

MINUTES

HERENGA Ā NUKU AOTEAROA, OUTDOOR ACCESS COMMISSION

BOARD MEETING

19 August 2025

Wellington

The meeting commenced at 10.40am.

Board members in attendance:

D Cameron, H Logan, D Rewi and J Young

Also in attendance:

P Culling (Acting Chief Executive), S Day (Communications Manager), D Macredie (Strategic Relationships Manager), M Grose (GIS Manager), K Douglas (Acting Operations Manager), M Baxter (Principal Advisor – Operations), R Whinam (contract accountant) and J Yang (Principal Advisor – Corporate, minutes)

Opening comments

Karakia timatanga – D Rewi

D Cameron welcomed Board members and staff.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from H Mexted.

Confirm Agenda

The Board confirmed the agenda for the meeting.

Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts were declared.

2. Confirmation of minutes

The minutes of the Board meeting held on 20 May 2025 were circulated and read.

Resolved: The Board:

- a. **confirmed** the minutes of 20 May 2025 as a true and correct record of the meeting.

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

Matters arising from the minutes

There were no issues arising from the minutes.

3. Acting chief executive's report

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

P Culling gave a summary of the organisation's activities.

The Board noted the retirement of a long-serving regional field advisor. The Board Chair will send a letter of thanks for their service.

Regional projects – funding out of reserves

The Board discussed the current regional projects and whether to continue funding them out of reserves, considering Herenga ā Nuku's increasing budget constraints. We have committed to funding two projects this year. (The MOUs expire 30 June 2026.) Any further funding for projects will need to be carefully weighed against other priorities and budget pressures.

Overseas Investment Office update

The current ministerial direction requires the Overseas Investment Office only to consider economic benefits, which has significantly impacted new public access opportunities under the Overseas Investment Act. While we continue to maintain a good relationship with the OIO team, any recommendations we make must be weighed against ministerial directives. We continue to monitor what is happening in the space and look for potential and emerging risks. The Board agreed that our role was to keep the OIO aware of any access-related risks when it makes its decisions.

Herenga ā Nuku has also submitted on the Overseas Investment (National Interest Test and Other Matters) Amendment Bill currently before Parliament, as have many of our stakeholder groups.

Resolved: The Board:

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

Moved D Rewi **Seconded** H Logan **Carried**

4. **Health and safety report**

P Culling presented the health and safety report as of 19 May 2025. 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.

Resolved: The Board:

- a. **noted** Herenga ā Nuku's 19 August 2025 health and safety report.

Moved D Rewi **Seconded** D Cameron **Carried**

Part A – items for decision

5. **Annual State of Public Access report**

S Day presented the first draft of the State of Outdoor Public Access Report for the Board's consideration.

The Board was in favour of the report's purpose and noted that it provides important data on outdoor public access in a coherent and politically neutral way that the public can understand. However, the Board was concerned about the tone in the commentary provided and the political risk to the commission.

The Board will send through any comments or concerns with the current draft, within the next two weeks, for management to work on. Once these have been addressed, a revised draft will return to the Board for further consideration.

Resolved: The Board:

- a. **recognised** the work that has gone into the report.
- b. **recommended** changes to the commentary provided in the report, and for a revised draft to be provided to the Board before moving forward.

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

6. Geospatial Update and Pocket Maps Rebuild

M Grose updated the Board on the data improvement program, the National Tracks Dataset for Resilience and Climate Change and Pocket Maps.

The Board is supportive in principle of rebuilding Pocket Maps. Providing public access to maps is one of our key functions, and Pocket Maps provides this in a format that allows people to use it on the ground and while offline.

The Board noted the substantial costs involved in a rebuild and discussed various funding options. Management will investigate funding options and come back to the Board with some proposals.

Resolved: The Board:

- a. **noted** the geospatial update.
- b. **noted** that Herenga ā Nuku is now the lead agency for the National Tracks Dataset for Resilience and Climate Change.
- c. **decided** in principle that it supports a rebuild of Pocket Maps on a new platform.
- d. **discussed** the funding of a Pocket Maps rebuild and **directed** management to return to the Board with some funding proposals.

Moved D Rewi **Seconded** J Young **Carried**

Part B – items for noting

7. Audit and Risk update

P Culling presented the draft minutes from the Audit and Risk Committee meeting on 28 July 2025.

The Board agreed to hold an online workshop to progress the risk register in late September or October. Some proposed dates for the workshop will be sent to the Board for confirmation in the next week.

Resolved: The Board:

- a. **discussed** the draft audit and risk committee meeting minutes.
- b. **agreed** to hold an online workshop to progress the risk register, with a date to be confirmed by email.

Moved D Rewi **Seconded** D Cameron **Carried**

8. Draft Annual Report 2024-25

S Day presented the first draft of Herenga ā Nuku's *Annual Report for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025* to the Board for comment.

The draft presents a new format for the annual report, based on the new Treasury guidance that was recently released. The major changes are in the first section of the report, which asks us to explicitly link our work to the government priorities.

Resolved: The Board:

- a. **reviewed** the draft Annual Report 2024-25.
- b. **provided comments** on the Annual Report and provide feedback to in time for it to be incorporated into the final draft, for the Board's approval.

Moved D Cameron **Seconded** D Rewi **Carried**

9. Validating our engagement with tangata whenua

D Macredie presented the current policy and action plan for engaging with tangata whenua issues for the Board's information.

The Board supports the current policy and activity in this space and agrees that it is important that Herenga ā Nuku continue the practical and collaborative work we are doing.

Resolved: The Board:

- a. **noted** the reasons underlying the existing policy to enhance our engagement with tangata whenua.

Moved D Cameron **Seconded** D Rewi **Carried**

10. Operations Report

K Douglas presented the operational update for the Board's information.

Resolved: The Board:

- a. **noted** the operations report.
- b. **noted** the quarterly case statistics from 1 April to 30 June 2025.

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

11. Quarterly report for Q4 2024-2025

J Yang presented the Q4 report as submitted to MPI.

Resolved: The Board:

- a. **noted** the quarterly report covering Q4 2024-2025, as presented to MPI.

Moved D Rewi **Seconded** H Logan **Carried**

12. Use of Artificial Intelligence

P Culling gave an update on the current uses of artificial intelligence for the Board's information.

Resolved: The Board:

a. **noted** the update on the use of artificial intelligence.

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

Part C – other business

13. November Board meeting – proposed farewells for R Cullinane and P Henare

The Board confirmed that it would hold a formal farewell for R Cullinane, to coincide with November Board meeting and RFA workshop. Formal invitations will go to the Minister and officials at MPI.

P Henare has also been invited to attend. Due to timing and illness, no formal farewell for Pierre was held.

14. Next meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Wellington on 17-18 November 2025.

The meeting closed at 1.05 pm.



D Cameron

Board Chair