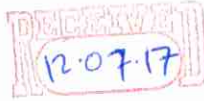


NEW ZEALAND  
**CONSERVATION AUTHORITY**  
TE POU ATAWHAI TAIAO O AOTEAROA

6 July 2017



Dr Tamati Kruger  
Chairman of the Te Urewera Board  
PO Box 56  
Taneatua 3163

Kirsti Luke  
Chief Executive, Te Uru Taumatua

Tēnā koe Tamati

**Te Kawa o Te Urewera Conservation Management Plan**

On behalf of the New Zealand Conservation Authority, I thank you and Kirsti (and Jo Breese in her role as a member of the Te Urewera Board), for presenting the draft Te Kawa o Te Urewera (Te Kawa) at our meeting on 7 June 2017. We enjoyed the opportunity to exchange ideas and learn more about the thinking underpinning the novel approach set out in Te Kawa. Indeed, we are keen to foster a strong, ongoing relationship between the Authority and your Board, follow your progress, and as we are able, support your endeavours.

Te Kawa o Te Urewera presents a new paradigm for a National Park plan that contrasts sharply with the more prescriptive and resource-based approach of traditional park management plans. We congratulate you on articulating this fresh and bold approach, and concur with the principles you have defined to guide the setting of annual priorities and formulating the operational management plan under the Te Urewera Act 2014. Your aspiration is that 'living these principles' and enhancing the use of traditional knowledge and management whilst also embracing modern management, monitoring and research will rebuild a strong connection with Te Urewera and sustain its lands. As such, Te Kawa will very likely affect the way conservation boards around the country approach their work. We therefore anticipate a lot of interest in how Te Kawa unfolds in changed behaviours and practices over time – it will be read widely and studied closely!

With this context in mind, I have attached a summary of the suggestions from the Authority's discussion with you which may help with the finalisation of Te Kawa. If you want to further discuss any of these matters, please contact us. We would be please to comment too on the operational framework for Te Kawa if this would be of value to you.

We look forward to continuing to build the relationship between the Te Urewera Board and the Authority and to draw on our distinct sets of knowledge and experience.

I wish you and your team all the best as you finalise Te Kawa and continue this journey.

Ngā mihi nui

Dr Warren Parker  
Chair, NZCA

## Summary of comments on the draft Te Kawa o Te Urewera.

As the Authority understands it, Te Kawa sets the principles and policies for Te Urewera necessary to give effect to the purpose the Te Urewera Act 2014, and that Te Kawa will guide the Board principles that will then give effect to Te Kawa through setting of annual priorities and operational plans under Te Urewera Act.

While Te Kawa is more of a scene setting and guiding document, and less a traditional management plan for Te Urewera, we believe the reading of this document would be strengthened by making the relationship between Te Kawa, the Te Urewera Act, the Board, and the annual and subsequent operations and implementation clearer. A chart to illustrate these relationships and timeframes may be useful in the Orientation or Introduction section.

We believe it would be useful to reflect further on who the main audiences for Te Kawa are, and to ensure that the terminology, layout and focus reflect those audiences.

We acknowledge the long timeline for the principles imbued in Te Kawa to become inculcated into the "good stewardship" behaviours by those who live in and use Te Urewera. This intergenerational view is important but so too is the need to deal with immediate issues e.g. pest control and the use of 1080, despite mixed views on its use for predator control. We believe making these immediate needs clearer in Te Kawa would be beneficial for readers. In this respect, we also think the steps you envisage being taken to enhance biodiversity protection by Tuhoe living in and visitors to Te Urewera would be useful.

We noted and agree with your intent to expand on the Key partners and Friendships where possible.

We suggest adding a glossary for terms, such as 'land' where this encompasses more than is usually understood by the term and the word "concession" which has been replaced with "friendship agreements", to help improve the wider understanding and reach of Te Kawa. This will also support a better understanding of the different terminology used.

People wanting to request a permit, licence or a concession need to know the guidelines and how these will be implemented. We assume details on these processes and budgets etc will be outlined in the annual plan and the operational plan? This link should be made clear to and facilitated for (by embedded document links) readers.

There was some concern about how the success and value of Maturanga Māori approaches would be assessed. We suggest further documentation of both qualitative and quantitative measures for monitoring this area, especially as the operational and implementation plans are developed.