

Notification about predator control in Moki & Makino Conservation Areas

To protect native species, the Department of Conservation (DOC) is going to reduce possum and rat numbers in the area.

Why we are controlling introduced predators

The Moki and Makino Conservation Areas are a large tract of native forest that form the headwaters of the Waitara River. The steep hill country of the Moki Conservation Area is made up of tawa, kāmahi and maire trees. In contrast, the rolling hill country of the Makino Conservation has trees such as rātā, tōtara and māhoe.

These ancient ngahere (forests) are significant as they cleanse and purify the water that flows into the Waitara River, extending throughout the region some 150km before reaching the ocean. These ngahere provide homes and food for treasured species such as yellow crowned kākāriki, kārearea NZ falcon, North Island brown kiwi, pekapeka bats and toutouwai robins at some of the highest densities in Taranaki.

The North Island kōkako hasn't been documented in the area since the late 1990's. However, populations of kōkako have recently been re-introduced in neighbouring Paranihi and Waitaanga Forests, bringing new hope that kōkako populations can spread to Moki and Makino.

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 10,641ha of the forest along pre-determined and monitored flight paths. This is the safest and most effective way to control predators in the Moki & Makino Conservation Areas due to the vast and rugged terrain.

The success of this operation will be measured through predator monitoring methods such as tracking tunnels and wax tags.



North Island Robin Toutouwai

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/s. 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 from 19 May 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.

Map of predator control area

The map on the next page shows the confirmed area of 10,641ha for predator control.

For more information

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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

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

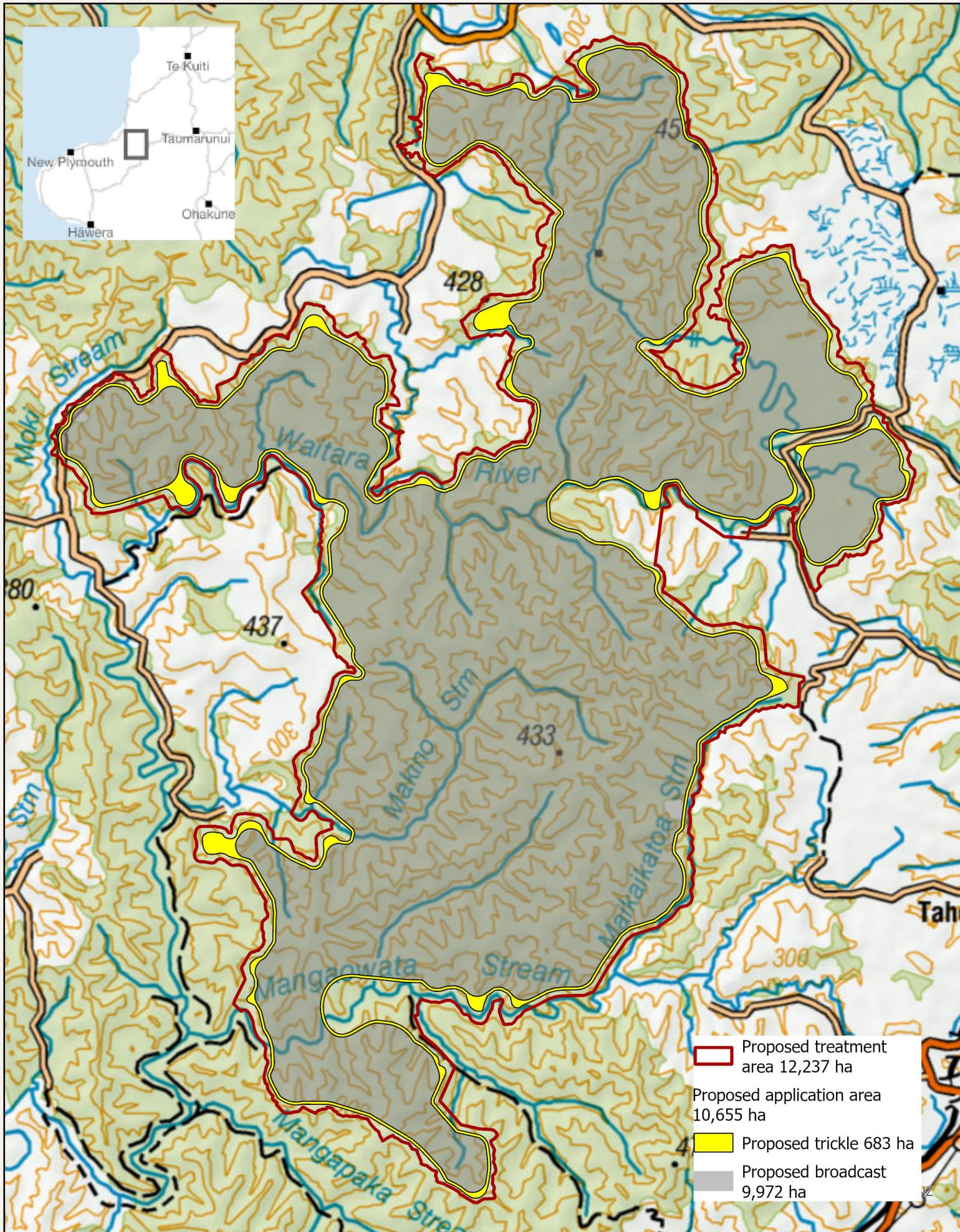
www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/know-before-you-go/alerts

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



Moki Makino - RFQ
 Prefeed - 6 g @ 1.5 kg per ha
 Toxic - 6 g @ 1.5 kg per ha
 Total aerial application area: 10,655 ha
 Aerial Predator Control 2025



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai