

**New Zealand Walking Access Commission**

# **Annual Report**

**2011 » 2012**



**WALKING ACCESS**  
ARA HĪKOI AOTEAROA

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

***The New Zealand Walking Access Commission seeks to enhance free, certain, enduring and practical walking access to the outdoors.***

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ISSN 1179-5220 (print) ISSN 1179-5239 (online)

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## Report from the Board and Chief Executive

We are pleased to present the Annual Report of the New Zealand Walking Access Commission for the period 2011-2012.

The Commission's goal is to enhance free, certain, enduring and practical walking access to New Zealand's outdoors. To achieve this, the Commission works to create new access opportunities, ensure existing access is protected for the long term, change attitudes, increase understanding of access responsibilities and provide leadership on national and local access matters.

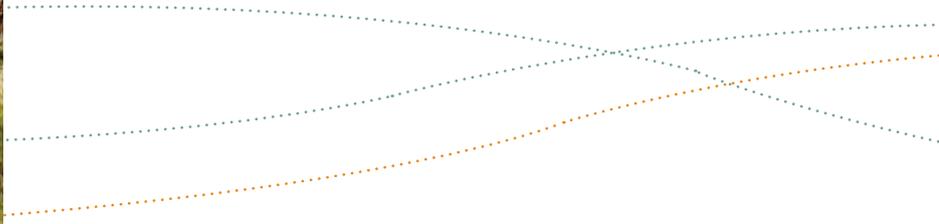
The Commission's work programme for the period focused on enhancing access opportunities, improving the Walking Access Mapping System (WAMS), promoting the New Zealand Outdoor Access Code and seeking additional sources of revenue. These priorities centre around providing useful and easy to understand information and advice. There were no material changes in the Commission's external operating environment during the reporting period.

Providing access-related information is a core function of the Commission and it is central to the organisation's credibility that this information is of high quality. WAMS plays an important role in this information effort by showing land over which the public has access. With the addition of enhancements developed during the year, it now absorbs close to 20 per cent of the Commission's operating budget.

The online mapping system was formally released in July 2011 and it is well used. We were pleased by the high level of interest in the system from the outset and received strong calls for increased functionality, especially making it mobile friendly.

That interest was reflected in a user survey in May 2012 on how the mapping was performing. Ninety seven per cent of users said they found the information on the mapping system useful and an equal percentage said they would recommend it to others. Nine out of ten users (89 per cent) said the system was easy to use. There were also some areas that survey respondents identified for improvement. They included requests for more detailed and accurate public access information, improvements to the interface to make it easier to use, and development of mobile and GPS functionality for the mapping system.

In response to those calls, and to add further value to its investment, the board approved a further capital investment in WAMS of \$574,000. This investment began a project to further improve the mapping system by making it accessible on mobile phones and, significantly, to develop a 'Partner Information Portal' to allow third-party public and private organisations to upload, display and administer their own access-related information to



the public. This information could include anything from fishing access points and places of historical interest to publicly accessible walking and cycling tracks and bridleways.

These innovations will vastly increase the mapping system's appeal to users, who will have access to a far greater range of useful mapping information across a wide range of devices. They will also result in cost savings for other public and private organisations, including central and local government, which will be able to utilise a highly effective and existing mapping system instead of investing in their own.

The Commission appreciates the government's objective of improving public services and the need for government agencies to be innovative. We endeavour to do this in all work, and WAMS is a good example. The latest improvements to WAMS are both cost effective and innovative in the way they will mix public and private information nationwide in a way that has never been done before. This is all free for the public to view online and is helping to release the "value" in government information.

The new enhanced version of the mapping system is due to enter public testing in August 2012, with a formal release later in the year. We will spend the next 12-18 months fine-tuning the system before considering further investment. We will, however, need to maintain its value and there will be regular software maintenance upgrades.

A strategic priority for the Commission is to widen its contact with iwi and hapu. It was invited by Ngāi Tūhoe to attend and give a presentation at Te Urewera Summit, hosted by Tūhoe, in May. The forum was an opportunity for organisations to explain and discuss their interest in the future governance of Te Urewera. Our discussions with iwi have centred largely on the central North Island region where there are several longstanding access cases.

Throughout the year, the Commission relied heavily on its regional field advisors to manage and advance enquiries and complaints. We receive an average of 40 cases a month and the rate of resolution is steady at approximately 30 a month. Early direct intervention by the Commission, whether by our regional field advisors or staff, plays an important role in preventing entrenchment of views and thereby increasing the

potential to resolve issues.

Over the medium term, we expect the number of active cases will continue to grow as the Commission becomes more widely known. Given that the completion rate of enquiries is less than the rate at which they are received, the Commission will need to strictly prioritise cases in the coming year. We know from experience that cases which involve complaints of obstruction to access often have long histories and long resolution time and usually need district council engagement if a lasting resolution is to be reached.

We completed detailed research into cases in the central North Island forests (Kaingaroa forests) region and Acheron Road, which traverses Molesworth Station in Marlborough. There is significant stakeholder interest in these cases and we will advance both in the coming year. Both cases are complex and involved significant research of historic records to help clarify the issues. The research is necessary to understand how best to proceed with the cases and achieve a useful result.

We have not publicised widely the results of our dispute resolution work. A collaborative approach involves working with involved parties and arriving at arrangements which are mutually acceptable and may involve elements of compromise. In many instances the cases and solutions are local and the Commission's role is appreciated and recognised locally. We note, however, that wider publicity of these local successes would raise awareness of the Commission and the role it can play in assisting recreational users, landholders and councils, and we will endeavour to publicise them where appropriate.

The Commission does not operate in isolation and during the year we began examining opportunities for closer collaboration with public and private organisations in the outdoor recreation and rural sectors. Access problems are often symptomatic of a breakdown in rural/urban relationships and the past 30 to 40 years has seen a disconnection between urban and rural New Zealand. Well established behaviours and expectations are dissipating with a greater emphasis on "rights" rather than responsibilities, co-operation and collaboration.

There is a natural relationship between the outdoor recreation and rural sectors; both rely on the natural environment for enjoyment and business success.

The Commission's objective is for New Zealanders and visitors to be able to access the outdoors without significant disruption to rural businesses or negative impacts on their efficiency. This requires all participants to understand and balance respective rights and responsibilities. Promoting closer collaboration between urban and rural New Zealand is essential if the rural sector is to be recognised for its contribution to an innovative economy.

Consequently, the *New Zealand Outdoor Access Code* is a key tool in fostering collaboration and mutual respect in the outdoors. We made good progress towards reinvigorating interest in the Code during the year with the start of a project to create an online portal and digital resources for teachers and students to help students understand different points of view relating to outdoor access. The Commission's investment will produce a solid resource and we will look for rural-sector partners in the coming year to widen its scope and keep it fresh and relevant. The teacher-student portal will be called *Both Sides of the Fence* and is due to be released in October 2012.

The Commission is positioning itself to identify and create partnerships and collaborate with external organisations to maximise the value and benefits of our resources and enhance the contributions of others. For example, the *Both Sides of the Fence* online schools project lends itself to generating revenue through other organisations helping to fund modules specific to their interest. Applications to the Enhanced Access Fund

have shown evidence of other funding and community support.

We, along with many in the rural and recreation sectors, were saddened by the loss of board member John Aspinall who passed away in November 2011. John had a particular enthusiasm and interest in fostering collaboration and minimising conflict between urban and rural New Zealand. We expand upon John's contributions in a separate section in this report.

We welcomed Wellingtonian Penny Mudford to the board in April. Penny was a member of the original Land Access Ministerial Reference Group and brings a solid understanding of the purpose and functions of the Commission. John Forbes and Maggie Bayfield were reappointed, the former as chairman.

Last year we reported on the appointment of Mr Peho Tamiana as the Commission's kaumatua. The board accepted an invitation to visit Te Urewera and the Ngati Huri hapu of Tūhoe. Our discussions included the nature of some recreation and tourism projects the hapu has in mind and on "Māori roadways".

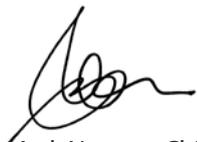
This description of the Commission's achievements in 2011-2012 reflects the width and depth of our work. It was a challenging year. We intend to use the next 12-18 months to consolidate these projects together with incremental improvement, focus on operational activity, and raise our public profile, before we undertake further strategic investments.



John Forbes, Chairman, New Zealand Walking Access Commission



Maggie Bayfield, Board member



Mark Neeson, Chief Executive

Date: 25 September 2012

# Statement of purpose

The Walking Access Act 2008 established the New Zealand Walking Access Commission and set out the Commission's roles and functions.

The Commission's purpose 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.

In the context of the Walking Access Act 2008, the term "maintenance" means retaining free, certain, practical and enduring walking access to the outdoors. The primary focus is on maintaining and improving legal access in the outdoors rather than providing and maintaining physical infrastructure such as tracks and bridges.

## GOVERNANCE

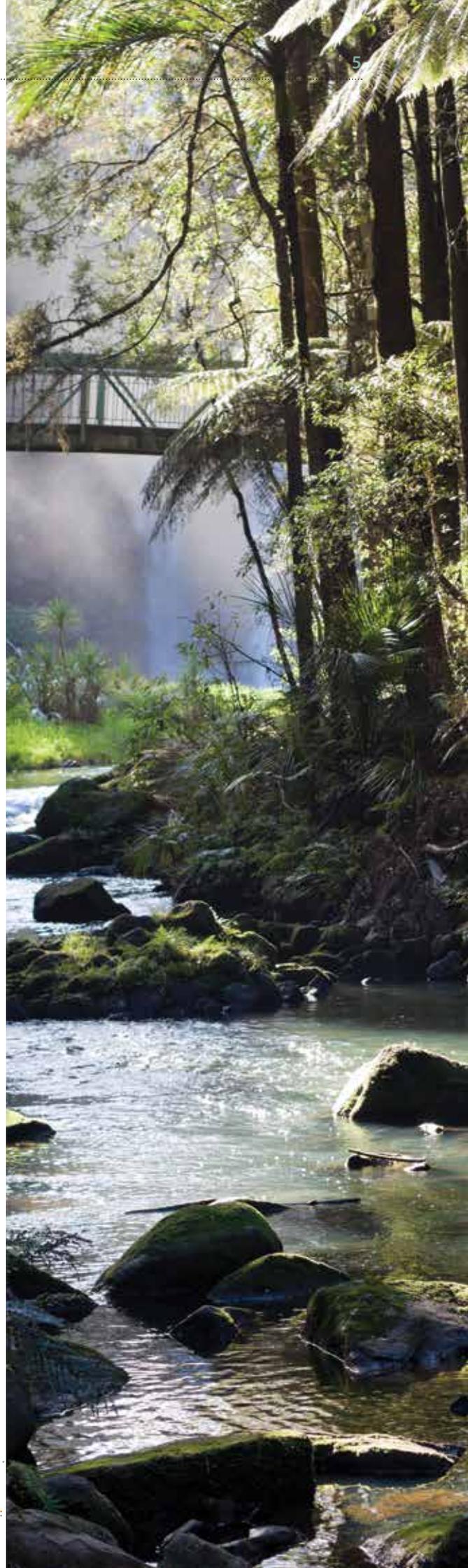
The Commission is governed by a six member board appointed by the Minister for Primary Industries. The Commission is funded by Parliament through Vote Agriculture and Forestry (2011-2012) and is accountable for its performance to the Minister for Primary Industries.

The Board is responsible for setting the policy and strategic direction and for monitoring the overall performance of the Commission. The Board has a Chief Executive Performance Review Committee that undertakes work on its behalf.

## FUNCTIONS

The Commission's functions are provided for in section 10 of the Walking Access Act 2008. They are to:

- » provide national leadership on walking access by:
  - » preparing and administering a national strategy; and
  - » coordinating walking access among relevant stakeholders and central and local government organisations, including Sport New Zealand;
- » provide local and regional leadership on, and coordination of, walking access in collaboration with local authorities;
- » compile, hold and publish maps and information about land over which members of the public have walking access;
- » provide advice on walking access to the Minister or any other person;
- » facilitate resolution of disputes about walking access, including initiating negotiations about disputed issues and mediating disputes;



- » negotiate with landholders to obtain walking access (including walkways, which are one form of walking access) over public or private land;
- » negotiate rights in addition to any walking access that is obtained, such as the right of access with firearms, dogs, bicycles, or motor vehicles;
- » administer 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;
- » receive and manage private funding, contributions, or sponsorship for the promotion of walking access;
- » research, educate the public about, and participate in topics and programmes related to walking access;
- » develop, promote, and maintain the *New Zealand Outdoor Access Code*;
- » administer walkways under this Act, with planning and supervision focused at a local level; and
- » monitor the compliance with, and enforcement of, this Act in relation to walkways.

### PRINCIPLES

In carrying out its functions the Commission applies a set of principles including:

- » the New Zealand economy is based on a strong and stable set of property rights and a legal system which values certainty and predictability;
- » New Zealand has a well-defined legal framework for the ownership of land, which spells out the property rights and responsibilities of those who control access to land, whether privately or publicly owned; and
- » a strong tradition has evolved whereby members of the public are generally given permission to access privately-owned land, provided that they ask permission first and respect property, other people and the environment.



# Our achievements

## HIGHLIGHTS (2011-2012)

### ENHANCING ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES

#### New access

- » Nine projects funded by the Enhanced Access Fund were completed during the year.
- » 22 new projects were approved to receive funding in the 2012 round of the Enhanced Access Fund.
- » Two walkways were gazetted during the year (one was a deviation to an existing walkway).
- » Two new walkway easements were completed and registered. Both are awaiting gazettal action in the coming year.
- » Nine landholders erected signs provided by the Commission in partnership with Federated Farmers New Zealand and Rural Women New Zealand to mark voluntarily granted access routes across private property.

#### Maintaining Access

- » 22 access disputes were resolved by Commission staff and regional field advisors.
- » 16 reports were made on South Island High Country Tenure Review proposals and two reports provided on applications under the Overseas Investment Act.

#### Improving Access information

- » The Walking Access Mapping System was launched in July 2011.
- » 97 per cent of respondents to a Walking Access Mapping System user survey said the information provided on the mapping system was useful and 97 per cent said they would recommend the system to others.
- » There were 89,972 visits to the Walking Access Mapping System in 2011-2012 (an average of 250 visits a day).
- » The Commission resolved or answered 343 access enquiries.

### INCREASING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF ACCESS RESPONSIBILITIES

#### Public education programme

- » 33,443 *New Zealand Outdoor Access Code* brochures were distributed to the public.
- » 20 media items promoted the *New Zealand Outdoor Access Code*.

- » 112 teachers signed up to receive information about the Both Sides of the Fence student-teacher resource, which is currently in development.

### RAISING AWARENESS OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS LEADERSHIP ROLE

#### Community and stakeholder engagement

- » One national forum and three regional forums were held in 2011-2012 to maintain communication between the Commission and stakeholders.
- » Seven workshops were held for nine district councils to provide information about managing unformed legal roads.

- » There were 56,891 visits to the Commission's corporate website ([www.walkingaccess.govt.nz](http://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz)) during the year.

#### Advice to Ministers and Government

- » The Commission completed or commissioned reports on public access in the central North Island forests (Kaingaroa), Molesworth Station (Acheron Road) and the public access provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991.

#### Media and advertising

- » 51 media releases and editorial columns were sent to media, helping to generate more than 170 articles and television and radio news stories about the Commission's work and projects.

This section of the report describes some of the highlights of our work programme for 2011-2012 in more detail.

## Enhancing access opportunities

The New Zealand Walking Access Commission's primary aim is to enhance free, certain, enduring and practical walking access to the outdoors, in a way that respects landholders and the environment. That means protecting the access New Zealanders already have, and creating new access opportunities for the enjoyment of all.

Over the past 12 months, the Commission's network of eight regional field advisors has played a pivotal role in achieving this goal. The advisors' role is to mediate disputes, negotiate new access and provide information to local communities. Their knowledge of local and regional issues and their relationships with local councils and recreational and landholder groups is now leading to grass-roots results.

### CASE STUDY:

#### SANGSTERS ROAD, BUNNYTHORPE

Access has been secured along a section of unformed legal road near Palmerston North thanks to a collaborative effort involving the Commission, a landholder, Manawatu District Council and Te Araroa Trust. Sangsters Road, north of Palmerston North, had become inaccessible due to a deer fence erected by a neighbouring landholder to secure his stock. Te Araroa Trust requested the help of the Commission to find a solution and, after a series of on-site meetings facilitated by the Commission, an agreement was reached to jointly fund realignment of the fence to ensure access along the unformed legal road became possible. The fence was realigned in February 2012 and the road is now regularly used by walkers and cyclists. Sangsters Road also forms a vital link in the nationwide Te Araroa pathway, which stretches 3,000km from Cape Reinga to Bluff.



Resolution of disputes and creation of new access often requires significant background research or time investment in negotiation and mediation. In many cases, the support of local councils is the difference between a quick and lasting resolution to an issue and one that remains unresolved.

While some of these results are widely publicised, it is sometimes in the best interests of all involved to allow them to bed-in quietly. In many cases, access issues have been longstanding and it is important that affected parties have time to become comfortable with any changes or agreements before the new access resolution is widely known.

### RESOLVING DISPUTES AND CREATING NEW ACCESS

During the year the Commission received 85 enquiries that were specifically related to access disputes, including obstructions to access. Some of these cases are easily resolved, while others relate to longstanding issues where resolution can be time consuming.

Some examples of the types of cases investigated by the Commission in 2011-2012 are outlined below. They illustrate the diversity of cases, the types of parties involved and the Commission's role and solutions.

#### OBSTRUCTIONS ON UNFORMED LEGAL ROADS...

A high proportion of the enquiries received by the Commission relate to obstructions on unformed legal roads. Some of these obstructions are man-made while others are the result of overgrown foliage or erosion. Both can cause problems. A recent case sent to the Commission involved a landholder adjoining an unformed legal road that was covered in scrub and gorse refusing access to anglers who wanted to deviate from the surveyed road, across his private property, to access a nearby river. The Commission resolved the situation by working with the district council, Fish & Game New Zealand and the landholder to agree on and signpost an alternative route to the river and erect a stile over a locked gate on the landholder's property. This solution ensured access to the river could be maintained at minimal expense to the ratepayer and no expense to the landholder.

### MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE LAW AROUND ACCESS...

When people are unaware of their rights and responsibilities, conflict is sure to follow. In one case investigated by the Commission a landholder had prevented an angler from gaining access to a nearby river via an unformed legal road neighbouring his property. The Commission became involved at the request of the angler and provided information about

the public's right of access to the landholder, who was genuinely unaware of the unformed legal road's existence. The landholder has now worked with the Commission and Fish & Game New Zealand to install a stile over a fence on the unformed legal road and to signpost the road's route down to the river.

### FAILURE TO ASK PERMISSION BEFORE ACCESSING PRIVATE LAND...

Asking permission before accessing private land keeps landholders happy and access users safe. The Commission was contacted in February 2012 by a coastal property owner who had become frustrated with members of the public walking dogs unrestrained on part of his land near the coast. The unrestrained dogs were disturbing sheep and the farmer sought the Commission's assistance to find a solution. After discussing options with the farmer, the Commission

provided signage for him to install at points where the public often accessed his property without permission. The signs, produced as part of the Commission's joint signage programme with Federated Farmers, provide a phone number for people who want to request access and advise the public of a closure period for lambing. The farmer is happy for free public access to occur, but in a managed way and with his permission.

### FAILURE TO PROTECT PUBLIC RIGHTS OF ACCESS...

District council involvement is vital to quick and lasting resolution of disputes. In one case the Commission was involved in, a landholder had placed electric tape across an unformed legal road, obstructing access to routes on Department of Conservation managed land and two rivers popular for fishing and kayaking. The council was aware of the problem but no action had been taken. Members of a local club asked the Commission

to facilitate a solution and after numerous meetings, the landholder agreed to remove the obstruction. The landholder has also moved fences to provide parking on an area of unformed legal road adjoining Department of Conservation managed land that was previously inaccessible. The council has committed to work with the landholder and other parties to ensure the access is maintained.

### INACCURACIES IN HISTORICAL ACCESS RECORDS...

Over the course of New Zealand's history, there are some rare instances where surveyors or officials may have erred when recording cadastral information. In one case a record made decades ago has resulted in "gaps" in an unformed legal road that would otherwise provide access alongside a river. The gaps were identified following an enquiry from a member of the public and the Commission was asked to help. As a result, the Commission embarked on extensive research

to establish whether or not the gaps in the cadastral record should be recognised as legal road, and should, therefore, be publicly accessible. The required research took considerable time as it required investigation of historic records, some of which have become difficult to obtain. In this case the Commission believes there is an arguable case that the gaps are legal road, and has referred its conclusion to Land Information New Zealand for a decision.

### COMPETITION BETWEEN 'OLD' AND 'NEW' INDUSTRIES...

Recreational users are not the only ones who approach the Commission seeking improved access to the outdoors; sometimes it is another business. An example is a case where a group of businesses in the tourism sector approached the Commission to help

negotiate access along an unformed legal road that has been fenced off by a neighbouring landholder. The businesses believe significant commercial opportunities will result from access to the area, while the landholder who has fenced off the road says public access to the

area would negatively affect his own business interests. Discussions continue and resolution of this case is likely to require the assistance of the district council.

### REQUESTS TO OPEN UP LAND THAT HAS BECOME 'LANDLOCKED'...

Owning a block of land is not much use if the owner is unable to access it. A case brought to the Commission's attention this year involves a block of land that has become landlocked and practically inaccessible after informal access agreements with neighbouring landholders broke down. Access to the land is still theoretically possible via a nearby unformed legal road, but the road crosses steep farmland and bush-covered gullies and is very difficult to practically use. There is a formed track that could provide access, but it is on private land and no permission has been given for public use. The Commission is working with the owners of the landlocked land and the owner of a neighbouring property to resolve the issue. If access is negotiated, it may also improve public access to a large swathe of nearby conservation land that is currently difficult to access.

### ACCESS ENQUIRIES

The Commission received 488 access enquiries (an average of 40 a month) and resolved 343 during the year. These enquiries ranged from questions about access rights or about the Walking Access Mapping System, to requests for assistance resolving access disputes or proposals for new access. The number of enquiries processed in 2011-2012 was broadly consistent, on a month by month basis, with the number of enquiries processed by the Commission over its first operational period October 2010 to June 2011 (see Fig. 1). The majority of the enquiries received during the year were lodged using the Walking Access Mapping System's built-in enquiry function.

At 30 June 2012 there were 201 active cases on the Commission's books. The current case load is within capacity as most individual case activity 'ticks over' in line with the iterative nature of the education, negotiation and relationship building that is the basis of most case resolution. A backlog of case management and operations administration (such as walkway management) will remain into the 2012-13 year.

The most common enquiry types were general enquiries and Walking Access Mapping System queries,

#### Top five lessons

1. Resolution takes time and patience.
2. An independent third-party providing transparent, credible and accurate information is invaluable.
3. Lasting resolution of disputes often requires the support of local authorities.
4. Keeping lines of communication open and clearly explaining rights and responsibilities is vital.
5. Signage makes managing access easier for landholders and complying with access requirements simpler for visitors.

followed by access disputes - generally obstructions to access - and new access proposals. The trend for the first three quarters was broadly consistent with the nine months of operational activity in the 2010-2011 year (see Fig. 2). The fourth quarter was notable for a decrease in general enquiries and Walking Access Mapping System queries; possibly reflecting greater knowledge and awareness among recreational stakeholders and mapping system users.

The bulk of the enquiries were managed by the Commission's Wellington based staff, reflecting the dominance of general and Walking Access Mapping System type enquires. Wellington staff also continued to manage a range of complex cases requiring significant research and investigation, Enhanced Access Fund projects, and statutory cases including tenure review and Overseas Investment Office applications.

The enquiries received by the Commission included 85 cases relating to access disputes, including obstructions to access. Twenty two of these access dispute enquiries were resolved during the year. The bulk of these cases were managed by the regional field advisors, reflecting the Commission's approach that disputes are most

effectively resolved by facilitating negotiation and resolution among parties 'on the ground'. Examples of the types of access disputes dealt with by the Commission can be seen earlier in this report.

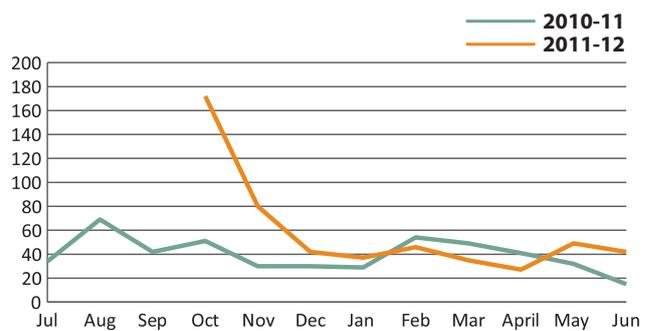
The regional field advisors' focus shifted from establishment and introductions to case management

**Fig 1: Access cases by month 2011-2012**



and investigations and they report an increasing and positive recognition of the Commission among stakeholders. Unsolicited approaches to field advisors for advice and assistance from stakeholders including Federated Farmers and council staff reflects this improving reputation.

**Fig 2: Enquiries received 2010-2011 vs. 2011-2012**



**SIGNAGE PROGRAMMES**

The Commission has partnered with Federated Farmers New Zealand and Rural Women New Zealand to provide signs to landholders who want to grant access across their private land. The signs are available to members of both organisations and are used by landholders who wish to voluntarily grant access across their land in a managed way. The locations of the signs and any conditions of access are displayed on the Commission's Walking Access Mapping System.

During the year, signs provided through the two signage programmes were erected on nine rural properties to mark voluntarily granted access. Awareness of the signs' availability remains low and the Commission is working with Federated Farmers New Zealand and Rural Women New Zealand on ways to better promote them online and in newsletters.

The signs help reduce conflict over public access to private land and make it easy for landholders to provide contact details for walkers, hunters, anglers and other recreational users. This makes it easier for people seeking access to ask landholders for permission when it is required.



## ENHANCED ACCESS FUND

The Commission administers a contestable fund to support projects that will enhance access to New Zealand's great outdoors. This fund, known as the Enhanced Access Fund, is provided for in the Walking Access Act 2008.

The fund was established at the beginning of 2009-2010 and has been made available annually since. A quantum of \$200,000 (excluding GST) has been distributed in each of the three funding rounds held so far. The amount available and the principles used to assess applications are reviewed annually by the Board.

In 2011-2012 (the 2012 funding round), the Commission received 51 applications for funding, of which 22 were approved (see Fig. 6). These projects are now being

undertaken by groups and communities across New Zealand, from the Brynderwyn Ranges in Northland to Mataura in Southland (see Fig 7.). These projects range from new tracks, boardwalks and bridges to signage that makes existing access easier to find (see Fig. 3).

The approval of 22 projects in the 2012 funding round brings the total number of approved projects to 53, in the time since the first allocation in 2010 (see Fig. 4). Of those, 14 have been completed, three have been discontinued and work is underway or soon to begin on the remainder. The Commission allows up to three years for a project to be completed and funding claimed. This recognises the seasonal nature of many projects, the reliance on volunteers to undertake the work and, in many cases, the time required to obtain funding from other sources, whether "in kind" or money.

Successful completion of these projects provides the public with improved opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and the recreational activities it provides. In many cases, communities will also benefit from increased tourism revenue as a result of projects funded through the Enhanced Access Fund.

### CASE STUDY: OKIATO TO RUSSELL WALKWAY IN THE BAY OF ISLANDS

A walkway linking Okiato and Russell in the Bay of Islands was opened to the public in September 2011. The Bay of Islands Walkways Trust received \$50,000 to help fund the project in the 2010 round of the Enhanced Access Fund, with additional funding provided by groups including the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board and the ASB Community Trust.

The 8.2km walkway takes in the coast and native forest and completes a full day walking circuit encompassing Russell, Okiato, Opuia and Paihia using ferry links and the existing Paihia to Opuia Coastal Walkway.



**Fig 3: Approved Enhanced Access Fund projects by type**

Primary purpose of project*	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012
Track materials (eg, shingle or bridges)	9	11	18
Information (eg, signs, research, pamphlets or maps)	2	5	3
Pre-construction (eg, negotiation and surveying)	1	3	1

\* Where a project received funding for multiple purposes, such as track materials and signage, the 'project type' has been reported against the category for which the bulk of the funding was granted.

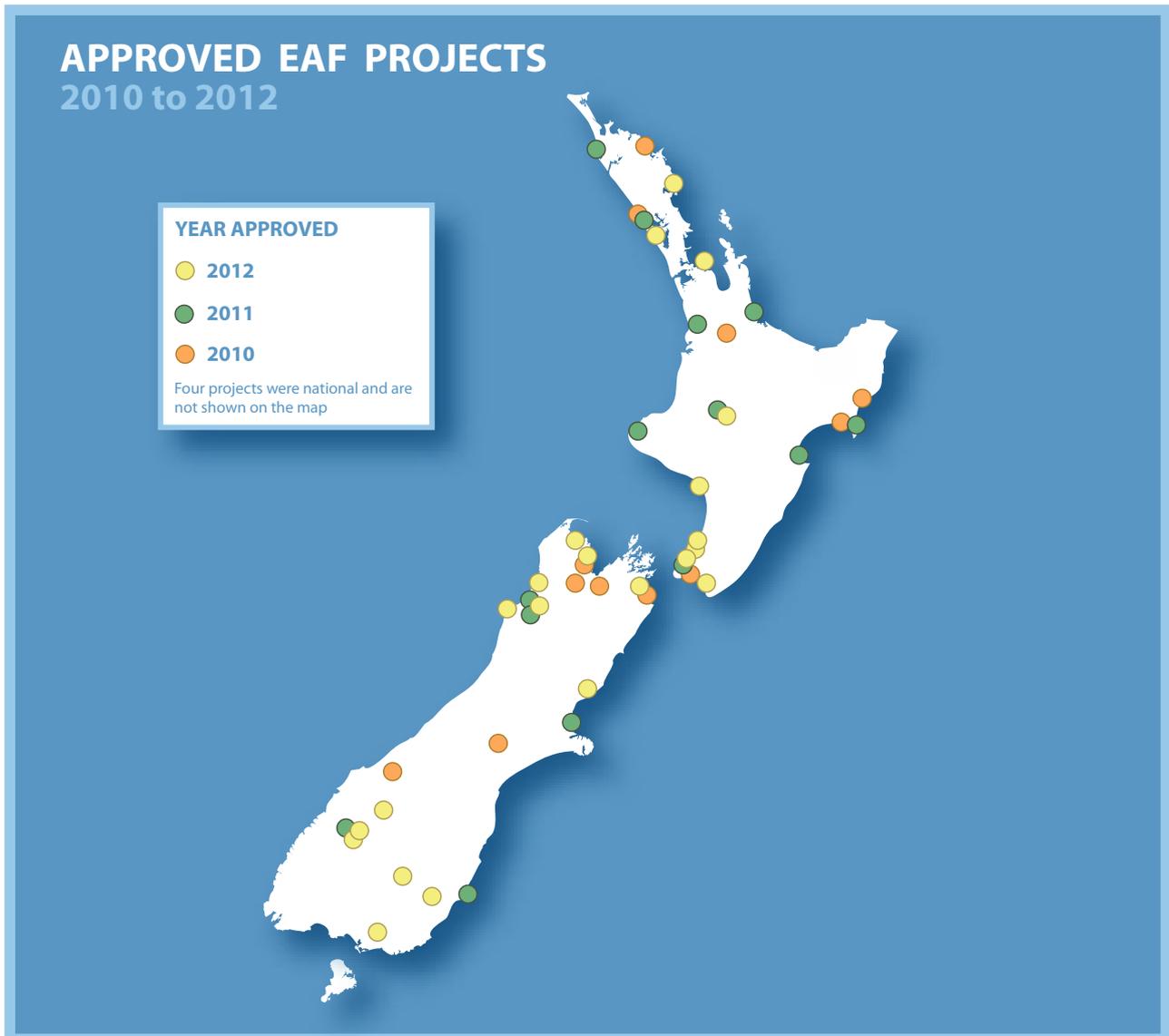
**Fig 4: Enhanced Access Fund applications and approvals**

Funding round/year	Applications received	Applications approved for funding	Projects completed to date
2010	29	12*	5
2011	45	19**	9
2012	51***	22	0
Total	125	53	14

\* Two projects have since been discontinued.

\*\* One out of round application was approved and one project has been discontinued.

\*\*\* One application was subsequently withdrawn.

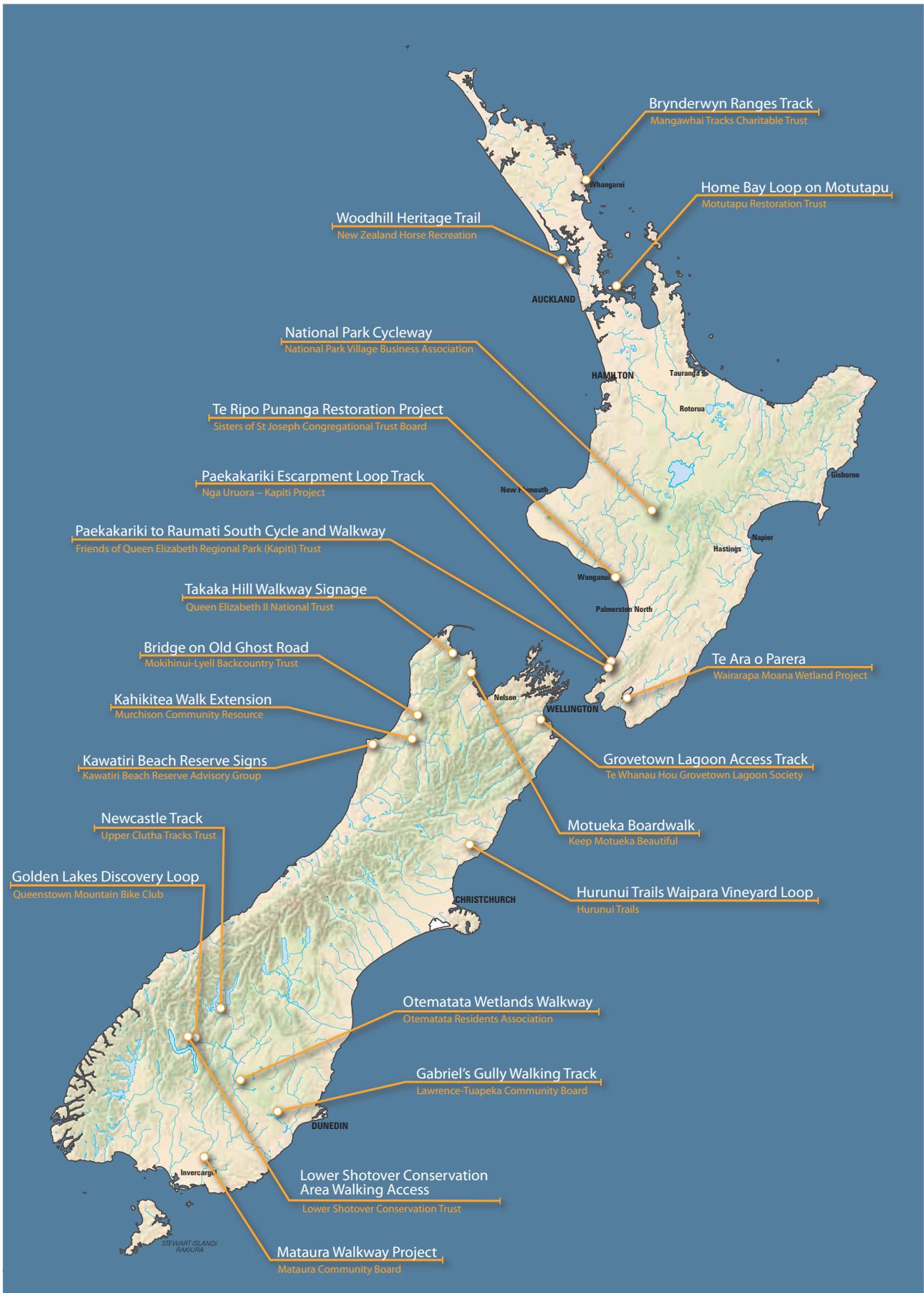
**Fig 5: Enhanced Access Fund grants by region 2010 to 2012**

**Fig 6: Projects approved for funding in 2011-2012**

Project	Region	Description	Funding
Access negotiations	North Island	Funding to assist access negotiations in the North Island. If successful, the negotiated access would result in some desirable changes to the existing route of the Te Araroa pathway, which stretches 3,000km from Cape Reinga to Bluff.	\$20,000
Brynderwyn Ranges Track	Northland	Construction of 300 steps and accompanying signage on a new track to the summit of the Brynderwyn Ranges. The track will link with existing Brynderwyn and Te Araroa walkways.	\$7,641
Home Bay Loop Track on Motutapu	Auckland	Construction of a loop track in the hills around Home Bay on Motutapu. The new track will provide visitors with a two-hour bush and ridge walking experience offering views out over the Hauraki Gulf.	\$15,435
Woodhill Heritage Trail	Auckland	Construction of an 8km horse riding and walking trail through the commercial Woodhill Forest. The trail will include signage about the history of the forest, its ecology and the local Māori people.	\$15,690
National Park cycleway	Central North Island	Creation of a cycleway and walkway that follows the historic Marton Sash and Door Company tramway near National Park Village. The funds will assist construction of a bridge and access signs on the route.	\$10,000
Te Ripo Punanga Restoration Project	Whanganui	Gates, stiles and signs marking access to Te Ripo Punanga Restoration Project near Cullinane College in Whanganui. The project provides community access to a valley and wetland owned by the Sisters of St Joseph Congregational Trust Board.	\$3,450
Te Ara o Parera	Wairarapa	Creation of a walkway to the eastern shore and wetlands of Lake Wairarapa. The walkway is expected to open up the area to walkers, bird watchers, botanists and wetland enthusiasts.	\$20,750
Paekakariki Escarpment Loop Track	Wellington	Creation of a beach and bush loop walk starting at Paekakariki Railway Station. The track will take walkers along Paekakariki Beach and through a nearby forest reserve	\$13,250
Cycleway and walkway from Paekakariki to Raumati South	Wellington	Construction of a section of an all-weather cycling and walking track between Paekakariki and Raumati South through Queen Elizabeth Park.	\$7,000
Grovetown Lagoon track	Marlborough	Construction of a 750m access track along the southern side of Grovetown Lagoon, north of Blenheim. The track is the first stage of a planned perimeter path around the lagoon.	\$10,000
Motueka Boardwalk	Tasman	Construction of a boardwalk that will form the final section of the existing walking and cycling path around Motueka Estuary Inlet.	\$10,000
Takaka Hill Walkway signs	Tasman	Installation of signs to mark access on the Takaka Hill Walkway, near Motueka. The popular walkway offers panoramic views over the surrounding area.	\$3,980

Bridge on Old Ghost Road	West Coast	Construction of a pedestrian and cycle bridge across Specimen Creek on Old Ghost Road, north of Murchison. The 80km Old Ghost Road is a designated 'Great Ride' and will form part of Nga Haerenga, The New Zealand Cycle Trail, once it's complete.	\$20,000
Kahikatea Walk extension	West Coast	Construction of a new 480m track that will connect the existing Kahikatea Walk and Riverside Track to form a 2.75km loop from Riverview Motor Camp, near Murchison.	\$10,320
Kawatiri Beach Reserve signs	West Coast	Installation of signs marking access to Kawatiri Beach in Westport. The Kawatiri Beach Reserve Advisory Group plans to make the area a hub for recreational activities including walking and cycling.	\$10,000
Hurunui Trails Waipara Vineyard Loop	Canterbury	Creation of a section of a walking and cycling trail through the Waipara Valley. The trail will stretch for approximately 35km and will take in historic farmland and local vineyards. The project will provide access to private land that has not previously been publicly accessible.	\$8,000
Newcastle Track	Southern Lakes	Funding to assist creation of a 12.5km track that will provide walking, mountain biking and fishing access along the Clutha River, east of Wanaka. The new Newcastle Track will link with the existing Hawea River Track and the Upper Clutha River Track to create a loop.	\$10,000
Golden Lakes Discovery Loop	Southern Lakes	Creation of a walking and cycling loop track that will take in lakes Wakatipu, Moke and Dispute. The new Golden Lakes Discovery Loop will combine existing multi-use tracks with mining pack tracks and water races to provide a scenic walkway for locals and visitors to Queenstown.	\$10,000
Lower Shotover Conservation Area walking access	Southern Lakes	Funding for installation of a gate and construction of a new 500m trail linking the Lower Shotover Conservation Area to the neighbouring Tucker Beach Wildlife Reserve.	\$4,007
Otematata Wetlands walkway	Otago	Funding for track markers and signs to mark access along the Otematata Wetlands Walkway, on the shores of Lake Aviemore.	\$5,400
Gabriel's Gully track	Otago	Funding to assist formation of the last 400m of a 4km walking and cycling track from Lawrence to historic Gabriel's Gully. Gabriel's Gully is the site where Australian prospector Gabriel Read struck gold in 1861, triggering the Central Otago gold rush.	\$10,000
Mataura Walking Project	Southland	Funding for construction of an 800m walkway providing access alongside a flood bank between Asquith Street and State Highway 1 in Mataura.	\$5,000

Fig 7: Approved Enhanced Access Fund projects 2012



**WALKWAYS**

The Commission is responsible for administering walkways under the Walking Access Act 2008. This includes approving controlling authorities for each walkway (see Fig. 8). Controlling authorities are responsible for the day-to-day management, maintenance and enforcement of access provisions on walkways.

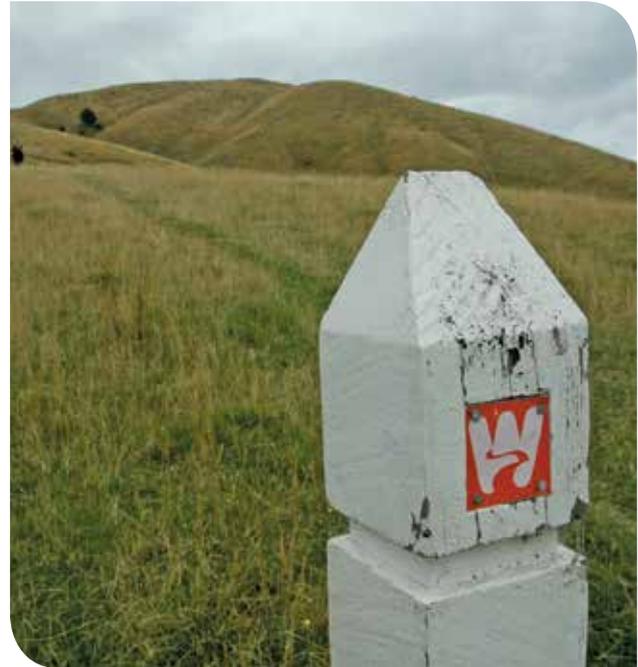
During 2011-2012, the Commission gazetted two walkways - Lake Otuhie Walkway near Nelson, and a deviation of the existing White Cliffs Track walkway in Taranaki. This brings the total number of gazetted walkways in New Zealand to 44 (see Fig. 9).

New public access easements for two walkways in the vicinity of the Dome Forest north of Auckland were registered against private land titles and a survey for a walkway in Whanganui was completed. Twenty one further tracks are at various stages in the administrative cycle leading to gazettement as walkways. Many of these are expected to be formally gazetted in the coming year.

In addition to the 44 gazetted walkways in New Zealand there are several other tracks over private land, perceived to be walkways by the public, but which do not have the legal protection of registered easements. As the Commission identifies these tracks it will endeavour to negotiate permanent and enduring access with the private land owners.

**Fig 8: Walkway controlling authorities**

Controlling authority	Number of walkways
Department of Conservation	40
Greater Wellington Regional Council	1
Nelson City Council	1
Dunedin City Council	1
Waimate District Council	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>



**CASE STUDY:  
WESTMERE WALKWAY – LANDHOLDERS  
AND COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER**

The Westmere Walkway provides magnificent views over Whanganui city and the river. The track through privately owned farmland, with a link to Matipo Park, exists through the generosity of the landowners and the efforts of the Wanganui Rotary Club.

The Commission has agreed to declare the walking track a walkway to ensure public access will endure. Surveying the track has been completed and it will be gazetted in the 2012-13 financial year.



Fig 9: Gazetted walkways

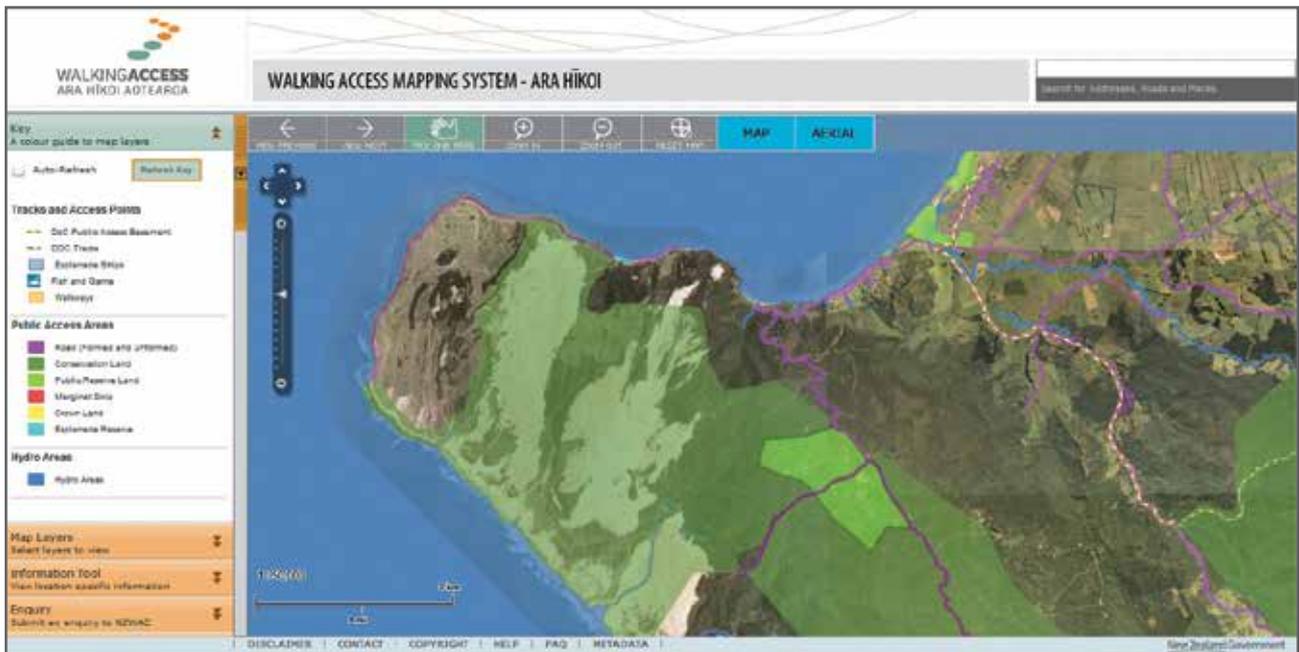


# Gazetted Walkways

NEW ZEALAND - SOUTH ISLAND



# Walking Access Mapping System



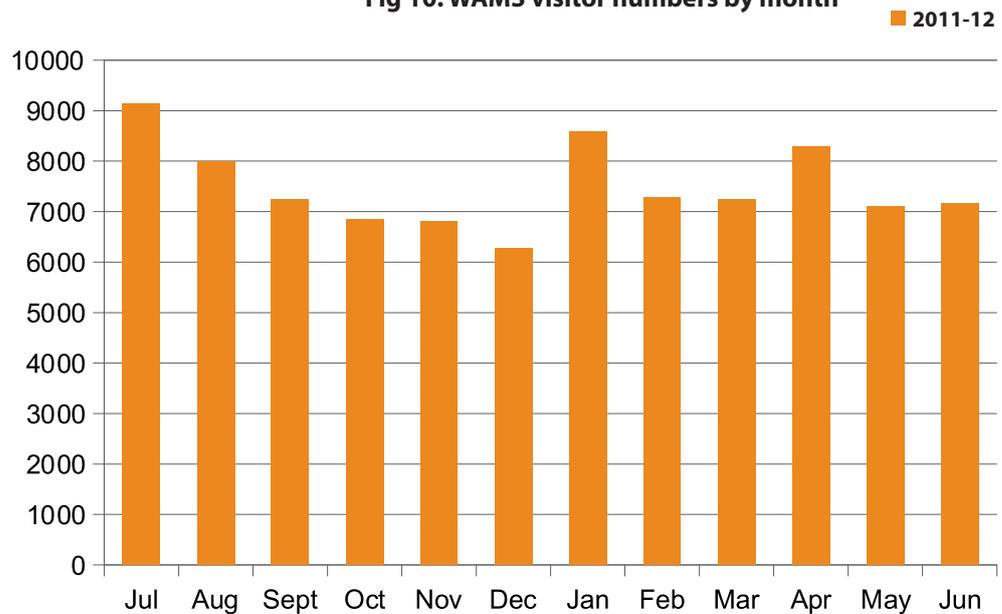
The Commission’s Walking Access Mapping System (WAMS) was launched formally in July 2011.

The online system shows members of the public where they can and can not go in the outdoors by colour-coding parcels of land based on whether they are publicly accessible or private. It includes topographic and aerial views and has a built-in enquiry function that allows users to ask questions or submit access cases for investigation by the Commission.

The mapping system’s launch was well publicised and, as at June 30 2012, the site was averaging approximately 250 visits a day. In 2011-2012, the mapping system was visited 89,972 times (see Fig. 10).

The media reception to the launch was overwhelmingly positive. In its December/January issue *PC World* magazine rated the system 4 stars out of 5.

**Fig 10: WAMS visitor numbers by month**



**USER SURVEY**

In February 2012 research company Q&A Research was commissioned to survey mapping system users on their level of satisfaction with the system and some of its core functions. The survey’s key findings, listed below, were positive:

- » 97 per cent of users believe the information provided on WAMS is useful.
- » 97 per cent of users are likely to continue using WAMS.
- » 97 per cent of users are likely to recommend using WAMS to others.
- » 94 per cent of users believe development of WAMS is a good use of taxpayers’ money.
- » 89 per cent of users believe WAMS is easy to use.

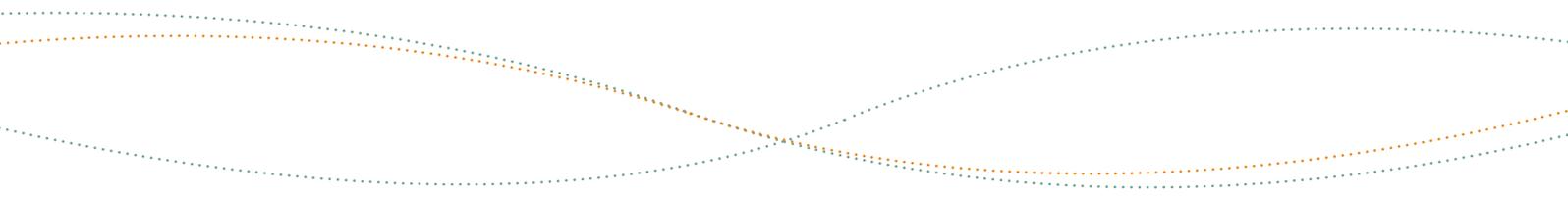
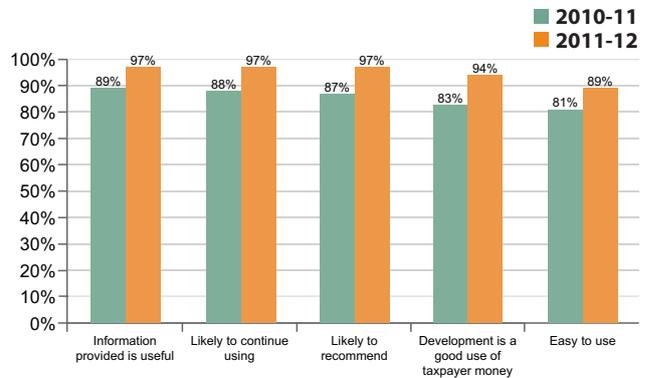
There was a notable improvement of around 10 percentage points in all of the key areas mentioned above, compared to a similar survey of beta testers conducted prior to the launch in 2011 (see Fig. 11).

Among the areas for improvement identified in the survey were the ease of use of some of the functions used to navigate and manipulate the data, such as the

‘drawing’ tool, and the Commission’s responsiveness to enquiries.

The Commission aims to address these areas and further improve satisfaction with WAMS functionality when it implements enhancements to the system in the 2012-13 year. Those enhancements will include an upgraded interface, a mobile-friendly version of the mapping system, and changes to allow other organisations to display useful outdoor-related information to WAMS users.

**Fig 11: WAMS survey results – 2010-2011 vs 2011-2012**



## Increasing understanding of access responsibilities

The Commission has begun an education programme to increase understanding of responsible behaviour when accessing the outdoors. This programme responds to the results of the 2011 Colmar Brunton Walking Access Survey, which found that 22 per cent of the New Zealand public 'strongly agree' that most New Zealanders have a good understanding of how to behave in the outdoors. Forty eight per cent of respondents 'slightly agree' with the same statement. This demonstrates that a significant number of people do not know how to behave in the outdoors and the Commission's work needs to reinforce knowledge and help others become aware of the expectations.

The Commission's outdoor access public education programme began in December 2011. While it is important that everyone knows how to behave responsibly in the outdoors, the programme's primary focus is on those groups that access the outdoors most regularly, such as trampers, anglers, hunters, mountain bikers and other recreational outdoors people.

The education programme has included targeted media and advertising to promote the messages in the *New Zealand Outdoor Access Code*, published by the Commission in 2010. It has also involved efforts to promote the Code via the Commission's website, newsletter, stakeholder publications and public forums

(see Fig. 12).

More than 33,000 copies of a 'Rights and Responsibilities' brochure summarising the Code's key messages were distributed to the public through Department of Conservation information centres, stakeholder newsletters and inserts in *Wilderness* magazine. A series of posters was also produced to promote the *New Zealand Outdoor Access Code* and a new online brochure has been developed summarising the Code for online audiences.

The success of this public education programme and the related school-based programme (outlined below) will be measured in 2013 when the Commission next surveys the public and landholders about public understanding of responsible behaviour in the outdoors.

**Fig 12: Outdoor access public education programme key figures**

Measure	Number
New Zealand Outdoor Access Code brochures distributed	33,445
Number of media stories mentioning the New Zealand Outdoor Access Code	20
Visits to New Zealand Outdoor Access Code section of <a href="http://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz">www.walkingaccess.govt.nz</a>	2,502

### SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMME

As part of its outdoor access public education programme, the Commission has engaged education experts Learning Media/CWA to develop a website and online resource to help teachers educate students about responsible behaviour in the outdoors. The Both Sides of the Fence education portal and resource will be available in late 2012. Positively, 112 teachers have already signed up to a mailing list to receive further

information when the resource is ready for use. This interest has been generated largely as a result of a competition and flyer at the Learning@School teacher conference and targeted advertising of the upcoming programme in the June 2012 issue of *Starters & Strategies* magazine, which is sent to the majority of primary school teachers in New Zealand.



## Raising awareness of the Commission and its leadership role

The Commission has worked to increase awareness of its existence, leadership role and the information it provides to the public. This has primarily been done through community and stakeholder engagement, and media and advertising activity.

A need to increase awareness of the Commission was identified by the 2011 Colmar Brunton Walking Access Survey, which found that 6 per cent of the general population knew about the Commission. Awareness was higher among outdoor recreational club members (11 per cent) and landholders (12 per cent), but still relatively low. Increasing awareness of the Commission

is important if people are to see the Commission as the leader on walking access matters and make use of its services and guidance material.

As noted earlier in this report, regional field advisors have noticed an increasing and positive recognition of the Commission among stakeholders in 2011-2012. This is likely to be the result of Commission efforts to increase face to face meetings with stakeholder groups, more positive coverage of the Commission's activities in regional media and increased awareness of the Commission's most visible product – the Walking Access Mapping System.

### COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Commission held one national forum, in Wellington, and three regional forums, in Masterton, Kerikeri and National Park Village. The national forum was held in March 2012 and attracted 24 representatives from 19 stakeholder groups. A feature of the forum was a presentation from Dr Jock Phillips, the editor of *Te Ara – The Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, on the history of access in New Zealand and its role shaping the New Zealand identity.

The regional forums were attended by representatives from local and central government, recreational and landholder organisations, tourism businesses and members of the public.

The forums help maintain communication with stakeholders and enable the Commission to hear, first-hand, the variety of local and national access issues that might need to be addressed. They are a visible form of

the Commission's leadership role and provide attendees with an opportunity to share specific local problems that the Commission's regional field advisors might be able to assist with resolving.

In addition to the regional forums, the Commission endeavours to hold separate forums with local and central government representatives whenever its board meets in the regions. These local government forums were also held in Masterton, Kerikeri and National Park Village, and all were well attended.

To raise awareness of best practice management of unformed legal roads, the Commission ran seven workshops for local government councillors and staff from nine district councils. The Commission has been struck by the wide range of different interpretations of the law regarding unformed legal roads and these workshops played an important role in helping councils understand how best to manage them. These workshops will continue in the coming year.

As well as holding forums, the Commission's Wellington-based staff, regional field advisors and board members attended numerous stakeholder meetings and club events. These include Rural Women New Zealand's National Conference in Hawera, the New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers AGM in Dunedin, High Country Farmers Conference in Wanaka, the local government Open Spaces Forum in Wellington and the 2WalkandCycle conference in Hastings.



2011-12 National Stakeholder Forum

## MEDIA AND ADVERTISING

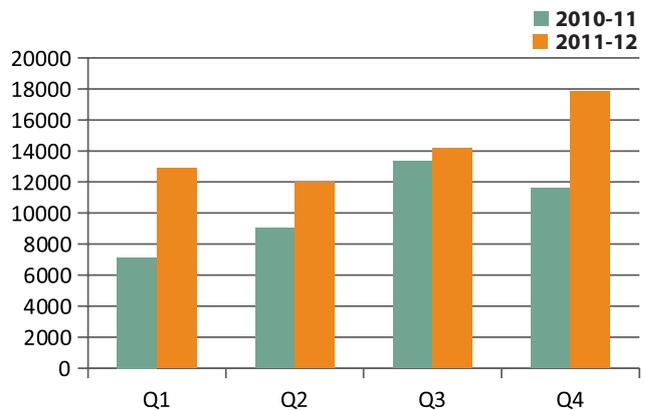
During the year, the Commission sent 35 media releases and wrote 16 columns and editorials in regional newspapers, helping to generate more than 170 news stories in national and regional television, radio and print media. The Commission also placed targeted advertising in outdoor-related publications to promote key projects, including the Walking Access Mapping System, *New Zealand Outdoor Access Code* and its school-based education programme that is due to go live next year.

Other awareness raising efforts have included sponsorship of 80 pedometers for Rural Women New Zealand groups taking part in the Women Walk the World challenge and exhibition booths at the Outdoors Forum and Southern Fieldays. These initiatives focused on increasing awareness of the Commission's role and the informational resources it has available for landholders and people seeking guidance on access.

The Commission's media, sponsorship and advertising efforts have been complemented by improvements

to the Commission's website and print newsletter and the creation of an electronic newsletter for email distribution. The number of visits to [www.walkingaccess.govt.nz](http://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz) reached 56,891 in 2011-12, up 39 per cent on the previous year's visitor total of 41,067 (see Fig. 13). Subscriber numbers to the Commission's electronic newsletter increased by 3 per cent, from 962 to 995, in the time since the first e-newsletter was issued in December 2011.

**Fig 13: NZWAC website visitors by quarter**



## ADVICE TO MINISTERS AND GOVERNMENT

The Commission investigated three major topics pertaining to its leadership and advice functions. This advice was sought to help ensure it can effectively advise the Minister and other affected parties.

The first of these matters related to proposed changes to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA). In October 2011 the Minister for the Environment appointed a technical advisory group to review sections 6 and 7 of the RMA. Section 6 of the RMA specifies the "Matters of National Importance", one of which is "the maintenance and enhancement of public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers" (Section 6(d)).

In order to make an informed assessment of the issue, the Commission undertook a pilot study of district and regional council planning documents. This study examined how section 6(d) was applied in practice and investigated what the implications might be of not retaining the section in future. It appears that this is the first time there has been a review of the policy objectives and application of section 6(d) of the RMA.

The findings of the pilot study suggested that public access to and along the coastal marine area, lakes and rivers is not well recognised and provided for by councils. The Commission is considering expanding the review and enhancing the value of the pilot study by increasing the number of councils in the study and developing guidance material for council planning staff and the public.

There is a good case for retaining section 6(d) as a matter of national importance in the RMA. The Commission was pleased, therefore, to see that the technical advisory group recommended that the provision be retained.

Other topics of national interest investigated by the Commission included public access to central North Island forests and the legal status of Acheron Road, which traverses Molesworth Station and links Hanmer Springs and Blenheim.

There has been considerable interest in access to central North Island forests from recreation groups, mainly anglers, as current arrangements have created some

uncertainty as to public rights and obligations. The Commission undertook a comprehensive investigation and believes that there is a case to clarify public access. The Commission intends to advance this case in the 2012-2013 year.

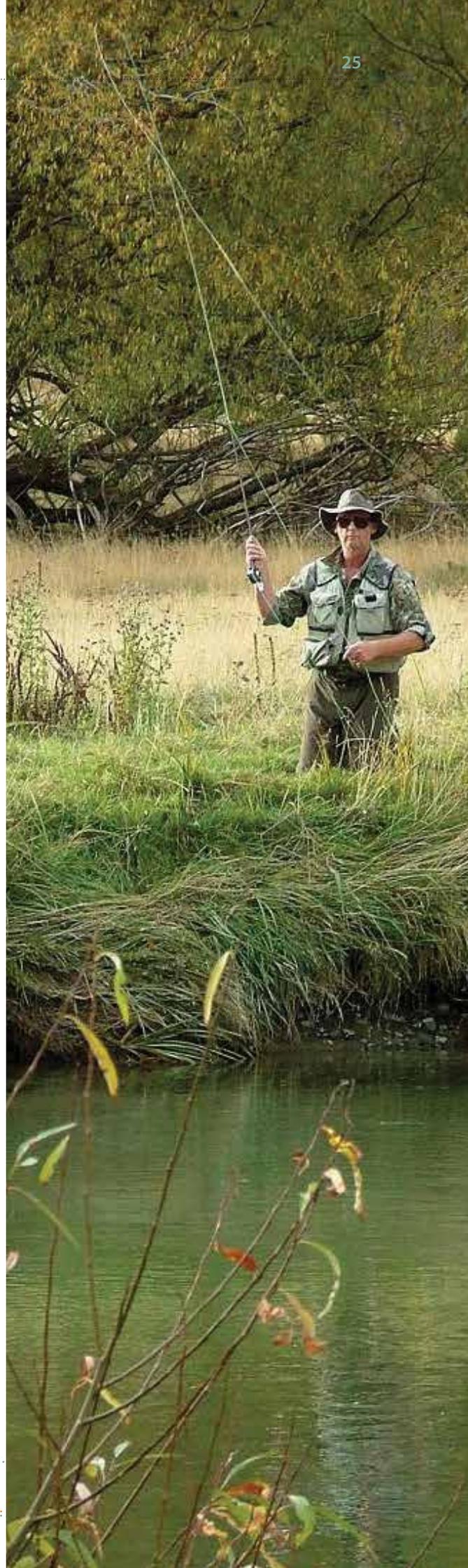
Further investigations into the legal status of Acheron Road proved fruitful. This work will be completed in the 2012- 2013 year.

### EXTERNAL REVENUE GENERATION

The Commission has a set of principles to guide how it will approach its work to generate additional revenue and leverage what it receives from the government. It sees the government funding its core statutory functions with the Commission seeking opportunities to expand and enhance other products and projects. The Commission was not able to advance this work in detail as a higher priority was given to statutory roles, including enhancing the mapping system; this alone required significant attention from the Board.

As noted earlier in this report, the Commission is achieving good results and building credibility and trust within available resources. There may be some potential to generate revenue through other organisations helping to fund modules, specific to their interest, on the Both Sides of the Fence online schools web portal. The Commission will explore this in more detail in the coming year once the website is live and open to the public.

The Commission also endeavours to extract additional value from its resources though collaboration with others. For example, applications to the Enhanced Access Fund have shown evidence of other funding and community support. The Commission does not see itself as the sole funder of projects. Similarly, the Commission may provide information to help inform other parties to an access problem; good independent information brings clarity and minimises points of conflict and increasing the potential for resolution.



# About the Commission

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

**John Forbes** is Mayor of Opotiki District and Vice-President of Local Government New Zealand. He has a good understanding of the agricultural, horticultural, forestry and rural sectors. As a committee chairman of a rural council for 18 years and a Mayor since 2001, he has had significant experience in governance processes, public consultation and representing rural communities. He was a member of the Walking Access Consultation Panel and the Walking Access Advisory Board. *Term of appointment:* April 2012 – April 2015.

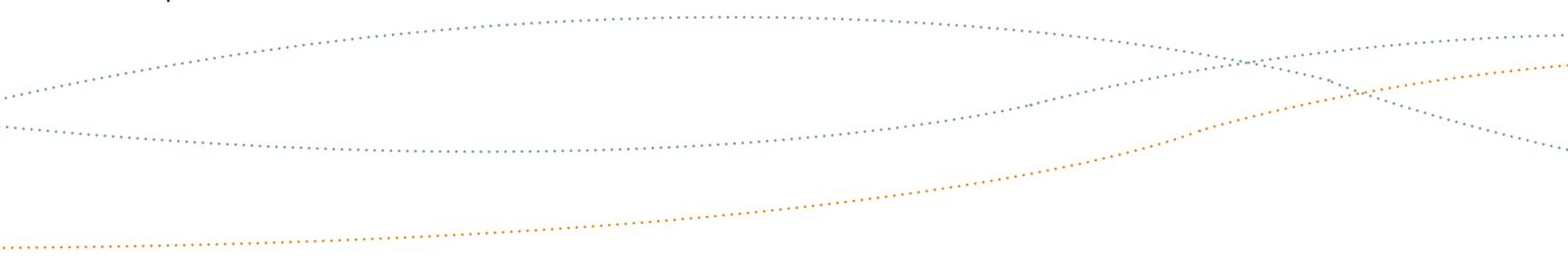
**Maurice (Mike) Barnett** is the principal of Barnett and Associates, a consultancy firm providing services in tourism enterprise development, field research, risk assessment, DOC concession planning, RMA planning and tourism marketing. He is a shareholder in Trail Journeys Ltd (operating on Otago Rail Trail), Daylock Ltd, Around the Mountains Cycle Trail Ltd and Online Booking Systems Ltd. He was appointed national cycle trail consultant to the Ministry of Tourism/Ministry of Economic Development and was an advisor to Hauraki District Council on land access issues for cycle-walking trails. *Term of appointment:* April 2011 – April 2014.

**Maggie Bayfield** is an ecologist with a long involvement in both the conservation and rural communities. A previous chair of the Taranaki Wanganui Conservation Board and member of the New Zealand Conservation Authority, Maggie has also chaired the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust and been Executive Officer of Rural Women New Zealand. Maggie has more recently worked as a consultant specialising in working with landowners and local, regional and central government on a wide range of land management issues. She is a keen trumper and a forest owner. Maggie now lives in Christchurch. She was a member of the Walking Access Consultation Panel. *Term of appointment:* April 2012 – April 2015.

**Peter Brown** (Turanganui a Kiwa, Ngati Porou, Te Arawa, Tuwharetoa) is a consultant and horticulturist from near Gisborne. He has a background in public service and community fund management including cooperative business loans and enterprise grants. He is qualified in law and business management. He was a member of the Walking Access Consultation Panel and the Walking Access Advisory Board. He is a former member of the Waitangi Tribunal. *Term of appointment:* April 2010 – April 2013.

**Penny Mudford** is a Wellington based dispute resolution specialist and a Fellow of the Arbitrators' and Mediators' Institute of New Zealand. She is an experienced director and coaches senior managers and directors in the areas of governance and conflict. Penny has a background in agriculture with 20 years' experience as a dairy farmer and rural property owner in Manawatu. She is a former provincial president of Federated Farmers and was a supplier representative of both Tui and Kiwi dairy companies. Her position as a rural arbitrator ensures she continues to be involved in the farming sector. Penny was a member of the Land Access Ministerial Reference Group in 2003. *Term of appointment:* April 2012 – April 2015.

**Brian Stephenson** is a barrister from Auckland with extensive experience in employment law and dispute resolution. He is a trumper, climber and ski-mountaineer and a past President of Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand. He was a member of the Walking Access Advisory Board and is a member of the New Zealand Conservation Authority. *Term of appointment:* April 2010 – April 2013.



## OBITUARY: JOHN ASPINALL

The passing of esteemed high country farmer John Aspinall, who served on the Board of the New Zealand Walking Access Commission until his death, was a blow for farmers and access advocates across the country.

John passed away on 4 November 2011 after a battle with leukaemia. He played an important role in the establishment of the Commission, serving on the Walking Access Consultation Panel and the Walking Access Advisory Board. He made major contributions to key Commission projects including the New Zealand Outdoor Access Code and Walking Access Mapping System.

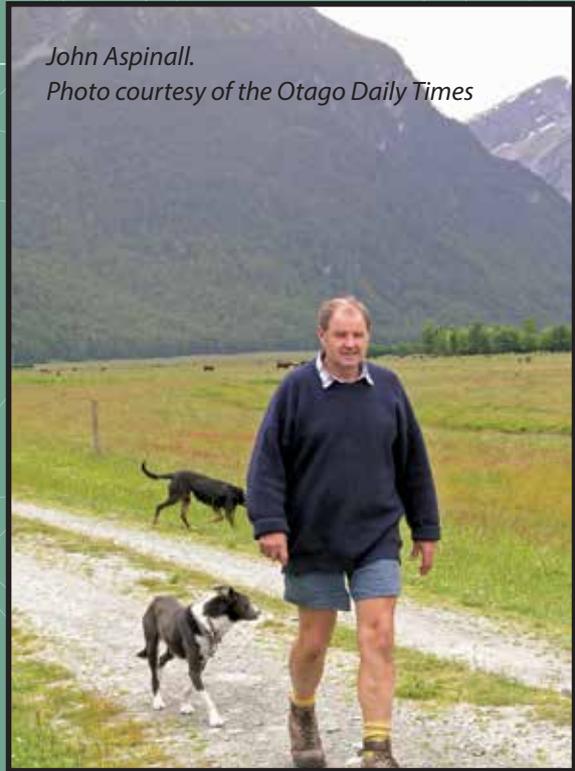
John's communication skills, farming background and active recreational interests made him a unifying force that brought farmers and recreational users together. He also led by example, allowing 80,000 people to cross his family's Mt Aspiring Station every year so they could enjoy the neighbouring Mount Aspiring National Park.

John was the third generation of his family to farm the 10,000 hectare station, which was settled by his grandparents Jack and Amy Aspinall under pastoral lease in 1920 and passed to his parents Jerry and Phyllis in 1950.

He and his wife Sue's contribution to New Zealand was recognised when they were the supreme winners of the Otago Ballance Farm Environment Awards 2006. In 1995, he was honoured with an achievement award by the Otago branch of the Institute of Agricultural Science.

*John Aspinall.*

*Photo courtesy of the Otago Daily Times*



Over the past decade John served on the Board of Federated Farmers, chaired the Federated Farmers High Country Committee, set up the Hieracium Control Trust and was actively involved in search and rescue.

He is survived by his wife Sue, son Randall and daughters Catie and Rachal.



## HEALTH AND CAPABILITY

The Commission is committed to being a good employer (as defined in section 118 of the Crown Entities Act 2004) and actively promotes the principles of equal employment opportunities (EEO). The Commission has a draft set of personnel policies which guide its personnel practices; it intends to review and complete these in the coming year in consultation with staff. In the interim the small number of staff creates a transparent environment and any concerns and needs are managed openly.

## PEOPLE

As at 30 June 2012, the Commission had 5.9 full-time equivalent employees. The age profile of the employees is wide, with an average age of 48 (same as 2010-2011). With the small number of employees there is little ethnic diversity – of the total of seven staff 86 per cent are European and 14 per cent Asian – and the Commission recognises the value and benefits that a more diverse workforce would bring. Staff members are all able bodied. The majority of staff (70 per cent) are male and one of the three managers is female (33 per cent). The Commission has a kaumatua who provides advice on and assists with cultural matters, particularly at an operational level.

The following sections use the reporting framework used by the Human Rights Commission to assess the “good employer” performance of Crown entities.

## RECRUITMENT, SELECTION AND INDUCTION

The Commission demonstrates EEO principles in its recruitment and selection practices. Vacancies are advertised and all individuals are employed on the basis of merit, according to skills, knowledge and relevant experience.

## EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT

The Commission has a positive, equitable approach to developing all employees. It encourages staff to identify development opportunities which reflect both work needs and their own longer term career and personal objectives. Managers identify learning and development opportunities for staff aimed at ensuring that organisational needs are met. A course on negotiation was held for operations staff and contracted regional field advisors.

There is a particular focus on developing and providing opportunities for younger staff. For example, younger staff completed courses on topics including project management and managing relationships with stakeholders during the year.

### REMUNERATION AND RECOGNITION

The Commission uses job evaluation to set job bands and reviews salaries annually as part of its performance management process.

### FLEXIBLE WORK ENVIRONMENT

The Commission recognises the value of flexible work arrangements and encourages staff to develop and maintain a work-life balance. Arrangements include offering part time work (four staff are part-time), providing for employees to work from home, as appropriate, and working in the community. The Commission is conscious that with a high number of older staff, working arrangements differ from those where the profile is a lot younger. For example, caring for elderly parents is complex and demanding.

### SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

The Commission supports and encourages employee participation in health and safety and has a positive approach to employee health, safety and well-being. For example, all staff members are encouraged to attend first-aid courses. Staff members have access to an Employee Assistance Programme. Winter influenza vaccinations are offered to all staff.

The building occupied by the Commission has been deemed not to be an earthquake prone building by the Wellington City Council. All staff have “grab and go” earthquake and disaster preparedness kits.

### LEADERSHIP, ACCOUNTABILITY AND CULTURE

The Commission has a conceptual framework which gives the organisation a clear sense of direction and outcomes. The Board and managers provide the supporting leadership at the governance and management levels. Managers have senior managerial and technical experience and provide informal coaching and mentoring for staff as well as some external mentoring. The Commission’s work requires a high level of initiative, judgement and self-management which provide regular opportunities for staff to lead and manage cases and projects. The Commission’s size presents few opportunities for structured leadership roles.

Staff forums review and discuss the office and organisation culture and identify changes or adaptations required. Weekly staff meetings provide

opportunities to communicate and reinforce the Commission’s statutory objectives and strategy and share progress towards achieving those objectives.

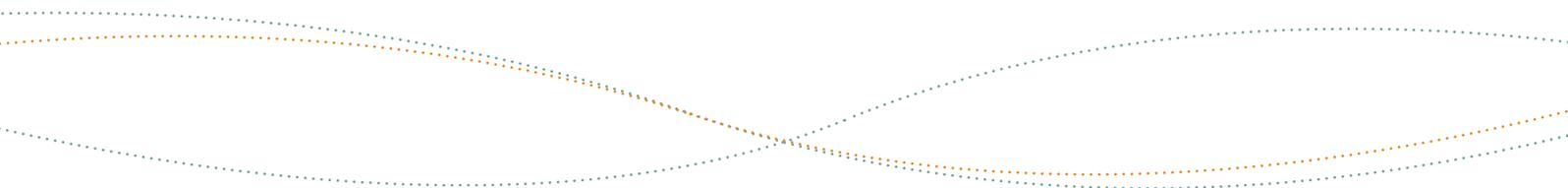
The 'Capability' section of the Commission’s National Strategy aims for an organisational culture and environment which builds trust among stakeholders through staff who demonstrate transparency, objectivity, integrity and respect for others. It is important that the Commission is outward focused and consistently and transparently engages with stakeholders in a collaborative way.

### PREVENTING BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

The Commission does not have a formal prevention of bullying and harassment policy or programme but staff have access to the Employee Assistance Programme, if needed. However, the small number of staff creates a very transparent environment and any concerns of this nature are likely to become apparent quickly. The Commission is committed to managing any complaints of bullying or harassment appropriately and in a timely manner.

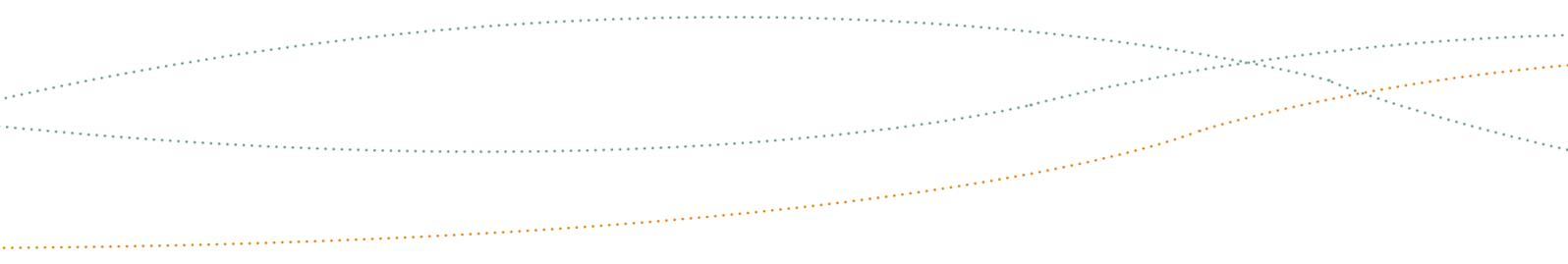
### ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITY

The Commission implemented an information management system using Microsoft SharePoint 2010 to improve compliance with the Public Records Act (records management) and to link the Walking Access Mapping System’s enquiries system with the Commission’s case information system. The latter ensures that enquiries lodged through the mapping system are automatically entered into SharePoint, removing the need for manual entry of each enquiry by Commission staff and reducing the amount of administration time required.



## MEASURING OUR HEALTH AND CAPABILITY

	Measure		Actual	Performance
1. Staff recruitment, training and retention policies focus on attracting and retaining skilled, flexible, knowledgeable and diverse team players.	Annual staff turnover.	No more than 30% (two people) per annum.	2009-2010 nil 2010-2011 17.5%	2011-2012 17%
2. Staff members possess the tools, information and training necessary to perform to a high level.	Training as % of total salary costs.	Training costs exceed 2% of total staff salaries.	2009-2010 1.4% 2010-2011 1.1%	2011-2012 1.8%
3. Board members undertake an annual self-assessment exercise.		Board self-assessment completed and recommendations actioned by 30 June 2012.	2009-2010 no Board newly established 2010-2011 yes	2011-2012 yes
4. Board members continue to be knowledgeable both about their duties of governance and how to discharge these successfully.		Governance questions and requirements included in annual board self-assessment, with training given as required.	2009-2010 no Board newly established 2010-2011 yes	2011-2012 yes
5. Office space and equipment is safe and well maintained.		No workplace accidents.	2009-2010 nil 2010-2011 nil	2011-2012 nil



# Financial and service delivery performance

## INTRODUCTION

This section contains the following statements:

- » Statement of responsibility
- » Statement of service performance
- » Statement of comprehensive income
- » Statement of changes in equity
- » Statement of financial position
- » Statement of cash flows
- » Notes to the financial statements.

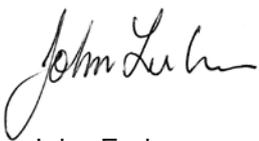
## STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Board is responsible for the preparation of the New Zealand Walking Access Commission's financial statements and statement of service performance and for the judgments made in them.

The Board of the Commission has the responsibility for establishing and maintaining a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of financial reporting.

In the Board's opinion, the financial statements and the statement of service performance fairly reflect the financial position and the operations of the Commission for the year ended 30 June 2012.

Signed on behalf of the Board:



John Forbes

**Chairman**



Maggie Bayfield

**Board Member**

Date: 25 September 2012



## Statement of service performance

Output	Measure	Actual performance	
<b>Enhancing access opportunities</b>			
<b>1.1 WALKING ACCESS MAPPING SYSTEM</b>			
The Commission developed an online Walking Access Mapping System (WAMS) that provides maps and information about land over which members of the public have walking access. This is a statutory requirement in the Walking Access Act 2008. To assess performance a mapping system user survey was conducted in 2012 with 316 respondents.			
The ease of use of the Walking Access Mapping System is a key quality measure.	75%	Quality: Percentage of users that choose to rate the system rate it as easy to use or very easy to use. Using a five point rating scale where 5 is strongly agree and 4 is agree, the 2012 WAMS user survey shows that 89% of users rate WAMS as easy to use.	
The usefulness of the information provided by the Walking Access Mapping System is a key measure of user satisfaction.	75%	Quality: Percentage of users that choose to rate the information provided by the mapping system rate it as useful. Using a five point rating scale where 5 is strongly agree and 4 is agree the 2012 WAMS user survey shows that 97% of users rate WAMS as useful.	
<b>1.2 ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES AND ENQUIRIES</b>			
A key part of the Commission's role is to facilitate and negotiate new walking access, and to respond to enquiries on walking access opportunities.	200-300	Quantity: Number of access enquiries received during 2011-2012	488 access enquiries received.
	100%	Timeliness: Percentage of enquiries for information responded to within 10 working days.	99.8% of enquiries received and initial response within 10 working days.
The Commission operates a contestable fund to address existing access problems and to support the retention of existing walking access. This is provided for in the Walking Access Act 2008.	1	Quantity: Number of Enhanced Access Fund funding rounds held during 2011-2012.	2012 round closed on 30 March with 51 applications received.
	10-20	Quantity: Number of applications approved.	22 applications from the 2012 round were approved.
<b>1.3 DISPUTES AND MEDIATION</b>			
A key part of the Commission's role is to facilitate resolution of disputes around walking access.	3-5	Quantity: Number of disputes resolved.	22 disputes resolved
<b>Increasing public understanding of access responsibilities</b>			
<b>1.4 AWARENESS AND EDUCATION</b>			
The Commission has a statutory function to educate the public about walking access, and this includes promoting an Outdoor Access Code that encourages responsible behaviour.		Timeliness: Implementation of the Code public education programme started by August 2011.	The broader New Zealand Outdoor Access Code public education programme began in December 2011. In January 2012 work began on a school-based education programme that will provide information and resources for teachers to use in the classroom. This will be launched in 2012-2013.

Output	Measure	Actual performance	
<b>Raising awareness of the Commission and its leadership role</b>			
<b>1.5 FORUMS</b>			
The Commission has diverse stakeholders and as part of its engagement process, regional and national forums are held to help ensure that the Commission is aware of local access issues and can provide leadership by bringing individuals and groups together. The forums also help the Commission raise awareness and inform stakeholders about access matters.	3-4	Quantity: Number of regional forums held during 2011-2012.	3 regional forums in the year.
	1-2	Quantity: Number of national forums held during 2011-2012.	1 national forum.
<b>1.6 NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR WALKING ACCESS</b>			
A key function under the Walking Access Act 2008 is to provide national leadership by developing and administering a national strategy on walking access. The strategy underpins the Commission's leadership role and supports its approaches, policies and plans to encourage enhanced access.		Timeliness: All key stakeholders have received and are aware of the strategy by 30 November 2011.	This target has been met. The National Strategy was referred to during regional forums and speaking engagements throughout 2011-12 and is available on the Commission's website. It was distributed to key stakeholders during the Commission's earlier establishment phase.
<b>1.7 ADVICE TO GOVERNMENT AND MINISTER</b>			
One of the Commission's statutory functions is to provide advice to "the Minister or any other person on walking access", and this includes advice on Overseas Investment Act Applications, tenure review proposals and the implementation of Treaty Settlements.	1-5	Quantity: Number of reports and briefings provided.	7 reports to the Minister on: WAMS baseline user survey, third party revenue, access in the central North Island, the Walking Access Mapping System (2), the Commission's proposed strategy for 2012-2015 and briefing for the incoming Minister.  1 report providing advice to the Office of Treaty Settlements.  2 reports providing advice on Overseas Investment.  16 reports providing advice on tenure review proposals.

## INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

Measures	Baseline for 2010-2011	Comments	Performance progress
<b>Enhancing access opportunities</b>			
1. Information on access opportunities is easy to find.	4% of the NZ public 'strongly agree' that it is easy to find information on ownership/status of land.  18% of the NZ public 'slightly agree' that it is easy to find information on ownership/status of land.	To respond to this need for information, the Commission's mapping system (WAMS) was launched during 2010-2011. We expect that these figures will increase as the system becomes more widely known and used.  The baseline figures are derived from the Colmar Brunton Walking Access Survey 2011. The Commission will undertake a similar survey in early 2013 to establish progress against these baseline measures. In the absence of a survey in 2012 the Commission has used increasing WAMS usage as an indicator of progress.	The average number of people visiting the WAMS website on a daily basis has more than doubled since the media briefing of 21 July 2011 from 100 to 250 per day.  During the 2011-12 year, there were 89,972 visits to the WAMS site.

Measures	Baseline for 2010-2011	Comments	Performance progress
2. Number of access opportunities that have been enhanced as a result of the Commission's work including dispute/issue resolution.	Access opportunities enhanced are estimated to be: 1 gazetted walkway; 31 enhanced and resolved access issues; and 11 enhanced access projects through the Enhanced Access Fund.	Due to the timing of finalising the SOI the baseline figures for access opportunities are estimated for the year based on experience to March 2011.	2 new walkways gazetted. 22 access disputes resolved. 19 Enhanced Access Fund 2011 projects approved (one has since been cancelled).
3. Retention of existing gazetted Walkways.	42 gazetted Walkways.	The memorandum of understanding with the Department of Conservation listed 36 walkways. Six additional walkways were identified up to March 2011.	44 gazetted walkways.

#### Increasing public understanding of access responsibilities

4. Increased awareness and understanding of access responsibilities.	<p>22% of the NZ public 'strongly agree' that most New Zealanders have a good understanding of how to behave in the outdoors.</p> <p>48% of the NZ public 'slightly agree' that most New Zealanders have a good understanding of how to behave in the outdoors.</p>	<p>The Commission will survey the public in 2013 to establish performance against these measures.</p> <p>These are measures of perception and not actual understanding of good behaviour in the outdoors. When the public were asked to say what they understood to be good behaviour in the outdoors only a few were able to comment. The Commission will be addressing this with its public education programme for the New Zealand Outdoor Access Code.</p>	<p>During the 2011-2012 year, the Commission distributed 33,443 copies of its New Zealand Outdoor Access Code brochure to the public as part of its New Zealand Outdoor Access Code communications strategy.</p> <p>The Commission is also developing a school education programme that will provide information and resources for teachers to use in the classroom. This will be launched in Q2 2012-2013.</p>
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#### Raising awareness of the Commission and its leadership role

5. The Commission's key stakeholders and the public acknowledge that the Commission is the leader on walking access matters.	<p>6% of the public know at least a little about the Commission.</p> <p>12% of land owners/managers know at least a little about the Commission.</p> <p>11% of outdoor recreation club members know at least a little about the Commission.</p>	<p>The Commission will survey the public in 2013 to establish performance against these measures.</p> <p>The Commission will focus on raising the profile of the Commission over the next three years. We expect to see the awareness of the Commission and its leadership role increase.</p>	<p>Seven workshops on the Guidelines for the management of Unformed Legal Roads have been held – with representatives from nine local authorities attending.</p> <p>During the year, there were 56,891 visits to the corporate website (<a href="http://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz">www.walkingaccess.govt.nz</a>), an increase of 39% compared to 2010-2011. This suggests awareness of the Commission has increased.</p>
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# Statement of financial performance

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the year ended 30 June 2012

2011 Actual \$000		Note	2012 Actual \$000	2012 Budget \$000
	<b>INCOME</b>			
1789	Revenue from the Crown	2	1789	1789
134	Interest income		132	127
0	Other income		12	0
<b>1923</b>	<b>Total income</b>		<b>1933</b>	<b>1916</b>
	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
1110	Operating costs	3	1130	1176
557	Personnel costs	4	518	576
17	Audit fees		17	16
90	Board fees		70	97
72	Depreciation and amortisation		108	112
63	Rentals and leases		63	63
<b>1909</b>	<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>1906</b>	<b>2040</b>
14	Surplus		27	-124
0	Other comprehensive income		0	0
<b>14</b>	<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>-124</b>

Explanations of major variances against budget are provided in note 20.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the year ended 30 June 2012

2011 Actual \$000		Note	2012 Actual \$000	2012 Budget \$000
2775	Balance at 1 July		3289	3295
	<b>Movements in total equity:</b>			
14	Total comprehensive income for the period		27	(124)
500	Capital contribution		0	0
<b>3289</b>	<b>Total equity at 30 June</b>	5	<b>3316</b>	<b>3171</b>

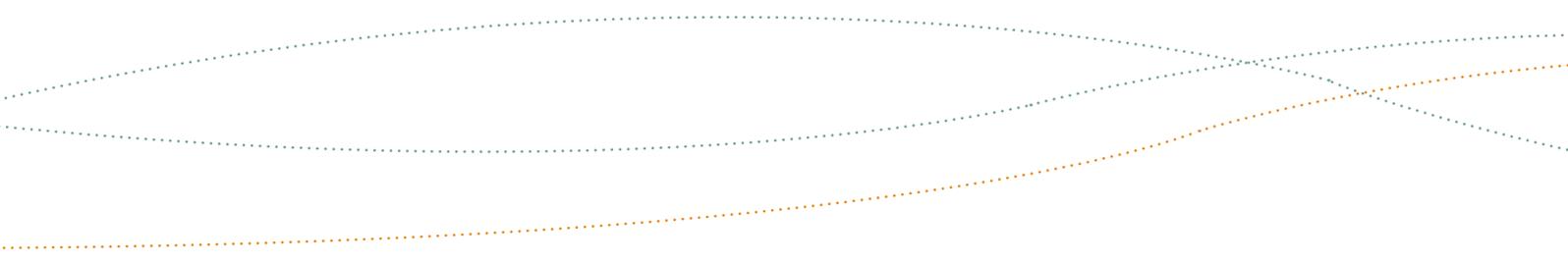
The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

as at 30 June 2012

2011 Actual \$000		Note	2012 Actual \$000	2012 Budget \$000
	<b>ASSETS</b>			
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
171	Cash and cash equivalents	6	425	80
0	Prepayments		1	0
43	Receivables		27	40
1456	Investments	7	356	1477
<b>1670</b>	<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>809</b>	<b>1597</b>
	<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
111	Property, plant and equipment	8	90	91
0	Software under development	9	423	0
801	Software	9	728	761
1359	Term investments	7	1988	1400
<b>2271</b>	<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>3229</b>	<b>2252</b>
<b>3941</b>	<b>Total assets</b>		<b>4038</b>	<b>3849</b>
	<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
159	Creditors and other payables		223	191
46	Employee entitlements	15	52	40
447	Income in advance		447	447
<b>652</b>	<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>722</b>	<b>678</b>
<b>3289</b>	<b>Net assets</b>		<b>3316</b>	<b>3171</b>
	<b>EQUITY</b>			
1347	General funds	5	1591	336
151	Capital contribution	5	0	1150
1759	Enhanced access fund	5	1679	1652
32	Walkway fund	5	46	33
<b>3289</b>	<b>Total equity</b>		<b>3316</b>	<b>3171</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 30 June 2012

2011 Actual \$000		Note	2012 Actual \$000	2012 Budget \$000
	<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
1789	Receipts from the Crown		1789	1789
131	Interest received		151	127
0	Receipts from other revenue		12	0
(71)	Goods and services tax (net)		(14)	0
(562)	Payments to employees		(511)	(576)
(1299)	Payments to suppliers		(1320)	(1372)
<b>(12)</b>	<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>(32)</b>
	<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
0	Receipts (net) from liquidating investments		471	80
(1)	Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(2)	0
0	Purchase of software under development		(309)	(50)
(340)	Purchase of software		(13)	0
(1147)	Acquisition (net) of investments		0	0
<b>(1488)</b>	<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>		<b>147</b>	<b>30</b>
	<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>			
500	Capital contribution		0	0
<b>500</b>	<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
(1000)	Net increase/(decrease) in cash		254	(2)
1171	Cash at 1 July		171	82
<b>171</b>	<b>Closing cash balance</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>80</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

The GST (net) component of operating activities reflects the net GST paid and received with the Inland Revenue Department. The GST (net) component has been presented on a net basis as the gross amounts do not provide meaningful information for financial statement purposes.

# Notes to the financial statements

## 1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### REPORTING ENTITY

The New Zealand Walking Access Commission (the Commission) is a Crown entity with the status of a Crown agent as defined by the Crown Entities Act 2004. The Commission was established under the Walking Access Act 2008 (the Act). The Commission is domiciled in New Zealand. The Commission's ultimate parent is the New Zealand Crown.

The Commission's primary objective is to provide public services to the New Zealand public, as opposed to making a financial return.

Accordingly, the Commission has designated itself as a public benefit entity for the purposes of New Zealand Equivalents to the International Financial Reporting Standards (NZ IFRS).

The financial statements for the Commission are for the year ended 30 June 2012, and were approved by the Board on 25 September 2012.

### BASIS OF PREPARATION

#### *Statement of compliance*

The financial statements of the Commission have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Crown Entities Act 2004, which includes the requirement to comply with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (NZ GAAP).

These financial statements comply with New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as appropriate for public benefit entities.

#### *Differential reporting*

The Commission qualifies for differential reporting under the size criteria of the NZ IFRS Differential Reporting Framework 3.8, due to total gross income being less than \$20 million and total assets being less than \$10 million. The Commission has taken advantage of differential reporting exemptions except for:

- » the full exemption under NZ IAS 7 Cash Flow Statements allowing non-disclosure of cash flows;
- » the partial exemption under NZ IAS 24 Related Party Disclosures allowing non-disclosure of key management personnel compensation;
- » the partial exemption under NZ IAS 38 Intangible Assets allowing expensing of development costs (in this case the mapping system); and
- » certain disclosure exemptions.

#### *Measurement base*

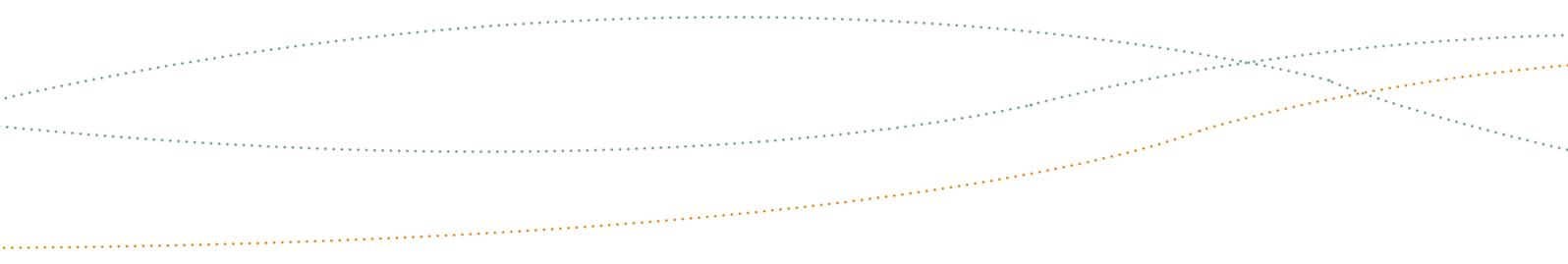
The financial statements have been prepared on an historical cost basis.

#### *Functional and presentation currency*

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$000). The functional currency of the Commission is New Zealand dollars.

#### *Changes in accounting policies*

There have been no changes in accounting policies during the financial year. The Commission has aligned the presentation and wording of its policies more closely to the standard for Crown Entities.



## **SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

### **Revenue**

The Commission is primarily funded through revenue received from the Crown that is restricted in its use for the purpose of the Commission meeting its objectives as specified in the statement of intent. Revenue from the Crown is received in advance of when it is earned and is recorded as income in advance. This income is recognised as revenue when earned and is reported in the financial period to which it relates.

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

### **Grant expenditure**

Discretionary grants are those grants where the Commission has no obligation to award on receipt of the grant application and are recognised as expenditure when the approved applicant (grantee) has met the criteria in the grant contract and the Commission has approved the expenditure.

The Commission has no non-discretionary grants.

### **Leases**

The Commission does not have any finance leases.

An operating lease is a lease that does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset. Lease payments under an operating lease are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Lease incentives received are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income over the lease term as an integral part of the total lease expense.

### **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

### **Receivables**

Receivables are measured at amortised cost less any provision for impairment.

### **Investments**

At balance date, the Commission assesses whether there is any objective evidence that an investment is impaired.

Investments in bank deposits are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs. After initial recognition, investments in bank deposits are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any provision for impairment.

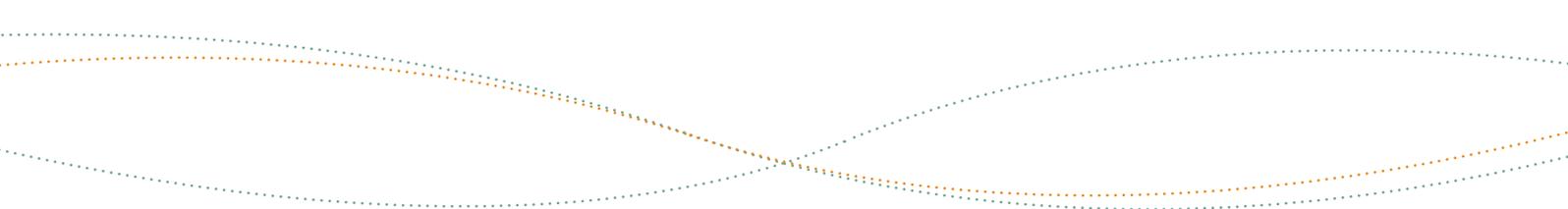
### **Property, plant and equipment**

Property, plant and equipment assets consist of computer hardware, leasehold improvements and office equipment.

Property, plant and equipment are shown at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset only when it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Commission and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Where an asset is acquired at no cost, or obtained for a nominal cost, it is recognised at fair value when control over the asset is obtained.



Depreciation is provided on a straight line basis at rates that will write off the cost (or valuation) of the assets to their estimated residual values over their useful lives. Depreciation is charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The useful lives and associated depreciation rates used are as follows:

Office equipment	5 - 10 years	10% - 20%
Leasehold improvements	9 years	11.1%
Computer hardware	4 - 5 years	20% - 25%

### *Intangible assets*

Acquired computer software licenses are capitalised on the basis of the costs incurred to acquire and bring to use the specific software. Costs that are directly associated with the development of software for internal use are recognised as an intangible asset. Direct costs include the software development employee costs and an appropriate portion of relevant overheads. Staff training costs are recognised as an expense when incurred. Costs associated with maintaining computer software are recognised as an expense when incurred.

The carrying value of an intangible asset with a finite life is amortised on a straight line basis over its useful life. Amortisation begins when the asset is available for use and ceases at the date the asset is de-recognised. The amortisation charge for each period is recognised in the surplus or deficit. The useful lives and associated amortisation rates of intangible assets have been estimated as follows:

Developed computer software (mapping system)	10 years	10%
Acquired computer software	5 years	20%

### *Impairment of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets*

Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets that have a finite useful life are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

Value in use is depreciated replacement cost for an asset where the future economic benefits or service potential of the asset are not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and where the Commission would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits or service potential.

If an asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, the asset is impaired and the carrying amount is written down to the recoverable amount. The impairment loss is recognised in the surplus or deficit. The reversal of an impairment loss is recognised in the surplus or deficit.

### *Creditors and other payables*

Short-term creditors and other payables are recorded at their face value.

### *Employee entitlements*

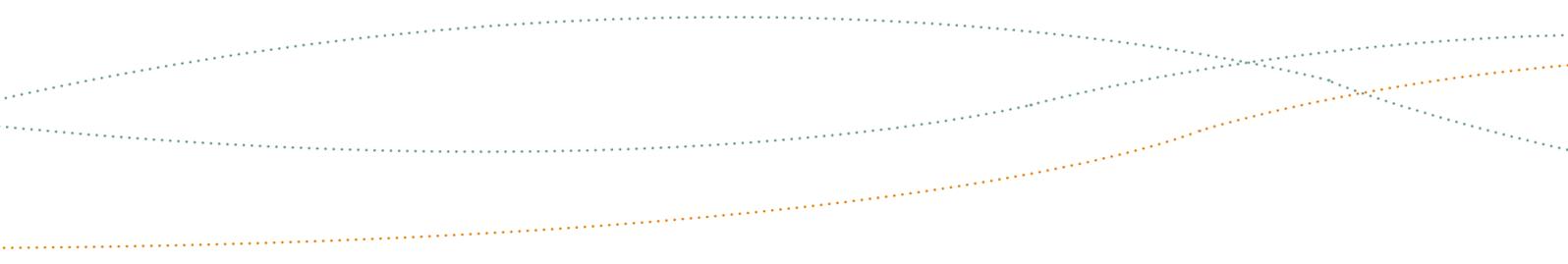
Employee benefits that are due to be settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employee renders the related service are measured based on accrued entitlements at current rates of pay.

These include salaries accrued up to balance date and annual leave earned to but not taken at balance date.

A liability and an expense are recognised for performance payments where there is a contractual obligation.

Sick leave has been assessed in accordance with NZ IFRS and determined that there is no liability.

The Commission does not provide long service leave or retirement leave.



### Superannuation schemes

Obligations for contributions to KiwiSaver and the Government Super Fund are accounted for as defined contribution superannuation schemes and are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Comprehensive Income as incurred.

### Equity

Equity is measured as the difference between total assets and total liabilities. Equity is disaggregated and classified into general funds, capital contribution, Enhanced Access Fund and walkway fund.

### Goods and Services Tax (GST)

All items in the financial statements are presented exclusive of GST, except for receivables and payables, which are presented on a GST inclusive basis. Where GST is not recoverable as input tax, then it is recognised as part of the related asset or expense.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the Inland Revenue Department is included as part of receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

The net GST paid to or received from the Inland Revenue Department, including the GST relating to investing activities, is classified as an operating cash flow in the statement of cash flows.

### Income tax

The Commission is a public authority and consequently is exempt from the payment of income tax.

### Budget figures

The budget figures are derived from the statement of intent for 2011-2016 as approved by the Board. The budget figures have been prepared in accordance with NZ GAAP, using accounting policies that are consistent with those adopted by the Board in preparing these financial statements.

## 2. REVENUE FROM THE CROWN

The Commission has been provided with funding from the Crown for the specific purposes of the Commission. Apart from these general restrictions, there are no unfulfilled conditions or contingencies attached to government funding (2011 nil).

## 3. OPERATING COSTS

	Actual 2012 \$000	Actual 2011 \$000
Contractors	319	412
Travel and accommodation	134	136
Publications and publicity	85	71
Consultants	61	63
Service contracts	268	161
Enhanced Access Fund	180	171
Other	83	96
<b>Total</b>	<b>1130</b>	<b>1110</b>

## 4. PERSONNEL COSTS

	Actual 2012 \$000	Actual 2011 \$000
Salaries, wages and allowances	476	490
Increase in employee entitlements	3	11
Recruitment	2	23
Employer contributions to defined contribution plans	24	25
Employer costs	13	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>557</b>

## 5. EQUITY

	Actual 2012 \$000	Actual 2011 \$000
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>		
Balance at 1 July	1347	355
Plus surplus for the year	27	14
Plus transferred from capital contribution:	151	999
Plus/(less) transferred (to)/from funds (net):		
Enhanced Access Fund	80	(19)
Walkway fund	(14)	(2)
Total transferred (to)/from funds (net)	66	(21)
<b>Balance at 30 June</b>	<b>1591</b>	<b>1347</b>
<b>CAPITAL CONTRIBUTION</b>		
Balance at 1 July	151	650
Plus contribution for the year	0	500
Transfers to general funds (net):		
Spent (mapping system and establishment)	151	999
<b>Balance at 30 June</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>ENHANCED ACCESS FUND</b> (A contestable fund designed to support projects that will enhance access to New Zealand's outdoors.)		
Balance at 1 July	1759	1740
Transfers from general funds (net):		
Establishment/ transfer from general funds	0	100
Interest earned	100	91
Grants paid	(158)	(147)
Administration costs	(22)	(25)
Total transfers (to)/from general funds (net)	(80)	19
<b>Balance at 30 June</b>	<b>1679</b>	<b>1759</b>
<b>WALKWAY FUND</b> (A fund created from money set aside pre September 2008 for walkways and received from the Department of Conservation, and an annual licence fee for the use of the Walkways symbol.)		
Balance at 1 July	32	30
Transfer from general funds (net):		
Income for the year	14	2
<b>Balance at 30 June</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Total equity at 30 June</b>	<b>3316</b>	<b>3289</b>

## 6. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	Actual 2012 \$000	Actual 2011 \$000
Cash at bank	75	71
Deposits with a term of three months or less	350	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>171</b>

## 7. INVESTMENTS

These are term deposits. The current portion has maturities up to 12 months. There is no impairment provision for investments. The carrying amounts of the term deposits approximate their fair value.

Deposits with a term of three months or less are shown under Note 6 above.

## 8. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Movements for each class of property, plant and equipment are as follows

	Computer hardware \$000	Leasehold improvement \$000	Office equipment \$000	Total \$000
<b>COST</b>				
Balance at 1 July 2010	32	47	68	147
Additions and transfers	2	0	-1	1
<b>Balance at 30 June 2011</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>148</b>
Balance at 1 July 2011	34	47	67	148
Additions	1	0	2	3
Disposals	-3	0	0	-3
<b>Balance at 30 June 2012</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>148</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION</b>				
Balance at 1 July 2010	5	5	5	15
Depreciation expense	8	5	9	22
<b>Balance at 30 June 2011</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>37</b>
Balance at 1 July 2011	13	10	14	37
Depreciation expense	8	5	9	22
Elimination on disposal	-2	0	0	-2
<b>Balance at 30 June 2012</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>CARRYING AMOUNTS</b>				
At 1 July 2010	27	42	63	132
At 30 June and 1 July 2011	21	37	53	111
<b>At 30 June 2012</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>90</b>

The Commission has a vested interest in some easements and a lease on gazetted walkways. These represent an interest in private land and have not been valued. They are held for the benefit of the public. The Commission has compiled a register of known gazetted walkways.

## 9. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

Movements for intangibles are as follows:

	Acquired software \$000	Internally generated software \$000	Software under development \$000	Total \$000
<b>COST</b>				
Balance at 1 July 2010	0	0	510	510
Additions	0	0	341	341
Transfers		851	-851	0
<b>Balance at 30 June 2011</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>851</b>
Balance at 1 July 2011	0	851	0	851
Additions	13	0	423	436
<b>Balance at 30 June 2012</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>1287</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED AMORTISATION</b>				
Balance at 1 July 2010	0	0	0	0
Depreciation expense	0	50	0	50
<b>Balance at 30 June 2011</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>50</b>
Balance at 1 July 2011	0	50	0	50
Depreciation expense	1	85	0	86
<b>Balance at 30 June 2012</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>CARRYING AMOUNTS</b>				
At 1 July 2010	0	0	510	510
At 30 June and 1 July 2011	0	801	0	801
<b>At 30 June 2012</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>716</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>1151</b>

The internally generated software is a mapping system that the Commission has built to fulfil its statutory function to compile, hold and publish maps and information about land over which members of the public have walking access. The Commission is currently enhancing the mapping system to make it more user friendly, incorporate mobile functionality and to allow other organisations to display their access related information. This is represented by the balance of \$0.423M in software under development.

## 10. RECONCILIATION OF NET SURPLUS TO NET CASH FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

For the period ended 30 June 2012

	Actual 2012 \$000	Actual 2011 \$000
Net operating surplus for the year	27	14
<b>ADD NON-CASH ITEMS:</b>		
Depreciation and amortisation	108	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>86</b>
<b>ADD/LESS WORKING CAPITAL MOVEMENTS:</b>		
Decrease (increase) in receivables	16	(3)
Increase (decrease) in operating payables	(44)	(95)
<b>Working capital movement – net</b>	<b>(28)</b>	<b>(98)</b>
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>(12)</b>

## 11. COMMITMENTS

	Actual 2012 \$000	Actual 2011 \$000
<b>CAPITAL COMMITMENTS – MAPPING SOFTWARE</b>		
Not later than one year	151	0
<b>GRANT COMMITMENTS – ENHANCED ACCESS FUND</b>		
Not later than one year	330	256
Later than one year and not later than three years	3	14
	<b>333</b>	<b>270</b>
<b>OPERATING LEASES AS LESSEE</b>		
The future aggregate minimum lease payments to be paid under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:		
Not later than one year	65	63
Later than one year and not later than five years	257	253
Later than five years	74	137
	<b>396</b>	<b>453</b>
<b>Total commitments</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>723</b>

### Operating lease commitments:

The Commission leases office accommodation that expires on 31 August 2018. The Commission does not have the option to purchase the asset at the end of the lease term. There are no restrictions placed on the Commission by this leasing arrangement.

### Grant commitments:

Contracts are entered into with approved applicants for funding for up to three years. Amounts granted under these contracts are disclosed in the statement of comprehensive income when the approved applicant (grantee) has met the criteria in the grant contract and the Commission has approved the expenditure.

## 12. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

### RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Commission is a wholly-owned entity of the Crown.

The Commission has been provided with funding from the Crown of \$1.789M (2011 \$2.289M) for specific purposes as set out in the Walking Access Act 2008 and the scope of the Vote Agriculture and Forestry (2011-2012) appropriation.

In conducting its activities the Commission is required to pay various taxes and levies (such as GST, PAYE and ACC levies) to the Crown and entities related to the Crown. The payment of these taxes and levies, other than income tax, is based on standard terms and conditions that apply to all tax and levy payers. The Commission is exempt from paying income tax.

The Commission also purchases goods and services from entities controlled, significantly influenced, or jointly controlled by the Crown. Purchases from these government related entities for the year ended 30 June 2012 totalled \$0.056M (2011 \$0.169M). These purchases included the purchase of air travel from Air New Zealand.

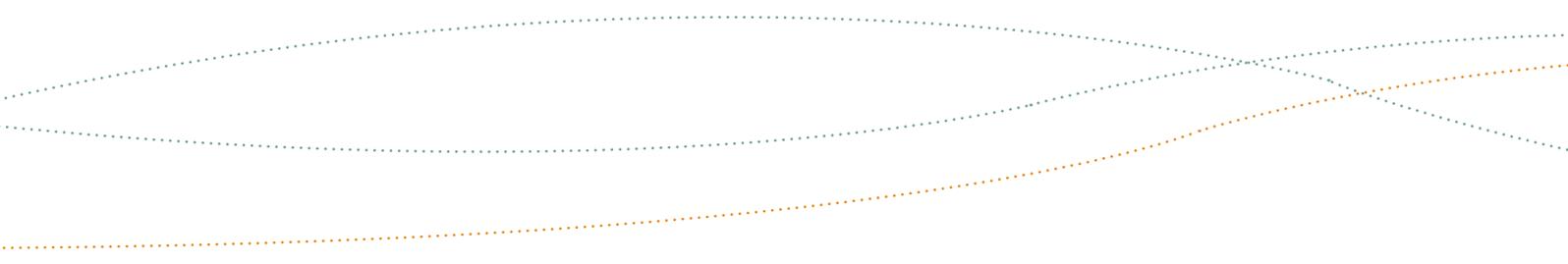
### KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

There were no transactions entered into during the year (2011 none) with key management personnel.

### KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION

	Actual 2012	Actual 2011
	\$000	\$000
Salaries and other short-term employee benefits	385	404
Post-employment benefits	0	0
Other long-term benefits	20	20
Termination benefits	0	0
<b>Total key management personnel compensation</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>424</b>

Key management personnel include all board members, the Chief Executive and the remaining two members of the management team.



### 13. BOARD MEMBER REMUNERATION

The total value of remuneration paid or payable to each Board member during the year was:

	Actual 2012 \$	Actual 2011 \$
John Acland (Chairman, retired April 2011)	0	14,409
John Aspinall	3,857	10,870
Maurice Barnett	11,200	2,211
Maggie Bayfield	11,200	10,870
Kay Booth	0	8,630
Peter Brown	11,200	10,870
John Forbes (Chairman from May 2011)	18,700	12,370
Penny Mudford	2,800	0
Brian Stephenson	11,200	10,870
Barbara Stuart	0	8,630
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,157</b>	<b>89,730</b>

These figures are in dollars, not thousands of dollars. There have been no payments made to committee members appointed by the Board who are not Board members during the financial year.

The Commission has effected Directors and Officers Liability and Professional Indemnity insurance cover during the financial year in respect of the liability or costs of board members and employees.

No Board members received compensation or other benefits in relation to cessation (2011 \$nil).

### 14. EMPLOYEE REMUNERATION

Total remuneration paid or payable	Actual 2012	Actual 2011
\$100,000 – \$109,000	1	0
\$160,000 – \$169,000	1	1

No board members or employees received compensation or other benefits in relation to cessation.

### 15. EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS

	Actual 2012 \$000	Actual 2011 \$000
Accrued salaries	27	24
Annual leave	25	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>46</b>

## 16. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	Loans and receivables \$000	Financial liabilities at amortised cost \$000	Total \$000
<b>As at 30 June 2012</b>			
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	425		425
Receivables	28		28
Investments	2344		2344
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>2797</b>		<b>2797</b>
Non-financial assets			1241
<b>Total assets</b>			<b>4038</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors and other payables		275	275
Income in advance		447	447
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>			<b>722</b>
Non-financial liabilities			0
<b>Total liabilities</b>			<b>722</b>
<b>As at 30 June 2011</b>			
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	171		171
Receivables	43		43
Investments	2815		2815
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>3029</b>		<b>3029</b>
Non-financial assets			912
<b>Total assets</b>			<b>3941</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
Creditors and other payables		205	205
Income in advance		447	447
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>			<b>652</b>
Non-financial liabilities			0
<b>Total liabilities</b>			<b>652</b>

## 17. CONTINGENCIES

There were no contingencies as at balance date (2011 Nil).

## 18. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE DATE

There were no significant events after the balance date (2011 Nil).

## 19. CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

The Commission's capital is its equity, which comprises accumulated funds and other reserves. Equity is represented by net assets.

The Commission is subject to the financial management and accountability provisions of the Crown Entities Act 2004, which imposes restrictions in relation to borrowings, acquisition of securities, issuing guarantees and indemnities and the use of derivatives.

The Commission manages its equity as a by-product of prudently managing revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, investments, and general financial dealings to ensure the Commission effectively achieves its objectives and purpose, whilst remaining a going concern.

## 20. EXPLANATION OF MAJOR VARIANCES AGAINST BUDGET

Explanations for major variations from the Commission's budgeted figures in the statement of intent are as follows:

### STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

#### Income

Other income exceeds budget (\$0.012M actual \$nil budget) due to the receipt of two annual payments from Torin Company Limited (Japan) \$(nil received 2011) for the use of the Walkway symbol.

#### Expenditure

Total expenditure is \$0.134M less than budget (\$1.906M actual \$2.040M budget). The major costs under budget were in Operating costs \$0.046M (EAF grants slower than expected spend on projects), in Personnel costs \$0.058M (staff salaries costs transferred to capital for the WAMS 2 project and staff development budget underspent) and in Board fees \$0.027M (where the number of board members has been reduced).

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Early in the year the Board made a strategic decision to enhance the mapping system with the project called WAMS 2. The Statement of Intent included a budgeted \$0.050M enhancement to be completed by year end. This project has resulted in Software under development (\$0.423M actual \$nil budget) with the project not completed by year end.

This has had an impact on much of the statement of financial position, cash and investments total (\$2.769M actual \$2.957M budget). Cash and cash equivalents exceed budget by \$0.345M. This is because the Commission has gradually drawn on surplus funds resulting in working capital being invested on a shorter term basis than budget. The reason for the draw down is the WAMS 2 project. Investment maturities have been set longer than budget now that there is more clarity as to the requirements of the EAF (Term investments \$1.988M actual \$1.400M budget and Investments \$0.356M actual \$1.477M budget).

Receivables are less than budget (\$0.027M actual \$0.040M budget) due to compounding interest on the longer-term investments. Creditors are higher than budget (\$0.223M actual \$0.191M budget) because the Software under development was at its peak spend at year end. Capital contribution has been transferred to General funds. This transfer was not budgeted.

### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

The Statement of cash flows shows interest received higher than budget (\$0.151M actual \$0.127M budget) due to higher than budget term investments throughout the year and a move to compounding interest on long term investments. Other revenue receipts are higher than budget (\$0.012M actual nil budget) due to the receipt of two years payments from Torin Company Limited (Japan) for use of the walkway symbol.

Payments to employees are less than budget (actual \$0.511M budget \$0.576M) due mainly to the transfer of salaries to the WAMS 2 development and less than budget spending on staff development. Payments to suppliers are under budget (\$1.320M actual \$1.372M budget) mainly due to the slower than expected spend of the EAF grants.

Receipts from liquidating investments are higher than budget (\$0.471M actual \$0.080 budget) due to the need to pay for WAMS 2 – software under development (\$0.309M actual \$0.050M budget).

The closing cash balance is higher than budget (\$0.425M actual \$0.080M budget) due to need to provide for payment of the software under development - WAMS 2 which was at its peak at year end.

# Audit report

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

AUDIT NEW ZEALAND

Mana Arotake Aotearoa

### TO THE READERS OF THE NEW ZEALAND WALKING ACCESS COMMISSION'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND STATEMENT OF SERVICE PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012

The AuditorGeneral is the auditor of the New Zealand Walking Access Commission (the Commission). The AuditorGeneral has appointed me, Clare Helm, using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand, to carry out the audit of the financial statements and statement of service performance of the Commission on her behalf.

We have audited:

- » the financial statements of the Commission on pages 35 to 49, that comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2012, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date and notes to the financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- » the statement of service performance of the Commission on pages 32 to 33.

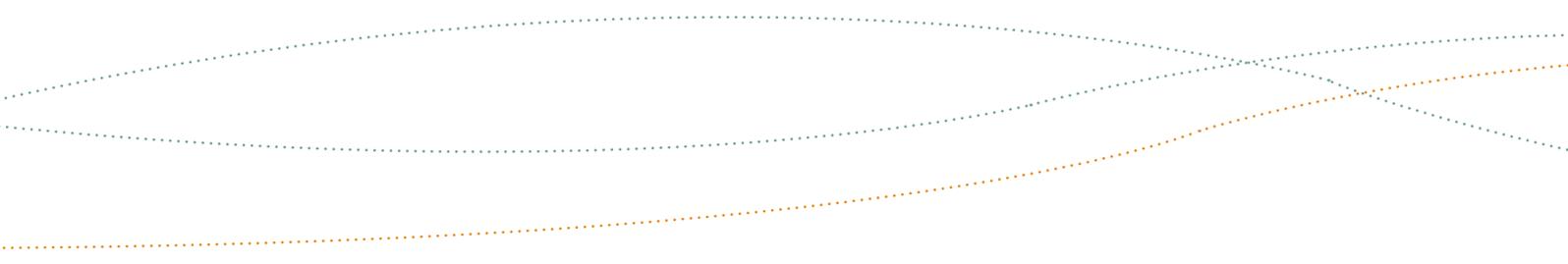
#### OPINION

In our opinion:

- » the financial statements of the Commission on pages 35 to 49:
  - » comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
  - » fairly reflect the Commission's:
    - » financial position as at 30 June 2012; and
    - » financial performance and cash flows for the year ended on that date.
- » the statement of service performance of the Commission on pages 32 to 33:
  - » complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand; and
  - » fairly reflects, for each class of outputs for the year ended 30 June 2012, the Commission's:
    - » service performance compared with the forecasts in the statement of forecast service performance for the financial year; and
    - » actual revenue and output expenses compared with the forecasts in the statement of forecast service performance at the start of the financial year.

Our audit was completed on 25 September 2012. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis of our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the Board and our responsibilities, and we explain our independence.



## **BASIS OF OPINION**

We carried out our audit in accordance with the AuditorGeneral's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand). Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and carry out our audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and statement of service performance are free from material misstatement.

Material misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts and disclosures that would affect a reader's overall understanding of the financial statements and statement of service performance. If we had found material misstatements that were not corrected, we would have referred to them in our opinion.

An audit involves carrying out procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and statement of service performance. The procedures selected depend on our judgement, including our assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and statement of service performance, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the preparation of the Commission's financial statements and statement of service performance that fairly reflect the matters to which they relate. We consider internal control 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 Commission's internal control.

An audit also involves evaluating:

- » the appropriateness of accounting policies used and whether they have been consistently applied;
- » the reasonableness of the significant accounting estimates and judgements made by the Board;
- » the adequacy of all disclosures in the financial statements and statement of service performance; and
- » the overall presentation of the financial statements and statement of service performance.

We did not examine every transaction, nor do we guarantee complete accuracy of the financial statements and statement of service performance. We have obtained all the information and explanations we have required and we believe we have obtained sufficient and appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

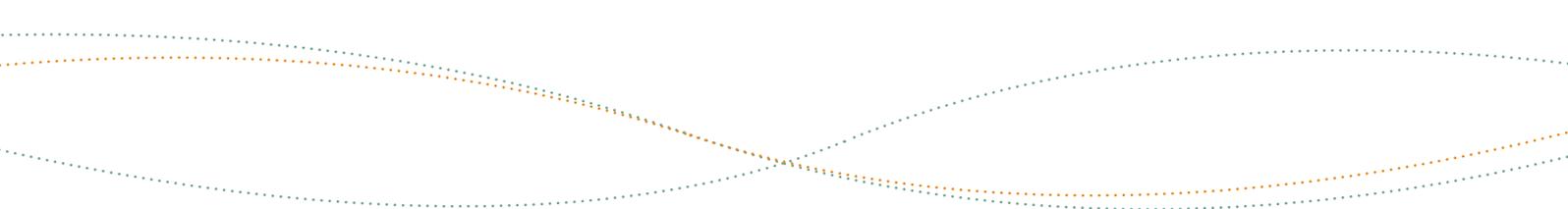
## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD**

The Board is responsible for preparing financial statements and a statement of service performance that:

- » comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand;
- » fairly reflect the Commission's financial position, financial performance and cash flows; and
- » fairly reflect its service performance.

The Board is also responsible for such internal control as is determined necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements and a statement of service performance that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Board's responsibilities arise from the Crown Entities Act 2004 and the Walking Access Act 2008.



## RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AUDITOR

We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the financial statements and statement of service performance and reporting that opinion to you based on our audit. Our responsibility arises from section 15 of the Public Audit Act 2001 and the Crown Entities Act 2004.

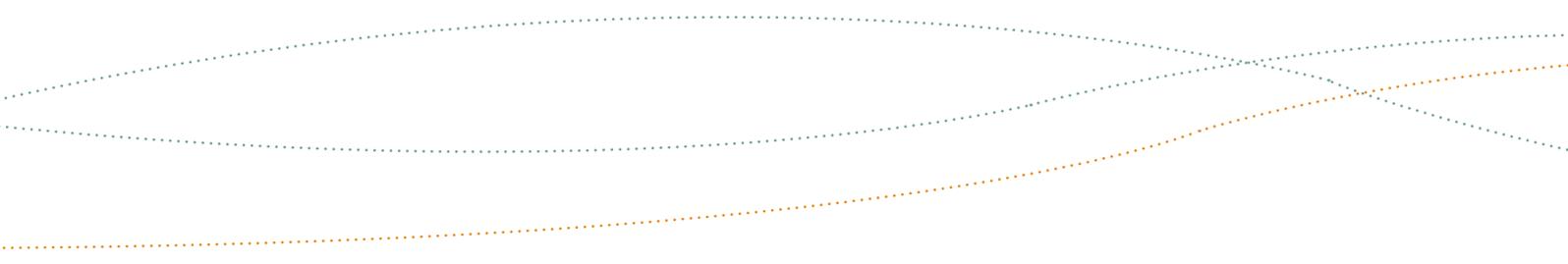
## INDEPENDENCE

When carrying out the audit, we followed the independence requirements of the AuditorGeneral, which incorporate the independence requirements of the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Other than the audit, we have no relationship with or interests in the Commission.



**Clare Helm**  
**Audit New Zealand**  
**On behalf of the AuditorGeneral**  
**Wellington, New Zealand**



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ARA HĪKOI AOTEAROA



Ship Cove, Marlborough Sounds

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ISSN 1179-5220 (print) ISSN 1179-5239 (online)

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