

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:44 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
§ 9(2)(a), perhaps they are buried in your inbox?

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:41 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

§ 9(2)(a), I emailed the first three pm reports to § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and the muscle samples (including the 3 rats from yesterday) have been sent to Landcare, the analysis will take around 10 days,  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:38 AM  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Are we able to get a ETA on the post mortem analysis for the rats/weka?

Cheers  
§ 9(2)(a),

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 4:47 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

Hello § 9(2)(a),

We can certainly do the post mortem analysis and send samples to Landcare Ecotoxicology for you, but you will need to arrange payment for the 1080 testing directly with them as this is not part of our contracted pathology service for threatened species. We can post mortem feral animals if there is a clear conservation benefit to threatened species projects. Can you give us a reason for this?

Thanks  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 4:40 PM  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Rats for necropsy

Hello § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
I have sent two rats, one frozen collected 9/11/19 and one collected 11/11/19. Please find attached form.

Kind regards  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Ranger, Biodiversity - *Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*  
**Kawatiri/ Buller District**  
M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) | E: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa***

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 8:13 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)

Sincerest apologies I was instructed to send you the animals and assumed what is needed had been discussed and agreed upon with your team.

“We can certainly do the post mortem analysis and send samples to Landcare Ecotoxicology for you, but you will need to arrange payment for the 1080 testing directly with them as this is not part of our contracted pathology service for threatened species.” (Does this statement refer to the weka only?)

“We can post mortem feral animals if there is a clear conservation benefit to threatened species projects. Can you give us a reason for this?”. § 9(2)(a), and § 9(2)(a), how would you like to proceed with the two rats I've already sent?

Thanks

§ 9(2)(a),

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 4:47 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

Hello § 9(2)(a),

We can certainly do the post mortem analysis and send samples to Landcare Ecotoxicology for you, but you will need to arrange payment for the 1080 testing directly with them as this is not part of our contracted pathology service for threatened species. We can post mortem feral animals if there is a clear conservation benefit to threatened species projects. Can you give us a reason for this?

Thanks

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 4:40 PM  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Rats for necropsy

Hello § 9(2)(a), 9(2)

I have sent two rats, one frozen collected 9/11/19 and one collected 11/11/19. Please find attached form.

Kind regards

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Ranger, Biodiversity - *Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*  
**Kawatiri/ Buller District**

M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) | E: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:56 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Rats for necropsy  
**Attachments:** Pathology 58161 weka.pdf; Pathology 58159 rat.pdf; Pathology 58160 rat.pdf

Can you share these also with LAll thanks

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Ao Tūroa*

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:53 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) >  
**Subject:** FW: Rats for necropsy

Massey results § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) again no toxin detected  
B

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:49 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) >  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:47 AM  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Could you please resend to § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) as he doesn't have a copy § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Thanks  
§ 9(2)(a),

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:41 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

§ 9(2)(a), I emailed the first three pm reports to § 9(2)(a), § 9(2)(g)(ii) and § 9(2)(a), § 9(2)(g)(ii) and the muscle samples (including the 3 rats from yesterday) have been sent to Landcare, the analysis will take around 10 days,

§ 9(2)(a), § 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:38 AM

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)

Are we able to get a ETA on the post mortem analysis for the rats/weka?

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a),

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 4:47 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

Hello § 9(2)(a), 9(2)

We can certainly do the post mortem analysis and send samples to Landcare Ecotoxicology for you, but you will need to arrange payment for the 1080 testing directly with them as this is not part of our contracted pathology service for threatened species. We can post mortem feral animals if there is a clear conservation benefit to threatened species projects. Can you give us a reason for this?

Thanks

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 4:40 PM

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Rats for necropsy

Hello § 9(2)(a), 9(2)

I have sent two rats, one frozen collected 9/11/19 and one collected 11/11/19. Please find attached form.

Kind regards

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Ranger, Biodiversity - *Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*  
**Kawatiri/Buller District**

M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:55 a.m.  
**To:** Michael Slater; Martin Kessick; Hilary Aikman  
**Cc:** Amber Bill; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Rats for necropsy  
**Attachments:** Pathology 58161 weka.pdf; Pathology 58159 rat.pdf; Pathology 58160 rat.pdf

It just gets better

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810

**Mobile** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:53 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) >  
**Subject:** FW: Rats for necropsy

Massey results Mark – again no toxin detected  
B

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:49 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:47 AM  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Could you please resend to § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) as he doesn't have a copy § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Thanks

§ 9(2)(a),



From: [redacted]

Sent: Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:41 a.m.

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Rats for necropsy

[redacted], I emailed the first three pm reports to [redacted] and [redacted] and the muscle samples (including the 3 rats from yesterday) have been sent to Landcare, the analysis will take around 10 days,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:38 AM

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

[redacted]

Subject: RE: Rats for necropsy

Hi [redacted]

Are we able to get a ETA on the post mortem analysis for the rats/weka?

Cheers

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Monday, 11 November 2019 4:47 p.m.

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: RE: Rats for necropsy

Hello [redacted]

We can certainly do the post mortem analysis and send samples to Landcare Ecotoxicology for you, but you will need to arrange payment for the 1080 testing directly with them as this is not part of our contracted pathology service for threatened species. We can post mortem feral animals if there is a clear conservation benefit to threatened species projects. Can you give us a reason for this?

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: Monday, 11 November 2019 4:40 PM

To: [redacted]

Cc: [redacted]

Subject: Rats for necropsy

Hello [redacted]

I have sent two rats, one frozen collected 9/11/19 and one collected 11/11/19. Please find attached form.

Kind regards

[redacted]

Ranger, Biodiversity - *Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*  
**Kawatiri/ Buller District**

M: [redacted]

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Hilary Aikman  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 12:19 p.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies; Michael Slater; Martin Kessick  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Amber Bill; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Rats for necropsy

Excellent news. Thanks everyone. Hilary

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 14/11/2019 11:54 AM, Mark Davies <§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)> wrote:

It just gets better

**Mark Davies**

Director, Operations

Western South Island Region

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810

Mobile + § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:53 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies <§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)>  
**Subject:** FW: Rats for necropsy  
Massey results Mark – again no toxin detected  
B

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:49 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:47 AM  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

please resend to § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) as he doesn't have a copy § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Thanks

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:41 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) I emailed the first three pm reports to § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and the muscle samples (including the 3 rats from yesterday) have been sent to Landcare, the analysis will take around 10 days,

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:38 AM

To: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Are we able to get a ETA on the post mortem analysis for the rats/weka?

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a),

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 4:47 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

Hello § 9(2)(a),

We can certainly do the post mortem analysis and send samples to Landcare Ecotoxicology for you, but you will need to arrange payment for the 1080 testing directly with them as this is not part of our contracted pathology service for threatened species. We can post mortem feral animals if there is a clear conservation benefit to threatened species projects. Can you give us a reason for this?

Thanks

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 4:40 PM

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Rats for necropsy

Hello § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

I have sent two rats, one frozen collected 9/11/19 and one collected 11/11/19. Please find attached form.

Kind regards

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Ranger, Biodiversity - *Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*  
**Kawatiri/ Buller District**

M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa***

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 11:03 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

That will help

Much appreciated

Mark Davies  
Director Operations Western South Island Region  
Ph § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 9:20:28 AM

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

Hi All,

I'll talk to the Massey team and get necropsies on the rates which are already there.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 9:07 a.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

Hi all

A note to keep all in the loop.

Yesterday two rats were sent to Massey, a confirmation email was sent to Massey that they were on their way, they replied "We can post mortem feral animals if there is a clear conservation benefit to threatened species projects."

Can you give us a reason for this?". 3-4 decomposing rats were also sent to Landcare as well yesterday, a verbal discussion with [redacted] confirmed she knew they were being sent and will undertake the work.

As post mortem of feral species is not a service Massey provides without the reason noted above, another venue for post mortem has not been identified and proving if the rats are from a 1080 operation seems most prudent, 3 additional rats (this is all we currently have) will be sent to Landcare for toxicology today, primarily because those sent yesterday were in such poor condition.

We will retain some individuals in the freezer should anymore be found, so if the results come back negative for 1080 and there is deemed a reason to conduct post mortem on the rats, we still have something to use.

[redacted]

Ranger, Biodiversity - *Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora*

Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*

**Kawatiri/Buller District**

M: [redacted] | E: [redacted]

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa***

---

**From:** Mark Davies [redacted]

**Sent:** Saturday, 9 November 2019 6:53 p.m.

**To:** [redacted]

**Subject:** Fwd: Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

Hi [redacted] and [redacted]

Some info to help for Monday cheers Mark

Sent from my Samsung device

----- Original message -----

**From:** Hilary Aikman [redacted]

**Date:** 9/11/19 18:50 (GMT+12:00)

**To:** Mark Davies [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted]

**Subject:** FW: Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

Many thanks [redacted]

Mark - a heap of info below for you and team

Thanks [redacted] for your advice today.

Cheers Hilary

---

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** Saturday, 9 November 2019 4:38 p.m.

**To:** Hilary Aikman [redacted] >

Cc: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

Kia ora Hilary,

I recommend a mix of fresh and frozen bodies to represent anything which might require a necropsy or toxin testing...so marine species should be included. Sensibly the marine animals would just be 1080 tested to rule in or out any effect of possible poison washed into the ocean. A more comprehensive test would be to also necropsy to check for other causes of death....I'm not sure about crab etc necropsies! Sting rays and larger vertebrates seem more likely to show something useful on necropsy eg injury or starvation. This would be useful info since just ruling out toxins leaves a question mark, but finding another cause of death closes the circle.

As discussed, I recommend collecting freshest looking rat bodies and freezing 10 and chilling 10 in fridge. Keep the frozen rats in case they are needed later. Send the chilled ones to Massey...in a chilly bin with ice bricks is fine by overnight courier or for something this important I would use Pace which is fast from door to door and very reliable...but costs more. It would be a shame if the package got lost or delayed...and that's not unlikely with standard couriers.

Double bag everything so nothing leaks.

Massey pathology address is on website at [https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/departments/centres-research/wildbase/wildbase-pathology/pathology\\_home.cfm](https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/learning/departments/centres-research/wildbase/wildbase-pathology/pathology_home.cfm) and includes packaging instructions.

Include the submission form and list any toxins in use. If you request request 1080 testing, they will send liver and/or muscle to § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) at Landcare on our behalf.

Alternatively you could send some rats direct to Landcare to speed it up. § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) used to manage the vertebrate pesticide residue database.... § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) is probably the person doing it now so worth keeping him up to speed.

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) contact details are:

[https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/data/assets/word\\_doc/0017/27017/Protocol-for-tissue-sampling.docx](https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/data/assets/word_doc/0017/27017/Protocol-for-tissue-sampling.docx)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Toxicology Laboratory. Landcare Research. Gerald St. Lincoln, Canterbury 7608. Phone § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Fax 03 321 9998.

It's about \$350 a sample for 1080 testing. This can be done from frozen tissues.....so I guess it depends on what we are trying to learn as to which samples you get tested.

Proving the rats were 1080 seems prudent. And ruling out 1080 for the other species on the beach also seems important, but with the option of freezing, we dont need to test it all at once and could take a measured approach.

10 rats for necropsy is a fantastic sample size. 5 would probably be enough. 10 would make is very hard to dispute the results.

For toxin testing, if the necropsies were all similar, then we would normally only test a couple to prove it is toxins. In this case you might want to do more for extra assurance.

I hope this is helpful.

Let me know if there is any more info/help I can offer. Texts are best to catch me. I'm back on tuesday.

Nga mihi

s 9(2)  
(a), 9(2)

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

Released under the OIA



**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Saturday, 9 November 2019 6:54 p.m.  
**To:** Hilary Aikman; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

Thanks Hilary this is great and very much appreciated. I will get this to my team for Monday cheers Mark

Sent from my Samsung device

----- Original message -----

**From:** Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** 9/11/19 18:50 (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

Many thanks § 9(2)(a),  
Mark - a heap of info below for you and team  
Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) for your advice today.  
Cheers Hilary

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 9 November 2019 4:38 p.m.  
**To:** Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

Kia ora Hilary,

I recommend a mix of fresh and frozen bodies to represent anything which might require a necropsy or toxin testing...so marine species should be included. Sensibly the marine animals would just be 1080 tested to rule in or out any effect of possible poison washed into the ocean. A more comprehensive test would be to also necropsy to check for other causes of death....I'm not sure about crab etc necropsies! Sting rays and larger vertebrates seem more likely to show something useful on necropsy eg injury or starvation. This would be useful info since just ruling out toxins leaves a question mark, but finding another cause of death closes the circle.

As discussed, I recommend collecting freshest looking rat bodies and freezing 10 and chilling 10 in fridge. Keep the frozen rats in case they are needed later. Send the chilled ones to Massey...in a chilly bin with ice bricks is fine by overnight courier or for something this important I would use Pace which is fast from door to door and very reliable...but costs more. It would be a shame if the package got lost or delayed...and that's not unlikely with standard couriers.

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██████████ Toxicology Laboratory. Landcare Research. Gerald St. Lincoln, Canterbury 7608. Phone ██████████; Fax 03 321 9998.

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For toxin testing, if the necropsies were all similar, then we would normally only test a couple to prove it is toxins. In this case you might want to do more for extra assurance.

I hope this is helpful.

Let me know if there is any more info/help I can offer. Texts are best to catch me. I'm back on tuesday.

Nga mihi

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

Released under the OIA

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g) Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Hilary Aikman  
**Subject:** RE: Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send  
**Date:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 1:07:13 p.m.

---

If you send them to Massey, they can collect tissues for Landcare testing and send them on. The advantage is that Massey can provide more information on any other signs of illness/death – so that fills the gaps if any don't have detectable 1080.

I suggest sending them to Massey.

Nga mihi,

§ 9(2)(a),

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 12:54 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Hilary Aikman  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

I have 2 reasonable ones in the fridge now and 1 squishy one, all collected yesterday (no more have been found). They obviously need to be sent to either Massey or Landcare today (courier leaves at 3.30pm) or frozen.

----- Original message -----

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** 12/11/19 12:20 PM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Hilary Aikman  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

The two rats will be looked at today. Depending on what they find, I'll let you know if there is any value in sending more – do you have some relatively fresh ones or are they all a bit mushy by now?

---

**From:** Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 11:03 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted] Hilary Aikman

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]

**Subject:** Re: Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

Thanks § 9(2)(a), [redacted]

That will help

Much appreciated

Mark Davies

Director Operations Western South Island Region

Ph § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 9:20:28 AM

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]; Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]

[redacted] Hilary Aikman

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

Hi All,

I'll talk to the Massey team and get necropsies on the rates which are already there.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a), [redacted]

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 9:07 a.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted] Mark Davies

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]

[redacted] Hilary Aikman

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]

**Subject:** RE: Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

Hi all

A note to keep all in the loop.

Yesterday two rats were sent to Massey, a confirmation email was sent to Massey that they were on their way, they replied "We can post mortem feral animals if there is a clear conservation benefit to threatened species projects. Can you give us a reason for this?". 3-4 decomposing rats

were also sent to Landcare as well yesterday, a verbal discussion with [redacted] confirmed she knew they were being sent and will undertake the work.

As post mortem of feral species is not a service Massey provides without the reason noted above, another venue for post mortem has not been identified and proving if the rats are from a 1080 operation seems most prudent, 3 additional rats (this is all we currently have) will be sent to Landcare for toxicology today, primarily because those sent yesterday were in such poor condition.

We will retain some individuals in the freezer should anymore be found, so if the results come back negative for 1080 and there is deemed a reason to conduct post mortem on the rats, we still have something to use.

[redacted]

Ranger, Biodiversity - *Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*  
**Kawatiri/ Buller District**

M: [redacted] | E: [redacted]

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Takina te hi, Tiakina, te ha o te Ao Turoa***

---

**From:** Mark Davies [redacted]

**Sent:** Saturday, 9 November 2019 6:53 p.m.

**To:** [redacted]

**Subject:** Fwd: Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

Hi [redacted] and [redacted]

Some info to help for Monday cheers Mark

Sent from my Samsung device

----- Original message -----

**From:** Hilary Aikman [redacted]

**Date:** 9/11/19 18:50 (GMT+12:00)

**To:** Mark Davies [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted]

**Subject:** FW: Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

Many thanks [redacted]

Mark - a heap of info below for you and team

Thanks [redacted] and [redacted] for your advice today.

Cheers Hilary

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Saturday, 9 November 2019 4:38 p.m.  
**To:** Hilary Aikman [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Dead rats, other species /what to collect & where to send

Kia ora Hilary,

I recommend a mix of fresh and frozen bodies to represent anything which might require a necropsy or toxin testing...so marine species should be included. Sensibly the marine animals would just be 1080 tested to rule in or out any effect of possible poison washed into the ocean. A more comprehensive test would be to also necropsy to check for other causes of death.....I'm not sure about crab etc necropsies! Sting rays and larger vertebrates seem more likely to show something useful on necropsy eg injury or starvation. This would be useful info since just ruling out toxins leaves a question mark, but finding another cause of death closes the circle.

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Toxicology Laboratory. Landcare Research. Gerald St. Lincoln, Canterbury 7608. Phone § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Fax 03 321 9998.

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I hope this is helpful.

Let me know if there is any more info/help I can offer. Texts are best to catch me. I'm back on tuesday.

Nga mihi

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 1:13 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: rat and weka prelim post mortem report

H § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Landcare are already processing some rats for us, so they will just add these to the bill already generated.  
Who will receive the post mortem results from you please? § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Many thanks  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

----- Original message -----

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** 13/11/19 10:33 AM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** rat and weka prelim post mortem report

Hello, who shall I ask Landcare to send the invoice for the 1080 testing?

Regards,

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

B.VSc, Diplomate ACVP  
Senior Lecturer in Wildlife Pathology, Wildbase,  
School of Veterinary Science  
Massey University, Tennant Drive  
Palmerston North

phone § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
email § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
address Wildbase, School of Veterinary Science,  
Massey University, Tennant Drive  
Palmerston North 4442  
New Zealand  
websites <http://wildbase.massey.ac.nz>



SCHOOL OF VETERINARY SCIENCE





**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: rat post mortem reports  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 4:23:00 p.m.  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 4:03 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: rat post mortem reports

I think the first two (the larger rats from Tuesday) were Norway and the 3 smaller ones (from yesterday), Ship rats,

§ 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 3:12 PM  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: rat post mortem reports

Thanks § 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)  
Could you tell if whether they were Ship or Norway rats?

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 3:09 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: rat post mortem reports

Oops, sorry....here you go

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:30 PM  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: rat post mortem reports

Hi § 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)  
Is there meant to be an attachment?

§ 9(2)(a),

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:09 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** rat post mortem reports

These are the reports for the 3 rats sent up yesterday,

§ 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)  
(ii)

B.VSc, Diplomate ACVP  
Senior Lecturer in Wildlife Pathology, Wildbase,  
School of Veterinary Science  
Massey University, Tennant Drive  
Palmerston North

phone § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

email § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

address Wildbase, School of Veterinary Science,  
Massey University, Tennant Drive  
Palmerston North 4442  
New Zealand

websites <http://wildbase.massey.ac.nz>

SVS Picture Banner for emails



Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

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Released under the OIA

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Saturday, 9 November 2019 2:58 p.m.  
**To:** Hilary Aikman; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Just got these off Facebook  
**Attachments:** IMG-0649.JPG; IMG-0650.JPG; IMG-0651.JPG; IMG-0652.JPG; IMG-0653.JPG; IMG-0654.JPG; IMG-0655.JPG

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile +** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

**From:** Mark § 9(2)(a) Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 9 November 2019 2:07 p.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Just got these off Facebook

Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Saturday, 9 November 2019 2:59 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Just got these off Facebook  
**Attachments:** IMG-0649.JPG; IMG-0650.JPG; IMG-0651.JPG; IMG-0652.JPG; IMG-0653.JPG; IMG-0654.JPG; IMG-0655.JPG

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*  
10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

---

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 9 November 2019 2:18 p.m.  
**To:** Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Just got these off Facebook  
Mark Davies  
Ph § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Mark § 9(2)(a) Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 9, 2019 2:06:45 PM  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Just got these off Facebook

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Saturday, 9 November 2019 2:09 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Just got these off Facebook  
**Attachments:** IMG-0649.JPG; IMG-0650.JPG; IMG-0651.JPG; IMG-0652.JPG; IMG-0653.JPG; IMG-0654.JPG; IMG-0655.JPG

Mark Davies  
Ph § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Mark § 9(2)(a) Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 9, 2019 2:06:45 PM  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Just got these off Facebook

Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 9 November 2019 11:06 p.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** Re: MR Rats on Westport beach - DOC-6123419

Thanks Mark,

Let me know if there is anything I can do. I've only just heard about this tonight.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a),

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** 9/11/19 2:57 PM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: MR Rats on Westport beach - DOC-6123419

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

fyi

**Mark Davies**

Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*  
10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile +** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Saturday, 9 November 2019 2:51 p.m.  
**To:** Michael Slater § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii);  
Michael Meehan § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Sharon Mason § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** MR Rats on Westport beach - DOC-6123419

Copy fyi

This is a draft MR that I am planning to send out later this afternoon.

Cheers Mark



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

## Media release

9 November 2019

### Caution urged over rat carcasses on beach

Dog owners are being urged to keep their dogs off Westport beaches after hundreds of dead rats washed up there in the past 24 hours.

Department of Conservation Western South Island Operations Director Mark Davies said it is not inconceivable the rats could have washed out of the hills by heavy rain that followed a Tiakina Nga Manu aerial 1080 operation at Te Maruia in the Lewis Pass National Reserve recently.

The Te Maruia and Inangahua river catchment feeds into the Buller River and had a plague of rats treated with toxin a week ago.

While it is possible the rats came from Te Maruia, reports of dead fish and birds, along with the rats, are not consistent with the way 1080 is understood to work.

The poison operation was also more than 140km away.

“However, until we know otherwise, we have to presume the rats have been poisoned by 1080 and take a cautionary approach,” Mr Davies said.

Samples have been taken and urgent testing requested, but any results will take 48-72 hours.

In the meantime, signs have been posted at Westport beaches and planning to work with Regional and District councils to remove the dead carcasses is underway.

ENDS

Contact for media enquiries  
[media@doc.govt.nz](mailto:media@doc.govt.nz)

04 494 1911

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Saturday, 9 November 2019 3:27 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: MR Rats on Westport beach - DOC-6123419

Hi § 9(2)(a), and § 9(2)(a),  
Copy FYI of advice on toxicology analysts. Can I leave this in your hands for Monday please thanks Mark

Mark Davies  
Ph § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 9, 2019 3:11 PM  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** MR Rats on Westport beach - DOC-6123419

Thanks Mark  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) has confirmed that specimens should be sent to both landcare and massey. Up to 5 frozen and five refrigerated of each thing. She is out of town but will try to send through contact addresses. Couriers can be unwilling to take dead stuff so need to decide whether to declare contents. Hilary

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 9/11/2019 2:50 PM, Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:  
Copy fyi  
This is a draft MR that I am planning to send out later this afternoon.  
Cheers Mark

Released under the OIA



**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Saturday, 9 November 2019 2:54 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** MR Rats on Westport beach - DOC-6123419  
**Attachments:** MR Rats on Westport beach - DOC-6123419.docx

Hi § 9(2)(a),  
§ 9(2)(g)(ii)  
As requested

Released under the OIA

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Sunday, 10 November 2019 4:38 p.m.  
**To:** Michael Slater  
**Cc:** Martin Kessick; Peter Brunt; Hilary Aikman  
**Subject:** Re: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi Mike

Absolutely I have already copied Hilary the note asking for her and her teams support. We don't have the capability or capacity to investigate this within the region. Let's talk after you have caught up with Martin and Hilary. I think their thoughts will help give us the best way forward . Cheers

Mark Davies

ph s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Michael Slater s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 10, 2019 4:34:23 PM  
**To:** Mark Davies s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Martin Kessick s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Peter Brunt s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Hilary Aikman  
s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi Mark

I need to establish with Martin K/Peter B who will lead the response to this.

Can we please discuss.

Mike

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Lou Sanson s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** 10/11/2019 3:34 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this  
**To:** Mark Davies s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Michael Slater s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Peter Brunt  
s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:**

FYI

Lou Sanson  
Director-General | Tumuaki-Ahurei  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

----- Original message -----

**From:** s 9(2)(a)  
**Date:** 10/11/19 3:27 PM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** eugenie.sage@parliament.govt.nz, david.parker@parliament.govt.nz, Lou Sanson s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Martin Kessick s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi

Please could you investigate and report on this

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=10212458854701511&id=1686122190&sfnsn=mo](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10212458854701511&id=1686122190&sfnsn=mo)

s 9(2)(a)



Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 2:08 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) is leading this for me at the district level . Happy if you want to talk with her direct cheers Mark

Mark Davies  
Director Operations  
Western South Island  
phone § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

On 12/11/2019 1:50 PM, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Hi Mark

I am working with Amber in the threats team and this was forwarded through to me – who is leading the response?

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143

Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011

T: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 9:26 a.m.

**To:** Erik van Eyndhoven § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Please could you investigate and report on this

Thanks, we really need to know the results asap – do you know how the internal response is being managed?

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143

Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011

T: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

**From:** Erik van Eyndhoven § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 6:58 a.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this

Fyi - I've advised Peter that securing samples should be a priority.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Peter Brunt § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Date: 10/11/2019 5:49 PM

Subject: Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this

To: Erik van Eyndhoven [redacted], Amber Bill [redacted]

Cc:

Heads up and for any initial thoughts.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Mark Davies [redacted]  
**Date:** 10 November 2019 at 4:37:47 PM NZDT  
**To:** Michael Slater [redacted]  
**Cc:** Martin Kessick [redacted], Peter Brunt [redacted], Hilary Aikman [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi Mike

Absolutely I have already copied Hilary the note asking for her and her teams support. We don't have the capability or capacity to investigate this within the region. Let's talk after you have caught up with Martin and Hilary. I think their thoughts will help give us the best way forward . Cheers

Mark Davies

Ph [redacted]

---

**From:** Michael Slater [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 10, 2019 4:34:23 PM  
**To:** Mark Davies [redacted]  
**Cc:** Martin Kessick [redacted]; Peter Brunt [redacted]; Hilary Aikman [redacted]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi Mark

I need to establish with Martin K/Peter B who will lead the response to this.

Can we please discuss.

Mike

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Lou Sanson [redacted]  
**Date:** 10/11/2019 3:34 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this  
**To:** Mark Davies [redacted], Michael Slater [redacted], Peter Brunt [redacted]

Cc:

FYI

Lou Sanson

Director-General | Tumuaki-Ahurei

Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

----- Original message -----

**From:** [redacted]  
**Date:** 10/11/19 3:27 PM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** [eugenie.sage@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:eugenie.sage@parliament.govt.nz), [david.parker@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:david.parker@parliament.govt.nz), Lou Sanson [redacted], Martin Kessick [redacted]  
**Subject:** Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi

Please could you investigate and report on this

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=10212458854701511&id=1686122190&sfnsn=mo](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10212458854701511&id=1686122190&sfnsn=mo)

[redacted]

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Sunday, 10 November 2019 4:11 p.m.  
**To:** Hilary Aikman; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this  
**Attachments:** Screenshot\_2019-11-09-13-38-34-560\_com.facebook.katana.png

Hi Hilary

I will need you and your teams support with this as soon as we get the reports from Massey and Landcare.  
Any thoughts on how best to approach this . Can you let me know please cheers Mark

Sent from my Samsung device

----- Original message -----

**From:** Lou Sanson § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** 10/11/19 15:34 (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Michael Slater § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Peter Brunt § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this

FYI

Lou Sanson  
Director-General | Tumuaki-Ahurei  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

----- Original message -----

**From:** § 9(2)(a)  
**Date:** 10/11/19 3:27 PM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** eugenie.sage@parliament.govt.nz, david.parker@parliament.govt.nz, Lou Sanson § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Martin Kessick § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi

Please could you investigate and report on this

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=10212458854701511&id=1686122190&sfnsn=mo](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10212458854701511&id=1686122190&sfnsn=mo)

§ 9(2)(a)

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 8:52 a.m.  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** RE: Rats

Hi s 9(2)(a), s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) has checked out beaches up towards Pun in th weekend and found nothing and just north of the Grey I think there is a good chance these rats could be coming from the Kahurangi jobs many catchments as we have had big northerly / norwesters for 5 -6 days now which tends to push offshore currents south (for eg the guy who drowned in the Taramakau was found south of Ross after only a couple of days of Northerly winds. Talking to s 9(2)(a), who lives and surfs Punakaiki he thinks the eddie caused by the Puni peninsular catches stuff from the Buller not the Grey.

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Operations Manager

Pou Matarautaki

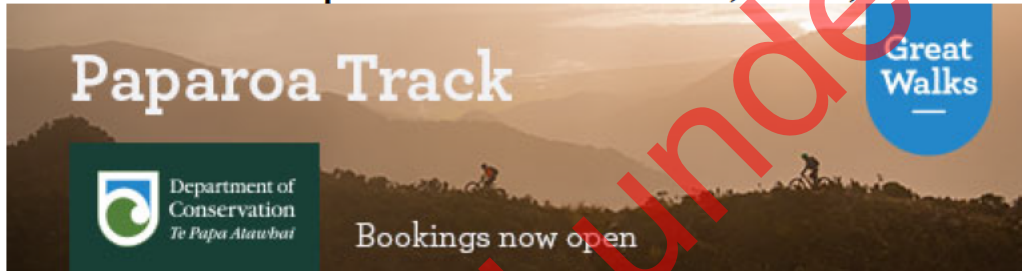
Department of Conservation — *Te Papa Atawhai*

Māwhera/Greymouth Office, 17 High Street, P.O.Box 370, Greymouth 7840

Ph s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

M: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Conservation leadership for our nature - *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*



**From:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 8:20 a.m.  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Mark Davies s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Rats

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) — you might want to have your guys check the beaches (Cobden etc) for dead rats as we are receiving reports of rats washed up at Punakaiki. The only probable source is from being washed down the Grey River.

Mark – rangers are carrying out further checks on beaches here (Charleston to Granity) and s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) will check Kohaihai following very heavy rain yesterday and additional flooding in the Buller River. Checks of beaches yesterday didn't turn up anything.

Samples are going to Massey on the overnight courier.

s 9(2)(a),

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 8:53 a.m.  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Rats

fyi

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile** + s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

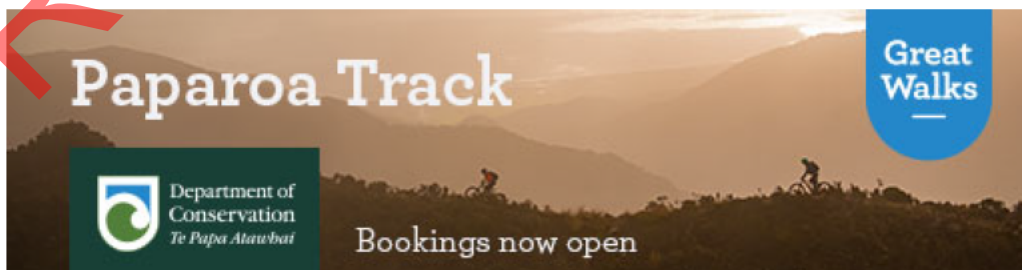
---

**From:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 8:52 a.m.  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Mark Davies s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
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s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Operations Manager  
Pou Matarautaki  
Department of Conservation — *Te Papa Atawhai*  
Māwhera/Greymouth Office, 17 High Street, P.O.Box 370, Greymouth 7840  
Ph s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
M: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature -** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*





---

**From:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 8:20 a.m.  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]  
**Cc:** Mark Davies s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Rats

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted] – you might want to have your guys check the beaches (Cobden etc) for dead rats as we are receiving reports of rats washed up at Punakaiki. The only probable source is from being washed down the Grey River.

Mark – rangers are carrying out further checks on beaches here (Charleston to Granity) and s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted] will check Kohaihai following very heavy rain yesterday and additional flooding in the Buller River. Checks of beaches yesterday didn't turn up anything.

Samples are going to Massey on the overnight courier.

s 9(2)(a), [redacted]

Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:58 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** RE: Report for rat carcasses

Hi mark,  
Can you please ask the externals to keep it under their hats until we get a chance to announce? We def want to be the ones to lead on it. Just working on the mr now § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:33 a.m.  
**To:** Michael Slater § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Martin Kessick § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Amber Bill § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses

Hi Mike Martin and Hilary  
Landcare have come back with the toxicology results and there is no detection of 1080. I will now work with the Coms and Media team on our messaging. I will share this with WCRC, BDC and the District health Board Medical Officer of Health as this now is there matter to pick up. I will let the EPA know as well.

If you need anything more from me at this point please just let me know

Cheers Mark

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:16 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses

Land Care report Mark – negative for 1080 in rats.

They have another 4 samples which I've asked them to test plus a Weka just so we have sufficient sample range.

Massey yet to come back, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) is following up with them now.

§ 9(2)(a),

From: [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:02 a.m.

To: [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: Report for rat carcasses

Hi [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Please find attached the report for the rat carcasses from Westport Beach. Where I could I dissected out a muscle sample and stomach contents from each of the rat carcasses. For three of the rats I was able to do this, for the fourth sample I could only get a muscle sample, and the fifth sample was just skin and bone so I could not obtain a muscle sample at all. All samples were <MDL (< method detection limit) of 1 ppb (0.001 µg/g).

Regards

[redacted] s 9(2)(a),

[redacted]  
[redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research  
54 Gerald Street, Lincoln 7608/PO Box 69040, Lincoln 7640

T [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

[www.landcareresearch.co.nz](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz)



Manaaki Whenua  
Landcare Research

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:53 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Report for rat carcasses

Thank you Mark. In time, it will be important to capture the full sample size and results in DOC's Vertebrate Residue database and the Pesticide Information Review (even the nil results).

§ 9(2)(a), when the dust has settled, can you ensure that all the results are sent through to § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) so we get the full picture?

Thanks for your support.

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:33 AM  
**To:** Michael Slater § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Martin Kessick § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Amber Bill § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
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If you need anything more from me at this point please just let me know

Cheers Mark

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile** +§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

---

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They have another 4 samples which I've asked them to test plus a Weka just so we have sufficient sample range.

Massey yet to come back, [redacted] is following up with them now.

[redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:02 a.m.

**To:** [redacted]

**Subject:** Report for rat carcasses

Hi [redacted]

Please find attached the report for the rat carcasses from Westport Beach. Where I could I dissected out a muscle sample and stomach contents from each of the rat carcasses. For three of the rats I was able to do this, for the fourth sample I could only get a muscle sample, and the fifth sample was just skin and bone so I could not obtain a muscle sample at all. All samples were <MDL (< method detection limit) of 1 ppb (0.001 µg/g).

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research  
54 Gerald Street, Lincoln 7608/PO Box 69040, Lincoln 7640

T [redacted]

[www.landcareresearch.co.nz](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz)



Manaaki Whenua  
Landcare Research

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Michael Slater  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:53 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** RE: Report for rat carcasses

Hi Mark,

This is great news. Totally changes the discussion which is very helpful.

Need to think through how we best message this out to media etc to put to bed some of the community debate that might be happening.

Cheers Mike

**Mike Slater**  
Deputy Director-General Operations  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*

Conservation House | 18-32 Manners St, Wellington  
DDI: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Conservation for prosperity *Tiakina te taiao, kia puawai*

---

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:33 a.m.  
**To:** Michael Slater § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Martin Kessick § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Amber Bill § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
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If you need anything more from me at this point please just let me know

Cheers Mark

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa***

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
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**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
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§ 9(2)(a),

---

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Regards

§ 9(2)(a),

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research  
54 Gerald Street, Lincoln 7608/PO Box 69040, Lincoln 7640

T § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

[www.landcareresearch.co.nz](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz)



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Landcare Research

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:41 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Report for rat carcasses

Cheers not surprising

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile** + § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:37 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Report for rat carcasses

Hi Mark

Great news. Just for your info, there is a current OIA for the Te Maruia Op where they are asking for flightline data and all correspondence.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) **Senior Ranger [Biodiversity]**  
*Kaitiaki-Kanorau Koiora* | **Department of Conservation**—*Te Papa Atawhai*  
**Māwhera/Greymouth Office** | PO Box 370 Greymouth 7840 | 17 High Street, Greymouth 7805  
**Cell:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) | **Email:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Conservation for prosperity** *Tiakina te taiao, kia puawai* [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

---

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:35 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Copy fyi  
Great news  
Stand down

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations



Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
Mobile + [redacted]

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa***

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:16 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses

Land Care report Mark – negative for 1080 in rats.

They have another 4 samples which I've asked them to test plus a Weka just so we have sufficient sample range.

Massey yet to come back, [redacted] is following up with them now.

[redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:02 a.m.  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Report for rat carcasses

Hi [redacted]

Please find attached the report for the rat carcasses from Westport Beach. Where I could I dissected out a muscle sample and stomach contents from each of the rat carcasses. For three of the rats I was able to do this, for the fourth sample I could only get a muscle sample, and the fifth sample was just skin and bone so I could not obtain a muscle sample at all. All samples were <MDL (< method detection limit) of 1 ppb (0.001 µg/g).

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research  
54 Gerald Street, Lincoln 7608/PO Box 69040, Lincoln 7640  
T [redacted]  
[www.landcareresearch.co.nz](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz)



Manaaki Whenua  
Landcare Research

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 12:00 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) L\ALL Hokitika based staff  
**Subject:** RE: Report for rat carcasses Westport Beach

Could you all please keep it under your hats until we get a mr out about this. Shouldn't be long. Thanks, § 9(2)(a).

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 12:00 p.m.  
**To:** L\ALL Hokitika based staff <L\_ALLHokitikabaseds@x.nz>  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses Westport Beach

Hi All

Mark has asked for the attached Landcare report for the rat carcasses from Westport Beach to be shared with you all.  
The results have come back showing zero 1080.

Regards

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Zealand Limited. <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz>

Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 11:18 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses

Update on timeframe

B

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 11:15 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Report for rat carcasses

Hi § 9(2)(a),

Yes I had a good weekend, probably quieter than yours by the sounds of it.

I received the rat and weka samples this morning and will start on them this afternoon. All going well I will get them onto the GC tomorrow afternoon, and hope to report them Wednesday morning.

Regards

§ 9(2)(a),

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:51 AM  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Report for rat carcasses

Hi § 9(2)(a),

Hope you had a nice weekend and your phone is not running as HOT as mine.

You have probably had to say this to multiple people, I am sorry to ask again but when will you have finished the remaining rat and weka samples please.

Thankyou so much for your speedy response.

Regards

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Ranger, Biodiversity - *Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*  
**Kawatiri/ Buller District**

M: +§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa***

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:48 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:01 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Report for rat carcasses

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]

Please find attached the report for the rat carcasses from Westport Beach. Where I could I dissected out a muscle sample and stomach contents from each of the rat carcasses. For three of the rats I was able to do this, for the fourth sample I could only get a muscle sample, and the fifth sample was just skin and bone so I could not obtain a muscle sample at all. All samples were <MDL (< method detection limit) of 1 ppb (0.001 µg/g).

Regards

§ 9(2)(a), [redacted]

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g) [redacted]  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]

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54 Gerald Street, Lincoln 7608/PO Box 69040, Lincoln 7640  
T § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [redacted]  
[www.landcareresearch.co.nz](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz)



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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:27 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Mark Davies  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Media; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses  
**Attachments:** T7331.pdf

And this is from Landcare – so just double checking that it is Massey we are waiting on.

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:25 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Communications and Engagement Manager, Predator Free 2050 | Customer Engagement Unit  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

Cell: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Conservation House, 18-32 Manners Street, Wellington.  
[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)



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Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakahaere huri noa i Aotearoa  
[conservationweek.org.nz](http://conservationweek.org.nz)



---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 1:08 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** L\Whakautu <[xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx)>  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Can you keep all of Whakautu in the loop in the key messaging as we may have more than one person writing OIA/DC responses on this.

Thanks

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*

Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*

M: [redacted] § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143

Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011

T: +64 4 471 0726

Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

---

**From:** Amber Bill [redacted] § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 12:59 p.m.

**To:** [redacted] § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses

FYI

Amber Bill

Director Threats, *Kaihautū Ao Mōrearea*

Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*

M: [redacted] § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Mark Davies [redacted] § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:33 a.m.

**To:** Michael Slater [redacted] § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Hilary Aikman [redacted] § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Martin Kessick

[redacted] § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** Amber Bill [redacted] § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses

Hi Mike Martin and Hilary

Landcare have come back with the toxicology results and there is no detection of 1080. I will now work with the Coms and Media team on our messaging. I will share this with WCRC, BDC and the District health Board Medical Officer of Health as this now is there matter to pick up. I will let the EPA know as well.

If you need anything more from me at this point please just let me know

Cheers Mark

**Mark Davies**

Director, Operations

Western South Island Region

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810

**Mobile:** [redacted] § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa***

---

**From:** [redacted] § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:16 a.m.

To: Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: FW: Report for rat carcasses

Land Care report Mark – negative for 1080 in rats.

They have another 4 samples which I've asked them to test plus a Weka just so we have sufficient sample range.

Massey yet to come back, § 9(2)(a) is following up with them now.

§ 9(2)(a),

From: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:02 a.m.

To: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: Report for rat carcasses

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Please find attached the report for the rat carcasses from Westport Beach. Where I could I dissected out a muscle sample and stomach contents from each of the rat carcasses. For three of the rats I was able to do this, for the fourth sample I could only get a muscle sample, and the fifth sample was just skin and bone so I could not obtain a muscle sample at all. All samples were <MDL (< method detection limit) of 1 ppb (0.001 µg/g).

Regards

§ 9(2)(a),

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research  
54 Gerald Street, Lincoln 7608/PO Box 69040, Lincoln 7640

T § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Michael Slater  
**Sent:** Sunday, 17 November 2019 11:58 p.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses

Hi Mark

Havent seen anything out in the media yet around these results ie no 1080 detected so rats clearly died from something else and as well wont have come from any of our pest treatment sites.

Have I missed the communication or if not when do we expect it to run?

Cheers Mike

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 14/11/2019 11:32 AM, Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Hi Mike Martin and Hilary

Landcare have come back with the toxicology results and there is no detection of 1080. I will now work with the Coms and Media team on our messaging. I will share this with WCRC, BDC and the District health Board Medical Officer of Health as this now is there matter to pick up. I will let the EPA know as well.

If you need anything more from me at this point please just let me know

Cheers Mark

**Mark Davies**

Director, Operations

Western South Island Region

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810

Mobile + § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa***

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:16 a.m.

**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses

Land Care report Mark – negative for 1080 in rats.

They have another 4 samples which I've asked them to test plus a Weka just so we have sufficient sample range.

Massey yet to come back, § 9(2)(a) is following up with them now.

§ 9(2)(a),

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:02 a.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Report for rat carcasses

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Please find attached the report for the rat carcasses from Westport Beach. Where I could I dissected out a muscle sample and stomach contents from each of the rat carcasses. For three of the rats I was able to do this, for the fourth sample I could only get a muscle sample, and the fifth sample was just skin and bone so I could not obtain a muscle sample at all. All samples were <MDL (< method detection limit) of 1 ppb (0.001 µg/g).

Regards

§ 9(2)(a),

9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research

54 Gerald Street, Lincoln 7608/PO Box 69040, Lincoln 7640

T + § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)





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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:51 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses  
**Attachments:** T7331.pdf

Hi § 9(2)  
Can you please share this with IAll Hokitika please

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile +** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:16 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses

Land Care report Mark – negative for 1080 in rats.

They have another 4 samples which I've asked them to test plus a Weka just so we have sufficient sample range.

Massey yet to come back, § 9(2)(a), is following up with them now.

§ 9(2)(a),

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:02 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Report for rat carcasses

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Please find attached the report for the rat carcasses from Westport Beach. Where I could I dissected out a muscle sample and stomach contents from each of the rat carcasses. For three of the rats I was able to do this, for the fourth sample I could only get a muscle sample, and the fifth sample was just skin and bone so I could not obtain a muscle sample at all. All samples were <MDL (< method detection limit) of 1 ppb (0.001 µg/g).

Regards

§ 9(2)(a),

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research  
54 Gerald Street, Lincoln 7608/PO Box 69040, Lincoln 7640

T s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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Landcare Research

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Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:33 a.m.  
**To:** Michael Slater; Hilary Aikman; Martin Kessick  
**Cc:** Amber Bill; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses  
**Attachments:** T7331.pdf

Hi Mike Martin and Hilary

Landcare have come back with the toxicology results and there is no detection of 1080. I will now work with the Coms and Media team on our messaging. I will share this with WCRC, BDC and the District health Board Medical Officer of Health as this now is there matter to pick up. I will let the EPA know as well.

If you need anything more from me at this point please just let me know

Cheers Mark

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile** +§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:16 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses

Land Care report Mark – negative for 1080 in rats.

They have another 4 samples which I've asked them to test plus a Weka just so we have sufficient sample range.

Massey yet to come back, § 9(2)(a), is following up with them now.

§ 9(2)(a)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:02 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Report for rat carcasses

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Please find attached the report for the rat carcasses from Westport Beach. Where I could I dissected out a muscle sample and stomach contents from each of the rat carcasses. For three of the rats I was able to do this, for the

fourth sample I could only get a muscle sample, and the fifth sample was just skin and bone so I could not obtain a muscle sample at all. All samples were <MDL (< method detection limit) of 1 ppb (0.001 µg/g).

Regards

§ 9(2)(a),  
(a).

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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T § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 8:43 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses  
**Attachments:** T7334.pdf

fyi

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 8:42 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) >  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Report for rat carcasses

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Please find attached the report for the rat samples and weka sample sent to us via Massey.

Regards

§ 9(2)(a),

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research  
54 Gerald Street, Lincoln 7608/PO Box 69040, Lincoln 7640

T § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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Manaaki Whenua  
Landcare Research

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:51 AM  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Report for rat carcasses

Hi § 9(2)(a),

Hope you had a nice weekend and your phone is not running as HOT as mine.

You have probably had to say this to multiple people, I am sorry to ask again but when will you have finished the remaining rat and weka samples please.

Thankyou so much for your speedy response.

Regards

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Ranger, Biodiversity - *Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*  
**Kawatiri/ Buller District**

M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa***

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:48 a.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:01 a.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Report for rat carcasses

Hi § 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)

Please find attached the report for the rat carcasses from Westport Beach. Where I could I dissected out a muscle sample and stomach contents from each of the rat carcasses. For three of the rats I was able to do this, for the fourth sample I could only get a muscle sample, and the fifth sample was just skin and bone so I could not obtain a muscle sample at all. All samples were <MDL (< method detection limit) of 1 ppb (0.001 µg/g).

Regards

§ 9(2)(a),

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research  
54 Gerald Street, Lincoln 7608/PO Box 69040, Lincoln 7640

T § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

[www.landcareresearch.co.nz](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz)



Manaaki Whenua  
Landcare Research

---

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The views expressed in this email may not be those of Landcare Research New Zealand Limited. <http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz>

Released under the OIA



§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 11:56 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies  
**Subject:** FW: Rat results

Hi § 9(2)(a),

I'm working with § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) on the comms for the rat results.

What were the results of the Massey pathology work?

Given the interest in the results, I think we should make the reports available on the DOC website when we put our media release out later this week (once we have the final Landcare results back).

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Media Advisor | Kaitohutohu Pāpāho  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai  
DDI: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Ōtautahi / Christchurch Office**

Grand Central, 161 Cashel St | Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8140  
T: +64 3 371 3700

**Kia piki te oranga o te ao tūroa, i roto i te ngātahitanga, ki Aotearoa.  
To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders.**

[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 11:08 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Rat results

FYI

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 11:03 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Mark Davie § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
edia <[Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz](mailto:Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Rat results

Thanks for clarifying that

Based on conversations I've had with media this morning, we need to be prepared for strong media interest on Wednesday – either a statement saying when the results are due (suggest time) or a statement with the results and we will have interview requests, so need to have someone lined up

Cheers, [redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:53 a.m.  
**To:** [redacted]  
[redacted] Mark Davies [redacted] >  
**Cc:** [redacted]; Media <[Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz](mailto:Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Rat results

Thanks [redacted] for the phone call – just to clear up any confusion about what exactly from where we are waiting on – see highlights.

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:38 a.m.  
**To:** [redacted]  
[redacted] Mark Davies [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] Media <[Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz](mailto:Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Rat results

That's ok [redacted] apologies for the confusion. I proofed this media release for [redacted] last week, it is correct and was written prior to the final results coming from Massey.

We sent 10 rats in total

- 5 to Massey (one was to rotten to test for 1080 but we have the pathology report), plus one weka, pathology only – these now need to be tested by Landcare for 1080 with results expected on Wednesday.
- 5 to Landcare (one was to rotten to test), 1080 testing only – These have been tested and no trace of 1080

Attached are the pathology's from Massey. Landcare have been very good at getting these done as fast as possible, it is not a quick process. They did not receive the outstanding rat and weka samples from Massey until Thursday, and Friday was a public holiday. They take 3 days to process.

[redacted]  
Ranger, Biodiversity - *Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*  
**Kawatiri/ Buller District**  
M: [redacted]

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa***

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:16 a.m.  
**To:** [redacted]  
[redacted] Mark Davies [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]; Media <[Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz](mailto:Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Rat results

Thanks [redacted] – there's some confusion here because last week we were advised they were landcare results – this was the draft prepared by [redacted]. So this was wrong? We need to clarify urgently.

14 November 2019

## Initial testing shows no 1080 in rats

Initial results of toxicology testing of dead rats that washed up on Buller Beach near Westport last weekend show no presence of 1080.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) sent ten rats to Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and Massey University for independent testing to see if the rats had come from an aerial 1080 predator control operation.

Landcare Research testing of four rats found no evidence of 1080. Four further rats will be tested next week, following work by Massey University to establish their cause of death. Two rats were too decomposed to test.

DOC West Coast Operations Director Mark Davies says "DOC wanted to share these initial results to reassure people that the rats did not contain 1080."

"We are still awaiting the pathology results from Massey University, which may determine how the rats died.

"Tissue from these rats is also being sent to Landcare Research for testing for 1080 next week."

"However, at this stage it's looking unlikely that these rats had been exposed to 1080."

DOC was awaiting further pathology results but the exact cause of death and source of the rats may not be able to be determined.

"We thought it was unlikely the rats would have come from the Te Maruia predator control operation in the headwaters of the Buller River, 140 km from Westport but it's good to confirm this."

"Rat numbers have exploded this year due to the heavy beech seeding and now that seed is germinating, they are desperate for food. This will be driving rats into new areas and may cause them to cross waterways."

"Predator control is critical to protecting our most at-risk population of native wildlife as rats turn to eating native birds and bats, and fuel stoat numbers."

DOC rangers worked with other beachgoers for several days last week to remove almost 700 rat carcasses and disposed of them safely according to West Coast Regional Council advice.

As well as tests on rats, a weka and several fish were also sent for testing.

The fish samples were too degraded to test, but it is thought the marine animals which washed up on the beaches were probably victims of recent prolonged stormy weather which is known to have a negative impact on marine life.

Test results from the weka are still pending.

–Ends–

---

### Contacts

<sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>, Communication Advisor Western South Island

Mobile: <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Email: <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

### Background information

[Delete background if not applicable]

---

From: <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Sent: Monday, 18 November 2019 10:03 a.m.

To: <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Mark Davies <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Cc: <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

>; Media <[Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz](mailto:Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz)>

Subject: Re: Rat results

Hi [redacted]  
(g)(ii)

You have the wrong information, its the right way round, waiting on landcare.

[redacted]  
(a).

----- Original message -----

From: [redacted]  
s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Date: 18/11/19 9:55 AM (GMT+12:00)

To: [redacted]  
s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Mark Davies [redacted]  
s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: [redacted]  
s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

, Media <[Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz](mailto:Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz)>

Subject: RE: Rat results

Hi

I think this is the wrong way around – I understand we have landcare but not the massey results.

---

From: [redacted]  
s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 18 November 2019 9:49 a.m.

To: [redacted]  
s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Mark Davies

[redacted]  
s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: Rat results

Kia ora [redacted]  
s 9(2)(a), 9(2)

Are you able to share what the pathology results show?

Ngā mihi,

[redacted]  
s 9(2)(a).

[redacted]  
s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Communications and Engagement Manager, Predator Free 2050 | Customer Engagement Unit  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

Cell: [redacted]  
s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Conservation House, 18-32 Manners Street, Wellington.

[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)



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Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakahaere huri noa i Aotearoa  
[conservationweek.org.nz](http://conservationweek.org.nz)

---

From: [redacted]  
s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 18 November 2019 9:46 a.m.

To: [redacted]  
s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

; Mark Davies [redacted]  
s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: Rat results

All pathology testing at Massey is complete.

We have toxicology results for 4 rats, we have 4 rats and 1 weka pending at Landcare, Wednesday I expect they will be completed.

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Ranger, Biodiversity - *Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*  
**Kawatiri/ Buller District**

M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa***

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 9:38 a.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Mark Davies

<xxxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Rat results

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark

Can I please have an update on next steps for rat results? I understand there is another batch undergoing toxicology testing at Landcare and then there is pathology testing at Massey? Have I got that process right?

Do we have an update on timelines?

We are getting OIA requests for the results (and so is Landcare) so just wanting to make sure that we line up any release of information with DOC's official response when it goes out.

Thanks

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*

M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143

Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011

T: +64 4 471 0726

Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa*

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 1:14 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Re: Rats

One weka, although based on its state of decomposition it's likely it died days before the rats washed up.

----- Original message -----

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Date:** 13/11/19 1:11 PM (GMT+12:00)

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: RE: Rats

Thanks, are any of the other creatures besides the rats being tested?

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 1:10 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Re: Rats

8-10, some will be processed this week, the remainder by the end of next week.

----- Original message -----

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Date:** 13/11/19 11:54 AM (GMT+12:00)

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Rats

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2) can you confirm how many samples have been sent away to be tested?

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

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Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

---

**From:** Mark Davies <§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 2:25 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** (no subject)

Sounds great will keep you posted

Mark Davies  
Director Operations  
Western South Island

phone [redacted]

On 12/11/2019 2:22 PM, [redacted] > wrote:

Thanks Mark, and hello [redacted] and [redacted].

I am running the team that is working on DOC's response to 1080 issues from a legal [redacted] and compliance, comms [redacted], engagement, information management (OIAs and proactive release) and security.

I report in to Amber and Hilary and I am interested in where things are at and how they are tracking as we will be coordinating the OIA responses at this end, plus we take a keen interest in anything that might be 1080 related!

We meet 3 times a week to triage 1080 OIAs and deal with any related 1080 issues, so if there is anything we can help you with please let me know.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: [redacted]

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

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Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011

T: +64 4 471 0726

Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

---

**From:** Mark Davies [redacted]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 2:08 p.m.

**To:** [redacted]

[redacted]

**Subject:** FW: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi [redacted]

[redacted] is leading this for me at the district level . Happy if you want to talk with her direct cheers Mark

Mark Davies

Director Operations

Western South Island

phone [redacted]

On 12/11/2019 1:50 PM, [redacted] > wrote:

Hi Mark

I am working with Amber in the threats team and this was forwarded through to me – who is leading the response?

[redacted]

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: [redacted]

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

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Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011  
T: +64 4 471 0726  
Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 9:26 a.m.  
**To:** Erik van Eyndhoven [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Please could you investigate and report on this

Thanks, we really need to know the results asap – do you know how the internal response is being managed?

[REDACTED]  
Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: [REDACTED]

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**  
PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143  
Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011  
T: +64 4 471 0726  
Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

---

**From:** Erik van Eyndhoven [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 6:58 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this

Fyi - I've advised Peter that securing samples should be a priority.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----  
**From:** Peter Brunt [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 10/11/2019 5:49 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this  
**To:** Erik van Eyndhoven [REDACTED], Amber Bill [REDACTED]  
**Cc:**  
Heads up and for any initial thoughts.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Mark Davies [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 10 November 2019 at 4:37:47 PM NZDT  
**To:** Michael Slater [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Martin Kessick [REDACTED], Peter Brunt [REDACTED], Hilary Aikman [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi Mike  
Absolutely I have already copied Hilary the note asking for her and her teams support. We don't have the capability or capacity to investigate this within the region. Let's talk after you have caught up with Martin and Hilary. I think their thoughts will help give us the best way forward . Cheers



Mark Davies

Ph [redacted]

---

**From:** Michael Slater [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 10, 2019 4:34:23 PM  
**To:** Mark Davies [redacted]  
**Cc:** Martin Kessick [redacted], Peter Brunt [redacted], Hilary Aikman [redacted]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi Mark  
I need to establish with Martin K/Peter B who will lead the response to this.  
Can we please discuss.  
Mike

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----  
**From:** Lou Sanson [redacted]  
**Date:** 10/11/2019 3:34 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this  
**To:** Mark Davies [redacted], Michael Slater [redacted], Peter Brunt [redacted]  
**Cc:**  
FYI

Lou Sanson  
Director-General | Tumuaki-Ahurei  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

----- Original message -----  
**From:** [redacted]  
**Date:** 10/11/19 3:27 PM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** [eugenie.sage@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:eugenie.sage@parliament.govt.nz), [david.parker@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:david.parker@parliament.govt.nz), Lou Sanson [redacted],  
Martin Kessick [redacted]  
**Subject:** Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi  
Please could you investigate and report on this  
[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=10212458854701511&id=1686122190&sfnsn=mo](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10212458854701511&id=1686122190&sfnsn=mo)

[redacted]

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 9:46 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rat results

All pathology testing at Massey is complete.  
We have toxicology results for 4 rats, we have 4 rats and 1 weka pending at Landcare, Wednesday I expect they will be completed.

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Ranger, Biodiversity - *Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*  
**Kawatiri/ Buller District**

M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa***

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 9:38 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Rat results

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark

Can I please have an update on next steps for rat results? I understand there is another batch undergoing toxicology testing at Landcare and then there is pathology testing at Massey? Have I got that process right?

Do we have an update on timelines?

We are getting OIA requests for the results (and so is Landcare) so just wanting to make sure that we line up any release of information with DOC's official response when it goes out.

Thanks

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*

M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**  
PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143  
Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011  
T: +64 4 471 0726  
**Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa***

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 1:14 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Rats

One weka, although based on its state of decomposition it's likely it died days before the rats washed up.

----- Original message -----

From: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Date: 13/11/19 1:11 PM (GMT+12:00)  
To: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Subject: RE: Rats

Thanks, are any of the other creatures besides the rats being tested?

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

---

From: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Sent: Wednesday, 13 November 2019 1:10 p.m.  
To: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Subject: Re: Rats

8-10, some will be processed this week, the remainder by the end of next week.

----- Original message -----

From: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Date: 13/11/19 11:54 AM (GMT+12:00)  
To: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Subject: Rats

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) can you confirm how many samples have been sent away to be tested?

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**  
PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143  
Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011  
T: +64 4 471 0726  
Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

---

From: Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Sent: Tuesday, 12 November 2019 2:25 p.m.  
To: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** (no subject)

Sounds great will keep you posted

Mark Davies  
Director Operations  
Western South Island  
phone § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

On 12/11/2019 2:22 PM, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:  
Thanks Mark, and hello § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii).

I am running the team that is working on DOC's response to 1080 issues from a legal § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) ) and compliance, comms § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), engagement, information management (OIA's and proactive release) and security.

I report in to Amber and Hilary and I am interested in where things are at and how they are tracking as we will be co-ordinating the OIA responses at this end, plus we take a keen interest in anything that might be 1080 related!

We meet 3 times a week to triage 1080 OIA's and deal with any related 1080 issues, so if there is anything we can help you with please let me know.

Regards

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143

Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011

T: +64 4 471 0726

Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

---

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 2:08 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** FW: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) is leading this for me at the district level . Happy if you want to talk with her direct cheers Mark

Mark Davies  
Director Operations  
Western South Island  
phone § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

On 12/11/2019 1:50 PM, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:  
Hi Mark

I am working with Amber in the threats team and this was forwarded through to me – who is leading the response?

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: +§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 9:26 a.m.

**To:** Erik van Eyndhoven § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Please could you investigate and report on this

Thanks, we really need to know the results asap – do you know how the internal response is being managed?

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

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Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

---

**From:** Erik van Eyndhoven § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 6:58 a.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this

Fyi - I've advised Peter that securing samples should be a priority.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Peter Brun § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Date:** 10/11/2019 5:49 PM

**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this

**To:** Erik van Eyndhoven § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Amber Bill § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:**

Heads up and for any initial thoughts.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Date:** 10 November 2019 at 4:37:47 PM NZDT

**To:** Michael Slater § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: Martin Kessick <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>, Peter Brunt <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>, Hilary Aikman <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

**Subject: Re: Please could you investigate and report on this**

Hi Mike

Absolutely I have already copied Hilary the note asking for her and her teams support. We don't have the capability or capacity to investigate this within the region. Let's talk after you have caught up with Martin and Hilary. I think their thoughts will help give us the best way forward . Cheers

Mark Davies

Ph <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

---

**From:** Michael Slater <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

**Sent:** Sunday, November 10, 2019 4:34:23 PM

**To:** Mark Davies <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

**Cc:** Martin Kessick <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>; Peter Brunt <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> Hilary Aikman <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi Mark

I need to establish with Martin K/Peter B who will lead the response to this.

Can we please discuss.

Mike

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Lou Sanson <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

**Date:** 10/11/2019 3:34 PM

**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this

**To:** Mark Davies <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> > Michael Slater <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>, Peter Brunt <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

**Cc:**

FYI

Lou Sanson

Director-General | Tumuaki-Ahurei

Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

----- Original message -----

**From:** <sup>§ 9(2)(a)</sup>

**Date:** 10/11/19 3:27 PM (GMT+12:00)

**To:** [eugenie.sage@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:eugenie.sage@parliament.govt.nz), [david.parker@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:david.parker@parliament.govt.nz), Lou Sanson <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

**Martin Kessick** <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

**Subject:** Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi

Please could you investigate and report on this

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=10212458854701511&id=1686122190&sfnsn=mo](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10212458854701511&id=1686122190&sfnsn=mo)



Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 11:38 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Mark Davies;  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Media  
**Subject:** RE: Rat results

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and I have an MR drafted but need to revisit it. § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and I will work together on the rat MR.

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) >  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 11:03 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
ark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Subject:** RE: Rat results

Thanks for clarifying that

Based on conversations I've had with media this morning, we need to be prepared for strong media interest on Wednesday – either a statement saying when the results are due (suggest time) or a statement with the results and we will have interview requests, so need to have someone lined up

Cheers, § 9(2)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:53 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Media <[Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz](mailto:Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Rat results

Thanks § 9(2)(a) for the phone call – just to clear up any confusion about what exactly from where we are waiting on – see highlights.

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:38 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) <[Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz](mailto:Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Rat results

That's ok § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), apologies for the confusion. I proofed this media release for § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) last week, it is correct and was written prior to the final results coming from Massey.

We sent 10 rats in total

- 5 to Massey (one was to rotten to test for 1080 but we have the pathology report), plus one weka, pathology only – these now need to be tested by Landcare for 1080 with results expected on Wednesday.
- 5 to Landcare (one was to rotten to test), 1080 testing only – These have been tested and no trace of 1080



Attached are the pathology's from Massey. Landcare have been very good at getting these done as fast as possible, it is not a quick process. They did not receive the outstanding rat and weka samples from Massey until Thursday, and Friday was a public holiday. They take 3 days to process.

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Ranger, Biodiversity - *Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*  
**Kawatiri/ Buller District**

M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa***

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:16 a.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Media <[Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz](mailto:Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz)>

**Subject:** RE: Rat results

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2) – there's some confusion here because last week we were advised they were landcare results – this was the draft prepared by § 9(2)(a). So this was wrong? We need to clarify urgently.



**14 November 2019**

## **Initial testing shows no 1080 in rats**

Initial results of toxicology testing of dead rats that washed up on Buller Beach near Westport last weekend show no presence of 1080.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) sent ten rats to Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and Massey University for independent testing to see if the rats had come from an aerial 1080 predator control operation.

Landcare Research testing of four rats found no evidence of 1080. Four further rats will be tested next week, following work by Massey University to establish their cause of death. Two rats were too decomposed to test.

DOC West Coast Operations Director Mark Davies says "DOC wanted to share these initial results to reassure people that the rats did not contain 1080."

"We are still awaiting the pathology results from Massey University, which may determine how the rats died.

"Tissue from these rats is also being sent to Landcare Research for testing for 1080 next week."

"However, at this stage it's looking unlikely that these rats had been exposed to 1080."

DOC was awaiting further pathology results but the exact cause of death and source of the rats may not be able to be determined.

"We thought it was unlikely the rats would have come from the Te Maruia predator control operation in the headwaters of the Buller River, 140 km from Westport but it's good to confirm this."

"Rat numbers have exploded this year due to the heavy beech seeding and now that seed is germinating, they are desperate for food. This will be driving rats into new areas and may cause them to cross waterways."

"Predator control is critical to protecting our most at-risk population of native wildlife as rats turn to eating native birds and bats, and fuel stoat numbers."

DOC rangers worked with other beachgoers for several days last week to remove almost 700 rat carcasses and disposed of them safely according to West Coast Regional Council advice.

As well as tests on rats, a weka and several fish were also sent for testing.

The fish samples were too degraded to test, but it is thought the marine animals which washed up on the beaches were probably victims of recent prolonged stormy weather which is known to have a negative impact on marine life.

Test results from the weka are still pending.

-Ends-

---

## Contacts

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Communication Advisor Western South Island

Mobile: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Email: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

## Background information

[Delete background if not applicable]

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:03 a.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) >

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Media <[Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz](mailto:Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz)>

**Subject:** Re: Rat results

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

You have the wrong information, its the right way round, waiting on landcare.

§ 9(2)(a),

----- Original message -----

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Date:** 18/11/19 9:55 AM (GMT+12:00)

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Media <[Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz](mailto:Medix@xxx.xxxx.nz)>

**Subject:** RE: Rat results

Hi

I think this is the wrong way around – I understand we have landcare but not the massey results.

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 9:49 a.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Mark Davies

**Subject:** RE: Rat results

Kia ora § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Are you able to share what the pathology results show?

Ngā mihi,

§ 9(2)(a),

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Communications and Engagement Manager, Predator Free 2050 | Customer Engagement Unit

Cell: [redacted]  
Conservation House, 18-32 Manners Street, Wellington.  
[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)



## TE WIKI TIAKI AO TŪROA 14-22 MAHURU

Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakahaere huri noa i Aotearoa  
[conservationweek.org.nz](http://conservationweek.org.nz)



---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 9:46 a.m.  
**To:** [redacted] Mark Davies [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Rat results

All pathology testing at Massey is complete.  
We have toxicology results for 4 rats, we have 4 rats and 1 weka pending at Landcare, Wednesday I expect they will be completed.

[redacted]  
Ranger, Biodiversity - *Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*  
**Kawatiri/ Buller District**  
M: [redacted] | E [redacted]

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa***

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 9:38 a.m.  
**To:** [redacted] Mark Davies [redacted]  
**Subject:** Rat results

[redacted] Mark

Can I please have an update on next steps for rat results? I understand there is another batch undergoing toxicology testing at Landcare and then there is pathology testing at Massey? Have I got that process right?

Do we have an update on timelines?

We are getting OIA requests for the results (and so is Landcare) so just wanting to make sure that we line up any release of information with DOC's official response when it goes out.

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted]

Programme Manager – Threats

Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: [REDACTED]

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143  
Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011  
T: +64 4 471 0726  
Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 1:14 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Rats

One weka, although based on its state of decomposition it's likely it died days before the rats washed up.

----- Original message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 13/11/19 1:11 PM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Rats

Thanks, are any of the other creatures besides the rats being tested?

[REDACTED]  
Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: [REDACTED]

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

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Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 1:10 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Rats

8-10, some will be processed this week, the remainder by the end of next week.

----- Original message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** 13/11/19 11:54 AM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Rats

Hi [REDACTED], can you confirm how many samples have been sent away to be tested?

[REDACTED]

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: [redacted]

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

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T: +64 4 471 0726  
Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

---

**From:** Mark Davies [redacted]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 2:25 p.m.

**To:** [redacted]

**Subject:** (no subject)

Sounds great will keep you posted

Mark Davies  
Director Operations  
Western South Island  
phone [redacted]

On 12/11/2019 2:22 PM, [redacted] wrote:

Thanks Mark, and hello [redacted] and [redacted].

I am running the team that is working on DOC's response to 1080 issues from a legal ([redacted]) and compliance, comms ([redacted]), engagement, information management (OIA's and proactive release) and security.

I report in to Amber and Hilary and I am interested in where things are at and how they are tracking as we will be co-ordinating the OIA responses at this end, plus we take a keen interest in anything that might be 1080 related!

We meet 3 times a week to triage 1080 OIA's and deal with any related 1080 issues, so if there is anything we can help you with please let me know.

Regards

[redacted]

**Karyn Stillwell**

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: [redacted]

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

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Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011  
T: +64 4 471 0726  
Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

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**From:** Mark Davies [redacted]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 2:08 p.m.

**To:** [redacted]

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** FW: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi § 9(2)(a),  
§ 9(2)(g)(ii)  
§ 9(2)(a),

is leading this for me at the district level . Happy if you want to talk with her direct cheers Mark

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: + § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 9:26 a.m.  
**To:** Erik van Eyndhoven § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Please could you investigate and report on this

Thanks, we really need to know the results asap – do you know how the internal response is being managed?

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: + § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

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Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

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**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 6:58 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this

Fyi - I've advised Peter that securing samples should be a priority.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Peter Brunt [redacted]  
Date: 10/11/2019 5:49 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this  
To: Erik van Eyndhoven [redacted], Amber Bill [redacted]  
Cc:  
Heads up and for any initial thoughts.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Mark Davies [redacted]  
**Date:** 10 November 2019 at 4:37:47 PM NZDT  
**To:** Michael Slater [redacted]  
**Cc:** Martin Kessick [redacted], Peter Brunt [redacted], Hilary Aikman [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi Mike  
Absolutely I have already copied Hilary the note asking for her and her teams support. We don't have the capability or capacity to investigate this within the region. Let's talk after you have caught up with Martin and Hilary. I think their thoughts will help give us the best way forward . Cheers

Mark Davies  
Ph [redacted]

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**From:** Michael Slater [redacted]  
**Sent:** Sunday, November 10, 2019 4:34:23 PM  
**To:** Mark Davies [redacted]  
**Cc:** Martin Kessick [redacted]; Peter Brunt [redacted]; Hilary Aikman [redacted]  
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I need to establish with Martin K/Peter B who will lead the response to this.  
Can we please discuss.  
Mike

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lou Sanson [redacted]  
Date: 10/11/2019 3:34 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this  
To: Mark Davies [redacted], Michael Slater [redacted], Peter Brunt [redacted]  
Cc:

FYI

Lou Sanson  
Director-General | Tumuaki-Ahurei  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

----- Original message -----

From: [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)

Date: 10/11/19 3:27 PM (GMT+12:00)

To: [eugenie.sage@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:eugenie.sage@parliament.govt.nz), [david.parker@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:david.parker@parliament.govt.nz), Lou Sanson <[REDACTED] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)>

Martin Kessick [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi

Please could you investigate and report on this

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=10212458854701511&id=1686122190&sfnsn=mo](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10212458854701511&id=1686122190&sfnsn=mo)

[REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)

Released under the OIA



**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:16 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Media  
**Subject:** RE: Rat results

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## Media release

14 November 2019

### Initial testing shows no 1080 in rats

Initial results of toxicology testing of dead rats that washed up on Buller Beach near Westport last weekend show no presence of 1080.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) sent ten rats to Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and Massey University for independent testing to see if the rats had come from an aerial 1080 predator control operation.

Landcare Research testing of four rats found no evidence of 1080. Four further rats will be tested next week, following work by Massey University to establish their cause of death. Two rats were too decomposed to test.

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"We are still awaiting the pathology results from Massey University, which may determine how the rats died.

"Tissue from these rats is also being sent to Landcare Research for testing for 1080 next week."

"However, at this stage it's looking unlikely that these rats had been exposed to 1080."

DOC was awaiting further pathology results but the exact cause of death and source of the rats may not be able to be determined.

"We thought it was unlikely the rats would have come from the Te Maruia predator control operation in the headwaters of the Buller River, 140 km from Westport but it's good to confirm this."

"Rat numbers have exploded this year due to the heavy beech seeding and now that seed is germinating, they are desperate for food. This will be driving rats into new areas and may cause them to cross waterways."

"Predator control is critical to protecting our most at-risk population of native wildlife as rats turn to eating native birds and bats, and fuel stoat numbers."

DOC rangers worked with other beachgoers for several days last week to remove almost 700 rat carcasses and disposed of them safely according to West Coast Regional Council advice.

As well as tests on rats, a weka and several fish were also sent for testing.

The fish samples were too degraded to test, but it is thought the marine animals which washed up on the beaches were probably victims of recent prolonged stormy weather which is known to have a negative impact on marine life.

Test results from the weka are still pending.

–Ends–

## Contacts

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Communication Advisor Western South Island

Mobile: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Email: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

## Background information

[Delete background if not applicable]

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:03 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>  
**Subject:** Re: Rat results

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
You have the wrong information, its the right way round, waiting on landcare.

§ 9(2)(a),

----- Original message -----

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** 18/11/19 9:55 AM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Media <[Medix@xxx.xxx.nz](mailto:Medix@xxx.xxx.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Rat results

HI  
I think this is the wrong way around – I understand we have landcare but not the massey results.

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 9:49 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rat results

Kia ora § 9(2)(a), 9(2)

Are you able to share what the pathology results show?

Ngā mihi,

§ 9(2)(a),

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Communications and Engagement Manager, Predator Free 2050 | Customer Engagement Unit  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

Cell: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Conservation House, 18-32 Manners Street, Wellington.  
[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)



## TE WIKI TIAKI AO TŪROA 14-22 MAHURU

Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakahaere huri noa i Aotearoa  
conservationweek.org.nz



**From:** [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 9:46 a.m.  
**To:** [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rat results

All pathology testing at Massey is complete.  
We have toxicology results for 4 rats, we have 4 rats and 1 weka pending at Landcare, Wednesday I expect they will be completed.

[redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Ranger, Biodiversity - *Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*  
**Kawatiri/ Buller District**

**M:** [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa***

**From:** [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 9:38 a.m.  
**To:** [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Rat results

[redacted] s 9(2)(a), Mark

Can I please have an update on next steps for rat results? I understand there is another batch undergoing toxicology testing at Landcare and then there is pathology testing at Massey? Have I got that process right?

Do we have an update on timelines?

We are getting OIA requests for the results (and so is Landcare) so just wanting to make sure that we line up any release of information with DOC's official response when it goes out.

Thanks

[redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

[redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
**M:** [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143  
Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011  
T: +64 4 471 0726  
Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 1:14 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Rats

One weka, although based on its state of decomposition it's likely it died days before the rats washed up.

----- Original message -----

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** 13/11/19 1:11 PM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rats

Thanks, are any of the other creatures besides the rats being tested?

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**  
PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143  
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T: +64 4 471 0726  
Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 1:10 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Rats

8-10, some will be processed this week, the remainder by the end of next week.

----- Original message -----

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** 13/11/19 11:54 AM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Rats

Hi § 9(2)(a), can you confirm how many samples have been sent away to be tested?

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143

Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011

T: +64 4 471 0726

Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

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**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 2:25 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** (no subject)

Sounds great will keep you posted

Mark Davies

Director Operations

Western South Island

phone § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

On 12/11/2019 2:22 PM, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) > wrote:

Thanks Mark, and hello § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

I am running the team that is working on DOC's response to 1080 issues from a legal (§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)) and compliance, comms (§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)), engagement, information management (OIA's and proactive release) and security.

I report in to Amber and Hilary and I am interested in where things are at and how they are tracking as we will be co-ordinating the OIA responses at this end, plus we take a keen interest in anything that might be 1080 related!

We meet 3 times a week to triage 1080 OIA's and deal with any related 1080 issues, so if there is anything we can help you with please let me know.

Regards

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Programme Manager – Threats

Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kāhorau Kōiora*

Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*

M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**

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Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011

T: +64 4 471 0726

Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

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**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 2:08 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** FW: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) is leading this for me at the district level . Happy if you want to talk with her direct cheers Mark

Mark Davies  
Director Operations  
Western South Island  
phone [redacted]

On 12/11/2019 1:50 PM, [redacted] wrote:  
Hi Mark

I am working with Amber in the threats team and this was forwarded through to me – who is leading the response?

[redacted]  
Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: [redacted]

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**  
PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143  
Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011  
T: +64 4 471 0726  
Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

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**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 9:26 a.m.  
**To:** Erik van Eyndhoven [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Please could you investigate and report on this

Thanks, we really need to know the results asap – do you know how the internal response is being managed?

[redacted]  
Programme Manager – Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*  
M: [redacted]

**Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/Conservation House**  
PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143  
Level 2 Conservation House, 18-32 Manners St, Wellington 6011  
T: +64 4 471 0726  
Conservation leadership for our nature **Tākina te hī, tiakina te hā, o te ao tūroa**

---

**From:** Erik van Eyndhoven [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 6:58 a.m.  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this

Fyi - I've advised Peter that securing samples should be a priority.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----  
From: Peter Brunt [redacted]  
Date: 10/11/2019 5:49 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this

To: Erik van Eyndhoven [redacted], Amber Bill [redacted]

Cc:

Heads up and for any initial thoughts.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mark Davies [redacted]  
Date: 10 November 2019 at 4:37:47 PM NZDT  
To: Michael Slater [redacted]  
Cc: Martin Kessick [redacted], Peter Brunt [redacted], Hilary Aikman [redacted]  
Subject: Re: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi Mike

Absolutely I have already copied Hilary the note asking for her and her teams support. We don't have the capability or capacity to investigate this within the region. Let's talk after you have caught up with Martin and Hilary. I think their thoughts will help give us the best way forward . Cheers

Mark Davies

ph [redacted]

---

From: Michael Slater [redacted]  
Sent: Sunday, November 10, 2019 4:34:23 PM

To: Mark Davies [redacted]  
[redacted]

Subject: Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi Mark

I need to establish with Martin K/Peter B who will lead the response to this.

Can we please discuss.

Mike

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Lou Sanson [redacted]  
Date: 10/11/2019 3:34 PM  
Subject: Fwd: Please could you investigate and report on this  
To: Mark Davies [redacted], Michael Slater [redacted], Peter Brunt [redacted]  
[redacted]

Cc:

FYI

Lou Sanson  
Director-General | Tumuaki-Ahurei  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

----- Original message -----

From: [redacted]

Date: 10/11/19 3:27 PM (GMT+12:00)

To: [eugenie.sage@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:eugenie.sage@parliament.govt.nz), [david.parker@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:david.parker@parliament.govt.nz), Lou Sanson <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> >

Martin Kessick <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

Subject: Please could you investigate and report on this

Hi

Please could you investigate and report on this

[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=10212458854701511&id=1686122190&sfnsn=mo](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10212458854701511&id=1686122190&sfnsn=mo)

<sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup>

Released under the OIA



§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 4:12 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** RE: Rat Result MR

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) (:

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 4:11 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rat Result MR

Hey § 9(2)(a),

Looks good. I'd leave out the bits I've crossed out below. I don't think we need to look up info about storm events for them. We provided a possible explanation in the media release.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Media Advisor | Kaitohutohu Pāpāho  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai  
DDI: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Ōtautahi / Christchurch Office**

Grand Central, 161 Cashel St | Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8140  
T: +64 3 371 3700

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**To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders.**

[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 4:06 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rat Result MR

Could you please look this one over too please § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) ?

We stated in the Media Release its not known how the rats died. Re your question around whether a particular flood could have caused this, we have had a number of flood events lately, but we don't hold records of river levels etc – suggest you try Regional Council for that.

DOC did not test for other toxins that could have killed the rats because there has been no use of such toxins by DOC. DOC is responsible for the effects of 1080 operations it undertakes, and as such we tested for 1080 because there was a possibility that the rats could have died from use of this toxin – this has been ruled out and we will not be undertaking further work to investigate the deaths of the rats.

~~The cause of the death of the rats would possibly be a matter for the Regional Council or the DHB to look into. Perhaps your questions around the multiple possibilities of the rat deaths could be answered by a vet or toxicologist.~~

In terms of washup of marine animals, its not uncommon for animals to be washed up after storm events. ~~Will have a huntaround for info about other events, but prob wont be able to get you any info on this today.~~

**From:** Liz McDonald <[liz.mcdonald@press.co.nz](mailto:liz.mcdonald@press.co.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 3:18 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Rat Result MR

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) I am taking over this story from Jo. Can we please get a bit more info if possible about what could have happened to the rats and other animals washed up and if there was a particular flood event it could have been - and whether this sort of washing up event has been seen before?  
Many thanks. Liz

**Liz McDonald**  
Senior reporter  
The Press

E [xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx)  
P § 9(2)(a)  
Press House, 158 Gloucester St, Christchurch, 8140, New Zealand  
Private Bag 4722



----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Joanne Carroll <[xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.nz](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.nz)>  
**Date:** Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 14:17  
**Subject:** Fwd: Rat Result MR  
**To:** Liz McDonald <[lix.xxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:lix.xxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx)>, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

From doc

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 2:04 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Rat Result MR  
**To:** Joanne Carroll <[joanne.carroll@stuff.co.nz](mailto:joanne.carroll@stuff.co.nz)>

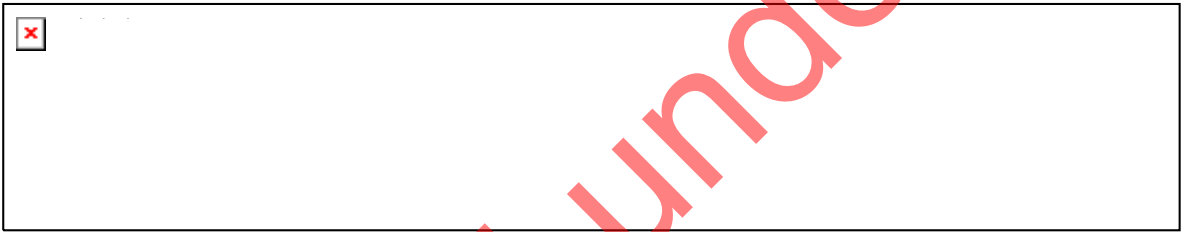
The time it takes for a rat to break down varies according to the environment – on land, in warm weather it could be as quick as two weeks, but in water it would take longer. If the animals had been exposed to 1080, this would have been picked up through the tests.

**From:** Joanne Carroll <xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:40 a.m.  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Rat Result MR

Thanks s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii). Do you know how long it takes for 1080 to break down in carcasses? Just so we can include that if people are wondering?

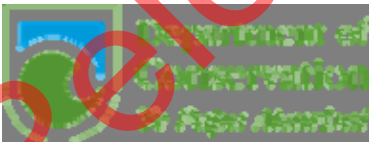
**Joanne Carroll**  
Reporter

E joanne.carroll@xxxxx.xx.xkM s 9(2)(a)  
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 11:22  
**Subject:** Rat Result MR  
**To:**



Media release

20 November 2019

## Testing shows no 1080 in rats

Results of toxicology testing of dead rats that washed up on North Beach near Westport recently show no presence of 1080.

Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research tested eight dead rats and one weka. None of these animals had any residue of 1080 toxin. Two other rats were too decomposed to test.

Massey University School of Veterinary Science undertook post-mortem examinations of five of the dead rats but could not determine their cause of death. The weka was also examined with cause of death unknown.

Department of Conservation (DOC) West Coast Operations Director Mark Davies says the test results confirm that the rats washed up on the beach are unlikely to have come from an area where 1080 had been used.

“We thought it was unlikely that rats had come from our aerial 1080 operation in Lewis Pass National Reserve near Maruia, 140 km upstream from Westport.

“We don’t know the source of the dead rats but it’s possible they came from beech forest areas closer to Westport in the Buller Gorge, affected by flood conditions.

“Rat numbers have exploded in beech forests due to heavy seeding and now seed is germinating, they are desperate for food, which can drive them into new areas and cause them to cross waterways,” says Mark Davies.

“Predator control is critical to protecting our most at-risk population of native wildlife as rats turn to eating native birds and bats and their young this spring and summer.”

DOC sent ten rats for testing. Five went to Massey University for post-mortem, and five to Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research for toxicology testing.

Following post-mortem, the five rats were also sent to test for 1080 although two were too decomposed to do this. The weka was also sent for post-mortem and 1080 testing.

It’s likely the marine animals which also washed up near Westport were victims of prolonged stormy weather at the time, which can have a negative impact on marine life.

About 680 dead rats were collected from North Beach over the weekend of 9-10 November. The rats were buried following advice from West Coast Regional Council.

–Ends–

---

## Contacts

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Communication Advisor Western South Island

Mobile: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Email: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

## Background information

Copies of the Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research toxicology results and Massey University School of Veterinary Science pathology reports are available on the DOC website at the following address

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/oia-responses/tiakina-nga-manu/>

Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapā

Department of Conservation, Hokitika

Western South Island Region

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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--  
**Joanne Carroll**  
Reporter

E [joanne.carroll@xxxx.xx.xkM](mailto:joanne.carroll@xxxx.xx.xkM) § 9(2)(a)  
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



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**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:24 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Rat Result MR

Thanks § 9(2)(a), great work

Mark Davies  
Director Operations  
Western South Island  
phone § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

On 20/11/2019 11:21 AM, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:



## Media release

**20 November 2019**

### Testing shows no 1080 in rats

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About 680 dead rats were collected from North Beach over the weekend of 9-10 November. The rats were buried following advice from West Coast Regional Council.

## Contacts

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Communication Advisor Western South Island

Mobile: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Email: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

## Background information

Copies of the Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research toxicology results and Massey University School of Veterinary Science pathology reports are available on the DOC website at the following address

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/oia-responses/tiakina-nga-manu/>

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapā  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 12:08 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Mark Davies  
**Subject:** Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139  
**Attachments:** Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139.docx

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), can you look this over please. Any comments Mark? § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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## Media release

14 November 2019

### Buller Beach Rats not poisoned by 1080

The test results of rats who died and washed up on a beach north of Westport on the South Island West Coast are back, and no presence of 1080 was found, leaving a question around what killed the animals.

The rats which washed up were thought to would have been “a tiny fraction” of the number killed in the recent Te Maruia Operation where the rats were thought to have originated from, but the test results confirm that the rats were not killed in this operation.

Mark Davies says there are multiple possibilities for what may have caused the rat deaths. The exact cause of death and source of the rats will most likely not be able to be determined, but a natural cause could be declining food sources as seed in the forest is germinating, causing rats to engage in territory expansion, leading them to enter and cross waterways.

“There are high numbers of rats in the environments this year, the presence of these rats on the beach demonstrates a largely invisible issue we are dealing with in our forests right around the country – in most years they are overrun by rats and mice, which fuel high numbers of stoats, which has devastating consequences for our native wildlife.”

When DOC was alerted to the rats on the beach, rangers worked with other beachgoers to remove almost 700 carcasses and disposed of them safely according to West Coast Regional Council advice.

As well as tests on rats, a weka and a number of fish were also sent for testing.

The weka was confirmed not to have been poisoned by 1080. Weka are known to be susceptible to poisoning, although DOC takes measures such as reducing the toxicity of bait, sowing less bait, and making bait less attractive to birds to reduce the risk to native birds. The small number of birds lost will be far outweighed by population gains.

The fish samples were too degraded to test, but fish are not susceptible to poisoning and it is thought the marine animals which washed up on the beaches were probably victims of recent prolonged stormy weather which is known to have a negative impact on marine life.

-Ends-

---

### **Contacts**

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [REDACTED], Communication Advisor Western South Island

Mobile: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [REDACTED]

Email: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [REDACTED]

### **Background information**

[Delete background if not applicable]

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 4:13 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Rick Zwaan; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Mark Davies  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Media  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

I'm just getting one of the buller staff to look this over to make sure all correct. § 9(2)(a),

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 4:06 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Rick Zwaan  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Media  
<xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

H § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
These are great. I've looped in § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) so he's aware that this is our approach if media challenge us on having preliminary results – Mark – be good if you can approve/amend these messages so we can close the loop on this.  
Cheers  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 3:55 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Rick Zwaan  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

Just to confirm the holding messages for reactive use only:

- DOC has received initial rat test results from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research but is awaiting further results due next week before making a public announcement.
- We need to wait until we have all the test results in, including the results of pathology work, which may then determine how the rats died.
- Ten rats were sent for independent testing to Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and Massey University.
- A weka and some marine fish species were also sent for testing and we are waiting these results also.

Ngā mihi  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 3:37 p.m.

To: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Rick Zwaan  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Cc: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Subject: RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

Hi everyone

Thanks for the phone call Mark – we are now all agreed that we will wait for next week’s results before making any public statements. The lines from § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) are good with § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) suggested change on the second line. We should only use these reactively if media say they know we have some results. Otherwise just say we hope to have all the results next week.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

From: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Sent: Thursday, 14 November 2019 3:12 p.m.  
To: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Rick Zwaan § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Cc: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Subject: RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

Kia ora § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Thanks for these. I presume we would use these reactively only?

Reading between the lines of the second message – it suggests we know what they didn't die of and the addition of the pathology may tell us how they did? In which case, it may invite the question, “So you’re saying the early results show they didn’t die of 1080 then?”. Could we amend the message to say:

- We need to wait until we have all the test results in, including the results of pathology work, which may then determine how the rats died.

Ngā mihi,

§ 9(2)(a),

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Communications and Engagement Manager, Predator Free 2050 | Customer Engagement Unit  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

Cell: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Conservation House, 18-32 Manners Street, Wellington.  
[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)



TE WIKI TIAKI AO TŪROA 14-22 MAHURU

Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakahaere huri noa i Aotearoa  
[conservationweek.org.nz](http://conservationweek.org.nz)

**From:** [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:58 p.m.

**To:** Rick Zwaan [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

[redacted] ark  
**Davies** [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

Suggest the following holding messages until we're ready to release results:

**Message:**

- DOC has received initial rat test results from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research but is awaiting further results due next week before making a public announcement.
- We need to wait until we have all the 1080 test results, as well as results of pathology work, which may determine how the rats died.
- Ten rats were sent for independent testing to Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and Massey University.
- A weka and some marine fish species were also sent for testing and we are waiting these results also.

Cheers

[redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

[redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Media Advisor | Kaitohutohu Pāpāho  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai  
DDI: [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Ōtautahi / Christchurch Office**

Grand Central, 161 Cashel St | Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8140  
T: +64 3 371 3700

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---

**From:** Rick Zwaan [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:27 p.m.

**To:** [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

[redacted] Mark  
**Davies** [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

I agree with [redacted] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Rick

---

**From:** [redacted] s

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:24 PM

To: [redacted] Rick Zwaan [redacted] Mark  
Davies [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

Hi  
I understand we have only tested four – but there’s still more to be done. I think it is prudent to wait until we have all the test results – and then we can deal it with one story cycle rather than drawing it out. We should also be seeking out some explanations of how they died and they came to be in the river.  
Happy to discuss.

Cheers  
[redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:06 p.m.  
**To:** [redacted] Rick Zwaan [redacted] Mark  
Davies [redacted]  
**Subject:** Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

Looking at putting this out in the morning [redacted] and I are working on some other key messages that need to be addressed. We also need to know that Mark is available as spokesperson in the am. We are not planning on making a joint statement with any other agencies. Kind regards, [redacted]

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## Media release

14 November 2019

### Initial testing shows no 1080 in rats

Initial results of toxicology testing of dead rats that washed up on Buller Beach near Westport last weekend show no presence of 1080.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) sent ten rats to Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and Massey University for independent testing to see if the rats had come from an aerial 1080 predator control operation.

Landcare Research testing of four rats found no evidence of 1080. Four further rats will be tested next week, following work by Massey University to establish their cause of death. Two rats were too decomposed to test.

DOC West Coast Operations Director Mark Davies says “DOC wanted to share these initial results to reassure people that the rats did not contain 1080.”

“We are still awaiting the pathology results from Massey University, which may determine how the rats died.

“Tissue from these rats is also being sent to Landcare Research for testing for 1080 next week.”

“However, at this stage it’s looking unlikely that these rats had been exposed to 1080.”

DOC was awaiting further pathology results but the exact cause of death and source of the rats may not be able to be determined.

“We thought it was unlikely the rats would have come from the Te Maruia predator control operation in the headwaters of the Buller River, 140 km from Westport but it’s good to confirm this.”

“Rat numbers have exploded this year due to the heavy beech seeding and now that seed is germinating, they are desperate for food. This will be driving rats into new areas and may cause them to cross waterways.”

“Predator control is critical to protecting our most at-risk population of native wildlife as rats turn to eating native birds and bats, and fuel stoat numbers.”

DOC rangers worked with other beachgoers for several days last week to remove almost 700 rat carcasses and disposed of them safely according to West Coast Regional Council advice.

As well as tests on rats, a weka and several fish were also sent for testing.

The fish samples were too degraded to test, but it is thought the marine animals which washed up on the beaches were probably victims of recent prolonged stormy weather which is known to have a negative impact on marine life. Test results from the weka are still pending.

–Ends–

---

### **Contacts**

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [Redacted] Communication Advisor Western South Island

Mobile: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [Redacted]

Email: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) [Redacted]

### **Background information**

[Delete background if not applicable]

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 3:12 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Rick Zwaan, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Mark Davies  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

Sorry, been in another urgent meeting for the last hour...

I have some concerns with holding off on sending out this info.

While I agree it would be good to go out with 1 lot of info, the message that the initial tests have come back clear has already been spread fairly widely.

We will be asked by media tomorrow, when we had said we expected to have results back from the testing as to what the tests show. I think we do need to say that initial results on the tests have come back clear, but there are still more results to come back and we should be able to give a final confirmation next week.

Obviously we don't want to be premature, but if the word gets out that we have the results and aren't talking about them, it might lead to talk that we are holding back the results because they are bad and we are trying to hide something.

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:58 p.m.  
**To:** Rick Zwaan, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Mark Davies, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

Suggest the following holding messages until we're ready to release results:

**Message:**

- DOC has received initial rat test results from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research but is awaiting further results due next week before making a public announcement.
- We need to wait until we have all the 1080 test results, as well as results of pathology work, which may determine how the rats died.
- Ten rats were sent for independent testing to Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and Massey University.
- A weka and some marine fish species were also sent for testing and we are waiting these results also.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Media Advisor | Kaitohutohu Pāpāho  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai  
DDI: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Ōtautahi / Christchurch Office**

Grand Central, 161 Cashel St | Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8140  
T: +64 3 371 3700

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**From:** Rick Zwaan § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:27 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Mark  
Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) >  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

I agree with § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii).

Rick

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:24 PM  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Rick Zwaan § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Mark  
Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

Hi  
I understand we have only tested four – but there's still more to be done. I think it is prudent to wait until we have all the test results – and then we can deal it with one story cycle rather than drawing it out. We should also be seeking out some explanations of how they died and they came to be in the river.  
Happy to discuss.  
Cheers  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:06 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Rick Zwaan § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Mark  
Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

Looking at putting this out in the morning - § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and I are working on some other key messages that need to be addressed. We also need to know that Mark is available as spokesperson in the am. We are not planning on making a joint statement with any other agencies. Kind regards, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 10:32 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Going out at 11.15. Media release - Testing shows no 1080 in rats

§ 9(2)(a),  
Thanks great work much appreciated  
Can you please send a pdf version to § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and ask her to share with the conservation board thanks mark

Mark Davies  
Director Operations  
Western South Island  
phone § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

On 20/11/2019 10:23 AM, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:  
Just have had results in and will be going out with this at 11.15. Mark is available for interviews between 12.30 and 1, and 4.30 and 6, so will organise any interviews on that basis. Still need to update MR with link to test results on DOC website. § 9(2)(a),

## Testing shows no 1080 in rats

Results of toxicology testing of dead rats that washed up on North Beach near Westport recently show no presence of 1080.

Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research tested eight dead rats and one weka. None of these animals had any residue of 1080 toxin. Two other rats were too decomposed to test.

Massey University School of Veterinary Science undertook post-mortem examinations of five of the dead rats but could not determine their cause of death. The weka was also examined with cause of death unknown.

Department of Conservation (DOC) West Coast Operations Director Mark Davies says the test results confirm that the rats washed up on the beach are unlikely to have come from an area where 1080 had been used.

“We thought it was unlikely that rats had come from our aerial 1080 operation in Lewis Pass National Reserve near Maruia, 140 km upstream from Westport.

“We don’t know the source of the dead rats but it’s possible they came from beech forest areas closer to Westport in the Buller Gorge, affected by flood conditions.

“Rat numbers have exploded in beech forests due to heavy seeding and now seed is germinating, they are desperate for food, which can drive them into new areas and cause them to cross waterways,” says Mark Davies.

“Predator control is critical to protecting our most at-risk population of native wildlife as rats turn to eating native birds and bats and their young this spring and summer.”

DOC sent ten rats for testing. Five went to Massey University for post-mortem, and five to Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research for toxicology testing.

Following post-mortem, the five rats were also sent to test for 1080 although two were too decomposed to do this. The weka was also sent for post-mortem and 1080 testing.

It’s likely the marine animals which also washed up near Westport were victims of prolonged stormy weather at the time, which can have a negative impact on marine life.

About 680 dead rats were collected from North Beach over the weekend of 9-10 November. The rats were buried following advice from West Coast Regional Council.

–Ends–

## Contacts

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Communication Advisor Western South Island

Mobile: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Email: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

## Background information

Copies of the Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research toxicology results and Massey University School of Veterinary Science pathology reports are available on the DOC website.

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapā  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 10:41 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Hilary Aikman; Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Toxicology Report and draft Media release re 'rat results' in the Buller

Hi. The toxicology report doesn't deal with the 8 rats – only 4. Wont we look like we're withholding the other results? And be asked for the report for the other 4?

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 10:06 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: Toxicology Report and draft Media release re 'rat results' in the Buller

sent from my phone

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** 20/11/2019 10:02 AM  
**Subject:** FW: Toxicology Report and draft Media release re 'rat results' in the Buller  
**To:** LWhakautu <[xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx)>  
**Cc:**  
fyi

---

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 9:04 a.m.  
**To:** Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Martin Kessick § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Amber Bill § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Ken Hughey § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Toxicology Report and draft Media release re 'rat results' in the Buller

Team copy fyi this is going out this morning cheers Mark

Mark Davies  
Director Operations  
Western South Island  
phone § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** 20/11/2019 8:54 AM  
**Subject:** Toxicology Report and draft Media release re 'rat results' in the Buller

To: Mark Davies s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc:

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Personal Assistant, Kaiāwhina, to Director, Operations, Western South Island  
Department of Conservation —Te Papa Atawhai

Mobile: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

10 Sewell St, Hokitika 7810

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 11:55 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: MR about toxicology results

Good idea will do

---

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 11:47 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: MR about toxicology results

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Agree

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

This will need input from the marine team as it's beyond our regional level of understanding  
Can you please reach out to them and see how you go

I like § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) suggested Q&A approach

Mark Davies

Director Operations Western South Island Region

Ph § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 11:34:32 AM  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

2

**Subject:** RE: MR about toxicology results

Thanks Mark – if it is 1080 then we will need messaging or Q/A on any other potential risks to seafood and marine life as this will be the major issues raised by the anti 1080 groups.

From: Mark Davies [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, 13 November 2019 10:48 a.m.

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: MR about toxicology results

Thanks [REDACTED]

Great that you guys are thinking about the next steps and messages. Really appreciate this.

The likely timing is Friday for the results so I think we will start getting asked for them by the media either on Friday or Monday. I have promised the EPA, WCRC and BDC and Public Health / Medical Officer of Health that we will give them the results straight away and also the opportunity to comment on our media release.

Can we look at this as two potential scenarios. I think there is a 50/50 likelihood that the results will be 1080 or not. So

Scenario One

1080 caused the deaths

I think this needs to be proactive and that we are upfront as set out by [REDACTED] below. We anticipated this rat plague as a result of the mega mast 12 months ago and these operations are to protect our ecosystems and wildlife. We need to stress the point that we target to kill rats with 1080 operations.

I think we need to have a clear message that how these dead rats turned up on the beach 140 km down stream is still unexplained and unknown and that we will investigate this. I think we need to be upfront that this was a surprise to us as well and that this has never happened before ??

I think we need to announce how we are going to get this event investigated so that we can answer this question.

Just fyi

I am also trying via Hilary to get the EPA to agree to lead an investigation if this event is 1080 related.

Scenario Two

Not 1080 related

Our message is that this is not DOCs business and that this is a district council matter around public health.

Does this make sense ??



Please let me know what you think

Thanks

Mark Davies

Director Operations Western South Island Region

Ph [redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 9:35 AM

**To:** Mark Davies; [redacted]

**Subject:** MR about toxicology results

Hi ya both

Just talking to [redacted] now and discussing what to do once we get these toxicology results in, timing etc...looking at some of the coverage, it would be useful to go out with a media release that celebrates the positive impacts of the knockdown in rats and what that means for the eco system at Maruia, [redacted] is going to talk to [redacted] about what we have in terms of preliminary results for the operation with a view to going out with something late this week/ or early next week – any update on when the toxicology results will be in? [redacted]

[redacted]

*Communications Advisor-Kaitohutohu Whakapā  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

[redacted]

Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 3:36 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: MR about toxicology results

And why we did the operation in the first place

§ 9(2)

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** 13/11/19 11:34 AM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: MR about toxicology results

Thanks Mark – if it is 1080 then we will need messaging or Q/A on any other potential risks to seafood and marine life as this will be the major issues raised by the anti 1080 groups.

**From:** Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 10:48 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: MR about toxicology results  
Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Great that you guys are thinking about the next steps and messages. Really appreciate this.

The likely timing is Friday for the results so I think we will start getting asked for them by the media either on Friday or Monday. I have promised the EPA, WCRC and BDC and Public Health / Medical Officer of Health that we will give them the results straight away and also the opportunity to comment on our media release.

Can we look at this as two potential scenarios. I think there is a 50/50 likelihood that the results will be 1080 or not. So

Scenario One

1080 caused the deaths

I think this needs to be proactive and that we are upfront as set out by § 9(2)(a), 9(2) below. We anticipated this rat plague as a result of the mega mast 12 months ago and these operations are to protect our ecosystems and wildlife. We need to stress the point that we target to kill rats with 1080 operations.

I think we need to have a clear message that how these dead rats turned up on the beach 140 km down stream is still unexplained and unknown and that we will investigate this. I think we need to be upfront that this was a surprise to us as well and that this has never happened before ??

I think we need to announce how we are going to get this event investigated so that we can answer this question.

Just fyi

I am also trying via Hilary to get the EPA to agree to lead an investigation if this event is 1080 related.

Scenario Two

Not 1080 related

Our message is that this is not DOCs business and that this is a district council matter around public health.

Does this make sense ??

Please let me know what you think

Thanks

Mark Davies

Director Operations Western South Island Region

Ph [redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 9:35 AM

**To:** Mark Davies; [redacted]

**Subject:** MR about toxicology results

Hi ya both

Just talking to [redacted] now and discussing what to do once we get these toxicology results in, timing etc...looking at some of the coverage, it would be useful to go out with a media release that celebrates the positive impacts of the knockdown in rats and what that means for the eco system at Maruia, [redacted] is going to talk to [redacted] about what we have in terms of preliminary results for the operation with a view to going out with something late this week/ or early next week – any update on when the toxicology results will be in ? [redacted]

[redacted]

*Communications Advisor-Kaitohutohu Whakapā*

*Department of Conservation, Hokitika*

*Western South Island Region*

[redacted]

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 November 2019 4:08 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: North Beach tide of dead rats test results.

Hi Brooke,

FYI – please see our response below in blue to be attributed to a West Coast DHB spokesperson.

Kind regards

§ 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) | Senior Communications Advisor | West Coast District Health Board  
PO Box 387, High Street, Greymouth 7840  
DDI § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Email § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Web [www.westcoastdhb.org.nz](http://www.westcoastdhb.org.nz)



**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 2:24 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: North Beach tide of dead rats test results.

Hi Brooke,

Thanks for your email – I will come back to you on this one.

Kind regards

§ 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) | Senior Communications Advisor | West Coast District Health Board  
PO Box 387, High Street, Greymouth 7840  
DDI § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Email § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Web [www.westcoastdhb.org.nz](http://www.westcoastdhb.org.nz)



**From:** Brooke Jenner § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 2:14 p.m.  
**To:** Communications <[Communications@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Communications@cdhb.health.nz)>  
**Subject:** North Beach tide of dead rats test results.

Good afternoon,

My name is Brooke and I'm one of the team at 1 NEWS.

Following the discovery of six hundred dead rats and other wildlife on North Beach on the West Coast earlier in November, are you able to provide details on your involvement in the investigation, if any?

*The West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB) is not directly involved in the investigation, however, the Medical Officer of Health for West Coast has been made aware of the Department of Conservation's (DOC) investigation and the pathology and toxicology findings.*

After reading through DOC's toxicology analysis and pathology report, it is clear - and the team has confirmed - the only toxin tested for was 1080, which begs further questions on what killed these rats and potential ongoing threats to the environment, animals and people.

*Questions about further testing should be addressed to DOC.*

In regards to water testing, ESR has advised we speak to public health officials regarding this. Are you aware whether the water is being tested for toxins, not just contaminants that may have killed the rats, but also dead rats floating downstream spreading possible infections/diseases making the water unsafe?

*The Buller River is not the source of drinking water for Westport (the town's treated wastewater is discharged into the river) and as far as the WCDHB is aware, no testing for toxins has been carried out on river water. The West Coast Regional Council is the agency involved in monitoring water quality in rivers and lakes and compliance with any resource consents permitting discharges into them.*

*The Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) carries out regular monitoring of seawater and mussel flesh for shellfish biotoxins at a site near Cape Foulwind (which is south of the mouth of the Buller River). The most recent results from this monitoring do not show any elevated levels of biotoxins and there is currently no public health warning for this site.*

*Dead animals are regularly washed down rivers in flood and while it is unusual to see such large numbers of a particular animal, there is no public health risk provided people avoid handling carcasses or swimming in the river or at the beach while carcasses are present.*

*The rats and other dead fish, birds and animals have all been buried and as such do not pose any ongoing risk to human health.*

Any information you are able to provide is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards,

Brooke Jenner

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**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 4:46 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Rats on Westport beach

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile** + § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 12:48 p.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Michael Meehan § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Sharon Mason § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rats on Westport beach

Thanks Mark

While I don't think it's responsible for the rat deaths, one of our West Coast health protection officers reminded me that there is still detectable biotoxin toxin showing up at Cape Foulwind and because algae are mobile there could be more concentrated areas. This could be a factor in the fish deaths. I'm not sure if DoC or WCRC took any samples of the dead fish but if they did, assays for biotoxins might be worthwhile (Cawthron is the lab which does the routine testing for the monitoring programme). And yes, I do know that it's not unusual for fish and seabirds to wash up on shore after storm events – but in unusual circumstances like this, you may need to be able to prove the obvious.

With regard to investigation process, I had thought EPA too but I would not necessarily want it to be the responsibility of their compliance team, whose skillset is enforcement based – and there may well have been no non-compliance whatever involved in this situation. Another possibility would be to ask another regional council to carry the investigation out, perhaps one of the larger ones, such as ECan. Mike may want to comment. I agree with him that DoC is lead agency but the investigation needs to be cross-agency and could be led by an independent investigator.

Cheers, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 11:18 AM  
**To:** Michael Meehan § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Sharon Mason § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Re: Rats on Westport beach

Thanks Mike

Appreciate this view and understand it completely. As you know I am keen to get this event investigated by an independent person and body. This is a very unusual and unexplained set of circumstances and I am keen to better understand what and how this happened. I am keeping an open mind on scenarios. I do think we can not discount interference by 1080 protestors and direct action to disrupt agencies. There will be learnings that come out of a process like that which will be good for the sector. The outcome of the toxicity is an important piece of the puzzle but I am keen to be ready to announce

Do you have any suggestions of a suitable investigation process ? My thoughts at the moment are EPA ?

I plan to talk to my National Operations college Director Hilary Aikman later today about this. If you have any thoughts on who might be suitable can you please let em know

Cheers Mark

Mark Davies

Director Operations Western South Island Region

Ph s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** Michael Meehan s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, November 11, 2019 7:30 PM

**To:** Mark Davies

**Cc:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Sharon Mason

**Subject:** Re: Rats on Westport beach

Hi Mark,

Given the beach is clear of carcasses and you and your team has sent the samples away for analysis I am not sure what more anyone could actually do.

Think it is a grey area who is lead on this, but am certainly supporting DOC continuing in the lead role given your focus on marine ecosystems and that it seems on the face of it to have no RMA illegal discharge or activity associated with it.

Michael Meehan  
Chief Executive

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

On 11/11/2019, at 2:48 PM, Mark Davies s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Hi s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Nice to hear from you. I am hoping to talk later today with Mike Meehan and ask him and the West Coast Regional Council to lead an investigation into this incident. I have been in text coms with Mike in last 24 hours and his thinking is to engage an independent investigator to do this work. I support this approach.

From a Public Health perspective we took a proactive approach on Saturday afternoon supported by about 10 members of the local Westport community and cleaned up the North Beach for approx. 4 km of all dead rats and any other fish life. We have disposed of that by burying it after advice from s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) from the regional council. We have sent 6 chilled and 6 frozen carcass to both Massey Uni and LandCare at Massey to both to test for 1080 and or any other position and autopsy. Hope to get this done urgently but it will eb a few days.

My Westport team have also been walking the beaches and monitoring if any more animals have come onto the beach. At this point no further have.

I will keep you posted and copy you into things from now on

Cheers Mark

**Mark Davies**

Director, Operations

Western South Island Region

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810

Mobile s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature***Tākina te hā, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

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From: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 11 November 2019 11:49 a.m.



To: Mark Davies [redacted]

Subject: Rats on Westport beach

Hi Mark

You're probably sick of hearing about this by now. We've already had a few inquiries about this asking about public health risk. So far, I have taken the view that as the rat carcasses (and presumably the other dead fish and birds) have been removed and buried, there is no public health risk.

Like you, I find it hard to believe that the carcasses came over 100km down river from the Te Maruia drop zone but I guess it's possible. When I heard about the incident my first thought was that there hadn't been any recent aerial 1080 operations nearby but that 1080 would inevitably be blamed.

I'd appreciate if you'd be able to keep me in the loop of the DoC investigation, including the results of autopsy and toxicology testing, on an in-confidence basis. I don't think the public questions will go away in a hurry but I won't be making any media comment unless asked and will simply reiterate the advice I've already given about there being no public health risk if I am asked.

Cheers, [redacted]

[redacted]

*Medical Officer of Health, West Coast/Āpiha Hauora o te Hauora, Te Tai ō Poutini  
Community and Public Health/Te Mana Ora  
PO Box 443  
3 Tarapuhi Street  
Greymouth/Māwhera*

Phone [redacted]

Email [redacted]

\*\*\*\*\*

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Released under the OIA

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:41 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Mark Davies; Michael Meehan; Hilary Aikman; Sharon Mason; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Rats on Westport beach - Media Release sent out this morning.



## Media release

20 November 2019

### Testing shows no 1080 in rats

Results of toxicology testing of dead rats that washed up on North Beach near Westport recently show no presence of 1080.

Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research tested eight dead rats and one weka. None of these animals had any residue of 1080 toxin. Two other rats were too decomposed to test.

Massey University School of Veterinary Science undertook post-mortem examinations of five of the dead rats but could not determine their cause of death. The weka was also examined with cause of death unknown.

Department of Conservation (DOC) West Coast Operations Director Mark Davies says the test results confirm that the rats washed up on the beach are unlikely to have come from an area where 1080 had been used.

“We thought it was unlikely that rats had come from our aerial 1080 operation in Lewis Pass National Reserve near Maruia, 140 km upstream from Westport.

“We don’t know the source of the dead rats but it’s possible they came from beech forest areas closer to Westport in the Buller Gorge, affected by flood conditions.

“Rat numbers have exploded in beech forests due to heavy seeding and now seed is germinating, they are desperate for food, which can drive them into new areas and cause them to cross waterways,” says Mark Davies.

“Predator control is critical to protecting our most at-risk population of native wildlife as rats turn to eating native birds and bats and their young this spring and summer.”

DOC sent ten rats for testing. Five went to Massey University for post-mortem, and five to Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research for toxicology testing.

Following post-mortem, the five rats were also sent to test for 1080 although two were too decomposed to do this. The weka was also sent for post-mortem and 1080 testing.

It’s likely the marine animals which also washed up near Westport were victims of prolonged stormy weather at the time, which can have a negative impact on marine life.

About 680 dead rats were collected from North Beach over the weekend of 9-10 November. The rats were buried following advice from West Coast Regional Council.

–Ends–

## Contacts

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Communication Advisor Western South Island

Mobile: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Email: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

## Background information

Copies of the Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research toxicology results and Massey University School of Veterinary Science pathology reports are available on the DOC website at the following address

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/oia-responses/tiakina-nga-manu/>

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapā*

*Department of Conservation, Hokitika*

*Western South Island Region*

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 2:04 p.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** Re: Testing of beach rats...

On tonight's over night courier service Mark

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** 11/11/19 2:01 PM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Testing of beach rats...

Hi § 9(2)(a),

My understanding from § 9(2)(a) is that these samples have been sent from Westport this morning. Can you please get onto your Landcare contact and see what timeline we can have or these tests. If they can be done urgently and in the next few days that would be great. Can you let me know how you get on please  
TA

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*  
10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 10:38 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Testing of beach rats...

Hi § 9(2)(a),

Can you talk with § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) please about this  
Cheers Mark

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*  
10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 10:32 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Testing of beach rats...

Hello Mark

I assume your staff have the pesticide residue testing arrangements sorted with Landcare Research?

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Technical Advisor - Animal Threats

**Biodiversity Group—Kāhui Kanorau Koiora**  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*  
s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 9:19 a.m.

**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Various

Hi s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Sorry I missed your call yesterday. Just tried calling you. Let me know if we can do some testing. We can fit in urgent tests if needed.

Would you be able to supply contacts in various DOC offices we could contract to see if we can get live stoats. We continue to struggle to keep up with demand and need to make a concerted effort to get some.

Thanks

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Team Leader Wildlife Ecology & Management Team

Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research

T s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) | M s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

[www.landcareresearch.co.nz](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz)



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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 10:39 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** RE: Testing of beach rats...

Hi Mark

Will do

Thanks, § 9(2)(a),

---

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 10:38 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Testing of beach rats...

Hi § 9(2)(a),  
Can you talk with § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) please about this

Cheers Mark

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 10:32 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Testing of beach rats...

Hello Mark

I assume your staff have the pesticide residue testing arrangements sorted with Landcare Research?

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Technical Advisor - Animal Threats  
**Biodiversity Group—Kāhui Kanorau Koiora**  
Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 9:19 a.m.  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Various

H [Redacted]. Sorry I missed your call yesterday. Just tried calling you. Let me know if we can do some testing. We can fit in urgent tests if needed.

Would you be able to supply contacts in various Doc offices we could contract to see if we can get live stoats. We continue to struggle to keep up with demand and need to make a concerted effort to get some.

Thanks

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Team Leader Wildlife Ecology & Management Team  
Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research  
T [Redacted]  
[www.landcareresearch.co.nz](http://www.landcareresearch.co.nz)



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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 9:30 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Updated rat MR  
**Attachments:** Media release dead rat results Nov 2019 - DOC-6132561.docx

Thanks, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) I've amended with those changes.

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 9:01 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Updated rat MR

Hi all

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and I are happy with the media release, some tweaks are needed

1. "Fish collected from the beach were too degraded to be sent for testing." This statement is false and misleading, NO marine species were collected apart from one undersize crayfish which was not suitable for testing. The fish on the beach were not degraded beyond the point of testing, I've seen photos of some pretty fresh carcasses on social media. This sentence needs to be removed.
2. "The rats were buried in a deep hole away from water following advice from West Coast Regional Council." Do you mean water supplies??

§ 9(2)(a),

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 November 2019 5:03 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Updated rat MR

Hi Mark and § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), as discussed, I've updated the media release, presuming tomorrow's results are negative. Can you please check that details are correct. If the results are different we'll rewrite tomorrow.

Mark, let me know if you'd like any changes.

I suggest we provide links to PDF's of the results on our website, with the names of Landcare Research and Massey staff redacted, as we're likely to be asked for them.

Be good to get this signed off as early as possible tomorrow.

Cheers,

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Media Advisor | Kaitohutohu Pāpāho  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai  
DDI: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Ōtautahi / Christchurch Office**

Grand Central, 161 Cashel St | Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8140  
T: +64 3 371 3700

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Released under the OIA

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 12:11 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Government Services  
**Subject:** RE: Westport rats

That's the plan but it's all in Massey and Landcares hands

Mark Davies  
Director Operations  
Western South Island  
phone § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

On 12/11/2019 12:10 PM, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:  
I have let him know that we expect results by the end of the week, that is what we are saying publicly.

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 12:07 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Government Services <GovernmentServices@doc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** FW: Westport rats

Hi Guys  
Can you advise Rick please.

Thanks

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Rick Zwaan § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 11:21 a.m.  
**To:** Media <[Media@doc.govt.nz](mailto:Media@doc.govt.nz)>; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** FW: Westport rats

Hi team,

I'm just drafting a response to this media request and just wanted to check that we've yet to get the testing on the rats back yet (likely not until Weds/Thurs right)?

FYI our key messages on this are:

The Department of Conservation's Westport staff cleaned up the West Coast beach over the weekend and is investigating how the rats died

- This Government is backing nature and we're using all the tools we have in the box to save our precious kaka, kiwi and other wildlife from a predator crisis.
- The mega-mast year has meant a massive increase in rats, stoats, and possums which are putting many species at risk of local extinctions. We're not sitting around waiting while rats, stoats and possums wipe out our birds and forests.
- We're getting on and doing the work to restore the dawn chorus by investing in conservation; unlike the previous government who starved DOC of funding.
- If the rats were washed down from the Maruia operation which has yet to be established then it highlights the large number of rats in those Maruia beech forests. Controlling so many rats increases the chances of birds such as kaka, kakariki and South Island robin breeding successfully.

**Rick Zwaan** | Press Secretary & Acting Ministerial Advisor

**Office of the Honourable Eugenie Sage**

**Minister of Conservation, Minister for Land Information**

**Associate Minister for the Environment**

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

6R Bowen House | Parliament Buildings | Wellington 6160  
Te Whare Pāremata, Te Whanganui-ā-Tara 6011, Aotearoa  
[SEEMail]

**From:** Joanne Carroll [<mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xx.x>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 11:06 AM

**To:** Rick Zwaan <§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)>

**Subject:** Re: Westport rats

Thanks, they are pretty yuck! I didn't bother sending the photos of the rats, but here's some other wildlife that was photographed on Westport along with the rats.



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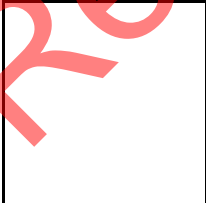


**Joanne Carroll**

Reporter

E [joanne.carroll@xxxx.xx.xk](mailto:joanne.carroll@xxxx.xx.xk) § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



On Tue, 12 Nov 2019 at 10:47, Rick Zwaan § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Kia ora Joanne,

What's your deadline for this?

If you've got specific photos do you mind sending them through?

Cheers,  
Rick

**From:** Joanne Carroll [mailto:[xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.nz](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.nz)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 10:24 AM

**To:** Rick Zwaan s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) >

**Subject:** Westport rats

Hi Rick,

I'd just like to add a comment from Eugenie Sage about the huge amount of rats and other wildlife, particularly fish and birds that were photographed washed up on Westport beach.

Is she concerned? Pleased the 1080 is doing its job in a mega mast year?

Is she concerned about the aquatic life photographed if they have been affected by the drop of 1080?

Has she been briefed about the situation, could I request a copy of that briefing please.

Thanks

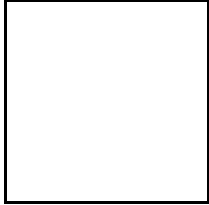
Joanne

**Joanne Carroll**

Reporter

**E** [joanne.carroll@xxxxx.xx.nz](mailto:joanne.carroll@xxxxx.xx.nz) s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 12:57 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: Westport Rats

§ 9(2)(a),  
Fyi cheers Mark

Mark Davies  
Director Operations  
Western South Island  
phone § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** 12/11/2019 5:23 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Westport Rats  
**To:** Michael Slater § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Hi Mike

Speaking with Mark today, he has tried hard to get WCRC to take some ownership/involvement in this matter but they are not wanting to get involved, or do any type of investigation. The current suggestion is that I contact Allan at EPA tomorrow, suggesting that if any of the rats come back as having 1080 we ask will ask EPA to do an investigation on this. Are you in agreement? Any advice from the Mapara experience? I will ring § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) to learn a bit more about how they went about it. I am assuming that if there is no 1080 present we go back to the council again suggesting it is not our issue.

Cheers Hilary

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 9:06 a.m.  
**To:** Lou Sanson § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Michael Slater § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Karen Jones

**Subject:** Re: Westport Rats  
Thanks Lou

Absolutely. Will do

Cheers Mark

Mark Davies  
Director Operations Western South Island Region

Ph § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Lou Sanson § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 11, 2019 8:53:46 PM

**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** Michael Slater § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Karen Jones

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Westport Rats



Hi Mark

Allan Freeth ( CEO - EPA) phoned stating media and s s(2)(a) want EPA comment.

Their stance is no comment unless rats come up as 1080 positive .

Could we let them know before media pse .

Cheers

Lou

Lou Sanson

Director-General | Tumuaki-Ahurei

Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Sunday, 10 November 2019 10:53 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Media support

Love it cheers

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile +** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 10 November 2019 10:46 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Media support

Thanks Mark

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) has done a great job supporting you on Operation Tidy Rat.

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 10/11/2019 10:09 AM, Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) > wrote:  
Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

I just want to let you both know that I have had exceptional media support from § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) over the weekend with an issue that developed on Saturday around dead rats on the beach in Westport. It really made a huge difference for me fronting this issue having that. Just thought you would like to know that cheers Mark

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile +** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:52 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: 12.50 - Interview request - Magic Talk radio

That's 100% fine! Just tell us 😊

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:51 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: 12.50 - Interview request - Magic Talk radio

Yeah, I might need help chasing him tho if im swamped.

---

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:50 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: 12.50 - Interview request - Magic Talk radio

Hi, just for today and tomorrow can you please text this info straight to Mark

... although § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) is doing this one

k.

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:47 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** 12.50 - Interview request - Magic Talk radio

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) can we please lock Mark in for this interview § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Nancy Davies <xxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xx.nz >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:43 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Interview request - Magic Talk radio

Okay, some clarity! Can we please lock in 12.50pm?

Number to call is § 9(2)(a), or my cellphone if any issues

**NANCY DAVIES EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - RYAN BRIDGE DRIVE SHOW MAGIC TALK MEDIAWORKS**  
**MOBILE** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 4:23 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Rick Zwaan; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies;  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Buller Rat Messages - use this version.

Prob one for ops to answer...

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 4:22 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Rick Zwaan § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Buller Rat Messages - use this version.

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) – these look fine. Can you advise why no marine animals were sent for testing – a big concern for the anti's is contamination of seafood.

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 4:18 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Rick Zwaan § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Buller Rat Messages - use this version.

Hi All

Use this version, which I have checked off with § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii). Note – no marine animals were sent for testing.

- DOC has received initial rat test results from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research but is awaiting further results due next week before making a public announcement.
- We need to wait until we have all the test results in, including the results of pathology work, which may then determine how the rats died.
- Ten rats were sent for independent testing. They were tested for presence of 1080 at Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and for cause of death at Massey University.
- A weka was also sent for testing and we are waiting this result also.

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 3:55 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Rick Zwaan  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

Just to confirm the holding messages for reactive use only:

- DOC has received initial rat test results from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research but is awaiting further results due next week before making a public announcement.
- We need to wait until we have all the test results in, including the results of pathology work, which may then determine how the rats died.
- Ten rats were sent for independent testing to Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and Massey University.
- A weka and some marine fish species were also sent for testing and we are waiting these results also.

Ngā mihi

§ 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 3:37 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Rick Zwaan

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

Hi everyone

Thanks for the phone call Mark – we are now all agreed that we will wait for next week’s results before making any public statements. The lines from § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) are good with § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) suggested change on the second line.

We should only use these reactively if media say they know we have some results. Otherwise just say we hope to have all the results next week.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 3:12 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Rick Zwaan § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

ark

Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

Kia ora § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Thanks for these. I presume we would use these reactively only?

Reading between the lines of the second message – it suggests we know what they didn't die of and the addition of the pathology may tell us how they did? In which case, it may invite the question, “So you’re saying the early results show they didn’t die of 1080 then?”. Could we amend the message to say:

- We need to wait until we have all the test results in, including the results of pathology work, which may then determine how the rats died.

Ngā mihi,

§ 9(2)(a),

Communications and Engagement Manager, Predator Free 2050 | Customer Engagement Unit  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

Cell: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Conservation House, 18-32 Manners Street, Wellington.  
[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)



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Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakahaere huri noa i Aotearoa  
[conservationweek.org.nz](http://conservationweek.org.nz)



---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:58 p.m.  
**To:** Rick Zwaa § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark  
Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

Suggest the following holding messages until we're ready to release results:

**Message:**

- DOC has received initial rat test results from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research but is awaiting further results due next week before making a public announcement.
- We need to wait until we have all the 1080 test results, as well as results of pathology work, which may determine how the rats died.
- Ten rats were sent for independent testing to Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and Massey University.
- A weka and some marine fish species were also sent for testing and we are waiting these results also.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Media Advisor | Kaitohutohu Pāpāho  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*  
DDI: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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T: +64 3 371 3700

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---

**From:** Rick Zwaan § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:27 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark  
Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

I agree with § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii).

Rick

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:24 PM  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Rick Zwaan § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark  
Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

Hi

I understand we have only tested four – but there’s still more to be done. I think it is prudent to wait until we have all the test results – and then we can deal it with one story cycle rather than drawing it out. We should also be seeking out some explanations of how they died and they came to be in the river.

Happy to discuss.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:06 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Rick Zwaan § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark  
Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Media Release - Buller beach rats not poisoned by 1080 - DOC-6128139

Looking at putting this out in the morning - § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and I are working on some other key messages that need to be addressed. We also need to know that Mark is available as spokesperson in the am. We are not planning on making a joint statement with any other agencies. Kind regards, § 9(2)(a).

Caution - This message and accompanying data may contain information that is confidential or subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of this message or data is prohibited. If you received this email in error, please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. We apologise for the inconvenience. Thank you.

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 10:53 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Are you happy with these responses?

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

I would just tone down the direct link to 1080 in sentence two and just make the point that a precautionary approach needs to be taken by the public and dog owners. You make that point well in the next couple of sentences

This looks great over all cheers Mark

Mark Davies  
Director Operations Western South Island Region  
Ph § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 10:22 AM  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** Are you happy with these responses?

**Messages - Rats – Buller Coastline – 11 November 2019**

**From:** Jonathan Guildford <[jonathan.guildford@stuff.co.nz](mailto:jonathan.guildford@stuff.co.nz)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 7:12 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) >

**Subject:** Re: rats

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) just coming back to you this morning with some further information we received last night. We've been told more rats are washing up at Waimangaroa beach. Is this true? If so, how many? and have other rats been found in other spots? We've also been told there are warning signs erected at Waimangaroa warning people to keep their dogs on a leash and not to let them scavenge. Is this true? If so, is there any public safety info you can pass on? Also, I know you said any updates would probably come later in the week but has anything further come this morning?

A small number of rats (6) were collected yesterday afternoon off a beach near Waimangaroa. As a precaution warning signs advising people to keep dogs on a lead have been placed at beach entranceways. Dogs are very susceptible to poisoning from 1080, and with their propensity to scavenge people do need to be careful and keep their dogs supervised on leads or keep dogs away from beaches until the results of the toxicology tests come back. As with any dead animal, precaution needs to be taken if they are handled and we would suggest that people do not



handle the dead rats. If they do contain toxin, naturally occurring bacteria will break this down overtime as the carcasses disintegrate, there is no threat to human health.

Rats and a sample of marine life have been sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080. While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have caused the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

**Joanne Carrol**

**I'm just checking in on test results on the rats at Westport beach. Was any other animals (fish, birds etc) collected for testing? When do you expect the results to be back? Any more wash up overnight?**

A small number of rats (6) were collected yesterday afternoon off a beach near Waimangaroa. As a precaution warning signs advising people to keep dogs on a lead have been placed at beach entranceways.

Rats and a sample of marine life have been sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080. While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have caused the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

Dogs are very susceptible to poisoning from 1080, and with their propensity to scavenge people do need to be careful and keep their dogs supervised on leads or keep dogs away from beaches until the results of the toxicology tests come back. As with any dead animal, precaution needs to be taken if they are handled and we would suggest that people do not handle the dead rats. If they do contain toxin, naturally occurring bacteria will break this down overtime as the carcasses disintegrate, there is no threat to human health.

**Laura Mills**

**Laura Mills - Hi after the rat plague, is it safe for people to go fishings in the river downstream of the 1080 drop?**

Trout are known to eat mice, but not rats, which are typically much bigger than mice. If people have concerns, they can follow the MPI advice we have received which suggests people refrain from fishing for trout for a seven day period after an operation. Fish have a different metabolism to rats, mice and possums. This is thought to be why trout are not affected by the same (or much higher) dose of the toxin received by the animal predators targeted in 1080 operations.

More about this here: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/methods-of-control/1080/using-1080-safely/1080-and-trout/>

The Te Marua operation was completed on 3 November so now outside of that 7 day window.

Fishers can check the Pesticide summary/app on the DOC website to see where 1080 has been applied and when.

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s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Communications Advisor-Kaitohutohu Whakapā

Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 10:57 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Are you happy with these responses?

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) is with me in Westport in a training session  
Yes happy for this to go our in my name  
Cheers

Mark Davies  
Director Operations Western South Island Region  
Ph § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 10:54:58 AM  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Are you happy with these responses?

Hi Mark, cant get hold of § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) at the mo, are you happy for me to send the Laura response in your name – worked with § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) on it.

---

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 10:53 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Are you happy with these responses?

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
I would just tone down the direct link to 1080 in sentence two and just make the point that a precautionary approach needs to be taken by the public and dog owners. You make that point well in the next couple of sentences  
This looks great over all cheers Mark  
Mark Davies  
Director Operations Western South Island Region  
Ph § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 10:22 AM  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: Mark Davies

**Subject:** Are you happy with these responses?

**Messages - Rats – Buller Coastline – 11 November 2019**

**From:** Jonathan Guildford <[jonathan.guildford@stuff.co.nz](mailto:jonathan.guildford@stuff.co.nz)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 7:12 a.m.

**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Re: rats

Hi s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) just coming back to you this morning with some further information we received last night. We've been told more rats are washing up at Waimangaroa beach. Is this true? If so, how many? and have other rats been found in other spots? We've also been told there are warning signs erected at Waimangaroa warning people to keep their dogs on a leash and not to let them scavenge. Is this true? If so, is there any public safety info you can pass on? Also, I know you said any updates would probably come later in the week but has anything further come this morning?

A small number of rats (6) were collected yesterday afternoon off a beach near Waimangaroa. As a precaution warning signs advising people to keep dogs on a lead have been placed at beach entranceways. Dogs are very susceptible to poisoning from 1080, and with their propensity to scavenge people do need to be careful and keep their dogs supervised on leads or keep dogs away from beaches until the results of the toxicology tests come back. As with any dead animal, precaution needs to be taken if they are handled and we would suggest that people do not handle the dead rats. If they do contain toxin, naturally occurring bacteria will break this down overtime as the carcasses disintegrate, there is no threat to human health.

Rats and a sample of marine life have been sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080. While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have cause the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

**Joanne Carrol**

**I'm just checking in on test results on the rats at Westport beach. Was any other animals (fish, birds etc) collected for testing? When do you expect the results to be back? Any more wash up overnight?**

A small number of rats (6) were collected yesterday afternoon off a beach near Waimangaroa. As a precaution warning signs advising people to keep dogs on a lead have been placed at beach entranceways.

Rats and a sample of marine life have been sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080. While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have cause the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor-Kaitohutohu Whakapā*

*Department of Conservation, Hokitika*

*Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Ken Hughey  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 5:53 p.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies; Hilary Aikman; Amber Bill § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: PM's Chief Science Advisor - interested in rats

All good Mark, but will call if need to!

Keep up the good work

Ken

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** 18/11/19 5:48 PM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Amber Bill § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Ken Hughey § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: PM's Chief Science Advisor - interested in rats

Hi Ken

The point Hilary has made re precautionary is key. It was made by me based on any dead rodent in a public place like the beach is a health risk to humans and dogs etc. I made the call based on discussions with the district and regional councils CEOs. This was reinforced by both local councils ie Buller and the regional councils via their websites. The medical officer of health supported the advice notice. I think another key point is this is not a doc matter. This is a local council matter . Happy to talk on the phone if you want to give me a call cheers Mark

Mark Davies  
Director Operations  
Western South Island  
phone § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

On 18/11/2019 1:02 PM, Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Hi Ken

The warn regarding dogs on west coast beaches was highly precautionary – there is no evidence of the rat incident on the Westport beach is related to the Te Maruia predator control operation and the incident is currently unexplained. Half of the toxicology results are in, and they show no evidence of 1080. We are waiting for the remaining results, which are expected on Wednesday this week. We are not expecting them to contain 1080 but are keen to wait for the full set of results before going public with all the results. Mark Davies is leading on this incident. Cheers Hilary

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**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 12:19 p.m.  
**To:** Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Ken Hughey § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Amber Bill § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: PM's Chief Science Advisor - interested in rats

Regarding the mega mast, there's a summary below.

Regarding autopsy results on West Coast rats, we need Hilary's guidance on whether this information can be relayed by your deadline of tomorrow. No 1080 has been detected in the toxicology results to date. More lab work is

pending, but it appears the dead rats are unrelated to our aerial 1080 operations. I understand this information is confidential, as there is a wish to go public once when all results are in.

### Overview of 2019 mast response

- Results from extensive seed sampling across the country in February and March confirmed the biggest beech mast for more than 40 years with exceptionally heavy seed loads in South Island forests. Rimu forests and tussock grasslands in the South Island are also seeding heavily.
- Forest seeding provides a bonanza of food for native species but also fuels rodent and stoat plagues that will pose a serious threat to native birds and other wildlife as predator populations build up next spring and summer.
- Eugenie Sage said that new funding of \$81.2 million in Budget 2018 over four years had enabled DOC to scale up its predator control programme to respond to the threat posed by the mega mast.
- DOC is planning its largest-ever predator control programme for 2019/2020, at a cost of \$41 million, to suppress rats, stoats and possums over about 900,000 hectares or 10 per cent of conservation land. Planned predator control areas are shown in the attached maps.
- Responding to the increased threat from introduced predators during such a big mast year is critical if we are to retain our unique native species that set New Zealand apart from the rest of the world. If we don't act, we could lose populations of bird species like our tree-hole nesting orange-fronted parakeet and mohua, and bats, which are so vulnerable to rat plagues.
- DOC's Tiakina Ngā Manu predator control programme, previously known as Battle for our Birds, uses aerially applied 1080 pesticide and large-scale trapping to protect native birds, bats, frogs, lizards and giant land snails at the most important sites across the country.
- This work is carefully targeted to sustain the most vulnerable populations of kiwi, kākā, kea, whio/blue duck, mohua/yellowhead, kākāraki/orange-fronted parakeet, rock wren/tuke, long and short tailed bats/pekapeka, native frogs and Powelliphanta snails.
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- Aerially applied 1080 is the only tool currently available that can effectively knock down rodents over large areas before they reach plague levels after a beech mast. Numerous studies show that it protects vulnerable wildlife and allows birds to produce more chicks to sustain and build their populations.
- DOC has been consulting with iwi partners, regional councils and other pest control agencies, community groups and neighbouring landowners since 2018 as part of its planning.
- To date DOC has completed roughly 500,000 hectares of aerial 1080 predator control in 2019, with no verified report of any significant non-target impacts.

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Department of Conservation  
PO Box 528  
Taupo 3351

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

WEB: [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

From: Amber Bill § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 18 November 2019 11:19 a.m.

To: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: Amber Bill § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Ken Hughey § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: FW: PM's Chief Science Advisor - interested in rats

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Amber is away at a workshop all week, but after speaking with § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) we believe this is best places with you to reply.

Thank you,

§ 9(2)

(a),

9(2)

(g)(ii)

Personal Assistant to Amber Bill, Director Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) |

[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

From: Ken Hughey § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Monday, 18 November 2019 10:32 a.m.

To: Amber Bill [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: PM's Chief Science Advisor - interested in rats  
Sorry Amber!

---

From: Ken Hughey

Sent: Monday, 18 November 2019 10:22 a.m.

To: Erik van Eyndhoven [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Michael Slater [REDACTED]

Subject: PM's Chief Science Advisor - interested in rats

Erik, but it may be others?

Juliet Gerard contacted me over the weekend re the rats on the beach on the West Coast and the potential for secondary dog poisoning. She would like me to provide a 'once over lightly' 1-2 page update just in bullet points re this. I had previously talked to her about the mega mast and the mega number of rats on some areas especially in Buller and NW Nelson but aware its an issue in some other places as well. Think what would be good would be an update on mega mast, link to mega rats in places (which places, generally), suggestion of profound impact such will have on birds in particular if left uncontrolled, means of control (largely 1080 given scale of problem), conditions (probably the huge rainfall events, or??) that have led to rats washing up on beaches, any autopsy results (re cause of rats deaths), and then any consequential impacts. You may already have done this or want to point me to a briefing – whatever the case I need to get back to her by tomorrow.

Thanks Ken

Released under the OIA



**From:** Ken Hughey  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 7:18 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies; Hilary Aikman; Amber Bill; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: PM's Chief Science Advisor - interested in rats

Hi team. Any update on remaining autopsies and generally on cause of death  
Ken

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** 18/11/19 5:48 PM (GMT+12:00)  
**To:** Hilary Aikman § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Amber Bill § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Ken Hughey § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Department of Conservation  
PO Box 528  
Taupo 3351

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

WEB: [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

**From:** Amber Bill § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 11:19 a.m.

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§ 9(2)

(a)

9(2)

(g)(ii)

Personal Assistant to Amber Bill, Director Threats  
Biodiversity Group *Kāhui Kanorau Koiora*  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) |

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**Subject:** FW: PM's Chief Science Advisor - interested in rats

Sorry Amber!

---

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**To:** Erik van Eyndhoven <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

**Cc:** <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> Michael Slater <sup>§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>

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Thanks Ken

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:34 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** Q&A

Hi § 9(2)(a),

Here's the updated Q&A. Suggest you circulate these to Social Media etc if you're happy with them.

## Q&A

### How did the rats die if they weren't poisoned?

Massey University School of Veterinary Science did post-mortem examinations on five dead rats but couldn't determine the cause of death. Likewise, they couldn't determine why the weka died. We don't know how the rats died. It's possible they came from beech forest areas in the Buller Gorge affected by flooding. Rats are in high numbers in beech forests due to the heavy beech mast (seeding) earlier this year. The remaining seed is now germinating, and hunger could be driving rats into new areas or to cross rivers.

### Why didn't DOC send fish or marine life for testing?

Our priority was to collect a sample of rats for testing to determine whether they had been exposed to 1080. Secondary poisoning of the fish and other marine life was considered very unlikely and it was not a priority to try and determine cause of death for these species. DOC staff were also focussed on the safe disposal of the trailer load of potentially poisoned dead rats.

### Why were only 10 rats tested?

Science advice was to test a sample of ten rats, which was considered above the minimum requirement to ensure high certainty of detecting 1080 in the washed-up rats.

Eight rats were able to be tested for 1080 residue and all were negative, which makes it very unlikely that any of the rats that washed up were exposed to 1080.

### How many rats were picked up?

About 680 rats were collected on the weekend of 9 and 10 November. Another 6 rats were later collected at Waimangaroa. There were some reports of rats washed up at Punakaiki but numbers were not quantified. There were no further reports of dead rats washed up after 13 November.

### How were the rats disposed of?

DOC sought advice from the West Coast Regional Council on safe disposal of the rats, which were buried in a deep hole well away from any water bodies or habitation.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Media Advisor | Kaitohutohu Pāpāho  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai  
DDI: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Ōtautahi / Christchurch Office**

Grand Central, 161 Cashel St | Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8140  
T: +64 3 371 3700

**Kia piki te oranga o te ao tūroa, i roto i te ngātahitanga, ki Aotearoa.  
To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders.**

[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

Released under the OIA

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g) [Mark Davies](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Q&A  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:19:38 a.m.

---

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g) Good to have that info if questioned further.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)

Media Advisor | Kaitohutohu Papaho  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai  
DDI: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Otautahi / Christchurch Office**

Grand Central, 161 Cashel St | Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8140  
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---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:18 a.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Q&A

The number 10 was higher than strictly required - I sent Mark (via Hilary) that info and recommended a minimum of 5 – the actual calculations are:

Based on epidemiological calculations “Sample size to achieve specified population level (or herd, flock, cluster, etc) sensitivity” - If we want 99% sure that we detect it, and we assume that 95% of the rats have died of 1080 and have detectable levels in the tissues (which should be the case if it is the cause of death), and the test is 99% accurate (which it is because it is specific to 1080), then the sample size is 5.

Probably don't want that level of detail in the reply to the Q&A, but it is good to have it recorded to back up our actions

Cheers § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 10:57 a.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) >; Mark Davies

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Q&A

Yes all ok. I assume Mark had a copy of the sampling instructions we received which were 10 rats would be enough to confidently rule out 1080 as the cause of death

§ 9(2)(a),

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 10:36 a.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Q&A

Hi § 9(2)(a),

Further to our conversation, here's a Q&A around fish/marine life and rat sample size.

Let me know if you want any changes.

**Why didn't DOC send fish or marine life for testing?**

Our priority was to collect a sample of rats for testing to determine whether they had been exposed to 1080.

Secondary poisoning of the fish and other marine life was considered very unlikely and it was not a priority to try and determine cause of death for these species.

DOC staff were also focussed on the safe disposal of the trailer load of potentially poisoned dead rats.

**Why were only 10 rats tested?**

Science advice was to test a sample of ten rats, which was considered sufficient to be able to draw conclusions about the washed up rats.

Eight rats were able to be tested for 1080 residue and all were negative, which makes it very unlikely that any of the rats that washed up were exposed to 1080.

Cheers

s 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)

Media Advisor | Kaitohutohu Papaho  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Otautahi / Christchurch Office**

Grand Central, 161 Cashel St | Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8140

T: +64 3 371 3700

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**To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders.**

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Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 11:02 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Jonty Somers  
**Subject:** Re: PCR 1080 Label - August 2019

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Much appreciated

Mark Davies

Director Operations Western South Island Region

Ph § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 9:20:52 AM

**To:** Mark Davies <§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)>

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Jonty Somers

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** PCR 1080 Label - August 2019

Hi again Mark. PCR label attached. Same 600mm carcass burial requirement - See "Handling instructions" - Livestock on right hand column.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Released under the OIA



§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 11:03 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: PCR 1080 Label - August 2019  
**Attachments:** PCR 1080 Label - August 2019.pdf; ATT00001.txt

Team  
Fyi

Mark Davies  
Director Operations Western South Island Region  
Ph § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 9:20:52 AM  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Jonty Somers  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** PCR 1080 Label - August 2019

Hi again Mark. PCR label attached. Same 600mm carcass burial requirement - See "Handling instructions"  
- Livestock on right hand column.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)

Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 11:04 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: 1080 Orillion approved label

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Can you please talk with § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) the Buller Operations Manager. He oversaw this work last weekend.  
Cheers Mark

Mark Davies  
Director Operations Western South Island Region  
Ph § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019 9:15:15 AM  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** 1080 Orillion approved label

Hi Mark. Not sure if you're aware but we have an OIA about how the rat carcasses are being buried, with reference to the 1080 label requirements. The Orillion label attached stars under "General information" that poisoned carcasses should be buried at 600mm depth, and DOC needs to comply with the label. You're no doubt aware of this, but I just want to reiterate how important it is to comply with this requirement.

Im on leave until Thursday, but please get in touch and I am checking emails and have my phone (but out of action for the rest of today). § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) is all over 1080 issues if you need to discuss any of this today.

I will email through the PCR label as well, separately.

Im also very keen to know what bird species were washed up and whether these are being tested too.

Cheers, thanks

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 8:48 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Rats on Buller River Edge Arika Falls.

FYI

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) is going to have a look this morning and sign post the site (warning keeping dogs / children clear). If anything is found he will recover and dispose.

The Police record doesn't mention any rat numbers.....

B

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Sunday, 17 November 2019 7:51 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Rats on Buller River Edge Arika Falls.

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

We took a complaint through our visitor center today about dead rats alongside the Bulle River near Arika Falls. I expect that would be in your patch § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) but if it is legit it could be from the Maruia 1080 op.

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), our duty ranger wasn't able to contact the complainant directly and ended up leaving a phone message with § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) thinking he ran that operation.

The complainant has also talked to the Murch Police who forwarded their record to me. His name is § 9(2)(a) a known anti-1080 activist near Murchison and not above a bit of mischief to further the cause.

I will forward you both the police record separately.

I'll leave with you.

Cheers § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 December 2019 8:44 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Amber Bill; Hilary Aikman; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Media; Social Media; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Mark Davies  
**Subject:** Anti 1080 group forged a scientific report - kiwi blog: good summary of Dave Hansford article

December 1, 2019 3:00pm by David Farrar

## Anti 1080 group forged a scientific report

Have a read of this excellent [story at The Spin Off](#). It will leave you in no doubt that an anti 1080 group called Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa (F&F) fabricated or forged a document claiming to be a lab analysis of how some rats and mussels etc died on the West Coast. It is a superb destruction of the credibility of the so called lab analysis, and the result should be that no media anywhere ever quote something from F&F again.

Their report from an “independent laboratory” concluded the rats etc died from 1080, with 41 pages of “evidence”. The problems were:

1. Contradicted reports from both Landcare and Massey
2. The lab was not named, and they refuse to do so
3. The lab templates appear to be copied from the website of Virginia Tech
4. The results were hand written which is strange as residue analysis is a digital process
5. The lab managed to do testing protocols for three species for which no protocol exists
6. They claimed to have tested 15 samples in two days
7. It claimed the level of poison in the rats was 30 times the normal lethal dose and that starfish managed to imbibe a dosage level while underwater that was 10 times the lethal level
8. The fluorocitrate levels were ten times higher than the 1080 levels, which should be impossible as not all the 1080 converts to fluorocitrate
9. The testing protocol claimed to be used is unheard of
10. F&F published the results of the testing three days before the lab was supposed to have completed the testing
11. The lab claimed to have used a product from a supplier which the supplier stopped selling in 2015

If the group tries such a stunt again, I suspect they'll end up facing charges for fraud.

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 4:22 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Arika Falls Rats

Folks – § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) has visited this site plus several others today (shingle banks in the upper Buller and Mauria Falls) No sign of any rats or the stench the complainant raised with police at Murchison.

B

Released under the OIA

**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 2:23 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** § 9(2)(a), this is my response to Mike

Hi Mike § 9(2)(a), and the Westport sought advice from the Buller District Council and the West Coast Regional Council for a safe and suitable site for burial. They also took the DOC SOP for disposal of baits into account which specifies 300 mm depth. The burial site is on an area above the beach and the depth was 3 m. The regional council and district council were happy with the approach taken. The senior ranger on the day also sought advice from EPA and Publi Health . Neither responded to her request for advice. I am comfortable with what was carried out. Cheers  
Mark

Mark Davies  
Director Operations  
Western South Island  
phone § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 4:24 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); L\ALL Hokitika based staff  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Further to email regarding rats this morning.

Hi Everyone.

Further to my email this morning, we will wait until next week when we receive all of the results of the testing of the rats before issuing a media release.

Please continue to hold off sharing information about the preliminary results(:

Any questions give me a bell or come chat(:

The following is what we'll be saying to media who have heard we might have results to share:

- DOC has received initial rat test results from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research but is awaiting further results due next week before making a public announcement.
- We need to wait until we have all the test results in, including the results of pathology work, which may then determine how the rats died.
- Ten rats were sent for independent testing. They were tested for presence of 1080 at Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and for cause of death at Massey University.
- A weka was also sent for testing and we are waiting this result also.

Thanks everyone, § 9(2)(a).

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 12:00 p.m.  
**To:** L\ALL Hokitika based staff <L\_ALLHokitikabasedsxxxx@xxx.xxxt.nz>  
**Subject:** FW: Report for rat carcasses Westport Beach

Hi All

Mark has asked for the attached Landcare report for the rat carcasses from Westport Beach to be shared with you all.

The results have come back showing zero 1080.

Regards

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 11:56 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Media; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: 1080 tests Westport

FYI And sure enough here's the line of questioning we expected.

---

**From:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 11:48 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Subject:** FW: 1080 tests Westport

More on rats.  
S.

---

**From:** Farah Hancock <[farah.hancock@newsroom.co.nz](mailto:farah.hancock@newsroom.co.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 11:41 a.m.  
**To:** Media <[Media@doc.govt.nz](mailto:Media@doc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** 1080 tests Westport

Hi

Are you able to add me to your press release list?

Also, I'm keen on following up the Westport dead rats so would appreciate getting sent the test results when available.

Are you able to help with information which is not in the release on your website?

- How many rats are being tested
- What other creatures are being tested
- Are any other tests being conducted at the same time?

I would also be interested in any information you can give me about the risks of secondary poisoning for seabirds and sea life.

And ... any information you can share about the pest levels in the area where 1080 was dropped, and examples of wildlife which were affected by pests there.

Thanks!

Regards  
Farah Hancock  
Reporter

**newsroom.**

<http://newsroom.co.nz>

e: [farah.hancock@newsroom.co.nz](mailto:farah.hancock@newsroom.co.nz) p: § 9(2)(a) | [@newsroomnz](https://www.facebook.com/newsroomnz)



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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 8:07 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** FW: Emergency works

FYI

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 4:30 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Emergency works

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Confirming the receipt and acceptance of the notification of emergency works you have forwarded on behalf of DoC. Providing no ongoing adverse effects from the works occur (from the information provided it appears this is the case) then this notification is sufficient and no application for retrospective consent under S330A for the RMA is required.

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) is cc'd into this email for DoC.

Kind regards,

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)



§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Consents and Compliance Manager  
Tel. § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
E § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

PO Box 66, Greymouth 7840  
388 Main South Road  
[www.wcrc.govt.nz](http://www.wcrc.govt.nz)



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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2019 2:26 PM  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Emergency works

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Please find attached the emergency works notification pursuant to s330 of the RMA from the Department of Conservation.

I can further advise that the site presented no risk of leachate into surrounding waterways.

It is one location that is experiencing accretion rather than erosion therefore it is not expected any coastal processes would expose the site prior to complete decomposition of the rats.

Kind regards

s 9(2)  
(a), 9(2)

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)  
(ii) | Group Manager Regulatory Services

DDI s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Buller District Council** | Phone 0800 807 239 | [www.bullerdc.govt.nz](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz)  
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Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 9:48 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Mark Davies  
**Subject:** FW: need advice on effect of 1080 rats on sea life...

Hi Guys – see below, I’ve sought clarification on whether marine life is at risk and haven’t really got any satisfaction yet... you might well be right about the dodgy algae § 9(2)(a), but unless we have some test results its just our word – I really do recommend, if there is any possibility, getting some of those creatures tested.

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 5:41 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: need advice on effect of 1080 rats on sea life...

Sorry § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

All of the literature that I am familiar with involved brofidacoum. I suspect no research has been undertaken on the effects of 1080 in the marine environment because it breaks down so rapidly in water (see Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment’s report (<https://www.pce.parliament.nz/media/1294/evaluating-the-use-of-1080.pdf>)).

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 2:09 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: need advice on effect of 1080 rats on sea life...

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) will do (:

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 2:05 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: need advice on effect of 1080 rats on sea life...

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

It would probably be more useful to talk to the threats team about this. We don’t know anything about 1080, or its possible effect on marine life.

I don’t know if we could blanket state that other marine creatures are not at risk of 1080 poisoning, but if 1080 makes it into the ocean environment, I imagine it is going to be so diluted that it’s unlikely to affect anything (again you should check in with the threats team, they are the ones with the expertise on how 1080 works). As far as I’m aware, there hasn’t been any research or work done on 1080 and marine life and this is an unprecedented event.

You should maybe be asking the people who made the decision not to sample marine creatures “because they are not at risk” why they made that decision as I don’t know who provided that advice.

Sorry we can’t be more helpful than that.

Cheers,

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Marine Technical Advisor | Kaimātanga Takutaimoana  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai  
Phone: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 1:17 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: need advice on effect of 1080 rats on sea life...

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Could you provide us with a point as to why other sorts of marine creatures are not at risk of 1080 poisoning...we didn’t end up doing any tests on marine creatures - our reasoning for that is that they are not at risk, but could you please provide a bit of clarification of that?

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 3:09 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: need advice on effect of 1080 rats on sea life...

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)

I will try to answer your questions as best I can but it is a lot of unknowns. The messages are probably similar for other non-marine species that might feed on the carcasses. Have cc’d various others who may wish to comment.

Regarding seabirds, the only likely species that would scavenge carcasses in that area are skuas, giant petrels, and gulls. If there is a chance that there is still active poison in the rats (if this is the cause of the event) then there would be a chance of secondary poisoning. You should get some more info from the Threats team as to how long 1080 would be active inside a carcass though.

Regarding seals, it would be unlikely that they would scavenge on such carcasses but if they did, again they could be at risk of secondary poisoning if the poison was still active.

Sharks I guess could in theory scavenge on the carcasses if they get washed out to sea, and if the poison hadn’t diluted could be at risk but I’m not sure what the impact of 1080 on sharks is and whether this is known. I imagine the dosage for such large animals would need to be quite high.

I would imagine that species would only be at risk if they were to scavenge on the carcasses. Possible poison leaching into the ocean environment is unlikely to impact other species as it would become very diluted very quickly.

I don’t know how long the carcasses would take to break down.

Any risk would last until the poison was broken down.

Let me know if you have any follow up.

Cheers,

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Marine Technical Advisor | Kaimātanga Takutaimoana  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai  
Phone: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 2:35 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** need advice on effect of 1080 rats on sea life...

**Importance:** High

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

I am dealing with questions about the effects of the Buller 1080 rats on beaches and wondering if one of your team can give some advice on the following points?

Is there a risk of secondary poisoning for seabirds and sea life? If so, why? If not why?

Are seals at risk? (we always get asked about seals...)

How long will it take for the rats to break down in the ocean?

If there is a risk to sea creatures, how long would the risk last?

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) – I'll try to give you a call about this too.

Kind regards

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapā  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 November 2019 4:01 p.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** FW: Re:

Suggested response for you to letter in Greystar from Paul Thomas of Reefton. Thought because he is a pretty reputable member of that community be worth responding...

**From:** Laura Mills § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 November 2019 1:57 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re:

Argh I forgot to paste it!!! Sent because in one bit he asks a question of DOC. PS editor on leave for a month

Westport rats

I read with great interest the news item re 'No 1080' found in Westport rats. That's not what independent testing of the dead rats found! Most likely it was 1080. The independent lab tested for the metabolites of 1080, that is the chemicals that are created with the reaction of fluorocacetate (1080) in the cells of animals that it comes in contact with. If DOC did not test for the metabolites and only tested for the presence of fluoroacetate as the test forms produced for DOC show, then that is most likely why they did not get a positive result for 1080.

The question then that should now be asked of DOC is, "did you test for the metabolites of 1080 or fluoroacetate and if not why not?".

The concerning thing is that given DOCs announcement that there is no 1080 in the Westport rats the public now think there is no risk to them, with the presence of any dead rats still to be found on the beach or dead marine creatures and that is not correct, given the independent lab test results.

It's important in my opinion that we get to identify the source of the rats and what 1080 operation they were associated with.

In addition there is the position held by the anti 1080 movement, which I'm part of, that the continuing use of 1080 should stop and that an inquiry should be held as to why this catastrophe occurred.

Paul Thomas  
Reefton

On Thu, 21 Nov 2019 at 13:50, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Cant see it?

**From:** Laura Mills § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 November 2019 12:08 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) >  
**Subject:**

Letter to ed if you want to respond? I'd need a reply by 10am tomorrow

--

**From:** [Media](#)  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)  
**Cc:** [Mark Davies](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Statement  
**Date:** Monday, 11 November 2019 8:27:46 a.m.  
**Attachments:** [image003.jpg](#)  
[image004.jpg](#)

---

Morena s 9(2)(a), 9(2)

Had some fun over the weekend 😞

Are you able to pick this up now please.

I understand the latest info is that there have been no more rats found following high tides and 24 of those picked up on Saturday are being sent to Massey for toxicology/necropsy with results due by end of the week.

Nga mihi

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Advisor Communications | Central North Island Region | *Kaitohutohu Whakapa*  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

WHAKATANE

M: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Maddy Lloyd <xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx>

**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 6:48 a.m.

**To:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>

**Subject:** Statement

Hi guys,

I understand the rats have been removed from Westport's North Beach, and samples from the rats are now being tested?

I'm just wondering if you can confirm this and provide a statement on the latest information you have about it and what the next steps will be?

Thanks so much!

**Maddy Lloyd**

Christchurch Breakfast Reporter

m. s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

extrn. s 9(2)(a), 9(2)



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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 1:48 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Westcoast Rat Deaths

FYI

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Media Advisor | Kaitohutohu Pāpāho  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai  
DDI: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Ōtautahi / Christchurch Office**

Grand Central, 161 Cashel St | Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8140  
T: +64 3 371 3700

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To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders.**

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**From:** § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 12:10 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Westcoast Rat Deaths

Thanks – sadly was hoping we could get a more detailed tox screen but guessing money doesn't allow for such things.

Also looks like everything was pretty rotten by the time it made it to the labs so it's all very inconclusive which is a shame.

Thanks for your time.

§ 9(2)(a)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 12:03 PM  
**To:** § 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Media <[Media@doc.govt.nz](mailto:Media@doc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** RE: Westcoast Rat Deaths

Hi § 9(2)(a)

Thanks for your interest. You can access the toxicology and pathology reports on the DOC website:  
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/oia-responses/tiakina-nga-manu/>

Ngā mihi

§ 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Media Advisor | Kaitohutohu Pāpāho  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Ōtautahi / Christchurch Office**

Grand Central, 161 Cashel St | Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8140  
T: +64 3 371 3700

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:58 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a) Media <[Medxx@xxx.xxx.nz](mailto:Medxx@xxx.xxx.nz)>  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Westcoast Rat Deaths

Hi § 9(2)(a), thanks for your email, I have sent this on to § 9(2)(a), and § 9(2)(a), § 9(2)(g)(ii) to get back to you  
Cheers, § 9(2)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:56 a.m.  
**To:** Media <[Media@doc.govt.nz](mailto:Media@doc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Westcoast Rat Deaths

Hi

I have been working with the Science Media Centre offering comments on 1080 safety and toxicology over the past few months. I've just been sent through a copy of the latest press release about the rats deaths on the West Coast and am very relieved to hear that there was no 1080 present in the tested samples.

I was just wondering though if I could view a copy of the toxicology and post-mortem reports from this incident. My interest is in making sure we don't miss other potential causes of the deaths. I know there will be multiple scientists working on this and many well-qualified people have been employed but I come from the perspective that another set of professional eyes may just notice something that others have missed. I am not interested in presenting any hypotheses or ideas that I have to the media but would feed these back to DoC through the appropriate channels. My request is purely professional interest rather than scandal making, I would expect to treat the reports as confidential as per standard practice.

If you could pass this request on to the appropriate people within the team then this would be very much appreciated.

Many thanks

§ 9(2)(a)

Lecturer and Programme Director in Toxicology  
Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology  
University of Otago  
PO Box 56

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Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 1:37 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Westport Catastrophe Press Release  
**Attachments:** PressReleaseWesportCatastrophe.docx

Hi both, the latest. I have told Laura she should ask for a copy of the toxicology report and where the rats were tested. Kind regards,

**From:** Laura Mills § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 1:27 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Westport Catastrophe Press Release

Hi just received this ...

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Flora Fauna of Aotearoa <[xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xxm](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xxm)>  
**Date:** Fri, 15 Nov 2019 at 13:10  
**Subject:** Westport Catastrophe Press Release  
**To:** § 9(2)(a)

Dear Laura,

Please see the attached press release from Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa and Clean Green New Zealand Trust.

Thank you for your dedicated work on this issue.

Kind Regards,  
§ 9(2)(a)

--  
**Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa**  
CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT - FLORA, FAUNA & WATERWAYS  
*Kaitiakitanga mo te Taiao - Guardianship of our Environment*

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star  
§ 9(2)(a)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), § 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: pretty sure I got it...RE: Who can tell me where the places are....W: FW: Westport Catastrophe Press Release  
**Date:** Friday, 15 November 2019 4:55:09 p.m.

---

Ha. If they had a positive test from a lab they'd be flashing the test cert like it was a trophy. Even "dodgy test" is giving them too much credit. I suspect these tests exist only in their hallucinations.

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 15/11/2019 4:47 PM, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:  
Hi § 9(2)(a), some people are saying they got a sample tested and it was positive for 1080, but sounds like a dodgy test. I wanted to be able to tell media which were the accredited labs in nz for tests...

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On 15/11/2019 4:37 PM, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:  
Hi § 9(2)(a),

I just got off the phone with the AsureQuality lab. They can test for 1080 but I need to email them what sort of samples we would want to use them to test. The person was not sure if they would be prepared to test degraded samples (sounds like us!) and I'm not sure of the Limit of Reporting they do and how this compares to the Method Limit of Detection we have from LCR (0.001µg/g). They will provide more information, but I'm not around much next week

Not sure if I understand correctly here but is there some kind of perception benefit from getting samples from the same incident tested at a different lab?

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a),

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 4:15 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: pretty sure I got it...RE: Who can tell me where the places are....W: FW: Westport Catastrophe Press Release

Hi § 9(2)(a),

Yep doing it now

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a),

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 4:07 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: pretty sure I got it...RE: Who can tell me where the places are...W: FW: Westport Catastrophe Press Release

Good to know, is anyone able to check with them whether they still do these tests?

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 3:58 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: pretty sure I got it...RE: Who can tell me where the places are...W: FW: Westport Catastrophe Press Release

Hi

§ 9(2)(a), is right, Landcare. There is potentially one other, Assure Quality at Wallaceville who have been able to (in the past at least), but the preference is to use LCR.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a),

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 3:47 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: pretty sure I got it...RE: Who can tell me where the places are...W: FW: Westport Catastrophe Press Release

Hi all,

I only know of Landcare for (accredited laboratory commercially available) 1080 testing.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a),

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 3:43 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** FW: pretty sure I got it...RE: Who can tell me where the places are...W: FW: Westport Catastrophe Press Release

Hi § 9(2)(a),

§ 9(2)(a), and § 9(2)(a), do you know if there are other places? Is there a list somewhere?

Thanks

§ 9(2)(a).

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 2:01 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** pretty sure I got it...RE: Who can tell me where the places are....W: FW: Westport Catastrophe Press Release

Sounds like **Landcare Research is the only place that tests for 1080 presence in NZ...if you have other info...please let me know. Cheers (:**

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 1:45 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Who can tell me where the places are....W: FW: Westport Catastrophe Press Release  
**Importance:** High

Where animals can be 1080 tested – an exhaustive list of authorised suppliers for this test...in case we have some backyard chemists.

**From:** Laura Mills § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 1:38 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Westport Catastrophe Press Release

I've just requested that now cheers :)

On Fri, 15 Nov 2019 at 13:35, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Hi § 9(2)(a), as suggested just before, I suggest if this is correct, they will have a toxicology report that can be viewed which will state where the animal was tested and what the results were.  
Kind regards, § 9(2)(a).

**From:** Laura Mills § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 1:27 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Westport Catastrophe Press Release

Hi just received this ...

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Flora Fauna of Aotearoa <[xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xxx)>  
**Date:** Fri, 15 Nov 2019 at 13:10  
**Subject:** Westport Catastrophe Press Release  
**To:** § 9(2)(a)

Dear Laura,

Please see the attached press release from Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa and Clean Green New Zealand Trust.

Thank you for your dedicated work on this issue.

Kind Regards,

§ 9(2)(a)

--

**Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa**  
**CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT - FLORA, FAUNA & WATERWAYS**  
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--

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star

§ 9(2)(a)

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Thank you.

--

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star

§ 9(2)(a)



**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 10:04 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Rats - questions from media.

Hi guys,  
Two lots of questions re the dead rats this morning – from Greystar and Maddy Lloyd from TVNZ.

#### Questions from Maddy

I understand the rats have been removed from Westport's North Beach, and samples from the rats are now being tested?  
I'm just wondering if you can confirm this and provide a statement on the latest information you have about it and what the next steps will be?

#### Questions from Laura

I see on social media 600 were picked up, is that right?  
How many other dead animals were there, and what were they? Are they also being autopsied?  
When are results due?  
Have there been reports of rats on beaches anywhere else?  
Are they still coming down (washing up)?  
How long should people keep dogs off the beach there for?  
Also, what is sowing rate at Maruia?

Thanks § 9(2)(a) - deadline is 11.30am please.

--

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star

§ 9(2)(a)

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--

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star

§ 9(2)(a)

Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 November 2019 8:37 a.m.  
**To:** Government Services; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Doc PrivateSecs; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: 1080 response

**Categories:** Business

Hi everyone

We are hoping to have the last batch of results back tomorrow so you might want to hold off beyond a general acknowledgement until then – we are aiming to make the results public as soon as we can after receiving them.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Government Services <GovernmentServices@doc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 November 2019 8:24 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Government Services <GovernmentServices@doc.govt.nz>  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Doc PrivateSecs <docprivatesecs@parliament.govt.nz>; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: 1080 response

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Just to help us come up with the right response, can you confirm, is this for a ministerial response and/or are they seeking information (as in an OIA)? Would also be helpful to know what sort of questions are being asked.  
thanks

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Government Services Advisor (Government Services)  
Policy and Visitors Group  
Department of Conservation–Te Papa Atawhai  
Phone: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Conservation House (Level 2) 19-32 Manners Street [ PO Box 10420, Wellington 6143 ] tel 64 4 471 0726  
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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 November 2019 7:47 a.m.  
**To:** Government Services <[GovernmentServices@doc.govt.nz](mailto:GovernmentServices@doc.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Doc PrivateSecs <[docprivatesecs@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:docprivatesecs@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** 1080 response

Kia ora

We seem to be inundated with 1080 complaints from the West Coast being transferred to us from the Prime Ministers office – can we have a standard response please?

Nga mihi

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)



s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) | Private Secretary (Conservation)

Office of Hon Eugenie Sage

Minister of Conservation | Minister for Land Information | Associate Minister for the Environment

6R Bowen House, Parliament Buildings | Private Bag 18041 | Wellington 6160 | New Zealand

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 1:37 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Westport Catastrophe Press Release  
**Attachments:** PressReleaseWesportCatastrophe.docx

Hi both, the latest. I have told Laura she should ask for a copy of the toxicology report and where the rats were tested. Kind regards,

**From:** Laura Mills § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 1:27 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Westport Catastrophe Press Release

Hi just received this ...

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Flora Fauna of Aotearoa <[xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xxm](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xxm)>  
**Date:** Fri, 15 Nov 2019 at 13:10  
**Subject:** Westport Catastrophe Press Release  
**To:** § 9(2)(a)

Dear Laura,

Please see the attached press release from Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa and Clean Green New Zealand Trust.

Thank you for your dedicated work on this issue.

Kind Regards,  
§ 9(2)(a)

--  
**Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa**  
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Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star  
§ 9(2)(a)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Saturday, 9 November 2019 5:48 p.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** Fwd: Re: Media Release re rats on Westport Beach

Hi Mark do you answers to these 2 questions?

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Emma Dangerfield <emma.dangexxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx>  
**Date:** 9/11/2019 17:35  
**Subject:** Re: Media Release re rats on Westport Beach  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) thanks for this, any idea how long until the carcasses are removed from the beach? And also what sort of area we are talking about in distance along the beach?

Senior Journalist, Stuff

E [emma.dangerfiexx@xxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:emma.dangerfiexx@xxxxx.xx.xx) | M § 9(2)(a)  
6 Durham St,  
PO Box 114,  
Rangiora, 7400



On Sat, 9 Nov 2019 at 16:35, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:  
Please see attached media release for immediate use.

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Duty Communications Advisor  
Department of Conservation

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 12:00 p.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FYI - what we sent to media. FW: media log rat rats ratty rattiest ratter

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 12:00 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>  
**Subject:** media log rat rats ratty rattiest ratter

### Rats On Buller Beaches

After a busy ratty weekend for § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) on this issue, we received follow up questions this morning from the Greystar, TVNZ Breakfast and Stuff. Responses attributed to § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) at the end of the log. § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

### Rats On Buller Beaches

#### Questions from Maddy Lloyd – TVNZ Breakfast Show

**I understand the rats have been removed from Westport's North Beach, and samples from the rats are now being tested?** 680 rats were collected.

**I'm just wondering if you can confirm this and provide a statement on the latest information you have about it and what the next steps will be?**

DOC is taking a precautionary approach in case the rats have been poisoned by 1080. Rats and a sample of marine life are being sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080. While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have caused the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

Rangers checked Westport and surrounding area beaches yesterday and did not detect any further rats washed up. A further check will be made today after high tide.

#### Questions from Greystar

**I see on social media 600 were picked up, is that right?** 680 rats were collected.

**How many other dead animals were there, and what were they? Are they also being autopsied?**

Some marine life (fish) were also found and will be autopsied but as fish are not susceptible to 1080 toxin, we do not expect this to be the cause of their deaths.

**When are results due?** We have asked for urgent tests, results should be back by the end of the week.

**Have there been reports of rats on beaches anywhere else?**

Some reports of rats washed up at Punakaiki but numbers were not quantified.

**Are they still coming down (washing up)?**

Beaches were checked yesterday and no sign of any rats, there will be a further check after high tide today.

**How long should people keep dogs off the beach there for?**

Beaches are signposted warning people to take care and keep dogs on leads. 1080 is very toxic for dogs, so until the all clear is given, a great deal of care should be taken to keep dogs away from carcasses.

**What was the sowing rate?**

Sowing rate at Maruia was 0.15% baits – 2kg/ha

#### Questions from Jonathan Guildford, Stuff

Just checking back in on the [dead rats that washed up on a Westport beach](#) yesterday. Has a cause been established? Have anymore washed up on the beach? Is there anything else you can add?

**I'm just wondering if you can confirm this and provide a statement on the latest information you have about it and what the next steps will be?**

680 rats were collected, and DOC is taking a precautionary approach in case the rats have been poisoned by 1080. Rats and a sample of marine life are being sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080.

While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have caused the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

Rangers checked Westport and surrounding area beaches yesterday and did not detect any further rats washed up. A further check will be made today after high tide.

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapā  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Released under the OIA



**From:** Mark Davies  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 1:54 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fyi

Hi Mark

Just checking on some info § 9(2)(a) has told me about with the Westpirt rats.

He says there are some pictures circulating on Facebook of a big pile of rats that have been picked up and then another of them being buried by a small digger on what looks to be the upper beach.

Given we dont know whether these are poisoned rats or not just wanting to be assured we have followed our SOP requirements about burying poisoned carcasses. Dont want this to be the issue that we get caught on and have to publically dig them up or whatever.

I'm sure you have this all clearly thought through but thought I should ask so we can confidently say that everything met approp standards if we get asked or challenged.

Cheers Mike

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Released under the OIA

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:45 a.m.  
**To:** L\ALL Hokitika based staff  
**Subject:** no 1080 peops...FW: Rat Result MR  
**Attachments:** Media release dead rat results Nov 2019 - DOC-6132561.docx

Follow up as per info last week. This has gone out to media now. Kind regards, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:21 a.m.  
**Subject:** Rat Result MR



## Media release

20 November 2019

### Testing shows no 1080 in rats

Results of toxicology testing of dead rats that washed up on North Beach near Westport recently show no presence of 1080.

Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research tested eight dead rats and one weka. None of these animals had any residue of 1080 toxin. Two other rats were too decomposed to test.

Massey University School of Veterinary Science undertook post-mortem examinations of five of the dead rats but could not determine their cause of death. The weka was also examined with cause of death unknown.

Department of Conservation (DOC) West Coast Operations Director Mark Davies says the test results confirm that the rats washed up on the beach are unlikely to have come from an area where 1080 had been used.

“We thought it was unlikely that rats had come from our aerial 1080 operation in Lewis Pass National Reserve near Maruia, 140 km upstream from Westport.

“We don’t know the source of the dead rats but it’s possible they came from beech forest areas closer to Westport in the Buller Gorge, affected by flood conditions.

“Rat numbers have exploded in beech forests due to heavy seeding and now seed is germinating, they are desperate for food, which can drive them into new areas and cause them to cross waterways,” says Mark Davies.

“Predator control is critical to protecting our most at-risk population of native wildlife as rats turn to eating native birds and bats and their young this spring and summer.”

DOC sent ten rats for testing. Five went to Massey University for post-mortem, and five to Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research for toxicology testing.

Following post-mortem, the five rats were also sent to test for 1080 although two were too decomposed to do this. The weka was also sent for post-mortem and 1080 testing.

It’s likely the marine animals which also washed up near Westport were victims of prolonged stormy weather at the time, which can have a negative impact on marine life.

About 680 dead rats were collected from North Beach over the weekend of 9-10 November. The rats were buried following advice from West Coast Regional Council.

–Ends–

## Contacts

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Communication Advisor Western South Island

Mobile: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Email: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

## Background information

Copies of the Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research toxicology results and Massey University School of Veterinary Science pathology reports are available on the DOC website at the following address

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/oia-responses/tiakina-nga-manu/>

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapā*

*Department of Conservation, Hokitika*

*Western South Island Region*

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Released under the OIA

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 10:04 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Rats - questions from media.

Hi guys,  
Two lots of questions re the dead rats this morning – from Greystar and Maddy Lloyd from TVNZ.

#### Questions from Maddy

I understand the rats have been removed from Westport's North Beach, and samples from the rats are now being tested?  
I'm just wondering if you can confirm this and provide a statement on the latest information you have about it and what the next steps will be?

#### Questions from Laura

I see on social media 600 were picked up, is that right?  
How many other dead animals were there, and what were they? Are they also being autopsied?  
When are results due?  
Have there been reports of rats on beaches anywhere else?  
Are they still coming down (washing up)?  
How long should people keep dogs off the beach there for?  
Also, what is sowing rate at Maruia?

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) deadline is 11.30am please.

--

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star

§ 9(2)(a)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 4:30 p.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies; 'Michael Meehan'; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
'Jamie Cleine'; 'Sharon Mason'  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Rats announcement - holding off till next week.

Good afternoon everyone

Following up on this email - we are going to hold off going out on the results until next week, when we have the full picture in front of us. Happy to talk about this if required.

Please continue to hold off sharing information about the preliminary results.

The following is what we'll be saying to media who have heard we might have results to share:

- DOC has received initial rat test results from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research but is awaiting further results due next week before making a public announcement.
- We need to wait until we have all the test results in, including the results of pathology work, which may then determine how the rats died.
- Ten rats were sent for independent testing. They were tested for presence of 1080 at Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and for cause of death at Massey University.
- A weka was also sent for testing and we are waiting this result also.

Kind regards, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapā  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 12:42 p.m.

**To:** Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Michael Meehan; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); 'Jamie Cleine'  
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Sharon Mason; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

Hi All, just to follow up from this. Can you please wait for an ok from us before you go out publicly with this info.

Kind regards, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapā  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Mark Davies [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:56 a.m.  
**To:** Michael Meehan [redacted]

[redacted] 'Jamie Cleine' [redacted]  
Sharon Mason [redacted] [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Rats for necropsy

Copy fyi

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile** + [redacted]

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:53 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Rats for necropsy

Massey results Mark – again no toxin detected  
B

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:49 a.m.  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:47 AM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

**Hi** [redacted]  
Could you please resend to [redacted] as he doesn't have a copy [redacted]  
Thanks  
[redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:41 a.m.

To: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

§ 9(2)(a), I emailed the first three pm reports to § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and the muscle samples (including the 3 rats from yesterday) have been sent to Landcare, the analysis will take around 10 days,

§ 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 11:38 AM

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)

Are we able to get a ETA on the post mortem analysis for the rats/weka?

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a),

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 4:47 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** RE: Rats for necropsy

Hello § 9(2)(a),

We can certainly do the post mortem analysis and send samples to Landcare Ecotoxicology for you, but you will need to arrange payment for the 1080 testing directly with them as this is not part of our contracted pathology service for threatened species. We can post mortem feral animals if there is a clear conservation benefit to threatened species projects. Can you give us a reason for this?

Thanks

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 4:40 PM

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Rats for necropsy

Hello § 9(2)(a), 9(2)

I have sent two rats, one frozen collected 9/11/19 and one collected 11/11/19. Please find attached form.

Kind regards

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Ranger, Biodiversity - Kaitiaki, Kanorau Koiora  
Department of Conservation - Te Papa Atawhai

**Kawatiri/ Buller District**

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2019 9:51 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** RE: Re:

**Importance:** High

Hi Mark – sorry, thought I had included that – Laura needs something by 1- suggest following.

“DOC uses reputable labs that are accredited to test for 1080, and the sample size used was in excess of that needed to give a reliable result. Copies of the Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research toxicology results and Massey University School of Veterinary Science pathology reports are available on the DOC website at the following address <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/oia-responses/tiakina-nga-manu/>

---

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 November 2019 9:47 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Re:

Hi § 9(2)(a),  
I have only just got to this  
Have we missed this opportunity to respond ?

If not can you pull something together for me please

Thanks

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 November 2019 4:01 p.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Re:

Suggested response for you to letter in Greystar from Paul Thomas of Reefton. Thought because he is a pretty reputable member of that community be worth responding...

**From:** Laura Mills § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 November 2019 1:57 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re:

Argh I forgot to paste it!!! Sent because in one bit he asks a question of DOC. PS editor on leave for a month

Westport rats

I read with great interest the news item re 'No 1080' found in Westport rats. That's not what independent testing of the dead rats found! Most likely it was 1080. The independent lab tested for the metabolites of 1080, that is the chemicals that are created with the reaction of fluorocacetate (1080) in the cells of animals that it comes in contact with.

If DOC did not test for the metabolites and only tested for the presence of fluoroacetate as the test forms produced for DOC show, then that is most likely why they did not get a positive result for 1080.

The question then that should now be asked of DOC is, "did you test for the metabolites of 1080 or fluoroacetate and if not why not?".

The concerning thing is that given DOCs announcement that there is no 1080 in the Westport rats the public now think there is no risk to them, with the presence of any dead rats still to be found on the beach or dead marine creatures and that is not correct, given the independent lab test results.

It's important in my opinion that we get to identify the source of the rats and what 1080 operation they were associated with.

In addition there is the position held by the anti 1080 movement, which I'm part of, that the continuing use of 1080 should stop and that an inquiry should be held as to why this catastrophe occurred.

Paul Thomas

Reefton

On Thu, 21 Nov 2019 at 13:50, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) > wrote:

Cant see it?

**From:** Laura Mills § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 21 November 2019 12:08 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:**

Letter to ed if you want to respond? I'd need a reply by 10am tomorrow

--

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star

§ 9(2)(a)

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**From:** [Mark Davies](#)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Help with OIA on West Coast beach rats  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 8:57:00 a.m.

---

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

The best person for you to work with on this is § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) the Buller Operations Manager

Please give him a call

Cheers Mark

**Mark Davies**

Director, Operations

Western South Island Region

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810

**Mobile:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature *Takina te hi, Tiakina, te ha o te Ao Turoa***

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 8:48 a.m.

**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Help with OIA on West Coast beach rats

Hi Mark,

We've received an OIA on the West Coast rats, and I'm hoping you can help point me in the direction of the people who hold the information. I've pasted the request below with my questions in red:

*Please send me all the correspondence between DoC, Local Councils and any other public or private entity, group or individual regarding the above incident this weekend where a large number of dead animals and fish were washed up on Westport beaches. Do you know who in DOC would have dealt with this type of correspondence? We only need to provide the information up to the date of the request, which was Sunday 10 Nov at 10.46am*

*Please also send me the details of the Press Release sent to media regarding the incident - when and how this was sent and to whom. I'll get this from the media team*

*I would like to know the following, please:*

*Who authorised the dead carcasses collected by volunteers to be buried; what were those instructions and to what extent did they (not) comply with the poison manufacturer's guidelines and the Health and Safety legislation about the disposal hazardous waste; Do you know who I should speak to to find this out?*

*What (if any) species were retained for testing of poisons; a summary of the species collected and those retained and how they were stored until testing; what poisons were tested for and what the outcomes were; who did the testing and whether this included any metabolites for 1080 poison; whether any additional testing of samples was carried out and what the details were (e.g. soil and sand and water). I know we don't have the results yet, but do you know who I should speak to to source the rest of this info?*

*In light of any results from the poison testing, what actions (if any) will be carried out by DoC, councils or any contractors or volunteers. I imagine we will make this info publicly available once we get the results*

Kind regards

§ 9(2)(a),

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** [Media](#)  
**Cc:** [Mark Davies](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Statement  
**Date:** Monday, 11 November 2019 9:46:05 a.m.  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

---

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), yes will pick this up (:

---

**From:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 8:28 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: Statement

Morena § 9(2)(a), 9(2)

Had some fun over the weekend 😞

Are you able to pick this up now please.

I understand the latest info is that there have been no more rats found following high tides and 24 of those picked up on Saturday are being sent to Massey for toxicology/necropsy with results due by end of the week.

Nga mihi

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Advisor Communications | Central North Island Region | *Kaitohutohu Whakapa*

Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

WHAKATANE

M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** Maddy Lloyd <[xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 6:48 a.m.  
**To:** Media <[xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Subject:** Statement

Hi guys,

I understand the rats have been removed from Westport's North Beach, and samples from the rats are now being tested?

I'm just wondering if you can confirm this and provide a statement on the latest information you have about it and what the next steps will be?

Thanks so much!

**Maddy Lloyd**

Christchurch Breakfast Reporter

m.  
extn. § 9(2)(a)



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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:18 p.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** RE: Status item re Westport beach?

Great thanks Mark.

Cheers

§ 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Government Services and OIA Advisor  
Policy and Visitors Group  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai  
M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 1:54 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Status item re Westport beach?

Thanks § 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)  
Really appreciate you being proactive  
I have already given the Ministers office a heads up on the latest development NO 19080 in the rats  
So I think I will leave it at this for this week

**Mark Davies**  
Director, Operations  
Western South Island Region  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

10 Sewell Street, Hokitika 7810  
**Mobile** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Conservation leadership for our nature** *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 1:39 p.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Status item re Westport beach?

Kia ora Mark

I'm collating the Status Report at the moment and was wondering if you think an item regarding the washed up rats in Westport would be useful for the Minister? I imagine she has already been briefed through other channels, so it may be that she doesn't need anything further, but thought I'd raise the question just in case.

If you would like to include an item we can still slot it into the report up until about 1pm tomorrow.

Cheers

s 9(2)(a),  
9(2)(g)(ii)

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Government Services and OIA Advisor  
Policy and Visitors Group  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai  
M: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)

Released under the OIA

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 2:19 p.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** Signing off on the rats now

Hi Mark,

I've finished my week on media duty as of this morning and just wanted to sign out of the rat gig you've been running.

For the most part, it was kind of fun and I enjoyed working with a director who was prepared to make a decision and front it. Thanks for that.

Also thanks for the kind words you shared with § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) and others, it was quite unexpected and I certainly don't go looking for it.

On a final note, have you already requested (or considered) asking for DNA sequencing for the dead rats which could be compared with local rats and rats from the Inangahua?

Demonstrating how closely related the victim rats were to other populations could well help dispel suggestions carcasses regularly travel outside drop zones (at least in the minds of reasonable folks who are not totally convinced one way or the other).

Anyway, have fun with the rest of the saga.

Ngā mihi

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Advisor Communications | Central North Island Region | *Kaitohutohu Whakapā*  
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*

WHAKATANE

M: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Released under the OIA

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 8:55 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies  
**Subject:** Toxicology Report and draft Media release re 'rat results' in the Buller  
**Attachments:** T7334.pdf; Media release dead rat results Nov 2019 - DOC-6132561.docx

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Personal Assistant, Kaiāwhina, to Director, Operations, Western South Island  
Department of Conservation — Te Papa Atawhai

Mobile: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

10 Sewell St, Hokitika 7810

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 November 2019 5:03 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); Mark Davies  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Updated rat MR  
**Attachments:** Media release dead rat results Nov 2019 - DOC-6132561.docx

Hi Mark and § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), as discussed, I've updated the media release, presuming tomorrow's results are negative. Can you please check that details are correct. If the results are different we'll rewrite tomorrow.

Mark, let me know if you'd like any changes.

I suggest we provide links to PDF's of the results on our website, with the names of Landcare Research and Massey staff redacted, as we're likely to be asked for them.

Be good to get this signed off as early as possible tomorrow.

Cheers,

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Media Advisor | Kaitohutohu Pāpāho  
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai  
DDI: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Ōtautahi / Christchurch Office**

Grand Central, 161 Cashel St | Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8140  
T: +64 3 371 3700

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**To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders.**

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: rats  
**Date:** Monday, 9 December 2019 11:40:58 a.m.  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 3:04 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: rats

Thankyou (:

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 3:03 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: rats

Best way to look is through the pesticide summary viewer as it shows all the OSPRI ops as well.  
<http://maps.doc.govt.nz/mapviewer/index.html?viewer=pesticidesummary> I can show you if need be.

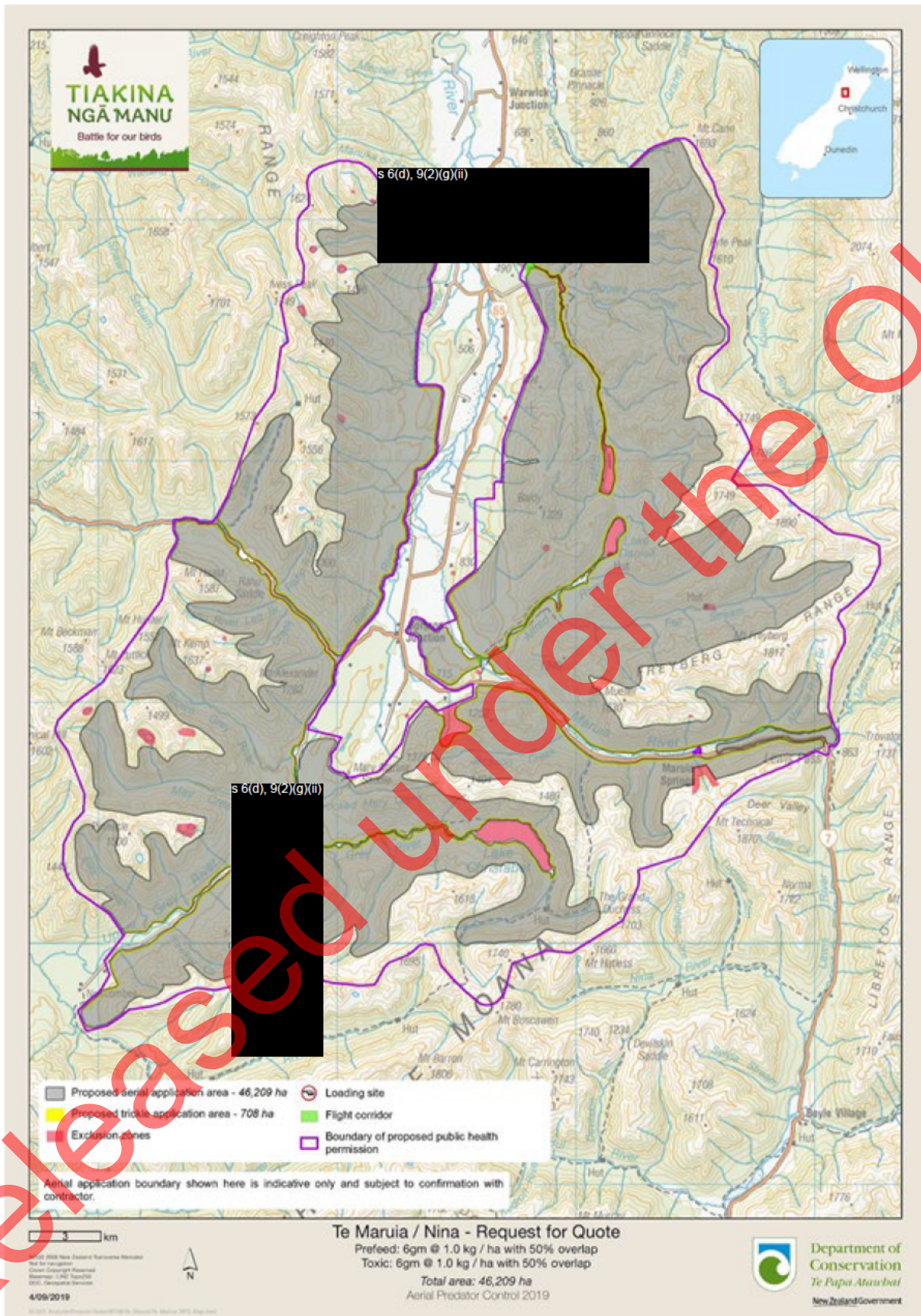
**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 2:59 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: rats

Can you give me the info for Buller drops as well? Or point me to where this is on website?

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 1:29 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: rats

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

At Te Maruia 46,209ha was treated with aerial applied 1080 over 3 days on 1,2,3<sup>rd</sup> November. Judging by their state of decay and the timing of the operation it is most likely that they came from this operation. The area is shown on the attached map. This block was treated with 2kg of cereal bait per hectare.



From: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Sent: Tuesday, 12 November 2019 12:57 p.m.

To: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Subject: FW: rats

Can you help please?

**From:** Joanne Carroll <xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 12:45 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Re: rats

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) can you point me to information on the recent pest control operation in Buller - how much kg per ha, how much area in total, when were the drops and where? There's just been so much speculation on social media and in our emails asking us for more information.

Thanks

Joanne

**Joanne Carroll**

Reporter

E [xxxx@xxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxx@xxxx.xx.xx) | M § 9(2)(a)  
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



On Tue, 12 Nov 2019 at 11:29, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

**Hi Joanne, you can attribute this info to Mark Davies, Director Western South Island.**

**I'm just checking in on test results on the rats at Westport beach. Was any other animals (fish, birds etc) collected for testing? When do you expect the results to be back? Any more wash up overnight?**

A small number of rats (6) were collected yesterday afternoon off a beach near Waimangaroa. As a precaution warning signs advising people to keep dogs on a lead have been placed at beach entranceways.

Rats and a sample of marine life have been sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080. While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have caused the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

**Also how long does it take for 1080 to dissolve in water? How far along the Coast should people keep their dogs off beaches? For how long?**

Dogs are susceptible to poisoning from 1080, and with their propensity to scavenge, people do need to be careful and keep their dogs supervised on leads or keep dogs away from beaches until the results of the toxicology tests come back. At this stage, we have had reports of rats on beaches north of Westport so far as Waimangaroa. Dog owners should take a precautionary approach with other beaches. As with any dead animal, precaution needs to be taken if they are handled and we would suggest that people do not handle the dead rats. If they do contain toxin, naturally occurring bacteria will break this down overtime as the carcasses disintegrate, there is no threat to human health.

Check out this link for info about how 1080 dissolves in water.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/methods-of-control/1080/using-1080->

<safely/1080-and-streams-rivers-and-lakes/>

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)  
**Subject:** RE: 12.50 - Interview request - Magic Talk radio  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 12:02:00 p.m.

---

Another one – Conan Young from RNZ at 12.35 – § 9(2)(a), its prerecorded.

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:59 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: 12.50 - Interview request - Magic Talk radio

Goodo .. just let me know what is needed and I will text Mark as he is better on text than email if we need him urgently.

Although in saying that I'm going to lunch between 12 and 1pm but will keep my phone with me. Easy does it kiddo .. soon this will be fish n chip paper ☺

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
Personal Assistant, Kaiawhina, to Director, Operations, Western South Island  
Department of Conservation —Te Papa Atawhai  
Mobile: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Kia piki te oranga o te ao turoa, i roto i te ngatahitanga, ki Aotearoa.**  
**To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders.**

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:56 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: 12.50 - Interview request - Magic Talk radio

Im not going to be able to text detailed messages to mark – only email. Texting is flaring up my RSI and I need to keep these arms working. Sorry.

---

**From:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:52 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: 12.50 - Interview request - Magic Talk radio

That's 100% fine! Just tell us ☺

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:51 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: 12.50 - Interview request - Magic Talk radio

Yeah, I might need help chasing him tho if im swamped.

---

**From:** Mark Davies <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:50 a.m.  
**To:** <sup>s</sup>  
**Subject:** RE: 12.50 - Interview request - Magic Talk radio

Hi, just for today and tomorrow can you please text this info straight to Mark

... although <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> is doing this one

k.

---

**From:** <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:47 a.m.  
**To:** Mark Davies <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>  
**Subject:** 12.50 - Interview request - Magic Talk radio

Hi <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>, can we please lock Mark in for this interview... <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup>

---

**From:** Nancy Davies <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:43 a.m.  
**To:** <sup>s</sup>  
**Cc:** Media <[xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx)>; <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Interview request - Magic Talk radio

Okay, some clarity! Can we please lock in 12.50pm?

Number to call is <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup>, or my cellphone if any issues

**NANCY DAVIES EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - RYAN BRIDGE DRIVE SHOW MAGIC TALK MEDIAWORKS MOBILE** <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup>

Released under the OIA

**From:** [Nancy Davies](#)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)  
**Cc:** [Media](#); § 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Interview request - Magic Talk radio  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:43:30 a.m.  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.jpg](#)

---

Okay, some clarity! Can we please lock in 12.50pm?

Number to call is § 9(2)(a), or my cellphone if any issues

**NANCY DAVIES EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - RYAN BRIDGE DRIVE SHOW MAGIC**  
**TALK MEDIAWORKS MOBILE § 9(2)(a)**

On Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 11:33, Nancy Davies § 9(2)(a) wrote:  
It will be prerecorded at that time - if he's on the line bang on .10 to that will be perfect. I'm actually just waiting to confirm a few other commitments Ryan has today, so can we please pencil in a 4.40pm slot as well and I'll be able to confirm which one by midday? Sorry to be so difficult, it's just a tricky juggle today!

**NANCY DAVIES EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - RYAN BRIDGE DRIVE SHOW MAGIC**  
**TALK MEDIAWORKS MOBILE § 9(2)(a)**

On Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 11:30, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) > wrote:

Sure thing, is it live or prerecorded, just so I can let Mark know...what number shall I get him to call on, and what time exactly...

---

**From:** Nancy Davies § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:24 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** [Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>](mailto:Media@doc.govt.nz); § 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Interview request - Magic Talk radio

Thanks § 9(2)(a), just got your release as well.

Can we please book in 12.50pm?

**NANCY DAVIES EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - RYAN BRIDGE DRIVE SHOW MAGIC**  
**TALK MEDIAWORKS MOBILE § 9(2)(a)**

On Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 11:22, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Hi Nancy, Mark Davies is available to speak on this between 12.30 and 1 or 4.30 and 6.

---



**From:** Nancy Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 10:28 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Media <[Media@doc.govt.nz](mailto:Media@doc.govt.nz)>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Interview request - Magic Talk radio

Great, thank you. What interview opportunities will be available off the back of that? We can prerecord before we're on air at 2.45, or do something live at 4.10pm? Just over the phone for 5 minutes.

**NANCY DAVIES EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - RYAN BRIDGE DRIVE SHOW MAGIC TALK MEDIAWORKS MOBILE** [REDACTED]

On Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 10:24, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Hi Nancy, yes we do expect results today, and you and [REDACTED] are on our list to send these too. [REDACTED]

**From:** Nancy Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 10:21 a.m.  
**To:** Media <[Media@doc.govt.nz](mailto:Media@doc.govt.nz)>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Interview request - Magic Talk radio

Good morning,

Thanks for keeping us updated on this. Just checking in to see if results are expected today?

**NANCY DAVIES EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - RYAN BRIDGE DRIVE SHOW MAGIC TALK MEDIAWORKS MOBILE** [REDACTED]

On Mon, 18 Nov 2019 at 10:00, Media <[Media@doc.govt.nz](mailto:Media@doc.govt.nz)> wrote:

Hi Nancy, the key information is below and we are expecting results Wednesday or Thursday this week and can look at interviews after this.

- DOC has received initial rat test results from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research but is awaiting further results due later this week (Wednesday or Thursday) before making a public announcement.
- We need to wait until we have all the test results in, including the results of pathology work, which may then determine how the rats died.

- Ten rats were sent for independent testing. They were tested for the presence of 1080 at Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and for cause of death at Massey University.
- A weka was also sent for testing and we are waiting this result also.

---

**From:** Nancy Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 8:52 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] Media <[Media@doc.govt.nz](mailto:Media@doc.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Interview request - Magic Talk radio

Good morning,

Just following up on this - when will the test results be announced? And when will a spokesperson be available for interview with Ryan Bridge?

Best,

Nancy

**NANCY DAVIES EXECUTIVE PRODUCER - RYAN BRIDGE DRIVE SHOW MAGIC TALK MEDIAWORKS MOBILE** [REDACTED]

On Tue, 12 Nov 2019 at 15:11, [REDACTED] > wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

The below is the latest...

A small number of rats (6) were collected yesterday afternoon off a beach near Waimangaroa (north of Westport). As a precaution warning signs advising people to keep dogs on a lead have been placed at beach entranceways.

Rats and a sample of marine life have been sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080. While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have caused the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

---

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 3:04 p.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>; Nancy Davies § 9(2)(a)

**Subject:** Re: FW: Interview request - Magic Talk radio

Hi § 9(2)(a),

Have there been any further updates on this? Do you know when you might expect the toxicology results back?

Thanks very much.

§ 9(2)(a) | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER | MAGIC TALK

**MOBILE:** § 9(2)(a)

**STUDIO:** § 9(2)(a)

## MEDIAWORKS

Image removed by sender.

On Mon, 11 Nov 2019 at 14:21, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Hi § 9(2)(a)

We don't really have much to report on this since the statement on Saturday so no interview at this stage.

You can attribute the following info to Robert Dickson, Buller District Operations Manager. I presume you saw the media release on Saturday? I can send it to you if needed. Kind regards, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii).

As at this morning, 680 rats were collected, and DOC is taking a precautionary approach in case the rats have been poisoned by 1080.

Rats and a sample of marine life are being sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080.

While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have caused the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

Rangers checked Westport and surrounding area beaches yesterday and did not detect any further rats washed up. A further check will be made today after high tide.

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa*

*Department of Conservation, Hokitika*

*Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 12:57 p.m.  
**To:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxx.xx>  
**Subject:** Interview request - Magic Talk radio

Hi there

Would a DOC spokesperson be able to come on Magic Drive this afternoon to talk about the rats on the West Coast? What we know so far, what happens next etc.

Timing-wise we would be looking at around 4.50pm for a 3-4min live phoner. Or we could pre-record up until 2.45pm. Would either of these be possible?

Thanks very much for your help.

§ 9(2)(a) | EXECUTIVE PRODUCER | MAGIC TALK

MOBILE: § 9(2)(a)

STUDIO: § 9(2)(a)

## MEDIAWORKS

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Thank you.

Released Under FOIA

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Brooke Jenner](#)  
**Subject:** 1080 rats question...  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 2:38:00 p.m.  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Hi Brooke

Just to clarify...Pathology would have showed any physical signs of causes of death such as disease, drowning etc. Toxicology shows if there was a toxin involved.

DOC is responsible for the effects of 1080 operations it undertakes, and as such we tested for 1080 because there was a possibility that the rats could have died from use of this toxin – this has been ruled out and we will not be undertaking further work to investigate the deaths of the rats.

DOC did not test for other toxins that could have killed the rats because there has been no use of such toxins by DOC. The cause of the death of the rats would possibly be a matter for the Regional Council or the DHB to look into.

Perhaps your questions around the multiple possibilities of the rat deaths could be answered by a vet or toxicologist.

The source of the rats is unknown.

---

**From:** Brooke Jenner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 2:04 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: does this response look alright? RE: tested for other substances? - 1080 rats question...

Hi [REDACTED],

Thanks for the response, but it leaves some unanswered questions.

When the dead rats first appeared, DOC put out a statement saying it did not believe it was 1080 that caused the death, however it had put out a cautionary warning to dog owners, but reiterated it did not believe 1080 was the cause of death.

Which begs a few questions:

1. If you were hoping pathology would answer how the rats died, why did you only test for 1080 and not other toxins?
2. Six hundred dead rats washing up is an anomaly. What more are you doing to establish the cause of death?
3. What more testing are you doing?

4. Are there any possible contaminants that could have killed these rats that you may never be able to test for now, as the half lives are so short they will have disappeared?
5. Where did the rats come from in the first instance?

Kind regards,

Brooke

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 November 2019 13:13  
**To:** Brooke Jenner [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: does this response look alright? RE: tested for other substances? - 1080 rats question...

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 1:03 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** does this response look alright? RE: tested for other substances? - 1080 rats question...

Hi Brooke

We had hoped that the pathology result would provide some more information about how the rats died.

The possibility of 1080 as a cause of death of the rats was raised, and as operations had occurred in catchments that have had 1080 treatment that could have possibly led to the rats on the beach, and because of the public interest in this matter, this was the toxin that was tested for.

The cause of death is unknown – but the deaths are not a result of 1080 poisoning.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Brooke Jenner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 12:56 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: tested for other substances? - 1080 rats question...



Good afternoon s 9(2)(a), 9(2)

Are you able to provide a reason (for background) for only having tested for 1080?  
Will other toxins will be tested for from both water samples and rat carcass samples?  
And is that to say a cause of death is still unknown?

Kind regards,

**Brooke Jenner**  
Assignments Desk Coordinator

d. s 9(2)(a)



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---

**From:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** 20 November 2019 12:00  
**To:** Brooke Jenner s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Media <[Media@doc.govt.nz](mailto:Media@doc.govt.nz)>; s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** tested for other substances? - 1080 rats question...

Hi Brooke, I can confirm we tested for 1080, but not other substances. s 9(2)(a),

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)  
**To:** x@xx  
**Cc:** Media  
**Subject:** RE: 1080 tests Westport  
**Date:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 1:57:00 p.m.  
**Attachments:** image001.png

---

Hi Farah

No more rats were found today, we expect the test results later in the week and will have a bit more info for you then. Kind regards, s 9(2)(a),

---

**From:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 11:48 a.m.  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i)  
**Cc:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Subject:** FW: 1080 tests Westport

More on rats.  
S.

---

**From:** Farah Hancock <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xx.xx >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 11:41 a.m.  
**To:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx >  
**Subject:** 1080 tests Westport

Hi

Are you able to add me to your press release list?

Also, I'm keen on following up the Westport dead rats so would appreciate getting sent the test results when available.

Are you able to help with information which is not in the release on your website?

- How many rats are being tested
- What other creatures are being tested
- Are any other tests being conducted at the same time?

I would also be interested in any information you can give me about the risks of secondary poisoning for seabirds and sea life.

And ... any information you can share about the pest levels in the area where 1080 was dropped, and examples of wildlife which were affected by pests there.

Thanks!

Regards  
Farah Hancock  
*Reporter*



<http://newsroom.co.nz>

e: [farah.hancock@newsroom.co.nz](mailto:farah.hancock@newsroom.co.nz) p: [REDACTED] | [@newsroomnz](#)

Newsroom NZ Ltd First floor 48 George St, Kingsland, Auckland 1024

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**From:** [Farah Hancock](#)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: 1080 Westport rats  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 1:25:25 p.m.  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Thanks § 9(2)(a),

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 at 1:22 PM  
**To:** Farah Hancock <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xx.xx>  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>

**Subject:** RE: Re: 1080 Westport rats

We had hoped that the pathology result would provide some more information about how the rats died.

The possibility of 1080 as a cause of death of the rats was raised, and as DOC operations had occurred in catchments that have had 1080 treatment that could have possibly led to the rats on the beach, and because of the public interest in this matter, this was the toxin that was tested for.

The cause of death is unknown – but the deaths are not a result of 1080 poisoning. DOC has not used brodifacoum (talon) in this area, it is only very rarely used on the mainland.

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 12:57 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Re: 1080 Westport rats

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Farah Hancock <[xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xx.xx)>  
**Date:** 20/11/2019 12:34 PM  
**Subject:** Re: 1080 Westport rats  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Cc:**

I'm so intrigued by this rat death mystery!

I notice just 1080 was tested for. Was there any reason why tests weren't done for other toxins?  
Could samples still be tested for this?  
I've heard talk of talon and a farmer and to be honest poison just sounds more plausible than them getting washed away in heavy rains.

I got no response to my request to see the test results clean green nz referred to btw.

Regards  
Farah

---

**From:** [REDACTED] § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** Monday, 18 November 2019 at 10:15 AM  
**To:** Farah Hancock <[xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xx.xx)>  
**Subject:** RE: 1080 Westport rats

That makes sense then! I'm on call this week so managing the media inbox, so If you email [REDACTED] § 9(2)(a), and Media Wednesday hopefully we will have something then (Wednesday appears to be the timeline I'm seeing)

---

**From:** Farah Hancock <[xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xx.xx)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:07 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED] § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: 1080 Westport rats

Hi

Yes, I noted they have given virtually no information about the testing. Given all the gaps in information there's certainly a lot of speculation going on – which is why I keep bugging you for info!

Regards  
Farah

---

**From:** [REDACTED] § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** Monday, 18 November 2019 at 10:03 AM  
**To:** Farah Hancock <[xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxxx.xx.xx)>  
**Subject:** RE: 1080 Westport rats

Hi again Farah, you should ask the anti-1080 groups to see the toxicology report, rather than rely on their media release.

They should have a toxicology report that can be viewed which will state where the animal was tested and what the results were

---

**From:** Media <[xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:01 a.m.

**To:** Farah Hancock <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xx.xx >; Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx >

**Subject:** RE: 1080 Westport rats

Hi Farah, the key information is below and we are expecting results Wednesday or Thursday this week and can look at interviews after this.

- DOC has received initial rat test results from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research but is awaiting further results due later this week (Wednesday or Thursday) before making a public announcement.
- We need to wait until we have all the test results in, including the results of pathology work, which may then determine how the rats died.
- Ten rats were sent for independent testing. They were tested for the presence of 1080 at Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and for cause of death at Massey University.
- A weka was also sent for testing and we are waiting this result also.

---

**From:** Farah Hancock <xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xx.xx >

**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 9:29 a.m.

**To:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx >

**Subject:** 1080 Westport rats

Hi

Can I please get an update on this? I understand the test results should be back by now and I see the anti-1080 groups are saying they have independent test results back

Regards

Farah Hancock

Reporter



<http://newsroom.co.nz>

e: [xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxxxx.xx.xx) p: s 9(2)(a) [@newsroomnz](mailto:xxxxx@newsroomnz)

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**From:** [Science Media Centre](#)  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Dead rats on the West Coast  
**Date:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 3:12:48 p.m.

---

No! But now I want to.

These be strange times

**Science Media Centre**  
[www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz](http://www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz) | [xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) [redacted] (A/H)

On Wed, 13 Nov 2019 at 15:11, [redacted] > wrote:

Did you ever see that movie with the frogs falling from the sky? – Magnolia....

**From:** Science Media Centre <[xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 2:54 p.m.  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Dead rats on the West Coast

No more rats! At least they aren't falling from the sky...

Thanks [redacted] :)

**Science Media Centre**  
[www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz](http://www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz) | [xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) [redacted] (A/H)

On Wed, 13 Nov 2019 at 14:44, [redacted] > wrote:

Hi [redacted], no more rats today. Looking like it will be the end of the week for results.  
Kind regards, [redacted]

**From:** Science Media Centre <[xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 November 2019 2:43 p.m.  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Dead rats on the West Coast

Hi [redacted]

Just checking in to see if you've heard anything and what the timelines are likely to be

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like.

Nga mihi,

§ 9(2)(a)

Science Media Centre

[www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz](http://www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz) | [xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) | § 9(2)(a) (A/H)

On Mon, 11 Nov 2019 at 15:59, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Cheers!

**From:** Science Media Centre <[xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 3:58 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) <§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)>  
**Cc:** Media <[xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Dead rats on the West Coast

Thank so much for responding § 9(2)(a). I just saw the advisory saying testing would take 48-72 hours.

I'll be in touch Weds or Thurs.

Thanks!

§ 9(2)(a)

*Media Advisor*

Science Media Centre

[www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz](http://www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz) | [xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) | § 9(2)(a) (A/H)

On Mon, 11 Nov 2019 at 15:53, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Hi § 9(2)(a)

We don't yet have the toxicology results but will do by the end of the week. Maybe give me a bell in a couple of days for this info? Kind regards, § 9(2)(a)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 3:10 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED] Media <[xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx)>  
**Subject:** FW: Dead rats on the West Coast

For allocating

**From:** Science Media Centre <[xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 2:09 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Dead rats on the West Coast

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] here. Long time, no contact! I hope you're doing well.

We're fascinated by this story about the hundreds of dead rats washing up on the West Coast. Very macabre!

The [RNZ article](#) on it mentioned DOC was getting toxicology results from Manaaki Whenua and Massey Vet School. Will you be releasing the results of that publicly? We'd love to see the tox results once they're public. Do you know when they might be coming out? Or will it be from the West Coast DOC office?

Thanks! Let us know if you have anything coming out soon.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

*Media Advisor*

**Science Media Centre**

[www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz](http://www.sciencemediacentre.co.nz) | [xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx) [REDACTED]  
(A/H)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(a)  
**To:** [Laura Mills](#)  
**Cc:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** RE: FW: Westport Catastrophe Press Release  
**Date:** Friday, 15 November 2019 1:59:00 p.m.

---

Hey – other thing is....we are only aware of one testing laboratory where testing for the presence of 1080 can be undertaken - **Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research**.

**From:** Laura Mills § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 1:38 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Westport Catastrophe Press Release

I've just requested that now cheers :)

On Fri, 15 Nov 2019 at 13:35, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Hi laura, as suggested just before, I suggest if this is correct, they will have a toxicology report that can be viewed which will state where the animal was tested and what the results were.  
Kind regards, § 9(2)(a),

**From:** Laura Mills § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 1:27 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Westport Catastrophe Press Release

Hi just received this ...

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Flora Fauna of Aotearoa** <[xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xxx)>  
**Date:** Fri, 15 Nov 2019 at 13:10  
**Subject:** Westport Catastrophe Press Release  
**To:** § 9(2)(a)

Dear Laura,

Please see the attached press release from Flora and Fauna of Aotearoa and Clean Green New Zealand Trust.

Thank you for your dedicated work on this issue.

Kind Regards,  
§ 9(2)(a)

--

--

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star

§ 9(2)(a)

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Thank you.

--

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star

§ 9(2)(a)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)  
**To:** [Laura Mills](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Media release dead rat results Nov 2019 - DOC-6132561  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:14:00 a.m.

---

(:

**From:** Laura Mills § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:12 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Media release dead rat results Nov 2019 - DOC-6132561

Always safe with us as all we ever do it put a one sentence teaser on our site and link to Facebook, and always after 1.30.

On Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 11:10, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Ace (:

**From:** Laura Mills § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:10 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Media release dead rat results Nov 2019 - DOC-6132561

Ah brilliant. Won't go anywhere until 1.30pm :)

On Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 11:05, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Hi ya

You wont be able to view the results for about 15 minutes yet, but here is release so you can get started today...don't put it on SM yet tho because I will get my butt kicked for sending it before its on website. § 9(2)(a), 9(2)

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Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star  
§ 9(2)(a)

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--

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star

s 9(2)(a)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Rat Result MR  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 2:40:00 p.m.  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

fyi

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 2:40 p.m.  
**To:** Joanne Carroll <[xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx)>  
**Subject:** RE: Rat Result MR

The rat itself, but we expect a carcass would have 1080 in it if that was how the animal died.

If the 1080 was in pellet form, yes, it would wash out of the pellet quickly, but this does not happen in a carcass, hence the risk to scavenging dogs.

**From:** Joanne Carroll <[xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 2:08 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Rat Result MR

Thanks, do you mean the time it takes for 1080 to break down in a dead rat? Or the rat itself? Wouldn't it be quicker for the 1080 to break down in water than on land?

**Joanne Carroll**  
Reporter

**E** [xxxx](mailto:xxxx@xxxx) | **M** § 9(2)(a)  
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand





On Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 14:04, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) > wrote:

The time it takes for a rat to break down varies according to the environment – on land, in warm weather it could be as quick as two weeks, but in water it would take longer. If the animals had been exposed to 1080, this would have been picked up through the tests.

**From:** Joanne Carroll <[xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:40 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Rat Result MR


Thanks § 9(2)(a). Do you know how long it takes for 1080 to break down in carcasses? Just so we can include that if people are wondering?

**Joanne Carroll**  
Reporter

E  | M   
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



----- Forwarded message -----

From: 

Date: Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 11:22

Subject: Rat Result MR

To:

DOC\_logo\_horizontal



Media release

20 November 2019

## Testing shows no 1080 in rats

Results of toxicology testing of dead rats that washed up on North Beach near Westport recently show no presence of 1080.

Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research tested eight dead rats and one weka. None of these animals had any residue of 1080 toxin. Two other rats were too decomposed to test.

Massey University School of Veterinary Science undertook post-mortem examinations of five of the dead rats but could not determine their cause of death. The weka was also examined with cause of death unknown.

Department of Conservation (DOC) West Coast Operations Director Mark Davies says the test results confirm that the rats washed up on the beach are unlikely to have come from an area where 1080 had been used.

"We thought it was unlikely that rats had come from our aerial 1080 operation in Lewis Pass National Reserve near Maruia, 140 km upstream from Westport.

"We don't know the source of the dead rats but it's possible they came from beech forest areas closer to Westport in the Buller Gorge, affected by flood conditions.

"Rat numbers have exploded in beech forests due to heavy seeding and now seed is germinating, they are desperate for food, which can drive them into new areas and cause them to cross waterways," says Mark Davies.

"Predator control is critical to protecting our most at-risk population of native wildlife as rats turn to eating native birds and bats and their young this spring and summer."

DOC sent ten rats for testing. Five went to Massey University for post-mortem, and five to Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research for toxicology testing.

Following post-mortem, the five rats were also sent to test for 1080 although two were too decomposed to do this. The weka was also sent for post-mortem and 1080 testing.

It's likely the marine animals which also washed up near Westport were victims of prolonged stormy weather at the time, which can have a negative impact on marine life.

About 680 dead rats were collected from North Beach over the weekend of 9-10 November. The rats were buried following advice from West Coast Regional Council.

—Ends—

---

## Contacts

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Communication Advisor Western South Island

Mobile: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Email: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

## Background information

Copies of the Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research toxicology results and Massey University School of Veterinary Science pathology reports are available on the DOC website at the following address <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/oia-responses/tiakina-nga-manu/>

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)  
**To:** [Liz McDonald](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Rat Result MR  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 4:17:00 p.m.  
**Attachments:** [~WRD000.jpg](#)  
[image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

(:

**From:** Liz McDonald <xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 4:14 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Rat Result MR

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2) that's helpful.

**Liz McDonald**  
Senior reporter  
The Press

**E** [xxx@xxx](mailto:xxx@xxx)  
**P** § 9(2)(a)  
Press House, 158 Gloucester St, Christchurch, 8140, New Zealand  
Private Bag 4722



On Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 16:13, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

We stated in the Media Release that it's not known how the rats died. Re your question around whether a particular flood could have caused this, we have had a number of flood events lately, but we don't hold records of river levels etc – suggest you try Regional Council for that.

DOC did not test for other toxins that could have killed the rats because there has been no use of such toxins by DOC. DOC is responsible for the effects of 1080 operations it undertakes, and as such we tested for 1080 because there was a possibility that the rats could have died from use of this toxin – this has been ruled out and we will not be undertaking further work to investigate the deaths of the rats. In terms of washup of marine animals, it's not uncommon for animals to be washed up after storm events.

**From:** Liz McDonald <xxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 3:18 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Rat Result MR

Hi § 9(2)(a). I am taking over this story from Jo. Can we please get a bit more info if possible about

what could have happened to the rats and other animals washed up and if there was a particular flood event it could have been - and whether this sort of washing up event has been seen before?

Many thanks. Liz

**Liz McDonald**

Senior reporter  
The Press

E [liz@xyz](mailto:liz@xyz)

P <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup> [REDACTED]

Press House, 158 Gloucester St, Christchurch, 8140, New Zealand  
Private Bag 4722

Image removed by sender.



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joanne Carroll** <[xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx)>

Date: Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 14:17

Subject: Fwd: Rat Result MR

To: Liz McDonald <[xxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx)> <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup> [REDACTED]

From doc

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> [REDACTED]

Date: Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 2:04 PM

Subject: RE: Rat Result MR

To: Joanne Carroll <[xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx)>

The time it takes for a rat to break down varies according to the environment – on land, in warm weather it could be as quick as two weeks, but in water it would take longer. If the animals had been exposed to 1080, this would have been picked up through the tests.

**From:** Joanne Carroll <[xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:40 a.m.

**To:** <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Rat Result MR

Thanks <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)</sup> [REDACTED]. Do you know how long it takes for 1080 to break down in carcasses? Just so we can include that if people are wondering?

**Joanne Carroll**

Reporter

E [xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.km](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.km) § 9(2)(a)

Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



----- Forwarded message -----

From: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Date: Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 11:22

Subject: Rat Result MR

To:

DOC\_logo\_horizontal



Media release

20 November 2019

## Testing shows no 1080 in rats

Results of toxicology testing of dead rats that washed up on North Beach near Westport recently show no presence of 1080.

Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research tested eight dead rats and one weka. None of these animals had any residue of 1080 toxin. Two other rats were too decomposed to test.

Massey University School of Veterinary Science undertook post-mortem examinations of five of the dead rats but could not determine their cause of death. The weka was also examined with cause of death unknown.

Department of Conservation (DOC) West Coast Operations Director Mark Davies says the test results confirm that the rats washed up on the beach are unlikely to have come from an area where 1080 had been used.

“We thought it was unlikely that rats had come from our aerial 1080 operation in Lewis Pass National Reserve near Maruia, 140 km upstream from Westport.

“We don’t know the source of the dead rats but it’s possible they came from beech forest areas closer to Westport in the Buller Gorge, affected by flood conditions.

“Rat numbers have exploded in beech forests due to heavy seeding and now seed is germinating, they are desperate for food, which can drive them into new areas and cause them to cross waterways,” says Mark Davies.

“Predator control is critical to protecting our most at-risk population of native wildlife as rats turn to eating native birds and bats and their young this spring and summer.”

DOC sent ten rats for testing. Five went to Massey University for post-mortem, and five to Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research for toxicology testing.

Following post-mortem, the five rats were also sent to test for 1080 although two were too decomposed to do this. The weka was also sent for post-mortem and 1080 testing.

It’s likely the marine animals which also washed up near Westport were victims of prolonged stormy weather at the time, which can have a negative impact on marine life.

About 680 dead rats were collected from North Beach over the weekend of 9-10 November. The rats were buried following advice from West Coast Regional Council.

–Ends–

---

## Contacts

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Communication Advisor Western South Island

Mobile: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Email § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

## Background information

Copies of the Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research toxicology results and Massey University School of Veterinary Science pathology reports are available on the DOC website at the following address <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/oia-responses/tiakina-nga-manu/>

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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--

**Joanne Carroll**

Reporter

E [xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.km](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.km) s 9(2)(a)

Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)  
**Bcc:** Mel Logan; § 9(2)(a); Westport News; Lee Scanlon; Laura Mills; § 9(2)(a); § 9(2)(a); Science Media Centre; § 9(2)(a); Nancy Davies; Joanne Carroll; xxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xxxx.x; Mark Davies; § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); AP; § 9(2)(a); Ashburton Guardian; BOP Times; § 9(2)(a); § 9(2)(a); Daily Post Rotorua; § 9(2)(a); § 9(2)(a); Inside Welly; DOC; § 9(2)(a); Dominion Post; § 9(2)(a); Fedfarmers; Forest and Bird; Forest and Bird 2; § 9(2)(a); Gisborne Herald; Greymouth Star; § 9(2)(a); Hawke's Bay Today; herald on line; Herald On Line politics; § 9(2)(a); Independent Business Weekly; § 9(2)(a); § 9(2)(a); laura mills greystar; § 9(2)(a); Manawatu Standard; maori television; Marlborough Express; Matt Wilderness mag; § 9(2)(a); § 9(2)(a); nelsonmail; National Business Review; Nelson Mail; Newroom.co.nz; § 9(2); Inside tourism newsletter; Northern Advocate; nz geographic; NZ Herald newsdesk; NZ News Wire; § 9(2)(a); Otago Daily Times; Outdoors New Zealand; § 9(2)(a); Scoop; Southland Times; § 9(2)(a); stuff2; Sunday Star Times; Taranaki Daily News; The Press; TIA -tourism; § 9(2)(a); Timaru Herald; Tourism NZ 1; tourism nz 2; visual media; voxy; Waikato Times; waikato times 2; Wairarapa Times Age; Wairoa Star; Wanganui Chronicle; whakatane beacon; Wilderness editor; wilderness magazine; wwf 1; wwf 2; § 9(2)(a); § 9(2)(a); Messenger, The; § 9(2)(a); (xxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xx.xx); § 9(2)(a); Press contact list; § 9(2)(a); - Radio Live; News (RNZ); NewstalkZB (Radio); Prime; rnz auckland newsroom; tv3; TV3 Wellington; tvnz; TVNZ Well newsroom; § 9(2)(a); Scenicland FM; § 9(2)(a); (xxxxxxxxxx@xxx.xx.xx); § 9(2)(a); TVNZ; Te Karere; TVNZ - Te Kaea; § 9(2)(a);

**Subject:** Rat Result MR  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:20:00 a.m.  
**Attachments:** [Media release dead rat results Nov 2019 - DOC-6132561.docx](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

## Media release

20 November 2019

### Testing shows no 1080 in rats

Results of toxicology testing of dead rats that washed up on North Beach near Westport recently show no presence of 1080.

Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research tested eight dead rats and one weka. None of these animals had any residue of 1080 toxin. Two other rats were too decomposed to test.

Massey University School of Veterinary Science undertook post-mortem examinations of five of the dead rats but could not determine their cause of death. The weka was also examined with cause of death unknown.

Department of Conservation (DOC) West Coast Operations Director Mark Davies says the test results confirm that the rats washed up on the beach are unlikely to have come from an area where 1080 had been used.

"We thought it was unlikely that rats had come from our aerial 1080 operation in Lewis Pass National Reserve near Maruia, 140 km upstream from Westport.

"We don't know the source of the dead rats but it's possible they came from beech forest areas closer to Westport in the Buller Gorge, affected by flood conditions.

"Rat numbers have exploded in beech forests due to heavy seeding and now seed is germinating, they are desperate for food, which can drive them into new areas and cause them to cross waterways," says Mark Davies.

"Predator control is critical to protecting our most at-risk population of native wildlife as rats turn to eating native birds and bats and their young this spring and summer."

DOC sent ten rats for testing. Five went to Massey University for post-mortem, and five to Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research for toxicology testing. Following post-mortem, the five rats were also sent to test for 1080 although two were too decomposed to do this. The weka was also sent for post-mortem and 1080 testing. It's likely the marine animals which also washed up near Westport were victims of prolonged stormy weather at the time, which can have a negative impact on marine life. About 680 dead rats were collected from North Beach over the weekend of 9-10 November. The rats were buried following advice from West Coast Regional Council.

–Ends–

---

### Contacts

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Communication Advisor Western South Island

Mobile § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Email: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

### Background information

Copies of the Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research toxicology results and Massey University School of Veterinary Science pathology reports are available on the DOC website at the following address <https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/oia-responses/tiakina-nga-manu/>

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa*

*Department of Conservation, Hokitika*

*Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)  
**To:** [Khalia Strong](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Rat Result MR  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 4:35:00 p.m.  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Yip all good

---

**From:** Khalia Strong s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 2:13 p.m.  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Rat Result MR

Actually, could we please make it 4.45pm.

Many thanks

---

**From:** Khalia Strong s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** 20 November 2019 14:09  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Demelza Jackson s 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Re: Rat Result MR

Thanks s 9(2)(a), 9(2),

Could we please lock in 4.30pm?

This would be a prerecorded interview and usually takes up to 5 minutes. We will use clips from that in our news bulletins.

Demelza will be running the interview with Mark - the number at the newsroom is s 9(2)(a)

Thankyou,

Khalia Strong

---

**From:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** 20 November 2019 14:06  
**To:** Khalia Strong s 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Rat Result MR

Hi Khalia, Mark has time available between 430 and 6 – let us know when suits and whether this will be live or prerecorded, also a ph number to call in on. Kind regards, s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Khalia Strong s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 1:56 p.m.  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Re: Rat Result MR

Hello [REDACTED],

I just left a voicemail on your phone - who is the person to speak to for a quick phone interview about this?

It would be a pre-record, and we'd take a few clips of that to use in our bulletins.

Kind Regards,  
Khalia Strong  
NewstalkZB

---

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]> on behalf of Newstalk ZB News <[xxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxx@xxxxxxxxxx.xx.xx)>  
**Sent:** 20 November 2019 12:58  
**To:** Khalia Strong <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Fw: Rat Result MR

## NEWSTALK ZB NEWS

**D:** [REDACTED]  
**E:** [xx@xx](mailto:xx@xx)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 11:21 AM  
**Subject:** Rat Result MR



## Media release

**20 November 2019**

### Testing shows no 1080 in rats

Results of toxicology testing of dead rats that washed up on North Beach near Westport recently show no presence of 1080.

Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research tested eight dead rats and one weka. None of these animals had any residue of 1080 toxin. Two other rats were too decomposed to test.

Massey University School of Veterinary Science undertook post-mortem examinations of five of the dead rats but could not determine their cause of death. The weka was also examined with cause of death unknown.

Department of Conservation (DOC) West Coast Operations Director Mark Davies says the test results confirm that the rats washed up on the beach are unlikely to have come from an area

where 1080 had been used.

“We thought it was unlikely that rats had come from our aerial 1080 operation in Lewis Pass National Reserve near Maruia, 140 km upstream from Westport.

“We don’t know the source of the dead rats but it’s possible they came from beech forest areas closer to Westport in the Buller Gorge, affected by flood conditions.

“Rat numbers have exploded in beech forests due to heavy seeding and now seed is germinating, they are desperate for food, which can drive them into new areas and cause them to cross waterways,” says Mark Davies.

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It’s likely the marine animals which also washed up near Westport were victims of prolonged stormy weather at the time, which can have a negative impact on marine life.

About 680 dead rats were collected from North Beach over the weekend of 9-10 November. The rats were buried following advice from West Coast Regional Council.

–Ends–

---

## Contacts

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), Communication Advisor Western South Island

Mobile: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Email: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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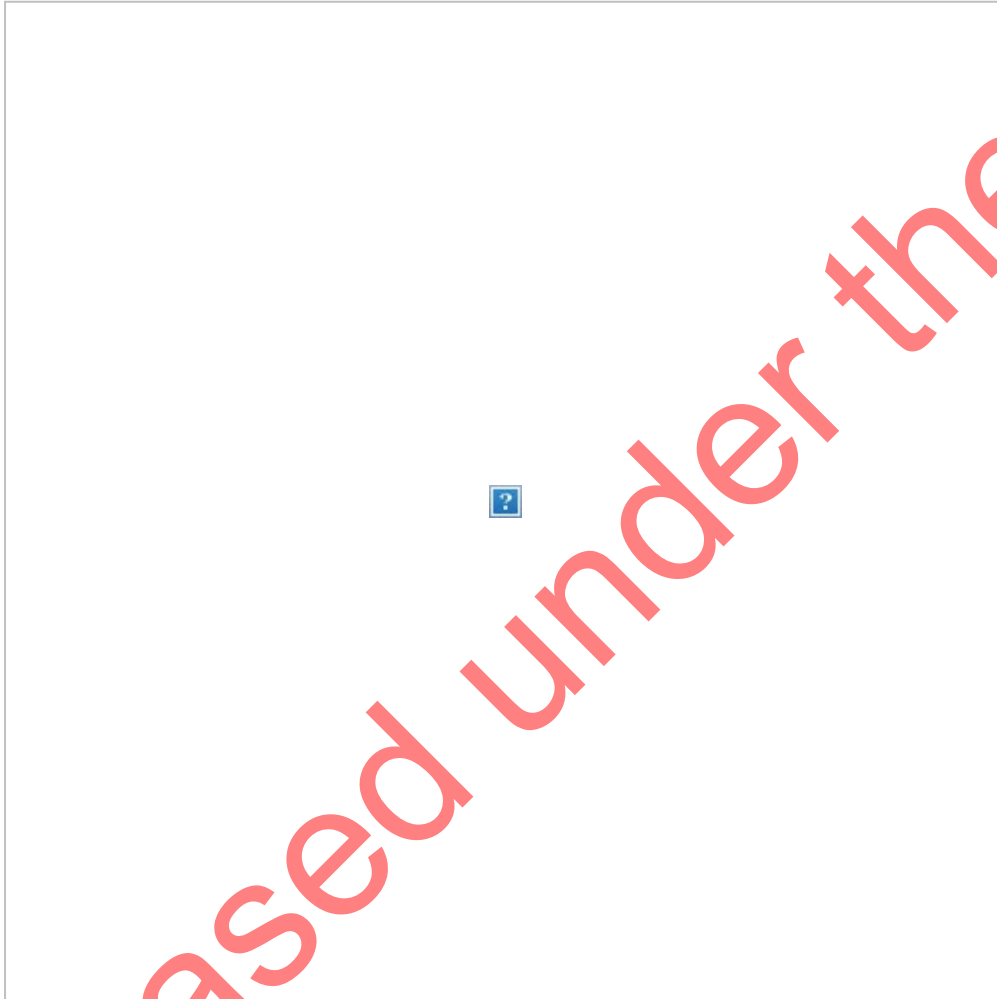
**From:** [Mel Logan](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Rat Result MR  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 12:19:54 p.m.  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Great, pre-recorded. Thank you.

**MEL LOGAN BROADCAST JOURNALIST**

**NEWS** MEDIAWORKS **DDI** [REDACTED] **EXTENSION** [REDACTED] **MOBILE** [REDACTED]



On Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 12:16, [REDACTED] wrote:

Just after 12.40 would prob work...

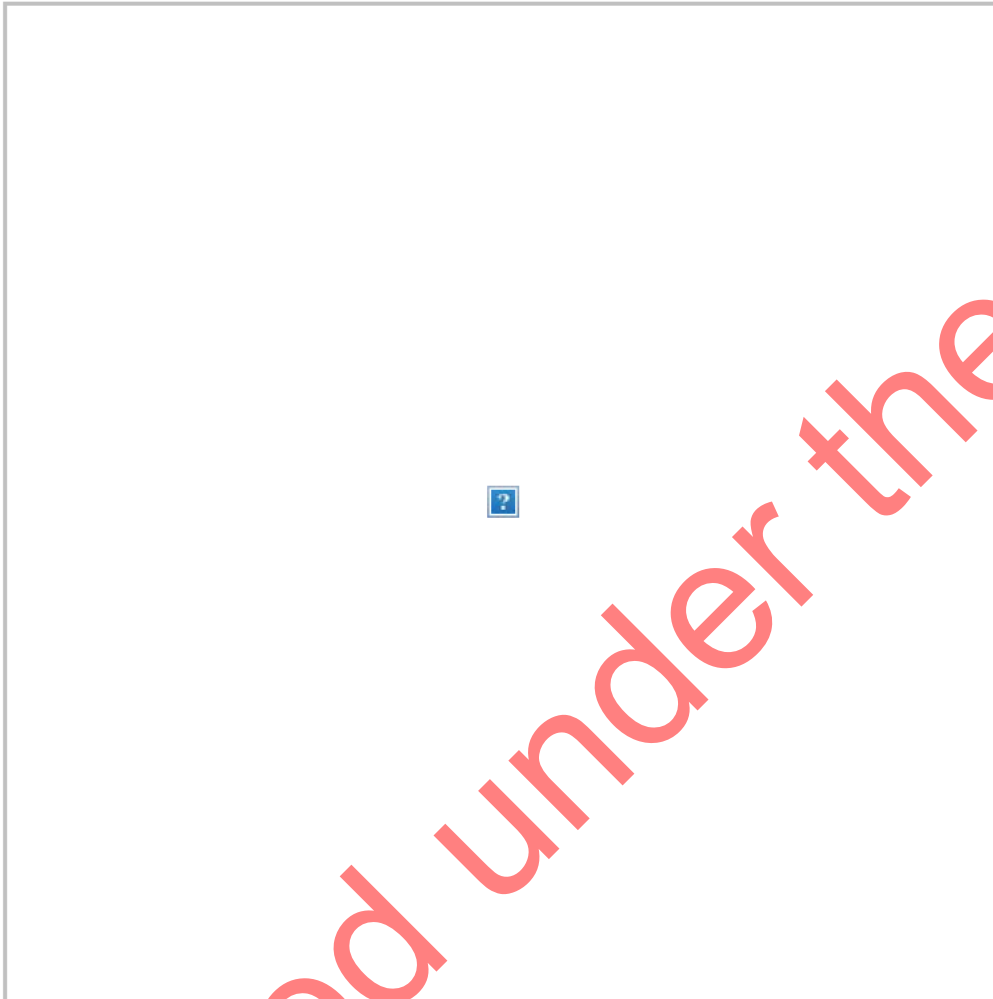
---

**From:** Mel Logan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 12:15 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Rat Result MR

Ok. Is there any chance of earlier? It would take approximately 3 minutes.

**MEL LOGAN** BROADCAST JOURNALIST

NEWS MEDIAWORKS DDI <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup> EXTENSION <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup> MOBILE <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup>



On Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 12:14, <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup> > wrote:

Would be Westcoast. He has availability between 430 and 6 if you want to pick a time – let me know if its going to be live or prerecorded. <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup>

---

**From:** Mel Logan <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 12:12 p.m.  
**To:** <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>  
**Subject:** Re: Rat Result MR

If it's Wellington, then yes TV, but if West Coast, then by phone for radio. My DDI



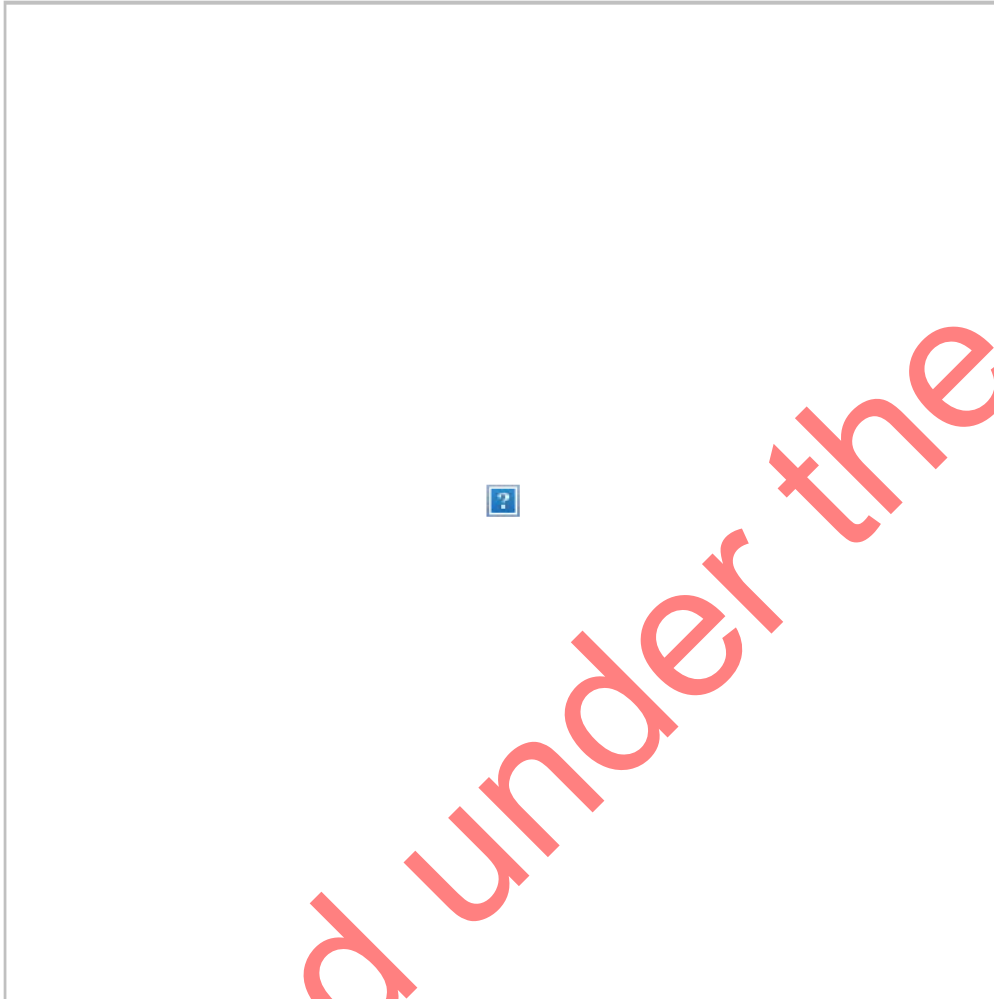
for a pre-rec radio interview is [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)

**MEL LOGAN BROADCAST JOURNALIST**

**NEWS MEDIAWORKS DDI** [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)

**EXTENSION** [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)

**MOBILE** [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)



On Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 12:06, [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Hi Mel

Yes, we can arrange that, are you thinking of an audio or a tv interview with stringer?

---

**From:** Mel Logan [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 12:04 p.m.

**To:** [REDACTED] s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

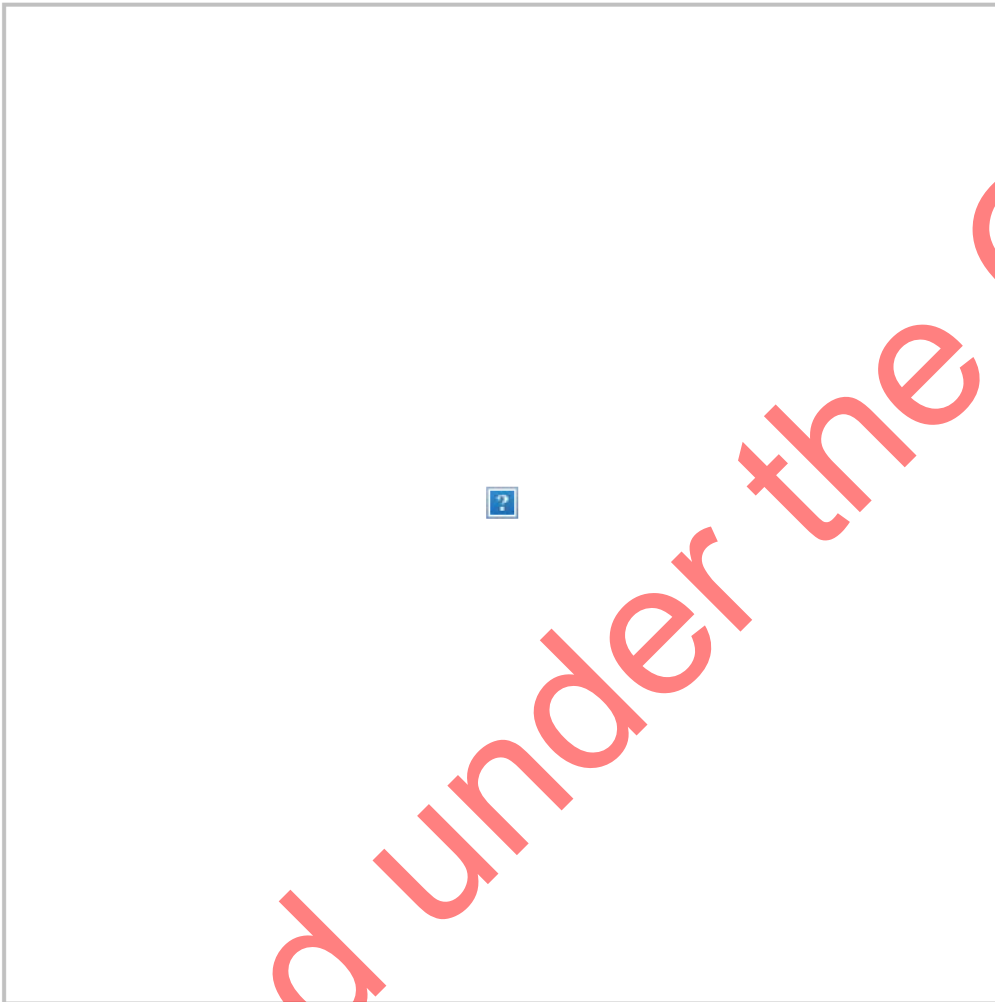
**Subject:** Re: Rat Result MR

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Hi [redacted] will an interview be possible?

**MEL LOGAN** BROADCAST JOURNALIST

NEWS MEDIAWORKS DDI [redacted] EXTENSION [redacted] MOBILE [redacted]



On Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 11:21, [redacted] wrote:

DOC\_logo\_horizontal



Media release

20 November 2019

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Results of toxicology testing of dead rats that washed up on North Beach near Westport recently show no presence of 1080.

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—Ends—

---

## Contacts

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Communication Advisor Western South Island

Mobile: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Email: s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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[responses/tiakina-nga-manu/](#)

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa*

*Department of Conservation, Hokitika*

*Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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Thank you.

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**From:** [Lee Scanlon](#)  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** rat tests  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 8:53:57 a.m.

---

Hi s 9(2)(a),

It's Teresa here rather than Lee – she's away for a couple of days so I'm filling in.

Just wanted to check about when the DOC release about the tests on the rats found at North Beach is likely to be sent out – I understood it would be today?

Many thanks  
Teresa

s 9(2)(a)  
s 9(2)(a)

The News daily deadline is 1pm.

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**From:** [redacted]  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: RATS - please call  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 9:53:00 a.m.

---

Thanks [redacted] (:

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 9:47 a.m.  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: RATS - please call

I have this [redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 9:41 a.m.  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: RATS - please call

Hi [redacted] I rang Mel and left a message saying it would be useful to have her email address to send these to. Cheers, [redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 9:00 a.m.  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RATS - please call

Mel at Newshub  
[redacted] – wants results and interviews

Cheers, [redacted]

[redacted]  
**Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Customer Engagement Unit | Wahanga Apataki  
Department of Conservation  
2 Southend Avenue  
PO Box 842  
WHANGAREI 0140**

[redacted]  
**Conservation leadership for our nature *Takina te hi, Tiakina, te ha o te Ao Turoa*  
After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / [@](#) [XX](#)**

**From:** [Laura Mills](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Rats at Westport  
**Date:** Monday, 11 November 2019 8:47:43 a.m.

---

Hi just after an update please.

I see on social media 600 were picked up, is that right?  
How many other dead animals were there, and what were they? Are they also being autopsied?  
When are results due?  
Have there been reports of rats on beaches anywhere else?  
Are they still coming down (washing up)?  
How long should people keep dogs off the beach there for?

Thanks [REDACTED] - deadline is 11.30am please.

--

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star  
[REDACTED]

Released under the OIA



**From:** [Media](#)  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)  
**Cc:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Rats in Westport  
**Date:** Monday, 11 November 2019 10:41:16 a.m.

---

Hi s 9(2)(a),

Another asking about rats.

S.

**From:** Jonathan Guildford <x@xxx>  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 10:29 a.m.  
**To:** Media <x@xxx>  
**Subject:** Rats in Westport

Morning team,

Just checking back in on the [dead rats that washed up on a Westport beach](#) yesterday. Has a cause been established? Have anymore washed up on the beach? Is there anything else you can add?

Thanks,  
Jonathan.

--

**Jonathan Guildford**  
Reporter

E [x@xxx](#) | P s 9(2)(a) | M s 9(2)(a)  
158 Gloucester Street, Christchurch 8011, New Zealand



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**From:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); [Media](#)  
**Subject:** FW: rats, 1080  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:26:40 p.m.  
**Importance:** High

---

Hi s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
For you. I understand s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) told them there was a release ready to go so they have been holding the press.

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

---

**From:** Media <Media@doc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:23 p.m.  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** FW: rats, 1080

---

**From:** Lee Scanlon  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 2:23:02 PM (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington  
**To:** Media  
**Subject:** rats, 1080

Hi

We understand DOC has a media release ready for the test results on dead rats found on Westport beaches.

We're about to go to print with today's paper.

Are we able to have the release please?

Thanks

Lee

Lee Scanlon  
Chief reporter  
The News

s 9(2)(a)

The News daily deadline is 1pm.

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** [Joanne Carroll](#)  
**Cc:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** RE: rats...  
**Date:** Friday, 15 November 2019 9:18:00 a.m.

---

Wednesday or Thursday I expect.

**From:** Joanne Carroll <xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx>  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 November 2019 9:17 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Subject:** Re: rats...

Hi,

Do you have a day for when all the results are back and an announcement made?

Thanks

Joanne

**Joanne Carroll**

Reporter

**E** [xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.km](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.km) § 9(2)(a)  
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



On Thu, 14 Nov 2019 at 16:32, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Hi Joanne

Thanks for your call, here is some info for you.

- DOC has received initial rat test results from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research but is awaiting further results due next week before making a public announcement.
- We need to wait until we have all the test results in, including the results of pathology work, which may then determine how the rats died.
- Ten rats were sent for independent testing. They were tested for presence of 1080 at Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and for cause of death at Massey University.

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika*

Western South Island Region

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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Released under the OIA

**From:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)  
**To:** [Maddy Lloyd](#)  
**Cc:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** Rats...  
**Date:** Monday, 11 November 2019 11:45:00 a.m.

---

**Hi Maddy, you can attribute the below to Robert Dickson, Buller District Operations Director.**

**I understand the rats have been removed from Westport's North Beach, and samples from the rats are now being tested? 680 rats were collected.**

**I'm just wondering if you can confirm this and provide a statement on the latest information you have about it and what the next steps will be?**

DOC is taking a precautionary approach in case the rats have been poisoned by 1080. Rats and a sample of marine life are being sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080. While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have caused the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

Rangers checked Westport and surrounding area beaches yesterday and did not detect any further rats washed up. A further check will be made today after high tide.

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Released under the OIA

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** [Joanne Carroll](#)  
**Subject:** RE: rats...  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 5:10:00 p.m.

---

Thanks Joanne, I passed that on.

**From:** Joanne Carroll <[jo@dox](#)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 4:59 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: rats...

DOC was able to say what they thought happened in this case before all the results were back:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2019/zip-reports-kea-deaths-in-predator-removal-trial2/>

**Joanne Carroll**  
Reporter

E [xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.km](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.km) § 9(2)(a)  
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



On Thu, 14 Nov 2019 at 16:32, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Hi Joanne

Thanks for your call, here is some info for you.

- DOC has received initial rat test results from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research but is awaiting further results due next week before making a public announcement.
- We need to wait until we have all the test results in, including the results of pathology work, which may then determine how the rats died.
- Ten rats were sent for independent testing. They were tested for presence of 1080 at Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and for cause of death at Massey University.

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** [Laura Mills](#)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: rats.  
**Date:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 11:41:46 a.m.

---

I just never know what we will be writing about next.

On Tue, 12 Nov 2019 at 11:40, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Its true. Case in point today, the sun is out.

**From:** Laura Mills § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 11:31 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: rats.

The Coast never fails to deliver with unexpected events!

On Tue, 12 Nov 2019 at 11:25, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Be later in the week, but of course!

**From:** Laura Mills § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 11:23 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) >  
**Subject:** Re: rats.

Thank you :) I meant to say yesterday, Like every man and his dog, I'm keen for the results please ...

On Tue, 12 Nov 2019 at 11:10, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) > wrote:

**Hi after the rat plague, is it safe for people to go fishing in the river downstream of the 1080 drop?**

**Hi Laura, you can attribute the below to Mark Davies, Western South Island Operations Director.**

Trout are known to eat mice, but not rats, which are typically much bigger than mice. If people have concerns, they can follow the Ministry for Primary Industries



(MPI) advice to anglers to avoid eating trout from waterways in a 1080 operation area for seven days after the operation. MPI is the government agency responsible for food safety.

More about this here: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/methods-of-control/1080/using-1080-safely/1080-and-trout/>

The Te Maruia operation in the Maruia valley was completed on 3 November.

Fishers can check the Pesticide summaries on the DOC website, which shows where and when pesticides, including 1080, have been used on conservation land.

People need to take a precautionary approach with dogs, which are susceptible to poisoning from 1080. With their propensity to scavenge people do need to be careful and keep their dogs supervised on leads or keep dogs away from affected beaches until the results of the toxicology tests come back. As with any dead animal, precaution needs to be taken if they are handled and we would suggest that people do not handle the dead rats. If they do contain toxin, naturally occurring bacteria will break this down overtime as the carcasses disintegrate, there is no threat to human health.

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa*

*Department of Conservation, Hokitika*

*Western South Island Region*

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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--

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star

s 9(2)(a)

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--

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star

s 9(2)(a)

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--

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star

s 9(2)(a)

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rats  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 9:32:49 a.m.  
**Attachments:** ~WRD000.jpg

---

Hi

We are expecting a media release to go out today, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) can give you an ETA on this  
Cheers, § 9(2)

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 9:31 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Rats

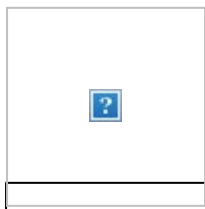
Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), can you send me the results/release as soon as it is available thanks.

Do you have an estimated time you might have them back?

**Joanne Carroll**

Reporter

**E** [x@xxx](mailto:§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)@xxx.xx.xx) | **M** § 9(2)(a)  
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



On Tue, 19 Nov 2019 at 12:53, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Hi Joanne, we are expecting this tomorrow

**From:** Joanne Carroll <[xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 November 2019 11:31 a.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Media <[xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx)>

**Subject:** Rats

Hi there,

I would like to check if all the results are back yet?

Also I have been told there is a big clean up happening of rats on the Heaphy Track by DOC. I this right? Can you tell me about this please, when where how many etc

Thanks

Joanne

**Joanne Carroll**

Reporter

E [x@xx](#) | M s 9(2)(a)  
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



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Thank you.

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**From:** [Lee Scanlon](#)  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: rats  
**Date:** Monday, 18 November 2019 1:47:04 p.m.

---

Thanks s 9(2)(a).

---

**From:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 18, 2019 12:46 PM  
**To:** Lee Scanlon s 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: rats

Hi Lee, we wont have anything until mid week for you sorry. s 9(2)(a)

---

**From:** Lee Scanlon s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 12:45 p.m.  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** rats

Hi s 9(2)(a).

We've been told the media release on the rats is ready. Can you help please?

Thanks

Lee

Lee Scanlon  
Chief reporter  
The News  
s 9(2)(a)

The News daily deadline is 1pm.

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)  
**To:** Laura Mills § 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** rats  
**Date:** Monday, 11 November 2019 11:38:00 a.m.

---

**Hi Laura – you can attribute this to Robert Dickson, Buller District Operations Manager.**

**Did you get the MR on Saturday? I can send that through if you need** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)

**I see on social media 600 were picked up, is that right?** 680 rats were collected.

**How many other dead animals were there, and what were they? Are they also being autopsied?**

Some marine life (fish) were also found and will be autopsied but as fish are not susceptible to 1080 toxin, we do not expect this to be the cause of their deaths.

**When are results due?** We have asked for urgent tests, results should be back by the end of the week.

**Have there been reports of rats on beaches anywhere else?**

Some reports of rats washed up at Punakaiki but numbers were not quantified.

**Are they still coming down (washing up)?**

Beaches were checked yesterday and no sign of any rats, there will be a further check after high tide today.

**How long should people keep dogs off the beach there for?**

Beaches are signposted warning people to take care and keep dogs on leads. 1080 is very toxic for dogs, so until the all clear is given, a great deal of care should be taken to keep dogs away from carcasses.

**What was the sowing rate?**

Sowing rate at Maruia was 0.15% baits – 2kg/ha

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** [Joanne Carroll](#)  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2); [Media](#)  
**Subject:** Rats  
**Date:** Tuesday, 19 November 2019 11:31:33 a.m.

---

Hi there,

I would like to check if all the results are back yet?

Also I have been told there is a big clean up happening of rats on the Heaphy Track by DOC. Is this right? Can you tell me about this please, when where how many etc

Thanks

Joanne  
**Joanne Carroll**  
Reporter

E [x@xx](#) | M s 9(2)(a)  
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



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From: [Jonathan Guildford](#)  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: rats  
Date: Tuesday, 12 November 2019 7:12:53 a.m.

---

Hi [REDACTED], just coming back to you this morning with some further information we received last night. We've been told more rats are washing up at Waimangaroa beach. Is this true? If so, how many? and have other rats been found in other spots? We've also been told there are warning signs erected at Waimangaroa warning people to keep their dogs on a leash and not to let them scavenge. Is this true? If so, is there any public safety info you can pass on? Also, I know you said any updates would probably come later in the week but has anything further come this morning?

On Mon, 11 Nov 2019 at 11:52, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Jonathan

See below, you can attribute this to Robert Dickson, Buller District Operations Manager.

**Just checking back in on the [dead rats that washed up on a Westport beach](#) yesterday. Has a cause been established? Have anymore washed up on the beach? Is there anything else you can add?**

**I'm just wondering if you can confirm this and provide a statement on the latest information you have about it and what the next steps will be?**

680 rats were collected, and DOC is taking a precautionary approach in case the rats have been poisoned by 1080. Rats and a sample of marine life are being sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080.

While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have cause the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

Rangers checked Westport and surrounding area beaches yesterday and did not detect any further rats washed up. A further check will be made today after high tide.

[REDACTED]

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa*

*Department of Conservation, Hokitika*

*Western South Island Region*

[REDACTED]



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--

**Jonathan Guildford**

Reporter

E [x@xx](#) | P s 9(2)(a) | M s 9(2)(a)

158 Gloucester Street, Christchurch 8011, New Zealand



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From: [Laura Mills](#)  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: rats  
Date: Friday, 15 November 2019 10:46:16 a.m.

---

Cheers

On Fri, 15 Nov 2019 at 10:39, [REDACTED] wrote:

- DOC has received initial rat test results from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research but is awaiting further results due next week before making a public announcement.
- We need to wait until we have all the test results in, including the results of pathology work, which may then determine how the rats died.
- Ten rats were sent for independent testing. They were tested for presence of 1080 at Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and for cause of death at Massey University.

[REDACTED]

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa*

*Department of Conservation, Hokitika*

*Western South Island Region*

[REDACTED]

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Thank you.

--

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star

[REDACTED]

**From:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** [x@xx](#)  
**Cc:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** rats  
**Date:** Monday, 11 November 2019 11:51:00 a.m.

---

Hi Jonathan

See below, you can attribute this to Robert Dickson, Buller District Operations Manager.

**Just checking back in on the [dead rats that washed up on a Westport beach](#) yesterday. Has a cause been established? Have anymore washed up on the beach? Is there anything else you can add?**

**I'm just wondering if you can confirm this and provide a statement on the latest information you have about it and what the next steps will be?**

680 rats were collected, and DOC is taking a precautionary approach in case the rats have been poisoned by 1080. Rats and a sample of marine life are being sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080.

While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have caused the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

Rangers checked Westport and surrounding area beaches yesterday and did not detect any further rats washed up. A further check will be made today after high tide.

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** [Joanne Carroll](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: Rats  
**Date:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 10:24:50 a.m.

---

Thanks [REDACTED]. Also how long does it take for 1080 to dissolve in water? How far along the Coast should people keep their dogs off beaches? For how long?

**Joanne Carroll**

Reporter

E [\[REDACTED\]](#) | M [REDACTED]  
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



On Tue, 12 Nov 2019 at 09:33, [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Joanne, will get something to you a bit later this morning.

**From:** Joanne Carroll <[xxxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 9:30 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Rats

Hi [REDACTED]

I'm just checking in on test results on the rats at Westport beach. Was any other animals (fish, birds etc) collected for testing? When do you expect the results to be back?

Any more wash up overnight?

Thanks

Joanne

**Joanne Carroll**

Reporter

E [\[REDACTED\]](#) | M [REDACTED]  
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)  
**To:** [Joanne Carroll](#)  
**Subject:** RE: rats  
**Date:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 12:57:00 p.m.

---

Ive asked for some info...

**From:** Joanne Carroll <xxxxxx.xxxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 12:45 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: rats

Thanks § 9(2)(a), can you point me to information on the recent pest control operation in Buller - how much kg per ha, how much area in total, when were the drops and where? There's just been so much speculation on social media and in our emails asking us for more information.

Thanks

Joanne  
**Joanne Carroll**  
Reporter

E [x@xx](#) | M § 9(2)(a)  
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



On Tue, 12 Nov 2019 at 11:29, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

**Hi Joanne, you can attribute this info to Mark Davies, Director Western South Island.**

**I'm just checking in on test results on the rats at Westport beach. Was any other animals (fish, birds etc) collected for testing? When do you expect the results to be back? Any more wash up overnight?**

A small number of rats (6) were collected yesterday afternoon off a beach near Waimangaroa. As a precaution warning signs advising people to keep dogs on a lead have been placed at beach entranceways.

Rats and a sample of marine life have been sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080. While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have cause the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

**Also how long does it take for 1080 to dissolve in water? How far along the Coast should people keep their dogs off beaches? For how long?**

Dogs are susceptible to poisoning from 1080, and with their propensity to scavenge, people do need to be careful and keep their dogs supervised on leads or keep dogs away from beaches until the results of the toxicology tests come back. At this stage, we have had reports of rats on beaches north of Westport so far as Waimangaroa. Dog owners should take a

precautionary approach with other beaches. As with any dead animal, precaution needs to be taken if they are handled and we would suggest that people do not handle the dead rats. If they do contain toxin, naturally occurring bacteria will break this down overtime as the carcasses disintegrate, there is no threat to human health.

Check out this link for info about how 1080 dissolves in water.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/methods-of-control/1080/using-1080-safely/1080-and-streams-rivers-and-lakes/>

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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Released under the OIA

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(b)  
**To:** [y@xx](#)  
**Subject:** rats  
**Date:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 11:26:00 a.m.

---

**Hi Jonathan, you can attribute this to Mark Davies, Director Western South Island.**

**Kind regards,** § 9(2)(a),

**From:** Jonathan Guildford <[xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 7:12 a.m.

**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Subject:** Re: rats

**Hi § 9(2)(a), just coming back to you this morning with some further information we received last night. We've been told more rats are washing up at Waimangaroa beach. Is this true? If so, how many? and have other rats been found in other spots? We've also been told there are warning signs erected at Waimangaroa warning people to keep their dogs on a leash and not to let them scavenge. Is this true? If so, is there any public safety info you can pass on? Also, I know you said any updates would probably come later in the week but has anything further come this morning?**

A small number of rats (6) were collected yesterday afternoon off a beach near Waimangaroa. As a precaution warning signs advising people to keep dogs on a lead have been placed at beach entranceways. Dogs are susceptible to poisoning from 1080, and with their propensity to scavenge people do need to be careful and keep their dogs supervised on leads or keep dogs away from beaches until the results of the toxicology tests come back. As with any dead animal, precaution needs to be taken if they are handled and we would suggest that people do not handle the dead rats. If they do contain toxin, naturally occurring bacteria will break this down overtime as the carcasses disintegrate, there is no threat to human health.

Rats and a sample of marine life have been sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080. While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have cause the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor - Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)



**From:** [Media](#)  
**To:** [Tom Kitchin](#); [§ 9\(2\)\(a\), 9\(2\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** RE: rats  
**Date:** Monday, 18 November 2019 10:00:47 a.m.  
**Attachments:** [~WRD000.jpg](#)  
[image001.jpg](#)

---

Hi Tom, the key information is below and we are expecting results Wednesday or Thursday this week and can look at interviews after this. Please note, we are not withholding results, we have not received these as yet.

- DOC has received initial rat test results from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research but is awaiting further results due later this week (Wednesday or Thursday) before making a public announcement.
- We need to wait until we have all the test results in, including the results of pathology work, which may then determine how the rats died.
- Ten rats were sent for independent testing. They were tested for the presence of 1080 at Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and for cause of death at Massey University.
- A weka was also sent for testing and we are waiting this result also.

**From:** Tom Kitchin [§ 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 9:02 a.m.  
**To:** [§ 9\(2\)\(a\), 9\(2\)\(g\)\(ii\)](#)  
**Cc:** Media <[xxxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](#)>  
**Subject:** Re: rats

Hi [§ 9\(2\)\(a\)](#),

I'm a reporter from The Press in Christchurch. I understand my colleagues Jonathan Guildford and Joanne Carroll were in touch with you last week regarding the rats on the Westport beach. You told us last week, [as published in this story](#):

*A spokeswoman said on Thursday that DOC had received initial results back from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research. However, it was awaiting further results due next week before making a public announcement.*

*"Ten rats were sent for independent testing. They were tested for presence of 1080 at Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and for cause of death at Massey University," she said.*

Can I just these questions please - my deadline is noon today.

1. Why are you withholding the preliminary results that you have received?
2. When do you expect to have the final results ready to share?

Kind regards,  
Tom

On Mon, 11 Nov 2019 at 12:49, Jonathan Guildford <[xxxxxxxxx.xxxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx](#)> wrote:

Nothing new yet unfortunately.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Date: Mon, 11 Nov 2019 at 11:52

Subject: rats

To: [xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx) <[xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx](mailto:xxxxxxx.xxxxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx)>

Cc: Media <[xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](mailto:xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx)>

Hi Jonathan

See below, you can attribute this to Robert Dickson, Buller District Operations Manager.

**Just checking back in on the [dead rats that washed up on a Westport beach](#) yesterday. Has a cause been established? Have anymore washed up on the beach? Is there anything else you can add?**

**I'm just wondering if you can confirm this and provide a statement on the latest information you have about it and what the next steps will be?**

680 rats were collected, and DOC is taking a precautionary approach in case the rats have been poisoned by 1080. Rats and a sample of marine life are being sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080.

While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have cause the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

Rangers checked Westport and surrounding area beaches yesterday and did not detect any further rats washed up. A further check will be made today after high tide.

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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Thank you.

--

**Jonathan Guildford**  
Reporter

E [xxxxxxxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.kp](mailto:xxxxxxxx.xxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.kp) | M  
158 Gloucester Street, Christchurch 8011, New Zealand



--

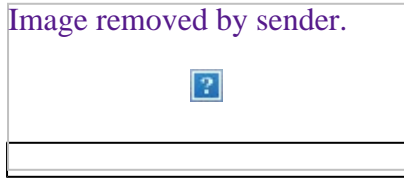
**Tom Kitchin** Reporter (Breaking News)


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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); [Joanne Carroll](#)  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rats  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 9:33:00 a.m.  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)

---

Sorry, don't know what time this will be.

---

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 9:33 a.m.  
**To:** Joanne Carroll <[xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx](#)>  
**Cc:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** RE: Rats

Hi

We are expecting a media release to go out today, § 9(2)(a) can give you an ETA on this  
Cheers, § 9(2)

**From:** Joanne Carroll <[xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx](#)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 9:31 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: Rats

Thanks § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) can you send me the results/release as soon as it is available thanks.

Do you have an estimated time you might have them back?

**Joanne Carroll**  
Reporter

**E** [x@xx](#) | **M** § 9(2)(a)  
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



On Tue, 19 Nov 2019 at 12:53, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

Hi Joanne, we are expecting this tomorrow

**From:** Joanne Carroll <[xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx](#)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 November 2019 11:31 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) Media <[xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](#)>  
**Subject:** Rats

Hi there,

I would like to check if all the results are back yet?

Also I have been told there is a big clean up happening of rats on the Heaphy Track by DOC. Is this right? Can you tell me about this please, when where how many etc

Thanks

Joanne

**Joanne Carroll**

Reporter

E [joanne@xk](mailto:joanne@xk.com) | M [REDACTED]  
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Laura Mills](#) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** rats  
**Date:** Friday, 15 November 2019 10:39:00 a.m.

---

- DOC has received initial rat test results from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research but is awaiting further results due next week before making a public announcement.
- We need to wait until we have all the test results in, including the results of pathology work, which may then determine how the rats died.
- Ten rats were sent for independent testing. They were tested for presence of 1080 at Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and for cause of death at Massey University.

[REDACTED]

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [Media](#)  
**To:** [Tom Kitchin](#); § 9(2)(a), 9(2)  
**Cc:** [Media](#)  
**Subject:** RE: rats  
**Date:** Monday, 18 November 2019 9:04:04 a.m.  
**Attachments:** [~WRD000.jpg](#)  
[image001.jpg](#)

Thanks Tom, I see § 9(2)(a), 9(2) is in a meeting until after 11am but she has your email  
Cheers, § 9(2)

**From:** Tom Kitchin § 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2019 9:02 a.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Cc:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>  
**Subject:** Re: rats

Hi § 9(2)(a), 9(2)

I'm a reporter from The Press in Christchurch. I understand my colleagues Jonathan Guildford and Joanne Carroll were in touch with you last week regarding the rats on the Westport beach. You told us last week, [as published in this story](#):

*A spokeswoman said on Thursday that DOC had received initial results back from Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research. However, it was awaiting further results due next week before making a public announcement.*

*"Ten rats were sent for independent testing. They were tested for presence of 1080 at Maanaki Whenua Landcare Research and for cause of death at Massey University," she said.*

Can I just these questions please - my deadline is noon today.

1. Why are you withholding the preliminary results that you have received?
2. When do you expect to have the final results ready to share?

Kind regards,  
Tom

On Mon, 11 Nov 2019 at 12:49, Jonathan Guildford <xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx> wrote:

Nothing new yet unfortunately.

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Date:** Mon, 11 Nov 2019 at 11:52  
**Subject:** rats  
**To:** [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx](#) <[xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxx.xx.xx](#)>  
**Cc:** Media <[xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx](#)>

Hi Jonathan

See below, you can attribute this to Robert Dickson, Buller District Operations Manager.

**Just checking back in on the [dead rats that washed up on a Westport beach](#) yesterday. Has a cause been established? Have anymore washed up on the beach? Is there anything else**

**you can add?**

**I'm just wondering if you can confirm this and provide a statement on the latest information you have about it and what the next steps will be?**

680 rats were collected, and DOC is taking a precautionary approach in case the rats have been poisoned by 1080. Rats and a sample of marine life are being sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080.

While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have caused the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

Rangers checked Westport and surrounding area beaches yesterday and did not detect any further rats washed up. A further check will be made today after high tide.

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor - Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

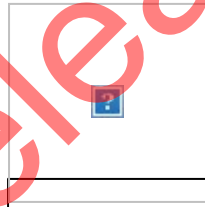
§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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--

**Jonathan Guildford**  
Reporter

E [xx@xx](mailto:xx@xx) | P § 9(2)(a) | M § 9(2)(a)  
158 Gloucester Street, Christchurch 8011, New Zealand



--

**Tom Kitchin** Reporter (Breaking News)

**The Press/Stuff**

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**From:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii); [Media](#)  
**Subject:** Rats  
**Date:** Monday, 18 November 2019 9:31:40 a.m.

---

Hi, another rat enquiry please

Mel from newshub – s 9(2)(a), wants to know when results are in and requests an interview stating this update as well.

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

**Communications Advisor | Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Customer Engagement Unit | Wahanga Apataki  
Department of Conservation  
2 Southend Avenue  
PO Box 842  
WHANGAREI 0140**

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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After Hours Media Support: Phone: +64 4 496 1911 / [@xxx](#)**

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**From:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(a)  
**To:** [Joanne Carroll](#)  
**Subject:** RE: rats  
**Date:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 3:03:00 p.m.

---

Best way to look is through the pesticide summary viewer as it shows all the OSPRI ops as well.  
<http://maps.doc.govt.nz/mapviewer/index.html?viewer=pesticidesummary>

**From:** Joanne Carroll <xxxxxx.xxxxxx@xxxx.xx.xx>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2019 12:45 p.m.  
**To:** § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)  
**Subject:** Re: rats

Thanks § 9(2)(a), can you point me to information on the recent pest control operation in Buller - how much kg per ha, how much area in total, when were the drops and where? There's just been so much speculation on social media and in our emails asking us for more information.

Thanks

Joanne  
**Joanne Carroll**  
Reporter

E [x@xx](#) | M § 9(2)(a)  
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



On Tue, 12 Nov 2019 at 11:29, § 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) wrote:

**Hi Joanne, you can attribute this info to Mark Davies, Director Western South Island.**

**I'm just checking in on test results on the rats at Westport beach. Was any other animals (fish, birds etc) collected for testing? When do you expect the results to be back? Any more wash up overnight?**

A small number of rats (6) were collected yesterday afternoon off a beach near Waimangaroa. As a precaution warning signs advising people to keep dogs on a lead have been placed at beach entranceways.

Rats and a sample of marine life have been sent for testing to check whether they contain 1080. While it is possible that the rats have been washed down from an area where rats have been targeted in a recent predator control operation, it's unclear what would have cause the marine life deaths. We expect results of these tests by the end of the week.

**Also how long does it take for 1080 to dissolve in water? How far along the Coast should people keep their dogs off beaches? For how long?**

Dogs are susceptible to poisoning from 1080, and with their propensity to scavenge, people do need to be careful and keep their dogs supervised on leads or keep dogs away from beaches until the results of the toxicology tests come back. At this stage, we have had reports

of rats on beaches north of Westport so far as Waimangaroa. Dog owners should take a precautionary approach with other beaches. As with any dead animal, precaution needs to be taken if they are handled and we would suggest that people do not handle the dead rats. If they do contain toxin, naturally occurring bacteria will break this down overtime as the carcasses disintegrate, there is no threat to human health.

Check out this link for info about how 1080 dissolves in water.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/methods-of-control/1080/using-1080-safely/1080-and-streams-rivers-and-lakes/>

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

*Communications Advisor- Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
Department of Conservation, Hokitika  
Western South Island Region*

§ 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Laura Mills](#)  
**Subject:** RE:  
**Date:** Monday, 11 November 2019 9:58:00 a.m.

---

Will see what I can find out.

**From:** Laura Mills [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 November 2019 9:27 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:**

Also, what was the sewing rate at Maruia???

--

Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [Laura Mills](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** See attached  
**Date:** Monday, 11 November 2019 11:18:12 a.m.  
**Attachments:** [Capture.JPG](#)

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Laura Mills  
Chief reporter, Greymouth Star  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [Joanne Carroll](#)  
**To:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)  
**Subject:** Test results  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 November 2019 3:43:38 p.m.

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Hi s 9(2)(a), 9(2)

Can I please have the results of the testing from the rats and sealife washed up on Buller beaches, I understand they are back?

Thanks

Joanne  
**Joanne Carroll**  
Reporter

E [x@xx](#) | M s 9(2)(a)  
Greymouth, 7805, New Zealand



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**From:** [Brooke Jenner](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Media](#); [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: tested for other substances? - 1080 rats question...  
**Date:** Wednesday, 20 November 2019 12:56:13 p.m.  
**Attachments:** [pastedImagebase640.png](#)  
[pastedImagebase641.png](#)

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Good afternoon [REDACTED],

Are you able to provide a reason (for background) for only having tested for 1080?  
Will other toxins will be tested for from both water samples and rat carcass samples?  
And is that to say a cause of death is still unknown?

Kind regards,

**Brooke Jenner**  
Assignments Desk Coordinator

d. [REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 November 2019 12:00  
**To:** Brooke Jenner [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Media <xxxxx@xxx.xxxx.xx>, [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** tested for other substances? - 1080 rats question...

Hi Brooke, I can confirm we tested for 1080, but not other substances. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
*Communications Advisor* - Kaitohutohu Whakapa  
*Department of Conservation, Hokitika*  
*Western South Island Region*

[REDACTED]

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## Summary of 1080 testing & necropsy reports on Westport rats

s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii), DOC Veterinarian

November 2019

### Purpose

The purpose of the testing was to determine if 1080 toxin was present in the bodies to answer the question “did these rats die from 1080 and wash down into the ocean?”.

### Sample size

Based on the population size of the event at an estimated 600 rats, we calculated that a sample of 5 rats tested for 1080 would provide an accurate indication of whether or not 1080 was the cause of death.

We decided to expand on that to also undertake some necropsies via Massey University to determine if there was any other indications of cause of death e.g. trauma, other toxin, disease.

Five rats were sent direct to Landcare for 1080 testing from stomach contents and muscle, and 5 rats were sent to Massey for necropsy and subsequent 1080 testing of muscle tissue samples. In addition, a dead weka was also sent to Massey for necropsy and 1080 testing of muscle.

Of five rats sent to Massey, four were suitable for gross necropsy and collection of tissues for 1080 testing. One was too decomposed to be necropsied. The weka was necropsied and tissues sampled for 1080 testing.

### Necropsy results

Results of the 4 rat necropsies did not determine a cause of death. The gross examination ruled out severe trauma (which would show as broken bones or crushed bruised tissues), and there were no signs of other toxins or diseases. Unfortunately the bodies were too decomposed for detailed examination of the organs and tissues to look for cellular damage, and too rotten for collection of bacterial testing samples. Therefore a diagnosis of the cause of death cannot be determined.

The weka necropsy showed a bird in poor to moderate body condition with no fat stores and reduction in muscle mass. Its head was missing but this was diagnosed to have happened after death. Because the body had been frozen, there was no value in collecting bacterial samples and the examination of tissues was affected, however no obvious abnormalities were found. So the cause of death remains unknown, although this bird was skinny prior to death.

### 1080 results

All results of 1080 testing were negative (below the minimum level detectable on the test). This shows that 1080 did not kill the rats or the weka.

### Time since death

The state of decomposition of the rats is consistent with having been dead for approximately 3-5 days before they were collected, but this is an estimate and is affected by environmental conditions after death, such as air, ground and water temperature, exposure to direct sunshine and time in the water. Therefore it is an general estimate only.



Example of the state of decomposition of a rat sent to Massey for necropsy.

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Text messages

**9 Nov 12:51pm: Mark Davies to Mike Slater, Hilary Aikman and [REDACTED]**

Hi Mike and Hilary just a heads up that we have a unique situation that has presented itself to us that we have not encountered before. We have hundreds if not thousands of dead rats turned up today on the Westport beaches. We can only conclude that these have come from the Te Maruia operation from last week. The thinking is they have been brought down via the flood waters we have in the catchment at the moment. This is something new for us. We have taken the precaution of sign posting the beach access to warn dog owners. We will do a beach clean up on Monday when the flood waters are anticipated to ease. There will be media interest so I will give the media team a heads up. Don't know the toxicity of these dead carcasses as they will have been in water for a couple of days but we need to be cautious in the meantime. Give me a call if you want to talk about this cheers Mark

**9 Nov 1.20pm: Mike Slater to Mark Davies**

Crickey

This is indeed something different. It's a heck of a long way for them to come down from Maruia but I don't have another credible explanation either. How quickly can we get some testing as we will be significantly at risk if that many carcasses in a very public place (dogs particularly) if in fact they do have a level of toxicity. Definitely get media response lined up with some "expert" who can be quoted or can speak to it. Also need to get some info into Ministers Office asap so she has an awareness and knows how we (or her) will respond.

Cheers Mike

**9 Nov 4:40pm: Mark Davies to Mike Slater and Hilary Aikman and [REDACTED]**

Hi Mike and Hilary

Copy of update I have just sent the media team.

Great thanks [REDACTED] the Westport team have already done a beach clean up and have removed 600 plus dead rats carcasses and disposed of them in a location approved by the regional council. They will monitor the beaches over the next couple of days and tides. We will send carcasses to both Massey Uni and Land care research on Monday for both autopsy and toxicology assessment. I will keep you posted cheers Mark

**9 Nov 4.44pm Mike Slater to Mark Davies**

Thanks Mark

That's a good action to take - 600 doesn't seem too dramatic (rather than 1000s) so there could be a range of reasons I guess. Still will be good to have toxicology tests done to hopefully dismiss 1080 as a factor.

Cheer Mike

**9 Nov 4.48pm Mark Davies to Mike Slater**

Absolutely have been working with Hilary to see if we can get anything done over the weekend but it's just not possible. Monday is the earliest we can get animals into the lab. Will keep you posted cheers Mark

**9 Nov 5.37pm Mike Slater to Mark Davies**

.hi

Just checked out Newshub reporting. Looks like they have pretty much quoted the messages in the draft media statement you sent me so that will now be out there. I think we need to be careful from here how we play this as this will be exactly the opening (about risk) that [REDACTED] and others will be looking for. I think anything further at this stage needs to stick to the simple messages we talked of

and not venturing into the potential speculation until we have some more information.  
Cheers

**9 Nov 5.42pm Mark Davies to Mike Slater**

Thanks Mike agree cheers Mark

**12 Nov 12.42pm: Mike Slater to Mark Davies**

Hi Mark

Just checking on some info <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup> has told me about with the Westport rats.

He says there are some pictures circulating on Facebook of a big pile of rats that have been picked up and then another of them being buried by a small digger on what looks to be the upper beach.

Given we dont know whether these are poisoned rats or not just wanting to be assured we have followed our SOP requirements about burying poisoned carcasses. Dont want this to be the issue that we get caught on and have to publically dig them up or whatever.

I'm sure you have this all clearly thought through but thought I should ask so we can confidently say that everything met approp standards if we get asked or challenged.

Cheers Mike

**12 Nov 1:59pm: Mark Davies to Mike Slater**

Hi Mike <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup> and the Westport sought advice from the Buller District Council and the West Coast Regional Council for a safe and suitable site for burial. They also took the DOC SOP for disposal of baits into account which specifies 300 mm depth. The burial site is on an area above the beach and the depth was 3 m. The regional council and district council were happy with the approach taken. The senior ranger on the day also sought advice from EPA and Publi Health . Neither responded to her request for advice. I am comfortable with what was carried out. Cheers Mark

**12 Nov 8.25pm Mike Slater to Mark Davies**

Thanks mark

That's all good and would seem to cover off our risks nicely. Just trying to mitigate the <sup>s 9(2)(a)</sup> factor and ensure we are watertight.

Cheers Mike

**13 Nov 8.41am: Mark Davies to Mike Slater**

Thanks Mike absolutely. Keen to get a head of all this and to be in the proactive space. I am getting great support from Hilary and the coms team which is much appreciated

**20 Nov 10:26am: Mark Davies to Mike Slater**

Good morning Mike the final results have now arrived. All confirmed no 1080. I have shared the results and draft media release with <sup>s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)</sup>. The medical release will go out in the next hour. I have also talked to Hilary so we are all on the same page.

Just on another matter. There is a good looking weather window on the horizon. We are going to grab it for completing the toxic for Kahurangi plus pro feed for the Landsbrough. So will keep you posted on that cheers Mark

**9 Nov 1.16pm:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) to Mark Davies

Might be prudent to check local beaches north of the grey river I think

**9 Nov 1.18pm: Mark Davies to** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Agree can you do that please

**9 Nov 1.20pm:** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii) to Mark Davies

Yeah sure thing. I will flick you a message if I find anything and we can go from there

**9 Nov 1.20pm: Mark Davies to** s 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(ii)

Thanks much appreciated

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**9 Nov 2.12pm: Hilary Aikman to** [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED] hilary here sorry to contact at weekend. 100s of dead rats found on west coast beach and keen to get contacts to determine cause of death. Hilary

**9 Nov 4.28pm:** [REDACTED] **to Hilary Aikman**

Just emailed lots of info. Happy to discuss. 😊

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