

4 July 2019

Tena koe,

### Aerial 1080 operations in the Dart, Routeburn and Caples Valleys

DOC is currently preparing for aerial 1080 operations in the Dart, Routeburn and Caples Valleys this winter. This work is part of Tiakina ngā Manu/Battle for Our Birds which aims to protect New Zealand's native wildlife from introduced predators <https://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/tiakina-nga-manu/>

This letter is being sent to wide range of organisations, businesses, clubs and interested people to ensure the public are informed of the details, particularly of the necessary track closures. Attached is a factsheet that provides further info, a map and important safety precautions. Please note:

- The operation will start anytime from 1 August 2019 and will likely take two days. The first will be for the sowing of non-toxic 'pre-feed' pellets, followed by toxic bait pellets about a week later. It is important to have at least 48 hours of dry weather after each drop.
- All tracks in the Dart, Routeburn and Caples will be closed during both the 'pre-feed' and toxic drops. Many adjoining tracks will also be shut including Lake Sylvan, the Rock and Beans Burns, the Route Burn North Branch, Fraser Creek and Kay Creek. The two closures will be at least five days apart, and up to 24 hours at a time. Overnight trampers will be held at huts until operations are complete. People planning to visit these areas from the 1 August onwards are advised to check with a DOC visitor centre for any possible delays.
- Helicopter flights will be staged from Dan's Paddock (on the way to the Dart Valley track). For both the 'pre-feed' and toxic drops the last few kilometres of the Glenorchy-Paradise road will be temporarily closed for up to 24 hours.
- Deer repellent will be used across the entire treatment area. While repellent minimises the by-kill of deer it does not prevent it entirely. If hunting any of these valleys afterwards the standard safety precautions apply.
- Poison baits and animal carcasses are deadly to dogs. Some poisoned animals may be found outside the treatment area. Exercise extreme caution with dogs, refer to attached info from TBfree NZ.
- You will receive an email notice 24 hours prior to each of the 'pre-feed' and toxic bait drops. This could be sent over a weekend - with our changeable weather more warning cannot be guaranteed.

If you do not wish to receive further messages, to provide new contact details or for general information, please contact [bfobwakatipu@doc.govt.nz](mailto:bfobwakatipu@doc.govt.nz) / 03 442 7933.

Naku noa,



Geoff Owen - Operations Manager, Wakatipu District

Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*  
Whakatipu-wai- Māori / Queenstown Office  
P O Box 811, Queenstown 9348