



AUCKLAND COUNCIL

Pest-free Kawau Island/Te Kawau Tu Maro ō Toi feasibility report feedback summary

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Authors: Jay Kheiri, Yeshe Dawa, Katyanne Hall, Javier Canete, Lisa Tolich



Contents

Purpose of the report	3
Executive Summary.....	3
Overview of submissions and key findings	4
Context	6
Engagement methodology for the feasibility report.....	7
Feedback and analysis methodology	9
Limitations.....	10
Analysis.....	11
Summary of individual submissions before and after the data cleaning.....	11
Aggregated data based on households and land area	12
Thematic analyses	13
Community representation in the project structure.....	17
Attachments.....	17
Attachment A – Pest free Kawau Island feasibility report.....	17
Attachment B – Kirra Feedback template.....	18
Attachment C – 2023 feasibility report engagement letters.....	21

Te take mō te pūrongo

Purpose of the report

The information in this report summarises the feedback received from Kawau Island residents, landowners, and organisations during engagement between August and October 2023 on the technical feasibility assessment and report for a multi-species eradication on Kawau Island (attachment A).

This report outlines key themes relating to the views and preferences of those who submitted feedback, rather than detailing every point of feedback received.

Whakarāpopototanga matua

Executive Summary

Auckland Council proposed the concept of a pest free Kawau Island as part of the Regional Pest Management Plan 2020–2030 (RPMP). During the 2018 public consultation, the proposal garnered the support of 64 per cent of Aucklanders, leading to the inclusion of this concept in the approved RPMP.

The proposed project aims to eradicate wallabies, possums, mustelids, and rodents from Kawau Island, offering significant biodiversity benefits. Its success is strategically significant for New Zealand's predator-free vision, acting as a proof of concept for conservation initiatives on other Hauraki Gulf islands and informing projects nationally and internationally.

In 2022, Auckland Council, in partnership with Island Conservation, conducted a feasibility assessment on Kawau Island, focusing on the eradication of invasive species. This involved extensive engagement with the island's residents, landholders, and organisations to discuss the benefits, risks, and logistics of the proposed eradication. Around 95 per cent of the landowners on Kawau Island shared their feedback during the engagement period with over 80% of them supporting the eradication of the target species. Subsequently, Island Conservation carried out a detailed evaluation of both the technical feasibility and social acceptability of the project. The findings of this evaluation are documented in the public report released on 23 August 2023 (attachment A).

Following the release of the feasibility report, Auckland Council sought general feedback from Kawau Island residents, landholders, and organisations over a four-week period. Council also asked for specific feedback regarding the level of community representation and voice they would like incorporated into the project and how they think the community representation should be chosen. This engagement focused on gathering feedback and answering questions on the detailed proposal related to removing target species as outlined in the feasibility report (attachment A). The summary of all community engagements on this proposal is detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of three engagements on the Kawau Island Pest Eradication proposal

Date	Purpose	Audience	Conducted by	Engagement method
2018	RPMP consultation	Consulted with all Aucklanders	Auckland Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement content online, in libraries and other venues • Public talks and Q&A evenings • Letters to Kawau ratepayers • Written submissions • Emails • Have your say events for in-person feedback
2022	Assessment of project technical feasibility and social acceptance	Engaged with Kawau Island residents, landholders, and organisations	Island Conservation on behalf of Auckland Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face-to-face conversations • Video conferencing • Phone call • Email • Written correspondence
2023	Engagement for feedback on the feasibility report	Engaged with Kawau Island residents, landholders, and organisations	Auckland Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public webinar • Field trips to pest free islands for residents • Drop-in days for in-person discussion • Email • Phone calls

Overview of submissions and key findings

Following the four-week engagement period which closed on 21 September, 307 submissions were received via email, comprising 303 submissions from individuals and four submissions from three different local and national organisations, the S.P.C.A, the Hauraki Gulf Forum, and Restore Rodney East.

Given that approximately half of the properties on Kawau provided feedback on the feasibility report in 2023, and to ensure a better understanding of the views of those who had not provided feedback, efforts were made by the Kawau Island Project team in late October 2023 to contact a random selection of households, amounting to 82, who had not yet shared their feedback. This effort resulted in receiving feedback from a further 51 households. Given the different data collection methodology, the feedback obtained through this process is presented separately in

Table 3 and is not amalgamated with the submissions received via written submissions and is not used for thematic coding.

Prior to data analysis, all feedback underwent data cleaning, which involved identifying and rectifying data errors or inconsistencies. Hence all submissions were initially screened for potential duplication. Multiple pieces of feedback from the same individual were amalgamated into a single entry for percentage analysis to avoid potential inflation of group percentages and maintain accuracy.

Additionally, nine submissions that were made on behalf of others without verifiable information, and four submissions unrelated to the topic (uncategorisable) were also excluded from analyses. This resulted in a total of 260 valid submissions that were used for percentage analysis. However, all submissions (with the exception of those made on behalf of others and the uncategorisable submissions), including the duplicate ones were considered for thematic coding. This process encompassed a total of 294 submissions, with feedback received via phone calls excluded from the thematic analyses.

The thematic analysis revealed that all feedback could be categorised into three primary groups: supporters, opponents, and those with tentative views (either towards support or opposition). Responses from each categorised group are summarised as follows with words in bold highlighting the key codes of each theme. Some feedback received and outlined in the bold text includes views in response to elements not proposed in the report.

Supporters: overall, 113 submissions (44 per cent) **fully support** the proposal in **its current form**. Supporters are **enthusiastic** about Kawau Island becoming **pest-free, optimistic** about the project's **success**, emphasising the importance of **environmental preservation** and the project's **urgency**. Some express a **willingness to collaborate, suggesting improvements** and highlighting **community engagement** as being **crucial**. Supporters also focus on the project's **long-term benefits**, including **enhanced biodiversity** and **environmental enrichment**. Some of them raised **concerns** about **inaccurate information online** shared by others, and **community worries**. Some individuals also expressed concerns about the potential for what they described as the **biased feedback template** (attachment B), introduced by Kawau Island Residents and Ratepayers (KIRRA) in the first two weeks of the feedback period, suggesting that the nature of the feedback form **directed** responses in a way that they read as not supporting the project. Overall, this group of people demonstrate unwavering enthusiasm, collaborative spirit, and a keen understanding of the project's potential benefits and challenges.

Tentatives (either towards support or opposition): overall, 87 submissions (33 per cent) are from individuals who **neither fully support nor fully oppose the project in its current form**. They support **some aspects** of the project but **not all**. Many tentatives show **support** for the proposal, favouring a **pest-free Kawau Island** and **recognising the need** for pest control. Some **endorse** various aspects of the plan, including **eliminating** rats, stoats, possums, wallabies, and using **toxins** such as **brodifacoum** for eradication, while also supporting the **protection of native birds** as outlined in the report. Thematic analyses of this group mostly cover those aspects they

do not support, as these are the elements that render their positions tentative. They express reservations about **specific eradication methods**, particularly the **widespread use of toxins**. Some do **not** support the **complete eradication of wallabies** and prefer them to be **controlled** while some others do **not** support using **toxins** unless they are **contained** in a bait station and **controlled**. Additionally, they are concerned about the **adverse effects on non-target species** and the **reduction of weka if wallabies are eradicated**. They also express concerns about the **re-establishment of pests** and prefer **alternative eradication methods** such as **shooting**. Some cited concerns about Auckland Council's **approach** in this project, such as **fairness** and **transparency** of Auckland Council in capturing the **community's feedback** and the need for **alternatives**, particularly for **wallaby eradication**. Additionally, they shared **concerns** regarding **property access**, the **safety** of their **drinking water**, **financial losses** and the importance of **engaging with the community** to achieve **consensus**. Collectively, this group presents a spectrum of opinions and reservations, reflecting their cautious and balanced stance on the project.

Opponents: overall, 60 submissions (23 per cent) **fully oppose** the project in **its current form**. Some opponents express **strong reservations** about the proposed **methods**, particularly the use of **toxins**, citing concerns about its potential **harm to non-target species**, the **environment**, and **human health**. Some shared **general concerns** about the project, questioning its likelihood of **success** and the potential use of **legal instruments to access properties**. They believe the **economic benefits are misleading**, and there has been a lack of **proper community engagement**. Some opponents also believe that the project is **unnecessary**, contending that there is no **tangible threat**, that the pests will **reestablish in the future** and suggesting **alternative focuses**, such as addressing **exotic plants and weeds**. Collectively, this group presents a range of criticisms and concerns, challenging the project's methods and perceived necessity.

Detailed thematic analyses for all submissions within each group are provided in the analysis section.

Furthermore, the analysis of responses regarding community representation with the project structure revealed a range of viewpoints concerning the composition of the project structure and the individuals who should represent the community. Nevertheless, there is a clear majority for a member or members of the broader Kawau Island community to serve as representatives of the Kawau community across the Kawau project. A comprehensive analysis of this aspect of the submissions is available at the end of the report.

Horopaki Context

Auckland Council proposed the concept of a multi-species mammal eradication on Kawau Island as part of the Regional Pest Management Plan 2020–2030 (RPMP). During the public consultation, which was open to all Aucklanders in 2018, this proposal received the support of the majority of participants, with 64 per cent either wholly or partially endorsing it, 24 per cent

indicating a neutral stance and 12 per cent expressing full or partial opposition. These results provided a sufficient basis for incorporating the concept into the approved RPMP.

The project's primary aim is to eradicate wallabies, possums, mustelids, and rodents from Kawau Island, referred to as 'target species' in this report. This would result in substantial biodiversity benefits and aid in protecting and restoring various threatened species and ecosystems. From a strategic perspective, the project is vital for New Zealand's vision of becoming predator-free, setting the stage for similar efforts on other inhabited islands within the Hauraki Gulf and beyond. The eradication of invasive target species on Kawau Island would be a key stepping stone, providing an important proof of concept for conservation initiatives on other inhabited Hauraki Gulf islands, such as Aotea and Waiheke, and informing island conservation projects both nationally and internationally.

In 2022, Auckland Council initiated a preliminary feasibility assessment engaging with Kawau Island residents, landholders, and organisations. This was carried out by Island Conservation, a non-governmental organisation specialising in the eradication of invasive species from islands. This engagement aimed to communicate the benefits offered by the project, provide a clear understanding of the potential risks and impacts, and convey an accurate picture of what would be involved should an eradication proceed. As part of this process, the Kawau Island residents, landholders, and organisations were asked if they support the eradication of target species from Kawau Island. Reaching 95 per cent of landowners on the island, this proposition was supported by more than 80 per cent of respondents who shared their views. Following this, Island Conservation undertook an evaluation of the technical feasibility and social acceptability of the proposition to eradicate target species. The findings were published in a feasibility report released on 23 August 2023 (attachment A) on Auckland Council's website, www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/kawau-island.

Engagement methodology for the feasibility report

Kawau Island residents, landowners, and organisations were engaged with specifically about the feasibility report during the four-week feedback period between 23 August and 21 September 2023. As part of a commitment to ensuring accessible opportunities for engagement, Auckland Council held a series of engagement events:

- A public webinar was held on 30 August. A panel of experts discussed the feasibility report and answered 26 questions from attendees in the 75-minute session. An additional 55 unanswered questions were addressed in a follow-up document published on 8 September. The webinar was attended by 113 individuals. The webinar was recorded and then uploaded to YouTube and a link was sent to Kawau Island residents, landholders, and organisations on 1 September. The recording has had over 400 views at the time finalising this report in November 2023. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhEaddbe13I>)
- Two drop-in sessions took place at Sandspit Wharf café on Monday 4 September and Thursday 14 September. Residents, landholders, and organisations were invited to engage in face-to-face discussions about the feasibility report with Auckland Council and Island Conservation staff. 13 and 22 individuals attended the drop-in sessions respectively.

- Four field trips to the pest-free islands of Tiritiri Matangi and Rakino took place both before and during the four-week feedback period, with the following attendance records:
 - On 21 June, 11 individuals visited Tiritiri Matangi,
 - On 22 July, 31 individuals visited Tiritiri Matangi,
 - On 12 August, 15 individuals visited Rakino Island,
 - On 15 September, 17 individuals visited Rakino Island.

Kawau Island residents, landholders, and organisations also had the option to submit questions to kawauislandproject@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz. 31 email requests with an approximate total of 144 questions between them were received. Questions were addressed by subject matter experts within the project team during the four-week feedback period.

Auckland Council maintained direct communication by email with residents, landholders, and organisations using rates database contact information and contact details gathered during the assessment of project technical feasibility and social acceptance in 2022. Five emailed letters were distributed on the following dates: 23 and 29 August, and 1, 8, and 18 September 2023 (attachment C). These letters served as crucial updates and reminders, providing information about engagement event schedules and the feedback period. Furthermore, Auckland Council sought general feedback from residents, landholders, and organisations on the proposal and also inquired about preferences for:

- The extent of community representation and voice to be integrated into the project,
- The methodology for selecting community representatives.

As noted earlier, upon the closure of the submission deadline, over 300 submissions were received. While this level of public engagement is indeed noteworthy, it falls notably short of the level of engagement achieved in 2022. In that year, approximately 95 per cent of landowners were reached during the engagement period, while the turnout after the four-week submission period in the current year stood at around 50 per cent. This implies that nearly half of the Kawau Island landowners, residents and business owners who had shared their feedback in 2022 did not participate in this year's engagement process. It is important to note that the data collection methodologies in these two engagements were fundamentally different. The 2022 approach adhered to a census methodology, where the Kawau residents, landowners and organisations were proactively approached in person over a one-year period. In contrast, the 2023 approach adopted a convenience sample method where Kawau residents, landowners and organisations were invited to make a (voluntary) submission online (via email). Consequently, the disparity in the turnout figures is not unexpected. However, it poses a substantial challenge in understanding the community's views.

In response to this, further efforts were made by the project team to reach island landowners and residents to determine their perspective on the project, in particular whether they had any specific feedback on the feasibility assessment and if their level of support had changed since they had been initially engaged. Given that this report was scheduled for publication in November 2023, there was insufficient time to contact all landowners who had not made a submission. Consequently, a concerted effort was made to reach out to as many of them as possible from the

26 to the 31 October. As previously mentioned, the properties were randomly selected based on information from the Auckland Council's rates database. This outreach resulted in successful discussions with 51 out of the 82 landowners contacted, allowing their feedback to be incorporated into this report. To maintain complete transparency, the feedback obtained through this process has been separately analysed and presented in Table 3. It has not been amalgamated with other feedback received via email.

Feedback and analysis methodology

In total, 307 submissions were received during the submission period via email, with 303 coming from individuals and four from local and national organisations. This amounts to approximately 130 pages of submissions. Prior to data analysis, all email submissions underwent a data cleaning process to ensure the quality and reliability of the dataset. Data cleaning is the process of identifying and rectifying errors and inconsistencies (e.g., duplicate entries) in a dataset to enhance data reliability. It is important to note that the purpose of a data cleaning process is purely focused on improving the quality and reliability of the data, not modifying the content of the submissions. As a result of this process, out of the total 307 submissions, 47 were excluded from the data analysis. These exclusions consisted of 34 submissions made by individuals who had already made a prior submission. While these submissions may not be identical and could differ in content, to ensure accuracy and prevent numerical inflation, submissions from the same individuals were amalgamated for percentage analyses. Consequently, 34 additional submissions from those who had previously made a submission were only counted as one submission for percentage analyses but all of them were considered for the thematic analyses.

Subsequently, the submissions were subjected to two distinct types of analysis. The first, percentage analysis, involved classifying the submissions into one of three primary groups (supporters, opponents, and tentatives) based on their content. The second involved thematic analysis, encompassing all submissions, including potential repetitions. However, the on-behalf and uncategorisable submissions were excluded from both analyses. Nine submissions were from individuals who claimed to be submitting on behalf of others (three in support, three in opposition, and three with tentative positions). We decided to exclude these submissions from the analysis since we are unable to verify their accuracy. Also, four submissions did not address the topic and could not be categorised into any of the three groups, resulting in their removal from the analyses.

Furthermore, while certain households submitted only one entry on behalf of the entire household, there were instances where multiple submissions originated from the same household/property. Consequently, in addition to conducting individual assessments for all submissions, a distinct set of analyses is presented for all three groups (supporters, opponents and tentatives) by consolidating all submissions from the same household into a single submission. This approach aims to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the feedback and opinions expressed by different households, ensuring a well-rounded analysis of the data. These analyses are reflected in Table 4.

Also, an additional analysis was carried out for all submissions that included a property address. This analysis was on their land sizes and their stance on the project (support, oppose, or tentative). The findings from this analysis are presented in Table 5.

Lastly, the feedback obtained from the telephone conversations is presented in Table 3, categorised by their stance towards the project (support, oppose, or tentative). It is important to note that since this feedback was acquired through a distinct methodology compared to email submissions, it has not been amalgamated with the submissions, nor has it been integrated into thematic coding. As a result, this data is distinctly presented in a separate table for clarity, differentiation and transparency.

Limitations

The data comes with a few limitations. Firstly, while the request for feedback was initially sent to the residents, landowners, and organisations of Kawau Island, it was later circulated among non-residents. As a result, there are 20 submissions that cannot be definitively attributed to a property on Kawau Island (14 in support of the project, 3 with tentative views, and 3 opposing the project). Fortunately, the relatively small number of such cases does not significantly impact the analyses statistically.

Secondly, at the midpoint of the feedback period, KIRRA independently distributed a feedback template (attachment B) to residents. This template presented a list of factors in favour of the project and some factors against it, inviting respondents to indicate their agreement with these points. This may have introduced a degree of leading in certain responses. Notably, the number of "tentative" responses saw a significant increase following the distribution of this template, as many individuals selected factors from both sections.

Thirdly, as previously mentioned, a considerable number of Kawau residents and landowners who had previously conveyed their opinions did not submit feedback for this current round of engagement. In the previous engagement in 2022, the participation rate stood at approximately 95 per cent. However, during the engagement period in 2023, only around 50 per cent of the residents provided their feedback. Subsequent phone calls managed to boost the participation rate to roughly 60 per cent, but due to time constraints, the project staff could not make additional calls to gather more input from the landowners. This situation may present the challenge of not understanding the prevailing community sentiment completely. Notably, the majority of those who did not share their feedback in this engagement had previously expressed support for the proposal. The phone calls also indicated that those who did not submit feedback overwhelmingly support the project and assumed that the support they expressed in the 2022 engagement was sufficient and further feedback was not needed. Consequently, although this report encompasses approximately 350 submissions, it still overlooks some community members, particularly those who most likely support the project.

Tātaritanga Analysis

Summary of individual submissions before and after the data cleaning

Table 2 presents the analysis outcomes for all individual submissions, both before and after the data cleaning process, categorised into three groups: supporters, opponents and tentatives.

Table 2: individual submissions before and after data cleaning

Before data cleaning	Total submissions	307	100%
	Uncategorisable submissions	4	1%
	On behalf	9	3%
	Supporters	127	41%
	Opponents	67	22%
	Tentatives	100	33%
Duplicate submissions	Total submissions	34	100%
	Supporters	14	41%
	Opponents	7	21%
	Tentatives	13	38%
After data cleaning	Total submissions	260	100%
	Supporters	113	44%
	Opponents	60	23%
	Tentatives	87	33%

Table 3 summarises the feedback gathered through phone calls. In total, 82 landowners were contacted using the council rate database, representing approximately 30 per cent of those who did not submit their feedback. Of these, 51 individuals were successfully reached, resulting in a 62 per cent response rate among those contacted. This additional feedback has augmented the overall turnout for this engagement by nearly 10 per cent, reaching approximately 60 per cent of the targeted population. Similar to email submissions, all feedback received via telephone calls is documented with reference to property addresses to ensure its verifiability.

Table 3: feedback received via phone conversations

Total phone calls	51	100%	
Supporters	43	85%	
Opponents	0	0%	
Tentatives	8	15%	

Aggregated data based on households and land area

In this section, individual submissions from Kawau Island residents, landowners, and organisations were aggregated in two separate ways: as households and by land area. This categorisation aims to provide a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the submissions.

For households (table 4), all submissions for the same property were grouped as “one submission” and underwent a verification process against the rates database to confirm the property address and owner/s. Household includes the rates registered landowner(s) and/or family of the landowner(s) and/or other tenants of the property, depending on who provided feedback. It is worth highlighting that the count of 211 households may not equate to 211 distinct properties, as certain households may possess multiple properties. Additionally, 9 per cent of households, totalling 19 households, expressed mixed views on the proposal, which encompassed combinations of support and/or opposition and/or tentativeness. For the sake of maintaining consistency, simplicity, and comparability, the mixed households were grouped together with the tentative ones. Additionally, the phone calls are included in the analyses as they are conducted on a household basis.

Table 4: Submissions aggregated for households

Household	Overall	211	100%
	Supporters	109	52%
	Opponents	28	13%
	Tentatives	74	35%

Concerning land area (table 5), the property addresses mentioned in all submissions were cross-referenced with the Land Information New Zealand’s (LINZ) database, with a specific focus on private land area and properties. Notably, 20 submissions were excluded as they could not be associated with any properties. Additionally, 7 per cent of privately-owned land (125 ha) did not make a submission and was consequently excluded from the analysis. Therefore, the analysis was conducted solely for the land area that made a submission.

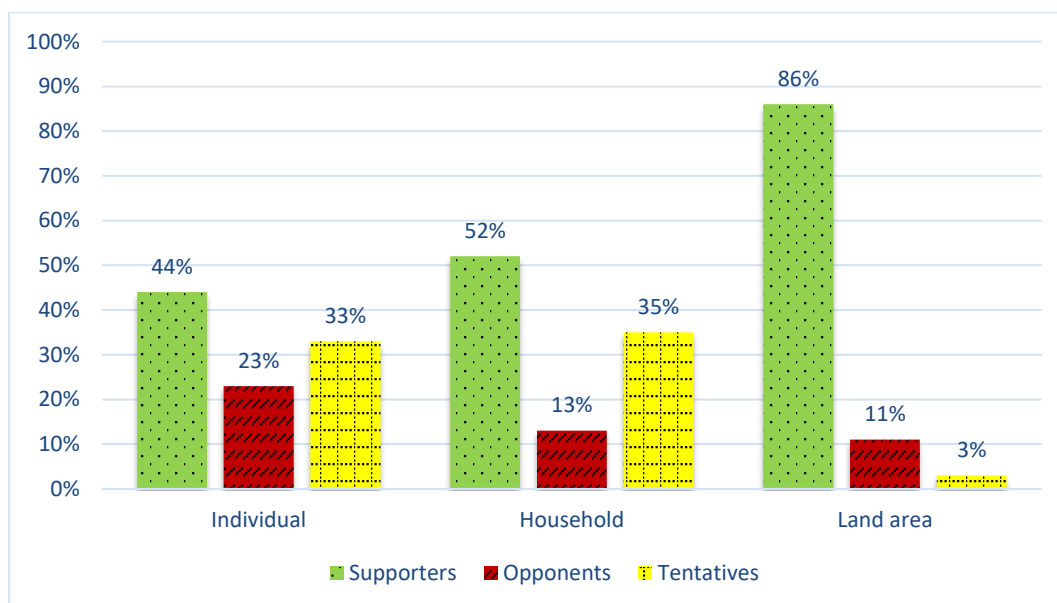
Table 5: Submissions aggregated for land area

Total land area	Overall (ha)	1631	100%
	Supporters	1395	86%
	Opponents	178	11%
	Tentatives	58	3%

It is worth mentioning that 12% of the island's land (333 ha) is publicly owned, with the Department of Conservation possessing 286 ha (constituting 86% of the public land) and Auckland Council holding 47 ha (14% of the public land), both entities supporting the eradication proposal. When incorporating these figures into the calculation presented in Table 5, the percentages alter to 88% in support, 9% in opposition, and 3% expressing tentative views.

Figure 1 compares the results of analyses for individuals, households and land area submissions, showing their support, opposition, or tentative views on the project.

Figure 1: Comparison between individuals, households and land area



Thematic analyses

This section provides comprehensive thematic analyses of the submissions for three distinct groups. Initially, we define each group, followed by an explanation of all themes and their corresponding codes in each paragraph. To facilitate verification, submission numbers are indicated in brackets. It is important to note that, due to privacy concerns, full submissions, which may contain personal information like names and property addresses, will not be included in the report. However, upon request, each person's submission and its number can be provided to them. Furthermore, submissions originating from individuals who have submitted multiple entries are conspicuously highlighted in blue within the text. This serves to underscore the notion

that an abundance of codes within a particular theme does not necessarily correlate with a multitude of unique contributors, thereby providing clarity on submission patterns. The opinions conveyed in this segment exclusively mirror the perspectives of the contributors and do not signify the official stance of the Auckland Council. Additionally, it is crucial to observe that certain comments received and outlined in this report were in response to elements not recommended in the proposal.

1. Supporters (44 per cent of all submissions): those who fully support the project in its current form. Four themes emerged for this group which are “support and excitement,” “collaboration,” “benefits” and “concerns.”

1.1. Support and excitement: this theme encompasses individuals who wholeheartedly endorse the project (16, 19, 23, 27, 29, 30, 31, 35, 36, 40, 41, 50, 59, 62, 58, 54, 64, 86, 87, 89, 90, 93, 91, 94, 97, 98, 104, 105, 107, 109, 110, 112, 113, 118, 120, 121, 122, 127, 128, 129, 130, 135, 137, 141, 143, 145, 147, 151, 153, 155, 156, 158, 159, 160, 168, 173, 175, 193, 198, 199, 200, 209, 210, 211, 216, 217, 218, 225, 226, 240, 241, 246, 250, 255, 158, 268, 270, 272, 289, 296, 303, 304, 305, 306), think it is fantastic work (2, 6, 9, 18, 21, 61, 178) and eagerly anticipate its successful completion (4, 35, 38, 45, 58, 123, 136). They consider the project long overdue (4, 78, 163) and appreciate its transparent and scientific approach (13).

1.2. Collaboration: includes individuals who are willing to provide assistance and support (19, 20, 23, 29, 50, 198) and express a desire for active involvement in the project’s improvement. They highlight the importance of engaging with the community (36, 37, 44), to enhance communication. Additionally, they would like to see pest plants controlled too (19, 20) and emphasise the importance of partnership between the organisations involved (28).

1.3. Benefits: pertains to individuals who focus on the enduring advantages of the project. They assert that the long-term benefits outweigh any short-term harm to wildlife (44, 61, 76, 144, 254, 263) and emphasise the enrichment and increased diversity of the environment (25, 56, 119) as well as greater biodiversity and birdlife (38, 212) as the outcomes of the project.

1.4. Concerns: involves individuals who have raised specific issues and hope for their resolution within the project. They express concerns about the presence of inaccurate information online (25, 38, 128, 228) shared by others, disappointment regarding their perceived bias in the feedback template provided by KIRRA (91, 94) (attachment B) which potentially led some submissions away from supporting the project, and the possibility of the reintroduction of pests (161, 186). Some individuals advocate for a phased approach to eradicating wallabies due to people’s emotional attachment to them (11, 126). Additionally, they stress the importance of addressing the community’s concerns (44, 99, 108, 144, 183, 190, 209, 218, 224, 233, 269, 277, 301, 302).

2. Tentatives (33 per cent of all submissions): those who do not fully support/oppose the project in its current form. They support some aspects of the project while oppose some others. Many of those classified as “tentatives” support the proposal in principle and favour a pest-free Kawau Island (7, 26, 32, 47, 106, 164, 187, 189, 195, 196, 197, 201, 203, 208, 295, 14,

34, 42, 139, 148, 177, 243, 300) and acknowledges that something needs to be done to address the pests on the island (24, 63, 142, 157). Some support various aspects of the proposal, including the eradication of rats, stoats, and possums (65, 96, 100, 257, 261, 267, 274, 291), the complete eradication of wallabies (50, 72, 80, 182, 185, 219, 261, 267, 274, 282, 284, 291) and the use of toxins such as brodifacoum as an eradication method (72, 75, 167, 283, 284, 291). Additionally, they endorse the protection of native birds as delineated in the report (70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 83, 95, 103, 138, 146, 152, 220, 229, 230, 231, 238, 245, 261, 278, 279). However, they also shared reservations about certain facets of the project. These reservations can be categorised into three main themes which are “methods,” “approach” and “concerns.”

2.1. Methods: represents individuals who do not entirely oppose the project but have reservations regarding specific proposed eradication methods. They express a lack of support for widespread use of toxins like brodifacoum (14, 27, 34, 39, 65, 47, 49, 66, 73, 74, 80, 83, 95, 96, 100, 103, 106, 138, 139, 142, 146, 148, 149, 152, 154, 157, 162, 164, 165, 167, 169, 177, 182, 187, 189, 195, 201, 204, 207, 219, 231, 238, 245, 248, 267, 275, 278, 279, 282, 283, 284, 287, 294, 307) and prefer alternative methods for controlling wallabies (7, 42, 63, 66, 67, 73, 74, 88, 148, 149, 167, 238, 257, 267, 276). Some individuals endorse the eradication of rats but not wallabies (1, 7, 8, 47, 83, 96, 100, 103, 138, 208, 231, 245, 261, 274) and also do not support the eradication of feral cats¹ (66, 138). Some are open to the use of toxins but only if it is tightly controlled in traps [bait stations] (24, 33, 63, 88, 164, 182). Concerns are raised about the perceived indiscriminate effects of poison on birds, fish, and animals (34, 63, 102, 142, 162, 169, 185, 206, 220, 291, 299, 300) and its potential impact on weka populations (7, 39, 42, 102). Some prefer alternative methods such as shooting and trapping for all pests, not just wallabies (14, 65, 139, 154, 162, 187, 201, 243), while others suggest modern methods like A24 traps (26, 34, 142) and capturing and reintroducing certain species (8). There are also observations regarding the consequences of pest control, including the potential proliferation of bush rats and cockroaches (7) and the correlation between the presence of weka and the disappearance of cockroaches (7). This theme encompasses a range of opinions and suggestions related to the methods proposed for the project.

2.2. Approach: represents individuals who believe that the approach adopted by Auckland Council for this project needs re-evaluation or more clarity. They express concerns about the fairness and transparency of the council’s approach in capturing the community’s feedback (66, 73, 67, 70, 71, 75, 83, 95, 96, 100, 103, 138, 167, 220, 245, 278, 279) and seek costed options and alternative strategies instead of outright eradication (8, 26, 42, 88). Some propose a referendum for residents to have a say in decision-making (14, 65), while others point out perceived deficiencies in due diligence and management planning, along with concerns about costs and time wastage (47, 63). Certain individuals suggest involving the community in tasks like pest control and reporting (32, 63) and raise doubts about the feasibility of the project due to the significant number of private crafts accessing the Island (47). There are also criticisms of the project’s competence (24) and suggest the potential use of wallabies as an edible source (63).

¹ Note, feral cat eradication is not included within the proposed programme.

2.3. Concerns: highlights individuals who express reservations and concerns contributing to their scepticism about the project. They are worried about people entering their property when they are not present (66, 67, 73, 72, 75, 146, 197, 204, 219, 260, 283, 284) and have concerns about human safety and water quality (34, 42, 74, 106, 182, 197, 295). They believe residents' questions and concerns need to be addressed (22, 66, 194, 203, 208, 221, 243, 271, 273, 286, 290, 297). Some express concerns about the potential re-establishment of pests (71, 83, 195, 231, 287, 298) and the financial losses incurred by organisations during the closure period (42). There are worries about the impact of eradicating wallabies on underbrush growth and the resulting fire risk (7, 102). Engaging with the community in good faith to achieve consensus is deemed essential (26), and concerns are raised about the long-term consequences for landowners in terms of rules and property access (26, 148). Additionally, concerns regarding the safety of pine trees near schools and properties are noted (63).

3. Opponents (23 per cent of all submissions): those who fully oppose the project in its current form. Three themes emerged for this group which are “methods”, “general project concerns” and “unnecessary”.

3.1. Methods (toxin): focuses on individuals who strongly oppose the use of toxins as a method within the project. They raise concerns about the potential impact of toxins on non-target species such as kākā, weka, kiwi, tūi, pets, and humans (5, 10, 12, 55, 51, 57, 79, 82, 68, 101, 125, 132, 133, 150, 171, 172, 174, 180, 188, 215, 222, 227, 234, 235, 236, 239, 247, 252, 253, 259), as well as its effects on the bush (12) and its potential to leak into the beach (55). These individuals express an unequivocal stance against poisoning animals (46, 52, 53, 51, 69, 77, 81, 150, 166, 176, 181, 202, 223, 232, 242, 247, 249, 262, 264, 288, 292) and describe it as barbaric and cruel (57, 92, 125, 170, 232, 235, 236, 288).

3.2. General project concerns: encapsulates individuals who express some general concerns about the project. Some think that Auckland Council's approach has not been transparent (191, 193, 232), question the likelihood of project success, and suggest that the allocated funds could have been better utilised (12, 51, 57, 69, 184). Some object to the use of the Biosecurity Act to access properties (10, 57, 77, 101, 150), and propose that pest control should be the responsibility of private landowners (10, 77, 132). Some individuals express their lack of support for the project without specifying a reason (48, 60, 124, 131, 140, 214, 251). Additional concerns revolve around the process, costs, timelines and the imposition of targeted rates on property owners (17, 232, 249, 266). Lastly, some argue that more options are needed (55, 175, 213) and suggest that economic benefits have been misrepresented (12, 171, 251).

3.3. Unnecessary: reflects the viewpoint of individuals who consider the project unnecessary. They argue that no discernible threat exists to any species, agriculture, plants, or humans (10, 57, 79, 82, 111, 170, 179, 232) and suggest that the focus should be on eliminating exotic plants, weeds, and trees (5, 12). Some express concerns about the re-establishment of pest animals in the future (51, 69, 171), point to the protection afforded to wildlife by the Reserves Act of 1977 (12) and argue that wallabies play a role in weed control (12). Also, concerns are raised about adverse consequences, including fire risks due to rapid depopulation of grazing animals, combined with a lack of firefighting

capacity, as well as the potential impact on weka populations if wallabies are eradicated (51, 57).

Community representation in the project structure

There was significant interest in how the Kawau Island community is represented in the project structure, including governance. Reviewing the submissions shows a strong preference for a member or members of the wider Kawau Island residents, landowners, and organisations to represent the community. The feedback on this matter, including the suggested methods for selecting the representative, has been quite diverse.

A significant number of individuals had a general suggestion that a representative should be elected from the residents and ratepayers of Kawau Island and not just someone from KIRRA (64, 65, 68, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 146, 277, 281, 80, 83, 86, 87, 90, 93, 95, 96, 97, 98, 100, 103, 109, 110, 111, 118, 119, 121, 122, 120, 127, 128, 126, 135, 137, 138, 141, 143, 145, 152, 167, 173, 174, 183, 200, 210, 211, 216, 217, 220, 226, 231, 238, 240, 241, 245, 246, 250, 255, 257, 260, 261, 267, 268, 274, 278, 279, 284, 283, 291, 296), possibly due to concerns about KIRRA's appointment structure (269). Conversely, some expressed willingness to nominate KIRRA as their representative or first point of contact (36, 67, 193, 233, 37, 44, 168).

A portion of the residents advocated for the Pohutukawa Trust or someone appointed by them as their preferred representative (282, 294, 78, 89, 91, 94, 107). Some others argued that the community should have majority representation within the project governance, citing their ownership of the majority of land on the island as a strong claim (180, 206, 235).

Various opinions existed regarding the structure of representation on the island. Some advocated for different parts of the island to have their own representatives (44, 269, 273), while others named specific individuals (31, 193, 197) for this role. Additionally, there was a perspective that future decision-making should involve only those with vested interests on the island, such as business or landowners (187, 243).

Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

Attachment A – Pest free Kawau Island feasibility report

[Assessing the feasibility of removing pest animals from Kawau Island](#)

Attachment B – Kirra Feedback template

Instructions:

1. Delete the bullet points that you don't want to use
2. Delete any words that you don't want, or add any comments or additional bullet points
3. When you're happy with the content -congratulations you've written your submission!
4. Send it in via email to kawauislandproject@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
5. Before **Thursday 21 September 2023**

Name	
Address	
Phone number	
Email	

As a Resident/ratepayer of Kawau Island I am writing to provide feedback on the Pest free Kawau Island feasibility report dated 16/08/2023.

In reference to the information contained within that plan,

I support:

- The probability of rodents, stoats, possums and wallabies re-establishing is near zero
- The protection of existing native birds (e.g. weka, dotterel, brown teal duck etc) as outlined in the report
- The protection of waterways and coastline
- The protection of human life
- The protection of domestic pets
- The protection of all birds present on the island
- The eradication of feral cats in addition to rats, stoats, possums and wallabies
- The mitigation of by-kill of all non-target species, whatever the financial cost
- The phasing of eradication as outlined within the report (e.g. wallabies before rodents)
- The complete eradication of wallabies from the island
- The use of property management plans to specific who is able to enter my property when I am not present
- The use of [Pestoff 20R](#) containing brodifacoum, being spread on the island or my property
- The use of [Pestoff 20R](#) containing brodifacoum, as well as the localised use of 1080 and/or Feratox (cyanide) being used within a closed pest receptacle
- The use of [hard and soft jawed Victor traps 3 and 4](#)
- Alternative trapping options be made available (e.g. [A24](#) or other self-resetting pest traps) for those who do not support the manual spread of toxins on their property
- The community of Kawau Island be given first option to fill any required roles, prior to those roles being offered to people outside of the community
- Providing funding to Kawau Island community groups for pest eradication
- That [Pohutukawa Trust,](#) with over 2 decades of experience working on the Island, be nominated as the preferred supplier for implementation, and/or the provision of operational and technical assistance.
- The requirement for the governance group to include representation elected from the residents and ratepayers of Kawau Island (not just members)

- A requirement for feedback received from the residents and ratepayers of Kawau Island be evidenced in all governance decision-making.
- Compensation for commercial operations impacted by project implementation

I do not support:

- The probability of rodents, stoats, possums and wallabies re-establishing is near zero
- The protection of existing native birds (e.g. weka, dotterel, brown teal duck etc) as outlined in the report
- The protection of waterways and coastline
- The protection of human life
- The protection of domestic pets
- The protection of all birds present on the island
- The eradication of feral cats in addition to rats, stoats, possums and wallabies
- The mitigation of by-kill of all non-target species, whatever the financial cost
- The phasing of eradication as outlined within the report (e.g. Wallabies before rodents)
- The complete eradication of wallabies from the island
- The use of property management plans to specify who is able to enter my property when I am not present
- The use of [Pestoff 20R](#) containing brodifacoum being spread on the island or my property
- The use of [Pestoff 20R](#) containing brodifacoum, as well as the localized use of 1080 and/or Feratox (cyanide) being used within a closed pest receptacle
- The use of [hard and soft jawed Victor traps 3 and 4](#)
- Alternative trapping options be made available (e.g. [A24](#) or other self-resetting pest traps) for those who do not support the manual spread of toxins on their property
- The community of Kawau Island be given first option to fill any required roles, prior to those roles being offered to people outside of the community
- Providing funding to Kawau Island community groups, for pest eradication
- That Pohutukawa trust, with over 2 decades experience working on the Island, be nominated as the preferred supplier for implementation, and/or the provision of operational and technical assistance.
- The requirement for the governance group to include representation elected from the residents and ratepayers of Kawau Island (not just members)
- A requirement for feedback received from the residents and ratepayers of Kawau Island be evidenced in all governance decision-making
- Compensation for commercial operations impacted by project implementation

Further comments that I would like to make regarding the consultation process [delete if not relevant and/or add comments]:

- I support the community engagement and information provided by Island Conservation and/or Auckland Council throughout this process
- The information provided is sufficient for me to inform my feedback/submission
- The time provided to receive my feedback has been sufficient/insufficient
- Both the proposed cost of implementation and the impact on our community makes this a Significant Decision as defined under the [Local Government Act](#)

- I do not believe that Council is undertaking a fair and transparent process on this matter, and request the appointment of an independent commissioner to review all feedback and make the final recommendations.

Further suggestions/comments I would like to make in relation to the process and/or the proposed feasibility report:

-

Regards,

(type your name)

Attachment C – 2023 feasibility report engagement letters

23 August 2023

Dear Kawau Islanders / Kia ora koutou,

Considering a pest free Kawau

About the pest free proposal

In 2018, we proposed the concept of a pest free Kawau Island as part of the Regional Pest Management Plan 2020 – 2030 (RPMP). We received considerable positive feedback from Aucklanders during public consultation, and the proposal was included in the final approved RPMP.

Assessing the feasibility of a pest free Kawau

Following the RPMP, we began exploring the feasibility, scope, and nature of a pest free Kawau Island. Given the ambitious nature of the proposal and the need for robust community involvement, we contracted Island Conservation to help assess its technical feasibility and social acceptance.

They engaged with the community to discuss:

- potential benefits
- potential risks
- views and values of the community

The feasibility report

A report assessing the feasibility of a pest free Kawau has now been completed along with a summary highlighting key findings.

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding the feasibility of eradicating mammalian pests from Kawau Island. The release of this report marks an interim step in an ongoing assessment of feasibility which will have further review points prior to a decision to proceed to eradication.

You can download a copy of the full feasibility report and summary at our website at this link:

www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/kawau-island

The feasibility report was peer reviewed by:

- Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust
- Pohutukawa Trust
- Department of Conservation's Island Eradication Advisory Group
- The Wallaby Technical Advisory Group
- Predator Free New Zealand 2050

Key findings of the report include:

- The majority of landowners and residents support removal of wallabies, rats, possums, and stoats
- Removal of invasive animal species would have a beneficial impact on Kawau Island's ecosystem and lead to significant gains for biodiversity
- Risk to non-target species will require mitigation
- A range of tools and techniques would be required to remove invasive species in a two stage approach
- Preventing reinvasion would require dedicated resourcing to meet biosecurity challenges
- We need to continue engaging with the Kawau Island community about how they want to be represented and involved if the project is to proceed

We want to hear from you

We want to know your thoughts on the proposal for a pest free Kawau Island. Your involvement and feedback are important to the success and direction of this proposal.

We invite your feedback from **today until Thursday 21 September**.

In particular, we would like to know what level of community representation and voice you would like to see incorporated into the project.

There are a number of ways to engage with us:

1. Write to us

Email your feedback to kawauislandproject@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Or mail your feedback to:

Auckland Council
Kawau Island Project
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

2. Pest Free Kawau Island Webinar

Join our webinar on the feasibility of a pest free Kawau Island on **30 August at 7pm**.

You can register for the webinar at this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BfDf_wdeSEaaqVvJlo7nEg

A panel of experts will discuss the report and answer your questions. The panellists include:

- Emeritus Professor David Towns – Conservation Biologist
- John Mackenzie – Resident and custodian of Rakino Island
- Tony Beauchamp – Department of Conservation, Ornithologist
- Richard Griffiths – Island Conservation, Head of Operations for South & West Pacific
- Lisa Tolich – Auckland Council, Natural Environment Targeted Rate Project Lead

We encourage you to email us questions ahead of the webinar

kawauislandproject@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz. You can also ask questions on the evening.

The webinar will be recorded and available on our website if you cannot attend the live session.

3. Visit us at a drop in session

Come to one of our drop-in sessions and discuss the proposal with Auckland Council and Island Conservation Staff in person.

We will be at Sandspit Wharf Café from 10am to 3pm on:

- Monday 4 September
- Thursday 14 September

Next steps

We will compile your feedback and present this to the proposals governing group.

Based on your feedback and the findings of the feasibility report, the governing group will make a decision on whether to move into the next planning phase of the proposal.

Ngā mihi nui / Kind regards

Kawau Island Project Team

29 August 2023

Dear Kawau Island community / Kia ora koutou,

Pest free Kawau Island webinar

We are looking forward to you joining our webinar on a pest free Kawau Island tomorrow, **Wednesday 30 August at 7pm.**

To join us, please register at this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BfDf_wdeSEaaqVvJlo7nEg

We will be discussing the Pest free Kawau Island feasibility report and submitting your questions to a panel of conservation experts including:

- Emeritus Professor David Towns – Conservation Biologist
- John Mackenzie – Resident and custodian of Rakino Island
- Tony Beauchamp – Department of Conservation, Ornithologist
- Richard Griffiths – Island Conservation, Head of Operations for South & West Pacific
- Lisa Tolich – Auckland Council, Natural Environment Targeted Rate Project Lead
- Phil Brown – Auckland Council, Natural Environment Delivery Lead

You can download a copy of the full feasibility report and summary at our website at this link:

www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/kawau-island

If you cannot attend the live webinar, it will be recorded and available on our website.

How to submit questions

- You can email us questions ahead of the webinar kawauislandproject@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz . Questions will be accepted until 3pm on Wednesday 30 August.
- You can submit questions during the webinar using the Q&A feature in Zoom.

We have already received a lot of questions and may not be able to answer all of them during the webinar. We will collate any unanswered questions though, ensure they are answered, and share them on our website following the webinar.

Ngā mihi nui / Kind regards

Kawau Island Project Team

1 September 2023

Dear Kawau Island community / Kia ora koutou,

Considering a pest free Kawau Island

Webinar

We held a webinar on Wednesday 30 August to discuss the Pest free Kawau Island feasibility report. Thank you to everyone to joined us and submitted questions to the panel.

We weren't able to answer all of your questions on the night, however, we will collate and answer these in a document which will be made available on our webpage www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/kawau-island

If you weren't able to join us live, you can watch the full webinar at this link:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=dhEaddbe13I

We want to hear from you

We want to know your thoughts on the proposal for a pest free Kawau Island and invite your feedback up until **Thursday 21 September**. In particular:

- we would like to know what level of community representation and voice you would like to see incorporated into the project
- how you think community representation should be chosen

There are a number of ways to reach us:

1. Write to us

Email your feedback to kawauislandproject@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Or mail your feedback to:

Auckland Council
Kawau Island Project
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

2. Visit us at a drop in session

Come to one of our drop-in sessions and discuss the proposal with Auckland Council and Island Conservation Staff in person.

We will be at Sandspit Wharf Café from 10am to 3pm on:

- Monday 4 September
- Thursday 14 September

Ngā mihi nui / Kind regards

Kawau Island Project Team

8 September 2023

Dear Kawau Island community / Kia ora koutou,

Considering a pest free Kawau Island

Webinar questions and answers

Thank you to everyone who submitted questions before and during our webinar on the Pest free Kawau Island feasibility report. We received a lot of questions and were not able to answer all of these on the night.

We have compiled your unanswered questions, provided answers, and shared this document on our website.

You can find the 'Pest free Kawau Island webinar questions and answers' document at this link under the 'Pest free Kawau Island webinar' section: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/kawau-island

We want to hear from you

We want to know your thoughts on the proposal for a pest free Kawau Island and invite your feedback up until **Thursday 21 September**.

In particular, we would like to know:

- what level of community representation and voice you would like to see incorporated into the project
- how you think community representation should be chosen

You can submit feedback or ask questions by:

1. Visiting us at a drop in session

Come to our second drop-in session at Sandspit Wharf café on Thursday 14 September, 10am – 3pm. You can discuss the proposal with Auckland Council and Island Conservation Staff in person.

2. Writing to us

Email your feedback to kawauislandproject@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Mail your feedback to: Auckland Council, Kawau Island Project, Private Bag 92300, Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142.

Next steps

We will compile your feedback and present this to the proposals governing group.

Based on your feedback and the findings of the feasibility report, the governing group will decide on whether to move into the next planning phase of the proposal.

If you have questions or feedback after 21 September, we would still like to hear from you. They will not form a part of the formal presentation to the governing group, but we welcome them as part of an ongoing discussion regarding the proposal.

If the proposal is approved, we will schedule further opportunities for engagement and discussion, on and around Kawau Island, and welcome your input on this.

Ngā mihi nui / Kind regards

Kawau Island Project Team

18 September 2023

Dear Kawau Island community / Kia ora koutou,

Feedback closes this Thursday 21 September

We want to know your thoughts on the proposal for a pest free Kawau Island and invite your feedback up until **Thursday 21 September**. Whether you are in favour, have concerns, or are still making up your mind, we want to hear from you.

In particular, we would like to know:

- what level of community representation and voice you would like to see incorporated into the project
- how you think community representation should be chosen

Please email your feedback to kawauislandproject@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz by Thursday 21 September.

Resources

You can find the below information at our webpage, www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/kawau-island

- The full feasibility report and a summary of key findings
- The webinar recording with a panel of experts discussing the report and answering your questions
- The webinar questions and answers documents, answering questions we did not have time to cover during the webinar

Next steps

We will compile your feedback and present this to the proposals governing group.

Based on your feedback and the findings of the feasibility report, the governing group will decide on whether to move into the next planning phase of the proposal.

If you have questions or feedback after 21 September, we would still like to hear from you. They will not form a part of the formal presentation to the governing group, but we welcome them as part of an ongoing discussion regarding the proposal.

If the proposal is approved, we will schedule further opportunities for engagement and discussion, on and around Kawau Island, and welcome your input on this.

Ngā mihi nui / Kind regards

Kawau Island Project Team

