



# Key facts about rat, wasp and possum control in the Whakatāne Reserves

The Whakatāne Kiwi Trust, in conjunction with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, the Whakatāne District Council, the Department of Conservation, and Ngāti Awa Group Holdings Ltd, will be controlling rats and wasps in reserves around Whakatāne, and rats, possums and wasps in Ngāti Awa kawenata. The attached map illustrates the affected areas.

## How it is happening?

Pindone baits will be placed into bait stations throughout Kōhi Point, Mokorua Bush and Ohope Scenic Reserves as well as on Vi Briffault, Melville and Whitehorse Drive Reserves and Dodds QE2 Covenant land. Pindone baits for rat control and potassium cyanide (Feratox) for the control of possums will be placed together into bait stations in native forest on Ngāti Awa kawenata adjoining the Ōhope Scenic Reserve. In March 2017 any remaining Pindone and Feratox will be removed and replaced with fresh baits to provide for effective rat and possum control over a longer period of time. Vespex baits for wasp control will be laid in yellow bait stations in these Reserves where wasp activity is identified.

Pindone is a medium-sized blue/green cereal pellet. Feratox is a small, green, pea-sized hard pellet. Vespex is a green paste laid in yellow bait stations.

## Time frame

Pest control in these areas occurs on an annual basis. This year control is planned to commence on 19 September 2016 in all treatment areas. Immediate neighbours to the treatment areas will be contacted. Warning signs will be placed immediately prior to the operation starting. The operation remains in effect when warning signs are in place.

## Important information

Poisoning can occur through eating baits, or poisoned possums or pigs that have eaten the bodies of poisoned rats or possums. The risk to dogs and wild pigs from the pesticide will remain until the rat and possum carcasses have rotted away. This may take several months.

The presence of warning signs indicates that pesticide residues may still be present in baits or animals. Please report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs. If in doubt, check with the contacts below.

The risks to people can be eliminated by following these simple rules:

- **DO NOT** touch bait;
- **WATCH CHILDREN** at all times;
- **DO NOT EAT** animals from this area;
- Poison baits or carcasses are **DEADLY TO DOGS**; also
- **DO NOT EAT** pigs or deer from within the 'buffer zone' of 2 km outside of the operational area boundaries.

Observe these rules whenever warning signs about the pesticide are present.

Veterinary advice should be sought for any suspected poisoning of companion animals.



*Whakarongo mai ra ki te tangi o te kiwi o Whakatāne*  
Hear the call of the Whakatāne kiwi

## Why we are controlling rats, possums and wasps?

The treatment areas are central to the Whakatāne Kiwi Project. Rats prey on eggs, chicks, a variety of insects and other small invertebrates, and compete with birds for berries, fruits and flowers. The presence of rats also encourages predators such as stoats, weasels and ferrets, which in turn prey on a variety of native invertebrates and birds, including kiwi chicks.

Possums also have a negative impact on the habitat in which kiwi live. They eat a wide range of forest vegetation, bird's eggs and insects, so it is therefore advantageous to both kiwi and the forest ecosystem to control these introduced pest animals to low levels.

Wasps predate invertebrates, compete with birds and other invertebrates for nectar and are a health and safety hazard for people using the Reserves.

Conservation outcomes of the operation include the maintenance of quality habitat for populations of threatened and keystone species in the project area, in particular a robust population of North Island brown kiwi, North Island robin, kereru, tui, bellbird and silvereye, and to provide for the development of a closer representation of NZ coastal pohutukawa forest.

## Why we are using this method?

Pindone has proven to be effective against rats in these reserves in the past. The second feed of Pindone will help keep rats at reduced levels through a longer period of time to assist the breeding success of birds and allow for more effective ecosystem recovery. Feratox is not being applied where possums have already been controlled to low levels.

Applying Feratox and Pindone simultaneously where needed allows both pest species to be targeted in a single operation. This has also proven to be a robust method of pest control for the Bay of Plenty Regional Council for several years over some 2,000 ha, consistently achieving set targets.

Vespex for wasps will be applied where wasp activity is detected so as to reduce the number of wasp nests in these areas.

These pest control methods are being refined annually based on the successes of the previous year's operations and the positive changes in biodiversity.

## Operational planning

As with previous years, the Whakatāne Kiwi Trust has accepted the role of delivering the Biodiversity Protection Programme for this operation. This pest control has been planned in consultation with and support from Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa, the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, the Whakatāne District Council and the Department of Conservation (DOC).

For land managed by DOC there is an internal approval process to ensure the operation meets their quality management standards for pesticide use. These consents entail a detailed assessment of the risks involved in the work before approvals are granted. A satisfactory means to manage these risks has to be shown – this is called an *Assessment of Environmental Effects*.

We have undertaken the consultation requirements of DOC, the Whakatāne District Council and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council with immediate neighbours, local iwi and the Medical Officer of Health, and bee keepers prior to finalising the operational detail. This involved considering their concerns regarding the operational methods and timing. We notify other people using this Fact Sheet.

### *If you suspect poisoning always contact your:*

- Local doctor or hospital, or
- National Poisons Centre 0800 POISON (0800 764 766) for urgent calls; or 03 479 7227 for non-urgent calls or general enquiries; or
- Dial 111.

## For more information

For further information please contact:

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Please get in touch with either Lynda or Paul if you would like to be notified again prior to the operation.

