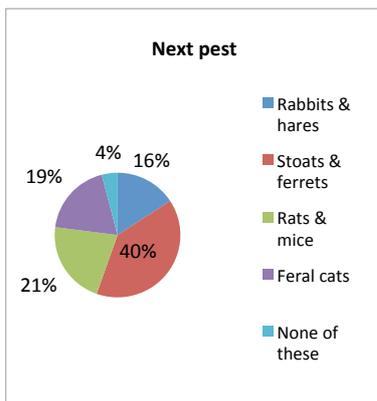


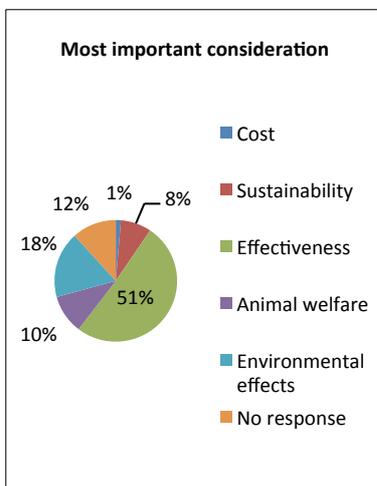
2015 Survey of Peninsula residents: summary of results

In November 2015, OPBG conducted a survey which sought the views of Peninsula residents on the next pest or pests to control after possums. 222 residents responded with completed questionnaires. For almost three-quarters of respondents their primary reason for valuing pest control was because of the impact of pests on the biodiversity of the Peninsula. Just over half of the respondents said they had noticed changes in vegetation and/or wildlife on their properties that might have been due to OPBG undertaking possum control, including less evidence of possums, more native birds and less damage to native flora and ornamental plants, such as roses.

Respondents were asked which animal pests they would like to see controlled next after possums. They were given five choices (rabbits/hares, stoats/ferrets, rats/mice, feral cats and hedgehogs) and asked to rank these in order of priority. The highest ranked 'first choices' are shown in the chart below. No respondents selected 'hedgehogs' as their first choice.



The percentage of respondents controlling various pests on their own properties is shown in the bar graph. The most common category of pest controlled by respondents was rats and mice. 24% of respondents undertook no pest control on their properties.



Whereas stoats and ferrets were the highest ranked first choice for respondents living in settlements and on properties of 15 hectares or less, those living on properties larger than 15 hectares selected rabbits and hares as their first choice.

Just over half of respondents felt that animal pests were a growing problem on the Peninsula, with rabbits and hares mentioned most often, followed by feral cats, rats and mice, and stoats and ferrets.

Respondents were asked to identify the most important considerations to them when thinking about pest control. Their highest ranking first choice was effectiveness.

OPBG is grateful to all those residents who participated in the survey. The results will be an important source of guidance for OPBG as it plans its programme for controlling 'other pests' on the Peninsula.

