

# RODENT RESPONSE – UPDATE 10

Wednesday 2 June 2021

## Rodent response activity

To date 41 rats (11 adults, 23 juveniles, 7 pups) have been detected and removed.

On Sunday 30 May a pregnant female carrying 6 embryos was captured and removed from the settlement area. Yesterday a juvenile was captured and removed.

Field crews from LHI and NPWS continue to monitor detection devices across the island supported by three detection dog teams.

To date **41 rats** have been detected and removed (11 adults, 23 juveniles, 7 pups). A small number of rats have been detected and continue to be actively monitored, baited and trapped.

## How you can help

In season fruit, such as avocados, banana, pawpaw and guavas are a popular food source for rodents.

With extra fruits growing in backyard fruit trees and orchards across the island, rats are less likely to be tempted by our baiting stations.

This can have serious consequences to the effectiveness of our surveillance and trapping capabilities.

You can assist the rodent incursion response by:

- Collecting all fallen fruit as soon as it has dropped
- Cleaning and removing any open compost heaps
- Cleaning and removing as much as possible any food scraps in chicken pens
- Not leaving food out for wildlife which rodents can access



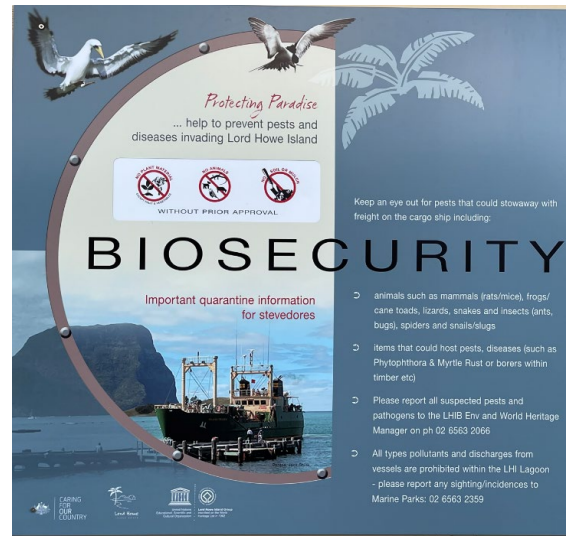
## Biosecurity – protecting paradise

The Board continues to work closely with DPI, freight suppliers, Qantas and transport in Port Macquarie to urgently tighten biosecurity arrangements and reduce the chance of rodents arriving on the island via freight deliveries and people.

Mice and rats are well suited to hitchhiking in all types of freight, personal luggage, bags and equipment.

With the mice plague on the mainland, the risk of rodent re-incursion will be an ongoing challenge.

A reminder to residents when you are unpacking luggage or shipped goods, to thoroughly inspect your packages and goods for signs of rodents. Signs can include droppings, bad odour, and chew marks on food, material or equipment.



Thanks again to all residents who have reported sightings and assisted the response operations by allowing access to your properties and following our recommendations.

### Area of response



initial 0.75 km<sup>2</sup>  
current 2.59 km<sup>2</sup>  
23% of island

### Rat detection



captured 41  
device checks  
24,532

### Detection dogs



3 dogs  
3 handlers  
575 km searched



**Help us achieve a successful incursion response by reporting any rodent sign or sightings to our Biosecurity Team on 6563 2066.**

