Management Systems Review	Info	154
20	Operational Summary Report	a. Operational Report 1 July to 31 August 2026	Info	173
21	Financial Reporting	a. Profit and Loss Statement as at 31 August 2026	Info	199
		b. Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2026	Info	206
		c. Capital Expenditure – Hatchery, Vehicle, Raetihi Building	Decision	208
		d. Financial Overview	Info	
22	Correspondence/Media	CSI correspondence	Info	215
23	Recognition Awards		Info	220

24	Conservation Board Liaison		Info	221
25	General Business		Info	222
26	Next Meeting Confirmation	Next Meeting: December 2026 10:00am, New Plymouth	Info	223
27	Closure	korero kati		

Agenda Item 1 **Welcome**

Summary

Welcome to Councillors and public.

Welcome Message – korero powhiri

Let us look after the water	Kia tiaki tatou i te wai
that flow from Mount Ruapehu and Mount Taranaki	ka rere mai i Maunga Ruapehu me Taranaki Maunga
For the health of the fish and birds	Mo te oranga o nga ika me nga manu
and hunters and anglers	me nga kaiwhakangau me nga kaihao
Let us work together with unity to make good decisions	kia mahi tatou me te kotahitanga ki te whakatau pai

Present and In Attendance

Summary

Record noted of all those who attend meeting in full or in part.

Agenda Item 2 Apologies

Summary

Confirm apologies notified to Chairman from those Councillors and public for non-attendance or lateness.

Decision Required

Recommendation/Action

Move motion accepting apologies from those that inform the Council of their non-attendance or lateness to meeting.

Agenda Item 3 Conflict of Interest

Summary

Consider the Conflicts of Interest Register to ensure it clearly identifies any perceived or actual conflicts of interest of members in general.

Confirm that there are no additional conflicts of interest to declare –either in general or specific items in the current agenda.

Confirm how the Council will handle any new conflicts of interest identified – including speaking rights, voting rights, exclusion from meeting on specific items, or exclusion of receiving any specific material relating to that item identified.

Decision Required

Recommendation/Action

Move motion accepting any additions/deletions to the Conflicts of Interest Register that are declared.

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

Conflicts of Interest Register List

Councillor	Conflict of Interest Identified	Date Declared
Chris Donald	Member of Inglewood Rod, Hunting and Clay Target Club	14 June 2014
Alan Flynn	None noted	
Gerard Karalus	Trustee on Nowell's Lake Trust	20 March 2026
Chris Mattock	None noted	
John Nancarrow	Member of Inglewood Rod, Hunting and Clay Target Club	17 August 2024
Romon Sargeson	None noted	
Raewenata Saunders	None noted	
Staff		
Phil Teal	Manager of Wellington Fish and Game Council	19 October 2024

Agenda Item 4 Minutes of Meeting 15 August 2026

Summary

Consider the unconfirmed and draft Minutes of the Council meeting held on 15 August 2026 of the Taranaki Fish and Game Council.

Confirmation by two members of the Council present at that meeting that they are a true and correct record of that meeting.

Note any specific additions or alterations required for clarity or correctness.

Decision Required

Recommendation/Action

Move motion accepting confirming that the Minutes of the Meeting of 15 August 2026 are a true and correct reflection of the meeting (subject to any amendments noted).

that the Taranaki Fish and Game Council adopt the minutes of the Meeting held on 15 August 2026 be considered as a true and correct record of that meeting.

TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TARANAKI FISH & GAME COUNCIL HELD AT TET MULTISPORTS CENTRE, 62 PORTIA STREET, STRATFORD ON SATURDAY, 15 AUGUST 2026 COMMENCING AT 10:00AM

1. Present

Chairman Chris Donald, Councillors Romon Sargeson, Chris Mattock, Alan Flynn, John Nancarrow, Gerard Karalus.

In Attendance

Staff: Phil Teal (Chief Executive), Allen Stancliff, Josh Murray.

2. Welcome

A korero pōwhiri was given by Councillor Mattock.

Chairman Chris Donald welcomed councillors and staff to the meeting.

Chairman Chris Donald then sought to initiate a public excluded session to facilitate "free and frank" discussions among elected members.

At 10:05am, it was then moved that

The general subject of the matters to be discussed while the public is excluded, to facilitate free and frank discussions relating to governance issues of Taranaki Fish and Game Council, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution is as follows:

General subject to be considered:

Governance issues relating to Taranaki Fish and Game Council

Reason for passing this resolution:

that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of information is necessary to:

- *provide for free and frank discussions and*
- *protect the privacy of natural persons*

Grounds under Section 7:

- *Section 7 (2) (f) (i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to members of any local authority in the course of their duty;*
- *Section 7 (2) (a) protect the privacy of natural persons*

Romon Sargeson/John Nancarrow

Carried

At 10:45am it was moved that

the meeting move out of public-excluded session and resume in open meeting.

Romon Sargeson/Chris Mattock

Carried

3. Apologies

There were apologies from Councillors Rawenata Saunders.

It was moved that

the apologies be received.

Romon Sargeson/John Nancarrow

Carried

Chairman Donald welcomed Josh Murray, the new Fish and Game Officer for Taranaki Fish and Game Council, with the focus on managing areas the Whanganui and Waimarino districts for Taranaki Fish and Game region – based out of Palmerston North office (with a shared role function with Wellington Region 0.5FTE). Mr Murray provided a brief overview of his skills and previous experience, and outlined his long-standing passion for hunting and fishing.

4. Conflict Of Interest

No additional conflicts of interest were identified for the existing register, and none were noted in the current agenda.

5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 23 May 2026

After brief discussion it was moved that

the Minutes of the meeting of the Taranaki Fish & Game Council of 23 May 2026 be approved and confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

John Nancarrow/Romon Sargeson

Carried

6. Matters Arising

Mr Teal briefly confirmed the actions completed from the 23 May 2026 meeting. This included:

- Cash Reserves (restricted, dedicated, and general) be clearly shown in the (bimonthly) financial reporting.
- Liaised with the NZC CE on options for developing a coordinated meeting calendar that establishes clear consultation, analysis, agenda distribution, and project milestone deadlines, and report back with recommendations.
- Upgrading of IT – e.g. twin computer screens and laptops purchased for the New Plymouth Office.
- Licence Fee Recommendation: Feedback was provided to NZ Council – noting that Taranaki Council - Taranaki Council would support a \$5 increase in the base licence fees as recommended by NZ Council. Further, if the Minister does not approve an increase in the base licence fee that a prudent approach would be for all entities to revert to last year's budget and if increases in budget is required by an individual entity that these increases are funded from reserves.
- Anglers Notice Recommendation: Taranaki Council make no changes to the 2025/2026 Angers Notice for the 2026/27 season. This was notified to NZ Council.
- Trout Released Schedule: Taranaki Council receive the proposed 2026 Trout Release Schedule.

- Still progressing confirmation of renewal of the contract with BDO Manawatu to act as the Auditor Agent for Office of Auditor General.
- NZ Council staff are aware of Taranaki Council's expectation that work on reviewing licence categories would have been progressed in conjunction with the work undertaken by Southwick on licence price sensitivity.

Further Discussion on licence categories:

- a combined Fishing and Hunting licence category that was not progressed (in 2014) as a viable option.
- The Family Licence category: unintended consequence of the category changes (a requirement to have a child listed on a family licence).
- Local Area Licence effectiveness.
- Another category of interest is for an over 65 licence for fish and/or game – going beyond the Loyal Senior Fishing option.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to NZ Council confirming support for the comprehensive review of licence category offerings and pricing strategy.

- A suggestion was made to consider engaging a summer intern to assist with tasks such as drift dives and other fieldwork, noting it was an idea for active consideration.

7. **New Zealand Fish and Game Council Meeting Business**

Councillor Sargeson provided an overview of key matters discussed at the NZ Fish and Game Council meeting (#182) held on 19 and 20 June 2026 in Wellington.

A. **NZ Council meeting (Meeting #182) 19 and 20 June 2026**

Councillor Sargeson outlined the key matters including:

The following matters were highlighted:

1. **NZ Council CEO**

- Corina Jordan's secondment as joint CEO of NZ Fish and Game Council and Game Animal Council extended to December.
- Recruitment process underway for a new NZ Council CEO.

2. **Budget Confirmation – including summary of Meeting #183**

- NZ Council reverted to the previous year's approved regional budgets as the baseline.
- Across-the-board budget reductions were made.
- Taranaki's reduction was approximately \$10,000, with use of reserves approved to offset the reduction.
- The \$2 licence-fee increase was subsequently approved by the Minister, reducing the required draw on reserves.
- The impact of the \$2 increase on individual licence categories was discussed.
- The 1 September licence-sale date remains the established operational approach.

3. **Grey teal – promoting hunting opportunities**

- Nelson/Marlborough will present a proposal to NZ Council seeking an open grey teal season under Schedule 3. A Schedule 3 approach was considered more achievable than seeking a change to Schedule 1.
- The objective is to establish the Minister's position and requirements for progressing the proposal.
- A coordinated approach between NZ Council and regional councils was considered important.

It was then moved

to receive the report from the Taranaki Council appointee to NZ Council on NZ Fish and Game Council business for the previous period, including meetings and key issues and actions.

John Nancarrow/Alan Flynn

Carried

8. Public Forum

There were no items forwarded by the public or presented in the day for consideration.

9. Regional Business – Governance

The Chairman provided an update on key governance and operational matters since the previous meeting, noting that budget discussions had been a focus amongst regional Chairs.

- Budget/governance: Concerns were raised about some councils seeking to influence matters beyond their appropriate role, including engagement between Council Chairs and the Minister.
- Shared resource: Josh Murray has been recruited by Taranaki as a Fish and Game Officer, based in Palmerston North, supporting the Whanganui/Ohakune–Waimarino areas (Taranaki) operations and half FTE supporting Wellington operations.
- Cost sharing: Taranaki will employ Mr Murray, with Wellington funding 50% of his time under a shared-services agreement, intended to be cost-neutral overall. agreement.
- Financial reporting: Confirmed that financial reporting is now undertaken from the Wellington North office by Mike Lai as part of the shared services.
- New Plymouth position: The vacant New Plymouth position is expected to be re-advertised within the next few weeks. Previous suitable candidates will be re-contacted, with the aim of appointing someone before Christmas.
- Wellington Fish and Game Council liaison: Chairman Donald expressed the intention to catch-up in the near future with Paul Dewar (Wellington Chairman) to discuss current governance issues.
- National Party hunting and fishing manifesto: A proposal would require Fish & Game regions to review regional boundaries to better align with RMA and local government reforms was noted. There remains potential for cross-boundary management which could have implications for areas such as the Whakapapa and Upper Whanganui. It was noted that the Minister is aware of the issue, although the current preference is to avoid pursuing a boundary change and keep arrangements simple.
- Regional cooperation: Opportunities remain to work collaboratively across regions on catchment management and joint ranger activities, particularly around Whanganui, Whakapapa and Waimarino.

After brief discussion it was moved

Council receives the verbal update report presented the Chairman on Regional Business – Governance for the previous period since the last meeting of Council.

Chris Donald/John Nancarrow

Carried

10. Inter-Regional Business – Governance

A. Regional Chairs' Forum Update

Chairman Donald noted that there have been no formal Chairs' Meetings undertaken in recent months – with communications limited to individual Chair to Chair interaction.

B. Shared Resources Update

Chairman Donald noted that there was a need to formalise the shared services agreement for field operative services with Wellington region. It was acknowledged that if the two regions operate as a shared resource, the distinction between who works for whom should become less relevant, with roles based on location and a shared organisational culture enabling seamless operation across the Lower North Island. Mr Teal provided an overview of the cost structure and the draft shared-services but outlined this contained personal information. It is recommended that the public be excluded from the following parts of the meeting.

At 11:50am, it was then moved that

The general subject of the matters to be discussed while the public is excluded, to provide for privacy of staff in relation to the matter of establishing an operational shared agreement between Wellington Fish and Game Council and Taranaki Fish and Game Council, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution is as follows:

General subject to be considered:

establishing an operational shared agreement between Wellington Fish and Game Council and Taranaki Fish and Game Council

Reason for passing this resolution:

that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information where the withholding of information is necessary to:

- *maintain legal professional privilege*

Grounds under Section 7:

Section 7 (2) (a) protect the privacy of natural persons

Romon Sargeson/Chris Mattock

Carried

At 12:00pm it was moved that

the meeting move out of public-excluded session and resume in open meeting.

John Nancarrow/Chris Mattock

Carried

After brief discussion it was moved that

The approach outlined in the proposed shared resources agreement for field staff between Taranaki Fish and Game Council and Wellington Fish and Game Council be supported.

Romon Sargeson/Chris Mattock

Carried

Hawke's Bay / North Canterbury: It was noted that the shared resource for Hawke's Bay and North Canterbury regions may be changing: the operational manager is leaving, and the administrator for Hawke's Bay is also leaving. This might leave an immediate gap for financial services and create a potential capacity gap for annual reporting. This was an update for Council for information only at this stage.

After brief discussion it was moved

Council receives the verbal update report presented the Chairman on Inter-regional Business – Governance for the previous period since the last meeting of Council.

Chris Donald/John Nancarrow

Carried

11. Consideration of Proposed Fish and Game Legislative Changes

Discussion was held on the potential progress of the draft Fish and Game Bill. Chairman Donald noted that Fish and Game remain in a 'holding' mode awaiting potential introduction of Fish and Game legislation. He observed that if a Bill is not introduced within the next few weeks, it would not proceed during this parliamentary cycle. Councillor Sargeson noted that:

- Legislation timing: Expected introduction has been repeatedly delayed and has not yet occurred.
- Parliamentary process: With Parliament in recess and limited sitting time before the election, a first reading appears uncertain.
- Post-election: Any new Government would likely reassess the legislative programme and the proposed legislation.
- Implication: Significant legislative direction is unlikely within the next six months.

12. Draft Annual Budget and Project Plan

Taranaki Fish and Game Council discussed the NZ Council recommendation to the Minister of a \$2 increase in licence fees for the 2026/2027 Financial Year and use of reserves to bring the budget allocation up to previous year's budget.

Mr Teal provided an update of the adjusted budget following the figures provided by NZ Council, and provided additional clarification and alignment of the Annual Work Plan:

- Adjusted budget: Updated following NZ Council's revised allocation, with approximately \$10,000 drawn from reserves to maintain the previous year's budget level.
- Project costing: Staff time is now allocated to individual projects to better reflect their true costs and support zero-based budgeting.
- Strategic alignment: Projects are linked to strategic outcomes to ensure activities directly support organisational priorities.
- Use of Cash Reserves: Mr Teal was requested to update the Council's Reserve Policy and develop a five-year strategy of how cash reserves could be used on project focus and/or capital items. Suggested considerations could be to utilise the funds for access improvements (Nowell's Lake), hatchery maintenance, resource consent renewals.

The Reserve Policy review should:

- Ensure Taranaki's Reserve Policy aligns with NZ Council's Reserve Policy and ensure consistency with its requirements.
- Provide clarity on the establishment of reserve categories: General, Asset Replacement Fund (General), Dedicated Reserves, and Restricted Reserves:
- Specify the source of funds, encumbrances, responsibilities for appropriate use, and procedures for approving and resolving their use.
- Clearly define the purpose and permitted use of all existing reserves.

It was moved to that

Taranaki Council review its Reserve Policy and define a five-year strategy for use of funds from each of the current specified reserves.

Gerard Karalus/John Nancarrow

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 12.35pm for lunch.

The meeting reconvened at 1:10pm.

After further discussion and clarification it was moved that

The draft budget and Annual Work Plan as presented be adopted for the 2026/2027 Financial Year.

Romon Sargeson/Gerard Karalus

Carried

13. Strategic Matters

A. Strategic Discussion:

Chairman Donald noted that Council could discuss items to update the Five-Year Strategic Plan to guide annual planning priorities for the foreseeable future. There were no specific items considered for this meeting.

B. Risk Management

Mr Teal provided an update to Council on risk management issues associated with avian influenza (H5N1 strain – HPAI, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza):

- Avian influenza: New Zealand's first detections was recorded in Wellington region - requiring an ongoing response.
- Sampling: MPI is generally reluctant to test individual dead birds, focusing on multiple birds/mass mortalities.
- Response: Regional councils are expected to lead once H5N1 becomes established (and endemic), with Fish & Game involvement where appropriate and requested by MPI.
- Coordination: Fish & Game and iwi had limited involvement in pre-detection planning, highlighting a need for better coordination.
- H&S: Fish & Game has detection kits and enhanced PPE requirements for handling infected birds.
- HPAI Response Plan: prepared for Wellington Fish and Game region response plan.

Mr Teal noted that the Taranaki Regional Council now had sole responsibility for the Lake Rotomanu (New Plymouth) gold clam biosecurity response, with limited MPI funding support. The response has been limited to boating restrictions, information signs, considering washdown stations and noted that other activities could proceed (such as fishing) as long as check/clean/dry protocols were adhered to. The District Council has indicated that it may take a more active role in lake management by providing funding. However, a current cyanobacteria bloom is complicating management options for the gold clam. The fish order for releases and the organised October 2026 event have been paused, although limited viable options remain should a decision be made to proceed at short notice.

C. Iwi Engagement

Mr Teal noted that staff were actively engaging with Mana Whenua and how to incorporate a co-operative process in decision-making.

D. Sports Fish and Game Management Plan – Draft and Consultation

Mr Teal outlined progress to develop the draft Sports Fish and Game Bird Management Plan for both Wellington and Taranaki regions. Preliminary consultation has continued with Regional Council and DOC staff at the local level, and appropriate contacts are being sought to initiate consultation with mana whenua.

14. Policy and Legislation

Mr Teal provided an overview of recent legislative changes:

A. Arms Act Review

Parliament has passed the Arms Bill, replacing the Arms Act 1983. Key changes include stronger public safety requirements, automatic firearms licence disqualification for gang members, increased penalties, infringement powers for minor non-compliance, improved information sharing between agencies, more flexible firearm storage requirements, five-year business licences for compliant dealers, museum-specific licences, and mandatory fee reviews every five years.

The legislation also establishes Firearms Safety and Education New Zealand as an independent firearms regulator from 23 September 2026, replacing Te Tari Pūreke – Firearms Safety Authority. The new agency will be led by an independent Chief Executive, supported by Police corporate services, with oversight provided by the Ministry of Justice.

B. Resource Management Act Review

It is anticipated that the two new Bills to replace the RMA – the Natural Environment Act and Planning Act – will be developed and introduced to Parliament late in the calendar year.

The Bill is currently before the Environment Select Committee, which is considering submissions and preparing its findings and recommendations. It will undergo a full six-month select committee process.

C. Local Government Reform

Simplifying Local Government Overview: The Government's Simplifying Local Government programme aims to reduce bureaucracy, remove regional councils by 2028, and streamline service delivery through unitary authorities. Under the fast-tracked Head Start process, lower North Island councils had until 9 August 2026 to submit their own local governance or shared-service proposals.

If no proposal is submitted, councils may be subject to a compulsory government-led reorganisation after the 2028 local elections under the Back Stop process.

D. Conservation Amendment Bill

The Government has introduced an amendment Bill to the Conservation Act to 'modernise' how conservation land is managed, support economic growth, and improve environmental outcomes.

Conservation Amendment Bill Overview: The Environment Select Committee has not yet reported back on the Conservation Amendment Bill. Its final report to Parliament is nominally scheduled for completion around 11 November 2026. However, during the public submission phase, which closed in July 2026, the Government responded to widespread public and stakeholder concerns by signalling major changes.

Removal of Land Disposal and Exchange Clauses: Following significant opposition and direct consultation with groups such as Forest & Bird and the Environmental Defence Society, the Minister of Conservation requested that the Select Committee oversee the removal of provisions that would have loosened constraints on the exchange or disposal of Crown-owned conservation land.

Review of Economic Development Purpose: The Committee is facilitating further feedback on Clause 6, which originally proposed changes to the Department of Conservation's functions to enable economic use and development alongside protection, to ensure future wording preserves core conservation values.

E. Health and Safety Amendment Act

The Health and Safety at Work Amendment Bill was passed by a majority, introducing key refinements to improve clarity, risk targeting, and implementation.

Main Findings and Recommendations:

- Commencement Date: 1 April 2027.
- Prioritising Critical Risk: PCBU's will be explicitly required to prioritise the management of critical risks rather than general hazards.
- Inclusion of Mental Health: Severe mental health harm can constitute a 'critical risk'.
- Small PCBU Duties: Small PCBU's (fewer than 20 workers) will only be required to cooperate on critical risks when sharing duties on the same matter with larger PCBU's.
- Recreational Landowner Access: Landowner liability exemptions during recreational activities have been clarified.

14. Health and Safety Reporting

A. Health and Safety report for May and June 2026

Council considered the Health and Safety Report for May and June 2026. The following items were noted:

- Health and Safety: No accidents or near misses to report.
- Remote worker monitoring: Options are being reviewed, including apps used by other regions. The priority is a practical, user-friendly system that supports remote work without creating unnecessary administrative burden or becoming a "tick-box" exercise.
- Existing emergency measures, including PLBs, remain available for higher-risk situations.
- Discussed PPE requirements for H5N1, including N95 mask fitting and facial hair restrictions.
- Ami Coughlan has been elected Health and Safety Representative for Taranaki and Wellington and has joined the Health and Safety Committee. Debated the communication flow between the Health and Safety Committee and regional PCBU's to ensure urgent risks are addressed immediately. The Committee has been asked to clarify the processes by which issues are identified and then communicated to each PCBU's management and governance officers.

It was then moved that

Council receives the staff report on Health and Safety for May and June 2026

Romon Sargeson/John Nancarrow

Carried

15. Species Management

A. Research Update

Spawning models: Regional cluster work is underway to verify data and improve the models. Wellington has extensive freshwater fish data, which may disproportionately influence the

national predictions. Regions will identify rivers where further verification is needed and target additional data collection over the next five years.

B. Game bird monitoring policy:

No further work has been undertaken since the previous discussion.

C. Project Report Waiaua River Electric Fishing Survey December 2025

Discussion on findings in the report prepared by Mr Stancliff. He noted that the survey of the Waiaua Stream had found low juvenile recruitment despite good conditions. He noted that invertebrates in the Waiaua catchment remain healthy and the water remains clear. He further discussed the decline of the angler diary scheme, which received only five returns this season, and considered other options such as moving to a WhatsApp-based or app-based reporting system to increase angler engagement.

It was then moved that

Council receive the Project Report Waiaua River Electric Fishing Survey December 2025.

John Nancarrow/Chris Mattock

Carried

16. Habitat Advocacy and Management

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of activity for Habitat Advocacy:

A. Regional Planning advocacy

- Horizons Regional Council have paused work on reviewing their Regional Plan changes - until at least September 2027.
- PC2 Horizons One Plan – Environment Court case.
Noted the conclusion of the PC2 case: Horizons Regional Council will implement nutrient loss management using the Overseer model.

The decision largely endorses the negotiated PC2 framework while making it more practical and legally robust. It:

- confirms Table 14.2 as the primary regulatory mechanism;
- retains flexibility through a discretionary consent pathway;
- emphasises practical, farm-specific environmental outcomes over prescriptive management terminology;
- removes unnecessary assessment burdens on individual farmers; and
- provides greater certainty around implementation while signalling that further work—particularly on guidance and commercial vegetable growing provisions—will still be required.

It was noted that farming in the Waikato region currently requires intensive land-use consent, with proposed plan changes potentially requiring farm plans and resource consents in certain catchments. Government is considering delaying these requirements until the new resource management framework is in place.

B. Resource Consent Advocacy

Mr Teal outlined that there have recently been national standards on wastewater treatment discharges, which will have significant effects on how resource consents will be considered and renewed.

He further noted that the Department of Internal Affairs is currently reviewing management approaches and funding models for collaborations for managing water services.

Addressed political pressure to lessen consenting requirements for gravel removal to prevent flooding:

- Gravel removal: Growing pressure to reduce resource-consent requirements for gravel removal following flooding and aggregation concerns.
- Spawning restrictions: Regional councils can undertake spawning-season works through existing processes, but consent requirements may be viewed as an administrative burden.
- Fish & Game approach: Continue pragmatic, case-by-case assessment and engagement with councils and iwi.

C. Habitat Enhancement Projects

Advice provided to support applications to Game Bird Habitat Trust – staff to act as referee where appropriate. Submitted three habitat enhancement projects: two funded. It was noted that high resource consent costs for “natural inland wetlands” hinder small-scale projects.

D. Lake Kohata Update – Management Issues and Responsibilities

A brief update on the issues relating to management of Lake Kohata were outlined by Josh Murray and Allen Stancliff:

- Management plan: DOC confirmed the restoration management plan. The intention is to update Fish and Game’s management action plan with current information.
- Fishery monitoring: Update information on perch fishery; undertake eDNA sampling to improve knowledge of fish populations.
- Access: Main farmer is supportive of hunting and public access and owns significant land around the lake.
- Public access conflict: Lifestyle-block owners have gated/grazed parts of the lake, restricting public access.
- DOC is managing the access/land-use issues associated with the lifestyle blocks. There is further engagement required from the District Council regarding its role in lake management and access.

17. Participation

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of activity for participation function and licence holder communications and engagement:

A. Draft R3 Implementation Strategy – Regional Interpretation

- Consideration of how Taranaki region can implement given capacity and capability,
- Recommend developing a regional R3 Plan leveraged off the NZ Council overview.

B. Information to Clients

- 2026 Fish Magazine Material prepared.
- Revision of access pamphlets.

C. Licence Holder Engagement

Mr Teal confirmed that no specific activity was undertaken for licence holder engagement over this period.

D. Access Management

Mr Stancliff provided a brief overview of forest access for hunters.

18. Public Awareness / Communications

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of recent activity related to the public awareness and communications function:

A. Iwi Engagement

Mr Stancliff and Mr Murray confirmed that there had been some iwi engagement regarding Te Kopuka workshops and on-line meetings. It was recommended that Josh Murray could be an alternate for the Te Kopuka Meetings and clarification needed to be sought from Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game on who their alternate representative would be.

B. Public Awareness

Mr Teal confirmed that the Facebook page had been further developed as part of the social media programme.

Press releases relating to the Game Season were made as appropriate – for Taranaki region and wider NZ context.

C. Promotion:

Staff attended the NZDA Hunter Expo in Lower Hutt in July, supporting the NZ Council stand. Most enquiries were about local fishing areas, providing a good opportunity to promote regional services.

19. Licence Sales and Licence Management System Performance

A. **Fish Licence Sales Update – until 30 June 2026**

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of fish licence sales for the 2025/2026 Fishing Season up until 30 June 2026. He indicated that LEQ sales up compared to previous year by 7.9% (1,290 compared to 1,186 the year before).

B. **Game Licence Sales Update – until 30 June 2026**

Mr Teal provided a brief overview of game licence sales for the 2025/2026 Fishing Season up until 30 June 2026. He indicated that LEQ sales down compared to previous year by 8.6% (972 compared to 1,064 the year before).

It was then moved

Council receive licence sales report for 2025/26 fishing season year-to-date and 2026 game season year-to-date until the 30 June 2026

Romon Sargeson / Chris Mattock

Carried

C. **Licence Management System – May and June 2026**

Mr Teal provided an overview of the Licence Management System report for the months of May and June 2026. No issues with continuity of service were identified, and a list of bugs and required fixes under the contract is being addressed. Each regional Fish and Game Council is currently a signatory to the ESL agreement for managing the electronic licensing system.

It was moved that

Council receives the update reports for May and June 2026 for performance of provider of services to manage the licensing platform and database management.

John Nancarrow/Allan Flynn

Carried

20. **Operational Summary May to June 2026**

Mr Standliff provided a brief overview and clarification of the summary of activities undertaken in May and June 2026. It was the moved

Council to receive the staff report on operational progress to the 30 June 2026.

Gerard Karalus/Allan Flynn

Carried

21. **Financial Reporting**

A. Financial Statements

Mr Teal provided an overview of the financial reports from Xero accounting software, and that future reporting would focus on a bi-monthly profit and loss statement, and balance sheet.

After brief discussion it was moved to

receive the financial statements for the year to date for the 2025/2026 year, up until the end of April 2026.

John Nancarrow / Chris Mattock

Carried

B. Capital Expenditure

Mr Teal noted that during July 2026 there computer laptops and screens purchased as for New Plymouth office and the new Field Officer based out of Palmerston North – all previously authorised.

C. Financial Overview

Mr Teal provided an overview of financial dashboard and provided clarification on minor variances.

Mr Teal confirmed that no material variances in expenditure had occurred within this reporting period.

22. **Correspondence**

There were no items of correspondence directly addressed to council, not already considered in the agenda Council considered the correspondence register.

23. **Recognition Awards**

Daniel Gordon and Duncan Kingsley Young were nominated as someone worthy of recognising volunteer effort.

24. **Conservation Board Liaison**

No specific item update was discussed. There was no formal engagement with Conservation Boards.

25. **General Business**

No specific items of general business were discussed.

Councillor Karalus updated Council on the proposal for a platform to be built on Nowell's Lake and outlined the basic concepts for construction.

Chairman Donald noted that he still considered Lake Rotomanu a preferred location for holding family fishing days. It was acknowledged that options for using the lake for such purposes needed to be actively reviewed to ensure opportunities can be taken – even if operating some events under the new 'normal' of having gold clam established in the lake.

It was acknowledged that the Inglewood Rod and Hunting and Clay Target Club were relocating their clay target range to near Tarata.

It was confirmed that staff and Councillor Karalus would meet with volunteers that service the hatchery at Hawera to undertake an inventory of maintenance and capital works requirements.

26. Confirmation Of Next Meeting Date

The next meeting is planned for 15 August 2026 at 10:00 am at TET MultiSports Centre in Stratford.

27. Closure Of Meeting

Chairman Donald thanked everyone for their contributions and there being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2:55pm with a closing kōrero kati led by Councillor Mattock.

APPROVED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD

CHAIRMAN _____

DATE _____

Agenda Item 5 Matters Arising from the Minutes

Summary

a. Action List Summary

Consider the Action List from the Minutes of the Meeting of 15 August 2026 and consider the actions undertaken – including completed actions, partially completed actions, and actions pending.

b. Other Matters Arising

Consider any other items that are noted in the Minutes where further updates and clarification are sought – where they are not addressed in other agenda items for the meeting.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Note any specific clarifications relating to follow-up actions undertaken that relate to items discussed at the previous meeting.

Actions from 15 Aug 2026 Meeting

Action	Responsibility	Status
Taranaki Council review its Reserve Policy and define a five-year strategy for use of funds from each of the current specified reserves.	Phil	Progressing
Lake Kohata management: Update required on information on perch fishery; undertake eDNA sampling to improve knowledge of fish populations; identify access issues, and seek to update Fish and Game management plan.	Phil/Josh	Completed

Actions from previous Meetings

Action	Date	Responsibility	Status
Taranaki Council would provide the following feedback to NZ Council on the draft Privacy Policy. It was agreed that the following observations be forwarded to NZ Council as part of Taranaki Council's submission: - Improvements are needed for privacy breach response procedures and documented security protocols. - Formal procedures should be developed covering data handling, transfers, access controls, password management, and responsibilities for the organisation's multiple databases. - The policy would be strengthened by a supporting Privacy Procedures Manual to ensure consistent implementation. - Clarity is required that NZ Council has a privacy officer for NZ Council responsibilities, but the policy does not override the responsibilities of regional entities.	23 May 2026	Phil/Chris	Completed
liaise with the NZC CE on options for developing a coordinated meeting calendar that establishes clear consultation, analysis, agenda distribution, and project milestone deadlines, and report back with recommendations.	23 May 2026	Phil	Partially Completed
Request upgrading of IT – e.g. twin computer screens at the New Plymouth Office	23 May 2026	Phil/Allen	Completed - purchased
A review of the current lease in December 2026 at the New Plymouth Office, which has been unchanged since 2017, was noted as still fit for purpose.	23 May 2026	Phil	Partially Completed
Records management and a potential digitisation process should be treated as a separate project.	23 May 2026	Phil	Pending
A review of the organisational Reserves Policy was viewed favourably to provide clarity on how funds are used or available for use, and how they are derived.	23 May 2026	Phil	Partially Completed

Rangers as a Shared Resource: potential opportunity to give something back to existing rangers in the Waimarino area (or other regions as opportunities open up) as a different valued experience, and also gets compliance numbers up.	20 March 2026	Phil/Allen	Partially Completed
look at a long-term plan for the hatchery and develop a hatchery fish release strategy.	20 March 2026	Phil/Allen	Partially Completed
Council to renew the Office of Auditor General contract for a further three years with BDO Manawatu.	14 February 2026	Phil/Chair	Partially Completed
Check is that DOC Recreation Reserve leased South Taranaki DC and Whanganui DC is available for hunting approval – currently requires lease holder permission and Block 5 may have had change in leasee.	14 February 2026	Phil/Allen	Completed
Staff would further assess the Cabinet background paper and prepare region-specific comments for Taranaki. A triage approach was proposed to identify matters supported by NZ Council, those requiring clarification, and those specific to Taranaki.	13 December 2025	Phil/Allen/Ami	Partially Completed
prepare a paper estimating the marginal cost of counting Canada geese in Taranaki alongside existing waterfowl counts.	13 December 2025	Phil/Allen	Pending
maintaining a watching brief while proactively reporting and undertaking targeted monitoring on Lake Mangamahoe – post discovery of perch in the lake.	13 December 2025	Allen	Progressing
clarity sought on the what the statement on the dedicated reserve provided for Fisheries Project Reserve– in terms of continuing the legacy fund or conditions for approving expenditure.	13 December 2025	Phil	Completed
Advisory introduction letter to potential stakeholders regarding SFGMP including iwi doc, regional councils, and federated farmers that was seeking identification of any particular issues at a regional level and how (or whether) the stakeholder would want to engage with Fish and Game	18 October 2025	Phil	Progressed - drafted
Whanganui District Council be asked for clarification regarding their fishing policy around Lake Virginia	18 October 2025	Phil	Progressed awaiting response
The Chairs of Taranaki and Wellington Fish and Game Councils initiate discussions with the Chairman of the Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council to investigate implementation of a shared resources operational model between the three regions.	29 March 2025	Phil/Chris	Pending
Establish procedures on how a checklist is recorded prior to equipment being loaned out – including liability, health and safety instructions being undertaken, and responsibility of repairs for damage from external parties.	29 March 2025	Phil/Allen	Partially Completed

Site inspection potential improvements to identify and requirements to improve operations of the Hawera hatchery – as well as a general health and safety inspection	29 March 2025	Phil/Allen Chris/John	Completed
Recognition Awards for retired hatchery volunteers, Don Uncles and Gavin Sturgeon;	29 March 2025	Phil/Jilli	Pending
Send a letter to TRC and NPDC on making improvements to the water quality of Lake Rotomanu with better water management practices a higher priority for action.	29 March 2025	Phil/Allen	Pending
Develop a management plan for raupo control on Hawken's Lagoon -inspected site	25 May 2024	Phil/Allen	Partially completed

Agenda Item 6 **NZ Fish and Game Council Business**

Summary

NZ Council Appointee to cover key issues from NZ Council Meeting and business conducted.

- a. NZ Council Meeting #184 – 28 August 2026
 - Any matters arising from this or previous meeting(s)

- b. Other NZ Council Business

For Information Only – No Active Consultation

Recommendation/Action

Council to move motion to receive the report from the Taranaki Council appointee to NZ Council on NZ Fish and Game Council business for the previous period – including meetings and key issues/actions.



Kia ora tatou Fish & Game Regional Councillors,

09SEP26

Meeting 184 of the New Zealand Council got underway on Friday, August 28, at the Rydges Hotel, Wellington Airport, despite the high winds forecast for Friday; 11 councillors were able to attend.

Budgets and the organisation's future finances were a key focus of this meeting. The F&G NZC received three presentations from Dave Harris, Euan Williamson and Alan Strong on future budgeting methodologies. This followed on from Auckland Waikato Chair Nigel Juby's presentation at Meeting 182.

Considering the Minister's update on 22 August and that the reforms will still progress, the Council would like to ask each regional council to consider what the future funding model for Fish and Game could be and what it could look like, identify which aspects are important to them, and provide those options and ideas to F&G NZC.

Following those presentations (and the F&G NZC would like it known that any council can make such a presentation), CEO Corina Jordan presented the F&G NZC budget, revised to include cuts totalling 13.96% from last year's budget. The council endorsed several cuts to project lines proposed by the CEO to achieve this reduction. Following this, the F&G NZC Annual Work Plan was then approved for the coming financial year.

The next item for council decision was confirmation of the organisational budgets. These, of course, had been approved by the Minister for Hunting and Fishing when he approved the Sports Fish Licence Fees and Forms notice on 14 July. In doing so, he supports the F&G NZC decision and our course of action to revert to the 2025/26 budgets, with a 2.3% reduction and a \$2 licence fee increase.

The F&G NZC team will dispatch the formal budget letters to the regions shortly, as per the normal process.

In non-budget-related matters, the F&G NZC discussed a proposal from Nelson Marlborough appointee Guy Gardiner, supported by Taranaki Councillor Romon Sargeson, on pathways to investigate whether grey teal could be hunted. We plan to raise this with the Minister for Hunting and Fishing at our next meeting and aim to have an update for the next F&G NZC meeting.



The Draft HPAI policy was also adopted by F&G NZC and approved for sharing with regions for their feedback for consideration as National Policy. Feedback for this is required to be received by the F&G NZC team on 9 November. With H5N1 being recorded in NZ now, this is a prime concern for the coming game bird hunting season.

Another policy which F&G NZC requires feedback on is the updated Game Bird Nuisance policy, this policy has been rewritten following feedback from operational staff in the regions and now needs to go to governors for their input and feedback. Feedback for this is required to be received by the F&G NZC team on 9 November 2026.

Also included is the letter from the Game Bird Habitat Trust advising Fish & Game that nominations for the trust close on 9 November 2026. If you know of a suitable applicant or wish to apply to be a trustee, please see the attached letter and make your nomination in time for the next F&G NZC meeting in November.

To assist with planning and preparation for next year, attached is the budget and meeting timeline is attached. We have moved up some dates to enable our finance support providers, Leech & Co, time to undertake the consolidation of the ZBB templates.

Work is also progressing with the request for information for the replacement of the licencing system. This is vital work, as most of our income comes from licence fees, so it must be as seamless as possible.

In general business, among other items, the council received a request from Southland Fish & Game for an independent audit of their finances, management, and council operations. The F&G NZC office will progress this request.

The next in-person meeting date for F&G NZC is 27 & 28 November in Wellington.

Ngā mihi
Barrie

Barrie Barnes | Chair
New Zealand Fish and Game Council
Mobile 021 925 006
E BBarnes@fishandgame.org.nz W www.fishandgame.org.nz

Appointment of Callum Streeter to CEO Fish & Game NZ

I am pleased to let you know that Callum Streeter has been appointed chief executive of Fish & Game New Zealand and will join us on 1 December.



Callum brings more than 20 years' leadership experience from the global energy sector, including senior roles in New Zealand and the United States. He is currently general manager of global geothermal energy consultancy JRG Energy and has worked across industrial decarbonisation, carbon capture, utilisation and storage, and energy efficiency.

Born and raised in Timaru and now living in Christchurch with his wife and 12-year-old son, Callum is a lifelong angler and hunter.

His interests include upland bird, duck and big-game hunting. He also has a six-year-old Pudelpointer - a German hunting breed - which reflects how closely the outdoors is woven into his family life.

Callum tells me his first priority will be to listen and learn. He intends to visit every region, meet staff in person and spend time alongside rangers in the field so he can understand the realities of our work on the ground.

He is looking forward to working with the regions and understanding how the national and regional parts of Fish & Game can best support one another.

He is also focused on ensuring anglers and hunters receive genuine value from their licences and experiences that grow participation and engagement.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Corina Jordan for her strong and steady leadership.

Her commitment, energy and dedication have made a significant contribution to Fish & Game and helped position us to respond confidently to the challenges and changes ahead.

As you know, Corina returned to Fish & Game on secondment in 2026 and has led both Fish & Game and the Game Animal Council over the past 12 months. With Callum's appointment, she will return to her chief executive role at GAC.

Please join me in welcoming Callum. We will share more information about opportunities to meet him closer to his start date.



Barrie Barnes
Chair, Fish & Game New Zealand



NEW ZEALAND GAME BIRD HABITAT TRUST BOARD

Prepared by: Robert Sowman, Habitat Trust Board Administrator

The New Zealand Game Bird Trust Board is appointed on a three-year term by the Minister of Hunting & Fishing (or Conservation). The current Board's appointments expire in April 2027.

The purpose of this memo is to commence the process for appointing a new Board.

Therefore, it is recommended that the New Zealand Fish and Game Council invite Fish and Game Councils in November 2026 to nominate suitable candidates to be considered by the NZ Council at its meeting in March 2027.

A six-person membership of the Habitat Trust Board is set out in *section 44F of the Wildlife Act 1953*. It provides for appointments by the Minister of Conservation (*current appointments shown in italics*):

- a) a chairperson (*Andy Tannock*)
- b) 3 persons appointed after consultation with the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (*Andy Garrick, Chantal Whitby, Mark Sutton*)
- c) 1 person appointed after consultation with the Director-General (*Erin Garrick*)
- d) 1 person appointed after consultation with the Board of Ducks Unlimited New Zealand Incorporated (*Neil Candy*).

In proposing nominations, a Fish and Game Council can submit names from within or outside its region – either previous or new nominees. Without ruling out Fish & Game staff, it is noted that these people already play an important role within the Habitat Trust grant allocation process as initiators, referees and advisers to projects.

On receiving names of suitable candidates, the New Zealand Council needs then to consider this feedback and make its selection of three people to best reflect a diverse set of nominees with some continuity to the Board's current structure and processes. It may also endorse a name for Chairperson.

Recommendations

It is recommended Fish & Game Councils be invited to:

- a) include names of eligible candidates by 28 February 2027 for selection by the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, and
- b) to provide the names of three nominees to recommend to the Minister of Conservation by April 2027.

Kia ora koutou,

I am writing to let you know that I will be concluding my secondment as chief executive of Fish & Game, with my last day on Wednesday 14 October. The secondment was due to wrap up in September, and with the Fish & Game reform paused until after the election and a permanent chief executive appointed, this is a natural point to hand over.

Leading Fish & Game this past year has been a genuine privilege and a thoroughly rewarding one. I have loved the mahi, and I am proud of what we have achieved together. A few highlights from the year:

- We built a comprehensive, organisation-wide programme to ready Fish & Game for reform, drawing on expertise in population monitoring, compliance, advocacy, health and safety, economics and hatcheries, and tested it through RM team workshops, governor sessions and an all of staff webinar.
- We made Fish & Game's case on the resource management reforms, with strong licence holder and public support, a Select Committee appearance, and a great deal of work behind the scenes briefing ministers across the Government and opposition and working alongside environmental NGOs.
- We presented our oral submission on the Conservation Amendment Bill to the Environment Committee and progressed our National Conservation Policy Statement work.
- We strengthened our readiness for avian influenza, with a communications strategy, policy and action plan, webinars for staff and governors, and a new process and template so regulations can be changed quickly if an area needs to close mid-season.
- We geared up for the election with a manifesto, research into licence holders' views of our advocacy, and a push encouraging our community to raise the issues that matter to them with those seeking their votes.
- We invested in the relationships that matter, across the Minister's office, DOC, the Firearms Safety Authority, MPI, and the farming community, and deepened the link between Fish & Game and the Game Animal Council.
- We are better connected internally, continuing the staff newsletter, starting a governors' newsletter, and running our monthly webinars.

None of this was a solo effort, and I want to thank every one of you for your energy, expertise and good humour through a busy and at times uncertain year. The work you do for anglers, game bird hunters and our freshwater environments is something to be proud of.

This is not really a goodbye. I will be back in my full-time role at the Game Animal Council, and I look forward to continuing to work alongside you from there. The secondment has brought our two organisations closer, which is good for the whole hunting and fishing sector, and I am keen to keep building on that.

I wish you, and your incoming chief executive, all the very best. Thank you for having me.

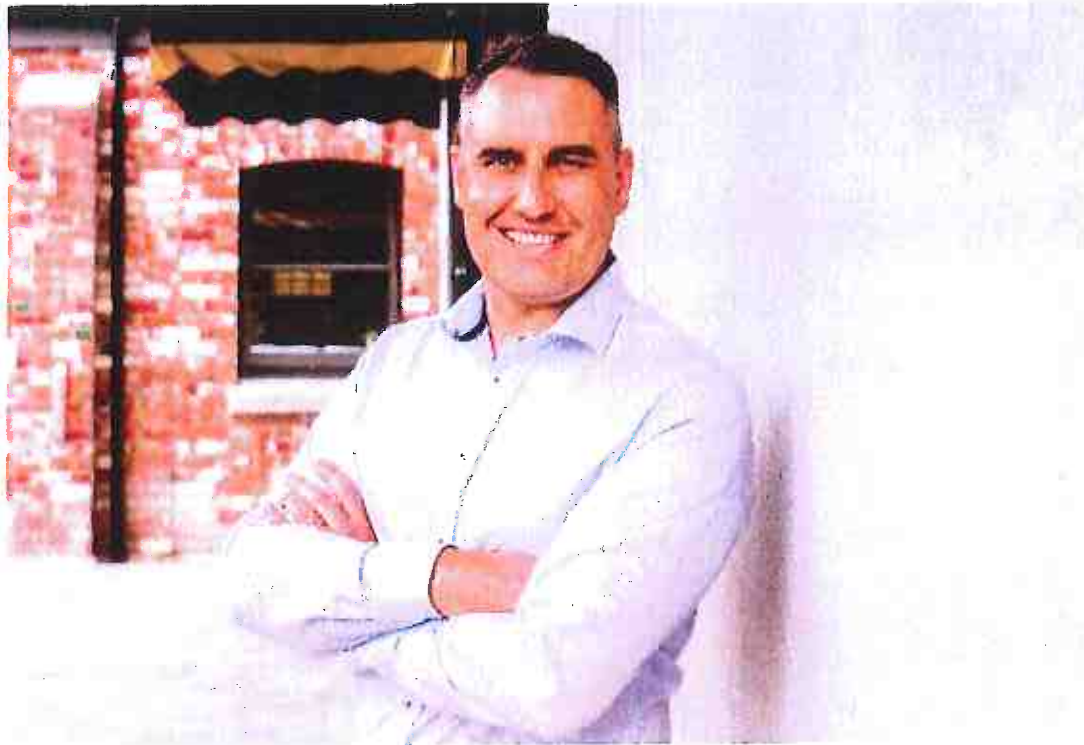
Ngā mihi

Corina Jordan | Chief Executive

New Zealand Fish and Game Council

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As you know, Corina returned to Fish & Game on secondment in 2026 and has led both Fish & Game and the Game Animal Council over the past 12 months. With Callum's appointment, she will return to her chief executive role at GAC.

Please join me in welcoming Callum. We will share more information about opportunities to meet him closer to his start date.



Barrie Barnes
Chair, Fish & Game New Zealand

Agenda Item 7 Public Forum

Summary

Invite public for an opportunity to speak to any issues – this may be up to 5 minutes allotted per speaker but is at the Chairman's discretion to allow more time

No Decision Required

Recommendation/Action

Note any issues brought to the attention of Council during the Public Forum.

Agenda Item 8 Regional Business - Governance

Summary

a. Chairman's Report for Previous Period Relating to Issues in Taranaki Region

Chairman to provide an overview report of key issues since the previous meeting.

This will focus on issues relevant to governance functions but provide an overview of key operational outcomes where appropriate.

Significant Points to Note:

1. Recruitment of Shared Resource confirmed
2. Recruitment active for replacement for Taranaki Fish and Game Officer

b. Resource Allocation Discussion

Considering the Minister's update on 22 August 2026 and that the reforms will still progress, the Council would like to ask each regional council to consider what the future funding model for Fish and Game could be and what it could look like, identify which aspects are important to them, and provide those options and ideas to F&G NZC.

c. Meeting Schedule

A draft meeting schedule was distributed by NZ Council for consideration by regions.

d. Receive Annual Project Reports

Council to consider annual operational reports and formally receive.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council to move to receive the report presented by the Chairman for the previous period since the last meeting of Council.

Council to consider annual operational reports and formally receive.

From: Barrie Barnes <BBarnes@fishandgame.org.nz>

Sent: Monday, September 28, 2026 5:19 PM

Subject: Resource Allocation Model Going Forward.

Kia ora tatou F&G Regional Chairs,

I would like to take the opportunity to remind you that each region was invited, via the Meeting 184 Communique, para 3, to forward to F&G NZC their consideration of what the future funding model for Fish & Game could look like. Whilst I have attached a copy of F&G NZC Meeting 184 I have also restated it below.

Considering the Minister's update on 22 August and that the reforms will still progress, the Council would like to ask each regional council to consider what the future funding model for Fish and Game could be and what it could look like, identify which aspects are important to them, and provide those options and ideas to F&G NZC.

Putting aside all previous comments, and complaints, you are openly invited to contribute what your region would consider to be a workable resource allocation model that, considers regional size and requirements, whilst being an applicable model that could be applied nationally within a national budget. I would ask that, if you wish to contribute, and as the 27/28 year is fast approaching that you get something back to F&G NZC by 10NOV26, in time for circulation for the F&G NZC November 2026 meeting. From this meeting, and compilation of any submissions, will be looked at with interest and subsequently circulated to F&G regions for further consultation.

Ngā mihi
Barrie

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New Zealand Fish and Game Council
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2026-27 Annual Budget & Meeting Schedule

Month		Date	Meeting/Activity	General Topic/Meeting	Location
Dec-2026		Friday 5 Dec Sunday 6 Dec Friday 25 Dec Saturday 26 Dec	NZ Council Meeting (Held over 2 days) (2025/26 Strategy) Christmas Day Boxing Day		Wellington
Jan-2027	Second week in Jan	Friday 1 Jan Saturday 2 Jan	New Year's Day New Year's Day Observed		
	Third week	Tuesday 19 Jan	Variance Reports & Reserves Schedules sent to CFO ZBB to be into Leech and Co Draft Hunters notice to be sent to Regions Info to ABCorp and Quantity of cards approved Game Bird licence		online
	Last week of Jan	Saturday 23 Jan Saturday 30 Jan Saturday 30 Jan	Webinar - Topic TBC Variance Reports & Reserves Updates Distributed Licence Working Party Licence Sales Forecast Regulation Details Due for Hunters Notice (from all Regional Councils)		online
	Last Friday in Jan		Initial update (shared with Regions) of ZBB from Leech and Co		
Feb-2027	Always	Tuesday 2 Feb	World Wetland Day/Release Game Bird Habitat Stamp		
	First Week of Feb	Wednesday 3 Feb Friday 5 Feb Saturday 6 Feb	Annotate changes to previous Game licence fees and form notice (DOC task) Draft Hunters Notice Submission to DOC for comment Variance reports Final Circulation back from Managers Waitangi Day		
	Second week in Feb	Tuesday 9 Feb Tuesday 9 Feb	Online meeting to approve Game bird Regulations Hunters Regulation Guide Content Due to NZC Office from Regions		Online 7pm-8:30pm
	Third Week	Wednesday 17 Feb	Consolidated regional budgets BACK to Regions Hunters Notice & Submission to MOC (MFHF) & Gazette Office Hunters Notice sent to Graphic Press for Layout Check Webinar - Topic TBC		Online 12pm
	Third Tuesday				
	Last week	Friday 19 Feb for the following week	Publish Hunters Notice in NZ Gazette		
Mar-2027	First week	Friday 5 Mar Friday 5 Mar Saturday 6 Mar	NZ Council Meeting (Day 1 of 2) Governors Forum - Regional Chairs Governors Forum - Regional Chairs & NZC (Day 2 of 2)		Wellington
	Second Wednesday		Regional Budgets confirmed to Leech and Co Game Magazine Released		
	Second Thursday in Mar	Thursday 11 Mar	Game Bird Hunting Licences on Sale (2nd Thursday)		
	Second Friday	Friday 12 Mar Friday 26 Mar Monday 29 Mar	Staff Development Grant Applications Close Good Friday Easter Monday		
Apr-27	Always a Sunday	Sunday 4 Apr Friday 9 Apr Friday 16 April Monday 26 Apr	Mark-up/Pegging Day NZ Council Budget meeting Licence Fee Consultation doc distributed to Regions Anzac Day	Budget and Consultation meeting	Wellington
May-2027	First Saturday	Saturday 1 May	Game Bird Season Opening Draft Anglers Notice circulated to Regions		
	Second Week		Licence Working Party Meeting		
	Last Friday		Regional responses to Licence Fee proposals, Anglers Notice & SFLFFN DW/sea run salmon Due to NZC Office	Licence Sales reforecast - Main fishing season has ended in April, Distribute LEQ targets to Regions so Feedback can be included in June NZC Meeting	
Jun-2027	First week	Tuesday 1 June Friday 18 June Saturday 19 June	King's Birthday Angler regulation guides to be updated by Regions NZ Council Meeting (Consider Licence Fee and Budget feedback, Anglers Notice & SFLFFN)		Wellington
		Thursday 24 June	Licence fee, SFLFFN submission to MOC		
		Friday 25 June	Matariki		
	Last Saturday	Saturday 26 June	GBHT Grant Applications Close		
Jul-2027	First Week		Anglers Notice submission to MOC (MFHF) Confirm Licence production numbers to ABCorp Send Angler Reg Guide to Graphic press for layout		
	Second Friday	Friday 9 July Saturday 17 July Wednesday 28 July	GBHT Grant Applications Distributed to Board Anglers Notice Published in NZ Gazette GBHT Board Meeting (11am)		Online
Aug-2027	First week		Election Public Notice Nominations Open Nominations Close		
		Sunday 22 Aug Monday 23 Aug	GBHT Field Trip GBHT Board Meeting		Hamilton Hamilton
	Third Wednesday	Wednesday 25 Aug Friday 27 Aug	Fishing Magazine Released NZ Council Meeting	Final budgets for Approval	Wellington

Month		Date	Meeting/Activity	General Topic/Meeting	Location
		Saturday 28 Aug		Last Meeting with current NZC	
		Tuesday 31 Aug	Fish & Game End of Financial Year		
Sept-2027	Always 1st Sept	Wednesday 1 Sept	Fishing licences go on Sale Start of new financial year Electoral Roll Closes		
	Wednesday				
Oct-2027	Second Friday	Thursday 1 Oct	Sports Fishing Opening Election Day	Results declared following Saturday.	
	Third Saturday		Official Declaration on election result		
		Monday 25 Oct	Labour Day		
	Last Saturday	Saturday 30 Oct	Ministerial Post Election Governance Hui	All regional councillors to attend	Wellington
Nov-2027	first week		High Country Sports Fishing Opening (CSI & NC 1st Sat Nov) All Regional council must have held their first meeting	Otago and Southland 1st Nov NC and CSI 1st Saturday Within 3 weeks of Election results confirmed	
Dec-2027		Friday 3 Dec	NZ Council Meeting	First Meeting with new NZC	Wellington
		Saturday 4 Dec	(2027/28 Strategy)		Wellington

KEY

	Public Holiday
	NZ Council Meeting
	GBHT Board Meeting
	Governors Forum (Regional Chairs & NZC)

Taranaki Fish and Game Meeting Schedule

Proposed Dates

Dates	Venue	Time
13 February 2027	Stratford	3pm
13 March 2027	Stratford	3pm
22 May 2027	Stratford	3pm
14 August 2027	Stratford	3pm
16 October 2027	Stratford	3pm
11 December 2027	New Plymouth	3pm

Agenda Item 9 Inter-Regional Business - Governance

Summary

a. Regional Chairs' Forum Update

Brief report from the Chairman of any interactions of the Fish and Game Regional Chairs' Group since the previous Council Meeting.

- CSI Correspondence to NZC regarding budget process and levy funding

b. Shared Resources Update

Update on the shared resources arrangement between Taranaki and Wellington Fish and Game Councils.

Shared Service Agreement Provided for Approval

Advertisements placed for:

- Recruitment underway for replacement for Taranaki Fish and Game Officer and

c. Access Stamp Proposal

Consideration of proposal by Auckland/Waikato to create a fund for access management and procurement.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council to move to receive the report presented by the Chairman for the previous period since the last meeting of Council.

PROPOSAL FOR A NATIONAL ANGLER ACCESS STAMP

A dedicated national funding mechanism for angler access

Purpose: Decision

Prepared by: Chief Executive

Meeting date: [insert date]

Related paper: Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council Public Access Strategy

Recommendation

That the Council:

1. Receives this paper and adopts the Public Access Strategy presented separately on the agenda
2. Endorses in principle the establishment of a nationally consistent, Angler Access Stamp contribution on sports fishing licences, dedicated solely to restoring, securing and enhancing public access to sports fisheries
3. Supports the establishment of a national contestable Angler Access Fund, governed and administered through a transparent process modelled on the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust, with a preference for revolving investments that return capital to the fund
4. Agrees that, based on our experience, commitment and expertise, Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game should lead development of the proposal and requests that the Chair and Chief Executive circulate it to regional Fish & Game chairs and managers, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council and the Minister for Hunting and Fishing seeking endorsement from the wider organization
5. Agrees to make AWFGC staff time available to facilitate this project at a National scale.
6. requests that the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, in consultation with regional councils and the Minister, investigate the legislative, requirements for implementation

Purpose of the proposal

The proposal is to establish an enduring national funding mechanism focused solely on angler access. A modest, nationally consistent contribution would be incorporated into sports fishing licences and transferred to a dedicated contestable fund. The fund would support projects that restore lost access, secure new permanent access, or materially improve existing access to sports fisheries. Wherever practicable, it would operate as a revolving capital fund so that money invested in one access opportunity can be recovered and applied to the next.

Background

Maintaining and improving public access to sports fisheries is a core function of Fish & Game councils. Access is nevertheless being lost or constrained through changes in land ownership and use, deteriorating infrastructure, uncertainty over legal routes, and the cost of securing permanent alternatives. Strategic opportunities can arise at short notice, particularly where land or easements become available. Improving access has ranked at the top of the list for improving angler satisfaction in a recent regional angler satisfaction survey, and is reported as the highest ranking Fish & Game service attribute in the last two national licence holder surveys.

The Stone Jug Road project demonstrates what targeted access investment can achieve. Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game pioneered and implemented this approach through its own regional initiative. The Council assembled the funding, acquired strategically located riverfront land, secured enduring public access through registered legal instruments, and is able to sell the balance so capital can be recycled. Delivered without licence revenue or a national access fund, it is a proven model for national application and positions the Council to lead its further development. Additionally, this project has raised awareness and strengthened relationships with anglers, Mana Whenua, the Minister, partner organization and the public at large. It provides a very tangible demonstration of F&G value.

Alignment with the Public Access Strategy

The proposed stamp gives effect to the Council's Public Access Strategy by providing a reliable funding mechanism for its principal strategic levers. In particular, it would support:

- enduring legal access through easements, esplanade instruments and other registered mechanisms
- strategic property investment where acquisition is the most effective means of securing access
- restoration of important access affected by legal, physical or relationship barriers
- practical improvements that make existing access safe, identifiable and usable
- partnerships with mana whenua, landowners, Herenga ā Nuku, DOC, councils and community organisations
- revolving investment where surplus property is sold and proceeds are returned to the fund
- a distribution mechanism that could also tap into other funding sources

Proposed design

Element	Proposed approach
Purpose	Restore, secure and enhance public access to sports fisheries.
Revenue	A modest contribution incorporated into relevant sports fishing licence fees. The amount and licence categories would be determined through modelling and consultation. International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) and other funding sources could be incorporated into the fund.*

Protection	Revenue would be separately accounted for and used only for the stated access purpose.
Allocation	A national, contestable process open to Fish & Game councils and, where appropriate, partner organisations.
Governance	An appropriately constituted panel with regional Fish & Game representation, external appointments and relevant access, legal, property, cultural and financial expertise.
Assessment	Funding decisions based on strategic value, permanence, practicality, partnership support, value for money and the ability to leverage or recycle funding.
Investment approach	A preference for projects that secure enduring access while returning capital to the fund, including property purchase followed by protection of access and sale of surplus land.
Funding tools	Primarily interest free or recoverable advances, or equity stakes, supported by grants or co-funding where a revolving approach is impractical or a one off investment is justified by exceptional enduring access benefits.
Administration	A proportionate system modelled on the Game Bird Habitat Trust, using existing Fish & Game processes where efficient.

* Consideration should be given to requiring a larger contribution from overseas licence holders. Overseas anglers are generally surprised by, and appreciative of our public access.

Relationship with the Game Bird Habitat Stamp

The Game Bird Habitat Stamp provides an established precedent for collecting a dedicated contribution through Fish & Game licences and directing the proceeds to a specific national purpose. The programme is provided for under the Wildlife Act 1953, is administered through the New Zealand Fish and Game Council's accounts, and transfers net programme proceeds to the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust for contestable habitat projects.

An Angler Access Stamp would adopt the core strengths of that model: a visible connection between the licence holder contribution and the outcome, protection of funds for a defined purpose, national pooling of revenue, independent or representative assessment, and transparent contestable allocation. It need not reproduce the artwork or collector product elements of the habitat stamp programme unless these were shown to add value.

Implementation would complement, rather than duplicate, the work of the Outdoor Access Commission. Fish & Game would work with the Commission and support a wider strategic access fund. As the stamp would be funded directly by anglers, its revenue would remain ring fenced for angler access, but could provide seed funding to attract Crown, local government, philanthropic or other agency investment where projects, especially where outcomes deliver benefits for multiple recreational users.

Unlike a conventional grants programme, the Angler Access Fund should seek to preserve and grow its capital over time. Recoverable investments should be preferred where they can achieve the access outcome. For example, the fund could support the purchase of a strategically located property,

permanent legal protection of the required access, subsequent sale of the balance, and repayment of the original capital to the fund. One off grants that provide no return should remain available, but generally be reserved for situations where a revolving approach is not practicable and the enduring access benefit is compelling.

Matters requiring further development

- Legal mechanism. There is no directly equivalent angler stamp provision apparent in the current legislation. Legal advice is required on whether the proposal could be implemented through the existing licence fee framework or would require legislative or regulatory amendment. The current Fish and Game reforms may provide an opportunity to implement such an initiative.
- Contribution and licence classes. Modelling is required to determine an appropriate contribution and whether it should apply to all sports fishing licences or selected classes.
- Governance structure including, representation, decision making criteria, administrative responsibility and accountability arrangements need to be agreed before implementation.
- Revolving fund settings. Appropriate terms are required for recoverable advances, repayment, treatment of transaction costs and any uplift or loss when acquired property is sold.
- Relationship with existing funding. The fund should complement Herenga ā Nuku initiatives, regional access funds, donations, bequests, public funding and partnership contributions, while preserving its ring-fenced angler access purpose.
- Licence holder support. The proposal should be clearly explained and tested with anglers before final decisions are made.

Benefits

- creates a reliable and protected funding stream that allows Fish & Game to respond quickly to time sensitive access opportunities
- shares the cost across the national angling community while allowing investment where benefits are greatest
- leverages government, philanthropic, community and landowner contributions while preserving and growing the fund through repayment and recycled capital
- provides anglers with a clear and tangible connection between part of their licence fee and improved fishing access

Financial implications

Endorsing and circulating the proposal has no material financial implication for Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game beyond existing staff time. Any future contribution, establishment costs or commitment of regional funds would require separate consideration through the normal licence fee, budgeting and approval processes.

Proposed advocacy

Subject to Council endorsement, Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game will circulate the proposal and Public Access Strategy to regional Fish & Game chairs and managers, the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, and Hon James Meager as Minister for Hunting and Fishing. This will seek sector support to scale the proven Auckland/Waikato model and undertake the legal, financial and governance work required for national application.

Relevant current framework

Game Bird Habitat Stamp Programme: Fish & Game New Zealand, current programme information.

Wildlife Act 1953, section 19A: statutory basis for the Game Bird Habitat Stamp.

Conservation Act 1987 and Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983: current sports fishing licensing framework.

Agenda Item 10 Proposed Fish and Game Legislation Changes

Summary

a. Consideration of Proposed Legislative Changes

The draft Fish and Game Bill was likely be introduced to Parliament in May 2026. An update will be provided on the progress of the Fish and Game Bill.

An opportunity to discuss proposed legislative changes with a view to developing a response once the draft legislation is released or tabled as the first reading in Parliament.

For Information

Recommendation/Action

Council will discuss the proposed legislative changes – identify any areas of concern or specific support.

Hon James Meager

Minister for the South Island
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Minister for Youth
Associate Minister of Transport



21 AUG 2026

Barrie Barnes
New Zealand Fish & Game Council
Level 1/166 Featherston Street
Wellington Central, Wellington

ADVM-101 / JMC-2076

By email: bbarnes@fishandgame.org.nz

Dear Chair,

I am writing to provide you with an update on the legislative reforms for Fish & Game.

Last year I shared my policy proposals to modernise Fish & Game to support its effectiveness as a regulator, improve governance practices, reduce administrative burdens and provide efficiencies to benefit licence holders. I set out my intention to create a standalone Act to recognise the important role that Fish & Game plays, and to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the New Zealand Council and regional Fish & Game councils.

I now anticipate that the Bill will be introduced in the next Parliamentary term. This is simply a reflection of the ambitious legislative programme the Government is progressing, and the demand this places on the remaining House time before Parliament is dissolved later this year. It does not indicate a change of heart or reconsideration of the policy proposals I have announced. I remain firmly committed to the reforms that I announced last year, and intend to progress them as a priority at the earliest opportunity.

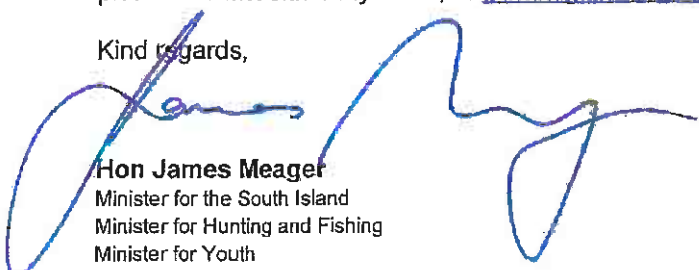
I appreciate this may be disappointing news. I know from the conversations I have had with many Councillors over the last year how much you are keen to move forward with changes to support the future of the organisation. I encourage you to use this period to prepare for the legislative changes to come by modernising your practices as far as possible now, seeking financial and practical efficiencies and driving culture change. This will give the organisation a significant head start and momentum to implement the legislative proposals once enacted.

Officials will continue to work behind the scenes with you to progress remaining work, including engaging on proposals for a future funding allocation model and gathering necessary information to support the remaining drafting of the Bill. I am also looking at what else I can do to support Fish & Game over the coming year, and in advance of your triennial elections in 2027.

Thank you once again for your continued support in the development of the Fish & Game reform proposals. This is a collaborative effort, and I welcome your feedback, suggestions and questions as we work through this next phase in the process.

I will contact you again once we have a clear timeline for introduction of the Bill, and progress to select committee, where you will be able to provide further feedback. If you have further questions, please contact either my office, or fishandgamereform@dps.govt.nz.

Kind regards,



Hon James Meager
Minister for the South Island
Minister for Hunting and Fishing
Minister for Youth
Associate Minister of Transport

Cc Corina Jordan cjordan@fishandgame.org.nz

Agenda Item 11 Draft Annual Budget and Project Plan

Summary

a. Budget Confirmation – Budget for Taranaki Fish and Game Council 2026/2027 Financial Year

- Discuss budget as by bulk funding and use of reserves requirement determined by NZ Council.
- Align with draft Annual Plan
 - Email from NZC confirming bulk funding determination and use of reserves

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action is required.



CONFIRMATION:	BUDGET AND LICENCE FEES AND LEVY'S/GRANTS 2026/27
TO:	Regional Chairs
CC:	Regional Managers, NZC and Administrators
AUTHOR:	NZ Fish and Game Council
DATE:	18/09/2026

1. Background

All budgets were presented to the New Zealand Council (NZC) at Meeting 181 on 10 & 11 April 2026.

The Meeting 181 budget had a \$1.6m shortfall. After much discussion on potential options, NZC proposed to address this through the following approach to determining the levy that is paid: a \$5 licence fee increase, 6.5% from reserves, 2.88% pro-rata licence fees excluding those whose budgets decreased or increased by less than 1% from last year (Northland, Taranaki, Wellington, West Coast, Otago). If regions did not agree with the approach, they were asked to provide their view on the way ahead to manage the shortfall.

At Meeting 182, the feedback from the regions was considered, along with updated budgets provided by the regions. The revised total budget for Fish & Game was \$14,336,535.

To meet this budget, the licence fee increase we would be asking for would be close to a \$20 increase for both fishing and game bird hunting licences. If NZC went back to its 2024/25 budget, this would take approx \$8 off that \$20 licence fee increase, leaving a \$12 increase still required to balance the books.

The NZC considered this and, on reflection, considered that asking for this amount of an increase from the Minister would not be achievable and would also be too much to ask of licence holders in this fiscally constrained environment.

There was no consensus on the proposed licence fee increase provided by the regions; NZC considered the feedback and given the lack of consensus, the NZC resolved to seek further consultation on two new plans to address the budget deficit.

Due to the legislative timeline around the setting of licence fees and types, this feedback was conducted rapidly.

The Options presented to regions were:

Plan A

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. Agree to use the 2025/26 base budget with a reduction of 2.3% across all budgets for 2026- 2027 bulk funding from licence income;
2. Agree to request a \$2 licence fee increase from the Minister; and
3. Agree to pre-approval for regions to use reserves to top up to the approved 2025/26 base budget for 2026-2027.

Plan B

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council:

1. Agree to use the 2025/26 base budget with a reduction of 3.7% across all budgets if a licence fee increase is not approved, and
2. Agree to pre-approval for regions to use reserves to top up to the approved 2025/26 base budget.

The feedback from all regions is displayed below:

Region	Support for Plan A	Support for Plan B
<i>Northland</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Auckland Waikato</i>	No	No
<i>Eastern</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Hawkes Bay</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Taranaki</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Wellington</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Nelson Marlborough</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>West Coast</i>	No	Yes
<i>North Canterbury</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Central South Island</i>	No	No
<i>Otago</i>	Yes	Yes
<i>Southland</i>	Yes	

The NZC assessed the additional regional feedback at Meeting 183 (held online on 30 June 2026) before confirming their decision to support Plan A and submit to the Minister a recommendation for a \$2 licence fee increase, coupled with a reversion to the previous years' budgets (2025/26 FY), combined with a 2.3% reduction in those budgets.

Following the approved path forward agreed by NZC at Meeting 183, supported by 10 of the 12 regions, NZC submitted our budgets to the Minister for Hunting and Fishing as part of the Sports Fish Licence Fees and Forms 2026 submission.

In approving this submission, the Minister therefore approved the regional and the NZC budgets, which he did on 14 July 2026.

Following receipt of the Minister's approval, this budget was then confirmed by NZC at Meeting 184.

The approved 2026/27 Licence fees are \$158 (fish) and \$113 (game) plus a \$5 Game Bird Habitat Stamp fee (total \$118 for game).

2. Overall Position 2026/27

Table 1 gives an overall summary of the forecast position for Fish and Game for 2026/27 with a budgeted deficit of \$4362 (last year's budget deficit of \$67,562).

The Deficit is contained by reverting to previous years' budgets and the 2.3% cuts made to those budgets, plus the successful application for a \$2 licence fee increase.

Table 1: Overall Forecast Position for Fish and Game Based on Fish \$158 & Game \$118 For the Year ended 31 August 2027	
Net Licence Sales	12,312,551
Includes \$2 Licence Fee increase	170,107
Total Income	12,312,551
Less Approved Budget	12,316,913
Total Surplus/(Deficit)	(4,362)

3. Licence Forecast LEQ 2026/27

The total forecast for Fish Licences is 71,915 (last year 72,975) LEQ and Game 29,972 (last year 30,601) LEQ.

Table 2: Licence Forecast LEQ 2026/27	Budget 24/25		Budget 25/26		Budget 26/27	
	Fish	Game	Fish	Game	Fish	Game
Northland	454	1,537	618	1,506	631	1,562
Auckland/Waikato	3,658	6,518	3,838	6,436	3,956	6,090
Eastern	8,363	2,769	9,005	2,567	8,633	2,838
Hawkes Bay	2,240	1,667	3,010	1,888	2,865	1,714
Taranaki	964	1,072	1,217	950	1,337	1,066
Wellington	2,989	3,231	2,846	3,214	2,707	3,199
Nelson-Marlb	4,341	843	4,136	844	3,896	893
Nth Canterbury	10,904	2,557	10,180	2,576	9,645	2,432
West Coast	2,127	361	2,200	363	2,026	342
Central SI	12,331	2,267	12,366	1,914	12,338	2,243
Otago	15,410	3,944	15,479	3,923	15,682	4,291

Southland	8,595	4,574	8,080	4,420	8,199	3,303
NZC only						
National						
TOTAL	72,376	31,340	72,975	30,601	71,915	29,972

4. Licence Forecast 2026/27

The total Licence forecast is \$12,825,574 as per Table 3. This forecast is based on the Licence fee for Fish Licences being \$158 inclusive of GST for an Adult whole season, and for Game, the Adult whole season Licence to be \$118 inclusive of GST and the GBHT stamp levy (\$5).

The Cost of Sales (COS) \$513,023 is Agent commission plus bank fees (including credit card and processing fees) on Public online sales. This is budgeted at 4.0 % of Licence Income

Net Licence Income is Forecast for the 2026/27 year to be \$12,312,551.

Table 3: Total Income Summary 2026/27									
	Fish Licence Income \$			Game Licence Income \$			TOTAL Licence Income \$		
	Fish \$	COS \$	Net Fish \$	Game \$	COS \$	Net Game \$	TOTAL F & G	Total COS \$	Net Licence Income \$
Northland	86,694	3,468	83,226	153,483	6,139	147,344	240,177	9,607	230,570
Auckland/Waikato	543,520	21,741	521,779	598,409	23,936	574,472	1,141,929	45,677	1,096,252
Eastern	1,186,135	47,445	1,138,690	278,864	11,155	267,710	1,465,000	58,600	1,406,400
Hawkes Bay	393,649	15,746	377,903	168,419	6,737	161,682	562,068	22,483	539,585
Taranaki	183,692	7,348	176,344	104,746	4,190	100,556	288,438	11,538	276,901
Wellington	371,922	14,877	357,045	314,287	12,571	301,716	686,209	27,448	658,761
Nelson-Marlborough	535,231	21,409	513,822	87,747	3,510	84,237	622,978	24,919	598,059
North Canterbury	1,325,145	53,006	1,272,139	238,921	9,557	229,364	1,564,067	62,563	1,501,504
West Coast	278,369	11,135	267,234	33,605	1,344	32,261	311,974	12,479	299,495
Central South Island	1,695,156	67,806	1,627,350	220,399	8,816	211,583	1,915,556	76,622	1,838,933
Otago	2,154,570	86,183	2,068,388	421,637	16,865	404,772	2,576,208	103,048	2,473,160
Southland	1,126,415	45,057	1,081,358	324,556	12,982	311,573	1,450,971	58,039	1,392,932
NZC only									
National									
TOTAL	9,880,499	395,220	9,485,279	2,945,075	117,803	2,827,272	12,825,574	513,023	12,312,551

5. Net Licence, and Non-Licence and Interest Income 2026/27

In addition to Licence income, all Councils receive income from interest on their reserves and non-licence income. The forecast interest is based on the reserves held at the end of the last financial year and calculated using forecast interest rates. The forecast interest for the 2026/27 year is \$243,339 (last yr \$200,544).

Total Net income for the 2026/27 year is forecast at \$13,5713,940

Table 4: Net Income Summary 2026/27				
	Net Licence Income	Interest	Non-Licence Income	Net Income
Northland	230,570	9,197	12,800	252,568
Auckland/Waikato	1,096,252	0	359,000	1,455,252
Eastern	1,406,400	21,787	209,500	1,637,687

Hawkes Bay	539,585	17,571	41,450	598,606
Taranaki	276,901	9,898	9,633	296,432
Wellington	658,761	12,864	85,620	757,245
Nelson-Marlb	598,059	7,561	105,000	710,620
Nth Canterbury	1,501,504	7,019	0	1,508,523
West Coast	299,495	5,902	52,530	357,927
Central SI	1,838,933	27,067	38,317	1,904,317
Otago	2,473,160	76,375	6,600	2,556,134
Southland	1,392,932	16,409	85,600	1,494,941
NZC only	0	31,688	12,000	43,688
National	0	0	140,000	140,000
TOTAL	12,312,551	243,339	1,158,050	13,713,940

6. National Approved Budget – Base Funds 2026/27

The Total Approved budget for Fish and Game is \$12,312,550. The table below gives a breakdown by Council.

Table 5: Base Funds 2026 27 with 2.3% cut & \$2 fee increase							
National Budget	Approved funding from licence Fee 2025/26	Proposed Expenditure 2026/27	Less 2.3% adjustment to budget	Funding requirement from Licence fee	plus \$2 licence fee increase	Licence income	Surplus / Shortfall 26/27
Northland	606,883	606,883	13,958	592,925	3,661	230,570	(362,354)
Auckland\Waikato	903,870	903,870	20,789	883,081	16,772	1,096,252	213,171
Eastern	1,338,183	1,338,183	30,778	1,307,405	19,152	1,406,400	98,995
Hawkes Bay	445,490	445,490	10,246	435,244	7,645	539,585	104,341
Taranaki	438,511	438,511	10,086	428,425	4,012	276,901	(151,525)
Wellington	869,598	869,598	20,001	849,597	9,860	658,761	(190,836)
Nelson-Marlb	578,228	578,228	13,299	564,929	7,995	598,059	33,130
Nth Canterbury	1,035,183	1,035,183	23,809	1,011,374	20,163	1,501,504	490,130
West Coast	385,350	385,350	8,863	376,487	3,954	299,495	(76,992)
Central SI	968,866	968,866	22,284	946,582	24,344	1,838,933	892,351
Otago	1,271,992	1,271,992	29,256	1,242,736	33,346	2,473,160	1,230,423
Southland	843,635	843,635	19,404	824,231	19,203	1,392,932	568,701
NZC only	1,312,498	1,312,498	30,187	1,282,311	-	-	(1,282,311)

National inc Research	1,608,584	1,608,584	36,997	1,571,587	-	(1,571,587)
TOTAL	12,606,871	12,606,871	289,958	12,316,913	170,107	(4,362)

7. Levy/Grants and Forecast Surplus/(Deficits)

Table 6 outlines the impact on this and the Levy or Grant per region for the 2026/27 year

Table 6: Levies & Grants 2026-27					
Region	Total Forecast Licence Income	Funding Requests	Approved funding from Reserves	Funding from licence fee after budget cuts	Levy/ Grant
Northland	230,570	592,925	0	592,925	- 362,354
Auckland\Waikato	1,096,252	883,081	65,200	883,081	213,171
Eastern	1,406,400	1,307,405	46,376	1,307,405	98,995
Hawkes Bay	539,585	435,244	0	435,244	104,341
Taranaki	276,901	428,425	0	428,425	- 151,525
Wellington	658,761	849,597	0	849,597	- 190,836
Nelson-Marlb	598,059	564,929	0	564,929	33,130
Nth Canterbury	1,501,504	1,011,374	30,000	1,011,374	490,130
West Coast	299,495	376,487	34,500	376,487	- 76,992
Central SI	1,838,933	946,582	0	946,582	892,351
Otago	2,473,160	1,242,736	0	1,242,736	1,230,423
Southland	1,392,932	824,231	0	824,231	568,701
NZC	-	1,282,311	0	1,282,311	- 1,282,311
National inc RMA & Research	-	1,571,587	0	1,571,587	- 1,571,587
TOTAL	12,312,551	12,316,913	176,076	\$12,316,913	(\$4,362)

8. Spending from Reserves

As a COVID response to the Reserves for each region, the NZC agreed to ensure all regions maintained 20% of their Original Budget in Reserves at year-end (provided the region worked within their Approved Budget).

Note: This assumes all councils work within their Approved Budget and meet all forecasts. Any spending from Reserves requires notification to the NZC – approval to use Reserves will **not** be approved if the use of those Reserves causes a council's Reserves to fall below the 20% threshold.

At Meeting 182 of the NZC, the council resolved to adopt the spending from reserves indicated by the Auckland/Waikato (\$65,200), Eastern (\$46,376), North Canterbury (\$30,000) and West Coast (\$34,500) regions prior to Meeting 182, for a total spend of \$176, 076 from reserves.

Following Meeting 183, the NZC also approved the adoption of Plan A, which also specified that those regions that wished to top up their budgets to the 2025/26 amount from reserves could do so.

So far, NZC has received the following reserve spend from Regions for 2026/27: Northland \$48,006, Taranaki \$10,086, Wellington \$20,001, Otago \$318,000, Southland \$68,430, these were approved in advance at Meeting 183.

9. Regional Fish & Game Councils 2026/27 Levy/Grant Schedule

The levy remittance/grant payment schedule for 2026/27 is attached. As usual, an invoice will be forwarded in the preceding month when the payments are due. If you are receiving a grant, please issue NZC an invoice as per the schedule.

Scenario A: REGIONAL FISH & GAME COUNCILS: 2026/27 LEVY/GRANT SCHEDULE									
Payable to/(by) New Zealand Fish & Game Council (GST Reg. No. 53-332-404)									
	Quarterly Instalment		Payment made/Received				Levy/(Grant)		TOTAL
	Levy/(Grant)	GST @15 %	Total	20/11/2025	20/02/2026	20/05/2026	20/08/2026	Total GST	
Northland	(90,588.60)	(13,588.29)	(104,176.89)					(54,353.16)	(416,707.55)
Akd/Waikato	53,292.64	7,993.90	61,286.54					31,975.58	245,146.14
Eastern	24,748.71	3,712.31	28,461.02					14,849.23	113,844.06
Hawke's Bay	26,085.36	3,912.80	29,998.16					15,651.22	119,992.66
Taranaki	(37,881.13)	(5,682.17)	(43,563.30)					(22,728.68)	(174,253.19)
Wellington	(47,709.06)	(7,156.36)	(54,865.42)					(28,625.44)	(219,461.70)
Nelson/Marlborough	8,282.53	1,242.38	9,524.91					4,969.52	38,099.64
North Canterbury	122,532.52	18,379.88	140,912.40					73,519.51	563,649.61
West Coast	(19,248.01)	(2,887.20)	(22,135.21)					(11,548.80)	(88,540.83)
CSI	223,087.82	33,463.17	256,550.99					133,852.69	1,026,203.96
Otago	307,605.83	46,140.87	353,746.71					184,563.50	1,414,986.83
Southland	142,175.13	21,326.27	163,501.40					85,305.08	654,005.62
	712,383.75	106,857.56	819,241.31					427,430.25	3,276,965.25
Levy	907,810.55	136,171.58	1,043,982.13	Total Receipts				544,686.33	4,175,928.52
Grant	(195,426.80)	(29,314.02)	(224,740.82)	Total Payments				(117,256.08)	(898,963.28)
Net	712,383.75	106,857.56	819,241.31	Net Receipts				427,430.25	3,276,965.25

10. Next Steps

Please now update your OWPs to reconcile with the Approved Budget 2026/27 in the Table 5: National Budget. When your budgets and OWP's have been updated, please send a copy of your final detailed budget to the NZC email nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz by **18 September 2026** and copy the Finance team at Leech & Co via Scott Mathieson scott@leech.co.nz in your email.

This will be the budget record against which you will compare actual audited expenditure in the year-end variance report.

Please give Scott a call or email if you have any queries or need assistance in the preparation of your budgets.

Agenda Item 12 Strategic Matters

Summary

a. Risk Management Review

- Consider items in the Risk Management Review
- Update risk management issues associated with:
 - a. Avian influenza H5N1 Strain (HPAI – High Pathogenic Avian Influenza)
 - b. Gold Clam at Lake Rotomanu, New Plymouth

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action is required.

b. Strategic Discussions

- a. Considerations of strategic planning and setting direction.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action is required.

c. Iwi Engagement Strategy

- Developing a strategic approach to engaging with Mana Whenua and how to incorporate a co-operative process in decision-making.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action is required.

d. Draft Sports Fish and Game Management Plan

- A brief update on the consultation undertaken to date in order to implement full consultation.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action is required.

Risk Issue	Consequence / Impact	Likelihood	Level of Control
H5N1 – Effect on waterfowl populations - fluctuating population level affecting sustainability	Moderate	Almost Certain	no control
H5N1 – impact on licence sales – hunters are concerned with interaction with HPAI birds	Moderate	Almost Certain	Continued education programme
H5N1 – Health and Safety for staff handling birds for monitoring programmes	Moderate		Within Control
Gold clams – limited distribution		Moderate – slow spread	External \$\$ required to contain in small sites
Price optimisation programme not completed			within control
Sales channels change – needs transition and transparency		Almost Certain	within control
Budgeting process - legal challenge		Possible	
Resource allocation process – uncertainty of allocation			
Cash cow regions			within control
Licence holder disconnect and or negative impression			within control
Continued uncertainty generated by staff centralisation proposals			within control
Insufficient focus on licence sales and resourcing of R3 programme actions – financial			within control
Organisational tension and power struggles	Reputational damage		within control
Access to the resources	Reduce opportunity	limited to specific sites	within control
Transparency of process in NZ Council who has most contact with ministers and Doc			within control
Resource Management focus - uncertain or pivot			
Inability to establish mechanism for donations and bequeath			within control

	opportunity not a requirement		
Inability to establish consistent policy - provide template not control	 inconsistent policy implementation		 within control
Increased noncompliance			 within control
Social licence degradation			 within control
Challenges to the fisheries and game management governance - especially native introduced species debate			
Substandard processes at NZC to region connectivity for consultation and project facilitation and collaboration			 within control
consultation process – risk insufficient consultation		 It works but system needs improving	 within control

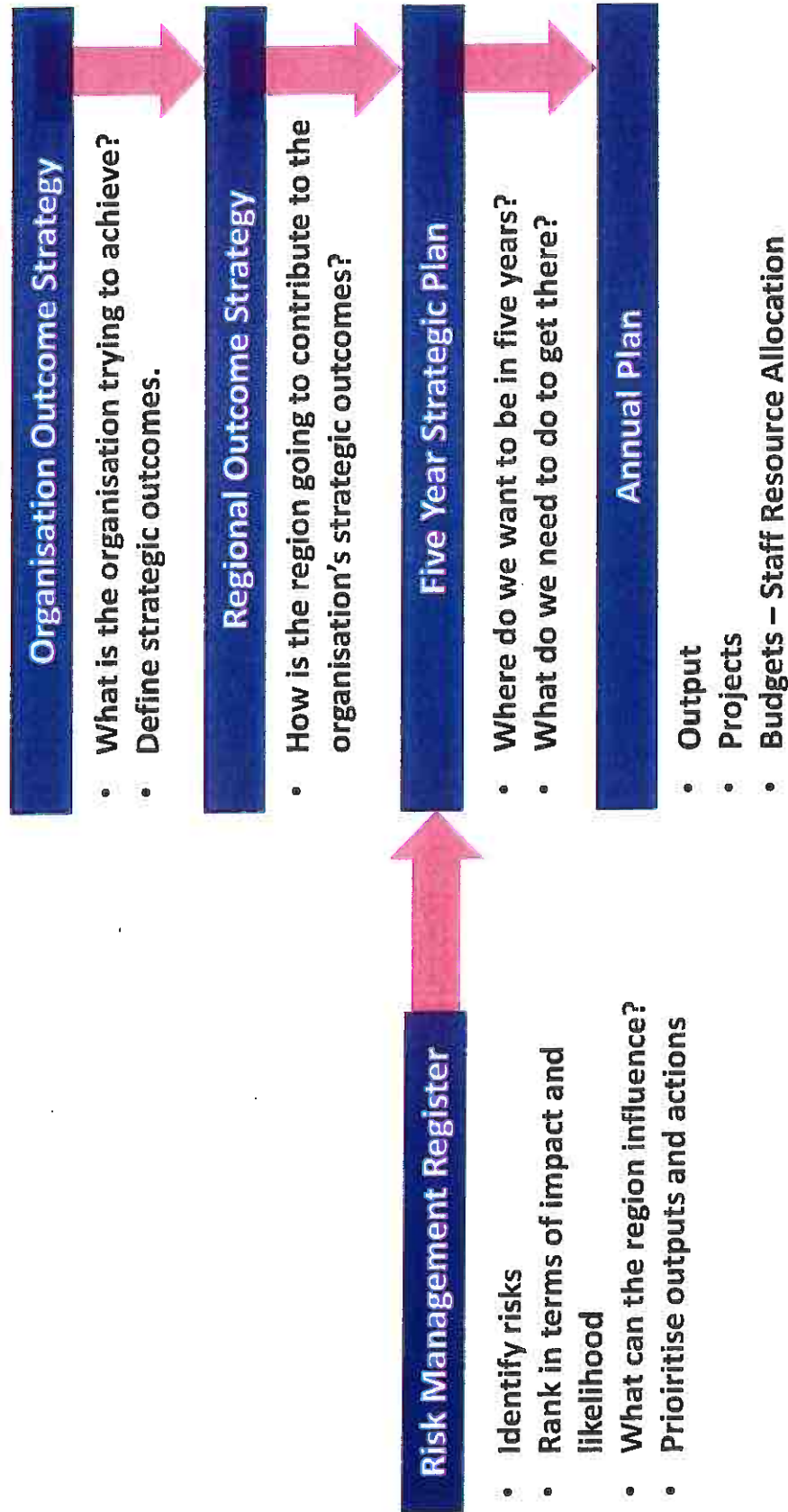
TARANAKI Risk Matrix

Impact	Likelihood				
	1	2	3	4	5
5			Reduced Grant		
4			Lack of capacity	Sports vs Indigenous fish debate legislative change	
				Decline in water quantity/ quality	
			Loss of reputation	Change in structure	
			Conflict of Interest		
3			H&S		
			Illegal culls	Decline in licence revenue	
			Data Loss	Avian Influenza	
2				Golden Clam Incursion	Severe weather / climate
1					Management Plan review delayed

RISK REGISTER & RISK TREATMENT ACTION PLAN - TARANAKI FISH & GAME - End August 2024

Risk Type	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Actions already in place	Person Responsible	Further Actions Required (if any)
1 Operational	Data loss from computer virus, data corruption	Possible - 3	Moderate - 3	All computers with up to date anti-virus protection. Have moved to cloud based software and document storage. Regular backup of cloud data is being actioned nationally, as well as cyber-insurance in case systems are compromised.	Office administrator	
2 Operational	Lack of capacity to undertake core roles effectively	Possible - 3	Major - 4	Skilled & experienced staff available from Wellington region to work together where necessary. Use of volunteer rangers and hatchery workers a continued key element.	Chairperson/Council	Consider other options (casual staff contracts) to complete work plan. Keep volunteers in the loop to retain their support.
3 Operational	Review of Sports Fish & Game Management Plan is not completed by expiry date of current plan (8 Aug 2021)	Likely - 4	Moderate - 3	It is difficult to engage meaningfully with licence holders, iwi and other agencies until regional amalgamation is complete.	Manager	MZ Council is developing a common Management Plan template. DWP's may need approval by Minister of Conservation if no Mgt Plan in place.
4 Health & Safety	Health and Safety related event resulting in significant harm or injury to staff, contractors or volunteers	Possible - 3	Major - 4	Ensure staff and volunteers comply with Health and Safety Policy and processes. Ensure H&S manual is current and regular reviews, staff meetings and auditing occurs as scheduled. Report on H&S as regular agenda item.	Manager	Ongoing identification of new hazards. Regular reporting of near misses and any incidents.
5 Species Management	Waterfowl - Avian Influenza strain is spreading in Asia and causing mass mortality of poultry and waterfowl	Likely - 4	Moderate - 3	Responses being co-ordinated nationally - Unable to mitigate initial arrival in NZ. Recognise that wild populations will rebound and carry out regular monitoring of key populations to identify changes.	Manager	Develop response plan - including communication plan
6 Species Management	Fish - severe weather or geomorphological events impacting on fish population at a local or regional scale	Almost certain - 5	Moderate - 3	Unable to mitigate. Recognise that wild populations will rebound and carry out regular monitoring of key populations to identify changes.	Manager	Review climate change modelling relevant to trout
7 Species Management	Fish - incursions of invasive species such as hornwort compromise angling amenity in lakes	Likely - 4	Moderate - 3	Difficult and expensive to mitigate since established. Support and amplify the Check/Clean/Dry message to reduce the risk of invasive species spread. Work with partner organisations, such as the TIC, DOC, IBNZ and Iwi to spread the biosecurity message.	Manager	Maintain awareness of new threats of invasion - recent golden chain incursion in Waitate catchment and response from Te Arawa Lakes Iwi
8 Species Management	Game and Fish - climate induced events i.e., drought impacting on gamebird population	Almost certain - 5	Moderate - 3	Unable to mitigate. Carry out regular monitoring of key populations to identify changes. Recognise that some events may be positive for some species	Manager	Review climate change modelling relevant to game birds and effect on ephemeral wetlands
9 Species Management	Decline of Taranaki ring-plain fishery due to reductions in water quality and quantity	Almost certain - 5	Major - 4	Take planning and individual consent opportunities under the RMA to promote maintenance of suitable water flows and water quality to sustain viable trout fisheries around the ring-plain	Manager/ Fish & Game Officer - Taranaki	Engage in the plan change processes for Taranaki Natural Resources Plan and any relevant resource consent applications. Continue to monitor ring-plain fisheries
10 Species Management	Culling/ poisoning of paradise shelduck populations	Possible - 3	Major - 4	Work closely and proactively with landowners and farmers to manage problem aggregations of paradise shelduck. Hold Special Season where appropriate. Monitor population trends.	Manager/Fish & Game Officer	

Risk Type	Risk Description	Likelihood	Impact	Actions already in place	Person Responsible	Further Actions Required (if any)
11 Species Management	Political - Status of indigenous biodiversity is promoted over that of sports fish by statutory agencies and legislation	Minor - 1	Major - 4	(1) Promote freshwater fishing as a valid recreational pursuit with significant financial, recreational & health benefits and as kai for resident and non-resident anglers. (2) Portray F&G in positive light as an environmental organisation. (3) Promote strong ethics amongst anglers. (4) Clearly interaction of native fish and sports fish based on science. (5) Maintain close working relationships with iwi and other agencies to achieve the best outcomes for all freshwater species.	Manager	Proactively engage with iwi, MP's and other groups as opportunities arise. Undertake a public awareness campaign to mobilise support for Fish & Game to retain its statutory mandate.
12 Financial	Ongoing decline in licence revenues	Minor - 1	Major - 4	Regular contact with 'licence holders' updated web pages to provide information which assists their experience. Kids fishing days. Implement the #3 programme (recruitment, retention & reactivation)	Manager	Review of effectiveness of kids fishing days - including increasing scale and follow up. Promote recruitment of other cohorts such as novice female anglers and +65yr old novice anglers
13 Financial	No grant available from National Council	Possible - 2	Severe - 5	Manage region effectively, in a financially prudent manner and on budget to achieve core functions and licence holder satisfaction. Maintain short-term capacity to address short fall through reserves	Manager/ Council	Work with F&G National Council and other regions to best achieve statutory obligations
14 Council	Reputation - Lack of support from licence holders and other agencies arising from criticism and aspersions regarding F&G performance	Possible - 3	Major - 4	Maintain awareness of the need to operate in a transparent, efficient and effective way to best serve licence holders. Ensure actions and comments are professional and reflect well on F&G	Manager/ Council	Make constructive and effective input into the regional amalgamation process in the best interests of hunters and anglers both within the existing Taranaki Region and nationally
15 Council	Reputation - Perceived conflict of interest among decision makers (Councillors)	Possible - 3	Major - 4	Maintain awareness of the need to manage perceived conflicts of interest appropriately and transparently. Follow Standing Orders and including the use of a Conflict of Interest register	Chairperson/ Council	
16 Council	Changes in F&G structure (regional amalgamations) arising from national review/s	Minor - 1	Major - 4	Operate in an efficient and effective way to best serve local and national licence holders	Council	Engage in the process with the best interests of the F&G resource and licence holders both locally and nationally at the forefront of our responses. Support fellow councillors and staff through this process.



Agenda Item 13 Policy and Legislation

Summary

a. Resource Management Act Review

Key Features of the New System

- **Two Core Acts:** Replaces a single catch-all statute with the *Planning Act* (focusing on land use, urban development, and infrastructure) and the *Natural Environment Act* (focusing on air, water, soil, and ecosystem protection).
- **Regional Combined Plans:** Reduces over 100 disparate council plans down to single combined plans for each region, featuring spatial, natural environment, and land-use chapters.
- **Standardised Provisions:** Implements nationally consistent planning standards, performance metrics, and standardized zones to reduce localized interpretation costs.
- **Consenting Changes:** Lowers overall consent requirements, removes specific complex notification tests, and shifts system focus toward monitoring national environmental limits rather than micro-managing consents.
- **Fast-Track Approvals:** Complemented by the Fast-track Approvals Act passed in December 2024, creating a streamlined one-stop-shop process for significant regional and national infrastructure projects.

b. Local Government Reform

Simplifying Local Government Overview

The New Zealand Government is actively advancing its "Simplifying Local Government" reform programme to cut duplication, focus councils on core services, and streamline regional governance.

Key Elements of the Reform

- **"Head Start" Voluntary Pathway:** Councils had until 9 August 2026 to submit voluntary proposals to merge into larger unitary authorities. Eighteen proposals were received. However, Cabinet decisions on which proposals advance to detailed design have been delayed past September 2026.
- **Mandatory "Backstop" Process:** Councils that did not participate in the voluntary Head Start pathway will face a compulsory government-led restructuring process targeted for after the 2028 local elections.
- **Local Government (System Improvements) Amendment Bill:** Passed its third reading in September 2026, shifting focus back to core infrastructure and basic services.
- **Rates Capping:** Legislation introduced in September 2026 includes a proposed 4 per cent cap on annual council rates increases to ease cost-of-living pressures on households.
- **Local Water Done Well:** All mainland councils have now submitted or secured approved water services delivery plans to shift drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater into sustainable operating models.

c. Conservation Amendment Bill

Government has introduced an amendment bill to the Conservation Act to 'modernise' how conservation land is managed, support economic growth, and improve environmental outcomes.

Conservation Amendment Bill Overview - Current Status and Public Feedback

- **Submissions:** Public submissions to the Environment Committee closed in July 2026.
- **Debate:** The bill faced heavy pushback from environmental groups and outdoor recreation advocates over concerns regarding commercial development and potential land disposal rules. In response to public feedback, the government adjusted aspects of the reform and clarified safeguards around land categories.
- **Next Steps:** The select committee is scheduled to report back on the legislation.

d. NZ Council Policy Consultation: draft HPAI Response Policy

Consider and provide feedback

e. NZ Council Policy Consultation: Game Bird Nuisance Policy

Consider and provide feedback

f. Operational Policy – draft Procurement Policy

Consider and amend as appropriate

g. Operational Policy – Vehicle Procurement & Disposal Policy

Consider and amend as appropriate

h. Policy Review Schedule

Overview of schedule of policy review moving forward

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Provide feedback on regional consultations currently active with NZ Council – HPAI , Game Bird Nuisance Policies

Make decision on operational policy for procurement

Make decision on operational policy on vehicle procurement and disposal

High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI) Policy

Section	Operational
Contact/Owner	NZC HR
Last Review	New Policy
Next Review	Before each game bird season [DATE] and/or after any material change in official guidance
Approval	NZC
Effective Date	Aug 2026

PURPOSE

1. This policy sets out the governance framework and Fish & Game New Zealand's accountabilities and minimum requirements for preparing for and responding to high pathogenicity avian influenza H5N1 ("HPAI H5N1" or "bird flu").
2. The policy recognises Fish & Game NZ's statutory role in managing game bird hunting, its direct relationship with licence holders, and its duty to protect employees, volunteers, game bird hunters, as well as maintaining organisational credibility.

Support our values:

- Trust
- Inclusion
- Connection
- Service

3. This policy applies to all Fish & Game NZ governance bodies, employees, contractors and volunteers when undertaking Fish & Game NZ functions or representing Fish & Game NZ in relation to HPAI H5N1.

POLICY

Policy statement

4. Fish & Game NZ will take a science-based, precautionary approach to HPAI H5N1. The organisation will support the national biosecurity response, follow official advice, maintain communications with staff and licence holders, and continue its core functions where it is safe to do so.

5. Fish & Game NZ's role is to support, amplify and align with official advice while managing the impacts for game bird hunting, staff safety, regional operations & continuity, and licence holder communications.
6. Every Fish & Game Regional Council is responsible for translating national guidance into local arrangements and actions. Where this policy, a regional plan, or any subordinate document conflict, MPI guidance takes precedence, followed by this policy. Regions should not adopt local positions that depart from MPI or national Fish & Game policy or guidance.

Scope

7. This policy covers preparedness, response, communications, health and safety, stakeholder engagement, regional operations and post-event review. It does not replace legal requirements, including employment obligations, especially around Health and Safety. Fish & Game NZ does not lead national disease control, biosecurity, or public health advice — those responsibilities sit with the relevant statutory agencies.

Guiding principles

8. **Lead agency alignment:** Fish & Game NZ will align with Biosecurity NZ / MPI as the national biosecurity lead, DOC on threatened species and public conservation land, and health agencies on human health advice.

Safety first: Staff, volunteers, licence holders, contractors and the public are not to be placed at unnecessary risk.

Science-led decisions: Organisational positions are to be based on evidence, official advice and documented risk assessments — not speculation or public pressure.

Calm and consistent communication: Messages will be factual, measured, practical and coordinated, avoiding unnecessary alarm.

Regional readiness: Regions are encouraged to prepare for HPAI H5N1 scenarios, including local detections, reporting surges, requests for assistance and possible changes to game bird hunting regulations.

One organisation, one voice: Public statements and media responses are to be coordinated through the Fish and Game NZ CEO.

Risk Phases

9. Both national and regional preparedness activity is scaled to the risk phase in effect (as directed by MPI). Fish & Game NZ can apply a risk phase regionally, i.e. Phase 3 will apply to the region where H5N1 is present, rather than a blanket application across all Fish & Game NZ regions. The Phases, including regional detections, will be based on MPI advice. NZ CEO/COO will advise the region if their phase changes.

- **Phase 1 — Alert and watch:** H5N1 is overseas. Focus is quiet, steady preparedness.
- **Phase 2 — Heightened risk:** H5N1 is closer to New Zealand (e.g. Ross Sea/Antarctica or Australia). Focus is raising readiness without raising alarm.
- **Phase 3 — Confirmed incursion:** H5N1 is present in New Zealand. Focus is a fast, calm, coordinated response.
- **Phase 4 — Established:** H5N1 is established in the wild bird population. Focus is sustained, business-as-usual management.

MINIMUM ORGANISATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Preparedness

10. Fish & Game NZ must maintain a current national HPAI H5N1 Preparation and Response Plan, communications toolkit, crisis response structure, regional contact list and staff guidance. Each region should understand its local role in relation to regional council preparedness, potential disposal arrangements, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supply and use, staff training, licence holder messaging, public enquiries and requests for operational assistance.

Reporting and surveillance support

11. Fish & Game NZ will encourage all licence holders, staff and the public to report three or more sick or dead wild birds in a group to the Biosecurity New Zealand exotic pest and disease hotline on **0800 80 99 66**, or any updated official reporting channel. Staff must not handle or move suspected HPAI birds unless directed through official arrangements and supported by appropriate PPE, training and approvals.

Health, safety and biosecurity

12. Fish & Game NZ will apply a precautionary approach to staff safety. PPE requirements, hygiene practices, cleaning and disinfection, bird handling, dog-related precautions and fieldwork decisions should follow the current response plan and official health and safety guidance. Where official risk information is unavailable or unclear, managers should escalate for advice and adopt the lower risk option until clarification is received. NZC will assist regions to source PPE and organise training through the Health & Safety Representative Committee.

Communications

13. All HPAI H5N1 communications must be coordinated through NZC, factual and consistent with the Crisis Communications Plan and Toolkit. Fish & Game NZ will amplify official advice, explain what it means for game bird hunters and staff, and avoid creating competing technical information. Human health content must be checked against health agency guidance before release. Media enquiries should be referred through the NZC CEO.

Game bird hunting, access and regulatory decisions

14. Fish & Game NZ will maintain lawful and sustainable game bird hunting where it is safe and responsible to do so. Any proposed change to game bird hunting access, local restrictions, bag limits, season length or broader regulatory settings must be based on official advice, documented risk considerations, regional input and following the required statutory process.

Dead bird collection and disposal

15. Fish & Game NZ will not undertake dead bird collection, transport or disposal unless the activity is authorised, risk-assessed, resourced and aligned with MPI, regional council and landowner requirements. Any such activity must have clear approval, trained personnel, appropriate PPE, safe decontamination arrangements, a lawful disposal pathway and a documented record of the event.

Regional preparedness plans

16. At a minimum, every regional preparedness plan should include:
 - A copy of, and alignment with, the Fish & Game HPAI H5N1 Preparation and Response

Plan including the HPAI H5N1 Crisis Communications Plan and the HPAI H5N1 Communications Toolkit.

- A documented strategy for acquiring the PPE recommended in the NZAIHSGW¹, noting where the regional/unitary council will provide PPE or staff training.
- Evidence that staff have been trained in the use of the recommended PPE, including fit testing of masks.
- Current contacts for the region's Regional/unitary Council, DOC and mana whenua/iwi partners, and an understanding of the council's own preparedness and clean-up plan, including Fish & Game NZ's role.
- Scenario planning for foreseeable local situations, such as members of the public bringing sick or dead birds to a Fish & Game office, or requests from the public to collect dead birds.
- A record of current MPI guidance on culling or disturbing wild birds in response to H5N1.
- A ready-to-use plan for altering game regulations or closing areas if necessary, using the Regulation Amendment Cover Template.

PPE requirements and operational procedures

17. PPE levels are based on MPI's assessment of the likelihood of H5N1 being present around an operation. Where MPI is unable to provide an assessment, staff should assume the likelihood is high and use the higher PPE level.

- **Level 1 PPE (gloves and footwear):** Handling apparently healthy, sick or dying birds where H5N1 has not been detected in the area, and MPI assesses the likelihood as low.
- **Level 2 PPE (Level 1 plus disposable fit-tested P2/N95 respirator, eyewear and fluid-resistant coveralls):** Handling apparently healthy birds where H5N1 has not been detected in the area but MPI assesses the likelihood as high.
- **Level 3 PPE (full hazmat):** contact with dead birds where H5N1 has not been detected but the likelihood is high, or where H5N1 has been detected.

18. In addition to PPE levels, staff should:

- Maintain heightened awareness of disease risk when working with wildlife.
- Maintain good biosecurity and hygiene practice, including scrubbing and disinfecting equipment, boots and clothing between sites, and cleaning hands and equipment between handling each bird.
- Not handle sick birds while unwell or immunocompromised.

Banding

19. Banding will be paused in regions experiencing Phase 3, until MPI advises Fish & Game it is safe to resume, because aggregating birds for banding can spread H5N1. Once H5N1 is established in New Zealand and MPI advises it is safe to do so, duck banding will resume with a heightened level of biosecurity and hygiene.

Botulism response

20. Standard botulism collection operations may continue during Phase 3, provided the PPE prescribed in the NZAIHSGW is followed based on the likelihood of H5N1 being in the area (Level 2 if likelihood is low and H5N1 is not detected locally; Level 3 if likelihood is high or

¹ New Zealand Avian Influenza Health and Safety Guidance for Workers

unknown).

21. When conducting botulism clean ups during Phase 3 regions must:

- Inform the relevant Regional or District Council.
- Inform MPI via the hotline (0800 80 99 66).
- Follow MPI's advice on whether birds should be tested for H5N1.
- Record the event, location, number of deaths and response.
- Update the national Fish & Game NZ database.

Culling and dispersing wild birds

22. Fish & Game Regions are encouraged to assist poultry farmers to minimise contact between wild birds and farmed birds. Permits to cull or disturb should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Any report of unauthorised disturbance or culling of birds must be investigated through the usual process.

Dead bird clean-up

23. Disposal of H5N1-affected birds may occur only via an MPI-approved method or facility, or a legally declared disposal site; currently, MPI must approve all dead bird collections. Regional/unitary councils are responsible for organising local clean-up; however, Fish & Game regions should prepare for the possibility of being asked to assist in a local clean-up by securing PPE and arranging for training staff in advance. Any removal of H5N1-killed animals requires MPI approval, Regional Council approval, a legal disposal site and Level 3 PPE.

Reporting

24. Where three or more sick or dead wild birds in a group are observed, it should be reported to the Biosecurity New Zealand exotic pest and disease hotline on **0800 80 99 66** (without touching or moving the birds). Staff should redirect members of the public to the hotline rather than accepting birds in person.

Crisis Response Team

25. The Chief Executive, or delegate, may activate the HPAI H5N1 crisis response team when a detection has operational implications for Fish & Game NZ, when official advice materially changes, when media or public interest escalates, or when regional managers require national coordination. Activation may be national or regional, depending on the event.

DISCUSSION

Regulatory change process

26. Where a region considers a change to the game bird Hunters Notice is required (for example, to bag limits, season length, or area closures), the Fish & Game Regional Council must pass a resolution and submit it to the Minister through the NZC (using the Regulation Amendment Cover Template). NZC cannot itself propose amendments — they must originate from a region with a supporting council decision. Regions are encouraged to draft potential amendments in advance, so they are ready if an urgent council meeting is required.

Communications

27. All external communications relating to H5N1 must follow the Fish & Game NZ HPAI H5N1

Crisis Communications Plan and draw on the pre-approved scenarios in the Communications Toolkit. Any local media enquiry referring specifically to a Fish & Game region should be notified to the Fish & Game Principal Communications Advisor, consistent with the no-surprises principle.

ACCOUNTABILITIES

Roles and accountabilities

28. The NZC is accountable for this policy and for ensuring national consistency across HPAI H5N1 preparedness and response. The Chief Executive is accountable for activation of national response arrangements, liaison with lead agencies and escalation to governance where required.
29. Regional Fish & Game councils are accountable for local preparedness and for maintaining relationships with regional and unitary authorities, mana whenua, regional DOC offices and other local stakeholders. Regional managers should ensure staff are aware of reporting pathways, PPE expectations, local response arrangements, communications escalation and the limits of Fish & Game NZ's functional role. Changes to the game bird Hunters Notice must follow the legislative process set out above.

Table 1: Roles and Responsibilities Table 2 under this policy

Role	Responsibility under this policy
NZC Chief Executive	Primary point of contact for MPI and DOC. Activates national response arrangements and alerts the Crisis Response Team, Regional Managers, NZC Chair and Regional Chairs on confirmation of an outbreak. Accountable to governance for the overall response.
Crisis Response Team	Chief Executive, Chief Operating Officer, Principal Communications Advisor, Science Advisor and representatives from any impacted regions. Owns emergency communications and situational decisions during activation.
Regional Managers / Councils	Hold and maintain a current regional preparedness plan (Section 16). Lead local intelligence gathering, staff and stakeholder liaison, and regionally targeted communications. Nominate a delegate if multiple regions are impacted at once.
Regional Health & Safety Representatives	Confirm PPE ⁴ stock and staff training are current for the region. Escalate gaps to NZC.
All staff, contractors, volunteers	Follow current PPE levels and biosecurity procedures. Report sick or dead birds through the correct channel (Section 24). No person is to independently issue public advice, interpret human health risk, collect suspected HPAI carcasses, or approve disposal activity.

RECORDS, REVIEW AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

30. The Fish & Game HPAI H5N1 Plan is intended to be a living document that will be updated in consultation with regions. As H5N1 spreads and becomes endemic, the Fish & Game HPAI H5N1 Plan will evolve; approval of this policy endorses the plan and the process in place to improve the document as needed.
31. Fish & Game NZ will keep records of HPAI-related decisions, official advice relied on, communications issued, operational assistance provided, PPE or training decisions, regional incidents and any changes to game bird hunting arrangements. Records must be

sufficient to support accountability, organisational learning and future review. This policy must be reviewed before each game bird season and/or after any material change in official guidance.

National Policy – Game Birds Causing Damage or Nuisance

Purpose

This policy establishes a consistent, lawful, and proportionate framework for responding to damage or nuisance caused by game birds while supporting sustainable game bird populations and public hunting opportunities.

Scope

This policy applies to all Fish & Game regions, all game bird species managed under the Wildlife Act 1953, and all settings (farms, airports, wastewater facilities, public areas, and private land).

Statutory Authority

All authorities and decisions must comply with the Wildlife Act 1953, associated delegations, and other relevant legislation. The authorization is the broad legal approval for an activity that would otherwise be prohibited under the Wildlife Act and a permit is the specific instrument or document that grants that authorization and usually contains conditions.

Policy Principles

- Early and timely intervention
- Proportionality and minimal harm
- Non-lethal methods as the default where practicable
- Regional discretion and flexibility
- Clear separation between governance policy and operational practice
- Advisory/authorising role for Fish & Game
- Transparent reporting and accountability

Permit Framework

Step 1 – Non-lethal disturbance (default) where practicable.

Step 2 – Lethal control at discretion of the Region and proportionate to the issue at hand.

or take eggs of or destroy eggs of

Mandatory Requirements

- All disturbance or lethal actions require an authorisation, and the permit issued conveys the conditions of that authorisation.
- Time-bound, purpose-specific conditions must be included.
- Regions are not required to own or maintain equipment.
- Standard reporting is required.

Standard Operating Procedure

Standard Operating Procedures - Game Bird Nuisance Procedure provides guidance to staff for consistency in approach, operational efficiency, improved employee onboarding, and ensuring compliance with safety and legal regulations.

Regional Flexibility

Site visits are discretionary and based on risk. Trusted operators may be streamlined.

Compliance and Review

Regions will retain records and the NZC will periodically review this policy. Reporting will continue to occur in annual reports which involves no change to current practice.

Standard Operating Procedure – Game Bird Nuisance Procedure

Roles

Regional Managers approve permits; staff provide advice and draft authorities/permits ; landholders receive permits but can delegate permitted actions.

Service Levels

Enquiries acknowledged within two working days with follow-up as soon as possible afterwards.

Intake and Assessment

Collect information about species, numbers, nature of nuisance, location, history, methods tried, and safety considerations. Photos of what is happening can also be useful.

Risk Assessment

Use regional risk categories (low to critical). Site visits are discretionary.

Consider Options and recommend response from non-lethal disturbance and/or lethal control

Non-Lethal Response Where Practicable

Issue a Permit to Disturb with conditions. Rotate scare devices and ensure safe use.

Escalation to Lethal Control

Used only at Regional discretion. Must specify persons authorised to undertake disturbance, maximum numbers, species, method, duration and reporting and ideally not occur in April or during the season unless all persons have a game bird hunting license.

Or take eggs or destroy eggs

Trusted Operator Pathway

Streamlined where compliance history supports it.

Equipment and Assistance

Councils are not required to provide equipment. Any field support may be contracted separately depending on staffing resources in the region.

Site Visits

Site visits are at the discretion of the region.

Record Keeping and Reporting

Use standard templates and ensure timely returns. Continue to report annually on total permits issued in your annual report.

Compliance Monitoring

Risk-based checks; non-compliance may affect future permits.

Review and Ongoing Work

Annual review of SOP for improvements. Regions to collaboratively put together a handbook of response options by game bird species for future use.

The current authority requires Fish and Game to indemnify DoC

Procurement Policy

Policy owner: Chief Executive

Approved by: Wellington Fish & Game Council

Effective date: [Insert date]

Review date: [Insert date]

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Wellington Fish & Game Council obtains goods, services, works and other commercial arrangements:

- at appropriate value for money;
- in a fair, transparent and ethical manner;
- in accordance with approved budgets and financial delegations;
- with appropriate consideration of environmental, social and operational impacts;
- from suppliers that are capable, financially sound and appropriately managed; and
- in a manner that protects the interests of licence holders, Fish & Game and the public.

Procurement decisions must be capable of withstanding appropriate internal, licence-holder, audit and public scrutiny.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Wellington Fish & Game Council;
- all employees and contractors involved in procurement;
- consultants and other persons acting on behalf of Fish & Game; and
- procurement of goods, services, works, professional services, technology, equipment and other third-party expenditure.

The policy applies whether expenditure is funded from operating budgets, capital budgets, grants, licence revenue or other funding sources.

3. Procurement principles

All procurement must follow these principles:

1. **Value for money** - consider total cost, quality, risk, performance and whole-of-life costs rather than simply lowest price.
2. **Fairness and competition** - suppliers should receive a fair and reasonable opportunity to compete where competition is appropriate.
3. **Proportionality** - procurement processes should reflect the value, complexity and risk of the purchase.
4. **Integrity** - decisions must be impartial, ethical and free from inappropriate influence.
5. **Transparency and accountability** - decisions and approvals must be documented and capable of review.
6. **Sustainability** - environmental and social impacts should be considered where relevant to the procurement.
7. **Supplier performance** - suppliers must be appropriately monitored against agreed requirements.
8. **Confidentiality** - commercially sensitive and personal information must be protected.
9. **Align with Government Procurement framework**

These principles are consistent with the Government Procurement framework and the Office of the Auditor-General's expectations for public-sector procurement.

4. Financial authority

No employee may commit Fish & Game to expenditure above their approved financial delegation.

Procurement approval and contract-signing authority must be clearly separated where practical.

The Council's approved Delegations Policy takes precedence over any thresholds contained in this policy.

For clarity:

- a purchase must be within an approved budget, unless specific approval is obtained;
- splitting a purchase into multiple transactions to avoid a procurement threshold is prohibited;
- recurring purchases must be considered on their expected total value over the relevant contract period;
- contract extensions and renewals must be included when assessing the value of a procurement; and
- expenditure outside delegated authority must be referred to the appropriate approving authority before any commitment is made.

5. Procurement thresholds

The following minimum requirements are recommended.

Total expected value excl. GST	Minimum procurement requirement
Up to \$5,000	Appropriate due diligence and one supplier/price check where practical
\$5,001–\$25,000	Obtain at least two competitive quotes where practical
\$25,001–\$100,000	Obtain at least three competitive quotes or undertake an appropriate closed/limited RFQ
\$100,001–\$250,000 ¹	Formal RFQ/RFP process with documented evaluation and approval

These are recommended internal thresholds, not a statement of Wellington Fish & Game's current statutory or delegated thresholds.

The thresholds should ultimately be reconciled with the Council's Delegations Policy and any procurement obligations legally applicable to Fish & Game – i.e. procurement thresholds and financial delegations must operate together.

6. Exceptions to competition

A competitive process may not be necessary where there is a documented and approved reason, such as:

- genuine sole-source supply;
- emergency circumstances;
- compatibility with existing systems or equipment;
- continuation of specialist services where changing supplier would create disproportionate cost or risk;
- an existing panel or All-of-Government arrangement;
- a procurement from another public-sector organisation; or
- circumstances where competition would not provide reasonable value.

¹ Fish and Game Councils are specifically mention as a public entity that is classified as agencies **expected to apply the [New Zealand Government Procurement Rules](#)**. For procurement contracts reaching or exceeding a whole-of-life cost of **\$100,000** (excluding GST), specific rules under the updated 5th Edition Procurement Rules dictate how these contracts must be managed.

The reason for the exception must be documented before commitment wherever practicable and approved by an appropriately delegated person.

7. Procurement process

For material procurement, the following lifecycle should be followed:

1. Define the need

Clearly document what Fish & Game requires and why.

2. Establish budget and authority

Confirm funding, budget availability and delegated authority.

3. Assess procurement risk

Consider financial, operational, reputational, legal, environmental, health and safety, cybersecurity and supplier risks.

4. Assess the market

Understand available suppliers and whether competition is appropriate.

5. Approach suppliers

Use a proportionate RFQ, RFP, tender or other appropriate process.

6. Evaluate proposals

Use pre-agreed evaluation criteria and document the assessment.

7. Approve the recommendation

Obtain approval in accordance with financial delegations.

8. Contract

Use an appropriate written contract, purchase order or other documented agreement.

9. Manage performance

Monitor delivery, costs, milestones, service levels and risks.

10. Close and review

Confirm satisfactory completion, finalise records and identify lessons or savings opportunities.

8. Conflicts of interest

All people involved in a significant procurement must declare any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest.

A person with a material conflict must not participate in the relevant procurement decision unless an appropriate management plan has been approved.

Conflicts and their management must be documented.

This is particularly important because procurement conflicts can undermine both actual and perceived fairness. NZ Government Procurement guidance recommends declarations from procurement teams, evaluation panels, advisers, recommenders and financial approvers.

9. Gifts, hospitality and supplier relationships

Employees and Council members must not accept gifts, hospitality, discounts or other benefits that could influence, or reasonably be perceived to influence, a procurement decision.

Supplier relationships must be professional and conducted at arm's length.

Wellington Fish & Game Council's existing Sensitive Expenditure Policy and related gift and entertainment policies should be read together with this policy.

10. Supplier selection

Supplier selection should consider, where relevant:

- price and total cost of ownership;
- quality and fitness for purpose;
- capability and capacity;
- financial viability;
- relevant experience;
- health and safety;
- environmental performance;
- information security;
- insurance;
- legal and regulatory compliance;
- references and past performance;
- supply-chain resilience; and
- alignment with Fish & Game's organisational values.

Lowest price should not automatically determine the outcome.

11. Contract management

For significant contracts, a contract owner must be appointed.

The contract owner is responsible for:

- monitoring supplier performance;
- ensuring invoices correspond with agreed deliverables;
- monitoring expenditure against contract value;
- managing variations;
- recording performance issues;
- ensuring insurance and other required certifications remain current;
- managing contract expiry and renewal dates; and
- reporting material supplier risks to management.

Contract variations must not be used to circumvent the original procurement process.

13. Procurement records

Appropriate records must be retained, including:

- procurement requirements;
- quotes or supplier proposals;
- evaluation criteria;
- evaluation results;
- conflict-of-interest declarations;
- approval documentation;
- contracts and purchase orders;
- variations;
- supplier performance information; and
- reasons for any significant procurement exception.

NZ Government Procurement specifically requires procurement decisions to be justifiable and documented, alongside appropriate protection of confidential information.

14. Procurement fraud and improper conduct

Fish & Game will maintain controls to prevent, identify and respond to:

- fraudulent purchasing;
- supplier collusion;
- false invoicing;

- undisclosed conflicts;
- inappropriate gifts or benefits;
- unauthorised commitments;
- purchase splitting;
- favouritism; and
- misuse of organisational funds.

Suspected fraud or serious procurement misconduct must be reported through Wellington Fish & Game Council's applicable protected disclosure, whistleblowing or investigation processes.

15. Roles and responsibilities

Council

- Approves this policy.
- Approves or delegates material procurement authority.
- Provides oversight of significant procurement risk.

Chief Executive

- Ensures the policy is implemented.
- Exercises delegated authority.
- Ensures appropriate procurement controls exist.
- Maintains procurement procedures and controls.
- Monitors compliance and expenditure.
- Advises on commercial and financial risk.
- Maintains the procurement framework and reporting.
- Define requirements.
- Confirm budget availability.
- Conduct or sponsor procurement.
- Manage suppliers and contracts.

Employees

- Comply with this policy and their delegated authority.
- Declare conflicts.
- Maintain appropriate procurement records.
- Act in Fish & Game's interests.

16. Policy compliance

Non-compliance may result in:

- withdrawal of purchasing authority;
- additional approval requirements;
- investigation;
- disciplinary action; and/or
- referral to the appropriate authority where misconduct or fraud is suspected.

17. Review

This policy should be reviewed at least every two years, or earlier following:

- changes to legislation or government procurement requirements;
- significant audit findings;
- changes to Fish & Game's organisational structure;
- changes to financial delegations; or
- a significant procurement failure or control issue.

Vehicle Procurement and Disposal Policy

Purpose

This policy aims to confirm Council's commitment to the seeking affordability, suitability, durability and safety as priorities for vehicle procurement.

It is also to provide clear rules and guidelines to Council staff on the procurement, and disposal of Council vehicles.

Related Policies

- Use of Vehicles Policy

Application

This policy relates to all vehicles purchased and disposed of by Council.

Policy statements

General Principles

Where possible, all vehicles (being additional or replacement) will be purchased through the All of Government contract.

Safety rating, suitability (fit for purpose), durability, and affordability are key considerations. All vehicles are to have a minimum of a 5 Star ANCAP or equivalent safety rating.

Replacement Planning:

A simple replacement programme based on age (e.g. 5-10 years), valid warranty, and kilometres travelled (e.g. >200,000km), whichever occurs first.

Disposals

Disposal of all vehicles shall in all instances be via auction¹. This process has been adopted in the interests of transparency, efficiency and obtaining the best possible net price.

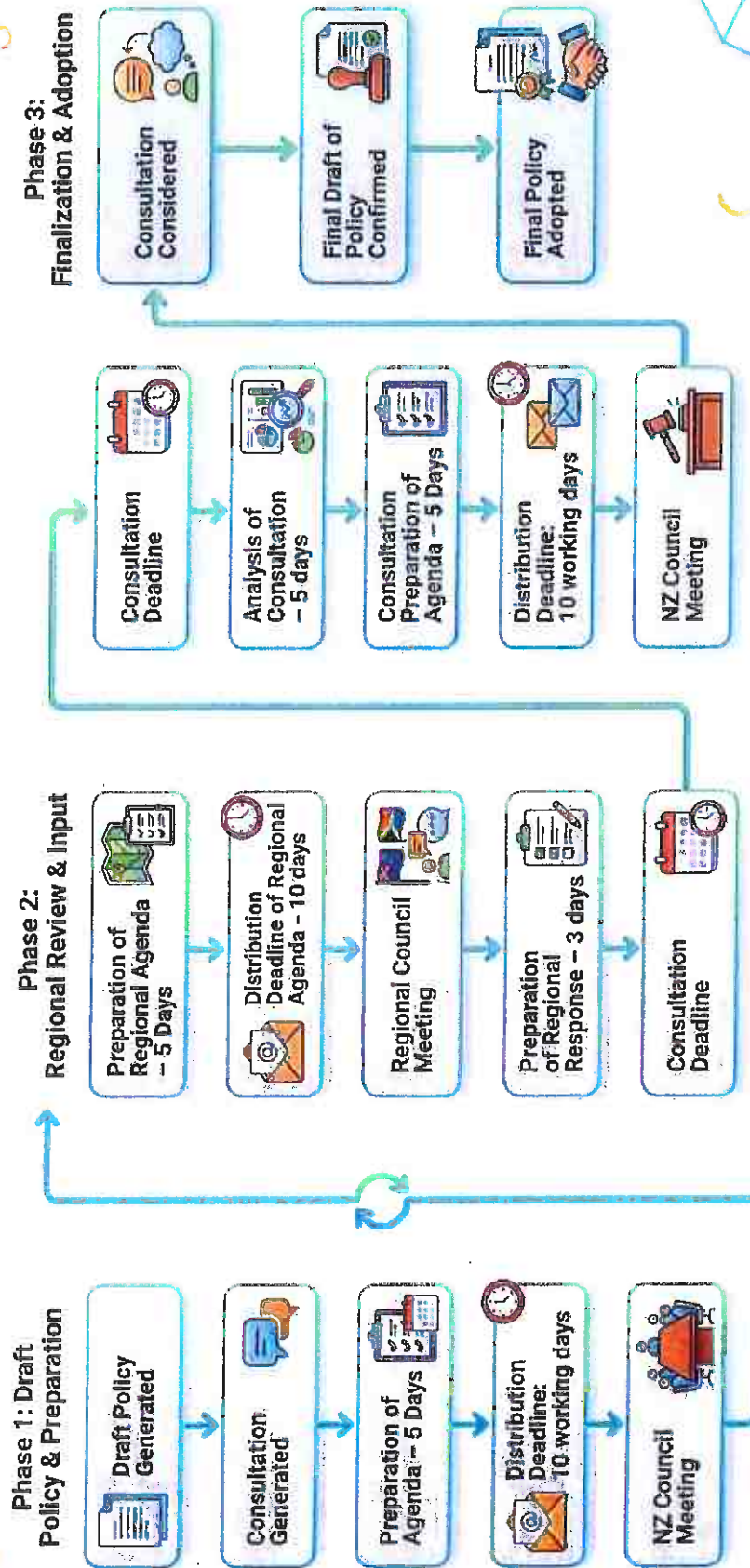
All disposals are to be informed to the Council governors to ensure correct financial procedures are adhered to.

Policy review

This policy shall be reviewed at three yearly intervals or as otherwise required by the Chief Executive.

¹ Auction – means traditional vehicle auction traders such as Turners Car Auctions. Use of Trade Me or similar electronic auction platforms must have associated quotes from two reputable valuation sources.

POLICY CONSULTATION CYCLE WORKFLOW



Agenda Item 14 Health and Safety Report

Summary

a. Consider the Health and Safety Report July and August 2026.

Regular discussions on Health and Safety topics are undertaken at weekly staff meeting.

No accidents or notable incidents are reported that are required to be brought to the attention of Council.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council to move to receive staff report on Health and Safety for July and August 2026

b. Proposed Changes to Health and Safety Legislation

Health and Safety legislation passed. See above for implications

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No Action required

c. Policy Considerations for Managing Critical Risk

Health and Safety legislation passed which has focus on managing critical risks for PCBU's with less than 20 FTE.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No Action required by draft policy provided.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REPORT

Wellington Fish and Game Council / Taranaki Fish and Game Council

As part of the commitment to Health and Safety and Wellbeing and providing a safe workplace the Wellington Fish & Game Council / Taranaki Fish and Game Council requires at each meeting describing:

1. Implementation and adherence with the Health and Safety and Wellbeing manual/policy.
2. Risk Management (identification and treatment) – new issues or hazards that have arisen and addressed, emergency procedures, dealing with on-site contractors and members of public,
3. Risk Management – On-going issues or hazards
4. Training, and awareness raising programme – information sharing and training of staff and volunteers,
5. Audits, reviews, and meetings – making sure the planning is implemented
6. H&S incidents – near misses or injuries sustained, plus updates on past events,
7. Follow up from Council Meeting - Subjects raised under H&S agenda item for staff and ranger meetings
8. Recommendations

Bi-Monthly Update – July & August 2026

1. Implementation and adherence with the Health and Safety manual/policy	
	<i>Status</i>
Development of Health and Safety Manual/Policy	Manual developed and in use.

2. Risk Management - New Issues or Hazards	
	<i>Status</i>
No items identified	No new issues or hazards identified.

3. Risk Management - On going Issues	
	<i>Status</i>
Drift Dive/Electric Fishing/Spawning Survey Field Intention Sheets developed for each site	Entry/exit points identified
Safe vehicle use	All personnel reminded of safe use practices compliant with road code. Vehicle Use Policy confirmed.
Safe vehicle	All personnel undertake vehicle check on monthly basis. First Aid kits for vehicles checked – update as required.
Fire Extinguishers for Office and Vehicles checked	Regular maintenance schedule. Inventory maintained.

4. Training, and awareness programme	
	<i>Status</i>
First aid certificates for field staff	Re-validated 25 November 2025
HSR Training for H&S Rep	Completed 14 April 2026

5. Audits, reviews, and meetings	
	<i>Status</i>
Health & Safety Staff Meeting – July 2026	Health and Safety information collected on an ad hoc basis with a focus on HPAI and vaccinations.
Health & Safety Staff Meeting – August 2026	H & S discussed in meetings, focus on HPAI, field intentions forms, and who receives the in and out of field notes.
Reviewed Vehicle Inspection Forms for Jan-Feb 2026	Regular checks for updates encouraged. Any work on vehicle is also encouraged to be completed and up to safe requirements.
Review Health & Safety Manual for Council information	NZ Council reviewing best practice policy to refine Health and Safety & Wellbeing Policy. H & S Framework operational from NZC. Confirmed each region is a separate PCBU in NZC meeting #182 (minuted).
Review first aid kits to ensure practical items included in kits	Reviewed and options considered to make up bespoke first aid kits.
Review risk matrix and response plans to risk	Reviewing risk matrix based on likelihood of occurrence and consequence of risk.

6. H&S incidents - Near misses or injuries	
	<i>Status</i>
No accidents reported	Consider proactive actions as arise in response to near misses.
No near misses reported	Continue to monitor for and actively communicate regarding near misses.

7. Follow Up for Council Meeting – Proactive Measures	
	<i>Status</i>
Notification gaps in Field Intentions form (online program/app).	Ongoing. External provider Track Me – Get Me Home under coordination from NZC with no further updates.

Action:

Receive Health and Safety Summary Report for July and August 2026

CRITICAL RISK MANAGEMENT POLICY

1. Purpose & Scope

This policy sets out our commitment to identifying, controlling, and governance-monitoring **Critical Risks** across all operations, in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 2015* (HSWA) and WorkSafe New Zealand guidelines.

This policy applies to all employees, officers, contractors, and visitors under our management or control.

2. Policy Statement

Our organization prioritizes the prevention of serious harm. We allocate resources, operational oversight, and governance verification to eliminate or minimize high-consequence hazards so far as is reasonably practicable (SFARP).

General risks are managed via standard workplace procedures; Critical Risks receive dedicated critical control management and direct Board/Executive oversight.

3. Definition of a Critical Risk

A **Critical Risk** is defined as any work activity, high-energy exposure, or workplace hazard that has the potential to cause a fatality, permanent life-altering injury, or severe occupational illness if controls fail.

4. Policy Requirements

A. Risk Identification & Worker Engagement

- Operations must systematically map all tasks against high-energy sources, environmental hazards, and acute health factors.
- In line with Section 58 of HSWA, workers, Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs), and contractors must be actively consulted during hazard identification and risk mapping.

B. Threshold Filtering

Any hazard meeting one or more of the following criteria must be designated as a **Critical Risk** and recorded on the standalone *Critical Risk Register*:

- **Severity:** Uncontrolled outcome could result in death, loss of limb/organ, or chronic disabling illness.
- **High Energy:** Involves uncontained energy (e.g., falls from height, heavy plant movement, high voltage, pressure vessels).
- **Control Dependency:** Reliance on a single control where failure leads directly to catastrophic harm.

C. Mandatory Hierarchy of Controls

In accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work (General Risk and Workplace Management) Regulations 2016*:

- **Elimination:** Must be evaluated first (e.g., redesigning tasks to remove exposure).
- **Engineering & Isolation:** If elimination is not reasonably practicable, physical and engineered controls (e.g., barriers, interlocks, auto-shutoffs) are mandatory.
- **Administrative & PPE:** Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), permits, and PPE must never be the sole line of defense for a Critical Risk.

D. Verification & Governance (Section 44 HSWA)

- **Critical Control Verification (CCV):** Management must conduct routine on-site verifications to confirm that critical engineered controls are active and functioning on the frontline.
- **Officer Due Diligence:** The Executive Officer and Board will review Critical Risk Register updates, CCV completion rates, and high-consequence near-misses at every governance meeting.

5. Accountabilities

- **Officers (Governors/CE):** Maintain due diligence, verify control effectiveness, and ensure resource allocation.
- **CE / Senior Fish and Game Officer /Supervisors:** Maintain the Critical Risk Register, ensure engineering controls are operational, and conduct field verifications.
- **Workers & Contractors:** Comply with critical control measures, stop work if a critical control fails, and report near-misses immediately.

Examples relevant to Fish & Game operations include:

- **Working near or on water** – drowning, particularly during boating, wading, drifting or diving.
- **Remote fieldwork** – serious injury or illness where emergency assistance is delayed.
- **Vehicle use** – fatal or serious injury from road crashes, particularly on remote or unsealed roads.
- **Helicopter operations** – fatal injury from helicopter crashes or unsafe loading/unloading.
- **Firearms** – accidental discharge causing death or serious injury.
- **Working from heights** – falls resulting in serious injury or death.
- **Plant and machinery** – entanglement, crushing or amputation injuries.
- **Hazardous substances** – serious exposure to chemicals, fuels or other hazardous materials.
- **Adverse weather and environmental conditions** – hypothermia, heat stress, flooding or rapidly changing river conditions.
- **Aggressive or threatening behaviour** – serious harm to staff undertaking enforcement or field activities.
- **Working alone** – an incident where the worker cannot obtain timely assistance.
- **Diving/underwater activities** – drowning, decompression illness or other serious diving-related injury.

Health and Safety and Wellbeing Guidelines - Identifying Critical Risks

Under the New Zealand **Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA)** and WorkSafe guidance, a **critical risk** is any risk arising from work activities that has the potential to cause **fatal or life-altering harm (death, permanent disability, or severe occupational illness)** if controls fail.

While general H&S focuses on everyday hazards, critical risk management concentrates organisational resources where the standard for risk management is highest: **eliminating or minimising high-consequence outcomes so far as is reasonably practicable (SFARP)**.

Step 1: Broad Hazard Identification

Engage frontline workers, Health & Safety Representatives (HSRs), and contractors—as mandated under Section 58 of HSWA—to map out all work activities. Focus on high-energy sources, environmental conditions, and high-impact tasks:

- **Physical Energy:** Gravity (falling from height), motion (mobile plant interaction, machinery), pressure, electricity.
- **Chemical & Environmental:** Toxic exposures (asbestos, silica dust, harmful airborne contaminants), confined spaces, extreme heat/cold.
- **Health & Organisational:** Vehicle driving, acute fatigue, severe workplace violence or acute psychosocial pressure.

Step 2: Consequences & Threshold Filtering

To distinguish a **critical risk** from a standard workplace hazard, evaluate the severity of the potential outcome independent of existing administrative controls (assess the *uncontrolled* or *worst-case* exposure).

Filter Question	Criteria for Critical Risk
Severity Threshold	Could a single occurrence directly result in a fatality, permanent disability, loss of limb/organ, or severe chronic illness (e.g., silicosis)?
High Energy Threshold	Does the activity involve exposure to high-energy forces (e.g., gravity > 2 meters, suspended loads, high voltage, pressurised systems)?
Single-Point Failure	If a single primary control relies on human behaviour and fails, is the direct outcome catastrophic?

Rule of thumb: If the answer to any of these is **Yes**, the item must be categorised as a **Critical Risk** and treated as a top governance and operational priority.

Step 3: Apply the Hierarchy of Controls (HSWA Regs)

Under the **Health and Safety at Work (General Risk and Workplace Management) Regulations 2016**, you must manage critical risks through the Hierarchy of Controls:

1. **Elimination (Primary Legal Duty):** Completely remove the hazard (e.g., pre-fabricating structures on the ground to remove work at height).
2. **Minimisation (Engineered / Direct Controls):** If elimination is not reasonably practicable, implement controls directly at the energy source:
 - *Substitution:* Replace toxic chemicals with non-hazardous alternatives.
 - *Isolation/Engineering:* Physical edge protection, safety interlocks, dynamic collision-avoidance systems.
3. **Administrative & PPE (Secondary / Alternate Controls):** SOPs, training, permits to work, and personal protective equipment. *Note: Administrative controls alone are never sufficient for managing critical risks.*

Step 4: Verification & Governance Assurance

Officers (Governors, CE) hold a non-delegable duty of **due diligence** under Section 44 of HSWA to ensure the business manages its critical risks effectively.

- **Critical Control Verification (CCV):** Establish regular site-level verifications to check that engineered controls are physically in place and functioning—not just documented on paper.
- **Critical Risk Register:** Maintain a standalone Critical Risk Register separate from the general hazard log, highlighting critical controls, accountabilities, and review cycles.
- **Officer Reporting:** Provide regular updates to executives and the board regarding critical control performance, non-conformances, and high-consequence near-misses.

Summary

a. Research

Brief discussion on further specific research needs relating to considering modelling of trout spawning to improve verification and model on a regional basis.

b. Draft Game Bird Monitoring Policy

Brief update on progress to develop a Game Bird Monitoring Policy and implementation programme.

Decision

Recommendation/Action

No action required.

Agenda Item 16 Habitat Advocacy and Management

Summary

a. Regional Planning advocacy

- Taranaki Regional Council and Horizons Regional Council have paused work on reviewing their Regional Plan changes - until at least September 2027.
- **PC2 Horizons One Plan – Environment Court case.**
The New Zealand Government announced an intervention in August 2026 to pause or modify key regulatory requirements for Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 (PC1) and Horizons Regional Plan Change 2 (PC2) during the transition to a new resource management system.

Key Government Decisions

- **Waikato PC1 (Healthy Rivers):**
 - Restrictive regulatory elements and certain farm plan or consent requirements triggered by PC1 becoming operative are deferred until **December 31, 2032**.
 - Farmers continue operating under existing permitted activity rules, while 2016 controls on land-use change and intensification remain in effect.
- **Horizons PC2 (Manawatū-Whanganui):**
 - Requirements under Horizons PC2 are adjusted for the transition.
 - Prescribed nitrogen discharge reductions no longer apply immediately, though ongoing environmental improvements are still expected.
- **Implementation Mechanism:**
 - The changes are being progressed via an Amendment Paper integrated into the broader Planning and Natural Environment Bills.

Perspectives and Reactions

- **Government / Supporting Ministers:** Ministers Chris Bishop and Shane Jones stated that the intervention cuts red tape, prevents duplicate compliance costs, and avoids economic chaos or uncertainty for farmers and growers while a wider overhaul of the Resource Management Act (RMA) takes place.
- **Farming Advocacy:** Groups like **Federated Farmers** and **Beef + Lamb New Zealand** welcomed the pause as necessary relief and breathing room for regional farmers facing high compliance and legal costs.
- **Environmental Groups / Authorities:** Conservation and river groups, including **Forest & Bird** and local river authorities, criticized the move as a freshwater rollback that weakens accountability for nitrate pollution and threatens long-term restoration goals for the Waikato and Manawatū-Whanganui river systems

b. Resource Consent advocacy

Department of Internal Affairs currently reviewing management approaches and funding models proposed by Territorial Local Authorities for managing water services.

c. Habitat Enhancement Projects

Advice provided to support applications to Game Bird Habitat Trust – staff to act as referee where appropriate.

Consideration of application for habitat grant

Consideration of Fish and Game Management Action Plan for Lake Kohata

Decision

Recommendation/Action

Consider application for habitat grant – approve or decline

Consideration of Fish and Game Management Action Plan for Lake Kohata – approve/amend

FARMERS WEEKLY

Farmers hail regional Plan Change reprieve

Gerald Piddock August 20, 2026

Some Waikato and Manawatū farm plan and consent requirements deferred until the end of 2032.

Waikato and Manawatū farmers have won a reprieve from regional council plan changes while the resource management system is overhauled.

Waikato and Manawatū farmers are celebrating after the government granted them a reprieve from regional council plan changes while it passes new legislation overhauling the country's resource management system.

In Waikato, the intervention came following a public meeting at Mystery Creek, asking the government to put Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 (PC1) on hold.

The change will see farm plan and consent requirements that are triggered by PC1 being made operative now being deferred until December 31, 2032.

Until then, farmers and growers currently operating under PC1's permitted activity rules will continue to do so without needing to prepare and implement a PC1 farm plan or get a PC1 resource consent.

Controls on land-use change and intensification through resource consent will still apply. These activities have been regulated since 2016, when PC1 was notified.

Waikato Federated Farmers president Chris Woolerton said it is a really positive step for farmers and a direct response to the concerns raised.

"PC1 threatened to burden thousands of Waikato farmers with new consenting and farm-planning requirements.

"We've been saying for months that it made no sense to force farmers into a new set of rules when the government is in the middle of overhauling the [Resource Management Act], freshwater rules and the farm planning system.

"Farmers will be hugely relieved to now have some breathing room, and that's exactly what we were asking for."

RMA Reform Minister Chris Bishop said PC1 had arrived at the moment the new planning system is replacing the RMA.

"Without action, Waikato farmers face duplicative consenting requirements colliding with the new system: rules written under a law being repealed, old farm plans layered on new farm plans, and consents that may be redundant within a few years."

In Manawatū, the government also changed some of the requirements in Horizons' Plan Change 2 relating to prescribed nitrogen discharge reductions and consenting pathways.

This plan change had also been likely to become operative during the transition to the new system, causing chaos and uncertainty for farmers and growers in Manawatū-Whanganui, Bishop said.

Federated Farmers Tararua president Aaron Passey said it is great news.

"It gives 167 farming families a controlled consent pathway that is much more straightforward than what they faced under an Environment Court ruling."

Both Waikato and Horizons regional councils acknowledged the announcement, saying they are examining its details.

Waikato Regional Council chair, Warren Maher said, "While it is good to finally have clarity on the government's intentions as we work to set our future budgets, we are disappointed discussions were had with a number of parties, but our advice or input was not sought."

Chief executive Dr Chris McLay said while the devil will be in the detail, based on the information released so far, the signalled deferral of consenting and farm plan requirements relates only to some PC1 provisions.

"Until we have seen the legislation, we'll be unable to provide clarity for those in the catchments."

The announcement does not impact the Environment Court and High Court processes, he said.

Horizons Regional Council chair Nikki Riley said its officers will analyse the detail of the announcement, including the relevant legislation once it is available, and implement PC2 as legally required.

"Officers will now consider the impact of incoming legislation on implementation of the plan change."

Both sets of proposed changes will be progressed through an Amendment Paper at the next stage of the Planning and Natural Environment Bills, expected later this month.

Local government reform: Five Horizons councils agree to work together on merger proposal

Mike Tweed

Whanganui Chronicle

11 Aug, 2026

No councils in the Horizons region joined the Government's amalgamation fast-track programme, but five will work together on their own merger plan.

Manawatū, Taranaki, Ruapehu, Rangitikei and Whanganui district councils have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to collaborate.

Whanganui mayor Andrew Tripe said agreeing a timeline would be the next step.

"There is a flotilla of local government reform in front of us and behind us, with Local Water Done Well, RMA (Resource Management Act), and rates capping potentially.

"My sense is we need to look at it as a package of change, but, at the same time, look for opportunities to try and be more efficient around delivering services around a wider area.

"And at the same time, retaining identity for each of our districts."

If the merger plan led to mayors losing their jobs, "so be it", Tripe said.

"We've got to think beyond roles, we've got to think about what's best for the community."

Councils had until August 9 to submit Head Start proposals, focusing on creating unitary authorities, or enter the Government's Back Stop process.

Earlier this month, Whanganui district councillors voted 8-4 in favour of signing the MoU.

Nationally, about 48 councils joined Head Start, including South Taranaki and Stratford district councils, which submitted a joint proposal.

Horizons councils Palmerston North and Horowhenua did not sign the MoU.

A Palmerston North City Council statement on August 5 said it was signing a joint letter with Horowhenua District Council to send to Local Government Minister Watts, confirming "we want to work together to explore what a future unitary council with regional functions could look like".

"Our preferred approach is to keep exploring a closer partnership with Horowhenua District Council, while also looking at options to work more closely with neighbouring councils like Manawatū and Tararua district councils," it said.

Tripe said Palmerston North and Horowhenua had "signalled pretty early on" that they were working together.

"They've also had discussions with Kāpiti. I don't know where that got to, but it was obviously not enough to secure this (Head Start) process.

"That's their natural leaning. We are the five left over and we'll continue talking."

Horizons Regional Council is ineligible to send a Head Start proposal.

Regional councils will be abolished by October 2028.

In a statement, Horizons chair Nikki Riley said it had a supporting and enabling role to the region's Mayoral Forum and each member council.

"This includes providing data and information about the regional functions we govern and undertake on behalf of all our region's communities," she said.

"With the August 9 deadline upon us, Horizons has sent letters of support to all our councils and noted our continued willingness and desire to support each council's ongoing decision-making."

Tripe said he was yet to hear from Local Government Minister Simon Watts, but a joint mayoral letter was only sent on Saturday (August 8).

"He's going to be prioritising those councils that have put their hands up for Head Start, and there are a lot."

Full details of the Back Stop process will not be revealed until next year.

The Government would "be busy electioneering" until the general election in November, Tripe said.

"Then there's Christmas and New Year, and I don't think it'll be a priority for them to look at what's happening with Back Stop and tightening the criteria.

"We'll just get on with it and do the best we can, and, hopefully, by early to mid-next year, we'll have a decision."

According to the MoU, each council will meet its internal costs during the process, unless otherwise agreed.

Horizons Regional Council is scheduled to cease to exist by October 2028, as part of the central government's [Simplifying Local Government](#) reform programme. Under these nationwide local government structural reforms, all **11 regional councils across New Zealand are being abolished** and replaced by unitary authorities or combined territorial structures. [1, 2, 3]

Key details of the transition include:

- **Elected Member Continuity:** Current Horizons regional councillors will remain in their roles to fulfill statutory duties and manage ongoing operations until the **2028 local government elections**. [1]
- **Transition to Unitary Models:** The functions currently managed by Horizons (such as environmental management, flood protection, and public transport) will merge with those of local city and district councils. This creates streamlined "unitary councils" to eliminate corporate duplication. [1]
- **Regional Collaboration:** Local territorial authorities across the Manawatū-Whanganui region—including the [Rangitikei District Council](#), Taranaki, Manawatū, Ruapehu, Whanganui, Horowhenua, and Palmerston North—are currently designing the localized structural options that will succeed Horizons. [1, 2]

TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

The Chairman

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

2025/26 Hunting & Habitat Fund Applications

The Council operates a Hunting & Habitat Scheme (H&H) to fund projects which create gamebird habitat and/ or hunting opportunities in the Taranaki region. A set of criteria against which to assess applications was adopted by Council on the 6th December 2014 and revised in May 2016 (Table 2 attached). The usual process is that an application to the Gamebird Habitat Trust (GBHT) is required first, and the H&H fund may then be used to top up the amount received, with a maximum funding limit as laid out in the criteria.

Three Taranaki applications were submitted to the GBHT this year, with two approved for grants and one declined. Two of these applications are being put forward for H&H funding (one approved and one declined by the GBHT).

Bittern Habitat Huiroa – Niels Hansen

This project involves damming and contouring to create an area of open water as wading habitat for bittern and to increase habitat for mallard / grey duck. This will be a collaborative project with the local catchment group, primary school and Taranaki Regional Council to create a demonstration site that will add to habitat already present and also allow for game bird hunting. The 0.6ha area will be fully fenced and planted. This is an expensive project, with an estimated total cost of \$63k, but the landowner is willing to make a significant contribution. The GBHT has allocated \$5,750 (gst incl.) to this project in its 2026 funding round. It is recommended that Taranaki Fish & Game matches this contribution using its Hunting & Habitat fund.

Kauangaroa Wetland – Larry Walker

Larry Walker recently purchased a drystock farm at 505 Kauangaroa Road, Fordell and wishes to begin enhancing waterfowl habitat on the property by fencing and planting 170m of an existing farm dam. This will include two swampy arms of the dam. Eventually, when there is a digger on site for other work, Larry will replace the outlet culvert at his own expense to raise the water level to further enhance the habitat area. The cost of raising the outlet culvert is not included in the total project cost presented here. There is an old maimai on the pond and this can be refurbished to provide a game bird hunting opportunity. The GBHT declined Larry's 2026 application for funding but invited him to reapply when the culvert is planned to be raised. I contacted Horizons Freshwater Advisor, Grace Coe, about the possibility of a subsidy for fencing and planting. Horizons currently offer 60% grant on the plant only cost and 40% of fencing cost. However, they are currently at full capacity for this year.

Larry has previously been involved in enhancing and protecting the Pakihi Road wetland (GBHT 2016) near Raetihi. It is recommended that Taranaki Fish & Game allocates \$5,750 (gst incl.) to this project from its Hunting & Habitat fund.

Caskey Wetland - Warren Caskey

Warren Caskey has recently purchased a 35ha dry stock farm property at 95 Lincoln Road, near Inglewood. The farm is rolling country with a number of springs and gullies. As a condition of sale all wetlands and water courses were fully fenced, and the contractor has done an excellent job. In conjunction with extensive plantings within the fenced areas, Warren wants to create an area of open water for waterfowl that will also provide stock water for the farm and a game bird hunting area. The total project cost in Table 1 below doesn't include the cost of the overflow culvert, or the labour that will go into the wetland planting and reconfiguring fences. It is recommended that Taranaki Fish & Game allocates \$5,450 (gst incl.) to this project from its Hunting & Habitat fund.

Table 1. Projects seeking Hunting & Habitat funding

Application	Wetland habitat created (ha) (water area)	Total cost (as per GBHT application) (gst incl.)	From GBHT (gst incl.)	Proposed approval from H&H Fund (gst incl.)	GBHT + H&H funding as % of total cost
Bittern Habitat Huiroa	0.6ha	\$63,094.50	\$5,750	\$5,750	18.2%
Kauangaroa Wetland	0.2ha	\$8,468.39	---	\$5,750	67.9%
Caskey Wetland	1.0ha (0.35)	\$11,189.47	---	\$5,450	49%

As at 31st August 2026, the Hunting & Habitat fund sat at \$326,363.02. Approving these applications will reduce the H&H fund to \$311,623.89 (gst excl.)

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approves the following application for funding (GST incl.) from the Hunting & Habitat Scheme:

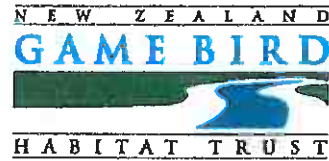
1. Hansen - \$5,750 (\$5,000 gst excl.)
2. Walker - \$5,750 (\$5,000 gst excl.)
3. Caskey - \$5,450 (\$4,739.13 gst excl.)

Allen Stancliff
Senior Field Officer
8 October 2026

Table 2. H&H Scheme Funding conditions for each objective

Funding level	Objective		
	Promote game bird hunting and / or wetland/ upland game bird habitat protection or enhancement	Benefit game bird populations (and hunting opportunities on this or nearby properties)	Provide hunting opportunities
Up to 100%	Taranaki Fish and Game programme or property (or property under long-term lease if covenant option to protect habitat values) which has or will create <u>extensive</u>; • habitat (wetland 5+ ha, upland 20+ ha) or • hunting opportunities or • advocacy benefits or a combination of these		
50% up to a maximum contribution of \$20,000 (GST excl)	High profile such as a demonstration farm or public space where there is an obvious advocacy benefit No minimum size but must demonstrate good/ best practice	Size of wetland >10,000M² (1 ha) or upland habitat protected > 50,000M² (5 ha) Predator control programme Area fenced out	For 10 or more licenced hunters. Either balloted, TF&GC managed¹, or formal club arrangement. Must include opportunity for at least 2 junior hunters
25% up to a maximum contribution of \$10,000 (GST excl)		Wetland 2,500M² – 10,000M² or upland habitat 25,000M² – 50,000M² created Predator control programme Area fenced out	

Note: It is expected most applications would fall under the objective to "Benefit game bird populations".



28 August 2026

Niels Hansen
8 Akama Road
RD 25
STRATFORD 4395

Dear Niels

Bittern Habitat Huiroa, Taranaki F&G region

I am happy to be able to tell you that your application for a 2026 grant from the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust was successful.

It approved you a grant of \$5,000 (GST exclusive).

Two conditions apply:

1. That the money be uplifted within two years of the date of this letter. If for some reason the project is delayed, the Trust Board would be prepared to extend the time deadline, but only if a convincing case can be made before that two-year period ends.
2. That once the project has been completed a sign will be erected in an appropriate place noting the involvement of the Game Bird Habitat Trust in the project. The Trust will provide this sign for you to erect.

The Trust Board would also like to receive a photograph and summary of the protected habitat five years after the grant is issued. This will allow the Board to assess the success of its programme and your project in particular.

The grant will be paid out once the project is completed and signed off by the referee monitoring its progress. Please then forward a GST invoice to the Game Bird Habitat Trust, a bank account number for payment and receipts for the cost of work done. We will make reimbursements on them up to the level of the grant.

Congratulations on the approval of your grant and good luck with your project.

Yours sincerely

Robert Sowman
for the Game Bird Habitat Trust Board

cc: Allen Stancliff project referee, astancliff@fishandgame.org.nz



Photo 1. Dam site looking upstream



Photo 2. Wetland site looking downstream



Habitat Grant Application Form



Revised February 2025

Please note this application form should be prepared with input and assistance from the project referee and signed off by both the applicant and the referee.

Once completed this form and any other files accompanying it should be emailed to gbht@fishandgame.org.nz or posted to PO Box 25055, WELLINGTON 6146 so as to arrive no later than 30 June when the funding round closes.

Administrative Details

Project title

Pond and Wetland Installation - Caskey Wetland.

Project type (wetland or upland game bird habitat orientated)

Wetland intended for Duck Habitat plus native fish species and Planting for native birds

Project location (physical address)

95 Lincoln Road Inglewood.

Grant request \$

Total cost of project \$

Cost	\$9732.50
+ GST	\$1456.97
Total	\$11,189.47

Project Manager's Name and Contact Details

Name

Warren Caskey

Postal/courier address

73 Links Drive
Waiwhakaiho
New Plymouth
4312

Email

warrencaskey@hotmail.com

Phone/mobile no

0274321384

Section 1: Applicant Information

Name of person(s)/organisation making the application (if a group or an organisation please provide a brief overview of your interests and aims).

Daker Ridge Trustees Ltd.

Who owns the land? (if not the applicant please advise the name of the owner and whether the owner is aware and supportive of this application).

Daker Ridge Trustees Ltd.

Who will manage the project?

Name

Warren Caskey

Position held

owner / Director

What relevant qualifications and experience does that person, and/or if applicable, key members of their implementation team have?

Landowner for 40 years
Have constructed many ponds and dams
on various propety's that we have owned.
Contractor has 40 years experience as operator.

Section 2: Referee Information

Note this section to be completed by the referee.

Referee's name

Allen Stancliff

Referee's organisation (if applicable)

Taranaki Fish and Game.

Referee's contact details

P.O. Box 662 New Plymouth 4340

Email

astancliff@fishandgame.org.nz

Phone/mobile no

027 263 9152

Referee's qualifications and experience (brief overview of those relevant to the proposed project)

Refereeing Taranaki wetland projects since the inception of the
GBHT

Do you have any conflicts of interest or special relationship with the property or applicant(s)?
If so please describe these.

N/A.

Are you able to carry out periodic onsite inspections of the project area and provide progress reports to the NZGBHT Board? (Further information on the feedback the Board is seeking from referees is available in Section 10 of this form and the evaluation reporting guidelines appended at the end of the form. Please note that reimbursement for expenditure approved for funding from the NZGBHT will require the referee's sign off on an evaluation report provided after completion of the particular task(s) concerned).

Yes.

Section 3: Project Overview

Vision and key objectives

What are the outcomes hoping to be achieved e.g. re-establish or enhance habitat for game bird populations, create habitat for other species, improve water quality, provide recreational opportunities, and/or opportunities for resource harvest?

To establish a habitat for game birds
Establish and fence an area of native trees,
+ plants to attract native bird populations
to link with plantings in other gullies on
the property. Backup water supply for stock on farm

If multiple outcomes are sought, what is the most important outcome, and what are the relative priorities of the others?

Game bird Habitat
Plantings to attract native birds
Water supply backup

If the project provides for game bird hunting to be undertaken, how many hunters is the site likely to accommodate?
If the site won't be hunted, please advise why.

Could probably accomidate 4 shooters

To what extent is this project likely to enhance game bird populations and other wildlife, and why, e.g. what species are likely to benefit and for what reasons?

Once the pond and planting are established it
should make a very good breeding pond for Ducks
+ Pukeko and a very good feed and resting area for
native birds. The intention is to make an Island in the
pond to encourage nesting ducks

How can the benefits of this project be rated for game bird habitat?

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☒ (1=very low, 5=exceptional)

Would this make the site of LOCAL or REGIONAL significance to game birds and/or other wildlife?

LOCAL ☐ REGIONAL ☒ With all the additional plantings
planned for the farm it will make an
exceptional area for all forms of Birdlife

Size of project area in hectares

If this is a wetland project, indicate the size of any open water area to be created and the overall area of wetland habitat to be created or enhanced.

Approx 1 hectare

Approx 3,400 sq metres of water

Proposed start date of project

Around the 25th Oct or when possible thereafter.

Anticipated completion date

Pond construction approx 3 week weather permitting

Approach

Plants ordered from Regional Council so planting Jul-Aug 27

In general terms what hydrological, landform, and/or vegetative features need to be created, enhanced, or manipulated and maintained to achieve the vision and objectives of the project, and what (briefly) are the key tasks needing to be undertaken to achieve this?

The proposed area will be in a current swamp area.
A digger will clear an area for the break of the pond to go and will then get clay from adjacent area to create the break. An island will be formed and a fish ladder installed. The culvert for overflow will be in hard clay and an overflow area in hard clay. Planting will be done on both banks and further up the Vally

Section 4: Site History

What features formerly characterised the site? If it was a wetland, what kind of wetland was it and where did it source its water from? What plant and animal communities would it have supported?

It is currently a swamp area with the water coming from a spring in a neighbours property as well as smaller springs and natural runoff on the way down the vally. Wildlife at the moment would currently be Pukeko, mallards & paradise shelduck.

Section 5: Current Features

What are the present-day features of the site? For example, has it been drained, cultivated, infilled or otherwise modified and do these activities continue to be undertaken? What plant and animal communities does it currently support? If this is a wetland project, please provide more detailed insights into the depth and extent of any surface water that might be present, seasonal variation, groundwater depth, and whether there are other sources of water that could potentially be used for water supply if the wetland is perched (i.e. where water levels in the wetland are higher than the water table in area surrounding it), or its former source(s) is no longer available. Please provide photos to illustrate current features of the site in a separate file accompanying this application (refer Section 10 of this form).

The site has been drained in the past. Not sure when as we have only owned the property since February.

It has reverted to a swamp area with no visible surface water.

The vegetation is mainly swampy grass on rushes

There is a stand of willows that will stay as shelter for waterfowl

Are rare or threatened species known to be present? Are invasive plant species and/or pest animals present? Is the site located within the proximity of other game bird habitats and does it provide complementary opportunities for game birds and/or other wildlife species within a wider network, or provide an ecological corridor to these habitats?

No rare or threatened species are known to be present
There is some gorse present which will be removed and kept at bay. The pond will be within $\frac{1}{2}$ kilometre of the Inglewood oxidation pond. The neighbouring property has gullies well established with plantings and our property will compliment the whole area.

Is there currently, any legal protection applying to this area and, if so, what might that comprise?

No legal protection

Section 6: Potential Issues and Constraints

What specific issues or constraints need to be addressed to achieve project objectives e.g. water supply, plant and animal pest control, regulatory related matters? With regard to the latter, is the site recognised by local or regional authorities or directly affected by planning provisions imposed on it by these agencies? If so, please provide details of such along with any relevant maps the latter in a separate file accompanying this application (refer Section 10 of this form).

I don't think there are any constraints as such
Have spoken to Daniel Lumb from the Regional Council
He is happy to discuss any queries you may have
with the project.

Have regulatory authorities been approached to establish or confirm whether the project will or will not require resource consent? Is resource consent required/not required for this project? Please advise why.

Regional Council have been approached. No consent
required as we are not exceeding there requirements
for a consent

Do adjoining landowners hold concerns relating to drainage or flood protection, or enhancement of species that could impact on their interests? Where other users or activities (e.g. kayaking, horse riding, cycling) are entitled to operate within a proposed project area, conflicts can arise. Could this apply at this site?

No downstream neighbours should be affected as
the site is in the middle of our property
No other interests are entitled to operate on our farm.

If stock currently have access to the site will this be an issue needing to be addressed?

Stock will be fenced out of the area once all earthwork
is complete

Could sedimentation, or water quality more generally be an issue?

No

The NZGBHT is bound by legislation to ensure projects it funds will not ultimately be to the detriment of habitat for threatened species of plants or animals or areas which are of national or regional significance for such. Is there potential for this to occur at this site?

No

Do provisions need to be made for fish passage?

Yes

Section 7: Works Programme

The list of prompts below is not comprehensive but is provided for the purpose of stimulating thinking and assisting with project planning. What physical works need to be undertaken and in what order? For example, what weeds should be removed or controlled, and when? Does the site need to be bunded or dammed, or are these facilities not required? Does the site need to be excavated and/or contoured, and where and to what depth? Do existing drains need to be blocked or have structures installed in them? How will water be supplied to the wetland, e.g. natural inflow, diversion or pumped input from another water body, or obtained from ground water? How will flows and water levels be managed? What provisions need to be made for fish passage? When should water be introduced/reintroduced to the wetland? If stock are present, how would they be managed and/or when and where would they be removed from within the project area? Does planting need to be undertaken? What should be planted? What site preparation is required? What ongoing maintenance and management will be needed? What monitoring regime should be put in place? Who is going to undertake the various tasks involved, what's the timing for each of these, and what are the estimated costs?

Please use the table template below to outline the order of works to be undertaken, a timeframe for these to be completed, and estimated costs for each of the undertakings.

Tasks (in approx. chronological order)	Who will implement e.g. applicant/project manager/ contractor/interested party or user group	Indicative Timeframe (timing and duration)	Estimated Costs (incl. of GST)
1. Consultation/consents (if required)	Warren Caskey / project manager	Done	Owners cost
2. Photopoints (or other baseline surveys) prior to on ground activities getting underway	Warren Caskey	Done	Owners cost
3. Preparation of monitoring plan to apply during, and post implementation of on ground activities	Warren Caskey	Will speak with Alan Stancill once any approval is given	No Cost
4. Initial site preparation e.g. vegetation clearance/pest plant spraying/fence removal (separate line entries for each undertaking)	Warren Caskey / Owner	20 th Oct 2-3 days	Owners cost
5. Earthworks/weirs/ other water control structures (separate line entries for each undertaking)	Tututawa Contracting	25 th Oct 15 th Nov	\$9,265 incl
6. Stock exclusion/ fencing	Warren Caskey / owner	Nov Early Dec	Owners cost
7. Preparation of planting plan (species, plant numbers and spacings, grade, indicative layout, indicative post planting maintenance activities)	Warren Caskey / project manager/owner	Plants ordered from Regional Council June/July 27 delivery	350 Plants \$5.50 \$1,925 incl

Tasks (in approx. chronological order)	Who will implement e.g. applicant/project manager/ contractor/interested party or user group	Indicative Timeframe (timing and duration)	Estimated Costs (incl. of GST)
8. Planting	Caskey family	Aug 27	Owners cost
9. Preparation of ongoing maintenance plan identifying and providing for both regular and as and when required maintenance activities e.g. plant releasing, pest plant and pest animal control, maintenance of inlet and outlet water control facilities, excavation of sediment traps etc	Warren Caskey/owner	Aug 27	Owners Cost

Section 8: Resources Required and Budget

Where contractors have been engaged, please provide copies of itemised quotes including disbursements, hourly rates and total hours on the contractors' letterheads in a separate file accompanying this application (refer Section 10 of this form).

Assuming all anticipated expenses for the project have been listed in the table above, what is the estimated total cost (inclusive of GST) of completing the project?

\$ 11,189.47

What is the amount being applied for from the NZGBHT and for what tasks/undertakings?

Any money available to help with the Contractor, culvert, plants
All other cost will be met by the owner.

Has any funding for project expenses not covered by what is being applied for from the NZGBT been secured from other sources?

No

What labour and materials are to be supplied within the project as in-kind contribution. Please estimate the \$ value of these contributions.

All material and labour for fencing. Labour for planting. Labour for weed control and site preparation

Will the project proceed if insufficient funding is available from the NZGBHT?

Unsure. Will have to look at budgets

Are there any permits, permissions, licenses, or consents yet to be obtained to progress this project and, if so, what are these and when do you expect to obtain them?

No

Section 9: Longer Term Provisions

Who will look after the project once it is completed?

Warren Caskey / owner

Is it intended, or are you likely to provide additional protection over the area if it does not already have such e.g. a QE II Covenant or other legal instrument?

Would certainly consider QE II as have already donated land on another property we owned. May not be big enough area for them?

Will a long-term post project completion maintenance and management plan be prepared?

Yes

Section 10: Checklist of Supporting Information Required and Other Conditions

Please provide maps, diagrams, and aerial images if at all possible (which can be freely accessed from Google Earth Pro) of the project area showing its location within the wider property. Hand drawn or computer generated overlays showing the location of proposed works e.g. dams/bunds, inlets and outlets/overflows, access, fence lines, plantings etc., are immensely helpful, as are detailed cross-sections of dams/bunds/weirs and the dimensions of structures for which Trust funding is sought.

A representative selection of present day photos of features within the project area taken from the ground are also invaluable in line with the old adage "a picture tells a thousand words", so please include these with your application too.

As indicated in Sections 5, 6 and 8, any maps, photos or diagrammatic figures will need to be supplied in a separate digital file(s) or hard copy accompanying your application form.

As provided for in Section 12, the project referee is required to sign off on grant applications along with the applicant. Referees are typically regional Fish and Game Council field officers, but a private landowner may choose to use an appropriately qualified 'external' referee e.g. a NZ Landcare Trust Regional Co-ordinator or a Department of Conservation habitat specialist. If the applicant is a regional Fish and Game Council and the application has been prepared by members of its staff, the NZGBHT's expectation is that a peer review of the application will be undertaken by a staff member from another Fish and Game Council with that person then being deemed to be the referee.

At annual or mutually agreed intervals, and once a project has been completed, the referee will be asked to confirm the project has been undertaken to a satisfactory standard and in accordance with the project plan and prescriptions outlined in the application. Subject to all terms and conditions of the grant having been complied with, a sign recording the NZGBHT's involvement in the project will be provided to the applicant for it to be erected in an appropriate place. At this point applicants will be asked to submit their bank account details to the NZGBHT along with receipts for any outstanding expenses incurred up to the amount that had been agreed to be funded for reimbursement if they haven't already been.

At the end of each year from commencement of the project to completion of the NZGBHT funded works programme, the NZGBHT Board would like to receive a photographic record and brief overview of the project's progress over the preceding year. Five years after the Trust has issued its funding the NZGBHT Board would like to receive one final report from the applicant showcasing its project which will allow it to assess and promote the success of the NZGBHT's Habitat Grant Programme. Referees may be able to assist applicants with the preparation of these yearly and final reporting requirements. A template or guideline for what the Board would like to see included in these reports is appended to the end of this application form.

Section 11: Additional Information

Important dates for the funding round

- 30 June** Funding round closes
Mid-July Additional information, if required, sought from applicants
Late August Applicants to be advised of the outcome of their application
Two years Length of time from date of approval that NZGBHT funding remains available

Criteria for assessing grant applications

The current priorities for assessing grants are:

- Priority 1:** Habitat for game birds and other wildlife, with hunting opportunities available and a high level of security (e.g. QEII covenant).
Priority 2: Habitat for game birds and other wildlife, with no hunting opportunities and a high level of security (e.g. QEII covenant).
Priority 3: Habitat for game birds and other wildlife, with or without hunting opportunities and no legally binding security.

Note: Equal priority will be given to restoring or enhancing habitat as to creating entirely new habitat.

Section 12: Applicant and Referee to Sign the Following Declaration

"I have reviewed, completed or had an input to all sections of this application form above, and done so as accurately as possible. I declare that as the applicant or as a representative of the applicant, I have the authority to sign this application form and provide all information enclosed or attached.

I give permission for Fish and Game New Zealand and the NZGBHT Board to use photographs of the project funded by the NZGBHT grant for promotion and social media."

Applicant's signature

W D Caskey

Date

7/10/2026

Referee's signature

A Stancliff

Date

8/10/2026

Section 13: Referee Project Rating

This section needs to be completed and signed off by the project referee.

Projects are likely to be more successful with good design and planning, and specific objectives and methods. Please rate the robustness of the project design against these measures.

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☒ 5 ☐ (1=very low, 5=exceptional)

Have adequate plans been put in place to ensure the ongoing success of the project e.g. pest management plans, realistic budget allocations, ongoing monitoring?

yes.

How might the project be improved?

Waller is very experienced with wetland creation and enhancement and has thought of everything.

Could the project referee please use the following scale to rate this project:

- ☐ 1. Very low (not worthy of being funded)
- ☐ 2. Low (deficient application, invite applicant to review and resubmit)
- ☐ 3. Moderate (worthy of being funded)
- ☒ 4. Very good (very worthy of being funded)
- ☐ 5. Exceptional (extremely worthy of being funded)

If you rated this project as a 1 or 2, please consider discussing the issues or concerns you have identified with the applicant with a view to reviewing its scope and design and resubmitting the application in a following year.

If you have any additional comments to make, please do so below

Great project by a long-time PSL and gamebird licence holder.

Name

Alan Stanchiff

Signature

A. Stanchiff

Date

8/10/2026.

DR & SA Buchanan Contractors

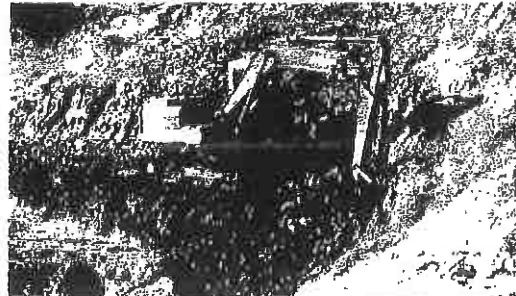
DR & SA Buchanan
61 Mangaehu Road
RD 22 Stratford
Phone (06) 7627855 Cell phone 0277627855

GST: 45-755-894

BILL TO:

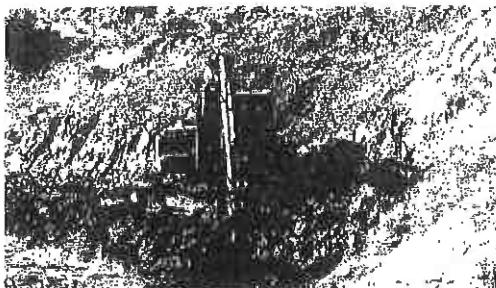
Daker Ridge
W & K Caskey
73 Links Drive
Waiwhakaiho
New Plymouth

DATE October 1, 2026
INVOICE

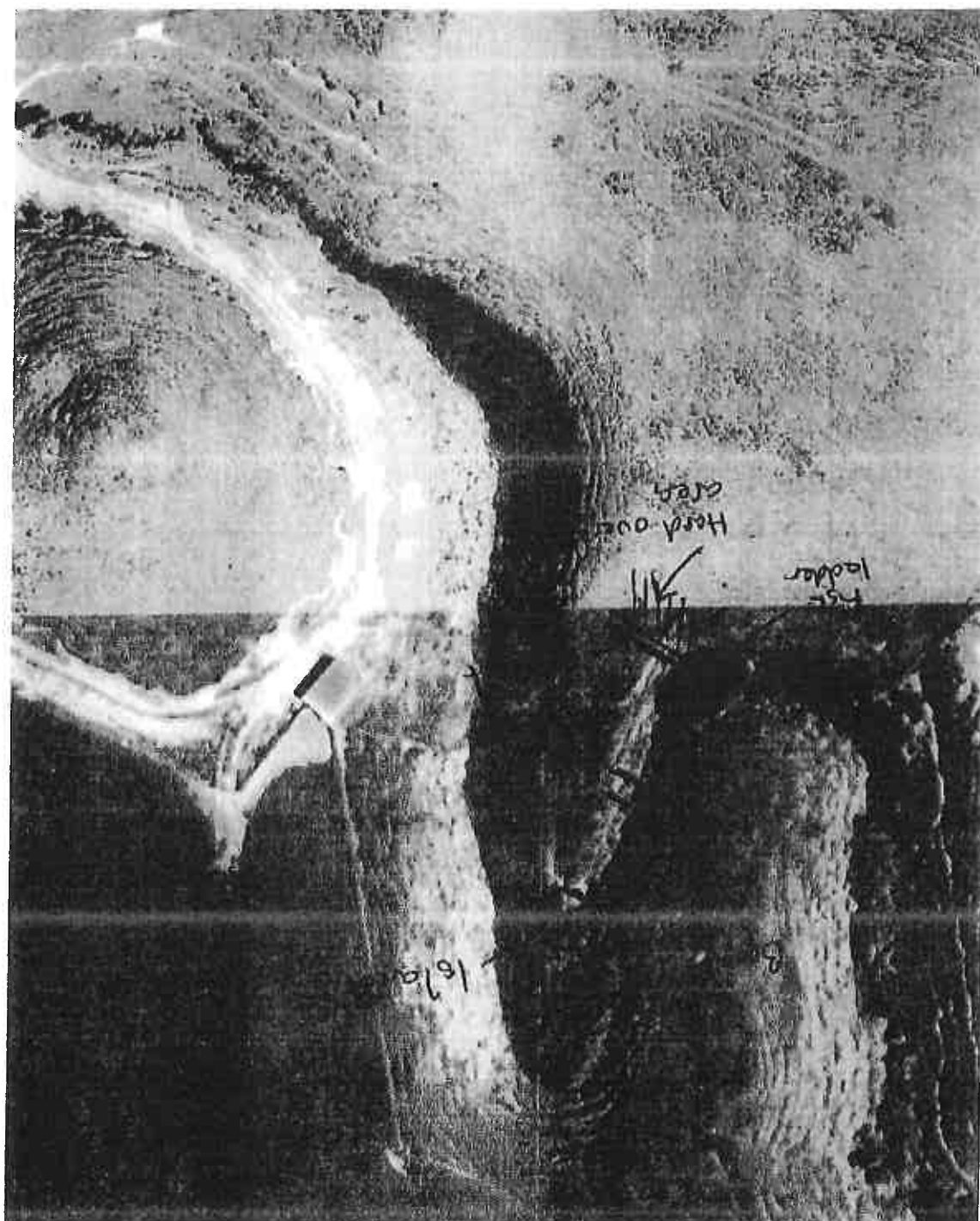


DESCRIPTION	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
Quote for dam at 95 Lincoln Inglewood			\$ -
Digger ; clean out weed build dam face	50.00	140.00	7,000.00
Cartage	2.00	250.00	500.00
approx starting job 25th October weather dependent			
SUBTOTAL			\$ 7,500.00
TAX RATE			15.00%
GST			1,125.00
TOTAL			\$ 8,625.00

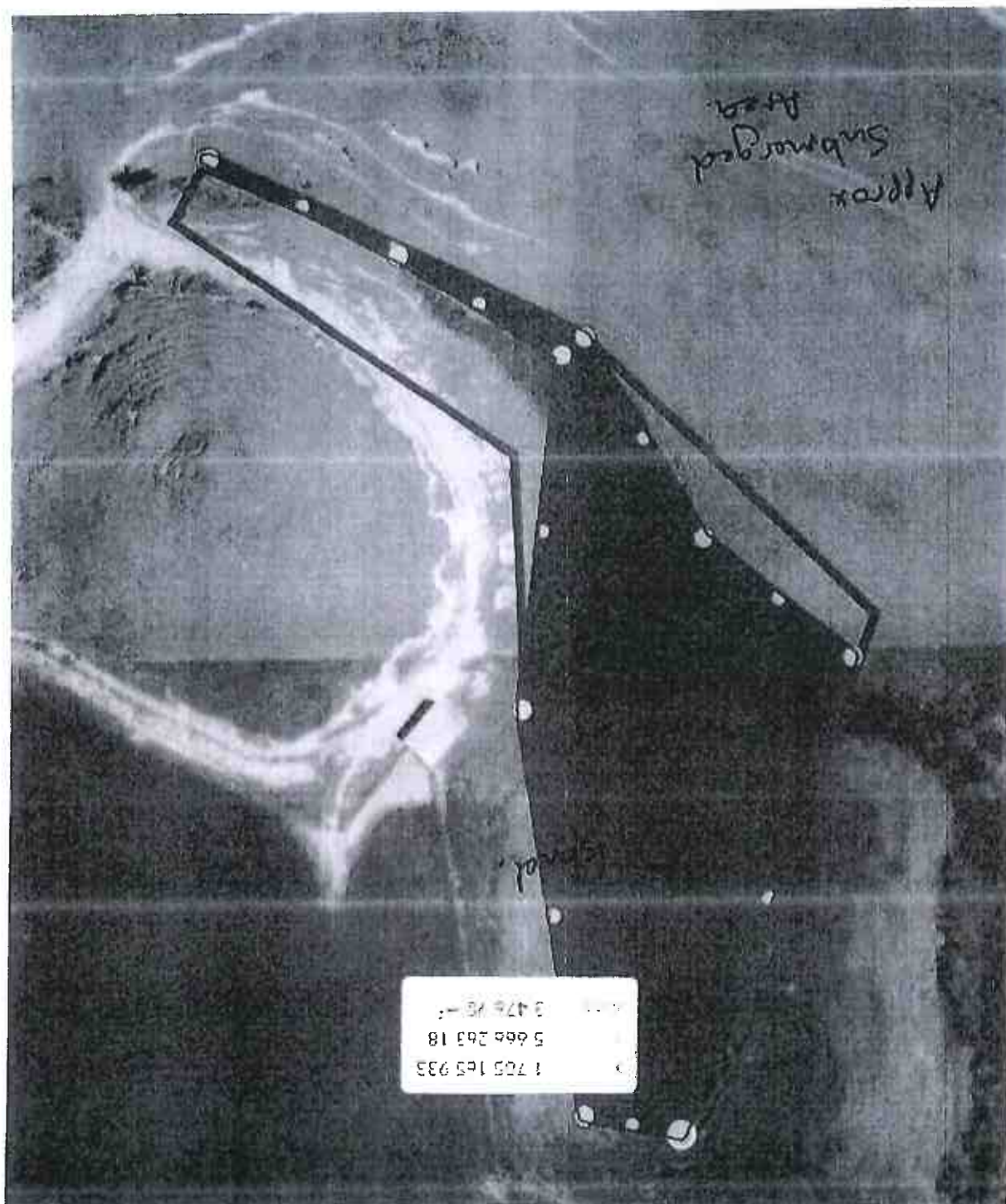
Make all cheques payable to DR & SA Buchanan
or TSB 153947 0291772 26



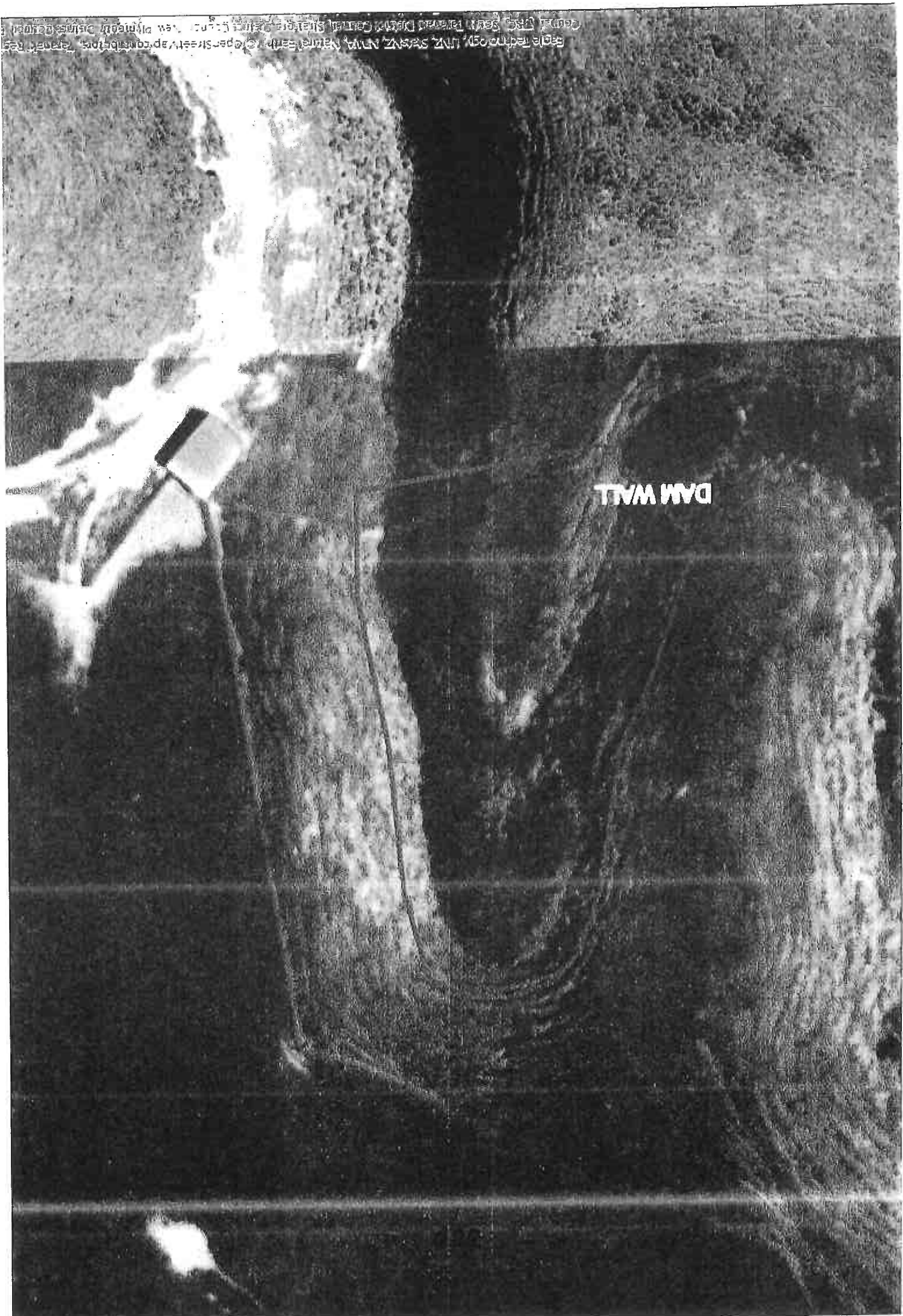
THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS!



Shows existing site



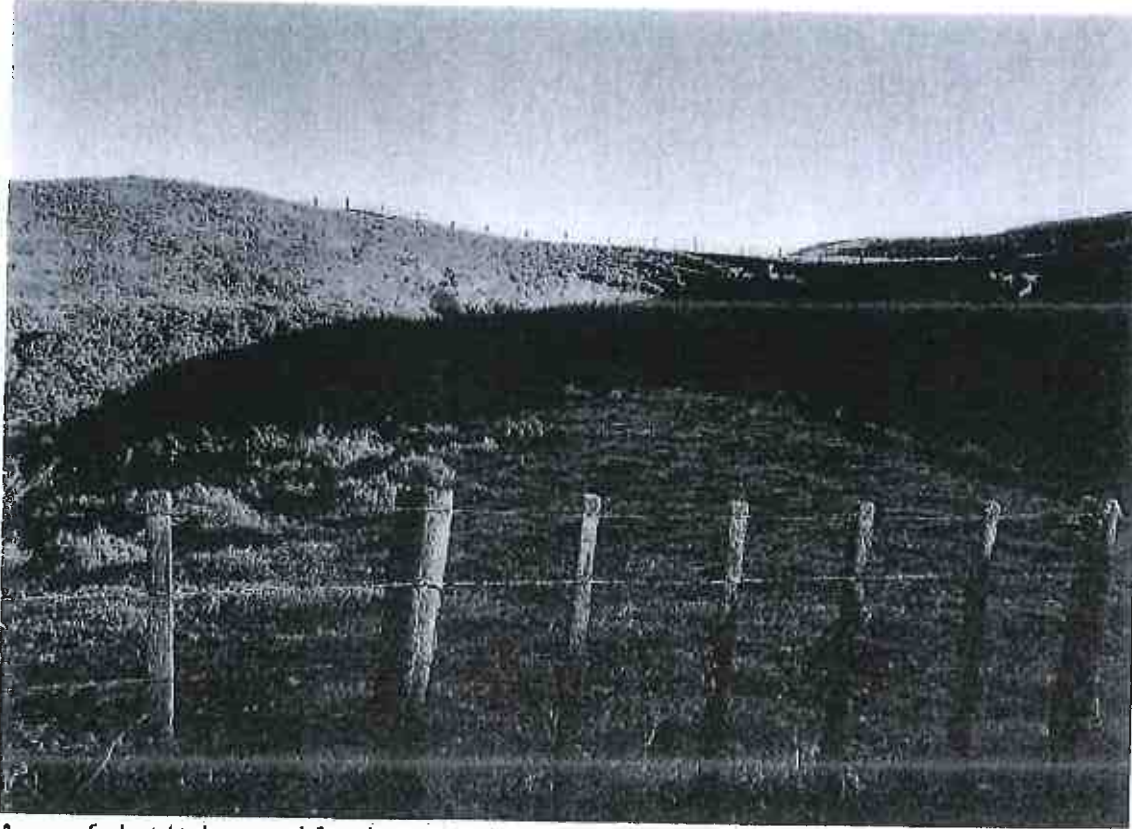




DAM WALL

Scale Technology, Linc. State, N.Y. Natural Science, Department of Geology, State University of New York, Albany, N.Y. 12244-2100

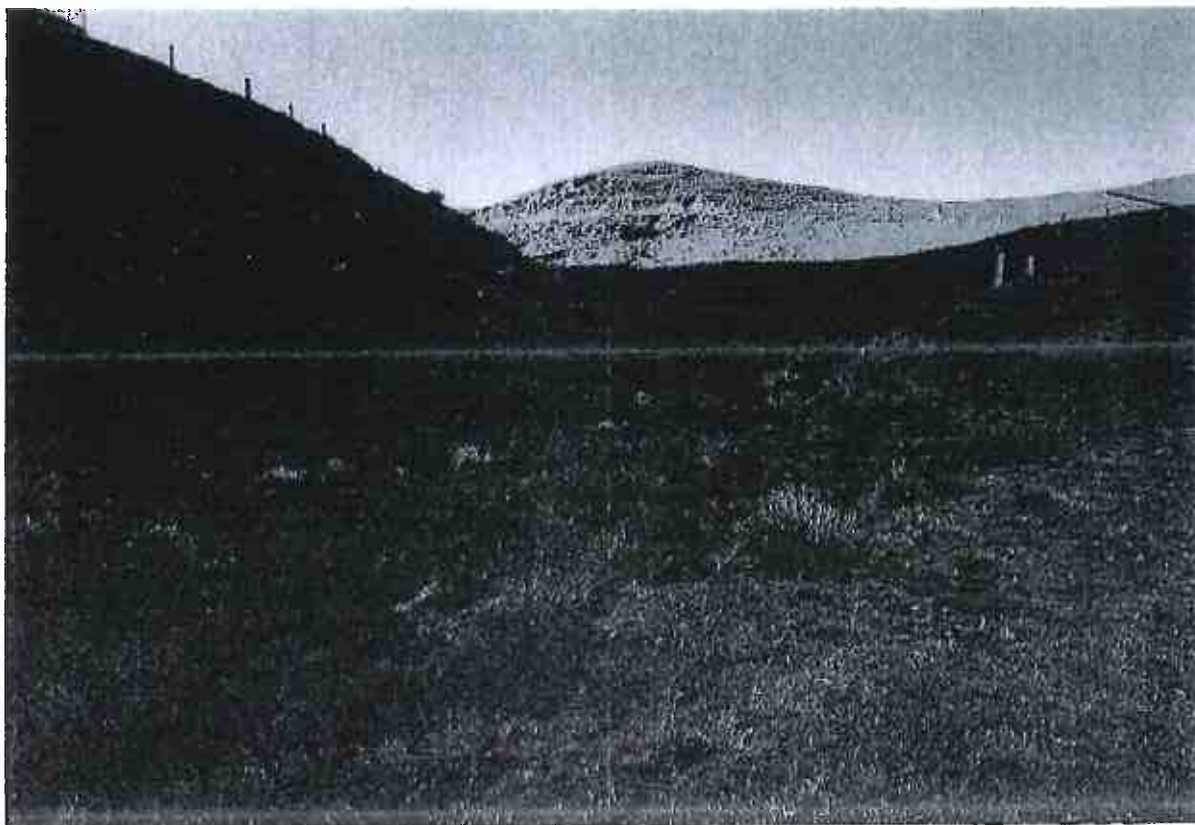
Caskey Wetland



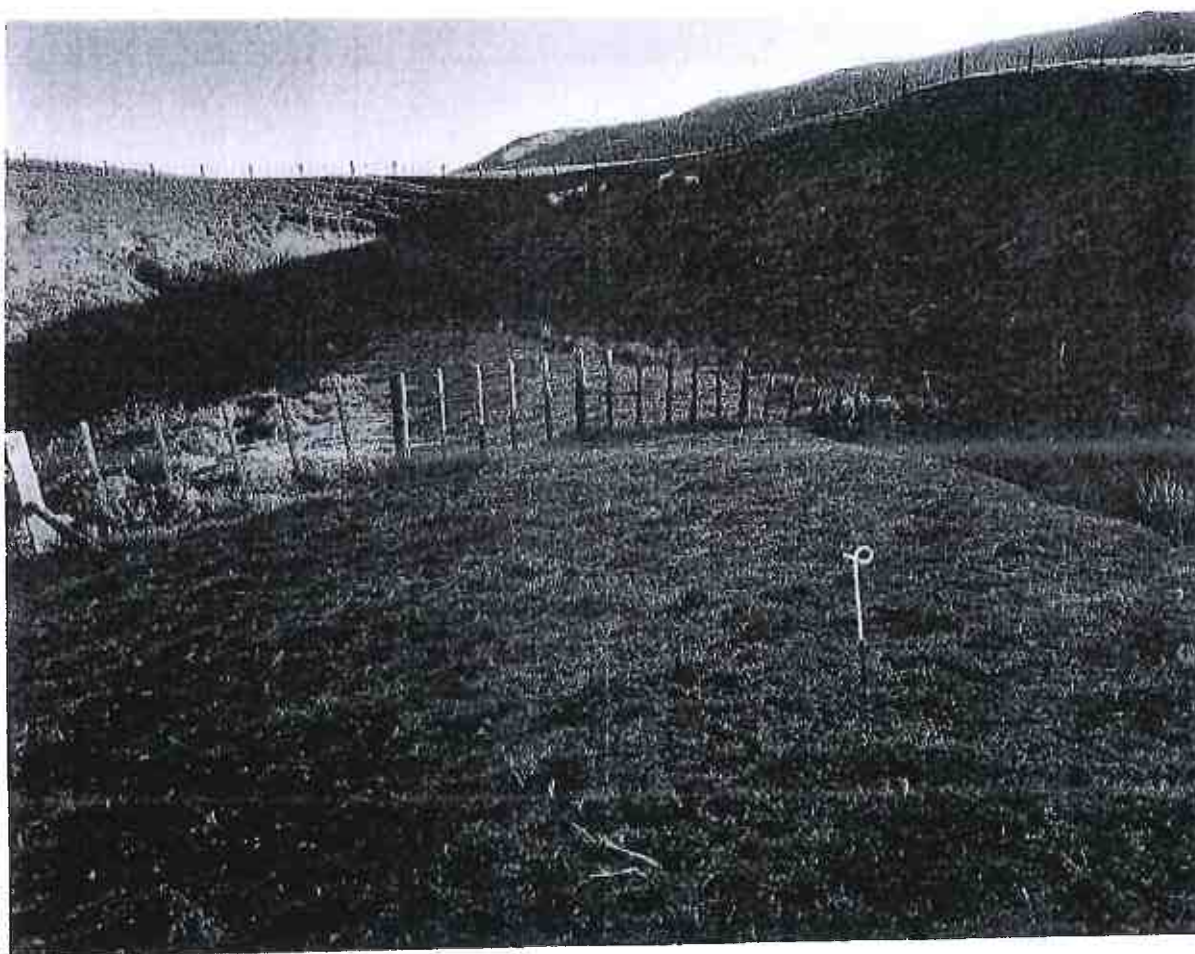
Area of clay to be used for dam construction

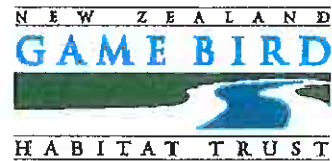


Looking down on proposed pond – dam wall will be by the willow in the distance



Upper end of the wetland that will have shallow water





28 August 2026

Larry Walker
43 Francis Road
RD 4
WANGANUI 4574

Dear Larry
Kauangaroa Wetland, Taranaki F&G region

I regret to advise that your 2026 application for a grant from the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust has not been successful. The Trust Board invites you to reapply when the culvert is planned to be raised. Fencing needs to protect the dam wall and the culvert area from stock damage.

Meanwhile, the Trust Board would like to refer you to the following internet links that provide details of other funding sources:

- Ministry for the Environment: The Community Environment Fund (CEF)
<https://environment.govt.nz/what-you-can-do/funding/community-environment-fund/>
- Ministry of Primary Industries: Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures (SFF Futures)
<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-rural-support/sustainable-food-fibre-futures/how-to-apply-for-sff-futures-funding/>
- Department of Internal Affairs: - Lottery Environment and Heritage fund
<https://www.communitymatters.govt.nz/lottery-environment-and-heritage/>
- Department of Conservation: The Community Fund <https://www.doc.govt.nz/doc-community-fund>
- Honda Tree Fund: <http://www.honda.co.nz/environment/treefund/>

The Department of Conservation lists other potential funders: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/funding/other-funding-organisations/>

You are also encouraged to approach your local government regional or district council, as most have environmental or wetland funds to encourage and assist private landowners to carry out work that benefits the natural environment and support native biodiversity.

Thank you for your interest in the New Zealand Game Bird Habitat Trust grant programme. Although your application was not successful this year, this does not preclude you from applying again in the future.

TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

The Chairman

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

Lake Kohata Management Plan Rewrite

Background

Lake Kohata is an 8-hectare, dune lake with situated 5 kilometers southeast of Whanganui. It was set aside as a reserve for wildlife management purposes in 1969 and is habitat for a variety of waterfowl and perch fishery.

By written agreement dated 1 November 1972, the Minister of Internal Affairs transferred the management and control of the reserve to the Wanganui Acclimatisation Society. The passage of the Conservation Law Reform Act in 1991 provided for the transfer of the assets, liabilities, contracts and engagements of the Wanganui Acclimatisation Society, which was thereby abolished, to the new Taranaki Fish and Game Council.

In 2024 Fish and Game staff started the process of handing over the management of the lake to DOC and WDC. The Taranaki Fish and Game council decided against this, and Fish and Game continues to manage the lake in partnership with DOC, MDC and other stakeholders.

Significant land use changes have occurred in the surrounding area over the last 25 years and the 2001 management plan is no longer current.

Lake Kohata still has the potential to benefit fish and game license holders and the public. The Department of Conservation (DOC) and Whanganui District Council (WDC) have secured a public access walkway but due to lifestyle section development around the lake, it is still an underdeveloped and underused asset.

Situation

DOC has recently undertaken work to provide a fenced public accessway and developed a restoration plan for the lake. We have been meeting with DOC to discuss the lake and they questioned if our 2001 management plan was still current. We identified it is no longer relevant and have now amended it to suit the lakes current situation working with DOC and WDC to ensure there are no conflicting objectives.

Recommendations

Council approves the attached management plan for Lake Kohata.

Or

Council approves the attached management plan with the following amendments.

Agenda Item 17 Participation

Summary

- a. **Draft R3 Implementation Strategy – Regional Interpretation**
 - Consideration of how Taranaki region can implement given capacity and capability,
- b. **Information to Clients**
 - 2026 Fish Magazine Material prepared.
 - Revision of access pamphlets.
- c. **Licence Holder Engagement– incl. R3**
 - No specific activities

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required.

From: Karalus <karalus@xtra.co.nz>

Sent: Friday, 2 October 2026 2:35 pm

To: 'I.REID@xtra.co.nz' <I.REID@xtra.co.nz>

Subject: Pontoon for Nowell's Lake

Hi Ian,

Jess said you may be interested in drawing up plans for a pontoon construction at Nowell's Lake. If you can, this would be fantastic.

It's a project involving Nowell's Lake Walkway Trust (which I'm a trustee of), Normanby & Districts Lions, The Men's Shed Hawera and Taranaki Fish & Game. The idea is to have a pontoon that people can fish from for perch and to launch kayaks by the Boys Scouts and other groups. It's very much a community project. The drawings just need to be of a standard that anyone constructing it would understand and we will run it past anyone else with concerns about its construction. You will be reimbursed any costs in doing the drawings.

The drums used are likely to be the blue ones widely used on local farms and it is my understanding that Fonterra will donate these. Most of the material costs will be funded by Taranaki Fish & Game, although I have yet to get the materials priced but am hoping it will come well under \$10k. I now they are keen to be involved if the costs are reasonable.

The drums will be strapped underneath by stainless steel straps. I have been talking with Joe Menzies of the Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust and he said that is what they used for their pontoon at Rotokare. He suggested using 150 x 50mm material but I think we need to go to 200x50mm material so the drums sit that extra bit deeper into the frame. They used plastic pipes sealed at each end as their floatation device, but they paid for these. We don't have their financial resources.

As an engineer you will need to determine whether the structure is strong enough. My thoughts are that we would also have a basic ladder at the open end of the pontoon so if anyone fell in, they could climb back onto the pontoon easily. The rails are probably not essential, but I think they would be great to have on the pontoon.

The pontoon would be held in place by 2 x 2.7metre strainer posts driven into the lake edge and with wire straps to each corner of the inshore edge of the pontoon. Hopefully, this sounds ok to you.

I have attached my basic plans of the pontoon and gangplank and below is a YouTube clip from which I have got these ideas from as well as from the Rotokare Lake pontoon.

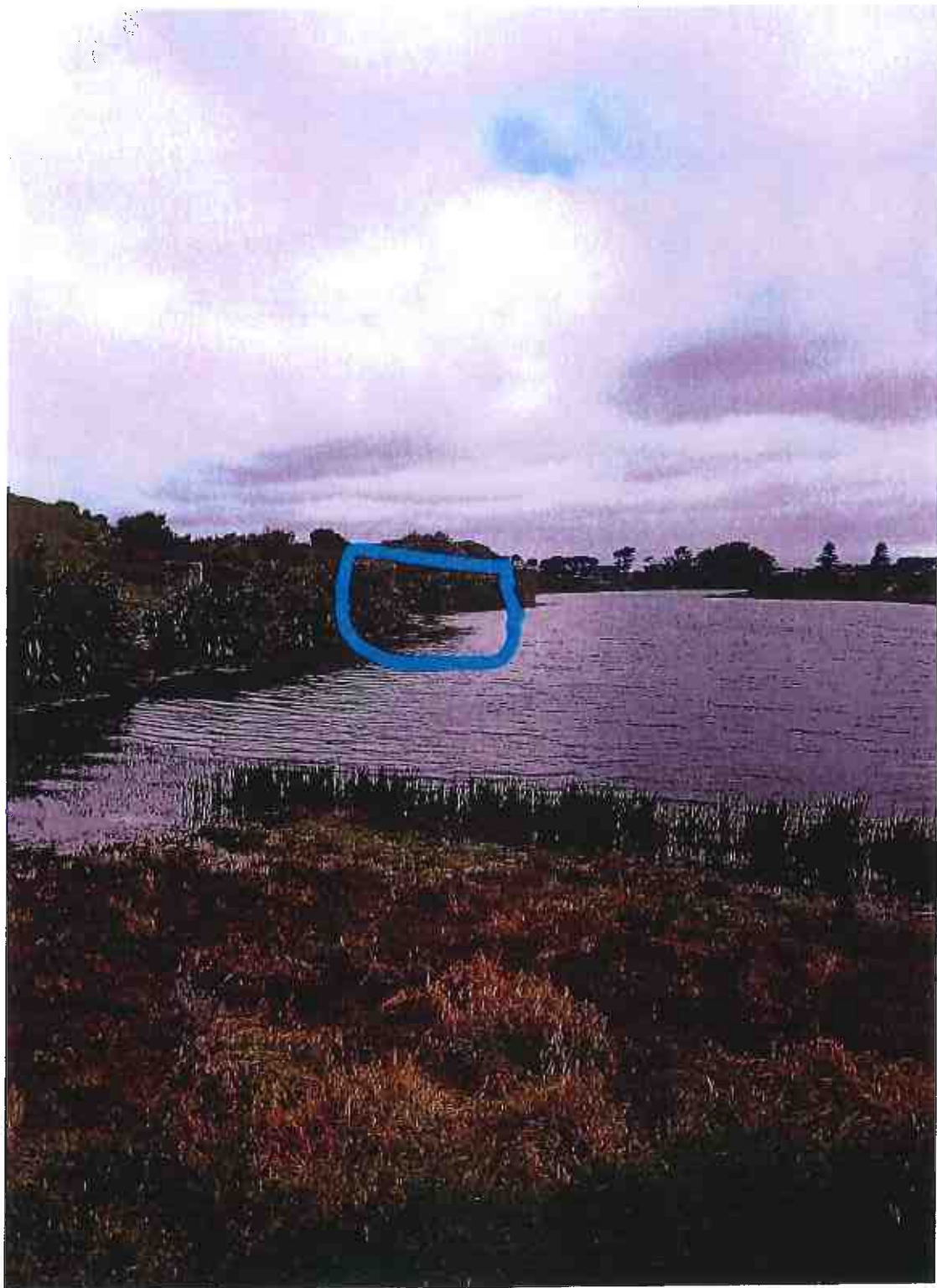
<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?q=How%20To%20Build%20A%20Floating%20Dock%20With%2055%20Gallon%20Drums&mid=74C43389B6E3D4986D3174C43389B6E3D4986D31&ajaxhist=0>

Hope you are still interested Ian. I will give you a ring once's you have had a chance to process all this.

Kind regards

Gerard Karalus

0275 902277





Gangplank.

Drums will be attached by stainless steel straps.

Stainless hinge to pontoon.

planks to go on top
will be 900 mm wide.
so overhang each side.

x 4 drums
0.92 m x 0.6 m

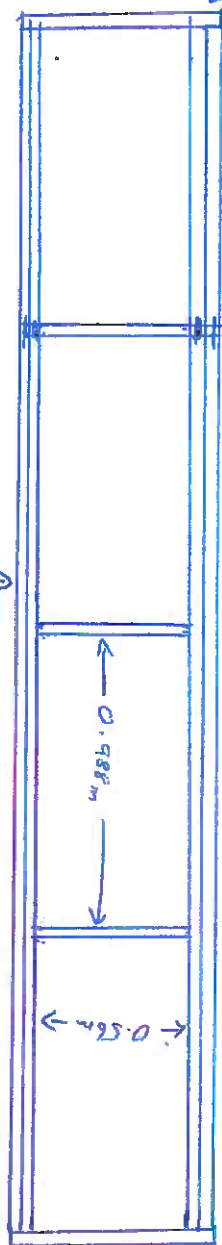
Long 4.2 m

4.2 metres long
200 x 50 mm
x 2 each
side.

0.988 m

0.925 m

760 mm x 200 x 50 mm

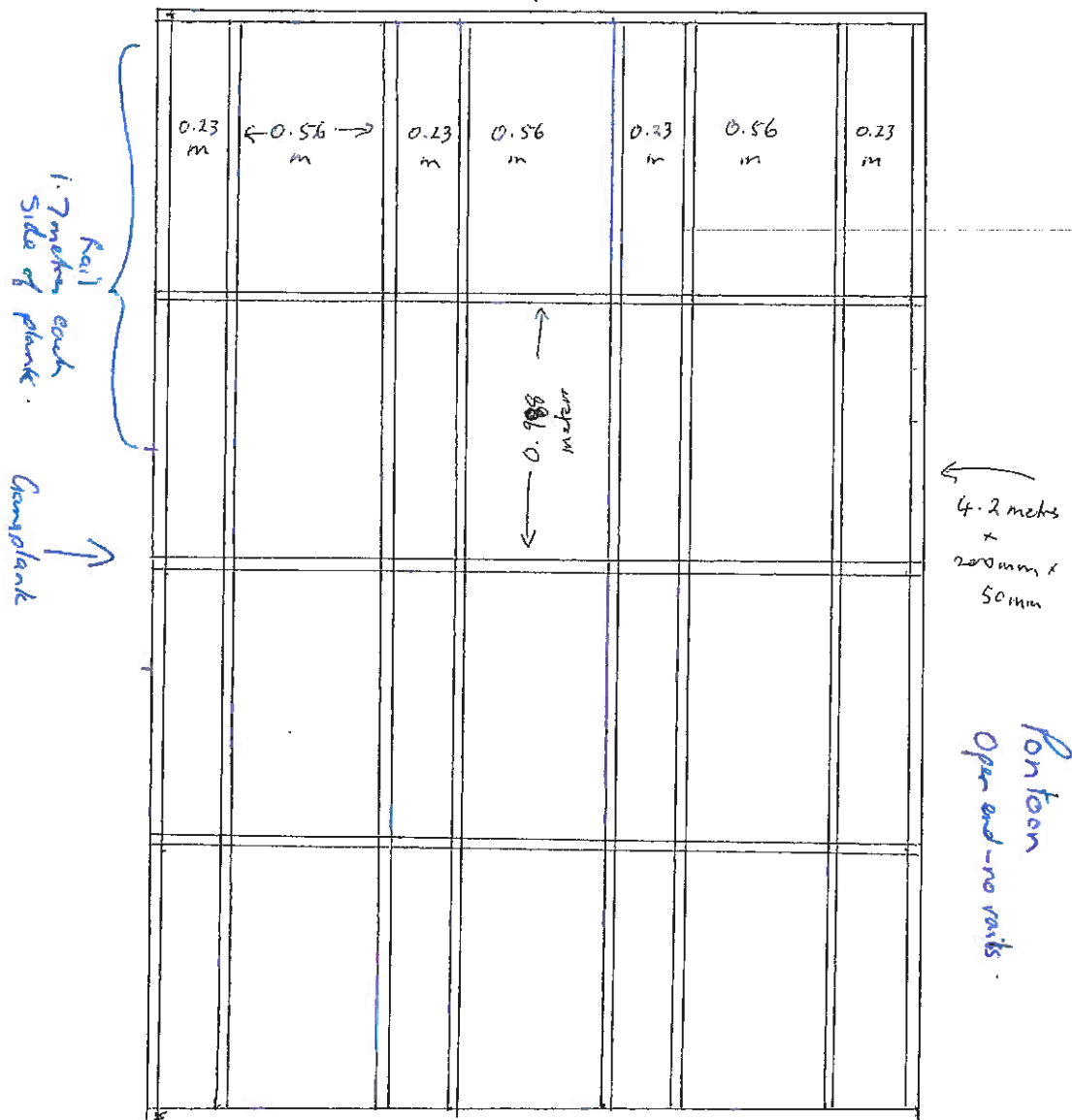


Drums are

0.92m x 0.6m
want them to sit in
frame by approx. 0.04m

3 metres x (200mm x 50mm) ^{timber}

Rail above pontoon



Rail above pontoon.
4 x 3 drums of 0.92m x 0.6m size

Agenda Item 18 **Public Awareness/Communications**

Summary

a. Iwi Engagement

Meetings attended:

Discussions on actions and involvement in Te Kōpuka nā Te Awa Tupua:

This is the collaborative strategy group established for the Whanganui River under the Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Act 2017

b. Public Awareness

- Contributions to wider press releases when appropriate.

c. Communication

Communications to licence holders as required.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required.

Agenda Item 19 Licence Sales & Licence Management System Performance

Summary

a. Fish Licence Sales Update – until 30 September 2026

- Licence Sales Report for 2025/2026 Fishing Season YTD
Confirmation of licence sales indicating YTD – comparison with previous year.

↑ LEQ sales down to previous year 4.3% (1,315 c.f. 1,222)

b. Game Licence Sales Update – until 30 September 2026

- Licence Sales Report for 2026 Game Season YTD
Confirmation of licence sales indicating YTD – comparison with previous year.

↓ LEQ sales down to previous year 5.1% (973 c.f. 1,064)

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council move to receive Licence Sales Report for 2025/2026 Fishing Season YTD (30 September 2026) and Game Season (30 September 2026)

c. Licence Management System – July and August 2026

The Licencing Operational Group overview the performance of the Licencing Management system outlining:

- No issues with continuity of service
- A list of bugs and fixes required under agreed contract.
- Completing requirements of development phase of contract

Each regional Fish and Game Council is a signatory to the agreement for ESL to provide services to manage electronic licence sales (Public on Line and Agent on Line) and data capture. This contract is valid until 31 August 2027. Consideration to scoping and developing an RFP for the next iteration of the Licence Management System and associated support software – which may include: CRM function (customer relationship management software), digital licence, Fish and Game App.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council move to receive the update report from the Licencing Operational Group for contract management of provider of services to manage the licensing platform and database management.

d. Licence Management Systems Review

Council to discuss Licence Management System and provide feedback to NZ Council on the process and project management.

National Fish Licence Sales YTD to 30 September

Channel	FWF	FWA	FWNA	FSLA	FLAA	FWIA	FLBA	FSLB	FDA	FDNA	FWI	FWNI	FDJ	FDNJ	FWC	FWNC	FDNC	SACE	DWLR	DWIN	Total Fish	Fish LEQ	Fish Val
Taranaki																							
Public Online	91	282	145	44	21	32	1	64	221	370	100	10	81	16	474	2	2	0	0	0	0	1956	
Agency Online	37	157	11	51	17	14	3	14	35	15	57	0	14	0	88	0	1	6	7	7	0	527	
Total	128	439	156	95	38	46	4	78	256	385	157	10	95	16	562	2	3	6	7	0	2483	1222	
Public Online	78	250	160	45	33	23	2	42	234	482	100	28	65	11	523	12	5	0	0	0	0	2144	
Agency Online	35	159	8	50	22	10	1	19	43	8	70	1	8	1	71	0	0	12	5	0	0	521	
Total	111	449	168	95	55	33	3	61	277	488	170	27	73	12	599	12	5	12	5	0	2665	1315	7.6
Wellington																							
Public Online	252	807	63	174	175	85	4	70	521	178	332	4	152	5	899	3	0	0	244	62	4030		
Agency Online	130	581	16	135	119	44	3	20	133	15	228	2	75	0	238	0	0	31	58	1	1830		
Total	382	1368	79	332	294	129	7	90	654	193	560	6	227	5	1135	3	0	31	302	63	5860	2911	
Public Online	177	841	74	175	131	64	5	81	548	187	337	7	194	7	844	1	4	0	248	55	4038		
Agency Online	117	570	10	147	97	42	2	18	84	34	172	0	74	1	189	0	0	22	39	0	1598		
Total	294	1411	84	322	228	136	7	99	612	201	529	7	268	8	1033	1	4	22	285	55	5606	2785	-4.3
NZ TOTAL																							
Direct	8421	12399	3507	2229	2574	1426	239	3986	17667	11128	4472	250	3254	421	14910	140	268	4514	5770	2301	99572	42831	
AOL	7461	11483	1068	3788	2228	791	137	1346	4002	3266	2501	78	734	191	1444	20	165	5939	4714	810	51797	31084	
Total	15882	23882	4575	5965	4800	2217	376	5332	21669	14392	6973	325	3988	612	16354	166	431	10253	10484	3111	151769	73725	
Direct	6871	12901	4075	2268	2677	1445	268	4111	18364	13000	4745	312	3309	498	15102	193	334	3698	5534	2483	102168	42975	
AOL	6443	11924	1028	3875	2307	860	111	988	3220	3320	2514	85	583	258	1289	31	210	4426	4527	764	48451	29928	
Total	13314	24725	5103	6143	4984	2105	379	5107	21584	16320	7259	397	3892	756	16371	224	544	8122	10061	3227	150617	72901	-1.1

National Game Licence Sales YTD to 30 September

	Channel	GWA	GWJ	GWC	GDA	GDJ	Total	Game LEQ	Game Var
Taranaki									
2024-2025	Agency Online	804	66	35	16	0	921		
	Public Online	230	26	16	45	0	317		
	Total	1034	92	51	61	0	1238	1064	
2025-2026	Agency Online	692	54	35	25	0	806		
	Public Online	251	31	18	39	0	339		
	Total	943	85	53	64	0	1145	973	-8.6
Wellington									
2024-2025	Agency Online	2523	242	113	41	6	2925		
	Public Online	596	93	47	88	4	828		
	Total	3119	335	160	129	10	3753	3211	
2025-2026	Agency Online	2322	207	119	43	5	2696		
	Public Online	637	88	55	100	4	884		
	Total	2959	295	174	143	9	3580	3046	-5.1
NZ TOTAL									
2024-2025	Agency Online	23659	2108	915	254	17	26953	24128	
	Public Online	6067	940	466	1022	43	8538	6458	
	Total	29726	3048	1381	1276	60	35491	30586	
2025-2026	Agency Online	21980	1912	879	252	16	25039	22410	
	Public Online	6736	977	561	934	51	9259	7117	
	Total	28716	2889	1440	1186	67	34298	29527	-3.5

Monthly Performance Report – Licence Management System

July 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Licence System Performance

Total number of licences sold in the period: 3,123

System Availability: 99.99% uptime vs. KPI of 99.9%

B. Licence System Maintenance

1. **Bug Fixes and Improvements.**
26/27 Fishing Season product setup has commenced.
2. **Booking System Improvements.**
Business as usual.
3. **Updating Customer Contacts:**
Received updated customer contact details from Hothouse with these changes applied to the licence holder's details.
4. **Licence Holder deduplication:**
No deduplication merge was performed.

C. System Development

System improvements:

1. The Angular updates have been completed and tested. The associated website appearance refresh is undergoing acceptance testing to align the aesthetics with the Fish & Game website. Several improvements arising from UAT have been incorporated, with release scheduled for August 26th
2. Six improvement items and one bug fix have been approved for development, with development deferred until the Family Licence change requirement is confirmed.
3. Changes to the Family Licence have been agreed with a change request awaiting approval. A major outcome of these changes gives full licence ownership recognition to the "Partner" (Adult 2). The targeted date for release of these changes is the end of October.

D. Business Services

1. **Call Centre Activity:** A total of 125 telephone and email support requests were received during the month. 40 of these calls were categorized as POL customer enquiries, with a further 8 calls being categorized as general enquiries from the public.
2. **Response times:** All support requests responded to within SLA. 9 voicemail messages (from unanswered calls) were received. Requests received within business hours were responded to within 1 hour (average of 35 min). 12 x Telephone/Email requests received over the weekend were responded to within 12 min on the following business day.
3. **Invoicing Agents:** Agent invoices reconciled and dispatched on July 10th as per SLA.
4. **Licence Delivery Process:** Sent Hothouse monthly client contact list.
5. **Licence Refunds and Cancellation:** 2 x POL refunds, 2 x Cancellations and 0 x re-issue request was processed within the month.

6. Variable Charges: Nil

E. Contract Performance

1. Licence System Agreement: BAU
2. System Development: Continuous improvements are deferred pending confirmation of Family Licence change request.
3. Business Services Function: Agent invoices sent out on July 10th as per SLA.
4. Scoping Additional Functionality: Change requests are being prepared for the Loyal Seniors and Family Licence requirements.
5. BIN Bash Fraud Attacks: Nil attacks reported.

DETAILED REPORTING

A. Licence System Performance

1. Total number of licences sold in July 2026 with comparison to YTD July 2025

Metric	YTD Jul 2025	YTD Jul 2026	YoY %	Jul 2026 Actual
Total All Licences	180,932	183,128	1.2%	3,123
Fishing Licences	122,942	127,261	3.5%	2,891
Game Bird Licences	35,621	34,433	-3.3%	232
Designated Waterway	12,635	13,288	5.2%	0
Salmon Endorsement	9,734	8,146	-16.3%	0

2. System Availability

System Availability – uptime 99.99% vs. SLA objective of 99.9%

System Availability is obtained from a third-party monitoring service (Pingdom).

Availability is calculated as (Total available hours 24hrs x days in the month) – (down time) / (Total available hours) expressed as a %

System Reliability

- Browser support is up to date.
- Underlying AWS technology (Angular) scheduled for release to the latest levels has been completed and tested.

Variance Explanation: SLA compliance achieved.

B. Licence System Maintenance

1. Bug Fixes and Improvements:

26/27 Fishing Season product setup is well advanced.

Acceptance testing of the refreshed website aesthetics is underway to align styles with the Fish & Game website. Several improvements arising from this testing have now been incorporated, with release scheduled for August 26th.

Removing Duplication:

- No deduplication merge performed.

2. Updating Customer Contact Details:

- Received updated customer contact details from Hothouse, with these changes applied to the licence holder details in the Licence System.

C. System Development

1. **Salmon Licence Endorsement:** Business as usual
2. **Designated Waters Licence:** Business as usual
3. **Booking Systems:** Business as usual
4. **Continuous Improvements:**

The following table summarises approved system development work items and planned production release dates.

ID	Work Item Type	Title	PROD Release Date
11148	User Story	Upgrade Angular from v14.1.1 to Latest long-term-support	26/08/2026
11504	User Story	Refresh FnG UI to 'Hothouse' styling	26/08/2026
11927	User Story	Loyal Senior purchasing rules	26/08/2026
11948	User Story	Changes to landing screen	26/08/2026

Changes to the Family Licence have been confirmed with a change request awaiting approval. A major outcome of these changes gives full licence ownership recognition to the "Partner"/ "Adult 2". The targeted release date is the end of October.

A. Business Services

1. **Call Centre Activity:** A total of 125 support requests were received via telephone, email or voice mail.
 - a. 40 x Requests were support requests/enquiries from POL customers.
 - b. 8 x requests were identified as "Public Misc" which are general enquiries seeking advice, some of these enquiries are passed to the Regions for their action.
 - c. Any Licence related complaints are referred directly to the Region concerned.
- The following table summarises support request types for the month, including ticket volumes and their share of total requests.

OVERALL REQUEST TYPE BREAKDOWN		
Request Type	Tickets	Share
POL Customer Support	40	32.0%
National/Regional Office Correspondence	21	16.8%
Buy A Licence	13	10.4%
Habitat Stamp	9	7.2%
Public Misc	8	6.4%
Referred to region	8	6.4%
Taupo Enquiry	6	4.8%
Cancel/ Refund Request	4	3.2%
Change of Address	3	2.4%
Licence Re-issue	3	2.4%
Remittance Advice	3	2.4%
Agent Query	2	1.6%
Technical Support	1	0.8%
License Delivery	1	0.8%
Invoice Enquiries	1	0.8%
Bureau Communication	1	0.8%
Returned Mail	1	0.8%
TOTAL	125	100.0%

The following tables summarise support activity by channel, including total tickets, response performance, weekend tickets, and SLA compliance.

OVERALL CHANNEL SUMMARY				
Channel	Tickets	Share	Avg Response Min	SLA Met
Email	75	60.0%	36	100.0%
Telephone	41	32.8%	0.00	100.0%
Voicemail	9	7.2%	12	100.0%
WEEKEND TICKETS BY CHANNEL				
Channel	Weekend Tickets	Share of Weekend	Avg Response Min	SLA Met
Email	7	58.3%	12	100.0%
Telephone	0	0.0%		
Voicemail	5	41.7%	19	100.0%
TOTAL	12	100.0%	0.24	100.0%

Response times:

Any unanswered calls go to voicemail.

- a. 9 voicemail calls received and responded to within 1 hour or next business day if received after hours/weekends.
 - b. Emails were responded to within 24 hours with an average response of 36 min not including requests received outside of business hours and over a weekend.
 - c. 12 requests received over the weekend/public holidays were responded to on the next business day. Average response time is 12 min for the next business day.
2. **Invoicing Agents:**
 - a. Agent invoices dispatched on or before 10th of July and within the 10-day SLA KPI.
 - b. All invoices reviewed by an independent accountant.
 3. **Licence Delivery Process:**

Liaison with external providers:

 - Hothouse Communications
 - Monthly report on follow-up contacts (de duplicated) supplied.
 - ABCorp
 - Card production
 4. **Licence Refunds and Cancellation:**
 - Refunds – 2 x POL refunds were processed.
 - Cancellations – 2
 - Re-Issues – 0
 5. **Variable Charges:**

Nil

D. Contract Performance

- a. **System Upgrade:**
 - i. MVP development is completed and in operation
 - ii. Designated Waters development is completed and in operation
 - iii. Sea Run Salmon development is completed and in operation.
- b. **System Updates:**
 - System upgrades, new website appearance refresh and Loyal Seniors changes scheduled for August 26th.
 - Submitted change request Family Licence change request for approval.
- c. **Business Services Function:**

The following table summarises Business Services SLA performance by function.

Function	SLA Compliance
Call Centre Response Time	
Agent Invoicing	
Liaison with external providers	
licence refunds and Cancellations	
Variable Charges	

- d. Licence System and Business Administration Services Agreement: No Change
- e. BIN Bash Fraud Attacks: Nil attacks reported

E. Appendices – YTD May 2026 with comparison to YTD 2025

FISH & GAME NEW ZEALAND						
LICENCE SALES REPORT						
Report Period: YTD July 2025 vs YTD July 2026, with July 2026 actuals Generated: 10 Aug 2026						
KEY METRICS SUMMARY						
Metric	YTD Jul 2025	YTD Jul 2026	YoY %	Jul 2026 Actual		
Total All Licences	180,932	183,128	1.2%	3,123		
Fishing Licences	122,942	127,261	3.5%	2,891		
Game Bird Licences	35,621	34,433	-3.3%	232		
Designated Waterway	12,635	13,288	5.2%	0		
Salmon Endorsement	9,734	8,146	-16.3%	0		

RESIDENT VS NON-RESIDENT						
Residency	YTD Jul 2025	YTD Jul 2026	YoY %	Jul 2026 Actual		
Resident	158,179	157,272	-0.6%	2,493		
Non-Resident	22,753	25,856	13.6%	630		
TOTAL ALL LICENCES	180,932	183,128	1.2%	3,123		

SALES BY CHANNEL						
Channel	YTD Jul 2025	YTD Jul 2026	YoY %	Jul 2026 Actual		
Public Online	104,189	109,682	5.3%	2,476		
Agency Online	75,097	72,233	-3.8%	578		
Unallocated / channel variance	1,646	1,213	-26.3%	69		
TOTAL ALL LICENCES	180,932	183,128	1.2%	3,123		



DAY LICENCES ANALYSIS				
Licence Type	YTD Jul 2025	YTD Jul 2026	YoY %	Jul 2026 Actual
Adult Day - Resident	20,826	20,633	-0.9%	889
Adult Day - Non Resident	13,772	15,723	14.2%	424
Junior Day - Resident	3,819	3,752	-1.8%	264
Junior Day - Non Resident	563	710	26.1%	78
Child Day - Non Resident	388	501	29.1%	63
Game Bird Day (All)	1,376	1,306	-5.1%	179
TOTAL ALL LICENCES	40,744	42,625	4.6%	1,897
WHOLE SEASON LICENCES				
Licence Type	YTD Jul 2025	YTD Jul 2026	YoY %	Jul 2026 Actual
Adult Season - Resident	23,010	24,837	7.9%	24
Adult Season - Non Resident	4,462	5,098	14.3%	32
Family - Resident	15,299	13,397	-12.4%	20
Junior Season - Resident	6,855	7,274	6.1%	122
Junior Season - Non Resident	311	386	24.1%	17
Child Season - Resident	15,780	16,169	2.5%	498
Child Season - Non Resident	162	211	30.2%	16
TOTAL ALL LICENCES	65,879	67,372	2.3%	729

LOCAL AREA LICENCES BY REGION				
Region	YTD Jul 2025	YTD Jul 2026	YoY %	Jul 2026 Actual
Auckland/Waikato	160	144	-10.0%	0
Central South Island	995	1,130	13.6%	0
Eastern (Rotorua)	1,554	1,750	12.6%	2
Hawke's Bay	194	189	-2.6%	2
Nelson/Marlborough	221	203	-8.1%	0
North Canterbury	179	165	-7.8%	0
Northland	13	9	-30.8%	1
Otago	568	652	14.8%	4
Southland	321	332	3.4%	3
Taranaki	34	53	55.9%	0
Wellington	291	228	-21.6%	1
West Coast	184	154	-16.3%	0
TOTAL ALL LICENCES	4,714	5,009	6.3%	13



GAME BIRD LICENCES				
Licence Type	YTD Jul 2025	YTD Jul 2026	YoY %	Jul 2026 Actual
Adult Day	1,304	1,230	5.7%	169
Junior Day	72	76	5.6%	10
Adult Whole Season	29,789	28,779	3.4%	44
Child Whole Season	1,392	1,451	4.2%	4
Junior Whole Season	3,064	2,897	5.5%	5
TOTAL GAME BIRD LICENCES	35,621	34,433	3.3%	232

SPECIAL LICENCES & ENDORSEMENTS				
Licence Type	YTD Jul 2025	YTD Jul 2026	YoY %	Jul 2026 Actual
Loyal Senior - Resident	5,443	6,170	13.4%	4
Short Break - Resident	5,068	5,020	-0.9%	238
Long Break - Resident	386	361	-6.5%	8
Winter - Resident	2,084	2,010	-3.6%	181
Designated Waterway - Res	9,540	10,061	5.5%	0
Designated Waterway - Non Res	3,095	3,227	4.3%	0
Salmon Endorsement	9,734	8,146	-16.3%	0
TOTAL ALL LICENCES	35,350	34,995	-1.0%	431

Monthly Performance Report – Licence Management System

August 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Licence System Performance

Total number of licences sold in August 2026: 2,280

System Availability: 99.92% uptime vs. KPI of 99.9%

B. Licence System Maintenance

1. **Bug Fixes and Improvements.**
Refreshed UI and revised loyal senior licence qualification criteria released
2. **Booking System Improvements.**
Booking systems operated as business as usual during the month.
3. **Updating Customer Contacts:**
Received updated customer contact details from Hothouse with these changes applied to the licence holder's details.
4. **Licence Holder deduplication:**
Auto deduplication merge was performed.

C. System Development

System improvements:

1. The Angular updates have been released along with the associated website appearance refresh.
2. Seven improvement items are scheduled for release on 22nd September.
3. A refinement to the Loyal Senior changes released in August will be included in the 22nd September release, this will allow any Licence holder who received a Loyal Senior Licence in the prior season to obtain a further licence in the new season when they have not held 5 consecutive year qualifying licences.

D. Business Services

1. **Call Centre Activity:** A total of 109 telephone and email support requests were received during the month. 38 of these calls were categorized as POL customer enquiries, with a further 4 calls being categorized as general enquiries from the public.
2. **Response times:** All support requests responded to within SLA. 5 voicemail messages (from unanswered calls) were received. Requests received within business hours were responded to within 1 hour (average of 35 min). 19 x Telephone/Email requests received over the weekend were responded to within 14 min on the following business day.
3. **Invoicing Agents:** Agent invoices reconciled and dispatched on August 10th as per SLA.
4. **Licence Delivery Process:** Sent Hothouse monthly client contact list.
5. **Licence Refunds and Cancellation:** 3 x POL refunds, 3 x Cancellations and 0 x re-issue request was processed within the month.
6. **Variable Charges:**
 - a. ABCorp
 - b. NZ Post – returned mail

E. Contract Performance

1. Licence System Agreement: BAU
2. System Development:
3. Business Services Function: Agent invoices sent out on August 10th as per SLA.
4. Scoping Additional Functionality:
5. BIN Bash Fraud Attacks: Nil attacks reported.

DETAILED REPORTING

A. Licence System Performance

1. Total number of licences sold in Aug 2026 with comparison to YTD Aug 2025

KEY METRICS SUMMARY				
Metric	YTD Aug 2025	YTD Aug 2026	YoY %	Aug 2026 Actual
Total All Licences	183,483	185,408	1.0%	2,280
Fishing Licences	125,409	129,475	3.2%	2,214
Game Bird Licences	35,705	34,499	-3.4%	66
Designated Waterway	12,635	13,288	5.2%	0
Salmon Endorsement	9,734	8,146	-16.3%	0

2. System Availability

System Availability – uptime 99.92% vs. SLA objective of 99.9%

System Availability is obtained from a third-party monitoring service (Pingdom).

Availability is calculated as (Total available hours 24hrs x days in the month) – (down time) / (Total available hours) expressed as a %

System Reliability

- Browser support is up to date.
- Underlying technology updated

Variance Explanation: SLA compliance achieved.

B. Licence System Maintenance

1. Bug Fixes and Improvements:

Refreshed UI and revised loyal senior licence qualification rules released

Removing Duplication:

- Auto deduplication merge performed.

2. Updating Customer Contact Details:

- Received updated customer contact details from Hothouse, with these changes applied to the licence holder details in the Licence System.

C. System Development

1. Salmon Licence Endorsement: Business as usual
2. Designated Waters Licence: Business as usual
3. Booking Systems: Business as usual
4. Continuous Improvements:

The following table summarises approved system development work items and planned production release dates.

ID	Title	Release Date
11077	Unable to book other days as same licence holder	22/09/2026
11423	Proactive monitoring for FnG card printing	22/09/2026
11431	Only allow Alpha characters in the name fields for licence holders	22/09/2026
11543	Update wording on landing page regarding Taupo	22/09/2026
12028	"Worsley" spelt incorrectly	22/09/2026
12072	Update Loyal Senior Licence Eligibility criteria to Allow Last-Season Senior Licence purchase override	22/09/2026
9284	Change Alpha and BETA to use new PROD SendGrid	28/10/2026
9874	Purge Pending Payment	28/10/2026
11510	Booking system freezes up if a licence linked to a waterway has display date in the future	28/10/2026
11542	Update the Family Licence customer details page from Adult 2 to Adult 2 (Spouse/Partner)	28/10/2026

D. Business Services

1. **Call Centre Activity:** A total of 109 support requests were received via telephone, email or voice mail.
 - a. 38 x Requests were support requests/enquiries from POL customers.
 - b. 4 x requests were identified as "Public Misc" which are general enquiries seeking advice, some of these enquiries are passed to the Regions for their action.
 - c. Any Licence related complaints are referred directly to the Region concerned.
- The following table summarises support request types for the month, including ticket volumes and their share of total requests.
- The following tables summarise support activity by channel, including total tickets, response performance, weekend tickets, and SLA compliance.

OVERALL REQUEST TYPE BREAKDOWN

Request Type	Tickets	Share
POL Customer Support	38	34.9%
National/Regional Office Correspondence	21	19.3%
Buy A Licence	14	12.8%
Referred to region	7	6.4%
Cancel/ Refund Request	6	5.5%
Habitat Stamp	5	4.6%
Invoice Enquiries	4	3.7%
Public Misc	4	3.7%
Remittance Advice	3	2.8%
Change of Address	2	1.8%
Returned Mail	2	1.8%
Agent Query	1	0.9%
Licence Re-Issue	1	0.9%
Taupo Enquiry	1	0.9%
TOTAL	109	1

Response times:

OVERALL CHANNEL SUMMARY					
Channel	Tickets	Share	Avg Response (Minutes)	SLA Met	
Email	68	62.4%	87.6	100.0%	
Telephone	36	33.0%	0.8	100.0%	
Voicemail	5	4.6%	18.8	100.0%	
WEEKEND TICKETS BY CHANNEL					
Channel	Weekend Tickets	Share of Weekend	Avg Response (Minutes)	SLA Met	
Email	15	78.9%	41.6	100.0%	
Telephone	0	0.0%	0.0	0.0%	
Voicemail	4	21.1%	13.5	100.0%	
TOTAL	19	100.0%	35.7	100.0%	

Any unanswered calls go to voicemail.

- a. 5 voicemail calls received and responded to within 1 hour or next business day if received after hours/weekends.
 - b. Emails were responded to within 24 hours with an average response of 88 min not including requests received outside of business hours and over a weekend.
 - c. 19 requests received over the weekend/public holidays were responded to on the next business day. Average response time is 14 min for the next business day.
2. **Invoicing Agents:**
 - a. Agent invoices dispatched on or before 10th of August and within the 10-day SLA KPI.
 - b. All invoices reviewed by an independent accountant.
 3. **Licence Delivery Process:**

Liaison with external providers:

 - Hothouse Communications
 - Monthly report on follow-up contacts (de duplicated) supplied.
 - ABCorp
 - Card production
 4. **Licence Refunds and Cancellation:**
 - Refunds – 3 x POL refunds were processed.
 - Cancellations – 3
 - Re-Issues – 0
 5. **Variable Charges:**

ABCorp for card services

NZ Post returned mail

E. Contract Performance

- a. **System Upgrade:**
 - i. MVP development is completed and in operation
 - ii. Designated Waters development is completed and in operation
 - iii. Sea Run Salmon development is completed and in operation.

b. **System Updates:**

- System upgrades, new website appearance refresh and Loyal Seniors changes released on August 26th.
- Awaiting approval for a Family Licence change request for admin search for Adult 2.

c. **Business Services Function:**

The following table summarises Business Services SLA performance by function.

Function	SLA Compliance
Call Centre Response Time	
Agent Invoicing	
Liaison with external providers	
Licence refunds and Cancellations	
Variable Charges	

- d. Licence System and Business Administration Services Agreement: No Change
e. BIN Bash Fraud Attacks: Nil attacks reported

F. Appendices – YTD Aug 2026 with comparison to YTD 2025

FISH & GAME NEW ZEALAND

LICENCE SALES REPORT

Report Period: YTD August 2025 vs YTD August 2026, with August 2026 actuals | Generated: 14 Sep 2026

KEY METRICS SUMMARY

Metric	YTD Aug 2025	YTD Aug 2026	YoY %	Aug 2026 Actual
Total All Licences	183,483	185,408	1.0%	2,280
Fishing Licences	125,409	129,475	3.2%	2,214
Game Bird Licences	35,705	34,499	-3.4%	66
Designated Waterway	12,635	13,288	5.2%	0
Salmon Endorsement	9,734	8,146	-16.3%	0

SALES BY CHANNEL

Channel	YTD Aug 2025	YTD Aug 2026	YoY %	Aug 2026 Actual
Public Online	106,230	111,540	5.0%	1,858
Agency Online	75,592	72,628	-3.9%	395
Unallocated / channel variance	1,661	1,240	-25.3%	27
TOTAL ALL LICENCES	183,483	185,408	1.0%	2,280

151

RESIDENT VS NON-RESIDENT

Residency	YTD Aug 2025	YTD Aug 2026	YoY %	Aug 2026 Actual
Resident (incl. unspecified)	160,079	158,965	-0.7%	1,693
Non-Resident	23,404	26,443	13.0%	587
TOTAL ALL LICENCES	183,483	185,408	1.0%	2,280

DAY LICENCES ANALYSIS					
Licence Type	YTD Aug 2025	YTD Aug 2026	YoY %	Aug 2026 Actual	
Adult Day - Resident	21,772	21,437	-1.5%	804	
Adult Day - Non Resident	14,301	16,212	13.4%	489	
Junior Day - Resident	3,963	3,919	-1.1%	167	
Junior Day - Non Resident	601	749	24.6%	39	
Child Day - Non Resident	427	519	21.5%	18	
Game Bird Day (All)	1,455	1,364	-6.3%	58	
TOTAL DAY LICENCES	42,519	44,200	4.0%	1,575	
WHOLE SEASON LICENCES					
Licence Type	YTD Aug 2025	YTD Aug 2026	YoY %	Aug 2026 Actual	
Adult Season - Resident	23,026	24,845	7.9%	8	
Adult Season - Non Resident	4,486	5,118	14.1%	20	
Family - Resident	15,310	13,401	-12.5%	4	
Junior Season - Resident	6,899	7,304	5.9%	30	
Junior Season - Non Resident	321	397	23.7%	11	
Child Season - Resident	16,087	16,496	2.5%	327	
Child Season - Non Resident	173	221	27.7%	10	
TOTAL WHOLE SEASON LICENCES	66,302	67,782	2.2%	410	

LOCAL AREA LICENCES BY REGION					
Region	YTD Aug 2025	YTD Aug 2026	YoY %	Aug 2026 Actual	
Auckland/Waikato	162	145	-10.5%	1	
Central South Island	995	1,130	13.6%	0	
Eastern (Rotorua)	1,554	1,751	12.7%	1	
Hawke's Bay	195	190	-2.6%	1	
Nelson/Marlborough	221	203	-8.1%	0	
North Canterbury	179	165	-7.8%	0	
Northland	13	9	-30.8%	0	
Otago	569	653	14.8%	1	
Southland	321	332	3.4%	0	
Taranaki	34	53	55.9%	0	
Wellington	291	228	-21.6%	0	
West Coast	185	154	-16.8%	0	
TOTAL LOCAL AREA LICENCES	4,719	5,013	6.2%	4	

GAME BIRD LICENCES					
Licence Type	YTD Aug 2025	YTD Aug 2026	YoY %	Aug 2026 Actual	
Adult Day	1,382	1,287	-6.9%	57	
Junior Day	73	77	5.5%	1	
Adult Whole Season	29,792	28,784	-3.4%	5	
Child Whole Season	1,394	1,453	4.2%	2	
Junior Whole Season	3,084	2,898	-5.4%	1	
TOTAL GAME BIRD LICENCES	35,705	34,499	-3.4%	66	

SPECIAL LICENCES & ENDORSEMENTS					
Licence Type	YTD Aug 2025	YTD Aug 2026	YoY %	Aug 2026 Actual	
Loyal Senior - Resident	5,445	6,170	13.3%	0	
Short Break - Resident	5,277	5,190	-1.6%	170	
Long Break - Resident	366	373	-3.4%	12	
Winter - Resident	2,216	2,111	-4.7%	101	
Designated Waterway - Resident	9,540	10,061	5.5%	0	
Designated Waterway - Non Resident	3,095	3,227	4.3%	0	
Salmon Endorsement	9,734	8,146	-16.3%	0	
TOTAL SPECIAL LICENCES	35,693	35,278	-1.2%	283	

Licence Management System Review

Central issue: The key concern is not simply whether a new system can be procured, but whether the governance, procurement, regional consultation, commercial analysis, risk management and transition planning are sufficiently robust before a major change is committed to.

- All 13 regions are signatories to the current licence management system provider agreement.
- The Licence Working Party has historically represented regional interests, providing advice and critique on the operational management of the system and provider contract.
- NZ Council has been the principal coordinator with the licence system provider.
- The RFP should have been developed in consultation with regions to ensure the scope and direction meet regional requirements.
- No proposal or supporting information has been pre-circulated to regions before consideration by NZ Council.
- The total cost of sales needs to be considered, not simply the licence system cost. This includes:
 - Agent commissions
 - Plastic licence production
 - Posting of plastic licences
 - Credit-card fees
- Angler and hunter purchasing behaviours differ materially, particularly in timing and purchasing channels.
- Hunters predominantly purchase close to the season and often in-store, where licence purchases may be associated with ammunition, gear purchases and promotions.
- The DOC Taupō model of eliminating agents applies to angling only and may not be directly transferable to hunting.
- Agents provide value beyond licence sales, including direct connection with licence holders and opportunities for value-added products and promotions.
- Apparent system cost savings could be offset by reduced licence sales, particularly among older hunters and customers who purchase immediately before the season.
- The April 2026–August 2027 implementation timetable is tight, with limited apparent allowance for testing, system adaptation or delays.
- There is a need to consult regions before finalising the RFP and confirm the required licence-purchasing experience.

- Key project roles and accountabilities have not been clearly established, including who is the project manager and what support/resources they will receive.
- The CRM requirements need to be clearly defined.
- Transition requirements need to be established, including:
 - Digital licence transition
 - Potential move to online-only purchasing
 - Migration from the existing system
- It needs to be determined whether an off-the-shelf system can meet the full licence-sales requirements without costly bespoke modification.
- There is a need for transparency regarding providers already approached or shortlisted.
- The procurement process, decision points and timetable need to be clearly communicated.
- Go/no-go decision rights have not been clearly identified.
- Responsibility for deciding whether to extend the existing ESL contract, if required, needs to be established.
- Risk ownership and accountability need to be clearly defined, including who is responsible if implementation fails or is delayed.
- The project timetable needs contingency for testing, integration and bespoke system modifications.
- The basis for selecting the external consultant/provider needs to be transparent.
- There has been limited transparency with regional governors and management regarding the project.
- There has been no apparent transparency or engagement with the Licence Working Party since April 2026, despite material changes to the decision-making process.

Licence Management System Review

Overall management concern

The key weakness is that the review should be more than a technical assessment of the licence system. It should examine the governance, decision-making, regional representation, supplier management, risk, cost, customer impact and change-control framework surrounding the system.

A main weakness is that the approach appears to have moved from a regionally informed operational model to a largely centralised procurement/project process without clearly establishing requirements, governance, risk ownership, or regional consultation first.

Key weaknesses in the approach

1. Insufficient regional consultation

- All regions are signatories to the licence management agreement and have a direct operational interest in the system.
- The Licence Working Party has historically provided a mechanism for regional advice, scrutiny and operational feedback.
- The RFP should have been developed following consultation with regions to establish the required functionality, service levels and future direction.
- The absence of pre-consultation creates a risk that the RFP reflects assumptions rather than the organisation's actual operational requirements.

2. Lack of transparency in project development

- There appears to have been limited communication with regions about the proposal before it was presented to NZ Council.
- There has also been limited visibility of the project and decision-making process since April 2026, despite material changes to the proposed approach.
- This weakens confidence in the process and limits the ability of regional governors and management to identify issues before commitments are made.

3. Requirements have not been sufficiently defined before procurement

The project appears to be progressing before there is agreement on fundamental requirements, including:

- the desired licence purchasing experience;
- digital versus physical licences;
- whether online-only purchasing is appropriate;
- CRM requirements;
- agent functionality;
- transition arrangements;
- system integration requirements; and
- the extent to which an off-the-shelf solution can meet Fish & Game's requirements.

This creates a significant risk of selecting a system and subsequently adapting business processes to the system, rather than procuring a system against clearly defined business requirements.

4. Total cost of sales has not been adequately demonstrated

A comparison based primarily on the provider/system cost may not represent the actual financial impact. A comprehensive assessment should include the full **Cost of Sales**, including:

- agent commissions;
- plastic licence production;
- postage/distribution;
- credit-card transaction fees;
- system costs; and
- any additional transition, integration, support or development costs.

Potential savings therefore need to be assessed against the **net cost of delivering licences**, not simply the contract price.

5. Insufficient consideration of customer purchasing behaviour

There appears to be an assumption that moving towards digital or online-only purchasing will automatically reduce costs without sufficiently assessing its effect on licence sales.

Angler and hunter purchasing behaviours are different. In particular, many hunters purchase close to the season and in-store, often alongside ammunition, equipment and other purchases. Agents also provide opportunities for promotion and direct engagement with licence holders.

The project should therefore assess whether changes to the purchasing channel could reduce convenience or accessibility and consequently affect licence sales.

6. Agent value has not been fully recognised or acknowledged

Agents provide more than a transaction channel. They can provide:

- direct connection between Fish & Game and licence holders;
- customer assistance;
- promotional opportunities;
- value-added products and services; and
- a physical purchasing option for customers who may not readily transition to online purchasing.

The value of these functions should be assessed before deciding that agents can simply be removed.

7. Inadequate project governance and accountability

The information provided does not clearly establish:

- who is the project sponsor;
- who is the project manager;
- who owns the business requirements;
- who is accountable for project risks;
- who makes the go/no-go decision;
- who authorises any extension of the existing ESL contract;
- who approves material scope changes; and

- how regional governance input is incorporated into decisions.
- For a system affecting all regions, these responsibilities should be explicit.

8. Procurement process is insufficiently visible

There is a need for greater clarity around:

- how the consultant was selected;
- whether potential suppliers have already been approached;
- the procurement methodology;
- the RFP development process;
- evaluation criteria;
- procurement timetable;
- decision-making authority; and
- conflicts-of-interest or probity arrangements.

Without this information, regions cannot properly assess whether the process is robust.

9. Timetable appears to have insufficient contingency

The proposed timeframe from April 2026 to August 2027 appears tight for a system that potentially involves:

- procurement;
- detailed requirements definition;
- supplier selection;
- configuration/customisation;
- CRM integration;
- data migration;
- testing;
- agent transition;
- customer communications;
- licence-season preparation; and
- implementation across 13 separate entities.

There should be explicit contingency for testing failures, integration issues, additional development and implementation delays. The existing ESL contract should therefore not be allowed to become a critical-path risk without an agreed contingency strategy.

10. Transition risk has not been sufficiently addressed

The project needs a specific transition plan covering:

- existing licence data;
- CRM/data interfaces;
- customer records;
- payment arrangements;
- physical licence production;
- agents;
- regional processes;
- customer communications;
- parallel testing;
- cutover;

- post-implementation support; and
- contingency if the new system is not ready.

Overall project-management concern

The fundamental concern is that the project appears to be progressing towards a procurement solution before the organisation has collectively agreed the business problem, requirements, customer proposition, costs, risks and governance arrangements.

A more robust sequence would be:

Regional consultation → business requirements → customer/purchasing model → total cost assessment → options analysis → agreed project governance → procurement strategy → RFP → supplier selection → implementation and transition.

The Licence Working Party could have an important role in this process as the **regional operational reference group**, while NZ Council retains responsibility for coordination, procurement and contractual management.

Suggested statement

The principal concern is that the licence management system project appears to have progressed without sufficient regional consultation, transparency or definition of the business requirements. Given that all regions are parties to the licence management arrangement and the system directly affects licence sales, customers and regional operations, the project should establish agreed requirements, total cost of ownership, customer impacts, transition arrangements, risk ownership and decision-making responsibilities before proceeding further with procurement. The process should also provide appropriate visibility and opportunity for regional input through the Licence Working Party and regional governance structures.

Approach, indicative costs and timeline to replace the current ESL licence management system

New Zealand Fish & Game Council Meeting 184, 28 & 29 August 2026
For Decision

Prepared by: Richie Cosgrove, Chief Operating Officer, NZ Fish and Game Council

Kōrero taunaki - Summary of considerations

Purpose

This paper sets out a suggested approach, indicative costs and an indicative timeline to replace the technology that runs Fish & Game's licensing system (currently provided by ESL). It draws on an informal market-sounding exercise carried out with technology vendors and is intended to inform Council's decision on how to proceed.

Financial Considerations

☐ Nil	☒ Budgetary provision	☐ Unbudgeted
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Risk

☐ Low	☐ Medium	☒ High	☐ Extreme
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Ngā taunaki - Staff Recommendations

That the New Zealand Council:

1. **Confirms** the decision to free up funds (~\$450k across two financial years) and proceed to replace the ESL licence system by 1 September 2027, with a hard go/no-go deadline for the replacement project of 1 April 2027.
2. **Notes** that if the replacement project is not on track by 1 April 2027, ESL's services will need to be retained for a further 12 months, which would significantly increase costs.
3. **Notes** that the retailer experience, store log-ins and reconciliation process will need to change to deliver the project within a tight timeline and to reduce cost and complexity.

Whakarāpopoto - Executive Summary

1. An independent consultant developed a high-level brief and shared it with six technology vendors. The vendors did not know the identity of the client and were asked only to consider possible technical approaches and provide ballpark estimates for costs and timelines.
2. The market is confident it can replace the current system with a modern CRM and a modern licence purchasing experience. Indicative build costs are around \$250k, with annual subscription costs of around \$150k and vendor support of around \$18k per year.

3. Delivering the project within the first 12 months would likely cost around \$500k, covering the estimated build, six months of licensing and support, and \$100k for external project, communications and change management support. This excludes transaction costs on licence purchases.
4. The timeline is very tight. To deliver by 1 September 2027, Fish & Game needs to move quickly, commit sufficient resources, and accept significant change to the retailer experience.

Kōrerorero - Discussion

Introduction

To progress discussions for how Fish & Game might replace the technology that runs its licensing system, Tom Hovey, independent consultant, conducted some initial exploration of technical options and then developed a high-level brief for the project.

The brief was shared with six different technology vendors. The vendors did not know who the client was, nor were they asked to prepare detailed responses; they were asked to consider possible technical approaches and provide ballpark estimates for costs and timelines.

The purpose of the exercise was to gather information and inform Fish & Game's thinking on an approach.

The brief is contained in the appendix of this document, but at a high level it outlined how Fish & Game needs a new CRM platform (suggesting HubSpot) and a new licence purchasing experience (suggesting Shopify).

To enable the vendors to scope the work, the brief provided an outline of the number of licences and volume of transactions.

Based on several discussions, this document outlines the suggested keys to the licence system replacement project, as well as indicative budgets, timelines and critical decisions and risks.

The keys to a successful licence system replacement are:

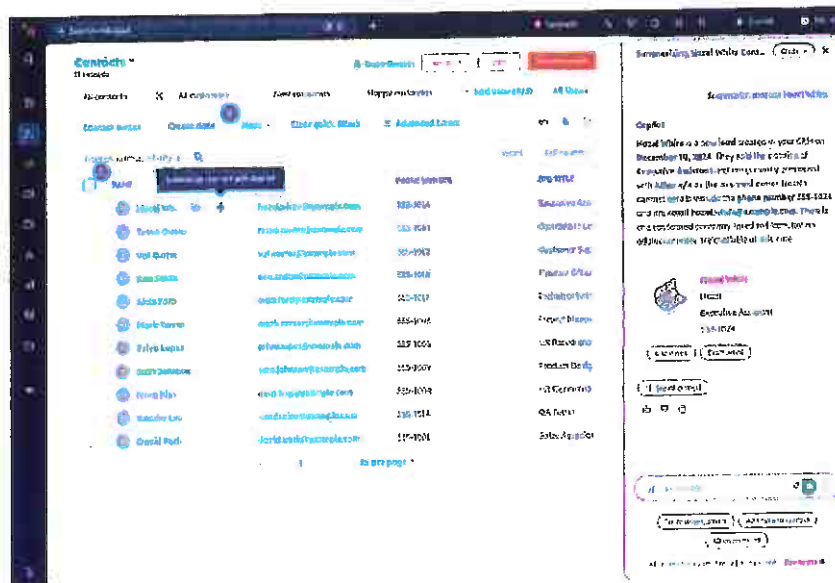
1 - A modern CRM

A modern Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system enables Fish & Game to build better relationships with fishing and hunting participants and key stakeholders (eg retailers). A modern CRM will enable F&G and regional offices to see, immediately, who has licences, what type of licence, what emails and activities are being engaged with, and where opportunities for proactive engagement exist.

For example, an email could be sent to let people know when a season was opening; or sent to a subset of people who usually buy a licence but haven't. Or an email could be sent to a targeted group of licence holders, letting them know a retail chain had a deal for licence holders. Or the CRM could let you create a web page that captures details for a particular event, then send an email to people who you think might be interested, and when people sign up for the event, the CRM captures all the information.

A good CRM tells you who engaged with emails and events, who has licences, and where people are located, etc. All of this information is kept in one place, improving future communications, insights and engagement with your audiences.

HubSpot is a good example of a modern CRM:



A CRM like HubSpot would hold participant information, as well as enable Fish & Game to send emails and create web pages for specific events. HubSpot would remove the need for Fish & Game to have a separate email platform (Campaign Monitor) and would speed up the process and costs associated with moving data between separate systems.

Crucially, a modern CRM also becomes the platform for building new customer experiences. In the future, Fish & Game could create an app that lets people log in and save their favourite access points, catches, etc. The CRM holds the 'account' and stores information against it; the CRM makes this information available to other websites and apps via secure APIs.

2 - A simple licence purchasing experience

Participants should be able to log in, see past purchases, easily identify what licence is most appropriate, then make purchases. The CRM captures all details behind the scenes. The purchase experience could be as simple as receiving a reminder email, clicking on a link to the right licence, checking details and hitting purchase.

The Fish & Game website already contains a page that indicates how simple the design of the purchase process could be:

<https://www.fishandgame.org.nz/freshwater-fishing-in-new-zealand/fishing-licences-and-regulations/standard-licence-options/>



There are several 'shop' or 'e-commerce' platforms that could provide an easier licence purchasing experience.

The most well-known platform is probably Shopify; it provides a lot of functionality out-of-the-box (such as a nice user experience, shopping cart, payment gateway, etc). Shopify makes money on transactions (2.3% + 30c USD).

Shopify could be an option for Fish & Game, however, it will require some customisation owing to Fish & Game's licence rules and regulatory needs (capturing extra details such as DOB for licence purposes).

One option is to go for a 'hybrid' approach that combines a bespoke web app, for ordering the licences and taking personal details, in combination with Shopify's transactions and commerce capabilities.

Another option is to build a bespoke web app to take licence orders and process transactions. The pros and cons of these approaches need to be assessed during a procurement phase.

Regardless of approach (Shopify vs Hybrid vs Bespoke), Fish & Game should look to simplify the number of licences and rules around licence purchases.

Simplifying licence rules reduces complexity for participants and lowers the costs of building and maintaining the licence purchasing system. Simple is good.

3 - Digital licences

To reduce printing and plastic costs, the new system must enable people to carry a digital licence on their phones. This can be in their digital 'wallet' or as a PDF or image stored on their phone.

The digital licence should contain a QR code that can be scanned by retailers (or rangers) to verify authenticity.

Below is a mock up of what a digital licence could look like on your phone (created with AI):



4 - Changing the retailer experience

Retailers are a critical channel and stakeholder for Fish & Game and participants, often acting as the 'face' of Fish & Game. Currently, retailers combine licence purchasing with in-store promotions; the goal being to get people in-store (where they buy additional gear and supplies).

However, retailers would prefer NOT to use the online system (it's a pain, can cause queues at the counter, requires reconciliation, and can result in 'hot' conversations about licence costs).

The new system should allow retailers to work with Fish & Game to encourage more people to visit stores, but NOT require retailers to have a separate login or take money on behalf of customers and Fish & Game.

For example, a retailer could create a 'new season bundle offer for licenced anglers'. The customer visits the store, shows their valid licence (purchased online) and benefits from the offer. If a customer enters a store without a licence, the store can encourage them to buy one online (on the spot). The counter staff could even help navigate the process if needed.

Opportunities to work with retailers include smarter e-mail targeting and promotions to licence holders. The collaboration could extend well beyond sales and include in-store events.

For example, an e-mail could be sent to all licenced anglers in the Wellington region inviting them to an in-store event at Petone's Hunting & Fishing store. These collaborations align stakeholders and support retailers as the 'face' of Fish & Game.

This approach is a significant departure from the current model where retailers sell licences on behalf of Fish & Game (and keep a small commission on each sale in exchange for providing the service).

However, the benefits come from reducing complexity and administration across the entire licence system: one place to buy and manage licences, no need for separate store log-ins, no reconciliation process, easier refunds, faster cash flow, increased cyber-security, and increased privacy controls.

Additionally, the capital cost to build the licence platform could be reduced by as much as half (based on vendor conversations) if the retailer portal and processes are removed from the system.

5 - Improved cash flow

The current licensing process and reconciliation system means that it can take weeks before money paid for a licence is available to regions and NZC (eight weeks minimum).

Removing retailer reconciliation and adopting a standard e-commerce platform means that the money can be available within one to three days (depending on the payment gateway provider).

Essentially, when a licence is bought, the money appears in a nominated bank account (as soon as the next day). This could give the regions and NZC more visibility, scope and flexibility for managing cashflow.

6 - Future proof

The new system (the CRM and licence purchasing experience) needs to be able to accommodate future changes. For example, if licences are simplified, or if the funding model is centralised. To accommodate future changes, from Day One, the new system will capture all required information, such as nominated region, to allow for voting in regional elections and licence fees reconciliation.

7 - Project delivery and resources

Based on discussions with vendors, it looks like Fish & Game will need two separate vendors. Some specialise in creating online experiences, and others in configuring CRMs.

There is not much overlap, but vendors do have preferred partners (e.g., a Shopify vendor has a preferred CRM partner for when they are doing a project that integrates Shopify with HubSpot).

In addition to needing two vendors, Fish & Game will need a project manager to keep the project on track. This could require two to three days a week during the development and deployment process. The project manager and vendor leads form the core project team and would report to a regular steering group containing Fish & Game representatives.

Costs and timelines

Based on the brief, the market is confident it can replace the current system with a platform like Shopify and HubSpot.

Please note, the brief assumes no retailer reconciliation, minimal data clean-up, and some simplification of licence types and rules. The brief is included in the Appendix.

Conversations with vendors suggest that the high-level costs to replace the current system could be:

\$250k for design, build, configure and deploy (\$220k Shopify / \$30k HubSpot)

\$150k for annual subscription costs (\$10k Shopify / \$140k HubSpot)

\$18k per year estimate for vendor support (\$6k Shopify / \$12k HubSpot)

The prices reflect the two different business models:

- Shopify makes its money on merchant/transaction fees (2.3% per transaction).
- HubSpot makes its money on the number of people in your CRM and emails.

The cost to set up Shopify is very elastic and based on the complexity of the products being sold. The simpler Fish & Game makes its products and processes, the easier it is to set up Shopify.

Timelines:

Vendors suggested that the project could be completed in about 6 - 8 months. This covers the build and deploy of the 'shop' and the CRM.

The following findings are the result of research and vendor conversations:

1. **If Fish & Game move to HubSpot, it can use HubSpot to send emails to various mailing lists.** This removes the need for, and costs associated with, Campaign Monitor, and potentially some costs associated with EDM support provided by existing vendors.
2. **The annual licencing cost for HubSpot (including the modules and seats required for Fish & Game) is likely to be about \$140k per year.** However, it's possible that this cost could be substantially reduced if Fish & Game meet HubSpot's not-for-profit eligibility requirements (currently being investigated).
3. **The capital cost for migrating from the current system to HubSpot is likely to be about \$30k.** This migration and configuration project would take four to six months. The ongoing support provided by the vendor for Fish & Game's teams to help with

managing HubSpot is likely to be provided ad hoc, but estimated at \$1k per month (\$12k per year).

4. The vendors spoken to all thought that Shopify could be a good platform for providing the user experience of buying licences, and for integrating with HubSpot, but there were various discussions and options suggested for building a more bespoke or hybrid licence selling experience instead of using Shopify (to potentially reduce costs and/or accommodate Fish & Game rules). **The best approach needs to be confirmed during procurement.**
5. Based on the brief, using Shopify as the storefront and with a custom module that could handle Fish & Game's licence rules, the estimated one-off costs to set up and build the storefront ranged from \$90k - \$350k. The cost variance is as much about the size and experience of the vendors as it is about assumptions in their estimates. **Allowing for some contingency, the mid-point of the range is probably realistic: \$220k** (noting that the average across the spread of estimates was \$215k).
6. The vendors thought that the Shopify project could be completed within 6 - 8 months, depending on the complexity of licence rules, testing timelines and client availability.
7. The monthly subscription cost for Shopify (at a level appropriate for Fish & Game) is \$800 (\$399 USD). About \$10k per year.
8. The Shopify per-transaction costs are 2.3% + 30c USD. That means that every 100,000 in transactions costs about \$60k NZD. Note: it's possible that per transaction costs could be reduced by using a different payment gateway.
9. The ongoing cost associated with vendor support for Shopify is relatively low, as once Shopify is set up and staff are trained to use it, there is little for the vendor to do unless new development is required. For the purposes of assessing costs, a monthly sum of \$500 for support has been assumed (\$6k annually).
10. Note that the cost to replace the current system does not include costs associated with external project or change management, or the communication efforts required to take our audiences, key stakeholders, and retailers on the journey. For costing purposes, we have estimated \$100k.
11. The costs also exclude postage and licence printing costs (these costs should reduce over time as people move to full digital solutions (or pay extra to cover the printing and postage costs).
12. From a program management and timeline perspective, assuming resourcing is available and decision-making is timely, it would be possible to find two complementary vendors and **deliver the project within 12 months**. The costs to deliver the project in the first 12 months would likely be ~\$500k (covers estimated build and 6 months of licencing and support, and \$100k external project, communications, and change management support). This excludes transaction costs on licence purchases.

Market approach and risk management

To deliver and deploy the new system by 1 September 2027, Fish & Game needs to move extremely quickly. Whilst the market exploration has provided an idea of budget and some confidence in relation to HubSpot, there is still a range of options for the licence purchasing experience.

The options need to be explored and resolved in the next few months. As such, the following timeline and approach are suggested:

Today	NZC confirms the decision to free up funds (\$500k) and proceed to replace the ESL licence system by 1 September 2027, with the caveat that there is a HARD go/no-go deadline for the replacement project of 1 April 2027. If the replacement project is not on track by 1 April 2027, then ESL's services will need to be retained for another 12 months. That would give the replacement project time to be delivered well, but it will also significantly increase costs. The hard go/no-go deadline avoids the worst-case scenario where ESL is turned off, but the new system is not ready in time (the results would be severe).
September	A detailed brief and assessment criteria is prepared for the market. The brief would contain the high-level outcomes sought by Fish & Game, and the overall suggested architecture, but leave room for other solutions to be proposed (for example, an overseas provider of licence systems). The brief should include a budget of \$300k to deliver the replacement systems (purchasing experience and CRM). The brief would accept/expect consortium bids - as in, a shop vendor teaming up with a CRM vendor. Fish & Game's timeline does not allow it the time to put together its preferred vendors - the market will have to decide on the best approach. The suggested budget of \$300k is lower than the suggested \$500k envelope as the envelope has to cover contingency and project management costs. The purpose of providing a budget is to save everyone time and money trying to 'guess' what the budget is. It also rules out expensive options that are unaffordable to Fish & Game. The brief will also require vendors to outline the expected ongoing licence and support costs.
October	Brief is presented to market via formal channels (e.g. as an RFP on GETS). Responses are invited, questions answered, preliminary assessment commences. In addition, recruitment for a project manager commences. Fish & Game stands up the formal steering group with terms of reference and resourcing.
November	Formal evaluation of potential vendors begins. Short-listed vendors are invited to pitch solutions to the steering group. Final evaluation process, legals, contracts, probity completed. Vendor and approach settled. Project manager appointed.

December	Project team established. Requirement gathering, design and data exploration begins. Targets for 1 April established and agreed.
January - March	Design and configuration of CRM; design and build/configuration of licence purchasing experience.
April	Testing of preliminary process - is the project on track? Go/no-go decision. Continue design and configuration. Commence stakeholder communication and change-management activities.
June - July	Finalising build. Data migration and 'real' testing.
August	Decommissioning. Commencing go-live activities. Roadshow with stakeholders (mixture of virtual and real life).
September	Go live. All going well.

Critical decisions and risks

- **The timeline is very tight.** There doesn't appear to be any way to do a 'soft launch'. Everything must be ready for an all-at-once ('big bang') launch. If the project is not on track, it's critical to raise this early.
- **Fish & Game must commit sufficient resources and time to the project.** The steering group is vital to the success of the project. The project manager and vendor cannot deliver this project without significant input from Fish & Game. Fish & Game's resourcing and commitment to the project is the biggest risk.
- **The retailer experience must change.** To deliver the project in a tight timeline and reduce cost and complexity, the current retailer experience, store log-ins and reconciliation process needs to change. This may require consultation and retailer input which may put pressure on the timeline.

Appendix A

Market sounding (sanity check)

Digital licensing platform architecture and indicative cost

Background:

This is an informal market-sounding exercise to test an early architecture hypothesis and get indicative cost ranges for an internal business case. It is not a procurement process, request for proposal, or commitment to proceed. **The organisation is not being named at this stage** so that potential suppliers can participate in later public procurement process without conflict or concerns about prior knowledge.

1. Context

The client is a New Zealand national organisation that sells time-limited "licences" to individuals, families and other eligible customers. The current licensing platform is nearing replacement and the organisation is exploring a lower-cost, cloud-based approach.

The new "licencing" model will be more akin to a membership programme where customers have a unique ID that they can use to log into an online system and buy licences - with each licence giving them access to a range of different activities for different periods of time. Licences range from simple single-person products that lasts for a year, to products with different prices depending on activity, time period and the person's age and/or location. Licence products bought in combination with other products may trigger discount rules.

Sales are seasonal, with material peaks around annual licence periods.

Customers need a simple mobile experience; staff need tools for licence support, amendments, cancellations and refunds; and communications staff need CRM and email capability.

2. High-level architecture to test

Layer	Proposed role	Likely technology
Customer experience	Designed mobile-first storefront/PWA; customer account; products; checkout; payment; orders; current and historic licence views.	Shopify
Licence module	Custom rules and authoritative licence/entitlement record; licence generation; staff administration; refunds/cancellations; integration logic.	Custom Shopify app or connected service?
CRM and engagement	Customer relationship record; synchronised licence/purchase summaries; segmentation; email journeys; service history and reporting.	HubSpot

Core design principle: Shopify handles commerce, the licence module determines and records licence entitlements, and HubSpot records customer engagement and who has what licence at any given point in time. Customers would interact with only the branded Shopify experience. It's assumed that APIs and integrations between layers exist (or can be built).

3. Representative scenarios

- An adult signs up and purchases an annual licence for themselves.
- A purchaser buys a licence for a child or another named person.
- A family product includes multiple named holders or dependants.

- A short-duration licence starts on a customer-selected date.
- A discount is applied based on a simple eligibility rule, such as age.
- A staff member cancels a licence and processes a full or partial refund.
- A staff member adds a new licence product and/or changes the price for one.

4. Working assumptions

No native mobile app is required initially; the preferred starting point is a responsive progressive web app (PWA).

The client has a legacy database of existing (and past) licence holders. It is assumed that no data-migration is required. The existing records will be used to contact existing customers and encourage them to sign up to the new system. The existing records will only be retained for reference, while customers establish new accounts. However, this assumption might be wrong - is there data that could/should be migrated to the new system?

The custom licence module, not HubSpot, is the source of truth for the criteria for when a licence is valid (e.g. if a person is eligible for a particular licence).

HubSpot will support communications and customer reporting, but detailed financial and operational reporting may still use Shopify and licence-module data.

Final volumes, products, business rules, security requirements and integrations would be confirmed through discovery.

5. Indicative scale

For this market-sounding response, please assume the following broad ranges. These will be refined later:

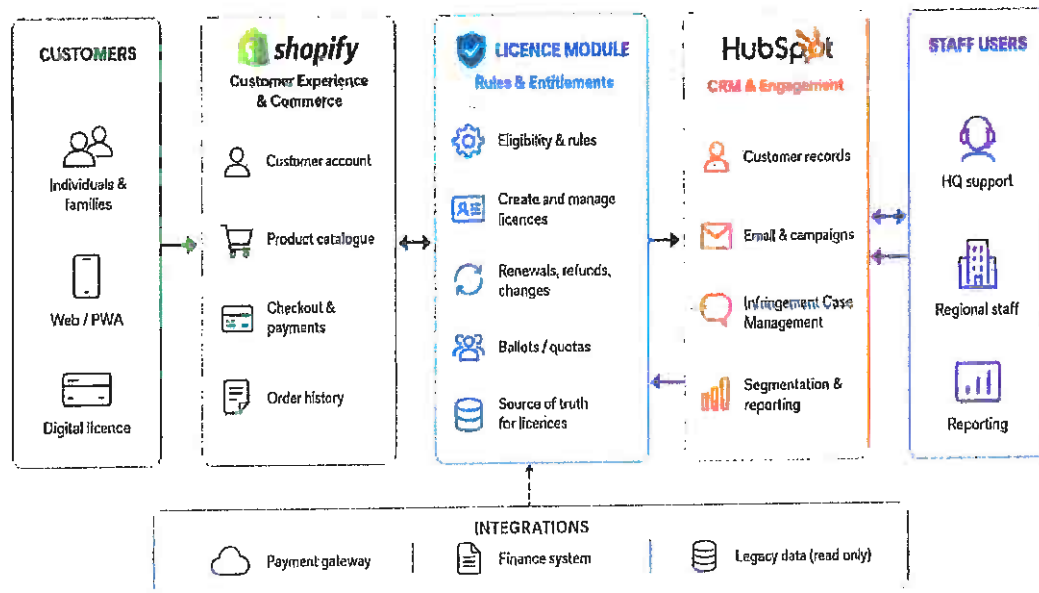
Customer records	~500,000 total records in the CRM
Annual licence transactions	~160,000 total transactions across all activities per year
Peak daily transactions	~6000 maximum transactions on a single day when a 'season opens'
Licence products / variants	16 different types of licences
Internal users	14 number of people who will need access to Shopify reporting and custom licence module 12 number of people who will need access to HubSpot and to create and send eDMs to segments
Annual marketing and transactional emails	~5 million emails sent out of Campaign Monitor every year

6. Response expectations

A concise email (or short attached document) is sufficient - before/after a call as required. Indicative ranges and assumptions and timelines are preferred.

We are not asking for any sort of proposal, detailed architecture, UX design or any implementation plans. This is just the first step in our process.

The following diagram (thanks ChatGPT!) provides a simple overview of how the core architectural components could potentially fit together:



★ Principle: Shopify is the shopfront. The Licence Module manages rules and licences. HubSpot supports customer engagement and reporting.

Agenda Item 20 **Operational Summary**

Summary

Summary of activities undertaken in July and August 2026

Nothing material required to be highlighted

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

Council receive staff report on Operational progress to 31 August 2026

Taranaki Fish & Game Council
Project Progress to 31 August 2026

OUTPUT	Budget external costs	YTD external costs (31/12/25)	Comments on significant variations	Budget Hours	YTD hours
Fish Population Monitoring				520	
Gamebird Population Monitoring	16,000				
Harvest Assessment				60	
Hatchery	10,000			60	
Liberations	6,000			150	
Season Regulations				50	
Gamebird Dispersal	2,000			120	
RMA				500	
Habitat Management & Enhancement	20,000			400	
Assessing & Monitoring				100	
Hunter / Angler Access	200			100	
Satisfaction Survey				40	
Magazine / Newsletter / Ezine	10,500			200	
Hunter / Angler support	1,000			-	
Clubs				10	
Statutory Liaison				30	
Iwi Liaison	500			60	
Information to Clients				100	
General Advocacy	500			100	
Hunting & Angling Promotions	3,300			140	
Ranger Management	1,500			112	
Compliance	1,500			170	
Licensing & Commission	10,771			50	
Council Meetings & Administration	9,500			280	
Management, Strategic & Policy	100			80	
Business Planning				40	
OSH & Other Reporting	7,576			65	
National Liaison	100			160	
Total Expenditure	101,147			3697	

Project Income	Budget Income	YTD Income	Comments on significant variations
Fish Population Assessment	4,000		
Harvest Assessment – Summer Season	500		
Hatchery	3,238		
Liberations	1,500		
Gamebird Dispersal	750		
Taranaki Hunting & Habitat Scheme	15,000		
Compliance	1,000		
Total Income	25,988		
Net Expenditure	75,159		

Overheads	Budget	YTD	Comments on significant variations
1910 Salaries & Management Contract	313,233		
1920 Staff Expenses	4,940		
1940 Office Premises	22,300		
1950 Office Equipment	2,000		
1960 Communications / Consumables	5,300		
1970 General	3,250		
1980 General Equipment	3,000		
1990 Vehicles	18,100		
Total Overheads	372,123		

Other Income	Budget	YTD
Interest	7,756	
Wellington Fish & Game Admin	8,500	
Donations & Other Income		
Total Other Income & Expenses	16,256	

Nett Project, Overhead and Other Expenditure/Income	Budget	YTD
	431,026	

MOVEMENTS IN RESERVES

From	To	Reason	Amount	Date Paid

TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

YTD (MONTH) HOURS 2025/2026

	Allen Stancliff	Jack Harland	Jilli Steedman	Mike Lai	Josh Murray	Other	YTD Hours	Budget Hours
Fish population assessment	183	191	-	-	6	16	395	520
Gamebird population monitoring	143	158	-	-	6	29	364	
Harvest Assessment	43	6	-	-	-	-	48	60
Hatchery	38	15	-	-	-	17	70	60
Releases	79	47	-	-	-	5	130	150
Season Regulations & Management	44	6	-	-	-	-	49	50
Gamebird Control	92	68	-	-	-	10	170	120
HABITAT PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Resource Management Act	173	18	-	-	-	-	192	500
Management & Enhancement	36	26	-	-	-	58	120	400
Assessing & Monitoring	34	30	-	-	-	52	116	100
ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICIPATION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Access	45	-	-	-	-	23	68	100
Satisfaction Surveys	4	29	-	-	-	-	32	40
Magazine/Newsletter/Ezine	51	71	-	-	-	1	124	200
Angler / Hunter Training	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clubs	8	-	-	-	-	-	8	10
PUBLIC INTERFACE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Statutory Liaison	18	-	-	-	-	8	26	30
Iwi Liaison	55	3	-	-	-	33	91	60
Information to Licence Holders	62	22	-	-	-	4	88	100
General Advocacy	153	65	-	-	-	1	219	100
Hunting & Angling Promotions	72	51	-	-	-	9	132	140
COMPLIANCE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ranger Management	58	-	-	-	-	29	86	112
Compliance & Prosecutions	61	18	-	-	-	1	79	170
LICENCING	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Licencing / Agent Service	4	-	7	-	-	-	10	50
COUNCIL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Council Meetings & Administration	119	28	-	-	-	19	166	280
PLANNING & REPORTING	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Management & Strategic & Policy	5	-	-	-	-	-	5	80
Business Planning	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	40
OSH	10	-	-	-	-	-	10	65
National Liaison	34	-	-	-	-	-	34	160
TOTAL PROJECT HOURS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,697
OVERHEAD HOURS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Administration	274	91	328	338	10	8	1,048	
Staff Training & Management	16	56	-	-	-	-	72	
Annual Leave	120	88	-	20	8	-	236	
Statutory Holidays	88	40	8	-	-	-	136	
Sick Leave	16	4	56	-	-	-	76	
Wellington Admin	-	25	75	-	-	-	100	
	2,135	1,153	473	369	330	36		

SPECIES MANAGEMENT

2025/2026 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
Objective: Obtain relevant and robust data to inform and enable effective management decisions to maximise opportunities and satisfaction while ensuring the sustainability of sports fish and gamebird populations across the region.	
1. Assess and report on juvenile trout recruitment in the Tokiahuru / Waitaiki Streams to compare with baseline information from other catchment surveys.	Report prepared on 2024/25 work for Council's 18th October 2025 meeting. Preparation underway for 2025/26 survey, with 10 sites in the Tokiahuru / Waitaiki catchment and one site in Mangateitei Stream (Mangawhero catchment) surveyed on 1-3 December 2025 in conjunction with Wellington F&G staff. Report now being prepared for 17th October 2026 Council meeting. Electric fishing survey of eight sites in the Waiaua River was undertaken on 21/11/2025. Report completed June 2026. Electric fishing survey of one site in the lower Te Henui Stream was undertaken on 31/10/2025. Fish Monitoring Annual Report prepared for Council's 17th October 2026 meeting.
2. Undertake a resource inventory of the Manganui River catchment to determine the current status of the trout fishery and identify threats and opportunities (yr 2 of 2)	Report on 2024/25 electric fishing survey prepared for Council's 18th October 2025 meeting.
3. Undertake an electric fishing survey in Kapuni Stream.	Electric fishing survey of 10 sites in Kapuni Stream undertaken on 23/10/2025. Draft report prepared and sent to Ballance Agrinutrients on 5/03/2026, final report completed on 16/03/2026. Funding for the October 2026 survey was approved by Ballance Agrinutrients on 26/05/2026.
4. Monitor and report information on the status of the region's trout fisheries sufficient to measure overall angler success (through a diary scheme), set effective regulations and inform management directions.	Angler diaries sent to 16 anglers for the start of the 2025/26 fishing season. Diarists emailed on 5/05/2026 to request returns – 6 returns received and tabulated. Fish Monitoring Annual Report prepared for Council's 18th October 2025 meeting.
	An angler reported catching a perch in Lake Mangamahoe on 21st November 2025, which is undoubtedly the result of an illegal release. The TRC and NPDC were notified on 24/11/2024. The Council's Sports Fish Transfer & Release Policy 2011 notes (Section 4.5(c)) that Council will not allow anglers to utilise sports fisheries that have been "established without due authority".

5. Implement an effective grey and mallard duck banding programme in the Whanganui area to obtain an estimate of the population size and level of hunting harvest which will guide future monitoring requirements and regulation setting (yr 7). 6. Monitor and report information on the status of the region's mallard and grey duck, paradise shelduck, shoveler, swan and pukeko populations sufficient to assess harvest, identify and manage any population impacts, set effective regulations and inform management directions. 7. Review game bird monitoring programmes for the region taking into account banding results and including regulation setting requirements.	A second angler reported catching a perch in Lake Mangamahoe (6/12/2025). The presence of perch also showed up TRC eDNA sample results from Lake Mangamahoe. Trout spawning surveys were conducted in Mangamahoe Stream and the Waiwhakaiho inlet (12/06/2026 & 21/07/2026) and Mangorei Stream (2/07/2026). A visit was made to the site of the Timaru Stream Tataraimaka weir (now removed) on 16/07/2026. The weir footing has not re-emerged, and the site looks good for fish passage. Whanganui Banding Report prepared for Council's 18th October 2025 meeting. 2026 banding undertaken on the 3-5th February 2026, with 594 ducks trapped, including 130 recaptures. Banding data tabulated and uploaded to DOC (Falcon) database. Wellington Admin, Corinne Deans, has managed Taranaki band returns and letters to hunters. So far 75 Taranaki bands have been returned this season. Whanganui Banding Report prepared for Council's 17th October 2026 meeting. Monitoring results included in 2025/26 Draft Game Gazette Notice report for Council's 13th December 2025 meeting. January 2026 trend counts completed for the Waimarino, Whanganui & Taranaki areas and a report prepared for Council's 14th February 2026 meeting. Aerial counts of dabbling duck along 18 randomly selected transects around the Taranaki ringplain were undertaken with Wellington staff on 25/03/2026. Counts were a little higher than in 2025, but still below average. Whanganui pukeko monitoring undertaken by Wellington staff on 13/4/2026. Taranaki's pukeko monitoring was undertaken on 13/4, 19/4 & 25/4/2026. Both counts were down on previous years. 28 Taranaki sites monitored for the National Shoveler Survey on 3/08/2026. Results provided to the Eastern Region's Matt McDougall and draft report received 20/08/2026. 637 total Shoveler for the Taranaki count by Josh and Allen.
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8. Participate in the National Hunter Survey to derive robust estimates of annual game bird harvest and hunter success.

2025 season results included in 2025/26 Draft Game Gazette Notice report for Council's 13th December 2025 meeting. 2026 survey completed thanks to callers Councillor Flynn, Lesley Dockery and Charmian Stancliff. Wellington admin Corinne Deans organised data entry into survey database.

9. Recommend effective regulations that are timely, easily understood and which maximise licence holder opportunity while ensuring resource sustainability and public support. 10. Provide advice and support practical and effective predator control opportunities that assist game bird populations.	2025/26 Draft Game Gazette Notice report prepared for Council's 13th December 2025 meeting, including agenda item on grey teal. National 2026/27 Gazette Notice document updated on 20/01/2026. Taranaki hunting regulations proofed on 26/02/2026. A draft 2026/27 Taranaki Anglers Notice Report was prepared for Council's 23rd May 2026 meeting. Council's decision (no change to 2025/26 Notice) relayed to National Office on 25/05/2026. Notice checked on 8/06/2026 and Regulation Guide proofed on 28/07/2026. Taranaki predator free hui attended on 26/06/2026 in New Plymouth.
Objective: Supplement trout fishing opportunities with appropriate stocking that is valued, cost effective in terms of the return to the angler and which retains community support. 11. Undertake an annual trout stocking programme which concentrates on creating and maintaining valued lake fisheries.	122 Hāwera hatchery rainbows were released into Lake Rotomanu on 14/10/2025. 101 Hāwera hatchery rainbows released into the Hangatahau (Stony) River on 20/11/2025. 504 rainbows from the Eastern Region's Ngongotaha hatchery released into Lake Rotomanu on 5/11/2025. 308 Hāwera hatchery rainbows were released into the Patea River at Stratford (5/12/2025) for the Stratford kids trout fishing day. 149 brown trout were released into the Hangatahau (Stony) River on 11/12/2025. The October 2026 order of 500 rainbow trout from the Eastern Region's Ngongotaha hatchery for Lake Rotomanu was cancelled on 22/12/2025 owing to uncertainty about the state of the lake because of the gold clam infestation and possible eradication. Growing the fish on into 2026 would incur a cost to the Council even if it didn't take them. An order of 500 2-year rainbows was confirmed for 2027 (Taranaki or Wellington depending on available opportunities). There was liaison with Ernslaw One Ltd. (16/03/2026) regarding access to Lake Namunamu for trout releases. A proposed 2026 trout release schedule report was prepared for Council's 23rd May 2026 meeting. 149 rainbow trout from the 2025-year class were released into Lake Mangamahoe on 30/06/2026. 200 rainbows were released into Lake Ratapiko on 12/08/2026.

12. Undertake release of up to 200 17-month brown and rainbow trout into the lower Patea River and assess angler returns to gauge the potential for a long-term programme (yr 7) 13. Operate Hawera hatchery in an effective, cost efficient and sustainable manner utilising volunteer support to meet the identified stocking objectives.	100 Hāwera hatchery rainbows were released into the Patea River below Patea Dam on 22/10/2025 and 150 Hāwera hatchery brown trout released there on 25/11/2025. An offer of service for the 2026 release was accepted by Manawa Energy (19/05/2026). Hatchery & Trout Liberations Annual Report prepared for Council's 18th October 2025 meeting. eDNA samples taken in Tawhiti Stream downstream of hatchery discharge on 12/11/2025, following discovery of gold clam in Lake Rotomanu. Clear results for gold clam obtained on 18/11/2025, allowing fish releases to resume. Funeral of long-serving hatchery volunteer Kevin McDonald attended on 28/10/2025. One new volunteer (Ian Reid) was added to the roster bringing the total to nine. The consent monitoring estimate for the hatchery for 2026/26 was received from the TRC (3/03/2026; \$4,438.38 gst excl.). 525kg of trout feed was ordered from the hatchery (12/03/2026), with prompt delivery from Blomar's Christchurch warehouse. The 2025-year class of rainbow trout were fin-clipped on 8/04/2026 with a count of 1,096 fish. Brown trout were fin-clipped on 29/04/2026 with a count of 489 browns and 2 rainbows. 3,000 ova (2,000 rainbow & 1,000 brown) arrived by overnight courier from the Eastern F&G region on 4/06/2026. As usual, there was a good hatch of rainbows and some losses of browns. A new hatchery roster was prepared and posted to volunteers (18/06/2026). A dinner for hatchery volunteers was held on 17/08/2026. A prior meeting was held at the hatchery to hear from volunteers and assess ongoing requirements at the hatchery. Two quotes were obtained for replacement of the hatchery building roof. Josh has developed a plan to complete re-roof with voluntary skilled labour, saving over \$5000. Re roof scheduled 11/12/2026.
14. Maintain a skilled honorary ranger team of at least 12 rangers consistent with requirements and objectives of the Compliance Policy and Strategy and also R3 principles.	Objective: Provide effective compliance to protect resource sustainability (including revenue base) and user experience to maintain licence holder satisfaction. One new Ranger completed Police vetting, the online CERT training modules and attended a CERT 1-day training in Rotorua on 21/11/2025. Ranger application approved by National Office and warrant issued 26/02/2026. A Ranger training day was held on 13/09/2025, attended by three Rangers and two staff. Rangers emailed 11/02/2026 with information on supper paradise season and April 2026 ranger training. A game season Ranger training day

	was held at Mangorei Hall on 18/04/2026, attended by four Rangers and one staff. Brad Dannefaerd from CERT Systems ran an excellent session to prepare Rangers for opening weekend. A joint Taranaki / Wellington CERT 1-day refresher is scheduled for 19/09/2026 in Whanganui. The new Taranaki / Wellington shared Field Officer, Josh Murray, completed the CERT online training modules on 21/07/2026. Compliance checks were undertaken for the start of the 2025 angling season. Following pre-season preparation using aerial photos, two teams comprising 5 honorary Rangers and 1 staff undertook 2026 opening weekend game season ranging in the Stratford, Kakaramea/Waverley and Tikorangi areas, checking 54 hunters. Two offence notices were issued (1 for no licence/lead shot, 1 for lead shot) and one shotgun seized. A report of ground baiting for trout was received (3/04/2026) but the available evidence did not show an offence occurring. A threat against one of our honorary rangers was followed up (8/04/2026) but the offender has not been identified, and the ranger has decided not to take things any further at this stage. Three charging documents (2 offenders) for 2026 game season offences were lodged at the New Plymouth District Court on 15/07/2026. <i>After reviewing the case files, the CE decided that both defendants would be offered diversion, which was accepted and the charges were dismissed in the New Plymouth District Court on 26/08/2026.</i>
15. Undertake safe and effective compliance coverage across the Taranaki Region, including a target of 100 licence checks of anglers and also of hunters. 16. Process detected offences in a fair and timely way consistent with national prosecution guidelines.	
Objective: Proactively manage problem aggregations of gamebirds in the interests of both hunters and property owners and managers. 17. Manage problem aggregations of gamebirds through implementation of a special Paradise shelduck season in Area C and proactively responding to and assisting landholders.	
<i>58 permits to disturb issued to date – 27 for Pukeko (17 urban, 10 rural), 7 for Paradise Shelduck only, 23 for Mallard and Paradise Shelduck and 1 for black swan. A 2025/26 Annual Disturbance Report was prepared for Council's 17th October 2026 meeting.</i> 100m of chicken wire was erected along the bottom of the security fence at NPDC's Inglewood oxidation ponds to prevent moulting paradise shelduck walking out onto the neighbouring farmer's recovering hay paddocks. Two disturbance permits issued for J-Swap and Nutrinza grain stores.	

	Gas guns being collected back in as farmers finished using them, with all 22 collected back prior to the 2026 opening weekend. A member of the public reported a black swan at Barrett Lagoon with a fishhook in its head with trailing nylon. Staff made an unsuccessful attempt to catch it (1/07/2026). The male swan appeared otherwise healthy, and it seems the hook has since been dislodged. 2026 special paradise season permits printed and provided to Magnum Sports, and Taranaki Hunting & Fishing (2 stores). Permits also sent to land occupiers and issued from the NP office. Participants were contacted for their results (only about 20% sent them back via freepost) and a report prepared for Council's 23rd May 2026 meeting.
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HABITAT PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

2025/2026 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
Objective: Protect / improve habitat for sports fish & game as a fundamental and effective means to sustain the fish & game resource in the interests of licence holders and with biodiversity benefits for the wider community. 1. Provide valued advice and support to licence holders, landowners and the wider community regarding the importance of and how to protect and enhance habitat and also undertake predator control/ management to benefit both fish & game and wider indigenous biodiversity resources. 2. Promote, encourage and support landowners to create, enhance and protect wetlands by providing sound technical advice and assistance to make successful applications to the GBHT and Hunting & Habitat Funds. 3. Proactively take opportunities to make effective representation in statutory and other community processes to best achieve sports fish and game bird habitat protection and enhancement.	Wetland pamphlets were provided to Taranaki Catchment Communities (Alana Marriner) for a wetland field day (11/06/2026). Wetland site visits were made to four wetlands in Fordell and Okaia Whanganui (20/05/2026), Huiroa (29/05/2026) and Okaiawa (1/07/2026) to provide advice on wetland enhancement projects. Advice was provided to a fifth landowner at Marton, but no site visit made. Three of the five landowners (Fordell, Marton & Huiroa) put applications into the GBHT, with staff acting as referee. Two applications were successful, with a project at Huiroa approved for a \$5,000 grant, and the Marton Project \$3,900. A meeting with Taranaki By-Products management was attended (11/09/2025) regarding Fish & Game's 2020 submission to their consent renewals. Further information including an updated application was received

on 5/05/2026, and an additional online meeting held on 19/05/2026. The revised application has since been lodged with the TRC. Comments were provided to Manawa Energy (now owned by Contact Energy) on their annual fish trap and transfer report for the Patea hydro scheme (15/09/2025), the final dissolved oxygen monitoring report (20/02/2026) and the Patea hydro downstream ecology report (19/05/2026).

A meeting was attended with Horizons RC to discuss proposed river works during the 2025/26 year (16/09/2025).

A notification was received from Riverlands Eltham (Anasco Foods; 17/09/2025) regarding the renewal of two consents to discharge treated effluent to land, which will expire in June 2026. Comments on Riverlands Wastewater Irrigation Management Plan were provided on 19/12/2025. A limited-notified application to discharge treated effluent to land was received and a submission made on 4/03/2026. A response to submission points was received on 8/04/2026 and a meeting attended on 22/04/2026. Now just waiting for the TRC to circulate draft consent conditions. Comments on Riverlands updated Wastewater Irrigation Management Plan were also provided on 9/04/2026.

There was liaison with Paul Turner from Taranaki Catchment Communities regarding removal of the remaining footing on the old Kaipokonui Stream weir (22/09/2025). Sufficient funding has now been found (including a \$5k contribution from Taranaki F&G) and work on footing removal is due to start in early April 2026. Work on removing the weir footing was completed on 9/04/2026 well under budget as the footing concrete was softer than expected. Only \$2,500 of F&G's \$5k allocation was needed. However, there is a concrete ford in the Kaipokonui just downstream of Skeet Road that also needs removing and the unused funds could be reallocated to this project.

Comments were provided to NPDC regarding proposed beach sand push-up near the Wairau / Waimoku stream mouths on Oakura Beach (29/09/2025).

A meeting was attended (3/11/2025) to discuss NPDC planning for a low water intake weir in the inlet to Lake Mangamahoe, which should not unduly affect trout spawning or angling opportunity in the inlet. A site visit with NPDC staff was undertaken on 14/04/2026. Plans for a new water intake in Lake Mangamahoe located 30m from the new casting platform were also

discussed. The intake will now be located closer to the casting platform than originally planned with site work due starting from 16th March 2026. Work is currently underway relocating and extending the two lake intakes and fitting fish screens. Access to the newest casting platform is limited at times. There was also liaison with NPDC regarding the status (permitted or otherwise) of a concrete box culvert ford in Korito Stream within Busing pine forest (11/11/2025).

A landowner contacted F&G about fallen trees blocking Taonui Stream (19/05/2026) which in conjunction with accumulated debris were likely to prevent trout moving upstream for spawning. Staff gave approval for the landowner to remove the trees that same week.

Comments on proposed consent conditions for NPDC's limited notified application to take water from Ngatoro Stream for Ingleswood supply were provided to the TRC (25/02/2026, 17/04/2026 & 7/05/2026) and F&G's request to be heard was withdrawn on 19/05/2026.

Publicly notified applications by Winstone Pulp International (WPI) seeking a 5-year renewal of consents for their (now closed) Karioi pulp mill were reviewed (5/11/2025) but no submission made. However, Council's support was indicated, given that operational consents will increase the likelihood of a successful sale. F&G was notified on 22/07/2026 that WPI were seeking a 20-year consent to discharge effluent to the Whangaeu River from the Karioi pulp mill site for a plant that will torrefy radiata pine wood chips into pellets that can be used as biofuel to replace coal. The quantity of produced effluent will be reduced and the quality increased compared with previously and the effluent will be polished in a constructed wetland prior to discharge. A submission in support was made on 28/07/2026.

Comments were provided to the TRC on South Taranaki Quarry's Whenuku Rd Quarry Monitoring and Management Plan (11/11/2025). Following a complaint from an angler, the TRC was notified of concern about the inoperable fish pass on the Opunake power scheme and the lack of water flowing into Opunake Lake (19/11/2025).

An amended application for consents by Fonterra Kapuni (Lactose Co.) for among other things, to discharge cooling water to Kaupokonui Stream was received (20/03/2026) and a meeting attended on 30/03/2026. The main

4. Investigate the establishment of an environmental award to acknowledge and highlight outstanding contributions to the protection of sports fish or gamebird habitat. 5. Seek effective environmental outcomes as part of the consenting of the Mangorei and Motukawa hydro schemes. 6. Promote and explore opportunities to improve water quality in Lake Rotomanu.	concern relates to the discharge of heat to the river. F&G is considered an affected party to these applications. A notice of limited notification was received on 24/07/2026. A submission was made on 7/08/2026. Meridian Energy is currently preparing a substantive application for the Waiinu Energy Park for Fast-track approval. The project involves a 392MW wind farm and 230MW solar array (total 622 MW) on private coastal land on either side of the Waitotara River estuary. The project envelope includes or is close to several lakes and ponds that are highly valued for gamebird hunting, as well as the Nukumarū Recreation Reserve. An email was sent (27/07/2026) describing the habitat and hunting values that should be taken into account. No response has yet been received. Lake Kohata visits and meetings with neighbouring landowners, DOC and WDC. Updated F&G Management plan drafted by Josh. Staff attended the 2025 TRC Environmental Awards (14/11/2025). It's since been publicised that the TRC awards will not be held in 2026, but this decision has now been reversed, the awards will be held, and staff have nominated a farming couple at Otakeho for an award. Awaiting revised consent conditions from Manawa Energy following pre-hearing meetings. F&G comments on consent conditions for the Motukawa scheme were provided to the TRC on 26/02/2026 and 7/04/2026, with a further conversation with the TRC Consent Manager on 21/04/2026. Agreement has been reached on Motukawa and F&G withdrew its request to be heard on 29/05/2026. A final pre-hearing meeting for the Mangorei hydro scheme was attended on 11/08/2026 and following receipt of revised conditions, F&G withdrew its request to be heard on 19/08/2026. The invasive gold clam was found at Lake Rotomanu during a kids' trout fishing promotion on 8/11/2025. An option being assessed is to lower the lake level to its minimum and treat the remaining water with salt or chelated copper to eradicate the clam, zoom meeting attended on 18th November, technical group established with meeting on 28/11/2025. Along with a clam delimiting survey which found clams mainly around the boat ramp area, the
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	lake level was lowered and fyke and gill netting undertaken on 14-15/12/2025 to trial techniques for removing fish. As the lake level could not be lowered enough for effective fish removal and clam eradication, the TRC decided to halt proceedings and prepare a detailed plan. A decision on whether to proceed with eradication will be made at the TRC's meeting on 24/02/2026. TRC, DOC & F&G personnel, along with Bart Jansma from SLR Consulting, worked well together as the fisheries team and will likely work together again should the decision be made to eradicate the clam. At the TRC's 24/02/2026 meeting, the Council decided not to proceed with eradication at this time but seek partners to help fund an attempt to eradicate the invasive gold clam. They did approve an additional \$250,000 for biosecurity and Check, Clean, Dry programmes to identify and mitigate pathways, raise public awareness and reduce the risk of the gold clam spreading. Currently, Lake Rotomanu is at its full level and the river intake is open to allow water to enter the lake when river flows are high enough. A potentially toxic bloom of cyanobacteria was reported from Lake Rotomanu on 11/08/2026 and has since intensified. People are advised to avoid swimming, fishing, or any activity that involves contact with the water at Lake Rotomanu until further notice.
Objective: Work collaboratively and proactively with landowners, other groups and iwi recognising the synergistic benefits and wider outcomes that can be achieved by this approach.	
7. Engage proactively and collaboratively with iwi & community groups to identify and protect/ enhance shared resource values.	A 2-day Wetland Wānanga was attended (18-19/09/2025) with TRC, DOC and Iwi groups and Dr. Rebecca Eivers from Wai Kōkōpu Consulting. Several site visits were made with a focus being on "the right wetland in the right place". The Wānanga was organised by Wild for Taranaki (WFT) and Wai Connection. Staff met with Sean Zieftjes and Laura Buttmore (8/06/2026), who have been tasked to prepare a new management plan (He Kawa Ora) for Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki. Initial public consultation opened on 20/07/2026 and runs until 20/10/2026, with an online survey available at tekahuitupua.nz. There was liaison with Dr. Michael Morris Kaitātari Taiao of Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust (formerly Ngāti Rangi Trust) regarding the WPI resource consent application (22/07/2026). Met with Tamaupoko Community trust and discussed potential education and access opportunities in the middle reaches of the Whanganui River 20/08/26.

8. Represent Fish & Game and provide valued input to the Te Awa Tupua process.	On-line meetings were attended on 12/09/2025, 3/10/2025, 24/10/2025, 9/06/2026 & 7/07/2026. A zoom meeting was held with Yale PHD student Raffaele Sindoni (29/01/2026) to talk about Fish & Game's role on Te Kōpuka. A face-to-face meeting of Te Kōpuka was attended at Pūtiki Marae on 17/07/2026. Staff attended He Pukenga Wai, the Whanganui River Symposium on 5/08/2026 to hear a series of inspiring presentations on work being carried out across Te Awa Tupua.
9. Explore options with other parties to remove a weir in the Waingongoro River at Eltham.	The future of the weir was raised with Riverlands Eltham during a meeting on 22/04/2026. The weir is likely an orphan structure not owned by Riverlands. However, it's removal could adversely affect the stability of the riverbank adjacent to the abattoir. They agreed that this is a matter that requires further discussion with a wider stakeholder audience.
10. Investigate whether there is sufficient landowner support for an application to the Whanganui River Enhancement Trust (WRET) for funding assistance to continue the Horizons / F&G joint Orautoha Stream / Manganuioteao Riparian Project to protect water quality in this catchment and the many values it supports.	
Objective: Development of an effective Natural Resources Plan that protects freshwater and wetland habitats and which will also minimise Council costs in consent processes and free up resources for other management responses.	
11. Engage in and actively advocate for provisions which protect and/ or enhance sports fish & game bird habitat in the Taranaki Natural Resources Plan development process.	Government required pause now in place. Also notified of Horizons RC Oranga Wai pause (10/10/2025).

PARTICIPATION

2025/2026 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
Objective: Add value to licence holders by increasing their opportunity, success and satisfaction and so retain them in the sport.	

1. Maintain and improve the Taranaki pages on the new Fish & Game website so "how to" and "where to go" information is readily available, easily understood and up to date. 2. Work with National Office to populate new website with information including an 'Introduction to duck hunting in the Taranaki Region'. 3. Continue posting on the Council's facebook page in line with any National Policy to regularly inform licence holders using this forum.	Access maps on the Fish & Game website were amended (24/09/2025) to include updated information on regulations. A Fishing Knowledge Hub is now live on the Fish & Game website. New gamebird hunting knowledge hub now live on the Fish & Game website. Posts made on 14/10, 24/10, 31/10 (2), 07/11, 10/11, 12/11. 371 followers as of 28th November. Posts made on 4/12, 12/12, and a post for the 2026 parrie season was made on 29/01 and shared within related Facebook groups, 442 followers as of 8th May 2026. Posts on hatchery releases into Lakes Ratapiko and Mangamahoe made on 13/08/2026 and 17/08/2026. 450 followers at 31/08/2026.
Objective: Encourage past and prospective hunters and anglers into the sport through initiatives which make it easy to 'have a go' and/or provide support.	
4. Develop and utilise licence holder email list to keep hunters and anglers up to date. 5. Complete monthly contributions to Reel Life and Both Barrels Ezines and weekly contributions to the Wellington Fish & Game Region's "Lower North Island Lowdown" angling email consistent with national R3 recommendations. 6. Provide a quality 2-page regional supplement in each edition of Fish & Game Magazine. 7. Publication of valued hunting and fishing newsletters sent in conjunction with Wellington Fish & Game and sent to regional licence holders and hunting	Licence holder email lists were used to promote the Lake Rotomanu and Stratford kids' trout fishing days, the 2026 parrie season (30/01/2026) and the Sattlers Dam trout release (12/02/2026). Contributions for Reel Life, Both Barrels, and the Lower North Lowdown made, with the last Reel Life for the season sent on 16/04/2026, along with the first Both Barrels. The last Lower North Lowdown fishing email for the season was sent on 2/04/2026. Weekly contributions to the Wellington / Taranaki Hunting Bulletin began on 29/04/2026 and ran through to 24/06/2026. Contributions to Both Barrels ezine were made on 18/05/2026, 19/06/2026 & 13/07/2026. 3-page supplement prepared for the 2026 Special Hunting issue of Fish & Game Magazine (10/02/2026). 3-page supplement prepared for the 2026 Special Fishing issue of Fish & Game Magazine (7/07/2026) and proofed on 4/08/2026. Articles prepared for the 2025 Wellington/Taranaki regional fishing newsletter. Articles prepared for the 2026 Wellington/Taranaki regional

landowners. Hunting newsletter also distributed to all rural box holders in the region. 8. Proactively provide timely and useful information to licence holders when requested. 9. Replace/ erect 2 -3 new signs which provide anglers with helpful on-site information re access and regulations consistent with identified priorities. 10. Provide organised fishing opportunities in Lake Rotomanu and the Patea River in Stratford consistent with R3 objectives and branding and in association with volunteer groups for kids and families.	hunting newsletter (26/03/2026), including a 2-page A4 flier sent to Taranaki RD addresses (proofed 30/03/2026). Information was provided to licence holders on request. The Inglewood Rod, Hunting & Clay Target Club's opening week angling weigh-in was attended (5/10/2025) and the opening weekend game bird "weigh in" (3/05/2026). Their AGM was attended on 18/08/2026. Information was provided (17/08/2026) to Orautaha School on requirements for a kid's competition that will include trout, with the weigh-in to be held on Sunday 22nd November 2026. A successful Lake Rotomanu kids' trout fishing day was held on 8/11/2025, attended by 124 children and their families. Sponsorship of \$150 obtained from New Plymouth's PaknSave. Preparations are underway for the Stratford event, to be held on 6/12/2025. TET application was successful with a grant of \$1,000 for the Stratford event, which was held of 6/12/2025 and attended by 70 children. Childs fishing licences and spinners provided to kids taking part in a school holiday programme at Lake Rotomanu (8/07/2026) along with a talk on gold clam and CCD.
11. When fish are available, release 2-year rainbow trout into Sattler's Dam to provide opportunities for kids and families. 12. Review, negotiate, publicise and issue access permits to publicly available hunting areas and actively seek and develop new opportunities.	There was liaison with DOC Turangi regarding trout for Sattler's Dam (19/01/2026). ~70 rainbow trout released into Sattlers Dam on 10/02/2026 with fish donated from DOC Turangi. Letters to forestry companies and district council's regarding hunter access to Harakeke and Tauwhare forests and Nukumaru Recreation Reserve during the 2026 game season were sent in late January 2026. Access has been approved for Harakeke and Tauwhare forests (although Tauwhare forest could potentially be sold prior to the start of the 2026 game season) and also Nukumaru. Access arrangements were confirmed for all 3 forests. Permits prepared and issued to hunters on request. Weekly updates provided to the

13. Identify and explore mentoring schemes to support new hunters. 14. Develop web based introductory package for anglers highlighting access opportunities and methods to get started. 15. Proactively take opportunities to make effective representation in statutory and other community processes to maintain or enhance hunting or angling access and opportunity. 16. Assess satisfaction and success of Taranaki Region anglers using catch rates from a voluntary diary scheme and online satisfaction survey. 17. Locate and publicise quality trout, perch and game bird recipes that enable anglers and hunters to make good use of these species. 18. Assess satisfaction of Taranaki Region hunters using nationally agreed questions in the national hunter survey.	<i>forest managers on who will be in the Harakeke and Tauwhare forests each weekend. A complicating factor has been that owing to wind damage in Santoft Forest, the Ridge Runner Sled Dog Club has been given access to the Ernslaw One-owned part of Harakeke Forest, with use usually on a Saturday 7-10am. Season finished Sunday 30th August 2026.</i> <i>There was liaison with landowners in the Opunake and Hāwera areas about hunting access for paradise shelduck (and Canada geese).</i> Fishing knowledge hub is now live on the Fish & Game website <i>Letter to Meridian Energy re: hunting access at Waiinu (27/07/2026). Phil Teal, Josh Murray and Chris Bright attended the official opening of the Stone Jugg Road angler access to the Whakapapa River (15/07/2026).</i> <i>Angler diary results from the 2024/25 season collated and included in an annual fishery monitoring report for Council's 18th October 2025 meeting. An angler satisfaction survey was conducted via Survey Monkey with 166 surveys partially or fully completed and a report prepared for Council's 18th October 2025 meeting. Angler diaries were sent to 16 anglers for the start of the 2025/26 fishing season, with 6 returns received to date.</i> Recipes now available on the Hunting and Fishing knowledge hubs on the Fish & Game website. <i>Taranaki participated in the 2025 opening weekend game bird hunter satisfaction survey, which found that Taranaki hunters were the most satisfied in the country. A report was prepared for Council's 18th October 2025 meeting. All hunters contacted during the 2026 opening weekend survey were asked how they rated their opening weekend experience.</i>
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19. Implement actions to influence hunter behaviour as identified in hunter behaviour strategy to maximise enjoyment and participation and also public support for gamebird hunting.	
20. Provision of ready and valued support and assistance to licence agents such that they are kept up to date, resourced and operate as effective agents	Licence agents were visited prior to the start of the 2025/26 angling season. 2026 paradise hunting season permits were delivered to the two Taranaki Hunting & Fishing stores and Magnum Sports on 27/01/2026.

IWI & PUBLIC INTERACTION

2025/2026 Annual Plan – Planned Result		Progress to date
Objective: Work proactively and collaboratively with iwi at all levels consistent with Treaty of Waitangi obligations and responsibilities regarding the protection and use of natural resources.		
1. Proactively engage, work and collectively share with iwi and hapu within the region on matters affecting wetland and freshwater resources or their use.		There was liaison with Te Atiawa (Sean Zieltjes) regarding Manawa Energy consents, NPDC Inglewood water supply consents (Ngatoro Stream), NPDC's Waiongana Stream weir and NPDC's Korito Stream box culvert forestry ford. A meeting was attended (24/02/2026) with Sean and Pukerangiora hapū RMA representatives regarding consent conditions for the Motukawa hydro scheme and NPDC's Ngatoro Inglewood water take. Information on eel management in Lake Rataipiko was also provided to Pukerangiora (2/03/2026).
Objective: Strong relationships and involvement with DOC and local and regional councils to effectively represent the interests of hunters and anglers in formal decision-making process.		
2. Liaise with Department of Conservation and Conservation Boards and proactively engage and work with Regional and District councils and community & industry groups.		Feedback was provided to DOC Whanganui (12/09/2025) on the draft Lake Kohata Restoration Plan and there were discussions about the future management of the reserve with two online meetings attended (29/10/2025 & 26/11/2025). An agenda item was prepared for Council's 18 th October 2025 meeting. A further meeting was attended on 24/02/2026. Staff walked around Lake Kohata on 11/03/2026 to identify waterfowl loafing areas to be left clear of planting and to assess maimai locations and condition. Monthly meetings with DOC, WDC & Horizons were attended on 24/03/2026, 30/04/2026, 2/06/2026, 27/07/2026 & 31/07/2026. WDC has now had the accessway from Kaitoke Road fenced off from the adjacent private land. A letter of intent between F&G and DOC to progress a Community Agreement

at Lake Kohata Wildlife Management Reserve has been signed (27/07/2026), but not yet between DOC and Land-based Training. Field officer, Josh Murray, visited Lake Kohata on 28/07/2026 to assess the habitat, old maimai for ease of removal and potential locations for new maimai. Josh has also begun updating the Council's 2001 management plan for Lake Kohata. There was liaison with DOC regarding consent conditions for Manawa Energy's Motukawa power scheme re-consenting (9/12/2025). There was liaison with the DOC NP Office regarding the NPDC's Korito Stream box culvert forestry ford (11/11/2025) and a statutory process to vest the Tarata Hall reserve in Tarata Hall Incorporated (27/02/2026). There was liaison with DOC NP regarding hunter access to Lake Ngangana and Looney's lake (23/02 & 4/03/2026). There was liaison with Rosemary Miller, DOC Whanganui (9/07/2026), regarding a draft 'Manganui o te Ao River Stream Health Monitoring Summary report which compared macroinvertebrate monitoring results in 2026 with a previous survey in 2008. There was liaison with Horizons Water Quality Scientist Caitlin Wheeler about access to Lake Kaitoke to undertake ground truthing of a water quality model by sampling lakebed sediment and testing it for bacterial DNA (16/12/2025). The TRC (Alice West) notified Fish & Game (15/01/2026) that the invasive aquatic weeds hornwort and Elodea had been found in Tapuarau (Hawken's) Lagoon, which is largely used by duck hunters. Waterfowl monitoring data was provided to the TRC for a regional bird threat assessment (22/06/2026).

Permits to undertake electric fishing and/or fish trapping in the region were issued to:

- Horizons RC (6/10/2025);
- Boffa Miskell (6/10/2025);
- BTW (First Gas) (11/11/2025).
- Horizons RC (1/05/2026 – extension to timeframe).

<u>Bird Flu (HPAI / H5N1)</u> Preparedness planning has included: • A list of significant sites where waterfowl congregate provided to TRC (22/06/2026); • F&G webinars attended (26/06/2026) & 6/08/2026 • TRC (Lisa Hardegger) co-ordinated online meetings attended 1/07/2026, 30/07/2026 & 20/08/2026; • TRC/MPI PPE delivered to NP Office (16/07/2026); • DOC webinar attended (24/07/2026); • DOC H5 bird flu PPE videos - YouTube shared 29/07/2026 Bird flu was first confirmed in NZ on 15/07/2026 with three detections so far.	
Objective: Engender support for hunting and fishing and the activities of Fish & Game by the general public and others who recognise that these activities contribute to a better environment and healthy lifestyle and in turn who support protecting these resources and the opportunities to participate A WFT quarterly catch-up was attended on 4/09/2025 and 11/06/2026. Staff attended the WFT annual Biodiversity Forum (9/10/2025). The WFT AGM was attended on 29/10/2025, with Thom Adams & Chauncy Ardell replacing Bev Gibson and Michael Joyce as Trustees. A biodiversity corridors hui was attended on 6/11/2025 and also on 24/07/2026. A Biosecurity Taranaki meeting was attended on 3/09/2025 and also on 4/06/2026. Hosted year 10 Francis Douglas student job shadowing from 19-21 November, undertaking trout releases and electric fishing. Also Wyatt Dobbin (yr 12) from Opunake High School 29/06 – 2/07/2026. Talk given to the Friends of Pukekura Park group at the NP Community House on 17/07/2026. An advert was placed in the Taranaki Daily News, a post on "Neighbourly" (26/09/2025) and a Most FM radio interview done (5/11/2025) to promote the Lake Rotomanu family trout fishing day.	3. Recognise and pursue opportunities to contribute to the wider community including 'Wild for Taranaki' and 'Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust'. 4. Take opportunities to promote the value of protecting freshwater, wetland and upland game habitats and the wider benefits from this. 5. Represent the interests of hunters and anglers and promote the validity of fishing and gamebird hunting including as a means of collecting natural organic foods and engaging in a physical healthy lifestyle. 6. Maintain a positive and constructive profile in the media which encourages prospective participants and fosters support and understanding among the general public.

7. Implement revised media strategy and including incorporating any National Policy.	An advert and angling article were placed in the Ruapehu Bulletin's Summertime Bulletin (4/11/2025) to promote summer angling. An advert and article were placed in the Stratford & South newspaper (26/11/2025 edition) to promote the Stratford kids' trout fishing day. The SDC Communications Advisor, Stacey Clarkson, facilitated promotion of the fishing event on the SDC's website and digital notice board (20/11/2025). An article and photos from the Stratford kids' trout fishing day was provided to Stratford & South on 8/12/2025. An article and advert were provided to the Taranaki Farming Lifestyles Magazine (23/01/2026) to publicise the summer hunting season for paradise shelduck in Area C. An advert was also placed in the Taranaki Daily News for Saturday 31/01/2026 and copy provided to Stratford & South (27/01/2026) and the Taranaki Daily News (11/02/2026). A face book post was also made to publicise the season. 2026 game season advertorials were placed in the Taranaki Farming Lifestyles magazine and Whanganui Chronicle. An advert and copy were prepared for the Ruapehu Bulletin's "Spring Bulletin".
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COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

2025/2026 Annual Plan – Planned Result	Progress to date
Objective: Sound and effective governance which facilitates a co-operative and supportive relationship between Council, staff and licence holders that enables effective management of resources in the best interests of the licence holder and the fish & game resource. 1. Not less than six meetings of Council are held, and meetings are conducted consistent with provisions of the Standing Orders.	A meeting of the Council was held in Stratford on 18th October 2025. The Council's AGM & Ordinary meeting was held in New Plymouth on 13/12/2025. Meetings of the Council were also held in Stratford on 14th February 2026, 20/03/2026 (New Plymouth), 23/05/2026 (Stratford) and 15/08/2026 (Stratford). An online Council budget consultation meeting was also held on 24/06/2026. The SFO attended the funeral of Morrie Leathart (a previous recipient of the Bruce McKenzie Memorial Award for outstanding service to Fish & Game) on

2. Council undertakes governance training provided nationally, preferably in conjunction with Wellington Fish & Game Council. 3. Identification and implementation of options and strategies to increase the diversity of Council and iwi involvement. 4. The 5-Year Strategic Plan is reviewed and agreed by Council by March 2026. 5. Formulation and adoption of an Annual Operational Plan and Budget for 2025/26 consistent with the 5-Year Strategic Plan. 6. Presentation by Council of its audited annual report for 2024/25 not later than 31 December 2025	9/01/2026. The SFO also attended the funeral of Maureen Bright in Whanganui on 12/05/2026. The Annual Operational Plan and Budget for 2025/26 was adopted at Council's 18th October 2025 meeting. <i>The Annual Operational Plan and Budget for 2026/27 was adopted at Council's 15th August 2026 meeting.</i> 2024/25 Annual Report prepared, audited and adopted at Council's 13/12/2025 meeting.
7. Effective regional policies are developed, adopted and reviewed as required and are consistent with any National Policy requirements. 8. Progress reporting of licence sales, work progress and financial position is timely and accurate and supports sound financial and operational management and oversight.	Objective: Operate consistent with National Policy and make valued contributions to the management of the resource and Fish & Game nationally in the interests of all licence holders.
Objective: Make best use of new systems, processes and technology to maximise administrative efficiencies and minimise costs do resources are available for use elsewhere.	

9. Effective administration such that the Council is within annual budget ($\pm 5\%$), operates consistent with best practice and at least 90% of its annual plan is completed. 10. Staff management requirements including performance reviews completed and new KPIs and objectives for staff defined, and regular staff meetings. 11. Implement any outcomes and directions from Fish & Game Ministerial Review and /or National Council reviews. 12. Progress amalgamation discussions with the Wellington Fish & Game Council and implement agreed measures which don't require legislative change. 13. Effective communication and liaison with NZ Fish & Game Council and other Fish & Game regions including valued input and comment on Fish & Game issues and attendance at Fish & Game Managers meetings. 14. Contribute to National Office by providing valued advice, assistance and feedback on national issues and processes as requested. 15. Refine financial administration, reporting and analysis working with NZF&G Council and staff.	Field officer Jack Harland left Taranaki Fish & Game on 20th March 2026. Applications for the position closed on 9/04/2026 and an initial list of 12 applicants has been made. Shared Taranaki / Wellington Field Officer, Josh Murray, based in Palmerston North began work on 29/06/2026. A webinar on national wastewater standards was attended (9/02/2026) with a follow-up meeting on 20/04/2026. An RMA Group meeting on Sprots Fish & Game Mgt. Plans was attended on 10/08/2026. National Compliance Group on-line meetings were attended on 31/03/2026, 28/04/2026 and 18/05/2026. RMA replacement legislation webinars (Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill) attended 24/07/2026 (RMLA), 28/07/2026 (EDS) and 4/08/2026 (EDS). Information on the Hāwera trout hatchery provided to NZC following request (29/10/2025).
Objective: Demonstrate a commitment to Health & Safety and ensuring the welfare of staff and others through effective policy, systems, resourcing and oversight.	

16. All processes and activities are undertaken consistent with Council Health & Safety Policy and Manual. 17. Staff are actively involved in implementing HSAW policy and ensuring a safe workplace, including by undertaking two monthly staff meetings where HSAW is a specific agenda item. 18. Compliance with HSAW requirements and policy including scheduled reviews and audits along with any issues identified or near misses routinely reported to each meeting of Council.	<i>SFO's First Aid Certificate revalidated on 20/07/2026.</i> <i>Electric fishing machine re-certified by NZ Sparky prior to use (21/10/2025).</i> <i>Gas gun 9kg gas bottles stored in an off-site lockup and outside to comply with H&S requirements.</i>
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Recommendation

That the Project Progress Report to 31 August 2026 be received.

Summary: Financial Reporting for Taranaki Fish and Game Council

A. Profit Loss Statement 1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026

B. Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2026

Refer to Supplementary Papers:

- Overhead Costs
- Profit Loss Statement to 31 August 2026 – detailed
- Year-end Financial Forecast – August 2026
- Cash Flow Sustainability – August 2026
- Financial Snapshot

C. Capital Expenditure Overview

- Hatchery Site Management
Consider proposal for maintenance of roof at Hawera Hatchery

D. Financial Overview

Revenue

1. Overall Revenue is on track with the budget.

Expenditure

2. Project Expenditure in line with budget
3. Overhead Expenditure in line with budget
4. Overall Expenditure in line with budget

Forecast

5. Year-end forecast for revenue in-line with budget.

Cash Flow Sustainability

6. General Reserves maintained above 20% operational budget
7. Potential Capital Expenditure – Replacement Vehicle

Appropriation & Compliance

8. Within approved appropriation
9. Statutory payments current

Financial Risks

10. No immediate financial risks

Operational Delivery Risks

11. Project Magazine and Newsletter – postage cost increases

Control Environment

12. No fraud or suspected fraud

Decision

Recommendation/Action:

Council moves to receive the Financial Reports – Profit and Loss Statement (1 September 2025 to 31 August 2026) and Balance Sheet (as at 31 August 2026)

Consider proposal for maintenance of roof at Hawera Hatchery

FINANCIAL DASHBOARD

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

31 August 2026

1. Financial Snapshot (Year to Date)

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Variance	Status
Licence Revenue	\$246,513	\$259,345	\$12,832	
Other Revenue	\$224,136	\$210,616	(\$13,520)	
Total Revenue	\$470,649	\$469,961	(\$688)	
Project Expenditure	\$90,876	\$64,899	(\$25,977)	
Overhead Expenditure	\$382,123	\$364,437	(\$17,686)	
Total Expenditure	\$472,999	\$429,335	(\$43,664)	
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$2,350)	\$40,625	\$42,975	

2. Year-End Forecast

	Forecast	Annual Budget	Variance
Total Revenue	\$469,961	\$470,649	(\$688)
Total Expenditure	\$429,335	\$472,999	(\$43,664)
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$40,625	(\$2,350)	\$42,975

Key Assumptions

- 1 Fish & Game Officer finished

3. Cash Flow Sustainability

	Value	Risk Level
Closing Cash Reserves	\$736,507	
% Cash Reserves/Operating Budget	>20%	
Large Upcoming Payments	\$ -	

Commentary:

Cash reserves maintained at greater than 20% operating budget. No immediate liquidity risk identified.

4. Appropriation & Compliance

- ✓ Within approved appropriation
- ✓ No unapproved expenditure
- ✓ Statutory payments current (PAYE/GST)
- ✓ No expected breaches under the Public Finance Act

RISK & PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

31 August 2026

5. Top Financial Risks

Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigation	Status
Cost escalation	Medium	Medium	Tight expenditure controls	
Funding delay	High	Low	Cash buffer maintained	

6. Operational / Delivery Risks

Output Functional Area	Target	Status	Risk
Species Management	Cost Overrun		Low
Habitat Management	On track		Low
Participation	On track		Low
Public Interface	On track		Low
Compliance	On track		Low
Licensing	On track		Low
Governance/Internal Management	On track		Low
Planning and Reporting	On track		Low

7. Control Environment

Management confirms:

- ✓ No fraud or suspected fraud
- ✓ Delegations adhered to
- ✓ No significant control breakdowns

If applicable: Internal control review scheduled next period

What This Dashboard Achieves

This format:

- Keeps the Board focused on **exceptions, not detail**
 - Links financial performance to **risk and service delivery**
 - Highlights early warning signals
 - Demonstrates active governance oversight
 - Supports audit expectations for monitoring
-

Board summary that gives governors a clear line of sight over:

- Financial performance
- Cash sustainability
- Forecast risks
- Appropriation compliance
- Key operational risks

This format aligns with expectations under the Public Finance Act 1989 and Tier 3 PS reporting requirements issued by the External Reporting Board.

Profit and Loss - Summary

Taranaki Fish and Game Council
For the month ended 31 August 2026

	JUL 2026	AUG 2026	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET
Income						
Licence Income						
Fish Licence Income	1,087	655	174,532	165,089	9,443	165,089
Game Licence Income	19	38	94,052	91,696	2,356	91,696
Less Commission and Fees	(39)	(53)	(9,239)	(10,272)	1,033	(10,272)
Total Licence Income	1,067	640	259,345	246,513	12,832	246,513
Other Income						
Grants	45,473	-	181,892	181,892	-	181,892
Interest Received	-	253	9,479	7,756	1,723	7,756
Other Income	2,965	3,969	19,245	34,488	(15,243)	34,488
Total Other Income	48,438	4,222	210,616	224,136	(13,520)	224,136
Gross Profit	49,505	4,862	469,961	470,649	(688)	470,649
Operating Expenses						
Species Management						
Population Monitoring	1,033	115	11,395	16,000	(4,605)	16,000
Harvest Assessment	494	551	2,596	-	2,596	-
Hatchery Operations	111	875	12,797	10,000	2,797	10,000
Releases	-	-	7,052	6,000	1,052	6,000
Control	2	-	2,435	2,000	435	2,000
Total Species Management	1,640	1,541	36,276	34,000	2,276	34,000
Habitat Protection / Management						
Assisted Habitat	-	-	2,750	20,000	(17,250)	20,000
Total Habitat Protection / Management	-	-	2,750	20,000	(17,250)	20,000
Participation						
Access	-	-	-	200	(200)	200
Newsletters Magazine Web pages	-	-	10,451	10,500	(49)	10,500
Training	-	-	-	1,000	(1,000)	1,000
Total Participation	-	-	10,451	11,700	(1,249)	11,700
Public Interface						
Liaison	78	6	285	600	(315)	600
Advocacy	-	-	-	500	(500)	500
Public Promotions	-	-	2,726	3,300	(574)	3,300
Total Public Interface	78	6	3,011	4,400	(1,389)	4,400
Compliance						
Ranging	-	-	-	500	(500)	500
Ranger Training	-	-	1,907	1,000	907	1,000

Profit and Loss - Summary

	JUL 2026	AUG 2026	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE	ANNUAL BUDGET
Compliance	-	-	231	1,500	(1,269)	1,500
Total Compliance	-	-	2,139	3,000	(862)	3,000
Licencing						
Agent Servicing	-	36	472	500	(28)	500
Total Licencing	-	36	472	500	(28)	500
Council						
Council Meetings	-	609	8,366	9,500	(1,134)	9,500
Total Council	-	609	8,366	9,500	(1,134)	9,500
Planning & Reporting						
Management / Strategic Planning	-	-	438	100	338	100
Reporting Audit	190	485	996	7,576	(6,580)	7,576
National Liaison	-	-	-	100	(100)	100
Total Planning & Reporting	190	485	1,434	7,776	(6,342)	7,776
Overheads						
Salaries	17,042	8,870	275,387	313,233	(37,846)	313,233
Staff Expenses	1,241	134	8,319	4,940	3,379	4,940
Office Premises	1,731	4,720	26,183	22,300	3,883	22,300
Office Equipment	7,111	132	10,299	2,000	8,299	2,000
Communications / Consumables	496	1,150	8,203	5,300	2,903	5,300
General	110	472	3,399	3,250	149	3,250
General Equipment	487	807	1,419	3,000	(1,581)	3,000
Vehicles	1,726	652	13,398	18,100	(4,702)	18,100
Total Overheads	29,944	16,937	346,608	372,123	(25,515)	372,123
Depreciation	1,486	1,486	17,829	10,000	7,829	10,000
Total Operating Expenses	33,338	21,100	429,335	472,999	(43,664)	472,999
New Surplus/(Deficit)	16,167	(16,237)	40,625	(2,350)	42,975	(2,350)

TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

YTD (MONTH) HOURS 2025/2026

	Allen Stanciliff	Jack Harland	Jilli Steedman	Mike Lai	Josh Murray	Other	YTD Hours	Budget Hours
Fish population assessment	183	191	-	6	16	-	395	520
Gamebird population monitoring	143	158	-	6	29	28	364	
Harvest Assessment	43	6	-	-	-	-	48	60
Hatchery	38	15	-	-	17	-	70	60
Releases	79	47	-	-	5	-	130	150
Season Regulations & Management	44	6	-	-	-	-	49	50
Gamebird Control	92	68	-	-	10	-	170	120
HABITAT PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Resource Management Act	173	18	-	-	-	-	192	500
Management & Enhancement	36	26	-	-	58	-	120	400
Assessing & Monitoring	34	30	-	-	52	-	116	100
ANGLER & HUNTER PARTICIPATION	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Access	45	-	-	-	23	-	68	100
Satisfaction Surveys	4	29	-	-	-	-	32	40
Magazine/Newsletter/Ezine	51	71	-	-	1	-	124	200
Angler / Hunter Training	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clubs	8	-	-	-	-	-	8	10
PUBLIC INTERFACE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Statutory Liaison	18	-	-	-	8	-	26	30
Iwi Liaison	55	3	-	-	33	-	91	60
Information to Licence Holders	62	22	-	-	4	-	88	100
General Advocacy	153	65	-	-	1	-	219	100
Hunting & Angling Promotions	72	51	-	-	9	-	132	140
COMPLIANCE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ranger Management	58	-	-	-	29	-	86	112
Compliance & Prosecutions	61	18	-	-	1	-	79	170
LICENCING	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Licencing / Agent Service	4	-	7	-	-	-	10	50
COUNCIL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Council Meetings & Administration	119	28	-	-	19	-	166	280
PLANNING & REPORTING	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Management & Strategic & Policy	5	-	-	-	-	-	5	80
Business Planning	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	40
OSH	10	-	-	-	-	-	10	65
National Liaison	34	-	-	-	-	-	34	160
TOTAL PROJECT HOURS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,697
OVERHEAD HOURS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Administration	274	91	328	338	10	8	1,048	
Staff Training & Management	16	56	-	-	-	-	72	
Annual Leave	120	88	-	20	8	-	236	
Statutory Holidays	88	40	8	-	-	-	136	
Sick Leave	16	4	56	-	-	-	76	
Wellington Admin	-	25	75	-	-	-	100	
	2,135	1,153	473	369	330	36		

Balance Sheet

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

As at 31 August 2026

	31 AUG 2026	31 AUG 2025
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Short Term Deposits	267,052	203,373
Debtors and Prepayments	9,904	67,117
Investments	471,421	462,588
Total Current Assets	748,377	733,078
Non-current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	60,739	78,568
Total Non-current Assets	60,739	78,568
Total Assets	809,117	811,646
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	19,848	14,930
Accrued expenses	2,344	10,065
GST Payable	6,558	31,714
Income in Advance	12,933	12,144
Employee costs payable	37,052	53,037
Total Current Liabilities	78,735	121,890
Total Liabilities	78,735	121,890
Net Assets	730,382	689,756
Equity		
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)		
Accumulated Funds	123,808	130,707
Current Year Earnings	40,625	90,507
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	172,614	82,108
Total Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	337,048	303,321
Discretionary Reserves		
Asset Replacement Funding	7,484	7,484
Back Country Fisheries Reserve	20,140	20,140
Fisheries Project	7,386	7,386
Total Discretionary Reserves	35,010	35,010
Restricted Reserves		
Hunting & Habitat Scheme	326,363	319,465
Manganuioteao River Riparian Project	4,649	4,649
Nth Taranaki Rod & Gun Club	27,311	27,311
Total Restricted Reserves	358,323	351,425
Total Equity	730,382	689,756

21. $y'' + y = 0$ 22. $y'' + y = 0$

31 AUG 2025

TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

The Chairman

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

Taranaki Trout Hatchery Roof Replacement

Background:

The hatchery roof is leaking and is in desperate need of replacement, hatchery volunteers have raised their concerns about the state of the roof for several years. Recently Taranaki Fish and Game staff received two separate quotes to replace the roof. (find attached) We also discussed options with the hatchery volunteers during their annual dinner. Craig Mischefski offered his expertise as a roofer/builder and quoted on a material only price, with the labour provided by volunteers and Fish and Game staff.

Quote/Options:

JSC Construction: \$11,482 (Complete job)

Precision construction: \$11,299 (Complete job)

Craig Mischefski: \$4663 Materials, \$948 Scaffold, Volunteer/Staff labour.

Summary:

Coming in at half the price of the above quotes the volunteer option under Craig's supervision seems the most viable and cost-effective option. Josh Murray will provide a H/S plan and manage the overall project. Proposed dates of work 11-12th December.

This will also create the opportunity for hatchery staff to come together for a working bee around the hatchery facility.

Recommendations:

The council approves the replacement of the hatchery roof.

The council approves a budget of up to \$6,500 for Craig Mischefski to complete the roof replacement.

Or

Approves a budget of up to \$12,000 to engage with one of the above companies to complete the roof replacement.



QUOTE

Malcolm and Judy Hurley
244 Tawhiti Road, RD12
Hawera

Date
3 Aug 2026

Expiry
2 Sep 2026

Quote Number
QU-0277

Reference
Fish and Game NZ -
Hawera Shed Re-Roof

GST Number
139-565-045

Precision Building &
Maintenance Limited
0278554981
precision-
building@outlook.com
49 Dives Avenue, Hawera

Fish and Game NZ - Hawera Shed Re-roof

- Order, gather and deliver materials to site
- Install required Scaffold and Ladders for access.
- Remove existing Iron and Foil underlay
- Install new Synthetic underlay
- Install new Zinc Corrugated Iron, Ridging and Barge Flashings
- Tidy site and dispose of all rubbish.

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Amount NZD
ESTIMATE TO COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK AS LISTED ABOVE	1.00	9,826.00	9,826.00
		Subtotal	9,826.00
		TOTAL GST 15%	1,473.90
		TOTAL NZD	11,299.90

Terms

- All estimates are priced from a visual inspection only, therefore our pricing excludes unforeseen and unexpected issues we find while completing the work stated.
- Estimates are valid for 30 days only.
- Estimates do not include any pricing for sub-contracted work i.e. plumbing, electrical, flooring, painting etc. Unless stated otherwise



PlaceMakers

Know how. Can do.

HAWERA
CNR STATE HIGHWAY 3 AND FITZGERALD ROAD
P O BOX 67
HAWERA
PH: (06) 278-6013
FX: (06) 278-1640

ESTIMATE
ESTIMATE
Number: 1957466

Christopher Bourke
167 Raine Road
RD 11
Hawera

JOB ADDRESS :
Christopher Bourke
167 Raine Road
RD 11
Hawera

Expiry Date:
18/09/26

Customer Ref Loc Source

Hatchery 263 call

19/08/26

08:00

Salesperson
Larissa P

Account #
BOUCA

Ln. Product No Description

1	5910708	RI CORRUGATE 0.40 762MM COVER END COLOUR TBA	119.2	LM	20.97	2,499.23	C
2	5910710	RI ROUNDTOP STD RIDGING ZINACORE SE 63MM CLR TBA	18	LM	22.44	404.00	C
3	5910796	RI FLASHINGS 0.55 ZINACORE 301-350/3F COLOUR TBA	14	LM	20.02	280.31	C
4	5910712	RI CLASS 5 ROOF ZIP 12X50 COLOUR TBA	800	EA	0.45	360.40	
5	3410257	THERMAKRAFT COVERIEK 405 1250MM X 40M 50M2	2	RO	247.28	494.56	
6	4519181	RIVET 51-53 100PK COLOUR PASS37	1	PA	17.01	17.01	

Please note: Prices are valid for 30 days. Special order items are not returnable, please choose carefully before ordering.

Terms: Due 20th next month

Taxable Amt: 4,055.51
Plus GST: 608.32
Total: 4,663.83



Bourke Building Limited
167 Rainie Road
RD11
Hawera 4671
Phone: 0274775868
Email: bourkebuildingtd@gmail.com

Hatchery

Site Address

Job Number: FERG-549
GST Number: 120-463-878
Quote Date: 01/09/2026
Valid Until: 01/10/2026

Accept Quote

Quote | Edge protection

Thank you for the opportunity to price the work on your property.

We have provided you with our best value price based on the information we have, please call Chris or email if you have any queries about this price.

	Quantity	Price	Total
Labour			\$200.00
Sundries			\$25.00
		Subtotal	\$825.00
		GST Amount	\$123.75
		Total	\$948.75

THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING US FOR YOUR PROJECT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION | PLEASE READ

PRICING: Our pricing is a cost estimate only unless we specify a fixed price quote. Your final invoice may vary from our estimate or quote where Variations apply.

VALIDITY PERIOD: This quote or estimate is valid for a period of 30 days from issue.
Pricing may be subject to change if accepted after this period.

TERMS OF TRADE APPLY: Our accompanying terms of trade (attached to this email) apply to all Services.

ACCEPTANCE: If you accept this estimate/quote, a 15% deposit is required for work to commence to cover the pre-purchase of goods.



Jason Smith Construction Limited
118 Ngarongo Road
RD 13
Hawera 4673
NEW ZEALAND

027 245 2676

jasonsmithconstruction@xtra.co.nz

ESTIMATE

Allen Standliff

Date
01 Sep 2026

Expiry
01 Oct 2026

GST Number
121-632-209

Estimate Number
EST-0679

Reference
Hatchery

To re-roof the hatchery off Tawhiti Road

Description	Quantity	Unit Price	GST	Amount NZD
Paper and grippers	1.00	910.00	15%	910.00
Coro zinalume iron	1.00	2,270.00	15%	2,270.00
Barges and ridging	1.00	950.00	15%	950.00
Screws	1.00	805.00	15%	805.00
Scaffold and Edge Protection	1.00	1,200.00	15%	1,200.00
Labour	1.00	3,800.00	15%	3,800.00
Mileage	1.00	50.00	15%	50.00
Subtotal				9,985.00
Total GST 15%				1,497.75
TOTAL NZD				\$11,482.75

Terms

Please note that this is an estimate only and is valid for 30 days from the above date.
If you have any queries regarding the above estimate, please do not hesitate to contact me.

TARANAKI FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

The Chairman

Taranaki Fish and Game Council

Ruapehu Fish & Game Club

This paper presents discussion points for the future of the Ruapehu Fish and Game Club building.

Background/History:

- The Ruapehu fish and game club has a small one room building located on the main road of Raetihi. The building was moved to the current Seddon Street site in 1995.
- The original building was the Waimarino Acclimatisation Society building, located on Duncan Street, Raetihi. It was purchased by the society in 1913 and was still being used by the district office in the early 1990s.
- In July 1995, the Ruapehu District Council formally recorded the arrangement whereby the Fish & Game Club would operate from leased space at the Council's Agency property on Seddon Street, while the historic building had been relocated next to the museum.
- The Ruapehu club is no longer active, Chris bright (Honorary ranger) is one of the last remaining members and has approached Taranaki Fish and Game to help decide in the future of the building. The club may have a small amount of money (\$500) to contribute to maintenance,
- The land it sits on is owned by the Ruapehu District Council, no rates are charged and the power has been disconnected.
- The building needs maintenance and has been vandalised.

Current Situation:

The building is currently owned by an inactive club without a membership so is getting very little use. Taranaki council meetings were occasionally held there in recent years but only to keep the lights on. The current setup lends itself to being a museum styled meeting room. The building is surrounded by other museum type buildings and a public toilet on one side.

The interior of the building presents like a fish and game museum and contains all sorts of historical items. "A very cool vibe"

Recently we have been talking with Angel Reid who is on the Raetihi Museum Committee. She has indicated they are keen to use the building for their monthly meetings and could help with the upkeep. We also discussed the possible development of a joint maintenance and use agreement.

Options/Ideas:

The proposed ideas below should create further discussion about the future of the building. It's worth considering how Fish and Game would make best use of the building in the future and how it would cover the costs associated with owning such an asset.

- Should ownership of the building be transferred to F&G Taranaki.
- Should the building be sold: its approximate value would sit around \$15-25k not including any transport. Minimum transport would be \$5k but would increase with distance of the move.
- Should the building maintenance be funded and completed by Taranaki F&G. (windows fixed, rotten weatherboards replaced, external paint, roof cleaned front steps and deck fixed) I would estimate \$5-\$15k to bring up to a more usable standard
- Should the building be moved to another site and converted into a fishing hut.
- Could we seek external funding to help with the maintenance and restoration. (National heritage funds, Local govt grants)

Summary:

The building is of historical importance to the Ruapehu district. It is currently cost neutral with no rates or power but requires significant maintenance. Some emergency maintenance is required as soon as possible to prevent further deterioration.

Recommendations:

The Council approves the transfer of ownership of the building from the Ruapehu Fish and Game club to Taranaki Fish and Game council. (confirm ownership)

The Council will cover any urgent maintenance costs up to \$1,500 total to replace broken windows, spouting and general tidy up improvements.

The Council approves the development of a long term plan detailing how the building can be used and maintained at minimum cost to Taranaki Fish and Game.

Agenda Item 22 Correspondence/Media

Summary

a) **Correspondence:**

CSI FYI: response to NZ Council regarding budget process

No other items directly addressed to Council not already addressed in agenda.

b) **Media:** no items that require response.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required

Inwards Correspondence

Date	Meeting	From	Staff Councillor	Subject
4 Aug 26	Oct-26	Contact Energy – Lisa Meas	Allen	Mangorei Conditions - Amended
4 Aug 26	Oct-26	TRC – Andrew Miller	Allen	Mangorei Hydro Scheme - Pre-hearing catch up / meeting
10 Aug 26	Oct-26	TRC – Consents	Allen	Acknowledge submission received Fish & Game NZ 0302-4.0, 0919-4.0, 4623-4.0 Fonterra Limited received 7 August 2026
13 Aug 26	Oct-26	Wild for Taranaki – Lisa Berndt	Allen	Wild for Taranaki & Ngāti Mutunga / Invitation to Fish Passage Community of Practice hui
14 Aug 26	Oct-26	Contact Energy – Hugh Dixon-Paver	Allen	Patea Annual Fish Passage Report 2026 for review and comment
19 Aug 26	Oct-26	TRC – Andrew Miller	Allen	Contact Energy – Mangorei Hydro Scheme final amended consent conditions and withdrawal of request to be heard
19 Aug 26	Oct-26	SDC – Deron Shama	Allen	Consent 0196-5.0 - Stratford Wastewater Treatment Plant - Annual Hui
21 Aug 26	Oct-26	Info @ Te Kōpuka	Allen	Te Kōpuka Hui 17 July Summary and Upcoming hui
21 Aug 26	Oct-26	NPDC – William Monk	Allen	Lake Managamahoe Upper Intake Update
25 Aug 26	Oct-26	Horizons – Shelley Gunning	Allen	Minute one WPI Hearing APP-2003012018.03
26 Aug 26	Oct-26	Horizons – Shelley Gunning	Allen	Minutes 2 - WPI Hearing
28 Aug 26	Oct-26	GBHT Fish & Game	Allen	Kauangaroa Wetland
28 Aug 26	Oct-26	GBHT Fish & Game	Allen	Tataramoa Farm Duck Ponds
28 Aug 26	Oct-26	GBHT Fish & Game	Allen	Bittern Habitat Project
31 Aug 26	Oct-26	TRC Compliance	Allen	TRC's Environmental Monitoring Invoice Report Taranaki Fish & Game Council August 2026
31 Aug 26	Oct-26	TRC Consents	Allen	Informing submitter (Fish & Game) of issued consents 4510-3.0 & 3934-4.0 NPDC 31 August 2026
1 Sep 26	Oct-26	TRC Consents	Allen	Informing Submitter (Fish and Game) of issued consents x 14 Manawa Energy - Motukawa Hydro Electric Power Scheme - 01 September 2026
4 Sep 26	Oct-26	Meridian Energy – Rob McLaverty	Allen	Waiinu Energy Project
8 Sep 26	Oct-26	Horizons – Shelley Gunning	Allen	Applicants Memo WPI Hearing
8 Sep 26	Oct-26	TRC – Maree Heal	Allen	Inspection Notice - Taranaki Fish and Game - 8 September 2026
14 Sep 26	Oct-26	Anzco Food – Troy Lambly	Allen	ANZCO Eltham Ltd - TRC Draft Conditions for consent to Discharge to Land Update

18 Sep 26	Oct-26	Anzco Food – Troy Lambly	Allen	ANZCO Eltham Ltd - TRC Draft Conditions for consent to Discharge to Land Update
21 Sep 26	Oct-26	NPDC – Liezl Ebersohn	Allen	Whakaae Whenua: The Draft Puketapu-Bell Block Spatial Plan Formal Consultation
22 Sep 26	Oct-26	Horizons – Shelley Gunning	Allen	WPI - HRC s42A Reports and Experts APP-2006012018.03
23 Sep 26	Oct-26	TRC – Gareth Watts	Allen	Draft Consent Conditions - 25-05569-2.0 Riverlands Eltham Limited
25 Sep 26	Oct-26	TRC – Gareth Watts	Allen	Draft Consent Conditions - For Discussion-0072-4.0 - STDC-2025 Feb 10
29 Sep 26	Oct-26	Wild for Taranaki – Danielle Gibas	Allen	Notice of AGM, Call for Trustee Nominations and General Business Items

Outwards Correspondence

Date	Meeting	To	Staff	Subject
7 Aug 26	Oct-26	TRC Consents	Allen	Fonterra Kapuni – Fish & Game Submission
21 Aug 26	Oct-26	TRC Consents	Allen	Withdrawal of request to be heard acknowledged - Fish and Game - Mangorei HEPS - Contact Energy Limited 21 August 2026
1 Sept 26	Oct-26	Ruapehu Bulletin	Allen	Spring Bulletin
16 Sept 26	Oct-26	Anzco Foods – Troy Lambly	Allen	ANZCO Eltham Ltd - TRC Draft Conditions for consent to Discharge to Land Update
17 Sept 26	Oct-26	AWFGC – Roslyn Simmonds	Allen	Taranaki Reel Life
18 Sept 26	Oct-26	River City Press	Allen	Advertising for 2026 fish season



5 October 2026

Barrie Barnes
Chair
NZ Fish & Game Council (via email)

Dear Barrie

Financial Governance Failings within NZC

I refer to your letter dated "11 September 26" addressed to me and circulated to Regional Council Chairs.

Your letter was discussed at the 24 September meeting of the Central South Island Fish and Game Council (CSIFGC), which resolved that I should respond on the Council's behalf.

CSIFGC considers your letter an inadequate response to the very serious concerns set out in our letter to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZC) of 5 August 2026.

Your letter goes into considerable detail regarding the process NZC has followed but does not address the substantive shortcomings raised by CSIFGC. Nor does it address CSIFGC's \$700,000 levy position set out on 5 August or our subsequent proposal of 25 August that this contribution be applied directly towards the identified regional grants. There is no evidence of engagement by NZC either with CSIFGC's concerns or its proposed way forward.

Of particular concern, NZC had been formally advised by its Chief Executive that there were significant problems with the 2026/27 budget process. In her CE report for Meeting 182, Corina Jordan advised NZC that it was not in a position to advise the Minister on a licence fee increase because the statutory tests had not been met. Her advice to NZC followed concerns and errors previously raised by regions. Subsequent correspondence from Corina Jordan has acknowledged continuing issues with omissions, treatment of non-licence income, and the transfer of regional budgets into NZC models. Your letter does not explain how those matters were resolved before NZC proceeded with its licence-fee recommendation and its decisions on regional bulk funding, grants, and levies.

Your reliance on the "2003 National Budget Policy" also raises further questions. The documents available to us are the "Approved National Policies March 2003," a compilation of approved policies and significant NZC decisions. The relevant provisions are headed "National Budget System (September 2002)" and expressly required further detailed policies on the treatment of surpluses and losses, reserves, and budgeting for expenditure to be developed by March 2003.

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, gamebirds and their habitats.

Central South Island Region

32 Richard Pearse Drive, Temuka 7920, PO Box 150 Temuka 7958. Telephone (03) 615 8400
Email: csi@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz

The process actually applied in 2026/27 also does not obviously accord with the policy NZC says that it reverted to. Having first required regions to prepare zero-based budgets, NZC then used the approved 2025/26 base funding from licence income as its starting point and applied a uniform 2.3% reduction to determine 2026/27 bulk funding. Regions were then pre-approved to use their own reserves to top up expenditure to the 2025/26 base funding level. Your letter does not explain where these mechanisms are provided for in the September 2002 National Budget System.

Your letter invites reference to an opinion provided to NZC by barrister Elana Geddis dated 16 April 2020. I note that Ms Geddis advised NZC:

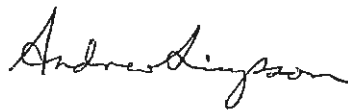
Any levy decision made by the New Zealand Council is a statutory decision susceptible to judicial review. As a general principle, all statutory decisions must be made “fairly, reasonably, and according to law.” (para 12).

The opinion goes on to particularise constraints on NZC’s levy-setting power, including that the decision must be “reasonable in light of the Act, the factual circumstances, and the information available (para 13(c)). The opinion stated: **“It is important that the basis for the calculation of the levy is clearly linked to the objectives to be achieved and applied across regions in a consistent way.”** (para 16, emphasis in original).

Your letter provides no assurance that NZC understands the serious implications of its mishandling of its financial governance responsibilities generally, and the levy process in particular, or the resulting impact of that on financial governance across all regional councils. Nor does it commit NZC to fill the remaining information gaps or to independently investigate and correct its failures. Regional councils are accountable to their licence-holders for their own financial governance but their ability to meet that accountability is compromised when NZC’s national funding, grant, and levy processes are not robust, transparent, and properly grounded. If NZC lacks the capacity or expertise to address these issues, it has the opportunity to seek assistance from the regions, but it has not done so.

In the absence of these necessary responses CSIFGC sees no reason to resile from the position set out in our letter of 5 August 2026.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Simpson
Chair, CSIFGC
Cc: Regional Chairs

Agenda Item 23 Recognition Awards

Summary

Consideration of recognising volunteer or exceptional service.

Consider recognition of the contributions to Ranger Training from Brad Dannefaerd (CERTS Training)

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required

Agenda Item 24 Conservation Board Liaison

Summary

Consider formal (re) engagement with Conservation Board.

Noted under legislation that this should occur.

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required.

Agenda Item 25 **General Business**

Summary

Items of General Business should be alerted to the Chairman at beginning of the meeting.

- Relinquish of Accumulated Time in Lieu – Chief Executive

For Information Only

Recommendation/Action

No action required.

Agenda Item 26 Confirmation of Next Meeting Date

Summary

Confirmation of the next meeting will be held on December 2026 at Plymouth International, New Plymouth

Location needs to be confirmed.

Agenda Item 27 Closure of Meeting

Closing - korero kati

Thanks for your wisdom in making
decisions today

Good health to you all

Nga mihi mo to whakaaro nui ki te
whakatau i tenei ra

Kia ora koutou katoa