

ARAHURA POSSUM GROUND CONTROL - POISON WARNING

Vector Free Marlborough wishes to advise that a ground-based possum control operation will be taking place to keep possum numbers under control to prevent the spread of bovine tuberculosis to livestock. It is important that we keep possum numbers low, as we work towards eradicating TB from New Zealand over the long term. This operation will be conducted as a part of OSPRI's TBfree programme.

Description of control area

The project begins North of the Hokitika residential area taking in Blue Spur, Humphreys, Arahura River and East toward Kawhaka Forest. The area takes in the pastoral farmland of the Arahura Valley, large blocks of Ngai Tahu Forestry and scattered habitat on the banks of the Arahura River.

A map of the area can be found on the Vector Free Marlborough website under the Current Operations tab.

Operation date

17 October 2025 to 10 March 2026 (approximate)

Poisoning methods, poison used and nature of poison

- Feratox encapsulated cyanide in the form of a capsule, dyed green/blue, presented with feed-paste or similar attractant contained inside a reusable bait stations 130 cm above the ground.

General warning

The public are reminded of the danger that toxic baits and possum carcasses pose, particularly to children and dogs.

- Follow advice stated on poison warning signs
- Do not touch poison baits, bait stations or traps
- Do not touch poisoned possum carcasses
- Keep children under strict supervision in the control area
- Keep pets under supervision; do not let dogs eat poisoned carcasses

Warning signs will be erected at all main public entry points and the public are reminded that it is an offence to remove any of these signs. Please follow the instructions stated on the signs.

If you suspect poisoning

- Contact your local hospital, or dial 111
- National Poisons Centre 0800 POISON – 0800 764 766
- In the case of a domestic animal being poisoned, contact a local veterinarian.

For further information please contact

Vector Free Marlborough

Free Phone: 0508 548 008

Email: vfm.communication-nz@rentokil-initial.com

Website: www.vectorfree.co.nz

OSPRI helps protect and enhance the reputation of New Zealand's primary industries and currently runs the TBfree and National Animal Identification and Tracing (NAIT) programmes.