

# MOLESWORTH STATION

## THE ROAD TO TB ERADICATION

AUGUST 2017



### THE PROBLEM WITH TB

Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis*. TB can cause significant production losses for New Zealand farmers and is regarded as an unwanted disease that could damage the country's

reputation for excellent primary products in the international markets our export-led economy relies on. The TBfree programme is designed to protect that reputation by managing and eradicating the disease.

### BACKGROUND

Molesworth Station is New Zealand's largest farm and supports the

country's biggest herd of beef cattle. Covering more than 180,000 hectares, Molesworth inhabits a unique and harsh high country environment. The land is administrated by the Department of Conservation with Landcorp responsible for farming operations.

The vast and varied landscape attracts a high number of recreational users, trampers, hunters, fishermen and mountain bikers.

Molesworth Station has the longest-standing TB-infected cattle herd in New Zealand – more than 30 years. There is evidence that bovine TB has been present on the station since the early 1960s and has been found in wildlife such as possums, pigs, deer and ferrets. The TB infection in the possum population is thought to be maintaining the disease, and is believed to be the primary driver for infection in the cattle herd.

Due to funding constraints and objectives of previous national TB strategies, the official wild animal TB control programme administered by OSPRI excluded much of the stations' land area. However, a focused possum and ferret control programme funded by a partnership agreement with Landcorp and OSPRI, has helped reduce TB cases within the herd over the past decade.

## THE NEW TB PLAN

Following the 2015 review, the TB National Pest Management Plan (TB Plan) has set a target of TB freedom in cattle and deer herds by 2026 and TB freedom in possums by 2040. The Molesworth Station targets are to achieve freedom from disease in cattle by 2020 and in possums by 2027.

## THE MOLESWORTH WORKING GROUP

Achieving TB freedom on Molesworth Station and the surrounding high country is a vital part of achieving the national goals of the new TB Plan. However, due to the large scale, environment factors and stocking constraints TB in the South Island high country poses unique challenges which, while not insurmountable, means that a customised approach to achieve TB freedom on Molesworth Station is needed.

To assist with this and address TB persistence, a Molesworth Working Group has been established to

**IN 2003 MOLESWORTH STATION HAD MORE THAN 140 CASES OF TB DETECTED WITHIN THE CATTLE HERD. FOCUSED PEST CONTROL AND CASE MANAGEMENT HAS SEEN THAT REDUCED TO ABOUT FIVE CASES IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS**



## OUR GOALS



**2026**

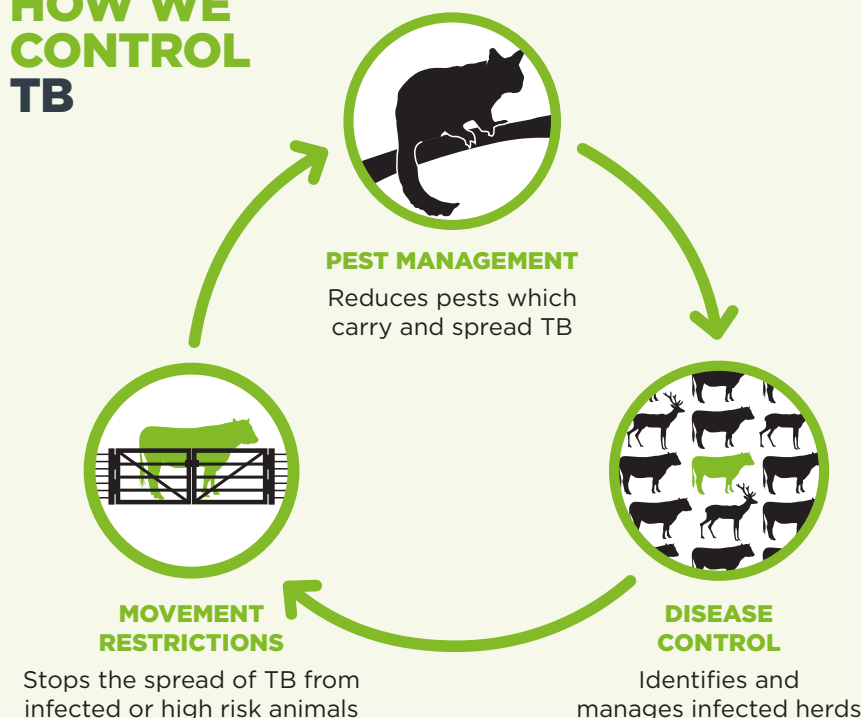


**2040**



**2055**

## HOW WE CONTROL TB







develop a long-term management plan for Molesworth Station.

The Molesworth Working group aims to:

- Develop a specialised TB testing plan to identify and remove remaining TB infection within the herd
- Develop a pest control and surveillance plan with a staged progression towards TB eradication
- Utilising the wider farm mapping, planning and grazing management capabilities of FarmIQ in conjunction with OSPRI's Disease Management System (DMS), VectorNet and NAIT databases, to enable a more holistic approach to TB eradication within the Molesworth herd
- Monitor progress towards eradication with set key performance indicators
- Communicate progress to the wider community

#### MOLESWORTH WORKING GROUP

Jim Ward	03 575 7043
Bill Rutherford	021 221 8022
Graham Reed	03 315 8033
John Turner	03 315 8363
Peter Anderson	027 442 6482

#### OSPRI

Danny Templeman	03 363 3081
-----------------	-------------

## PROGRESS TO DATE

### TB TESTING

Molesworth Station TB testing programme is designed to encourage early detection and quicker removal of the "in-herd" component of the TB infection. This will involve skin testing the entire herd twice annually and blood testing of breeding replacements and other animals as needed. In addition, as has occurred historically, any animals moving to grazing in Hanmer must be clear to pre-movement skin prior to movement.

Results from testing and slaughter will be recorded and will become a database for identifying and managing TB risks.

### PEST CONTROL AND SURVEILLANCE

Molesworth is the focus of a broad scale possum control and wildlife surveillance programme, beginning spring 2017. OSPRI aims to coordinate activity with farm operations and recreational users of the station throughout the implementation of this programme.

Possum control and wildlife surveillance is delivered through TB Management Areas (TMA) and communicated

through TMA notices. Each TMA notice outlines a TB control plan designed to eradicate TB from that specific area. Molesworth Station is made up of two TMAs, each with an associated TMA notice, available at [tbfree.org.nz](http://tbfree.org.nz) as they are finalised:

- Molesworth/Clarence Reserve
- Clarence Catchment

Refer to the map over page to see the TB Management Areas on Molesworth Station and surrounding areas.

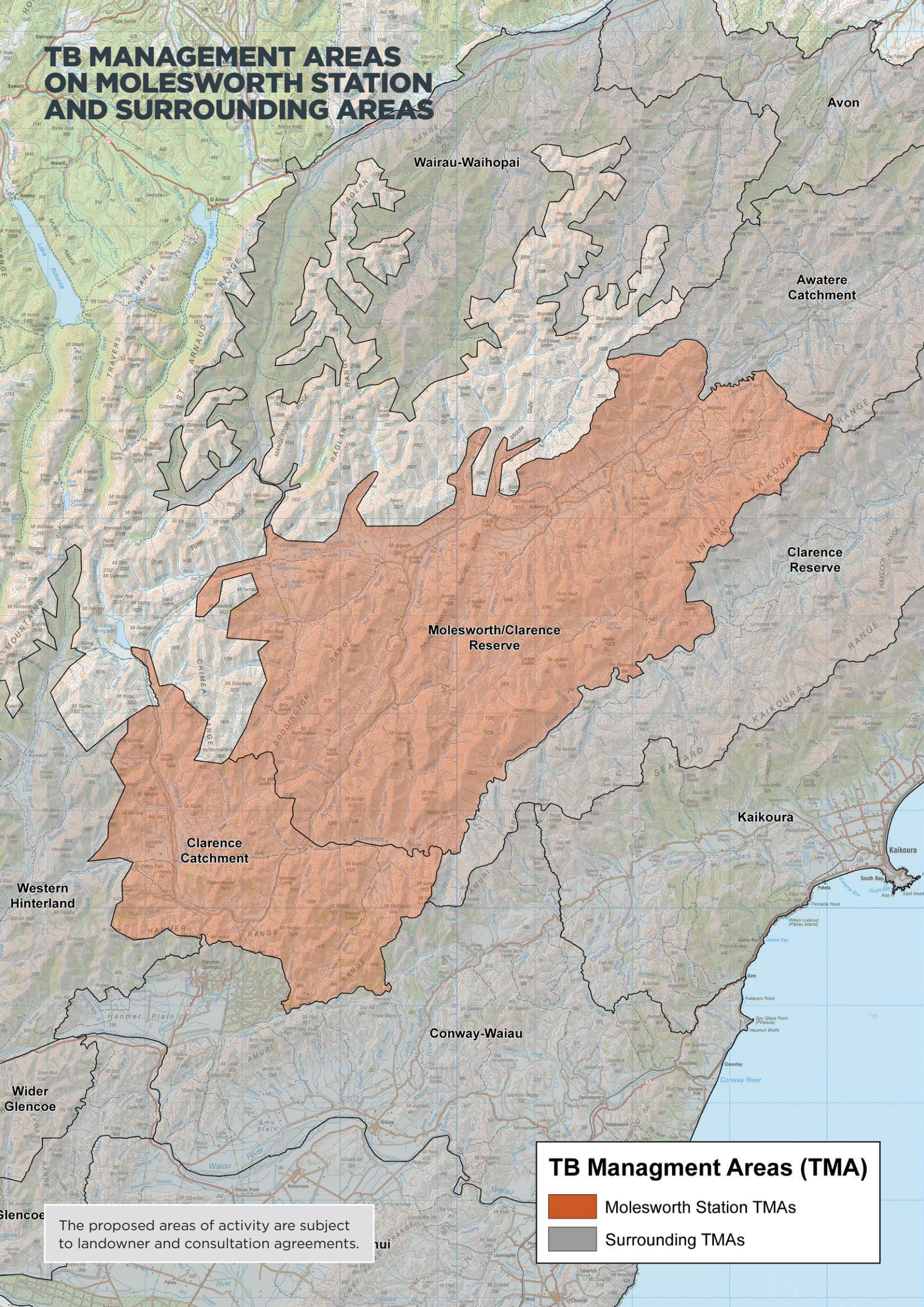


## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on Molesworth's pest control programme please see OSPRI's 'Molesworth bovine TB control operation' and the 'Molesworth/Clarence Reserve' and 'Clarence Catchment' TB Management Area (TMA) notices available online at [ospri.co.nz](http://ospri.co.nz)



# TB MANAGEMENT AREAS ON MOLESWORTH STATION AND SURROUNDING AREAS



Wairau-Waihopai

Avon

Awatere Catchment

Clarence Reserve

Molesworth/Clarence Reserve

Clarence Catchment

Western Hinterland

Kaikoura

Kaikoura

Conway-Waiiau

Wider Glencoe

**TB Managment Areas (TMA)**

Molesworth Station TMAs

Surrounding TMAs

The proposed areas of activity are subject to landowner and consultation agreements.