

Insight

Reaching over 5000 landowners
in Priority Possum Control Areas

Priority Possum Control

The council funds and undertakes work in more than 50 Priority Possum Control Areas (PPCAs), covering over 530,000 hectares across the Waikato region and involving thousands of landowners.

PPCAs are areas of the region that have been identified by Waikato Regional Council as needing possum control to:

- protect and enhance biodiversity
- enhance primary production
- improve the stability of catchments
- maintain the gains of previous or existing possum control.

Recent extreme weather events have made clear the importance of intact healthy forests to protect catchments, with control of pest animals an integral part of that.

Developing and maintaining professional relationships with landowners is critical to the long-term success of our PPCA programme. We appreciate your cooperation with the control work that is done on your property.

The council has made available an online mapping service so you can see where your property is located within a PPCA. We also have a factsheet on priority possum control (*What you need to know as a land occupier*) on our website. You can view both the interactive map and the factsheet at waikatoregion.govt.nz/ppca.

Protecting our region: biosecurity in action

In addition to delivering possum control, the council undertakes or contributes to a wide range of other biosecurity and biodiversity activities, initiatives and programmes aimed at protecting our region. Here is a snapshot of what we do.



For more information



Biosecurity
Strategy



RPMP
2022-2032



Biodiversity
page



Natural Heritage
Partnership Programme

PPCA programme — what we're doing

1. Whenuakite Farmland

- Control completed by EcoFX in October 2024: 1.44% RTC
- Potential next operation 2027/2028

2. Otahu Farmland

- Trend RTC completed by Qualmons in Sept 2025: 5.90% RTC
- Epro Ltd contracted to undertake control 2026/2027

3. Onewhero

- Control completed by EcoFX in May 2025: 2.05% RTC
- Potential next operation 2028/2029

4. Pukekawa

- Control completed by EcoFX in June 2025: 1.30% RTC
- Potential next operation 2028/2029

5. Te Kohanga Farmland

- Control completed by EcoFX in Dec 2025: 3.34% RTC
- Potential next operation 2028/2029

6. Glen Murray

- Control completed by EcoFX in June 2026: % RTC
- Potential next operation 2029/2030

7. Port Waikato Bush

- Control completed by EcoFX in December 2022: 0.00% RTC
- Potential next operation 2028/2029

8. Port Waikato Farmland (North)

- Control completed by EcoFX in June 2026: % RTC
- Potential next operation 2029/2030

9. Port Waikato Farmland (South)

- Trend RTC completed by Qualmons in Feb 2026: 7.10% RTC
- EcoFX contracted to undertake control 2026/2027

10. Whangape

- Control completed by EcoFX in June 2025: 0.81% RTC
- Potential next operation 2027/2028

11. Waikaretu

- Control completed by EcoFX in September 2024: 1.53% RTC
- Potential next operation 2028/2029

12. Rangiriri

- Trend RTC completed by Qualmons in Jan 2026: 4.85% RTC
- Trend >5% threshold – next RTC trend monitor in late 2026
- Potential next operation 2027/2028

13. Naike

- Trend RTC completed by Qualmons in Jan 2026: 5.64% RTC
- EcoFX contracted to undertake control 2026/2027

14. Rotowaro

- Control completed by EcoFX in June 2026: 1.67% RTC
- Potential next operation 2028/2029

15. Matira

- Control completed by EcoFX in August 2024: 3.10% RTC
- Potential next operation 2027/2028

16. Waingarō

- Trend RTC completed by Qualmons in Oct 2025: 5.61% RTC
- EcoFX contracted to undertake control 2026/2027

17. Te Akau

- Trend RTC completed by Qualmons in Dec 2025: 6.14% RTC
- EcoFX contracted to undertake control 2026/2027

18. Te Miro Reserve – Hamilton HALO rat control

- Control undertaken by EcoFX in Aug 2025: 33.33% RTI
- Next control scheduled for July 2028

19. Maungakawa Reserve – Hamilton HALO

- Control completed by Ngāti Haua and EcoFX in December 2024: 1.28% RTC
- Potential next operation TBC

20. Mount Karioi North

- RTC trend completed by Qualmons in Sept 2025: 3.08% RTC
- Trend >5% threshold – next RTC trend monitor in late 2026

21. Old Mountain Road (Hope Bush) –

Hamilton HALO rat control

- Control completed by EcoFX in September 2024: 1.43% RTI
- Next control scheduled for July 2027 by EcoFX

22. Old Mountain Road (Johnstone's) –

Hamilton HALO rat control

- Control completed by EcoFX in September 2024: 1.25% RTI
- Next control scheduled for July 2027 by EcoFX

23. Te Tapui Block B – Hamilton HALO

- RTC trend completed by Qualmons in Aug 2025: 3.15% RTC
- Next control proposed for autumn/winter 2027

24. Te Miro – Whitehall

- Control completed by EcoFX in June 2025: 2.54% RTC
- Potential next operation 2027/2028

25. Pukemako/Sanitorium Hill –

Hamilton HALO rat control

- Control completed by EcoFX in August 2025: 3.33% RTI
- Next control scheduled for July 2026 by EcoFX

26. Mount Karioi South

- RTC trend completed by Qualmons in Sept 2025: 5.20% RTC
- EcoFX contracted to undertake control 2026/2027

27. Mount Pirongia North Buffer

- Control completed by EcoFX in June 2026: 0.96% RTC
- Potential next operation 2028/2029

28. Tirohanga Road – Hamilton HALO rat control

- Control completed by EcoFX in September 2025: 2.50% RTI
- Next control scheduled for July 2026 by EcoFX

29. Mount Pirongia West Buffer

- Control completed by EcoFX in July 2024: 1.11% RTC
- Potential next operation 2027/2028

30. Oparau

- Control completed by EcoFX in July 2024: 0.48% RTC
- Potential next operation 2027/2028

31. Waipa Puniu II

- Control completed by EcoFX in June 2026: 1.34% RTC
- Potential next operation in 2028/2029

32. Ngutunui

- Control completed by EcoFX in December 2024: 0.26% RTC
- Potential next operation 2027/2028

33. Hauturu Awaroa

- Control completed by EcoFX in June 2023: 4.73% RTC
- PPCA currently inactive - control provisionally ceased

34. Arohena 1

- Control completed by EcoFX in Oct 2025: 0.84% RTC
- Potential next operation 2028/2029

35. Honikiwi

- RTC trend completed by Qualmons in Nov 2025: 6.62% RTC
- EcoFX contracted to undertake control 2026/2027

36. Arohena 2

- RTC trend completed by Qualmons in Oct 2025: 4.53% RTC
- Trend > 5% threshold - control has been deferred to 2027/2028

37. Waotu

- Control completed by EcoFX in Dec 2025: 3.08% RTC
- Potential next operation 2028/2029

38. Ngaroma 2

- Control completed by Epro Ltd in June 2025: 3.19% RTC
- Potential next operation 2027/2028

39. Rangitoto Buffer

- RTC trend completed by Qualmons November 2025: 4.19% RTC
- Trend >5% threshold – control deferred to 2026/2027

40. Ngaroma 1

- Control completed by EcoFX in October 2024: 3.18% RTC
- Potential next operation 2027/2028

41. Waipa River

- RTC trend completed by Qualmons Dec 2025: 6.84% RTC
- EcoFX contracted to undertake control 2026/2027

42. Rangitoto Range

- Control completed by EPRO Ltd in October 2022: 1.00% RTC
- Joint WRC-DOC (NPCP) Bush sector spring 2022
- Potential next operation TBC

43. Mangakino

- Control completed by Epro Ltd in September 2024: 2.20%
- Potential next operation 2027/2028

44. Waikite Valley Farmland 2A

- Trend RTC completed by Qualmons in Oct 2025: 9.47% RTC
- Coast and Country Ltd contracted to undertake control 2026/2027

45. Waikite Valley Farmland 2B

- RTC trend completed by Qualmons in October 2024: 6.27% RTC
- Control currently underway by Epro Ltd

•Te Kopia – Paeroa Range

- Control complete by Epro Ltd in May 2026: x.xx% RTC
- Joint WRC-DOC Bush sector

46. Nukuhakari – Awakino 1

- Control completed by EcoFX in Oct 2025: 1.24% RTC
- Potential next operation 2028/2029

47. Tiroa

- Control completed by EcoFX in August 2024: 0.48% RTC
- Potential next operation 2027/2028

48. Whareorino Bush

- Bush sector joint WRC-DOC (NPCP)
- Control completed by EcoFX in 2022/2023: 0.14% RTC
- Potential next operation TBC

49. Pio Pio East Farmland and Bush

- Control completed by EcoFX in May and July 2025: 0.00% RTC (Bush), 1.68 %RTC (Farmland)
- Potential next operation 2027/2028

50. Whareorino Farmland

- Control completed by EcoFX in June 2025: 2.76% RTC
- Potential next operation 2027/2028

51. Pio Pio West

- Control completed by EcoFX in June 2025: 4.57% RTC
- Potential next operation 2027/2028

52. North Taupo

- RTC trend completed by Qualmons in October 2024: 7.72%
- EcoFX contracted to complete control 2026

53. Mokauiti 2 Farmland

- RTC trend completed by Qualmons in Dec 2025: 5.93% RTC
- EcoFX contracted to undertake control 2026/2027

54. Nukuhakari – Awakino 2

- Control completed by EcoFX in June 2026: 1.73% RTC
- Potential next operation 2028/2029

55. Mahoenui

- RTC trend completed by Qualmons in Nov 2025: 7.86% RTC
- EcoFX contracted to undertake control 2026/2027

56. Aria

- RTC trend completed by Qualmons in Jan 2026: 5.37% RTC
- EcoFX contracted to undertake control 2026/2027

57. Mokauiti 1 Farmland and Bush

- RTC trend completed by Qualmons in Oct 2025: 2.75% RTC
- Trend >5% threshold – control deferred to 2027/2028
- Bush proposed next control 2029/2030

58. Hauhungaroa Ranges

- Control completed by Epro Ltd in February 2024: 0.83% RTC
- North, 0.00% RTC South
- Joint WRC-DOC bush sector
- Potential next operation TBC

59. West Taupō

- RTC trend completed by Qualmons Sept 2025: 2.64% RTC
- Trend >5% threshold – Next Trend monitor 2026





From left, Kathryn, Gemma, Dave, Chris.

Our team

Our small Pest Animal Team of four is based out of the council's Hamilton Office. Kathryn is the Team Lead. Dave manages Waikite Valley PPCAs, Chris the central and south PPCAs, and Gemma the north and west PPCAs. Together, we also deliver rook, feral rabbit and feral goat programmes, and partner with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council to deliver the Tipu Mātoro North Island Wallabies Eradication Programme. We respond to pest animal-related requests and complaints, and provide education and advise. We can be contacted via **PPCA@waikatoregion.govt.nz** or **0800 800 401**.

Not in a PPCA?

There are many actions you can take to control possums and other pest animals. A lot of information can be found online, such as predatorfreenz.org, or the Department of Conservation's **Practical Guide to Trapping**.



Possum traps Tips and Tricks

Single kill possum traps include Timms, Flipping Timmy, Warrior and Sentinel.

- Place traps along possum trails, stream crossings, spurs or ridges. Where two (or more) of these features intersect is an ideal spot.
- Research shows possums can have several interactions with a kill trap before they decide to stick their head in it. Having a suitable place for them to sit and investigate is important. This may be a manmade perch, running board or suitable branch.
- When putting fruit pieces (apple/orange) into traps, ensure they sit horizontally on the spike. If vertical, the possum will turn its head sideways to grasp it, which could result in an escape or an inhumane catch.
- Possums do not have a good sense of smell, so using a visual lure to the site is as important as using a physical lure. This can be the bright plastic casing of the trap itself, or a blaze (5:1 flour/icing sugar mixed together).

On farm biosecurity - your first line of defence



Velvetleaf

Good biosecurity is essential for protecting your farm from unwanted pests, weeds and diseases. Simple, consistent practices can prevent costly problems before they start. Pest plants such as velvetleaf, Chilean needlegrass, thistles and alligator weed can hitch a ride on vehicles, machinery, equipment in contaminated feed. Once established, these pests can be difficult and expensive to control, impacting productivity and potentially farm value. Taking a proactive approach to biosecurity helps safeguard your land, livestock and livelihood.

Key practices

Implementing a few practical measures can make a big difference.

- ✓ **Control farm access**
Limit entry to designated access points to help manage and monitor movements on and off your farm.
- ✓ **Clear hygiene signage**
Display signage at entry points outlining biosecurity requirements so visitors know what's expected before entering.
- ✓ **Visitor awareness and briefing**
Ensure all visitors are aware of and follow your hygiene protocols.
- ✓ **Designated parking areas**
Provide hard standing and designated parking areas to reduce unnecessary on farm vehicle movement.
- ✓ **Source feed and material carefully**
From trusted, weed-free sources.
- ✓ **Clean gear between farms**
Ensure all equipment, footwear and vehicles are cleaned before moving between properties.
- ✓ **Inspect incoming vehicles and equipment**
Check they are clean and free of soil and plant material before they enter your property.
- ✓ **Stay vigilant for emerging pests**
Monitor your property regularly for unfamiliar plants or pests and act early – report and manage new incursions before they spread.