



# *West Coast District Health Board*

## *Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini*

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28 May 2019

9(2)(a)

### **RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9302**

I refer to your email dated 25 April requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB regarding Perth, Bettison Whataroa drop zone. Specifically:

#### **1. A copy of track clearance logs in this area that should be made available to you as per consent conditions?**

All initial track clearances were undertaken on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April, once the baiting operation had been completed. Second clearances took place on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April, four days after the final toxin baiting day. Inspections occurred this date as it was immediately before the Easter weekend. No strong winds had occurred in the time since baiting finished, and no rain had fallen.

Copies of the track clearance logs for the Nolan's to Scone Hut track and the track upstream of Scone Hut to the Bettison Route are attached as **Appendix 1**. The names of the field team members who carried out the checks have been redacted pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982. The GPS track logs for each track clearance, with waypoints of where bait was found and removed, are also included in **Appendix 1**.

#### **2. Also any records of actions taken by operators to comply with consent conditions re Scone Hut water supply and 50 metre buffer zone around hut? Scone Hut clearances (Conditions 16 and 17)**

The area around Scone Hut was searched for bait out to 50 metres from the hut itself, where this was practical, on 14<sup>th</sup> April. The 50 metre distance did not extend into the area of continuous bush – untracked – as it became difficult to access that area and to find bait there. The 50 metre distance did extend across the 'grass' area to where the walking tracks meet the grass (with the track cleared as part of these searches) and to the start of the riverbed itself. The waypoints where baits were found and removed can be seen on the inset on GPS track log map in **Appendix 1**.

The area around Scone Hut was searched again on 17<sup>th</sup> April. However, on this occasion, the GPS track log did not record the full search (as shown on the map provided in **Appendix 1**).

### **Scone Hut water supply (Conditions 25 and 31)**

The roof gutter was disconnected from the water tank on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April, the day prior to the toxic baiting. The operator has provided a photograph (**Appendix 2**) taken on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April, which shows the disconnection, and the absence of any baits (whole or fragments) in the gutters themselves.

The hut roof itself was inspected on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April after the first day's baiting and again on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April (once baiting was complete). No bait (whole, fragments, or dust) was found at any time. The water out-take from the roof was reconnected on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April, prior to the operator's field team member leaving the area.

No alternative water supply was required, as the field team member had their own. The disconnected water tank was partly full so could have acted as an alternative water supply if required. The operator's field team member was fully briefed to explain this arrangement for water to any visitors if required. In the event, there was no-one else present at Scone Hut (nor did anyone arrive) during this time.

**As this raises safety concerns also about Nolan's Hut further downstream.**

### **3. Were any checks done there? Please supply evidence of this.**

Nolan's Hut is outside the boundaries of the aerial operation so no inspections or clearances were required. A field team member was stationed at Nolan's Hut from Friday 12 April. No visitors were at the hut nor did any arrive during the operation. The 'track closed' and toxin warning signs were installed, and the track to Scone Hut was closed by warning tape as required during the baiting operation. Once the first track clearance was completed, the track was reopened.

### **4. Can we also have a printout of all toxic flightpaths in this area?**

This is attached as **Appendix 3**.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the West Coast DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**

## Appendix 1 - Track Clearance Logs

### TRACK CLEARANCE RECORDING SHEET.

Operation: ZIP Perth Aerial 2019

Date Toxic Baits Applied: 13-14/04/19

Track Name and Description: Nalgas Hut to Scarra  
hut

#### Tasks:

1. Walk designated track and remove all toxic baits (flick pellets off the track, to a location where they won't roll back down onto the track) and possum carcasses (out of sight of track).

2. Check warning signs in place.

#### Equipment Required:

- ❖ Hi Viz vest/clothing.
- ❖ PLB.
- ❖ Personal 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit.
- ❖ "Flick stick" – tea tree stick with old spoon taped on end.
- ❖ GPS – make sure you track log the check.
- ❖ Rain coat and warm clothing.
- ❖ Food and drink.
- ❖ Emergency shelter/bivvy bag.
- ❖ Torch or headlamp
- ❖ UHF radio.
- ❖ Spare AA batteries.
- ❖ Gloves (disposable nitrile)

Clearance	Date	Start time	# baits found	Possums found	Finish time
Check 1	14/04/19	12:20 pm 4:30 pm	230 411	64 0	4:50 pm 5
Check 2	17/04/19	8:45 pm 8:30	11 215	226 0	1:00 pm 2:32 pm

Other comments/observations:

**Do not remove carcasses or any bait from the treatment block.**

## TRACK CLEARANCE RECORDING SHEET.

Operation: ZIP Perth Aerial 2019

Date Toxic Baits Applied: 13/14/10/1/19

Track Name and Description: Stone Creek track (upstream  
of Stone h.a) & the Bottom Pass

### Tasks:

1. Walk designated track and remove all toxic baits (flick pellets off the track, to a location where they won't roll back down onto the track) and possum carcasses (out of sight of track).

2. Check warning signs in place.

### Equipment Required:

- ❖ Hi Viz vest/clothing.
- ❖ PLB.
- ❖ Personal 1<sup>st</sup> aid kit.
- ❖ "Flick stick" - tea tree stick with old spoon taped on end.
- ❖ GPS - make sure you track log the check.
- ❖ Rain coat and warm clothing.
- ❖ Food and drink.
- ❖ Emergency shelter/bivvy bag.
- ❖ Torch or headlamp
- ❖ UHF radio.
- ❖ Spare AA batteries.
- ❖ Gloves (disposable nitrile)

Clearance		Date	Start time	# baits found	Possums found	Finish time	
Check 1		14/4	10:25	251	1	15:35	
Check 2		17/4	08:30	58	0	12:35	

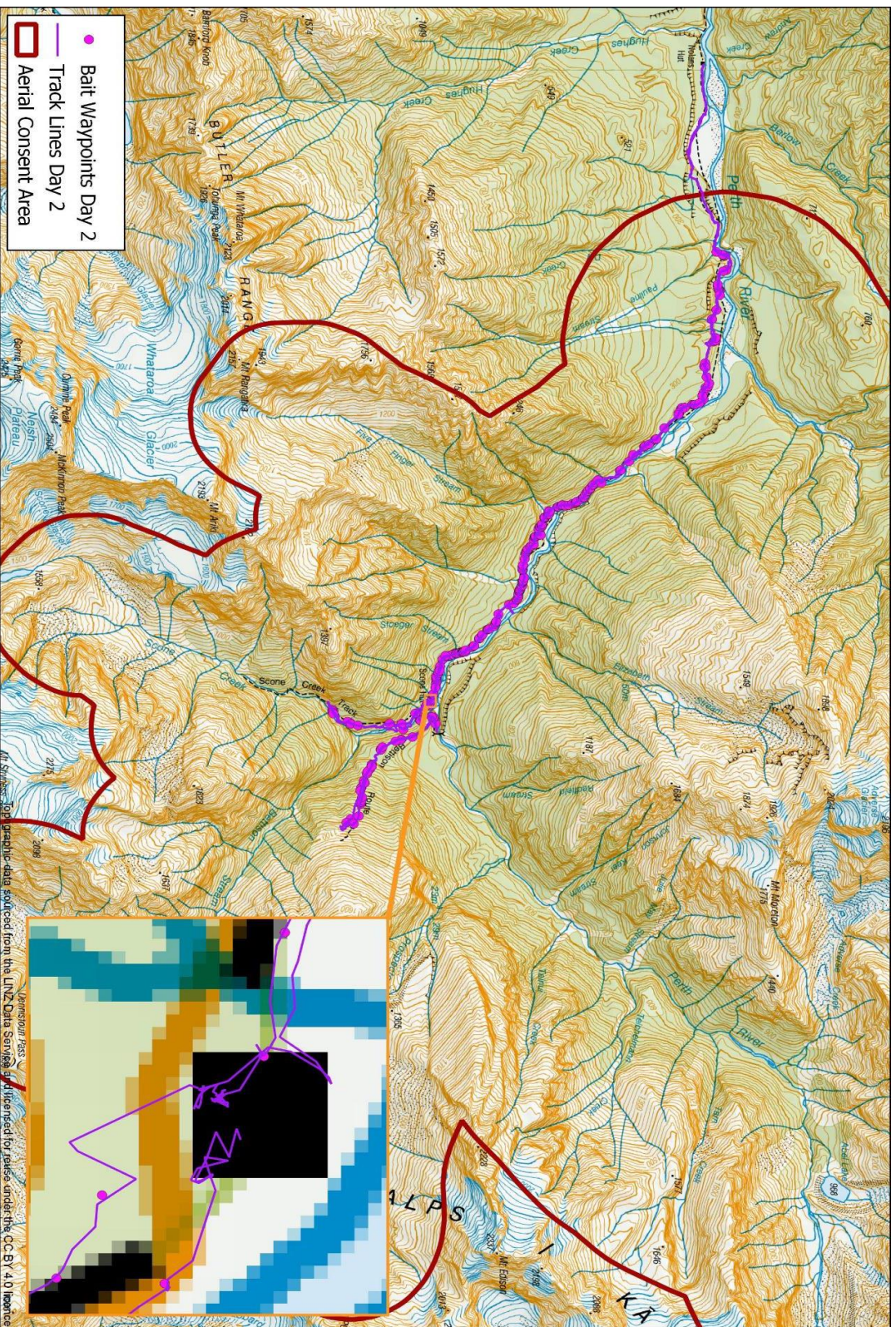
Other comments/observations:

**Do not remove carcasses or any bait from the treatment block.**

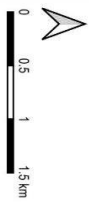








- Bait Waypoints Day 2
- Track Lines Day 2
- Aerial Consent Area



Perth Valley Aerial Toxin Bait Track Clearance

Day 2 - 17/04/2019





Appendix 2 - Photograph of guttering at Scone Hut taken 14 April 2019





Appendix 3 - Toxic Flight Lines

