**POSSUM CONTROL OPERATION**

**Central Districts Pest Control Ltd** will be carrying out ground-based possum control on the **Wainuiomata South** contract between 9 April 2018 and 30 June 2018. The contract is part of TBfree New Zealand’s national TB vector control programme.

The project boundary runs from the south-western side of Wainuiomata, along the Eastbourne coast, down to the southern end of the Eastbourne Domain. The operational area consists of approximately 1,246 hectares, mostly consisting of the East Harbour Regional Park Northern Forest, but also some surrounding private land.

As part of our permit conditions from the local health authority, we are required to notify local schools, medical centres, vets, police, Iwi and user groups of our intentions to use toxins.

All landowners are contacted and permission of entry obtained before any work commences on their properties. Landholders are able to prescribe the control methods to be used on their property.

**Methods of control *may* include:**

1. **Encapsulated Cyanide (Feratox) in Bait Stations and/or Bait Bags**

This is a small pellet bait containing enough cyanide to kill one possum. Each pellet is encased in a peanut butter based pre-feed paste (Ferafeed) and placed in bait stations. Both the Feratox pellets and pre-feed paste are dyed green. Feratox may also be used in blue paper bait bags stapled to trees or similar objects in possum habitat. Bait bags are labelled as containing poison.

1. **Brodifacoum (Pestoff) in Bait Stations**

Brodifacoum pellet baits may be used in some instances in bait stations and are dyed green/blue.

1. **Diphacinone (Pestoff 50D/Ratabate) in Bait Stations**

Diphacinone pellet baits may be used in bait stations and are dyed green/blue. Diphacinone may also be used in Ratabate Strikers, which are made from biodegradable potato starch and filled with a diphacinone-infused paste and stapled to trees or similar objects. Feratox pellets may also be added to the paste. The paste is dyed green.

1. **Trapping**

Possum Master kill-traps will be used in areas where it is inappropriate to use toxins, such as around houses. Traps have a blaze of scented flour to lure possums – this is not toxic.

Our methods are aimed at being relatively safe and low-impact. All toxic baits are dyed green/blue. Warning signs will be displayed at all access points into the operational area when work is in progress and will remain in place until toxin caution periods have expired.

**Risk to humans:** All baits are poison and are harmful to humans, especially young children. Do not allow children to wander unsupervised into the areas that have baits laid in them.Farmers should inform visitors to their land if traps have been set or poison has been laid.Visitors should be vigilant, particularly if they are accompanied by young children.

**Risk to dogs:** There is a risk to roaming dogs if possums or rats tip bait out of a bait station or rip a Feratox bag and the bait falls to the ground. There is also a risk if dogs lick around the mouth of a dead possum. The risk to dogs should be low, but care needs to be taken to prevent them roaming or scavenging when and where possum control is going on.

The Operations Manager is Tim Brenstrum - phone 06 836 5590 or 027 449 6598.

Other possum contractors may be carrying out similar work in the region.