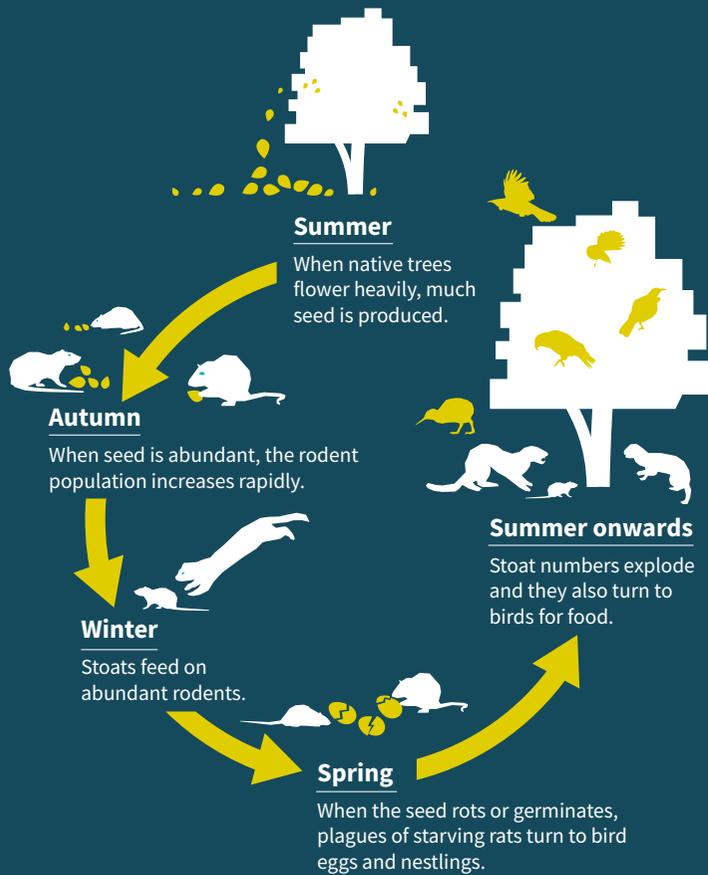


# Predator plague cycle



## Timeframe

**Early September 2019 onwards** – application of “pre-feed” tan-coloured cereal pellets (non-toxic)

**One to two weeks later** – green coloured 1080 cereal pellets applied (toxic), weather permitting

## Planning and preparation

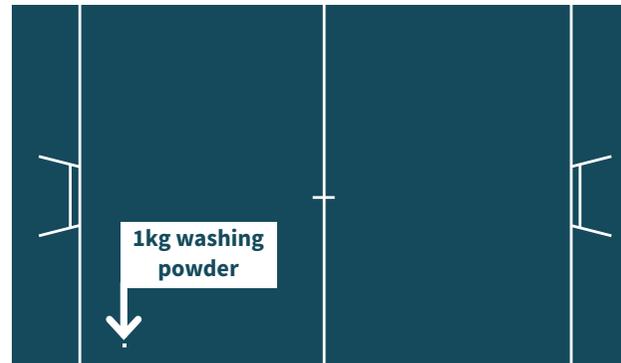
The operation is subject to strict safety, quality assurance and monitoring requirements. Advanced GPS navigational equipment will be used to ensure the pellets are accurately placed and identified exclusion zones avoided.

The use of 1080 requires the consent of the Medical Officer of Health and compliance with the Hazardous Substances & New Organisms Act along with the Resource Management Act.

We will notify all neighbours and other interested parties of the operation. Warning signs and information boards will also be put up before the operation starts and will remain in position until poison residues are no longer present.

## Amount of 1080 used

Imagine spreading a 1kg box of laundry powder over a rugby field – the amount of 1080 used is less than this.



## Safe drinking water

1080 is highly soluble and does not stay in water or soil. Local health authorities apply strict conditions to aerial operations so that drinking water supplies are not contaminated. Safety has been confirmed by tests on several thousand water samples taken after aerial 1080 operations over many years.

# REDUCING RAT NUMBERS in the Wainuiomata Mainland Island area

Important information  
1080 pest control operation

## A special site

A mainland island 4km east of Wainuiomata town covering 1,200 hectares was established 15 years ago to protect the pristine native forest that many native species call home. Species like titipounamu (rifleman), kākārīki, pōpokatea (whitehead), koekoeā (long-tailed cuckoo) and kiwi. The protection of forest habitat for these birds is vital to their long-term survival.

*Mainland islands are defined areas that are isolated by fencing, geographical features or, more commonly, intensive management of pests.*

## Why extra action is needed in 2019

This year a larger than normal amount of fruit is being produced by beech and other native forest trees, otherwise known as a 'mast'. This leads to a lot more food for rats, and a lot more rats, which poses a huge danger to our native species.

The methods we usually use to keep rat numbers low won't be enough to control this boom. Extra efforts are needed to control the rat population to significantly reduce the amount of eggs and chicks being preyed on, and lead to a more successful nesting season.

## The most effective control

Targeting rats by aerially applying 1080 is the most effective form of control currently at our disposal to suppress their huge numbers during this mast year. It can be carried out at a lower cost, give greater coverage of target areas, and target rats effectively across the entire site.

**We face a choice – let rats boom to out of control numbers in this area and have a devastating effect on wildlife, or keep them under control.**

1080 is proven to work safely to reduce pest numbers. Using 1080 provides the additional benefit of reducing possum populations (through direct poisoning) and stoat populations (through secondary poisoning).

*Looking for more information on 1080?  
Try this website: [www.1080facts.co.nz](http://www.1080facts.co.nz)*

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

This operation presents no risk to human or pet health as long as these precautions are followed:

- Do not hunt or take game for consumption within a two kilometre radius of the operational area. Hunting can resume four months after the control work.
- There is no public access to the Mainland Island area at all times. Do not enter without permission from Greater Wellington or Wellington Water.
- If entering the operational area with permission for business purposes, follow the advice on warning signs at all main access points.
- Do not handle any bait or allow children to wander unsupervised in the area.
- Do not bring dogs into the operational area. Dogs are particularly susceptible to 1080. They must not be allowed access to bait or poisoned carcasses which remain toxic to dogs until they have fully decomposed.
- When the warning signs are officially removed, you can resume normal activities in the area. We'll also put a notice up on our website – [www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz) and on social media.

## If you suspect poisoning

**Dial 111 or contact:**

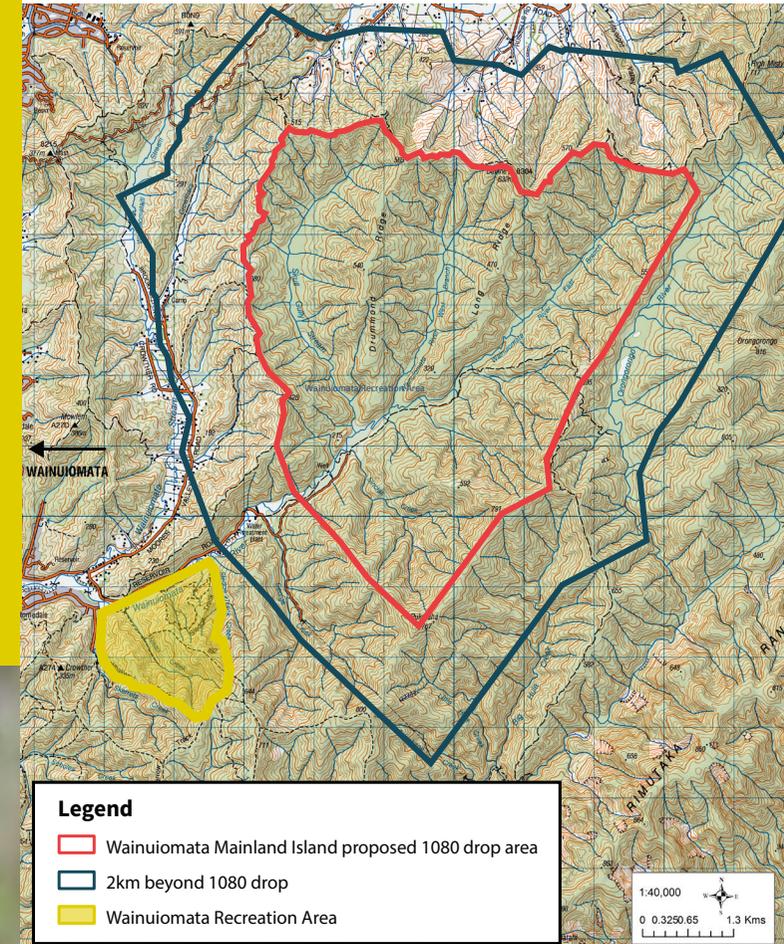
The National Poisons Centre: 0800 764 766 (urgent calls).

If you suspect your pet has been poisoned, contact your local vet immediately.

## The method – aerial distribution

First, tan-coloured cereal “pre-feed” pellets (non-toxic) will be dispensed across the area (2,745 ha) from a helicopter. This is to give rats a taste for the pellets and overcome bait shyness, making the operation more effective.

Then the area will be treated by a helicopter sowing cereal pellets containing the biodegradable pesticide sodium fluoroacetate (1080). The toxic pellets are dyed green and are about 16mm in diameter. Each pellet contains 0.15 per cent of 1080 and will be applied at a rate of 1kg per hectare.



Thriving titipounamu (riflemen) in the area



The mainland island area (outlined in red) is closed to public access at all times (even outside the operation) unless permission is given from Greater Wellington or Wellington Water.

**For more information visit: [gw.govt.nz/1080ops](http://gw.govt.nz/1080ops)**