



## REGIONAL PEST MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

In 1996 the Council adopted a 5 year Pest Management Strategy. The Strategy identifies possums as a pest of regional significance.

*Possum damage to tree ferns*

*Photos courtesy of the Department of Conservation*

*Possum damage to Rata and Kamahi forest, Westland.*

## THE PROBLEM

Possums are present throughout the Wellington region. The first known liberations were made by the Wellington Acclimatisation Society in 1893 at Wainuiomata.

Possums seriously damage our native forest. They eat the berries and flowers that are food for native birds. Birds' eggs and chicks are also predated.

Possums damage crops, commercial forest and gardens.

Possums spread the disease Bovine Tuberculosis to cattle and deer.

Possums are a considerable nuisance around dwellings and gardens.

