

**Appendix S1.** Study sites, agency managing sites, number of individuals by age group, and initial measuring dates. N.P. = newly planted trees, 1 yr = 1-year-old trees,  $\geq 2$  yr = 2-year-old or older trees. <sup>1</sup>WCC = Wellington City Council and CG = community group. <sup>2</sup>F.O.B.R. = Friends of Buckley Road.

Site	Agency <sup>1</sup>	Sample sizes									Total	Initial measuring date		
		<i>Aristotelia serrata</i>			<i>Cordyline australis</i>			<i>Pittosporum eugenioides</i>				(dd/mm/yy)		
		N.P.	1 yr	$\geq 2$ yr	N.P.	1 yr	$\geq 2$ yr	N.P.	1 yr	$\geq 2$ yr		N.P.	1 yr	$\geq 2$ yr
Cashmere	WCC	0	30	0	29	30	0	30	0	0	119	22/05/12	28/05/12	NA
Chest Hospital	WCC	30	30	30	29	14	30	30	30	30	253	31/07/12	27/07/12	31/07/12
Churton	CG	29	30	30	23	7	29	30	30	30	238	29/06/12	3/07/12	3/07/12
Derry Hill	WCC	30	29	30	30	30	30	30	30	0	239	26/06/12	9/06/12	2/07/12
Finnimore	WCC	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	30	270	26/06/12	11/07/12	11/07/12
F.O.B.R. <sup>2</sup>	CG	28	20	20	15	0	1	28	18	16	146	5/09/12	4/09/12	5/09/12
Homebush	WCC	30	0	4	0	0	30	30	0	26	120	22/05/12	NA	28/05/12
I. Galloway	WCC	30	29	28	30	22	30	0	30	30	229	10/06/12	16/06/12	18/06/12
Onslow	CG	0	16	0	0	23	0	0	30	0	69	NA	8/07/12	NA
Seton	CG	28	30	30	30	30	30	19	30	30	257	2/08/12	21/06/12	22/06/12
Woodridge	CG	10	28	24	12	14	28	7	26	21	170	29/08/12	19/07/12	28/07/12
Total		245	272	226	228	200	238	234	254	213	2110			

**Appendix S2.** Summary of environmental covariates and annual plant mortality rates between council-led (WCC) and community-group-led (CG) forest restoration projects ( $n = 11$ ) in Wellington City, New Zealand. Values are percent or mean  $\pm$  standard deviation.

Variables	WCC	CG
Plants smaller than surrounding grass (%)	46.9	58.9
Mulched plants (%)	0	18.0
Mown plants (%)	1.3	0.5
Seedlings inappropriately planted (%)	0.3	0.4
Grass cover (%)	68.9 $\pm$ 18.8	68.9 $\pm$ 18.2
Overhead canopy cover (%)	13.5 $\pm$ 20.8	19.8 $\pm$ 25.8
Aspect	0.9 $\pm$ 0.6	1.2 $\pm$ 0.5
Slope ( $^{\circ}$ )	18.1 $\pm$ 12.9	14.2 $\pm$ 12.5
Relative rodent abundance (%)	15.8 $\pm$ 18.0	8.5 $\pm$ 8.3
Soil phosphorous content (mg kg <sup>-1</sup> )	8.3 $\pm$ 2.1	12.6 $\pm$ 3.8
Soil nitrogen content (%)	0.1 $\pm$ 0.0	0.2 $\pm$ 0.0
Soil compaction (kg cm <sup>-2</sup> )	431.2 $\pm$ 57.9	323.1 $\pm$ 66.1
Total mortality rate (%)	18	12
Total number of plants recorded	1230	880