

Pest eradications will be good for human health too! Some pest mammal & invertebrate vector scenarios in NZ.

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The local and proposed national eradication, or control to a low level, of some mammal pests, notably possums, stoats and rats, will benefit NZ by removing potential wildlife reservoirs of some human and livestock pathogens. This in turn will reduce the risk of certain zoonotic and vector-borne infections becoming established here, although NZ already incurs a burden of imported human disease carried by infected travellers. Three NZ scenarios involving invertebrate vectors of zoonotic pathogens and potential vertebrate reservoir species, and for which there are elements of risk already present, are outlined. Climate change and urbanisation effects will be added to this.

