

Notification about predator control at Papakai

To protect native species, the Department of Conservation (DOC) is going to reduce rodents, possums and stoats in the area.

Why we are controlling introduced predators

Native species are fighting for survival due to predation from rodents, stoats and possums. Without ongoing protection, we risk losing the unique natural heritage and biodiversity within the Papakai ecological area.

Papakai is a nationally significant habitat for Coromandel brown kiwi, Archey's frog and Coromandel striped gecko. It is also an important conservation area for kākā and kererū as well as a variety of rare and unique plants. The Manaia Kauri sanctuary is located at the northern end of the Papakai area.

Reducing predators protects our vulnerable wildlife and helps native forest habitats to recover. The planned operation will protect kiwi, kākā, and kererū during the breeding period and allow young chicks to reach adulthood. It will also help safeguard their food source and improve forest condition to maintain a healthier canopy.

How are we going to achieve this

The safest and most effective method to control introduced predators over large areas is to use biodegradable bait pellets containing 1080. This bait targets rodents and possums. Stoats are also controlled through secondary poisoning as they feed on the carcasses of the dead rodents.

Helicopters will accurately distribute bait across 11,750 ha of the forest along pre-determined and monitored flight paths. This is the safest and most effective way to control predators at Papakai due to the vast and rugged terrain.

We will measure the success of the operation using rodent tracking tunnels and possum wax tag indexes within six weeks of the toxin being laid.



Archey's frog. Photo credit: Ben Gordon

Consultation and consent outcome

DOC has consulted with hapū, iwi and key stakeholders including landowners adjacent to the treatment area. This involved discussing the operational plan, listening to any concerns and considering ways to mitigate them.

DOC is delegated authority by the Environmental Protection Agency to decide applications for permission to use 1080 on land administered or managed by DOC. Permission has been granted for this operation. DOC has also received the required permission from the Ministry of Health.

Next steps

Adjoining landowners and other stakeholders are being notified and there will be a public notice in the local newspaper/s. There will also be warning signs placed at entrances to the treatment area immediately prior to the operation.

After the operation, DOC will contact iwi, hapū, and stakeholders about the results of the operation. We also aim to share insights about the outcomes for native species overtime.

Timeframe

The operation is planned for the first clear weather window between July and November 2024.

This operation begins with the distribution of non-toxic pre-feed bait pellets to prepare possums and rodents to eat the toxic bait (died green) that is applied afterwards. Both baits are about 16 mm in diameter and cylindrical shaped.

Managing risk

1080 is poisonous to humans, domestic and game animals. In areas where the toxin has been applied, dogs are highly at risk until poisoned carcasses have disintegrated. This takes four-to-eight months or longer.

Risks can be eliminated by following these rules:

DO NOT touch bait

WATCH children at all times

DO NOT EAT animals from this area or within the buffer zone outside the treatment boundary.

The standard buffer zone is 2 km for pigs, 200 m for rabbits, and 1 km for hares, and possums.

Poison baits or carcasses are DEADLY to DOGS

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. These signs indicate pesticide residues may be still present in baits and poisoned carcasses. When signs are removed this means you can resume normal activities in the area. Always report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs.

If you suspect poisoning, please contact:

- Your local doctor or hospital
- The National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766 (urgent calls) or 03 479 7248 or dial 111
- Seek veterinary advice for suspected poisoning of domestic animals

Map of predator control within Papakai

The map on the next page shows the confirmed area of 11,750 hectares for predator control.

For more information

Please contact:

Operational planner, Whitianga Office, Department Of Conservation, PO Box 276, Whitianga

Phone 07 869 5639

Email: coromandelenquires@doc.govt.nz

OR

EcoFX, PO Box 248, Otorohanga.

Phone: 07 873 8130

Email: admin@ecofx.co.nz

Visit the DOC website:

See more information about DOC's National Predator Control Programme.

www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/national-predator-control-programme

See operational updates and detailed maps of predator control on public conservation land

www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/pesticide-summaries

See updates about track access and safety

www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/know-before-you-go/alerts

Learn more about why we use 1080 to control introduced predators

www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/methods-of-control/1080

Learn more about Predator Free 2050

www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/predator-free-2050



Papakai

Aerial Predator Control 2024

Proposed treatment area: 11,750 ha