

OPERATIONAL PROGRESS

Appendix 2 references these sites, (e.g. WCC:7 refers to site 7 within Wellington City Council boundaries).

The abbreviation RTC means 'residual trap-catch' and refers to a monitoring result based on the number of possums caught over a given number of trap nights expressed as a percentage. For example, six possum caught over 150 trap nights results in a RTC of 4%. All of the Biosecurity Department's possum operations, including those carried out by external contract, aim for a RTC of 5% or less.

Wairarapa

There were four maintenance areas programmed totalling 8,500ha. All have been completed.

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| Carterton East (2,513ha) <i>CDC:16</i> | The landowners were very co-operative and the residual trap catch (RTC) was 0.7%. |
| Tauherenikau (1,709ha) <i>SWDC:18</i> | Low possum numbers from last year. Post monitor RTC of 0.2%. |
| Morisons Bush (2,700ha) <i>SWDC:17</i> | Extremely low possum numbers. A post operational RTC of 0.0% (no possums caught). |
| Pounui/Wharepapa (1,578ha) <i>SWDC:12</i> | Only treated non aerial portion. Had a low RTC of 3.7% last year. No post monitoring conducted this year. Control ongoing. |

Seven operations were programmed for initial work totalling 95 hectares.

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| Greytown Park Bush (4ha) <i>SWDC:35</i> | Ongoing bait station control |
| Lake Nganoke (6ha) <i>SWDC:28</i> | Ongoing bait station control |
| Tora Coast Bush (15ha) <i>SWDC:31</i> | Recent monitor of 15.8% RTC. Control ongoing. Open to possum recruitment. |
| Big Hill Bush (40ha) <i>SWDC:50</i> | Utilised as a trial area. 1080 pellets placed at 50 metre grid intervals. A post operation RTC of 2.1% or assessed as a 94% reduction. |

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| Linkwood Bush (5ha) <i>SWDC:36</i> | A post RTC of 6.8%. Control ongoing. |
| Whakatomotomo Bush (5ha) <i>SWDC:29</i> | Ongoing bait station control. |
| Ranona Bush (20ha) <i>SWDC:30</i> | Fencing and livestock issues. May not proceed. |

Western Zone

The original programme for the Western Zone was to treat five areas totalling 632 hectares, for maintenance control and eight areas totalling 1,556 hectares of initial control. These objectives have been amended primarily to enable a start to be made on the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary and to complete the difficult Khandallah Park and adjacent Johnsonville Park.

Maintenance Control

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| Otari Native Botanic Garden (75ha) <i>WCC:43</i> | Control mostly carried out by Wellington City Council staff with support from Regional Council. Control ongoing. Latest RTC 1.7%. |
| Johnston Hill (34ha) <i>WCC:44</i> | Ongoing control. RTC of 2.5%. |
| Percy Scenic Reserve (40ha) <i>HCC:40</i> | Ongoing control. Extremely low possum density. |
| Battle Hill Bush Reserve (33ha) <i>WRC:37</i> | Ongoing control by Councils Recreation staff. Latest RTC 4.0%. |
| Porirua Scenic Reserve (290ha) <i>PCC:39</i> | Now under ongoing control. Magnificent response to flora in the absence of possums. RTC 1.0%. Subject of separate operational report 98/4. |
| Maidstone Park (30ha) <i>UHCC:19</i> | Serviced in association with the Upper Hutt Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society. Latest RTC 1.1%. Ongoing control. Subject of operational report 98/18. |
| Nga Manu (39ha) <i>KCDC:34</i> | Ongoing control. Low possum density. Some occupier assistance. |
| Trentham Memorial Park (17ha) <i>UHCC:14</i> | Ongoing control. Extremely low or nil possums. A success story and a tribute to UHCC and others. |

Initial Control

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| Khandallah Park (150ha) <i>WCC:41</i> | Initial control just completed. Did have an extremely high possum population with RTC of 59%. Now lowered to 1.7%. Treated in conjunction with Johnsonville Park to curb reinvasion. |
| Haywards Scenic Reserve (142ha) <i>HCC:42</i> | Treated by external contractor. High possum density and difficult terrain. Latest RTC of 1.7%. Some maintenance control carried out by HCC. |
| Keith George Memorial Park (147ha) <i>UHCC:33</i> | Treatment area also includes Silverstream Scenic Reserve. Very high pre control possum population of RTC 51%. Control almost exclusively carried out by volunteers from UH Branch of The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society. Recorded a recent RTC of 10%. Further control is continuing. |
| Raroa Reserve (18ha) <i>PCC:13</i> | Control ongoing. Special site in the Pukerua Bay community. Has five species of native lizard. |
| Grays Bush (1.5ha) <i>PCC:38</i> | Control ongoing. |
| Karori Wildlife Sanctuary (250ha) <i>WCC:51</i> | Possum eradication programme to commence in April. Most control work planned for next financial year to work in with completion of the predator fence. An integrated pest animal eradication plan has been proposed for possums, rodents, rabbits, hares, feral cats, mustelids, hedgehogs and goats. WRC responsibility will be for possums and rabbits. |