

Presentation to Hearing Panel

#156

Our forbears introduced ferrets, stoats, weasels, hedgehogs, cats, rats, mice which all decimated the indigenous wild-life. Having evolved without these predators, native species were not equipped with the necessary attributes to withstand the foreign onslaught.

Many of these wet-land species, such as bitterns, fern birds, black stilts, wry-bills, black-fronted terns are now critically endangered and at risk of becoming extinct.

As descendants of the original settlers it behoves us to do our utmost to rescue these threatened species. One way to do that would be to build a bird sanctuary on some of the low-lying land in the red zone.

In Kaiapoi South, land in zone 4 and existing reserves near Courtenay Stream would be suitable, as would reserve area near Kairaki stream at Pines Beach.

Land needs to be set aside for a sanctuary as soon as possible, as predators are continuing to kill our birds.

A reserve management group could be set up and gather information and plans from Orokānui, Zealandia and other reserves.

When birds are living in the enclosure, visitors and tourists groups could be shown around by a resident ranger and the entrance fees help to maintain the facility.