



Suzanne Williams  
140 Brunton Cres  
Thames, 3500

23 October, 2018

**Re: Pest control in J.W. Hall Arboretum Reserve**

On behalf of TCDC Parks and Reserves I am replying to your letter of 19 October, regarding the apparent lack of pest control in J. W. Hall Arboretum Reserve.

As we have discussed when you first offered to help, we are under contract with a professional pest controller to undertake monthly pest control pressure on the Reserve. He currently has a set of 50 "striker blocks" (bait with Diphacinone) targeting rats and possums spread around the whole reserve. I have explained that a neighbour has raised concern about the fall off in bird life and he has proposed a boost in the short term of baiting.

He also pointed out that it has been 3 years since DoC did any large-scale pest control on conservation land behind Thames and that is one major influence on our native bird life. Perhaps you should contact DoC and recommend they do their part as well. Domestic and feral cats are another major problem particularly in that neighbourhood.

We discussed an increase in baiting stations, including one adjacent to you property, to increase the control rats and possums. At \$1/bait per month, I have allowed an initial increase in budget by \$100, then the following two months by \$50 on top of what he is already doing. That means 100 more baits for November, then 50 more baits for December and January on top of the 50 already in there. We have a very tight budget so I cannot commit more without knowing it is beneficial.

We would be very interested in any observations you can record in either signs of pest damage decreasing or bird activity increasing. Spring is an important time for nesting as you know, and we hope this will help. He may be contacted directly if you would like to find out more. (William Baggaley at email [ecobalance@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ecobalance@xtra.co.nz))

Thanks for helping us keep the reserve monitored and for any observations that will help us fine-tune the pest control effort.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ric Balfour', written over a horizontal line.

Ric Balfour  
**PARKS & RESERVES**  
**Park Projects Officer**

cc. William Baggaley