

FW: Kaka and ruru nest box advice

From: Stephen Fuller <Stephen.Fuller@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2019 8:51 AM
To: Karin Sievwright <Karin.Siewwright@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Kaka and ruru nest box advice

Great

From: Karin Sievwright
Sent: Thursday, 4 April 2019 3:52 PM
To: Stephen Fuller <Stephen.Fuller@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Subject: FW: Kaka and ruru nest box advice

Looks like not installing nest boxes for ruru is the right call too based on the below info from DOC.

From: Lee Barry <lbarry@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 4 April 2019 3:50 PM
To: Karin Sievwright <Karin.Siewwright@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Kaka and ruru nest box advice

Hi Karin,

Some further recommendation on ruru boxes from our technical advisors;

- Likely to be of very little benefit
- Morepork tend to be very flexible and use a variety of sites, not only cavities
- They are regularly found nesting in the crown of pongas
- Little value of adding nest boxes in a site with a lot of other trees. Would be of more value at a restoration site devoid of trees and ponga

All the best,
Lee

From: Karin Sievwright <Karin.Siewwright@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 28 March 2019 3:53 p.m.
To: Lee Barry <lbarry@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Kaka and ruru nest box advice

Hi Lee,

Thanks a lot for your email. I had a chat to Daniela Biaggio from WCC and she said the same thing as you – that the preference is not to install any kaka nest boxes. So based on this and what you've said, we are now going to contact the relevant WCC consenting officer and discuss removing/revising this consent condition.

Yes if you could check about ruru nest box design that would be good thanks. Thanks for the Wildlife Act Authority info regarding nest box checks – I wasn't aware of this given the passive nature of checking. We were aware about the lizard permitting requirement, but thank you for the reminder. Cheers, Karin.

From: Lee Barry <lbarry@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 28 March 2019 12:16 PM
To: Karin Sievwright <Karin.Siewwright@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Kaka and ruru nest box advice

Thanks so much for all that background Karin.

Given the challenges you have mentioned around urban kaka, DOC don't currently support kaka nestboxes in urban areas and don't wish to advise on placement or design. However, it may be useful to note that any kaka nestbox designs we know of cannot be left permanently – they require maintenance. This involves changing of litter in the base of the box and replacement of inner bite boards (the bits of wood kaka use to climb up and down from the hole to the base of the box). Without maintenance the birds would be unlikely to use them for more than one season and the boxes would become unhealthy.

Without pest control in the area – and if it is also a dog exercise area - encouraging kaka to nest by placing boxes only puts fledglings at risk when they leave the nest and spend several days on the ground.

Given that the suggestion to install nestboxes came from a WCC ecologist, I'd suggest you liaise with that ecologist with regard to the practicalities of meeting that condition.

I note that in section DC.33, section i, there is mention of monitoring of nestboxes. I'm not sure in what context this intended, but a reminder that a Wildlife Act Authority would be required if the birds were to be physically monitored, ie disturbed by opening the nestbox.

I'll check with our Technical Advisors on any ruru nestbox designs, but I suspect they also would need ongoing maintenance.

A side note re lizards; great that there is a provision to survey and potentially relocate these species. A reminder that a Wildlife Act Authority supported by a lizard management plan would be required to survey and salvage any lizards at the site.

Let me know if you need any further information.

Kind regards,
Lee

Lee Barry
Ranger, Community - *Kaitiaki, Āo Hāpori*
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*
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Kapiti Wellington District Office
13b Wall Place | Kenepuru | Porirua | 5022



From: Karin Sievwright <Karin.Siewwright@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 March 2019 2:37 p.m.
To: Lee Barry <lbarry@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Kaka and ruru nest box advice

Sure no worries, I've attached the decision which includes the conditions (Appendix 2).
Cheers, Karin.

From: Lee Barry <lbarry@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 March 2019 9:23 AM
To: Karin Sievwright <Karin.Siewwright@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Kaka and ruru nest box advice

If you have a copy of the consent document handy Karin, that would save me having to go to WCC to access it.

I'm trying to determine where the advice came from to include this as a condition.

Seeing the whole file – if that is possible – would mean I can scan for the information I'm looking for rather than ask you endless questions!

Thank you

From: Karin Sievwright <Karin.Siewwright@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 March 2019 8:24 a.m.
To: Lee Barry <lbarry@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Kaka and ruru nest box advice

Hi Lee,
Looking at the document it appears they are recommended conditions (WCC reference SR 366241) of the independent hearing panel.
Cheers, Karin.

From: Lee Barry <lbarry@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 11:14 AM
To: Karin Sievwright <Karin.Siewwright@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Kaka and ruru nest box advice

Thanks Karin,

Do you have a consent number and can you confirm the issuing authority (WCC or Greater Wellington)?

Cheers,

Lee

From: Karin Sievwright <Karin.Siewwright@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 10:03 a.m.
To: Lee Barry <lbarry@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Kaka and ruru nest box advice

Hi Lee,
Thanks for your quick response.

Below is the info in the consent regarding nest box installation (points e, f and i are most relevant).

Prior to any vegetation clearance occurring:

- a) The maximum extent of clearance is to be clearly identified and confirmed by the Project Ecologist in consultation with the Project Landscape Architect and Project Construction Manager
- b) Vegetation to be retained will be clearly marked on site, with special attention given to large trees and Seral Forest B
- c) As far as practicable, vegetation clearance will occur outside the breeding season of kaka, falcon, kakariki, and morepork (1 September to 30 March)
- d) If vegetation clearance must occur during the period identified in condition DC.34 c), a survey shall be undertaken prior to clearance by a suitably qualified and experienced ornithologist to determine if a nest or nests are present. If a nest of any of the species identified in DC. 34c) is located on a tree to be felled, that tree must not be felled until the chick(s) has left the nest
- e) The Requiring Authority shall engage a suitably qualified and experienced ornithologist to provide a recommendation on the type, location and number of **nest** boxes that must be installed in adjacent areas of vegetation specifically for resident kaka and morepork.
- f) Nesting boxes required under DC.34 e) shall be installed under the supervision of the ornithologist prior to the commencement of any tree removal.

Advice Notes:

Evidence that the above process has been followed is to be provided to the CMO upon request. The CMO shall consult with an ecologist within the Council.

- i) A methodology for the monitoring of the **nest** boxes required by condition DC. 34 during construction, to be prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced ornithologist

With regards to pest control, there isn't a specific condition around this. We do however need to write an ecology management plan and pest control may form a part of this if deemed necessary.

My thoughts are that we won't be creating any new nesting habitat i.e. we won't be installing 10's of nest boxes, but rather replacing the known nesting habitat lost.

Cheers, Karin.

From: Lee Barry <lbarry@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 9:50 AM
To: Karin Sievwright <Karin.Siewwright@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Kaka and ruru nest box advice

Hello Karin,

Thanks for getting in touch. Can I just ask for a few clarifications?

- Are you able to forward the portion of the resource consent that requires the boxes? I'm interested to read the wording and understand the rationale (or you could give me the reference number)
- Is there any proposal to monitor, open, check or clean the nestboxes?
- Is there any pest control – additional or supplementary to what is already in place in the park - as part of the conditions.

Cheers,

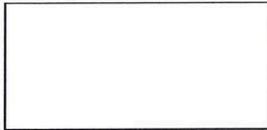
Lee

From: Karin Sievwright <Karin.Siewwright@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 9:40 a.m.
To: Lee Barry <lbarry@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Kaka and ruru nest box advice

Hi Lee,

I was forwarded your contact details from Danielle Shanahan at Zealandia. We are working on the Prince of Wales reservoir project and one of the resource consent conditions regards the installation of kaka and ruru nest boxes for resident birds as trees will be felled in the area, a couple of which kaka have naturally nested in before. The condition is quite open as the type, location and number of boxes to be installed is to be recommended by the project ornithologist. As such, firstly I am after any information you may have on ruru nest boxes, such as where to source them from, cost, the height at which they should be installed, any thoughts on nest box density and any other info or tips you might have.

With regards to kaka, Danielle highlighted the kaka/human conflict and recommended not installing any nest boxes at all. She mentioned that DOC and WCC have been developing a Wellington kaka strategy, of which nest boxes have been at the centre of. Given that a couple of trees that kaka have naturally nested in before will be lost, I think it is appropriate to at least provide a couple of nest boxes in suitable, nearby trees in the area to attempt to replace what has been lost. I'm interested on your thoughts on this and the wider issue and would be interested to hear your perspective and any recommendations you may have. I am also contacting Daniela Biaggio from WCC to get her input too. Feel free to give me a call on 027 4046975 to discuss further.
Cheers, Karin.



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FW: Kaka and ruru nest boxes

From: Daniela Biaggio <Daniela.Biaggio@wcc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 5 April 2019 12:43 PM
To: Karin Sievwright <Karin.Siewwright@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Kaka and ruru nest boxes

Hi Karin,

Thank for this, I had further internal discussions and looks like this message coming from an ornithologist as per the condition would be sufficient to get that removed. *"The Requiring Authority shall engage a suitably qualified and experienced ornithologist to provide a recommendation on the type, location and number of nest boxes that must be installed in adjacent areas of vegetation specifically for resident kaka and morepork"* if you need anything else from me to support let me know.

Kia pai tō rā

Daniela

"Toitu te marae a Tane, toitu te marae a Tangaroa, toitu te iwi."

From: Karin Sievwright [<mailto:Karin.Siewwright@boffamiskell.co.nz>]
Sent: Thursday, 28 March 2019 4:20 PM
To: Daniela Biaggio
Subject: RE: Kaka and ruru nest boxes

Hi Daniela,

Thanks for the chat this morning, much appreciated. As discussed, here's a copy of the project decision with the consent conditions (Appendix 2) . I've also been in contact with Lee Barry from DOC and he has said the same thing – that kaka nest boxes are not the solution. So based on this we are going to contact the WCC consenting officer associated with this project to have a discussion about removing/altering this consent condition.
Cheers, Karin.

From: Karin Sievwright
Sent: Thursday, 28 March 2019 8:17 AM
To: daniela.biaggio@wcc.govt.nz
Cc: Stephen Fuller <Stephen.Fuller@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Kaka and ruru nest boxes [Filed 28 Mar 2019 08:16]

Hi Daniela,

Just following up regarding the email below from earlier in the week about installing kaka and ruru nest boxes for the Prince of Wales Park reservoir project. I'd be interested to your thoughts and recommendations.

Feel free to give me a call if you'd like to discuss further (my mobile number is 0274046975) or we could have a meeting if that's easier.

Cheers, Karin.

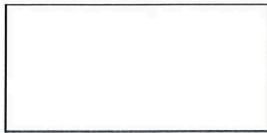
From: Karin Sievwright
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 9:29 AM
To: daniela.biaggio@wcc.govt.nz
Cc: Stephen Fuller <Stephen.Fuller@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Subject: Kaka and ruru nest boxes [Filed 26 Mar 2019 09:28]

Hi Daniela,

I was forwarded your contact details from Danielle Shanahan at Zealandia. We are working on the Prince of Wales Park reservoir project and one of the resource consent conditions regards the installation of nest boxes for resident kaka and ruru as trees will be felled in the area, a couple of which kaka have naturally nested in before. The condition is quite open, and the type, location and number of boxes to be installed is to be recommended by the ornithologist. Danielle recommended not installing any nest boxes, for kaka at least, given the human/kaka conflict and mentioned that DOC and WCC have been developing a Wellington kaka strategy, of which nest boxes have been at the centre of. So I was interested to hear your thoughts on what we should do and if nest box installation is appropriate or if you had any other suggestions or recommendations on what we could do.

Feel free to give me a call (my mobile number is 027 4046975) or let me know if you'd like to pop into our office for a chat.

Cheers, Karin.



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FW: Kaka nest boxes

From: Danielle Shanahan <danielle.shanahan@visitzealandia.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 March 2019 8:22 AM
To: Karin Sievwright <Karin.Siewwright@boffamiskell.co.nz>; Stephen Fuller <Stephen.Fuller@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Kaka nest boxes

Hi Karin and Stephen

Neil passed this one on to me, as that is where the request logically sits!

I am surprised at the requirement for kaka nest boxes especially – they are causing some challenges around the place, particularly where the habitat isn't great, the birds get into a bit of trouble begging and 'working on' residential structures in their spare time, and people can't resist fiddling.

Ultimately the risk is we end up with a density of kākā that can't be supported naturally, and that is where human kākā conflict issues are likely (see Linklaters paper from last year, that refers to feeding, but it seems similar effects are being seen with nest boxes). So my recommendation would be zero density nest boxes to be honest.

WCC, DOC and ourselves have been developing a Wellington kākā strategy, nestboxes have been at the centre of this (I don't think WCC has reached a final decision point from their perspective on that yet though).

I would recommend going to DOC e.g. Lee Barry lbarry@doc.govt.nz for further details on boxes if you want them, or Daniela Biaggio at WCC to get their opinion Daniela Biaggio Daniela.Biaggio@wcc.govt.nz .

Me and the team are less knowledgeable on ruru nest boxes, but again I would suggest DOC as being the people to talk to.

Ngā mihi
Danielle

Dr Danielle Shanahan
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From: Neil Anderson
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 8:06 AM
To: Danielle Shanahan <danielle.shanahan@visitzealandia.com>
Subject: FW: Kaka nest boxes

From: Karin Sievwright <Karin.Siewwright@boffamiskell.co.nz>
Sent: Friday, 22 March 2019 8:33 AM
To: Neil Anderson <Neil.Anderson@visitzealandia.com>

Cc: Stephen Fuller <Stephen.Fuller@boffamiskell.co.nz>

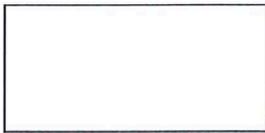
Subject: Kaka nest boxes

Hi Neil,

I got your contact details from Stephen Fuller. We are working on the Prince of Wales reservoir project and as part of that we need to install some kaka and ruru nest boxes. I know that you have a number of boxes in the sanctuary and am after some information on where to source the next boxes, cost, how high they should be installed, any thoughts on nest box density and any other tips or info that you may have.

Feel free to give me a call on 027 4046975 to discuss further or I'd be happy to come up to Zealandia for a chat.

Cheers, Karin.



Karin Sievwright | Ecologist

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