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22 May 2025

Auckland House  
135 Albert Street  
Auckland  
Ref: OIAD-5100

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 03 April 2025, in which you asked for:

- 1. The Save the Kiwi application relating to the translocation of kiwi from Ponui Island to Waiheke Island;*
- 2. The DOC approval documentation for the same;*
- 3. All communications between DOC and external third parties related to this application;*
- 4. All communications that relate to consultation with the community in relation to this application;*
- 5. All communications that relate to the dangers to the kiwi on Waiheke, including in particular, the dangers posed by the population of wandering / uncontrolled dogs.*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA).

On 08 April 2025 you refined your request to:

- 1. The Save the Kiwi application relating to the translocation of kiwi from Ponui Island to Waiheke Island;*
- 2. The DOC approval for the same;*
- 3. Emails (excluding administrative emails) and meeting notes between DOC and Save The Kiwi which discuss the dangers posed to kiwi on Waiheke by dogs (in particular, uncontrolled dogs) from the last five years (which is the time frame Save the Kiwi have said they have been consulting on this project).*
- 4. Any reports prepared by DOC with respect to this project which discuss the dangers and risks posed to kiwi on Waiheke by dogs (in particular, uncontrolled dogs) from the last five years (which is the time frame Save the Kiwi have said they have been consulting on this project).*
- 5. Key documents and/or a summary of the risks considered by DOC in respect of the dangers and risks posed to kiwi on Waiheke by dogs (in particular, uncontrolled dogs) from the last five years (which is the time frame Save the Kiwi have said they have been consulting on this project).*

By way of context for my response I can advise you of the following.

- On 11 April 2025, the Department approved the translocation proposal from co-applicants The Kiwi Trust (trading as Save the Kiwi), Ngāti Pāoa Iwi Trust and Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki to introduce kiwi from Pōnui to privately-owned land on Te Matuku Peninsula on Waiheke (the peninsula to the west of Te Matuku Bay).
- Approval was granted to translocate 10 kiwi in year one (2025) and up to 40 birds throughout the period 2026 – 2028. The total number of kiwi transferred at the end of Year 3 is not to exceed 50 kiwi. Conditions for monitoring are outlined in the permit and include monitoring with transmitters for 20 adult/subadult kiwi for at least 3 years.
- One of the proposed permit conditions is that if 30% of kiwi released onto Waiheke through the translocation are killed through predation, attack or human interference we will pause further translocations and review.
- The risks to kiwi on Waiheke are understood by the Department and whilst there is a level of risk to kiwi from dogs on Waiheke the Department considers that the mitigations that have been put in place are sufficient at this stage.
- Save the Kiwi has been leading consultation on Waiheke regarding dog management and risks to kiwi, and the following programmes of work are underway:
  - Auckland Council's Animal Management unit is supporting the release of kiwi on Waiheke in a number of ways. This includes the proactive engagement with Waiheke dog owners to remind them of their responsibilities under the Dog Control Act 1996 including to not allow their dogs to disturb or threaten any protected wildlife. Nearly all native bird species are fully protected under the Wildlife Act 1953, and Waiheke is already home to a number of 'Threatened' and 'At Risk' species with important roosting and breeding sites across the island.
  - With the anticipated release of kiwi, the island's dedicated Animal Management Officer (AMO) has been visiting property-owners surrounding the area of the release, ensuring they are aware of the need to keep their dogs from roaming and directing them towards bird aversion training.
  - Members of Council's Proactive Animal Management team have also been on the island giving educational talks in schools and were at the recent Wilderfest event alongside Save the Kiwi, Te Korowai o Waiheke and others.
  - At the time of and following the release, the island's Animal Management Officer will be carrying out increased proactive patrols around the main kiwi release site. Specific areas on Waiheke have designated rules for dogs, such as on leash requirements and prohibited zones to protect the community and wildlife.
  - Save the Kiwi has also connected with Waiheke Tourism, who are helping to reach out to accommodation providers and other stakeholders about the arrival of kiwi on Waiheke and what this means for responsible dog ownership. In addition, the Waiheke Pet Advocacy Group has prepared this video for the ferries: [Responsible Pet Ownership Video](#)
  - Auckland Transport is supportive and has agreed to install yellow kiwi road signs with the message "Caution at night" on key roads near the release site.

With all these measures in place, and with the support of the Waiheke community, I am confident that the return of kiwi to Waiheke will be a success. To be able to even consider having taonga species such as kiwi returned to Waiheke is a mark of the success of Te Korowai o Waiheke and many others, including land owners, who are working towards a predator-free Waiheke and the restoration of its environment.

The schedule of documents I have decided to release in response to your request is attached. Information which is deemed out of scope of the request has been marked 'out of scope'.

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed in the Document schedule, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

- personal information, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people.
- free and frank expression under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the OIA.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on DOC's website.

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please contact Kat Lane, Operations Manager Auckland Inner Islands by email to [kalane@doc.govt.nz](mailto:kalane@doc.govt.nz)

Nāku noa, nā



Alex Rogers  
Director - Regional Operations  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## Document schedule

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
<i>The Save the Kiwi application relating to the translocation of kiwi from Pōnui to Waiheke.</i>			
1a	16/10/23	Application	Released in part
1b	11/04/25	Decision Support Document	Released in part
1c	11/04/25	Permit	Released in part
1d	11/04/25	Approval letter	Released in part
<i>Emails (excluding administrative emails) and meeting notes between DOC and Save The Kiwi which discuss the dangers posed to kiwi on Waiheke by dogs (in particular, uncontrolled dogs) from the last five years (which is the time frame Save the Kiwi have said they have been consulting on this project).</i>			
2	07/02/24	Extract from:  <i>98052-FAU - Stage 2 - collated meeting notes Context and Check ins</i> – Collated notes of meeting minutes. Contains minutes of meeting held with Auckland Council dog management team	Released in part
3	20/02/25	Extract from:  <i>Waiheke [kiwi] Conversation updates [STK and DOC]</i> – Email between DOC and STK	Released in part
4	21/02/25	Extract from:  <i>Kiwi translocation to Waiheke</i> – Email between DOC and STK	Released in part
5	31/03/25	Extract from:  <i>[Waiheke kiwi] comms plan</i> - Email between DOC and STK	Released in part
6	31/03/25	Extract from:  <i>Waiheke Kiwi Translocation</i> - Email between DOC and STK	Released in part

7	29/01/25	Extract from:  <i>Copy of presentation given to Waiheke Local Board on which contained information on dogs and kiwi</i>	Released in part
<i>Any reports prepared by DOC with respect to this project which discuss the dangers and risks posed to kiwi on Waiheke by dogs (in particular, uncontrolled dogs) from the last five years (which is the time frame Save the Kiwi have said they have been consulting on this project).</i>			
8	22/12/22	<i>Kiwi Recovery Group - kiwi to Waiheke Island dated 22 December 2022</i>	Released in part
9	19/12/24	<i>Kiwi Recovery Group Advice - kiwi to Waiheke Island dated 19 December 2024</i>	Released in part
10	4/08/21	<i>Kiwi Recovery Group Advice - kiwi to Waiheke Island dated 4 August 2021</i>	Released in full
<i>Key documents and/or a summary of the risks considered by DOC in respect of the dangers and risks posed to kiwi on Waiheke by dogs (in particular, uncontrolled dogs) from the last five years</i>			
11		<i>Waiheke Island. The email is to the full Kiwi Recovery Group seeking feedback on the proposed translocation.</i>	Released in part
12	August 21	<i>Kiwi Recovery Group meeting minutes - re dogs and Waiheke</i>	Released in part
13	April 25	<i>Waiheke Dog Management Plan</i>	Released in part