Rentokil
Rural & Environmental Services

OSPRI

20 October 2026

Possum Survey Operations: Buller Detection Based Control 2026-27

This is to advise you that a ground-based possum survey will take place in your area. This work will be undertaken by Rentokil Rural and Environmental Services sub-contractor Longridge Contracting Ltd under contract to OSPRI.

OSPRI manages the bovine tuberculosis (TB) control programme known as TBfree New Zealand, which aims to control and eventually eradicate the disease from New Zealand to protect our access to high-value overseas markets for our beef, dairy and deer products. Wild animals, mainly possums, are both the main carriers of bovine TB and source of the disease in farmed cattle and deer herds.

The objective of this operation is to determine that TB has been eradicated from the possum population.

To achieve this objective field operatives must deploy non-toxic chew card detection devices over **all** possum habitat within the operation. For this operation a 100 m by 350 m grid is expected to meet the required contract specifications. Chew cards will be checked after seven nights and where a chew card shows a positive possum detection, four traps must be set. The first trap set at the detection site with the remaining three traps set at 20 meters distance surrounding the detection site. Leg hold traps raised 100 cm, Kill traps raised 130cm and cage traps deployed on the ground can be used depending on landowner preference and habitat. All possums caught will be removed for necropsy.

The work is due to be carried out from 09/10/2026 to 18/12/2026. A map of the area can be found on the website https://rentokilruralenvironmental.co.nz/. Alternatively, if you wish, a copy of the map can be mailed to you.

If work is required on your property, our staff will seek written permission from you to enter your property and undertake the work. They will discuss the proposed control methods and answer any questions you may have. They will also discuss any unusual work-related hazards that may have the potential to cause serious injury e.g. unruly stock, weight limits for bridges, washed out culverts.

For more information about the TBfree NZ programme please visit OSPRI's website and search "TB and pest control" or specifically for this pest control operation in the Buller TB Management Area (TMA) follow the link

https://www.ospri.co.nz/tb-and-pest-control/pest-control-regions/pest-control-in-the-west-coast

If you are not the land occupier at this address, or have any questions, please contact us on 0508 POSSUM (767 786), or email south-island@rentokilruralenvironmental.co.nz.

Yours sincerely

Communication Team – Rentokil Rural and Environmental Services