

# Notification about predator control in Mapara

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

## Why we are controlling introduced predators

Mapara, encompassing the Mapara Wildlife Management Reserve and Mapara Conservation Area, is home to a nationally significant remaining population of North Island kōkako (*Callaeas wilsoni*). Rare kārearea/New Zealand falcon and toutouwai/North Island robin are also found in the reserve. Native forest birds such as miromiro/tomtit, pōpokotea/whitehead, tūi, riroriro/grey warbler, ruru/morepork, and korimako/bellbird also live in the forest. The threatened pekapeka/long-tailed bats are only found in New Zealand and live in Mapara, often roosting in large trees and sometimes seen flying at night.

Introduced predators like rats, stoats and feral cats eat bird eggs, bird chicks, and roosting bats. Possums also prey on native species and eat native trees, reducing the food available for native fauna. Without protection, we risk losing the unique forests and native wildlife that make Mapara special.

## 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 1,916ha of the forest along pre-determined and monitored flight paths. This is the safest and most effective way to control predators in Mapara due to the vast and rugged terrain.

We will monitor the results of the operation before and after the aerial 1080 predator control operation to understand the reduction of rats and possums. Every four years we survey kōkako to get a census of their populations. A survey in 2021 estimated the total population at Mapara to be 145 pairs. The next survey is scheduled for September 2025.



Kōkako live in Mapara and are vulnerable

## 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.

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 overtime.

## Timeframe

The operation is planned for the first clear weather window between 8 August 2025 and 31 October 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 1,916ha for predator control.

## For more information

### Please contact:

Operational planner

Department of Conservation Te Kuiti Office

Phone: 0800 ASK DOC

Email: [tekuiti@doc.govt.nz](mailto:tekuiti@doc.govt.nz)

OR

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### Visit the DOC website:

See more information about DOC's National Predator Control Programme

[www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/national-predator-control-programme](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/predator-free-2050)



