

ENQ-37279-S3F6C4

Date: *18th June 2019*

David Haynes
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Official Information Act Request

Dear Mr Haynes

I refer to your request to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), received on 21 May 2019, for information relating to the EPA's response to an enquiry made by Ms Carole Sawyer. Ms Sawyer's enquiry concerned the impacts of a flood, on 25 and 26 March 2019, on a property in which 1080 bait was stored.

In respect of the statement, in our response, that 'the bait that was affected by water was disposed of', you have asked:

- 1. how much bait was disposed of?*
- 2. exactly where was it disposed?*
- 3. how was it disposed (e.g. buried, burned, etc)?*
- 4. if buried, how deep?*
- 5. what actions were undertaken to reduce any leaching or dispersal of the disposed baits?*
- 6. what future monitoring is planned to measure leaching or dispersal?*

Your request has been treated as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). My response to each part of your request is provided below.

1. How much bait was disposed of?

16.2 tonnes of toxic bait and 14 tonnes of pre-feed bait were disposed of.

2. Exactly where was it disposed?

The toxic bait and the pre-feed bait were disposed of in the Bonny Glen Landfill, near Marton, in the North Island.

3. How was it disposed?

The bait was transported to the active filling area in palletised bags in a tracked dumper. To avoid the possibility that it might be spilled and scavenged, the bait was not tipped over the tipping wall. The palletised bags were then ruptured by machines. As heaped bait inhibits biodegradation, the bait was spread in thin layers more than four metres away from the base line. Waste for the rest of the day was placed and compacted over the area,

increasing the depth of cover before adding 'daily cover' soil. The site, which is not open to the public, was then closed for the evening.

4. If buried, how deep?

The EPA does not have information about how much waste covered the bait on that particular day, nor about how much 'daily cover' soil was added. Because of this, we do not know how deeply the bait was buried. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA (the document alleged to contain the information does not exist).

5. What actions were undertaken to reduce any leaching or dispersal of the disposed baits?

The burial process, described above, was intended to contain the waste and prevent leaching or dispersal.

6. What future monitoring is planned to measure leaching or dispersal?

Under the Resource Management Act 1991, landfill sites have responsibilities for monitoring leaching or dispersal. Local and regional councils also have monitoring responsibilities. We advise that you contact Rangitikei District Council for further information.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via ministerials@epa.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Dr Allan L. Freeth
Chief Executive
Environmental Protection Authority