



Cabinet

CAB Min (07) 12/1(12)

Minute of Decision

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Minister of Conservation

Copies to:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Finance
Hon Jim Anderton
Associate Minister of Finance
(Hon Trevor Mallard)
Controller and Auditor-General

2007 Budget Package: Vote Conservation

On 19 April 2007, Cabinet:

1. **approved** the Budget initiatives for the above Vote for inclusion in the 2007 Budget package, as listed in the summary below and detailed in the attached initiative documents;

Summary of initiatives included in the attached initiative documents:

Operating Initiatives (Impact on Operating Balance)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11 & Outyears
4039	Meeting Treaty Settlement Objectives while Managing Risks to Conservation Values	-	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
4114	Te Araroa Track Development	-	-	0.146	0.510	0.875
4119	A Nationwide Pest Reduction Strategy for Deer, Chamois, Thar and Pigs	0.200	-	-	-	-
4121	Maintaining Department of Conservation Capability	-	0.297	3.106	4.331	5.589
4508	Intensive, Integrated Biodiversity Management at New Sites on Conservation Land	-	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Total Operating		0.200	3.297	6.252	7.841	9.464

Capital Initiatives (Impact on Debt)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11& Outyears
4114	Te Araroa Track Development	-	0.461	0.921	0.921	-
4116	Infrastructure Contribution at Te Rerenga Wairua (Cape Reinga) Spiritual Pathway	-	-	-	-	-
4508	Intensive, Integrated Biodiversity Management at New Sites on Conservation Land	-	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200
Total Capital		-	0.661	1.121	1.121	0.200

2. **agreed** to establish new appropriations where required to implement these initiatives, as described in the attached initiative documents;
3. **approved** the changes to appropriations and/or projected balances of net assets of the administering department (where applicable) to implement the initiatives, as set out in the attached initiative documents;
4. **approved** the additional recommendations (where applicable) to give effect to the initiatives, as set out in the attached initiative documents;
5. **agreed** that the proposed changes to appropriations and/or projected balances of net assets for 2006/07 above be included in the 2006/07 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increases be met from Imprest Supply;
6. **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Vote Minister to approve jointly any technical adjustments to baselines necessary to remove any errors or inconsistencies identified while finalising the 2006/07 Supplementary Estimates, the 2007/08 Estimates and the fiscal forecasts;
7. **noted** that all communications relating to the 2007 Budget are co-ordinated by a Budget communications committee, and that any requests for early announcement will need to have both the written approval of the Minister of Finance and sign-off from the Prime Minister's office.

Secretary of the Cabinet

References: CAB (07) 135, CAB (07) 135A

Vote: Conservation

Title: Meeting Treaty Settlement Objectives while Managing Risks to Conservation Values

Description: Increased capacity - Head Office settlement negotiations and risk management for conservation values; Conservancies support negotiations and manage local risks; Conservancies implement settlement commitments

Theme: National Identity

Theme Objective: Reconciliation

Performance Information

Performance Table

	Unit of Measurement	Performance Specification				
		2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Quantity						
Settlement implementations undertaken	Number	0	2 to 3	4 to 6	6 to 9	8 to 12
Treaty negotiations settled	Number	0	2 to 3	2 to 3	2 to 3	2 to 3
Quality						
Crown/Maori relationships - satisfaction scores	Number	0	3 out of 5	3 out of 5	3 out of 5	3 out of 5
Timeliness						
Statutory deadlines for treaty settlement implementation matters have been achieved	Percent	0	80	80	80	80

Performance Text

Increased capacity for DOC contribution to Treaty negotiations and no decline in core conservation work during negotiations. Risks to conservation values (biodiversity, public access etc) carefully managed. DOC commitments made in settlements fully implemented. Positive Crown/Maori relations established. Settlements received positively in local area. Risks otherwise are poor Crown/Maori relationships; community tension; and loss of conservation values.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11& Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000

Initiative No: 4039

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11& Outyears
Departmental Output Expenses (General):					
Management of Natural Heritage (funded by Revenue Crown)	-	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500
Policy Advice, Servicing the Minister and Statutory Bodies, and Statutory Planning (funded by Revenue Crown)	-	0.500	0.500	0.500	0.500
Total Operating	-	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Total Capital	-	-	-	-	-

Vote: Conservation

Title: Te Araroa Track Development

Description: Developing new tracks and installing signs on existing ones to complete the agreed Te Araroa Trail where it traverses land managed by the Department of Conservation.

Theme: National Identity

Theme Objective: Recreation, conservation, environment

Performance Information

Performance Table

	Unit of Measurement	Performance Specification				
		2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Quantity						
Length of existing track managed by DOC that becomes part of Te Araroa Trail (km)	Kilometres	0	20	40	70	100

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	-	0.146	0.510	0.875
Debt Impact	-	0.461	0.921	0.921	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	0.461	1.067	1.431	0.875

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11 & Outyears
Departmental Output Expenses (General): Management of Recreational Opportunities (funded by Revenue Crown)	-	-	0.146	0.510	0.875
Net Asset Schedule: Capital Investment	-	0.461	0.921	0.921	-
Total Operating	-	-	0.146	0.510	0.875
Total Capital	-	0.461	0.921	0.921	-

Vote: Conservation

Title: Infrastructure Contribution at Te Rerenga Wairua (Cape Reinga) Spiritual Pathway

Description: DOC infrastructure contribution (toilet relocation and building of car parks) as part of an integrated initiative involving Transit NZ (sealing the access road), Enterprise Northland (new Visitor Interpretation Centre), Ngati Kuri, Te Aupori, and others.

Theme: National Identity

Theme Objective: Recreation, conservation, environment

Performance Information

Performance Table

	Unit of Measurement	Performance Specification				
		2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Quantity						
Carpark and Toilet Facilities completed	Number	0	2	0	0	0
Quality						
Carparks and toilet facilities are completed to all required specifications	Percentage	0	100	0	0	0
Timeliness						
Carparks and toilet facilities are completed within 12 months	Months	0	12	0	0	0

Additional Recommendations

agreed that the Department of Conservation can access the following unneeded capital funding resulting from the re-phasing of visitor assets funding to fund the initiative 'Infrastructure Contribution at Te Rerenga Wairua (Cape Reinga) Spiritual Pathway':

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11 & Outyears
Capital	-	6.000	0.500	-	-

directed the Department of Conservation in consultation with Treasury to report to Cabinet in June 2007 with an updated and accurate schedule of capital and depreciation funding requirements to maintain the existing set of recreational opportunities.

Vote: Conservation

Title: A Nationwide Pest Reduction Strategy for Deer, Chamois, Thar and Pigs

Description: To examine alternative strategic approaches for the control of hoofed animals valued for recreational hunting – deer, chamois, thar and pigs.

Theme: National Identity

**Theme
Objective:**

Recreation, conservation,
environment

Performance Information

Performance Text

Discussion Document: Clearly set out the issues that need to be addressed in the policy process, to encourage useful stakeholder and public input to the process. Released by September 2007. Consultation Process: Designed to facilitate stakeholder and public input, to ensure confidence in the outcomes of the process. Completed by November 2007. Report to Minister: Clearly set out the issues and options, with analysis that allows the Minister to make a well informed decision. Delivered by the end of 2007.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	0.200	-	-	-	-
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	0.200	-	-	-	-

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11 & Outyears
Departmental Output Expenses (General): Management of Natural Heritage (funded by Revenue Crown)	0.200	-	-	-	-
Total Operating	0.200	-	-	-	-
Total Capital	-	-	-	-	-

Additional Recommendation

agreed to an expense transfer **in principle** of up to \$0.200 million in Departmental Output Expense: Management of Natural Heritage to allow funding provided for this initiative to be transferred to 2007/08 if required.

Initiative No: 4121**Vote:** Conservation**Title:** Maintaining Department of Conservation Capability**Description:** Additional capability funding is required to maintain the department's competitiveness in the employment market, to further develop the Natural Heritage Management System (NHMS), to meet increasing Geospatial Information Services (GIS) requirements, and to offset other inflationary pressures.**Theme:** National Identity**Theme Objective:** Recreation, conservation, environment**Performance Information****Performance Text**

Additional funding is needed to ensure that the department can deliver on the outputs in its Statement of Intent. DOC faces increasing demands to generate revenue and savings, and to reallocate core funding to meet new priorities.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11& Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	0.297	3.106	4.331	5.589
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	0.297	3.106	4.331	5.589

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11 & Outyears
Departmental Output Expenses (General):					
Conservation with the Community (funded by Revenue Crown)	-	0.015	0.160	0.224	0.289
Crown Contribution to Regional Pest Management Strategies (funded by Revenue Crown)	-	0.002	0.023	0.032	0.041
Management of Historic Heritage (funded by Revenue Crown)	-	0.006	0.063	0.088	0.113
Management of Natural Heritage (funded by Revenue Crown)	-	0.146	1.522	2.122	2.739
Management of Recreational Opportunities (funded by Revenue Crown)	-	0.122	1.276	1.778	2.295
Policy Advice, Servicing the Minister and Statutory Bodies, and Statutory Planning (funded by Revenue Crown)	-	0.006	0.062	0.087	0.112
Total Operating	-	0.297	3.106	4.331	5.589
Total Capital	-	-	-	-	-

Additional Recommendations

agreed that the Department of Conservation can access the following unneeded depreciation funding resulting from the re-phasing of visitor assets funding to partially fund the initiative 'Maintaining Department of Conservation Capability':

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11 & Outyears
Unneeded Depreciation funding	-	3.868	2.359	1.558	-

agreed that the Department of Conservation can use the October Baseline Update process to make necessary fiscally neutral changes to appropriations to allocate unneeded depreciation funding between output classes as necessary to fund the initiative 'Maintaining Department of Conservation Capability'.

Initiative No: 4508**Vote:** Conservation**Title:** Intensive, Integrated Biodiversity Management at New Sites on Conservation Land**Description:** Preventing loss of biodiversity at 2-3 nationally important freshwater sites by integrated management of pests. This will extend proven methods developed under the Mainland Island programme to freshwater ecosystems and build community involvement. Part of agreement with Greens.**Theme:** National Identity**Theme Objective:** Recreation, conservation, environment**Performance Information****Performance Text**

Increased ecosystem health - maintaining ecosystem processes, reducing exotic spread and dominance, reducing environmental pollution, preventing decline / extinctions at 2-3 freshwater sites. Better representation of the full range of ecosystem types by inclusion of previously under-represented freshwater environments in the Mainland Island network and increased public and local community interest, participation and understanding of freshwater ecosystem values and threats.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11& Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	-	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Debt Impact	-	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	2.200	2.200	2.200	2.200

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11& Outyears
Departmental Output Expenses (General): Management of Natural Heritage (funded by Revenue Crown)	-	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Net Asset Schedule: Capital Investment	-	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200
Total Operating	-	2.000	2.000	2.000	2.000
Total Capital	-	0.200	0.200	0.200	0.200

Additional technical change:**Vote:** Conservation**Title:** Foreshore and Seabed Redress to local authorities**Description:** Allocation of \$1.5 million from the Resource Management Act / Coastal Marine Area (RMA/CMA) Contingency Fund to enable the Crown to pay redress to local authorities for foreshore that has been vested in the Crown under the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004.

noted the obligation on the Crown to provide redress under the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004 to local authorities for land that was purchased and which has vested in the Crown as public foreshore;

noted that this funding is a call against the RMA/CMA contingency and that after this funding has been accessed \$1.292 million will remain in the contingency for 2006/07 and \$2.396 million in 2007/08 and 2008/09;

New Appropriation Approvals

Type	Period	Name	MCOA Output Class	Scope
Other Expense to be incurred by the Crown	Annual	Redress to Local Authorities for Foreshore	N/A	Payment of redress to Local Authorities for foreshore or seabed that has been vested in the Crown under the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11& Outyears
Operating Balance Impact	1.500	-	-	-	-
Debt Impact	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1.500	-	-	-	-

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11& Outyears
Other Expenses to be incurred by the Crown: Redress to Local Authorities for foreshore and seabed	1.500	-	-	-	-
Total Operating	1.500	-	-	-	-
Total Capital	-	-	-	-	-