



TBfree

BULLER SOUTH AERIAL - POSSUM CONTROL OPERATION

Vector Free Marlborough Limited (VFML) wishes to advise the public of its intention to aerially apply the toxin Sodium fluoroacetate (1080) for the purpose of controlling possums in the Buller South treatment area. This aerial operation forms part of OSPRI's TBfree programme.

Control area

The Buller South project area extends from the south bank of the Buller River to the Four Mile catchment south of Charleston. The eastern boundary is mostly aligned to the top of the Paparoa Range, while the western boundary more or less follows State Highway 6 at varying distances removed.

The consented area takes in approximately 21,171 hectares of privately-owned land and public land managed by the Department of Conservation. A detailed map may be obtained from VFML as per contact details below.

Commencement date

Aerial application of non-toxic prefeed bait is scheduled to begin from 13 July 2020, with aerial application of bait containing biodegradable Sodium fluoroacetate (1080) to follow approximately 7-10 days afterward.

Note - each phase of the operation is weather dependent, and commencement of prefeeding and toxin application may be later than indicated. In the event of an extended delay occurring, further notices will be placed to advise the public.

Bait description

Pre-feed: Non-toxic cereal-based pellet, approximately 30mm long, cinnamon-lured and non-dyed (straw coloured).

Toxic bait: Cereal-based pellet, approximately 30mm long, cinnamon-lured and dyed green with a toxic loading of 0.15% Sodium fluoroacetate (1080).

Bait containing deer repellent will be used in part of the Buller South treatment area. Information about the deer repellent block can be obtained by contacting VFML.

Precautions

The public are reminded of the danger that toxic baits and possum carcasses pose, particularly to children and dogs.

- Children must be kept under strict supervision in the control area.
- Dogs must be kept under strict control at all times and not have access to, or be taken into, the control area, as they are particularly susceptible to harm from contact with 1080 baits and poisoned carcasses. The risk that poisoned carcasses pose to dogs may extend downstream of the control area.
- Toxin warning signs will be installed at main public entry points and the public are reminded that it is an offence to remove this warning signage. Please follow the instructions on the signs.
- Game animals should not be sold or taken for eating from within or adjacent to this area until it is declared clear of pesticides.

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

Vector Free Marlborough Limited

Free Phone: 0508 548 008

Email: communications@vectorfree.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.