

19 Whiringa-ā-nuku 2020

Tim Benseman  
fyi-request-13582-73ce3f21@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Tim

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to Te Papa Atawhai, received on 24 August 2020 in which you asked:

*regarding the \$2Million per hapū being paid to the 12 te whānau ā apanui hapū for the acceptance of spreading 1080 poison into Raukumara waterways and lands every 3 years as per the recent launch of Raukumara Pae Maunga Restoration Project, please provide a summary of negotiations on how this figure was reached. How far down into the hapū did consultations go? To every adult member? What amount is being offered or has been paid to Ngāti Porou hapū for their consent? Is there any requirement to negotiate in good faith a similar payment to families, taxpayers and ratepayers in general who have been paying for the upkeep of roads surrounding/entering the Raukumara, huts, helicopter surveys etc for the last hundred years or so? Is there to be a payment offered to traditional use practitioners who have used the Raukumara as a place to gather Rongoa and kai and water for drinking considering the 1080 poison warning labels state Do Not eat animals from this area and do not allow the toxin to enter any waterway, but your helicopters will spread it into the waterways anyway as you do with other operations. A payment so that these people who have practised gathering of organic kai/meat can have funds to do non-toxic animal control on the areas of Raukumara which they have traditional use rights in?*

*What number of staff are based in the Ōpōtiki and Gisborne offices supporting the Raukumara and how much do they cost tax payers each year in total, around to the nearest 100k, for the past 10 years or whatever your system can go back to.*

On 18 September 2020 we extended your request to 19 October 2020 due to consultation required with our district offices.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *“regarding the \$2Million per hapū being paid to the 12 te whānau ā apanui hapū for the acceptance of spreading 1080 poison into Raukumara waterways and lands every 3 years as per the recent launch of Raukumara Pae Maunga Restoration Project, please provide a summary of negotiations on how this figure was reached. How far down into the hapū did consultations go? To every adult member? What amount is being offered or has been paid to Ngāti Porou hapū for their consent?*

Te Papa Atawhai is not aware of \$2 million being paid to the hapū of Te Whānau-ā-Apanui in relation to 1080 or the Raukūmara Pae Maunga Restoration Project.

2. *Is there any requirement to negotiate in good faith a similar payment to families, taxpayers and ratepayers in general who have been paying for the upkeep of roads surrounding/entering the Raukūmara, huts, helicopter surveys etc for the last hundred years or so? Is there to be a payment offered to traditional use practitioners who have used the Raukumara as a place to gather Rongoa and kai and water for drinking considering the 1080 poison warning labels state Do Not eat animals from this area and do not allow the toxin to enter any waterway, but your helicopters will spread it into the waterways anyway as you do with other operations. A payment so that these people who have practised gathering of organic kai/meat can have funds to do non-toxic animal control on the areas of Raukumara which they have traditional use rights in?*

Te Papa Atawhai is responsible for the Raukūmara Conservation Park and through Ngā Whenua Rāhui, works alongside Māori landowners to achieve conservation and cultural outcomes. As stated above, Te Papa Atawhai is not aware of any payment that has been made to the hapū of Te Whānau-ā-Apanui.

3. *What number of staff are based in the Ōpōtiki and Gisborne offices supporting the Raukūmara and how much do they cost tax payers each year in total, around to the nearest 100k, for the past 10 years or whatever your system can go back to.*

There are currently 10 staff in the Gisborne office of the Department who spend varying proportions of time supporting the Raukūmara, but there are no positions that focus solely on the Raukūmara. Gisborne staff costs (salaries and allowances) for biodiversity work in the Raukūmara over the last 10 years are in the table below:

Financial year											TOTAL
2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20		
\$9,092	\$4,678	\$38,376	\$18,489	\$27,146	\$25,458	\$25,220	\$18,249	\$32,416	\$25,894		\$225,018

Te Papa Atawhai is not currently able to quantify other potential staff time on work related to the Raukūmara.

There are five Department staff based in the Department's Ōpōtiki office who support and service priority work across the entire Whakatane, Ōpōtiki and Whirinaki District. There have been very few personnel hours associated with the Raukūmara due to the National Prioritisation of their work within the Natural Heritage Species and Ecosystem Management Units priority setting.



The Ōpōtiki office has had very little resources to manage animal pests in the Raukūmara between 2010 -2020. This has been largely due to reduced expenditure over time, changing priorities and other work programme commitments.

However, Ōpōtiki office has maintained work on priority goat control and goat incursions operations to eradicate goats from the Raukūmara in 2010-11 and 2011-12. The cost of this work was \$105,960 for ground control and \$13,600 for aerial control. A further \$25,000 was spent in 2019/20 for the purpose of deer and goat control which resulted in 188 animals removed. This gives a total of \$144,560 spent on pest control from 2010 - 2020 from the Ōpōtiki/ Whakatane office.

No possum, rat or mustelid control has been undertaken within the Raukumara in this period.

Ngā mihi

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

Michelle Hippolite  
Deputy Director-General Kāhui Kaupapa Atawhai