

The Wellington situation – Opportunities and challenges when engaging communities in predator control

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Wellington has been witnessing a shift. As we approach planting two million native plants across the city, new volunteer engagement is increasingly focusing on controlling introduced predators of native animals. Public attitudes to these predators is rapidly changing as awareness of the value of indigenous biodiversity grows.

Wellington City Council has been building its predator control programme for the last 20 years in partnership with the regional council and community volunteers.

Growing demand from our communities to undertake predator trapping presents our largest opportunity as well as our largest challenge.

Pioneering projects have heavily reduced predator numbers in residential areas and these communities are quick to realise the need for efforts at a landscape scale and these communities are looking to their neighbours and also are volunteering on public land.