



20-E-0009 DOC-6183907

29 January 2020

T Benseman  
Via fyi.org

Dear Mr Benseman

I refer to your official information request of 27 November 2019 to the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern regarding the part of her election speech that relates to rivers.

On 11 December 2019, the following part of your request was transferred to the Department of Conservation to respond to.

*2. And also can you advise what reductions you have achieved in the second most prolific polluter of our rivers == sodium monofluoroacetate? As usage in NZ of this substance causes rivers to be polluted with thousands of tonnes of poisonous, rotting dead bodies of birds, rodents, pigs, deer, cows, sheep, dogs, possums etc, many of which take over 100 hours to die according to the MPI online document How humane are our pest control tools.*

We note that the Department is only one of a number of New Zealand agencies and local government bodies that use 1080 to control mammalian pests. As such, we would be unable to provide a response to questions about any reduction in the use of 1080 across the country as a whole.

However, we can advise that 1080 does not pollute our waterways and our response of 28 January 2020 to your request of 23 December 2019 explains this in more detail. Consequently, reducing New Zealand's use of 1080 would not improve the quality of water in our rivers, and as far as we are aware, no such reduction has been attempted.

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

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact us at [replies@doc.govt.nz](mailto:replies@doc.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ann Thompson'.

Ann Thompson  
Acting Director, Biodiversity Threats  
For Director-General