

Possum control

Wairoa



Hawke's Bay Regional Council will be working with Wairoa District Council on a possum control operation around Wairoa from February 2020.

Our goal is to reduce numbers to a low level in your area to enhance biodiversity and improve your lifestyle. Turn over to see a map of the area we'll be covering.

This work is part of our urban biodiversity control programme which has resulted in more native birds, flourishing trees and gardens, and less damage to sheds and homes. It also links in with other projects the Regional Council supports to bring you a healthier community and environment.

You can decide the control methods

As with any community programme, the success depends on the level of community support. The Regional Council uses skilled contractors who use a variety of methods to ensure an efficient and safe control programme based on what's been successful in other programmes.

Residents can decide the type of control method they want on their property. Contractors will need to have your signed permission before they start control work on your property.

Contractors will contact all property owners or residents whose land they would like to access. The contractors will carry ID cards. You are welcome to check these, and contact us with any concerns. They will ask about any signs of possums or preferred trees to help them plan the operation. If you have children or pets or other safety concerns, you can discuss these with the contractor.

In accordance with our biosecurity policy, the contractor will check GPS located traps, bait stations and remove dead possums from the property during the initial control period.

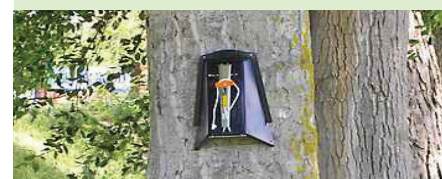
Contractor

Rural Pest Services is a skilled contractor that the Regional Council has contracted for this operation. With 20 years' experience in pest control, RPS has been part of the highly successful possum control area (PCA) programmes in rural areas. These involve a large number of Hawke's Bay farmers who are working to reduce possum damage in farm and bush areas, and increase bird life, bush and pasture health across the region. They have also worked on similar urban programmes in other parts of Hawke's Bay. Jake Bowcock of RPS can be contacted on 021 280 2988



Timms Kill trap

The most commonly used trap in urban gardens throughout New Zealand. The Timms trap is usually set on the ground.



Possum Master trap

A kill trap that is set in trees around 1.5 - 2m above the ground - making it a good choice to use in the urban environment where there are curious pets and children.

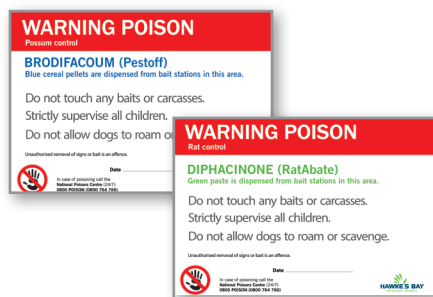


Bait Stations

Help maintain low possum densities after the control has been carried out, and are set in trees around 1.5 - 2m above the ground.

Signs in key places

You will see signage in popular places for the duration of the programme.



Please take note of these signs as they will indicate what control (traps or baits) are being used within that area, so you can take precautions.

What happens after the control is completed?

After the initial control has been completed, the Regional Council hands the programme over to the community to maintain possum numbers at the very low levels the contractor will have reached. There may still be the odd pocket of possums around, so by regularly servicing a bait station or a kill trap on their land, property owners can continue to get the benefits in their gardens, farms and orchards. The Regional Council subsidises bait stations and traps which can be purchased at a discount from Farmlands and PGG Wrightson.

Community group

Once the maintenance programme is in action, some residents may feel able to help neighbours (particular elderly people or busy families) by being part of a community biodiversity group to fill bait stations and dispose of dead possums. We are happy to help establish a group, so please talk to us if you'd like to do this for your neighbourhood.

Wairoa Possum Control Area

