

## **Technical Memorandum – Fast-track Application**

### **WIAL Southern Seawall Renewal Project**

### **Native wildlife feedback (Kororā and Lizards)**

**Date:** 23 February 2026

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**Discipline/expertise:** Urban ecology and restoration

**Issued to:** Susannah Goble, Senior Advisor Planning

#### **Introduction**

This memo responds to a request for comment from the expert panel assessing the Wellington International Airport Limited (WIAL)'s substantive application to replace and upgrade its southern seawall, and associated activities, under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act).

This memo provides comments on the effects of the project on the wildlife aspect of the proposed work. It specifically focusses on kororā, other coastal birds and lizards.

#### **Pre-lodgement feedback on the draft application**

The Urban Ecology team was involved in early discussions and provided feedback which was largely adopted by the applicant towards ensuring positive outcomes for the native wildlife impacted through this project.

We however referred to the fact that Miramar has been declared predator free and questioned the relevance of the suggested additional predator control proposed within the kororā management plan.

We recommended that funding towards pest control would be better utilised if put towards a targeted fund focussed on achieving positive outcomes for kororā, this could include public engagement around dog interactions on beaches, improved signage and educational material, all which the council currently does not have allocated funding for and which aligns with Tatou Ki Uta, WCC's new coastal management plan.

#### **Review of application (and regulatory assessment)**

WCC generally supports the wildlife management plans and associated draft conditions put forward by WIAL.

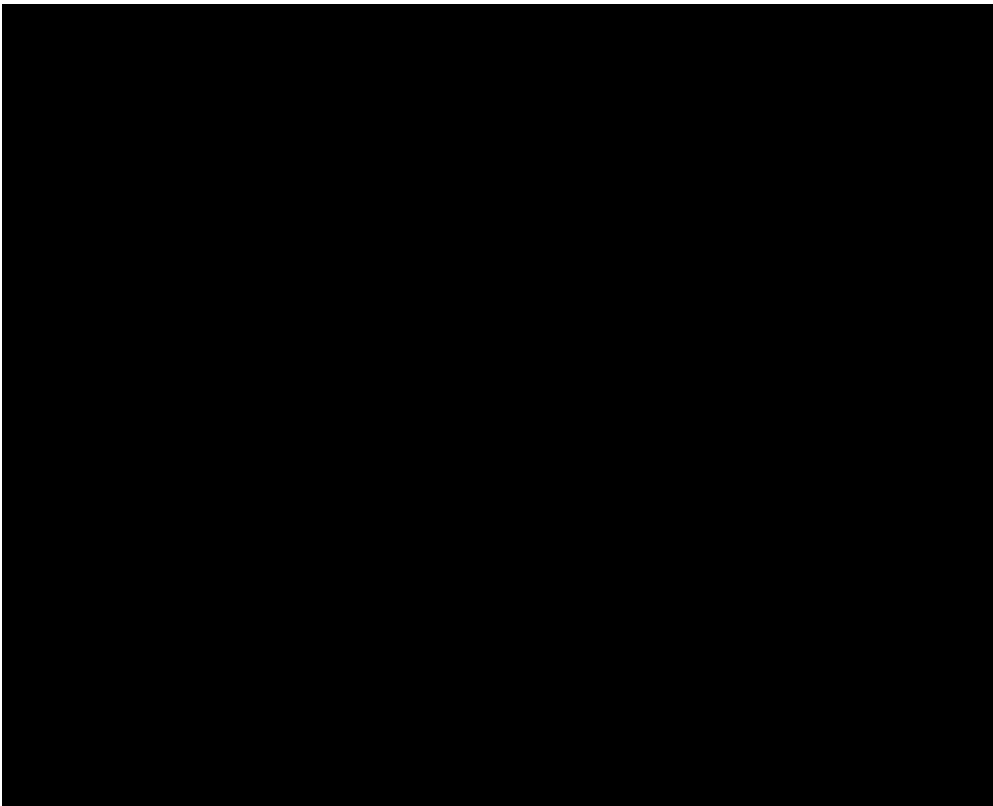
The design of the reserve and kororā colony areas are acceptable, with the exception of a change to the fence location as outlined under 'Outstanding matters' below.

As mentioned above, most of the recommendations made at the pre-lodgement stage have been adopted by the applicant apart from the request to change the funding allocation for pest animal control on the Miramar Peninsula. While we do not believe this is best allocation of funding, we can support this on the basis that the pest control is undertaken in alignment with the working being undertaken by Predator Free Wellington.

### **Outstanding matters**

Most matters were adopted in the relevant management plans as discussed in the follow up meetings we had with the applicant prior to lodging their application. The most important consideration is to ensure that there is role clarity around responsibilities and ensuring that all parties understand the requirements of working and operating on council land. The end-to-end process around managing the mitigation and relocation of wildlife often becomes strained if role clarity is unclear and resourcing is inadequate and contractors are not informed around the requirements of working on council land.

The fence labelled 4 (see below) is not supported by WCC. The fencing must be located on the Crown land only.



*Figure 1: Snipped image Moa Point Yard - Overall Landscape Concept Plan prepared by Boffa Miskell dated 21 October 2025 showing fence labelled '4' which is not supported by Council*

### **Proposed conditions**

We largely support the proposed conditions.

The draft conditions have been updated to ensure that as a receiving landowner, council's Parks team receives all data related to the movement of wildlife onto land it owns or is vested to manage.

The draft conditions have been updated to ensure the Parks team is formed at least 20 working days prior to any movements of wildlife or building of any structures or the installation of any devices (nest boxes, pest control traps and bait stations) to consider how this may impact on current work in relevant sites and areas.

The draft conditions have been updated to show the Council's preference for funding towards Kororā outcomes with an option to have a pest control through a pest management plan agreed with the Council.

### **Other matters**

We are confident in DOC managing the approval of the Wildlife Act Authority and request that the end-to-end process is considered to ensure positive outcomes for wildlife through this process.