

Code	Description	Due date	Status	Comments
TRC ZDDP3	Zero possums detected in control blocks A,B,C, as per agreed monitoring plan	31-Oct-21	Not achieved – use TRC ZDDP6a as new target	Incursions will continue to be detected over time, suggest to change to align with new wording around ‘no consistent population detected’.
TRC ZDDP4b	Block D Possum control assessed on boundary camera interactions and <2% BMI in rest of area.	30-Nov-21	Complete	Control assessed using dog team as opposed to BMI monitoring.
TRC SLM1c	TRC 2nd extended area for rodent control in Pukeiti chosen.	28-Feb-22	Delayed to July 2023	Delayed to align with next round of 1080 in Winter 2023.
TRC SLDP1c	Rodent numbers in 2nd extended area (200ha) of the Pukeiti landscape are below a 5% tracking card index.	1-May-22	Delayed to July 2023	Delayed to align with next round of 1080 in Winter 2023.
TRC SLDP2b	Rodent numbers post initial control in 1st extended area (100ha) of Pukeiti are below a 1% tracking card index.	1-May-22	Delayed to July 2023 – suggest change to wording	This milestone needs to be reviewed given the difficulty of attaining a 5% tracking card index within the first control area. Suggest change to 5% RTC
TRC LSDP4c	Self-help Possum control mean catch rate is below a 5%RTC within landscape predator area.	30-May-22	Not achieved. Use TRC LSDP4d as new target	Current threshold limit as per the <i>Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki</i> is 10% RTC.
TRC ZDDP4c	Block D Possum control assessed on boundary camera interactions and <2% BMI in rest of area.	30-May-22	Complete	Control assessed using dog team as opposed to BMI monitoring.
TRC ZDDP6c	Evidence that zero possum density is being maintained within Blocks A,B,C; monitoring plan revised (with associated new milestones and decision points) as necessary	30-May-22	Not achieved. Use TRC ZDDP6a as new target	This milestone needs to change relative to new definitions of zero within this project. Further discussion required.
TRC ZDM4d	Possums controlled in Block D, as per agreed eradication plan	30-Jun-22	Not achieved As per eradication plan	Control is largely ongoing and assessed using dog teams as opposed to BMI monitoring. Additionally, a delay in 1080 has seen a delay in any original planned toxin work.
TRC QR16	TRC Q4 report due	20-Jul-22	Complete	
TRC UPM8b	Post-control rodent tracking tunnel monitoring completed	31-Jul-22	Complete	17% rat incidence recorded in TT monitoring. Likely due to mild winter and available food sources at some monitoring sites (unenclosed rubbish bins – being addressed)

Code	Description	Due date	Status	Comments
TRC LSDP3b	Indicating an overall reduction in mustelid numbers of > 90%	31-Jul-22	Delayed – use TRC LSDP3c as new target	Delayed while investigating an improved method of mustelid monitoring in the rural landscape
TRC LSDP5b	Measurable increase in indicator bird species abundance, as per agreed monitoring plan	31-Jul-22	Delayed – Use TRC LSDP5c as new target point	
TRC SLM1d	TRC will prioritise at least 5 (each year) of the 20 annual Key Native Ecosystem Biodiversity plans within the Towards Predator free operational areas	31-Jul-22	Not current	<i>This is an old milestone that should have been removed for the single area targets at Pukeiti</i>
TRC AR4	ANNUAL REPORT due	30-Sep-22	Delayed to December 1st 2022	
Commentary See comments within table.				

2. Future Indicators, milestones or decision points

Code	Description	Due date	Status	Comments
TRC TEG3	Elimination of possums from Zero area (A, B and C) is maintained (aligned with an adjustment to earlier decision point ZDDP6a)	20-Oct-22	Unlikely to be achieved, delay to July 2023	Given new definition of 'zero' this milestone wording needs to change. Delay in line with toxin work delays.
TRC QR17	TRC Q1 report due	20-Oct-22	On track	
TRC ZDDP6a	Evidence that zero possum density is being maintained within Blocks A,B,C; monitoring plan revised (with associated new milestones and decision points) as necessary	30-Oct-22	Delayed	Given new definition of 'zero' this is on track for A and B areas, but C still harbours a consistent, but falling population.
TRC UPDP5c	Recording <10% tracking indices for rodents within reserves/ habitat	31-Oct-22	Complete – Not Achieved	17% TT rate overall with one of the 10 sites tracking higher this year than at the start of the programme, six lower and three showing no change. Issues at this site are being addressed.
TRC UPM8c	Post-control rodent tracking tunnel monitoring completed	31-Oct-22	Completed.	
TRC P10	Payment Invoice Due	20-Nov-22	On track	
TRC LSDP3c	Indicating an overall reduction in mustelid numbers of > 90%	30-Nov-22	Delayed to June 2023	Delayed while investigating an improved method of mustelid monitoring in the rural landscape

TRC LSDP4d	Self-help Possum control mean catch rate is below a 5%RTC within landscape predator area	30-Nov-22	Delayed to Nov 2023, change to wording needed.	Need to change RTC target to 10% in line with <i>Regional Pest Management Plan for Taranaki</i>
TRC LSDP5c	Measurable increase in indicator bird species abundance, as per agreed monitoring plan	30-Nov-22	Delayed to March 2023	Unlikely to be fully reported on by that date
TRC LSM13a	Year 5 landowner sign up completed	30-Nov-22	Delayed to March 2023	In line to change in roll our timing to make better use of contractor availability.
TRC UPDP4c	Overall reduction in possum numbers to <2%BMI	30-Nov-22	Delayed to March 2023	Discussions ongoing with NPDC around an improved possum control regime in the urban reserve network
TRC UPDP6d	Assessment of mustelid trapping progress	30-Nov-22	On track	
TRC UPDP8b	Canopy condition assessment, as per monitoring plan shows recovery of canopy over time	30-Nov-22	Delayed to July 2024	Canopy monitoring assessment due by end of 5 year monitoring period.
TRC UPM9d	Mustelids trapping rates monitored and recorded	30-Nov-22	On track	
TRC ZDDP4d	Block D Possum control assessed on boundary camera interactions and <2% BMI in rest of area.	30-Nov-22	On track, change to wording needed – remove BMI and camera interactions	Unlikely to rely on monitoring of BMI and cameras as sending dog team through is a far more effective and direct detection and control option.
TRC ZDDP6d	Evidence that zero possum density is being maintained within Blocks A,B,C; monitoring plan revised (with associated new milestones and decision points) as necessary	30-Nov-22	Delayed – duplicate of TRC ZDDP6a?	Given new definition of 'zero' this is on track for A and B areas, but C still harbours a consistent, but falling population.
TRC ZDM8c	Incursion monitoring proceeding as planned	30-Nov-22	On track	
TRC UPDP7b	Measurable increase in indicator bird species abundance, as per monitoring plan	15-Dec-22	Delayed to March 2023	Unlikely to be fully reported on by that date due to monitoring regime and assessment times.
TRC LSM13b	Year 5 Wireless network hubs in place as per agreed monitoring/control plans	20-Dec-22	Delayed to March 2023	Delayed to allow for further discussions with the provider around network optimisation.
Commentary See comments within table.				

3. Progress to eradication

Commentary

The Kaitake Zero possum project is continuing to progress well towards eradication.

Block A and B continue to be in an incursion detection and response phase, with only two possum incursions detected in this quarter both in the B block, both of which were successfully destroyed.

The virtual barrier at Pukeiti is continuing to perform well, with only routine battery and magnet sensor issues occurring during the reported period. There has been an increase in catches as young possums begin to move with 16 possums during the reporting period. We are looking forward to the next 1080 operation on both sides of the barrier in May 2023.

We have employed a summer student to assist the team with data inputting, maintenance of the virtual barrier and general assistance as required. Around 60 refurbished AT220's have been laid within Pukeiti to reduce possum pressure on the barrier

Detections within the C block continue to be very low and limited to a small area

Phase 5 of the rural mustelid suppression roll out continues along with the team revisiting phases 2 and 3 to undertake node battery and trap servicing to ensure landowners control efforts continue to be successful.



Part 2 – Reporting against other operational aspects

1. Health and Safety				
Commentary <i>Provide details of any Health and Safety developments that have been made, or issues that have arisen (particularly ‘notifiable events’ as defined in the HSWA 2015), during the reporting period. Please include all incidents recorded during the period (attach separately if required).</i>				
Date	Type	Involved	Event	Outcome/Actions
13/10/2022	Incident	Staff	Officers vehicle rear ended while waiting to cross road into driveway. Vehicle written off Officer treated at emergency Doctors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder to team of dangers of crossing traffic
23/09/2022	Near Miss	Programme lead	While checking trap barrier Programme Leads vehicle slipped into water table, vehicle safely returned to track.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track is programmed for all weather surfacing in January
26/10/2022	Near Miss	Staff	Staff member failed to record they were home from the field. Duty officer rang Programme lead who checked with E-road and confirmed they were home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff reminded of importance of notifying return form field

2. Risks, issues and opportunities	
Commentary <i>Provide details of any new risks, issues or opportunities in the last quarter (a risk is something that may happen, an issue is something that has happened)</i>	
Type (What is the risk, issue, opportunity?)	Mitigation/Comments
Risks: COVID impacting work schedules	COVID continues to be a risk to work schedules though ongoing and sporadic staff shortages. However, the team are managing well considering, and are cautious in their approach to COVID, leading to very low rates of infection within the team.
Securing suitable candidates for new roles	During the recruitment for new staff we have struggled to secure candidates due to the current job market
Issues:	
Opportunities: Zero Extension area	Team are working with key partners to commence the Zero Possum area extension now funding is confirmed.

3. Financial performance
Spreadsheet to be sent separately by TRCs finance team.
Is Project financial performance proceeding as planned? Yes If No, please provide details (included suggested mitigation)

4. Innovation, learnings and research

Commentary *Provide details of any project innovations that are additional to your project plan and which are likely to benefit other projects (200 words max).*

Some in progress will report once results known

5. Media, communications and events

Commentary *Provide details, if relevant, of any social or environmental events coming up in the next quarter This will help us be proactive with PF2050 community story-telling (200 words max).*

The team continue to run summer events and attended the local AMP show to promote the programme. Planning has commenced on a Predator Free exhibition hosted at Pukeiti.

6. Benefits for Mana whenua

Commentary *Provide details, if relevant in the quarter, of any benefit to Māori including training opportunities (200 words max).*

Engagement with mana whenua remains positive and is ongoing through the project's relationship with the Taranaki Mouna Project.

7. Benefits to the community

Commentary *Provide details, if relevant in the quarter, of any social or environmental benefit to the community, including training opportunities (200 words max).*

Community benefits and engagement has remained high, with staff providing ongoing support to interested landowners both inside and outside the project's roll-out boundaries where appropriate.

8. Benefits for the economy

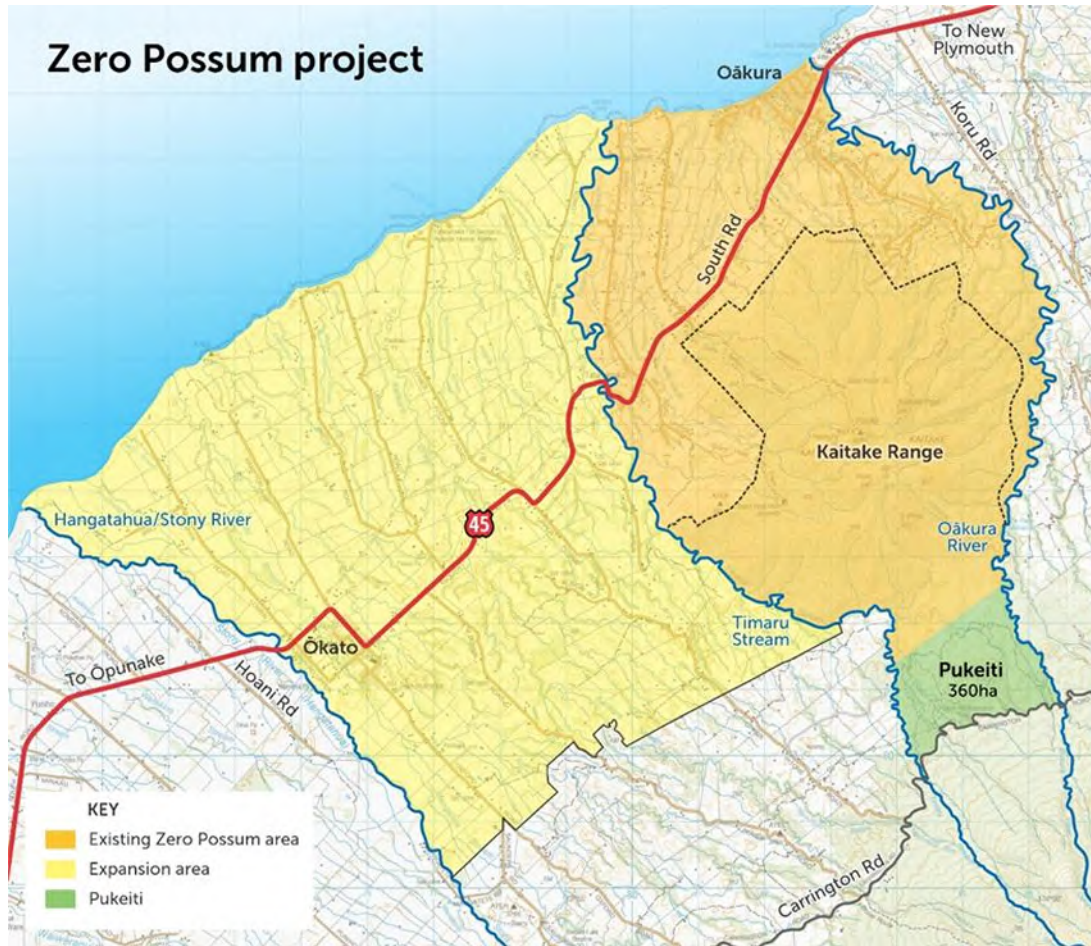
Commentary *Provide details, if relevant in the quarter, of any benefit to the economy e.g eco tourism (200 words max).*

A reduction in rats, mustelids and possums throughout the project's boundaries has continued to support a reduction in bovine tuberculosis (TB), leptospirosis, and toxoplasmosis vectors. This reduction in vector numbers provides an economic benefit to both the dairy and sheep industry through reduced losses and disease risk, as well as a potential benefit to human health.

Benefits for the environment

Commentary *Provide details, if relevant in the quarter, of any climate change mitigating activities eg Tree planting, protecting, or other environmental benefits (200 words max).*

This project continues to support substantial environmental benefits through the removal of introduced browsers and restoration of appropriately functioning ecosystems. Targeted control of rats within the boundaries of the project has continued to provide significant long-term benefits through increased seedling success, and general ecosystem restoration.



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AGENDA AUTHORISATION

Agenda for the Operations and Regulatory Committee meeting held on Tuesday 7 February 2023.

Confirmed:



27 Jan, 2023 5:38:00 PM GMT+13

A J Matthews
Director-Environment Quality

Approved:



27 Jan, 2023 1:57:46 PM GMT+13

S J Ruru
Chief Executive