



## Briefing: Draft Letter of Expectations 2025-26 for Predator Free 2050 Limited

To	Minister of Conservation	Date submitted	2 December 2024
CC	Minister of Finance		
Risk Assessment	Low	Priority	Normal
Reference	24-B-0554	DocCM	DOC-7821613
Security Level	In Confidence		
Action sought	Agree to and sign the letter Provide feedback if needed	Timeframe	16 December 2024
Attachments	Attachment A – Draft 2025-26 Letter of Expectations to Predator Free 2050 Limited		
Contacts			
Name and position			Cell phone
Kelley Reeve, Director Governance and Government Services			s9(2)(a)
Grace Xu, Manager Governance and Performance			s9(2)(a)


## Executive summary – Whakarāpopoto ā kaiwhakahaere

1. This briefing seeks your feedback on and agreement to sign the draft 2025-26 Letter of Expectations (**LOE**) to Predator Free 2050 Limited (**the Company**).
2. While not a legal instrument, the LOE formalises your priorities and expectations for the Company and will inform the Company's strategic planning, including the drafting of the Statement of Performance Expectations and Statement of Intent that will commence in February.
3. This LOE focuses on:
  - your conservation priorities for the Company
  - responsible spending and value for money
  - the need for the Company to align its contribution to the Predator Free 2050 Strategy
  - improving reporting commensurate with its role
  - generating non-government revenue

4. s9(2)(f)(iv)  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

### We recommend that you ... (Ngā tohutohu)

		Decision
a)	<b>Advise</b> DOC of any feedback you wish to make to the attached draft Letter of Expectations	Feedback provided <b>Yes / No</b>
b)	If no feedback ... <b>Agree</b> to and <b>sign</b> the attached Letter of Expectations	<b>Yes / No</b>

  
Date: 29/11/2024  
Sia Aston  
Deputy Director-General Public Affairs  
For Director-General of Conservation

Date: / /  
Hon Tama Potaka  
**Minister of Conservation**

## Purpose – Te aronga

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1. To seek your feedback on, and agreement to the draft 2025-26 Letter of Expectations (LOE) to Predator Free 2050 Limited (**the Company**).

## Background and context – Te horopaki

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### *Letter of Expectations*

2. The issuing of an LOE is an integral part of the planning and accountability cycle, providing a mechanism for you to convey both Government and Ministerial expectations for an entity's performance for the upcoming financial year.
3. While the LOE is not prescribed in statute, it is one of the key levers for Ministers to communicate ministerial expectations for entities, and to inform the entities' strategic planning process.
4. Although not a Crown entity, various parts of the Crown Entities Act 2004 (**the Act**) apply to the Company. Consequently, DOC monitors the Company following Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission guidance on Crown entities monitoring and advises you of the Company's performance.

### *Predator Free 2050 Limited*

5. Predator Free 2050 Limited is a Crown company listed on Schedule 4A of the Public Finance Act 1989, which makes it subject to sections of the Act. The Ministers of Finance and Conservation are the shareholding Ministers, and you are the responsible Minister.
6. The Company is one part of a much broader Predator Free 2050 multi-agency programme of work led by DOC. Other delivery partners in the Predator Free 2050 Programme include the Predator Free New Zealand Trust, Zero Invasive Predators Ltd (**ZIP**) and regional councils.
7. The next five years are critical for the Predator Free 2050 goal, with a key strategic outcome to demonstrate by 2030 that Predator Free 2050 goal/programme is achievable, investment ready, and cost effective. DOC and ZIP will focus on this strategic outcome for high-value conservation areas, and the Company is expected to focus on rural and urban land, and strategically on innovation and learning.
8. s9(2)(f)(iv)  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

## 2025-26 Letter of Expectations

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9. The draft 2025-26 LOE sets out Government and ministerial priorities, expectations for the entity and notes the challenging fiscal environment. The expectations are structured along the following elements:
  - government and ministerial expectations
  - entity-specific expectations
  - no surprises
10. The entity-specific expectations in the draft LOE are:
  - responsible spending and value for money
  - alignment with the Predator Free 2050 Strategy to make the best possible contribution towards Predator Free 2050 goal

- improving reporting commensurate with the Company's roles and responsibilities in the system
  - generating revenue from non-government sources
11. The LOE reinforces that the Company's revised roles and responsibilities within the Predator Free 2050 system are:
- funding projects, tools and technologies that contribute to developing cost-effective and scalable predator eradication methods in rural and urban environments
  - investing in breakthrough science
  - assisting Māori to build capability and capacity to lead elimination projects
  - raising non-government funds.
12. s9(2)(f)(iv)
13. In this fiscal environment the Government expects responsible spending across all public sector entities. However, Company costs have remained high relative to its reducing funding envelope [24-B-0532 refers]. Your LOE highlights the need for responsible spending and value-for-money. Similar messaging has also been used in your LOE to the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust s9(2)(f)(iv)

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#### **Risk assessment – Aronga tūraru**

14. There is a low risk associated with sending the LOE.

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#### **Treaty principles (section 4) – Ngā mātaḡpono Tiriti (section 4)**

15. The LOE includes an expectation that the Company will continue strengthening relationships with Iwi and hapū.

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#### **Consultation – Kōrero whakawhiti**

16. In preparing the draft LOE, DOC has engaged with the Chair and Chief Executive of the Company.
17. DOC has informed the Treasury, advisor to the Minister of Finance, in developing the LOE. We have copied this briefing to the Minister of Finance, as the other shareholding Minister.

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#### **Financial implications – Te hīraunga pūtea**

18. There are no financial implications associated with the draft LOE.

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#### **Next steps – Ngā tāwhaitanga**

19. The next steps are:
- You review the attached draft 2025-26 LOE and provide feedback, if any
  - DOC will work with your office to incorporate your feedback, together with any feedback from the Minister of Finance
  - Following any amendments, you sign and send the LOE to the Company's Chair.

**ENDS**

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