

16 May 2025

File Ref: OIAPR-1274023063-38366

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Request for information 2025-125

I refer to your request for information dated 9 April 2025, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) on 9 April 2025. You have requested the following:

“I wished to include an interesting report that shows it has been well known for a long time that many native species are acutely poisoned, chronically harmed or displaced after aerial 1080.

https://www.epa.govt.nz/assets/FileAPI/hsno-ar/HRE05002/723b6c26b6/HRE05002-043.pdf?fbclid=IwY2xjawJi0B1leHRuA2FlbQlxMAABHoEZzriQXtaQoTSdRQWsHq8nZ3rnxFw8aZGpyb7uYCQIXoRPgNymMINZW5Nr_aem_IDgtMNqr621X-LRAIgtwA

Would this suggest Council to be knowingly choosing a methodology that potentially kills or harms indigenous species on the basis of management convenience, short timeframe delivery, that the Council has not sought permissions for the anticipated deaths or chronic harm to range of native species?

One asks how many years have passed since the previous pest control operations on this landscape?

What remedial pest control work was done to insure the populations remained low, what long term contracts were signed to insure that pest species remained low?”

Greater Wellington’s response follows:

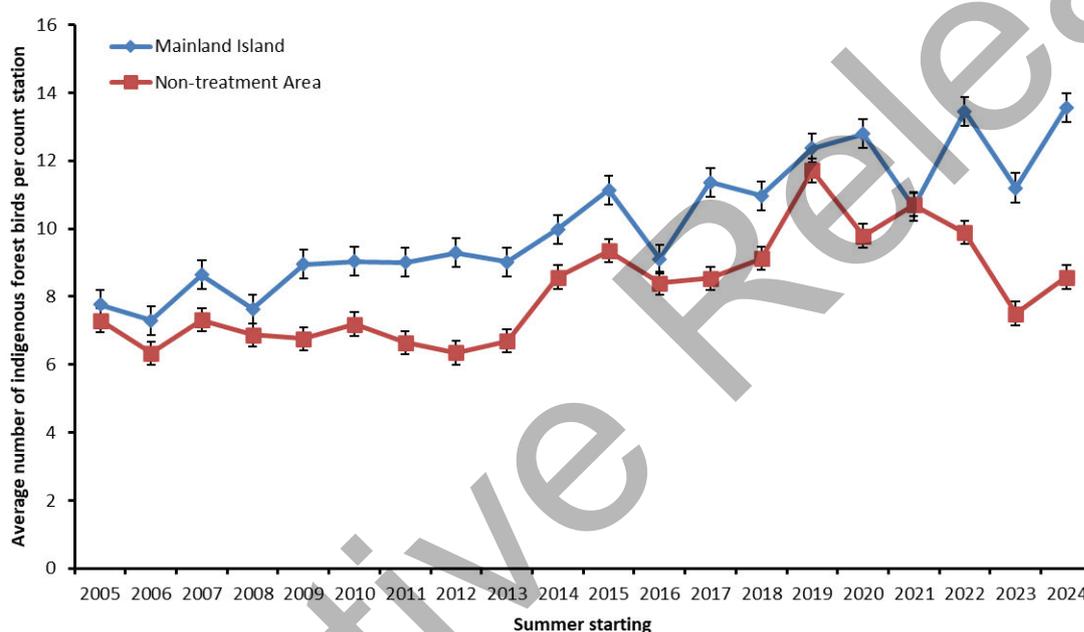
Use of Aerial 1080

Aerial 1080 is used at selected sites where ground-based pest control methods are not practical due to the scale, terrain, and inaccessibility of the area. These operations are not conducted solely for convenience or rapid implementation, but as part of an integrated pest management strategy designed to protect native biodiversity.

As noted in our previous response (official information request - reference 2025-082), aerial 1080 operations do not require a Wildlife Act 1953 permit from the Department of Conservation. However, all operations are conducted under strict regulatory oversight, including approvals from the public health authorities.

Impact on Native Species

We acknowledge the public concern around the use of 1080 and its potential impacts. The report you cited (HRE05002-043) forms part of the Environmental Risk Management Authority's 2007 reassessment of 1080. While it identified some risks, the reassessment concluded that the benefits to native ecosystems outweigh those risks when the poison is applied responsibly.



To evaluate outcomes, Greater Wellington continuously monitors bird populations in the Wainuiomata Mainland Island and adjacent untreated areas. This data shows a consistent increase in indigenous forest bird numbers following aerial 1080 operations, with declines observed only in untreated areas where pest populations remain high. More detail on the above graph.

Pest Control Timeline and Long-term Management

Pest control at the Wainuiomata-Orongorongo Key Native Ecosystem (KNE) has been ongoing for over a decade. Aerial 1080 operations typically occur every 5–6 years, depending on pest monitoring results. Between these operations, ground-based control is carried out through an extensive bait station and trap network in the Wainuiomata Mainland Island.

- Servicing Schedule: Interim bait station fills are conducted every five weeks by Greater Wellington staff, while full services are completed by contractors every 10 weeks.

- Monitoring: Small Mammal Monitoring is collected regularly to inform control efficacy. This data can be found here: <https://www.gw.govt.nz/annual-monitoring-reports/kne-small-mammal-monitoring/kne-small-mammal-monitoring/>
- Contracts: Greater Wellington holds long-term agreements with external pest control providers for consistent servicing of the network and to ensure continuity of control efforts.

Further Information

For a full account of operational plans, previous control work, and current strategies, please refer to the Wainuiomata-Orongorongo KNE Operational Plan:

<https://www.gw.govt.nz/assets/Documents/2023/07/Key-Native-Ecosystem-operational-plan-Wainuiomata-Orongorongo-2023-28.pdf>

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where appropriate. Our response to your request will be published shortly on Greater Wellington's website with your personal information removed.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Lian Butcher
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