



## Flux/Park Covenant rat control 2010

### What's happening?

The Flux/Park covenant comprises of two QEII trust covenant sites located on Ian Flux and Merryl Park's property in Moonshine Hill Road. This area is a Greater Wellington Key Native Ecosystem and receives some assistance with animal and plant pest control on an annual basis.

Intensive possum and rodent control has been carried out over the past nine years and will occur again this year. Control work will start October 2010 and run through to late November 2010. Ian Flux undertakes the control work himself where possible.

Possum numbers are at very low levels due to the Animal Health Board vector control programme and this year Ian will be primarily targeting rats. Low possum and rat numbers enable regeneration and fruiting of native trees, providing food and reducing predation of nesting native birds.

An existing network of bait stations will be used for rat control as well as existing kill traps for possums. Bait stations will be pre-fed with non-toxic feed baits. A fast acting toxin will then be used for a short period of time.

### What methods are being used?

1080 cereal pellets, dyed green, will be dispensed from bait stations or bait bags. Warrior kill traps will be used to keep possum numbers at low levels.

### What is 1080?

1080 is a naturally occurring compound found in a range of plant species, particularly in Australia and South Africa. It is also present in tea leaves and guar gum (a binding agent sometimes used in food production).

1080 is biodegradable so does not accumulate in the environment or persist in soil or water. In favourable conditions soil micro-organisms break down 1080 in about two weeks. The low environmental risk of 1080 and proven efficacy against ship-rats are the main reason Ian and Merryl have chosen to use this option.

**Dogs (note that this operation is entirely on private land. No dogs are to enter this area without the owners permission) – dogs are extremely sensitive to 1080, even a tiny amount will kill them. It is critical that they do not access bait, and are not allowed to scavenge carcasses.**

Carcasses remain toxic to dogs until soft parts are fully decomposed. The bones, skin and fur are not toxic. Keep dogs out of poison areas. Keep your dog under control and well fed, preferably with meat, to reduce the tendency to scavenge. If you must use working dogs, muzzles are available for purchase from Greater Wellington.



20mm diameter 1080 baits to be used in bait stations or bait bags for rat control

**In case of suspected poisoning;**

1. Make the dog vomit by forcing it to swallow an emetic of washing soda (place in corner of mouth, and hold mouth shut).
2. If the first dose does not cause vomiting after 10 minutes, try another dose.
3. Then take your dog to the vet promptly.
4. Do not allow the dog, or other dogs, to eat the vomit.

The emetic of washing soda (sodium carbonate) is available from Greater Wellington on request. A knob of washing soda 1cm in diameter is adequate. The washing soda is not an antidote.

Feral game - It is an offence to sell meat products which have been exposed to 1080. Do not hunt animals within 2km of the poison area either for sale or own use. Hunting can recommence 4 months after control, or after 2 months if 100mm of rain has fallen.

**Precautions – although this area is private land with no public access you should be aware of the following precautions when adjacent to this property**

**Care must be taken with young children and dogs.**

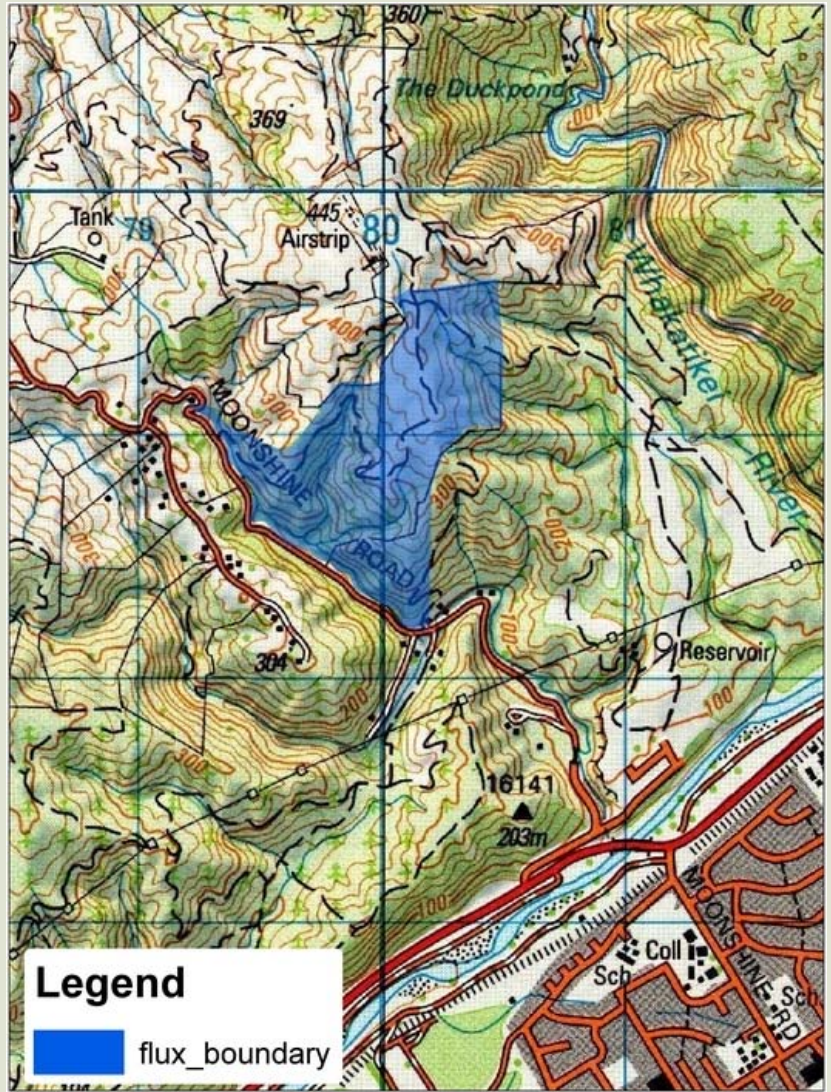
- do not touch or handle the traps, bait, bait bags or bait stations
- abide by all warning signs
- keep your dog out of this area
- do not let your dog roam unsupervised or scavenge dead carcasses.

Dogs at risk are those that roam unsupervised and scavenge dead animals.

Cats are not attracted to the cereal baits.

**Further information please contact:**

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