

28 June 2023

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 30 May 2023, in which you asked for the following:

"I would like to request the following information under the Official Information Act in relation to the project described in these links:

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2021/03/predator-free-2050-45-million-allocated-on-a-south-westland-project.html>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/jobs-for-nature-to-support-predator-free-south-westland/>

1. *How much money has been spent to date?*
2. *What results have been achieved?*
3. *How many FTE jobs are directly supported by this funding within the target area?*
4. *What companies are involved in the provision and distribution of toxins and traps and what conflicts of interest have been disclosed?*
5. *When is the 'completion' date? - when is it predicted that this project will shift from active to maintenance?*
6. *Who is the lead agency in this project?"*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 and our response is provided below.

Further to the email sent to you on 14 June 2023, the Department is not the lead for the Predator Free South Westland Project (Project). For information about the overall Project you would be best to contact Predator Free South Westland Ltd - [Contact – Predator Free South Westland](#).

The Project receives funding from a number of different organisations including NEXT Foundation, Predator Free 2050 Ltd, OSPRI and DOC.

The Department's funding comes from two different funding streams including \$3 million from the Departments Jobs for Nature fund and \$9 million from the Department's baseline funding.

As one of a number of collaborative funding partners to the Project, the Department does not require specific reporting on achievements from the \$9m baseline funding it provides. Instead, a Senior Liaison role ensures the Departments contribution to the strategic direction and oversight of the Project and its contribution to wider Predator Free objectives.

The exception to this is the Jobs for Nature funding which has specific additional reporting requirements. Therefore, where the Department has been provided with information through this regular reporting from the Project, we have included this in the response to your questions below.

In addition to the above the Department's Jobs for Nature programme has provided \$76 million of funding to Predator Free 2050 Limited to support 15 large-scale projects across New Zealand, while also creating employment. We understand that a further \$8.5m from that funding has been assigned to the Predator Free South Westland project, of which \$6.5 million has been paid to date. For more information on that funding, you would be better placed contacting Predator Free 2050 Ltd for that directly. More information can be found here - [South Westland - Predator Free 2050 Limited](#).

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. How much money has been spent to date?

Funding Stream	Total Funding Planned	Total Funding Paid (as at 30 May 23)
Jobs for Nature	\$3 million	\$3 million
DOC	\$9 million	\$6 million

2. What results have been achieved?

As noted above the Department does receive reports from the Project. Those reports indicate the following achievements:

- Total of 53,015 hours worked (34 FTE¹)
- 41 people have been employed.
- Ground-based predator elimination in South Okarito warranted scaling up to include the Whataroa area.
- Sufficient land access agreements secured in Franz area to achieve ground-based elimination.
- Community support is demonstrated by land access agreements enabling the project to proceed.

¹ FTE is based on dividing total hours worked by 1560 hours (or 30hours/week).

- Sufficient land access agreements are on track to be secured in Whataroa area, to achieve ground-based predator elimination.

3. How many FTE jobs are directly supported by this funding within the target area?

Funding Stream	Total FTE Expected (over funding period)	Total Actual FTE (as at 30 May 23)
Jobs for Nature (June 21 – to Sept 23)	40	34
DOC	Not measured	Not measured

4. What companies are involved in the provision and distribution of toxins and traps and what conflicts of interest have been disclosed?

Detailed information about suppliers is not held by the Department as this is a decision for the Predator Free South Westland Ltd. This part of the request is therefore declined under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act, as the information is not held by the Department.

5. When is the 'completion' date? - when is it predicted that this project will shift from active to maintenance?

In its governance role, the Department is in discussion with the Project on its completion date, which we currently understand to be two years from now. The project will then move into its maintenance stage. For more detailed information we suggest you contact Predator Free South Westland.

Currently the completion date of the Departments funding to the Project is 30 September 2023 for the Jobs for Nature funding and 30 June 2025 for the remaining funding.

6. Who is the lead agency in this project?

Predator Free South Westland Ltd. is responsible for delivering and providing governance for the project.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department's website.



Nāku noa, nā

David Van Der Zouwe
Director, Strategic Partnerships and Funds
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai