



MEDIA RELEASE

AERIAL BAITING FOR ARGENTINE ANTS

The Yamaha Fazer drone is scheduled to recommence aerial baiting from the 11th January 2021 in the following areas:

- South of Martins Road and Uncle Joes Road (part of Zone 9)
- East of Grassy Road (part of Zone 15)
- Between Mission Road and Douglas Drive (part of the remaining area of Zone 4)
- Prince Phillip Drive (Part of Zone 11)

The Fazer Drone will distribute bait in difficult terrain and will significantly increase the area that can be baited effectively. The aerial baiting is an important step towards the eradication of Argentine Ants on Norfolk Island.

The aerial treatments are delivered using a solid hydrogel - a product that is commonly used by florists. The hydrogels swell and hold water and sugar and a very small amount of Fipronil. The hydrogels drop directly to the ground from the drone, and the Fipronil is "locked up" inside the hydrogel until it is consumed by the ant. The Argentine ants are attracted to the sugar and feed on the bait before taking it back to their nests.

Bees are not attracted to the hydrogel bait, but as a precautionary measure, movement of beehives is recommended for all hives that are less than 400 metres from where treatments will be applied.

Please note that no aerial video footage or photography will be taken as part of any drone work carried out as part of the Argentine Ant Eradication Program.

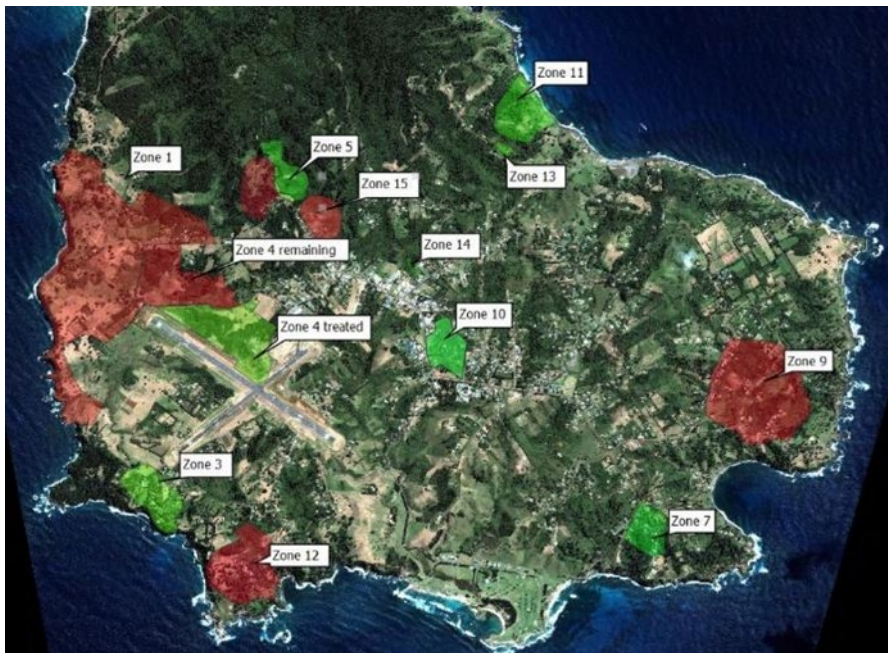
The Argentine Ant Eradication Program is progressing well, and the team are making excellent progress, so it is important that Argentine Ants are not spread into new areas on Norfolk Island.

Norfolk Island Regional Council will provide regular updates to the community about proposed baiting locations in the lead up to and during aerial baiting with the Fazer Drone via the NIRC Facebook page and through Radio announcements.

The Argentine Ant Eradication program team would like to remind everyone to please be very careful when transporting firewood, machinery, green waste, plants, soil or any other organic materials across the Island to avoid spreading the Argentine Ants into new areas.

If you have bee hives within (or within 400 metres of) zones 4, 9, 11 or 15 and you are concerned about the potential impact of baiting on your hives, or if you have any questions

or concerns about the Argentine Ant Eradication Program, please contact Customer Care on local free call 0100 or email Jim Castles (jim.castles@nirc.gov.nf) and an Argentine Ant Eradication program team member will contact you as soon as possible arrange to visit your property and discuss options to manage your beehives while aerial baiting is carried out.



Jim Castles
Project Officer

8 January 2021