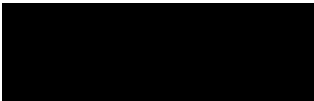
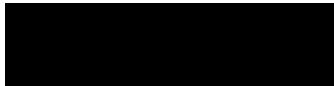


19 February 2025



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 22 January 2025, in which you asked about the kākā aviary at the Te Anau Bird Sanctuary.

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982. While some of your questions do not strictly fall under the OIA, we are responding to them regardless, for the sake of transparency. Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *How would DOC classify the Kākā aviary when the flight door is open? What is the specific concern around the flight door?*

DOC's specific concern is that when the flight door is open, the aviary is still not one truly open space. The aviary restricts free movement and the available space for kākā to fly and utilise the environment. DOC is also concerned that the presence of a door means that the two aviary wings can be separated, restricting kākā to spaces that do not meet the minimum standards relating to size in the Kākā Husbandry Manual.

2. *Furthermore, is DOC stating the over 220m³ kākā aviary, with the flight door open, is insufficient for two parrots?*

As previously stated, the kākā aviary at Te Anau Bird Sanctuary includes two 'wings', each with a main area of approximately 90 m³, and a retreat of over 20 m³, giving a total volume for each wing of approximately 111 m³ and 116 m³ respectively. These are below the minimum standard of 120 m³. Due to the presence of the dividing wall with flight door, DOC does not consider that the two wings of the aviary currently make one open space. Therefore, the aviary does not meet the minimum standards for size outlined in the Kākā Husbandry Manual.

3. *Given that Charlie Girl "can't really fly and that's why she has to be in captivity," does DOC consider the Kākā aviary appropriate for Charlie and a suitable partner?*

DOC considers that the kākā aviary at Te Anau Bird Sanctuary does not currently meet minimum standards as per the Kākā Husbandry Manual and is therefore not suitable for a pair of kākā.

4. *Please provide all communications, emails, meeting notes related to “There have been discussions between the South Island kākā breed-for-release programme team and Te Anau Bird Sanctuary staff on how to ensure the aviary meets the new minimum standards.” or a summary of how DOC proposes to ensure concerns are addressed, particularly since the aviary exceeds minimum requirements.*

As you are aware, the future management of the Te Anau Bird Sanctuary is being reviewed. There are currently no kākā being held at Te Anau, and DOC has no plans to address any issues regarding the aviary until there is more certainty regarding future needs.

5. *Has DOC asked Professor Ngaio to evaluate the aviary in Te Anau and its suitability for Charlie, along with a partner kākā?*

DOC has asked for an assessment, using the five domains model, of Charlie’s welfare. While focused on Charlie’s current welfare state, the assessment is to include consideration of the environment she experienced at Te Anau Bird Sanctuary (noting that her welfare while at Te Anau Bird Sanctuary is unable to be directly assessed).

I acknowledge that you want to receive a copy of the independent welfare report for Charlie. I intend to make this publicly available in the next two weeks and will let you know when it is. It is possible that a small amount of information may be withheld under section 9 of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department’s website.

Nāku noa, nā



Hilary Aikman
Director Terrestrial Biodiversity
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai