

# Turangi 1A, 1B, 4A and 4D (Aerial)



## Possum Control Fact Sheet

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Dear Residents

Epro Limited of Taupo has been contracted by TBfree New Zealand Limited (TBfree) to undertake bovine tuberculosis (TB) vector (possums) control operation within the Turangi TB vector area. This involves possum habitat surrounding Turangi township and the Tongariro River, including the Tongariro Delta. Tongariro / Rangipo Prison will also be included, along with farmland in and around the Waihi / Pukawa area and Moerangi Station.

Some aerial application of toxins will be carried out in areas where the vegetation cover or ground conditions make access on foot difficult. These areas include the Waitotaka Swamp, north of Turangi from the Waimarino Stream, west as far as the Tokaanu Tailrace. Aerial application will also be carried out on private land west of Kuratau and at Moerangi Station.

### Purpose of the Operation

TBfree manages the National Strategy for Bovine TB. The aim of this strategy is to eradicate bovine TB from farmed cattle and deer herds. Possums are the main transmitters of TB to domestic cattle and deer. Scientific research has shown that by reducing possum numbers and maintaining them at low levels, transmission of the disease can also be reduced.

Under the National Strategy the Turangi operational area has been given the designation TB Free Area Protection. The purpose of this operation is to maintain possum numbers at very low levels in order to prevent TB infected animals migrating into adjacent areas that are TB free.

### Control Method

Cereal pellet baits containing sodium fluoroacetate (1080) will be applied by helicopter. Epro staff will consult with landowners and occupiers in order to find the most acceptable control option for each property.

All landowners will be consulted before any control work is started. Neighbours will also be notified of toxins and traps laid on surrounding land. To minimise risks during this project the following points should be considered.

- All access points into the operational area will have warning notices posted.
- All toxic bait will be dyed green.
- Please do not handle any bait.
- Children or dogs should not be allowed to wander unsupervised in the operational area.
- If you suspect poisoning to a person contact your doctor, hospital or the National Poisons Centre 0800 POISON (0800 764 766).
- Poisoned carcasses may remain toxic to scavenging animals for at least four months.

### Timing

This operation is scheduled for 1 February to 30 June 2015.

### Further Information

Further information, including toxin fact sheets, are available upon request.

Please contact Epro if you require any further information. The designated Operational Controller for this operation is Jason Day. He can be contacted at the Epro office.

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