



AGENDA

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

27th April 2024

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

**A Meeting of Council will be held at the Waikato Deer Stalkers Hall, Wairere Drive,
Hamilton on Saturday 27 April 2024 commencing at 11.00 a.m.**

AGENDA	<u>Page</u>
1. Apologies	
2. Possible conflicts of interest arising from meeting agenda	
3. Minutes of previous meetings held on 24 th February 2023 *	1
4. Matters arising from previous minutes	
5. Inward Council correspondence: Letter from NZ Council	8
6. Chief Executive's bi-monthly report & financial statements	
6.1 Bi-monthly Chief Executives Report *	10
6.2 Financial Statements *	19
7. National health and safety policy for rangers *	33
8. Draft National Health and Safety Policy*	37
9. Draft Protected Disclosure Policy *	39
10. Research Fund Application*	42
11. NZC CEO Update to Regional Managers*	47
12. Whakapapa intake road closure *	52
13. .410 non toxic shot paper*	53
14. OSH report*	55
15. General Buisness	

* Denotes attachments

**N Juby
Chairman**

11/04/2024

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME



Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton
on Saturday 24th February 2024 commencing at 11:03am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: N. Juby.
Councillors: E. Williamson, D. Cocks, P. Shaw, C. Sherrard, M. Barker,
B. Barnes, G. Dickey, G. Annan.
Staff: B. Wilson, D. Klee, J. Dyer, A. Daniel.
Visitor: P. Hardy (DOC).

1. APOLOGIES:

T. Clark

It was moved;

that apologies be accepted.

Annan/Sherrard – CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

Nil.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF 9th December 2023:

It was noted that the date of the meeting in the proposed amendments tabled by Councillor Barnes was incorrect and should refer to the meeting of 14th October 2023. This was an error in transcribing from the original tabled amendments.

It was moved;

That the minutes of the previous meeting of 9th December 2023 meeting as amended be accepted as true and correct records:

Dickey/Barnes – CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Nil.

5. INWARDS COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:

Councillor Barnes reported that he had recused himself from the discussion by the NZ Council regarding the recent letter sent by the Chair regarding Auckland/Waikato's budgeted licence sales for the 2023/24 year. Council will be informed in due course of NZ Council's decision.

Councillor Barker joined the meeting at 11:03am.

A letter was tabled by the Chair of the NZ Council, Mr Barrie Barnes, regarding Base Funding for 2024/25. The NZ Council had recommended that all regions make savings of 3% for the 2024/25 budget.

Councillor Barnes stated that all Government Departments have been asked to take a cut, so the Minister of Hunting and Fishing had asked whether Fish & Game could do likewise.

Councillor Cocks and Williamson joined the meeting at 11:21am.

Councillor Dickey stated that Fish & Game should be considering an increase in the licence fee as costs were increasing.

Councillor Barnes replied that Fish & Game would need good reasons why the licence fees should increase other than just cost of living.

Councillor Cocks emphasised that the licence fee needs to increase on a regular basis to maintain services that had been affected by the recent floods and the Covid years.

Councillor Barker pointed out that increasing licence sales was crucial and would compensate for static licence prices.

The Chair emphasised that some southern regions believed that licence sales were already too high, and that affordability was a factor.

Mr Wilson recommended that Council does not submit a contestable funding bid for the 2024-25 budget. Councillors agreed that a contestable funding bid was not required. It was agreed to adjourn this issue until the next council meeting.

6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BI-MONTHLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Mr Klee updated the meeting on recent botulism outbreaks in the region. A contractor was currently removing large numbers of dead carp from the Maramarua River in the Whangamarino Wetland. Mr Klee had convened a meeting of the Botulism Response Group and reviewed recent data on oxygen levels in these waters but no reason for the deaths were readily apparent.

Several botulism outbreaks had been reported from private ponds and in the Te Aroha Wetland. Botulism outbreaks on WWTP's were generally under control.

The Chair asked staff whether it would be worthwhile purchasing an eDNA machine, similar to the one owned by Wellington Fish & Game. Dr Daniel replied that they were probably not worth the expense as it was relatively cheap to get samples processed.

Financial Statements

The proposed purchase of a defibrillator was discussed.

It was moved;

that a defibrillator be purchased and made available at working bees on Council's wetlands.

Annan/Cocks – CARRIED

It was moved;

that the Chief Executive's Bimonthly Report and Financial Statements be accepted.

Annan/Cocks – CARRIED

7. PIGGOTT WETLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN:

The draft Piggott Wetland Management Plan produced by the Piggott Wetland Society was tabled.

Councillor Cocks suggested the following amendments:

- The mowing of tracks in the wetland should not be carried out during the waterfowl breeding season.
- The use of live capture traps, poison and leg hold traps should be prohibited.
- Any use of firearms outside of the game season should only occur with prior authorisation of the manager.

The Chair believed that there should be a greater emphasis on pest control and suggested that paragraph 14 be amended with "may be controlled" changed to "should be controlled".

It was agreed that Councillor Cocks would meet with the Society to discuss the proposed amendments.

Councillor Dickey expressed his support for the Society's efforts in updating their Management Plan.

It was agreed that the updated plan would be tabled at the next meeting of Council.

8. FISH AND GAME ORGANISATIONAL STRATEGY:

The Organisational Strategy adopted by the NZ Council for the period 2023 to 2028 was tabled.

The Chair reported that he had requested that the NZ Council amend the Strategy so that it included habitat restoration. The Chair had also advised that the Strategy should include a section on income and especially ways to increase revenue.

The Chair suggested that section 4.5 of the Strategy be amended to state that Fish & Game will “*Advocate for, protect and enhance freshwater fish and game bird habitats*”. And that a new section was required on revenue streams.

It was moved;

that Council adopts the Strategy with the proposed amendments.

Annan/Sherrard – CARRIED

The meeting rose for lunch at 12:20pm and resumed at 1:00pm.

9. DRAFT POLICIES FOR REGIONAL CONSULTATION:

The following draft policies produced by the NZ Council were tabled for review:

- Anti-bullying Policy.
- Drug and Alcohol Policy.
- Governance Code of Conduct.

General discussion with it noted that Council already had an Anti-bullying Policy that had been adopted after consultation with staff.

It was moved;

that the draft Code of Conduct should include a collective responsibility clause.

Cocks/Annan – CARRIED

10. OSH UPDATE:

It was moved;

that the OSH report is accepted.

Annan/Cocks – CARRIED

11. LAND AND WATER HABITAT TRUST:

The Trustees for the Land and Water Habitat Trust sought the support of Council for the dissolving of the Trust. Justification for dissolving the Trust was that:

- The Trust wasn't receiving any income other than interest.
- Overhead expenses of the Trust were significant.

- The Auditor-General had recently ruled that the Trust's accounts should be fully consolidated with Councils' accounts.

It was moved;

that Council agrees to the dissolving of the Land and Water Habitat Trust and gratefully accepts the donation of the Trust's assets, with funds transferred into a restricted reserve for the purpose of maintenance of Council's wetlands.

Dickey/Williamson – CARRIED

The Chair informed the meeting of Councillor Cocks efforts in obtaining a donation towards the purchase of a tractor.

It was moved;

that Council records it's appreciation for the funding efforts of Councillor Cocks.

Williamson/Sherrard – CARRIED

12. NORTH ISLAND CHAIRS MEETING:

The Chair introduced his proposal to host a meeting of the North Island Chairs and possibly councillors, in Hamilton.

The meeting would discuss what individual regions do that other regions can learn from. It could also include a tour of Council's wetlands.

There was general support for the concept of a meeting of the North Island Councils with several Councillors noting their interest in attending.

The Chair passed on an invitation by the Southland Council for Councillors to visit Southland in June and be hosted on gamebird hunts. Councillor Williamson expressed his interest.

13. CE SUCCESSION:

Dr Daniel and Messrs Klee, Dyer and Hardy left the meeting.

It was moved:

that Council moves into public excluded meeting:

Cocks/Dickey – CARRIED

The meeting moved into committee at 1:26pm.

Reason Under the Official Information Act 1982	Section	Plain English Reason	When report can be released
Protect the privacy of natural persons	Sec.9(2)(a)	Information provided identifies a particular person or can easily be connected with a particular person.	Once the person to whom the information relates consents to its disclosure.

It was moved;

that Council moves out of public excluded meeting.

Cocks/Dickey – CARRIED

The meeting moved out of committee at 2:39pm.

Mr Klee rejoined the meeting.

14. GENERAL BUSINESS:

Councillor Dickey recommended that Council writes to the new Minister of Hunting and Fishing requesting his support for the retraction of the ban on lead shot for .410 shotguns.

Councillor Barnes emphasised that Council would need a professional and well-prepared argument to overturn the ban.

Mr Klee agreed that data on the use of .410's and how much shot they actually put into the environment compared to other sources such as Canadian geese hunting, was required. In this regard, Mr Dyer suggested that the parents of junior hunters be surveyed to ascertain actual usage of .410 shotguns.

Councillor Barker noted that some EU countries had recently revoked their ban on lead for some ammunition types.

It was moved;

that Council prepare a report on .410 use for NZ Council.

Dickey/Cocks – CARRIED

It was agreed that the other Fish & Game regions should be consulted to understand their views and maybe make a combined effort to get the ban on lead shot for .410's reversed

Councillor Dickey suggested that Council meetings start at 10.00am rather than 11.00am.

Councillor Williamson expressed his opposition due to the distance that he had to travel to attend council meetings. Councillor Dickey withdrew his recommendation.

The Chair provided an update on the work of the Future Finance Group.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 2:42pm.

The next meeting of Council is scheduled for 27th April 2024.

UNCONFIRMED



Auckland Waikato Fish & Game Council

156 Brymer Road

RD9

Hamilton 3289

For the attention of the Auckland Waikato Fish & Game Council

Dear Mr Juby,

We the Executive, on behalf of the New Zealand Fish & Game Council (NZC), are writing in response to your letter dated 17th January 2024 on the matter of the Auckland Waikato Fish & Game (AWFGC) 2023/24 levy.

The New Zealand Fish & Game Council considered this matter at its 167th NZC Board meeting on the 16th February 2024. The Council has determined to decline the Auckland Waikato Fish & Game Councils request to engage in a mediated dispute resolution process to reconsider Auckland Waikato Fish & Games 2023/24 Levy.

The New Zealand Fish & Game Council has previously written (dated 13 October 2023) to the AWFGC outlining the levy setting process and addressing the concerns raised by the AWFGC.

The New Zealand Fish & Game Council has functions under Section 26C (1)(f) of the Conservation Act to set the levy payable by Regional Fish & Game Councils to the New Zealand Fish & Game Council.

S26C(1)(f) "to determine, in consultation with Fish and Game Councils, the amount of the levy payable by Fish and Game Councils to the New Zealand Fish and Game Council, from licence sales".

The consultation process following by the New Zealand Fish & Game Council was:

- 21-22nd April 2023 NZC budget meeting to determine the licence fee and budgets which then go out for formal consultation to the Regional Fish & Game Councils;
- Regional Fish & Game Councils provide written feedback prior to the June NZC Board meeting'
- Written feedback was received from the Auckland Waikato Fish & Game Council on the 13th June supporting the recommendation of the New Zealand Fish & Game Council for the 2023/24 Licence fee.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. The New Zealand Council considers that due process has been followed and no further action is required.



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. F. Coll".

Councilor David Coll

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Oakley".

Councilor Debbie Oakley

On behalf of the Executive of the New Zealand Fish & Game Council

Statutory managers of freshwater sports fish, game birds and their habitats

New Zealand Council

Level 2, The Dominion Building, 78 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011. P.O. Box 25-055, Wellington 6146, New Zealand.
Telephone (04) 499 4767 Email nzcouncil@fishandgame.org.nz www.fishandgame.org.nz

Bi-Monthly Chief Executive's Report

April 2024

OUTPUT 1: SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Project 1111 Drift Diving

Drift diving has been completed at the Whakapapa and Kauaeranga Rivers. Although the Kauaeranga was very warm and low there were ample small fish in the stream and abundant smelt. The Whakapapa River was surveyed at Owango and a reasonable number of large fish were present.

Project 1112 Banding

Table 1: Number of birds caught at each banding site excluding recaptures.

Banding Location	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Hauraki Plains	1153	1171	1422	1818	1449	1224	881	1068	947	619	620
Te Awamutu	502	417	557	786	806	478	646	280	487	314	379
Opuatia	284	355	322	399	517	148	247	104	164	7	424
AkaAka	181	274	264	507	399	0	48	212	914		750
Helensville	254	526	570	708	487	472	519	430	842	1038	761
Wellsford	179	224	97	165	35	50	151	125	101	23	189
TOTAL	2553	2967	3232	4383	3693	2372	2492	2219	3455	2001	3123

After last years wash out, we were pleased with the overall catch of ducks during our annual banding programme. The Hauraki Plains site was a disappointment given the number of ducks at the site that wouldn't come into the cages. We are looking to modify the site for next summer to move the cages closer to the water's edge to see if this improves catch rates.

Project 1114: Trend Counts

Graham Gallagher and Hamilton based pilot Tony Petch did the north of the Harbour Bridge trend counts which Northland F&G do for us when they count the various lakes, wetlands, ponds and harbours throughout our combined areas. The dramatic increase in black swan numbers on the Kaipara Harbour this year makes a lot more sense when seen alongside the dramatic drop in numbers on Lake Omapere near Kaikohe where numbers dropped from 12,000 in 2023 to just 3,850 in 2024.

The following is Graham's total black swan trend count for our side of the Northland F&G border, but north of the Auckland Harbour Bridge.

2024-3,364
 2023-375
 2022-301
 2021-895

2020-947

Quite simply, it isn't that the 375 swans trend counted in 2023 in our northern region all raised lots of young, or that some huge reduction of hunting effort was the explanation for the 2024 count jumping to 3,364. Rather, it is simply that black swan are extremely mobile and respond to food availability and changes in water quality. For instance, past banding has recorded 2 birds from Waikato lakes turning up in Otago, with another bird near Christchurch being recovered almost at Cape Reinga. Long flights are not unusual for this species and the 120km or so between lake Omapere and main count sites on the Kaipara Harbour near Tabora are close enough that such interchange is to be expected. Other more northern harbour numbers are also well up in 2024, consistent with the sudden drop at lake Omapere. A similar crash at this lake happened 20 years ago which John saw then first-hand.

Canada geese are not gamebirds anymore, but we still count them as we have to fly over the same places regardless to count our other species. Their unchecked increase comes as no surprise now that F&G have no ongoing management function for them.

Graham's Canada goose trend count:

2024-1,142
2023-631
2022-871
2021-121
2020- n/c.

Graham's count for the Nth Auckland paradise shelduck count points to a strong and stable population. Certainly, feedback from hunters in the Special Paradise Shelduck Season is that good bags including many limits were the norm. When John visited 10 sites during the special season where hunters would normally be checked, there were none present. In some cases, this was simply due to standing maize still being unharvested, however 3 hunters on chicory in contrast were having to swat all the birds off. But on several ponds full of parries, the birds were sitting calmly in the shade looking at each other and asking, "It is this weekend, isn't it?"

Graham's shelduck trend count:

2024-7,846
2023 9,359
2022-7,495
2021-7,513
2020-4,846
2019-3,370

Project 1116: Botulism

We have had sporadic outbreaks across several wetland environments this summer, but overall mortalities were lower than average. The worst hit area appeared to be a ponds

around Te Aroha including the Howarth Memorial Wetland. Staff in concert with the Te Aroha club did several days in row boats recovering sick and dead birds. In Whangamarino, we again experienced a large-scale fish kill the cause of which is still under investigation as oxygen levels appeared to be consistently high enough to maintain aquatic life. Samples have been collected and we are working with MPI to test a suite of toxicants including heavy metals or diseases that could be responsible. The events first reported to F&G from some of the local hunters were followed up by staff. This caused the Whangamarino anoxic plan to kick into action and Fish and Game led the recovery effort through coordinating contractors to do fish removals. It appears that we were fortunate that the fish deaths occurred late enough in the season at a time when temperatures were decreasing to avoid the cascade of effects leading to a large epizootic botulism outbreak and only a handful of dead waterfowl were recovered from the wetland.

Project 1121: Fish Harvest Survey

Arapuni tags returns have slowed considerably but the algal bloom warning has been lifted. The impact of the bloom on visits to the lake was likely large.

Project 1151 Harvest Survey

David has been working with other game bird staff across the country to begin a process where we develop an ongoing nationally consisted set of questions focused on hunter satisfaction. These questions will be tagged to the GBHS to ensure we sample a random set of hunters.

Project 1161 Trout Releases

Project 1181: Control

We have received a significant number of permit requests this summer, including many for mallards on crops such as chicory. Whilst not unprecedented, it is rare to have so many issues in a relatively wet summer when crop strike has been good. Zon guns have also been in demand.

OUTPUT 2: HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT

Project 1211 RMA

Northland Freshwater Plan: Adam reviewed the Northland Freshwater plan that had significant shortcoming including a lack of a plan for unmonitored FMU's, no stock exclusion measures and no farm plans for areas where waterways fall below bottom lines.

Mangatutu Earthworks: Despite inquiring into the investigation of potentially illegal earthworks, reported in January, there has been no response from WRC.

Emmett wetland water abstraction: We had reports of a pump next to the Emmett wetland. Adam investigated and reported it to WRC. The owner was contacted and informed he needed a consent to extract water. No charges were laid as the pump was not in operation and likely not capable of extracting water.

Parkinsons Lake: Adam requested that WRC staff produce a lake management plan for Parkinson Lake due to repeated fish kills and declining water quality. There has been no response from WRC on the Parkinson Lake management plan.

Project 1221: Council Land

Weir Project.

This was a DOC funded project which we conducted on their behalf. Fish and Game contractors installed large spall rock on both upstream banks to mitigate erosion and prevent the parish polder stop bank being compromised or risk the water bypassing the weir through Nth Shepherd block and potentially causing it to blow out. Contractors also built up the access track b to a uniform height where it had slumped. Some of the reno mattress was refixed where it had come away although the main repairs on where someone has cut squares out of it could not be completed due to water levels.



Figure 1: True right of Whangamarino upstream of the weir.

Stone Jug road Access: Adam sprayed blackberry and removed a fallen willow branch blocking the Stone Jug access when down for the Whakapapa Drift Dive.

North Emmett Wetland: Bamboo is a significant problem in this wetland. This plant resists most sprays, but our principle suppliers Rainbow & Brown now make a gel called Bamboo-Buster. Each bamboo shoot needs to be lopped off at ground level and then pasted with the gel within 6 seconds, before it forms a barrier to chemical control. All the bamboo on our side of the boundary fence has since been treated this way. Further to this; John has written a comprehensive how-to for the new field officer in regard to spraying on our properties.

Williamson Wetland. One pond has been relinquished and another pondholder is being asked to leave. So, it is expected that at least 2 ponds will be re-balloted in due course. Several other pondholders have been told to pick up their act and pleasingly they seem to have been jolted into action as a result. An AGM onsite has recently been successfully undertaken. This now satisfies the requirements of the Companies Office in regard to Incorporated Societies having to pass their accounts at an AGM with the necessary quorum attending. This supported resolution can now be used to get this deregistered User Group back onto the Societies Register. A Working Bee then followed the same day. John has been closely involved to ensure all this happened and with special thanks to Graeme Garchow also.

Project 1231: Other Land

Rumball/Healy Project: This project is funded by the WRA, WCEET and the GBHT aimed at restoring some 40Ha of wetland and riparian zones. Recently Site, Land Development have completed weir construction which involved forming a spillway with 30t of blue rock and a series of rock walls to reduce water velocity and facilitate fish passage. 5 cubic metres of builder's mix was used to form and secure the rock walls and reduce the chance of aggregate movement under high flows. Construction costs were above forecast but have been managed between co-funders and the landowners. This weir will restore the hydrology of the upstream wetland which has previously been subject to drainage.



Figure 2: Fish friendly weir structure.

Barbour Project: We successfully completed the earthworks component of this project. Before and after pictures below. This is a joint project between F&G, Waikato RiverCare and the Barbours. It encompasses over 5Ha of restoration area with the aim of improving wetland habitat and water quality in the catchment. The catchment drains into the little Pokaiwhenua, which is a significant trout fishery.



Figure 3: Before



Figure 4: After

Project 1235: Trees

OUTPUT 3: PARTICIPATION

Project 1311: Access negotiation

Parkinson Lake Access: Adam removed an existing fishing platform that had become unsafe and rebuilt it in the same location.

Whakapapa lost access: With the help of an angler Adam was able to set up a potential meeting with new minister about loss of access on the Whakapapa Intake Road. Adam updated the existing report and timeline on the loss of access to the Whakapapa Intake Road to prepare Chairman Nigel Juby for the meeting with the minister. See separate agenda item.

Project 1331: F&G Newspapers

Project 1341: Other Publications

OUTPUT 4: PUBLIC INTERFACE

Project 1431: Liaison/Advocacy

Koi Removal Project: Adam met with local farmer Trevor Simpson to discuss koi management in the Waikato Riverine Lakes. Adam is Working with WRC staff to select an appropriate lake.

Project 1441: Displays/Promotions

John and Mischa both attended the Underwood Wetland event that highlighted the significant progress at this Northland F&G site near Dargaville on World Wetlands Day Friday 2 February. Among attendees and speakers on the day was Corina Jordan from F&G National Office and both the current and past managers from Eastern F&G. Retired Northland F&G manager Rudi Hoetjes played a major role in driving the development and reservation of this area and he spoke of the process to date. Dave Underwood, the landowner who long ago first saw the potential and started the revegetation of this site, was also present. Dave worked closely with F&G to make this happen and it is fantastic

that he can now look over the large water areas created, and the new birdlife attracted such as bitterns, for instance, and see this combined vision now a reality.

John also set up a stand at the Forest & Bird World Wetlands Day at Matuku Link on Saturday 3rd of February. This site is quite close to our F&G Bethells property in West Auckland. About 300 resilient people turned up despite initial very high winds, heavy rain and even a power cut in the valley. It could only get better from there and it did. This was a good chance to show the F&G flag and meet various “movers and shakers” in the local conservation movement.

OUTPUT 5: LAW ENFORCEMENT

Project 1521: Ranger Training

OUTPUT 7: COUNCILS

Project 1721: Meeting Costs

OUTPUT 8: PLANNING REPORTING

Project 1841: National Liaison

Adam has been chosen as an outside expert to advise DOC on their aquatic pest species strategy and will be attending six two-hour meeting facilitated by doc staff. The fine tuning of the document is critical in terms of the acknowledgement of valued introduced species.

OUTPUT 9: ADMINISTRATION

Project 1912: Administration

On Leap day, February 29, John managed to get stuck driving around the North Emmett Wetland while spraying and also cutting back teatree encroaching on the previously formed track. John has used this track perhaps a dozen times before, but it is rather overgrown now. John had insisted several years beforehand that the revegetation team employed to plant this block in offset works for a nearby company’s resource consent, do not plant anything on the track. The new band of teatree they planted, despite this clear warning, has made the track much narrower and all the more difficult to back up.

David Cocks was first on the scene at which point the truck was simply stuck, but completely dry, (as David’s photograph taken then shows). A towing company had already been called and arrived very soon after. The operator proceeded to pull the truck out backwards through the deep swamp to the closest point their oversize tow-truck was able to park, being too large to get around the sharp corner and closer to the stuck vehicle.

Pulling it backwards through the swamp, (and not forward onto more dry ground using simple recovery gear), allowed water into the footwells. The fuse-box and the truck's computer are mounted here just ahead of the glovebox. So, from simply being stuck, the truck then suffered significant water damage to the extent that the agents subsequently identified 4 pages of stuff that needs to now be repaired or replaced. It's currently waiting on an insurance assessment, but it's speculated by the Mitsubishi agents that this truck will be written off, which is pretty extraordinary. Ford Ranger's, in contrast, have a fuse-box that is mounted just under the bonnet ahead of the firewall. This would seem to make the Ford much more fit-for-purpose for any offroad work where it might get wet.

By the time you read this, it's likely that Neil Rankin will have taken his 12-tonne digger around this same North Emmett track and removed all the plants which should never have been put on it, as well as making the sharp corner much more negotiable.

Safety

The Mykiss boat battery that powers the bilge pump and compass light was replaced.

Maritime

The Maritime NZ Part 35 (our ability issue skippers tickets internally) was granted and Adam took part in the third and hopefully final audit by Maritime NZ that included a phone interviews and five hour face to face interview about safety procedures and the Health and Safety Act 2015.

D.Klee
Chief Executive