

FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS DURING THE RODENT ERADICATION PROJECT (REP)

Please place this document in your home or lodge where it is easy to find. Due to the level of detail, it is two sided in order to reduce paper. For more information visit www.lhirodenteradicationproject.org or contact Assistant Project Manager (Community) Jaclyn Pearson or Graeme Beech on **6563 2066 (ext39)**. Additional copies are available at LHIB.

NO MORE WILDLIFE EXTINCTIONS

Invasive rodents have caused extinction on islands worldwide including Lord Howe. The community here have a history of conservation, but rodents still threaten birds (13 species), reptiles (2 species), invertebrates (7 species) including the world's rarest insect, the LHI phasmid (tree lobster) and 12 vegetation communities. **By removing the rodents we will protect these species.**

The need for the REP

STOP THE USE OF AN ONGOING POISON

Black rats and house mice arrived on shipwrecks and have been controlled since, recently using anticoagulant poisons. Control is failing to protect species and there is constant risk from continued poisons bioaccumulating in the environment. **This one-off operation will remove the need for an ongoing poison.**




Safety information on the rodenticide being used during the REP

During the REP we will be using Pestoff® 20R cereal pellets containing brodifacoum. This poison is not as concentrated as poisons currently used on LHI; each pellet contains 20 parts per million, which means they're 99.99% wax, cereal and sugar to attract rodents. The pellets are not as palatable to non-target species (e.g. dogs) as they are to rodents. The NSW Chief Scientist commissioned an independent Human Health Risk Assessment which concluded that the use of Pestoff® 20R on LHI is not expected to result in adverse health effects. As a resident or previous visitor, you will already know not to touch bait stations. If in the unlikely event poisoning was to occur, the available antidote is vitamin K1 via pill or injection.

2019 Diary Dates

15th April	External rat bait stations will be set up in a 10m grid in the settlement (rats need to get used to them first).
20th May	External bait stations start to be baited , internal mouse stations will begin to be placed inside dwellings pre-baited.
1st June	There will be no aerial broadcast over the settlement. The first of two aerial broadcasts is planned for 1 st June, with the second 10 - 21 days later (weather dependent). Hand broadcasting is planned at the same time, each will take approximately 2-3 days to complete.
June - Oct	Bait stations will be checked every 5 days in the first month, this will reduce to weekly and then fortnightly.
July - Oct	Non-toxic monitoring tools and Biosecurity Detector Dogs will be used to detect any remaining rodents.
31st Oct	All bait stations will be brought back in. Monitoring for two years with no rodent sign to prove success.

Safety measures for you – residents and visitors

Where?	What should I be aware of?	What actions are REP staff taking?	What actions should or could I take?
In the settlement area - your home, lodge, garden, picnic areas, the foreshore.	 <p>Lockable bait stations</p> <p>Photo: An external lockable station (for rats & mice)</p>  <p>Photo: An internal lockable station (for mice)</p>	Bait stations have been used to control rodents on Lord Howe for years. During the REP, staff will check them frequently. All bait stations are lockable in areas where there are children and dogs. Trays may be used in roof spaces. Staff continue to have health and safety discussions with residents, lodges and the school as part of property management plans.	<u>Residents</u> – continue to remind children and visitors not to touch stations. <u>Visitors</u> – the stations in your lodge will have a ' do not touch sticker '.
 <p>Photo: Two bait pellets next to a 20 cent piece</p>	<p>A pellet found outside a station</p> <p>A rat may accidentally drop a pellet whilst caching them in the nearby area. This will be rare, as often they are found and eaten by other rodents during darkness.</p>	During bait station checks, REP staff will be vigilant and retrieve any pellets outside stations. Staff will wear bright blue hats , please ask them questions and let them know any concerns at any time.	<u>Residents</u> - use gloves provided & put the pellets back in the entrance of stations or call us. <u>Visitors</u> – tell your lodge or call 6563 2066 (ext 39)

Medical assistance: if you're concerned a person/dog has eaten bait (lethargic or pale in colour especially around the gums) contact the Medical Centre immediately on 6565 2000. The Doctor will assess the situation and has Vitamin K antidote.

***Although brodifacoum is practically insoluble in water, we will be diligent and through monitoring check any brodifacoum residue in the soil, streams, milk and fish livers caught in the lagoon. This precaution is based on community feedback.**

Where?	What should I be aware of?	What actions are REP staff taking?	What actions should I or could I take?
Permanent Park Preserve mountains and hills (Gower, Lidgbird, Transit, Malabar)	<p>Aerial broadcast (AB)- Some hill and Mountain trails closed There will be two aerial broadcasts by helicopter, both will take approximately 2-3 days to complete. During these periods trails will be closed and the mountain guides will not operate.</p> <p>We advise to not drink from the streams during the REP*.</p> <p>Please note - Brodifacoum does not move through the environment (e.g. water courses) as it binds to soil and sediment and soon becomes inactive.</p>	<p>Staff will place signs explaining the dates that 'tracks are closed during aerial broadcast.'</p> <p>Residents -Through email, letters and posters we will provide a 24 hour notice of when the aerial broadcasts will occur.</p> <p>Visitors – Posters on island, Visitor information centre and lodges. Please note - There will be no bait dust able to be carried by wind.</p>	<p><u>Residents</u> Liaise with us for details on closed tracks, Tour Operators will also know in advance. Take water flasks on walks.</p> <p><u>Visitors</u> Liaise with the Visitor Information Centre and Tour Operators to plan your walks. Take water flasks on walks.</p>
Between the bait station areas and the aerial broadcast areas.	<p>Hand Broadcast (HB) – be vigilant. Occurring at the same time as AB, taking 2-3 days. Pellets will be seen on the ground in some areas on the outskirts of the settlement area. Most will be eaten by rodents, but some may remain on the ground until weathering breaks them down.</p> <p>Please note - Brodifacoum does not move through the environment (e.g. water courses) as it binds to soil and sediment and soon becomes inactive.</p>	<p>By 1st April we will provide a map of the AB and HB areas (email, letters, and posters on noticeboards). Staff will place signs explaining the dates that 'This is a hand broadcast area.'</p> <p>Residents – Through email, letters and posters we will provide a 24 hour notice of when the hand broadcast will happen and cease, followed by updates including details on the breakdown of these pellets*.</p> <p>Visitors – Posters on island, Visitor Information Centre and lodges.</p>	<p><u>Residents and visitors</u> Recreational areas for children which are not in hand broadcast areas are plentiful, but if you do enter these hand broadcast areas, be aware and do not touch pellets.</p> <p>Dog owners, prepare to muzzle your dog if you choose to walk them in these areas.</p>
Anywhere on island	<p>Rodent carcasses above ground This will only be a limited number as they usually return to their nests underground to die.</p>	<p>Staff will look for and autopsy any rodents found. You can contact us to collect any you may find.</p>	<p><u>Residents and visitors</u> Prevent dogs eating rodent carcasses. Call us to collect carcasses 6563 2066 (ext 39).</p>
Lagoon	<p>Lagoon areas – enjoy normally.</p> <p>We advise to not consume the liver of any fish caught in the lagoon shore area. Even though trials have shown that it is highly unlikely for fish to interact with pellets and toxicology trials show residues in fish livers to be highly unlikely*.</p>	<p>We will let you know when the residue testing is confirmed (email, letters, posters) and when you can eat fish livers if you choose to.</p> <p>Please note – LHI field trials and information from worldwide projects show that marine life interaction with pellets is highly unlikely. Research shows rodent eradications can benefit reefs.</p>	<p>Do not consume the liver of any fish caught in the lagoon area until we confirm no residues. Otherwise, catch and eat fish as normal.</p>
Across the island	<p>Livestock, poultry and crops We advise to not eat meat or offal from any animals butchered on LHI during the baiting period. Milk from the dairy herd will not be available until bait is no longer present and laboratory testing confirms that there are no brodifacoum residues present.*.</p>	<p>These precautions have been confirmed as part of 'Property Management Plans' and inform ongoing discussions.</p> <p>Please note – Bait stations are livestock tamper proof, and bait stations are used around food crops.</p>	<p><u>Residents</u> continue to liaise with REP staff.</p> <p><u>Visitors</u> check out the website or chat to REP staff for more information lhirodenteradicationproject.org</p>

Residents - what can you do to assist the project further?

Parents, your children will bring home leaflets after school safety education sessions with REP staff.	
April 1st	<p>Cease composting as this provides alternative food for rodents. Use waste food buckets provided instead and if you need the REP Waste Management Officer to collect any food or organic waste during the REP, call Jaclyn to book this. Contact 6563 2066 (ext39). Please refer to your 'waste management flyer'.</p> <p>Start 'chicken plans' which you have confirmed with Jaclyn as part of your Property Management Plan.</p> <p>Be vigilant and start to collect fallen fruit and place in your waste food bucket.</p>
Ongoing	Continue to contact REP staff with questions or concerns 6563 2066 (ext39).