

Matahina Forest Aerial Operation

Working towards a wallaby-free Aotearoa

The aerial operation within the Matahina Forest (refer to the map on the back page) is a high priority for the Tipu Mātoro North Island wallaby programme. It is a critical step in stopping wallaby from spreading east, crossing the Rangitāiki River, and dispersing into the extensive forest tracts of the Raungaehe and Ikawhenua ranges and beyond.

The operation aims to eliminate known wallaby populations discovered in Matahina Forest, in the vicinity of the Rangitāiki River at Matahina and Aniwaniwa dams. The aerial control of wallaby on the western side of the river will be accompanied by dog and camera surveillance at the crossing points of the river.

Wallaby aerial control operations are generally undertaken through autumn and winter. It is proposed that this aerial operation will take place (weather permitting) during winter 2025. Pesticide warning signs will be erected immediately prior to the poison being delivered and will remain while the 'Caution Period' is in place (refer *Public safety*).

Bay of Plenty or Waikato regional council staff working as part of the Tipu Mātoro programme, and/or contractors EcoFX (Rentokil Initial), will discuss the operation with iwi, key stakeholders and landowners within or immediately adjacent to the operational area prior to 1080 being laid.

Contacts

Bay of Plenty Regional Council

Ph: 0800 884 880

Waikato Regional Council

Ph: 0800 801 401

Department of Conservation, Rotorua District Office

Ph: 0800 ASK DOC (0800 275 362)

Email: rotorua@doc.govt.nz

More information

About the Tipu Mātoro National Wallaby Eradication Programme: mpi.govt.nz/controlling-pest-wallabies-in-nz/

Report a wallaby sighting: reportwallabies.nz

About the use, rules, monitoring and research relating to 1080: epa.govt.nz/1080 and doc.govt.nz/1080

About the North Island Wallaby programme: waikatoregion.govt.nz/wallabies or boprc.govt.nz/wallaby

Public safety

Use of 1080 requires permission from the Ministry of Health. Agencies using 1080 ensure that all legal and policy requirements are met and that any potential risks of the operation are managed.

1080 breaks down quickly and doesn't build up in the environment or remain in the food chain. It is biodegradable; micro-organisms in the soil break it down and it quickly dilutes to harmless levels in waterways. Carcasses of pests controlled may take four to eight months to fully decompose. During this time, the decomposing carcasses are a high risk for dogs. Caged carcasses are monitored for decomposition. Seek veterinary advice for suspected poisoning of domestic animals.

Poison baits or carcasses are DEADLY to DOGS

If you suspect poisoning, please contact:

- your local doctor or hospital
- the National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766 (urgent calls) or 03 479 7248 or dial 111
- your veterinary for advice regarding suspected poisoning of domestic animals

Risks can be eliminated by following these rules:

DO NOT touch bait.

WATCH children at all times.

DO NOT EAT animals from this area or within the buffer zone outside the treatment boundary. The standard buffer zone is 2km for deer and pigs, 200m for rabbits, and 1km for hares, wallabies and possums.

KEEP DOGS OUT OF THE FOREST until the 'caution period' is over and signs are removed.

Observe the above rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. These signs indicate pesticide residues may be still present in baits and poisoned carcasses. If the warning signs are still in place, the 'caution period' still applies. Once warning signs are removed, you can resume normal activities in the area. Always report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs.

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