

advised that we expected all future operations to comply with the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO Act).

5) Conclusion of the Piopio East investigation

The Piopio East investigation was concluded on 5 December 2019. Please find attached an email to you dated 16 December 2019 in which we advised you of the outcome. The email is entitled *Question number 5_enq-36149-Q0C6R2 Piopio*.

In our responses to questions 2 and 3, the names and contact details of persons other than those exercising statutory powers or managing EcoFX, have been withheld under OIA s 9(2)(a). People's names, when used within a context like an aerial 1080 operation, have an inherent privacy element. In such circumstances, withholding a person's name is the only way to protect this privacy. Unless there is a discernible public interest in the name, there is no countervailing desirability that would render the publication of this name in the public interest (s 9(1)). We are not aware of any public interest in the names and contact details redacted from our response.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

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

Yours sincerely



Allan Freeth
Chief Executive Officer
Environmental Protection Authority