

Notification about predator control in Moehau

To protect native species, the Department of Conservation (DOC) is going to reduce rodents, possums and stoats in the area.

Why we are controlling introduced predators

Native species are under threat from rodents, stoats and possums. Without protection, we risk losing the unique natural heritage, health of forests, and native animals on Moehau mountain and the surrounding area.

Moehau is a nationally significant habitat for unique native species like Coromandel striped gecko, Coromandel kiwi and Archey's frog. It is also an important area for North Island robin/toutouwai, kākā and kererū.

To protect native species, our team in Coromandel is planning a predator control operation. The operation will reduce predators ahead of the native bird nesting season to give vulnerable chicks a better chance at survival. We will give local native species like kiwi, kererū, toutouwai, Archey's frogs, and forest trees like kauri a better chance to survive and thrive.

How are we going to achieve this

The safest and most effective method to control introduced predators over large areas is to use biodegradable bait pellets containing 1080. This bait targets rodents and possums. Stoats are also controlled through secondary poisoning as they feed on the carcasses of the dead rodents.

Helicopters will accurately distribute bait across 4,674 hectares of the forest along pre-determined and monitored flight paths. This is the safest and most effective way to control predators in Moehau due to the vast and rugged terrain.

Ground-based trapping is currently used covering an extensive area some traps running to Coromandel township. However, traps only cover a small portion of the larger area that needs protection.



Moehau and Stony Bay.

After the operation, we will measure how successful it was by tracking signs of rodents in tracking tunnels. We measure rodents six weeks after the operation and aim for 5% or less of tunnels to show signs of rodents. We measure stoats five months after the operation and aim to have 5% or less of the traps catch stoats.

Consultation and consent outcome

DOC has consulted with hapū, iwi and key stakeholders including landowners adjacent to the treatment area. This involved discussing the operational plan, listening to any concerns and considering ways to mitigate them. No relevant changes have been made after consultation.

DOC is delegated authority by the Environmental Protection Agency to decide applications for permission to use 1080 on land administered or managed by DOC. Permission has been granted for this operation. DOC has also received the required permission from the Ministry of Health.

Next steps

Adjoining landowners and other stakeholders are being notified and there will be a public notice in the local newspaper. There will also be warning signs placed at entrances to the treatment area immediately prior to the operation.

After the operation, DOC will contact iwi, hapū, and stakeholders about the results of the operation. We also aim to share insights about the outcomes for native species over time.

Timeframe

The operation is planned for the first clear weather window between 14 July and 30 November 2025.

This operation begins with the distribution of non-toxic pre-feed bait pellets to prepare possums and rodents to eat the toxic bait (dyed green) that is applied afterwards. Both baits are about 16 mm in diameter and cylindrical shaped.

Managing risk

1080 is poisonous to humans, domestic and game animals. In areas where the toxin has been applied, dogs are highly at risk until poisoned carcasses have disintegrated. This takes four-to-eight months or longer.

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 2 km for deer and pigs, 200 m for rabbits, and 1 km for hares, tahr, wallabies and possums.

Poison baits or carcasses are DEADLY to DOGS

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. These signs indicate pesticide residues may be still present in baits and poisoned carcasses. When signs are removed this means you can resume normal activities in the area. Always report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs.

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
- Seek veterinary advice for suspected poisoning of domestic animals

Map of predator control area

The map on the next page shows the confirmed area of 4,674 hectares for predator control.

For more information

Please contact:

Operational Planner, Whitianga Office, Department of Conservation, PO Box 276, Whitianga

Phone: 0800 362 468

Email: Coromandeldistrict@doc.govt.nz

OR

Eco FX, PO Box 248, Otorohanga

Phone: (07) 873 8130

Email: ecofx-office-nz@rentokil-initial.com

Visit the DOC website:

See more information about DOC's National Predator Control Programme

www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/national-predator-control-programme

See operational updates and detailed maps of predator control on public conservation land

www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/pesticide-summaries

See updates about track access and safety

www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/know-before-you-go/alerts

Learn more about why we use 1080 to control introduced predators

www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/methods-of-control/1080

Learn more about Predator Free 2050

www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/predator-free-2050



.Archey's Frog. Photo: Ben Gordon

