



7 August 2013

Media Release

EDS welcomes appointment of new Director-General of Conservation

The Chairman of the Environmental Defence Society, Gary Taylor, has welcomed the appointment today by the State Services Commission of a new Director-General of Conservation.

“Lou Sanson, the outgoing Chief Executive of Antarctica New Zealand, is an excellent choice for this important role,” said Mr Taylor.

“Lou has shown a clear and personal interest in conservation throughout his career and has the requisite skills to take charge of the Department of Conservation. He will have responsibility for administering one-third of our country, the best bits, and for leading conservation advocacy on private land and in the sea.

“We see his conservation efforts in Antarctica as an extremely relevant apprenticeship for this much bigger role.

“We look forward to working constructively with Lou to improve conservation management and environmental outcomes as he takes on this crucially important leadership role in our independent civil service.

“We are especially keen to explore some new ideas regarding oceans management and conservation in the marine environment with him.

“We also acknowledge with respect the outgoing Director-General, Al Morrison, and the contribution he had made in the role.

“Coincidentally, Lou Sanson is the after-dinner speaker this evening at *Our Place: State of the Environment 2013*, the EDS national conference currently underway in Auckland.

“This will be his first public function since his appointment and I’m sure he may stray a little from Antarctica and offer some preliminary thoughts about his future task,” Mr Taylor concluded.