

Aerial possum control from proposal to results



Community engagement

Getting rid of TB in New Zealand will take long-term effort. The keys to OSPRI's success in this are partnerships, and planning. Our aim is that nothing is a surprise to communities, landowners, interest groups and land users when pest control is considered – so our discussions take place months and sometimes years ahead of any work.



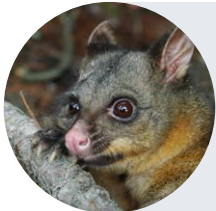
National consultation

Each August we release a public proposal of aerial pest control work, in New Zealand, for the year ahead. Our goal is to control possum populations – wildlife's main spreader of TB. Anyone interested in our work, and the land involved, can respond by online submission.



Focused engagement

When considering work at a location we involve experienced contractors. Alongside them, we'll consult with those directly affected and provide helpful information – we're keen to meet, listen and collaborate.



Notification of work

Once we're confident the work is supported, we share public notices and final consents are requested from local authorities. Information is also at our website, including timing of the aerial pest control (always weather dependant), and signage is erected around the land area.



Possum control happens

Aerial pest control takes a few days. It involves helicopters carrying spreading hoppers, ground teams loading bait, and for everyone's safety the working area is secured. When we're finished, the land is under caution for a number of months – so some recreational use, like hunting, shifts.



Reporting back

When monitored, we'll share the results of pest control. For us, it's about keeping possum numbers low enough that the risk of TB spreading to farm herds is removed. However, as possums are introduced predators, native birds and bush benefit greatly.



For more info

To learn more about the TBfree programme and aerial pest control visit ospri.co.nz