



07 NOV 2016  
3 November 2016

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Wellington 6141

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Masterton 5840  
New Zealand  
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Dear Sir/Madam

## Southern Rimutaka Aerial Project

I wish to update you regarding the Southern Rimutaka aerial possum control operation to be carried out from November 2016 onwards. The operational area is located south of Wainuiomata in the Rimutaka Ranges and in the East Harbour Regional Park near Eastbourne. Access to treatment areas can also be obtained via the Department of Conservation, Catchpool entrance from Coast Road, the Rimutaka Rail trail and from Western Lake at Corner Creek.

The operation is being undertaken on behalf of TBfree New Zealand, by BioWorks, which are part of the Greater Wellington Regional Council.

The project has been publically advertised and I had tentatively planned for the prefeed application to occur from 8 November 2016 onwards, however, this date has been moved back to the **15 November 2106** as we are still awaiting the deer repellent and testing to be completed on the 1080 bait.

One application of prefeed baits will occur from approximately 15 November 2016 onwards, this will be followed approximately one to two weeks later with an application of 1080 pellets. However, both applications can only occur when suitable weather conditions exist, so some delay may occur.

Baits will be applied by helicopter over approximately 13,000 hectares. Prior to the application of 1080 baits, warning signs will be erected at all entrance ways where poisons are laid.

You are requested not to touch or remove any baits, if you consider poisoning has occurred please seek medical aid or call **111**.

Please read the attached information sheet which provides more detail regarding the operation and precautions to be taken. An operational map is included within the sheet.

I would be most grateful if you could advise others within your family or organisation of this operation.



If you require further information please don't hesitate to contact:

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Yours sincerely



**Graeme Butcher**  
Team Leader, BioWorks  
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Encl: Southern Rimutaka Possum Control Information



Advanced GPS navigational equipment will be used to ensure the pellets are accurately placed and identified exclusion zones avoided.

## THE METHOD

A vast majority of possum control in the region is done by local contractors using ground-based traps and hand-laid toxins. The remaining area is controlled using aerially applied pellets containing biodegradable 1080. Aerial control is highly-efficient, cost-effective and has historically been extremely successful at knocking possum numbers down to very low levels. It is preferred in areas like Southern Rimutaka due to the rugged nature of the terrain. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment also supports aerial control. The commissioner completed an extensive review into the use of 1080, in which she strongly endorsed its continued use in New Zealand.



Baits covered in deer repellent. The non-toxic pre-feed pellets are brownish-tan while the toxic baits are green.

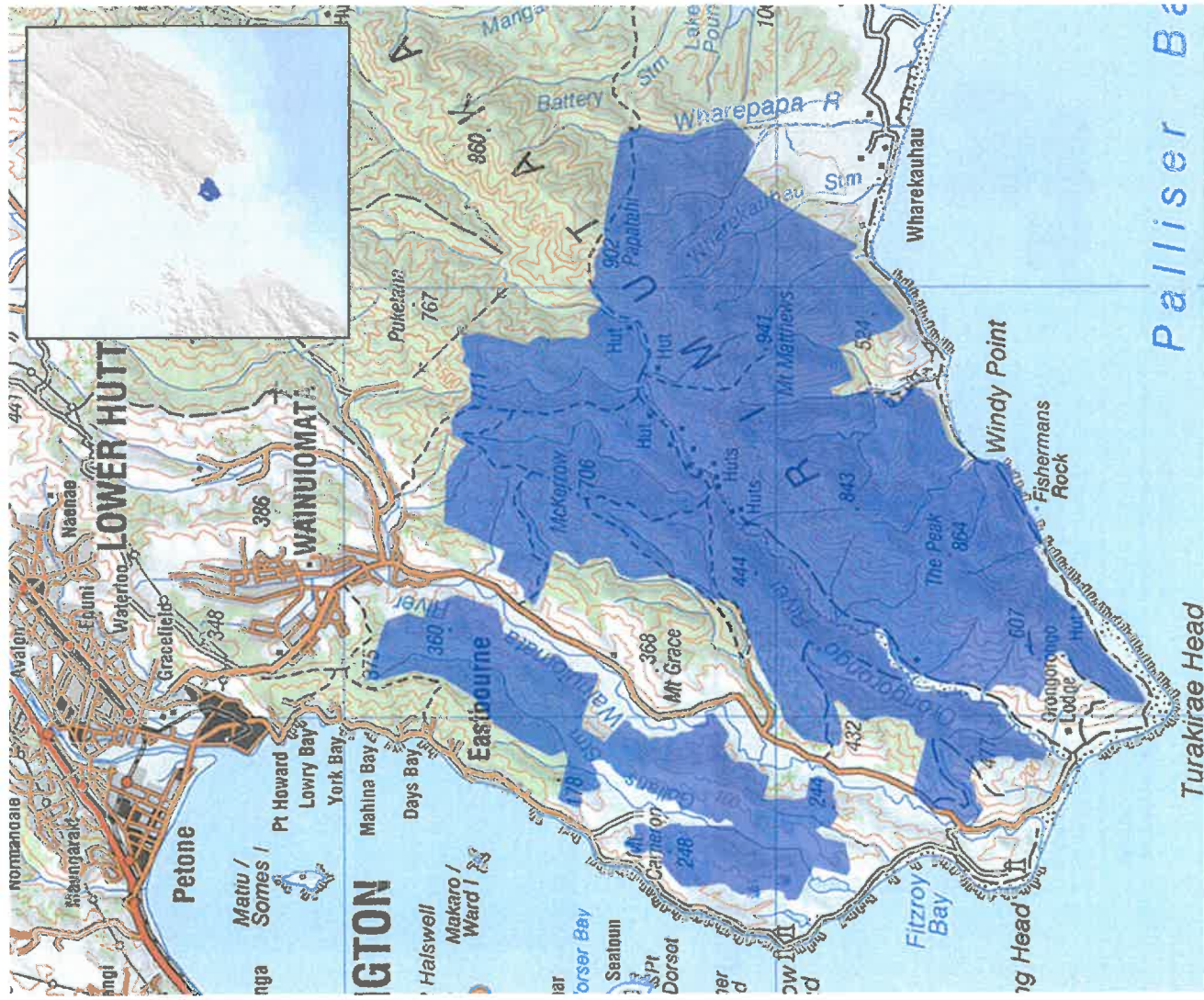
Please visit [pce.parliament.nz](http://pce.parliament.nz) to read this report.

## WHAT HAPPENS NOW

The Southern Rimutaka operation is scheduled to begin October/November 2016, weather dependent. A contractor will be doing the work of behalf of OSPRI's TBfree programme. Before the operation, affected landowners and occupiers will be contacted and visited by one of our contractors. They will discuss boundary issues, water supply safety and the management of any risks to dogs and livestock. Consents from Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and the Ministry of Health are required for this operation. Affected landowners/occupiers will be contacted again before the operation starts, notices will be published in local newspapers and warning signs will be placed at all likely access points to the operational area.

## BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS

The operation will have additional conservation benefits for native birds and bush. Possums eat the forest canopy and prey on native wildlife, including eggs and chicks. Biodegradable 1080 is also extremely effective at controlling other introduced predators such as ship rats and stoats.



Proposed Operation Boundary

The boundaries are indicative and may change through consultation

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Warning signs will be placed at all official access points to the operational area and everyone must follow the cautions on the signs. There's no health risk when using this area as long as you follow these instructions:

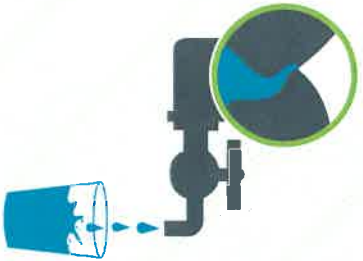
- Do not** handle any bait or allow children to wander unsupervised. Cereal baits containing 1080 are dyed green.
- Do not** hunt or take game from within a two kilometre radius of the operational area for human

or pet consumption. It's an offence to sell meat products that have been exposed to 1080. Hunting can resume approximately four months following the control work or after two months if 100Ornm of rain has fallen.

Please observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about the pesticide. Warning signs indicate that pesticide residues may still be present in baits or animals. When the signs are officially removed, you can resume normal activities in the area



**Do not bring dogs into the area until the warning signs have been officially removed.**  
Dogs are particularly susceptible to 1080. They must not be allowed access to bait or poisoned carcasses which remain toxic to dogs until they have fully decomposed. Free dog muzzles will be provided on request. Please contact OSPRI on 06 353 2710 to obtain a muzzle.



## THERE IS NO RISK TO PUBLIC DRINKING WATER

Biodegradable 1080 is highly soluble and does not persist in water or soil. Local health authorities apply strict conditions to aerial operations so that drinking water supplies are not contaminated. Safety has been confirmed by tests on several thousand water samples taken after aerial 1080 operations over many years.



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT POISONING

Contact your local hospital or doctor, or dial 111  
National Poisons Centre  
0800 POISON (764 766)  
If a domestic animal is poisoned, contact a local veterinarian.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

**OSPRI**  
North Island office  
Palmerston North  
P 06 353 2710  
E vector.SNI@ospri.co.nz  
tbfree.co.nz | ospri.co.nz

**Contractor**  
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**For more information on controlling bovine TB and why 1080 is used in New Zealand, visit 1080facts.co.nz**



TBfree

# SOUTHERN RIMUTAKA AERIAL BOVINE TB CONTROL OPERATION

## OSPRI'S TBFREE PROGRAMME

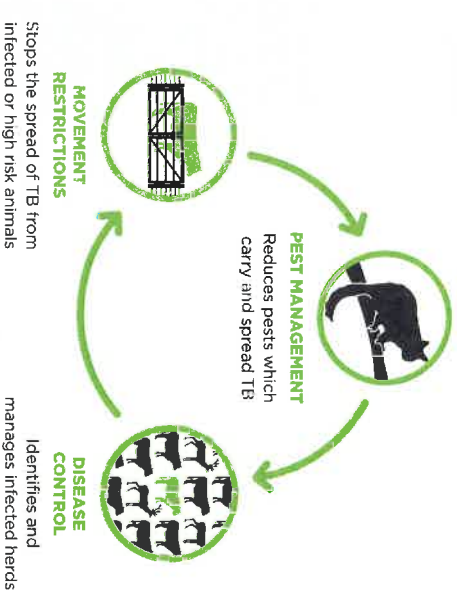
The TBfree programme aims to manage and eventually eradicate bovine tuberculosis (TB) from New Zealand's farmed cattle and deer and wild animal populations. We use possum control, along with regular herd testing and movement restrictions, to achieve this objective. Information gathered from wild animal surveys, recent and historic findings of TB in wild animals, herd testing results and the operational history of the region is used when planning operations.



## TARGETING POSSUMS

We're running a possum control operation in the Southern Rimutaka area (please see map). It will cover approx. 13,300 hectares. To eradicate bovine TB, possum numbers need to be kept extremely low – around one to two animals every 10 hectares. Monitoring has shown that control work is needed in the Southern Rimutaka area to reduce the possum population and minimise the risk of the disease spreading through wild animal populations and onto farmed cattle and deer. Possum control has dramatically reduced the number of infected herds in the Greater Wellington region. Controlling

## HOW WE CONTROL TB



disease prevents livestock production losses and protects the world-leading reputation of New Zealand's dairy, beef and deer products. This area has not been treated by OSPRI's TBfree programme before.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

The operation will begin with the distribution of non-toxic, tan-coloured cereal pellets by helicopter. This "pre-feed" gives possums a taste for the pellets and overcomes bait shyness. One to two weeks later (weather permitting), toxic, green cereal pellets coated with deer repellent - each containing 0.15% biodegradable sodium fluoracetate (also known as 1080) - will be applied by helicopter at a rate of two kilograms per hectare. That's about one bait to every 60 square metres. The Southern Rimutaka operation will be subject to strict safety, quality-assurance and monitoring requirements.



TBfree is an OSPRI programme



tbfree.co.nz



0800 482 463



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