

West Coast Penguin Trust design with external sideways tunnel

A further modification of the Oamaru design is one developed by the West Coast Penguin Trust. Their design has a long tunnel running sideways along the front of the nest box. Here, the tunnel must be wide enough that a pre-moult penguin can fit through.

The document detailing how to construct such a nest box can be downloaded here:

<https://www.westcoastpenguintrust.org.nz/news/making-a-nest-box-for-a-blue-penguin/>

The dimensions of the nesting chamber are the same as the Oamaru design. The sharp turn from the tunnel into the nesting chamber is likely to deter cats and maybe weka as they are likely to be confronted with an angry penguin as turn the corner. The removable lid can be either the front or the back half of the roof, and it can be made tamper proof if required as illustrated above.



Figure 7: The external sideways tunnel designed by the West Coast Penguin Trust (left); Linden Brown building a nest box (right).

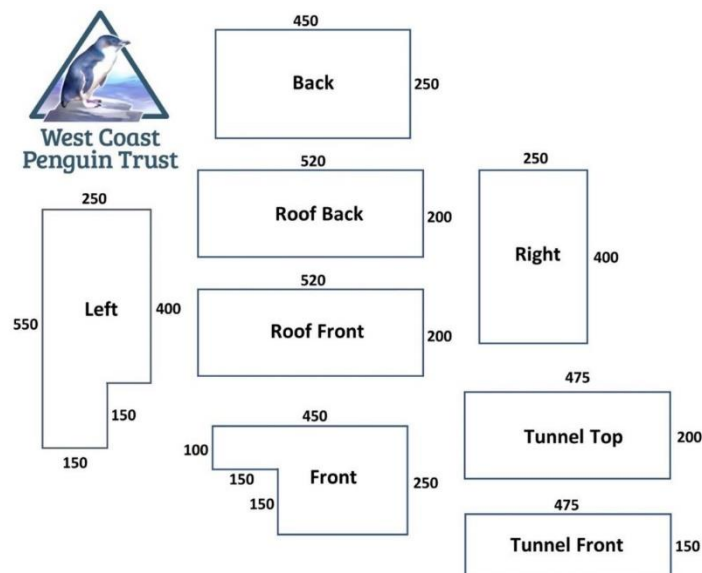


Figure 8: Details of the dimensions for a box with an external sideways tunnel designed by the West Coast Penguin Trust.

Good points

1. This design likely deters some predators such as weka and cats.

2. The penguins like it and approve of the long tunnel.
3. The general public cannot see or access the penguins through the entrance.

Less good points

1. This design is more complex to build than the internal tunnel design.
2. The overall box is likely to be heavier than an Oamaru or internal tunnel designed box. This is unlikely to matter if it does not have to be carried far.