

Shoalhaven Council is organising 3 rounds of rabbit baiting during August and September, as the last major rabbit control effort for this year. Volunteers and residents on or near Council-managed land are welcome to register their interest by return email to me, as long as the following conditions can be met. Private tourist parks, larger commercial operators and farmers can bait at the same time if they contact Michael Knez at the Local Land Services (0405 141 283).

You would need to be available on one or more of the 2 week period coinciding with one or more of the following dates,

	FIRST WEEK - Dates for monitoring and free feeding	SECOND WEEK - First bait delivery	SECOND WEEK - Second bait delivery
First round	Monday August 4 th to Sunday August 10 th	Monday 11 th August 2014	Thursday 14 th August 2014
Second Round	Monday August 25 th to Sunday August 31 st	Monday 1 st September 2014	Thursday 4 th September 2014
Third Round	Monday September 8 th to Sunday September 14 th	Monday 15 th September 2014	Thursday 18 th September 2014
	School Holidays commence on the 19 th September. Monitoring should continue after the conclusion of baiting.		

The person laying the baits would need to have completed a pest baiting or Chem Cert course, or have someone in the group or neighbourhood who has and who will lay the baits. Council staff may not be available to lay baits at all sites, so trained volunteer help may be needed. All neighbours of the sites need to be notified and signage installed at all entrances to the sites. There are limitations on where baits can be laid – only on properties larger than 1000 sq m, and not in areas accessible to children. All of these restrictions can significantly impact the areas where baiting can be done.

We are encouraging people to do this as a joint effort, in conjunction with neighbours and community groups, so that the effort is more effective. If your CCB wants to be involved, then it would help if you can identify the areas where the problem is worst, and where you have volunteers to help. Then please give me a call, and we can discuss how to implement the baiting in your area, and what other actions might be appropriate.

If you are planning to bait, please read the attached Standard Operating Procedure for Baiting of Rabbits with Pindone. People involved would need to read and understand this before proceeding.

The procedure that you are requested to follow is;

- **FIRST WEEK – Monitor rabbit numbers in your area.** The easy way to do this is to count the number of rabbits that you see while walking around your sites or around your neighbourhood. Repeat this walk three or four times during the week, always on the same route and at the same time of day (for example, one hour before sunset). Write down the numbers seen and email them to me. This provides a base count of your rabbit population.
- **FIRST WEEK – Free feed rabbits.** Attract rabbits to your feeding sites through a series of free feeds. Chop up a couple of kg of carrots, and put out 1 or 2 cups in a short trail at areas where there is rabbit feeding activity (dung heaps, scratchings and overgrazed grass). Repeat this every second night for 3 or 4 times. You will need to supply your own carrots for free feeding. The poison carrots will be most effective if you have hungry rabbits at the feed sites waiting for the arrival of the treated carrots.
- **SECOND WEEK – Collect and put out the treated carrots.**
 - Rabbits need to get 2 doses of treated carrots, so you need to put poisoned carrots out on both the Monday and Thursday evenings. Any animal that eats a single dose will recover.
 - Treated carrots should be spread as a short trail at those sites where free feeding was successful. You may need to use a bait cover if there is a risk that other animals are feeding on the carrots. Any poison carrots remaining the next morning need to be collected and disposed of properly.
 - Treated carrots will be available for collection on the Monday and Thursday afternoon, and need to be put out before dark.
- **THIRD WEEK – do nothing.**
- **FORTH WEEK – Repeat your monitoring.** Do another 3 or 4 walks along the same route and the same time of day. This will show you how successful the treatment has been. Record the numbers seen and email them to me.
- **Plan your follow up.** No control measure will be fully effective. A fortnight after the release, you should free feed (as was done prior to the release) and compare it to your initial free feeds. This should tell you whether you need follow up action. Follow up trapping or shooting (Council employs a contractor to shoot rabbits in suitable areas), as well as the removal or

destruction of hiding places, can take the population down to a level where they struggle to recover.

Please get back in touch with me if you are interested in being involved in this. August and September is a good time to reduce rabbit populations before they can start to build up during the warmer spring weather.

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