



THE OMAUI CHALLENGE: DEMANDING FORENSIC PROOF

**Reference: Environment Southland Regional Pest Management Plan
(2025/26 Review)**

TO: The Omaui Landcare Charitable Trust / Environment Southland

SUBJECT: Formal Request for Site-Specific Predation Data vs. Rodent Surge Risk

As a resident/supporter of the Omaui community, I am formally challenging the proposed "removal" of felines from our area. Before any draft plan proceeds to public consultation, we demand the following forensic data to ensure this is a science-led—not an emotive-led—decision:

1. The Rodent Baseline (The Rat Surge):

What is the current population density of **Ship Rats, Norway Rats, and Mice** in the Omaui bush? Our audit of Mesopredator Release (Ref: SG-RAT-005) proves that removing the feline presence triggers an immediate explosion in rodent numbers. Rats are the primary predators of the very birds, lizards, and insects you claim to protect. **Where is your plan to manage the 300% surge in rodents that will follow a cat ban?**

2. Forensic Identification of "The Killer":

You cite "camera trap footage" of cats in the bush.

- **The Identification Gap:** How many of these were verified as "feral" (unmanaged) versus "resident" (microchipped/neutered)?
- **The Consumption Gap:** Did the footage show a "kill," or merely a feline scavenging a carcass already killed by toxins or extreme weather?
- **The Comparison:** Where is the footage of **Stoats and Possums** in the same area? To focus solely on 9 domestic cats while ignoring the massive stoat population is a scientific bias.

3. The Welfare of the "Dumped" Cat:

You claim the population grows because of "dumped unwanted cats." **Where is the funding for a community-led TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) and Microchipping**

Respect Life. Respect Nature. Restore the Balance.

NZ-AWA-1999-142



program? If the Trust truly believes it is "not the fault of the cats," then why is the only "humane and effective" solution being offered their permanent removal?

The Verdict:

The residents of Omaui rejected this ban in 2019 because it lacked **forensic integrity**. We will not accept a "scapegoat narrative" that ignores the **Rat Surge** and the **Habitat Disturbance** caused by human activity in the area.

Signed: [Name/Address]