

# Department of Conservation Status Report

## for the Minister of Conservation

Week beginning 19 August 2024

Date:        /        /

Seen by Hon Tama Potaka  
Minister of Conservation



DOC Technical Advisor s 9(2)(a) releases two Tawaki/Fiordland crested penguins back into the ocean after rehabilitating them from injury. It is thought one was attacked by a shark. Tawaki are among our rarest mainland penguins, with fewer than 3000 breeding pairs left.



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

# 1 Recent highlights

Out of scope



## Camera trial assesses forest canopy


DOC's use of advanced high-definition cameras – fitted to a fixed-wing aircraft – is proving to be a valuable tool in collecting forest canopy data, an important measure of overall forest health.

DOC Monitoring Science Advisor Terry Greene says the cameras were trialled to compare forest canopy health between two adjacent tracts of land in the Papakai area of the Coromandel Forest Park, totalling 2016 ha. One area had been treated with 1080 to control possums, the other left untreated.

The evidence was stark, showing more than eight times the amount of dead wood in the untreated area compared to the predator-control area.

The surveillance work is important, as a reduction of healthy forest canopy trees means the wider forest is more susceptible to disease and storm events which cause further dieback and can ultimately lead to complete collapse of the forest ecosystem.

Forest canopy monitoring is part of a broader DOC programme to assess its predator control work for the native species and forests that it's designed to protect.

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