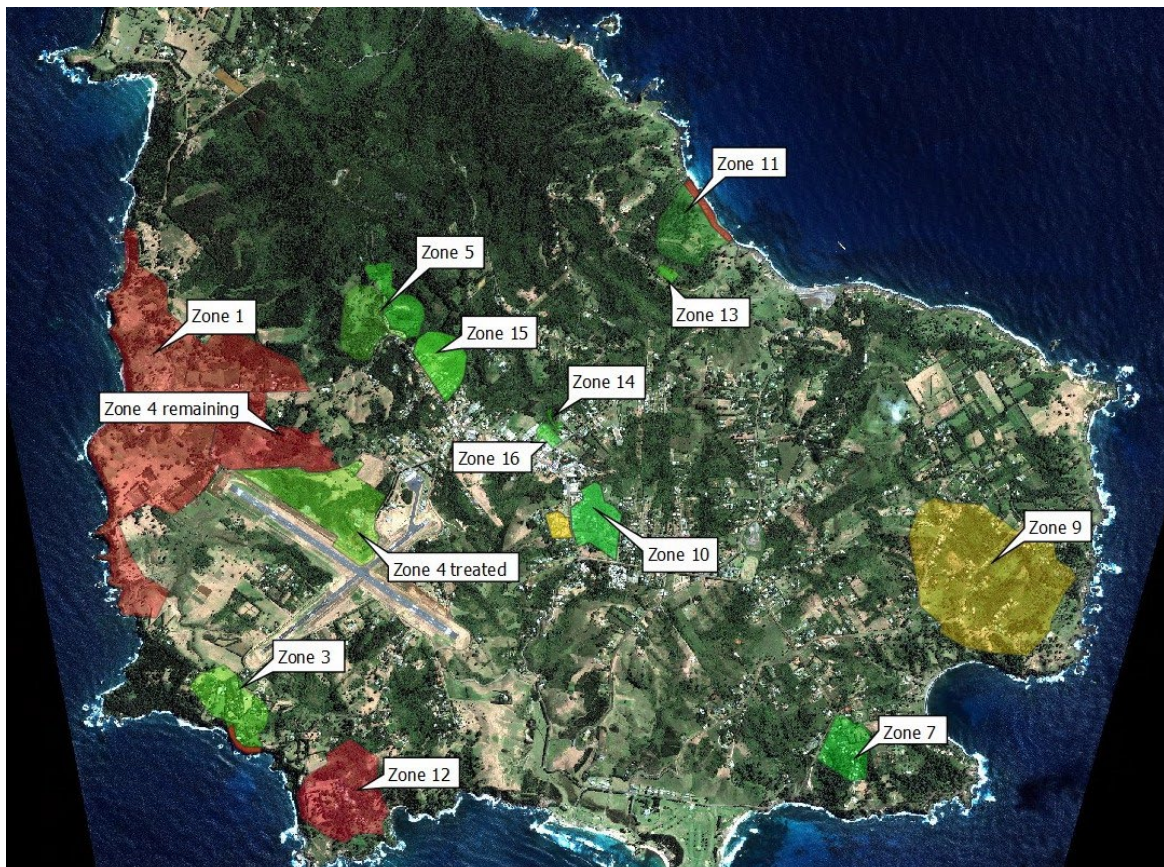


## Argentine Ant Eradication Program to commence baiting

Norfolk Island Regional Council (NIRC) Argentine Ant Eradication Program staff and contractors work under the guidance of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) to conduct targeted baiting in Argentine ant infested areas. The Argentine Ant Eradication Program is funded through the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications (DITRDC).

As part of the Norfolk Island Argentine Ant Eradication Program (AAEP), Norfolk Island Regional Council has again contracted Yamaha to commence aerial treatments for Argentine Ants in Zone 5, 9, 13 and 14 (refer to map below). These are all areas that we have treated in the past but unfortunately there are still some small patches of persisting colonies in these zones that we need to control before moving into new areas.



**Figure 1. Extent and location of known Argentine ant infestations on Norfolk Island as at June 2022. Red zones are those that remain untreated, yellow areas are those currently undergoing treatments, and green zones are those where the treatments have been completed and some re-treatments will occur.**

Greg Quinn, the Yamaha Fazer drone pilot has arrived on Norfolk Island and has started to aerially map the flight path with a smaller drone to establish flight paths prior to commencing aerial treatments from the 30th of October.

The Yamaha Fazer drone (see picture below) will distribute ant bait in dense vegetation and difficult to access terrain. The methods have also been refined and trialed to ensure no misting will occur and numerous protocols have been identified that can eliminate the risk of bee death, including moving beehives well away from the treatment area, and conducting treatments in conditions of appropriate wind strength and direction that limit potential exposure.

The aerial baiting is an important step towards the eradication of Argentine Ants on Norfolk Island. 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.



Figure 2 . Yamaha Fazer Drone

The AAEP team will also be completing targeted ground baiting by hand or by tractor/truck with a motorised blower attached, in zone 5, 9, 13 and 14 in easier to access areas.

Community support of the program and its methods are critical for eradication to be achieved and we thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Customer Care on 22244, who will put you in contact with the Argentine Ant Eradication Program staff.

Tara Patel  
**SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER**

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