

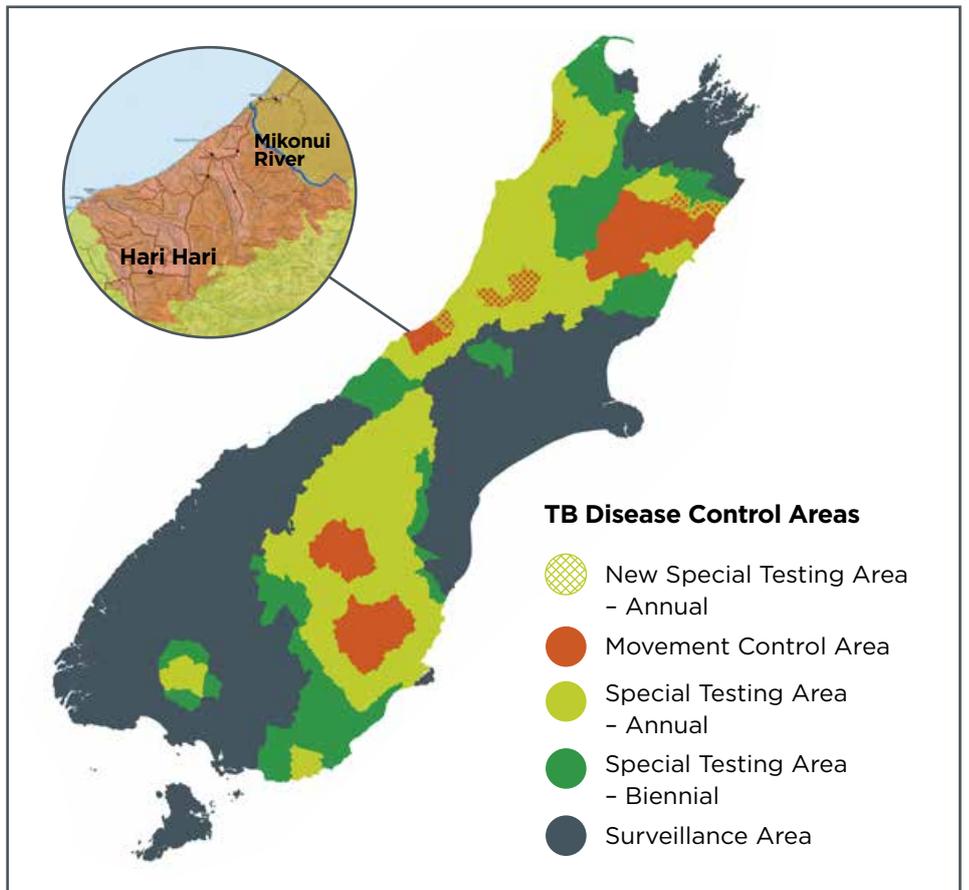
Changes to TB testing – West Coast

For many years, the West Coast was one of New Zealand’s regions most affected by TB, and the ongoing impact on farmers, their families, and the wider sector has been significant.

In the 1970s, it was discovered that possums were transmitting TB to cattle and deer through direct contact. This prompted extensive possum control work and the establishment of TB Disease Control Areas, which set testing requirements and movement restrictions based on local risk.

For decades, most of the West Coast operated under Movement Control restrictions, requiring regular testing and pre-movement tests. Now, positive changes are underway. From **1 March 2026**, most of the Coast will move to **annual on-farm testing only**, with no pre-movement tests needed. The only area still under Movement Control is Hari Hari area highlighted (as shown in the highlighted map area) where work continues to eliminate TB from wildlife.

This change marks a significant step toward TB freedom for the West Coast.



As of 1 March 2026 these areas will **no longer** be classed as ‘Movement Control Areas’:

- Karamea
- Taramaku / Upper Ahaura
- Mikonui – Totara rivers

These changes represent 242,200 hectares no longer classed as MCAs.

What benefits will farmers see?

-  **7,100** less pre-movement tests required on the Coast.
-  **130 herds** no longer having to pre-movement test as of 1 March 2026.
-  **Saving** people’s time on-farm.

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“ Reducing MCAs on the West Coast is a sign of the progress we’ve all worked hard to achieve. TB levels have dropped significantly thanks to sustained possum control and farmer commitment to testing and movement rules.

By scaling back restrictions where risk is now low, we’re making it easier for farmers to operate while still protecting the gains we’ve made. This change reflects confidence in our disease management and moves us closer to a TB-free future.

OSPRI Farmer Committee Chair – Katrina Simpson



Traceability plays an important role in any disease response, including TB. If you own cattle, or deer, make sure they are registered and you are recording movements on time. Accurate tracing of NAIT animals helps us to respond quickly and effectively in the event of a disease outbreak.

OSPRI are asking farmers to remember to **include a date of birth** when registering stock. If you’re unsure of the actual day, put the **1st of the month** – this still meets your NAIT obligations.

TBfree possum control

TBfree possum control is ongoing across many parts of the West Coast. Because of the continued risk of TB in possums in this region, it has been a major focus for sustained investment in both control operations and monitoring.

After control work is completed, monitoring continues for several years to ensure the risk of TB has been effectively addressed and that an area can be confidently declared *TBfree*. **While progress has been significant, there is still more work to do.**

We appreciate your ongoing support for the programme and for the goal of eradicating TB from New Zealand.

