

WAIRARAPA PEST ANIMAL DISCUSSION

13 November 2025

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua





Welcome

Karakia

E whakawhetai ana mō tenei ra
He whakamaumahara ki nga taonga o te Ao
turoa tuku iho
Nga maunga, nga awa, nga moana
Nga rakau, nga manu me etahi atu mea
Hei tiritiri mo tatou katoa
O tatou wairua te hanga tangata kotahi
Kia mahi tahi ai
Mo te ao hoa tino pai



Housekeeping

- Toilets
- Emergency exits
- Afternoon tea 2.45pm
- Please hold questions until the panel discussion



Programme

Kirsty McCarthy | Wairarapa Catchment Collective

John Bissell | Backblocks Environmental Management

Glen Falconer | Greater Wellington

Zoe Matthews | OSPRI

Esther Dijkstra | Wairarapa Pūkaha to Kawakawa

Jordan Munn | Trap and Trigger

Q&A Panel

Wairarapa Catchment Collective

Pest Animals Project

1

Engage

- Define group criteria
- Make contact
- Hold initial workshop
- Prepare workshop summary and recommendations

2

Understand

- Conduct monitoring
- Analyse data
- Prepare monitoring report

3

Plan

- Develop recommendations, methods and costings
- Discuss delivery model
- Identify resource requirements and funding applications

4

Deploy

- Run 'how to' workshop (inc. TrapNZ)
- Acquire hardware
- Implement rollout
- Provide ongoing support

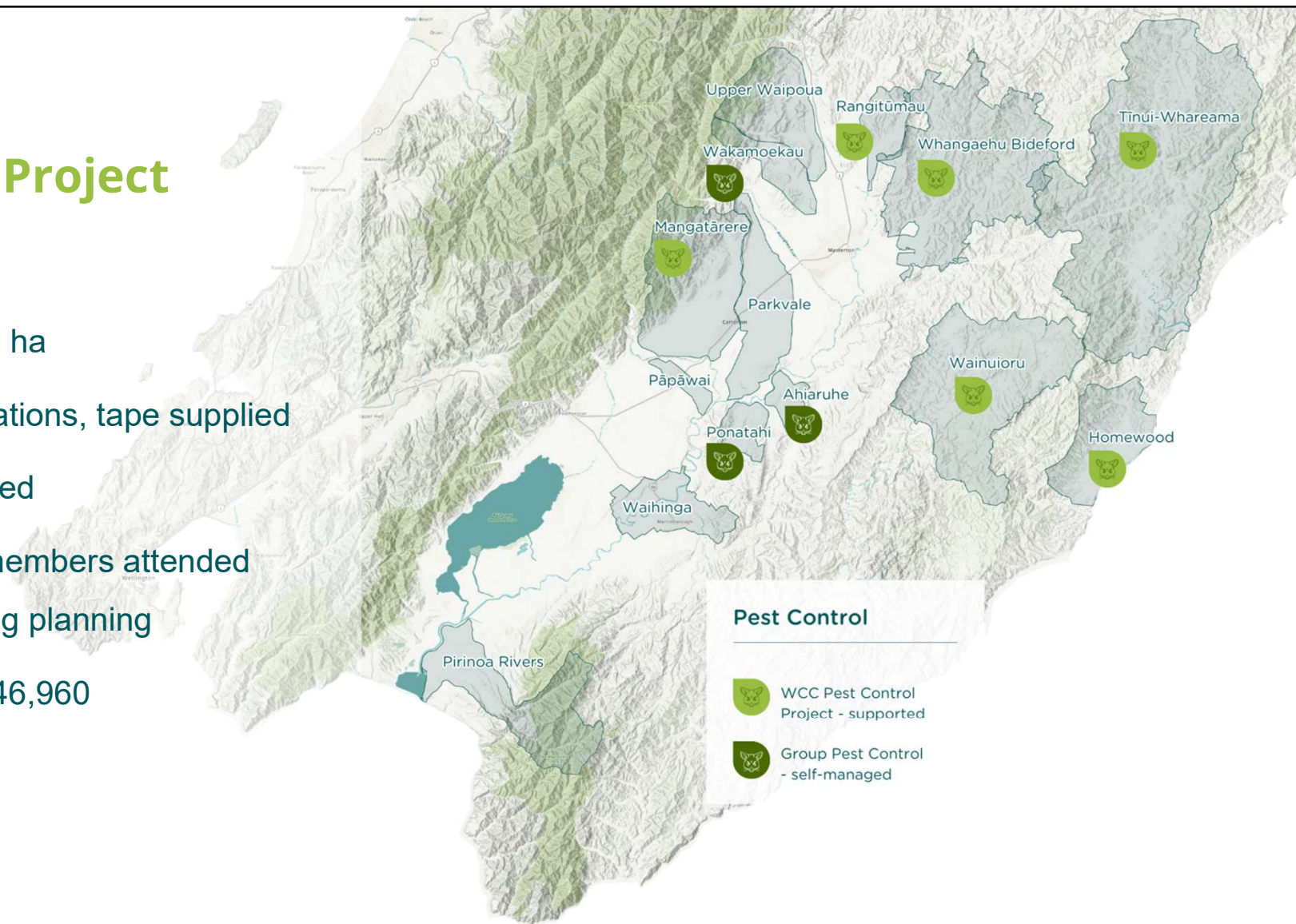
5

Review

- Continue data collection
- Conduct review
- Decide: where to next?

Pest Animals Project

- Six groups
- Monitored 11,000 ha
- Cameras, bait stations, tape supplied
- 320 Traps deployed
- 128 community members attended workshops/training planning
- Funds secured \$46,960



John Bissell
Director





The hard
numbers
on pests



Some have
social value
and some
don't, but they
all come at a
cost

Even these ones!



**Some approximate numbers based
on \$150 gross margin cost, per stock
unit, per year**

Red stag	2.5 SU	\$375 per year
Red hind	2 SU	\$300 per year
Fallow doe	1 SU	\$150 per year
Fallow buck	2 SU	\$300 per year
Goat	1 SU	\$150 per year
Hare	0.3 SU	\$50 per year
Possum	0.14 SU	\$21.50 per year

And don't forget:

- These animals travel big distances to hit the best feed and hit it in front of livestock
- In hard hit areas - Lost productivity through lower condition and flow on lower birth rates
- Increased worm burden and disease risk and transmission
 - Feline toxo and Bovine TB for example
- In droughts, many will travel big distances and concentrate on the remaining best feed in a wide area
- Direct lamb predation and death by mis mothering from pigs
- Lost biodiversity in bush remnants and covenanted areas

Case studies

A photograph of a dead animal, possibly a wild boar or a large dog, lying on its side in a field of tall, dry grass. A black rifle with a scope and a bipod is lying on the ground next to the animal's head. In the background, a brown and white dog is sitting and looking towards the camera. The scene is set in a grassy field with some trees in the distance.



Adding value to environmental projects



www.bbem.co.nz

@nzpredatorhunter

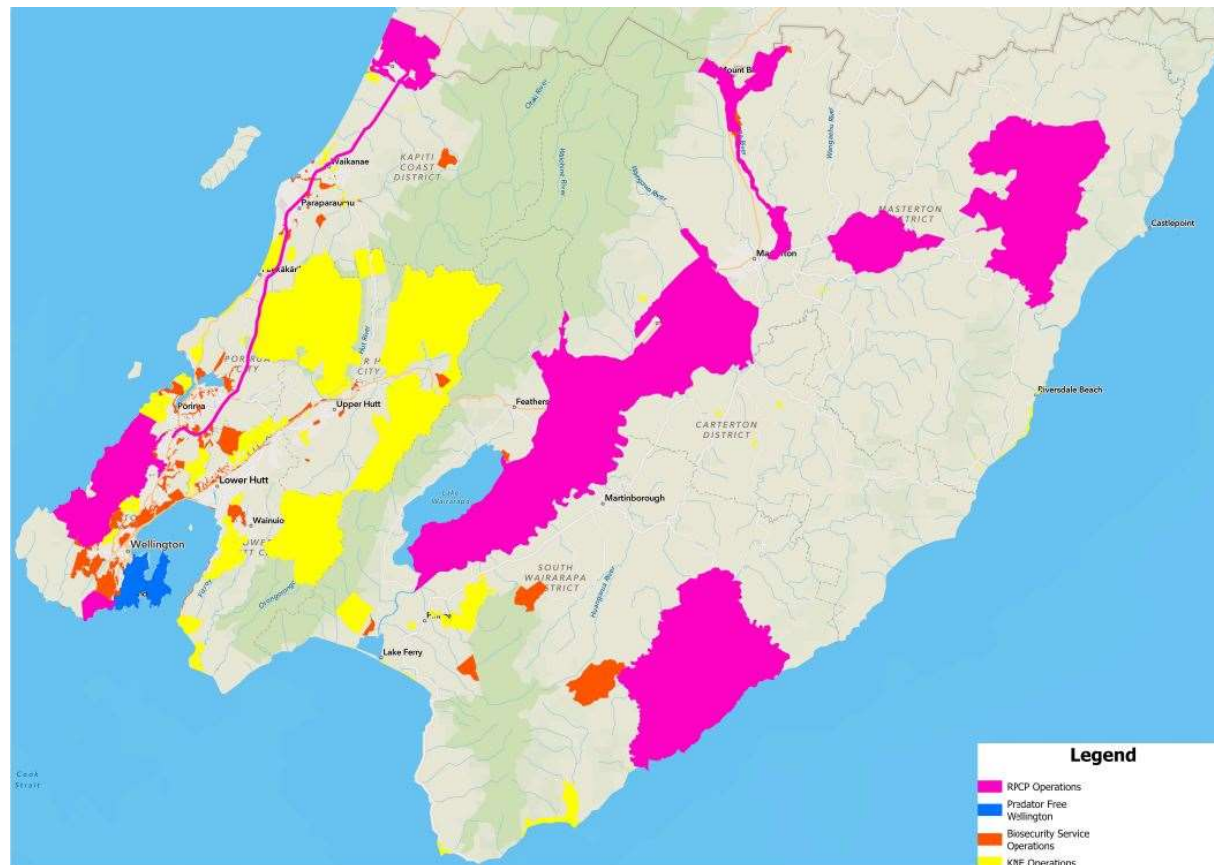
Glen Falconer
Pest Animals - Team Leader



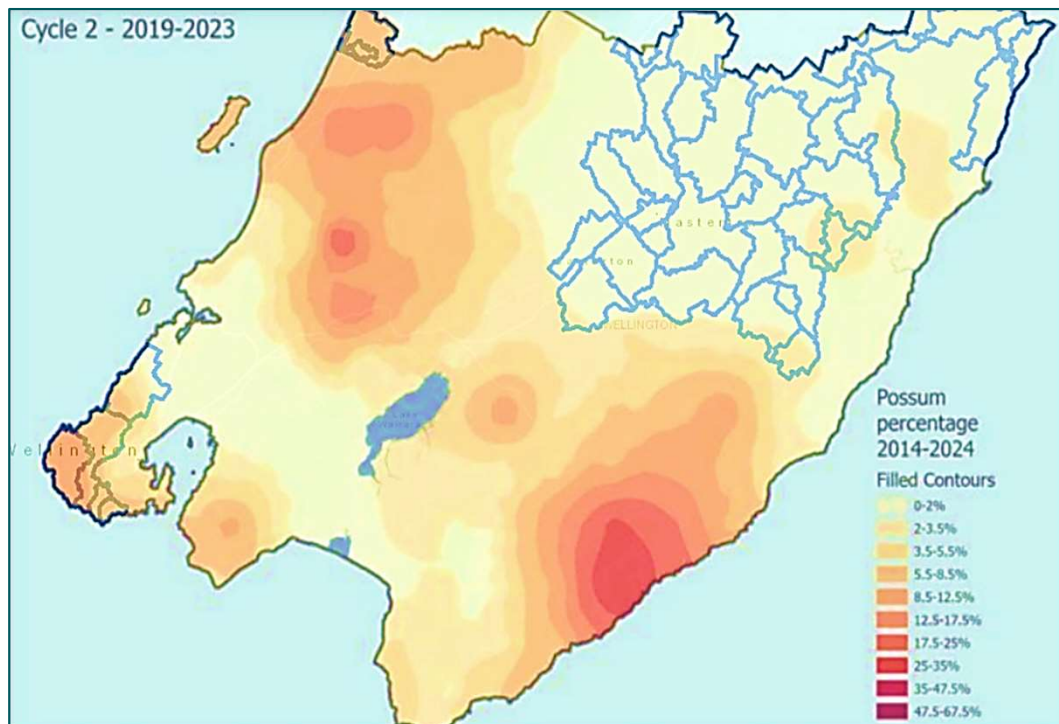


Possum control across the region

What's happening now



Why was the change needed?



The numbers

- Our Region 800,000ha
- Existing RPCP control 200,000ha
60,000ha/y
- Annual budget \$1.6 mil

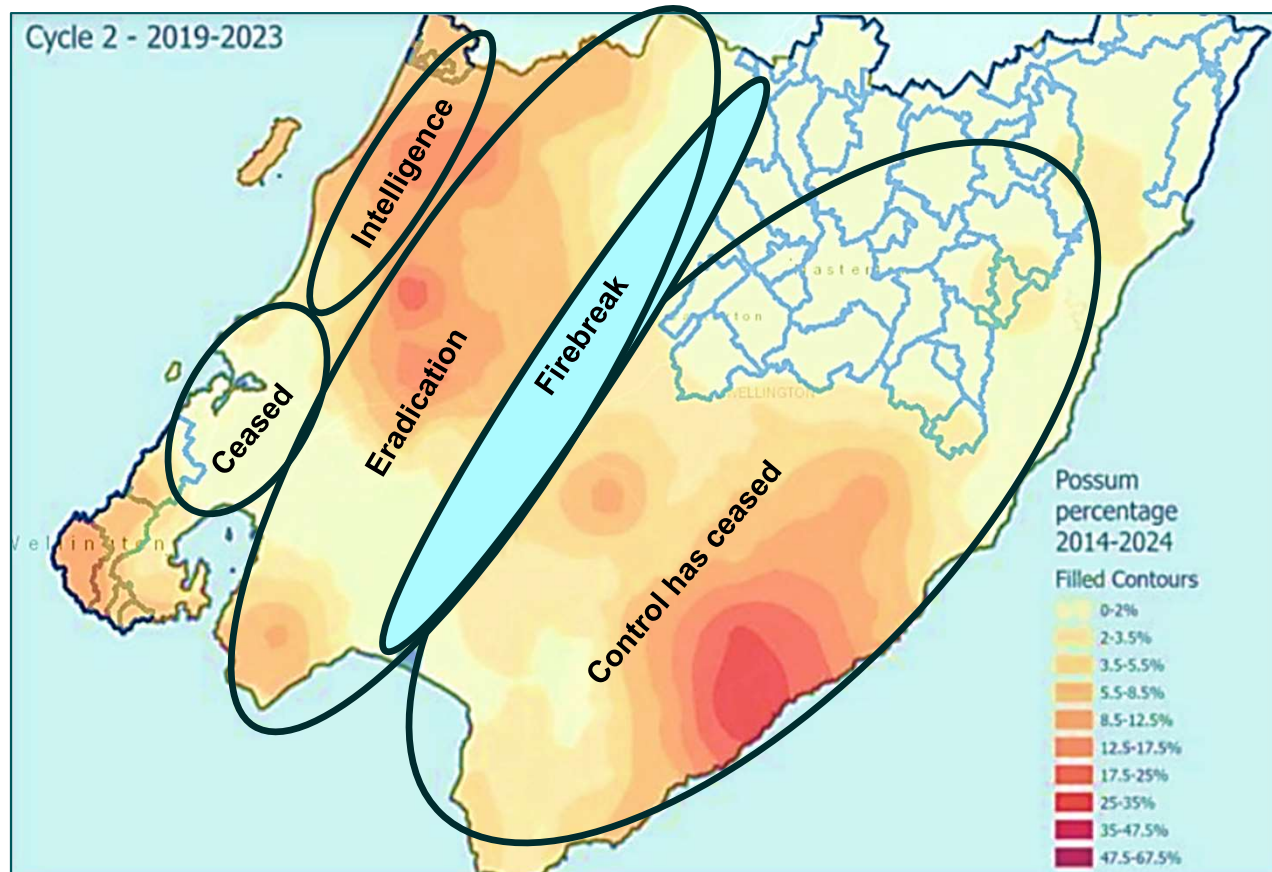
Key focus

- Maintain gains in TB free area

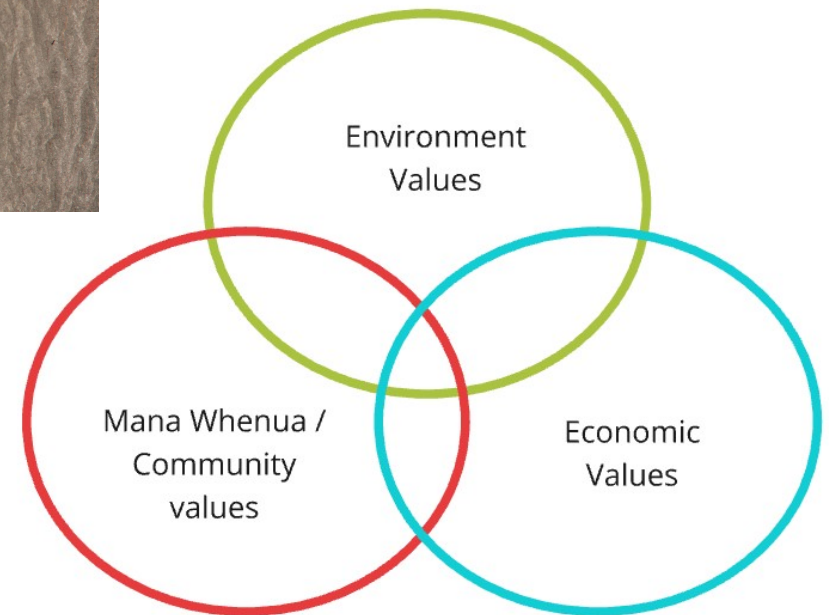
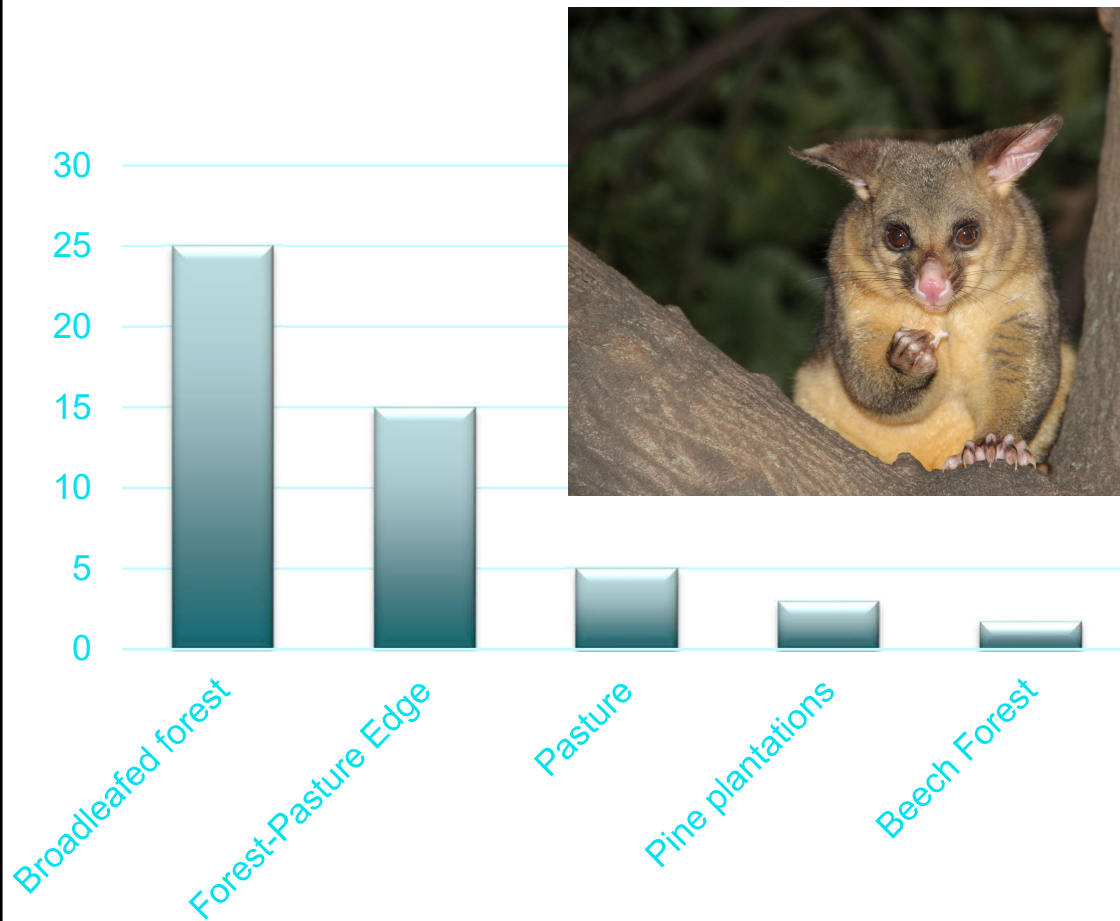
Challenges

- Predator numbers increasing regionally
- Less defensible buffers/ corridors in the long run
- Continued habitat change, species and ecosystems function loss
- Rising economic risk to the region

Operational areas overlaid (GW and OSPRI)



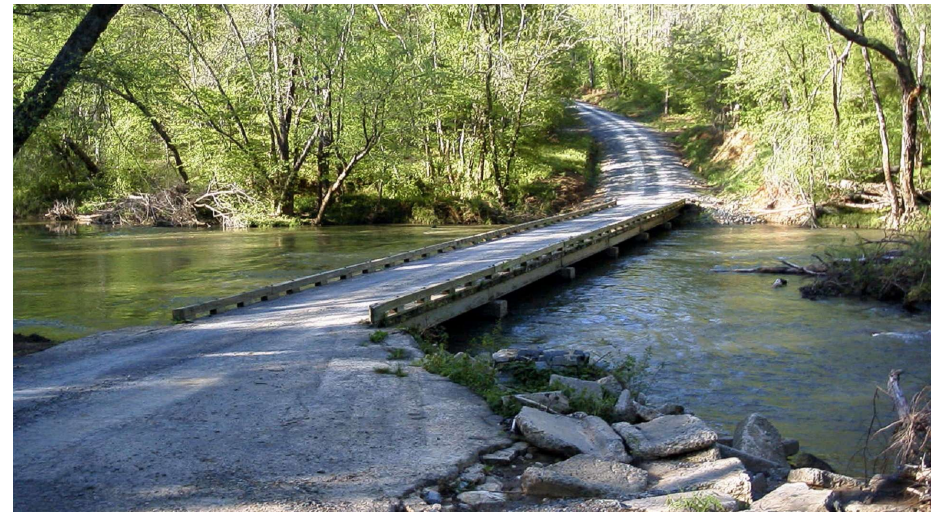
Evidence for High Value Biodiversity (HVB)



Evidence for focusing on High Value Biodiversity (HVB)

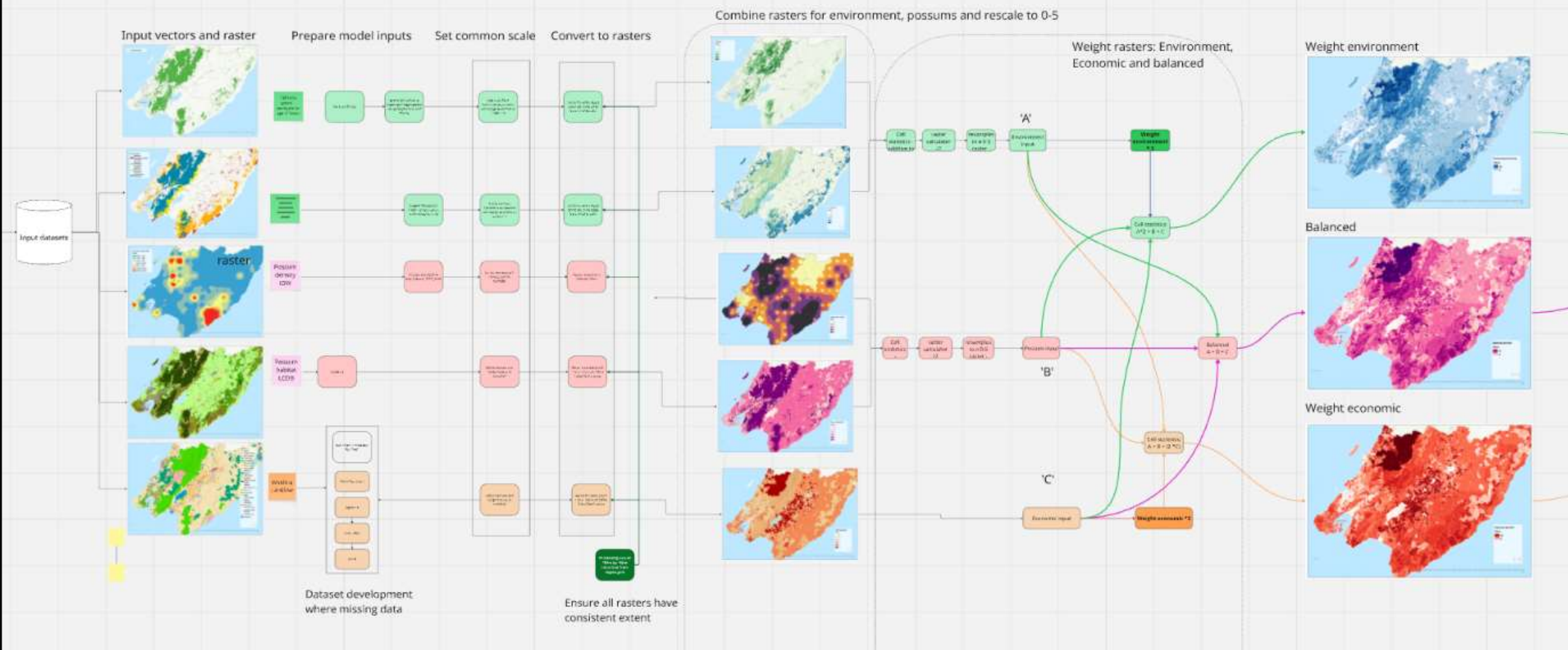
Mustelids and feral cat behavior

- Paths of least resistance
 - Roadsides, streams, ridgelines, drainage cannels
- Predator prey relationship
 - Rabbits sustain mustelids and feral cats
- HVB areas remain hotspot for predators, and they will travel in-between these areas
- Feral Cats pose greatest risk to sheep farming and biodiversity



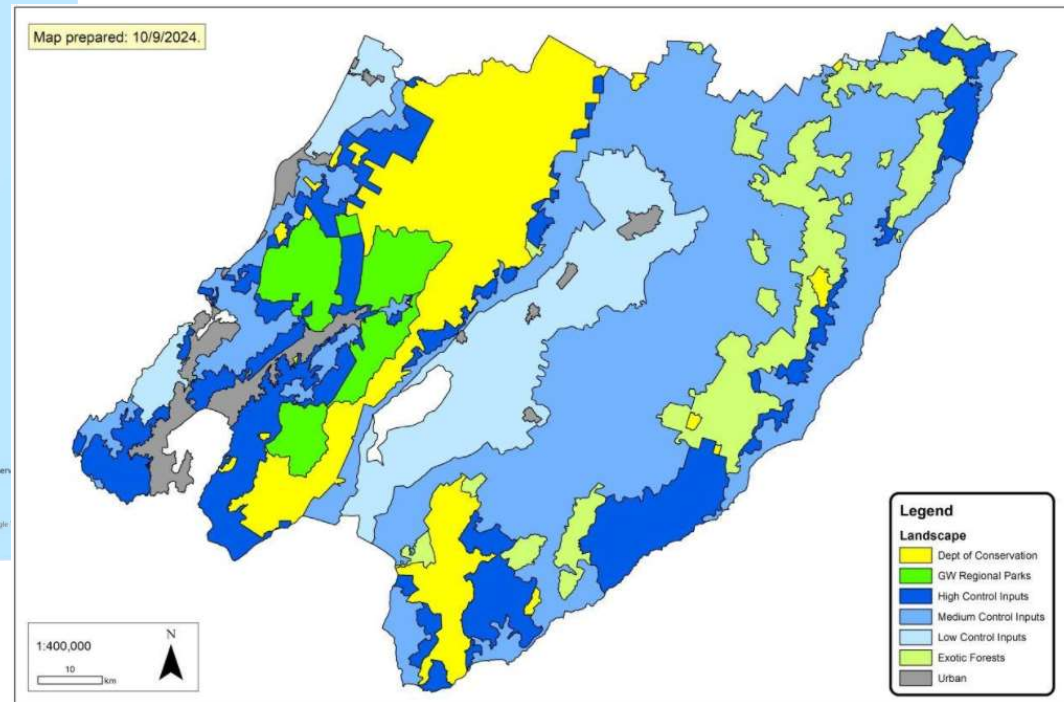
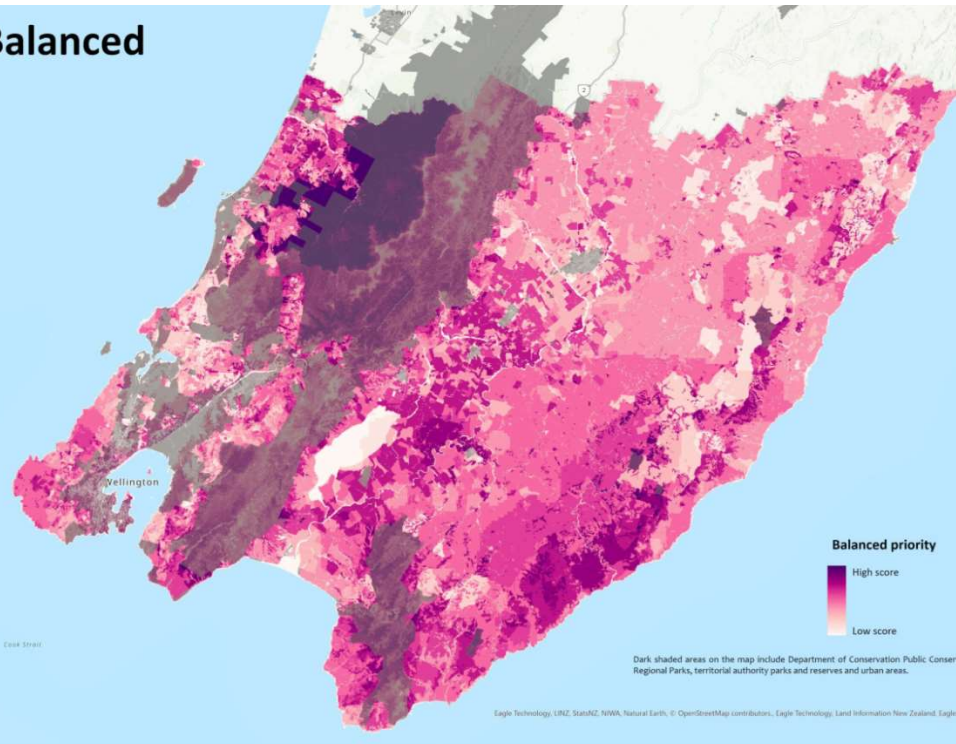
Multi-Criteria Decision-making process

Predator control - multicriteria decision analysis POC



Balanced output – Biodiversity and Economy

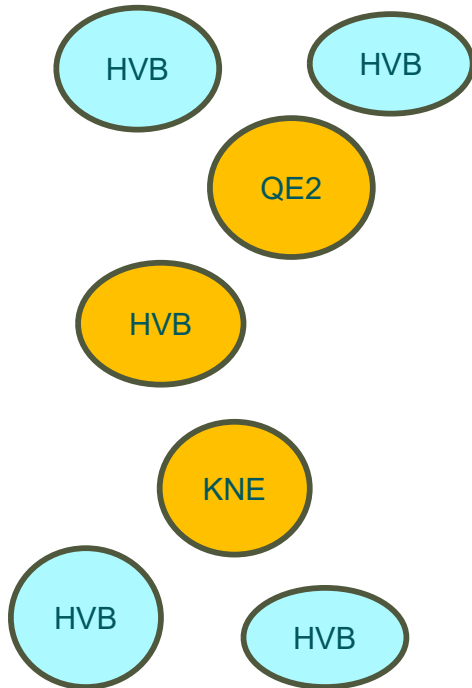
Balanced



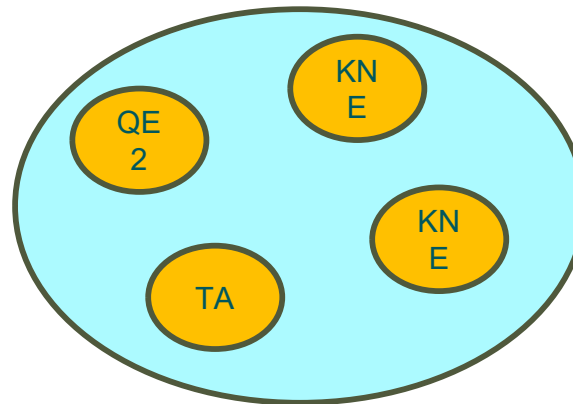
RPCP Review - Possum landscape areas.

The RPCP in practice

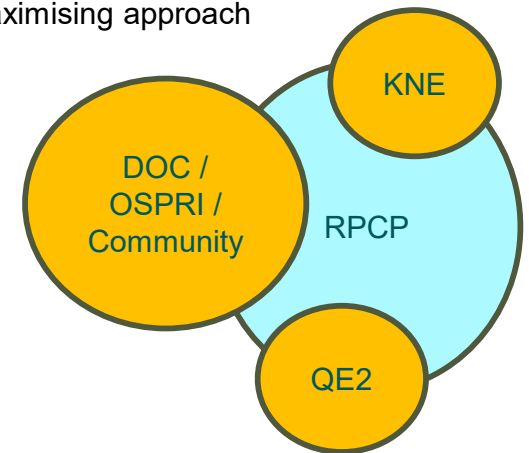
Targeted approach



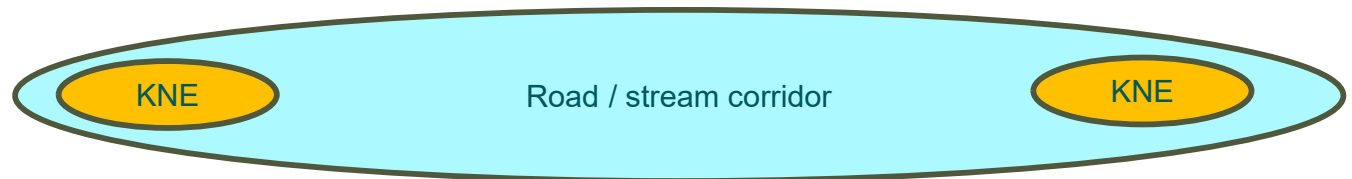
Wrap Around approach



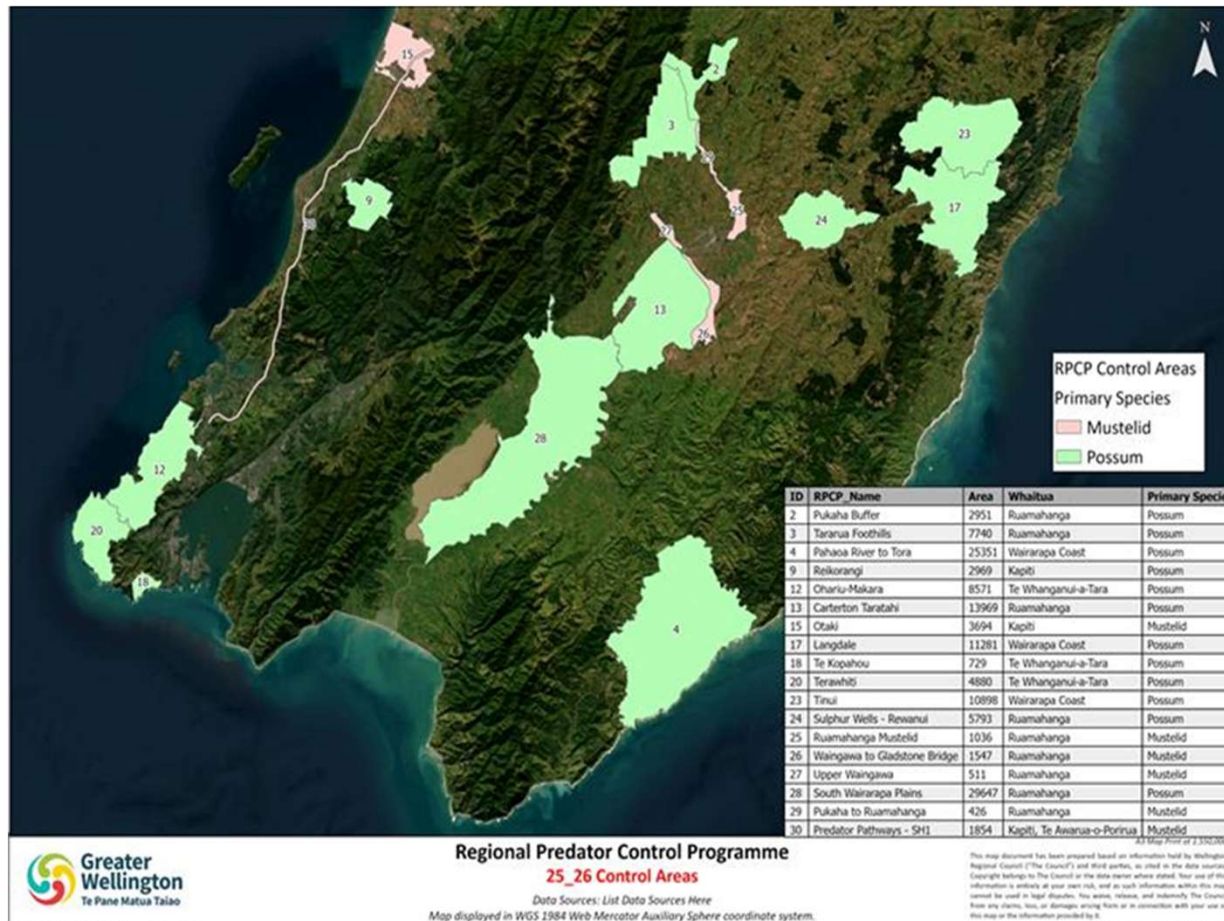
Maximising approach



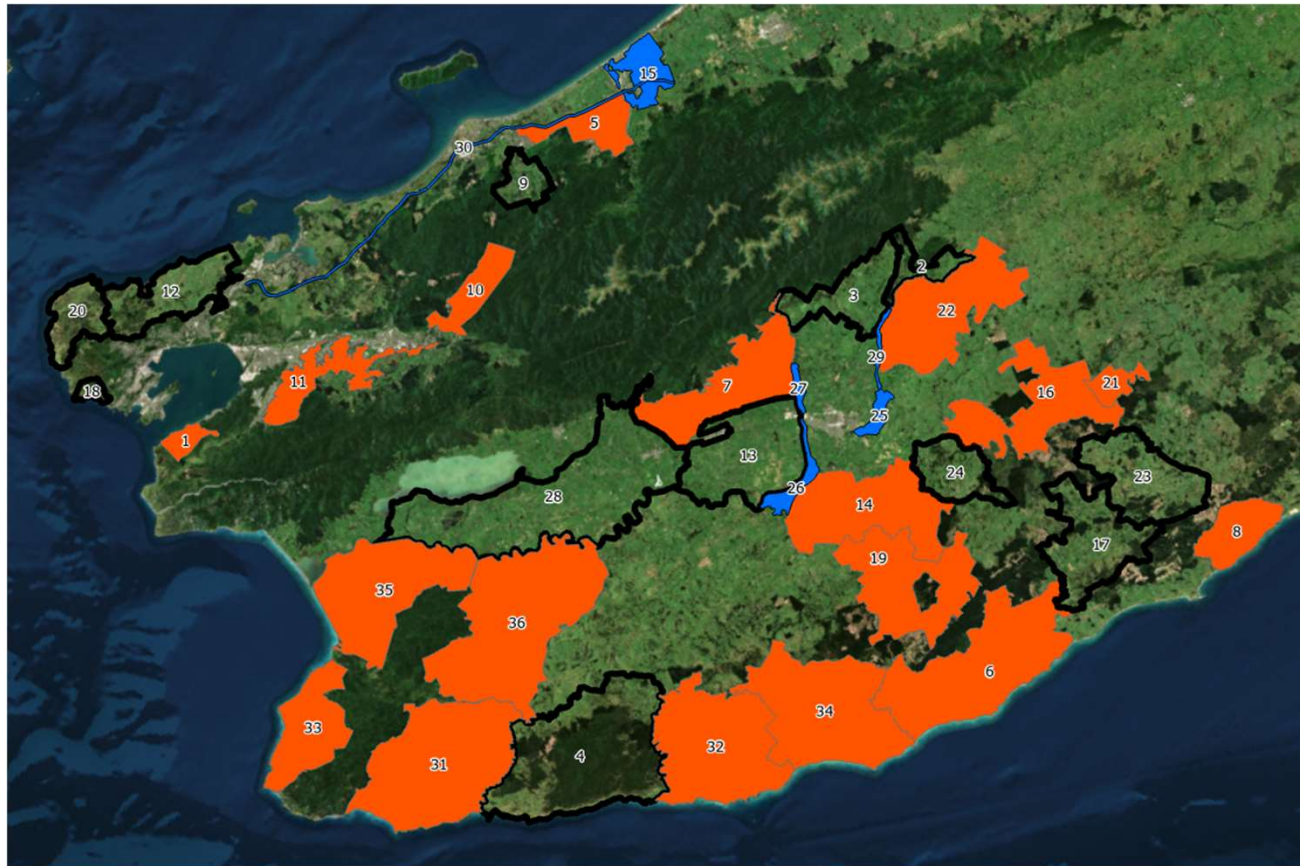
Corridor / buffer approach



Currently underway



Draft plan for next three years



Evaluation (monitoring and reporting)

Evaluation

1. Assess the progress to achieving better outcomes for high value biodiversity
 - Output and outcome monitoring
 - Landowner feedback and survey around possum/predator activity
 - Whether the programme meets the RPMP objectives
2. Effectiveness of the prioritisation tool
 - Sound advice, helpful for operational planning and looking at improvements
3. Collaboration with other players
 - Report on engagement and collaborative efforts with partners, agencies and community initiatives

Reporting

- Focussed on outcomes based reporting.
- Effectiveness of control rather than ha controlled

Key Take Aways

The programme focus is on protecting HVB areas

- Benefits of targeting these areas have shared benefits across the landscape.
- Factored in economic benefits into decision making

Operational areas through the shift

Existing - targeted approach towards HVB

- Support for landowners through advice, Low cost traps and bait, gifting of existing traps and bait stations

New areas – variety of approaches towards HVB

- 49% shift in resources in first year, primarily to the Southern Wairarapa
- Areas are identified through multi-criteria tool and operational planning.

New Programme geared for more collaboration

- Working with the willing approach, at no cost to landowners
- Support collaboration to maximise effort
- Lower overall cost of predator control

How do we do this collectively

Cost recovery / share

- Internal pest animal team (lower cost, retention of IP, more resilient)
- Advice and support from experienced Staff
- Scaling up of operations = lower cost / ha
- Maintaining good contractor base in the region

OSPRI and DOC control

- Keep updated with OSPRI and DOC planned work and work to their boundaries where possible

Predator Free/Catchment community control

- Work with GW catchment team to advise of control underway
- Support groups with advice and education and materials at cost price
- Offer training in pest control equipment use
- Cost recovery service

Other pests

The animals identified in our Regional Pest Management Plan are included under four management programmes:

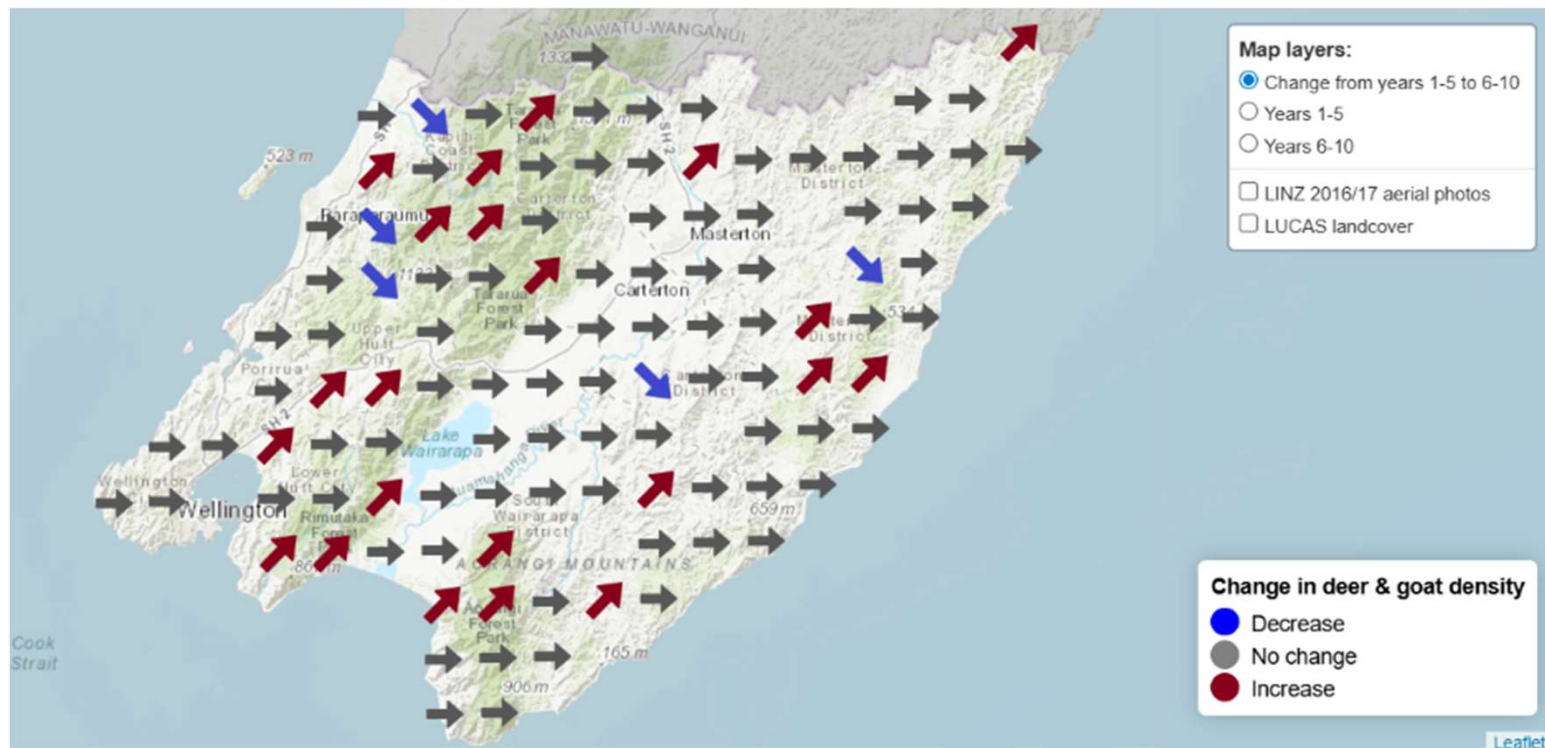
- Exclusion – Wallabies (Bennett's and dama).
- Eradication – Rooks.
- Sustained control – Wasps (common, German, Australian and Asian paper wasp), feral rabbits.
- Site-led programmes – Rats, possums, pest cats, mustelids (ferret, stoat and weasel), magpie, feral goat, feral deer, european hedgehog.

Ungulates

- GW is targeting in high value sites only, but can do cost recovery or contractor referral
- GW Programmes removed over 1300 in 24/25 year (178 pigs, 398 deer, 722 goats)
- Commercial pest control operators taking thousands from forestry and private entities
- Venison recovery on Private Farms
- No legislative powers under RPMP currently
- Encourage landowners to engage with and encourage private hunting
- If available encourage landowners to commercially harvest
- Current clash with food safety buffer zones and pest control poison use
- Encourage areas to commercial harvest wild animals before pest control
- Control more than birthing rate (approx. 1/3)
- Trapping could be considered if planned carefully

Ungulate change across the region

The following map provides an overview of deer and goat density change from two monitoring cycles between 2014/24. More detail can be seen here: [Greater Wellington — terrestrial-ecology \(gw.govt.nz\)](https://www.gw.govt.nz/terrestrial-ecology/)



Pest control for catchments

- Advice is out there, don't hesitate to ask or look on our website
- Spend money on pest control as well as planting
- Do what is manageable, set up for sustainability
- Use barriers (fences) for long term exclusion
- Use natural food and geographical features to target animals
- Eradicate not educate

How can you get involved?

- RPMP submissions – review before 2029
- LTP and annual plan submissions
- Support control operations by allowing access (no gaps)
- Make pest control part of your farming operations
- Possum trap kits for loan
- GW often have old gear to give away, get in contact
- Use Trap.nz to record effort – invite pest.animals@gw.govt.nz to your project to report regionally and include in planning boundaries

Zoe Matthews
OPSRI





Lower North Island TB eradication

Zoe Matthews, SFO



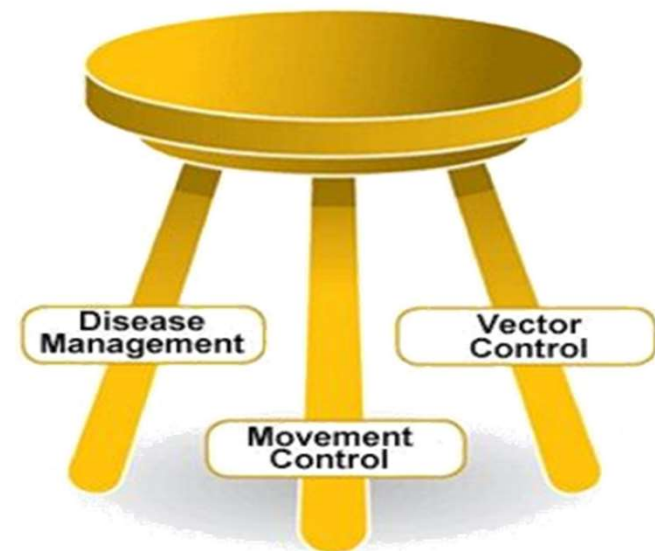
Today's agenda

1. OSPRI - three programmes
2. Progress so far
3. Vector control + Proof of freedom
4. Southern North Island (SNI)
5. TB plan review

WHO IS OSPRI?

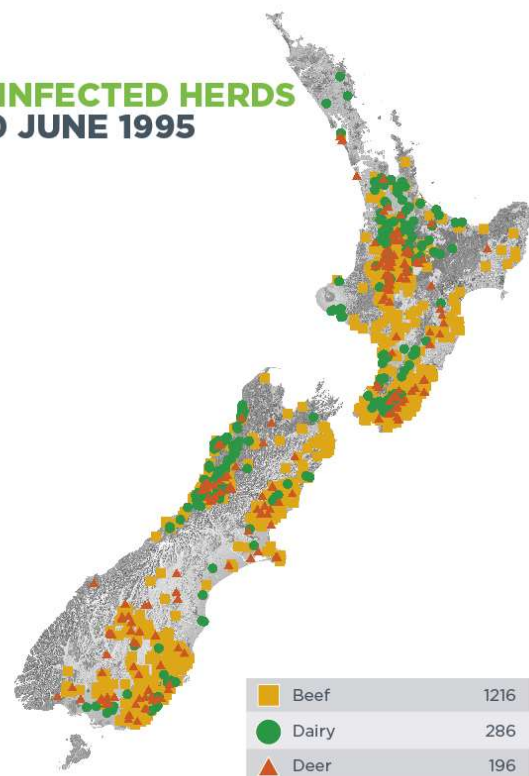


| NAIT | TBfree | MBfree

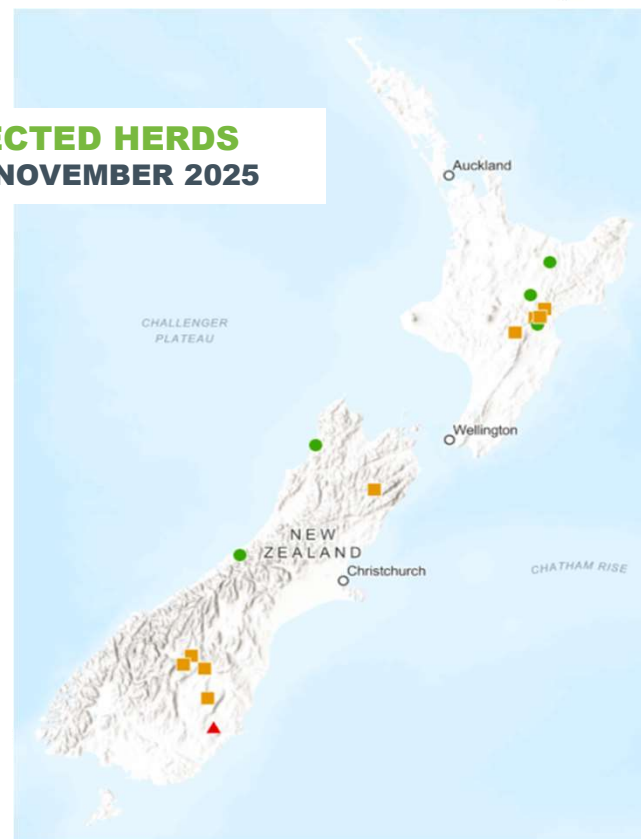


Progress so far

**1698 INFECTED HERDS
AT 30 JUNE 1995**



**15 INFECTED HERDS
AT 12TH NOVEMBER 2025**



Vector Control **“Pest Management”**

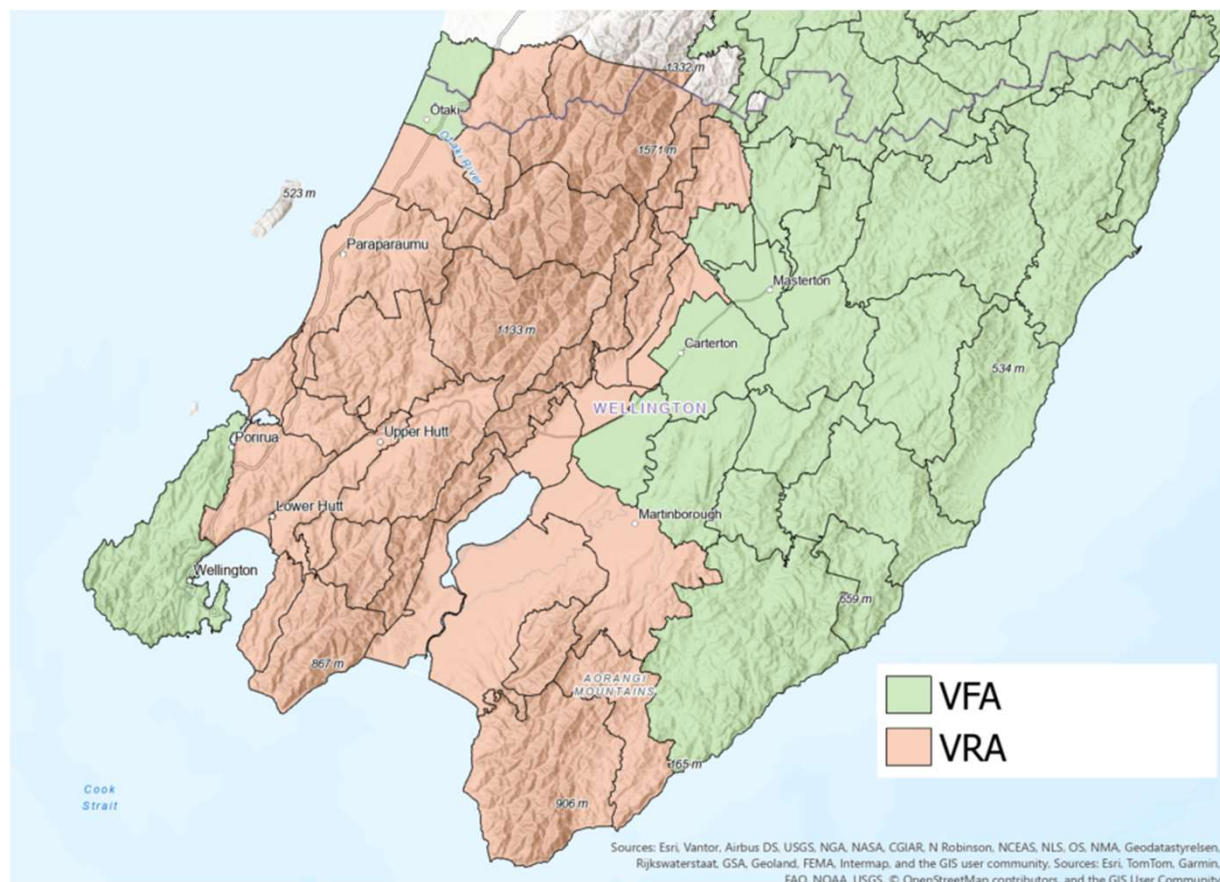
OSPRI's role is disease management

Possums are the primary wildlife reservoir (vector) for bovine TB in NZ

TB can spread from possums to cattle and deer, threatening livestock health and trade and poses serious health risks.

OSPRI's TB free programme aims to eradicate bovine TB by 2055

Vector Risk Area's



Proof of Freedom

Declaring an area 'free' of TB

Possum density/populations

Herd testing

Control history

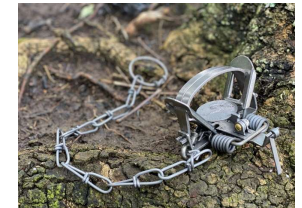
Surveillance history

Ongoing risk

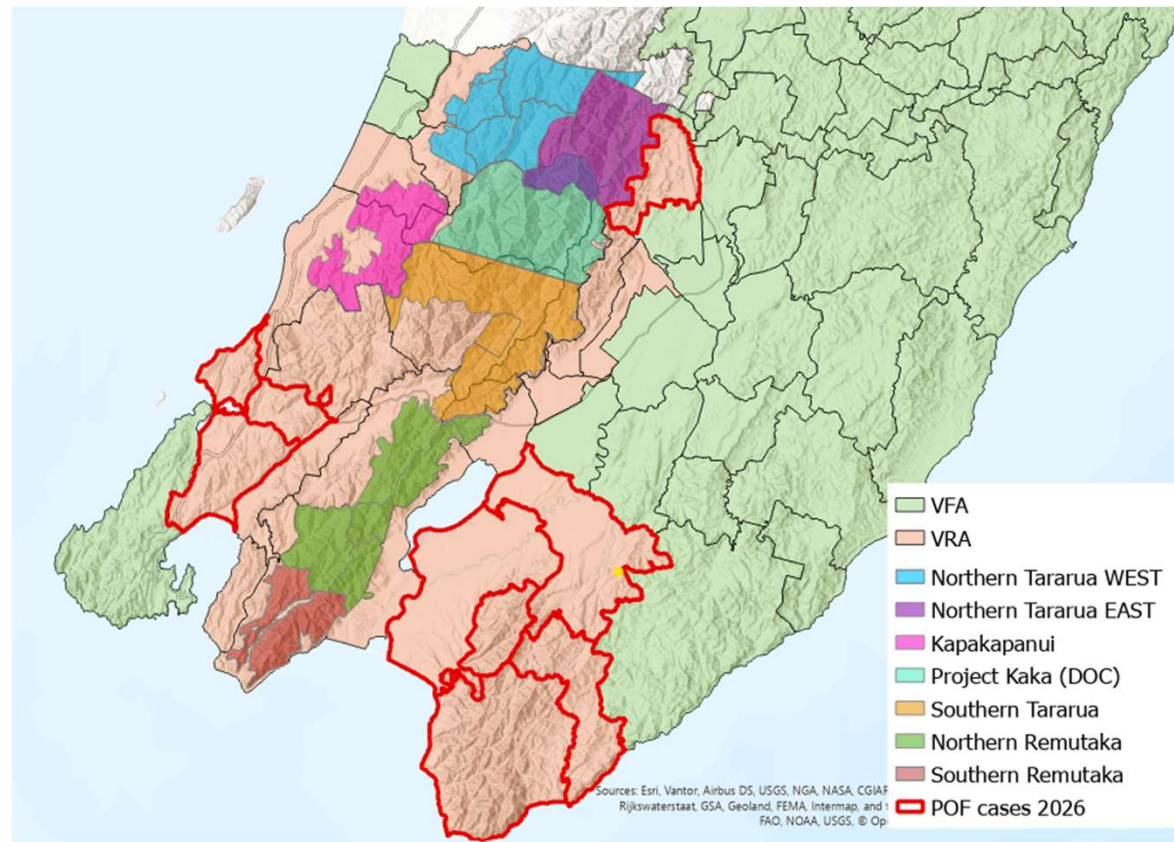
Vector control

Multiple ways to approach an area for eradication:

- Herd testing only
- Vector control only
- Vector control and surveillance
- Surveillance only

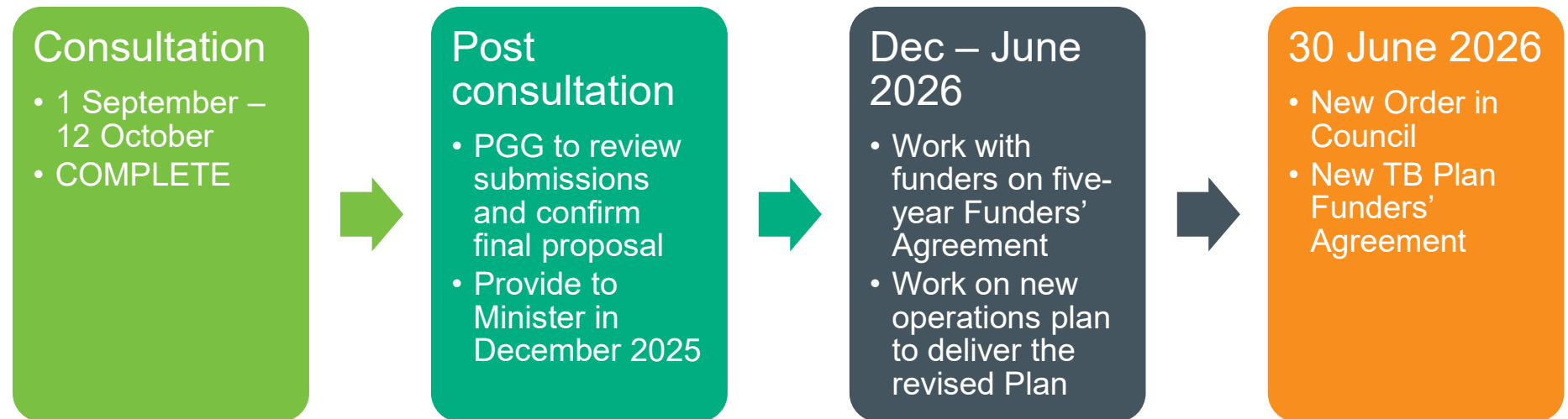


SNI vector control



TB Plan review

Timeline



Questions?

Zoe Matthews
Supervisor, Filed Operations, SNI
[E. Zoe.Matthews@ospri.co.nz](mailto:E.Zoe.Matthews@ospri.co.nz)
P. 0273098328

www.ospri.co.nz



Esther Dijkstra

Wairarapa Pūkaha to Kawakawa



Wairarapa
Pūkaha to Kawakawa
Alliance

Tēnā koutou katoa

Ko Wairarapa Tātou,
Wai Ora, Tangata Ora
Whenua Ora, Mauri Ora

Thriving biodiversity and
connected communities
where land, water and
people flourish



Wairarapa
Pūkaha to Kawakawa
Alliance

WaiP2K's long term goal:

Improve biodiversity across
Wairarapa through connected
communities

Connect - Enable - Advocate

Pest Animal Stocktake

Wairarapa wide pest animal control stocktake

Presented at annual Hui in Martinborough

Available on our website

Many people contributed to this document



Workshops and training

Provide information, expertise and resources that enables individuals and groups to thrive and build momentum to affect change



Backyard trapping series

Trapping Workshops

ADVOCATE

Advocate for an improved Te Taiao on behalf of the community with government agencies and NGOs



Predator Free Masterton

- 200+ registered traps rat traps tunnels out in Backyards, Reserves, Community Gardens/Mara kai
- Reported catches: 160 rats, 120 mice, 25 possums, 1 stoat, 2 weasels, 5 hedgehogs and a feral cat
- Menzshed volunteers engaged with tunnel building



Wairarapa
Pūkaha to Kawakawa
Alliance

Predator Free Carterton

- Reported catches: 40 rats, 25 mice, 3 possums, 2 hedgehogs
- 130 rat traps tunnels out in Backyards, Reserves, Community Gardens/Mara kai
- Menzshed volunteers engaged with tunnel building



**PREDATOR FREE
CARTERTON**



**Wairarapa
Pūkaha to Kawakawa
Alliance**

What's Next?

Maintain the Urban Momentum

Expand to Peri-Urban Zones

Training workshops and celebrate success

Strengthen Partnerships for Scale - integration of PF

Thank you to our funders

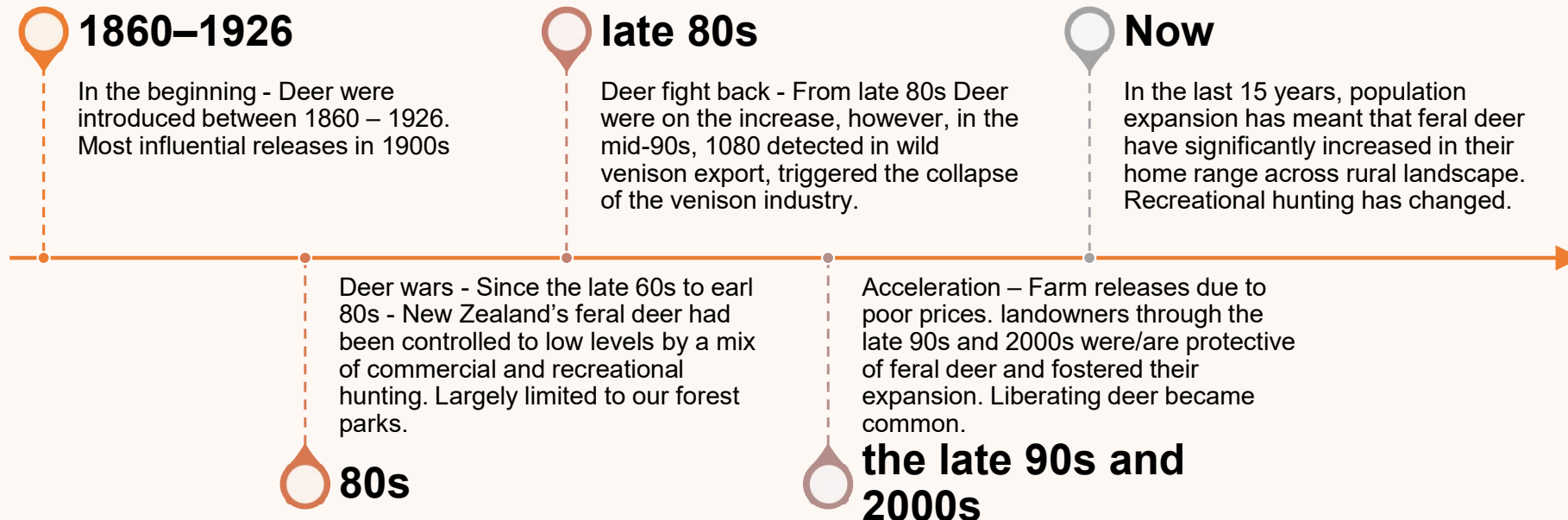


Jordan Munn

Trap and Trigger



Evolving deer issues





So this is currently training round our property,
Wellington Road.



THESE SITES ARE BECOMING MORE COMMON

Effects of poorly managed feral deer herds



Recreational hunting unbalances the female/male ratio. Usually 60/40, but often observed at 90/10 or higher



Poor genetics over time when female ratio are high, often due to less desirable stags having low competition



Over time body weights/condition decreases



Always more feral deer than anticipated, they will be in the best paddocks ahead of stock, and targeting the best feed.



Typical control tools

- Hunters with indicator dogs
- Aerial shooting
- Trapping / Pens
- Thermal assisted aerial shooting
- Night shooting (Thermal and spotlights)
- Thermal drone assisted hunting
- WARO



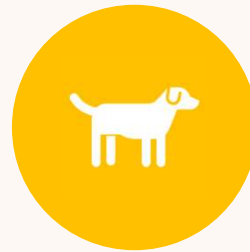
WARO – Wild Animal Recovery Operation



DOMESTIC SUPPLY OF
FERAL DEER HAS
REDUCED, LARGELY
DUE TO CONVERSION
FROM VENISON TO
VELVET FARMS



DEMAND FOR VENISON
FROM EUROPE HAS
INCREASED



THIS HAS CAUSED AN
INCREASE IN PRICE FOR
FERAL VENISON



VENISON RECOVERY
RULES ARE SET BY MPI





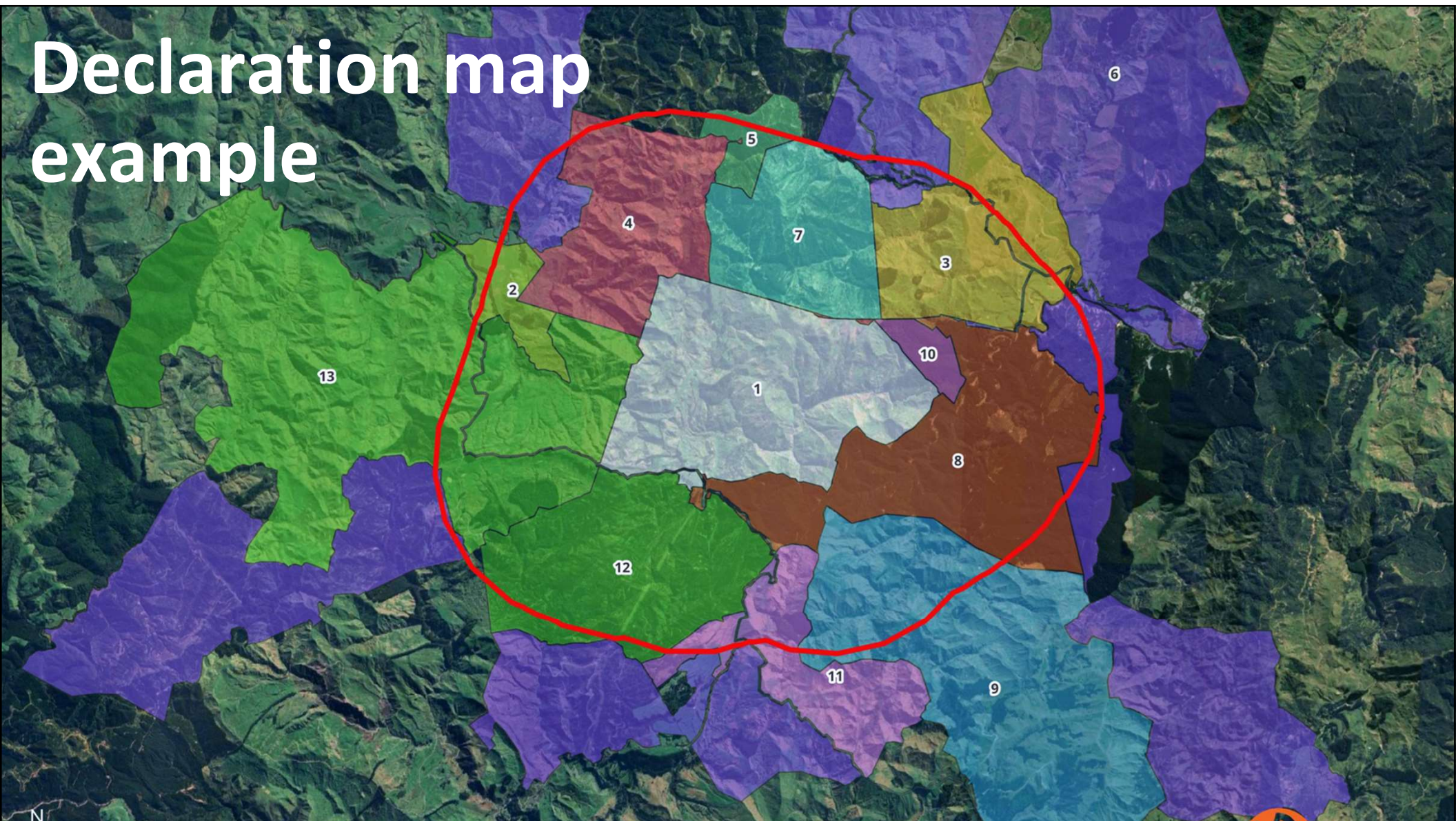
Set up

- Chiller Truck (\$80,000)
- HT license's
- WARO concession (\$4000)
- MPI Certified Supplier
- Gutter training
- Lifting gear
- Declarations (Renewed every three months)
- Existing resources - Helicopter, P-endorsements, ammunition, pilot

Poisons and declarations

Poison group		1	2	3	4
Poison		Zinc phosphide Para-aminopropiophenone Sodium nitrite Any other poison not covered in groups 2 to 4 (except sodium cyanide, potassium cyanide and cholecalciferol)	Diphacinone Pindone	Coumatetralyl 1080	Brodifacoum Difethialone Bromadiolone Flocoumafen Difenacoum
Caution period (all species)		1 month	2 months	4 months	3 years
Buffer zone	Rabbits	0 m	200 m	200 m	200 m
	Hares, tahr, wallabies	0 m	1 km	1 km	1 km
	Goats, chamois, deer, buffalo	0 m	2 km	2 km	2 km
	Pigs and other species	0 m	2 km	2 km	5 km

Declaration map example



Ministers update

With regards to Brodifacoum, Food Safety is supposed to be making the changes on the Admin side so that the paperwork burden is reduced, so rather than needing the signed copies from every landowner, instead we just have that online map tool. So that and some other admin matters are being in theory progressed, but good reminder for me to check that work is actually happening. But that should happen quickly. With regards to the restriction area and stand down time. Effectively we need to do Trial work to prove safety, so not as fast. I'm working through what these trails need to look like. To change these I do need evidence to show that the risk is as unlikely as farmed animals from consuming it. We will also be engaging with the meat industry to get their views around the trade risks. I will however get a more detailed update for you.

Economics of WARO

- 25 – 29kg = \$4.00 p/kg
- 30 – 34kg = \$4.80 p/kg
- 35 – 39kg = \$6.00 p/kg
- 40 – 45kg = \$6.50 p/kg
- 46 – 50kg = \$6.75 p/kg
- < 51kg = \$7.00 p/kg

Operating costs:

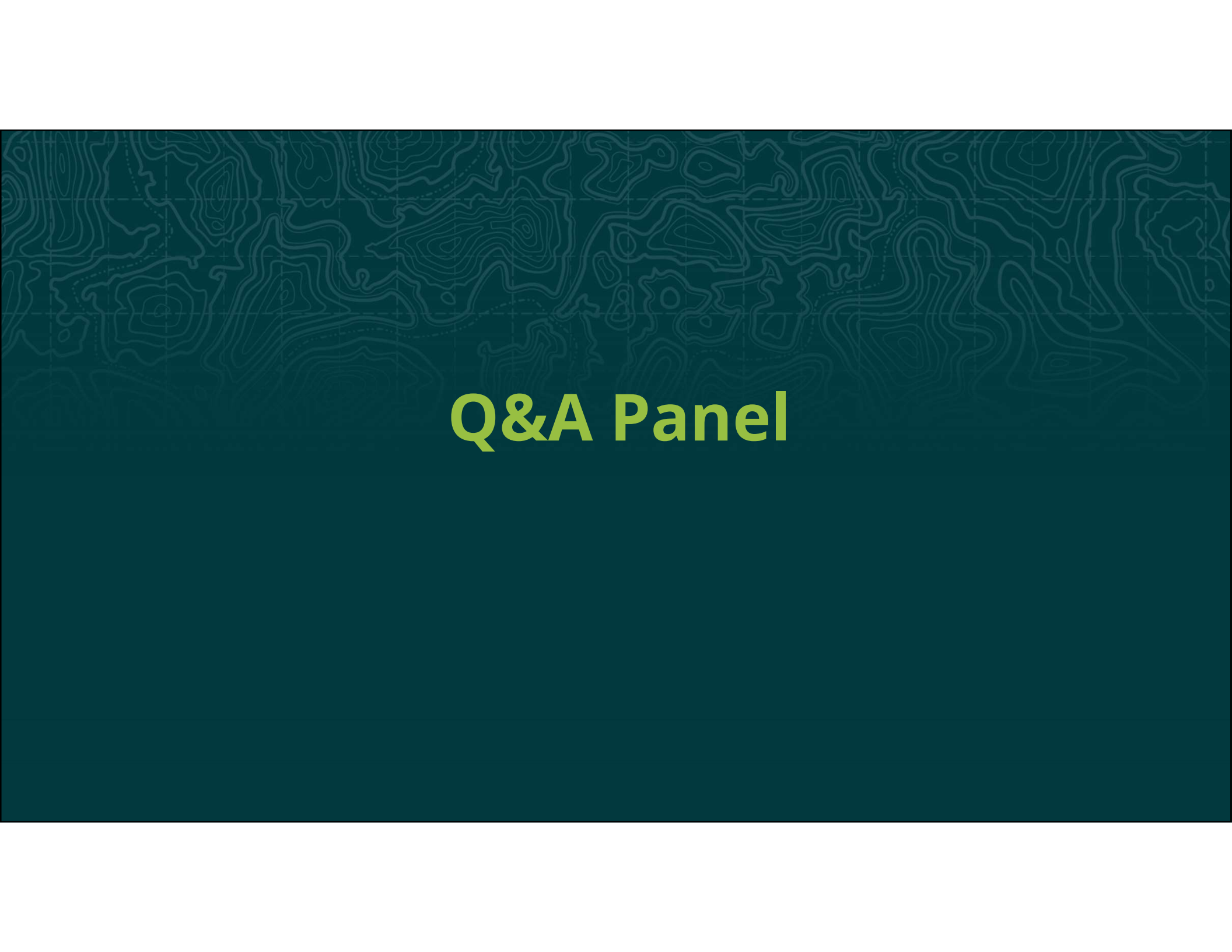
- Chiller truck
- Ground handler/gutter
- Data management
- Declarations
- Helicopter/pilot (Including ferry)
- Shooter/ammunition



- Approx. 5 deer (+40kg each) per 1.0 hours. Operation is subsidised at half cost to the landowner/client.
- Approx. 10 deer (+40kg each) per 1.0 hours. Enough weight recovered to cover the operation cost, meaning control is delivered at no charge to the landowner.
- Approx. 15+ deer (+40kg each) per 1.0 hours. The operation becomes profitable, and we can provide a rebate of up to \$1 per kg to the landowner/client.

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Afternoon Tea

The background of the slide is a dark teal color with a subtle, light-colored topographic map pattern. The pattern consists of concentric, irregular lines that resemble contour lines on a map, creating a textured effect. The text "Q&A Panel" is centered in the middle of the slide.

Q&A Panel