

9. **APPLICATION TO LYTTTELTON/MT HERBERT COMMUNITY BOARD DISCRETIONARY FUND GOVERNORS BAY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (BIRDSAFE WHAKARAUPU)**

General Manager responsible:	Jane Parfitt, General Manager City Environment, DDI 941-8608
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to present a request for funding from the Governors Bay Community Association (Birdsafe Whakaraupo), to the 2009/2010 Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Community Board Discretionary Fund.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The total cost of the project is \$5,520.65 (bait stations, traps and consumables), funding of \$5,000.00 is requested from the Council.
3. Birdsafe Whakaraupo is a harbour wide group (similar to Landcare) and it is comprised of a small group of volunteers (**Refer Attachment 1**). It will function as a subset of Governors Bay Community Association, a local incorporated society which has community objectives.
4. Funding is a one off request which would set up and establish assets, enable the group to get underway, and continue working as required. Assets would remain the property of Christchurch City Council (CCC), although ongoing use of them by Birdsafe is likely.
5. Ongoing costs would be minimal (predominantly to cover poisons) and would be funded by local associations and community groups.

BACKGROUND

6. Birdsafe is a community based trapping group and has the support of CCC Rangers, and Pest Control Research Ltd. Birdsafe members provide their time on a voluntary basis.
7. The purpose of Birdsafe is to provide a resource for residents of the Lyttelton Harbour Basin to help restore native bird populations to abundance. The focus is predominantly on urban and peri-urban areas of the harbour which are not presently subject to a co-ordinated pest control plan.
8. Birdsafe provides a holistic approach which is required for long term success. Present isolated management appears to be moving the problem from one area to another. Birdsafe will work in conjunction with Environment Canterbury (ECAN) and CCC and feed into the Pest Management Strategy to ensure that all areas are maintained. Traps provided from Birdsafe will be for community use on private land.
9. There is a high demand for the services provided by Birdsafe. Birdsafe advertises their services in community newsletters and word of mouth and residents with problems make contact and receive advice and the loan of the necessary equipment from Birdsafe. The equipment is physically available via representatives in each community who also maintain an inventory and schedule of the traps..
10. Every person will be required to sign the disclaimer (**Refer Attachment 2**) when using Birdsafe equipment. In addition they will get good practical advice about the safe use of the equipment and baits. The poison (pindone) is less toxic than what can be brought from hardware stores or the supermarket.
11. Pests (possums, rats, feral cats, stoats and other mustelids) will be trapped by approved methods and disposed of humanely.
12. The assets required have been determined by:
 - (a) **Possums** (top priority): The harbour has been roughly divided into North, South and the Head with 25 traps allocated for each area. They will be used in residential properties and also lifestyle blocks. To be effective they need to be in one location for a reasonable time to allow the possum to encounter the trap.

- (b) **Rats** (bait stations): Rats are so ubiquitous the more the better. By targeting high value areas (for example known Kereru nests) Birdsafe will protect specific sites. They hope that once residents see them in action they will buy their own. Rats have a small home range so you need quite a lot to cover an area properly.
 - (c) **Stoats:** The stoat traps are a token number (five) for specific requests. There are 20 in Ohinetahi Reserve which are really just scratching the surface.
 - (d) **Wax tags and monitoring tunnels:** Are important assessment tools to help Birdsafe identify the type and abundance of pests in a given area so they know what is there and can plan accordingly before they do any control work.
13. In 2008, \$750.00 was received for setup costs from Project Lyttelton. Of this \$230.00 was used to purchase possum traps and the remainder is with Project Lyttelton, which will be used in addition to the amount requested from the Community Board.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

14. The current balance of the Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Community Board discretionary fund is \$12,124.00 (excluding \$2,000 Youth Development Fund).

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

15. As per above.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

16. A disclaimer form (**Refer Attachment 2**) is required to be signed which limits the use to specific authorised land parcels and indemnifies Birdsafe, Governors Bay Community Association and the CCC from misuse.
17. Under the Community Board delegations, the Board has *"absolute discretion over the implementation of the discretionary funding allocation of \$14,124 (subject to being consistent with any policies or standards adopted by the Council)"*.

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

18. As per above.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

19. **LTCCP 2009-19: Parks, Open Spaces and Waterways**
 Safety - by ensuring our park, open spaces and waterways are healthy and safe places
 Governance – by involving people in decision making about parks, open spaces, and waterways
 City Development – by providing an inviting, pleasant and well cared for environment
20. **Parks and Open Spaces Activity Management Plan**
 Council's objective with urban parks is to provide and manage Community Parks, Garden and Heritage Parks, Sports Parks and Riverbanks and Conservation Areas throughout the city that provide amenity values, areas for recreation and organised sport, garden environments and green corridors, that contribute to the city's natural form, character, heritage and Garden City image.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

21. Aligns with Community Board Funding – Pages 176 to 177 and Pages 182 to 183 of the 2009/19 LTCCP.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

22. **Biodiversity Strategy 2008-2035**
 Agreed programme of work 2009/10 includes: Pest Management Plan and to coordinate and prioritise our weed and animal pest control on Council owned and managed land.

23. **Board Objectives**

Enhancing the culture, heritage and identity of Banks Peninsula communities through its built, natural and working environments.

Improving the range and quality of recreational experiences on Banks Peninsula.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

24. Strengthening Communities Strategy 2007.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

25. Birdsafe put regular updates in the Governors Bay Community Association newsletter and advertise twice a year in the Bay Harbour News.

26. Birdsafe have ongoing liaison and discussions with CCC Port Hills Rangers, and ECAN pest control.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Lyttelton/Mt Herbert Community Board:

(a) Allocate \$5,000.00 from their 2009/10 Discretionary Fund towards the establishment and operational costs of Birdsafe Whakaraupo.