

# Towards Predator-Free Taranaki



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Towards Predator-Free Taranaki is a large-scale project aimed at restoring the sound and movement of our wildlife and rejuvenating native plants in urban and rural Taranaki, and protecting agriculture.



This is a massive opportunity for the region and for New Zealand. The support from Predator Free 2050 Ltd enables our region to protect and enhance native wildlife and plants, building on existing predator-control work.

Taranaki has unique advantages because of its relatively compact geography, its regional and national expertise in biodiversity and predator control, and strong community collaboration and enthusiasm at all levels.

This project is taking Taranaki forward and its success is in the hands of the people of the region. We'll be reaching out to schools, community groups, farmers and residents in different areas in the coming months as we enter new phases of the project.

David MacLeod  
Chairman, Taranaki Regional Council



## Urban

Urban residents are trapping rats and possums in their backyards to protect and rejuvenate native wildlife and plants. The programme has started in New Plymouth and other towns will be included as it progresses.

Community workshops are being held in suburbs throughout the city to offer information and support for residents to trap rats. The aim is to have one in five properties in New Plymouth trapping.

Subsidised box-tunnel rat traps, that are safe around pets and children, are available for \$10. Assistance is available for people unsure about trapping and suitable options will be discussed.

We're also working with people who are already trapping and building on the successful Urban Possum Control Programme in New Plymouth city.

New Plymouth District Council is increasing rat and mustelid (stoats, ferrets and weasels) trapping in its parks and reserves.



## Rural

The rural programme will start near New Plymouth and be progressively rolled out around the mountain.

A network of mustelid (stoats, ferrets and weasels) traps will be added to the Council's Self-Help Possum Control Programme which has already reduced possum numbers to below a ten percent catch rate.

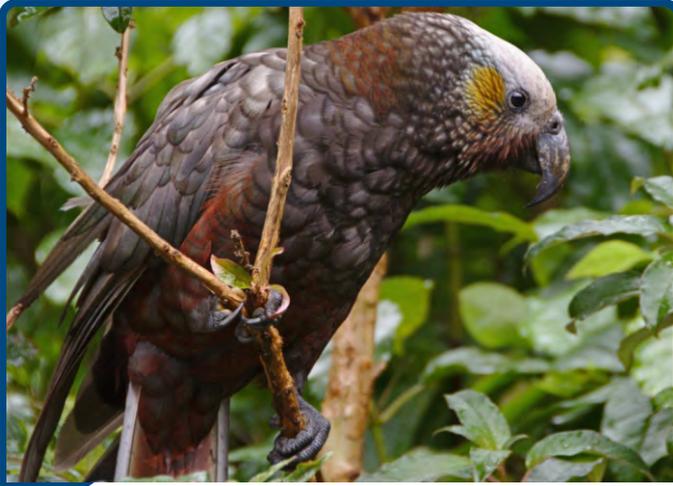
Landowners and occupiers will be contacted directly to discuss the best trapping options for their land. Remotely monitored traps will greatly improve efficiency for landowners managing their traps.

Intensive rat control will be carried out on sites which have been identified under the TRC Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) programme as having high biodiversity values.

The rural predator control programme will be coordinated with the predator control work of Taranaki Mouna Project on the mountain.



Go to [www.trc.govt.nz](http://www.trc.govt.nz) to register your interest or contact the Council on 0800 736 222



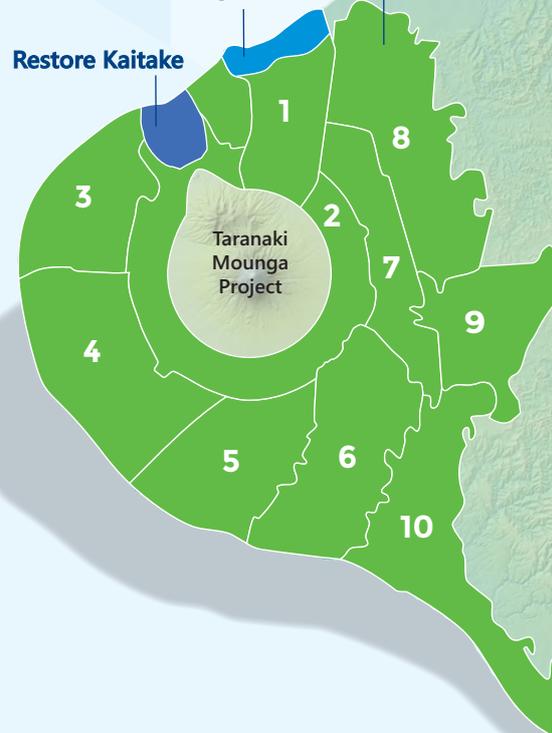
## Restore Kaitake

The vision of returning native birds like kākā and kiwi is driving the rejuvenation of native wildlife and habitats to restore the Kaitake area.

The Taranaki Regional Council, Taranaki Mounga Project, farmers, local community and schools are all working to remove possums, stoats and rats from the Kaitake Range, Oākura and surrounding areas down to the coast – an area of about 8,600 hectares.

A trial to eradicate all possums from the Kaitake Range will also help to restore Kaitake. The zero possum trial is part of a possum control operation across Egmont National Park in 2019. The Kaitake area will be defended from re-infestation by a 'virtual barrier' of 2,400 remotely monitored traps at Pukeiti.

Urban Programme  
Rural Programme  
Year by year



## Monitoring, technology and research

New research and technology, and the latest trapping techniques will help us to remove predators and prevent re-infestations.

Remotely monitored traps used in the rural programme send an alert when activated, making predator control easier and more efficient, even in remote areas.

Urban residents are using the Trap.NZ website and app to view predator control in their neighbourhood and record their catches.

In Restore Kaitake, innovative methods and technology will be used in a trial to completely remove possums and defend the area from re-infestation. Lessons and techniques from the trial will be shared, helping New Zealand achieve its predator-free aspiration. Motion-sensor cameras on the Kaitake Range will capture images of predators to help understand predator behaviour and distribution trends to aid the trapping programmes.

Predator populations and activity is monitored before trapping begins and after, to measure changes and the effectiveness of the programmes.



Similarly, native wildlife and plants are being monitored to measure changes in populations and diversity as a result of predator control.

Taranaki residents are encouraged to contribute to the insights from monitoring by recording their trap results and taking part in large-scale national citizen-science projects such as bird surveys.

# Towards Predator-Free Taranaki



 [restoretaranaki.nz](https://restoretaranaki.nz)

**E** [contact@wildfortaranaki.nz](mailto:contact@wildfortaranaki.nz)

  /restoretaranaki

## RESTORE TARANAKI

Many groups, organisations, iwi, councils, landowners and community groups are all working together to restore Taranaki's biodiversity.

The shared vision is abundant and diverse native wildlife and plants flourishing in Taranaki in the absence of invasive animal and pest plants, by 2050.

It will need the action and support of the entire Taranaki community to restore Taranaki and Towards Predator-Free Taranaki is one important step towards achieving this.