

17 June 2026

Ref: OIAD-8168

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 19 May 2026, in which you asked for:

- “ 1) Information about the proposed poison operation including the target species, species to be protected, exact locations, any excluded areas around huts, water supplies etc, and any health and safety and other risk/benefit assessment.*
- 2) All pre poison monitoring including over the last 5 years (or longer if that information is available) to show trends after previous poisoning in Kahurangi and trigger thresholds for poisoning.*
- 3) A copy of any advice and the decision about this poison operation.*
- 4) Information about consultation, including who was consulted with and what information they were given, and any warnings to schools and the wider public who are intending to recreate in the area.*
- 5) The budget for this operation*
- 6) Any consideration of alternatives including trapping etc and the cost of these ”*

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

Using your questions and numbering, our responses are set out below.

- 1) Information about the proposed poison operation including the target species, species to be protected, exact locations, any excluded areas around huts, water supplies etc, and any health and safety and other risk/benefit assessment.*

For the information requested in this question, please refer to the documents I am sharing with you, listed as Items 1 to 5, in the attached Document schedule.

- 2) All pre poison monitoring including over the last 5 years (or longer if that information is available) to show trends after previous poisoning in Kahurangi and trigger thresholds for poisoning.*

I am sharing with you the rodent monitoring results for the last five years for the Cobb operation "Cobb 2021-2026", listed as Item 6 in the attached Document schedule.

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 is being delivered.

3) *A copy of any advice and the decision about this poison operation.*

For the information requested in this question, please refer to the documents listed in the attached Document schedule.

4) *Information about consultation, including who was consulted with and what information they were given, and any warnings to schools and the wider public who are intending to recreate in the area.*

The Department undertook consultation with a wide range of key stakeholders, affected parties, and interested groups in relation to the Kahurangi Cobb operation.

This engagement occurred between July 2025 and May 2026 and is still ongoing.

Consultation included the following groups:

❖ Hunting & Fishing

- NZ Pig Hunting Association
- NZ Game Animal Council
- New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) national and local branches (Nelson, Golden Bay, Marlborough, West Coast)
- Nelson Trout Fishing Club
- Fish and Game (Tasman and West Coast)
- New Zealand Professional Fishing Guides Association

❖ Conservation Groups

- Friends of Cobb
- Friends of Flora
- Forest and Bird
- Kumanu Environmental

❖ Iwi

- Manawhenua ki Mohua
- Ngāi Tahu / Ngāti Waewae
- Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō Trust
- Ngāti Koata
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Kuia
- Ngāti Rārua Iwi Trust
- Ngāti Tama ki Te Tau Ihu
- Ngāti Toa Rangatira ki Wairau
- Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui Trust
- Rangitāne o Wairau

❖ Statutory Organisations, Local Government and Community

- Health New Zealand

- Community Boards
- Conservation Boards
- Buller District Council
- Tasman District Council
- Land Information New Zealand (LINZ)

❖ Other Stakeholders

- Affected and adjoining landowners and occupiers
- Concessionaires and industry representatives, including beekeepers, tourism operators, helicopter and wild animal recovery operators, forestry and agricultural (e.g. veterinary services) and Manawa Energy, universities.
- Education providers (local schools, colleges, training institutions)
- Recreational groups and other known or identified interested parties

The Department shared the factsheets attached to this response as part of its consultation, as well as responding to specific questions asked by the parties listed above.

At least two local schools that responded during consultation were provided factsheets along with additional information including:

- Timing of prefeed operation
- General operational information
- Links to:
 - [People, recreation and commercial activity: 1080 biodegradable bait pellets](#)
 - [National Predator Control Programme: Our work](#)
- Kahurangi NPCP 2025–2027 pre-feed advisory signage (DOC-10438573). Making the school groups aware this sign will be installed ahead of prefeed application as advisory information for visitors.

In response to requests from members of the public, the following information was provided:

- Dates of previous Cobb operations
- Relevant factsheets

Public notices were also published in the following outlets:

- Nelson Mail
- Golden Bay Weekly
- Motueka Golden Bay Guardian
- West Coast Messenger

5) *The budget for this operation*

The 2026 Cobb predator control operation will control rats, stoats, and possums across approximately 71,000 hectares of Kahurangi National Park, for a budgeted cost of \$2,889,408, or roughly \$40 per hectare.

6) *Any consideration of alternatives including trapping etc and the cost of these*

The Department assesses the options available for achieving its predator control goals as part of its Animal Pest Operational Planning process. The available alternatives to aerial 1080 are various combinations of ground laid traps and toxins. Ground control options are significantly riskier, more expensive, and less likely to succeed than aerial 1080, for controlling rats, stoats, and possums over the 71,000 hectares of Kahurangi National Park.

The cost of establishing and servicing a ground control network to control rats, stoats and possums across the 71,000 hectares of Kahurangi National Park is 3 to 5 times higher than using aerial 1080.

Official information within the scope of your request

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed as Items 1 to 6 in the attached Document schedule, subject to information being withheld due to being out of scope and/or being under one or more of the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

- personal (contact) details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- information, under section 9(2)(g)(ii) – to protect Ministers, officials, or employees from improper pressure or harassment, and
- advice subject to legal privilege, under section 9(2)(h) – to maintain legal professional privilege.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the OIA.

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*

Document schedule

Item	Document description	Decision
1	Cobb and Parapara NPCP 2026 consultation fact sheet, <i>Consulting on the protection of native species in Kahurangi – Cobb & Parapara</i>	Released in part
2	Cobb 2026 NPCP Notification Factsheet, <i>Notification about predator control in the Cobb/Mt Arthur Area</i>	Released in part
3	PCO Kahurangi Permission Letter, October 2025	Released in part
4	Kahurangi NPCP 2025-2027 DOC Application Form	Released in part
5	PCO Pesticide Decision Support Document - Kahurangi National Park 2025-2027	Released in part
6	Rodent Monitoring results, 2021 - 2026	Released in part