

Mr Tamati Kruger  
Chairperson of Te Urewera Board

**Department of Conservation Submission on Te Kawa o Te Urewera**

Dear Mr Kruger,

On behalf of the Department of Conservation (DOC) it is our pleasure to make this submission on the draft of Te Kawa o Te Urewera. Mervyn English, Deputy Director-General would like to present this submission in person at the Wellington hearings on behalf of the Senior Leadership Team.

Te Kawa represents an openness for all parties to be thinking about how they approach the land. A driving principle of the legislation is to reconnect Tūhoe people with their land. This principle-based document encourages all people to connect with nature, and grow their sense of duty and responsibility towards it. Te Kawa is not about managing the land, it is about managing people for the benefit of the land. The emphasis on collective responsibility is very much represented in how we wish to progress our relationship with Tūhoe.

Since the settlement legislation passed, DOC and Tūhoe have made significant positive shifts in our working relationship. There has been a process of mutual discovery and learning for both parties to understand how to make this work. We are excited to move forward with Tūhoe using Te Kawa as our guiding document, and clarifying the new roles both parties have in this relationship.

The launch of Te Kawa is an important and transparent step in acknowledging a new direction for Te Urewera. We are strongly supportive of the Direction Tūhoe is taking with this document, and we will continue to actively look for ways to support, guide, and enable the direction through a comfortable friendship.

Kind regards,

The DOC Senior Leadership Team

*Lou Sanson*

*Mervyn English*

*Michael Slater*

*Kay Booth*

*Christeen Mackenzie*

*Tata Lawton*

*Martin Kessick*