



Important information:

2016 Pest control in the Kaharoa Conservation Area



What's happening?

The Kaharoa Kokako Trust plans to reduce possum and rat numbers over 819ha (approx) of the Kaharoa Conservation Area - including the Onaia Ecological Area (see attached map).

When?

The toxin, 1080, will be placed in the bait stations by licenced operators during September 2016. A limited number of bait stations along the block boundary will contain Pindone and Feratox (cyanide).

The Kaharoa Kokako Trust will contact all neighbours and place warning signs immediately prior to the operation. All bait will be removed by 31 October 2016. Warning signs will stay in place until no risk remains from pesticide residue in baits or pest animal carcasses.

Fact sheet
May 2016

How is it happening?

Toxins will be used in bait stations to specifically target both possums and rats.

Following the poisoning operation trap-catch monitoring will be used to measure the success of the possum control and tracking tunnels are used to monitor rat numbers.



Bait stations attached to trees allow safe management of possums and rats.

What are the benefits?

By killing possums and rats, we are protecting other forest birds and a wide range of palatable tree species.

By using bait stations, we can recover any unused bait. Also, by using bait stations, protection is offered to non-target species.

What are the risks?

The pesticides used are effective and safe if properly handled. However, there is a risk of poisoning to humans and non-target animals if warning signs are ignored.

Risks can be eliminated by following these simple rules:

- **DO NOT bring DOGS into this area**
- **DO NOT handle any bait**
- **DO NOT allow CHILDREN to wander unsupervised**
- **DO NOT take ANIMALS for eating.**

Dogs scavenging poisoned carcasses are at greatest risk. These carcasses will take up to four months to rot. Dogs are not allowed to enter the Kaharoa Conservation Area. If it is necessary to bring dogs close to the area, keep them on a lead or wear a muzzle for their protection.

The 'Kokako Track' will remain open to the public, but walkers should keep to formed tracks from mid- September 2016 until February 2017.

What do I do if I suspect poisoning?

Contact your doctor, the hospital or National Poisons Centre 0800 764 766.

In case of suspected animal poisoning, contact your local vet immediately.

www.kokako.org.nz



The mission of the Kaharoa Kokako Trust is to ensure long-term protection and survival of kokako at Kaharoa through effective community leadership.

Why are we controlling possums and rats?

The main threats to native birds living in trees are climbing animals such as possums, ship rats and stoats. Of these, possums and ship rats have been identified as the major predators of kokako and most other forest birds. They prevent the survival of birds by eating both eggs and chicks. While the kokako female can put up a fight, she cannot prevent them from relentlessly killing her young.

In a nutshell, we protect kokako by killing possums and ship rats.



Without pest control most chicks will never leave the nest.

Possums and ship rats are voracious predators of kokako nests



Who do I contact for more information?

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What happens to 1080 in the environment?

Compound 1080 is fast acting and biodegradable. The toxin is readily dissolved and diluted by water, and is completely degraded by micro-organisms. Since uneaten bait will be removed from the bait stations, environmental contamination of any kind is highly unlikely.

Toxins remaining inside the carcass of animals remains a risk until the carcass has decomposed.

How well is this operation planned?

The use of these pesticides requires the consent of the Medical Officer of Health. In addition, the local authorities (Rotorua Lakes Council & Western Bay District Council) must be advised.

The Department of Conservation also has an internal approval process to ensure the operation is meeting Quality Management standards for pesticide use.

These consents entail a detailed assessment of the risks involved in the work. Before approvals are granted, we must demonstrate that we are managing the risks appropriately.

We will consult the people most affected prior to the baiting operation taking place. This will involve considering their concerns and needs regarding the operational method and its timing.

Remember:

The presence of warning signs indicates that pesticide residues may still be present in baits or carcasses.

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