

Cape to City - Growing a halo in an agricultural landscape

Campbell Leckie¹

¹*Hawkes Bay Regional Council*

Cape to City is about native species thriving where we live, work and play. It will achieve this vision through transformational change in pest management, research, education and how our community engage in ecological restoration initiatives. In particular Cape to City is focusing on the template for ultra low cost integrated predator control for farmland as one of the necessary "layers" to increase landscape scale resilience in NZ. Farmland is critical because it is two thirds of New Zealand's land area. Managing small islands of biodiversity in an increasingly crowded sea of weed and animal pests is unlikely to provide New Zealand significant long term biodiversity restoration success. What is required is that we integrate large scale biodiversity restoration projects into business as usual primary production landscapes in ways that deliver economic and environmental outcomes to land owners. It is this combined with appropriately targeted intensive high biodiversity value site protection that gives the greatest likelihood of significant long term integrated biodiversity recovery and primary production benefits across New Zealand.