



Ministerial ref: 17-E-202  
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Dear Mr Thompson

### **OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST**

I refer to your official information request dated 22 January 2017, asking the following questions about the 2015 cancelled Makarora 1080 operation:

1. *What was the financial cost of the 1080 baits that were dumped from this abandoned operation?*

DOC does periodically need to dispose of 1080 bait because it has chemically or physically broken down and therefore is no longer fit for purpose. Following the cancellation of the Makarora operation, the cost of the toxic bait disposed of in this condition was \$82,334.

2. *How much bait in weight was dumped from the abandoned 2015 Makarora poison operation?*

Approximately 66,000 kilograms of 1080-laced bait was planned to be used for the Makarora operation.

3. *What was the total cost of transportation of poisoned baits to the Makarora site, and to the dump site after this operation was abandoned?*

No toxic bait was transported to the operation site. The transport cost from storage to landfill was \$8,000.

4. *What was the total cost of wages for all employees, including any private contractors for the abandoned 2015 Makarora 1080 operation?*

The cost of the cancelled Makarora operation was \$75,285. This includes the prefeed aerial operation that did occur.



5. *Where was the unused 1080 poisoned baits dumped?*

Disposal of toxic bait is done in accordance with the appropriate HSNO (Hazardous Substances and New Organisms) regulations using landfills consented for this purpose. The toxic bait intended for the Makarora operation was disposed to landfill in the Manawatu- Wanganui region.

Between August 2014 and February 2015, DOC spent more than \$10 million on 27 aerial pest control operations over more than 600,000 hectares in priority areas across the South Island to protect native species from the forecast predator plagues.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Tubbs'.

Mike Tubbs  
Acting Director Operations  
Southern South Island  
for Director-General