

Southern Paparoa Range 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, deer and wild animal populations. Controlling disease prevents livestock production losses and protects the world leading reputation of New Zealand's dairy, beef, and deer products. We use possum control, along with regular herd testing and movement restrictions, to achieve our eradication goals. 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 are used when planning operations.

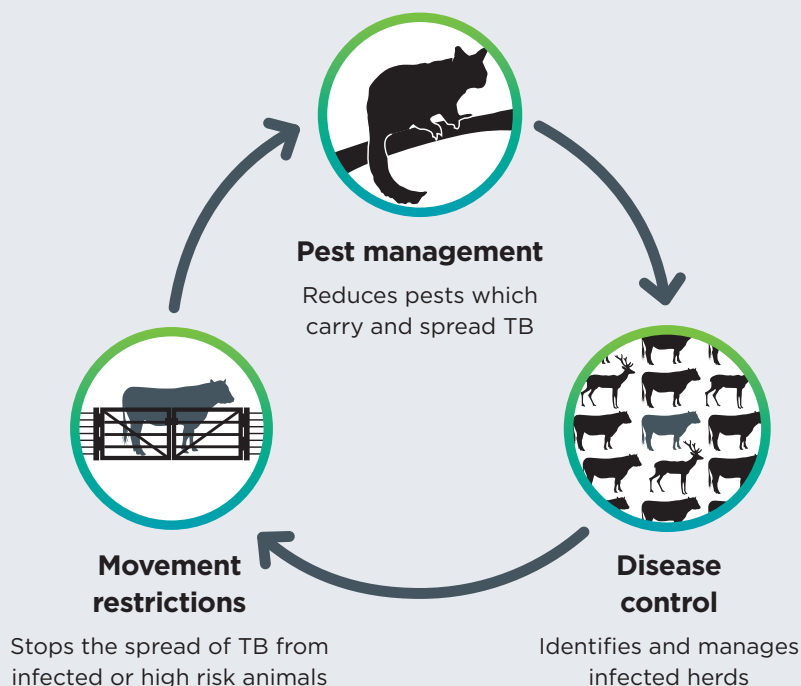
Targeting possums

We are running a possum control operation in the Southern Paparoa Range area (please see map provided for the operation area). It will cover approximately 12,700 hectares. The area was last treated in 2017.

OSPRI targets possums as they maintain bovine tuberculosis in their population and pose a risk of passing this infection on to cattle and deer herds. OSPRI's TBfree programme aims to achieve eradication of bovine TB from livestock and wild animal populations across New Zealand. To do so, possum numbers need to be kept extremely low around one possum to every two hectares for several years.

Ongoing control work is needed to maintain a low possum population

How we control TB



and minimise the risk of the disease spreading through the wild animal populations and on to farmed cattle and deer. Possum control has dramatically reduced the number of infected herds in the wider West Coast region.

What to expect from the operation

The operation will begin with the aerial application of non-toxic pre-feed bait

by helicopter. Pre-feed baits will contain cinnamon to attract possums and overcome bait shyness. Pre-feeding before applying toxin improves efficacy by conditioning possums to search for bait, which is a novel food-source that wouldn't normally be present.

One to two weeks later (dependant on weather), toxic baits containing 0.15% biodegradable Sodium fluoroacetate (1080) will be aerially applied.

Continued over page...



TBfree

TBfree is an OSPRI programme



ospri.co.nz



0800 482 463



Toxic baits will also contain cinnamon to attract possums and be dyed green to deter birds. Baits containing 1080 will be applied at the rate of 2kg/ha, which equates to about one bait every 60m².

Use of advanced GPS equipment and calibrated sowing buckets for helicopters involved with the operation will ensure that pre-feed and toxic bait is evenly distributed throughout the project area, and that exclusion zones are avoided.

The operation will be subject to strict safety, quality-assurance and monitoring requirements.

The method

A large amount of possum control on the West Coast is done by local

contractors using ground-based traps and hand-laid toxins. This control method is not always the most practical or efficient over all West Coast terrain. Aerial control is thorough, cost effective and known to be extremely successful at knocking possum numbers down to very low levels. This level of complete coverage cannot be achieved by ground control methods in this area. 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.

Please visit pce.parliament.nz to read this report.

What happens now?

This operation is planned for September 2022. A contractor, Vector Free Marlborough Limited, will be doing the work on behalf of OSPRI's TBfree programme. Before the operation, affected landowners and occupiers will be visited by the contractor. They will discuss boundary issues, water supply safety and the management of any risks to dogs and livestock.

Statutory permissions from the Department of Conservation, and the

relevant Public Health Unit are required for this operation. Affected landowners and occupiers will be contacted again before the operation starts. Notices will be published in local newspapers and warning signs will be placed at all access points to the operational area.

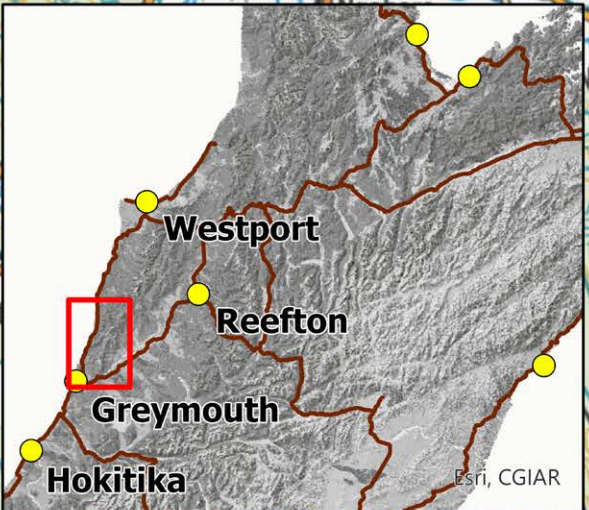
Biodiversity benefits

The operation will have additional conservation benefits for native birds and bush. Possums destroy our native forest, feeding on young foliage and preventing regeneration. Possums prey on native birdlife, eating eggs and chicks. Biodegradable 1080 is extremely effective at controlling possum populations and has the additional benefit of controlling other introduced predators such as ship rats and stoats.



3.5
Kilometers

Proposed boundary for aerial 1080 control (subject to consultation)



Important information

Warning signs will be placed at all main access points to the operational area. 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.

Please observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about the pesticide. Warning signs indicate that pesticide residues may still be present in the baits or carcasses. 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 or the contractor to obtain a muzzle.



Drinking water recommendations

Public health units 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.

While toxin application takes place, and for 72 hours afterward, people visiting the project area should avoid taking water for drinking and cooking purposes from streams, lakes, and tarns. Where provided at facilities such as huts and campsites, use alternative water supplies or carry in your own supply.

The contractor will liaise with the supply owner/manager of any public or private water supplies that are deemed to be affected to identify appropriate mitigation(s).



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

PO Box 8674, Riccarton,
Christchurch 8440

P 03 363 3090

E vectorsnsi@ospri.org.nz

W ospri.co.nz

Contractor

Vector Free Marlborough Ltd

P Free phone 0508 548008

E communications@vectorfree.co.nz

W vectorfree.co.nz

Links

- Controlling bovine TB and how and why 1080 is used in New Zealand: 1080facts.co.nz
- Recreational hunting, 'TB Information for Hunters' factsheet: ospri.co.nz
- Commercial hunting: Ministry for Primary Industries and Department of Conservation websites.