MUSEUM OF NEW ZEALAND TE PAPA TONGAREWA

Cable St PO Box 467 Wellington New Zealand Telephone 64-4-381 7249 www.tepapa.govt.nz

16 June 2021



Tēnā koe,

Re: Official Information Act (OIA) Request - Kororā of Te Motu Kairangi

I am writing in response to your email dated 3 June 2021 and in which you requested the following information:

all correspondence and research regarding the kororā of Te Motu Kairangi from June 2012 to June 2021

Please see the attached bundles of documents. All redactions are for privacy reasons.

If you are not satisfied with this response you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us please contact either Frances Lawrence or Zoë Genet, at OIA@tepapa.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Frances Lawrence

Senior Advisor Planning and Performance

Zoë Genet

Principal Legal Counsel

From: Philip Edgar

To: Kate Camp; Martin Lewis; Colin Miskelly

Subject: Fw: Enquiry from Wellington, NZ regarding Shelley Bay Development

Date: Wednesday, 2 June 2021 4:25:01 PM

fyi

From: Dean Peterson < Dean. Peterson@tepapa.govt.nz >

Sent: Monday, 31 May 2021 4:34 PM **To:** Philip Edgar < Philip E@tepapa.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Enquiry from Wellington, NZ regarding Shelley Bay Development

Hi Phil,

I'm sending this to you FYI. This was something Susan was working on before she left. I'm not sure if Colin would be interested or not.

Cheers, Dean

From: Susan Waugh

Tom: Susan Waugh

Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 5:05 pm

To: Dean Peterson < Dean. Peterson@tepapa.govt.nz>

Subject: Fwd: Enquiry from Wellington, NZ regarding Shelley Bay Development

Hi, what do you think about this one?

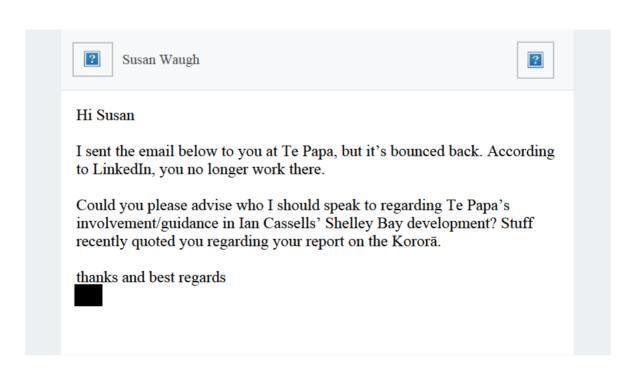
----- Forwarded message -----

De: <<u>messages-noreply@linkedin.com</u>>

Date: jeu. 27 mai 2021 à 06:48

Subject: Enquiry from Wellington, NZ regarding Shelley Bay Development

To:



Begin forwarded message: From: Subject: Kororā, Shelley Bay Development Date: 27 May 2021 at 2:50:04 PM NZST To: "susan.waugh@tepapa.govt.nz" <susan.waugh@tepapa.govt.nz> Hi Susan I recently read an article on Stuff quoting Ian Cassels as saying he would follow Te Papa's direction and guidance concerning the welfare of the resident Kororā at Shelley Bay in Wellington. The article focussed on a report that you authored, however I was concerned to also read that you said "the research did not assess how the new development would endanger the resident penguins, and you were not privy to the finer details of the proposal". Mr Cassells appears to be trying to quell people's concerns for the penguins by saying he will take Te Papa's guidance on the matter, but it seems that Te Papa may not have the necessary information to be able to advise him? Could you please reassure me that the correct information on how to protect resident Kororā will be provided to him and his staff, I am feeling that there is an enormous loophole here where the development will go ahead without regard for these little penguins and their homes - and lead to further unnecessary loss of a very precious 'at-risk and declining' precious native bird. thanks and regards Yes. interested...

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No thanks...

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Reply

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?

From: MartinL on behalf of Enquiries

To: Kate Camp; Philip Edgar

Cc: Colin Miskelly

Subject: Journo enquiry? : Kororā at Shelly Bay - Te Papa advisor quoted query

Date: Wednesday, 2 June 2021 3:35:55 PM

Kia ora Phil.

Are you able to respond on if Colin is advising on this? (or is it DOC? Te Papa Atawhai?) I can see Colin's away at the moment.

Kate CCing you in as sounds like a media enquiry, I looked the name up but couldn't lock down on anything.

Thanks

Martin

From:

Sent: Tuesday, 1 June 2021 1:55 pm

To: Enquiries < Enquiries@tepapa.govt.nz>

Subject: Kororā at Shelly Bay

Hi there

Could you please tell me who at Te Papa will be advising The Wellington Company on rehousing the resident Kororā at Shelly Bay? The completion of the sale of the land is conditional upon the proper rehousing of the penguins, and Ian Cassells has been quoted as saying he is working with Te Papa and will take their guidance on the process.

thanks and regards

From: Kate Camp
To: Enquiries

Subject: RE: Another Enquiry regarding Shelley Bay Development advice

Date: Thursday, 3 June 2021 11:50:21 AM

Looks good to me

Kate Camp (she / her)

Kaiwhakahaere Whakapā | Head of Marketing and Communications Te Papa | 029 601 0180 | kate.camp@tepapa.govt.nz

From: Enquiries < Enquiries @tepapa.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 3 June 2021 11:49 am

To: Dean Peterson < Dean.Peterson@tepapa.govt.nz>; Philip Edgar < Philip E@tepapa.govt.nz>

Cc: Kate Camp < Kate.Camp@tepapa.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Another Enquiry regarding Shelley Bay Development advice

I don't typically respond back without an official draft on things like this. In lieu of that I could go back with a basic:

Thank you for getting in contact. No Te Papa is not involved in this research project. A former staff member was approached but the project was not picked up.

Ok with that? Covers the bases and context.

From: Dean Peterson < <u>Dean.Peterson@tepapa.govt.nz</u>>

Sent: Thursday, 3 June 2021 11:43 am

To: Enquiries < Enquiries@tepapa.govt.nz >; Philip Edgar < PhilipE@tepapa.govt.nz >

Cc: Kate Camp < <u>Kate.Camp@tepapa.govt.nz</u>>

Subject: RE: Another Enquiry regarding Shelley Bay Development advice

Kia ora Martin,

Do you have enough information to go back to

Cheers,

Dean

From: Enquiries < Enquiries@tepapa.govt.nz >

Sent: Thursday, 3 June 2021 11:35 am

To: Philip Edgar < PhilipE@tepapa.govt.nz>; Dean Peterson < Dean.Peterson@tepapa.govt.nz>

Cc: Kate Camp < Kate.Camp@tepapa.govt.nz >

Subject: Another Enquiry regarding Shelley Bay Development advice

Thanks all for working out next steps. FYI she's been in contact again this morning. Martin

From: via Te Papa <<u>webmaster@tepapa.govt.nz</u>>

Sent: Thursday, 3 June 2021 9:38 am

To: Enquiries < Enquiries @tepapa.govt.nz >

Subject: Other

From:

Reason for enquiry: Other

Enquiry:

Hello, could you please give me the contact details of the person(s) who will be undertaking the research project entitled "Embedding nature at the heart of the city: Proposals to create habitat for Little Penguins within Shelly Bay" for The Wellington Company please? the contact details of the person(s) who will be undertaking the research project entitled "Embedding nature at the heart of the city: Proposals to create habitat for Little Penguins within Shelly Bay" for The Wellington Company please? the contact details of the person(s) who will be undertaking the research project entitled "Embedding nature at the heart of the city: Proposals to create habitat for Little Penguins within Shelly Bay" for The Wellington Company please? the contact details of the city: The Wellington Company please? the contact details of the city: The Wellington Company please? the contact details of the city: The wellington Company please? the contact details of the city: The city details of the city

Attachments:

Submitted from general enquiry form on Thursday, 3 June, 2021 - 09:38.

From: Enquiries

To: <u>Dean Peterson</u>; <u>Philip Edgar</u>

Cc: Kate Camp

Subject: RE: Another Enquiry regarding Shelley Bay Development advice

Date: Thursday, 3 June 2021 11:49:00 AM

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To: Enquiries <Enquiries@tepapa.govt.nz>; Philip Edgar <PhilipE@tepapa.govt.nz>

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Cheers, Dean

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To: Philip Edgar < PhilipE@tepapa.govt.nz>; Dean Peterson < Dean.Peterson@tepapa.govt.nz>

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Enquiry:

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Attachments:

Submitted from general enquiry form on Thursday, 3 June, 2021 - 09:38.

From: Philip Edgar

To: Colin Miskelly; Martin Lewis; Kate Camp
Cc: Dean Peterson; Alan Tennyson

Subject: Re: Enquiry from Wellington, NZ regarding Shelley Bay Development

Date: Thursday, 3 June 2021 9:04:14 AM

thanks Colin

Dean, I will send the original enquiry to you.

thanks

Phil

From: Colin Miskelly < Colin. Miskelly @tepapa.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 3 June 2021 8:43 AM

To: Martin Lewis <MartinL@tepapa.govt.nz>; Philip Edgar <PhilipE@tepapa.govt.nz>; Kate Camp

<Kate.Camp@tepapa.govt.nz>

Cc: Dean Peterson <Dean.Peterson@tepapa.govt.nz>; Alan Tennyson <AlanT@tepapa.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Enquiry from Wellington, NZ regarding Shelley Bay Development

Mōrena katoa

I do not recall Susan discussing this.

She was involved with little penguin research (without involvement by Alan and myself)

It is not a topic that I would choose to get involved in. There are many other groups and individuals around the country who are experienced with installing nest boxes and encouraging penguins to use them (I am not).

Has Te Papa (as an institution) made a commitment here, or is this something we can step back from following Susan's resignation?

If the developer is looking for advice or input, we can provide suggestions of people who could be approached

I was asked about this topic by a week or so back. She had read of Te Papa's involvment from an article in Stuff, and wanted to know more. I replied that I knew nothing about it

Ngā mihi Colin

From: Martin Lewis <MartinL@tepapa.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 3 June 2021 8:02 am

To: Philip Edgar <PhilipE@tepapa.govt.nz>; Kate Camp <Kate.Camp@tepapa.govt.nz>; Colin

Miskelly < Colin. Miskelly@tepapa.govt.nz>

Cc: Dean Peterson < Dean. Peterson@tepapa.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Enquiry from Wellington, NZ regarding Shelley Bay Development

Thanks Phil.

Can you please confirm who will be responding to so we have a record of the action? (or just CC me into the response)

Thanks

Martin

From: Philip Edgar < PhilipE@tepapa.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 2 June 2021 4:25 pm

To: Kate Camp < Kate Camp@tepapa.govt.nz; Colin

Miskelly < Colin. Miskelly @tepapa.govt.nz>

Subject: Fw: Enquiry from Wellington, NZ regarding Shelley Bay Development

fyi

From: Dean Peterson < Dean.Peterson@tepapa.govt.nz >

Sent: Monday, 31 May 2021 4:34 PM To: Philip Edgar < PhilipE@tepapa.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Enquiry from Wellington, NZ regarding Shelley Bay Development

Hi Phil,

I'm sending this to you FYI. This was something Susan was working on before she left. I'm not sure if Colin would be interested or not.

Cheers. Dean

From: Susan Waugh

Sent: Thursday, 27 May 2021 5:05 pm

To: Dean Peterson < Dean. Peterson@tepapa.govt.nz>

Subject: Fwd: Enquiry from Wellington, NZ regarding Shelley Bay Development

Hi, what do you think about this one?

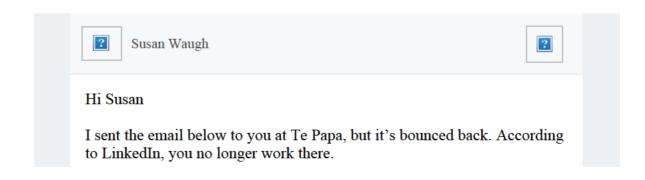
----- Forwarded message -----

<messages-noreply@linkedin.com>

Date: jeu. 27 mai 2021 à 06:48

Subject: Enquiry from Wellington, NZ regarding Shelley Bay Development

To: Susan Waugh <



Could you please advise who I should speak to regarding Te Papa's involvement/guidance in Ian Cassells' Shelley Bay development? Stuff recently quoted you regarding your report on the Kororā.

thanks and best regards Lisa

Begin forwarded message:

From: Subject: Kororā, Shelley Bay Development

Date: 27 May 2021 at 2:50:04 PM NZST

To: "susan.waugh@tepapa.govt.nz" <susan.waugh@tepapa.govt.nz>

Hi Susan

I recently read an article on Stuff quoting Ian Cassels as saying he would follow Te Papa's direction and guidance concerning the welfare of the resident Kororā at Shelley Bay in Wellington.

The article focussed on a report that you authored, however I was concerned to also read that you said "the research did not assess how the new development would endanger the resident penguins, and you were not privy to the finer details of the proposal".

Mr Cassells appears to be trying to quell people's concerns for the penguins by saying he will take Te Papa's guidance on the matter, but it seems that Te Papa may not have the necessary information to be able to advise him?

Could you please reassure me that the correct information on how to protect resident Kororā will be provided to him and his staff, I am feeling that there is an enormous loophole here where the development will go ahead without regard for these little penguins and their homes - and lead to further unnecessary loss of a very precious 'at-risk and declining' precious native bird.

thanks and regards Lisa Delany



Yes, interested...

No thanks...

Reply

LinkedIn profile

Unsubscribe Help

This email was intended for Susan Waugh (Marine Coordinator, Africa at BirdLife International, and Programme Coordinator Life PanPuffinus at LPO, France). Learn why we included this.

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From: <u>MartinL</u> on behalf of <u>Enquiries</u>

To:

Subject: Te Papa involvement in the Embedding nature at the heart of the city project

Date: Thursday, 3 June 2021 11:57:39 AM

Kia ora

Thank you for getting in contact. No, Te Papa is not involved in this research project. A former staff member was approached but the project was not picked up.

Kind regards,

Martin

From: via Te Papa <webmaster@tepapa.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 3 June 2021 9:38 am **To:** Enquiries < Enquiries @tepapa.govt.nz >

Subject: Other

From:

Reason for enquiry: Other

Enquiry:

Hello, could you please give me the contact details of the person(s) who will be undertaking the research project entitled "Embedding nature at the heart of the city: Proposals to create habitat for Little Penguins within Shelly Bay" for The Wellington Company please?

thanks and regards

Attachments:

Submitted from general enquiry form on Thursday, 3 June, 2021 - 09:38.



From: Susan Waugh Sent: Thu, 07 Sep 2017 09:19:11 GMT

To: <u>dean peterson</u>

Subject: RE: WCC Shelly Bay report needs to be sent

ok, cheers.

S

From: Dean Peterson

Sent: Thursday, 7 September 2017 9:08 a.m.

To: Susan Waugh

Subject: RE: WCC Shelly Bay report needs to be sent

Hi Sue,

This is a good read. I think the idea of a penguin research and viewing region would be great.

There's a double up on the word 'sub-species' in the 3rd para and a hyphen missing on sub-species after that. Otherwise it all looks great.

Send it!

Cheers, Dean

From: Susan Waugh

Sent: Thursday, 7 September 2017 8:51 AM

To: Dean Peterson < Dean.Peterson@tepapa.govt.nz> **Subject:** WCC Shelly Bay report needs to be sent

Hi Dean, did you get the chance to look at this. I really need to send it, they were expecting it yesterday.

Thanks

Susan



From: <u>dean peterson</u> **Sent:** Mon, 14 Aug 2017 13:25:05 GMT

To: <u>Susan Waugh</u>

Subject: RE: Peter Gilberd - penguin restoration ideas

Great news! Perhaps we can reach that funding target that Peter has set us after all!

Cheers, Dean

From: Susan Waugh

Sent: Monday, 14 August 2017 1:20 PM

To: Dean Peterson < Dean.Peterson@tepapa.govt.nz> **Subject:** Peter Gilberd - penguin restoration ideas

Hi Dean, I got through to Peter this morning and he's keen to set up a meeting about restoring penguin habitat/improving their viability around the Shelly Bay redevelopment. Sounds like it has masses of potential.

He is most interested in getting us to put together some expert advice on possible habitat management concepts, such as providing protected breeding habitat, increasing the birds resilience to dog attacks, management zones, penguin road pass tunnels, etc. This is very feasible, and we can do this based on our own experience and that of our colleagues around New Zealand (e.g West Coast Penguin Trust road fencing projects), dog protection measures.

He said he thought we could get a small contract from WCC to do this work for them. Hes going to get the WCC analyst to get in touch and take it from there.

Susan

Susan Waugh (PhD)
Acting Head of Science
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
PO Box 467, Wellington 6011

E: susan.waugh@tepapa.govt.nz

P: +64 4 371 7309 M: +64 29 770 6498

From: Andrea Tandy

Sent: Friday, 15 September 2017 8:51 AM

To: Dean Peterson; Susan Waugh; David Robinson

Cc: Geraint Martin

Subject: RE: Penguin article pg 3 Dom Post with better headline

Attachments: Dom Post - Penguins 15 Sept 2017.pdf

Hi All

It's in today's Dominion Post page 3.

See attached.

Cheers Andrea

Andrea Tandy

Senior Communications Advisor, Te Papa

Mobile: +64 29 601 0010, Email: andrea.tandy@tepapa.govt.nz

From: Andrea Tandy

Sent: Thursday, 14 September 2017 5:24 PM

To: Dean Peterson < Dean.Peterson@tepapa.govt.nz>; Susan Waugh < Susan.Waugh@tepapa.govt.nz>; David

Robinson < David.Robinson@tepapa.govt.nz>

Cc: Geraint Martin < Geraint.Martin@tepapa.govt.nz>

Subject: Penguin article on stuff.

Good afternoon all

The article is on stuff. A bit of a backhanded headline. They didn't use much of our response.

https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/96784185/Developer-teams-up-with-Te-Papa-to-protect-penguins-of-Shelly-Bay

It will likely run in the Dominion Post tomorrow and it might spur some other media enquiries.

I'll update you all tomorrow once I've seen the paper.

Cheers

Andrea

Andrea Tandy

Senior Communications Advisor

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa

Mobile: +64 29 601 0010

Email: andrea.tandy@tepapa.govt.nz | Website: www.tepapa.govt.nz

PO Box 467 | Cable Street | Wellington | New Zealand

www.tepapa.govt.nz



 From:
 Susan Waugh

 To:
 Andrea Tandy

 Subject:
 FW: Updated report

Date: Wednesday, 13 September 2017 2:33:00 PM

Attachments: Penguin habitat proposal.docx

Susan Waugh, Te Papa

E: susan.waugh@tepapa.govt.nz

M: 029 770 6498

From: Susan Waugh

Sent: Tuesday, 12 September 2017 3:11 PM

To: 'Danielle Warren' <danielle.warren@twc.co.nz>

Subject: Updated report

Hi Danielle, just to check who is the client that the contract report should be addressed to ? Is it Wellington Company or Shelly Bay Company?

I've updated it with an executive summary, and that was my understanding of the changes Ian was wanting. If this is acceptable to you, Im happy to have it released at this stage.

Thanks Susan

Susan Waugh (PhD)
Acting Head of Science
Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
PO Box 467, Wellington 6011

E: susan.waugh@tepapa.govt.nz

P: +64 4 371 7309 M: +64 29 770 6498

From: Susan Waugh

Sent: Tuesday, 5 September 2017 4:48 PM

To: Dean Peterson

Subject: please skim through before I send it to the WCC/Wellington Company folks

Attachments: Te Papa Penguin habitat proposal.docx

Hi, I said I'd send them a draft today...(tomorrow will probably do). Comments please!

From: Councillor Peter Gilberd <Peter.Gilberd@wcc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 25 August 2017 9:25 AM **To:** Susan Waugh; Chamanthie Sinhalage

Subject: RE: penguin tracks

Hi Susan

Yes, they certainly get around. Perhaps this does tell us that we could develop some good nesting and roosting sites north of Shelly Bay, and that would reduce the numbers of birds to the south? Interested in your comment yesterday that the big rivers may be important factors in Wellington/Wairarapa being an excellent environment for the penguins.

Thank you for the meeting yesterday. I do appreciate your interest, and I hope that this will lead to better outcomes for our population of little blue penguins.

Very best wishes Peter

From: Susan Waugh [mailto:Susan.Waugh@tepapa.govt.nz]

Sent: Friday, 25 August 2017 8:30 AM

To: Chamanthie Sinhalage; Councillor Peter Gilberd

Subject: penguin tracks

Hi Peter and Chamanthie,

Attached are the raw tracking data from 2 little penguin studies around well. Red are the 2014 tracks from Balaena Bay and Eastbourne, showing the birds using the harbour a lot, but also around into Palliser Bay. This included non-breeding, incubating and chick-stage birds.

Green are the tracks from the Auckland Uni study that was part of our 2017 publication, tracked from Matiu-Somes I, where they were mainly in the harbour, but did shorter trips because they were all tracked during chick stage. x

What I hope you will take from this is that they birds use almost all the harbour, and so I consider any area around the inner harbour is good potential habitat for nesting, provided it has some shelter & protection for them.

They use the harbour mouth a lot. In the report we wrote for the Port Company based on these tracks, we estimated that 50-100% of the penguins use the harbour mouth area alongside Miramar peninsula at any stage of the breeding cycle.

Susan

This email has been filtered by SMX. For more information visit smxemail.com

From: Susan Waugh

Sent: Thursday, 7 September 2017 9:19 AM

To: Dean Peterson

Subject: RE: WCC Shelly Bay report needs to be sent

ok, cheers.

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Send it!

Cheers, Dean

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Embedding nature at the heart of our city: A proposal to create habitat for Little Penguins in association with the Shelly Bay Redevelopment



Contract report to Wellington Company Limited

12 September 2017

Susan Waugh

Senior Curator Sciences

Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa
susan.waugh@tepapa.govt.nz

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Executive Summary

- 1. Wellington has a rich natural heritage and the harbour hosts populations of several seabird and marine mammal species.
- 2. Options to improve habitat and create breeding or roosting spaces for little penguins, in association with the Shelly Bay development project include:
 - a. **Creating a penguin-friendly habitat** this activity can be achieved by enabling egress of the penguins from the sea onto the coastal land, and providing shelter for them through planting coastal shrubs.
 - b. Create a dedicated space for penguins with associated monitoring This activity has potential to work well in Wellington, with the possibility of creating a fenced or predator-free reserve through trapping along a coastal area around Wellington Harbour or at Miramar Peninsula.
 - c. Mitigate traffic accidents Fencing around the coastal areas, to avoid road accidents for the penguins would be beneficial, provided there is sufficient space (10 20 m of scrub-covered habitat) on the seaward side of the road.
 - d. Reducing predation Several options are possible, such as fencing or installing a high density of traps, such as those used by Department of Conservation and Greater Wellington Regional Council for predator control around forest reserves in the region. Target species for these trapping programmes in the Wellington area include stoats and weasels, rats. Cat and dog predation from domestic pets requires education and awareness raising with neighbours.

Wildlife around Wellington Harbour

Wellington Harbour has a rich assemblage of marine species, partly due to its proximity to a zone of strong upwelling in Cook Strait. The harbour also has secure habitats for breeding for several species, particularly in the harbour islands. Species known to occur within the harbour are listed in Appendix 1. Of species that nest in Wellington harbour, of particular note are spotted shags, little penguins, and white-fronted terns. Black-backed gulls also have a large nesting population at Matiu/Somes Island, and several other species are present throughout the year, but not known to breed in Wellington harbour (Appendix 1; Robertson 1992).

The population of spotted shags has grown since the 1970s when they began to nest at Matiu/Somes Island, to around 100 - 350 individuals in different seasons since 2002 (Waugh et al. 2013). Small numbers (fewer than 11 individuals) have been observed at Makaro/Ward Island. Small numbers of little shags (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*) and black shags (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) roost on the harbour islands, although groups of these birds may be seen rafting around the harbour edges, such as at Eastbourne (S. Waugh, pers. obs). Fluttering shearwaters have been introduced at Matiu/Somes Island through translocation of chicks from breeding sites in Marlborough (Matiu/Somes Island Trust 2017). This species is very common in the harbour, with birds feeding in the harbour likely to come from the populations that nest in Marlborough (Robertson 1992).

Little penguins number around 300 pairs nesting at their main breeding site, at Matiu/Somes Island (G. Taylor, pers. comm). This population represents a nationally important population of the penguins. They are in decline in most localities around New Zealand. The 'New Zealand' sub-species of little penguin is the one found nesting in and around Wellington harbour. It is found throughout New Zealand with the exception of the Otago and Southland areas (Grosser et al. 2015). Little don't appear to form dense colonies like the 'Australian' subspecies, which is famous for its penguin parades and is the sub-species that occurs at the main penguin viewing sites at Oamaru, and Phillip Island (Australia).



Figure 1. Little penguin in its nest viewed through a burrowscope during research monitoring.

There are relatively few little penguins that breed successfully outside of Matiu/Somes Island around the edges of Wellington harbour, with a small colony established in nest boxes at Sunshine Point (Eastbourne), and nest boxes distributed around the Wellington South Coast and Evans Bay and Miramar Peninsula which host one to two dozen breeding pairs in total. These boxes are maintained by local groups, for example *Places for Penguins* (Forest and Bird 2017), and offer protection for the nesting or moulting penguins from human disturbance.

The little penguins of Wellington Harbour were tracked with GPS units in 2011 - 2014, showing they made extensive use of the harbour, the harbour mouth and areas of the open sea in Cook Strait (Poupart et al. 2017, Figures 1 & 2).

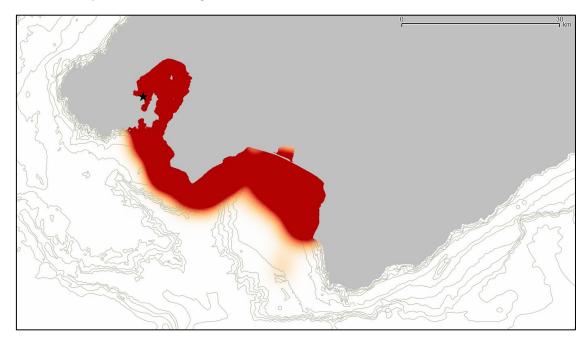


Figure 1. Main foraging areas (red) of little penguins tracked from Balaena Bay (black star), Wellington harbour in 2014 during incubation period. Data copyright Te Papa and CNRS.

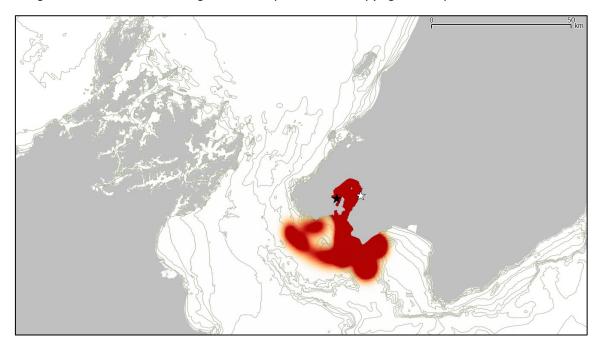


Figure 2. Main foraging areas (red) of little penguins tracked from Balaena Bay (black star) and Eastbourne (white star), Wellington harbour in 2014 during chick period. Data copyright Te Papa and CNRS.

Poupart et al. (2017) showed that little penguins use the entire harbour, throughout their range around central New Zealand, feeding in association with large river flows (such as the Hutt River) was important for them. The Wellington harbour population has high breeding output compared with other sites around New Zealand, and it is common for pairs to raise two chicks to

fledging in a year (Poupart et al. 2017). On average, Wellington Harbour birds raised 1.2 chicks per pair (data from 2014 only), while in Westland and Marlborough, chick production varied between 0.1-1.0 (average 0.6) chick per pair across several years. This indicates that Wellington Harbour, in some years at least, has suitable feeding and breeding habitat for little penguins and the population should be able to grow rapidly in this area, with high chick production possible.



Figure 3. Little penguin chick is weighed and measured before fledging at Te Papa's penguin study site in Marlborough. Photo: Susan Waugh, Copyright Te Papa. (See Blog: Te Papa 2017a)

Marine mammals present in Wellington Harbour include New Zealand fur seals *Arctocephalus forsteri*, which are common on the South Coast and resident year round. They are an active predator of penguins and are frequently seen in the harbour. Occasional visits by Hector's dolphin *Cephalorhynchus hectori*, and Orcas *Orcinus orca* are recorded, as well as vagrant Antarctic seals such as the Crab-eater seal *Lobodon carcinophagus* (Miskelly 2015, Te Papa Blog 2017b).

Wellington's residents have a strong awareness of the wildlife values of the region, and there is no exception for marine species. Wellington Harbour hosts nationally important populations of wildlife, which is very accessible to an appreciative public.

Habitat management actions

In the next section of the report, we explore the ways in which habitat can be enhanced to encourage wildlife populations to flourish, particularly with regard to seabirds. This has been done around the world to ensure sustainable development of coastal areas, but also to enable ecotourism to create a new and ecologically friendly industry in areas with high natural values. The little penguin is used as a flag-ship species to examine how to enhance wildlife values around Wellington Harbour, and in particular, in proximity to Shelly Bay. A zone around Shelly Bay is proposed for redevelopment, to create housing and recreation areas.

Suitability of Wellington Harbour coastal sites for establishing a penguin nesting area

In order to create a safe habitat for penguins to come ashore and roost or breed, they require space, as well as shelter and security from threats. Te Papa has examined the feasibility of developing a penguin viewing area or penguin colony at various times since it moved to its waterfront site in 1998 (Meheut 2013). These proposals were not implemented, as the museum focussed on other priorities, but the investigation into this concept indicated that the strong population of penguins present in Wellington Harbour made it a real possibility to establish a penguin roost or breeding area at some locality around the harbour.

In terms of the penguins demography (population parameters), the species is strongly established at Matiu/Somes Island (around 300 pairs), and birds that are raised there as chicks, or birds which currently try to breed around the coast of the harbour continue to search for suitable places to breed around the harbour. There is strong productivity of little penguins in Wellington, compared to other areas (1.2 chicks per year, approximately double the average of 0.6 chicks per year at other sites, Poupart et al 2017). This suggests that in some years at least, the current food supply in the harbour and adjoining Cook Strait provides reliable resources for the breeding birds. It appears, therefore, that it would be possible to establish new penguin nesting areas. However, there is a need to provide safe habitat from predators, disturbance, and with suitable access for birds from the sea.

Features of little penguin biology relevant to creating a protected penguin habitat:

- The species is nocturnal on land, coming ashore after dark.
- They are nervous of predators, and favour areas with vegetation cover when they come ashore.
- The birds are present year round at their nest sites, and use these for both breeding and moulting.
- They are vulnerable to disturbance, predation, and extreme weather events when breeding and moulting.
- Little penguins rely entirely on marine resources for feeding, and need to access the sea daily, particularly during their chick rearing period in spring.
- The species is quite gregarious, and this can cause conflict with residents as they are both noisy and smelly, at daytime and during the night.
- They are small and defenceless in the face of mammal predators, including cats, dogs, rats, and stoats

Key threats to little penguins

The most common threats cited by researchers / wildlife managers include (West Coast Penguin Trust 2017a; Taylor 2000):

- Predation by dogs, cats, rats, stoats, which can kill both adult birds and chicks;
- Traffic-related deaths. These can occur if penguin nesting areas are situated across roads for the sea, but also include young fledgling birds wandering out of their nests onto roads as they gain independence;
- Human disturbance at roost/nest sites and across their pathway from the sea to the nest;
- Coastal development creating barriers to penguins coming ashore (e.g. steps or coastal antierosion structures that are too high for the 25 cm tall bird to climb.
- Habitat loss due to paving or creation of amenity areas for recreation or land stability (e.g. car-parking, concrete structures).

Approaches to improving penguin habitat

Around New Zealand and Australia, community groups and government agencies have undertaken activities to improve penguin habitat and population viability. Relevant examples for Wellington Harbour development include:

- Creating dedicated areas for penguin nesting which optimise the features that penguins thrive in. For example, at Matiu/Somes Island and Sunshine Point (Eastbourne) penguin nesting areas are managed to avoid excessive noise, lighting or human disturbance at night. It has proven most effective to do this in areas that little penguins are known to frequent. In some areas, e.g. at Greta Point, Wellington, habitat was created for penguins, but not used to any extent by nesting birds.
- Creating a specialist monitoring and viewing site for penguins, with associated research and monitoring activity. There are several operations of this type for little penguins, for example at Oamaru (Blue Penguin Colony 2017), Kaikoura Ocean Research Institute (KORI 2017) in New Zealand, Phillip Island (Phillip Island Nature Parks 2017). At both Phillip Island and Oamaru, penguin populations were established before ecotourism and research centres were established, and the activities undertaken today are done carefully to enhance penguin wellbeing. Note, however, that the Oamaru and Phillip Island sites have populations of Australian little penguins, which are known to come ashore in large groups and nest colonially. The New Zealand sub-species has not been observed to display this behaviour.
- Developing coastal environments that enable penguins to access the land easily and safely, and also create shelter/crevasses in which they can nest or roost. In Australia, break-water design in some port reconstructions is starting to take into account the needs of penguins, so that they do not exclude the birds from access, such as when large blocks are used or where there is little crevasse space (E. Woelher, pers. comm). Wellington Harbour currently has break-water structures that largely exclude penguin access or secure roost sites.



Figure 4. Breakwater structures that exclude penguins include those with very large blocks, and with no crevasses suitable for penguins to roost or breed in. Little penguins are too small to climb structures like these, pictured. Images: Van der Meer Consulting (2017).

- Creating nesting habitat through installation of nest boxes. There are several initiatives operating to install nest boxes around coast areas in New Zealand, with the aim of creating penguin-friendly areas. However, without accompanying quality feeding habitat, good access to the sea, exclusion of predation, disturbance and vehicles, it may be fruitless to try to establish penguin colonies by providing nest boxes alone. Some initatives are underway with Te Papa, schools and Forest & Bird groups coordinating to design great boxes for penguins to nest in (Te Papa Blog 2017c).



Figure 5. Penguin nest box installed at Matiu/Somes Island, which is part of the monitoring and research programme for little penguins at the site.

- To mitigate against penguin deaths due to vehicle collisions, fencing roadsides has been done at Westland (West Coast Penguin Trust 2017a) which reduced penguin deaths from 6-7 per year to zero along a 5 km strip of SH 6.

- At Oamaru, a tunnel was built under a busy road to allow penguins to access the area behind the waterfront for their nesting activity (Dunlop 2016). This was effective because birds could be funnelled into the tunnel from a surrounding area with fencing (P. Agnew, pers. comm), and the tunnel was established in an area where the penguins had traditionally passed through a constrained area. Penguins nesting some 10s of metres further afield did not use the tunnel, however. Staff at Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony noted that a large pipe / structure was needed to create a tunnel, as penguins would start to nest within it if it was a restricted space.

Mitigating penguin mortality in urban and high-use areas

We have assessed the options for creating enhanced penguin habitat, in relation to proposals to develop housing and infrastructure at Shelly Bay, Wellington Harbour. The following recommendations provide options to explore, to create areas where threats to penguins are mitigated.

- 1. Create a penguin-friendly habitat this activity can be achieved by enabling egress of the penguins from the sea onto the coastal land, and providing shelter for them through planting coastal shrubs. This option may be possible if the land immediately adjacent to the sea were available to use for penguin habitat enhancement. While this option requires a relatively small effort, it may not be effective at establishing a viable and self-sustaining penguin population, and may have the effect of increasing the human-wildlife conflict by encouraging penguins to come ashore in areas also used heavily by people during their recreation or home-time. In these instances, the penguins are likely to suffer from increased predation, traffic accidents or other avoidable deaths.
- 2. Create a dedicated space for penguins with associated monitoring This activity has potential to work well in Wellington, with the possibility of creating a fenced or predator-free reserve through trapping along a coastal area around Wellington Harbour or at Miramar Peninsula. As penguins in Wellington have a high breeding output, once a few nests are established and protected, there is potential for the population to grow quite quickly. There is some interchange between birds across Wellington harbour colonies currently, based on sightings of banded birds. It would be possible to establish a penguin research or monitoring activity alongside such a reserve, to enable the local community and visitors to get involved with monitoring the birds in a safe way for both penguins and people. Several localities around Wellington Harbour may be suitable for this activity, and deserve further feasibility analysis. Examples include a) Eastbourne Road-end to Pencarrow Head b) Mahinga Bay; Shelly Bay or its neighbouring bays; Kaiwharawhara stream outlet area.
- 3. **Mitigate traffic accidents** This option would need to be deployed if a penguin habitat was established on the inland side of the road around Miramar Peninsula. Similarly if penguin habitat on the seaward side of the road were enhanced, penguins would likely wander onto the road. Fencing around the coastal areas, to avoid road accidents for the penguins would be beneficial, provided there is sufficient space (10 20 m of scrub-covered habitat) on the seaward side of the road. If this is done, measures need to be taken to ensure that penguins currently accessing the inland areas of the Shelly Bay area have finished breeding and moulting for the year, and can access the sea. The option for creating a tunnel as at Oamaru is unlikely to be effective in Wellington, as there is currently a low penguin density around

most areas of Wellington Harbour, therefore few birds would access it, and the remainder would try to access inland areas via alternative routes. Predation of penguins using a tunnel by cats and dogs could also be a problem.

4. Reducing predation – Several options are possible, such as fencing or installing a high density of traps, such as those used by Department of Conservation and Greater Wellington Regional Council for predator control around forest reserves in the region. Target species for these trapping programmes in the Wellington area include stoats and weasels, rats. In several areas, including Miramar Peninsula, the community has got behind these initiatives, and provides the man-power and coordination to clear traps regularly (Backyard Sanctuary 2017, Pollhill Protectors 2017, Otari-Wilton's Bush Trust 2017). Cat and dog predation reduction requires efforts to educate the public or reduce access of these species to the areas where penguins breed, roost, or come ashore (such as beach fronts). In the experience of the West Coast Penguin Trust, signage to encourage dog walkers to keep dogs under control or on the lead has been ineffective (K.-J. Wilson, pers. comm), and the entire population of penguins at Punakaiki were killed by uncontrolled dogs recently (West Coast Penguin Trust 2017b). It may be effective to work with the community to create a dog-free coastal area, and a cat-free housing zone, to enhance the native wildlife populations. This outcome would be in keeping with the Predator Free Miramar community initiative (Backyard Sanctuary 2017).

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Appendix 1. Marine bird species known to occur in Wellington Harbour.

Species	Occurrence	Source
Fluttering shearwater	Nesting in translocation colony at Matiu/Somes I.	Robertson 1992,
	regularly seen in the harbour in dozens.	Forest & Bird 2014
Spotted shag	Nesting, Matiu/Somes I. and Makaro/ Ward I.	Robertson 1992
Reef heron	Possible nests at Taputeranga I.	Robertson 1992
Variable	Nesting, Matiu/Somes I. and possibly in isolated	Robertson 1992
oystercatcher	pairs around the harbour	
Black-backed gull	Nesting, Matiu/Somes I., Makaro/Ward I. and	Robertson 1992
	Taputeranga I.	
Red-billed gull	Large numbers visit the harbour annually, but	Robertson 1992
	nesting not known.	
White-fronted tern	Nesting Scorching Bay, roosting at Petone,	Robertson 1992
	Kaiwharawhara.	
Australasian gannet	Regular visitor to harbour, Foraging in Cook Strait	Robertson 1992,
		Forest & Bird 2014
Little shag	Resident roosting population, nesting unknown	Robertson 1992
Black shag	Resident roosting population, nesting unknown	Robertson 1992
Little black shag	Resident roosting population, nesting unknown	Robertson 1992
Mallard	Regular visitor to harbour, probably nests	Robertson 1992
Fairy Prion	Foraging in Cook Strait	Forest & Bird 2014
Sooty Shearwater	Foraging in Cook Strait	Forest & Bird 2014
Black-billed Gull	Foraging in Cook Strait	Forest & Bird 2014
Black-fronted	Foraging in Cook Strait	Forest & Bird 2014

From: Susan Waugh

Sent: Thursday, 24 August 2017 4:43 PM **To:** chamanthie.sinhalage@wcc.govt.nz

Subject: penguin proposal

Attachments: Te Papa Science research consultancy.docx

Hi Chamanthie, nice to meet you today. I put this together for you to consider. Please feel free to edit it and get back to me if you would like to discuss it further.

Thanks for the opportunity to contribute.

Susan

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P: +64 4 371 7309 M: +64 29 770 6498 Te Papa Science research consultancy – Embedding nature at the heart of our city: Proposals to create habitat for Little Penguins within the Shelly Bay Redevelopment

Client: Wellington City Council

Scope:

As the Shelly Bay redevelopment occurs, Wellington City Council are seeking expert input from Te Papa's science team to explore options for improving the habitat for wildlife around this area of the coast, and to make a safe-haven for little penguins to roost and breed as part of the works. The project will review how habitat restoration and protection works have been conducted to enhance habitat for penguins and other wildlife (e.g. shags, terns, gulls, seals) in New Zealand, Australia and other relevant localities. The objectives of the project will be to:

- Provide a brief description of the key wildlife habitats and populations around the Evan's Bay and wider Wellington harbour, relevant to the Shelly Bay redevelopment project
- Describe successful habitat and wildlife management actions carried out nationally and internationally relevant to the Shelly Bay redevelopment
- Explore opportunities to embed structures or practices into the Shelly Bay redevelopment to create a sustainable wildlife habitat for naturally occurring New Zealand coastal species, using Little Penguins as a flagship species.
- Discuss how to mitigate adverse impacts on wildlife, such as traffic-related wildlife deaths and dog attacks on wildlife, drawing on examples used around New Zealand or relevant overseas examples.

Outputs:

- A report detailing the findings of the study, approximately 10 pages, plus relevant maps and bibliography.
- A presentation to stakeholder and / or WCC group to detail the findings and seek guidance if further outputs are required.

Fee:

- It is estimated the work outlined would take 25 - 30 h to complete. Te Papa's charge out rate for expert advice is \$200/h. This equates to \$5,000 - \$6,000 + GST.

Personnel:

- Dr Susan Waugh, Acting Head of Science, Te Papa. Susan.waugh@tepapa.govt.nz
- Contract manager: Peter Corley, Manager Financial Accounting.

Due date:

To be confirmed.

Next steps:

- In order to complete the work in the 2-week time-frame requested, no external consultation will be conducted.
- Next steps would include developing proposals to implement one or more of the most suitable options, along with consultation with interested parties, including tangata whenua.