



Fact Sheet: Rat Control on Horohoro Maunga – October 2026

Tipu Environmental will be undertaking rat control on Horohoro Maunga during October and November 2026.

See attached map for the operational area.

What is happening

Spring and Summer are nesting seasons for several of New Zealand's native birds and native bats. During these seasons our native animals are at their most vulnerable. Possums and rats are both known predators of our native birds and mammals and they eat adult birds and bats, eggs, chicks and bat pups, as well as the vegetation the birds also feed on. Because of this it is helpful to lower rat (and possum) numbers during this time to help protect our native species and give them and their young a good chance of survival. To help our native animals we will be undertaking a bait station control operation within 486ha on Horohoro maunga using cereal baits containing pindone.

Timeframe

This operation will take place during the period between **October 15th to December 15th 2026**. There will be a first application of pindone, followed by a second application of pindone.

Tipu Environmental will notify all adjacent landowners and place warning signs immediately before the operation. All bait will be removed by **31st December 2026**. Warning signs will stay in place until no risk remains from pesticide residue in baits or pest animal carcasses.

Why we are controlling rats

Horohoro maunga is home to some rare and endangered native species. Tipu Environmental is particularly interested in protecting long-tailed bats (pekapeka-tou-roa) which are a nationally threatened species.



1: (Photo credit: Colin O'Donnell. Long-tailed bat)

Research shows pekapeka populations recover quickly when possums, rats and other pests are reduced to low numbers.

The Tipu Environmental team is also working towards building a natural corridor between Horohoro maunga and Mokaihaha Ecological area that is home to the North Island Kōkako, it is hoped that slowly we will

create protected corridors for our native species to move between the two areas. Mokaihaha have also undertaken their pindone control operation in late September to help protect the Kōkako and other native birds.

Why we are using this method

We have found the use of pesticides in a network of bait stations and aerial poison baiting to be a very effective and environmentally friendly regime of possum and rat control.

By using bait stations, we can recover any unused bait. Also, by using bait stations, protection is offered to non-target species.



(Photo: DOC. bait station attached to a tree.)

Operational planning

Tipu Environmental operates under a Management Agreement with Department of Conservation, and uses the methods according to DOC protocol.

DOC assesses and approves all vertebrate pesticide operations on public conservation land on behalf of and following procedures approved by the Environmental Protection Authority (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.

We will notify those most affected by this operation prior directly and will notify others using this fact sheet.

Important information

The pesticides we use are poisonous to humans and domestic animals, including dogs. Poisoning can occur through eating baits or poisoned animals. Veterinary advice should be sought immediately for any suspected poisoning of pets.

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 until the caution period is over**
- **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.

If you suspect poisoning

Always contact:

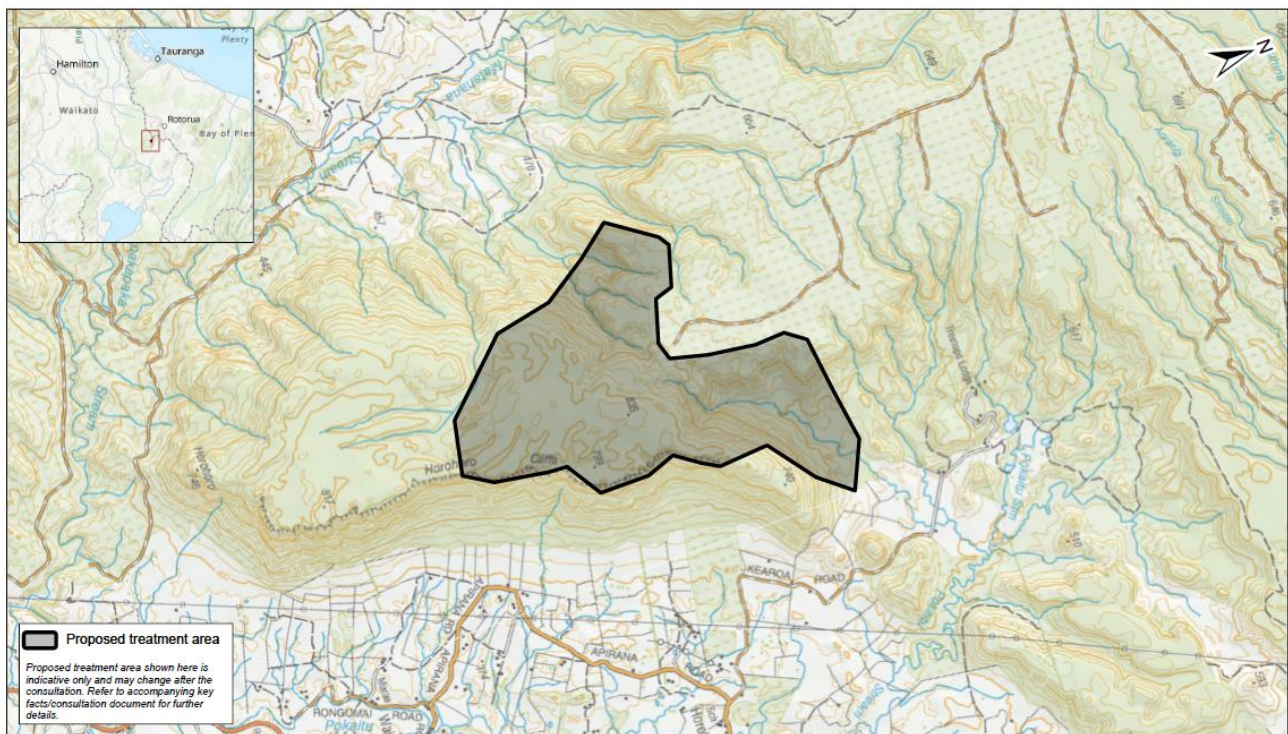
- Your local doctor; or
- Local hospital; or
- National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766 (urgent calls) or 03 479 7248 (non-urgent and general enquiries), or dial 111.

For more information

Please contact:

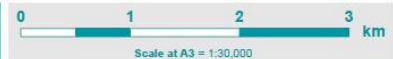
Kataraina George
Environment Manager
Tipu Environmental
office@tipuenviro.nz

2: Pesticide Operational Area, Horohoro, October 2026



Acknowledgements and Disclaimers
 Basemap: Eagle Technology, LINZ. Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Esri, USGS

Horohoro
 Treatment Area: 498.7 ha



Created by: RCV
 Date: 20/09/2026
 Version: 1
 Job No: INC0431979
 File: INC0431979_Pindone Control Operation.aprx



DISCLAIMER: While Waikato Regional Council has exercised all reasonable skill and care in controlling the contents of this information, Waikato Regional Council accepts no liability in contract, tort or otherwise howsoever, for any loss, damage, injury expense (whether direct, indirect or consequential) arising out of the provision of this information or its use by you.

