[redacted]

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/
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Ref: OIAD-5204

30 May 2025

Tēnā koe [redacted]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 02 May 2025, in which you asked for:

a) *What is the planned loading of 1080 - in cereal baits for the proposed pukunui operation?*
b) *How does this compare to the 1080 loading for operations throughout NZ in the past 10 years?*
c) *What is the reasoning behind the loading for the proposed pukunui operation?"*

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

a) *What is the planned loading of 1080 - in cereal baits for the proposed pukunui operation?*

The concentration of 1080 in cereal baits for the pukunui operation is 0.15%. That is 1.5 grammes of 1080 in 1000 grammes of cereal bait.

b) *How does this compare to the 1080 loading for operations throughout NZ in the past 10 years?*

Most aerial 1080 operations that have targeted possums over the last 10 years have used 0.15% toxic loading. A few operations have used a lower toxic loading (0.08%), however the reduction in toxic loading often requires higher bait application rates (more baits are applied per hectare), meaning there may be no reduction in the total quantity of toxin used. Some operations targeting wallabies have used a higher toxic loading (0.2%).

c) *What is the reasoning behind the loading for the proposed pukunui operation?*

The reasoning behind the concentration of 1080 in cereal baits for the pukunui predator control operation is to minimise the amount of toxin and number of poison baits that are used, while still controlling the pests that we are targeting.

While the primary focus of the Pukunui Operation is to target feral cats through the consumption of toxic rats and possums, the largest pest being targeted is the possum. A toxic loading of 0.15% was chosen so that a single 6 gramme bait will kill both an individual rat and an individual possum. That allows bait application rates to be reduced to the lowest possible levels (i.e. fewer baits are spread, as each target predator only needs to have access to a single bait to be killed).

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

Nāku noa, nā

Ben Reddiex
Director National Programmes
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai