

[REDACTED]

10 April 2025

DOC Queenstown
PO BOX 811
Queenstown 9348
doc.govt.nz
Ref: OIAD-5020

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 13 March 2025, in which you asked about the proposed pukunui predator control operation on Rakiura/Stewart Island.

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *Therefore a meeting will not be held in Bluff - is this correct?*

There is no meeting for the proposed pukunui operation currently scheduled to be held in Bluff.

2. *All public meetings related to the Dotterel "proposal" held and to be held before poisoning commences?*

Public meetings held that have discussed the proposed operation:

- Community Kōrero, Oban, 1pm-3pm and 6pm-8pm, 30 January 2025
- 1080 Information Sessions, Oban, 1pm-3pm and 7pm-9pm, 17 February 2025
- Protecting Pukunui on Rakiura Community Hui in Oban, 11am-1pm and 7pm-9pm, 25 March 2025

We will also hold community drop-in sessions on Thursday 10 April 2025 in Oban.

We intend to remain responsive to the Rakiura community and other interested party needs, therefore the number of future public meetings has not yet been decided.

3. *Copies of all notifications via post or emails and whether these were the ones sent to Rakiura residents recently and by email to me last week?*

The fact sheet *Consulting on the protection of native species on Stewart Island/Rakiura* was distributed by email on 7 March 2025. The email text sent to all the different stakeholders is provided in **Attachment 1**.

We conducted a PO box drop for Stewart Island residents on 7 March 2025 which included the fact sheet *Consulting on the protection of native species on Stewart Island/Rakiura* and a *Protecting Pukunui on Rakiura Community Hui in Oban* event flyer (**Attachment 2**).

4. *Who has received a phone call about this meeting and why have they been called specifically in relation to this “proposal”?*

Phone calls in relation to planning the *Protecting Pukunui on Rakiura Community Hui in Oban* were made around catering, travel logistics and event planning.

5. *Which local media has public meetings be notified in and when and is this considered an official legal channel - given that a large number of people do not subscribe to it?*

I have interpreted your question “which local media has public meetings be notified in” to be regarding the *Protecting Pukunui on Rakiura Community Hui in Oban* on 25 March 2025. No local media was used to advertise this hui.

6. *Which webpages are these meetings / notices being displayed on and when have they been published?*

The Predator Free Rakiura website and the Rakiura Calander were used to advertise the *Protecting Pukunui on Rakiura Community Hui in Oban* on 25 March 2025. I have included the links to these webpages below:

- [Project Update: March '25 - Predator Free Rakiura](#)
- [Have your say- Predator Free Rakiura](#)
- [Rakiura Calendar](#)
- [Protecting Pukunui on Rakiura](#)

7. *Why will Aaron Fleming not attend the 25th March 2025 meeting or any meetings held by Predator-Free Rakiura in Rakiura - given the significance of the decision?*

I was unavailable to attend the meeting on 25 March 2025. However, I may attend future meetings.

8. *Title of all licences required and from which authority?*

There are multiple consents DOC and ZIP must obtain and comply with before undertaking an aerial operation. These include:

- Permission to use a vertebrate toxic agent in a publicly accessible area, issued by the local District Health Boards’ Public Health Unit (specifically issued by a public health hazardous substance and new organisms enforcement officer)

- Permission to use a vertebrate toxic agent on public conservation land, issued by the Department of Conservation, under delegated authority from the Environmental Protection Authority.
- Resource consents may also be required, issued by Southland District Council and Environment Southland for bait storage and aircraft noise, respectively.
- A location compliance certificate, issued by a compliance certifier on behalf of Worksafe for bait storage.

9. *Health and Safety Plan - therefore there is no specific health and safety plan for the Dotterel Project*

I have interpreted your question as relating to the proposed pukunui predator control operation, rather than the pukunui recovery project. All aerial 1080 operations in the southern South Island region, including Rakiura, abide by the following document, provided as **Attachment 3**:

- National Predator Control Programme 2025 Aerial 1080 Operations in the Southern South Island

Names of DOC staff have been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the OIA to protect them from improper pressure or harassment. I have considered section 9(1) of the OIA and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding. You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the OIA.

10. *If this is a DOC project why is it being published on the Predator-Free Rakiura website?*

While the proposed pukunui predator control operation is a stand-alone response to an immediate conservation crisis, it also presents an opportunity to gain critical insights into predator behaviour and control methods on Rakiura.

ZIP is designing a small-scale eradication trial to be conducted alongside the larger proposed pukunui predator control operation, within the operational area. This trial will help inform stage one of Predator Free Rakiura.

Information on the proposed pukunui predator control operation has been published on the Predator Free Rakiura website to inform interested parties of the proposed trials to be conducted alongside the pukunui-focused operation.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on DOC's website.

If you would like to discuss this response further, please contact Rachael Moore by email to ramoore@doc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A Fleming', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aaron Fleming MNZM
Regional Operations Director, Southern South Island
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Document schedule

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	6 March 2025	Consultation on effects cover notes	Released in full
2	6 March 2025	Event flyer – Pukunui community hui	Released in full
3	13 October 2023	National Predator Control Programme 2025 Aerial 1080 Operations in the Southern South Island.	Released in part