

Talking about rat control in the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project September 2019



The Department of Conservation, Nelson Lakes Area Office, plans to control rats over 1128 hectares of the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project in September 2019 (see map overleaf).

How it is happening

Rat poison bait (Pindone 0.5g/kg) in the form of pellets will be secured in bait stations within the control site.

Timeframe

Bait application will begin on 1st September 2019. The Department of Conservation (DOC) will place warning signs immediately prior to the operation starting.

Why we are controlling rats

Rat predation can take a heavy toll on populations of small native birds. Within the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project the robin population in particular has declined in the past when rats have not been controlled and increased when rats have been controlled.

Controlling rats during the spring, when birds are breeding, allows bird populations to recover. DOC will monitor the effectiveness of the rat control and the response of native bird populations.

Key facts

Pindone, like any anticoagulant rat poison, is toxic to humans and domestic animals. Poisoning can occur through eating baits or poisoned animals.

Dogs (prohibited in the national park) may get sick from eating a rat or mouse carcass and this risk will remain until carcasses have rotted, perhaps up to six months. These risks can be eliminated by following these simple rules:

- DO NOT touch bait
- WATCH CHILDREN at all times
- DO NOT EAT animals from this area or from within a 2km 'buffer zone' outside the operational area boundary
- Remember, poison baits or carcasses could be DEADLY to DOGS

Observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about pesticides. Warning signs indicate that pesticide residues may still be present in baits or animals. When signs are removed, this means that you can resume normal activities in the area.

Please report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs. If in doubt, check with DOC, Nelson Lakes Office.

Operational planning

The Department of Conservation assesses and approves all vertebrate pesticide operations on public conservation land on behalf of the Environmental Risk Management Authority (ERMA), following procedures approved by ERMA. DOC approving managers apply conditions to ensure that all legal and policy requirements are met, and that any potential risks of the operation are managed.

The use of this pesticide is a Permitted Activity under Section 36.6.2 of the Tasman Resource Management Plan 2008 (Discharges of Pesticides to Land). DOC is also required to notify the Public Health Officer.

To satisfy ERMA approval to carry out this operation, a detailed assessment of the risks involved in the work was completed. This is called an Assessment of Environmental Effects. A copy for this operation may be viewed at the Nelson Lakes Area Office in St Arnaud. DOC imposes additional conditions on the operation to further safeguard the public and the environment.

We consulted people most affected by this operation prior to finalising the operational detail.

This involved considering their concerns and needs regarding the operational method and its timing. We have notified other people using this fact sheet.

If you suspect poisoning

Contact your local doctor, or a local medical facility:
Wakefield Health Centre: Ph 03 541 8911.
Nelson Hospital: Ph 03 546 1800.


Details on treatment in case of poisoning:
National Poisons Centre:
0800 764 766 (urgent calls) or
03 479 7227 (non-urgent and general enquiries)
or dial 111.


For more information

Jen Waite
Department of Conservation
Nelson Lakes Area Office
View Rd, St Arnaud 7053.
Email: jwaite@doc.govt.nz
Ph 03 521 1806 (reception)

Please get in touch with Jen if you want to be notified again prior to the operation.



**DANGER POISON**


**PINDONE**
TOXIC to PEOPLE and ANIMALS

will be present in bait stations from:

- **DO NOT TOUCH** poison bait
- **WATCH CHILDREN** at all times
- **DO NOT EAT** animals from this area
- **Poison bait or carcasses are DEADLY to DOGS**

For more information, contact:
Senior Ranger, Biodiversity **Nelson Lakes Office**
Ph: 03 521 1806 **Department of Conservation**

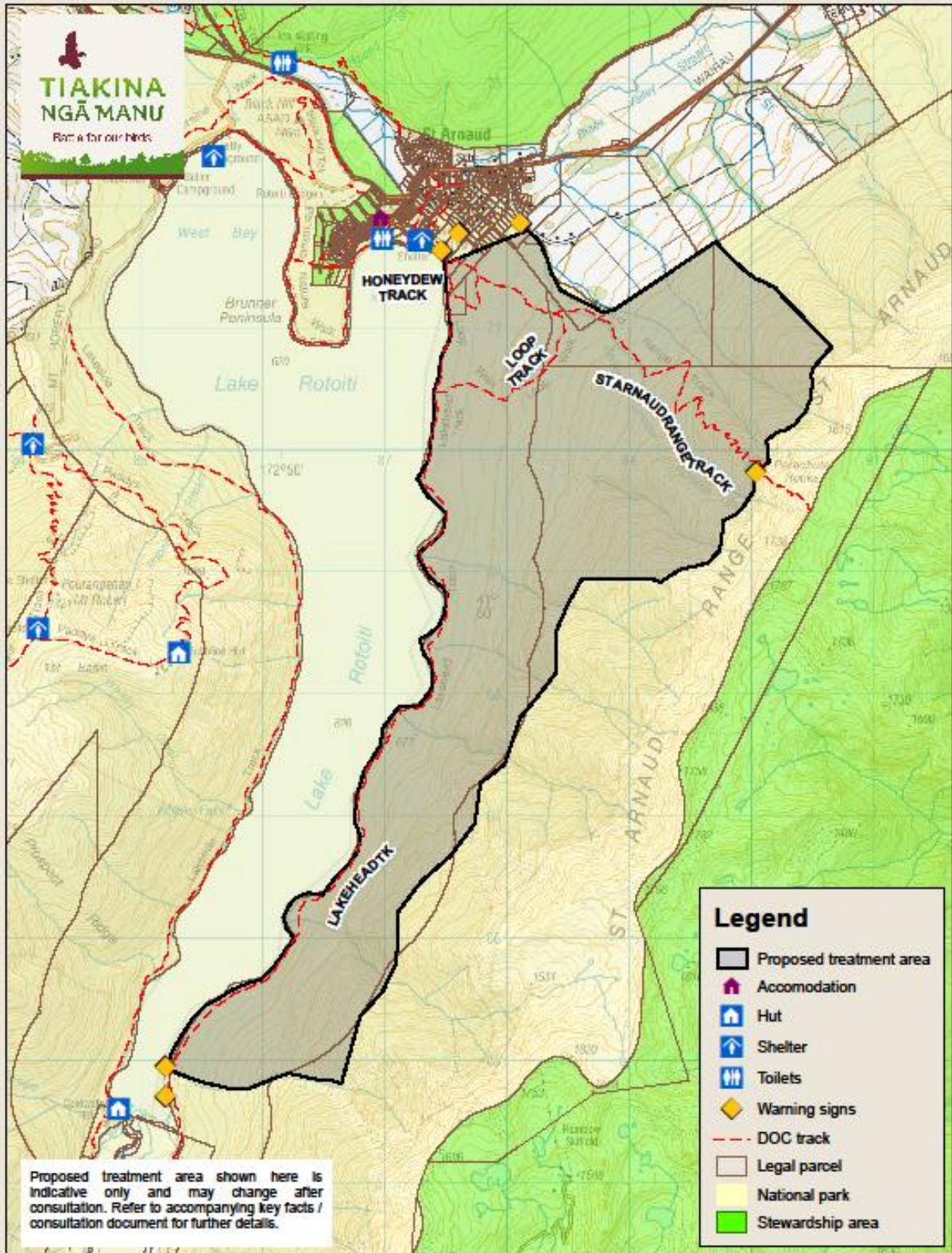
Unauthorised removal of signs or baits is an offence



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai
New Zealand Government

TIAKINA NGĀ MANU

Ram a far our birds



Scale at A1 = 1:40,000
 NZGD 2000 New Zealand Transverse Mercator
 Not for navigation
 Crown Copyright Reserved
 Basemap: LINZ Topo50 / 50
 DOC, Geopatial Services
 25/07/2019

Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project
 Rat Control 2019
 Proposed treatment area: 1,128 ha



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Ahurea

Ministry of the Environment

