

Pou Taiao

550

Hectares
Mangaed
150ha Extension

Over the past year, the Taiao Department has continued to strengthen Waitaha kaitiakitanga across Ottawa through both on-the-ground environmental restoration and strategic advocacy. A major focus has been completing trapping infrastructure for the 150-hectare extension beyond the original 400-hectare Jobs for Nature project area. This extension supports the long-term vision of a connected predator control network linking into the wider Ottawa Sanctuary.

Predator Control and Access Improvements

Establishing the new 150-hectare area was challenging due to Ottawa's steep and rugged terrain. Initial access required a demanding 3.5-kilometre hike, limiting safe and regular servicing. To improve this, the team developed a new access route via the top of Waitao Road in Welcome Bay. This has reduced travel time to around one hour, enabling more efficient maintenance of AT220 and A24 trap networks and improving the long-term sustainability of the programme.

The team also worked closely with the Department of Conservation to re-gas and re-bait A24 trap networks across the 400-hectare Ottawa Sanctuary. This mahi supports the protection of native species and the restoration of the ngahere across a large and challenging landscape.

\$384k 4

Taiao Employment
Funding

Jobs for Nature | Manaaki
Kaimai Mamaku

Employed
Kaitiaki

in 2025

Environmental Maintenance

Vegetation clearance was completed at the Waiari Bridge, improving safety, access, and the overall condition of this important site while supporting the health of the surrounding whenua and awa.

Resource Management and Advocacy

Through the Resource Management Unit, the Taiao Department continues to engage with councils on consent and planning processes. This includes preparing Cultural Impact Assessments and ensuring that Waitaha values, cultural landscapes, and environmental priorities are recognised in decision-making.

The continued expansion and maintenance of predator control networks represents a significant achievement for the year. With Waitaha kaitiaki leading this mahi on Waitaha whenua, the Taiao Department is helping restore the mauri of Ottawa while strengthening our role as guardians for future generations.



"Work is now being led by Waitaha kaitiaki on traditional Waitaha whenua. Being part of that shift, from others managing our environment to us standing back in our role as kaitiaki, has been a powerful and a meaningful achievement for me".

Luke Whare | Pou Arahi Taiao