

## Notice

30 March 2019



Game Animal Council  
NEW ZEALAND

# Tiakina Ngā Manu predator control operations paused under alert level 4

A notice from DOC regarding the status of its predator control operations:

- DOC is pausing its Tiakina Ngā Manu predator control operations, as non-essential work is halted under COVID-19 alert level 4, and staff and contractors self-isolate at home.
- Field work and face to face gatherings cannot occur while we are in lock down. This means aerial 1080 and ground control operations organised over the coming months will be postponed.
- DOC will continue planning and consultation, so that we are ready to hit the ground running when Covid 19 has been stamped out. Staff and contractors will continue to contact Treaty Partners and stakeholders remotely where possible under alert level 4 restrictions.
- DOC is reviewing its 2020/2021 predator control programme. Some predator control operations will be delayed until later in 2020 and some will be postponed until 2021.
- DOC's priority is to support New Zealand's COVID-19 response and ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of DOC staff and contractors.
- Delaying predator control operations at some sites will increase the risk of predation on native species, particularly stoat predation of kiwi chicks, but is not expected to have a critical impact on species' populations.
- It's fortunate we have nearly completed our largest-ever predator control programme in response to the 2019 forest mega mast, protecting our most at-risk populations of threatened species such as orange-fronted kākāriki, kiwi, kākā, whio and bats.