



## Office of Honourable Maggie Barry ONZM

MP for North Shore

Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

Minister of Conservation

Minister for Seniors

22 AUG 2015

Les Kelly  
Picton  
[lesfkelly@gmail.com](mailto:lesfkelly@gmail.com)

Dear Les

I have recently been made aware of the crucial role you have played in Predator Free New Zealand over many years. Your drive and determination to bring about PFNZ through lobbying key influencers in business, government and communities, has resulted in what I hope you find a satisfying outcome. Your vision of an independent entity able to attract funds through philanthropy has become a reality and will be up and running before years end. It was very encouraging to have the Prime Minister announce we have secured an initial \$28 million of government funding to support this independent crown-owned entity with the aim of enabling major regional initiatives, supporting research, and also encouraging small community predator control programmes to upscale.

Already the announcement has encouraged philanthropic and commercial interest from New Zealand and abroad, something that I am told you predicted would happen.

While there is still much work to do, you have started a movement that will result in an enduring legacy. It will be celebrated in the returning health of our unique wildlife and landscapes. I thank you for your selfless contribution and would welcome any thoughts or input you might like to have.

Yours sincerely

Hon Maggie Barry ONZM  
**Minister of Conservation**