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██████████
26 January 2026

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/
Conservation House 18
Manners Street Te Aro,
Wellington
6011
doc.govt.nz
Ref: OIAD-5968

Tēnā koe ██████████

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 17 December 2025, in which you asked for:

*“Was aerial application of 1080 ever prohibited by Department of Conservation policy, operational guidelines, or permit conditions during school holidays?
If the answer is yes, please confirm the period during which such a prohibition applied”*

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

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *Was aerial application of 1080 ever prohibited by Department of Conservation policy, operational guidelines, or permit conditions during school holidays?*

No design, planning, or permission assessment best-practice documents identify any DOC policy, guideline, or permission condition that includes a blanket prohibition on aerial 1080 operations during school holidays.

While there is no national rule preventing aerial 1080 operations during school holidays, operational timing decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. DOC has chosen to avoid school holidays for some operations following local consultation, particularly at high use sites. DOC may also temporarily close facilities or tracks to manage public safety however these are local operational decisions rather than formal prohibitions.

2. *If the answer is yes, please confirm the period during which such a prohibition applied*

Because no such prohibition has been identified, there is no applicable date range.

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) may be published on DOC's website.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Reddiex".

Ben Reddiex
Director National Programmes
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai