



OIA 18-E-0048
DM 5415570

1 March 2018

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, dated 31 January 2018. You requested the following:

- a) *Copies of any assessment and/or analysis of possible wider application of the Good Nature traps as the results of the success of Native Island and Harts Hill Rat control and any other uses of Good Nature traps in 2015 and/or subsequently;*
- b) *Monitoring to show the longer term effect of the Good Nature Traps in those and any other locations*
- c) *Any assessment of the costs and benefits of Good Nature Traps compared to 1080 and other pest control*
- d) *Any actual or intended modification to pest control operations to reduce reliance on 1080 and other poisons as the result of learning from these or similar projects*
- e) *Any trajectories for kea and other bird numbers that have been calculated if primary and secondary bykill of native birds can be avoided through the use of Good Nature traps or other methods.*
- f) *Copies of all reported unintended consequences of 1080 poison since 2013 – including established or suspected cases of 1080 poisoning of humans (whether from aerial drops, hand laid or from fires etc), poisoning of dogs, the poisoning of stock by 1080 and all records of the bykill of native birds.*
- g) *Please include copies of any reports on health and safety risks associated with the use 1080 poison on public land and any compensation paid to farmer, dog owner etc attributable to 1080 poisoning or suspected poisoning for this period and any changes to DoC practices as a result, I presume DoC keeps or has access to a register of all reported poisoning incidents in Nz as part of its risk assessment processes, whether conducted by or on behalf of DoC or other entities. If not please provide what information you do have of this type and its limitations.*

In your letter you express several concerns about the use of 1080. In New Zealand, protecting our native plants and animals entails using a variety of methods to control, among other things, exotic pest mammals in order to help halt the decline in biodiversity.

The Department of Conservation is continuing to invest in research to alternatives to 1080 as part of the vision for a predator free New Zealand. However, it is likely that 1080 will continue to be important and is currently one of our most effective tools for controlling pests at landscape scale. While we still need to use 1080, the Department recognises the

National Office

Conservation House - *Whare Kaupapa Atawhai*
PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143
Telephone (04) 471 0726, Fax (04) 381 3057

need to manage and monitor its operations (and all other toxin operations) carefully, and within the law.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

- a) *Copies of any assessment and/or analysis of possible wider application of the Good Nature traps as the results of the success of Native Island and Harts Hill Rat control and any other uses of Good Nature traps in 2015 and/or subsequently;*
- b) *Monitoring to show the longer term effect of the Good Nature Traps in those and any other locations*
- c) *Any assessment of the costs and benefits of Good Nature Traps compared to 1080 and other pest control*

In response to these parts of your request I am able to provide you with the following documents:

| Item | Date | Document description | Decision |
|-------------|---------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | Undated | Self-resetting traps for controlling stoats to protect North island Brown Kiwi at Trounson Kauri Park | Released in full. |
| 2 | Undated | Trials of Self-resetting traps for ground based pest control | Released in full. |
| 3 | June 2016 | An interim report for the Waikato Regional Council on trials comparing lures and luring practices for Goodnature Ltd. A24s for rats. Maungakawa/Te Tapui A Block: Jan 15 to June 16 | Released in full. |
| 4 | November 2016 | Summary report on a trial of two lures to attract stoats to Goodnature A24 self-resetting traps | Released in full. |
| 5 | Undated | Goodnature Ltd A12 and A24 Self-resetting Traps: advice regarding the purchase by DOC of self-resetting traps. | Released in full. |
| 6 | Undated | Further update on Goodnature Ltd A12 and A24 Self-resetting Traps | Released in full. |
| 7 | Undated | Goodnature Ltd A12 and A24 Self-resetting Traps- Update: Now recommended for Stoats | Released in full. |
| 8 | May 2015 | Rat Control Harts Hill- Fiordland Project Report | Released in full. |
| 9 | June 2015 | Native Island Rat Eradication | Released in full. |

| | | Project Report | |
|----|----------------|--|-------------------|
| 10 | Undated | Harts Hill rat control, Kepler Mountains, Fiordland | Released in full. |
| 11 | September 2015 | Ship rat, stoat and possum control on mainland New Zealand | Released in full. |

Please note that photographs of Department staff and volunteers have been redacted in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. This decision is made under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act.

- d) Any actual or intended modification to pest control operations to reduce reliance on 1080 and other poisons as the result of learning from these or similar projects*

Goodnature traps are now routinely considered as options for possum, rodent or mustelid control in every Department of Conservation pest control operation. This is because the approach is to evaluate all available control methods prior to deciding on the best pest control method(s) to be used at a site.

Since 2016, Goodnature traps have been deployed on a large scale to protect Hochstetter's and Archey's frogs in Waimarino; Hochstetter's frogs in Ottawa; Haast tokoeka in Haast; orange fronted parakeets in Arthur's Pass; and at Gouland Downs to protect a range of wildlife.

- e) Any trajectories for kea and other bird numbers that have been calculated if primary and secondary bykill of native birds can be avoided through the use of Good Nature traps or other methods.*

I am unable to provide you with information in response to this part of your request as it does not exist. This decision is made under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act.

- f) Copies of all reported unintended consequences of 1080 poison since 2013 – including established or suspected cases of 1080 poisoning of humans (whether from aerial drops, hand laid or from fires etc), poisoning of dogs, the poisoning of stock by 1080 and all records of the bykill of native birds*

Established unintended 1080 poisoning cases

The Department uses the Vertebrate Pesticides Residue Database records from the Toxicology Laboratory at Landcare Research as the source of confirmed 1080 bykill reports.

These records show that the number of native birds that have been confirmed as dying from 1080 poisoning since 2013 are as follows:

- 2013: 5 kea; 1 weka;
- 2014: 1 kea; 1 short tailed bat. (Note: one weka was reported with 1080 residues but is suspected that it was not killed by 1080 poisoning – the bird had (dog-related) injuries and was found down a long-drop facility. Human interference is suspected);
- 2017: 1 West Coast Bush weta.

Suspected unintended 1080 poisoning cases

Since 2013, three dogs have been reported as poisoned following DOC aerial 1080 operations. In each case the dog was allowed to roam on to public conservation land while unmuzzled, despite warning signs and public notification.

Since 2013, three separate incidents of stock deaths have occurred following two DOC aerial 1080 operations (Whareorino and Pouiatoa).

At Whareorino, the stock owner took responsibility for allowing stock to wander on to public conservation land, leading to the death of four cattle.

In the first incident at Pouiatoa, (a joint operation between the Department and Taranaki Regional Council), Taranaki Regional Council accepted responsibility for inadequately fencing off the operational area leading to the death of four cattle. In the second incident at Pouiatoa, the stock owner was found to have inadequately fenced his animals, allowing his stock to wander on to public conservation land, leading to the death of six cattle.

Further information on suspected, but unconfirmed unintended 1080 poisoning information is publicly available. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regularly publishes 1080 aerial operators' reports on its website. These reports provide information on the unintended consequences of 1080 operations as well as general treatment details and monitoring results and outcomes. You can find these reports on their website:

www.epa.govt.nz/resources-and-publications/1080-aerial-operators-reports/?start=0

g) Please include copies of any reports on health and safety risks associated with the use 1080 poison on public land and any compensation paid to farmer, dog owner etc attributable to 1080 poisoning or suspected poisoning for this period and any changes to DoC practices as a result, I presume DoC keeps or has access to a register of all reported poisoning incidents in NZ as part of its risk assessment processes, whether conducted by or on behalf of DoC or other entities. If not please provide what information you do have of this type and its limitations.

Regarding the health and safety risks the department adheres to legislation under the:

- Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996
- Health and Safety at work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017

The following link provides guidance used on how to how to identify and manage the public health hazards and risks associated with the use of vertebrate toxic agents including 1080:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/issuing-permissions-vertebrate-toxic-agents-vtas-guidelines-public-health-units>

As stated above, information on health and safety risks associated with the use of 1080 on public land is publicly available on the EPA website:

www.epa.govt.nz/resources-and-publications/1080-aerial-operators-reports/?start=0

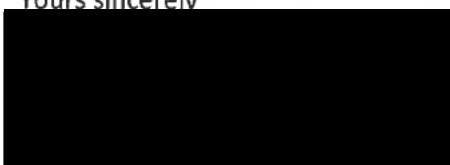
From 2013 until the present day the Department has not paid compensation to farmers, dog owners or any other animal owners in relation to poisoning of animals through DOC 1080

operations. I am unable to provide you with information on changes to our practices as a result of any suspected or actual poisoning, as this information does not exist. This decision is made under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act.

I am unable to provide you with a register of all reported poisoning incidents in New Zealand as this is not information that the Department holds. This decision is made under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decisions by making a written complaint to an Ombudsman pursuant to section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely



Amber Bill
Director Threats, Biodiversity Group
For Director-General

