

# Te Urewera draft management plan calls for more care

## Many submissions to be heard

OUR behaviour of the past, demanding more from nature than it can cope with, is not tenable or sustainable according to Te Uru Taumatua chairman Tamati Kruger.

He hopes the draft management document, Te Kawa o Te Urewera, described as a management document around people, will cause them to be more responsible for their environment and accept that "we need nature, but nature does not necessarily need us".

Te Kawa o Te Urewera is an endeavour to practise the legislation.

The document is up for public scrutiny with submissions closing next Thursday.

Te Kawa o Te Urewera hearings will be in Taneatua on July 25 and Wellington, July 27.

Mr Kruger says it's the first go at this and it has come out of Te Urewera Act (2014) and legislation and does not stand alone.

So far Te Uru Taumatua has a whiteboard full of groups and planned hearings from those who have submitted or are intending to, including Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand, Fish and Game, New Zealand Game Animal Council, New Zealand Deerstalkers Association, Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Primary Industry, various pig hunting clubs, Eastern Bay of Plenty and Hawke's Bay regional councils, Whakatane and Wairoa district councils, Friends of Te Urewera, Wairoa Anglers Club, Raukumara hunters, Genesis Energy, helicopter operators, Whakatane Lions and Walking Legends.

Meetings have taken place with New Zealand Conservation Minister Maggie Barry and the Attorney-General, Treaty Negotiations Minister Chris Finlayson and a meeting with the Department of Conservation (DoC) late last month.

"Those are the people who have had a stake holdership in Waikaremoana as well as individual users from afar."

Conversations with the Wairoa Waikaremoana Maori Trust Board have also occurred.

"What we have noticed with Te Urewera is that nature comes within

a capacity and has the ability to self-correct," Mr Kruger said.

"What is our part — if we have a part at all in the natural ecology and processes?"

"We are admitting that our huge responsibility is in our human impact and we can influence better human behaviour.

"But there is not much we can do about stopping cyclones.

"We are training our people and learning about what is our sphere of influence and that always brings us back to coping with human impacts.

"Tongariro Crossing, Milford Track and Abel Tasman — we are all observing that impact.

"We do have to have a sharp eye on what will be a threshold and understanding the quality and nature of the structures will give us a good clue as to what our capacity is.

"In the future when there are other structures, we would then need to refresh things about our capacity and from health and safety viewpoints.

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— Tamati Kruger

"It's a brand introduced by DoC and in our discussions with DoC, they are keen for the Waikaremoana Great Walk to be sustainable and to continue."

In line with the increase in tourist numbers in NZ's national parks, there was a 30 percent increase in numbers walking the Waikaremoana Great

Walk last summer.

"Waikaremoana is a part of that growth and State Highway 38 is very important to Te Urewera and the Great Walk," Mr Kruger said.

"We have a less than safe road into Te Urewera and it is important for the people who live within Te Urewera that we continue to work with the Wairoa District Council, New Zealand Transport Agency, Whakatane District Council and Opus Research which has the sustainable road project contract.

"In September we will be putting down our experiment alternative seal which the scientists are confident will resolve the corrugation and potholes."