

ERADICATING BOVINE TB FROM CLARENCE RESERVE

JUNE 2019 | VERSION 2.0

OVERVIEW

The TBfree programme is delivered through TB Management areas (TMAs) and aims to control, and eventually eradicate, bovine tuberculosis (TB) from New Zealand by 2055. OSPRI's main goals for TB control in the Clarence Reserve area are:

- TB freedom in livestock by 2023
- TB freedom in possums by 2026

OSPRI

The programme uses possum control, regular herd testing and movement

restrictions to control TB. When planning for operations wild animal surveys, TB history, herd testing results and past operation history are all used to determine the level of control required to eradicate TB.

The TBfree programme is delivered through TB management areas (TMAs). Each TMA has a specific TB control plan designed to eradicate TB as effectively as possible.

This notice provides an overview of TB control work planned for this TMA.

It is not a formal notice of any specific operation. All operation dates provided are provisional and subject to consultation.

TB HISTORY

There has been a long history of TB infection in both local wildlife and cattle herds in the Clarence Reserve TMA. Possums, ferrets and deer in this TMA have been regularly diagnosed with TB infection. There is currently one TB infected cattle herd in this TMA.

OPERATIONAL TIMEFRAME

Planned control and surveillance management activities are outlined in the table below.

TYPE OF CONTROL	WHEN?*	HOW MANY HECTARES?	WHERE?
Ground control	2019/2020	9,000	Clarence West, Clarence Reserve, Kekerengu
Ferret survey	2019/2020	8,000	Clarence East
Ground control	2020/2021	24,000	Clarence West, Clarence Reserve, Kekerengu, Upper Clarence
Aerial control	2021	17,000	Central Clarence, Constitution Hill
Ground control	2021/2022	37,500	Clarence West, Clarence Reserve, Kekerengu, Upper Clarence, Constitution Hill

Hectares under control are indicative only and may change after consultation. * The operational year runs from 1 July – 30 June



0800 482 463









CLARENCE RESERVE

The Clarence Reserve TMA covers 127,660 ha at the northern end of the Canterbury Region. It includes the catchment of the Clarence River from the mouth to Spay Stream, the southern end of the Clarence Reserve between the Seaward and the Inland Kaikoura Ranges and Kekerengu. The habitat is river flats and rolling hills to high ridgelines, with scrub- and bush-filled gullies as well as areas of continuous bush. Altitudes range between sea level and 2,500m.

CONTROL HISTORY

Ground based possum control has previously been undertaken in the Clarence East. Clarence West. Kekerengu and Upper Clarence areas. The Kekerengu operation and the Upper Clarence operations were completed in 2019 and the Clarence West operation was completed during 2017/2018. Ferret surveys have been undertaken in the Clarence West and Kekerengu blocks in 2018.

POSSUM POPULATION ASSESSMENT

Before control work is carried out, an assessment of the wildlife population may be undertaken.

Following control work, the possum population density may also be monitored to assess the operation's success. From the results, OSPRI can assess whether further possum control work needs to be done in the area.

TARGETING POSSUMS

To eradicate bovine TB from possum populations, possum numbers need to be kept extremely low - around one to two animals every ten hectares.

Previous possum control and livestock disease management has dramatically reduced the number of infected herds in the North Canterbury/Marlborough region. However, monitoring has shown that further control work is needed in the Clarence Reserve area to reduce the possum population, to minimise the risk of the disease spreading through wild animal populations and onto farmed cattle and deer and to ensure further good progress towards disease eradication.

FERRET SURVEY

Before an area can be classed as TB-free, surveys are used to assess whether TB is still present in wildlife. We're running ferret survey operations in parts of this TMA. While possums are the main source of infection from wildlife it can be difficult and costly to detect TB in possum populations. Ferrets are good indicators of TB in possums because they scavenge widely, so are likely to get TB from eating TB-infected possum carcasses. Any findings of TB in ferrets will indicate that further possum control work needs to be done in the area.

THE METHOD **AERIAL CONTROL**

Possum control is mostly done by contractors using ground-based traps and hand-laid toxins such as cyanide. In some areas the most efficient method

ROAD TO TB ERADICATION



TESTING WILDLIFE

We check the wildlife to see if TB is present in an area.

POSSUM CONTROL - YEAR ONE

Possums spread TB. Getting numbers low will help stop TB.

KEEPING POSSUM NUMBERS LOW

It's really important to keep possum numbers low over multiple years to break the TB cycle.

TESTING WILDLIFE

We test wildlife to check if TB still exists. The animals will be checked for signs of TB. Samples may be grown in a laboratory. If TB is found, vou will be told by TBfree.

TB ERADICATED



OSPRI TBfree is an OSPRI programme







of control is aerial, and this involves the aerial application of baits containing biodegradable 1080 from helicopters. Aerial control is efficient, cost effective and extremely successful at knocking possum numbers down to very low levels. For more information on the use of this poison visit 1080facts.co.nz.

FERRET SURVEY

OSPRI contractors will use traps to carry out this ferret survey operation. Depending on the situation, live capture or kill traps may be used.

GROUND CONTROL

OSPRI contractors will use toxins and traps to carry out this possum control operation.

Different toxins are used depending on the size and terrain of the operational area. Toxins will either be placed in bait stations, stapled to trees in biodegradable bags or hand-laid. Contractors will consult with landowners on which toxin will be used to ensure the safety of livestock, pets and native animals.

There are many different types of traps, such as leg-hold or kill traps. In choosing the right one, we will take into consideration ease of access, set-up and maintenance time, animal welfare factors and the potential risks to livestock, pets and native animals.

On occasion our contractors may also use corflute chew cards or wax tags to identify possum populations where control is required.

CONSULTATION

OSPRI listens to feedback from communities, land occupiers and land

users about proposed operations and notifies planned operations well in advance so affected parties can submit feedback about any possible risks or sensitive areas that need to be managed. OSPRI will always seek the willing cooperation of land occupiers when TBfree programme work needs to be carried out on their land. Before any operation begins, affected landowners and occupiers will be contacted and visited by one of our contractors. Depending on the methods used and the location of the operations, consents may be required from the Department of Conservation and Ministry of Health.

WHAT NEXT?

Dates and control methods for the proposed operations are provisional and subject to consultation. OSPRI contractors will be in contact with affected landowners and occupiers before any work starts.

TESTING HERDS

Cattle and deer herds are monitored for TB through a combination of herd testing and carcass inspection at slaughter. The frequency of testing depends on the herd's location, management and TB history. **To check the testing frequency for your property visit ospri.co.nz/dcamap**

MOVEMENT CONTROL

The Clarence Reserve TMA is in the Northern Canterbury/Marlborough Movement Control Area. That means TB testing is required for cattle and deer before they are moved to another herd or farm.

ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

OSPRI has made significant progress towards eradicating TB from vector risk areas (VRA) across New Zealand. Since 2011, VRA status has been revoked from 2.02 million hectares, with 7.78 million hectares in 14 areas still to be cleared before freedom from disease in wildlife can be declared.

CONTACT DETAILS

OSPRI Christchurch Office

PO Box 8674 Riccarton Christchurch 8440

- **P** 03 363 3090
- E vectornsi@ospri.co.nz

The eradication activities in this TMA are delivered by specialist wildlife and pest control Contractors employed by OSPRI. The contact details for the contractor delivering are below.

Excell Biosecurity

- P 0508 392355 or 0508 EXCELL
- E nsi.excell@excell.co.nz



