

Nick Ledgard
Chair
BRaid Incorporated

March 6, 2025

Will Doughty
Chief Executive
Kaikoura District Council
PO Box 6
Kaikoura 7340

Protection for banded dotterels / pohowera on South Beach

Dear Sir

I am writing in support of Ailsa McGilvary-Howard's proposal for a 'banded dotterel breeding sanctuary' at South Beach. This would be for the core breeding months of September 1 to early December, after which normal activity would resume on the full beach. It is intended that the sanctuary be in place for 3 years, by which time its effectiveness can be gauged and compared to previous breeding results.

BRaid agrees that, during the protection period, the Kaikoura District Council should declare that, within the sanctuary, no disruptive activities such as dog exercising, vehicle driving and human recreation generally be undertaken. In and around the sanctuary, volunteers would undertake predator control - including live cat capture.

Banded dotterels are a threatened native species with a declining population. South Beach has been an attractive breeding location for centuries, but Ailsa's decade of research has shown that this situation has declined significantly due to increasing disturbance. Where dozens of pairs used to breed successfully, just a few do so now. In fact, the beach could be described as a population 'sink', as while it still attracts breeding pairs, increasing disturbance means that their survival is more and more threatened. Unless the Council acts as requested, there is every likelihood that pohowera, a well-known local resident, will become extinct in this part of your district.

BRaid encourages the Kaikoura District Council to implement Ailsa's proposal.

If there is any way that we can assist in this regard please let us know.

Yours faithfully

Nick Ledgard
Chair, BRaid Inc