



Operation to reduce feral animal numbers on Chatham Island

Current and recent shipping outages have led to a significant backlog of livestock on Chatham Island. The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has been working with the local community to come up with options to manage the livestock population through winter. Reducing pest animal numbers is part of a support package to prevent animal welfare issues.

What is happening?

An aerial operation is being undertaken to control feral cattle and pig numbers on Chatham Island.

How will it help?

Reducing feral animal numbers will enable limited livestock feed to be kept for farmed sheep and cattle and help reduce damage to fences.

How long will the operation run?

It began on Monday 24 June 2024 and is expected to take one to two months. However, it will be weather dependent. We'll review the operation as it progresses.

Where is it taking place?

Pest control work will occur on Chatham Island on properties where landowners have given their permission.

Who is doing the work?

The operation is being funded and organised by MPI and carried out on-the-ground by Precision Helicopters.

How will the helicopter know where to target?

MPI has been working with individual landowners to identify the location of feral cattle and pigs on their properties and GPS boundaries of their land. This information is being provided to Precision Helicopters.

Why is a helicopter being used?

The pest animals are usually in hard-to-access hilly terrain covered in scrub.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

If you have questions, please contact MPI's On Farm Support regional manager Blair Shaw at blair.shaw@mpi.govt.nz or on 027 280 3083, or compliance and response project manager Murray Pridham at murray.pridham@mpi.govt.nz or on 027 433 0058.