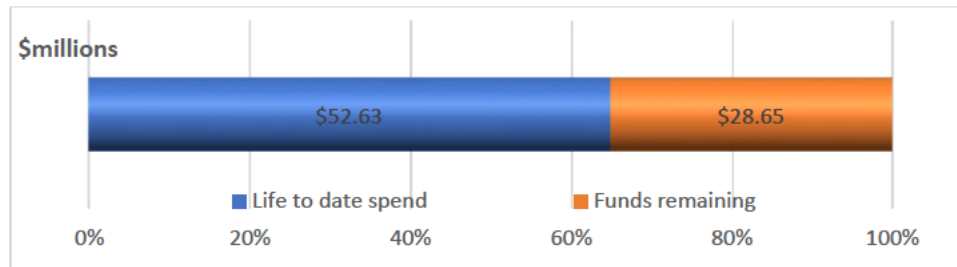




## 1. Landscape-scale predator control (\$81.3m)



We have delivered a total of 1,658,549 hectares of pest control to date, to protect our most vulnerable threatened species from rats, stoats and possums. This work was spread across New Zealand, through roughly 80 individual predator control projects.

In addition, an Auckland Island Pest Eradication Feasibility Study was conducted, and the report will be published this year.

This work programme to boost landscape-scale predator control also includes a Tools to Market programme. The purpose of the Tools to Market programme is to make smarter, safer and more effective tools and technology available to the Predator Free 2050 community. The programme has six active projects, one completed and one closed out. The active projects are:

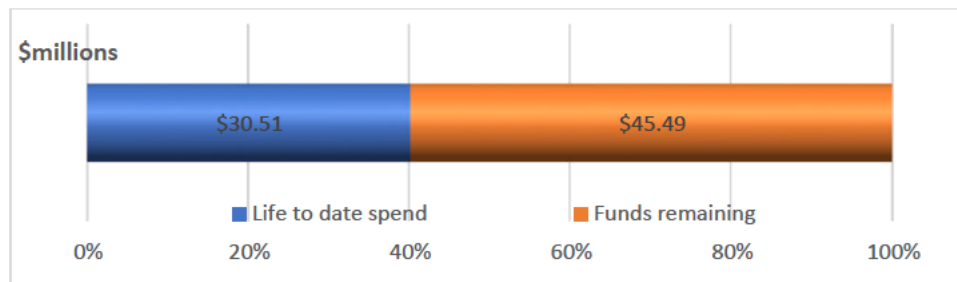
- Automated pest detection – PAWS<sup>®</sup> pest identification sensor pad
- Using drone technology to eradicate predators
- Developing a long-life multi-species lure
- Development of an aerially deployed biodegradable rat trap
- Development of a new bait to control stoats using the toxin PAPP
- New methods to evaluate the vulnerability of native birds to PAPP.

The completed project was to bring long-life rat lures to market.

The closed project aimed at extending a Norway rat-selective pesticide to also target ship rats. While the project did not meet efficacy targets for ship rats, the work has resulted in bait improvements for both Norway and ship rat species, and researchers are continuing work to improve the ability of BR8, a norbormide-derivative pesticide, to control ship rats.

More information on these projects is available at <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/predator-free-2050/goal-tactics-and-new-technology/tools-to-market/>.

## 2. Biodiversity initiatives across land, freshwater and marine ecosystems (\$76m)

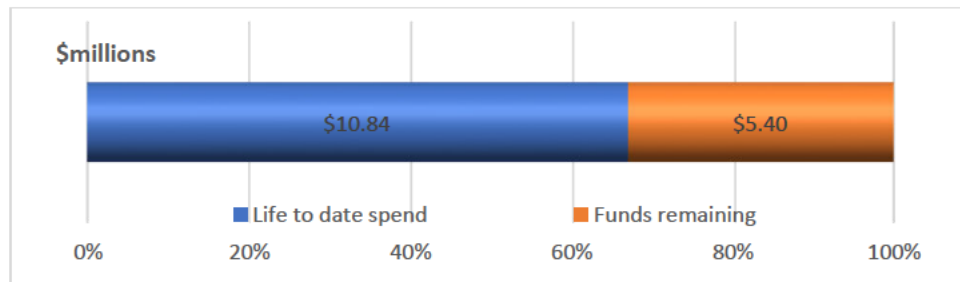


Under this work programme, the following work is underway:

- An increase in the number of fully managed Ecosystem Management Units (current total: 110).
- Four research projects on ecosystems and species are underway.
- 51% of the area identified as containing best examples to represent each ecosystem type is being managed, with fewer than 10 types not managed at any site.
- Two research projects are underway on Critical Ecosystem pressures.
- Progressing toward long-term persistence of at least 158 additional species.
- Eight research projects to increase knowledge and improve management of threatened mobile terrestrial species are underway.
- Research projects on 17 Nationally Critical and 50 At Risk and Data Deficient species are underway.
- Increased capacity for freshwater catchment programme delivery.
- Research projects have been completed in the 5 freshwater catchments, and habitat restoration is underway at 5 catchments. Consultation is taking place at all 14 priority river catchments.
- Planning work and prioritising activities to increase the security of 3 migratory fish species at priority sites across six freshwater bioregions is underway.
- Pest fish/hornwort and invasive macrophyte control has been delivered at selected sites.
- Three research projects are underway to enhance containment of freshwater pest species.
- A research programme on reducing the impact of established pests is underway.
- Compliance and law enforcement activities increased in 13 marine reserves.
- Five MPA research projects have been completed, and four are underway.
- Increased understanding of 6 marine species populations.
- Management recovery of 2 marine species.
- 37 biosecurity plans and 33 island audits have been completed to improve island biosecurity.
- The Tahr Control Operational Plan has achieved a reduction of more than 12,000 tahr, and a long-term Tahr Control Operational Plan is under development with stakeholders.
- This work programme includes work on the national RMA system. The national RMA/EEZ strategy is in place and actively being used as part of RMA system.

- The national RMA Systems improvement is being rolled out.
- Twenty RMA hearings were attended since May 2018 (awaiting hearings on a further 14 applications)
- Submissions have been made on the following planning consent processes: 17 on regional and district plans, 2 on water conservation orders, and 53 on resource consents.

### 3. Strengthen core capability and capacity (\$16.2m)

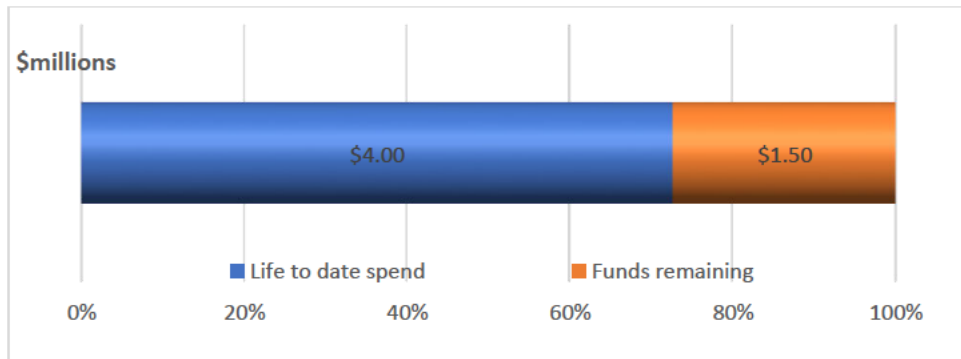


The focus and achievements of this programme are as follows:

- Maintenance has been completed on 10 commercial sites, 7 infrastructure assets, and 56 residential properties to bring them up to the expected property quality standards. Maintenance is currently underway on a further 24 properties.
- 63 properties were upgraded to meet statutory compliance on LPG and electrical infrastructure.
- Twelve policy advisor and senior policy advisors were recruited, to drive freshwater, marine, climate change, tourism, natural capital, and biosecurity outcomes.
- Nine organisational development, human resources, and communications experts have been recruited, to support organisational growth, including training, wellbeing and recruitment activities.
- One property analyst has been recruited, to help ensure all properties meet expected standards.

Note: The new roles listed above relate specifically to the \$16.2 million allocated to strengthening core capability and capacity, and do not include other roles that have been created as part of the other workstreams.

#### 4. Managing visitor impacts (\$5.5m)

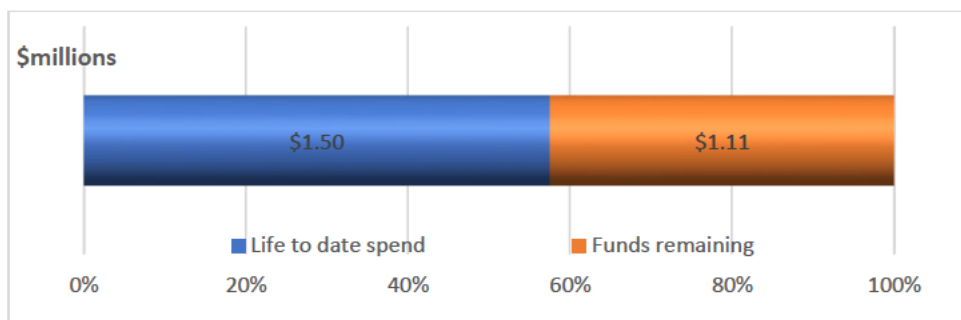


In 2019, a review of the Department’s heritage and visitor system led to the establishment of a refocused Heritage and Visitors Unit, with 64 new positions replacing 45 existing positions.

The roles within the unit cover visitor insights, investment planning, regional visitor planning, storytelling, visitor safety, and specialised visitor and heritage support to the regions, and staff are spread across 12 locations.

Examples of work produced by the unit include a 10-year pathway for DOC investment in heritage and visitors, visitor insight reports, a master plan for the Milford opportunities project, destination planning for Te Tai o Poutini, experience design guidance (eg, the new Hump Ridge Great Walk), and trialling of an updated visitor safety system.

#### 5. Protection of the Mackenzie Basin



This project represents an opportunity to significantly advance land protection in the Mackenzie by working with mana whenua, landowners, farmers, communities, and Government agencies.

The Department has provided support for the Mackenzie Basin inter-agency Te Mokihi programme. This programme aims to make a transformational shift in the way that agencies work together to undertake their statutory functions, leading to improved environmental and social outcomes through the delivery of core work.



In addition to this, co-design of the project with the three runanga (who are the mana whenua for Te Manahuna) has been embedded into the project through the Waitaki Working Group.

To date the project has added 11,800 ha of land into legal protection which forms the core of the Tu Te Rakiwhanoa Drylands Area. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding is being developed with the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). This will manage approximately 15,000 ha of NZDF land to keep its ecological and landscape values.

We continue to progress the design and implementation of the Tu Te Rakiwhanoa area and there remains work to be done to complete this. Over the coming year the Department will be focusing on the support for management of the Drylands Area and developing the visitor experience at sites with interpretation panels, signage and various interactive applications and information.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā

Neal Gordon  
Director Outcomes Management  
Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*