

September 2021



# Hawke's Bay TB response update

The control and eradication of bovine TB is critical to ensure TB does not pose a threat to the health of our cattle and deer herds, the people working with them or the viability of our deer, dairy and beef export industries.

It's important that we're all working towards the same goal and that we can see where the challenges are as well as the opportunities. We are working on the plans for TB control over the next two years in consultation with landowners and are asking for feedback from the community on the methods we plan to use to eradicate TB in the area.

At the end of this document, we invite you to provide your feedback, via post or you can email us.



## THE SITUATION

The Hawke's Bay area northwest of Napier has seen a significant increase in TB infected herds since April 2019.

The main cause of this rise in infected herds is contact with TB infected wildlife, mainly possums.

The source of the TB infected possums is believed to be an extensive area of bush inland from the coast with TB possums moving from this source into adjacent farmland and down river corridors to infect a wider area.

## THE SOLUTION

OSPRI's goal of controlling TB in cattle and deer is made up of three key components:

- animal disease control through TB testing and slaughter surveillance
- animal movement control
- controlling the main wildlife vector and host of the disease; the possum.

## HOW LONG WILL THIS TAKE?

Our previous experience is that once effective possum control is put in place at the source and the possum numbers on farmland, adjacent forestry and along waterways are reduced to low levels, the wildlife-to-herd infection pathway can be broken. The problem can then be expected to clear within a few years.

## How we control TB



**Movement restrictions**  
Stops the spread of TB from infected or high risk animals



**Pest management**  
Reduces pests which carry and spread TB



**Disease control**  
Identifies and manages infected herds

This can be influenced by herd clearance taking at least 12 months to allow for two clear tests conducted six months apart. Additional testing on infected herds may include parallel blood testing and laboratory culturing of tissue for reactor animals at slaughter that show no visible TB like lesions.

## TB TESTING & MOVEMENT CONTROL

There are no expected changes in TB testing frequency for the Hawke's Bay response area over the next two years.

Movement control will remain in place and whole herd testing for cattle and deer herds will continue to be required on an annual basis.

# Hawke's Bay planned control programme

approximately  
**221,000**<sub>ha</sub>  
ground control over  
the last 2 years\*

approximately  
**726,000**<sub>ha</sub>  
proposed ground control  
to be delivered over the  
next 5 years\*

approximately  
**74,000**<sub>ha</sub>  
aerial control  
over the last 2  
years\*

approximately  
**143,000**<sub>ha</sub>  
proposed aerial control  
to be delivered over  
the next 5 years\*

**\$29 Million** planned to be spent over the next five years.

\*These figures are approximate and subject to change

The maps show the proposed areas targeted for ground and aerial TB possum control operations throughout Hawke's Bay over the coming two years.

The planned control programme is indicative only as changes and final details of operations are confirmed closer to the operation dates. Plans are subject to feedback submitted as part of the consultation process, consenting agency requirements and other considerations, such as land occupier access and as more information becomes available.

## TYPES OF POSSUM CONTROL OPERATIONS

In readily accessible country, possums are managed by ground control operations using a variety of traps and/or poison baits.

For more difficult country, carefully targeted aerial control using cereal baits laced with biodegradable sodium fluoroacetate (1080) is the most effective method.

## IF I AM IN AN OPERATIONAL AREA, WHAT CAN I EXPECT?

Communication and consultation with land occupiers and interested parties will begin ahead of all possum control operations.

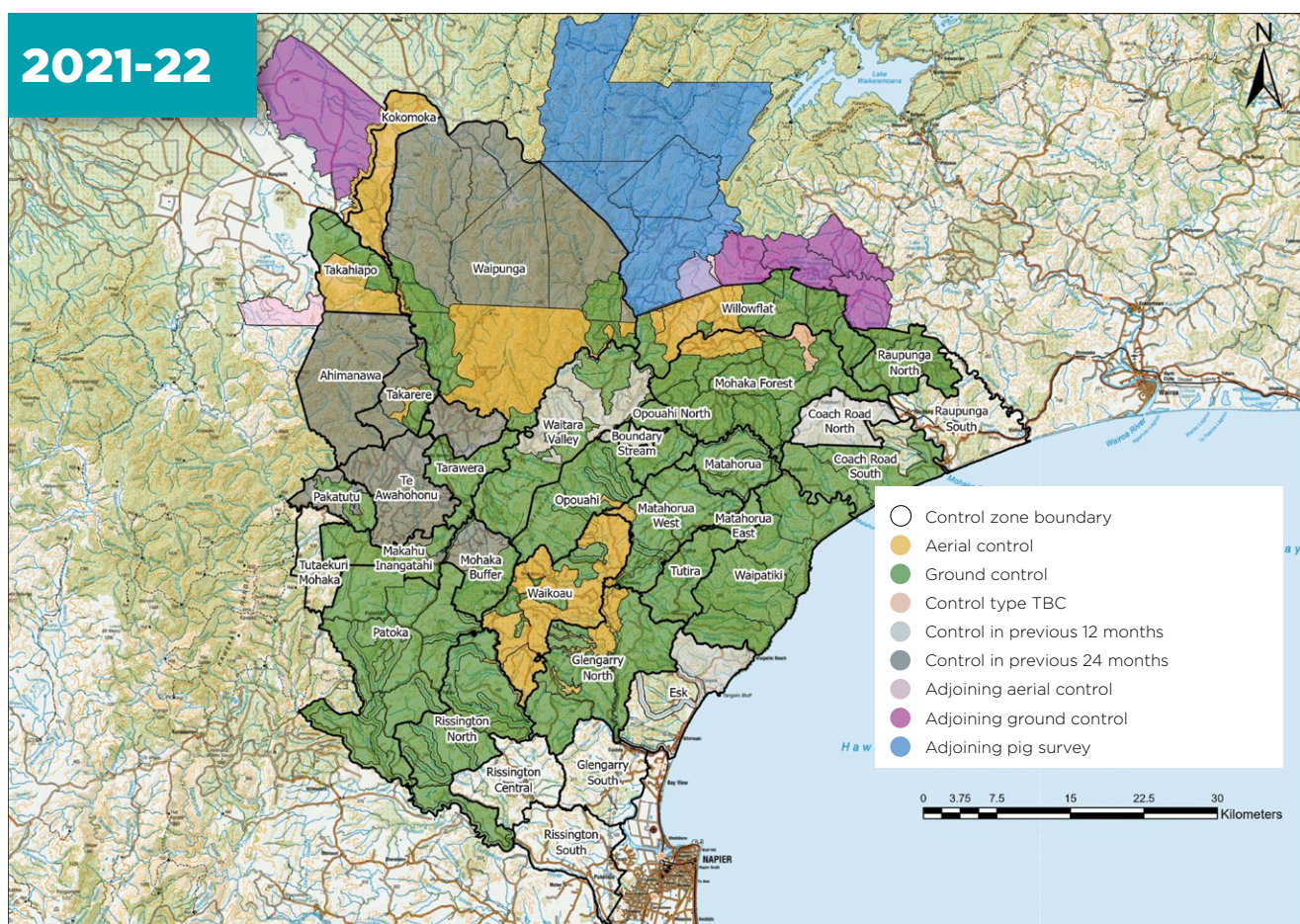
Ground control operations use a variety of methods and these are agreed on with land occupiers before being undertaken.



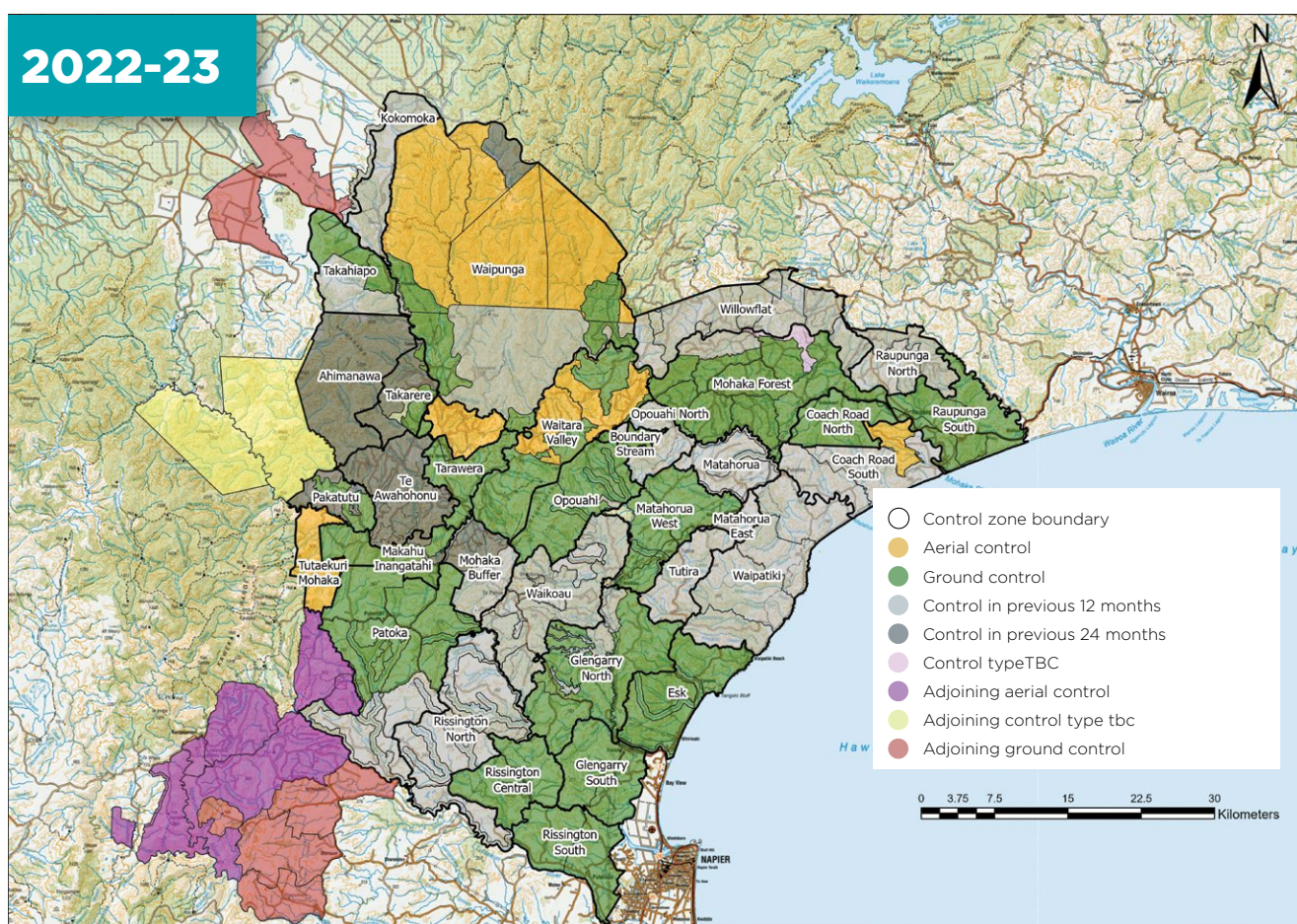
Aerial operations use sodium fluoroacetate (1080) as this is the only registered toxin that can be applied from the air for possum control. Aerial operations are strictly controlled under consents issued by one or more of the three respective Ministry of Health, Public Health Units that cover the Hawke's Bay region and catchments. All land occupiers within or next to planned operations will be contacted well in advance.

Whatever control methods are used, TBfree New Zealand is committed to the highest standards of safety and will seek to minimise any inconvenience to land occupiers or other affected parties.





Aerial and ground operations are subject to change based on new information that may become available.



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## What you need to do

- ☐ Register in NAIT all the locations you're in charge of animals. Each place will have a NAIT location number.
- ☐ Make sure you tag and register your cattle and deer in NAIT - it's a two-step process.
- ☐ Make sure all movements of animals on or off your property are recorded in NAIT within 48 hours.
- ☐ Provide OSPRI with access to your land for efficient possum control.
- ☐ Keep your TB testing up to date.

## Have your say!

We're interested in your views and feedback about our work.

Write to us at

**OSPRI New Zealand**

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Ahuriri,

Napier 4144

Or contact us by email

**[info-ni@ospri.co.nz](mailto:info-ni@ospri.co.nz)**

Visit the web page

on the OSPRI website

**[ospri.co.nz/hawkes-bay](http://ospri.co.nz/hawkes-bay)**

