

5 February 2025



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 17 December 2024, in which you asked for:

“..any technical reports, data, field studies or assessments, or other associate material, prepared by or held by the Department of Conservation and/or consultants engaged by the Department of Conservation, regarding the presence and location of the following species in the Dunstan Ranges and wider Central Otago Area:

- (a) Ceratocephala pungens.*
- (b) Myosorus minimus.*
- (c) Myosotis brevis.*

On 24 December 2024, you refined your request’s specific area of interest to the Dunstan Ranges and confirmed one of the species of interest as *Myosorus minimus* as opposed to *Myosotis brevis*.

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

The conservation status of a species is a forecast based on observed trends and likely pressures (refer to [Conservation status of plants and animals: Nature](#)). Of the plant species listed and confirmed as being the subject of your request, *Ceratocephala pungens* and *Myosorus minimus* are nationally critical, while *Myosotis brevis* is nationally endangered.

A schedule of the documents identified as within the scope of your refined request is attached. I have decided to release the relevant parts of these documents, subject to some information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

- personal (contact) details, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people, and/or
- specific locations of threatened plant and animal species, under section 6(c) – to limit undesirable activity connected to threatened species, as making such information available is likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences.

In making my decision to withhold certain information under section 9, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

I note that some of the documents being released (in full or in part) contain:


- information outside the scope of your request: This information has been withheld and I have indicated on the document schedule attached where this type of withholding has occurred.
- information relating to the wider Central Otago District: Where appropriate, this information has been left in to provide additional context.
- references to other documents: These other documents have not been included as part of our response.

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 the Department's website.

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please contact Charlie Sklenar, Operations Manager Central Otago, by email to csklenar@doc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa nā



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

Table 1 - Schedule of documents

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	29 August 2013	Bendigo Scenic-Historic Reserves EMU description	Released in full
2	15 May 2024	Ceratocephala pungens PSOTB summary report	Withheld in part under ss9(2)(a) and 6(c), OIA and for being out of scope
3	11 November 2024	DG Expert Evidence TKO Properties - Richard Ewans <i>Please note this document is also available online at: Richard Ewans evidence</i>	Released in full (plus link to a publicly available copy)
4	17 March 2010	Ecology and conservation status of three spring annual herbs in dryland ecosystems of New Zealand	Released in full
5	18 February 2010	Land use effects on spring annual herbs in rare non forest ecosystems of New Zealand	Released in full
6	27 September 2019	Otago Regional Council Plan Change Botanical Comments	Withheld in part under s6(c), OIA
7	9 January 2025	Spring annual species Dunstan Ranges - Bioweb records	Released in full
8	16 October 2013	Waenga botanical	Released in full
9	6 January 2025	Location map <i>Please note that the three plant species of interest to you may be growing elsewhere within the Location map area and are not yet surveyed.</i>	Released in full