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04 July 2025

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/  
Conservation House  
18 Manners Street  
Te Aro, Wellington, 6011  
doc.govt.nz  
Ref: OIAD-5317

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 5 June 2025, in which you asked for:

1. *Full details and scope of all monitoring work started or yet to start for the Pukunui aerial poisoning project and how this will be carried out during the course of the programme, when and how? This should include how many cameras / lures have been set up.*
2. *How often will lures / cameras be checked?*
3. *We requests that we receive reports during the course of your monitoring as and when they are prepared.*
4. *Who has ultimate responsible for the monitoring plan/s - which member/s of staff (DOC/ZIP)?*
5. *Who will be carrying out the fieldwork and what are their credentials / experience?*
6. *How much lure will be places in each container and how often will lures be replaced?*
7. *Are you planning to have cameras setup without lures? And if not why not?*
8. *You made a statement at the 27th May 2025 meeting that ornithologists had accompanied you when setting up lures/cameras. Please provide full names and credentials of all persons involved in setting up with you as indicated at the meeting?*
9. *Will these same people be involved on an ongoing bases or will you be constantly changing monitoring personnel?*
10. *What reports did you and your group prepare and please may we have copies of these reports?*

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *Full details and scope of all monitoring work started or yet to start for the Pukunui aerial poisoning project and how this will be carried out during the course of the programme, when and how? This should include how many cameras / lures have been set up.*

Feral cat monitoring is a grid of 100 trail cameras at 500m spacings inside the treatment area. There is also a control grid of 50 trail cameras in an untreated area. We plan to run surveys via the camera network, before and after the pukunui operation and depending on the result of these we may choose to undertake further monitoring.

The rat monitoring is in conjunction with monitoring to be undertaken by ZIP and has trail camera grids at 150m spacing and approximately 45 cameras. These trail camera grids will run continuously from deployment until we collect them post operation. There are grids in three

separate sites: '1080 to Zero' trial site, '1080 to Zero' trial site with deer repellent, and a non-treatment site.

*2. How often will lures / cameras be checked?*

How often the lures/cameras will be checked depends on the species the camera is monitoring, how long the lure lasts, what the lure type is, and the survey period.

*3. We request that we receive reports during the course of your monitoring as and when they are prepared*

Reports will be posted on [www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz](http://www.predatorfreerakiura.org.nz) as they become available.

*4. Who has ultimate responsibility for the monitoring plan/s - which member/s of staff (DOC/ZIP)*

The responsibility for the monitoring plans sits at the Manager level within the Department of Conservation.

*5. Who will be carrying out the fieldwork and what are their credentials / experience?*

Field teams will be made up of DOC staff and contractors. All field members will be experienced backcountry field workers highly skilled in monitoring protocols.

*6. How much lure will be placed in each container and how often will lures be replaced?*

For the rodent focused trail camera monitoring we are using ZIP's H2Lure. For the feral cat focused camera monitoring we are using a fresh rabbit meat bait, with rabbit infused terracotta balls which are replaced once in the middle of the 28-day survey period.

*7. Are you planning to have cameras setup without lures? And if not why not?"*

All cameras will be lured. Research has shown that trail camera detections of feral cats significantly increases if cats are attracted to the area in front of the camera by a suitable lure. Lures can result in clearer images as they cause animals to linger in front of the camera. This makes species and individual animal identification easier. While lures can influence animal movement, studies have shown they don't necessarily bias density estimates or other key metrics, provided that the attractant is used consistently.

*8. You made a statement at the 27th May 2025 meeting that ornithologists had accompanied you when setting up lures/cameras. Please provide full names and credentials of all persons involved in setting up with you as indicated at the meeting?*

I am unable to provide you with full names and credentials of people involved in the monitoring operations. This information is being withheld to prevent undue pressure on officials, under

section 9(2)(g)(ii) – to protect Ministers, officials, or employees from improper pressure or harassment.

*9. Will these same people be involved on an ongoing bases or will you be constantly changing monitoring personnel?*

Staff involved in this work will change on a regular basis. Now that the monitoring grid networks have been established, the primary role of staff is to collect memory cards.

*10. What reports did you and your group prepare and please may we have copies of these reports?*

Reports will be compiled once the monitoring has been completed. These will be made publicly available.

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) may be published on DOC's website.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Reddiex'.

Ben Reddiex  
Director National Programmes  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*