

**From:** waikatoconservationboard <waikatoconservationboard@doc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Monday, 21 September 2020 3:17 PM  
**To:** Mayor  
**Subject:** Long Term Plan - Funding for Conservation  
**Attachments:** Letter to Waitomo DC on LTP funding for conservation.pdf

Kia ora Mayor Robertson,

I am emailing you on behalf of the Waikato Conservation Board with their written letter in matters concerning funding for pest control and indigenous biodiversity promotion as part of 2021-31 Long Term Plan.

Please find the attached letter above.

Ngā mihi

**Shannon Watson**  
**Hamilton Office | Kirikiriroa**  
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21 September 2020

John Robertson  
Mayor  
Waitomo District Council  
By email: [Mayor@waitomo.govt.nz](mailto:Mayor@waitomo.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe John

### **Funding for pest control and indigenous biodiversity promotion as part of 2021-31 Long Term Plan**

The New Zealand government has set an ambitious and important goal of the country being predator free by 2050. Significant resources are being committed from central government to achieve this, as well as a strong commitment from community groups.

With development of council long term plans underway for the 2021-2031 period, the Waikato Conservation Board (the Board) would like to take the opportunity to encourage your council to allocate increased funding for pest control on your council controlled reserves, and to consider allocating funds to be available to support community groups undertaking pest control on private and council land in your area.

Achieving the target of New Zealand being predator free by 2050 will involve all parts of our communities coming together and offering what they can to this work. We encourage your council to think about what role you can play in achieving this important target alongside the other many important functions you undertake in your area.

COVID-19 has significantly changed the priorities and funding realities of councils across the country. The government has sent a strong signal through its Jobs for Nature programme that funding for environmental and conservation initiatives is an important part of New Zealand's economic recovery. The Board sees funding by councils for pest control and indigenous biodiversity in their areas as a key part of this, and there is now a range of funding and co-funding opportunities from government to support these initiatives.

The Board is looking to be more proactive on conservation and environment matters across the Waikato region, connecting with community groups and agencies alike who are working on conservation and environmental protection matters. If you would like to meet with me to discuss the relationship between Waitomo District Council and the Board, I would be more than happy to do so.

Nāku noa, nā



Alan Cockle  
Chair  
Waikato Conservation Board