

**Possum Control on Napier Hill**

Hawke's Bay Regional Council will be working with Napier City Council on a possum control operation centred on Napier Hill's steep gullies and parks - **from February to June 2009**.

The goal is to reduce possum numbers to a low level across Napier Hill. Similar programmes in Wellington, Hamilton and Auckland have resulted in birds and trees flourishing – something that will be good to see in our urban spaces.

It won't be just the Hill that benefits. Regional Council biosecurity staff receive about 100 calls a year from people concerned about possums in urban areas, and a lot of these calls come from the Napier Hill area. As possums travel from the gullies on the Hill to surrounding suburbs, other neighbourhoods should also see a change for the better such as increased native bird life, better growth with less vegetation damage to house gardens and park reserves, and less property damage.

This urban possum control operation is one of the Regional Council's programmes to increase urban biodiversity and

improve your lifestyle in the cities. We also support the pathways project, enhance waterways such as the Karamu Stream, and we are restoring the wetlands at Waitangi Estuary.

**Residents can decide the control methods**

**The possum control will be carried out from mid February to June 2009 in the area shown in the map.** Hawke's Bay Regional Council will use skilled contractors who will use a variety of methods to ensure an efficient and safe control programme. Residents will be able to decide the type of control method on their property. The success of the programme will depend on the level of community support.

The contractors will carry ID cards. They will contact all property owners or residents whose land they would like to access, and will have to have your signed permission before they do control work on individual properties. They will provide property owners with additional information on the control methods, safety aspects and provide contact details. All traps will be pinpointed by GPS technology so they can be maintained and retrieved at the end of the control operation.



Napier Hill  
Possum Control Area

*"It'll mean we will see more native birds in the area and much less possum damage on our property."*

### What happens after the control is completed?

After the initial control has been completed the Regional Council aims to maintain possum densities at very low levels, with the support from the Napier City Council and the community.

The community can assist by regularly servicing a bait station or a kill trap on their property. Bait stations and traps are subsidised by the Regional Council and can be purchased through the Farmlands store.

Please talk to us if you would like to be part of a community biodiversity group for the Napier Hill.

Main Street resident for 20 years, David Pope has done his fair share of possum control on his property. Possums have been keen on his fruit trees and newly planted natives. Using Timms traps he gets about 12 possums a year, sometimes more.



*"I think that the control operation on Napier Hill is great – my neighbours think it's marvellous too. It'll mean we will see more native birds in the area and much less possum damage on our property."*

**For further information** about this Urban Control work you can learn more by visiting the Regional Council web site, [www.hbrc.govt.nz/What we do/Pests/Animals/Frequently Asked Questions](http://www.hbrc.govt.nz/What%20we%20do/Pests/Animals/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions), or the Fact Sheet link.

For more specific concerns please phone Dean Roughton on 833 8088.

### Safe methods to be used

The contractor is able to use a number of control methods, and residents can decide which is the most appropriate for their property. The contractor will check all control methods daily, removing all controlled possums from the property.

**Live capture** traps are cages which catch the possum live and the contractor will take the possum off site within hours to dispose of humanely.



The **Timms Kill trap** is the most commonly used trap in urban gardens throughout New Zealand. The Timms trap is usually set on the ground.



The **Possum Master** trap is a kill trap that is set in trees around 1.5 - 2m above the ground making it a good choice to use in the urban environment.

**Bait Stations** help maintain low possum densities after the control has been carried out, and are also set in trees around 1.5 - 2m above the ground.



The control methods that will be used on the Napier Hill have been used very successfully and safely in a number of other cities around New Zealand, in particular Wellington and Auckland.

### Safety notes

If you have any concerns with regard to young children or pets, please feel free to discuss this with the Hawke's Bay Regional Council's contractor when he calls.

### Keen to get rid of possums?

If you know you have a possum problem now (perhaps a particular tree or route favoured by possums) please let the contractor know when they contact you. The information will be valuable in helping the contractor plan the best placement of traps.