Rentokil
Rural & Environmental Services

OSPRI

WESTLAND POSSUM GROUND CONTROL

POISON WARNING

Rentokil Rural 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 control area starts at Kaniere Forests (the tailings) and follows either side of Lake Kaniere Road out to the Milltown Valley taking in the lower bush faces of Blue Spur and Island Hill. The majority of the 25,637-hectare project is the Kokatahi and Kowhitirangi farming areas and adjoining public conservation land including the area directly above the Hokitika Gorge.

The project does NOT include Hans Bay, Canoe Cove or Sunny bight.

A map of the area can be found on the Rentokil Rural and Environmental website under the Current Operations tab.

Operation date

3 January 2027 to 30 June 2027 (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

Rentokil Rural Environmental
Free Phone: 0508 POSSUM (0508 767 786)
Email: south-island@rentokilruralenvironmental.co.nz
Website: **https://rentokilruralenvironmental.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.