

# Rerenga ki taonga o nga manu ki Kotuku Moana

The refuge of treasured  
birds belonging to Kotuku  
Whakaoho/Lake Brunner

The Lake Brunner catchment features some of the West Coast region's most spectacular scenery, is rich with Māori and early European history as well as rare ecosystems. It is also home to nationally threatened species. It was documented in the early 1800's for the richness of its bird life, even comparing it to the South American rainforests. Recognizing the threats facing the area, members of the local community, iwi and the Regional Council came together and submitted a proposal to Predator Free 2050 Limited to make a change.



THE WEST COAST  
REGIONAL COUNCIL



Supported by the Provincial Growth Fund



PROVINCIAL  
GROWTH  
FUND  
TUAWHENUA

## Vision

To halt the decline of the catchment's many endangered or threatened species, allowing them to thrive and eventually spurring their repopulation from the 'Mountains to the Sea'.

The Lake Brunner Community Catchment Care Group have been key on the ground partners in the development of this project. The project will align with their rat and stoat suppression trap line where possible, as well as previous control work undertaken by the Department of Conservation and OSPRI.

## Completion of a 5-year Predator Free 2050 programme that will achieve:

- Total eradication of the possum breeding population on Mt Te Kinga
- Protection from reinvasion through a range of methods.

The programme will create wildlife corridors along the rivers and gullies through the catchment that will help the natural dispersal of birds between the surrounding ranges and Mt Te Kinga.

## How will this be achieved?

- Use of new innovative predator control methods from Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP) research that have proven successful in other areas. More information can be found at [www.zip.org.nz](http://www.zip.org.nz)
- Placement of nearly 1,200 trapping and detection devices around the programme area
- The laying of 72km of traplines across Te Kinga
- Collection of data to understand the pressure areas and seasonal movements of predators
- Construction of an 8,563m possum fence along the western edge of Te Kinga if pressure from the Hohonu ranges is found to be significant
- Providing landowners in the protection zones with high tech devices for predator control use and recording of catches
- West Coast Regional Council staff and Tai Poutini Polytechnic students will undertake work on Te Kinga and other conservation land, including covering the 1,205m mountain, wetlands and bush to place and check traps.

## Quick facts

### First Predator Free project on the West Coast

Total project area

**38,751ha**

Total community trapping area

**9,742ha**

Total investment

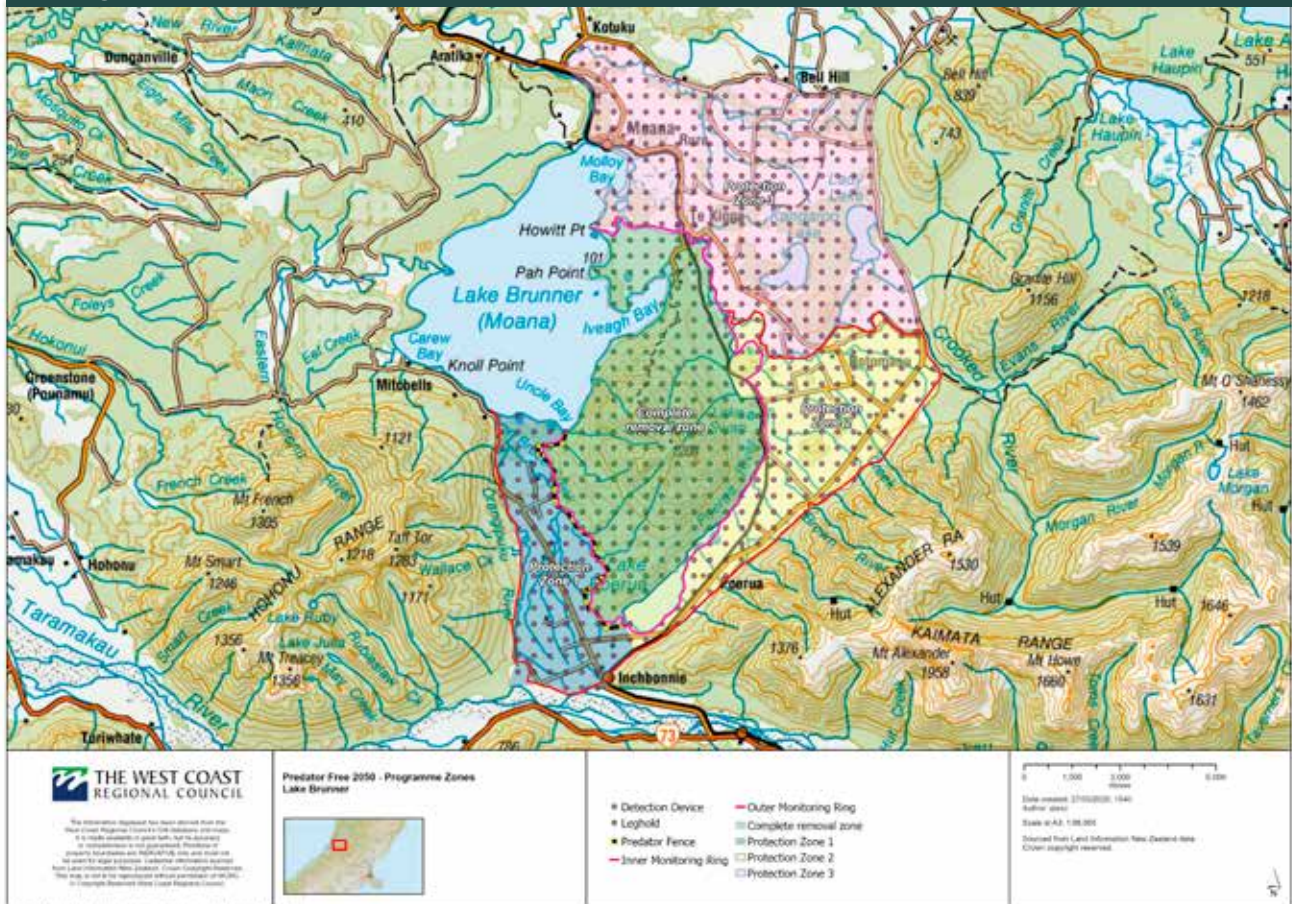
**\$15.7M**

including \$4.4M from the Provincial Growth Fund through Predator Free 2050 Limited

Will benefit a range of threatened or endangered species including kea, kaka, who, fernbird, bittern, blackbilled gulls, kakariki, parakeet, rifleman, brown creeper and recently confirmed raroa (great spotted kiwi)



## Programme zones map



## Did you know?

Lake Brunner, and its bird life, were the focus of one of New Zealand's most early significant bird studies.

Pioneering naturalist W.W. Smith said in 1888 "no more interesting or profitable district could be visited by the botanist or ornithologist in New Zealand than around the shores of Lake Brunner." He recounted "considerable numbers" of kiwi, "flocks" of yellowheads and saddlebacks and an "abundance" of parakeets. But he also recognised the increasingly rare sightings of the "remarkable" kākāpō, the "jubilant" New Zealand thrush (piopio) and the "beautiful" yellow wattled crow (South Island kōkako) and worried what the arrival of the railway and further settlement would bring.

Predator Free Te Kinga / Lake Brunner is the seventh large landscape project to be funded by Predator Free 2050 Limited and the first through Provincial Growth Fund support.

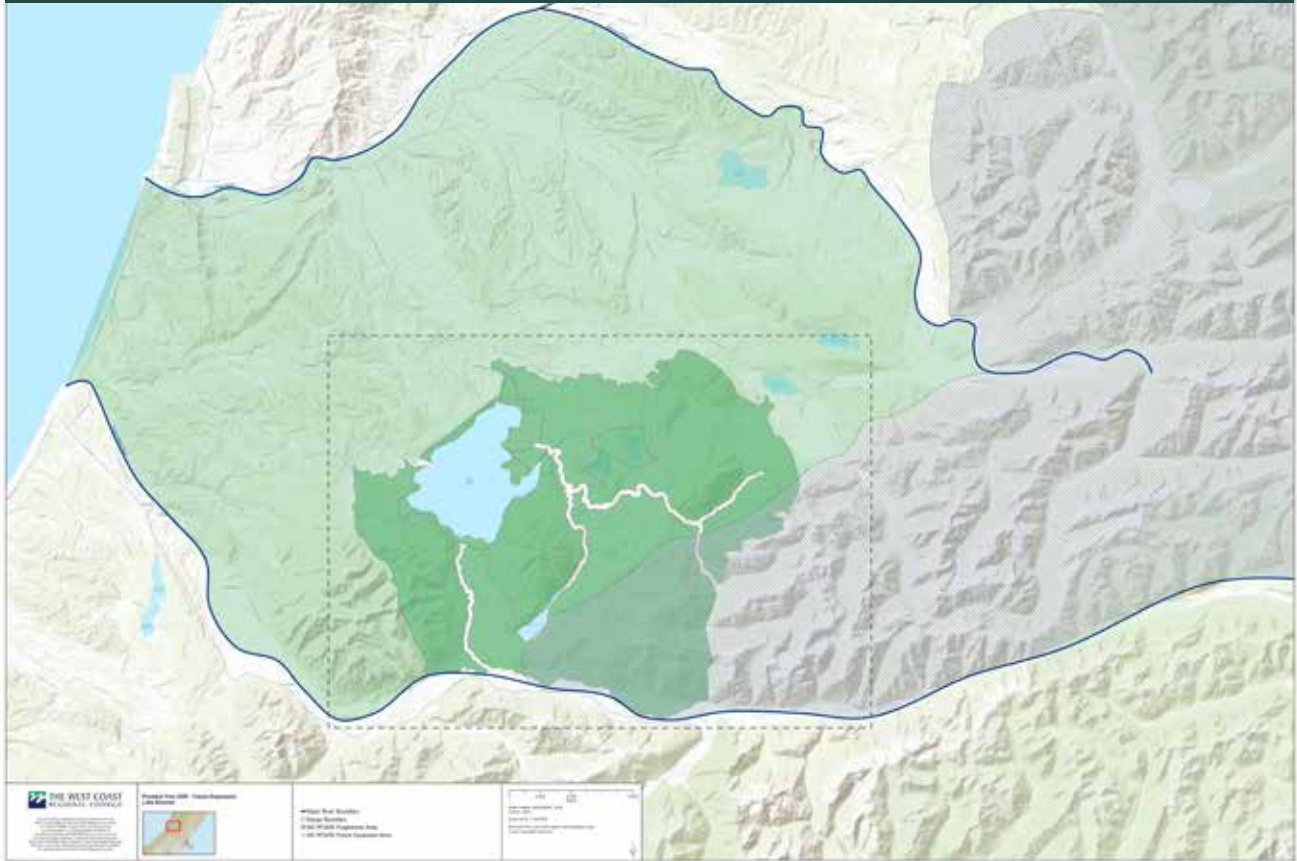
The project was one of 18 applications for funding received by Predator Free 2050 Limited in 2019 and ranked highly when assessed against 14 criteria.



"We were impressed by the ambition, the spread of partners and technical innovation of the Lake Brunner project and expect it to be an important proving ground for our national predator free effort."

**- Ed Chignell**  
Predator Free 2050 Limited CEO

## Future expansion map



## What could the future hold?

Building on our project outcomes, learnings and using other significant boundaries in the wider area, a future predator control zone from the 'Mountains to the Sea' could be a reality (the Future expansion map above provides an idea as to what this could look like).

### How can I get involved?



If you are a landowner in the area (check the Programme zones map to see what zone your property is in) and haven't already completed **Landowner Support form**, please email [claire.scott@wrc.govt.nz](mailto:claire.scott@wrc.govt.nz).



If you have land in the Core Protection Zones around Te Kinga, and have already registered, the Regional Council will contact you about trapping devices and plans.



Purchase traps that will fit with your lifestyle trapping options through the Department of Conservation's online **Practical Guide to Trapping**.



Incorporate trap checking into to your everyday routine, for example when taking out the rubbish or walking back the cows.



Download the **TrapNZ** app and start recording catches to help us understand the predator pressures on Te Kinga.