



Kaharoa Conservation Area Pest Control 2022-23

As you may be aware, the Kaharoa Kōkako Trust has been conducting pest control in the Kaharoa Conservation Area for over 20 years. By controlling possums and rats prior to the nesting season, we have enabled the local kōkako population to grow significantly.

We are writing to advise you of our plans to conduct a pest control operation in the Kaharoa Conservation Area and selected sites within Port Blakely's Pinnacles Forest. This operation, using pindone, will take place during August 2022 – January 2023. The areas are indicated on the enclosed operational map, which has its main public access at the end of Kapukapu Road and the end of Kaharoa Rd.

This pest control will be carried out by suitably qualified personnel in strict accordance with Department of Conservation and Medical Officer of Health guidelines.

The estimated caution period for pindone is mid-March 2023.

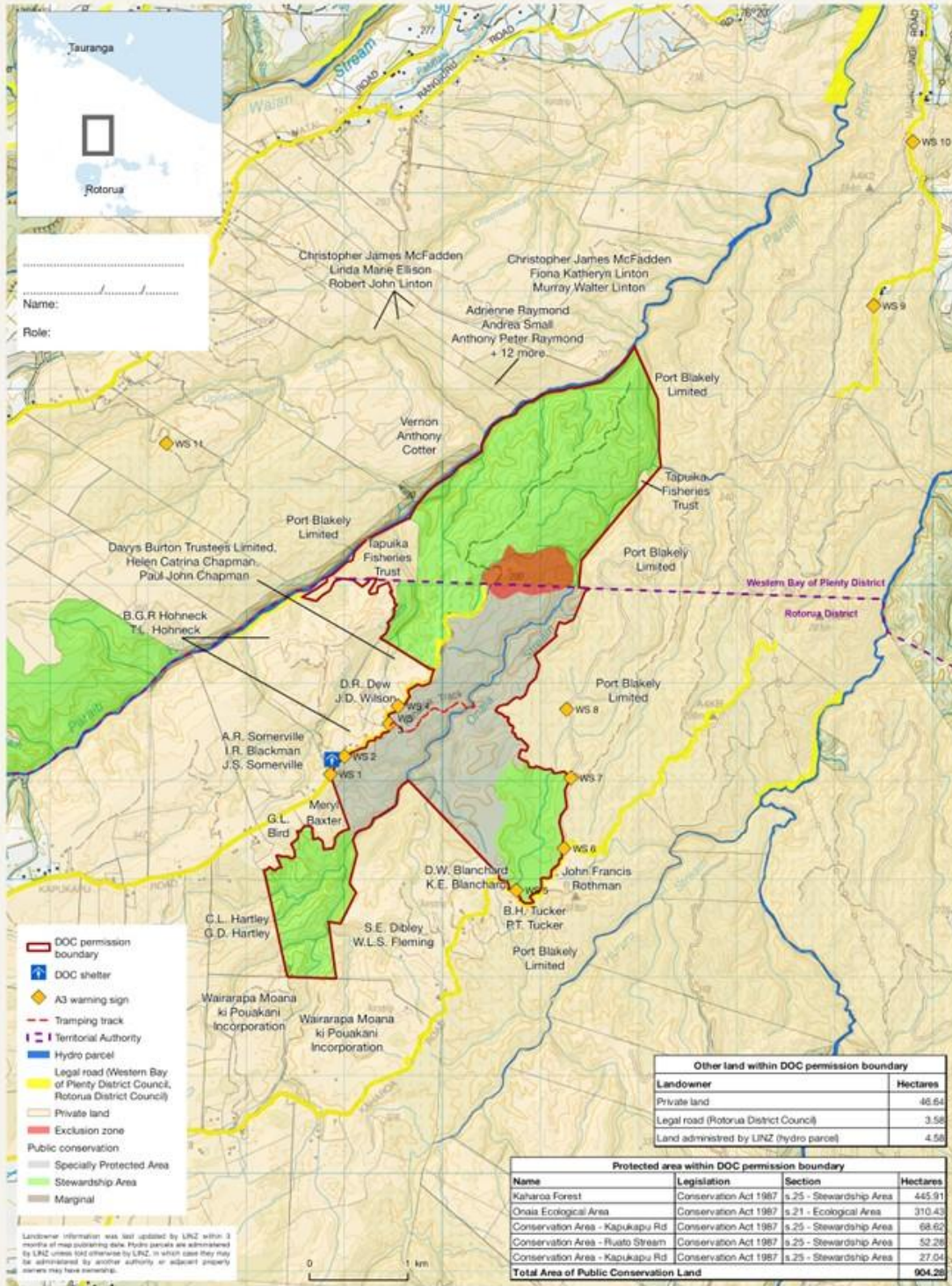
The attached information sheet will give you details of what the pest control involves and why it is so vital to achieving our conservation goals in the area.

We recommend particular care for anyone taking their dogs close to this area between August 2022 and March 2023. You are urged not to let dogs enter the Conservation area, or to scavenge any possum or rat carcasses lying around the block. All Medical Officer of Health notification requirements are being met to mitigate this concern.

The presence of warning signs indicates that pesticide residues may still be present in baits or animals and a reminder not to take animals for consumption from within the treatment area.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Trust on kaharoakokako@gmail.com or DOC Rotorua on (07) 349 7400.

Map of Operational Area, Warning Sign Locations



Kaharoa Kokako Trust - DOC Permission Application
 Ground Predator Control 2022
 Area of DOC permission application: 959 ha





2022-23 Pest Control in the Kaharoa Conservation Area

The Kaharoa Kōkako Trust plans to reduce possum and rat numbers over approximately 952 ha of the Kaharoa Conservation Area - including the Onaia Ecological Area (see attached map). Port Blakely Ltd will also be carrying out pest control along their boundary with the Kaharoa Conservation Area, and in the Te Matai Forest.

When?

Pindone bait will be placed in the bait stations by volunteers in August and again in November -December 2022.

The Kaharoa Kōkako Trust will contact all neighbours and place warning signs immediately prior to the operation. All bait will be removed by 15 January 2023. Warning signs will stay in place until no risk remains from pesticide residue in baits or pest animal carcasses.

What are the risks?

Pindone is effective and safe if properly handled. However, there is a risk of poisoning to humans and non-target animals if the bait is handled carelessly or eaten.

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. Possum carcasses will take up to four months to rot. Dogs are not allowed to enter the Kaharoa Conservation Area while warnings signs are in place. If it is necessary to bring dogs close to the area, keep them on a lead or muzzle them for their protection.

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.

The 'Kōkako Track' will remain open to the public, but walkers should keep to the formed track from August 2022 until March 2023.

www.kokako.org.nz



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 kōkako and most other forest birds. These predators eat both bird eggs and chicks. While the kōkako female can put up a fight, she cannot prevent them from relentlessly killing her young.

By killing possums and rats, we are protecting kōkako, other forest birds, native wildlife and a wide range of palatable tree species. By using bait stations, we can minimize risk to non-target species and recover any unused bait for safe disposal

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

Without pest control most chicks will never leave the nest.

Possums and ship rats are voracious predators of kōkako nests.



How well is this operation planned?

The Department of Conservation 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.

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For more information:

Department of Conservation, phone (07) 349 7400

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