



**Wayne Todd & Kathi Parr**

**With thanks to Hannah Edwards and Fraser Murdoch**

# **Moehau: Animal Pest Control In The Northern Coromandel**



- A Planning And Consultation Challenge



# The First Fence Proposed: late 1980's by DOC



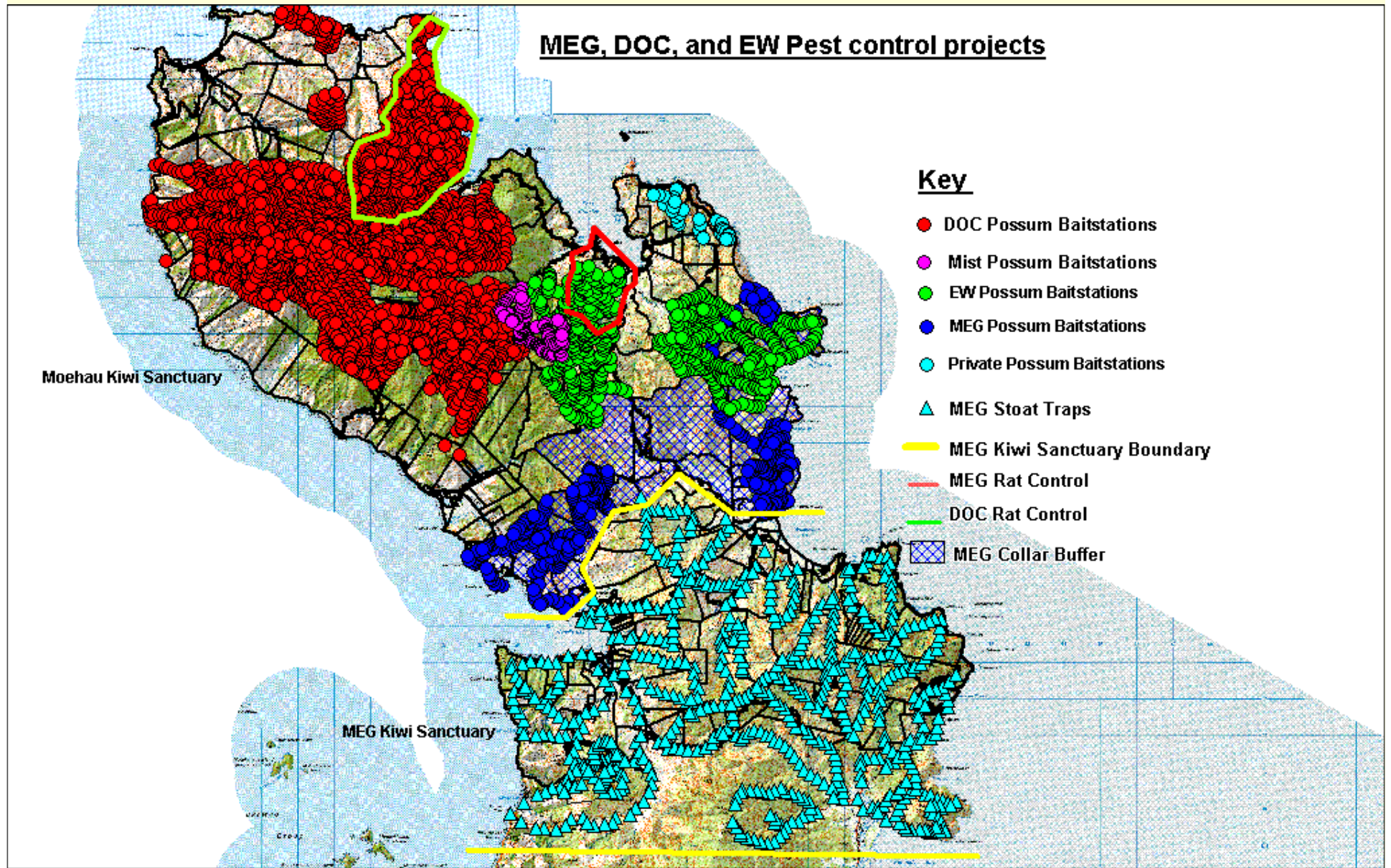
## MEG, DOC, and EW Pest control projects

### Key

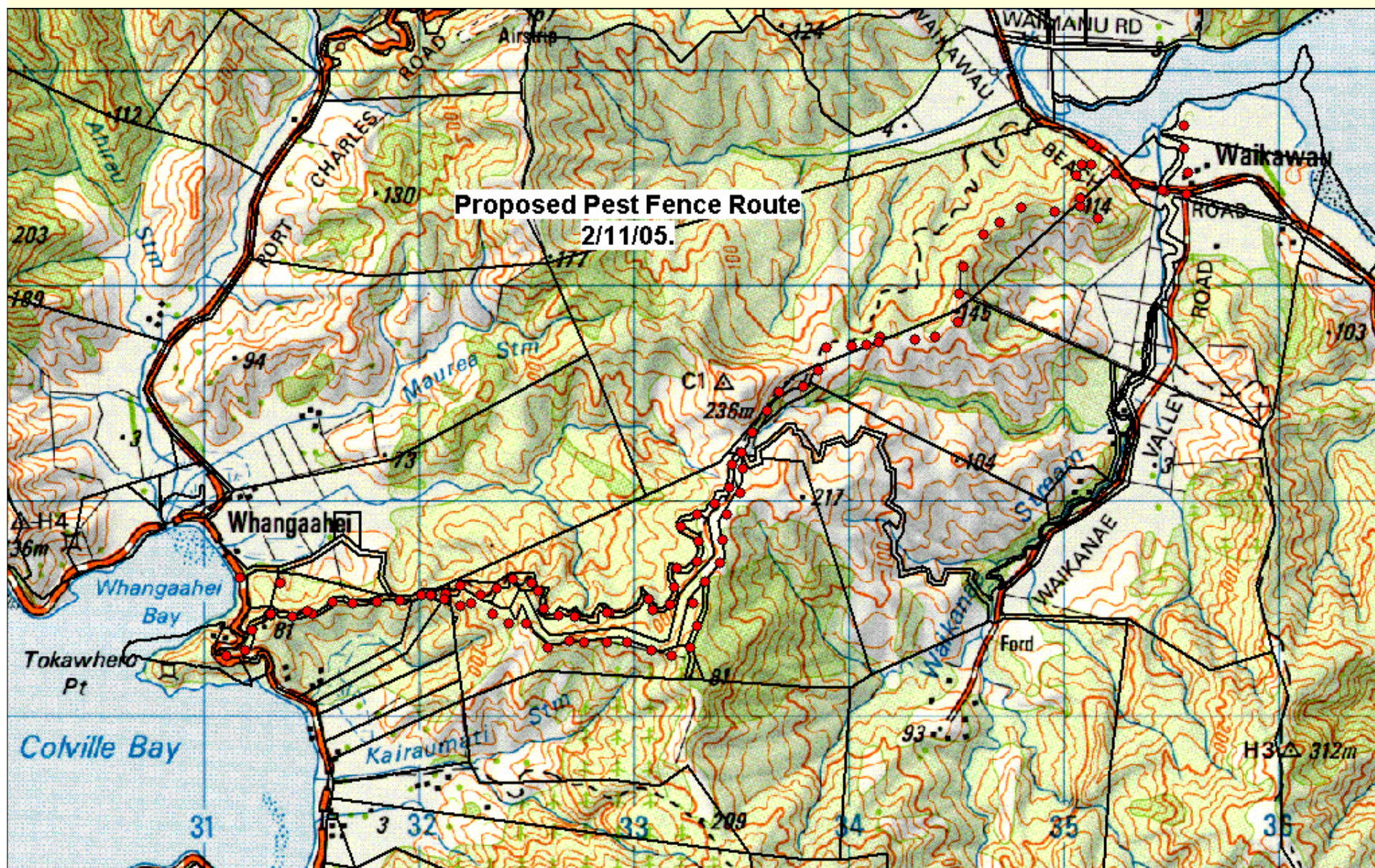
- DOC Possum Baitstations
- Mist Possum Baitstations
- EW Possum Baitstations
- MEG Possum Baitstations
- Private Possum Baitstations
- ▲ MEG Stoat Traps
- MEG Kiwi Sanctuary Boundary
- MEG Rat Control
- DOC Rat Control
- ▨ MEG Collar Buffer

Moehau Kiwi Sanctuary

MEG Kiwi Sanctuary





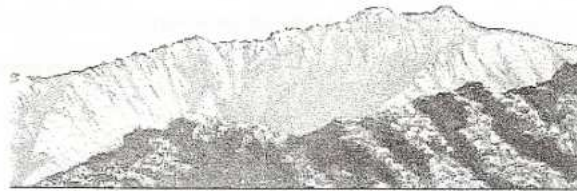




# **COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS MOEHAU ENVIRONMENT GROUP**

- **30 September 2002 (Iwi and Agencies)**
- **30 November 2002 (Local Community and Agencies)**
- **11 February 2003 (Iwi , Agencies and Community)**
- **29 September 2003 Hui at Karuna Falls**
- **8 August 2004 (Community and Agencies)**
- **18 October 2004 (Community and Agencies)**
- **Summer 2003 – 2004 Community Survey (local residents, landowners and visitors)**
- **May 6 2006. Presentation and Fieldtrip with Environment Waikato Councillors, DOC Conservator and DOC personnel.**
- **AGM's 2000 – 2006.**
- **Hochstetter (MEG newsletter) and local newspaper.**





## Moehau Environment Group



This survey is being conducted by the Moehau Environment Group (MEG) to find out:

- What residents or visitors aged 15 and over like or dislike about the Northern Coromandel area.
- What residents or visitors aged 15 and over think about some possible future options for pest and predator control in the Northern Coromandel area.

Please note that your response to this questionnaire is anonymous. Results of this data will be used in MEG reports only, and will not be linked to any individual.

For any queries about this survey, or the Moehau Environment Group ([www.meg.org.nz](http://www.meg.org.nz)), please contact Wayne Todd on (07) 866 6928, or [wayne@landcare.org.nz](mailto:wayne@landcare.org.nz).

I would like more information about MEG, and the projects it is working on:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Snail Mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_



*Moehau Environment Group  
Karuna Falls  
Waikawau Bay  
R.D.4  
Coromandel  
64 07 866 6928([wayne@meg.org.nz](mailto:wayne@meg.org.nz))*

## Summer Questionnaire and Results 2003 – 2004

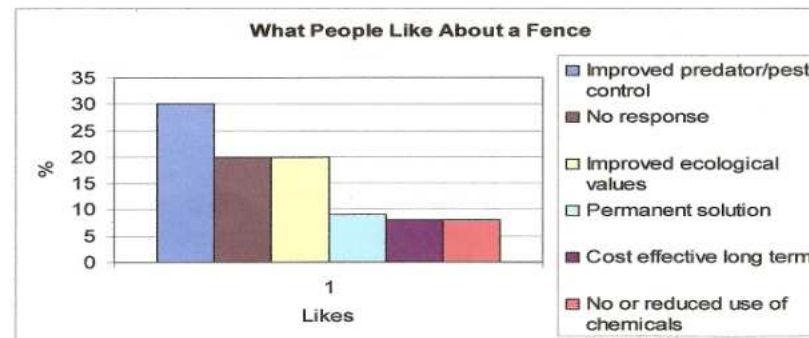




### Attitudes Towards a Predator-Proof Fence

Rating of fence	Total	%
Good Idea	98	72
Neutral, No Opinion	3	2
Not a Good Idea	7	5
Not sure/Can't make up my mind	19	14
No response	9	7
Grand Total	136	100

- Nearly three quarters of respondents thought that a predator proof fence was a good idea. Only 5% were not in favour of a fence.



- 30% of respondents were positive about the potential for improved predator and pest control, and 20% felt that this would be beneficial for the wildlife and bush in the Northern Coromandel

### Concerns

Concerns About Fence	%
No response	29
Cost	18
Concern about effectiveness of fence	12
Impact on land owners/land owner concerns	6
Concern about access	5

- high 'no response rate'. Not sure if this means that there is no concerns, or if people simply couldn't think of any concerns at the time!
- A fifth were worried about the cost of a fence (construction or ongoing maintenance)

# An Analysis of the Costs of Pest Control Options in the Northern Coromandel

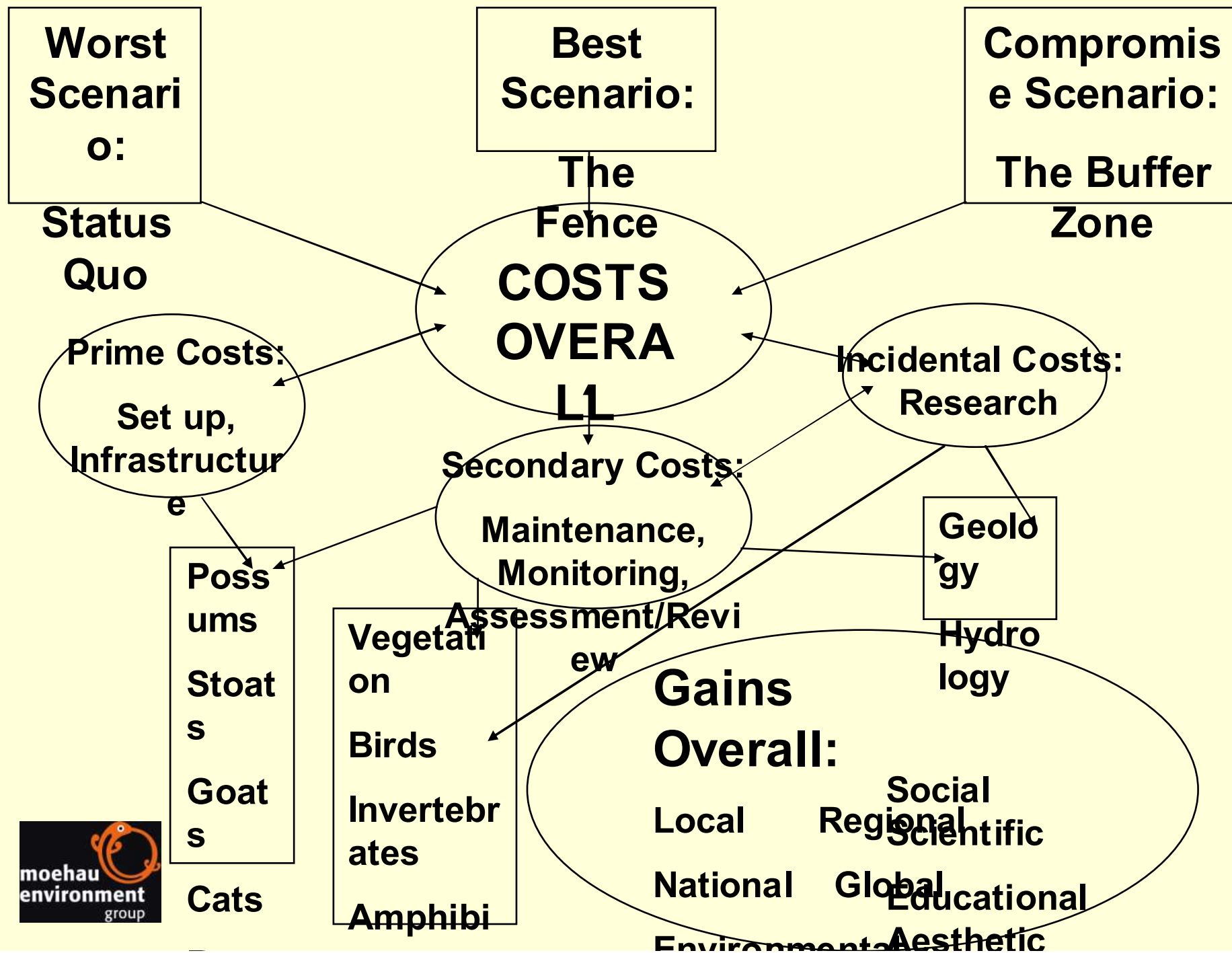
Report prepared for the  
Moehau Environment Group

April 2004



by Sandra A. Barns  
Economics Department  
Waikato Management School  
University of Waikato  
Hamilton







## Proposal to Build an Xcluder™ Pest Proof Fence Across the Coromandel Peninsula from Colville to Waikawau Bay

- analysis of practicality and estimate of  
cost



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	mobile	(027) 273 1564
Tim Day	mobile	(021) 298 3289
Phil Thomson		(07) 829 4577



# Defending pest-proof fence

## Defence

**T**HERE it is again. The unmistakable, mournful call of a kiwi. A pale gold half-moon swings high above the Mountain, its cold brightness glittering through the bush as we stand on the verandah at home, scarcely believing what we are hearing.

Twenty-five years ago, every kiwi in our remote upper Coromandel valley was mauled to death by the Rhodesian badger-crook dog of a long-since departed neighbour. Twenty-five years of silence, while we sadly followed the nationwide decline of this wonderful creature.

It just has to be a Kiwi calling behind us, such a long, and sound, turn to go back inside, far across comes a reply. They are coming true, then. They are coming due to a comb — a Moh

It's true, then. They are coming thanks are due to a combination of Conservation and Moe Group (Mog) Initiative a firm north of our place. They have Moe's K&W Sanctuary, cover 10,000 acres combining private land Moe's administered by DoC. Moe's is administered by DoC. Moe's is administered by DoC.

I am utterly amazed who that Haggins, a feisty fellow born near Sandy Bay (about four years ago, is living) here four years ago, is living from us. I know this because one of Doc's transmitters, lost in the forests near Sandy Bay, was the trans-

Not only are they all about whether their ping is working. Stems to 1000g in weight — control the survival of

Up on the steep northern ranges, in almost impenetrable bush, a group of translocated transmitter volunteers work with DoC to ensure transmitters on the new kiwi. The first kiwi's survival rate is now 80 per cent, the best in the country. Put another way, the kiwi here are doubling in numbers every 10 years. However, getting rid of the stoats and possums remains a massive task.

However, getting rid of the incessant increase in poisons which are busy killing other birds attempting to counter this has a setting back stations. Ten apart work is ongoing, helped by a donation of \$0,000 each for the part from RSC. Kist however Society, among others.

**Pest-proof fence will protect 20,000 hectares of land north of Colville**

The Bay Beacon ★ 13 April 2006 Page 1

Moehau Environment Group (MEG) hopes its x-cluder animal pest-proof fence north of Colville will soon be in position protecting 20,000 hectares of land. The eight kilometre fence is made of wire and will be strung between two rows of trees. It will benefit the environment by decreasing the amount of toxins that are used at present for trapping unwanted pests. Coordinates for the fence are being tested in the South Island at present and it is expected to be effective in the Archipelago.

The Bay Beacon ★ 13 April 2006 Page 5

This is being tested in the  
Island at present to see  
it is effective enough  
stoats as well as feral  
ch also cause a lot of  
on.  
the land along the  
fence is private  
e 27 land

of Colville

Archey's and Hochstetter  
frogs are among the native  
species that would benefit  
from the protection of a pest  
proof fence.  
So will many birds  
the kak

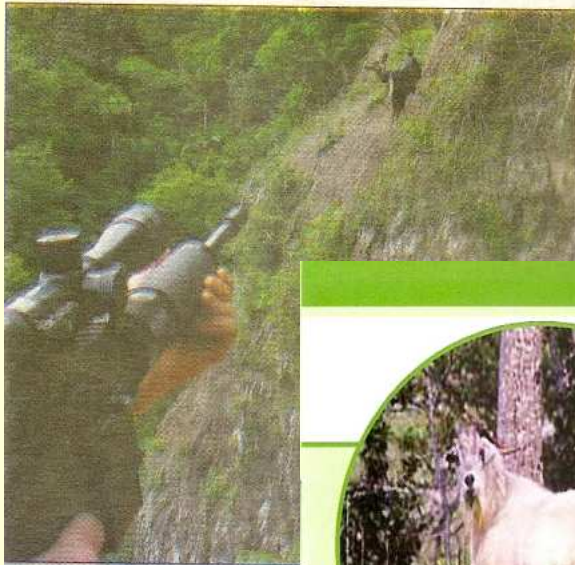
20,000

the land along the fence is private. e 27 landowners, negotiating with about 800 metres "n provisional "n to continue ce. lly hopeful", endangered



**BARRICADE:** A sturdy Coromandel fence would keep out many predators but let in plenty of discord.

## Feral goats eradicated from northern peninsula



One of around 2100 goats  
sive eradication project is

By Alison Fraser

A team of hunters working in the northern Coromandel bush has successfully completed New Zealand's largest goat eradication project of its kind.

Contract Cullers, Department of Conservation, Environment Waikato and private landowners teamed up over the past two

killed in total.

Hauraki Coromandel DOC area manager John Gaukrodger said the result was significant in terms of clearing goats from the rest of the region.

"What's been achieved there means we have every confidence of achieving it over larger areas relatively easily if there



## Moehau feral goat eradication Update Newsletter

May 2006





H. Herald. JUN 13 2006

## Information will let owners decide for themselves: MEG

Moehau Environment Group will this week hit back against claims they say are "false and misleading" by distributing an information sheet to all land owners affected by the proposed 8km pest proof fence.

The proposed \$1.5 million fence has stirred a passionate debate in the upper Coromandel after began circulating much landowners would be regulations and aerial drops would be necessary to irradiate. Since the MEG has argued and the right would be proved else.

But MEG's tor Wayne the inform public not local new concerns "We w incorre right have landowners

own minds. The fence would be a waste of time if we did not have full support from the community. If they do not want it then that is fine, obviously there would be no point, but we want them making that decision with all the facts."

Among the issues addressed was MEG's apparent support for the use of 1080 on private DOC land. The concerns highlighted biosecurity of

The issue seemed to take a suspicious turn when Mr Todd did not argue the minutes when they were being confirmed the May 5 meeting.

But he says he has shock by an annoyed the spokesman group the U Land Care Robins paig

## HAURAKI HERALD

FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2006 • ISSN 1170-0513 Audited Net Circulation 26,028 EXTRA COPIES 20c • PHONE 07 868 8859

### Pest fence opponents reject claims

A group opposing the construction of a \$5 million pest proof fence spanning the northern Coromandel Peninsula is dismissing accusations its stance is "non-sense and scaremongering".

The Upper Coromandel Landcare Association also "utterly condemns" an attack on a sample section of the fence last week and the Hauraki Herald apologises to the association for any implication contained in an article on Friday.

"It was never our intention to imply any involvement by the association," editor Lee Foote says.

"There is nothing to link the two and we

would like to apologise if we have offended Reihana Robinson or anyone in the association by what was said or by the use of Mrs Robinson's photograph with the article."

Mrs Robinson and fellow Upper Coromandel Landcare Association representatives Ann Ward and Theodora Ward last week presented to TCDC, DOC and EW a statement of opposition to the proposal for a pest-proof fence between Colville and Waikawau Bay to create a "mainland island" environmental management zone, or a pest-free zone.

The fence is being promoted by the

Moehau Environment Group.

The statement was signed by more than 35 landowners who farm and live on more than 80% of the private land, comprising 7500-plus hectares, that would be inside the new zone.

"Many signatories are long-time farming families who have tended the land for generations," Mrs Robinson says.

"Their views are well informed; they did not give their names lightly. They represent overwhelming opposition."

"Moehau Environment Group's response last week, replete with charges of 'misinformation', 'nonsense' and 'scare-monger-

ing' was an affront to these thoughtful people."

"It demonstrated that MEG leadership is either in denial or out of touch with the community. Opposition to the fence plan is nothing new. Fence promoters, including MEG, DOC and EW, were simply not hearing it because they were not listening."

"But they now know what they should have known for years, that the people who would be most affected and whose wholehearted support would be one critical ingredient for success are against it, and for very good reasons," Mrs Robinson says.

• continues page 2

## Petition opposes pest proof fence

A proposal to create an 8km pest proof fence in the upper Coromandel hit a snag today with a landowner-driven petition opposing it presented to TCDC and Environment Waikato.

Petition organiser Reihana Robinson claims there is massive opposition among Moehau Environment Group co-ordinators to the project.

This proposal has been around for three years and in that time we have spoken to all MEG projects co-ordinators. Wayne Todd says, "All but two of the 27 landowners, 'All but two of left field, and as far as we understand it is only a handful of people."

But Upper Coromandel Landcare Association Reihana Robinson says it is only a handful of people."

high fence was mooted three years ago and a survey at the time indicated 98% support. The fence would support MEG's projects to eradicate possums, stoats, and weasels.

If it has enough landowner support and funds \$5m to build and maintain the fence, it would stretch from east to west at the narrowest part of the peninsula and create an eco-island of 17,500 hectares to would support kiwi and other native birds.

But Mrs Robinson says it is only a handful of people."





# Bitter battle brews over fencing an inland island

A plan to fence off part of the Coromandel for conservation reasons is upsetting some locals.

## Environment group cans pest-proof fence plans for peninsula

A plan to build an 8km pest-proof fence across the upper Coromandel Peninsula has been abandoned. Landowners who opposed the fence — which would have spanned the narrowest part of the peninsula just north of Colville — said it was a case of residents resisting something they felt was being imposed upon them. But Moehau Environment Group

project co-ordinator Wayne Todd said the group decided to can the \$1.5 million fence after the battle got too ugly. He complained about the accuracy of information distributed by the Upper Coromandel Landcare Association and said that made it virtually impossible to get sponsorship or support from people inside the planned fence. "It was a particularly bitter

when a 2m sample of the proposed fence was cut to the ground. The Upper Coromandel Landcare Association ran a media campaign to highlight members' concerns that the fence would put unfair restrictions on them and force the use of 1080 on their properties. Mr Todd said the fight was unfair. "Upper Coromandel Landcare Asso-

ciation wouldn't take the fence to court, not given the huge concerns. Instead they went through the media with information that was not always accurate. But Purangi said people woke up to what was going to happen. "It was an expensive huge waste of money

quite impressive." Mr Ashby said most people in favour of the fence lived outside the proposed area. Arthur Atfield, who farms at Whenuakura, was pleased to learn the fence had been dropped. He said landowners were concerned that there was a wider agenda. — Hauraki Herald, Thane reports.

## Vandals flatten sample pest fence



The flattened fence in Colville.

By Deborah Cuning

A 2m sample of the proposed 8km pest fence in the upper Coromandel was flattened yesterday in an act of vandalism. Moehau Environment Group projects co-ordinator Wayne Todd says what began as a small debate is quickly escalating into a "massive battle" fuelled by "savage" and "unconscionable" behaviour. "I came here this morning and told someone how cut the fence to the ground. It is completely destroyed. It looks like it has been cut down with a

bulldozer recently that there was this level of passion about this and the problem in this and that area."

Opposition to the proposed two metre high, \$1.5 million pest proof fence arose long before the fence was planned. The fence would run from the peninsula from east to west at the narrowest part north of Colville. Association petition signed by 22 opposing landowners was presented to Thane Coromandel District Council and they would withdraw any support and use of 1080 road reversal land. — Upper Coromandel Landcare Association spokesman.

Robinson was unavailable for comment yesterday on the five-month-old, failed "overwhelming" support to run the project. Mr Todd says that more numbers of opposing their fence were seen when they started putting TUDC and EW things. But they have not had the decency to come and talk directly to us. We have been meeting but nothing. "That notion of sample fence was there to create debate and to allow people to understand the concept. Cutting it down like this was pure vandalism and no have taken it to the police."

— continue page 2

But many Coromandel people feel that MEG has overstepped its bounds by promoting a core plan to create what would be the island's largest "mainland" sprawling 18,000ha expansion of private property to be a "pest-free zone". The idea is to erect a fence — a 2m high stretching coast-to-coast on the west to Walker east.

Intensive efforts would be undertaken north of the fence to eradicate all predators (cats, rats, stoats, weasels, possums), pests and "habitat destroyers" (goats, pigs and deer) so that native species could thrive and others be successfully reintroduced.

But the prospect of being fenced in has long-time residents and land-

Pigs do a lot of damage, especially to the Kaitake and most conservationists regard the pigs as pests.

But wild pigs have been a well-managed resource for over a century here.

that so many people enjoy.

On a "mainland island" there would have to be binding restrictions

to protect our kiwi. At issue, though, is how to do it. We are asking DOC and EW to end their tacit support of the community group's fence plan. We are saying, loudly and forcefully, "Don't Fence Us In." ■ Reihana Robinson is a member of the Upper Coromandel Landcare



# Kiwi sanctuary in tatters following mass withdrawal

By Alison Smith

Upper Coromandel landowners have collectively pulled

kiwi sanctuary follows a similar action 10 days ago by more than 20 landowners, who with-

the community," said Upper Coromandel Landcare Association spokesperson

## More angry landowners pull out of kiwi zone

By Alison Smith

Landowners whose properties comprise a total of 1386ha have withdrawn from the Whenuakite Kiwi Zone and formed an East Coromandel Landcare Association to give themselves a united voice.

The group is concerned that including their land in a kiwi zone will leave them powerless to stop the use of 1080 on their properties and other pest management practices favoured by authorities but which they have traditionally avoided.

Many peninsula landowners accuse Environment Waikato and the Department of Conservation of working together to gain greater control of private property within a framework of new legislation.

The concern and frustration has led to heated debate and to thousands of hectares of privately

owned land being withdrawn from kiwi conservation zones throughout the peninsula.

"Yesterday's hand of friendship has turned into today's legislation," said Whenuakite farmer Arthur Attfield. "You put in your submission but central Government has put pressure on the environmental authorities to expand their area of control. They say what they want to do but don't say how they want to do it."

Gary Wilson, who owns 72ha in Whenuakite where he has lived for 35 years, said authorities had forced restrictions on a subdivided area of his land by not allowing people to keep dogs.

"They've claimed our farm," he said. "They're getting out of control, suggesting coming onto your property and shooting your pigs without your permission."

Mr Wilson is among nine

landowners who have withdrawn from the Whenuakite Kiwi Zone and joined the newly formed East Coromandel Landcare Association.

**'Yesterday's hand of friendship has turned into today's legislation'**

- Whenuakite farmer Arthur Attfield

**'If everything is thriving, there is no issue'**

- EW manager Kevin Collins

His property contains one of the largest collections of a rare native plant and he says pigs and kiwi have co-existed on his land for many years.

"We hear them (kiwi) squeaking when we're out hunting pigs," he said. "I say just leave things alone. Human interference is what creates the problems, it's the people that end up killing things - we need to leave them alone."

EW manager Kevin Collins said the regional council would carry out work with landowners agreement "99 percent of the time" and was confident of finding a middle ground.

He said it would be only in extremely rare cases that the council would take direct action without landowners' consent, giving the example of absentee landowners living in London who had failed to deal with weeds on their Coromandel property.

"If everything is thriving, there is no issue. But first we need to identify where there's potential for risk. If there are frogs and

pigs in the same hectare there's a potential risk," he said. "But if we go in there and see there's not a risk, there's no issue."

"People focus on the ability to do direct control, but there's a required step before that, an assessment, and if that assessment turns out there's not an issue we won't be doing anything."

The Upper Coromandel Landcare Association (UCLA) recently called for an independent inquiry into New Zealand's use of 1080 following public protests.

The use of 1080 is currently being considered by the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA). However UCLA spokesperson Reihana Robinson said the group maintains that only a Royal Commission can provide the impartiality and independence required for a credible enquiry.

1/17. Ewan June 29 2007



# What have we Learnt?

(Points for discussion and debate)

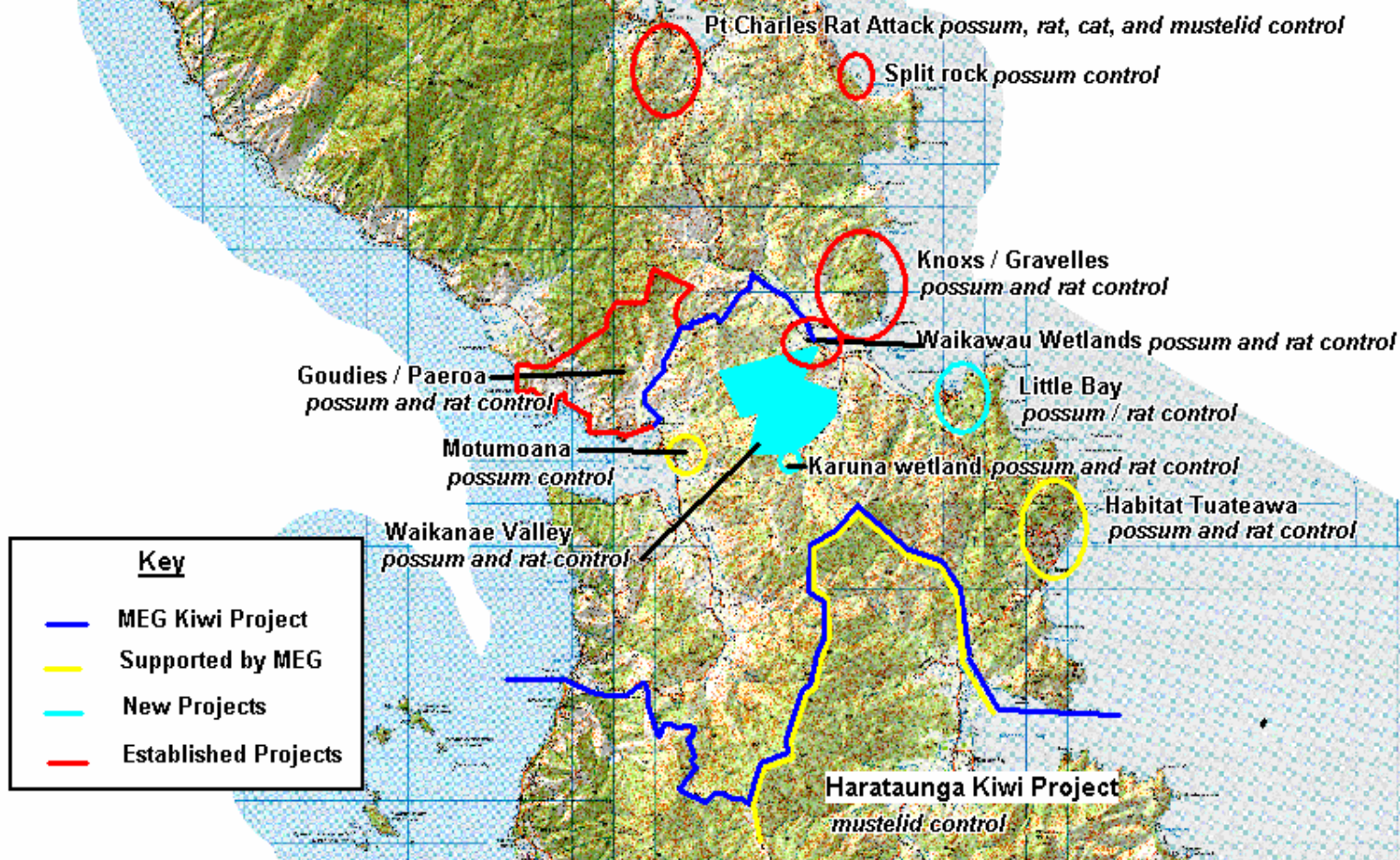
- That positiveness and enthusiasm don't necessarily "pave the way" and can sometimes be a "blinder".
- That no matter how contrary, spurious, ill-founded, ill-meaning, mischief-making or ignorant a land owner's point of view may seem; or how little they might care, all points of view have to be accepted and acknowledged.
- That by not responding with tit-for-tat challenges, integrity is maintained especially where the media is involved (media love a drama no matter how true or untrue)

- Partnerships with Agencies are not always what they seem. There is a sliding scale of convenience proportionate to the level of conflict or controversy (they are there for the good news and leave with the bad).
- Philosophy of self interest/protectionism and ownership versus kai te aki and guardianship

# MEG Projects and Associates

## June 2007

## Eggs in the nest







**moehau**  
**environment**  
group