



13 July 2016

Official Information Request No. 9000142720
(Please quote this in any correspondence)

Sent via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

Re: Hunua Operation-testing data

I refer to your email, which we received on 20 May 2016, requesting information about the Hunua Operation-testing data.

Please find our response to your specific questions below:

1. How many kokako chicks fledged from within the operational area, and are still alive, following the aerial drop?

Juvenile output in the Hunua Ranges kokako management area is determined by nest monitoring. A subsample of six pairs is targeted for nest monitoring on an annual basis.

Kōkako nest searching and nest monitoring is carried out following the methodology outlined in the Kōkako Best Practice Manual (2008). Of the six pairs monitored during the 2015/16 breeding season 13 chicks successfully fledged.

2. How many kokako adults are currently monitored in the Hunua Ranges (excluding any chicks that fledged)?

Auckland Council does not monitor adult birds on an annual basis as monitoring is focussed on juvenile output. However, as a consequence of juvenile output monitoring, twelve adults are identified as present each year.

Four yearly censuses are undertaken to understand the state of the kokako population in the Hunua Ranges as a whole.

The most recent census was carried out in September and October 2014 to determine the breeding pair population size within the Kōkako Management Area and the proximate Piggott's Management Area following the prescribed adult census methodology (Flux and Innes, 2001). This census found 55 breeding pairs. Additional surveys were conducted along public tracks and key ridges over approximately 6,000 hectares in the northern and eastern ranges.

3. How many kokako – young or old – have been translocated (released into) to the Hunua forest park following the aerial 1080 drop, and what dates?

The following kokako (all adults) have been translocated to the Hunua Ranges following the conclusion of the 2015 aerial 1080 operation (post 14 September 2015):

19/9/2015: 2 birds
28/9/2015: 1 bird
25/10/2015: 3 birds
11/6/2016: 4 birds

4. RE - 300 water samples – How many samples were taken at 8 hours following the aerial discharge of bait, and where were the samples taken from – what locations, what times and what dates? Please provide copies of the test results taken at this time.

The water monitoring of the public reservoirs was carried out in accordance with the Water monitoring recommendations for Hunua Ranges pest control project. Please find attached the 2015 Water Monitoring Recommendations report prepared by Landcare Research. In addition to the recommendations set out in this report, the Medical Officer of Health required an additional sample to be collected at the valve towers for each sampling time to enable testing by both Landcare Research and Watercare Laboratory Services.

In response to question 4 and 5, test certificates are attached for all samples collected on the day of baiting and the day immediately after bait application. The collection of these samples ranges in time with some collected earlier than 8 hours and others collected longer than 12 hours. Sample collection was only possible in daylight hours due to the health and safety risks associated with boat operation on the reservoirs.

Please also find attached the test certificates for the samples collected from the Wairoa and Mangatawhiri catchments within 8 hours following a heavy rain event. Please note that some names have been withheld, in accordance with section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Bait application was carried out as follows:

- Wairoa and Mangatawhiri catchments: baiting commenced 21 August 2015 and was completed at 3.35pm 22 August 2015.
- Cossey and Mangatangi catchments: baiting commenced 14 September 2015 and baiting completed at 2.35pm 14 September 2015.

5. How many samples were taken within 12 hours of the aerial discharge of 1080, and where were the samples taken – what locations, what times and what dates? Please provide copies of the test results taken at with this time, and if not included above.

Please refer to question 4 above.

6. To what level of detection were the water samples tested?

The detection limits are described on the supplied test certificates.

7. Where exactly were buffers put around water takes? What areas, exactly (please provide maps).

Drinking water take setbacks were established in accordance with the Ministry of Health guidelines for the use of vertebrate toxic agents.

Only one domestic water take on private land was located within the treatment area. This was subject to a 50 metre exclusion around the intake point extending 200m up the supplying stream. The location of this water take has not been provided under section 7(2)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, to protect the privacy of the property owners.

All other domestic drinking water intakes were at least 200m from the treated area.

The exclusion buffers for the public reservoirs were as follows:

- 200 metres from the water supply valve intakes.
- 50 metres from the furthest edge of the reservoir increasing to an 80 metre buffer exclusion from the furthest edge of the reservoirs which have identified steep slopes (parts of the Mangatawhiri & Mangatangi reservoirs).

The requested information is contained within the map previously provided as part of LGOIMA request No. 9000138294. That map showed all bait application flight lines for the operation. The area around the reservoirs where no flight lines were shown included the setback.

8. Which organisation undertook the water testing?

Samples were tested by either Watercare Laboratory Services or Landcare Research. In the case of the valve tower samples were tested by both.

9. When is Auckland Council planning to incorporate Parts per Trillion testing, as is done in parts of the UK for pesticides in drinking water?

Auckland Council will continue to carry out sampling at the level of detection required to meet national best practice and Ministry of Health requirements.

10. Were any of the samples taken “bulked” together for testing, and if so, how many?

No samples were bulked together for testing.

11. What was the time between when the samples were taken, and when they were tested, and were they frozen immediately after taking?

Samples were collected and transported as detailed in the attached Water Monitoring Recommendations Report. None of the tested samples were frozen. Details of sample collection are included in the provided test certificates.

12. How many Hochstetter frogs were being monitored prior to the aerial operation?

The Hochstetter's frog monitoring undertaken in the Hunua Ranges does not monitor individual frogs. The monitoring establishes the presence or absence and changes in

population, particularly the structure of that population over time in a number of streams throughout the ranges.

Auckland Council did not carry out monitoring of frogs prior to the operation. An independent organisation has undertaken frog monitoring in the Hunua Ranges for a number of years including prior to the operation.

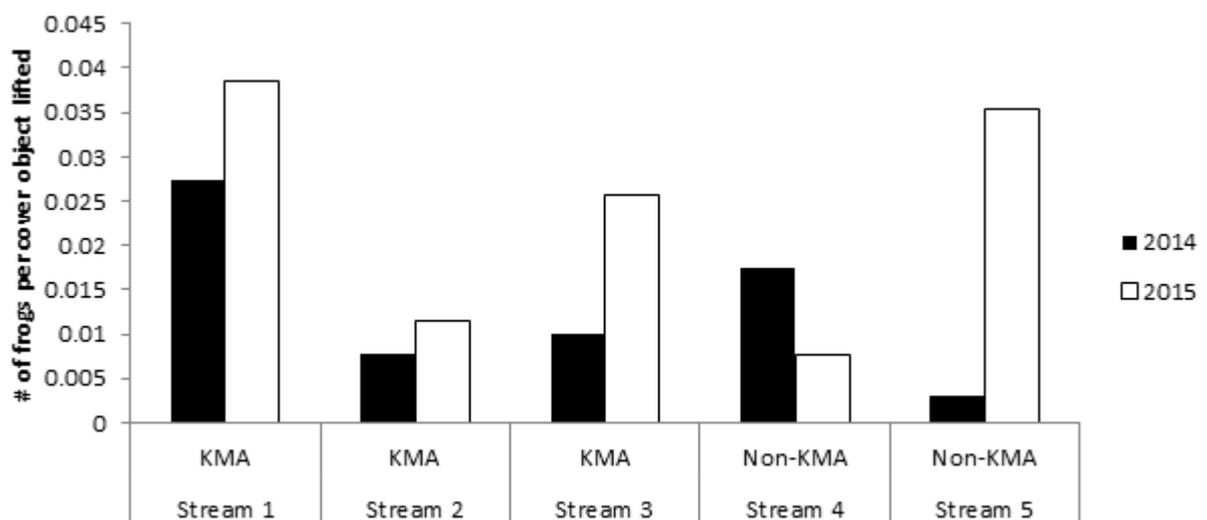
13. How many of the Hochstetler frogs that were being monitored went missing following the aerial operation?

As noted in response to question 12, individual frogs are not monitored. Catch per unit effort (i.e. the number of frogs found per cover object lifted) provides an indication of population size. Auckland Council undertook surveys in November 2015 and April 2016 following the aerial 1080 pest control operation.

In the sub-set of streams that Auckland Council monitored the overall catch per unit effort was higher in November 2015 post-1080 drop, than data from same sites in November 2014 with frogs found in all streams monitored (please refer to [Figure One](#)).

Inside the Kokako Management Area (KMA) all age classes were present, including juveniles < 1 year old (<18mm body size). In the two streams monitored outside the KMA, both adult and sub-adult frogs were found with the number of adults detected higher in November 2015 than the previous year.

In April 2016, frogs were also found in all streams monitored. Auckland Council has yet to do a full comparison of the most recent (April) data with pre-operational monitoring data.



[Figure One](#) - Comparison of number of frogs per cover object lifted in November 2014 and 2015

14. Please provide ALL negative feedback (by email, phone calls, letters etc) that Auckland Council received as a result of the aerial operation being undertaken. (feel free to remove the names of the persons that sent the complaints – to protect their confidentiality)

We advised you in our correspondence from 2 June 2016 that it would require significant time to go through all communication related to the operation received by council for the purpose of reviewing and identifying any negative feedback.

Not including adjoining landowners, we received around 230 direct communications (emails or phone calls) ranging from simple property and closure queries, to requests for muzzles and opposition to the project. Previous to this request, we received eight Official Information Act requests and two direct comments on the council's social media channels. Please refer to the published LGOIMA responses via the link provided below.

We agreed to provide a copy of the information provided to the Auckland Regional Public Health Service as part of the permission process.

This information is wider than what we would class as 'negative feedback' and includes comments, queries or concerns that arose from various discussions with third parties. Many of these were addressed as part of the operational plan or reflected opposition to the use of 1080 in general (not simply the council's Hunua operation).

Permission for the operation was granted on 24 July 2015. The following table categorises the concerns expressed to council officers prior to 24 July 2015.

Description of concern raised
Application of 1080 entering water could result in contamination of public water supply.
Helicopter company not having appropriate consents to operate VTA's in the Waikato region could result to the operation not being carried out within regulatory framework and/or postponement of operation.
Run off/leeching in 1080 into streams which go through private property leading to the inability to use water taken from the stream.
Application of aerial 1080 impacting on organisations being unable to run school camps during the operational period.
Concern over 1080 being an inhumane poison resulting in animal pests suffering.
Concern about carcasses entering the waterway resulting in contamination of the water supply.
Recent milk powder and 1080 threat could result in increased risk of Council project being targeted leading to public queries on whether this event will impact Council's decision to continue.
Public concern over the use of 1080 and the impacts on human reproduction resulting in birth defects by those who have come into contact with baits or through water supplies.
Public concerned about 1080 resulting in by-kill on non-target species leading to a decrease in birds, frogs and other forest dwellers.
Public concern that the aerial application of 1080 could result in risks to human health.
Public concern that the aerial applications of 1080 could result in accidental poisoning of dogs.

Public concern about breakdown of 1080 in the environment
Concern over DOC's involvement in Hunua Ranges 1080 aerial operation.
Concern regarding Council's decision making processes and the scientific evidence used to make a decision to change the methodology

Further information on this operation can be found in the Official Information responses published on the following Auckland Council website:

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/AboutCouncil/HowCouncilWorks/PerformanceAndTransparency/Pages/1080pestmanagementinhunuaranges.aspx>

If you have any queries or require further clarification please contact me on 09 301 0101 or [REDACTED], quoting Official Information Request No. 9000142720.

Should you believe Auckland Council has not responded appropriately to your request, you have the right by way of complaint, under section 27(3) of the LGOIMA, to apply to the Ombudsmen to seek an investigation and review of the decision.

Yours sincerely



[REDACTED]

**Privacy and LGOIMA Business Partner
Auckland Council**

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