

7 July 2022

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request of 16 May 2022 to OSPRI's contractor Vector Free Marlborough Limited, seeking information relating to the Otira/Taipō operation. On 15 June, OSPRI transferred the following part of your request to the Department of Conservation, as it aligns more closely with our work.

*What surveys have you done on existing bird species and numbers?*

I can advise that DOC's work in the area covered by the Otira/Taipō operation includes the following surveys.

#### **Annual roroa acoustic monitoring**

DOC carries out a small acoustic survey for roroa/great spotted kiwi in the Kelly range. I am providing you with a June 2021 report on the survey results, *Acoustic monitoring of roroa (great spotted kiwi) in the Taramakau and Kelly Range 2018-2021* (refer to Document 1).

#### **Rock wren transects**

DOC has a network of rock wren survey sites to measure how the species responds to predator control. One of these sites, Mt Barron, is within the operational area of OSPRI's Otira/Taipō operation. The method used for this monitoring is explained here:

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0247873>

I am providing you with a graph showing population trends for Mt Barron and four other sites (refer to Document 2). More information on the wider research is available here:

[www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/new-survey-shows-rock-wren-hot-spots/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2021-media-releases/new-survey-shows-rock-wren-hot-spots/)

#### **Whio surveys**

The Deception Valley is within OSPRI's Otira/Taipō operational area, and has been one of DOC's whio security sites since 2019 - DOC plans to carry out a whio survey at this site next summer.



### **Arthur's Pass kea research**

As you may be aware, DOC (with co-funding from OSPRI) is currently trialling a bird repellent on kea at Arthur's Pass to see if it stops them interacting with 1080 bait. More information on the trial is available here: [www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/our-work/national-predator-control-programme/keeping-kea-safe-repellent-trial-fact-sheet-2021.pdf](http://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/our-work/national-predator-control-programme/keeping-kea-safe-repellent-trial-fact-sheet-2021.pdf). Results will be available once the trial is complete.

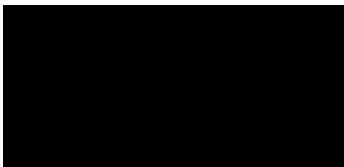
### **Tier 1 monitoring programme**

You may also be interested in DOC's tier 1 monitoring programme, which has been established at approximately 1400 plot locations that are evenly spaced across Public Conservation Land. Approximately 280 plots are measured each year, with every plot being measured on a 5-year rotation cycle. The programme allows DOC to monitor changes in the structure and composition of vegetation communities, bird species abundance and richness, and the presence and abundance of pest populations across all the land it manages, helping to inform conservation management in New Zealand. More information on the programme and plot-level data is available at: [www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/plot-level-report/](http://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/monitoring-reporting/plot-level-report/)

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) and enclosed documents may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Hilary Aikman  
Director Operations Issues and Programmes  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*



**Table 1 - Schedule of documents**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	June 2021	Acoustic monitoring of roroa (great spotted kiwi) in the Taramakau and Kelly Range 2018-2021	Released in full
2	June 2022	Mean count of rock wren per transect per year at each survey site	Released in full