

Southern Abel Tasman National Park consultation 2018-19

There is a high level of public exposure to Abel Tasman National Park; with local community, visitor and concessionaire interests. The treatment area is wholly within the bounds of Abel Tasman National Park. No private property abuts the treatment area. The treatment area does not include any part of Canaan Downs, Takaka or Marahau Valley catchments, or the Torrent Bay and Awaroa water supply catchments.

As part of the development and implementation of the Project Janszoon Trust and its activities over the last 7 years, extensive consultation has been carried out by DoC and Project Janszoon staff. This has included;

- Iwi and rūnanga.
- Concessionaires and tourism operators.
- Local communities and interest groups.
- Operational neighbours.
- Local government and Public Health.
- Local schools.

It is within this environment of strong public interaction and information sharing that the proposed Southern Abel Tasman National park aerial operation sits.

Consultation on possible control methods

In light of consultation undertaken for three operations in the recent past (2014, 2016 and 2017), it was agreed that consultation should be undertaken with iwi associated with the Abel Tasman National Park as well as concessionaires. Consultation on possible control methods and effects was carried out in December 2018 and January 2019. The consultation objective was to inform of the proposal and obtain views on proposed methods, determine how each stakeholder might be affected and what steps can be taken to mitigate those effects.

No consultation on control method options was undertaken with other parties, since aerial 1080 is the only viable option for control on this scale, and given that operations were undertaken at this location in the recent past (2014 and 2017).

The key fact sheet can be found below:

1. Southern Abel Tasman National Park key fact sheet

Type of stakeholder	Number consulted	Consultant	Reason for consultation	Method of consultation
Iwi	8	Project Janszoon Trust	Iwi are considered a key partner in all significant management decisions	Letter/email with offer to meet. In-person meetings and phone calls.
Concessionaires	3	Project Janszoon Trust	Potential impact on activities	Email and in-person
Local residents	2 areas	Project Janszoon Trust	Potential impact	DOC attendance at AGMs

Government organisation	1	DOC	Required consent to sow bait over LINZ land	Email
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Consultation on effects

No consultation on effects was undertaken with other parties, since the effects of 1080 are well-documented, researched and reviewed. Information is readily available to interested parties. There is a high level of awareness, since operations were undertaken at this location in the recent past (2014 and 2017).

Consultation outcomes

Iwi

Concern was raised about the impact on seals. In response to those concerns, DOC developed a seal monitoring plan.

Local residents

A question over water testing was raised and answered.

Notification

Pre-operation notification was carried out by DOC in April 2019. Examples of the notification documentation can be found below:

1. *Southern Abel Tasman National key fact sheet*
2. *Notification letter – iwi and concessionaires*
3. *Notification letter – landowners*
4. *Notification letter – medical and vet centres*
5. *Public notice*

The following table shows the parties additional to those involved in consultation who received a pre-operation notification.

Type of stakeholder	Number notified	Notifier	Reason for notification
Agriculture	11	DOC	Potential impact
Animal care	8	DOC	Information to respond to possible poisoning
Concessionaire	48	DOC	Potential impact
Conservation group	2	DOC	Potential impact
Schools	49	DOC	Potential impact
Media	4	DOC	Public advisory
Hunting groups	11	DOC	Potential impact
Interest groups	9	DOC	Potential impact
Landowners	245	DOC	Potential impact
Medical	15	DOC	Information to respond to possible poisoning
NGO	3	DOC	Potential impact
Police	8	DOC	Potential security or protest issues
Statutory organisations	5	DOC	Potential impact
Tourism	8	DOC	Potential impact on visitors

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Kākāriki
Yellow-crowned parakeet



Key facts about rat control in the Abel Tasman National Park

As part of the work to restore and preserve the Abel Tasman National Park's rich wildlife, Project Janszoon and the Department of Conservation are planning aerial pest control this autumn to protect native species from rising rat numbers during a beech mast.

The pest control will be essential for native species recovery and ecosystem restoration and is part of a park-wide pest management programme that includes an extensive trapping network.

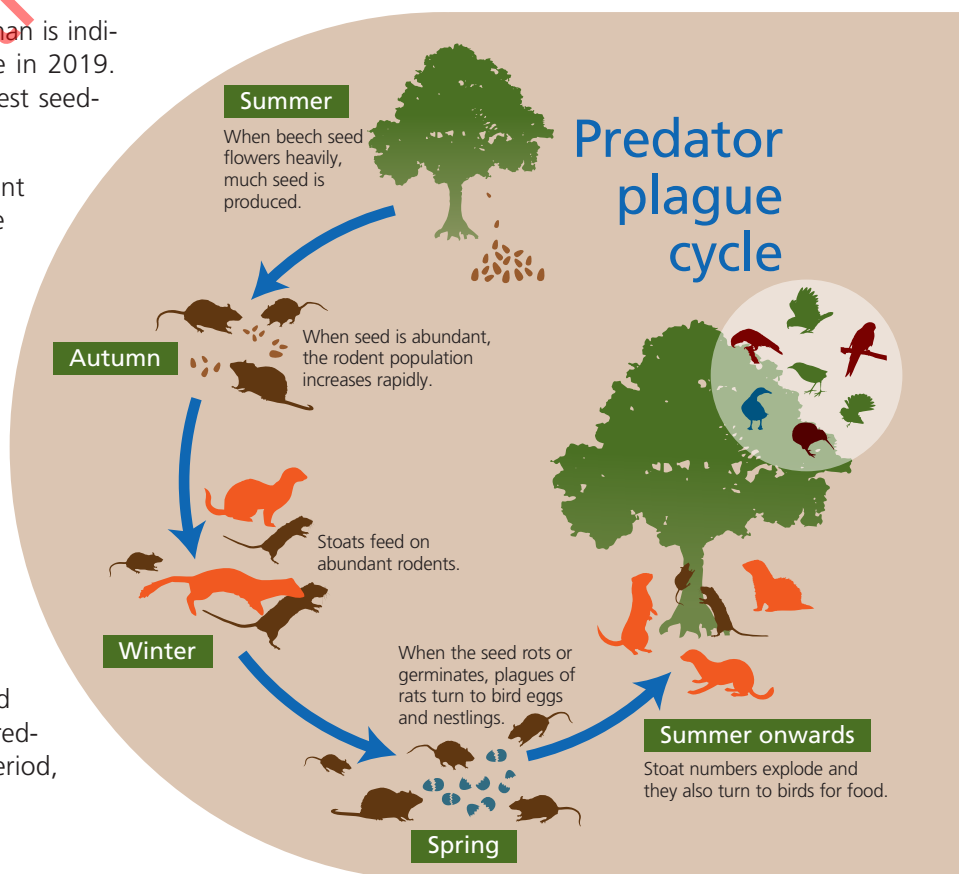
Why are we controlling rats in the Abel Tasman?

Monitoring of beech seed in the Abel Tasman is indicating a heavy beech mast will take place in 2019. Indications are it may be one of the heaviest seed-falls on record.

During a beech mast, an enormous amount of beech seed falls, and rat numbers surge because of the abundance of food. When the beech seed is gone, these predators target chicks and nesting birds and they can decimate bird populations.

This poses a major threat to the park's vulnerable native wildlife including native birds and giant landsnails. High numbers of rats can overwhelm the extensive trapping networks operating in the park so aerial 1080 pest control is used to supplement these networks during a beech mast.

Aerial pest control is highly effective and will help protect the park's birdlife from predator attacks during their critical nesting period, increasing adult and chick survival.



What is happening?

We will be aerially applying cereal baits containing biodegradable 1080 pesticide (0.15% or 15 parts 1080 to 10,000 parts of cereal bait) over approximately 11,449 ha of Abel Tasman National Park. The toxic bait will be sown at a rate of 2 kg/ha—the equivalent of around 5 baits across an area the size of a tennis court.

Prior to the 1080 bait distribution we will carry out a pre-feed aerial application of non-toxic baits over the area. This ensures predators are more likely to eat the 1080 baits.

Helicopters will use Global Positioning Systems (GPS) technology to achieve even coverage of bait. It also enables pilots to be sure of boundaries. Between Bark Bay and Tonga Quarry, and at the head of Awaroa Inlet, we plan to sow bait as close as practicable to the high water mark to ensure no residual rats are left. A shoreline inspection will be undertaken immediately after the operation to remove any exposed bait.

The Abel Tasman Coast Track and 50 metres either side of the track (except the section between Bark Bay and Tonga Quarry), and coastal huts are excluded from the

aerial bait distribution. Wainui Hut, Moa Park Shelter and Mosquito Bay campsite will have alternative water supplied and bait will be cleared from the immediate surrounds. Temporary alternative water supplies will also be available at Bark Bay Hut, Medlands Beach, the old Torrent Bay Estuary campsite, and the Bark Bay boaties water supply. The aerial pest control will also not include any part of Canaan Downs, Takaka and Marahau valley catchments, and the Torrent Bay and Awaroa water supply catchments.

The Awapoto to Castle Rock section of the Abel Tasman Inland Track, Wainui track, Wainui Saddle to Inland Track, Wainui Hut to Inland Track, track to Awaroa school site, Cleopatra's Pool and Falls River tracks and Coast Track between Bark Bay to Tonga Quarry will be closed during the toxic bait application until they have been inspected by DOC staff and cleared of bait. This is likely to entail the closure of these tracks for up to one day.

Why we are using these methods?

Research has shown that rapidly rising rat numbers produced by beech mast conditions, and the subsequent surge in stoat numbers, can overwhelm trap networks. Ground control on its own cannot protect threatened bird and snail populations from such beech mast predator surges. Aerial 1080 pest control is the most effective pest control method over large areas and difficult terrain.

Aerial 1080 pest control reduces pest numbers to extremely low densities and will supplement our other pest control, such as our extensive stoat trapping network.



Birds like toutouwai/robin benefit from 1080. Monitoring at Mount Stanley in the Marlborough Sounds compared survival and nesting of robin between a site where 1080 was used, and another



with no pest control. All robins survived through the pest control operation and nesting success was nine times higher after 1080 treatment than in the comparison area. Over winter 84% of robins survived compared to 37% in the non-treatment area.

A 2011 Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment report into the use of 1080 found it was the most effective tool to protect our native wildlife.

Without 1080 pest control the ecology of the park would continue to decline and we would not be able to reintroduce species such as kākā to the park.

Timeframe

The aerial application of non-toxic pre-feed bait will take place from 29 April 2019, and be followed by the aerial application of toxic 1080 baits. The precise timing of both these operations will be determined by periods of favourable weather.

No toxic bait will be applied during the holiday periods of 31 May–3 June (Queen's Birthday) and 6–21 July 2019.

Public notices will be placed in local newspapers prior to the operation beginning and warning signs will be erected at access points to the treatment area and high public-use sites.

Adjoining landowners and concessionaires will be notified of the toxic bait application before it takes place.

Important information

The pesticides we use are poisonous to humans and domestic animals. Poisoning can occur through eating baits or poisoned animals.

- 1080 baits are cereal pellets about 2 cm long, cylinder-shaped and are dyed **green**.
- Prefeed aerial cereal pellets are about 2 cm long, cylinder-shaped but are **fawn-coloured**.

In particular dogs are highly susceptible to 1080.

The risk to dogs with pesticide in carcasses will remain until they have rotted, perhaps for more than six months.

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**
- **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 can resume normal activities in the area. Please report suspected vandalism or unauthorised removal of signs. If in doubt, check with DOC.

Pest control management

DOC, Project Janszoon and the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust have talked with neighbouring landowners, concessionaires, iwi and others with an interest in the park about the restoration strategy they have put in place and how it is to be achieved.

A stoat trapping network is in place across 90% of the park, and a network of self-resetting rat traps has been established in coastal areas between Anchorage and Bark Bay. Aerial 1080 operations to control rats and possums have been undertaken in 2014, 2016 and 2017, and ground-based possum control is happening along the coastal strip.

Permission to undertake the operation has been granted by the Nelson/Marlborough Public Health Unit and from DOC. DOC and the Public Health Unit set conditions for the operation to manage public safety and environmental risk. The Environmental Protection Authority also set stringent procedures and standards that must be met.

The process for obtaining approval involves a DOC Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE). A copy of the AEE for this operation can be viewed at the DOC Motueka office.

If you suspect poisoning

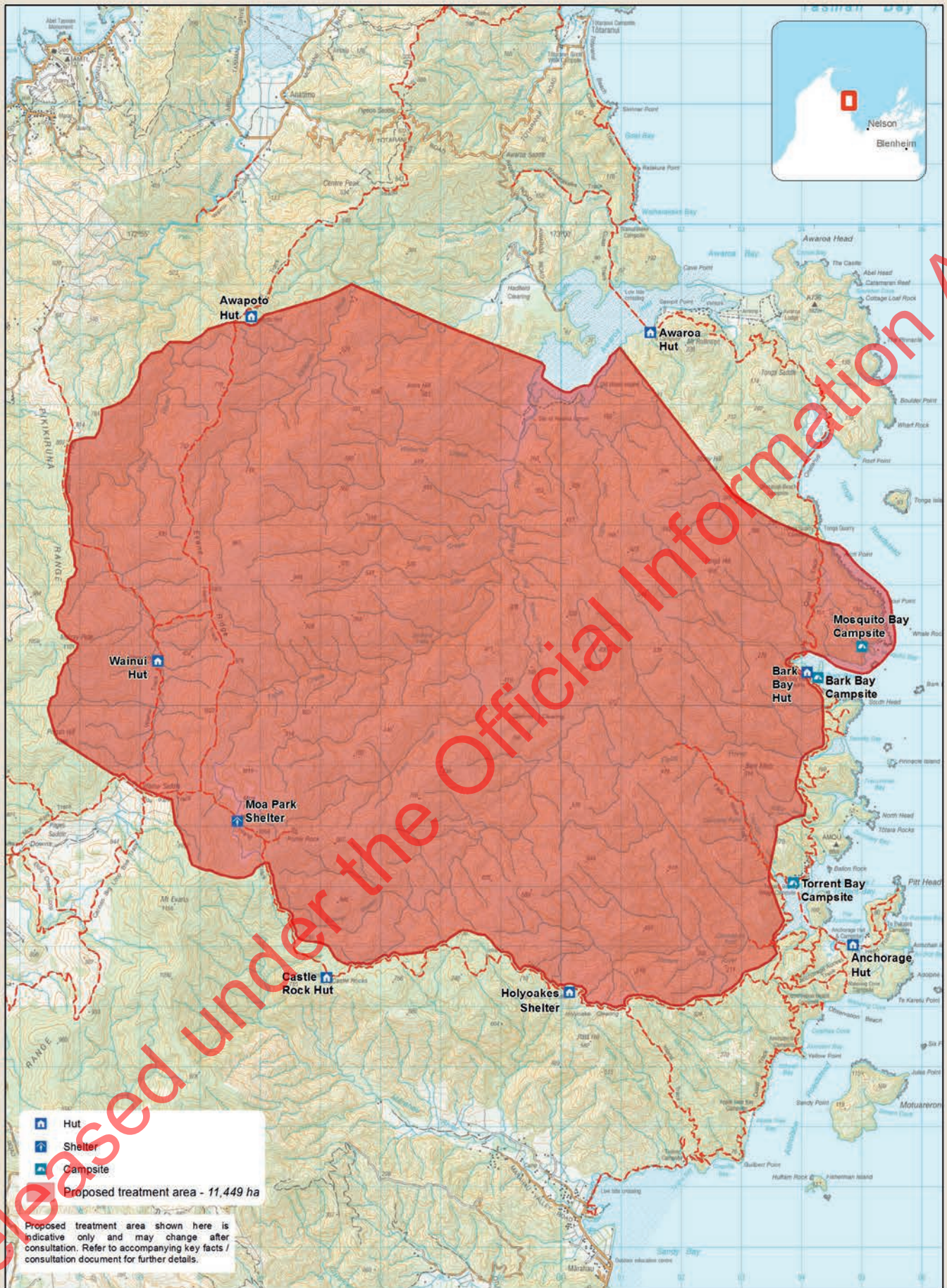
Always contact:

- 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

Motueka Office
Department of Conservation
PO Box 97
Motueka 7143
Phone: (03) 528 1810

Please contact the Motueka office if you would like to be notified again prior to the operation.



Southern Abel Tasman Treatment Area

1080 Aerial Pest Control 2019

Proposed Treatment Area: 11,449 ha





Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



[Name]
[Address]

NOTIFICATION OF AERIAL RAT CONTROL OPERATION IN ABEL TASMAN NATIONAL PARK

The Department of Conservation and Project Janszoon wish to advise you that a rat control operation is scheduled for late-autumn/early-winter 2019 in Abel Tasman National Park. In light of heavy beech seeding, there will be an explosion in rat numbers if the population is left unchecked.

Non-toxic prefeed cereal bait pellets will be aurally applied in the first suitable period of fine weather on or after 29 April 2019.

Toxic 1080 cereal bait pellets will be aurally applied in the first period of fine weather five or more days after prefeed application.

Consent has been obtained from the Nelson/Marlborough Health Protection Unit of the Public Health Service and the Department of Conservation. The consents set conditions on the operation to protect public health and private property boundaries.

Please find enclosed a Key Facts Sheet containing further information, including a map of the area.

Please contact me at the Department of Conservation's Motueka Office should you require more information.

Yours sincerely,

Senior Ranger – Biodiversity,
Department of Conservation, Motueka Office,
03 528 1810, motueka@doc.govt.nz

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Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



[Name]
[Address]

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Consent has been obtained from the Nelson/Marlborough Health Protection Unit of the Public Health Service and the Department of Conservation. The consent and permission will set conditions on the operation to protect public health and native wildlife.

Please find enclosed a Key Facts Sheet containing further information, including a map of the area.

If you would like to be notified within 24 hours of 1080 application, please email or phone the number below.

Please contact me at the Department of Conservation's Motueka Office should you require more information.

Yours sincerely,

Senior Ranger - Biodiversity
Department of Conservation, Motueka Office
03 528 1810, motueka@doc.govt.nz

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Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



[Health Centre/ Vet Practice Name]
[Address]

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Permission has been obtained from Nelson/Marlborough Health Protection Unit of the Public Health Service and the Department of Conservation. The permissions set conditions on the operation to protect public health and native wildlife.

Please find enclosed a Key Facts Sheet containing further information, including a map of the area. Also enclosed is the Material Safety Data Sheet for 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) which contains safety and medical information.

If you would like to be notified within 24 hours of 1080 application, please email or phone the number below.

Please contact me at the Department of Conservation's Motueka Office should you require more information.

Yours sincerely,

Senior Ranger - Biodiversity
Department of Conservation, Motueka Office
03 528 1810, motueka@doc.govt.nz

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Abel Tasman National Park Rat control operation

This notice is a continuation of a public notice first advertised on 23 April 2019.

As part of the ecological restoration of Abel Tasman National Park, Project Janszoon and the Department of Conservation (DOC) will undertake pest control to protect the Park's native species from rising rat numbers.

Toxic cereal baits containing sodium fluoroacetate (1080) will be applied during the first period of fine weather on or after the 19th of June 2019 to the area described below.

No toxic bait will be applied during the holiday period between 6th and 21st July 2019.

Description of the area:

11,449ha bounded by a line from the Awapoto Hut to Awaroa Inlet in the north, the Pikikiruna Range in the west, the Inland Track from Wainui Saddle to Holyoake Shelter in the south, and the Coastal Track from the Cleopatra Pool Track junction to Tonga Quarry in the east.

Some sections of DOC tracks within or adjacent to the sowing area, will be temporarily closed immediately prior to the start of the 1080 operation: Abel Tasman Coast Track (Bark Bay to Tonga Quarry), Abel Tasman Inland Track (Castle Rocks Hut to Awapoto Hut), Wainui Valley Track (Wainui Saddle to Birds Clearing and connecting tracks), Awaroa Schoolhouse Track, Cleopatra's Pool Track and the Falls River Track. A DOC ranger will be stationed at each end of the closed sections to inform visitors. Tracks will be re-opened when a track inspection has been completed to remove as many baits as possible from the track.

Water supplies for Torrent Bay and Awaroa townships, and the Marahau, Canaan and Upper Takaka water catchments, will not be affected.

Method of control:

Cereal baits containing 1080 pesticide will be sown by helicopter to the area described. The baits are cylindrical pellets approximately 2 cm in diameter, dyed green and cinnamon lured.

This pesticide is poisonous to humans and domestic animals.

Always remember:

- **DO NOT** touch bait
- **WATCH CHILDREN** at all times
- **DO NOT EAT** animals from this area
- **DEADLY TO DOGS**, do not allow dogs access to animal carcasses

Observe these rules when you see warning signs placed at public access points in the Park.

Detailed maps of the treatment area may be viewed at the DOC Nelson Visitor Centre, Motueka and Takaka Offices, 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

For further information call Senior Ranger - Biodiversity at the Motueka Office, (03 528 1810) or visit the Motueka Office, cnr King Edward and High Streets, Motueka.



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