



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

9 September 2019

To whom it may concern,

Ship rat control in the Mahoenui Giant Weta Scientific Reserve 2019/2020

I am writing to inform you that the Department of Conservation will be using the toxin Diphacinone, in the form of cereal pellets and blocks (Pest-off 50D and D-Block for rats) in the Mahoenui Weta Reserve. The bait will be placed in bait stations attached to trees and Warratahs in early October 2019. The operation will be conducted by DOC staff and is ongoing.

It is our standard practice to notify neighbours, local authorities, veterinarians, nearby schools and concessionaires.

The aim of this operation is the protection of the threatened Mahoenui Giant Weta from predation by rats. A recent study into the stomach contents of rats caught in the weta reserve found weta remains in 90% of rats caught.

Warning signs will remind visitors of the risks associated with entering the Weta Reserve. A map of the operational area and a fact sheet are enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding this control operation, I can be contacted on the number below.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Loepelt".

Julia Loepelt
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