



July 2025



# Kawau Island multi-species eradication project

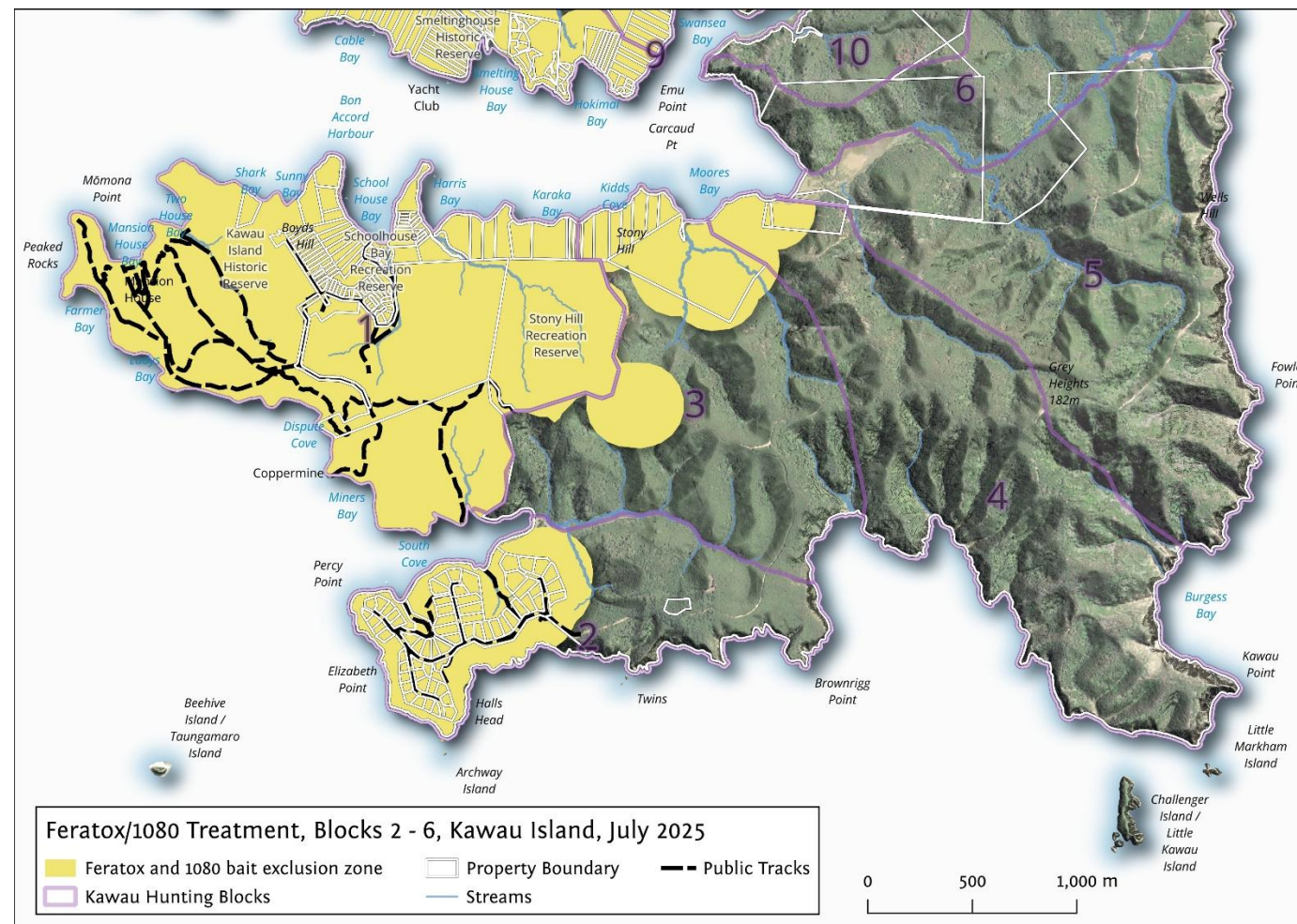
## Working towards a pest-free Kawau Island

### Pest-free Kawau update: Southern operations continue, northern planning underway

Our work to restore Kawau Island's unique native biodiversity continues to gain momentum. With the hunting operation well underway in the southern blocks, we are now preparing for the next stage of targeted wallaby and possum control.

Pending a suitable weather window, the toxin operation in the southern blocks is scheduled to get underway **from Tuesday 15 July**. The treatment map below shows exclusion areas in yellow (Block 1 and all residential areas). With changeable weather conditions forecast, Island Conservation will notify impacted landowners directly of the dates that baits are going to be deployed, as well as provide updates relating to further hunting notifications.

The field camera network combined with drone survey data continues to inform and refine our methodology. The southern area has a much larger population of wallabies than anticipated, however the frequency and accuracy of the information from the monitoring network allows the team to adapt and refine the design, continuing to support a targeted approach across the entire southern treatment area. The team are also committed to keeping the treatment period as short as possible, thus preventing an extended caution window.



Map 1: Treatment map

### Operational progress update

Since May 2025, the team has continued to build on our progress across the island, as outlined in the operation progress map below. Highlights include the removal of over 500 wallabies and 100 possums via thermal assisted hunting, the processing of more than 200,000 wildlife camera images (using AI software that can process ~6 images per second) and the near completion of the 3.2km fence between Emu Point and Smugglers cove.

### Block 1 focused on removing last remaining individuals

Block 1, which includes Kawau Island Historic Reserve, Stony Hill Recreation Reserve and several residential bays, is transitioning into the mop-up phase with additional hunting and possum trapping scheduled over coming weeks. Detection dog teams will return to survey the area, and the DOC reserves will be closed for a short duration to support a comprehensive daytime grid search by the hunting team. Information relating to the timing of this work to follow.

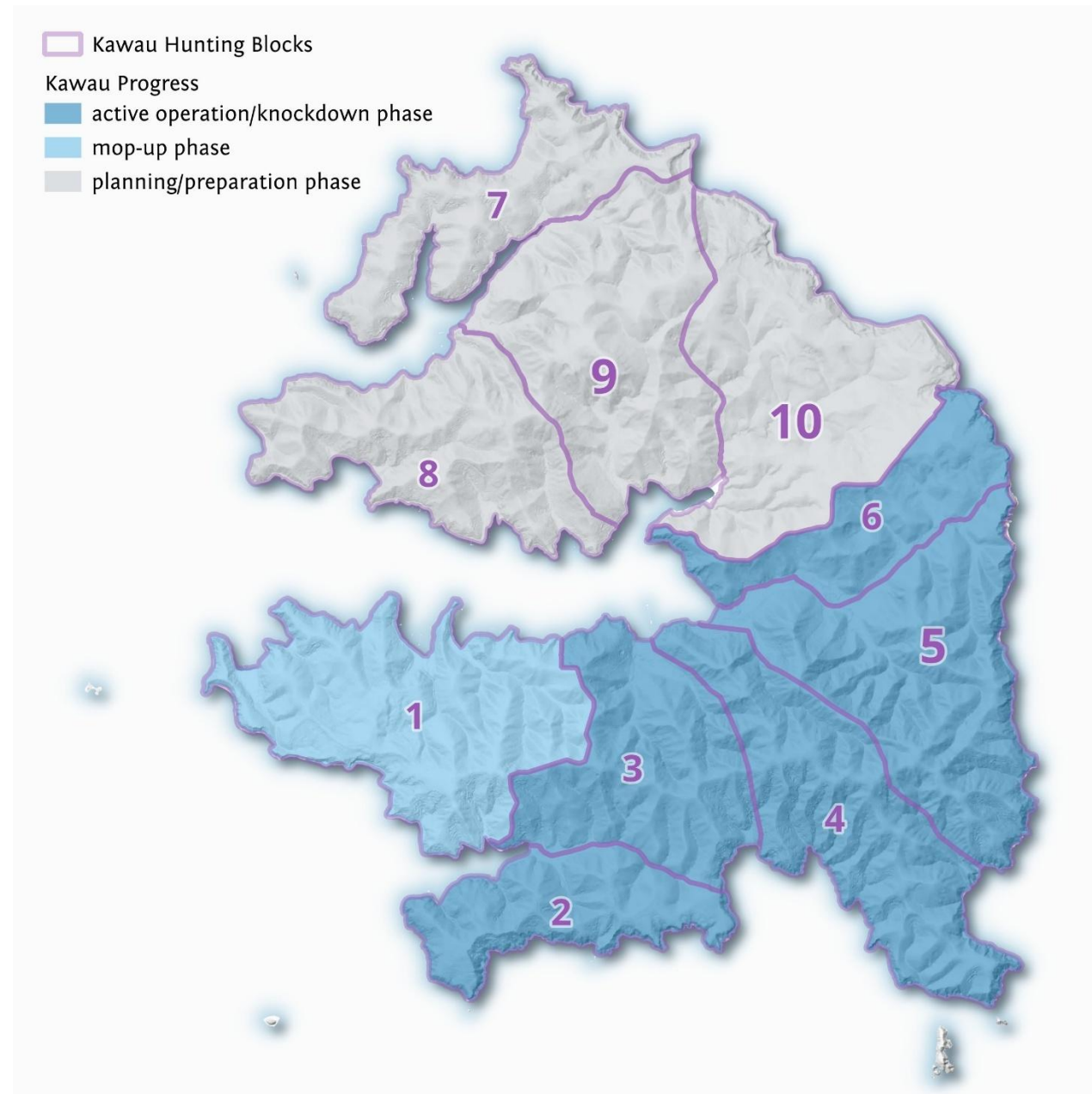
### Blocks 2 – 6 in active operation

Work has now expanded across the southern operational zone. Targeted toxins (the permitted ground-based application of 1080 and Feratox) will be used alongside hunting methods in areas where monitoring has revealed a high number of wallabies and possums. Non-toxic pre-feeding is underway in blocks 2 – 6.

- Toxin application is expected to start after 15 July, weather permitting
- Rodent bait stations will also be in place to reduce interference at wallaby and possum stations

The use of these targeted toxins is underpinned by strict public health conditions from the National Public Health Service – Northern Region Auckland.

It is understandable that some people may have concerns around the targeted use of the toxins 1080 and Feratox. Health and safety are a priority for the project team and we'd like to reassure the community of the measures we're taking, particularly related to the targeted use of 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) and Feratox (encapsulated cyanide). For more safety information visit [Kawau news and key safety information](#).



Map 2: Operation progress July 2025

### Looking ahead: Preparation underway in the north

Planning is now underway for the **northern operational phase**, with the analysis of images from the wildlife camera network and conducting of drone surveys to assess wallaby and possum population size and distribution. Hunting is expected to get underway from mid-July, while additional activities will follow from early August. This includes further drone surveys to assess wallaby and possum distribution, pre-feeding, bait station set-up, possum trapping, and the targeted use of toxins (in areas with high wallaby and possum numbers).

## Key reminders



- Direct alerts will be sent to impacted landowners ahead of any baiting or toxin use
- Signage will clearly mark operational zones and exclusion areas
- Visitors are asked to **keep dogs off the island** during operational and caution periods
- **Free muzzles and emetic medication** remain available at Warkworth Vets (09 425 8244)

## Incredible sightings: Kiwi video captured on Kawau

We're excited [to share a new video](#) captured by Perrin Brown (Cornerstone Conservation) using a thermal camera. The footage reveals two kiwi on Kawau interacting — and a surprise third kiwi making a noisy entrance in the final moments. A heartening glimpse into the lives of our native birds.



## Previous newsletters and more

If you are new to these newsletters or want to access previous versions, these are available online on [Tiaki Tamaki Makaurau](#).

There is also a separate [project operational updates page](#) where we share key project updates as they come.

You can also find more information, and watch our video, on the [Kawau Island project page](#).

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