



The Audit Challenge (To the Minister of Conservation)

Subject: Formal Query: Fiscal Accountability and Welfare Compliance in PF2050

To: Hon. Tama Potaka, Minister of Conservation

Reference: Vote Conservation / Predator Free 2050 Strategy Review (March 2026)

I am writing to formally challenge the allocation of public funds toward lethal cat culling as outlined in the [March 2026 Strategy](#). Our independent audit of the **\$70M+ annual predator budget** reveals:

1. **The Welfare Gap:** Zero funding is allocated for non-lethal, desexing-based management, despite the Animal Welfare Act 1999 mandate to avoid unnecessary pain.
2. **The Profit Loop:** Funding is being tied to "kill quotas" that incentivise the perpetual presence of pests to secure future grants.
3. **The Rat Surge:** Your department has failed to account for the Mesopredator Release (Rat Surge) that follows cat removals.

As a taxpayer, I demand an itemised breakdown of how the "**Sentinel Shield**" was factored into your fiscal risk assessment for bird safety.

Signed: [Name]