

A Community Initiative

Towards a

Pest-Free Kowau

05 October 2023



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Pest-Free Kawau - A Community Initiative

05 October 2023

Executive Summary

The Feasibility Report for eradication of animal pests from Kawau Island prepared by Julie Alach and Richard Griffiths was presented to the Kawau Island community in August 2023. We acknowledge the significant value of the detailed research that has been completed in that report; and hope that their knowledge may be further utilized as the project's plans firm up.

Reactions across Kawau Island's community to the Feasibility Report have been polarizing, with strong views expressed. More than 300 submissions were made in response to the consultation process.

Importantly, while there is undeniably almost universal support for the aims of the programme to achieve eradication of wallabies, possums, stoats and rats on Kawau, the methodologies proposed were contentious.

This Proposal provides a detailed and costed alternative methodology which will make good progress towards the overall goals that are agreed by all. It has been prepared in consultation with a wide range of Kawau property owners, and has also employed further input based on details of other pest eradication projects completed throughout New Zealand.



The Alternative Proposal is strongly focused on community initiatives. Use of local volunteers for most of the rat eradication work; and extension of the activities if the island's well-known hunting and pest control contractors under management of the Pohutukawa Trust, is planned.

The methodologies proposed give effect to the Feasibility Report's well-substantiated plan for initial eradication of wallabies through extended hunting activity. This is the primary basis for Separable Portion 1. Possums and stoats can also be cost-effectively targeted as part of this Separable Portion.

Rat Eradication is the subject of Separable Portion 2. The valuable assistance of Restore Rodney East (RRE), the Rodney Local Board's pest-free coordinators, has been offered. Their team's experience in coordination of dozens of pest eradication projects across the Rodney area will contribute systems, training, and invaluable support to this part of the project.

Kawau's communities are concentrated in the bays on the western side of the island. Existing community-led mature pest control programmes are already under way in most of these locations, as well as across the large landholdings on the eastern side of the island.

Neighbourhood coordinators will deploy, monitor and replenish bait stations throughout the residential areas; while Pohutukawa Trust's experience personnel will be responsible for deployment and management of bait stations in more remote areas. RRE's Rodney East coordinator Sarah Churchouse and Chair Tim Armitage have provided valuable inputs and are ready to support management and coordination of this Separable Portion.

Critically, the bait to be used will include Double Tap, which unlike Brodifacoum holds little risk of secondary poisoning for non-target species and minimal risks for pets and children. This alone will save significant expenditure for non-target species mitigation and domestic pet management.

Following two years from initial deployment, after November 2025 a detailed review will then estimate what further work will be necessary to achieve full pest eradication; what methodologies will be effective and acceptable to property owners; and what further funding will be required.

Critically, this Alternative Proposal can be initiated immediately.

Furthermore, its costs are very significantly less than the \$6.5 million budget proposed previously, and the first two Separable Portions can be achieved within the \$2.7 million funding that has already been secured.

Kawau's communities are ready, enthusiastic, and can be united through implementation of the methods outlined in this proposal. With the support of Council, Rodney Local Board, and Pohutukawa Trust, we can achieve great progress together towards a pest-free Kawau Island.

Pest-Free Kawau - A Community Initiative

05 October 2023

Separable Portion 1 – Wallaby, Rat and Possum Eradication

Separable Portion 1 will involve mobilization of an extended team of six to eight hunters on the island. Residential bases will be established in:

1. The North of the island (most likely North Cove)
2. South Cove

Hunters will initially be deployed in pairs, with those experienced with Kawau's terrain working alongside the new team members. The island's terrain and tracks will be divided into block territories.

A boat will be made available from an islander who has already offered to provide access into remote bays and improve the reach and efficiency of night hunting operations. All hunting activity will take place at night, using thermal scopes and thermal drones to locate wallabies in the first six-month period.

An additional electric vehicle will be purchased to add to the Argo pictured here, which is operated by the Trust. However, at the conclusion of the project, its purchase costs approx. \$35,000 will be partially recovered, net of depreciation.

For the first two months, the hunting team will be continuously deployed with a rotation of the team every week.



Pohutukawa Trust's professional contractors, Wild Animal Control NZ, have successfully undertaken wallaby hunting, throughout Kawau over the past 15 years. They also have extensive experience in a wide range of pest control and eradication operations; including trapping and ground baiting of possums, stoats and rats.

They are therefore ideally suited to complete that work over the 88% of the island that is remote from residential areas.

Due to their work over the past two decades, possum and wallaby numbers on Kawau have dropped dramatically and are now at threatened species levels.

Their team has state-of-the-art equipment and intimate knowledge of the tracks throughout the island. They have earned the trust of many islanders, who are happy to support the programme through direct donations

Based on the detailed knowledge of the Pohutukawa Trust Team, it is envisaged that sustained hunting over the first four months of the programme (April to September 2024) will be sufficient to reduce the wallabies numbers to minimal levels.

At that point, dog handlers will be brought in (expected to be 3-4 visits) to join hunting pulses and trained wallaby detection dogs will assist with location of the last surviving animals. This will be resourced either by the cullers' own dogs, or through a specialist organisation such as K9 detection services based in Te Puke (or another contractor recommended by Council), who provide fully trained wallaby detection dogs and handlers.

It is likely that wallabies within properties owned by opposers to culling can be lured out and culled.

If there is strong support from islanders and a willingness to keep a group of de-sexed male wallabies within a controlled zoo on DOC land at Mansion House, appropriate licenses are able to be secured from MPI, and agreement is reached on maintenance and well-being provisions for those animals, then this mechanism may mitigate opposition to wallaby culling from some quarters.

Further monitoring to check continued absence of wallabies after eradication is complete will take place on a quarterly basis by the Pohutukawa Trust. Trail cameras will be installed to continuously monitor animal activity at specified locations.

Pest-Free Kawau - A Community Initiative

05 October 2023

Possum, stoat, feral cat eradication

In the last 10 years, just two feral cats have been shot by Pohutukawa Trust's contractors; and no stoats have been sighted on Kawau for several years. Therefore, feral cats and stoats are not specifically targeted, however if any of these animals are sighted in the course of hunting or baiting operations, they will be dispatched.

Possum eradication has been almost completed on the island by Pohutukawa Trust, over the past 20 years. The few possums remaining on the island are concentrated on DOC land, with some straying into properties in that immediate vicinity (Schoolhouse Bay).

Subject to Pohutukawa Trust being granted permission to access to DOC land (which is currently not provided), possums will be shot and bait stations laid on the DOC property by the Pohutukawa Trust team.

Separable Portion 2: Community Rat Knock-Down

In planning this phase, we recognise that more than 80% of rats inhabit the residential areas and DOC land. This information is well substantiated from Pohutukawa Trust's contracted hunters who have traversed all of the island including residential areas, and easily identify and compare the density of rat populations in both the residential and remote areas with their thermal scopes. There are far fewer rats living on the more remote Eastern side of the island.

Kawau Islanders have a long and well established history of coordinated community projects to improve the environment.

These have included extensive efforts to address pest control as well as invasive plant management, estuary clean-ups and mitigating coastal erosion.

Community groups for pest control are well established and have been active over several years in North Cove, Vivian Bay, and Schoolhouse Bay, among others.



Kawau community members have demonstrated enthusiastic support to deploy and monitor traps in their areas; and programmes involving neighbourhood groups have run for several decades. There are existing longstanding pest control groups who are active in North Cove (Moana Cove and Starboard Arm), Vivian Bay, Swansea Bay, Schoolhouse Bay, and across the large private land holdings on the Eastern side of the island.



Following our delegation's meeting with Rodney Local Board Chair Brent Bailey in mid September, increased funding has been announced for pest-free initiatives in Rodney East.

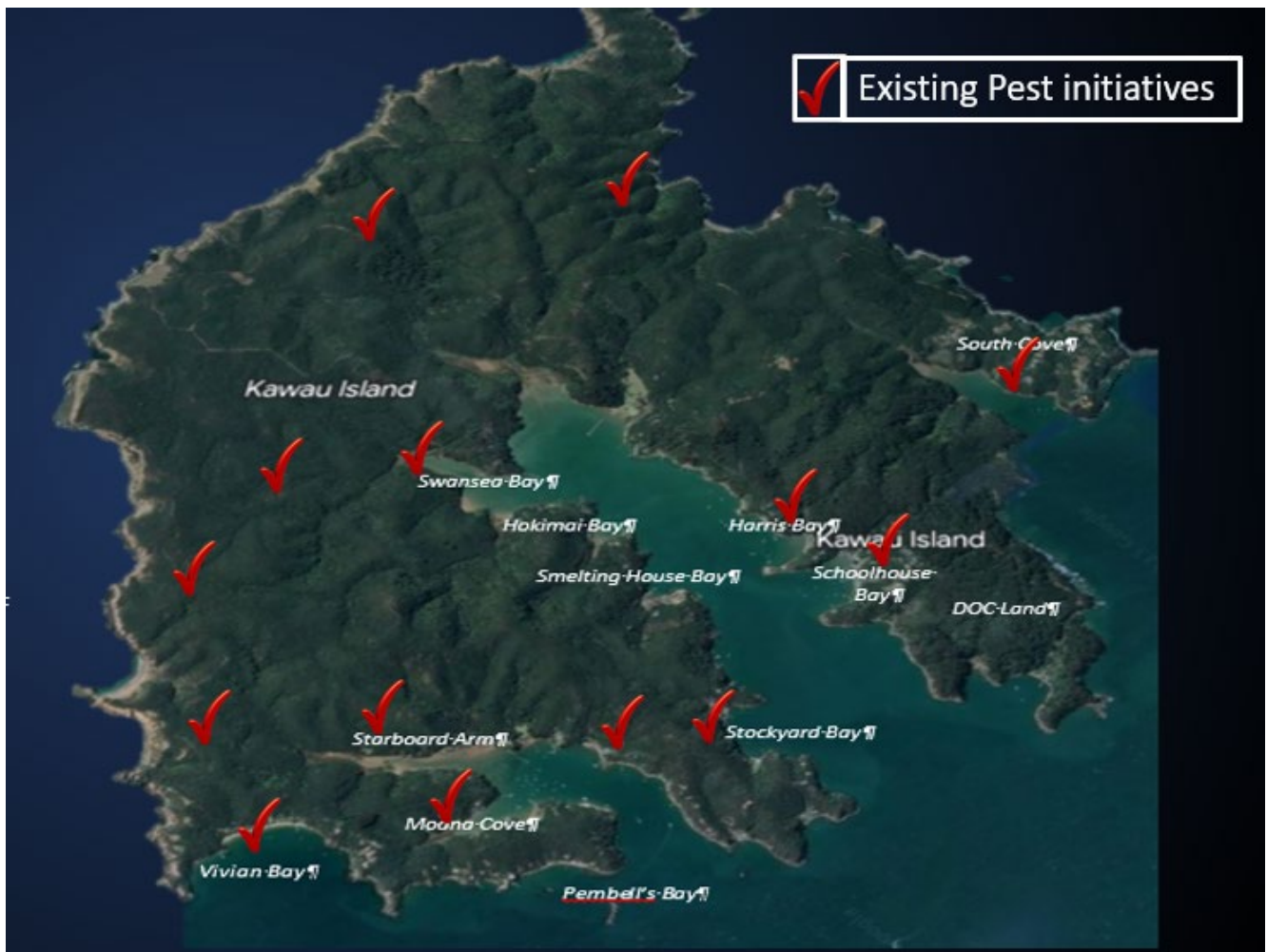
A further meeting with Rodney East and West coordinators and chair in September has confirmed they will support Kawau Island through their Restore Rodney East programme, coordinated by Sarah Churchouse with assistance from Restore Rodney East's Chair, Tim Armitage.

Pest-Free Kawau - A Community Initiative

05 October 2023

Islanders will need little encouragement to participate in rat baiting maintenance programmes, provided they are given the bait and bait stations to deploy with instructions for their use.

Local community members who have existing community-based pest control activities in their areas are in the locations below. There is existing good coverage and a willingness to extend the reach of those initiatives.



A full list of areas where it is envisaged that 'Pest Free Kawau' community groups will be formed include:

- Vivian Bay
- Pembell's Bay
- North Cove – Moana Cove
- North Cove - Starboard Arm
- Stockyard Bay
- Smelting House Bay
- Hokimai Bay
- Swansea Bay
- Harris Bay
- Schoolhouse Bay
- South Cove

In addition, individual houses in bays between these areas will be provided with bait and bait stations and/ or asked if they will allow known other islanders to re-bait their rat traps.

All those responsible for deploying traps, monitoring bait uptake and replenishing bait will be trained in the use of the Trap.NZ app, which provides a free, user-friendly mechanism to collect and collate data from bait stations. This app will coordinate the data from Kawau Community Pest Control volunteers, Pohutukawa Trust contractors and/or DOC personnel to cover the performance and management of bait stations across all of Kawau. Overall monitoring and management will be undertaken by the Restore Rodney East coordinator.

Data collated using the Trap NZ app will enable cost-effective and efficient management of bait stations, including performance and replenishment requirements. Kawau residents in several areas are already familiar with the use of this app, and very willing to contribute in this way to this Pest-Free Kawau programme.

Pest-Free Kawau - A Community Initiative

05 October 2023

This Alternative Proposal will employ enclosed bait stations. Bait stations can be installed throughout the island, with between three to five traps per hectare – which is a significantly higher density than specified in Department of Conservation and Predator-Free 2050 guidelines (two per hectare).

Notably, this compares favourably with the density of rat traps laid to successfully eradicate the much higher infestation of rats on Rakino Island, which was 720 traps over 150ha or 4.8 traps per hectare. Rat populations on Kawau are not nearly as dense or pervasive as were experienced on Rakino leading up to the eradication programme in 2001 – 2002, since sustained rat trapping has taken place in most residential bays over many decades.

It is also notable that Aerial drops were not undertaken on Rakino as it was deemed these were unsuitable due to the privately owned residential areas with roof catchments for water tanks. Kawau has nearly six times as many houses than Rakino, and most are dependent on water catchments, both from roofs and from upstream sources.

This density of bait station placement provides solid coverage and extensive overlap within the territorial range of ship rats of 0.8 ha. The advantage of using the bait stations is that the bait will be fully enclosed and unable to be reached by any non-target species, including inquisitive wekas.

This has major benefits in cost and activity savings, as mitigations for non-target species and others (pets and children) will not be needed.

Two types of bait stations will be used. The majority of areas on the island can be serviced with basic “Dead Rat Café” tunnel traps priced at \$9.95, which will be supplied through Restore Rodney East.

A24 Good Nature (or similar) traps will be used in areas that are difficult to access by foot; as well as more public areas such as those DOC areas around Mansion House where there are risks of access by tourists or members of the public. Although more expensive (\$199 each), these require less frequent surveillance and are more secure than the Dead Rat Café traps.



Some islanders already have had detailed training in bait line placement and replenishment, both for Auckland Council programmes and community initiatives on Kawau.

A comprehensive community-led programme by North Harbour Custodians has been running in

Rat Eradication in Remote areas

The contractors used by Pohutukawa Trust are well known to and trusted to access private properties of many islanders. They are experienced in ground baiting for rodent control over extended areas much larger than the 2058 ha area on Kawau; and with equally steep and rugged terrain in places.

As is currently normal practice, the Pohutukawa Trust contractors (and/or community members) will take responsibility for rat eradication in all of the non-residential areas (approx. 1500 ha). 4500 bait stations will be installed in those areas.

Some tracks may need to be cleared to enable this; however this is an activity that some Kawau Islanders will be happy to contribute to. The majority of the area to be serviced is lightly forested, with easy aspect for bait station placement and servicing.

Pest-Free Kawau - A Community Initiative

05 October 2023

Ten Dead Rat Café stations can be positioned and loaded per hour by an experienced contractor; and three A24 traps per hour can be installed. Ongoing monitoring and replenishment of bait at bait stations in these areas will be undertaken by Pohutukawa Trust contractors. Pohutukawa Trust contractors will also monitor bait stations on more isolated properties where owners or neighbours are unable to service them.

Intensive checking and bait replenishment will be done on all Dead Rat Café tunnel bait stations in remote areas. Frequency of checking will be twice weekly in the first two months, and thereafter every two weeks for the remainder of the first year. After that date, frequency will be reviewed depending on the success of the programme to date.

A24 stations will be checked every six weeks for the first two months; thereafter every three months to refresh the lures. All bait station positions will be marked electronically and physically (with ribbon marking or similar). As per the Auckland Council guidelines, the locations of all bait stations across the island will be registered on the free Trap NZ app, together with the contact details of those who take up responsibility for monitoring and replenishing them.

Rat Eradication in DOC -Managed Areas

DOC land covering the area from Mansion House Bay through to Sunny Bay and the area through to Dispute Cove and the Coppermine is expected to be managed by DOC staff, in conjunction with the project manager (and potential assistance from the Pohutukawa Trust team). This will depend on permission being granted for Pohutukawa Trust personnel or community pest control coordinators to access DOC land.

Bait stations will be placed at spacings of approximately five per hectare in these areas, twice the density recommended in the manufacturer's and Predator Free Trust guidelines.

This additional density is proposed as it is known that there are high concentrations of rats in DOC-controlled areas.

Coordination and Management of Separable Portion 2

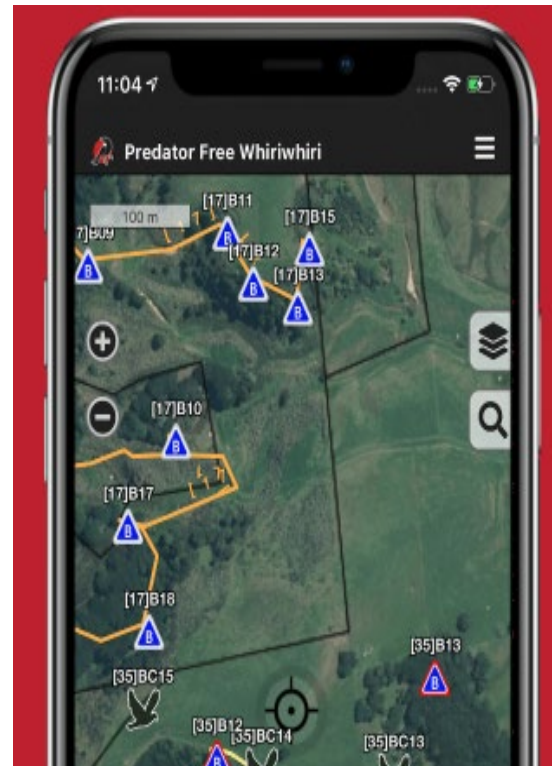
The success of this programme will require excellent leadership, coordination and project management, particularly if the aspects that will be undertaken within residential land.

The activities involved in remote areas can be smoothly continued under the well-established management of the team of contractors operating under Pohutukawa Trust. It is also envisaged that Pohutukawa Trust and its supporters will coordinate volunteers to assist with track clearance.

Coordination of other aspects involving work within the residential areas will be managed by community volunteers whose activities will be coordinated by the Restore Rodney East Coordinator, whose work is proven with responsibility for more than 20 similar community groups involved in pest-free programmes throughout Rodney.

Work in the initial set-up period will involve:

1. Securing hardware and consumables, including bait stations, bait and sundry items
2. Transport and arrangement of storage at 'Pest Free' community team locations on the island



Trap.NZ is a free service used throughout NZ for recording trap, bait, monitoring and biodiversity outcome data. It is easily managed on a smartphone App, and will be enabled for all those who monitor bait stations across Kawau.

It will be extensively used by the Kawau Community Pest Free coordinators in each of the areas across the island as well as Pohutukawa Trust and/or DOC staff.

The collated data will enable remote management by the RRE Coordinator, including identification of bait stations that require replenishment as well as the performance of the programme towards its goals of rat eradication.

Pest-Free Kawau - A Community Initiative

05 October 2023

3. Coordination and training of operational Pest Free Kawau teams of residents in each major bay
4. Distribution of bait stations and bait

Following the initial deployment, the ongoing tasks will be predominantly:

5. Checking the ongoing monitoring and management by voluntary community Pest control leaders of replenishment of bait stations and re-setting traps in residential areas. This will be facilitated through use of via TrapIt, a free software application that will locate every trap on the island and monitor surveillance by community members and Pohutukawa Trust contractors.
6. Regular coordination with Pohutukawa Trust in relation to bait station monitoring and replenishment throughout the remote areas of the island.
7. Reporting progress and outcomes on a quarterly basis

After the establishment period, the time required for ongoing monitoring is expected to be less than a day each week.

Use of Double Tap Option

The 'Double Tap' combination of Diphacicone, a low level anticoagulant, with Cholecalciferol, is more palatable to rats and does not induce bait shyness. It has equal or better efficacy in eradicating rats. It is more humane; and has been successfully employed to eradicate rats in Greater Wellington Regional Council areas among others. Double Tap does not induce significant secondary poisoning if consumed by non-target species, and presents little or no risk to pets and children.

Use of Double Tap in enclosed bait stations will also bring major cost savings, as mitigation of poisoning to non-target native bird species and domestic animal risk management will not be required.

As confirmed by Restore Rodney East Chair Tim Armitage, Double Tap is overall more cost-efficient than Brodifacoum as less quantity is needed.

Brodifacoum is not permitted to be used on DOC land because of its risks to native birds via secondary poisoning. Hence bait stations will use Double Tap in those locations. Many Kawau Islanders are strongly opposed to the use of Brodifacoum on the same basis, so this option will be more acceptable within the community. Landowners will be given a choice of whether to use Double Tap, Brodifacoum, or A24 Good Nature traps on their properties. Double Tap will be encouraged as the most cost-effective and least risk option.

Bait stations will be checked and re-baited in accordance with Auckland Council Knockdown and Maintenance Guidelines for 1st generation toxins for rat eradication. Initial frequency will be twice each week for the first two months. Re-baiting after that period is expected to be done on average every 2-3 weeks. Pohutukawa Trust contractors will complete these checks where property owners and/ or neighbours are unable.

Community Pest Control coordinators will be tasked with reporting on the uptake of bait at each location on a monthly cycle over the first 12 months, and the monitoring frequency will be reviewed after that period. The Restore Rodney East Pest-Free Coordinator will coordinate all activities and monitoring.

In fully enclosed bait stations, Cholecalciferol can therefore be used safely in residential areas, removing risks to pets and children and avoiding widespread deaths in non-target native birds.

It will also mean no disruption to commercial operations including Camp Bentzon. Furthermore, islanders and visitors will not be reticent or prevented from safely bringing their full families to Kawau throughout the programme period.

This has the critical benefit that the programme will bring no consequent risks to dependent businesses (in particular, Kawau Cruises, which is critical to islanders' access and safety; and is extremely vulnerable to even small down-turns in its revenues).

Pest-Free Kawau - A Community Initiative

05 October 2023

Budgets

Separable Portion 1 Budget: Wallaby/ Possum/ Stoat Eradication by Pohutukawa Trust

The detailed budget below is based on a fully developed methodology for Separable Portion 1 – completion of eradication of Wallabies, Possums and stoats across Kawau.

This envisages an intensive programme through the winter of 2024, followed by monitoring over the following 18-month period. Pohutukawa Trust is the obvious choice of contractor that should be directly appointed to undertake this work (in accordance with Government Procurement Rule #14). Key reasons for this are:

- They have unrivalled detailed local knowledge spanning over two decades of the island's fauna and topography, including comprehensive knowledge of the tracks on the island, its hazards, and where the pest animals are concentrated. They also have extensive expertise in hunting, trapping and baiting for pest eradication.
- Their contractors, Wild Animal Control NZ, are well known and trusted by many landowners, which is not easily or quickly achieved on Kawau. They have been hosted at private properties in several locations on the island over many years; and this would simply not be available to a new contractors.
- Notably, these professional hunters are fully equipped with the latest pest control equipment. They do not require budget to be set aside for purchase of any equipment (noting that purchase of firearms by Council, as indicated in the Feasibility Report budget, would be illegal).

The indicative budget breakdown for their activity over the period to November 2025 is indicated below:

Management	\$ 100,000	Includes community liaison and agreements, coordination of hunters, trappers and dog handlers
Wallaby Team	\$800,000	Full time 8 hunters (rotating over four months); followed by monthly pulses over up to two years
Dog handlers	\$ 80,000	Four visits, two dog handlers - K9
Possum and Stoat Traps	\$ 5,000	Note access to DOC land needs to be secured - RRE assisting with this.
Possum/ Stoat trapping team	\$50,000	Covered by WAC team over four months, followed by monthly pulses over up to two years
Vehicle	\$15,000	Provisional sum \$35k for electric vehicle, less recovery costs at end of project \$20k
Fuel	\$5,000	
Travel	\$5,000	To and from Island
Boat use - fuel	\$2,000	Volunteer donation
Consumables	\$5,000	Includes lures, signage, etc.
Trail cameras	\$ 50,000	Provisional sum
Accommodation	\$50,000	Two houses, \$400/week, one year total (4 months continuous, then part time)
Contingency	\$ 100,000	

The Budget for this Separable Portion is \$1.27 Million

05 October 2023

Pest-Free Kawau - A Community Initiative

05 October 2023

Separable Portion 2 Budget: Community-based Rat Knock-Down Programme

The key benefit of Separable Portion 2 is its use of keen community volunteers rather than paid externals for a large portion of the activities required for rat control.

The combination of community volunteers, led through Pest-Free Coordinators from Restore Rodney East and supplemented (in remote areas) by the well-known and accepted Pohutukawa Trust contractors, will not only enable major savings but also will serve to unite the community's efforts towards a Pest-Free Kawau.

The indicative budget breakdown for this Separable Portion is provided below:

Management	\$ 50,000	Coordination from Restore Rodney East/ Auckland Council: Note recent increase in budget of \$158,000. Covers four months initial plus one day/ week two years
Advisory	\$ 20,000	
Bait stations – residential	\$ 15,500	Intensive Residential areas 5 per hectare / 310ha = \$15500
Bait stations – remote private	\$ 45,000	Remote Private areas 3 per ha 1500 ha = \$45000
Bait stations – steep/ inaccessible private	\$ 20,000	Additional 100 x A24 stations for steep areas for remote land
Bait stations – DOC land	\$ 12,500	DOC land added intensity 5 per ha / 250ha = \$12500
Rodent Bait	\$500,000	Use of Double Tap - more economical than Brodifacoum overall and no secondary poisoning
Vehicle		Vehicle provided in SP1 for wallaby culls
Remote area bait station placement	\$ 36,000	Done via Pohutukawa Trust - 1500 ha; 4500 stations 10 per hour = 450 hours @ \$80/hour
A24 bait station installations	\$ 5,000	Remote additional traps installation 3 per hour; 33 ha = 100 stations - Say 40 hours @ \$80 = 3200
Bait station servicing	\$ 570,000	Remote areas only plus DOC land = 1750ha = 5500 stations; 30 per hour = 183 hours @ \$80 =\$15000 per cycle. Twice weekly first two months \$240,000; thereafter every two weeks for first year \$330000.
Trail cameras		Included with those for SP1
Contingency	\$ 100,000	

The Budget for this Separable Portion is \$1.34 million.

Separable Portion 3: Review and Final Rat Eradication

It has been widely acknowledged that additional funds beyond the \$2.7 million already secured will be needed to effect complete eradication of rats from Kawau; and further funds will also be needed for maintenance and surveillance activities needed to mitigate reinfestation.

The required methodologies and consequent costs of these activities cannot be estimated until the effectiveness of Separable Portions 1 and 2 in eradication of wallabies, possums and stoats is completed and rat populations are severely knocked down. It is likely to be challenging to secure additional funds in the next two to three years as Council expenditure is under massive pressure to be cut back.

It is hoped that by the time Separable Portion 3 is ready to be implemented, the effects of Separable Portions 1 and 2 will have had a strong effect on reducing the extent of activities needed for Separable Portion 3. It is also hoped that by then, current constraints on funding sources will be relieved and additional funding can be found.

Pest-Free Kawau - A Community Initiative

05 October 2023

Budget Savings

This Alternative Community Proposal brings considerable savings compared with the indicative budget included in the feasibility Report.

Items that will not be required (at least for Separable Portions 1 and 2) if this option is adopted are listed below:

Hand held GPS units	\$ 6,000	Provided by Pohutukawa Trust contractors
Firearms	\$16,800	Provided by Pohutukawa Trust contractors
Ammunition	\$12,000	Provided by Pohutukawa Trust contractors
VHF radios	\$10,800	Provided by Pohutukawa Trust contractors
Tools for cutting and marking trails	\$20,000	Provided by Pohutukawa Trust contractors
Thermal scopes	\$39,000	Provided by Pohutukawa Trust contractors
Domestic animal risk management	\$36,000	Not required if Brodifacoum not used
Food waste management	\$ 22,000	Not required if Brodifacoum not used
Vehicle	\$230,000	Recovery costs only required - very expensive vehicle!
Mechanical bait loading	\$44,000	Not required/ included
Accommodation	\$319,000	Accommodation for hunting team factored in, no accommodation needed for islanders
Food	\$182,000	Provided by Pohutukawa Trust contractors; not required for islanders
Non-target species mitigation	\$440,000	Not required if Brodifacoum not used
Transport of rodent bait	\$49,500	Provided by Pohutukawa Trust contractors
Shipping container hire	\$ 27,500	Not required
Transport for supplies and equipment	\$ 6,000	Provided by Pohutukawa Trust contractors
Phone, internet, office rental	\$54,000	Not required
Community Liaison	\$200,000	Covered by Pohutukawa Trust Management
Property Management Agreements	\$240,000	Covered by Pohutukawa Trust Management
Team for set up of rat/stoat and possum eradication	\$480,000	Provided by Pohutukawa Trust contractors
Team for ground based rat eradication	\$320,000	Provided by Kawau Island Community
Team for aerial bait application	\$120,000	Not required
Team for follow-up surveillance/ demobilisation	\$200,000	Provided by Kawau Island Community
Transport to and from Kawau	\$130,000	Not required
Boat Transport around Kawau	\$ 64,800	Not required - provided on volunteer basis to Pohutukawa Trust
Helicopter	\$220,000	May be required for SP3 if aerial drops are employed
Detection	\$60,500	Provided by Kawau Island Community
Drone detection	\$ 48,000	Provided by Kawau Island Community

Total Budget for this Alternative Community Proposal = \$2.61m

The Full costs of Separable Portion 1 and 2 as outlined in this proposal are \$2.61 million, which is within the \$2.7 million funding that has already been secured from Auckland Council and Pest-Free 2050.

While it is acknowledged that further funding will be needed for completion of eradication of rates in Separable Portion 3, adoption of this proposal will enable good progress to be made towards pest eradication while that additional funding is sought.

Pest-Free Kawau - A Community Initiative

05 October 2023

Conclusion

This report has been developed using the detailed research completed in the Feasibility Report prepared by Island Conservation. It has also relied on in-depth research, benchmarking and contributions from a large number of additional sources.

These have included those who have intimate knowledge of the Kawau environment and topography; its community groups; the known locations and habits of the animal pests targeted in the programme; and details of comprehensive successful pest eradication initiatives on Kawau over the past 20 years as well as programmes undertaken in other locations throughout New Zealand.

Key benefits of this alternative proposal are:

1. **Community buy-in:** It will address the majority of community concerns expressed in submissions in response to the Feasibility Report. In particular, it will address the predominant concerns about the methodologies proposed to be used on private properties, and the risks to non-target species as well as pets and children.
2. **A united, localized approach:** It will unite the Kawau community to work together with Council, its consultants, the Local Board towards a pest-free Kawau Island. The methodology in this alternative puts control of the pest-free programme on private land into the hands of the land owners, with the benefit of guidance of Council and its local coordinators and consultants where needed.
3. **Leveraging existing knowledge and expertise:** The methods make best use of the existing expertise and knowledge of the Pohutukawa Trust team, whose unrivalled knowledge of pest control methods, trust from islanders, and extensive familiarity with the island's topography and risks will maximise the immediate deployment and effectiveness of the programme.
4. **Cost-effective and achievable within the current secured budget:** This alternative is affordable, now, within the budgeted funds already secured from Auckland Council and Predator-Free 2050. Further funding will need to be secured for complete eradication, which will be challenging in the current fiscal constraints experienced by Auckland Council. Completion of Separable Portions 1 and 2 will enable fast progression towards the goal of a fully pest-free Kawau while that additional funding is sought.
5. **A flagship for Council and community collaboration:** Lastly, this proposal has the potential to be a flagship for Council in engagement with and support of enthusiastic, competent and committed community volunteers to implement a programme on their own private land, that will benefit current and future generations; and contribute significantly towards the vision of a pest-free New Zealand in 2050.

We ask that Council's Kawau Island Project Steering Group and Island Eradication Advisory Group considers this proposal seriously.

It is a collaborative, efficient, acceptable, humane and significantly cheaper alternative. This option will be acceptable to the vast majority of private landowners on Kawau.

It will unite this tight-knit community together with Council to protect and enhance native bird populations that they are already proud and passionate to care for; and achieve everyone's goal for substantive ecological benefits to biodiversity on Kawau.