



22 September 2016

LGOIMA No. 8140000388
(Please quote this in any
correspondence)

Sent via email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Local Government Official Information And Meetings Act 1987
Water testing - Hunua 1080 drop

I refer to your email, which we received on 2 September 2016, concerning the water testing procedures following the Hunua ranges 1080 drop. Our response to your specific questions is as follows:

1. Who did the testing of our water?

Samples were tested by either Watercare Laboratory Services or Landcare Research, and in the case of the valve tower samples the Medical Officer of Health required two samples to be taken and to be tested by both.

2. Is the testing ongoing?

The post-operational water monitoring for 1080 residue following the 2015 pest control operation has been completed. On top of the required sampling regime following bait application additional testing was carried out following a heavy rainfall event after the first bait application, weekly for four weeks after each of the blocks were treated and then monthly until April 2016. No 1080 was detected in any sample collected and testing for 1080 has since concluded.

3. What were the dates for these tests?

Water samples were collected on the following dates following the aerial 1080 bait application – these dates include the weekly sampling carried out for four weeks after the bait application.

22/08/2015
23/08/2015
24/08/2015
26/08/2015
28/08/2015
31/08/2015
1/09/2015

2/09/2015
3/09/2015
4/09/2015
5/09/2015
7/09/2015
9/09/2015
11/09/2015
14/09/2015
15/09/2015
16/09/2015
17/09/2015
18/09/2015
23/09/2015
25/09/2015
28/09/2015
30/09/2015
2/10/2015
5/10/2015
7/10/2015
9/10/2015
12/10/2015

4. What are the tolerances being used to declare our drinking water safe?

The Ministry of Health recommends that water should not be used for drinking until tests show that the concentration of 1080 is below 2 ng/mL (<http://www.moh.govt.nz>).

The Drinking Water Standards for New Zealand (MoH 2005) require that, should residues be detected at more than 50% of the maximum acceptable value (MAV), additional water sampling should be undertaken and continue until it has been established that residue concentration does not exceed the MAV. The figure of 2 ng/mL is an approximation of 50% of the provisional MAV of 3.5 ng/mL.

With respect to the Hunua pest control operation the Medical Officer of Health required that the reservoirs remained isolated and not returned to service until the sampling programme had been completed and until the water sampling regime had been complete and showed that no 1080 was detected in any sample collected.

5. Which documents are being used as the scientific evidence that our water is in fact safe?

Auckland Council has complied with the permission requirements of the Auckland Regional Public Health Service who have a regulatory role in setting conditions thought necessary to protect public health. This is best described in the Ministry of Health "Guidelines for Issuing Permissions for Using Vertebrate Toxic Agents". These guidelines have been developed from scientific information. For more information please visit the following website:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/guidelines-issuing-permission-for-using-vertebrate-toxic-agents-march13.pdf>

6. How many times and in what quantities were the buffer zones breached?

There were no breaches of the reservoir buffer zones.

7. Does Auckland council take scientific guidance from either DOC, TBfree NZ or Animal health board NZ?

With respect to the Hunua pest control operation Auckland Council drew on information from a wide range of sources. These have been detailed in a previous request for information which has been published on Auckland Councils website:

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/AboutCouncil/HowCouncilWorks/PerformanceAndTransparency/Documents/1080proposalhunuaranges-response1.pdf>

If you have any further queries please contact Isis van Geenen on 09 301 0101 or email isis.vangeenen@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz , quoting LGOIMA No. 8140000388.

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



Isis van Geenen
Privacy and LGOIMA Business Partner
Auckland Council

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