

Proposed reserve area

Murray Brass [REDACTED]

9 February 2026 at 12:20

To: Richard Homewood [REDACTED]

Cc: John Andrews [REDACTED], Andrew Wells [REDACTED], Laila Alkamil [REDACTED], Nick Goldwater [REDACTED], Di Finn [REDACTED]

Kia ora Richard

Thank you for providing that summary. I confirm that DOC is in principle supportive of reviewing the approach to compensation along the lines outlined below, i.e.

- Targeting terrestrial restoration at a smaller area with more intensive management. We understand that such a predator enclosure could be managed to provide co-benefits for vegetation, invertebrate and lizard values;
- Targeting avifauna compensation at predator control measures. This would help improve kakī survival to breeding for birds raised through the captive rearing programme, and would also provide benefits to a wider range of birds and other fauna.

We would be comfortable with you reporting this to the Panel, noting that it remains a work in progress, and the compensation would still need to sit within a wider set of consent conditions, management plans, monitoring and reporting as part of overall effect management. DOC will continue to work with you on both the compensation and the wider framework, with the aim of providing further agreed updates to the Panel as part of our s53 comments due 19 February.

Note that I will be away from email this afternoon, but if there's anything you need to confirm before finalising your response to the Panel please give me a call.

Ngā mihi, Murray

Murray Brass MNZPI

Senior RMA Planner | Kaiwhakamahere penapenarawa

Dunedin Office | Ōtepoti

Phone: [REDACTED]

From: Richard Homewood [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, 5 February 2026 4:37 pm
To: Murray Brass [REDACTED]
Cc: John Andrews [REDACTED]; Warren Chinn <[REDACTED]>; Andrew Wells <[REDACTED]>; Laila Alkamil [REDACTED]; Nick Goldwater <[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]>
<[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Proposed reserve area

Hi Murray,

Thank you for taking my call yesterday and also for your feedback on the recently proposed EEP changes. We appreciate DoC's openness to the revised concept for the Ecological Enhancement Plan (EEP) reserve area. As discussed, the rationale for these proposed changes stems from the Panel's site visit on 30 January 2026, during which Panel member Matt Baber spent several hours inspecting the site and discussing ecological aspects with our team, including Andrew Wells from Wildlands.

As outlined in the paper shared by John Andrews yesterday, based on Matt's feedback and the site's dryland characteristics, Wildlands has recommended shifting from the original large-scale, low-intensity approach across the wider site to a smaller, intensively managed predator-proof fenced enhancement area of approximately 12-15 ha. This approach focuses on high-magnitude positive effects at a smaller spatial scale, providing greater certainty of outcomes, easier management, and measurable positive results.

FNSF believes these changes will directly address the Panel's emphasis on clear, measurable, and achievable positive outcomes, as highlighted in their earlier Minutes and correspondence. The approach will be further refined based on the quantitative surveys for vegetation, lizards, avifauna, and invertebrates commencing on 9 February 2026.

Regarding avifauna contributions, thank you for raising the preference for reallocating the originally discussed \$1 million equivalent from the kāki aviary to a broader predator control program. We understand and support this shift for the following reasons, as discussed in our phone call on 4 February 2026:

1. The aviary project is a priority for DoC and will proceed regardless, without being contingent on the timing or outcome of the solar farm development.
2. A broader pest control program would enhance the benefits of the aviary while providing positive outcomes for a range of threatened species beyond just kāki.
3. DoC's recent successes with predator control leading to positive outcomes for black-fronted tern populations give confidence that a similar program in the braided riverbeds adjacent to the solar farm will benefit kāki, as well as other threatened birds and lizards.

We are happy to formalize our contribution to predator control as part of our avifauna compensation measures and look forward to discussing the specifics.

If you are able to please confirm if this approach aligns with DoC's position on both the EEP changes and avifauna support ahead of our response to the panel on February 9th that would be greatly appreciated.

Best regards

Richard Homewood

On Wed, 4 Feb 2026 at 08:55, Murray Brass <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Great, thanks

From: John Andrews <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, 4 February 2026 8:28 am
To: Murray Brass <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Richard Homewood <[REDACTED]>; Warren Chinn <[REDACTED]>; Andrew Wells <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Proposed reserve area

Hi Murray,

Thanks, please find attached the notes from Wildlands, which are proposed amendments to the ecological enhancement program following the panel visit.

Best regards,

John

John Andrews.

General Manager FNSF

(I am based in Wellington)

E. [REDACTED] | M. [REDACTED] |

On Wed, 4 Feb 2026 at 07:37, Murray Brass <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thanks John. You mentioned yesterday that Wildlands had done some background or a report on this approach, is that available as well?

From: John Andrews <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 4:00 PM
To: Murray Brass <[REDACTED]> Richard Homewood <[REDACTED]>; Warren Chinn <[REDACTED]> Andrew Wells <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Proposed reserve area

John Andrews.

General Manager
(I am based in Wellington)

E. [REDACTED] | M. [REDACTED] | W. [fnsf.co.nz](https://www.fnsf.co.nz)

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