



Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group
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Community Trapping for Possums on Residential Properties

The Otago Peninsula Biodiversity Group (OPBG) has recently secured more funding from the Department of Conservation to assist with its Possum eradication programme. This funding will allow us to return, this year, to the Peninsula operation block known as Sector 4 (from Allans Beach Rd in Portobello back through to the city suburbs). This sector includes the Portobello, Broad Bay and Macandrew Bay townships, and all of the clusters of residential properties along Portobello Road through to the farmland boundary adjacent to Vauxhall, Waverley, Shiel Hill and Tomahawk.

From April 2015 until the end of the year, contractors and OPBG volunteers will be asking residents for access onto their properties to check for signs of the presence of possums and to trap possums. Residents will be asked to complete the attached Access Consent Form. The more residents who allow access to OPBG, the more effective the trapping programme will be. Our long term aim is to reduce the population of possums on Otago Peninsula to undetectable levels.

Communication of hazards

As part of the process of obtaining permission to access residential properties, the OPBG personnel involved have a duty to warn landowners of the hazards they are likely to generate during, and as a result of, their work. The OPBG personnel will take all practicable steps to minimize the hazards associated with their work.

Landowners/occupiers also have a duty to warn all persons whom they authorize to be on their property of any significant, or out of the ordinary, hazards that might arise that wouldn't normally be expected by a visitor and could cause serious harm. Examples might include tree felling, earthworks being undertaken or the presence of dangerous domestic animals.

During their initial visit, to gain permission to enter the property, the OPBG representative will ask the landowner/occupier to notify them of any significant or out of the ordinary hazards, and to record these hazards on the attached Access Consent Form.

Questions commonly asked by property owners/occupiers

What happens if an OPBG representative has an accident on my property? Who is liable?

The landowner/occupier who has warned the OPBG representative of significant or out of the ordinary hazards has fulfilled their duty – landowners/occupier are not held liable.

What happens if someone else, for example a visitor to my property, is injured as a result of the work the OPBG personnel undertake? Who is liable?

If the visitor is someone who the landowner knows and is coming for the purpose of visiting the landowner, then the landowner has a duty to warn them of the hazards that have been generated by the OPBG personnel's work. People visiting a property without permission (e.g. trespassers) and who have no authority to be on the property are owed no duty of care by the occupier/landowner.

OPBG and its contractors and volunteers take all practicable steps to ensure that the public are warned of the hazards on the landowners/occupiers property that may have been created by their work. For example, a contractor/volunteer will erect signs at all access points to a property warning that trapping is taking place.

**Landowner/occupier Access Consent Form:
Community Trapping**



Name of property owner (or tenant)

Address

Home phone number

Mobile phone number

E-mail address

I wish the OPBG volunteer or Contractor to comply with the following conditions while working on the property:

List hazards on the property:

Do you have pets or young children?

I give my consent to the OPBG volunteer or Contractor to work on my property

Signed _____

Dated _____

Name of OPBG volunteer or Contractor _____

Contact details: Phone _____

Email _____