

# Project **Pest Free Onetahua** Farewell Spit

An ecological restoration project of international significance



Photo by Bradley Shields

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# Restoring a national taonga

Onetahua Farewell Spit is a hotspot of dune and wetland biodiversity. It is a wāhi tapu – a sacred place, rich in Māori traditions and ancestral stories.

But it is not what it used to be... Today, it is internationally renowned for its flocks of migratory shorebirds that visit to feed but not breed. For our tūpuna ancestors, Onetahua was a place of abundance – breeding birds and other taonga species flourished in a range of unique habitats. Today, the breeding birds have been lost or are in decline – threatened by the pests we introduced.

Possums, rats, stoats and feral pigs eat defenceless seabird chicks and eggs. They destroy habitat and food sources. And with nothing to keep them in check, they're out of control.

With 90 percent of New Zealand's seabirds threatened with extinction we must act to protect our taonga for future generations.. Pest Free Onetahua is an unrivalled mainland restoration opportunity to look after what we still have and recover what has been lost.

But this will take vision, determination, and support, and that's where you can help.



Photo by Rebecca Bowater



Photo by Bradley Shields

“Imagine, as the sun sets, thousands— maybe millions—of birds streaming in off the sea to their nests at Onetahua Spit. That’s what it used to be like – a raucous celebration of life. We can restore it. But first we need to get rid of the pests that ate their eggs.”

Sky Davies, Manager Tasman Environmental Trust

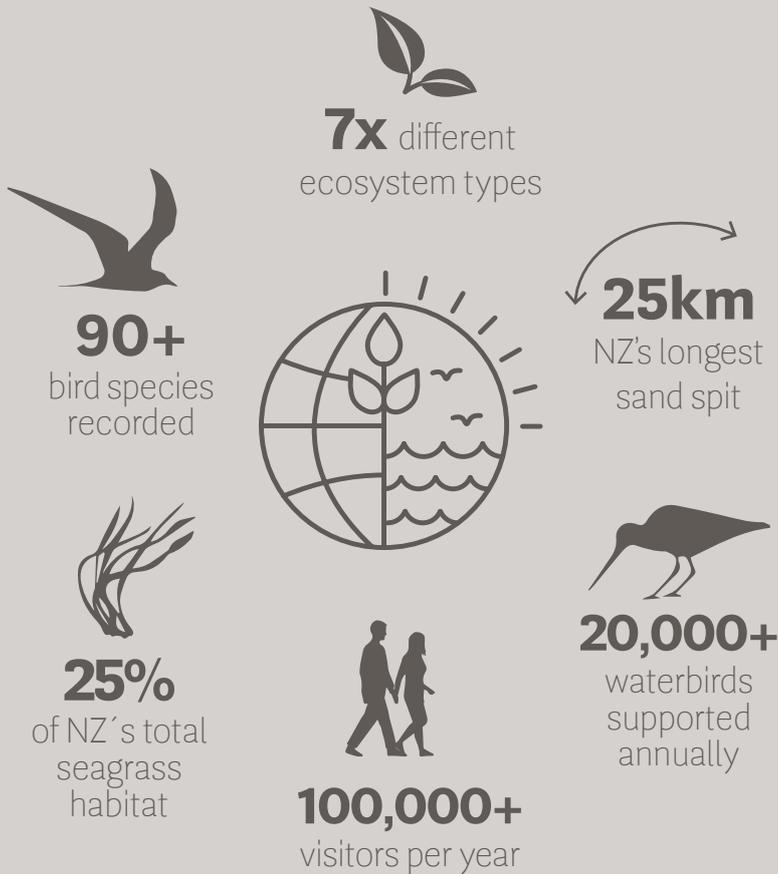
# Onetahua Farewell Spit by the numbers



Photo by Rebecca Bowater



Photo by Rebecca Bowater



“Onetahua has a long Māori history, with relationships dating back to the 12th Century. The lives of our tūpuna ancestors were intertwined with this place. Taonga were found in abundance, thriving in a range of unique habitats, providing whānau with sustenance and inspiration.”

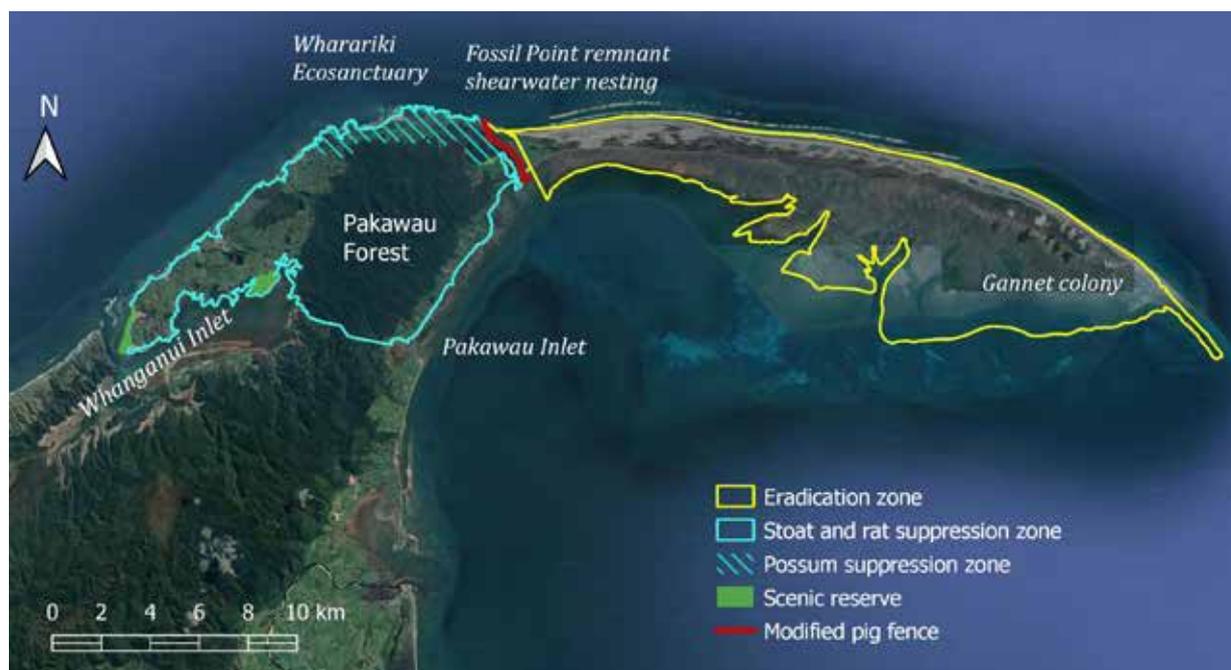
Margie Little, Manawhenua ki Mohua



Photo by Bradley Shields

# About the **Pest Free Onetahua** Farewell Spit project

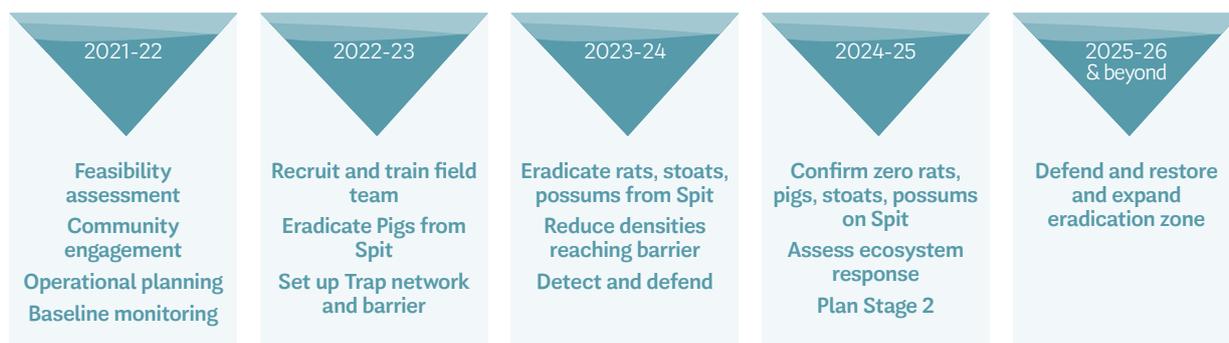
This project is community-led and ambitious—we aim to completely remove possums, rats, stoats and feral pigs from Onetahua Farewell Spit by 2025 and prevent their return.



Totally eradicating predators from such a large coastal area with extensive tidal flats has never been achieved before. Our feasibility study says it's possible. Not easy; but possible.

Eradication of pests from the Spit alone will be a remarkable achievement but this project doesn't stop there. Stage 2 will roll the eradication zone westward to Whanganui and Pakawau Inlets. This project is a springboard to pest free Kahurangi.

## Project timeline



We are not doing this alone. Thanks to the support of Predator Free 2050 Limited, we are part of a nationwide mission supporting innovation and collaboration.

## Project partners

### Tasman Environmental Trust (TET)

An environmental non-profit with a proven track record of supporting landscape-scale conservation projects in the Nelson Tasman region.



### Manawhenua ki Mohua

An umbrella entity for the three manawhenua living in Mōhua Golden Bay today: NgātiTama, NgātiRārua and Te Ātiawa.



Manawhenua ki Mohua



Photo by Rebecca Bowater

### Steering group members

Department of Conservation, Tasman District Council, Project Mohua, Landowner representative.

## Project budget

YEAR BEGINNING	JUL 21	JUL 22	JUL 23	JUL 24	JUL 25	TOTAL
<b>Budget Stage 1 (\$NZ)</b>	<b>295,000</b>	<b>2,500,000</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>	<b>700,000</b>	<b>5,895,000</b>
<b>Funding Secured</b>						
Predator Free 2050	250,000	2,100,000	650,000			<b>3,000,000</b>
Supporters	45,000					<b>45,000</b>
<b>Stage 1 Funds required</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>1,150,000</b>	<b>700,000</b>	<b>2,850,000</b>
<b>Budget Stage 2</b>						
Budget Stage 2				1,660,000	1,200,000	<b>2,860,000</b>
Total Budget stage 1 & 2	295,000	2,500,000	1,250,000	2,810,000	1,900,000	<b>8,755,000</b>
<b>Total Funds required</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>600,000</b>	<b>2,810,000</b>	<b>1,900,000</b>	<b>5,710,000</b>

“Landscape scale eradication of introduced predators from Onetahua Farewell Spit is ambitious and feasible with technology available now. This community-led project will help us learn and further develop our approaches and in that way make a valuable contribution to our national mission.”

Brett Butland  
Acting CEO Predator Free 2050 Limited



Photo by Rebecca Bowater

# Pest Free Onetahua

## Outcomes

By 2025 the pests are gone and the project partners have a long-term restoration plan to work towards the outcomes identified in our collective vision.

### By 2035...

Diverse landforms – cliffs, dune, and wetlands – sustain growing numbers of manu bird life.

Rising seabird numbers recycle ocean nutrients, enhancing the soils in adjacent forests, pastures, and tidal flats, supporting growing numbers of shellfish.



Onetahua is a haven for species struggling elsewhere like the critically endangered fairy tern, black stilt, and NZ shore plover – enhancing both the mauri and mana of Mohua.

Our community is inspired to connect with our unique ecosystems – with our tamariki also taking part in planting, bird releases and chick feeding duties.

The Spit and interconnected whenua lands continue to be defended from pests, providing for the reintroduction of taonga, such as kiwi and kākā into Pakawau Forest.

The stories and sounds of Onetahua are recalled by growing numbers of visitors whenever they see the “beak of the kiwi” on the map of New Zealand.



We maintain our focus on providing for future generations – extending our efforts across Te Tai Tapu.

# Pest Free Onetahua

## We need your support

Predator Free 2050 Limited has committed \$3 million to the Pest Free Onetahua Project. Now we have to raise the balance of 2.85 million for stage 1 and keep our eye on the target for stage 2.

We are calling for expressions of support from individuals and organisations who understand this project's global significance as well as the catastrophic ecological cost of doing nothing.

**Please email our project manager: [info@onetahuarestoration.org.nz](mailto:info@onetahuarestoration.org.nz) to discuss how you may be involved in this project.**



## Benefits of support



A highly **recognizable and worthy** sponsorship opportunity

## CSR

Contribute to your **corporate social responsibility** and triple bottom line



**A powerful narrative of involvement** in an internationally significant conservation project



**Talk to us** about other ways we can support your goals



Our biodiversity has been evolving  
for over 4 billion years.

All that raw potential for resilience...

We are not clever enough to  
substitute it, or live without it

But we are clever enough to save it.



Photo by Bradley Shields

