

# Notification about predator control in Southern Coromandel

To protect native species, the Department of Conservation (DOC) is going to reduce rat, stoat and possum numbers in the area.

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## Why we are controlling introduced predators

The Southern Coromandel has large and rare native forests that are valued for their diverse flora and fauna, scenic landscapes, and recreation and tourism opportunities.

These forests have mixed podocarp and broadleaf trees, remnant kauri, coastal pōhutukawa, and kānuka shrubland. Coromandel brown kiwi live on the Peninsula along with many other endemic and threatened native species including invertebrates, bats, birds, frogs and lizards.

These native species are under threat from rats, stoats and possums. Without ongoing protection, we risk losing the unique natural heritage and biodiversity in Southern Coromandel.

## 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 25,441ha of the forest along pre-determined and monitored flight paths. This is safest and most effective way to control predators in Southern Coromandel due to the vast and rugged terrain.

The success of the operation will be measured by monitoring possums using wax tags.



North Island brown kiwi. *Photo credit: Sue Bell*

## 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 1 July and 31 Nov 2024.

This operation begins with the distribution of non-toxic pre-feed bait pellets to prepare possums and rodents to eat the toxic bait (dyed 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 deer and pigs, 200 m for rabbits, and 1 km for hares, tahr, wallabies 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 area

The map on the next page shows the confirmed area of 25,441ha for predator control.

## For more information

### Please contact:

Operational planner, DOC Hauraki Office,

Phone 07 867 9180

OR

EcoFX, phone 07 873 8130

Email: [admin@ecofx.co.nz](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/pesticide-summaries)

See updates about track access and safety

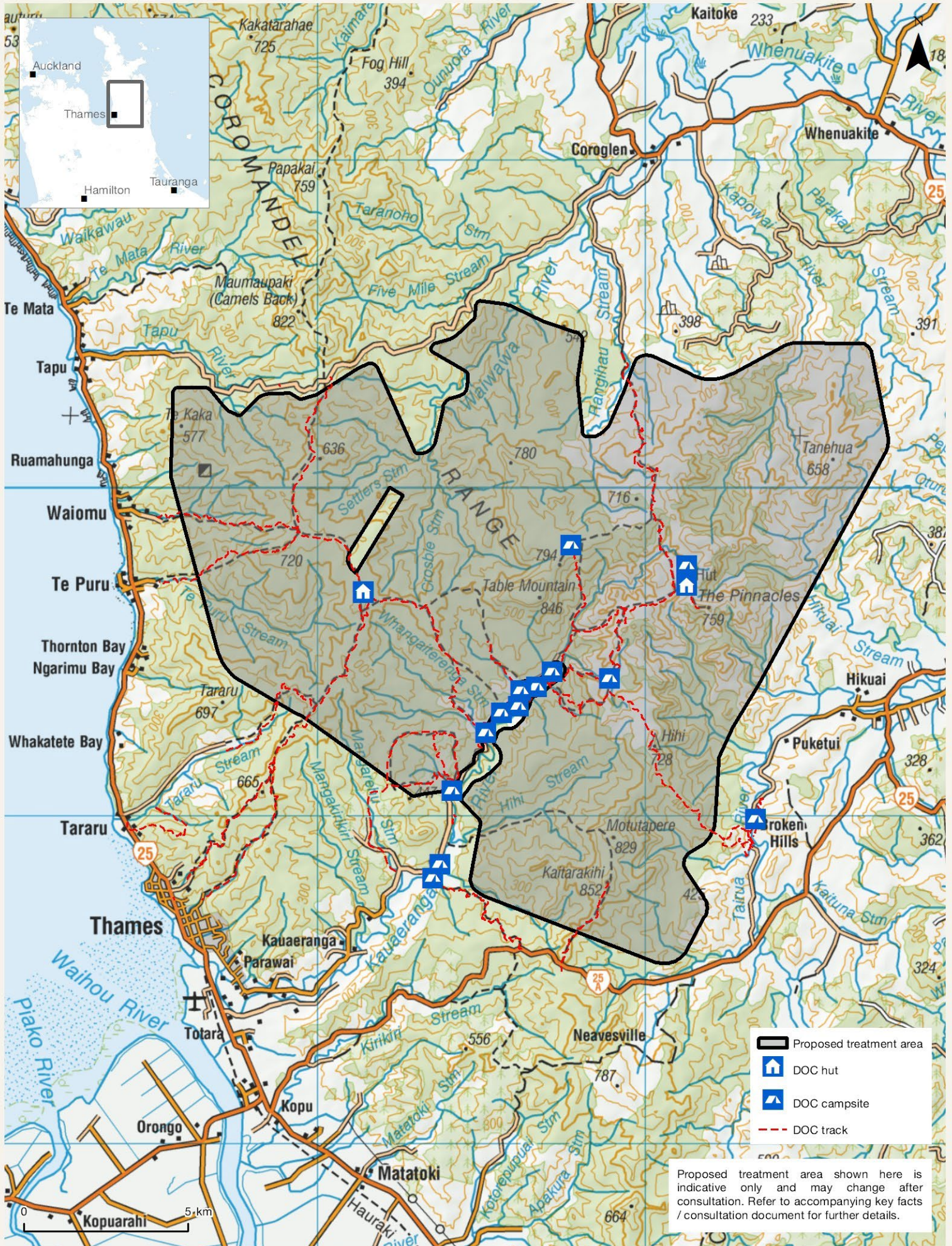
[www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/know-before-you-go/alerts](http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/know-before-you-go/alerts)

Learn more about why we use 1080 to control introduced predators

[www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/methods-of-control/1080](http://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](http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/predator-free-2050)



Hauraki Southern Forest  
 Aerial Predator Control 2024  
 Proposed treatment area: 25,441 ha