

MINUTES

HERENGA Ā NUKU AOTEAROA, OUTDOOR ACCESS COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

25 February 2025

via Zoom

The meeting commenced at 2:45pm.

Board members in attendance:

D Cameron, H Logan, H Mexted and J Young

Also in attendance:

R Cullinane (Chief Executive), P Culling (Deputy Chief Executive), S Day (Communications Manager, minutes) D Macredie (Strategic Relationships Manager), and K Douglas (National Operations Manager)

Opening comments

Karakia timatanga – D Cameron

D Cameron welcomed Board members and staff.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from D Rewi (Board member).

Confirm Agenda

The Board confirmed the agenda for the meeting.

Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest.

2. Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 13 November 2024 were circulated and read.

The action register was circulated and read.

Resolved: The Board:

- a. **confirmed** the minutes of 13 November 2024 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

Moved H Mexted **Seconded** H Logan **Carried**

Matters arising from the minutes

H Mexted may have a conflict with the upcoming 19-20 May meeting. However, the current date aligns with the RFA workshop, so it cannot be easily rescheduled. H Mexted requested that the planning and reporting calendar be recirculated to the Board.

H Logan and D Cameron will initiate a Board self-performance review. P Culling will provide support and seek quotes for independent support for the review.

3. Chief executive's report

The Board discussed the chief executive's report for February 2025.

R Cullinane gave a strategic summary and reported on the upcoming meeting with the new Hunting and Fishing Minister, the ongoing regional projects, the Simunac court case, the relationship with the Department of Conservation, and the relationship with Te Araroa.

Regional Projects

The Northland Project is currently co-funded by us, Whangarei District Council, and Bike Northland, but the other councils have not joined, which means the project is currently underfunded. This means the funders are looking at cutting staff hours.

Other Projects

Te Ara Tipuna is progressing well and working through issues with the Gisborne District Council and landholders. The trust that has been set up is robust but does not want Gisborne District Council to be the controlling authority. One option, similar to the Banks Peninsula resolution, is for us to take on the controlling authority role and sign a management agreement with the trust. D Cameron noted that Pierre Henare is willing to take on a leadership role if Hekia Parata is busy with other issues.

Communications and Engagement

D Cameron noted the value of the Trailmakers Hui, which he attended recently.

Budget

The Board discussed the tension and pressures from ongoing static funding.

Te Araroa

The relationship with Te Araroa works well for a moderately-sized organisation, but Te Araroa has ambitions to grow rapidly. Herenga ā Nuku is the employer of Te Araroa staff and carries other responsibilities and liabilities for staff and the performance of Te Araroa. Te Araroa has a mixed funding model, and Herenga ā Nuku does not have a lot of clarity about its financial processes. It needs a clearer structure, which Herenga ā Nuku may be able to provide.

Resolved: The Board:

- a. **noted** the chief executive's report for February 2025.

Moved J Young **Seconded** D Cameron **Carried**

4. Health and safety report

P Culling presented the health and safety report as of 24 February 2024. This regular report covers accidents, near misses, ongoing issues, actions taken, initiatives, and other relevant matters. There have been no incidents, near misses, or newly identified hazards since the last report.

An updated memorandum of understanding on health and safety management with Te Araroa will be reported back to the Board at the May meeting, where both boards will discuss it. The draft document will come to the Herenga ā Nuku board before it is shared with Te Araroa.

Resolved: The Board:

- a. **noted** Herenga ā Nuku's 25 February 2025 health and safety report.

Moved H Mexted

Seconded J Young

Carried

Part A – items for decision

5. Statement of Performance Expectations 2025-2026 process

P Culling updated the Board on the timeline and process for drafting the Statement of Performance Expectations and the related performance survey and budget preparation.

The Commission will use reserves, again, to fund a budget deficit and will examine options to cut spending where possible, such as reducing the amount spent on performance surveys. Within the Budget, any activity funding from reserves will be itemised separately.

Given the direction of current government funding, there is little room for budget movement.

Resolved: The Board

- a. **noted** the process for approving the Statement of Performance Expectations 2025-2026.
- b. **agreed** to provide comments and feedback on the draft Statement of Performance Expectations 2025-2026 by 21 April.
- c. **agreed** to confirm the draft Statement of Performance Expectations 2025-2026 via email, to be provided to the Minister for comment by 27 April.
- d. **appointed** the Board chair and Hugh Logan to sign the Statement of Performance Expectations 2025-2026, once approved.

Moved D Cameron

Seconded H Logan

Carried

Part B – items for noting

6. Audit and Risk

P Culling updated the Board on audit and risk issues.

MPI, our monitoring agency, has informed us that there will be no opportunity within Budget 2025 to seek an increase in our Crown funding

The Budget for 2025-2026 is likely to have a deficit of between \$100,000 and \$200,000.

The Audit and Risk Committee will have a process for its meetings during 2025. The Audit and Risk Committee chair will bring bigger issues that need Board attention to the Board. P Culling, D Rewi, and H Mexted have discussed the meeting schedule for the Audit and Risk committee for the year, including a proposed workplan. The committee will discuss the risk management items on the action register.

A legislative compliance check by all managers will take place shortly.

Resolved: The Board:

a. **discussed** the audit and risk update.

Moved H Mexted **Seconded** J Young **Carried**

7. Quarterly report for Q2 2024-2025

The Board noted the report as tabled.

D Macredie discussed developing new relationships with the Forestry Owners Association environment subcommittee, Beef and Lamb and carbon farming associations.

No updates are available on the future of the Regional Infrastructure Fund for Te Taitokerau.

Resolved: The Board:

- a. **noted** the quarterly report dashboard covering Q2 2024-2025, as presented to MPI.

Moved H Logan **Seconded** D Cameron **Carried**

8. Operations report

K Douglas briefed the Board on the operations report. She noted that the staff and regional field advisors have been busy. The operations team is working to reduce the number of cases by closing those that are not progressing.

The next Board meeting will overlap with the regional field advisors' workshop, and K Douglas welcomed suggestions of items for discussion between regional field advisors and the Board.

The relationship with the Overseas Investment Office is less busy than it has been in the past, but we are working with the office to progress access in previously consented cases. The Ministerial directive has meant no new OIO cases are being opened.

Resolved: the Board:

- a. **noted** the operations report.
- b. **noted** the quarterly case statistics reports from 1 October to 31 December 2024.

Moved J Young **Seconded** H Logan **Carried**

9. Closing comments

The Board chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

D Macredie closed the meeting with a karakia whakamutunga.

10. Next meeting

The next Board meeting will be on 19-20 May 2025 and will be held in Wellington.

The meeting closed at 4:27pm.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Cameron', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

D Cameron

Board Chair