

# NZWEA Conference DOC Engagement

Overview, Process and Approach

24 August 2022



New Zealand Government



# The cornerstones:

1. Engage early

2. Factor in adequate research

3. Consider alternatives



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Summary of  
presentation

- › Climate and biodiversity Crisis
- › Our role, advocacy priorities and approach to renewables
- › Overview of DOC's RM advocacy system
- › Offshore wind
- › Opportunities

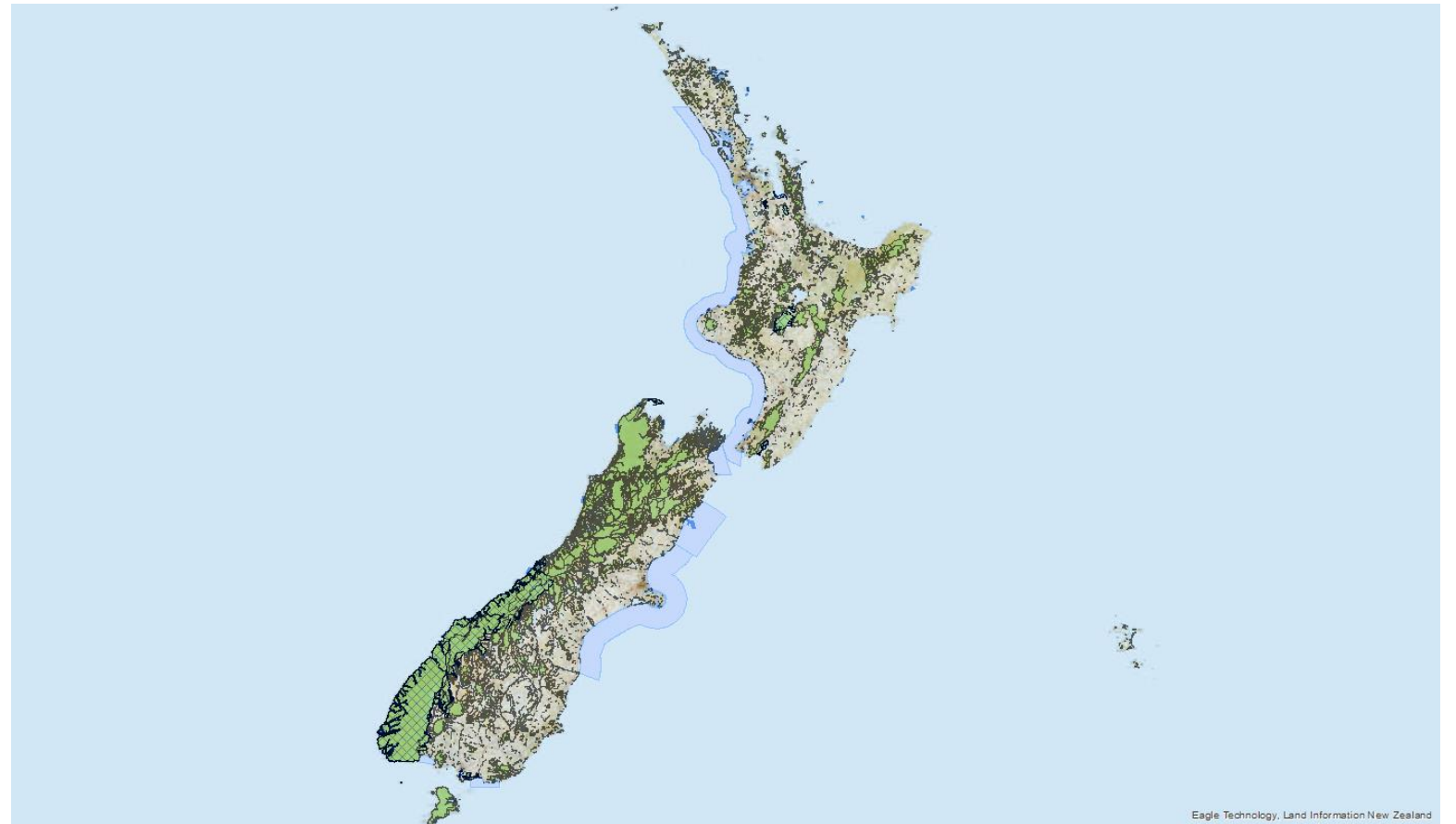
## Climate crisis

## Biodiversity crisis



- › Zero Carbon Act, National Adaptation Plan and Emissions Reduction Plan 2022.
- › The changing climate affects nearly every aspect of DOC's responsibilities.
- › Recognise benefit of new renewable electricity
- › Avoid mal-adaption.

# Protected Area Overview Map



## DOC roles

- › One of DOC's functions is to advocate for the conservation of natural and historic resources.
- › New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement
- › Conservation and Wildlife Acts



WARNING NESTING  
BIRDS



## DOC Context

- › Aotearoa New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy
- › Current state of Aotearoa New Zealand's unique biodiversity
- › Marine birds: 28 (31%) are 'Threatened' and 53 (60%) are 'At Risk'
- › Around 5000 of the assessed 14 000 terrestrial, freshwater, and marine species are 'Data Deficient'
- › ANZBS Implementation Plan



# DOC Strategy and Prioritisation

Links and key points

- > The DOC RM advocacy strategy is available on the public website:

[National RMA and EEZA Advocacy Strategy \(doc.govt.nz\)](http://doc.govt.nz)

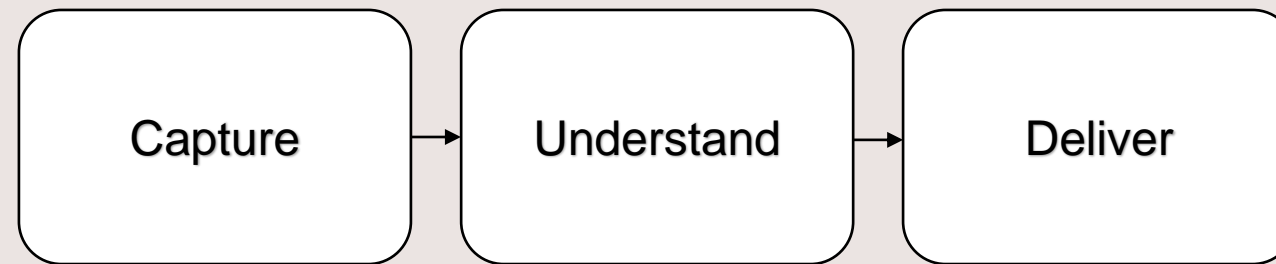
- > To prioritise within this framework we apply a Must/Should/Could/Would framework some relevant examples identified below:

Must: (includes) critically threatened ecosystems and species.

Should: (includes) nationally endangered and vulnerable species and ecosystems and 'avoid' policies in the NZCPS (policies 11, 13, 15, 16, 23 & 25).



# Overview Process Map



## How DOC engages in REG proposals

For Renewable Energy projects DOC staff with the relevant skill set are assigned early.

A standard consideration for delivery is:

How to support renewable energy proposals while protecting priority conservation values.

DOC will engage early on renewable electricity generation proposals where possible (and where approached).

- > If early engagement does not occur DOC will focus efforts on priority conservation values.

## **What DOC wants to see in REG proposals**

- › Consideration of alternatives.
- › Adequate baseline surveys.
- › Avoidance of adverse effects on threatened species.
- › Avoidance of other adverse effects as far as practicable.
- › Offsetting and compensation of significant residual effects.



## Offshore Wind



- > Novel activity in New Zealand. Some international experience to learn from but substantial gaps due to different context.
- > Rapidly evolving technology including increasing turbine size and farm scale.
- > Risk of first application being lodged prematurely and leading to complex and contentious consent process.
- > Opportunity to work towards agreed methodology and/or national guidance to support ecological assessments.

# Offshore Environment

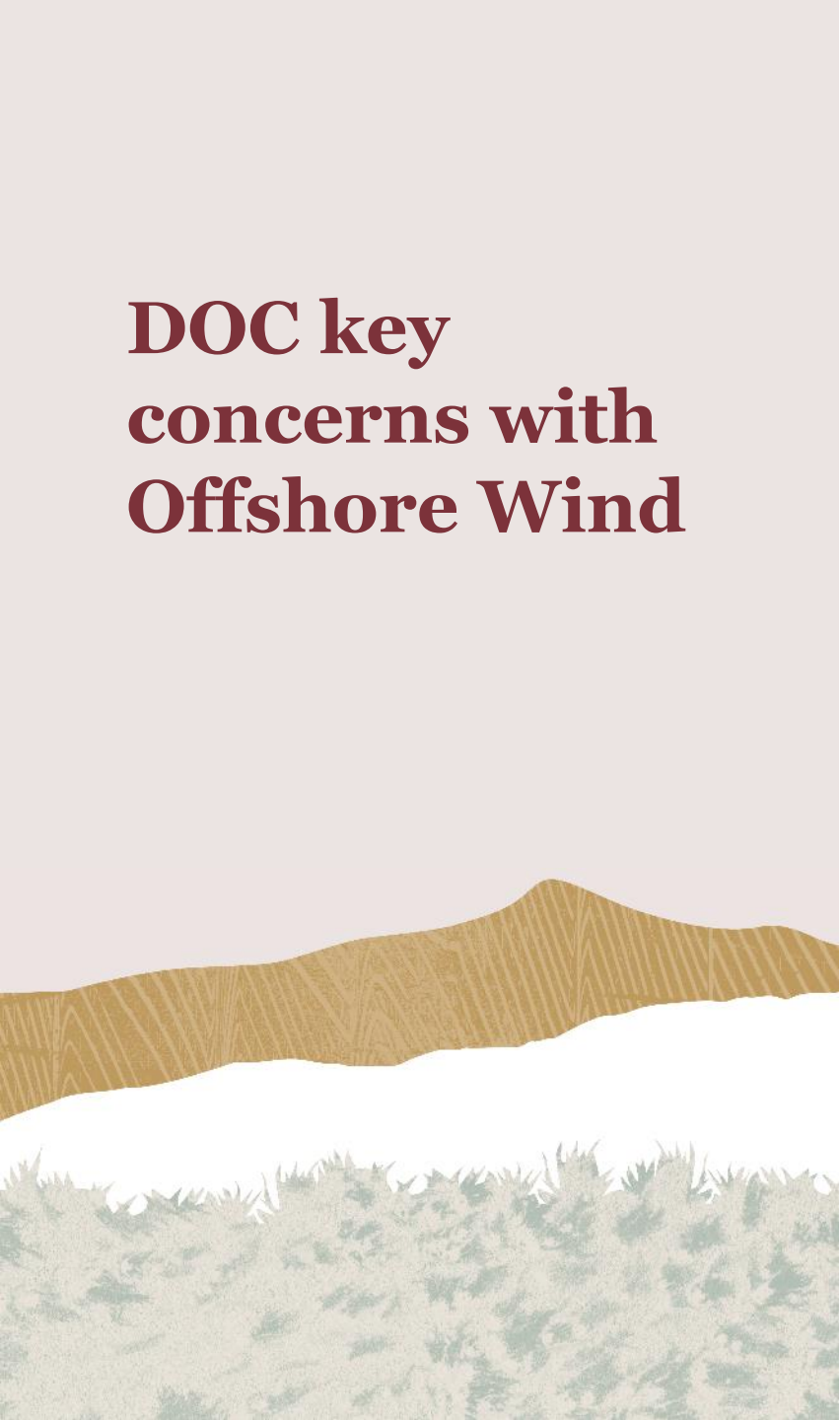
- › Highly threatened species and migratory corridors.
- › Lack of current data on species; data deficient and data poor.
- › Time needed to gather knowledge and baseline data.
- › Limited ability to mitigate or offset.



HIGH WIND



JELLYFISH;  
DANGEROUS JELLYFISH



## **DOC key concerns with Offshore Wind**

- › Pre-construction.
- › Construction.
- › Operation.
- › Cumulative effects and long term effects.
- › Monitoring and adaptive management
- › Decommissioning.



# Opportunities



Reduce the risk of complex and contentious processes through:

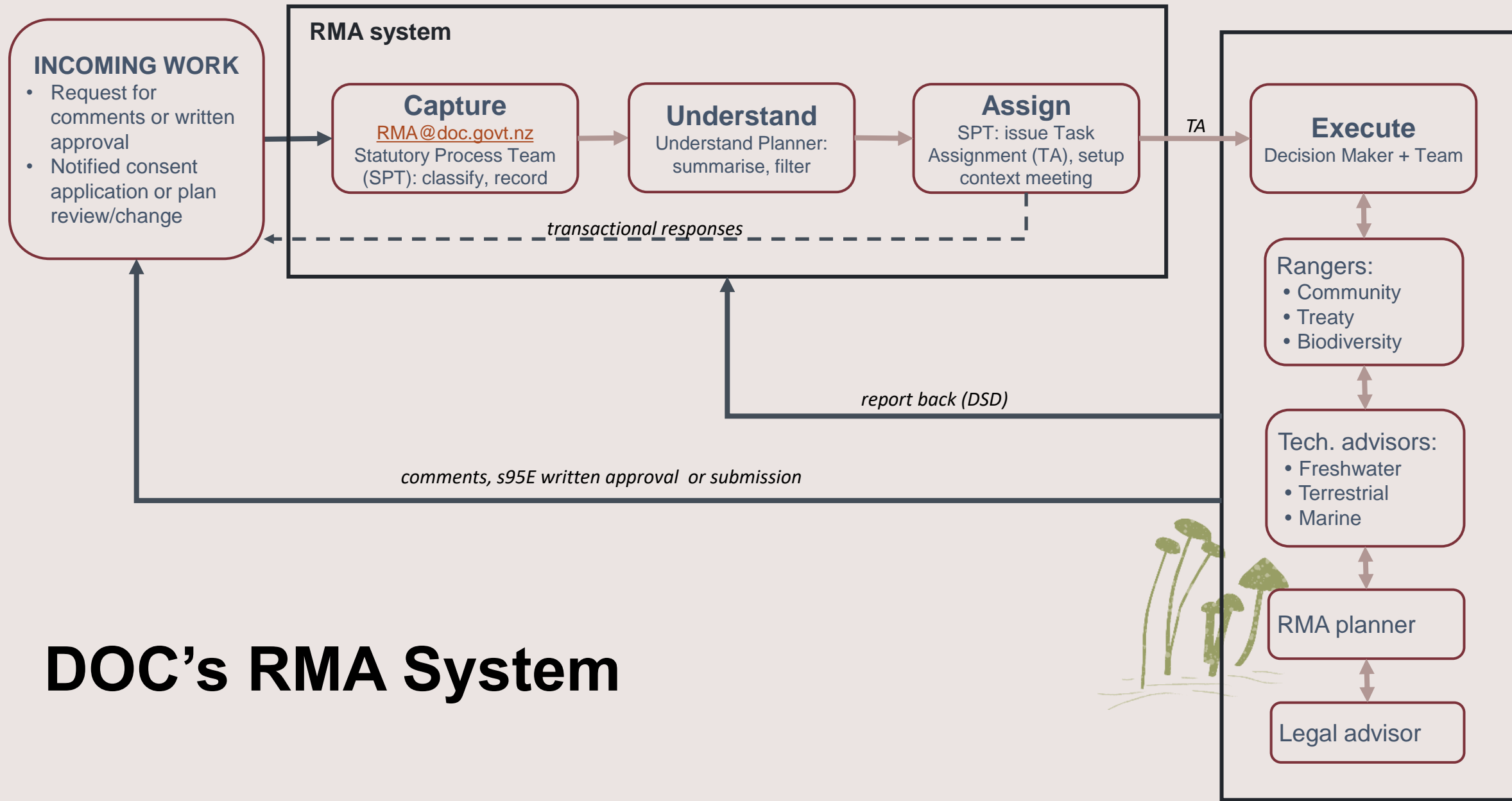
- › Coordinated research programmes.
- › Strategic / feasibility approaches.
- › Allocation of space for development and protection.
- › Agreed methodology and/or national guidance to support ecological assessments.
- › Agreed consent condition starting points.

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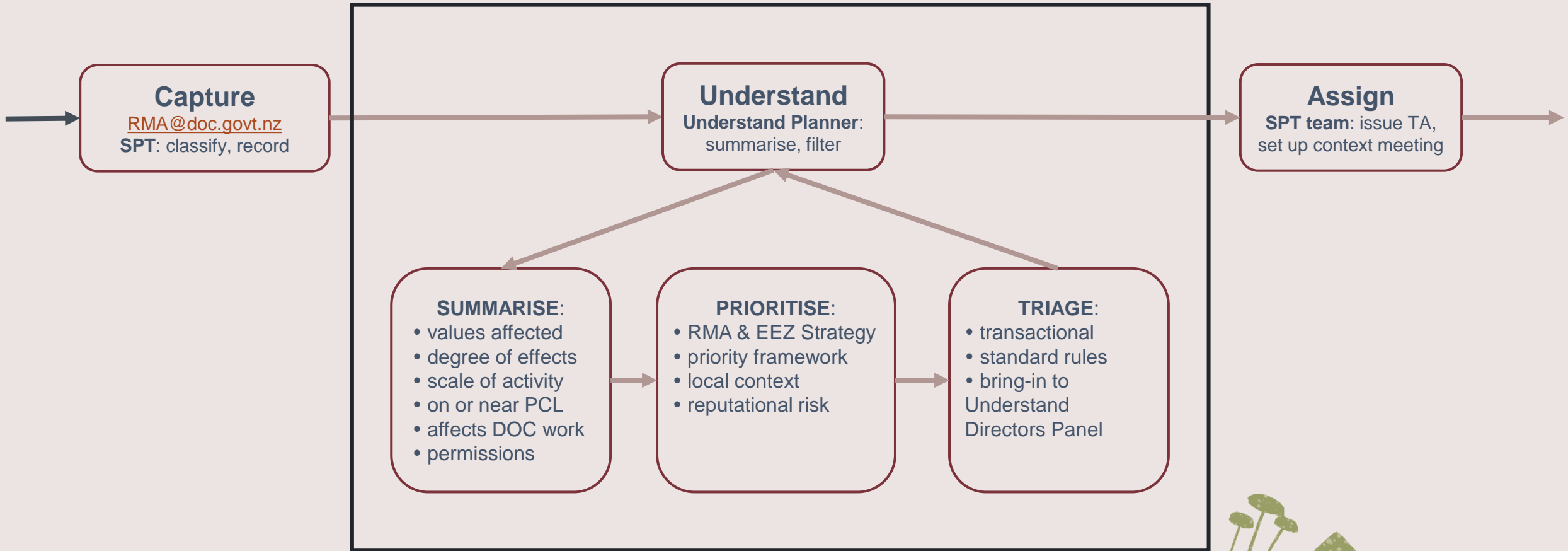
3. Consider alternatives



# DOC's RMA System







# Understand Summary

## Capture

### Key actions

- › DOC typically receives 1000 requests for comments or written approvals, and receives notification of about 150 consents and plan changes, every year.
- › All resource management advocacy related applications directed to [rma@doc.govt.nz](mailto:rma@doc.govt.nz). This includes consents under both the RMA and EEZA and plans under the RMA. Basic information captured
- › Low priority requests including where the Director-General of Conservation is not identified as an affected person will generally receive a transactional response

## Understand

### Key actions

- › Uses DOC strategic priorities and rules generated by past practice to inform DOC approach to engagement
- › A summary is created for all resource management advocacy requests received. It identifies key matters relevant to DOC and which DOC staff should be involved in considering our engagement approach.
- › The summary is then reviewed by a panel of DOC directors from across the business (i.e. regions, technical and legal) who identify any additional context or matters to be considered.





## Deliver

### Key actions

- › A task will be assigned to relevant staff based on the summary.
- › The task may include considering if DOC should submit or comment on the matter
- › If other matters are identified at this stage that were not captured in the summary, there is a process for these to be explored.