

# NEW ZEALAND **GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL**


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ANNUAL REPORT  
**2021-2022**

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Game Animal Council  
NEW ZEALAND



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# **Sustainable management of game animals and hunting for recreation, commerce and conservation**

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Presented to the House of Representatives Pursuant  
to Sections 150-157 of the Crown Entities Act 2004

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## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

The 2021-2022 year has seen the Game Animal Council (GAC) make considerable progress in a number of key areas.

Probably most significant, is the development (by the Department of Conservation with GAC input) of a framework for wild animal management titled Te Ara ki Mua.

When Te Mana o te Taiao, the Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy was released in 2020, it recognised game animals (deer, tahr, chamois and wild pigs) as valued introduced species. This definition has been critical in acknowledging these animal's significant recreational, commercial, community and cultural values alongside their environmental challenges. Te Ara ki Mua is the framework that bridges the gap between this recognition and how these animals are managed.

Te Ara ki Mua aims to achieve conservation outcomes that are balanced with community expectations, and has a strong focus on iwi, community and hunter involvement in planning and implementation.

I am convinced that Te Ara ki Mua is the opportunity to move away from our traditional all-or nothing method of game animal management, which has led to see-sawing game animal populations and poor environmental outcomes, to a more enduring and balanced approach. For hunters, the benefits will be healthier ecosystems supporting fewer (in some places) but better-quality game animals.

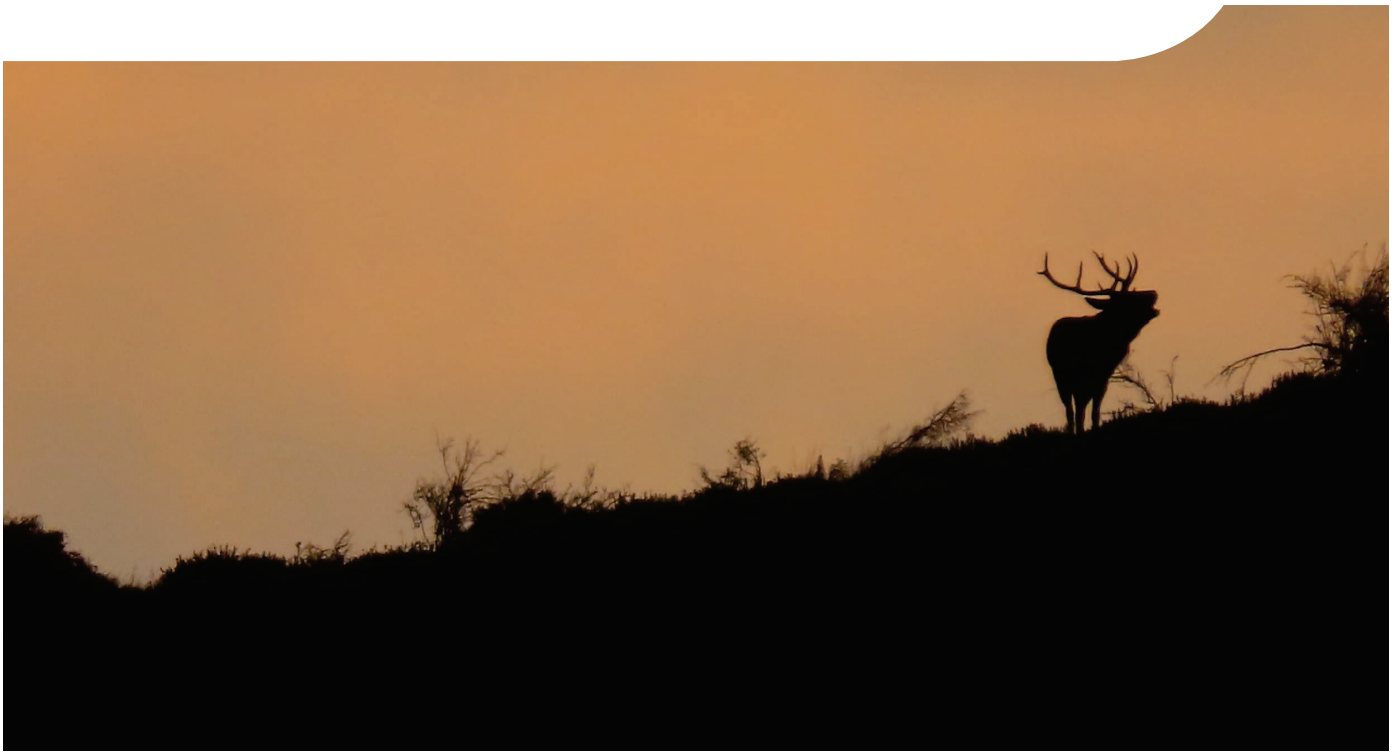
In coming years, the GAC intends to progress more intensive hunter-led management through the creation of 'herds of special interest'. This, we envisage to be a pathway for already-successful models of management in Fiordland (wapiti) and developing in the Central North Island (sika), with potential to add further noteworthy herds and locations over time.

The Council is also making great progress on its hunter training and education initiative being delivered through the Jobs for Nature programme. The GAC is developing an online hunter training course while the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association is delivering more practical training by further expanding its excellent HUNTS courses.

I am pleased to report that the GAC's immediate funding challenge has been resolved with the commitment of four years of progressively-increasing funding through Vote Conservation. This will enable the GAC to build our modest human resources and deliver on our statutory functions. The expectation is that this funding will continue to roll forward giving the GAC the funding security it needs. The Crown's investment ultimately demonstrates the value that the GAC is adding to conservation and the game animal sector. Thanks must go to the wider GAC team who have contributed to this outcome.

Finally, I would like to thank the GAC Councillors, who have all made valuable contributions during the year as well as General Manager Tim Gale for his successful leadership of the GAC's small team of contractors and consultants. Special thanks go to outgoing councillors Stephen Hall (Deputy Chair), Rachael Dean and Don Patterson. They have all made significant contributions to the oversight and development of the GAC over a number of years.

**Grant Dodson**  
Game Animal Council Chair



# ABOUT THE GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL

## STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

The Game Animal Council is a statutory body with legislated functions that include:

- Advising and make recommendations to the Minister of Conservation.
- Providing information and education to the hunting sector.
- Promoting safety initiatives for the hunting sector.
- Advising private landowners on hunting.
- Developing voluntary codes of practice for hunting.
- Raising awareness of the views of the hunting sector.
- Liaising with other organisations to improve hunting opportunities.
- Conducting research, including research on the hunting of game animals.
- Managing herds of special interest.

The GAC's full statutory role including further functions can be found in the Game Animal Council Act 2013, available at [www.legislation.govt.nz](http://www.legislation.govt.nz).

## 2019-24 STRATEGIC PLAN

Achieving the following 'themes' remain important objectives for the GAC:

- Enhance the quality of game animal herds while remaining consistent with conservation values.
- Develop positive relationships between the Game Animal Council and stakeholders through effective communication.
- Promote hunter safety.
- Reduce conflict among stakeholders.
- Improve the acceptance of hunting as a safe and legitimate activity.
- Promote standards for hunting and management of game animals.
- Develop appropriate management and administration structures.
- Promote the interests of the game animal sector.

# 2021-22 COUNCIL

Game Animal Councillors are appointed by the Minister of Conservation and bring different perspectives, skills and expertise to the Council table as well as important links back to their communities and the hunting sector. Councillors are not appointed to represent specific hunting sector organisations or interests.



## COUNCIL MEMBERS

Grant Dodson – Chair  
Stephen Hall – Deputy Chair  
Rachael Dean  
Don Patterson  
Sharon Salmons  
Bruce Warburton  
Erin Garrick  
John Cook  
Steve McFall  
Kevin Eastwood (appointed 23 November 2021)  
Eugene Rewi (appointed 23 November 2021)

## STAFFING

In 2021-22 the GAC had one full-time General Manager whose work was supported by a Hunter Safety and Education Programme Lead and a small team of part-time and casual contractors undertaking scientific advice, policy advice, administration, project management and communications and government relations.



GAC General Manager  
Tim Gale

# 2021-22 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

## GAME ANIMAL MANAGEMENT

### TE ARA KI MUA

Working with the Department of Conservation and New Zealand hunting sector to develop and release Te Ara ki Mua as an adaptive management framework for wild goats, deer, wild pigs, tahr, and chamois was a significant achievement for the GAC during 2021-22 and may prove to be one of the most important projects the Council has yet undertaken.



Te Ara ki Mua gives effect to Te Mana o te Taiao Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and seeks to balance the recreational, cultural and economic benefits to our communities of deer, chamois, tahr and wild pigs with their environmental impacts. While pest goat control will also be a priority, Te Ara ki Mua recognises that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to game animal management. Different game animal populations in different places require different management strategies that need to be grounded in science and involve recreational and commercial hunters, local communities, iwi and stakeholders.

Te Ara ki Mua represents an opportunity to create an enduring and inclusive solution to the historically divisive issue of game animal management and if implemented appropriately can bring major conservation and hunting benefits to New Zealand.

The Framework will be implemented by the Department of Conservation and Game Animal Council in partnership with whānau, hapū, and iwi through regional collaborative plans, site-based adaptive management and scientific monitoring and analysis.

The management of breeding hinds will be a critical tool in implementing Te Ara ki Mua





## TAHR MANAGEMENT

The GAC continues to be an active member of the Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group and in 2021-22 played a key role in the mid-point review of the 2021-22 Tahr Control Operational Plan as well as providing detailed analysis and advice to assist the Department in developing the 2022-23 Plan. Our advice focused on:

- Prioritising control activity – tahr outside the feral range, in exclusion zones, outside the management units, and within management units 2 and 6.
- Undertaking control operations where there will be the greatest conservation benefit, i.e. tahr numbers are high or tahr are causing the most significant adverse environmental effects.
- The needs of recreational hunting, guided hunting and WARO. This also included advice not to target identifiable male tahr.
- The implementation of control method priorities where possible with official control focusing on places where recreational hunting, guided hunting and WARO are ineffective, including the exclusion zones, outside the feral range and where access is difficult.
- The application of adaptive management principles, including enhanced vegetation and population monitoring.

Work has progressed on the development of a hunter-led managed area for the South Rakaia/Upper Rangitata area of Management Unit 1 with more detailed engagement between GAC, DOC, local Papatipu Rūnunga and Ngāi Tahu planned for 2022-23.



**Tahr population monitoring**

## RED STAG AGEING GUIDE

Red deer are the most widespread game animal species in New Zealand and good red deer management is about helping recreational hunters assist in managing population density by actively harvesting breeding females while also being able to successfully identify the mature males to target.

The GAC produced this guide to provide hunters with information on how to judge the age of red deer stags in the field and positively contribute to a world class hunting resource.

The overall aim is to achieve high-quality, low-density game herds with a reduced number of females and a higher proportion of males being allowed to reach trophy age. This has the dual positive impact of providing both better hunting (due to more males being allowed to reach maturity) and a healthier ecosystem (due to the reduction in the number of breeding animals).



## MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

### Fiordland deer management project

- A deer management project jointly developed by DOC, the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation (FWF) and the GAC was undertaken to address the gap left by the reduction in wild animal recovery operations (WARO) in Fiordland National Park. 432 mainly red and hybrid hinds were removed from locations to the west of the Murchison Mountains and south of the established wapiti range. This will help preserve the high conservation value of the area while enhancing the integrity of the Fiordland wapiti herd.

### Lake Sumner RHA management operation

- Following the 2022 Roar, a pilot management programme was undertaken by the GAC, in collaboration with DOC, New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) and local landowners, which removed 126 breeding hinds from the Lake Sumner Recreational Hunting Area (RHA). The success of this hunter-led management programme not only reduces the short-term breeding capacity of the Lake Sumner herd but provides an inexpensive and viable model for future targeted management operations.

### Sika Foundation Kaimanawa REZ management operation

- The GAC was pleased to liaise with the Sika Foundation Conservation Trust in developing a deer management operation in the fairly inaccessible Kaimanawa Remote Experience Zone as part of a larger adaptive deer management and research programme in the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Forest Parks



Volunteer hunter Tania Kiely with venison harvested from the Lake Sumner RHA deer management operation

## HUNTER EDUCATION & SAFETY

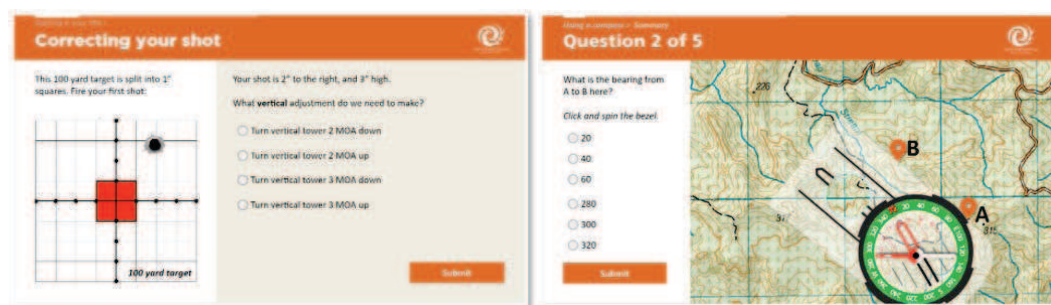
### NATIONAL HUNTER SAFETY AND EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The GAC joined with the NZDA to apply for and receive a funding grant for hunter training and education delivered through the Jobs for Nature Community Conservation Fund.

The GAC's portion of the funding is to establish a free-to-use online hunter safety and education programme that will help bridge the gap for new and inexperienced hunters who gain their firearms licence but have yet to undertake a hands-on practical hunting course.

The online programme will have a significant emphasis on outdoor safety, in addition to specific firearms safety. Recreational hunters also require good information on where to hunt, what to hunt and when, and how to harvest game animals successfully. Information on population dynamics and the contribution of hunting to conservation outcomes is extremely important, enabling hunters to make good game animal management decisions while out hunting.

In 2021-22 the GAC employed a Programme Lead, purchased an online domain, identified a suitable learning management system and server host, began content development and stood up a prototyping version to use while content is further developed.



Content development is underway on the GAC's National Hunter Safety and Education Programme

### SAFETY

In line with a key statutory function the GAC consistently promotes the importance of safe hunting practices to the hunting community. Our hunter safety messaging revolves around two core principles, solid preparation and making good decisions while out hunting.

Being well-prepared means making suitable plans based on a reliable weather forecast, leaving accurate intentions, carrying a distress beacon and ensuring everyone in the party has the right food, clothing and equipment for New Zealand's changeable conditions. Making good decisions is about assessing the conditions, taking into account the party's level of experience and fitness, and making sure everyone is comfortable with the plans being made. Firearm safety and positive target identification are also critically important.



The Roar period remains a key focus for hunter safety given the high number of hunters who venture out at this time of year. For the 2022 Roar the GAC ran a campaign around the theme “Look After Your Mates This Roar.” Again, this was focused on preparation and planning and making good decisions to help you look after those you go hunting with as well as other hunters and backcountry users you may come across.

The GAC continues to collaborate with other outdoor recreation organisations through the Land Safety Forum and we are hopeful this will continue to develop and promote more joint safety projects in the future. The GAC also supported Adventure Smart in promoting the use of distress beacons amongst outdoor adventurers.



## FUNDING STRATEGY

A five-year funding strategy was commissioned and developed with assistance from consulting firm MartinJenkins. The 2022/23 – 2026/27 Funding Strategy considers and analyses options to fund the GAC’s future operations.

Each option was assessed against a set of funding principles – is it doable, is it easy to implement, is it enough, and can it be enduring? In addition, options that recovered cost from third parties were assessed against cost recovery principles established by Treasury and the Office of the Auditor General.

The results of the funding assessment show that:

- There is a strong case for the Crown to fund the GAC’s operations until conditions are right to implement other funding sources.
- The Game Trophy Export Levy, as set out in the Game Animal Council Act, remains a significant and viable revenue source for the GAC in the longer term.
- Voluntary schemes could contribute to the overall funding mix. However, they present a high level of uncertainty due to their voluntary nature.
- A range of other funding sources, like grants, gifts, donations, and bequests could form a relatively smaller proportion of the GAC’s overall funding mix.

Given the challenges of the current economic situation and the provisions of the Game Animal Council Act, Crown funding is the only viable source for core funding of the GAC’s operations over the next five years. Alternative funding sources including the Game Trophy Export Levy may become viable but will require appropriate development during the 2022/23 – 2026/27 period and beyond. Crown funding will be supplemented by independent sources of income, such as donations, however, these sources are limited in scope.

Significant work was also undertaken to develop a project plan to further develop and eventually introduce the Game Trophy Export Levy.

## OTHER WORKSTREAMS AND INITIATIVES

### HERDS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

A DOC/GAC collaborative work programme is underway to develop the necessary processes to implement the GAC's herds of special interest statutory function.

The GAC considers herds of special interest to be a tool that should be considered in order to help more intensive hunter-led management of specific game animal herds in certain locations to improve both hunting and conservation outcomes.



Hunter-led management of the Fiordland wapiti herd is realising benefits for both hunting and conservation

### COVID-19

Covid-19, lockdowns, international border closures and supply chain issues continued to impact hunting throughout 2021-22.

- The August to December 2021 level 4 lockdown for the Auckland region and parts of the Waikato was an impediment for many recreational hunters and also had an impact on hunting and outdoor sector retailers.
- Retailers indicated that supply chain issues were affecting supplies of some hunting equipment including hunting-specific ammunition.
- For the majority of 2021-22 border closures prevented international hunting tourists from entering New Zealand, severely affecting the guided hunting, game estate and outfitting sectors. Indications are that many international hunters have pre-booked trips here in 2022-23 and beyond, which should assist operators to rebound from a difficult last few years.

## CONSERVATION LAW REFORM

The GAC was engaged in the early stages of the Government's conservation law reform process and continues to provide advice and feedback on proposals to streamline and simplify the legislation governing public conservation land and the management of wildlife on it.

## PARLIAMENTARY HUNT

The Parliamentary Hunt is held every year outside of election years with the 2021 Hunt held on Ngamatea Station in the Central North Island. A number of MPs and family members attended, including Minister of Conservation, Hon Kiritapu Allan. A focus for the Hunt was on game animal management and the harvesting of female sika deer to assist with managing the station's population.



All MPs and their partners and families are invited to participate in the Parliamentary Hunt

## FIREARMS ADVOCACY

The GAC represents hunters on the Firearms Community Advisory Forum (FCAF) as well as the Range Certification Engagement Group and works through these forums to provide Police advice on the use of firearms for hunting.

In 2021-22 the GAC undertook advocacy work on behalf of the hunting sector on firearms-related issues, such as:

- Development of the new Police Shooting Range Manual, which initially failed to provide for the sighting in of a firearm on public conservation land, which is absolutely critical for both hunting and pest control.
- The importance of shooting clubs and ranges as facilities where hunters and other firearms users gain competency and safety training in the use of firearms. The GAC submitted on proposals for new regulations under the Arms Act 1983 (Phase Two) that onerous compliance and restrictive access to ranges and shooting clubs would have a detrimental impact on firearms safety, competency and participation in hunting.
- The appropriate tone and messaging around hunting and firearms safety advice coming from government agencies and outdoor safety advocates.

## SUBMISSIONS

The GAC made submissions on proposals and consultation processes of importance to the hunting and outdoor recreation sectors in 2021-22, including:

- The third consultation on the 2018 WARO land access recommendations
- Proposals for new regulations under the Arms Act 1983 and compliance for shooting clubs and ranges
- Stewardship Land in Aotearoa New Zealand – Options to streamline processes for reclassification and disposal

All these submissions and others are available on the GAC website.

# **New Zealand Game Animal Council**

**Performance Report  
For the Year ended 30 June 2022**

# Performance Report

New Zealand Game Animal Council  
For the Year ended 30 June 2022

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# Statement of Responsibility

## New Zealand Game Animal Council For the period ended 30 June 2022

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The Council are responsible for the preparation of the Performance Report and Statement of Service Performance and for the judgements contained within them, and;

The Council are responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of internal control that is designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of financial reporting, and;

The Council are responsible for any end-of-year performance information provided by New Zealand Game Animal Council under section 19A of the Public Finance Act 1989, regardless of whether that information is included in the council's annual report, and;

In the opinion of the Council, the Performance Report and Statement of Service Performance fairly reflect the financial position and operations of the Council for the period ending 30 June 2022.

Signed on behalf of the Council:



Chairman:  
Grant Dodson  
17 November 2022



Councillor:  
Sharon Salmons  
17 November 2022

The Board approved and authorised to issue the financial statements on the 17 November 2022

# Entity Information

## New Zealand Game Animal Council As at 30 June 2022

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**Legal Name:**

The Game Animal Council

**Physical Address:**

N/A

**Purpose:**

The Game Animal Council's Mission Statement and Strategic Focus has identified its mission to be the "sustainable management of game animals and hunting for recreation, commerce and conservation". The Game Animal Council has identified eight themes to achieve this goal:

1. Enhance the quality of game animal herds while remaining consistent with conservation values
2. Develop positive relationships between the Game Animal Council and stakeholders through effective communication
3. Promote hunter safety
4. Reduce conflict among stakeholders
5. Improve the acceptance of hunting as a safe and legitimate activity
6. Promote standards for hunting and management of game animals
7. Develop appropriate management and administration structures
8. Promote the interests of the Game Animal Sector

Grant Dodson continued as Chair for the 2021-22 financial year. Councillors Steve McFall and Sharon Salmons were reappointed in November 2021. Councillors Eugene Rewi and Kevin Eastwood were gazetted in November 2021.

In accordance with the Game Animal Council Act 2013, Section 8(1), the Minister must appoint no fewer than 9, and no more than 11, persons as members of the Council.

Section 8(6) states that an appointment of a member of the Council must be made by notice in the Gazette; and takes effect from the date of the notice, or a later date specified in the notice.

The key functions of the Council are to advise the Minister of Conservation on matters relating to hunting, provide education and information to the sector, raise awareness of the views of the hunting sector and promote safety initiatives.

**Entity Type:**

Statutory body constituted under the Game Animal Council Act 2013

**Council Members:**

Grant Dodson (Chair, appointed 2020), Stephen Hall (Deputy Chair, reappointed 2020), Rachael Dean (reappointed 2020), Steve McFall (reappointed 2021), Sharon Salmons (reappointed 2021), John Cook (appointed 2020), Erin Garrick (appointed 2020), Bruce Warburton (appointed 2020), Don Patterson (appointed 2020), Eugene Rewi (appointed 2021), Kevin Eastwood (appointed 2021).

**Postal Address:**

P O Box 222 Te Puke 3153

**Contact and Phone:**

Chair, Grant Dodson – 027 654 6554  
General Manager, Tim Gale – 021 688 531

**Accountants:**

Shand Thomson, P O Box 2, Balclutha

**Auditor:**

Zoe Yao, Owen McLeod and Co Limited  
91 Clarence Street, Hamilton 3204

**Bankers:**

Kiwibank, Private Bag 39888, Wellington Mail Centre,  
Lower Hutt 5045

**Main Sources of Cash and Resources:**

Department of Conservation appropriations through Vote  
Conservation

**Main Methods Used to Raise Funds:**

Donations and interest bearing bank accounts

## Statement of Service Performance

### New Zealand Game Animal Council

For the period ending 30 June 2022

#### Mission

The Council's mission is to achieve:

*Sustainable management of game animals and hunting for recreation, commerce, and conservation.*

#### Output class

The Game Animal Council has one reportable output class:

*Providing advice to the Minister of Conservation on matters relating to hunting.*

Financial performance under this output class is summarised below

REVENUE	Actual 2022 \$	Budget 2022 \$	Actual 2021 \$
Revenue from Central Government	515,417	472,000	354,764
Interest	-	-	21
Other revenue	9,682	-	103
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	525,099	472,000	354,888
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	483,129	535,846	465,938
<b>Net surplus/(deficit) for the period</b>	41,970	(63,846)	(111,050)

#### Council Meetings

Six Game Animal Council meetings were held during the year.

#### Performance Measures and Results

The Statement of Performance Expectations 2021-22 documents the New Zealand Game Animal Council's planned activities and performance targets to be achieved with the funding provided. Performance measures have been established, and results are detailed below.

The Council's themes, key workstreams, activities and associated outputs from the 2021-22 workplan were as follows:

#### Theme 1: Enhance the quality of game animal herds while remaining consistent with conservation values.

The Council continued to liaise with many (approximately 51) different entities over the year, including the Department of Conservation (including Conservation Boards), New Zealand Conservation Authority, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua, Ministry for Primary Industries, NZ Police, NZ Deerstalkers Association, OSPRI, NZ Pighunting Association, Kea Conservation Trust, Fish and Game NZ, NZ Professional Hunting Guides Association, New Zealand Tahr Foundation, Hunting & Fishing NZ, Central North Island Sika Foundation, and the Fiordland Wapiti Foundation, Land Safety Forum, National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, Mountain Safety Council, other Hunting Sector NGOs, amongst others.

**Theme 1, 3: Enhance the quality of game animal herds while remaining consistent with conservation values, promote hunter safety.**

<b>Workstreams</b>	<b>Activities</b>	<b>Targets 2021-22</b>	<b>Results 2021-22</b>	<b>Results 2020-21</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Establishing partnerships with other organisations and individuals for the purpose of managing game animals that are not herds of special interest.	Work with DOC and other stakeholders on the development of the Himalayan Tahr Control Operational Plan for 2021-22.	a) Participate in 90% or more of Tahr Plan Implementation Liaison Group Meetings.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	
		b) Submit feedback on draft Tahr Control Operational Plan 2022-23.	Achieved.	Achieved.	
	Provide operational advice to DOC on implementation of the Himalayan Tahr Control Operational Plan for 2021-22.	c) Meet with DOC for review of operations at approximately halfway point of official control hours period.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	
	Work with DOC and other stakeholders on deer management, by providing expert advice and facilitating communications between DOC and the hunting sector.	d) Respond to requests for provision of advice concerning the planning and implementation of deer management programmes on public conservation land.	Achieved.	Achieved.	
Working with other organisations to identify and facilitate hunter and management access to herds of game animals.	Providing hunting sector input in DOC hunting permit review process.	e) Contribute and provide advice to DOC on hunting permit review process.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	
	Develop a timeline charting both the development and implementation of a hunter safety & education programme and the options available for funding the associated costs.	f) Provide advice on the timeline for development and implementation of the hunter safety & education programme, and options available to the Council for funding the associated costs; in July 2021.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	
		g) JFN Funding Agreement signed.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	



			h) Confirmation that recruitment of initial employee will commence within 7 days.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	
			i) Progress report to DOC on the recruitment process for the educational lead to undertake the development of the online programme by 30 November 2022.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	
			j) Quarterly Report 1 Due - report on progress towards milestones to be completed by 28 February 2022.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	
			k) Recruitment for educational lead completed by 28 February 2022.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	
			l) Report to be provided on stakeholder engagement and content development for online programme by 28 February 2022.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	
			m) Commence engagement with iwi stakeholders (DOC to provide support) by 28 February 2022.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	
			n) Quarterly Report 2 Due by 28 February 2022.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	

## Theme 2: Develop positive relationships between the Game Animal Council and all game animal stakeholders

Workstreams	Activities	Targets 2021-22	Results 2021-22	Results 2020-21	Comments
Continuing to implement and enhance the GAC communications strategy, including further development of effective relationships with iwi, where iwi and hunting interests intersect.	Update the GAC communication strategy to reflect 2021/22 priorities, including: - hunter safety and education - game animal management	a) Communications strategy and plan updated by 30 June 2022.	Achieved.	Achieved.	

	Provide information and education to the hunting sector through professional communications regarding the GAC's key projects.	b) Website and social media presence maintained, with target of three news releases posted by 30 June 2022.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	
	Develop mutually beneficial relationships with iwi with strong interests in game animals and hunting (e.g., Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Tūwharetoa and Ngāi Tahu).	c) Input sought from Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Tūwharetoa and Ngāi Tahu on the content plan of the hunter safety & education Programme by 31 December 2021.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	

#### Theme 5: Improve the acceptance of hunting as a safe legitimate activity

Workstreams	Activities	Targets 2021-22	Results 2021-22	Results 2020-21	Comments
Educating stakeholders and the public that: - hunting is a safe and legitimate pastime; - game animals are valued introduced species and hunting contributes to the health, wellbeing, prosperity and conservation of New Zealand; and - hunting and hunters have an important role in the management of game animals and the conservation of indigenous species.	Convey theme five in the GAC's activities through communications, policy development, advocacy, and engagement with stakeholders.	a) Engage with stakeholders and the public through social media communications (target: 10), and 'The Stalk' publications (target: four) by 30 June 2022. b) Participate in 80% of the Land Safety Forum meetings during 2021-22 financial year.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	



## Theme 7: Develop appropriate management and administration structures for the GAC

Workstreams	Activities	Targets 2021-22	Results 2021-22	Results 2020-21	Comments
Develop appropriate management and administration structures.	Manage and attend to statutory and administrative requirements.	a) Meet reporting requirements for SPE, and Annual Report. b) Council undertakes self-evaluation process by 31 December 2021.	Not achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	
Enhancing the management and funding resources of the GAC.	Develop and progress implementation of the GAC funding strategy.	c) Provide advice on progressing implementation of a voluntary contribution scheme by August 2021, outlining: - expected timing of the introduction of this funding stream. - the anticipated impact; and - scaling options available. d) Provide advice on the expected timing on the introduction of the Game Trophy Export Levy by November 2021, providing details on: - expected timing of the introduction of this funding stream. - its anticipated impact; and - scaling options for managing until the effects of the levy are fully realised.	Achieved.  Achieved.	Achieved.  New measure for 2021-22.	
			Not achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	



### Theme 8: Promote the interests of the Game Animal Sector

Workstream	Activities	Target 2021-22	Result 2021-22	Result 2020-21	Comments
Ensuring the interests of GAC, game animals and hunting are adequately addressed in all relevant New Zealand Government legislation, policy, and statutory planning.	Raise awareness of the views of the hunting sector by submitting on legislation, policies and plans identified as having potential significant impacts.	a) Progress the development of a policy to guide the GAC on how it will monitor, review, and respond to legislative/policy and plan changes by 30 June 2022.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	
		b) Participate in 90% or more of Tahr Plan Implementation Group Liaison Meetings.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	
		c) Attend 80% of Firearms Community Advisory Forum (FCAF) and Range Certification Engagement Group (RCEG) meetings.	Achieved.	New measure for 2021-22.	



# Statement of Financial Performance

## New Zealand Game Animal Council For the year ended 30 June 2022

Account	Note	2022 \$	2022 (Budget) \$	2021 \$
<b>Revenue</b>				
Funding from central government		515,417	472,000	354,764
Donations, fundraising and other similar revenue		9,682	-	103
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue		-	-	21
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>525,099</b>	<b>472,000</b>	<b>354,888</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Employee related costs		169,298	119,484	138,936
Costs related to providing goods or services		277,283	372,250	293,023
Other expenses		36,548	44,112	33,979
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>483,129</b>	<b>535,846</b>	<b>465,938</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for Year</b>		<b>41,970</b>	<b>(63,846)</b>	<b>(111,050)</b>

# Statement of Financial Position

## New Zealand Game Animal Council As at 30 June 2022

Account	Note	2022 \$	2022 (Budget) \$	2021 \$
<b>Assets</b>				
<b>Current Assets</b>				
Bank and cash		141,717	59,050	121,109
Debtors and prepayments		42,038		2,958
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>183,755</b>	<b>59,050</b>	<b>124,067</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>				
Property, plant & equipment	7	654	-	1,343
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>654</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,343</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>184,409</b>	<b>59,050</b>	<b>125,410</b>
<b>Less Liabilities</b>				
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
Creditors and accrued expenses		62,068	49,136	46,447
Employee costs payable		11,566	-	10,158
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>73,634</b>	<b>49,136</b>	<b>56,605</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>73,634</b>	<b>49,136</b>	<b>56,605</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>110,775</b>	<b>9,914</b>	<b>68,805</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>				
Opening Balance		68,805	73,760	179,855
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)		41,970	(63,846)	(111,050)
<b>Closing Balance</b>		<b>110,775</b>	<b>9,914</b>	<b>68,805</b>

The Board approved and authorised to issue the financial statements on the 17 November 2022



Grant Dodson, Chairman

# Statement of Cash Flows

## New Zealand Game Animal Council For the Year ended 30 June 2022

	Note	2022	2022 (Budget)	2021
		\$	\$	\$
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>				
<i>Cash was received from:</i>				
Donations, fundraising & other similar receipts		9,682	-	103
Funding from central or local government		473,813	542,800	250,850
Interest, dividends & other investment receipts		-	-	21
Net GST		(643)	(19,372)	(33,227)
		<b>482,852</b>	<b>523,428</b>	<b>217,747</b>
<i>Cash was applied to:</i>				
Payments to suppliers & employees		462,244	585,487	519,992
<b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>		<b>20,608</b>	<b>(62,059)</b>	<b>(302,244)</b>
<b>Cash Flows from Investing &amp; Financing Activities</b>				
<i>Cash was applied to:</i>				
Payments to acquire property, plant & equipment		-	-	2,208
<b>Net Cash Flows From Investing and Financing Activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(2,208)</b>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held</b>		<b>20,608</b>	<b>(62,059)</b>	<b>(304,453)</b>
Opening Cash & Bank Balances		121,109	121,109	425,562
<b>Closing Cash &amp; Bank Balances</b>		<b>141,717</b>	<b>59,050</b>	<b>121,109</b>
<b>Represented By:</b>				
Kiwibank Business Edge		140,557	59,050	121,104
Kiwibank Business Online Call		1,160	-	5
<b>Total Cash at Bank</b>		<b>141,717</b>	<b>59,050</b>	<b>121,109</b>

# Statement of Accounting Policies

## New Zealand Game Animal Council For the Year ended 30 June 2022

### Reporting Entity

New Zealand Game Animal Council is a statutory body established on 28 November 2013 under the Game Animal Council Act 2013 and is required to comply with the Crown Entities Act 2004 and the Public Finance Act 1989.

### Basis of Preparation

New Zealand Game Animal Council has elected to apply PBE SFR-A (PS) Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (Public Sector) on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses less than \$2,000,000. All transactions in the performance report are reported using the accrual basis and historical cost basis of accounting. The performance report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

The financials and other statements are presented in New Zealand dollars.

### Particular Accounting Policies

The following particular accounting policies adopted in the financial statements have a significant effect on the results and financial position.

- **Revenue**
  - **Grants**

Council, government, and non-government grants are recognised as revenue when the funding is received unless there is an obligation to return the funds if conditions of the grant are not met (“use or return condition”). If there is such an obligation, the grant is initially recorded as a liability and recognised as revenue when the conditions of the grant are met.
  - **Interest and dividend revenue**

Interest revenue is recorded as it is earned during the year. Dividend revenue is recognised when the dividend is declared.
- **Goods & Services Tax (GST)**

The Council is registered for GST. All amounts in the financial statements have been prepared on a “GST exclusive” basis with the exception of accounts receivable and accounts payable which are disclosed inclusive of GST.
- **Bank Accounts and Cash**

Cash balances in the Statement of Cash Flows comprise of current accounts.
- **Accounts Receivable**

Accounts receivable are initially recorded at the amount owed. When it is likely the amount owed (or some portion) will not be collected, a provision for impairment is recognised and the loss is recorded as a bad debt expense.
- **Taxation**

New Zealand Game Animal Council is established under the Game Animal Council Act 2013 and therefore is exempt from income tax.

- **Property, Plant & Equipment**

All property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.
- **Statutory Reporting Deadline**

Section 156 of the Crown Entities Act requires the Council to submit its financial statements for audit within 3 months of its balance date and to provide an audit report within 4 months of the end of the financial year.
- **Depreciation**

Depreciation has been provided for on a Diminishing Value basis which writes off the assets over their expected useful lives.
- **Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses**

Accounts payable and accrued expenses are measured at the amount owed.
- **Advertising, marketing, administration, overhead, and fundraising costs**

These are expensed when the related service has been received.

### Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no significant changes in accounting policies from those applied last year.

# Notes to the Performance Report

## New Zealand Game Animal Council For the Year ended 30 June 2022

### Note 1 – Leased Assets

- Operating Leases  
There are no assets subject to operating leases (2021: Nil).
- Financial Leases  
There are no assets subject to financial leases (2021: Nil).

### Note 2 – Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities at balance date (2021: Nil).

### Note 3 – Capital Commitments

There were no capital commitments at balance date (2021: Nil).

### Note 4 – Related Party Transactions

There are no transactions involving related parties during the financial year. (2021: Nil)

### Note 5 – Grants and funding subject to conditions

There was no funding received in advance. The Government increased the Council's funding for 2021-22 to \$400,000. Of this funding, \$150,000 was tagged for progressing the implementation of a sustainable funding strategy. Council received \$72,000 through Jobs for Nature to deliver a National Hunter Education & Training Scheme; received \$36,417 from the Department of Conservation for additional Policy Advice; and received \$7,000 from the Department of Conservation for contribution to deer management research.

### Note 6 – Events Subsequent to Balance Date

There have been no significant events since balance date, which would materially affect the financial statements as at 30 June 2022. Council received the Minister's Letter of Expectations (confirming funding) on 30 June 2022.

### Financial Disclosures – 2021-2022 year

The effect of Covid-19 on the overall results in 2021-2022 was not material because the Council, as a statutory body, derives its main source of funding through central government appropriation via Vote Conservation.

### Note 7 – Property, Plant & Equipment

	Computer Equipment \$	Office Equipment \$	Total \$
Carrying amount as at 1 July 2020	1,772	1,064	2,836
Additions	-	2,208	2,208
Disposals (net of accumulated depreciation)	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(857)	(2,844)	(3,701)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2021	915	428	1,343
Carrying amount at 1 July 2021	915	428	1,343
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals (net of accumulated depreciation)	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(440)	(249)	(689)
Carrying amount at 30 June 2022	475	179	654

### Non-financial disclosures

From a non-financial perspective, Covid-19 affected the GAC as follows:

- The Council continued to observe an ongoing positive aspect of Covid-19 has been a resurgence of interest in living off the land, including hunting, harvesting and utilisation of game animals.
- Covid-19 had an impact on the Parliamentary Hunt, Covid protocols were put in place and monitored weekly. MPs and their guests' attendance were Covid-19 dependent, and some withdrew due to Covid-19. The Hunt went ahead from 1 October to 6 October and was able to happen safely and within Covid-19 Level 2 guidelines.

### Future revenue – 2022-2023 year (and beyond)

Baseline Crown funding of \$600,000 has been confirmed for 2022-23. Additional Crown funding of \$70,000 has been confirmed through the Jobs for Nature programme for 2022-23, and a further \$70,000 in 2023-24.

Securing sustainable funding has been one of the GAC's primary focuses for many years and this funding increases our ability to focus on and deliver upon legislated functions. The Council's baseline funding has also been confirmed for future years as follows: 2023-24 \$800,000; 2024-25 \$1,000,000; and 2025-26 \$1,200,000.

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

**TO THE READERS OF GAME ANIMAL COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND STATEMENT OF  
PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Game Animal Council (the Council). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Liyan Yao, using the staff and resources of Owen McLeod & Co Ltd, to carry out the audit of the financial statements and statement of performance of Game Animal Council on his behalf.

**Opinion on the financial statements and the statement of performance**

We have audited:

- the financial statements of the Game Animal Council on pages 21 to 25, that comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, the statement of financial performance, and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date and the notes to the financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the statement of performance of the Game Animal Council on pages 13 to 20.

In our opinion:

- the financial statements of the Game Animal Council: on pages 21 to 25:
  - present fairly, in all material respects:
    - its financial position as at 30 June 2022; and
    - its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
  - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (Public Sector); and
- the statement of performance of the Game Animal Council on pages 13 to 20:
  - presents fairly, in all material respects, the Game Animal Council's performance for the year ended 30 June 2022, including for each class of reportable outputs:
    - its standards of performance achieved as compared with the forecasts included in the statement of service expectations for the financial year; and
    - its actual revenue and expenses as compared with the forecasts included in the statement of service expectations for the financial year; and
  - complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

Our audit was completed on 21 December 2022. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis for our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Council and our responsibilities relating to the financial statements and the statement of performance, we comment on other information, and we explain our independence.

**Basis for our opinion**

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Responsibilities of the auditor section of our report.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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### **Responsibilities of the Council for the financial statements and the statement of performance**

The Council is responsible on behalf of the Game Animal Council for preparing financial statements and a statement of performance that are fairly presented and comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

The Council is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable it to prepare financial statements and a statement of performance that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements and the statement of performance, the Council is responsible on behalf of the Game Animal Council for assessing the Game Animal Council's ability to continue as a going concern. The Council is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless there is an intention to merge or to terminate the activities of the Game Animal Council, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Council's responsibilities arise from the Public Finance Act 1989, the Crown Entities Act 2004, and the Game Animal Council Act 2013.

### **Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements and the statement of performance**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and the statement of performance, as a whole, are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures, and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of readers taken on the basis of these financial statements and the statement of performance.

For the budget information reported in the financial statements and the statement of performance, our procedures were limited to checking that the information agreed to the Game Animal Council's description of the annual operating work plan.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the financial statements and the statement of performance.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Also:

- We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and the statement of performance, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Game Animal Council's internal control.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Council.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of the reported performance information within the Game Animal Council's framework for reporting performance.
- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Council and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Game Animal Council's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements and the statement of performance or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit

evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Game Animal Council to cease to continue as a going concern.

- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements and the statement of performance, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements and the statement of performance represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Our responsibilities arise from the Public Audit Act 2001.

#### **Other Information**

The Council is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information up to page 12, but does not include the financial statements and the statement of performance, and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements and the statement of performance does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements and the statement of performance, our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the statement of performance or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on our work, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### **Independence**

We are independent of the Game Animal Council in accordance with the independence requirements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of the Professional and Ethical Standard 1: *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Other than the audit, we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Game Animal Council.



Liyan Yao  
**Owen McLeod & Co Ltd**  
On behalf of the Auditor-General  
Hamilton, New Zealand