

Aotea Conservation Park Proposal

Public discussion paper and invitation to comment

December 2013



Cover: Trampers taking in the view of Whangapoua beach and estuary from Windy Canyon Track, Aotea/Great Barrier Island.

Photo: Andris Apse

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1. Introduction

Aotea/Great Barrier Island is a unique and diverse environment and is one of the Auckland region's last great wild areas. The Department of Conservation manages approximately 60% of the land on Aotea/Great Barrier Island. A large portion of the conservation land on the island is managed as stewardship areas, which carry a relatively low level of protection.

This document explains a proposal to declare a conservation park on Aotea/Great Barrier Island. The area of the proposed conservation park is approximately 12,100 ha, and includes all conservation land managed under the Conservation Act 1987 (excluding marginal strips) on Aotea/Great Barrier Island. Maps showing the proposed conservation park boundary are included on pages 7 and 8.

This discussion document:

- provides background to the conservation park proposal
- explains what a conservation park is and some of the benefits
- outlines the process for declaring a conservation park
- tells you how you can have your say on the proposal
- includes a list of each area of land to be included in, and maps showing the boundaries of, the proposed conservation park.

The proposed official name of the park is **Aotea Conservation Park**.

2. Proposed Aotea Conservation Park

2.1 *Why is the Department proposing a conservation park?*

In August 2013, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment released a report on stewardship areas in New Zealand.¹ The report identified that there are numerous areas within the conservation estate that have significant conservation value, yet have the relatively low status, or classification, of stewardship area. In response to this report, the Minister of Conservation has directed the Department to investigate changing the status of stewardship areas on Aotea/Great Barrier Island and to make this work a high priority.

Stewardship areas were created when the Department of Conservation was established in 1987. Large areas of land that were not seen to be commercially valuable were transferred to the new Department, which was to act as the steward of the land until its destiny was determined. It was the Government's intention at that time that the Department assess the conservation value of each stewardship area, and reclassify each area as appropriate. This assessment has never been done due to other priorities for the Department.

Section 25 of the Conservation Act 1987 sets out how a stewardship area should be managed:

25. Every stewardship area shall so be managed that its natural and historic resources are protected.

The Department has carefully considered possible options for changing the status of stewardship areas on Aotea/Great Barrier Island. The most appropriate option identified is the amalgamation of all stewardship areas into a conservation park. Conservation land is appropriate to be managed as a conservation park if it has a mix of nationally significant natural, historic, cultural and recreation values, such as the stewardship areas on Aotea/Great Barrier Island.

2.2 *What is a conservation park?*

A conservation park is a category of Specially Protected Area provided for in Part IV of the Conservation Act. A conservation park is managed for the specific purposes as set out in section 19(1) of the Act, which states:

*19. (1) Every conservation park shall so be managed—
(a) that its natural and historic resources are protected; and
(b) subject to paragraph (a), to facilitate public recreation and enjoyment.*

A conservation park may include other specially protected areas under Part IV of the Conservation Act, for example ecological area, sanctuary area or wildlife management area (section 18(1) Conservation Act).

¹ Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. August 2013. *Investigating the future of conservation: The case of stewardship land.*

2.3 *What are the benefits of creating a conservation park?*

Conservation parks are managed to protect their natural and historic resources, and to facilitate public recreation and enjoyment. The establishment of a conservation park would have many benefits for the conservation land that is proposed for inclusion, as well as for Aotea/Great Barrier Island and the community as a whole. The benefits of the proposed conservation park include the following:

- The land will be appropriately protected and preserved for its natural and historic resources.
- The land's classification, or status, will appropriately reflect its values.
- The land's unique natural, historic, cultural and recreational values will be highlighted, creating a higher public profile for Aotea/Great Barrier Island.
- The land's classification, or status, will provide for public access and enjoyment, and outdoor recreation and tourism will become one of the core purposes of the park.
- The establishment of a new conservation park will contribute to the development of a protected area network representative of a full range of landforms and ecosystems that characterise New Zealand.

2.4 *Proposed boundaries*

While the core focus of the conservation park proposal is to increase the protection status of land currently classified as stewardship areas, the proposed conservation park boundaries also include the Hirakimata-Kaitoke Swamp Ecological Area and Wairahi Forest Sanctuary. These areas have already been classified for specific protection purposes. However, they can be included in the conservation park and retain their original classification as an overlay.

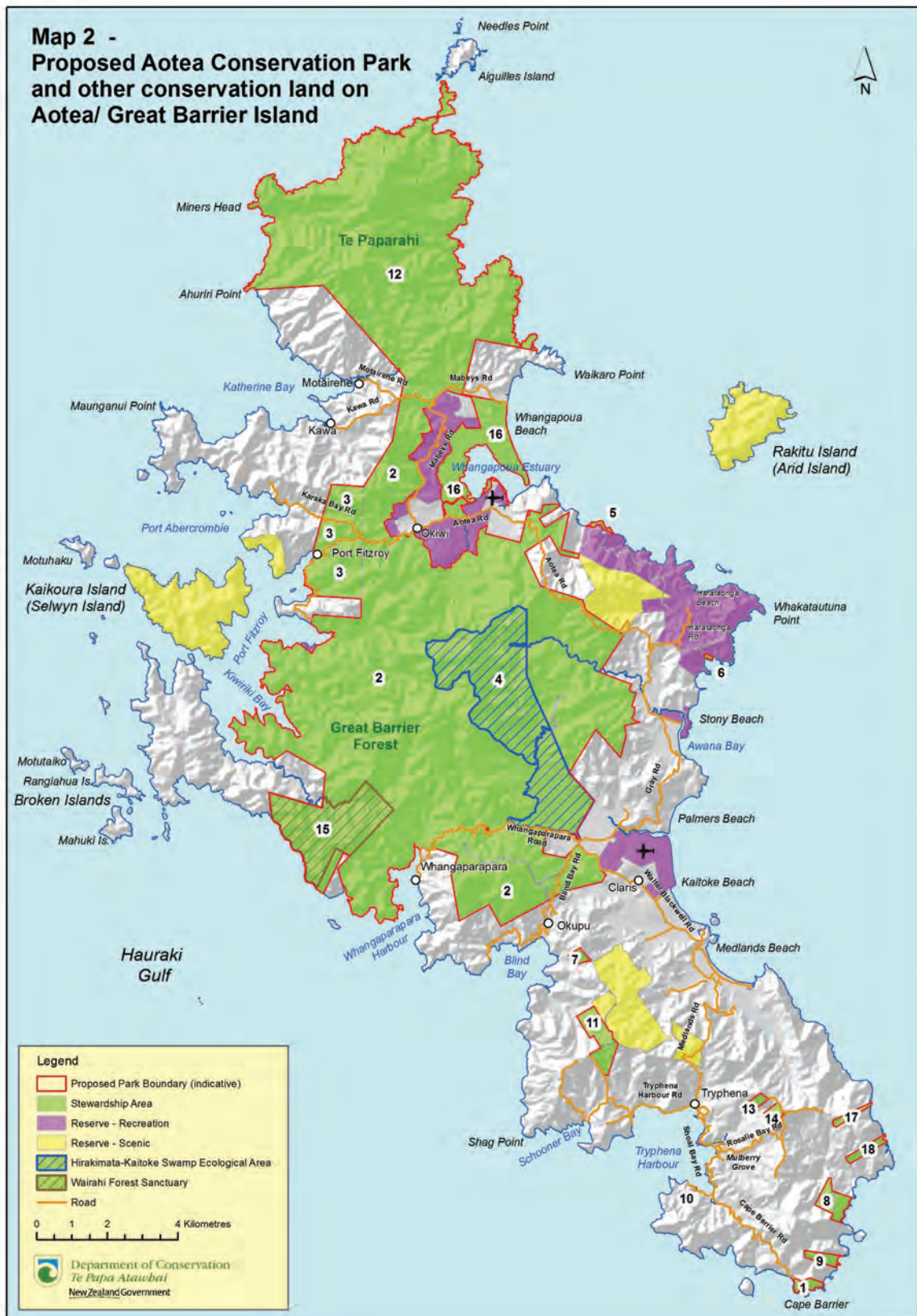
Only public land held under the Conservation Act will be included. No private land or other publicly owned land is involved. Changing the status of stewardship areas on Aotea/Great Barrier to a conservation park will not preclude the use of this land for future Treaty of Waitangi settlements.

Map 1 shows the relevant areas of land to be included in the proposed conservation park. In addition to the proposed conservation park, map 2 shows other conservation land held under the Reserves Act 1977 on Aotea/Great Barrier Island. Table 1 lists the areas of conservation land proposed for inclusion in the conservation park. See Appendix 1 for a description of each area, and information on natural, cultural and historic values, recreation, use and facilities.

2.4.1 Map 1: Proposed Aotea Conservation Park



2.4.2 Map 2: Proposed Aotea Conservation Park and other conservation land on Aotea/Great Barrier Island



2.4.3 Table 1: Land proposed for inclusion in the conservation park

Stewardship area name	Map reference	Approximate size (ha)
Cape Barrier Stewardship Area	1	23.4
Great Barrier Forest Stewardship Area	2	6,088.1
Great Barrier Forest Stewardship Area	3	399.4
Hirakimata-Kaitoke Swamp Ecological Area	4	1,089.9
Komahunga Stewardship Area	5	7.7
Korotiti Bay Stewardship Area	6	2.5
Okupu Stewardship Area	7	15.1
Ruahine North Stewardship Area	8	57.8
Ruahine South Stewardship Area	9	26.2
Shoal Bay Stewardship Area	10	0.2
St Paul Stewardship Area	11	97.4
Te Paparahi Stewardship Area	12	3,383.1
Tryphena North Stewardship Area	13	16.5
Tryphena South Stewardship Area	14	22.9
Wairahi Forest Sanctuary	15	477.2
Whangapoua Stewardship Area	16	359.3
Windy Hill North Stewardship Area	17	16.5
Windy Hill South Stewardship Area	18	26.3
Total area of proposed conservation park		12,109.5

2.5 Why are some areas not included?

Reserves held under the Reserves Act 1977 have not been included within the proposed conservation park. This land is already suitably classified and protected for specific purposes that reflect its values, for example recreation, scenic and historic reserves. If it is determined that the classification of any of this land is not consistent with its values, it can be reclassified in the future. In addition, if it is determined in the future that areas excluded from the proposed conservation park are suitable for inclusion, there is potential for further additions to be made to the park.

Areas of conservation land held under the Conservation Act 1987 as marginal strips have not been included within the proposed conservation park boundary as these are set aside for a particular purpose.

2.6 Proposed official name

The proposed official name for the conservation park is Aotea Conservation Park. Aotea is the traditional name for Aotea/Great Barrier Island, and as the proposed conservation park encompasses much of the island, it is proposed to name the park after the island. Use of the traditional name recognises the long connection with the island held by tangata whenua.

2.7 Consistency with statutory policy

The Conservation General Policy² provides for the classification of public conservation lands to be reviewed from time to time (Policy 6(b)).

The proposal is consistent with management objectives and policies outlined in the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy³ (CMS) 1995-2005, which contains an objective to investigate a conservation park on Aotea/Great Barrier Island (Objective 4.2.6 and Policy 4.8.1).

The Revised Draft Auckland CMS 2014-2024 was publicly notified on 5 December 2012. The Revised Draft Auckland CMS has been amended by the Department following the consideration of submissions and hearings, and is currently with the Auckland Conservation Board for its consideration.

While the statutory process has not yet been completed, the Revised Draft Auckland CMS nevertheless reflects current Departmental thinking about future management objectives for key sites such as Aotea/Great Barrier Island. The intention to investigate a conservation park has been retained in the Revised Draft Auckland CMS (Policy 2.6.12).

2.8 Hauraki Gulf Marine Park

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park was established by special legislation in February 2000. It covers an area of 1.2 million ha on the east coast of Auckland and around the Coromandel Peninsula. It includes all public conservation land administered by the Department on islands and around the coast, including land on Aotea/Great Barrier Island, providing a further overlay of protection.

The Hauraki Gulf Marine Park was created to recognise and protect the unique features and environments of the gulf. The establishment of a conservation park on Aotea/Great Barrier Island would be consistent with this.

² Department of Conservation. 2005. *Conservation General Policy*.

³ Department of Conservation. 1995. *Conservation Management Strategy for Auckland 1995-2005*.

3. Values of the proposed conservation park

3.1 Natural values

Aotea/Great Barrier Island is characterised by a rugged landscape, with a prominent north-south ridge across the island, steep, forest-covered hills and a variety of coastal features. In the island's centre, spectacular bluffs and ridges rise to the highest peak, Hirakimatā/Mt Hobson (627 m).

The island has an outstanding natural landscape with diverse and well-buffered habitats. There are extensive areas of tall forest, regenerating forest and shrublands. The natural values of the island make Aotea/Great Barrier Island of national and international significance.

The grandeur of the formerly extensive kauri forests can now only be glimpsed in isolated patches as they were heavily logged. However, the kauri forests are regenerating and larger stands, such as that of Hirakimatā/Mt Hobson, are providing a valuable seed source for the slopes below. Much of the remaining forest on the island represents different stages of regeneration. The size and quality of these areas, and the habitat they provide, make them a significant natural resource. There is unique unmodified kauri/silver pine/manoao association on Hirakimatā/Mt Hobson. In the south, extensive areas of pōhutukawa-dominated forest remain.

At least 75 species of regionally and nationally threatened vascular plants, including the endemic prostrate kānuka (*Kunzea ericoides* var. *microflora*) and Great Barrier tree daisy (*Olearia allomii*) are present on Aotea/Great Barrier Island, making it one of the richest areas for plant biodiversity in the Auckland region.

The island is a stronghold for North Island kākā (*Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis*), mohopereru/banded rail (*Gallirallus philippensis assmilis*) and one of New Zealand's rarest ducks, pāteke/brown teal (*Anas chlorotis*). Other threatened bird species on the island include pūwheto/spotless crake (*Porzana tabuensis plumbea*) and mātātā/fernbird (*Bowdleria punctata*). Hirakimatā/Mt Hobson and other high points in the centre of the island are the principal nesting site for tāiko/black petrel (*Procellaria parkinsoni*) in New Zealand, and tītī/Cook's petrel (*Pterodroma cookii*) are also present.

Other threatened species of note include the only island population of pepeketua/Hochstetter's frog (*Leiopelma hochstetteri*) and niho taniwha/chevron skink (*Oligosama homalonotum*), which is only found on Aotea/Great Barrier Island and Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island.

The island is also home to a diverse range of native freshwater species. Aotea/Great Barrier Island's streams and wetlands have more native freshwater fish than any other offshore island in New Zealand. Invertebrates are also found in great diversity, and include an unusual native paua slug (*Schizoglossa novoseelandica barrierensis*), which grows to 100 millimetres long.

Aotea/Great Barrier Island contains the largest area of forest in New Zealand that is known to be possum free. Mustelids, Norway rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) and hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) are also absent. However, a number of pest animals are present on the island including ship rats (*Rattus rattus*), kiore/Pacific rats, mice (*Mus musculus*), rabbits

(*Oryctolagus caniculus*) and feral cats (*Felis catus*). Feral pigs (*Sus scrofa*) are also present, which provide an opportunity for hunting on the island. Argentine ants (*Linepithema humile*) and rainbow skinks (*Lampropholis delicata*), which have become established in the southern part of the island, also pose a risk to biodiversity values.

Although the island is relatively free of pest plants that impact on vegetation communities, without ongoing control to prevent their establishment, they would have the potential to significantly damage high value ecosystems.

3.2 Māori cultural values

Ngāti Rehua is a hapū (sub-tribe) of Ngātiwai. Aotea/Great Barrier Island is the ancestral land of the Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea hapū, who are the tangata whenua and mana whenua of Aotea/Great Barrier Island, Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island, Pokohinu/the Mokohinau Islands, Rakitū/Arid Island, Rangiahua/Flat Island and other outlying islands and rocky outcrops.

There are two marae in the northern end of Aotea/Great Barrier Island, Kawa and Motairehe, with strong connections throughout the Ngātiwai rohe including Whangaruru, Matapōuri and Whananāki. From the 17th century there has been continuous occupation of Aotea/Great Barrier Island by Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea and they maintain and hold fast to their ahikāroa (customary occupation) for their tamariki mokopuna (future generations).

The Te Marutuahu Confederation, in particular iwi such as Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Tamaterā and Ngāti Whanaunga, also have historic and cultural associations to Aotea/Great Barrier Island.

3.3 Historic information

The island has been inhabited for much of the last 700 years, resulting in a unique assemblage of historic sites and associations dating from some of the earliest known settlements in New Zealand. They include gardening, fishing, settlement, industrial, defensive and sacred sites from various periods of Māori occupation. Particularly significant sites with a variety of different features occur on many parts of the coast.

The European history of the island illustrates the exploitive phases of the colonial economy, which were based on successive forms of resource extraction such as gum digging, timber harvesting, mining, whaling, early farming and ship building.

Aotea/Great Barrier Island's culture and history is reflected in an excellent range of historic sites on conservation land, many of which are within the proposed conservation park, including the Kaiaraara kauri dam and mining sites around Te Ahumata peak.

3.4 Recreation and tourism

Access to Aotea/Great Barrier Island is primarily by air, and there is also a regular ferry service. Private boats are also regular visitors. There is no public transport on the island, but a number of rental vehicle companies provide services.

Tramping and walking are popular activities on the island. The Department manages more than 100 km of tracks, including the multi-day Aotea Track, most of which are within the proposed conservation park. Two of the six coastal campgrounds serviced by the Department, and two huts, are also within the proposed park. Other recreational activities within the proposed conservation park include mountain biking and hunting.

Visitors are attracted to Aotea/Great Barrier Island for its relatively undeveloped landscape, the combination of natural, cultural and historic heritage, and the community. It is one of the few places in the Auckland region where visitors can enjoy a recreational experience in a backcountry setting that is distant from the influence of the city.

Currently, few commercial operators hold concessions (permission to operate commercially) granted by the Department on Aotea/Great Barrier Island to undertake tourism-related services such as guided tours on conservation land. There is potential for additional tourism-related activities within the park, provided they are consistent with the purposes and values for which the park is protected. Publicity surrounding a conservation park would be anticipated to generate more interest.

4. Implications of conservation park status

4.1 Cultural values

Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai ki Aotea values will be acknowledged and respected in the proposed conservation park. As opportunities arise, the Department will seek to work with iwi on the interpretation of tangata whenua values. If wahi tapu and wahi taonga sites are identified within the conservation park, their appropriate protection will be managed in conjunction with manawhenua.

4.2 Recreation

Existing recreational activities such as hunting, tramping and camping will continue to be catered for, with the possibility of additional recreational opportunities being investigated as part of the integrated management of the area. The Aotea Track will continue to be a focus for the Department. Conservation park status may assist with securing additional funding for recreation facilities.

Any activities that currently require a permit will still require permission. No new permitting requirements will be introduced as a direct result of the changed status.

The Department, along with other agencies, will aim to improve and enhance public access to the proposed conservation park, while at the same time continuing to protect its natural and historic values.

4.3 Concessions

A small number of concessions exist for guided walking and tramping on the island. Activities such as these that currently require a concession will still require a concession to operate.

Conservation park status will introduce a higher threshold before new commercial activities might be approved, as the purpose of a conservation park and the values for which it is protected and managed will need to be considered by the decision maker. If proposed activities are clearly consistent with the purpose and values of the conservation park then conservation park status is unlikely to introduce any additional requirements or obligations on applicants and concessionaires above those they currently face. However if proposed activities are not clearly consistent then applicants may be required to supply additional information.

There is considerable potential for increased tourism on Aotea/Great Barrier Island, and the proposed conservation park could help encourage more visitors to the island.

In consultation with tangata whenua and the local community, the Department will explore ways to identify further concession opportunities in the proposed conservation park. Potential opportunities include facilities and services supporting the Aotea Track, specialist guiding tours including wildlife viewing, appreciation of the island's cultural and historic past, mountain bike tours and guided hunting.

4.4 Biodiversity management

Establishment of a conservation park will give added impetus for ensuring effective biodiversity management, such as pest and weed control, takes place to protect the island's values. The island community, tangata whenua, Auckland Council and the Department work co-operatively on pest and weed control programmes on the island, including on lands proposed for inclusion in the conservation park, and this is expected to continue.

There are a number of private pest management initiatives on the island, and some, such as the Windy Hill Rosalie Bay Catchment Trust, include parcels of stewardship areas within their control zones. Such community-led initiatives will be encouraged to continue.

4.5 Historic management

Areas of historic and cultural heritage, including archaeological sites, will be protected and respected and will be managed by the Department with the co-operation of tangata whenua and the community.

4.6 Park management committee

The Conservation Act 1987 provides for a committee to be set up to advise the Minister on the management of a conservation park (Section 19(3)). If such a committee is set up, it could be an opportunity for tangata whenua and other members of the community to be involved in the management of the conservation park. The establishment, functions and membership of such a management committee will be defined by regulations.

5. Statutory process

5.1 *The process*

1. Public notification of the intention to declare the Aotea Conservation Park and an invitation to make submissions on the proposal. Submissions close on 28 February 2014.
2. The Department will hold hearings for any submitters wishing to be heard, and analyse all submissions and hearings evidence.
3. The Department will prepare a report with recommendations for the Minister of Conservation on the proposed conservation park.
4. The Minister of Conservation will make the final decision.

The Department of Conservation will supply interested parties with a copy of this discussion document on request.

5.2 *An invitation to comment*

Your written comments on this proposal are invited. Submissions will ensure that the final decision on whether or not to formally establish a conservation park for Aotea/Great Barrier Island is based on consultation and a clear understanding of the uses, values and the opportunities that are likely to be affected.

A submission form is included at the end of this document. Additional submission forms can be downloaded from the DOC website: www.doc.govt.nz/aoteaconservationpark/.

All submissions are due by 5 pm Friday 28 February 2014

Submissions can be made in writing in a number of ways:

Post

Attn: Hannah Divehall
Department of Conservation
Private Bag 3072
Hamilton 3240

Email

gbiconservationpark@doc.govt.nz

Online submission (webpage)

www.doc.govt.nz/aoteaconservationpark/

Drop off at DOC Field Base

Department of Conservation
Port Fitzroy
Great Barrier Island

There will also be an opportunity to make submissions verbally in support of a written submission at a hearing. Hearings will be arranged after the close of submissions. Please indicate in your submission if you wish to be heard and make a verbal presentation to a hearings panel.

5.3 Further information

Copies of this discussion document can be downloaded from the DOC website:
www.doc.govt.nz/aoteaconservationpark/

For more information, contact:

Rebecca Gibson, Ranger Partnerships
Department of Conservation
Great Barrier Island Field Base
Phone: (09) 429 0238
Email: gbiconservationpark@doc.govt.nz

6. Appendix 1: Land proposed for inclusion in the proposed Aotea Conservation Park

Stewardship area name	Map reference	Approximate size (ha)	Description	Natural/cultural/historic values	Recreation and use/facilities
Cape Barrier Stewardship Area	1	23.4	Promontory at southernmost tip of Great Barrier; steep hills and gullies; views to Coromandel and Cuvier Island.	Secondary coastal broadleaf forest; good stands of mature pōhutukawa; kererū/NZ pigeon, kākā and ruru/morepork; high archaeological values.	Moderate visitor use; popular local fishing area; accessible by foot from end of Cape Barrier Road. No facilities.
Great Barrier Forest Stewardship Area	2	6088.1	Extensive area of rugged hills and rock outcrops through centre of Great Barrier Island; spectacular scenery, especially rock formations.	Unburnt kauri forest with diverse understorey, mānuka/kānuka; large areas of secondary growth with tall kānuka, hardwood and kauri regeneration; patches of coastal broadleaf forest in gullies; tāiko/black petrel and titi/Cook's petrel breed on central peaks; kererū/NZ pigeon, kākā, ruru/morepork and kākāriki/NZ parakeet; pāteke/brown teal, mohu pererū/banded rail, mātātā/fernbird, matuku/bittern, pūweto/spotless crane and kororā/little penguin in wetland areas; special spiritual significance to tangata whenua; archaeological sites; best preserved kauri dams in NZ, extensive sawmill site, last whaling station built in NZ.	Moderate to high visitor use in summer; accessible by vehicle from Fitzroy-Harataonga Road. Facilities: tramping/walking tracks, picnic sites, huts, boardwalks, campground, display panels.
Great Barrier Forest Stewardship Area	3	399.4	Area of native forest hills above Port Fitzroy and western coast of Rarohara Bay.	Secondary hardwood/tall kānuka/kauri regenerating; areas of secondary coastal broadleaf forest in gullies; kererū/NZ	Moderate to high visitor use during the summer months due to boatie access.

Stewardship area name	Map reference	Approximate size (ha)	Description	Natural/cultural/historic values	Recreation and use/facilities
				pigeon, kākā, ruru/morepork and kākārīki/NZ parakeet.	Facilities: tramping/walking tracks.
Hirakimata-Kaitoke Swamp Ecological Area	4	1089.9	Central mountain area and vast wetland in interior of island, including highest peak, Hirakimatā/Mt Hobson; contains Kaitoke Swamp, a large unmodified freshwater wetland of international significance; hills covered in native forest.	Unburnt kauri with diverse understorey and some secondary hardwood forest; swamp from freshwater to saltmarsh and mangroves; tāiko/black petrel, tītī/Cook's petrel, pāteke/brown teal, mohu pererū/banded rail, pūwheto/spotless crane, matuku/bittern, māātātā/fernbird, pepeketua/Hochstetter's frog and Great Barrier skink.	Moderate to high annual use; accessible by vehicle from Whangaparapara Road. Facilities: walking tracks, boardwalks, viewing platforms, display panels.
Komahunga Stewardship Area	5	7.7	Exposed strip of steep cliff and rocky coastline on east coast.	Primary revegetation of pōhutukawa coastal forest; previously farmed with patches of grass still visible in pockets between cliffs.	Low visitor use; accessible by foot from Fitzroy-Harataonga Road, or by boat. No facilities.
Korotiti Bay Stewardship Area	6	2.5	Small coastal block in Korotiti Bay on east coast.	Regenerating mānuka/kānuka with small patches of grassland.	Accessible by foot from Korotiti Track, or by boat. No facilities.
Okupu Stewardship Area	7	15.1	Steep forested southern slopes inland from Okupu Bay; overlooks Blind Bay.	Podocarp-hardwood forest.	Low visitor use; accessible by foot from Okupu. No facilities.
Ruahine North Stewardship Area	8	57.8	Large block of coastal forest in steep hills on southeast coast; wild and rugged.	Areas of secondary coastal broadleaf forest; good stands of coastal broadleaf/podocarp forest and pōhutukawa; kererū/NZ pigeon, kākā, ruru/morepork and kākārīki/NZ parakeet.	Low visitor use; accessible by foot from end of Rosalie Bay Road. No facilities.
Ruahine South	9	26.2	Area of coastal forest in	Areas of secondary broadleaf	Low visitor use; accessible by

Stewardship area name	Map reference	Approximate size (ha)	Description	Natural/cultural/historic values	Recreation and use/facilities
Stewardship Area			steep hills on southeast coast; remote stretch of scenic, wild and rugged coastal land; integral part of Mt Issacs landform.	forest in gullies; undisturbed podocarp/broadleaf coastal forest protected from stock from steep terrain; kererū/ NZ pigeon, kākā, ruru/morepork and kākārīki/NZ parakeet.	foot from end of Cape Barrier Road. No facilities.
Shoal Bay Stewardship Area	10	0.2	Small site on southwest shore of Shoal Bay bordering beach.	Mature pōhutukawa.	Moderate to high visitor use; accessible by vehicle from Shoal Bay Road. No facilities.
St Paul Stewardship Area	11	97.4	Steep forested slopes to west of St Paul summit; straddles slopes that separate Tryphena Harbour from Blind Bay.	Contains areas of hardwood, taraire, kohekohe, northern rātā, puriri, some tall kānuka; endemic Great Barrier skink, paua slug, kākārīki/NZ parakeet, kererū/NZ pigeon, kākā and ruru/morepork.	Low visitor use; accessible by foot from Schooner Bay Road. No facilities.
Te Paparahi Stewardship Area	12	3383.1	Steep-sided, forest-covered hills forming northernmost block of forest on the island, including elevated high point of Tataweka; largely unmodified landscape.	Taraire-tawa-kohekohe, some puriri, rewarewa, plus kānuka stands of variable age; partially unlogged; rare plants present; kōkako, pepeketua/Hochstetter's frog, niho taniwha/chevron skink and 8 other lizard species, land snail (<i>Rhytida greenwoodi</i>) and kākārīki/NZ parakeet; high archaeological and historic values; oldest surviving mining remains in NZ; historic traditional Māori use.	Low visitor use; accessible by foot from Mabeys Road, or by boat. Facilities: tramping tracks.
Tryphena North Stewardship Area	13	16.5	Area of dense forest on steep slope descending from ridgeline; forms part of hills	Podocarp/broadleaf forest including tall kānuka, taraire, kohekohe, northern rātā, puriri;	Low visitor use; accessible by foot from Tryphena-Claris Road.

Stewardship area name	Map reference	Approximate size (ha)	Description	Natural/cultural/historic values	Recreation and use/facilities
			that surround Tryphena Harbour and provide scenic backdrop to settlement.	endemic Great Barrier skink, paua slug and kākārīki/NZ parakeet.	No facilities.
Tryphena South Stewardship Area	14	22.9	Forest area on steep hill; forms part of hills that surround Tryphena Harbour and provide scenic backdrop for settlement.	Podocarp/broadleaf forest including tall kānuka, taraire, kohekohe, northern rātā, puriri; endemic Great Barrier skink, paua slug and kākārīki/NZ parakeet.	Moderate visitor use throughout the year; accessible by foot from Windy Hill Road. Facilities: walking track.
Wairahi Forest Sanctuary	15	477.2	Steep forest covered hills on southwest coast, rising steeply from coast to Whangaparapara trig; forms part of continuous forest that extends to Mt Hobson/Hirakimata; significant landscape values.	Some unmilled and secondary kauri/hardwood forests and tall kānuka, coastal pōhutukawa, kauri stands; common forest bird species.	Low visitor use; accessible by foot from Whangaparapara Track, or by boat. Facilities: walking track.
Whangapoua Stewardship Area	16	359.3	Unconsolidated sand spit extending from low hills enclosing large unmodified estuarine area on east coast; breathtaking composition of distinct elements in sequence – lagoon, wetland, sand spit, pastoral flats, rolling foothills, scrub-covered hills.	Only large mangrove saltmarsh area on island; mudflats host eel grass and shrubland margins; excellent ecotone sequences of saline vegetation to freshwater swamps; pīngao and pines on sand spit; highest bird diversity on island; pāteke/brown teal, tūturiwhatu/NZ dotterel, tōrea/oystercatcher, ngutu-parore/wrybill, kuaka/godwit, tuturuatu/golden plover, mohu pererū/banded rail, matuku/bittern, mātātā/fernbird and pūwheto/spotless crane; high archaeological values; wahi tapu	Moderate visitor use throughout the year; accessible by vehicle from Fitzroy-Harataonga Road. Facilities: campground.

Stewardship area name	Map reference	Approximate size (ha)	Description	Natural/cultural/historic values	Recreation and use/facilities
				area beside estuary; traditional kaimoana source.	
Windy Hill North Stewardship Area	17	16.5	Narrow strip of dense coastal forest in steep rugged hills, including Windy Hill summit, on southeast coast; incorporates exposed shoreline and cliffs; extensive views of island from summit.	Areas of secondary coastal broadleaf forest and podocarp broadleaf forest in gullies, impressive tall kānuka stands; kererū/NZ pigeon, kākā, ruru/morepork and kākārīki/NZ parakeet.	Low visitor use; accessible by foot from end of Windy Hill Road. No facilities.
Windy Hill South Stewardship Area	18	26.3	Strip of dense coastal forest in steep rugged hills on southeast coast.	Areas of secondary coastal broadleaf forest in gullies; coastal type extending from shore to ridge is now uncommon, even on Great Barrier Island; kererū/NZ pigeon, kākā, ruru/morepork and kākārīki/NZ parakeet; archaeological site on boundary.	Low visitor use; accessible by foot from end of Rosalie Bay Road. No facilities.

Submission Form: Aotea Conservation Park Proposal

Great Barrier Island

Fill in the form below and email or post it to the addresses on the last page. You can also choose to submit online at www.doc.govt.nz/aoteaconservationpark/, or drop the form off at the DOC Field Base at Port Fitzroy on Aotea/Great Barrier Island.

Submissions close at 5 pm, Friday 28 February 2014.

Submitter details:

I am submitting: as an individual on behalf of an organisation *(please tick one)*

Organisation name (if applicable): _____

Individual/contact name: _____

Postal address: _____

Preferred phone contact number: _____

Email address: _____

Please find below some questions to prompt your thinking. Please continue on a separate sheet of paper if you require more space for your responses, and attach it to your submission.

1. Do you agree with the proposal to reclassify conservation areas on Aotea/Great Barrier Island as a conservation park?

Yes No *(please tick one)*

Why?

2. Do you agree with the proposed boundaries for the Aotea Conservation Park being all stewardship areas (and including the ecological and sanctuary area) located on Aotea/Great Barrier Island?

Yes No *(please tick one)*

Why?



3. Do you think there should be a management committee established to advise on the management of Aotea Conservation Park?

Yes No *(please tick one)*

Why?

4. Do you agree with the proposed name for the conservation park: Aotea Conservation Park?

Yes No *(please tick one)*

Why?

5. Any other thoughts, comments or suggestions?

Would you like to be heard in support of your submission? Yes No *(please tick one)*

If yes, which hearing location would you prefer?: Aotea/Great Barrier Island *(please tick one)*

Auckland City

If a hearing is requested, it is likely to be held in the week commencing 17 March 2014. We will contact you about the hearing details.

We value your views and thoughts on the proposed Aotea Conservation Park.

Once completed, please send this form to: gbiconservationpark@doc.govt.nz

Or post to:

Department of Conservation
Hamilton Shared Service Centre
Private Bag 3072
Waikato Mail Centre
Hamilton 3240
Attn: Hannah Divehall

Or drop off at DOC Field Base:

Department of Conservation
Port Fitzroy
Great Barrier Island

The closing date for submissions is 5 pm, Friday 28 February 2014