



16 June 2026

Conservation House
18-32 Manners Street
Te Aro, Wellington, 6011
doc.govt.nz
Ref: OIAD-6755

Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 21 May 2026, in which you asked for the following information about the Cobb predator control operation:

- 1. A complete cost of the helicopters including cost per hour for this complete operation, including GST.*
- 2. The complete cost of the 1080 Pellets manufactured and delivered to the operational site, including GST.*
- 3. Cost of labour including accommodation and transport, including GST.*
- 4. Copies of all documents regarding research showing animal numbers are at the point of population to require such a huge 1080 air drop.*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

The 2026 Cobb predator control operation will control rats, stoats, and possums across approximately 71,000 hectares of Kahurangi National Park. The total estimated cost of this work is \$2,889,000, or approximately \$40 per hectare. As the operation has not occurred yet, precise actual costs are not yet available.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

- 1. A complete cost of the helicopters including cost per hour for this complete operation, including GST.*

The cost for helicopters is roughly \$1,491,000 for two complete bait applications over 71,000 hectares of Kahurangi National Park, one each of pre feed and toxic bait.

- 2. The complete cost of the 1080 Pellets manufactured and delivered to the operational site, including GST.*

The cost of bait and transport is approximately \$882,000 at 1.5 kg/ha of 6g cereal bait.

- 3. Cost of labour including accommodation and transport, including GST.*

The cost of labour is approximately \$517,000 for planning, consultation, consenting, public notification and information requests, signage, security, bait applications, and site clean-up.

4. Copies of all documents regarding research showing animal numbers are at the point of population to require such a huge 1080 air drop.

I am sharing with you the rodent monitoring results for the last 5 years for the Cobb operation "Cobb 2021-2026". Rat tracking results are coloured red, mouse tracking is blue. The rodent target for Cobb is to keep rat tracking below 30% at February of each year. Rats have now passed that trigger level, consequently the 2026 Cobb aerial 1080 operation will be delivered, weather permitting.

Item	Document description	Decision
1	Rodent monitoring results- Cobb 2021-2026	Released in part

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the document listed above, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the OIA – to protect Ministers, officials, or employees from improper pressure or harassment.

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.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Ben Reddiex
Director Biodiversity National Programmes
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai