

## **BACKGROUND ON PREDATOR FREE 2050 FOR HAURAKI GULF FORUM PRESENTATION**

### **An ambitious goal**

Predator Free 2050 is an ambitious goal to rid New Zealand of the most damaging introduced predators that threaten our nation's natural taonga, our economy and primary sector.

Ridding New Zealand of possums, rats and stoats by 2050 is a New Zealand-wide goal. It will require new techniques and a co-ordinated team effort across communities, iwi, and the public and private sectors.

Predator Free 2050 will deliver huge benefits across New Zealand – for the social and cultural links with our environment, for our regional economies through primary industries and tourism and for our threatened native species.

### **Building from a strong base**

New Zealand is a world leader in conservation technology and research. We have already made progress that was once unthinkable because of:

- tens of thousands of committed community volunteers and private landowners who are already working on habitat protection
- philanthropic and community-led initiatives, including fenced sanctuaries, large-scale predator control projects like Cape to City in the Hawkes Bay and Project Janszoon in Abel Tasman National Park, and predators being targeted across whole suburbs
- significant investment in predator management by regional councils and OSPRI
- new predator control techniques such as self-resetting traps and predator-specific toxins
- continual refinement of existing techniques to make them safer and more cost effective (eg GPS guided aerial application of 1080).

We have cleared all predators from more than 100 islands, and trials are under way to secure mainland sites.

### **A goal that can be achieved**

Although we don't have the technology now to achieve a predator-free New Zealand, Predator Free 2050 will provide a focus on developing breakthrough predator control tools and techniques and forging the networks needed to make the vision happen.

Predator Free 2050 aims to connect the efforts already underway across communities, iwi, private businesses, philanthropists, scientists and government.

The Government is showing its commitment with an additional \$28m over 4 years and \$7m per year thereafter. This is on top of over \$70 million already spent each year on predator control by government, regional councils, OSPRI, businesses, iwi, communities and others.

Existing predator control projects and campaigns already play a role in helping us achieve the long-term goal of being predator-free. These activities are essential to sustain our threatened species now, and are teaching us lessons for securing their future.

## **Why Predator Free 2050 is important**

Rats, stoats and possums kill millions of native birds every year and have pushed species to the brink of extinction. Managing just these three predators for agriculture and conservation costs over \$70 million each year. In 2016/17 the government invested \$20 million on top of this to protect species from an increase in predators caused by heavy seeding (or 'masting') of beech forests.

Predator Free 2050 will:

- remove the major threats to our native wildlife
- enhance economic return from agriculture and forestry and reduce risk of disease
- create new opportunities for regional development
- reinforce New Zealand's trade and tourism brand
- provide a legacy for future generations.

## **PF2050 Ltd**

A company has been established to administer the Government's funding, and seek further investment. The company will be a key player in achieving New Zealand's Predator Free 2050 ambition. Their role will be to direct investment into regionally significant predator eradication projects and the breakthrough science solutions required to achieve predator free status.

PF2050 Ltd will receive \$6 million per year of new Government funding to invest in regionally significant predator eradication projects and break-through science. It is expected to leverage additional contributions from business, local government and philanthropists of approximately \$10 million per year.

Combining the current \$70 million a year spent on predator control with the additional central and leveraged funding will result in a programme of investment estimated at more than \$3 billion through to 2050.

During a stocktake conducted in late 2016, DOC and councils have already identified 90 current and potential regional-scale projects across public and private land.

Jane Taylor has been appointed as chair of the nine-member Board. Ms Taylor is also the chair of Landcare Research and NZ Post.

The other eight directors are Sir Rob Fenwick, Chris Liddell, Jeff Grant, Gary Lane, Traci Houpapa, Warren Parker, David MacLeod and Arihia Bennett. The board held its first formal meeting in January.

## **Presenter**

Nicola Toki is DOC's threatened species ambassador and has been closely involved in the Predator Free 2050 initiative. She will provide an overview of the predator free goal, its drivers, current programme of work, and achievements to date. She will also facilitate a discussion on how this goal could be incorporated into/support the strategy for the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.