

APP202879 - PredaStop for feral cats

Submission Reference no: 71

Natalie de Burgh, Cape to City and Poutiri Ao ō Tāne (Natalie de Burgh)



Submitter Type: Not specified
Source: Web Form

Overall Notes:

Clause

What is your position on the application

Position

I support the application

Notes

The Poutiri Ao ō Tāne and Cape to City project team fully supports reducing the notification area for predaSTOP from 3km to 500m. As Connovation noted in their application, feral cats are significant predators of native wildlife in New Zealand, including birds, reptiles, bats, and insects. In the farmland context, feral cats are one of the most abundant predator throughout the landscape. The Cape to City predator control programme traps 6-8 feral cats to each mustelid caught. The inclusion of feral cat control in farmland predator control is integral to gaining biodiversity outcomes. Both Cape to City and Poutiri Ao ō Tāne are ecological restoration projects situated in the farmland context. Feral cat control in these projects has so far been limited to labour intensive trapping programmes. Our current trapping programme poses the same or arguably greater risk to domestic cats than a PAPP operation, yet we have not killed a single domestic cat throughout the two projects. We have estimated that PAPP has the potential to significantly decrease labour costs, potentially yielding similar knock down results in one month of staff time instead of six months over the same size area. Unfortunately for project areas like Cape to City, a 3km notification area presents a severe constraint on wide scale use of predaSTOP. We are currently not considering a wide scale predaSTOP operation in Cape to City unless the notification area decreases. Given the rapidly evolving field of predator control, and current planning for regional scale predator control the notification area will play a huge part in whether predaSTOP can be utilised as a cost effective and humane control tool. For these reasons, the Poutiri Ao ō Tāne and Cape to City project team would like to see a reduction in notification area. Such a reduction will influence our management strategy over the next four years and longer term with regional predator control roll out.

Clause

All submissions are taken into account by the decision makers. In addition, please indicate whether or not you also wish to speak at a hearing if one is held.

Position

No I do not wish to speak about my submission at the hearing

Notes

The submitter have elected to withhold their personal details from publication.