

RABBIT

CONTROL PROGRAM

Spring Farm Bush Corridor

The Spring Farm Bush Corridor, which adjoins the suburb of Spring Farm, protects the Endangered and Critically Endangered Ecological Communities of Elderslie Banksia Scrub Forest and Cumberland Plain Woodland that are found there.

Rabbits are known to occur throughout the Camden Local Government Area. However, there is a significant rabbit population in the Spring Farm Bush Corridor that is causing damage to the bushland and creating a nuisance to neighbouring properties. The *Rural Lands Protection Act 1998* lists rabbits as a 'declared pest' and requires land managers to continually control and suppress rabbit populations on their land.

This pest control program will complement the restoration and revegetation work being carried out by Council, to enhance remnant bushland in this area. This program is funded by the NSW Government's Saving Our Species grant, and aims to secure the future of threatened native plants and animals in the area.



Location map



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02 4654 7777

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Types of rabbit control

There are physical (mechanical), chemical and biological methods available to control rabbit populations. Each of these techniques have advantages and disadvantages. Following an assessment of the rabbit population in the Spring Farm Bush Corridor, and in consultation with Greater Sydney Local Land Services, Council will be undertaking baiting of rabbits using a rodenticide, called Pindone, and will follow this up with warren destruction if required.

What is Pindone?

Pindone is a first generation (multiple dose) anti-coagulant rodenticide, used to control rabbits. Pindone is controlled by the *Pesticides Act 1999* and will be used within the guidelines of this act and the directions on the label. Specific training and close guidance is also required by NSW Local Land Services before the baiting commences.

Pindone is highly dangerous to pets (especially dogs and cats) and humans, as it is poisonous when swallowed. If poisoning occurs, you should seek medical assistance immediately from a doctor or veterinarian as an antidote is available.

When will the baiting be undertaken?

Council will commence the baiting program in mid-August 2020. Bait stations will be moved around the corridor and associated temporary fencing will remain in place for approximately four weeks, while the baiting and monitoring is undertaken. If required at the completion of the baiting, Council may also undertake fumigation and will remove the rabbit warrens (using machinery) to prevent rabbits recolonising in the area.

How is baiting undertaken?

To determine how much poison bait to lay and to ensure the bait is not being eaten by non-target animals, free feeds (carrots/oats with no poison added) will be provided at two-day intervals for two-to-three weeks. Free feeding will then be followed by Pindone poisoned baits (Pindone mixed with oats/carrots) laid at three-to-five day intervals. The baiting area will be monitored daily and any bait that is uneaten will be collected and destroyed.

To ensure public safety, Council will be fencing off the baiting station areas to prevent any contact with the poison bait by residents and other non-target animals. To ensure the safety of pets it is strongly recommended to keep pets out of the baiting program site and leave your pet animals inside. As an added precaution dogs should be kept on a leash, when you are walking near the Spring Farm Bush Corridor.



Who can I contact if I have any questions?

For more information, call Council's Sustainability Team on 4645 7777.



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