



NZIF Conference June 2025 Rachel Agnew | HBRC



### **Unpacking Land for Life**

WhyWhatHow



# **Unpacking Land for Life**

- WhyWhat
- How



# THE HAWKE'S BAY REGION, AND WIDER NEW ZEALAND, ARE FACING SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES.



#### Significant Challenges in the Hawke's Bay

Greater resilience is needed as the climate changes **7.2 million tonnes of soil** across Hawke's Bay



is currently **lost through** erosion processes each year. c.6.4% is the average indigenous cover across catchments. 15-20% required to sustain indigenous biodiversity.

2% of wetlands remain.





**250,000 ha** of marginal land is prone to high risk of erosion and sediment losses/run-offs of more than 1.000t/km<sup>2</sup>/Yr.<sup>1</sup>

### **5 million tonnes**



of fine sediment goes into Hawke's Bay waterways each year through landslides.<sup>2</sup>





### Addressing the challenges

- Erosion
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Freshwater protection
- Biodiversity restoration
- Building resilient land, businesses, communities and people





### Land for Life | Purpose

# To build a resilient, profitable and nature positive future for NZ's pastoral farming sector.



### Land for Life | Vision

Our catchments are thriving

 Our farming businesses and communities are thriving



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### Land for Life | The What

- Land for Life is a public-private partnership with HBRC, The Nature Conservancy and MPI.
- Its purpose is to help farmers reduce erosion on their farms and support a shift to more resilient and profitable farming systems
- It provides tools and expertise needed for farmers to achieve enhanced environmental outcomes and preserve business performance.



## Land for Life | The What

It will do this by working with farmers on two principal interventions:

- 1. Supporting farmers to plant the right trees in the right places and protect existing native forest and wetlands to reduce erosion, improve freshwater quality, improve biodiversity
- 2. Supporting improvements in farm systems that are good for farmers' bottom lines and the environment.



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### Land for Life | The Model

- Expert advice and business plans tailored to landowner's priorities and vision for their land.
- Improving financial and environmental outcomes through optimising land use.
- Farm systems advice
- Implementation planning
- Practical, achievable, relevant



### Land for Life | The Process

- The Landowner is in full control
- Business Plan development
- Considers optimal land use options
- Unlocking new opportunities
- Model's financial returns
- Practical, achievable implementation/action plan



# Land for Life | Background context

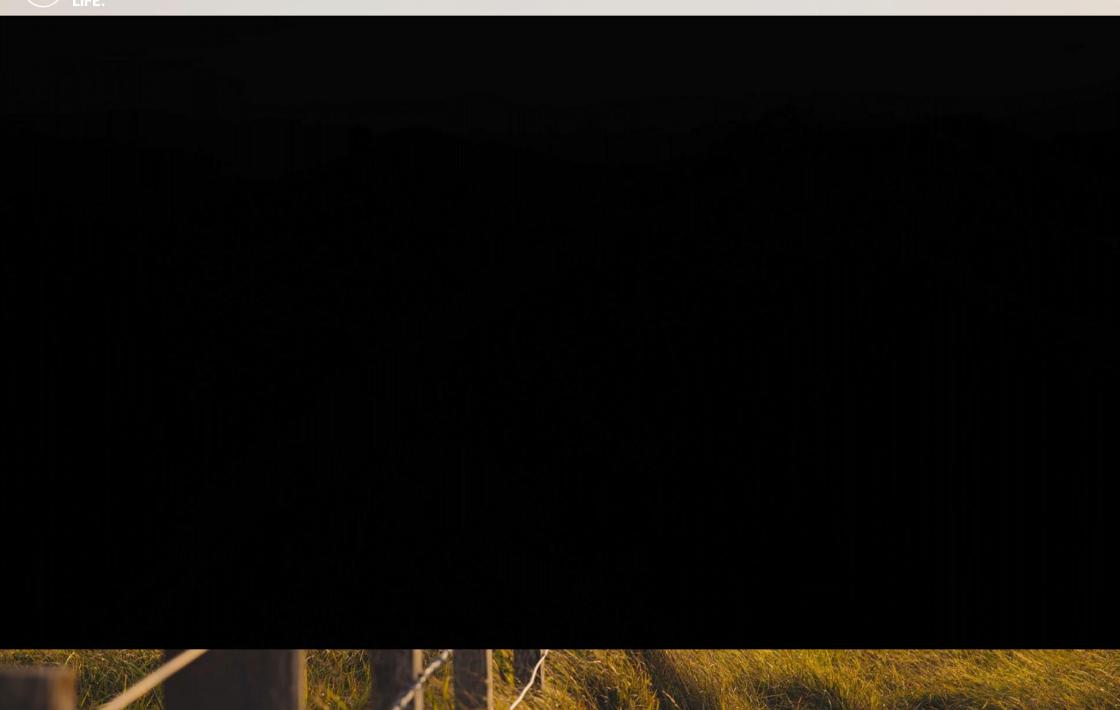
- The Land for Life model was designed and piloted by 12 farming businesses
- The experiences of the pilot farmers, combined with stakeholder engagement, formed the foundation of a business case.
- Funding bid to MPI Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures Fund, which was approved in late 2024.
- The focus is now on the next two years...



# Land for Life | The Deliverables

- Engage and learn from the pilot farmers
- Deliver a total of 100 Land for Life farm business plans
- Deliver two Land for Life catchment plans
- Extension programme
- Validate the ability to scale regionally







### By working together, we are helping to ensure that our productive landscapes remain strong, healthy and profitable for years to come.



# Thank you

# **Cape Sanctuary**

Wildlife Restoration Project

#### **The Dream**

"To create a peninsula that bustles with wildlife Where endangered species Human habitation Food production And Recreation Can co-exist together"

#### 2500ha of mixed habitat

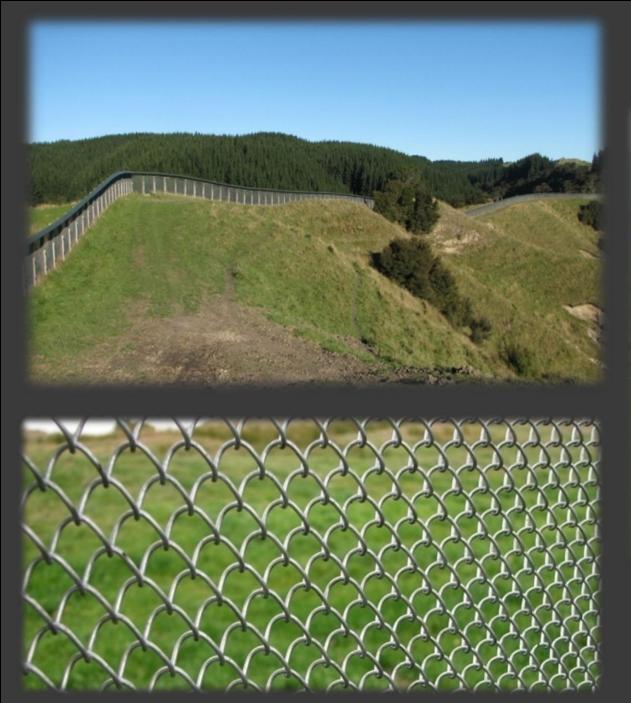












#### **The Predator Fence**



2007





#### Habitat Restoration - Where we started





#### Ocean Beach Nursery



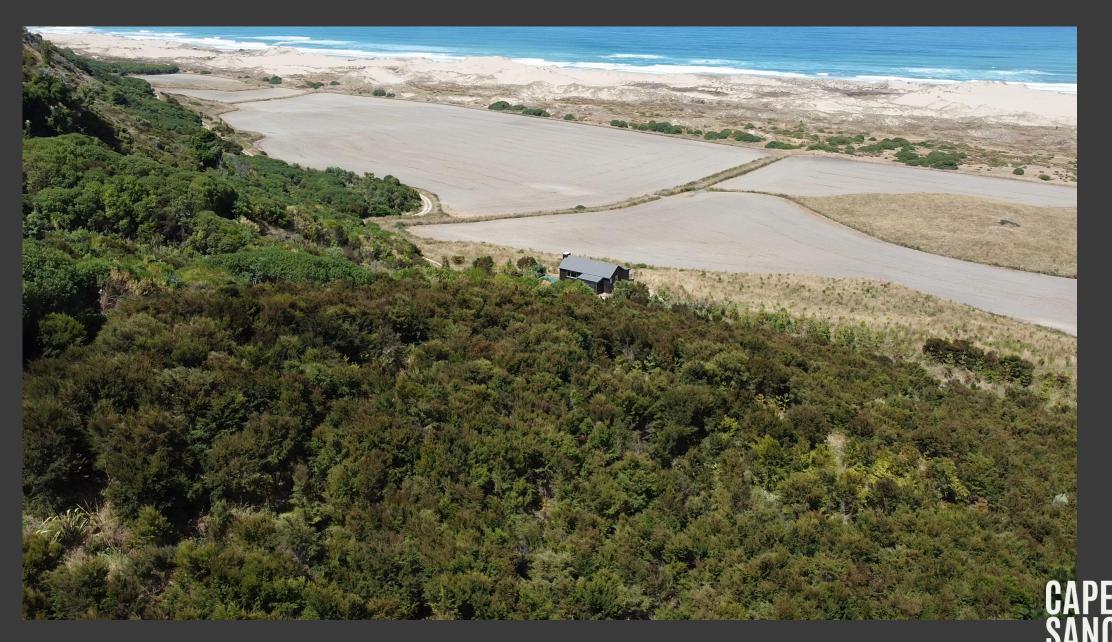




Over 1 million native trees planted in the Ocean Beach Restoration Zone



#### **2021 – Ocean Beach Restoration Zone (click to play)**





#### **Native Timber? Kauri ~1m per year**



#### Acoustic attraction Speaker system

#### Chick transfers Artificial seabird colony site

### September 2009

LOCATE 10/9/09 LOCATION Seabird

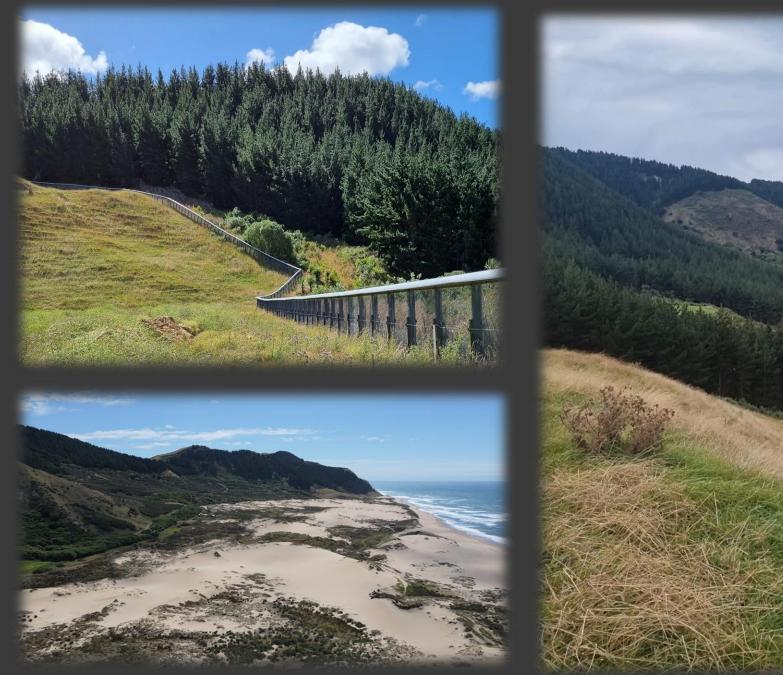






Our Gabrielle in 2011 Up to 1m of rain in 48 hours







# Today

#### (click to play)



#### **Buffer Trap Captures**

(Jan 2007 to May 2025)

#### Sanctuary Trap Captures

(Jan 2007 to May 2025)

Species	Total	Species	Total
Cat	504	Cat	1368
Ferret	187	Ferret	42
Stoat	158	Stoat	125
Weasel	406	Weasel	568
Hedgehog	1855	Hedgehog	1435
Possum	3	Possum	9
Rat	2609	Rat	4481
Rabbit	1576	Rabbit*	10243
		1080 (2020)	60,000 Est

\*Post the 2021 Rabbit Control Operation, only 8 rabbits have been caught in traps inside the sanctuary. Prior to that, we caught ~600 in traps per year!





North Island robin





#### 2007







#### Eastern North Island Brown Kiwi



2008

Pateke







www.eco-vista.com

© Brent Stephenson 2003

# CAPE SANCTUARY

#### Grey-faced Petrel/Oi

- 476 birds, established!
- Moutohora/Whale Island





- 347 birds, low return
- Hauturu/Great Barrier Island





#### **Diving Petrel**

- 263 birds, some breeding
- Motumahanga Island, Taranaki



#### 2011



#### 2012



Tuatara – 60 from Nga Manu and Takaporewa Island





#### 2012



Red-crowned kakariki



#### 2013

#### Cook Strait Giant weta

- 230 from Matiu-Somes and Mana Islands
  - THRIVING



#### 2013







Saddleback









North Island Kaka













Shore Plover – Kotahi Captive Breeding Facility

2018



### 2020

Duvaucel's Gecko







One final note... kiwi are big fans of slash piles



#### The Team



lwi DOC/Government Volunteers Landowners









## My 20 Year Vision

- Cape Sanctuary is the start of Pest Free Hawkes Bay
- In 20 years time the vermin proof fence will become redundant
- Pest Free New Zealand becomes a reality with our endangered species thriving

#### Where we

- live
- work and
- play



# Want more information?

## Follow us on social media

## Episode 40, 2020 Country Calendar

www.capesanctuary.co.nz

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