

New Zealand Walking Access Commission

Statement of Intent for 2008/11

New Zealand Walking Access Commission

Statement of Intent for 2008/11

Introduction

This is the first Statement of Intent of the New Zealand Walking Access Commission (the Commission). The Commission is a statutory entity with the status of a Crown agent under the Crown Entities Act 2004. It was established under the Walking Access Act 2008 (the Act), which came into force on 30 September 2008.

The Prime Minister designated the Minister for Rural Affairs as the Minister responsible for the New Zealand Walking Access Commission. Since that time the role of the Minister for Rural Affairs has been absorbed into the functions of the Minister of Agriculture.

The monitoring department for the Commission is the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Appointments to the Board of the Commission were made by the then Minister for Rural Affairs on 13 October 2008. The terms of appointment run until 28 February 2009. This short term of appointment reflected the conventions applying to government appointments in the period leading up to an election.

Pending the appointment of its own staff and facilities, administrative support for the Commission is being acquired from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

The content of this statement reflects the recent establishment of the Commission, which is currently developing its strategies.

This Statement of Intent explains the context we work in, how we intend achieving our vision, challenges we are likely to face, risks we must manage, and how we can measure our progress. It also describes the organisational assets we rely on to achieve our goals.

The Commission looks forward to working with staff, stakeholders, key agencies and the wider community to make this plan a reality.



John Acland
Chairman



John Forbes
Member

Dated 27 February 2009

'Medium Term' Information

The Operating Environment (s 141(a) of the Crown Entities Act 2004)

The Walking Access Act was the culmination of widespread consultation with the public and interest groups in response to concerns about the availability of public walking access to the outdoors, especially access to and around the coast, to and around lakes and to and along rivers. The Act reflects reports made by two expert groups appointed by the Government to investigate and report on the issues: the Land Access Ministerial Reference Group, which reported in 2003; and the Walking Access Consultation Panel, which reported in 2007. The recommendations of the Walking Access Consultation Panel were approved by government and their implementation was guided by the Walking Access Advisory Board.

Many of the original concerns related to the extent and certainty of public access rights along water margins. There has been a popular misconception that there exists a continuous strip of public land along water margins known as the 'Queen's Chain'. While there are many public reservations along such water margins, they are by no means universal, and frequently their precise location is not well known or easy to locate.

There has also been concern about public access to water margins (that is, reasonably convenient access 'across country' to beaches, lakes and rivers), and access to other public land such as national parks.

During the consultation process unformed legal roads were identified as potentially providing an important means of walking access.

The history and legal status of water margin reservations and unformed legal roads has been comprehensively reported on by B E Hayes in reports commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in association with the Walking Access Consultation Panel. These reports have been consolidated in the publication: *Roads, Water Margins and Riverbeds: the Law on Public Access*.

The Commission's functions include a leadership and coordination role in the provision of public access to the outdoors, the provision of information about the location of existing public access, the provision of a code of responsible conduct for the guidance of the public and landholders in respect of recreational access to the outdoors, and the facilitation, funding and negotiation of new public access across private land.

The legislation re-enacts the provisions of the New Zealand Walkways Act 1990, transferring to the Commission most of the present roles in respect of walkways of the Director-General of Conservation, the New Zealand Conservation Authority, and Conservation Boards.

The Act does not interfere with private property rights. Public access to private land remains subject to negotiation and agreement between parties.

What the Commission Does (s 141 (b) of the CE Act)

The nature and scope of the Commission's functions are stated succinctly in the Walking Access Act 2008. The purpose of the Act and the Commission's objective and functions are as cited below:

Purpose (s 3 of the Walking Access Act 2008)

The purpose of this Act is-

1. *to provide the New Zealand public with free, certain, enduring, and practical walking access to the outdoors (including around the coast and lakes, along rivers, and to public resources) so that the public can enjoy the outdoors; and*
2. *to establish the New Zealand Walking Access Commission with responsibility for leading and supporting the negotiation, establishment, maintenance, and improvement of:*
 - a) *walking access (including walkways, which are one form of walking access) over public and private land; and*
 - b) *types of access that may be associated with walking access, such as access with firearms, dogs, bicycles, or motor vehicles.*

Objective of Commission (s 9 of the Walking Access Act 2008)

The objective of the Commission is to lead and support the negotiation, establishment, maintenance, and improvement of walking access and types of access that may be associated with walking access, such as access with firearms, dogs, bicycles, or motor vehicles.

Functions of Commission (s 10 of the Walking Access Act 2008)

1. *In meeting its objective under section 9, the Commission has the following functions:*
 - a) *providing national leadership on walking access by-*
 - i. *preparing and administering a national strategy; and*
 - ii. *co-ordinating walking access among relevant stakeholders and central and local government organisations, including Sport and Recreation New Zealand*
 - b) *providing local and regional leadership on, and co-ordination of, walking access in collaboration with local authorities*
 - c) *compiling, holding, and publishing maps and information about land, over which members of the public have walking access*
 - d) *providing advice on walking access to the Minister or any other person*
 - e) *facilitating resolution of disputes about walking access, including initiating negotiations about disputed issues, mediating disputes, and referring disputes to a court, tribunal, or other dispute resolution body*
 - f) *negotiating with landholders to obtain walking access (including walkways, which are one form of walking access) over public or private land*
 - g) *negotiating rights in addition to any walking access that is obtained, such as the right of access with firearms, dogs, bicycles, or motor vehicles*
 - h) *administering a fund to finance the activities of the Commission, or any other person, in obtaining, developing, improving, maintaining, administering, and signposting walking access over any land*
 - i) *receiving and managing private funding, contributions, or sponsorship for the promotion of walking access*
 - j) *researching, educating the public about, and participating in topics and programmes related to walking access*

- k) developing, promoting, and maintaining the code of responsible conduct*
 - l) administering walkways under this Act, with planning and supervision focused at a local level*
 - m) monitoring the compliance with, and enforcement of, this Act in relation to walkways.*
2. *If the Commission is aware that a site is culturally sensitive, it must consider whether it is appropriate to publish a map or information indicating the location of the site before doing so.*

In Year One

In its first year of operation the Commission will be focused on:

- setting up its administrative and executive structures and staffing
- establishing a positive relationship with the key stakeholders in walking access
- developing systems to respond to public enquiries relating to walking access
- beginning work on a National Walking Access Strategy
- beginning the process for establishing a Code of Responsible Conduct and
- scoping proposals for setting up a mapping system for walking access.

By 30 June 2009 the Commission aims to be operating independently with its chief executive appointed. It will have started to set up relationships with stakeholders and will have started drafting the Code of Responsible Conduct.

Impacts, Outcomes & Objectives (s 141 (c) of the CE Act)

The following are indicative objectives and outcomes for the period to 30 June 2011. They will be reviewed in future statements of intent.

- Undertake consultations with key walking access stakeholders on the Commission's plans and priorities by 30 June 2009.
- Establish a basis for developing ongoing coordination with local authorities on walking access issues.
- Set up appropriate administrative and executive arrangements and appoint a CEO.

- Complete and publish a Code of Responsible Conduct, in accordance with sections 15 to 22 of the Act, by 30 June 2010.
- Put in place a process for dealing with enquiries about walking access and associated issues.
- Mapping: establish the key requirements for a walking access database; issue an RFP to selected providers.
- Walkways – review the existing walkways and establish policies and priorities for establishing new walkways.
- Begin work on and advance a National Walking Access Strategy.
- Establish a contestable fund from the currently available walking access funding, and develop criteria and processes for the allocation of the funding.

Operating Intentions (s 141 (d) of the CE Act)

At this early stage of its existence the Commission has yet to finalise how it will perform its functions and conduct its operations. It has, however, resolved to operate in a consultative manner and to emphasise the need for local solutions to access issues wherever this is practicable.

Organisations with which the Commission will need to establish working relationships include:

1. Government departments with specific functions relevant to access:
 - i. Department of Conservation
 - ii. Land Information New Zealand
 - iii. Department of Internal Affairs
 - iv. Te Puni Kōkiri
2. Other statutory agencies:
 - i. Sport and Recreation New Zealand
 - ii. Fish and Game New Zealand.
3. Local Government:
 - i. Regional Councils
 - ii. Territorial Authorities
 - iii. Local Government New Zealand.
4. Māori
 - i. Iwi and hapu where appropriate
 - ii. Federation of Māori Authorities
 - iii. New Zealand Māori Council.

5. Other stakeholder groups

- i. Federated Farmers of New Zealand
- ii. Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand
- iii. Public Access New Zealand
- iv. Council of Recreational Associations of New Zealand
- v. Te Araroa Trust.
- vi. Other stakeholder groups as deemed appropriate from time to time.

Managing Organisational Health (s 141 (e) of the CE Act)

As a new statutory entity one of the Commission's first priorities is to set up appropriate administrative and operational functions. This will require consideration of the purposes, objective and functions of the Commission, and the available financial resources.

The funding for the Commission that has been agreed to by the Government is as follows:

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12 and outyears
	\$000	\$000	\$000	\$000
Output Funding	2,189	2,789	1,789	1,789
Capital	150	500	500	-

As a small Crown entity the Commission will be very focused on achieving outcomes rather than organisational expansion.

Financial & Non-Financial Measures (s 141 (f) of the CE Act)

In setting up its staffing and operational functions the Commission will be aiming to keep its ongoing operational costs within the baseline appropriation level. It intends to use any additional funding accumulated in its first two years to build up a contestable fund for obtaining, developing, improving, maintaining, administering, and signposting walking access over land. It will establish more explicit financial objectives and performance measures as it gains a better understanding of the cost of achieving walking access outcomes.

Consultation & Reporting to the Minister (s 141 (g) of the CE Act)

The Minister has proposed reports on progress against objectives, on 29 February and 30 June 2009, and quarterly thereafter. The Commission has agreed with this frequency of reporting.

Particular matters on which the Commission anticipates that it will consult with or notify the Minister are:

- the scope and key features of a mapping system for walking access before it is finalised;
- the final form of the Code of Responsible Conduct before it is published; and
- the national strategy on walking access before it is released in final form.

Processes in Relation to Acquisitions (s 141(h) of the CE Act)

The Commission does not anticipate that it will be acquiring interests in companies, trusts or partnerships.

Other Matters Required by Statute(s 141 (i) of the CE Act)

All of the Commission's statutory functions have been cited above.

Other Matters (s 141 (j) of the CE Act)

Any further explanations that may be needed will be considered for inclusion in the Commission's next Statement of Intent as the Commission develops its strategies.

Forecast Financial Statements

Introduction

This section contains the following forecast financial statements:

- Statement of Responsibility
- Statement of Forecast Financial Performance
- Statement of Forecast Financial Position
- Statement of Forecast Cash Flows
- Statement of Forecast Equity
- Statement of Significant Underlying Assumptions and Accounting Policies to explain the basis on which the forecast financial statements have been compiled.

The forecast financial statements comply with NZ IFRS apart from IAS 19 – Employee Benefits where no provision for sick leave has been made. Caution should be taken when reviewing the forecast financial statements as it is likely that the actual financial results will vary from the information presented and the variations may be material. The purpose of these forecast financial statements is to provide a base against which the Walking Access Commission’s actual performance can be assessed.

Statement of responsibility

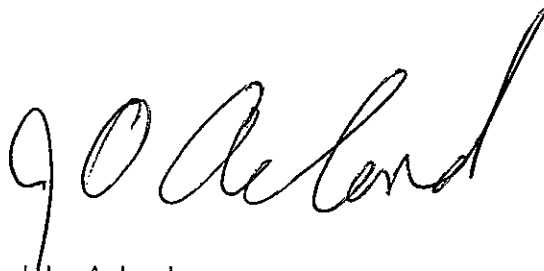
The New Zealand Walking Access Commission is a statutory entity with the status of a Crown agent under the Crown Entities Act 2004 with its role established under the Walking Access Act 2008.

The Commission is responsible for the preparation of the Statement of Intent and prospective financial statements, including the assumptions on which the financial statements are based.

The prospective financial statements have been prepared in accordance with NZ IFRS. The Commission does not intend to update and republish the prospective financial statements.

The prospective financial statements have been developed for the purpose of tabling the Commission's intentions in Parliament, and should not be relied upon by any other party for any alternative purpose without the express written permission of the Commission. Actual results are likely to be different from the prospective financial statements and the variation may be material.

We have authorised the issue of the financial statements on this day, 27 February 2009.



John Acland
Chairman



John Forbes
Member

Forecast Statement of Service

The Commission is responsible for a single non departmental output class, Walking Access Commission.

The administration of a fund for obtaining, developing, improving, maintaining, administering, and signposting walking access over land is a function of the Commission specified in S 10 (1) (h) of the Walking Access Act. No separate provision has been made for this fund, so the intention of the Commission is to provide for the fund from budgeted surpluses in the 2008/09 and 2009/10 years. The estimated contribution to the contestable fund from the 2008/09 financial year is \$0.927 million.

A goal of the Commission is to set up a comprehensive New Zealand mapping system for walking access. As the consultation and software preparation is expected to take some time to complete the timing of this fixed asset expenditure is yet to be determined.

The Commission has yet to develop service performance standards at this early stage of its existence. It will develop standards for its first full financial year and include them in its next Statement of Intent.

**New Zealand Walking Access Commission
Statement of Financial Performance**

For the year ended 30 June

	<i>Forecast</i> 2008 - 09 \$000	<i>Estimate</i> 2009 - 10 \$000	<i>Estimate</i> 2010 - 11 \$000
Income			
Crown revenue	2,189	2,789	1,789
Interest	50	110	120
TOTAL INCOME	2,239	2,899	1,909
Less Expenses			
Operating costs	917	1,024	1,115
Salaries and related costs	272	560	595
Audit fees	10	15	15
Board fees	73	97	97
Depreciation	10	20	20
Rentals and leases	30	67	67
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,312	1,783	1,909
Net Operating Surplus/(deficit) for the year	927	1,116	-

Note: The above statement should be read in conjunction with our accounting policies.

**New Zealand Walking Access Commission
Statement of Financial Position**

As at 30 June

	<i>Forecast</i> 2008 - 09 \$000	<i>Estimate</i> 2009 - 10 \$000	<i>Estimate</i> 2010 - 11 \$000
Crown Equity			
Retained earnings (Contestable fund)	927	2,043	2,043
Capital contributed	150	650	1,150
Trust fund	10	10	10
TOTAL CROWN EQUITY	1,087	2,703	3,203
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Bank	10	10	10
Receivables and prepayments	143	143	143
Total current assets	153	153	153
Non-Current Assets			
Fixed assets	90	70	50
Term investments	987	2,623	3,143
Total non-current assets	1,077	2,693	3,193
Total assets	1,230	2,846	3,346
Current Liabilities			
Payables	143	143	143
Total current liabilities	143	143	143
NET ASSETS	1,087	2,703	3,203

Note: The above statement should be read in conjunction with our accounting policies.

**New Zealand Walking Access Commission
Cash Flow Statement**

For the year ended 30 June

	<i>Forecast 2008 - 09 \$000</i>	<i>Estimate 2009 - 10 \$000</i>	<i>Estimate 2010 - 11 \$000</i>
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash will be provided from:			
Crown revenue	2,189	2,789	1,789
Interest	50	110	120
	2,239	2,899	1,909
Cash will be applied to:			
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,272)	(1,713)	(1,839)
Net GST	(30)	(50)	(50)
	(1,302)	(1,763)	(1,889)
Net cash flows from operating activities	937	1,136	20
Cash flows from investing activities			
Cash will be applied to:			
Purchase of fixed assets	(100)		
Net cash flows from investing activities	(100)	-	-
Cash flows from financing activities			
Cash will be provided from:			
Capital contribution	150	500	500
Department of Conservation	10		
Cash will be applied to:			
Term investments	(987)	(1,636)	(520)
Net cash flows from financing activities	(827)	(1,136)	(20)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash	10	-	-
Cash at 1 July	-	10	10
Closing cash balance	10	10	10

Note: The above statement should be read in conjunction with our accounting policies.

**New Zealand Walking Access Commission
Projected Movements in Equity**

For the year ended 30 June

	<i>Forecast 2009 - 10 \$000</i>	<i>Estimate 2010 - 11 \$000</i>	<i>Estimate 2011 - 12 \$000</i>
Opening Equity 1 July	0	1,087	2,703
Net operating surplus/(deficit) for the year	927	1,116	-
Capital contribution	160	500	500
Closing Equity 30 June	1,087	2,703	3,203

Note: The above statement should be read in conjunction with our accounting policies.

**New Zealand Walking Access Commission
Reconciliation of Net Surplus to Cash Flow from Operating Activities**

For the year ended 30 June

	<i>Forecast 2009 - 10 \$000</i>	<i>Estimate 2010 - 11 \$000</i>	<i>Estimate 2011 - 12 \$000</i>
Net operating surplus/(deficit) for the year	927	1,116	-
Add non-cash items:			
Depreciation	10	20	20
Total	937	1,136	20
Add/(less) working capital movements:			
Decrease (increase) in receivables			
Increase (decrease) in payables			
Working Capital Movement – Net			
Net cash flows from operating activities	937	1,136	20

Note: The above statement should be read in conjunction with our accounting policies.

Statement of Accounting Policies

Reporting Entity

The New Zealand Walking Access Commission is a body corporate owned by the Crown with perpetual succession and is responsible for the leadership and co-ordination of walking access. The Commission is a statutory entity with the status of a Crown agent under the Crown Entities Act 2004. It was established under the Walking Access Act 2008 (the Act). These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Crown Entities Act 2004.

Measurement System

The financial statements have been prepared under NZ IFRS. The financial statements have been prepared on an historical cost basis. The presentation currency is New Zealand dollars.

Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies, which materially affect the measurement of financial performance and financial position, have been applied.

Revenue

The New Zealand Walking Access Commission derives revenue through the provision of outputs to the Crown and from investment income. Such revenue is recognised when earned and is reported in the financial period to which it relates.

Goods and Services Tax

The financial statements are prepared on a GST exclusive basis, except accounts receivable and accounts payable which are stated inclusive of GST.

Fixed Assets

The initial cost of a fixed asset is the value of the consideration given to acquire or create the asset and any directly attributable costs of bringing the asset to working condition for its intended use. All fixed assets are recorded at historical cost less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation

Fixed assets are depreciated on a straight line basis at rates that will write off the cost of the assets to their estimated residual value over their useful life.

The useful lives and associated depreciation rates used in the preparation of these statements are as follows:

Office equipment	2-13 years	7.8% - 48.0%
Furniture and fittings	5-15 years	6.5% - 25.2%
Computer equipment	3-6 years	15.5% - 60.0%

Intangible Assets

SOFTWARE

Software is a finite life intangible and is recorded at cost less accumulated amortisation and impairment. Amortisation is charged on a straight line basis over the estimated useful life of the intangible asset.

The following amortisation rates are used in the calculation of amortisation:

Software	30.0% - 48.0%
----------	---------------

Leases

The New Zealand Walking Access Commission leases office premises and equipment. As all the risks and ownership are retained by the lessor these leases are classified as operating leases. Operating lease expenses are recognised on a systematic basis over the period of the lease.

Financial Instruments

There are no financial instruments that expose New Zealand Walking Access Commission to foreign exchange risk or off balance sheet risks.

The New Zealand Walking Access Commission is party to financial instruments as part of its normal operations. These financial instruments include bank accounts, short-term deposits and creditors. All financial instruments are recognised at fair value and all revenues and expenses in relation to financial instruments are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Investments

Investments are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Any write-downs are recognised in the Statement of Financial Performance in the period in which they occur.

Taxation

The New Zealand Walking Access Commission is a public authority in terms of the Income Tax Act 2004 and consequently is exempt from income tax.

Employee Entitlements

Provision is made in respect of liability for annual leave. Annual leave is expected to be settled within 12 months (or approval gained to carry forward leave) of reporting date, and is measured at nominal values on an actual entitlement basis at current rate of pay.

No provision has been made for sick leave as the cost of doing so would exceed the benefits of reporting such a provision.

The New Zealand Walking Access Commission does not provide long service leave or retirement leave.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable are stated at net realisable value.

Statement of Cash Flows

The Statement of Cash Flows is prepared exclusive of GST, which is consistent with the method used in the Statement of Financial Performance.

Definitions of the terms used in the statement of cash flows are:

"Cash" includes coins and notes, demand deposits and other highly liquid investments readily convertible into cash and includes at call borrowings such as bank overdrafts, used by the entity as part of its day to day cash management.

"Investing activities" are those activities relating to the acquisition and disposal of current and non-current investments and any other non-current assets.

"Financing activities" are those activities relating to changes in equity of the entity.

"Operating activities" include all transactions and other events that are not investing or financing activities.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There are no changes in accounting policies. All accounting policies have been applied on a consistent basis.

