

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/
Conservation House 18
Manners Street Te Aro,
Wellington

6011

doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-5574

8 September 2025

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 17 August 2025, in which you asked for the costs associated with a 1080 pest control operation.

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

We have interpreted your question to relate to the costs associated with an aerial 1080 pest control operation, based on your reference to a 1080 “drop.”

The main costs involved in an aerial 1080 operation are outlined below:

1. Bait

This varies depending on the bait application rate being used. Most DOC operations use 1.5 kg per hectare of both prefeed and toxic bait, leading to bait costs of roughly \$12 per hectare.

2. Bait transport and storage

Bait must be stored in approved hazardous goods stores and transported in compliance with strict regulations. The cost of this is roughly \$2 per hectare.

3. Aircraft

The cost of aurally applying bait varies according to the distance of the site from available aircraft, the size, shape and complexity of the application area, and the bait application rate being used. Typically, the cost of this for DOC operations is \$12 to \$16 per hectare.

4. Labour

Labour costs include planning, consultation, obtaining permissions and consents, and numerous tasks associated with bait application (GIS monitoring, track clearance, loading of bait, installation and maintenance of signs, etc). Labour costs for each operation vary, depending on the number of landowners or other stakeholders affected, the size and complexity of the operation, the extent of public use of the site, the site's remoteness, etc.

Typically, labour costs for DOC operations are \$8 to \$12 per hectare.

5. Monitoring and research

Averaged monitoring and research costs across DOC's aerial 1080 programme is currently about \$3 per hectare.

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

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Reddiex'.

Ben Reddiex
Director National Programmes
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai