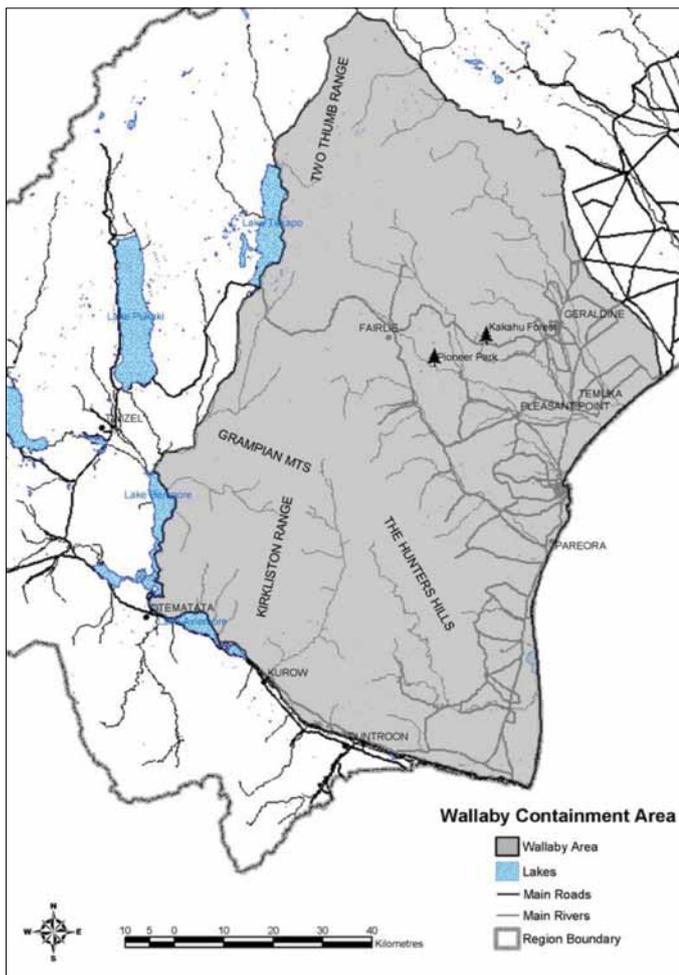


# Have you seen wallaby outside the containment area?

Wallabies have increased in density within the containment area (see map below) since user pays pest control was introduced in 1992, a change from the rating system where rates were collected to fund a dedicated control unit. Recently wallabies have been seen in some odd places both within the range and also more importantly some reports from outside the containment area. These reports are taken seriously and are followed up on to try and prevent an increase in the area these pests cover. It is an offence to move live wallaby outside of their feral range under the Biosecurity Act 1993 and carries a penalty of up to \$50,000 and/or 1 year imprisonment for a conviction.



The wallaby containment area is outlined in the shaded area. The main area of wallaby distribution within this area is:

- Two Thumb Range
- Albury Range
- Kirkliston Range
- Grampian Mountains
- The Hunter Hills
- Kakahu Bush

Environment Canterbury is asking for help in reporting sightings outside the shaded area.

Obviously the best indication that wallaby are present is a visual sighting where one can see the whole animal and it can be positively identified, if the observer is in a position to destroy the wallaby they should do so but still report it to Environment Canterbury.

If one suspects they may have seen a wallaby outside the feral range they should contact Environment Canterbury if people are unsure that what they have just seen was a wallaby then additional information would be useful, a search of the area where the suspected animal was seen should be undertaken looking for marks or sign which could help in identification.

## Wallaby signs: what to look for

The adjacent photo shows what the underside of wallaby feet look like, it is unusual for fully formed prints of the whole feet to be left at a site. The full length of wallaby feet only come into contact with the ground when the wallaby is at rest and body pressure is not exerted back to the heel so it is often only the toes and foot pads that will leave impressions in soft ground e.g. creek crossings, bare ground tracks or clay slips are the best places to look. Sometimes a tail drag mark can be seen on very soft ground or in snow.

When wallaby are moving at a slow hop it is generally the toes and pads again that leave indentations and when they are moving quickly only small marks are left where the toe nails of the big toe dig into the ground at each bound and these can be 2 or more metres apart. The very small inside toes are joined together and are often used for grooming.

Faecal sign or pellets is a good indication if wallaby have been in an area for some time, they can vary in size and description to some degree depending on the size of the wallaby, season and diet but generally look like the samples opposite.

The faecal sign is often pelleted and found in clumps, normally rather coarse in texture with vegetation fibres visible, but during spring flush or when feeding on Lucerne the sign can be joined together. Some feral cats, especially Toms, leave their faeces in predominate positions as territory markers to other cats. This can be very similar in shape to wallaby but can easily be discounted by the very strong smell being carnivorous and often fur, scales or other animal fragments can be recognized.

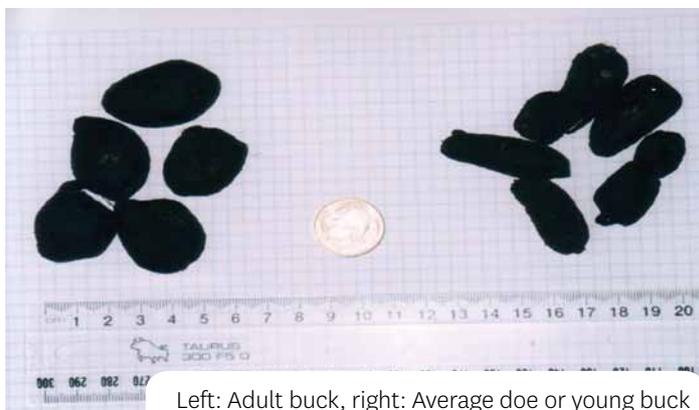
If you are reasonably sure you have seen a wallaby outside of the containment area please contact us as early as possible. Our best chance of catching up with them is if the report is immediate.

**Contact: Brent Glentworth, Biosecurity Team Leader, Environment Canterbury, Timaru. Phone 03 6877 800.**

**For further information on wallaby and wallaby control methods, please contact biosecurity staff from the Timaru office or visit [www.ecan.govt.nz](http://www.ecan.govt.nz) and search for 'pest advice'.**



The underside of wallaby feet



Left: Adult buck, right: Average doe or young buck



Top: Feral cat sign, bottom: Buck wallaby sign