

Key facts about ship rat control in the Mahoenui Weta Reserve



The Department of Conservation's Te Kuiti Office plans to maintain rat numbers at low levels in 195 ha of the Mahoenui Giant Weta Scientific Reserve

How it is happening

Diphacinone cereal pellets and blocks (Pest-off 50D and D-Block for rats) will be placed in bait stations. 50D cereal pellets are green, cylindrical in shape and weigh 2 grams each, D blocks weigh 28 grams each, are green and triangular in shape.

Timeframe

The operation will commence in early October 2019 and will be ongoing.

Important information

The pesticide is contained in bait stations, although animals may drag baits onto the ground. Treat all suspected baits with caution.

The pesticides we use are poisonous to humans and domestic animals.

Poisoning can occur through eating the baits or poisoned animals.

These risks can be eliminated by following these simple rules:

- DO NOT touch bait or bait stations.
- WATCH CHILDREN at all times
- DO NOT EAT animals from this area or within 2km of the treatment area boundary.
- Remember, poison baits or carcasses are 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 that you can resume normal activities in the area. Please report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs. If in doubt, check with DOC.

Why we are controlling ship rats

The Mahoenui Weta Reserve is the only remnant population of Mahoenui Giant Weta in New Zealand. Rats are thought to be the main predator of the species. A recent study into the stomach contents of rats caught in the reserve found weta remains inside 90% of rats caught.

Why we are using this method

We have found poison baiting to be a very effective means of pest control. Using bait stations restricts non-target species' access to bait and keeps bait effective for longer.

Operational planning

The use of these pesticides does not require the consent of the Medical Officer of Health.

The Department of Conservation assesses and approves all vertebrate pesticide operations on public conservation land on behalf of the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), following procedures approved by the EPA. 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.

If you suspect poisoning

Contact your:

- Local doctor or
- Local hospital or
- National Poisons Information Centre
0800 POISON (0800 764 766). For non-urgent enquiries or general information call 03 479 7248.
- **In case of emergency, dial 111**

For more information

Please contact:

Julia Loepelt

Te Kuiti Office

PO Box 38

Te Kuiti

Phone: 0276477362

