

CRONADUN 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 area takes in the lower lying areas of the Inangahua River catchment between Blacks Point and Larrys Creek. It includes all farming areas, forestry blocks and native forest around Reefton, Solders Road, the Reefton saddle, Gannons road, lower Waitahu, Boatman's road and lower Stoney River.

A map of the area can be requested by emailing vfm.communication-nz@rentokil-initial.com

Operation date

09 February 2026 to 30 June 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.
- Ferapaste (Cyanara 50) micro-encapsulated cyanide paste, dyed green/blue, presented with flour and 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

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.