



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

18-E-0774 - docCM 5591845

5 October 2018

Jacinta Peryer

[fyi-request-8784-ba30b9b2@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-8784-ba30b9b2@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Peryer

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation dated 29 September 2018. You requested the following: *What were the buffer zones used in the Cape Brett/Russell 1080 drop?*

In order to undertake an aerial 1080 operation, the department must make an application to the relevant Health Board. This application includes the proposed operational area that has been determined through consultation with adjacent land owners. The Health Board, once it is satisfied with the proposed plan and area for the drop, will issue a Permission for the Use of Vertebrate Toxic Agents and other Hazardous Substances to the department which includes several conditions that must be met.

While the operation presents little risk to human health, a precautionary approach is applied to minimise the presence of toxin around areas where people live or recreate. Toxin is not permitted to be applied aurally, within sight, or within 80m of huts, access points, camping and public amenity areas. No toxin is allowed in areas that are visible from, or within 150m of, dwellings or built up areas. Additionally, no 1080 can be applied within 50m of water intakes or 200m upstream if the intake is from flowing surface water.

In the case of the Russell Forest and Cape Brett operation, the toxin was applied within a treatment zone that sits within the area authorised under the permit. A buffer zone of at least 50 metres was maintained between the treatment zone and the boundary of the permitted area. In the case of Russell Forest this buffer was extended to 100 metres to avoid the possibility that baits could land in catchments which were intended to be excluded. At Cape Brett the 50m coastal buffer was often wider than this due to very steep coastal terrain or extensive grass areas where pests are likely to be virtually absent.

If you need further information on this matter, please contact the Whangarei district office at [whangarei@doc.govt.nz](mailto:whangarei@doc.govt.nz) or 09 4703300.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Shana Harding', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Shana Harding  
Acting Director, Operations  
Northern North Island