

MIRO

Mainland Island Restoration Operation

(Working in Partnership with Greater Wellington Regional Council in East Harbour Regional Park)

Murray Waititi
Manager Parks & Reserves
Greater Wellington Regional Council

24 September 2007

Re. Proposal to Transfer North Island Robin from Waitotara Valley, Wanganui to East Harbour Regional Park, Wellington.

Dear Murray,

As you may already be aware, work is progressing steadily on a project by MIRO to establish a population of North Island Robin on the mainland island in East Harbour Regional Park, hence returning the species to what is considered part of its original home range. This will be a significant first for Wellington Region in that robins will be released in to a Regional Park on the mainland, rather than an island (Matiu / Somes) or sanctuary (Karori Wildlife Sanctuary).

I met with Peter Simpson, Programme Manager Biodiversity, and Lynn Adams, Department of Conservation on the 31 August to discuss an outline of our proposal. This is the first step in satisfying the requirements for the transfer of indigenous species. The result of this meeting was:

DOC have approved in principal the proposal to transfer Robins to EHRP

One of the requirements is that we maintain a rat tracking index below 5%. This is an area where we are extremely grateful for the support and hard work of Greater Wellington in providing, and continuing, the predator control work on the mainland island. The success of the whole project is dependent on the ongoing partnership between Greater Wellington and MIRO. Hopefully, in the future we may be able to see other birds transferred to EHRP such as kokako and stichbird, as is being done in the Waitakere Ranges with a partnership between Forest & Bird and Auckland Regional Council!

Kind Regards

Kevin Bateman
MIRO Bird Re-Introduction Subcommittee