

13 October 2022

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## **Pest control**

Thank you for your request made under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (the Act), received on 13 September 2022. You requested the following information:

- The council's processes for disposing of the bodies of pests (eg goats, deer etc) that are killed on council-owned land.
- The number of pests killed on council-owned land in the past five years broken down by year, species, and method of pest control.
- The number of pest bodies disposed of by council in the same timeframe broken down by year and species.

Wellington City Council (WCC) has granted your request for information.

### **The council's processes for disposing of the bodies of pests (eg goats, deer etc) that are killed on council-owned land**

Feral deer, goat, pig, and rabbit/hare carcasses are left on site, out of water ways and away from public walking tracks. In some instances, Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) will request to collect rabbit or hare carcasses when they conduct these operations on WCC reserves. These carcasses are disposed of by GRWC.

Possums, rats, hedgehogs, mice, and mustelids that are caught through trapping are either disposed of in the bush or are removed and disposed of in the landfill. It depends on how decomposed the carcasses are and the distance the carcass needs to be carried.

Carcasses of possums and rats from the toxin bait station network remain on site as it is difficult to find and retrieve them.

The number of pests killed on council-owned land in the past five years broken down by year, species, and method of pest control

### **Trapping Program**

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Hedgehog	223	213	234	280	243
Mouse	1961	2385	2138	2678	2044
Possum	46	62	65	135	136
Rat	2334	2513	2800	3299	2615
Stoat	65	91	86	56	29
Weasel	87	90	115	76	68

### **Hunting program (based on financial years)**

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Feral Goats	202	157	200	99	129
Feral Pigs	16	14	0	2	4
Hare/Rabbit			762	765	408

Rabbit and hare data is only held from 2019 onwards as this is when we undertook a review of the program. Any data prior to 2019 is held by GWRC as part of their regional rabbit control program.

The number of pest bodies disposed of by council in the same timeframe broken down by year and species

Due to the nature of pest control methods outlined in question one, we are unable to confirm the total number of pests killed as the information is not held [section 17(g) of the Act applies].

### **Right of review**

If you are not satisfied with the Council's response, you may request the Office of the Ombudsman to investigate the Council's decision. Further information is available on the Ombudsman website, [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note, we may proactively release our response to your request with your personal information removed.

Thank you again for your request, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

Claudia Holgate  
Senior Advisor, Official Information