



# PREDATOR FREE RAKIURA

Restoring our natural haven  
**Rakiura, mauri ora**

## Participation Action Plan 2020

Planning & action that moves us closer  
to our vision of Predator Free Rakiura

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# 1. Our Vision



To grow Rakiura / Stewart Island as a Taonga by working collaboratively towards a Predator Free Rakiura that allows ecosystems and community to thrive and benefit from each other

## 1.1 Our Goals for Engagement and Participation

- A.** To proactively build diverse collaboration
- B.** To create a live and positive interface with all affected by our work
- C.** To expand reach and participation to build long term commitment and support
- D.** To demonstrate and communicate progress on the predator free goals



## 1.2 Our Values

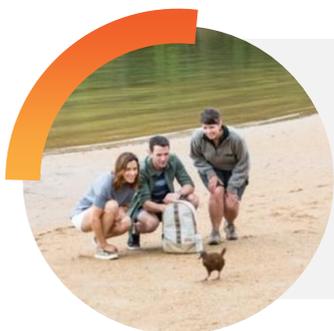
The following values and principles underpin our Vision and Goals.

### Values

- Collaboration and Cooperation
- Constructive, proactive and inclusive Dialogue
- Fostering Diversity and Innovation
- Commitment and Integrity
- Opportunity for Contribution and Valuing of Input
- Shared Leadership and Solution Design
- Compassion for all affected

### Principles

- **Honouring of our Cultural History:** "*Mo tatou, a, mo ka uri a muri ake nei*" – for us and for generations to come
- Linking our Predator Free Vision to **Environmental, Social, Cultural and Economic Benefits**
- **Harnessing Existing Knowledge** and working alongside the **latest Science and Technology**
- **Sustainable solutions** that are **beneficial to both ecosystem and community**
- **Willingness to share systems and solutions** with other places and communities



“When we look after the land and nature, we look after ourselves and our children”

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# 2. Context

## 2.1 The journey of Predator Free Rakiura

The concept of a Predator Free Rakiura has been alive for a long time. In 2008 the Stewart Island / Rakiura Community and Environment Trust (SIRCET) carried out initial scoping for the removal of rats, possums and feral cats. Tindall Foundation, DOC and the Morgan Foundations all expressed support and had initial involvement.

At the time, the removal predators across all of Rakiura and surrounding islands was considered technically infeasible, though since, the science and technology for predator control has moved in leaps and bounds. One of these earlier proposals was to remove predators in two phases, separated by a fence of 4800ha around Halfmoon Bay township as well as other scenarios.

Surveys and consultations in relation to the predator removal approaches resulted in strong support for the overall vision, as well as clear opposition to the erection of a fence, and the endorsement of manual trapping and poisoning methods. DOC provided a proposal for a coordinated toxin and trapping grid that would create a 'virtual' fence and may achieve community support as well as an alternate proposal aiming firstly on feral cat removal. Aerial predator control continues to draw mixed reactions, with some strong opposition to this method especially around the township.



The PFR Leadership Group was formed in 2014 and includes representatives from Te Runanga o Ngai Tāhu, Department of Conservation, Environment Southland, Southland District Council, Rakiura Māori Lands Trust, Rakiura Tītī Islands Administering Body, Rakiura Tītī Committee, fishing and aquaculture interests, hunting interests, business interests and the resident Stewart Island community. It provides guidance and leadership for this project and is now supported by an island-based Project Manager.

Alongside the exploration of the technical solutions evolved an increasing need for a solid platform of ongoing community, partner and stakeholder engagement. As part of this a Social Impact Assessment Research was carried out in 2017. The findings built on existing knowledge: strong support for increased predator management on Rakiura and a desire to see action on the ground, taking advantage of the latest technical solutions available. The key concerns included funding to enable the work, potential lifestyle and business impacts, costs of a biosecurity border to maintain what has been achieved, assurance about ongoing engagement with community, and what technical solutions other than aerial toxins may be available.

This Participation Action Plan builds on work done to date and provides guidance on how to continue to build participation and action on the ground for 2020 forward. The initial plan was created by the Leadership Group in April 2019, been endorsed and has been reviewed by the engagement group in October 2019.

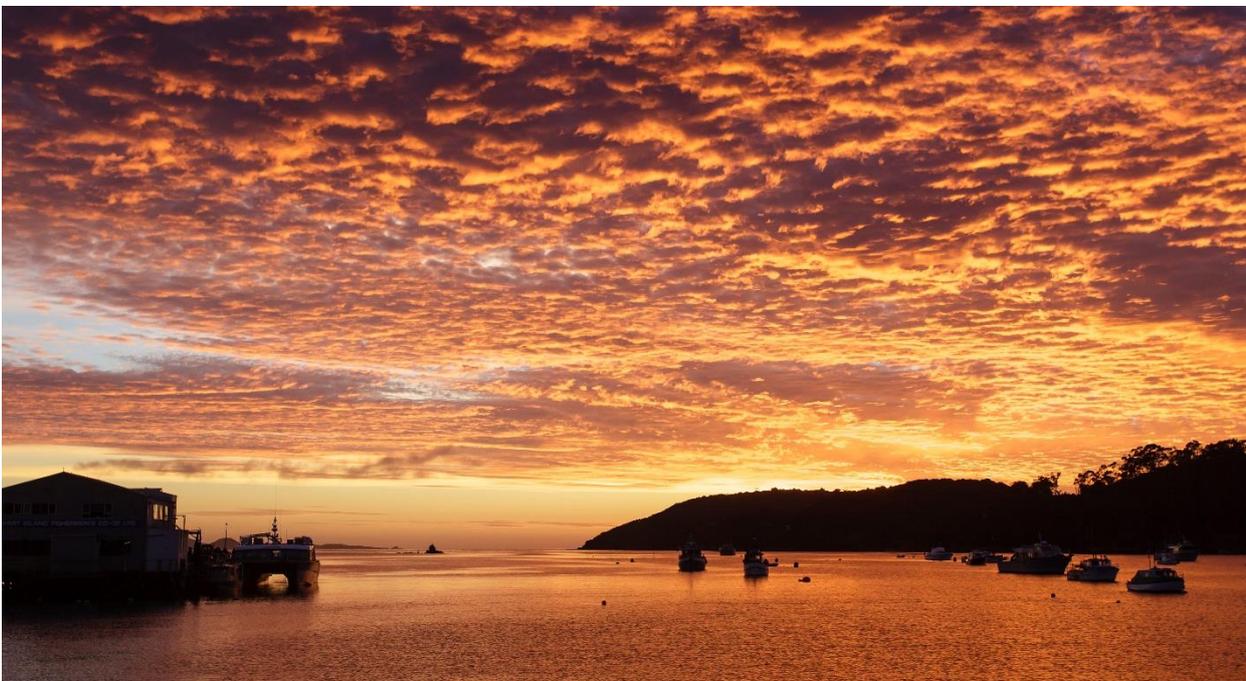
The Plan was endorsed in principle by the PFR LG in December 2019 and following minor adjustments and a review of timing by the Project Manager and Chair, finalised in February 2020.

## 2.2 Achievements to Date – as of October 2019

<p><b>Project Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A more planned and strategic approach to PFR emerging</li><li>• Funding pathway planned to set up project team (EoI)</li><li>• Memorandum of Understanding agreed on between all parts of the Leadership Group and signed at official public launch event, attended by the Min. of Conservation</li><li>• Island based project manager employed through MBIE funding. Renewal funding application for the future of the project submitted to the International Visitor Levy Fund.</li><li>• Strong partner support locally (Southland Council, DOC, Treaty Partner, Environment Southland, etc).</li><li>• Strong pro-active working groups in place to guide on 'engagement' and 'management' steps. (Technical Group yet to be formed).</li><li>• Leadership Group established clear vision and initial set of values and principles for project. Regular meetings, respectful relations and active participation.</li></ul> <p><b>National / Political Support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increasing national and political interest in project</li><li>• Ministers for Environment/Conservation/MBIE visit to project partners</li><li>• Increasing engagement from DOC at a national level</li><li>• Increased visibility to potential funders/ new partners</li><li>• Increased visibility and liaison with PF2050 and ZIP</li></ul>	<p><b>Environmental</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offers of support emerging; e.g. heli expertise, vet analysis, etc.</li><li>• Linking the threads of existing achievements in predator control: SIRCET, Titi Islands, Rakiura Māori Lands Trust (RMLT), DOC, BHMET (Bluff Hill Motupohue Environment Trust), etc. - ongoing</li><li>• Linking to Maukahuka Pest Free Auckland Island Project</li><li>• Meeting with Maree McEntee, Social Researcher AUT to share learning from Island Predator work around the world</li><li>• SIN Rat advice</li><li>• Follow up DOC proposal for predator removal and biosecurity grid for Halfmoon Bay area.</li><li>• Initial Morgan Proposal put forward of two stage approach of two geographic areas</li><li>• 2008 and 2013 Scoping and Feasibility Assessments</li></ul> <p><b>Cultural</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cultural values integrated in vision and values statements</li><li>• Cultural leadership provided by partners on the LG</li><li>• Representation of Ngai Tāhu, and Rakiura Māori through RMLT, RTIAB, RTC and rep of the 4 Papatipu Runaka being part of the LG.</li><li>• Titi Islands Group successes an inspiration for the project</li><li>• News updates in TRONT magazine</li><li>• Project posters produced and displayed at events for Rakiura Māori Lands Trust and Ngai Tāhu Hui a Iwi</li><li>• Predator Free Titi Islands</li></ul>
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## Achievements to Date continued - as of October 2019

<p><b>Community Engagement and Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community, partner and stakeholder mapping and prioritisation completed, building on the initial relationship mapping and providing clear guidance who to engage with and how.</li><li>• Geographical mapping showing all existing PF initiatives within the project area and its close neighbours</li><li>• Range of Communication Tools under development: Name, tagline and logo reviewed, website and video under development.</li><li>• Development of education program for Halfmoon Bay School, now underway and gaining strong local support</li><li>• Communities (to large extent) supportive of concept and support is growing.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mapping workshop looking at stakeholders across environmental, social, economic and cultural potential of the project</li><li>• Environment Southland Councillor Workshop Jan 2019</li><li>• Regular articles for Stewart Island News, Southland papers and Council magazines, Iwi publications, etc.</li><li>• Ongoing engagement with community through different channels</li><li>• Development of communication tools and channels for range of audiences; presented at different forums, AGMs, public events and shared with Rakiura Community April 2019.</li><li>• Social Impact Assessment Study completed with clear recommendations.</li><li>• Economic Appraisal carried out by the Morgan Foundation</li></ul>
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# 3. Process to Date

## 3.1 Purpose

**The purpose of this plan is to offer a pathway of actions that enhance participation and further build contributions towards making Predator Free Rakiura a reality.** (Please also refer to Goals on Page 4)

To achieve this purpose, we have used the following processes:

## 3.2 April 2019: Stakeholder mapping to build a Whariki of Engagement Action

The Leadership Group carried out a series of stakeholder mapping exercises, each yielding a different aspect in order to build a holistic picture. The full process included:

- Geographical overview identifying key relationships and different layers of geographical relevance
- Four Quadrant Analysis: noting potential gains for social, cultural, economic and environmental quadrant, and key enabling stakeholders for each
- Engagement Spectrum Analysis of Stakeholders and identifying who to focus on initially to build not just contribution but also resourcing
- Noting Potential Roadblocks vs Potential Common Ground and actions that flow from this
- Developing Initial Recommendations for Priority Action

## 3.3 October 2019: Revision of draft plan, critical issues and recommendations, resulting in:

The Engagement Group met and carried out the following:

- Review of critical issues
- Review of draft action plan against timeline and available resourcing
- Review and prioritisation of stakeholder action
- Setting clear goals for Engagement and Participation
  - A.** To proactively build diverse collaboration
  - B.** To create live and positive interface with all affected by our work
  - C.** To expand reach and participation to build long term commitment and support
  - D.** To demonstrate and communicate progress on the predator free goals
- Compilation of updated Action Table, in chronological order for ease of application to go to Leadership Group for endorsement

## 3.4 January 2020: Plan endorsement

The PFR Leadership Group endorsed the draft in principle in December 2019. Following minor changes and some adjustments to timing, the Plan was finalised in February 2020 by the Chair and Project Manager.