

2 December 2025

Ref: OIAD-5832

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 3 June 2025, in which you asked for:

*“What is the total known population of *Ceratocephala pungens*? What portion of the population exists in Mackenzie Basin, and what portion exists in Central Otago? And across how many populations?*

*What is the known population of *Myosotis brevis* in Central Otago? And how many populations are known in Central Otago?”*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA).

As noted in our previous correspondence, your request was inadvertently overlooked and later identified when processing another incoming OIA request. Once again, we sincerely apologise for the delay in responding to your request.

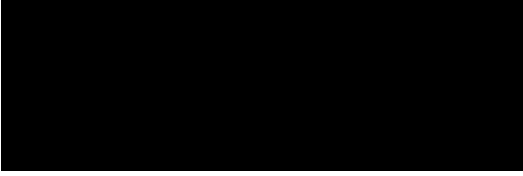
Wild populations of *Ceratocephala pungens* are extremely difficult to assess, and precise numbers are not currently well-known. Please find enclosed as Appendix A, *Summary Ceratocephala pungens 20251107*, which provides an overview of the critically threatened plant species, detailing its conservation challenges, current population status, and urgent management needs in Otago and the Mackenzie Basin.

You also requested population figures for *Myosotis brevis* in Central Otago. Unfortunately, we are unable to provide this information under section 18(g) of the OIA, as it is not held by DOC and we have no reason to believe it is held by another department or more closely connected to the functions of another agency.

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.

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

Nāku noa, nā



Lynn Hansberry
Acting Director Regulatory Systems Performance
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai