



19-E-0804 / DOC 6142108

3 December 2019

Neville Reilly  
via *FYI.org.nz*

Dear Mr Reilly

We refer to the request you submitted to the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board under the Official Information Act 1982 ("the OIA") on 16 November 2019 regarding pest control operations in Te Maruia and Lewis Pass.

Your request has been referred to the Department of Conservation's National Office to provide a response. For ease of reference, we have considered each part of your request separately below.

### **Te Maruia 1080 operation**

You asked that we provide you with "*the GPS [coordinates] and flight path pattern*" of all aerial and hand-laid 1080 operations that have taken place in Te Maruia in 2019. Information regarding those operations is set out below.

#### *Aerial application of 1080 bait pellets*

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide you with the raw GPS data (or GPS coordinates) generated by the GPS tracking devices on the helicopters that applied the 1080 bait pellets during the Te Maruia operation because that data cannot be viewed without special Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software. We are therefore providing you with a map (set out as item 1 in the attached document schedule) which has been prepared using that raw GPS data and sets out the flight paths taken by the helicopters when sowing 1080 bait pellets. The flight paths are illustrated as lines across each treatment block.

In providing that map to you, we note that we are withholding a second map which sets out the flight paths taken by the helicopters when bait was not being sown (for example, when the helicopters were flying to and from the loading sites). We are withholding that map under sections 6(d) and 9(2)(g)(ii) of the OIA because the release of that information is likely to endanger the safety of the Department's staff and contractors. In making the decision to withhold this information, I have taken into account the public interest considerations set out in section 9(1) of the OIA.

#### *Hand-laid 1080 bait pellets*

As explained above, we are unable to provide you with the raw GPS data generated by the GPS tracking devices carried by the individuals that were hand-laying the 1080 bait pellets because that data cannot be viewed without special GIS software. We are therefore providing you with four maps which set out the paths taken when hand-

laying the 1080 bait pellets within the treatment areas. These maps are set out as items 2 to 5 in the attached document schedule.

Please note that we are withholding the name of a staff member noted in those maps under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(ii) of the OIA to protect their privacy and to protect them from any improper pressure or harassment. In making the decision to withhold that information, I have taken into account the public interest considerations set out in section 9(1) of the OIA.

### **St James Conservation Area possum control operation**

We also note that, in April 2019, the Department issued a permission to a third party to apply cyanide in the St James Conservation Area near Lewis Pass. We have not, however, included any information regarding that operation in this OIA response because you noted that you do not require information regarding cyanide baits.

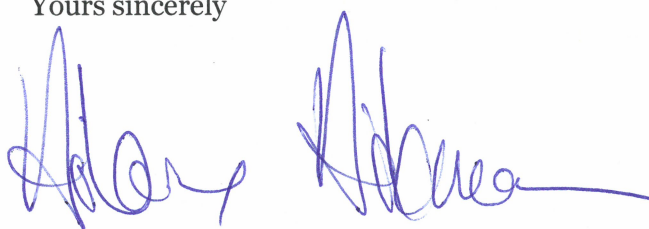
### **Brodifacoum operations near Te Maruia and Lewis Pass**

You also asked that we provide you with information relating to any brodifacoum operations that might have taken place near Te Maruia and Lewis Pass. The Department has not applied brodifacoum in any areas near Te Maruia or Lewis Pass, and therefore, does not hold any information relating to flight paths for any such operation. Therefore, we are refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA because the information you requested does not exist.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how you can make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

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

Yours sincerely



Hilary Aikman  
Director National Operations – Issues and Programmes

### Document schedule

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	19 November 2019	Te Maruia – Toxic sow flight lines	Released in full
2	29 November 2019	Hand laid bait lines – Upper Palmer Road	Released in part
3	29 November 2019	Hand laid bait line – Lower Palmer Rd	Released in part
4	29 November 2019	Hand laid bait lines – Lake Daniell Track	Released in part
5	29 November 2019	Hand laid bait lines – State Highway 7	Released in part