Environmental Protection Authority
Te Mana Rauhī Taiao

ENQ-38501-Z3J9C6

4 May 2020

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[redacted]
Via: [redacted]

Official Information Act Request

Dear [redacted]

I refer to your request received on 14 April 2020, for the following information:

"Please provide a copy of the Operator's report for the West Coast Te Maruia aerial 1080 operation in November 2019 that resulted in poisoned carcasses fetching up at the Buller river mouth outside the permitted operational boundary."

Your request has been treated as a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

As noted in your request, the West Coast Te Maruia Operator's Report relates to an aerial 1080 broadcast. 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) is controlled under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO Act) and the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSW Act), to protect the environment and the health and safety of the New Zealand public. It is one of the most closely monitored substances in New Zealand.

Operators that want to use 1080 must follow the controls set out under the HSNO Act and HSW Act. These include a requirement for all operators carrying out aerial 1080 pest control operations to provide reports for all activity, with details of every operation. Operators need to submit these reports within six months of the activity taking place. We endeavour to publish these operational reports on our website within a month of receipt.

The operational report that you are requesting has not yet been submitted to the EPA, and as the activity took place in November 2019, is not due until the end of May 2020. Therefore, I am refusing your request for information under section 18(e) of the OIA, "the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist". Once received, this report will be published on our website.

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

Dr Allan Freeth
Chief Executive