



# *West Coast District Health Board*

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

Corporate Office  
High Street, Greymouth 7840

Telephone 03 769-7400  
Fax 03 769-7791

30 August 2019

9(2)(a)

### **RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9332**

I refer to your email dated 5 August 2019 requesting information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB regarding an alleged incident at Larry's Creek Road near Reefton on 25th July 2019 at approximately 12pm on the Inangahua East operational area. Specifically:

**1. Have you been notified of this incident by vector control services, Ospri, or the police?**

Yes, Community and Public Health West Coast were notified of this incident by Vector Control Services (VCS). Neither Ospri nor the Police had any legal obligation to notify the public health unit of this incident.

**2. If so when were you first notified by each party?**

An initial email from David Priest of VCS was received on 29/07/19 and was followed by an email on 31/07/19 providing more detailed information and a map of the helicopter flight lines.

**3. Please supply copies of this correspondence**

A copy of the emails from VCS (the first on 29/07/19 and the second on 31/07/19) and the flight lines map are attached as **Appendix A**.

**4. Can you please supply a copy of any correspondence or incident report supplied by CPH to other parties and their replies?**

The Medical Officer of Health requested supplementary information from VCS by email on 31/07/19 and a response was received the same day (copy of email and response attached as **Appendix B**).

Community and Public Health (CPH) also received an email from Ospri on 01/08/19 with information about Ospri's investigation of the incident (copy attached as **Appendix C**)

A report on the incident was sent by CPH to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on the 31/07/19. A copy of the report and the EPA's acknowledgement email are attached as **Appendix D**.

**5. Can you please supply a copy of any replies or communications written or electronic to these incident reports from your staff?**

CPH staff replies and other communications are included in the email threads referred to above.

**6. Can I please have a copy of the consent conditions for this drop?**

A copy of the public health permission for this operation is attached as **Appendix E**.

**7. Can I please have a copy of the permissions document that shows all signatories to permissions given for this drop?**

It is unclear what permissions document you are referring to in this question. Public health permissions have only one signatory (see attached permission).

**8. Can I please have a copy of any other report or communications of any other incidents that took place on this operation by Ospri, vector, security, or CPH staff?**

There were two complaints reported by persons in relation to this operation.

The first was a complaint from a person that they had not been consulted about their water supply by the operator. A CPH staff member made telephone contact with the complainant and then requested further information from the operator. The operator apologised to the complainant and provided the occupants of the property with an alternative water supply.

The intake for the supply was already excluded from the operational area. Copies of this correspondence are attached as **Appendix F**.

Community and Public Health also received a letter from Mr Garry Howard, the Mayor of Buller, on 07/07/19 in which he relayed complaints on behalf of some local Reefton and Blacks Point residents about this operation. The Medical Officer of Health provided a response to Mayor Howard.

Copies of the Mayor's letter, the Medical Officer of Health's response to it, responses from VCS and Ospri, and a letter from the EPA with the findings of their investigation are attached as **Appendix G**.

**9. A copy of the proof of pilot's special licence/s to aerially apply this toxin?**

Applications for public health permission to apply VTAs do not require this information to be provided so this is not information that is held by the CDHB.

**10. Can I please have a copy of all track and road clearance logbooks undertaken in this operational area including the total numbers of baits and carcasses removed?**

Copies of these logs are attached as **Appendix H**.

The first checks were undertaken on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July. The second checks were undertaken on the 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July. VCS have advised that their staff do not keep log books of numbers of baits found. Carcasses are removed from the area but are not counted or GPS way pointed.

**11. Can I please have a copy of the guidelines used to issue the consents for aerial application of vta's?**

These are publicly available at <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/issuing-permissions-vertebrate-toxic-agents-vtas-guidelines-public-health-units>



Please note we have redacted information under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act i.e. *"...to protect the privacy of natural persons, including those deceased"*.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz); or Freephone 0800 802 602.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gullery', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

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

Kathleen Smitheram

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**From:** 9(2)(a) @wrc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 July 2019 11:18 a.m.  
**To:** Mona Andreas; Cheryl Brunton  
**Cc:** 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Inangahua permission  
**Attachments:** Inangahua Aerials Protester Complaint v2.jpg

Morning 9(2)(a)

OSPRI has received a complaint from 9(2)(a) that they were coated in bait chips and dust while they were in what they call an exclusion area. They allege the incident happened as part of the Inangahua East aerial operation on the 25<sup>th</sup> July.

There was a group of protesters who had set up a road block inside the control area to block access to our loading site in the early hours of the 25<sup>th</sup> July. We accessed the loading site using an old logging road that avoided their road block. The Police were called and were asked to remove them from the area, though they chose to stay with them inside the block as they were well behaved. The protesters were located on private property, not on a public road as they have claimed. They did not have authority to be on the property they were on, and had driven past operational area signage (which they placed their own protest sign next to), on the way into their blockade.

Four Police officers were waiting with the protesters until the two trucks due with bait had passed through. The Police thought it better to deal with them where they were, rather than at the road entrance. The protesters had given their word they would let the trucks through without any disturbance.

As we were working through the block, I asked the pilot who was flying the area if he knew where the protesters were located. Due to the early morning fog and tall pine trees he had not seen them earlier, so I asked him to fly over and take notice of where the protesters were so he could ensure the area was excluded until after the protesters were moved on. I asked him to locate the group so he could avoid applying bait to the area until after the Police had moved the group on.

While undertaking the requested inspection flight to locate the protesters he flew over towards them, then turned away when he had established their location. This flight has been alleged as an overflight of the protesters and an exclusion area. The aircraft was not on a sowing run, and turned away from the group at a distance of just over 300m as per the attached Jpeg and the protesters were not located in a public road exclusion. Though we did exclude sowing bait in the area until after they had been moved out of the control area. We did not apply bait to this area until around 4pm.

When the trucks arrived onsite I phoned the officer in charge after hearing the reports of the protesters behaviour from the truck drivers and the subsequent arrests. The officer relayed the protesters claims of the aircraft turning away while on a sowing run just before the bait trucks arrived. The officer did not see any bait, dust or chips from the inspection flight. I do note the protesters have not provided any video or photographic evidence of their allegations, though they were actively using video cameras and phones.

The attached Jpeg shows the road reserve finishing at the access point into the private land (the road reserve and property boundaries are displayed in pink), the permission area and the flight path of the aircraft at the time of the alleged incident.

If you have any queries please feel free to contact me

Regards  
9(2)(a)

**Vector Control Services**

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Monday, July 29, 2019 2:41 PM

To: Mona Andreas <Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz>; 9(2)(a)@wrc.govt.nz; Cheryl Brunton <cheryl.brunton@cdhb.health.nz>

Subject: Re: Inangahua permission

Hi Mona

We have finished bait application. I'll update you tomorrow in more detail i'm away today.

There has been an allegation we flew over protesters and police.

The aircraft flew over to see where they were so he could ensure he did not apply bait near them. This has been portrayed as the aircraft turning on a sowing run and coating them with dust and chips of bait.

I'll be back at work tomorrow to answer any queries. my cell phone also ceased working yesterday.

You can contact me at the office tomorrow if you wish to talk.

Regards

9(2)(a)

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From: Mona Andreas <[Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz)>

Sent: Monday, July 29, 2019 11:13 AM

To: 9(2)(a)

Subject: Inangahua permission

Hi 9(2)(a)

Hope all is okay with you.

How did you go with the Inangahua operation.

I heard that there were some protestors blocking the road during the operation.

Thank you.

**Kind regards**

**Mona Andreas**

**Health Protection Officer**

**Health Protection Team**

Community & Public Health

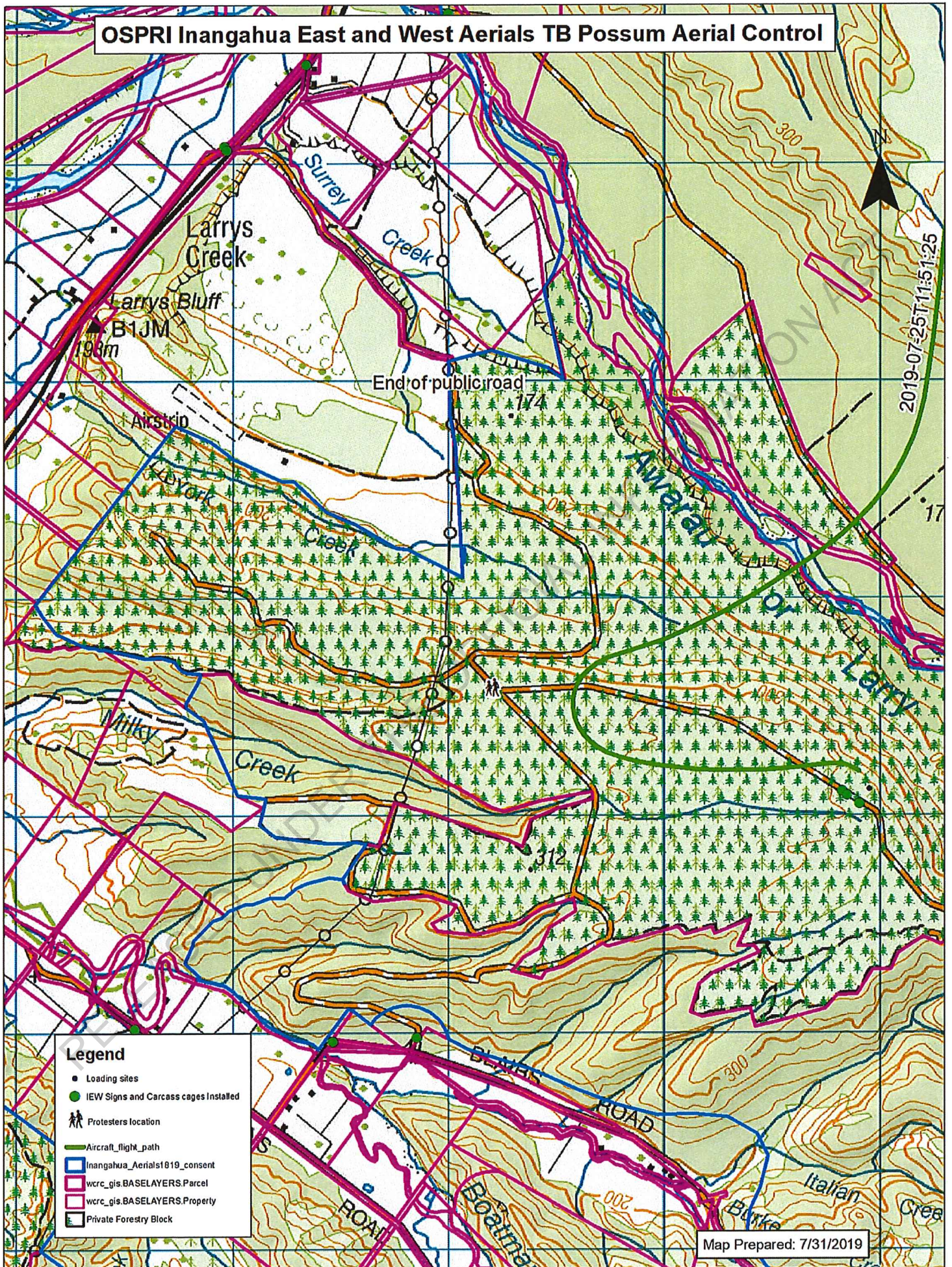
A Division of the Canterbury District Health Board

3 Tarapuhi Street | PO Box 443 | Greymouth | 03 768 1160

DD: 03 768 1179 | [Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz) | [www.cph.co.nz](http://www.cph.co.nz)



# OSPRI Inangahua East and West Aerials TB Possum Aerial Control



Scale: 1:15,455

0 0.15 0.3  
Kilometers

This map was produced by VCS on behalf of OSPRI (NSI), for the purposes of bovine tuberculosis control.



Kathleen Smitheram

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**From:** 9(2)(a)@wrc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 July 2019 2:08 p.m.  
**To:** Cheryl Brunton  
**Cc:** Mona Andreas  
**Subject:** RE: Inangahua permission

Hi Cheryl

The aircraft was returning to the loading site with an empty bucket.

The green line in the jpeg is the aircraft flight path. 1153 the aircraft was at its closest point to the protesters.

Yes, Brent Cook was one of the four police officers present. He is going to supply OSPRI with a statement.

Regards

9(2)(a)

*Vector Control Services*

9(2)(a)

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**From:** Cheryl Brunton [mailto:Cheryl.Brunton@cdhb.health.nz]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 31, 2019 1:35 PM  
**To:** Mona Andreas <Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz>  
**Cc:** 9(2)(a)@wrc.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Re: Inangahua permission

Hi 9(2)(a)

Can you just clarify for me whether or not the pilot had a hopper beneath their helicopter at the time they did the inspection flight to locate the protesters?

If they did, was the hopper full or empty?

What time was the inspection flight?

I see from the local news coverage that at least one of the police officers who was present, 9(2)(a) 9(2)(a), has denied that there was any dust or chips deposited near them. I assume it's 9(2)(a) you are referring to in your email below.

Cheers, Cheryl

Sent from my iPhone

On 31/07/2019, at 12:07 PM, Mona Andreas <[Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz)> wrote:

Hi 9(2)(a)

Thanks for the report, I will get back to you if we need further information.

**Kind regards**  
**Mona Andreas**  
**Health Protection Officer**  
**Health Protection Team**

Community & Public Health

A Division of the Canterbury District Health Board

3 Tarapuhi Street | PO Box 443 | Greymouth | 03 768 1160

DD: 03 768 1179 | [Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz) | [www.cph.co.nz](http://www.cph.co.nz)

**From:** 9(2)(a) @wrcr.govt.nz]

**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 July 2019 11:18 a.m.

**To:** Mona Andreas <[Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz)>; Cheryl Brunton

<[Cheryl.Brunton@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Cheryl.Brunton@cdhb.health.nz)>

**Cc:** 9(2)(a) @epa.govt.nz>; 9(2)(a) @ospri.co.nz>; 9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) @wrcr.govt.nz>

**Subject:** RE: Inangahua permission

Morning Mona

OSPRI has received a complaint from 9(2)(a) that they were coated in bait chips and dust while they were in what they call an exclusion area. They allege the incident happened as part of the Inangahua East aerial operation on the 25<sup>th</sup> July.

There was a group of protesters who had set up a road block inside the control area to block access to our loading site in the early hours of the 25<sup>th</sup> July. We accessed the loading site using an old logging road that avoided their road block. The Police were called and were asked to remove them from the area, though they chose to stay with them inside the block as they were well behaved. The protesters were located on private property, not on a public road as they have claimed. They did not have authority to be on the property they were on, and had driven past operational area signage (which they placed their own protest sign next to), on the way into their blockade.

Four Police officers were waiting with the protesters until the two trucks due with bait had passed through. The Police thought it better to deal with them where they were, rather than at the road entrance. The protesters had given their word they would let the trucks through without any disturbance.

As we were working through the block, I asked the pilot who was flying the area if he knew where the protesters were located. Due to the early morning fog and tall pine trees he had not seen them earlier, so I asked him to fly over and take notice of where the protesters were so he could ensure the area was excluded until after the protesters were moved on. I asked him to locate the group so he could avoid applying bait to the area until after the Police had moved the group on.

While undertaking the requested inspection flight to locate the protesters he flew over towards them, then turned away when he had established their location. This flight has been alleged as an overflight of the protesters and an exclusion area. The aircraft was not on a sowing run, and turned away from the group at a distance of just over 300m as per the attached Jpeg and the protesters were not located in a public road exclusion. Though we did exclude sowing bait in the area until after they had been moved out of the control area. We did not apply bait to this area until around 4pm.

When the trucks arrived onsite I phoned the officer in charge after hearing the reports of the protesters behaviour from the truck drivers and the subsequent arrests. The officer relayed the protesters claims of the aircraft turning away while on a sowing run just before the bait trucks arrived. The officer did not see any bait, dust or chips from the inspection flight. I do note the



protesters have not provided any video or photographic evidence of their allegations, though they were actively using video cameras and phones.

The attached Jpeg shows the road reserve finishing at the access point into the private land (the road reserve and property boundaries are displayed in pink), the permission area and the flight path of the aircraft at the time of the alleged incident.

If you have any queries please feel free to contact me

Regards

9(2)(a)

**Vector Control Services**

9(2)(a)

---

**From:** 9(2)(a)

**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2019 2:41 PM

**To:** Mona Andreas <[Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz)>; 9(2)(a) <[REDACTED]@wrc.govt.nz>; Cheryl Brunton <[cheryl.brunton@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:cheryl.brunton@cdhb.health.nz)>

**Subject:** Re: Inangahua permission

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You can contact me at the office tomorrow if you wish to talk.

Regards

9(2)(a)

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**Sent:** Monday, July 29, 2019 11:13 AM

**To:** 9(2)(a)

**Subject:** Inangahua permission

Hi 9(2)(a)

Hope all is okay with you.

How did you go with the Inangahua operation.

I heard that there were some protestors blocking the road during the operation.

Thank you.

**Kind regards**  
**Mona Andreas**  
**Health Protection Officer**  
**Health Protection Team**

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\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*



Kathleen Smitheram

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**From:** 9(2)(a)@ospri.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 August 2019 4:17 p.m.  
**To:** Mona Andreas  
**Cc:** 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** FW: Inangahua Aerial Operation: alleged dust drift incident

Good afternoon Mona

Further to our phone conversation this afternoon, this is the correspondence between myself and the Police 9(2)(a) who was on the site of the alleged incident.

No complaint was directly made to OSPRI so no incident report has to be forwarded to the EPA.

The chain of events is as follows:

- 9(2)(a) sent a press release to the Greymouth Star
- Greymouth Star reporter forwarded this to the Comms team at OSPRI for comment
- This was passed on to several staff members within OSPRI including someone who loaded the incident into our Risk Manager system
- I was nominated as the incident investigator so I requested information from the Police (hence my communication with the Police 9(2)(a) as evidenced below) and the contractor 9(2)(a) VCS).
- From this information I have been able to close off the investigation as the allegation is not substantiated.

We will still record this in our incident log.

Thank you.

Ngā mihi

9(2)(a)

**OSPRI New Zealand Limited**

PO Box 8674, Riccarton, Christchurch 8440

P 03 363 3090 | [ospri.co.nz](http://ospri.co.nz)

**NAIT and TBfree are OSPRI programmes**

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**From:** 9(2)(a)@police.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 August 2019 1:39 PM  
**To:** 9(2)(a)@ospri.co.nz>  
**Subject:** RE: Inangahua Aerial Operation: alleged dust drift incident

9(2)(a)

This is correct no incident to report from police staff present

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a) [redacted]@ospri.co.nz]  
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2019 1:58 PM  
To: 9(2)(a) [redacted]@police.govt.nz>  
Subject: Inangahua Aerial Operation: alleged dust drift incident

Good afternoon 9(2)(a) [redacted]

As per our phone conversation this afternoon, please could you acknowledge the following information provided by you is correct. The only question I forgot to ask is approximate time of incident.

ALLEGED INCIDENT OF DUST DRIFT  
Inangahua Aerial Operation, Thursday 25 July 2019  
Larry's Creek Road, Reefton

9(2)(a) [redacted], West Coast Police based in Greymouth  
9(2)(a) [redacted]@police.govt.nz 9(2)(a) [redacted]

OSPRI received the following allegation on 29 July 2019 stating that 13 people (4 policemen and 9 protestors)

Four Greymouth police officers and nine members of the public were dusted with small fragments of 1080 poison baits when a helicopter with a spreading bucket turned about 150 metres in front of five cars and a group of protestors on the Larry's Creek Track, last Thursday afternoon. The track has recently been upgraded to assist with Government 1080 poisoning operations. Some members of the public were extremely upset about being dusted with sticky fragments of 1080 poison baits. The small green fragments of bait remained stuck on police patrol cars and protestors vehicles even after they had been driven 30 kilometres at open road speeds.. "You would think small pieces of poison bait would blow off but they didn't" said Jim Hilton. "Small fragments of the waxy baits must have landed and stuck on the clothing, hair and exposed skin of all 13 people on the Larry's Creek track at the time."

I spoke with 9(2)(a) [redacted] who informed me that he had been present with 3 staff. At the time of the alleged incident, the police officers were with the protestors as they were in the process of arresting some of them at the time. At their staff debrief, none of the officers, including 9(2)(a) [redacted] reported finding any bait residue on their uniforms and vehicles. Nothing dropped on them at the time, definitely not bait. They were not aware of any dust.

Ngā mihi

9(2)(a) [redacted]

OSPRI New Zealand Limited  
PO Box 8674, Riccarton, Christchurch 8440  
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WARNING

The information contained in this email message is intended for the addressee only and may contain privileged information. It may also be subject to the provisions of section 50 of the Policing Act 2008, which creates an offence to have unlawful possession of Police property. If you are not the intended recipient of this message or have received this





Environmental  
Protection Authority  
Te Mana Rauhi Taiao

# 1080 INCIDENT REPORT

Send email to: [hsincidents@epa.govt.nz](mailto:hsincidents@epa.govt.nz) with "1080 Incident Report" in the subject line

**1080Reporting agency:** : Community and Public Health, West Coast

Report date: 01 August 2019

Contact person: Mona Andreas

Telephone: 03 768 1160

Email address: [Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz)

## Incident Summary

**Date of incident** 25 July 2019

**Operation name:** Inangahua East and West

**Was the incident investigated?** Under investigation

Which agency carried out the investigation? **OSPRI/CPH**

What was the outcome of the investigation? **Under investigation**

**Incident location:** Larry's Creek and Boatmans (Reefton) Inangahua East and West Aerial Permission.

**Type of location:**

☐ Private land ☐ Public land ☐ Loading area

**Type of incident** (more than one response may apply):

☐ Spill ☐ Misapplication ☐ Overfly

☒ Other (please state) Protestors alleged they were coated in 1080 bait chips and dust

**Amount of 1080 involved:** unknown quantity

**Effects on people:**

How many people became ill or were injured? Nil

How many people suffered serious harm (Health and Safety at Work Act 2015)? Nil

Describe the type of effects on people, extent and steps taken: Nil

**Environmental effects** (what was affected. More than one response may apply):

☐ Water ☐ Animals ☐ Land ☐ Air

Describe the type of effects, extent and steps taken: N/A

**Other effects:**

☐ Road closure      ☐ Evacuation of building(s)      ☐ Other (please state)

Describe the type of effects, extent and steps taken: No effect on people however protesters alleged they were coated in bait chips and dust during Inangahua East and West Aerial operation.

**What happened** (Give a brief account of the events which resulted in the incident)?

Protestors alleged they were coated in bait chips and dust during Inangahua East and West Aerial (19/1183/CB/GRYPH) operation on the 25 July 2019.

On Tuesday 23 July 2019 Community and Public Health (CPH) was advised by Vector Control Services (VCS) that the toxin operation will commence from the morning of Thursday 25 the July 2019 and will continue until the operation is complete. On the 29 July 2019, Health protection officer contacted the operator to clarify whether full toxin treatment was completed and how they dealt with the protesters as a protest activity was mentioned in the newspaper (three anti-1080 protesters were arrested for obstruction a public way). The operator replied to health protection enquiry and advice as follow:

- We have finished bait application. I'll update you tomorrow in more detail i'm away today.
- There has been an allegation we flew over protesters and police.
- The aircraft flew over to see where they were so he could ensure he did not apply bait near them. This has been portrayed as the aircraft turning on a sowing run and coating them with dust and chips of bait.
- 'I'll be back at work tomorrow to answer any queries. my cell phone also ceased working yesterday.
- You can contact me at the office tomorrow if you wish to talk.

On Wednesday 31 July 2019 operator has advised that OSPRI has received a complaint from one of the protesters <sup>9(2)(a)</sup> that they were coated in bait chips and dust during the operation on 25 July 2019. The below quote is operators email;

*"Morning Mona*

*OSPRI has received a complaint from <sup>9(2)(a)</sup> that they were coated in bait chips and dust while they were in what they call an exclusion area. They allege the incident happened as part of the Inangahua East aerial operation on the 25<sup>th</sup> July.*

*There was a group of protesters who had set up a road block inside the control area to block access to our loading site in the early hours of the 25<sup>th</sup> July. We accessed the loading site using an old logging road that avoided their road block. The Police were called and were asked to remove them from the area, though they chose to stay with them inside the block as they were well behaved. The protesters were located on private property, not on a public road as they have claimed. They did not have authority to be on the property they were on, and had driven past operational area signage (which they placed their own protest sign next to), on the way into their blockade.*

*Four Police officers were waiting with the protesters until the two trucks due with bait had passed through. The Police thought it better to deal with them where they were, rather than at the road entrance. The protesters had given their word they would let the trucks through without any disturbance.*

*As we were working through the block, I asked the pilot who was flying the area if he knew where the protesters were located. Due to the early morning fog and tall pine trees he had not seen them earlier, so I asked him to fly over and take notice of where the protesters were so he could ensure the area was excluded until after the protesters were moved on. I asked him to locate the group so he could avoid applying bait to the area until after the Police had moved the group on.*

*While undertaking the requested inspection flight to locate the protesters he flew over towards them, then turned away when he had established their location. This flight has been alleged as an overflight of the protesters and an exclusion*



area. The aircraft was not on a sowing run, and turned away from the group at a distance of just over 300m as per the attached Jpeg and the protesters were not located in a public road exclusion. Though we did exclude sowing bait in the area until after they had been moved out of the control area. We did not apply bait to this area until around 4pm.

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If you have any queries please feel free to contact me"

Regards

9(2)(a)

Vector Control Services

9(2)(a)

West Coast Medical Officer of Health responded to the operator email and asked for clarification as follow:

- Whether or not the pilot had a hopper beneath their helicopter at the time they did the inspection flight to locate the protesters?
- If they did, was the hopper full or empty?
- What time was the inspection flight?

I see from the local news coverage that at least one of the police officers who was present, 9(2)(a) has denied that there was any dust or chips deposited near them. I assume it's 9(2)(a) you are referring to in your email below. The below email is operators reply to MOH query.

Operator reply to MOH enquiry and adviced as follow:

Hi Cheryl

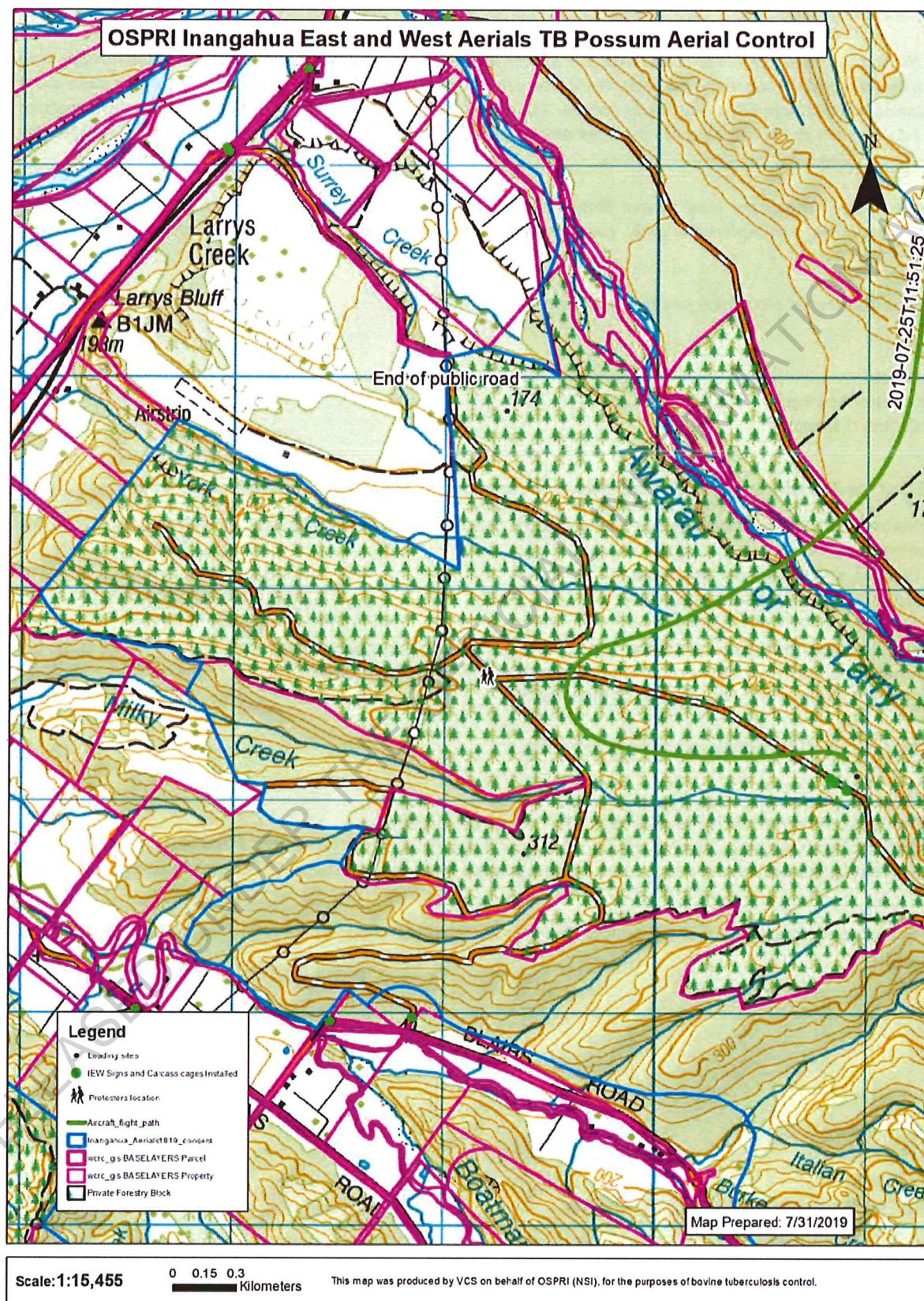
- The aircraft was returning to the loading site with an empty bucket.
- The green line in the jpeg is the aircraft flight path. 1153 the aircraft was at its closest point to the protesters.
- Yes, 9(2)(a) was one of the four police officers present. He is going to supply OSPRI with a statement.

NB: This is supplementary report and therefore CPH westcoast will submit the final report when the investigation is completed.

If you have any queries please feel free to contact, Health Protection Officer/HSNO officer (Mona Andreas)

**Kind regards**  
**Mona Andreas**  
**Health Protection Officer/HSNO Officer**





**Summary of causes:** under investigation

**Lessons learned:** Under investigation

A copy of an internal incident report may be attached if appropriate.

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



Kathleen Smitheram

---

**From:** 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]@epa.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 1 August 2019 2:18 p.m.  
**To:** Mona Andreas  
**Subject:** RE: Supplementary EPA Incident Report

Thank you for logging your Hazardous Substance Incident to the EPA HS Incidents inbox. Submitted incidents will be logged and if further information is required then an advisor will contact you.

Kind regards

**Hazardous Substances Compliance Team**



This email message and any attachment(s) are intended for the addressee(s) only.  
The contents may be confidential and are not necessarily the opinions of EPA New Zealand.  
If you receive this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the message and any attachment(s).

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



## PERMISSION FOR USE OF VERTEBRATE TOXIC AGENT(S) AND OTHER HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE(S)

Approved Hazardous Substance Permission Form Version 5:14 June 2018  
Pursuant to section 95A of the  
Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996

**To** 9(2)(a)

**Of** Vector Control Services  
PO Box 453  
Greymouth 7840

**Application Identification Code** 19/1183/CB/GRYPH

**Operation Name** Inangahua East & West

**Application Location \*** 42,418 ha of land in Inangahua and Reefton areas

**Territorial Local Authority(s) \*** Buller District Council

**Purpose of Operation \*** Possum Control

I, Dr Cheryl Brunton, being a person acting under powers delegated by the Environmental Protection Authority (the Authority), **GRANT PERMISSION** for the **USE** of the hazardous substance(s) listed in **SCHEDULE 1**, in the area(s) indicated on the maps in **SCHEDULE 3**, subject to the **CONDITIONS** set out in **SCHEDULE 1** and **SCHEDULE 2** attached hereto for those hazardous substance(s);

This Permission replaces the Permission issued on (date): *(insert date here)*

Application Identification Code of replaced/revoked Permission: *(insert code here)*

**Signed:**

**Name:** Dr Cheryl Brunton

**Title:** Medical Officer of Health

**Date Issued:** 29 April 2019

**This permission expires on:** 30 April 2020

**Contact Person:**

**Mona Andreas**

Community & Public Health

3 Tarapuhi Street

PO Box 443

Greymouth 7805

Phone: (03) 768 1160

Fax: 03 768 1169

Email:

[CPHWestCoastVTAPermissions@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:CPHWestCoastVTAPermissions@cdhb.health.nz)

**Appeals:** Section 125 (1A) of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act: A person may appeal to the District Court against a decision of the Authority, under section 95A about the terms and conditions of a permission held by the person.

**Notice of Appeal:** Section 127 of the HSNO Act: Before or immediately after the filing and service of a notice of appeal, the appellant shall serve a copy of the notice on the Authority, and every other party to the proceedings, and any other person who made a submission to the Authority.

**PERMISSION CONDITIONS: SCHEDULE 1**  
**Vertebrate Toxic Agent(s) and/or other Hazardous Substance(s)**

Application Identification Code: 19/1183/CB/GRYPH

Application Location: 42,418 ha of land in Inangahua and Reefton areas

Vertebrate Toxic Agent or other Hazardous Substance Information			
Vertebrate Toxic Agent:	Strength	Form	Application rate <sup>1</sup>
Sodium monofluoroacetate	1.5g/kg	Pellets	2 kg/ha
HSNO Approval Number: <b>HSR002424</b>			
Start Date of Application: <b>01 May 2019</b>		Last date of Application: <b>10 December 2019</b>	
Methods of application for this hazardous substance allowed under this permission: <b>Aerial and Hand Broadcast.</b>			

<sup>1</sup> For aerial application only.





## PERMISSION CONDITIONS: SCHEDULE 2

### Vertebrate Toxic Agent(s) and/or other Hazardous Substance(s)

Application Identification Code: 19/1183/CB/GRYPH

Application Location: 42,418 ha of land in Inangahua and Reefton areas

The requirements specified under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms 1996 (HSNO) Act, its regulations, EPA Notices and Approvals for Vertebrate Toxic Agents and other hazardous substances granted under the HSNO Act and Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations 2017 are requirements, which must be met.

A person acting under a delegation from the Authority may impose additional conditions to address local circumstances. In addition to requirements specified under the HSNO Act and HSW (Hazardous Substances) Regulations, the following conditions shall apply:

#### CONDITION 1: Start Date

The applicant shall advise the Health Protection Officer at Community & Public Health (West Coast) of the commencement of the application of the VTA(s), at least 24 hours before commencing application.

#### CONDITION 2: Changes to Permission

The applicant shall advise the Health Protection Officer at Community & Public Health (West Coast) of any material changes to the applicant's proposed operation (such as changes in operational areas and application types/ rates).

#### CONDITION 4: Complaints and Incidents

All incidents or complaints relating to the operation shall be reported to the Health Protection Officer at Community & Public Health (West Coast) within 24 hours of the incident or complaint.

#### CONDITION 5: Duration of Permission

This approval is granted for the period commencing **01 May 2019 to 30 April 2020**. The Health Protection Officer at Community & Public Health (West Coast) shall be notified if there is any alteration to the intended date of the application.

If the applicant wishes to continue the operation after this date, they should contact Community & Public Health (West Coast) at least two weeks before the expiry date of the original approval period.

Within the duration of this permission toxins may not be applied in publicly accessible areas during school holidays or public holidays or within 24 hours of the start of such holidays.

No operation may be extended beyond 12 months from the original start date.

#### CONDITION 6: Landowner Notification

Before commencing the operation, the applicant shall notify occupiers and, as far as practicable, owners of land, dwellings or buildings within the operational area and immediately abutting the operational area.

The notice must be given sufficiently prior to, but within two months of, the proposed application of the VTA(s). If requested by the person notified, notification shall be repeated at a mutually agreed time before the proposed application.

The notice shall specify:

- i. the approximate date on which the VTA(s) will be applied
- ii. the name and nature of the VTA(s)
- iii. a description of the area over which the VTA(s) will be applied
- iv. the name and address of the person responsible for applying the VTA(s)
- v. information on safety and precautions with respect to the VTA(s) being used.

**CONDITION 7: School Notification**

Before commencing the operation, the applicant shall notify schools, kōhanga reo, kindergartens and early childhood centres that are known to use the operational area. The notice must be given sufficiently prior to, but within two months of, the proposed application of the VTA(s).

- Inangahua School
- Reefton Area School
- Sacred Heart School

If requested by the institution notified, notification shall be repeated at a mutually agreed time before the proposed application. The notice shall specify:

- i. the approximate date on which the VTA(s) will be applied
- ii. the name and nature of the VTA(s)
- iii. a description of the area over which the VTA(s) will be applied
- iv. the name and address of the person responsible for applying the VTA(s)
- v. information on safety and precautions with respect to the VTA(s) being used.

**CONDITION 8: Health Services Notification**

The applicant shall notify the nearest/ local health services of the proposed application of the VTA(s). Nearest/ local health services include GPs and other primary health services, ambulance services and hospitals.

- Greymouth Hospital
- Reefton Medical Centre
- Buller Medical Services
- Coast Medical, Westport

The notice must be given sufficiently prior to, but within two months of, the proposed application of the VTA(s). The notice shall specify:

- i. the approximate date on which the VTA(s) will be applied
- ii. the name and nature of the VTA(s)
- iii. a description of the area over which the VTA(s) will be applied
- iv. the name and address of the person responsible for applying the VTA(s)
- v. information on safety and precautions with respect to the VTA(s) being used.

**CONDITION 9: Public Notification**

The applicant shall give public notice in the following media (e.g. newspapers, community newsletters) of the proposed application of the VTA(s):

- The Westport News
- The West Coast Messenger

The notice must be given sufficiently prior to, but within two months of, the proposed application of the VTA(s). The notice shall specify:

- i. the approximate date the VTA(s) will be applied
- ii. the name and nature of the VTA(s)
- iii. a description of the area over which the VTA(s) will be applied
- iv. the location(s) where the public may view maps of the area over which the VTA(s) will be applied and the times when such maps can be viewed
- v. the name and address of the person responsible for applying the VTA(s).

The applicant must provide a copy of the public notice, and the date(s) and media in which it was published to Community & Public Health (West Coast) before commencing the operation.

CAS

## Accidental Direct Exposure to VTAs

### CONDITION 10: Exclusion from Public Areas

No Vertebrate Toxic Agent (VTA) shall be ground applied within 20 metres or aerially applied within 80 metres of, and not where it is within sight of, the following access points and public areas:

- Mount Curtis Hut
- Heaphy Mine
- Boatmans Mine
- Reddale Mine
- Any other bivvies/shelters, boat ramps, camping sites and picnic areas in the operational area.

### CONDITION 11: Exclusion from Walking and Vehicle Tracks

No VTA shall be ground applied within 20 metres or aerially applied within 80 metres of walking and vehicle tracks, and where possible all baits and bait stations shall be out of sight of walking and vehicle tracks:

- Murray Creek Track
- Murray Creek Loop Walking Track
- Konini Track

### CONDITION 12: Exclusion from Roads

No VTA shall be ground applied within 20 metres or aerially applied within 80 metres of the following roads and where possible all baits and bait stations shall be out of sight of roads and lay-bys:

- State Highway 6
- State Highway 69
- Heaphys Road
- Blairs Road
- Burkes Creek Road
- Gannons Road
- Perseverance Road
- O'Regans Road
- Waitahu River Road
- Boatmans Road
- Any publicly accessible road entrances to 4WD and unnamed forestry roads in the operational area

### CONDITION 13: Exclusion from Dwellings

No VTA shall be applied within 150 metres of (or within a different distance if mutually agreed in writing with the occupiers, or as specified below), and not be visible from, dwellings or built-up areas, including the following:

- Reefton township (400 metres)
- Inangahua township (400 metres)

### CONDITION 15: Aerial Exclusions

An aircraft that is carrying out an aerial application must not, when flying to or from the area where the VTA is applied, fly over the following 'no fly' areas:

- Public drinking water supplies
- Within 100 metres upstream of a drinking water intake.

*CS*

**CONDITION 16: Aerial Applications to Tracks and First Clearances**

The applicant may aerially apply 1080 to the following walking and vehicle tracks but not during or within 24 hours of the start of school holidays, public holidays or public holiday weekends:

- Unnamed forestry roads associated with Larry's River, Boatmans and Perseverance Roads
- Gannons to Caplestone Track
- Caplestone to Kirwan's Hut Track
- Waitahu River 4x4 Track
- Waitahu River Track to Murray Creek Track
- Larry's River Road
- Larry's Creek Track
- Inglewood Branch Track
- Caledonian Mine site
- Power transmission pylon access 4x4 tracks
- Any publicly accessible unnamed walking, cycling and vehicle forestry roads and tracks in the operational area.

Immediately prior to the application of 1080 to the above listed tracks/roads, they shall be closed temporarily by means of warning tape and signage, or closure and locking of gates where these exist, at each end of the affected section until first clearances have taken place.

If the applicant aerially applies 1080 to any of the above tracks/roads, they shall inspect those tracks/roads as soon as possible and not more than 24 hours after the VTA application and make reasonable efforts to find and remove all bait and, if encountered, animal carcasses.

**CONDITION 17: Second Clearances**

The applicant shall undertake a second inspection of the following walking and vehicle tracks and make reasonable efforts to find and remove all bait and, if encountered, animal carcasses:

- Unnamed forestry roads in Larry's River, Boatmans and Perseverance Roads
- Gannons to Caplestone Track
- Caplestone to Kirwans Hut Track
- Waitahu River 4x4 Track
- Waitahu River Track to Murray Creek Track
- Larry's Creek Track
- Inglewood Branch Track

The second inspection shall be made at least 24 hours after the VTA application. It should be timed to take place either:

- i. immediately after the occurrence of strong winds; or
- ii. immediately before the weekend or commencement of school holidays or public holidays; whichever occurs first.

**CONDITION 18: GPS Track Logs**

A GPS log shall be recorded and maintained for each track clearance and made available to the Health Protection Officer at Community & Public Health (West Coast) on request.



## Contamination of water supplies

### CONDITION 22: Domestic Water Supply: Notification

The applicant shall notify the intended operation to all people who:

- Source their domestic water supply from within the operational area; or
- Source their domestic water supply within 200 metres for ground or 3 kilometres of the operational area where the water source is a surface waterway that flows through or rises within the operational area.

The notice must be given sufficiently prior to, but within two months of, the proposed application of the VTA(s).

If requested by the person notified, notification shall be repeated at a mutually-agreed time before the proposed application.

### CONDITION 23: Domestic Water Supply: Location

The applicant shall verify the location of water supplies with all people who:

- Source their domestic water supply from within the operational area; or
- Source their domestic water supply within 200 metres for ground application or 3 kilometres of the operational area, where the water source is a surface waterway that flows through or rises within the operational area.

A GPS waypoint file of water supply intakes shall be recorded and made available to the Health Protection Officer at Community & Public Health (West Coast) on request.

### CONDITION 24: Domestic Water Supply: Exclusions

No VTA shall be ground-laid within 20 metres of domestic water supply intakes that source water from within the operational area. For flowing surface watercourses, the 20 metres exclusion shall extend for a length of 50 metres upstream from the point of intake.

### CONDITION 25: Domestic Water Supply: Mitigation

For an aerial application of 1080, applicants must provide mitigation to all households and huts/ camping areas that:

- source water from inside the operational area; or
- source their domestic water supply within 3 kilometres of the operational area where the water source is a surface waterway that flows through or rises within the operational area if mitigation is requested by household occupiers or managers of huts/ camping grounds.

Mitigation shall involve either or both of the following:

- i. No 1080 shall be applied within 50 metres of the water supply intakes. For flowing surface waterways, the 50 metre exclusion shall extend for a length of 200 metres upstream from the point of intake.
- ii. The domestic water supply shall be temporarily disconnected until such time as water testing finds no evidence of VTA contamination. If no temporary water source is available, an adequate alternative potable water supply (to be used for drinking and cooking) shall be provided to the affected household; the amount per day to be agreed with the householder, until testing is completed.

### CONDITION 26: Water Supply Testing

The water testing shall conform to the requirements of Centox Laboratories, Landcare Ltd.

Where water testing reveals any VTA contamination, the alternative potable water supply shall be maintained until such time as a repeat test confirms there is no VTA contamination present.



**CONDITION 27: Public Water Supplies: Notification**

The applicant shall notify the details of the intended operation to all managers of public water supplies who:

- Source their public water supply from within the operational area; or
- Source their public water supply within 3 kilometres of the operational area where the water source is a surface waterway that flows through or rises within the operational area.

The notice must be given sufficiently prior to, but within two months of, the proposed application of the VTA(s).

If requested by the person notified, notification shall be repeated at a mutually-agreed time before the proposed application.

**CONDITION 28: Public Water Supplies: Location**

The applicant shall mutually verify the location of public water supply intakes with all water supply managers who:

- Source their public water supply from within the operational area; or
- Source their public water supply within 3 kilometres of the operational area where the water source is a surface waterway that flows through or rises within the operational area.

A GPS waypoint file of water supply intakes shall be recorded and made available to the Health Protection Officer at Community & Public Health (West Coast) on request.

**CONDITION 29: Public Water Supplies: Exclusions**

No VTA shall be ground-laid within 50 metres of public water supply intakes that source water within the operational area. For flowing surface watercourses, the 50 metre exclusion shall extend for a length of 100 metres upstream from the point of intake.

**CONDITION 30: Public Water Supplies: Mitigation**

For an aerial application of 1080, applicants must provide mitigation to all public water supplies that:

- source their public water supply from within the operational area; or
- source their public water supply within 200 metres or 3 km of the operational area where the water source is a surface waterway that flows through or rises within the operational area.

Mitigation shall be mutually agreed in writing between the applicant and water supply managers and involve either or both of the following:

- No 1080 shall be applied within 200 metres of the water supply intakes. For flowing surface watercourses, the 200 metres exclusion shall be extended to 400 metres upstream of the point of intake.
- If an interim water supply is available, the affected water supply shall be temporarily disconnected until such time as water testing finds no VTA contamination.

**CONDITION 31: Water Supply Mitigation: Reporting**

The applicant shall maintain a list of water mitigation measures provided under Conditions 25 and 30, which shall be available, on request, to the Health Protection Officer at Community & Public Health (West Coast).

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**CONDITION 32: Water Supply Testing: Reporting**

The applicant shall provide, or arrange for the provision of, the outcome of all water testing to the Health Protection Officer at Community & Public Health (West Coast) within 24 hours of receipt of the testing results.

In the event that water testing reveals any VTA contamination, the applicant shall discuss any further proposed mitigation measures with the Health Protection Officer at Community & Public Health (West Coast) within 24 hours of receipt of the testing results. and continue testing until no VTA contamination is detected.

**Additional Conditions****CONDITION 33: Operators Log**

An operator's log or report must be compiled of activities associated with the aerial application and a copy of this log is to be forwarded to the Health Protection Officer at Community & Public Health (West Coast) within four weeks of the date of the vertebrate toxic agent being laid.

The log shall include:

- i. Time, date and place of the application
- ii. Amount of vertebrate toxic agent applied and its formulation
- iii. List of supervising operators
- iv. Names of subcontractors with services provided
- v. Name, address and rating number of pilot(s)
- vi. Any incidents that occurred and problems that arose during the operation, including the investigation undertaken and where necessary the remedial actions taken
- vii. Any involuntary transgressions of the conditions in this approval, including an explanation of each transgression and the remedial actions taken
- viii. Copy of GPS printouts of toxic flight lines

**CONDITION 34: Trickle Bucket**

If a trickle bucket is used the applicant must supply a map of the area that 1080 is to be aerially applied to before the operation and a GPS track record print out from the helicopter after the operation.

**PERMISSION CONDITIONS: SCHEDULE 3 Map(s)  
Vertebrate Toxic Agent(s) and/or other Hazardous Substance(s)**

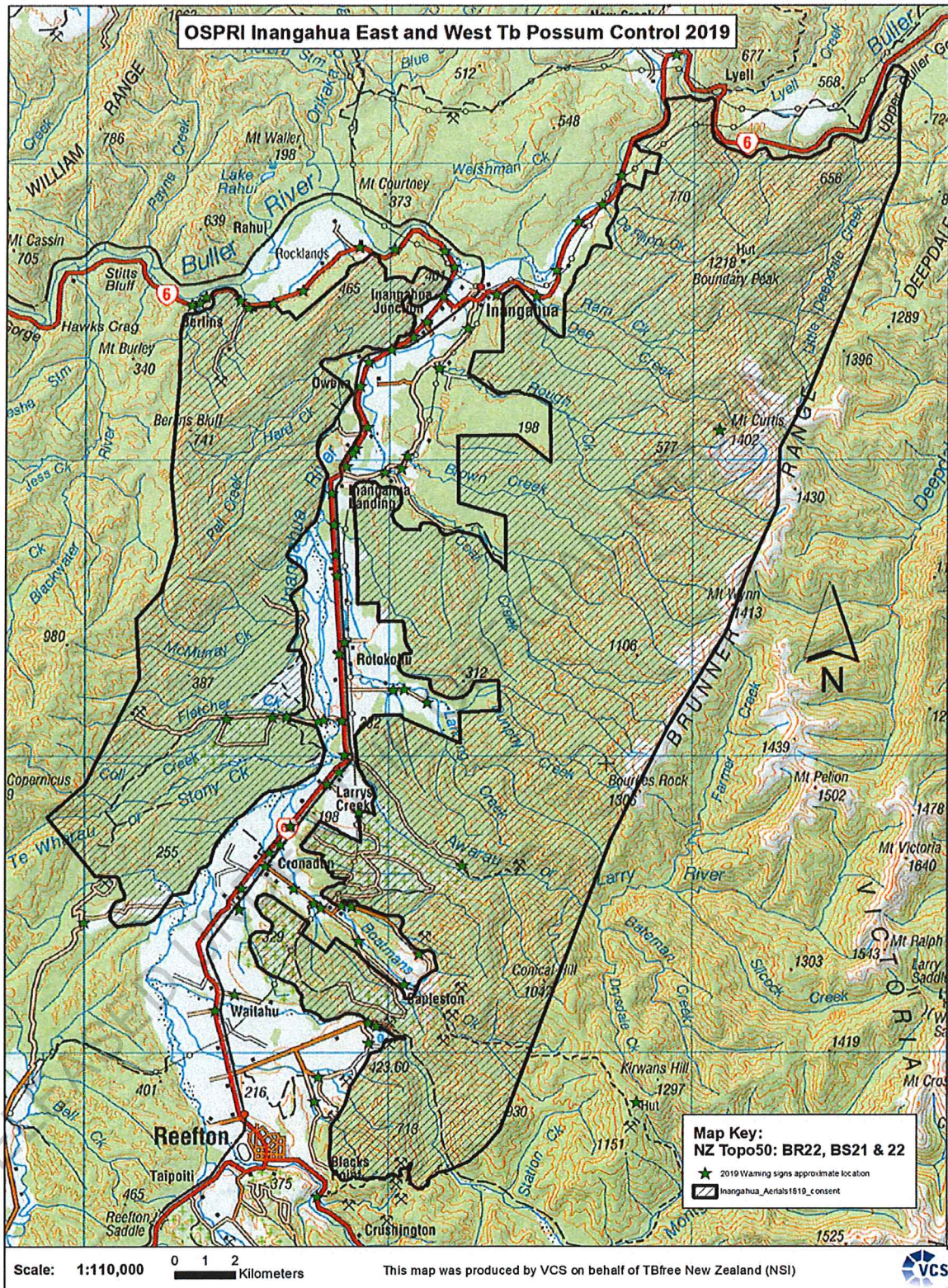
Application Identification Code: 19/1183/CB/GRYPH

Operation name: 42,418 ha of land in Inangahua and Reefton areas

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

*CB*







Kathleen Smitheram

**From:** Cheryl Brunton  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 June 2019 8:05 p.m.  
**To:** Mona Andreas  
**Cc:** 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Re: No notifications for 1080 drop

Hi 9(2)(a)

This woman has been on Facebook 9(2)(a) complaining. She received less than helpful advice on that forum - including being told to contact Buller District Mayor - and was also told this is a DOC operation. You may hear from these sources too.

Please let us know where the property in question is in relation to your operational boundary.

Regards, Cheryl

PS. Mona - just checking that you have replied to 9(2)(a) to let her know you have received her email and are making inquiries?

Sent from my iPhone

On 24/06/2019, at 5:48 PM, Mona Andreas <[Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz)> wrote:

Hi 9(2)(a)

Please see the below email from 9(2)(a)

She said that she was never been consulted or notified of this operation. She is currently not living at the property but her daughter in-law is lives there 9(2)(a)

**Kind regards**

**Mona Andreas**

**Health Protection Officer**

**Health Protection Team**

**Community & Public Health**

A Division of the Canterbury District Health Board

3 Tarapuhi Street | PO Box 443 | Greymouth | 03 768 1160

DD: 03 768 1179 | [Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz) | [www.cph.co.nz](http://www.cph.co.nz)

**From:** 9(2)(a) @gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 June 2019 5:24 p.m.  
**To:** Mona Andreas <[Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: No notifications for 1080 drop

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]@gmail.com>

**Date:** 24 June 2019 at 4:57:53 PM NZST

**To:** [alistair.humphrey@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:alistair.humphrey@cdhb.health.nz)

**Subject:** No notifications for 1080 drop

9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Good afternoon

I am extremely concerned as I have just been informed by my daughter in law who resides at my property at 9(2)(a) [REDACTED] that with no notice to her or me prefeed has been dropped in the only water supply to my property.

I would appreciate any help from you

Regards

9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Kathleen Smitheram

---

**From:** Mona Andreas  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 June 2019 5:49 p.m.  
**To:** 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Cheryl Brunton  
**Subject:** FW: No notifications for 1080 drop

Hi 9(2)(a)

Please see the below email from 9(2)(a)

She said that she was never been consulted or notified of this operation. She is currently not living at the property but her daughter in-law is lives there 9(2)(a)

**Kind regards**

**Mona Andreas**

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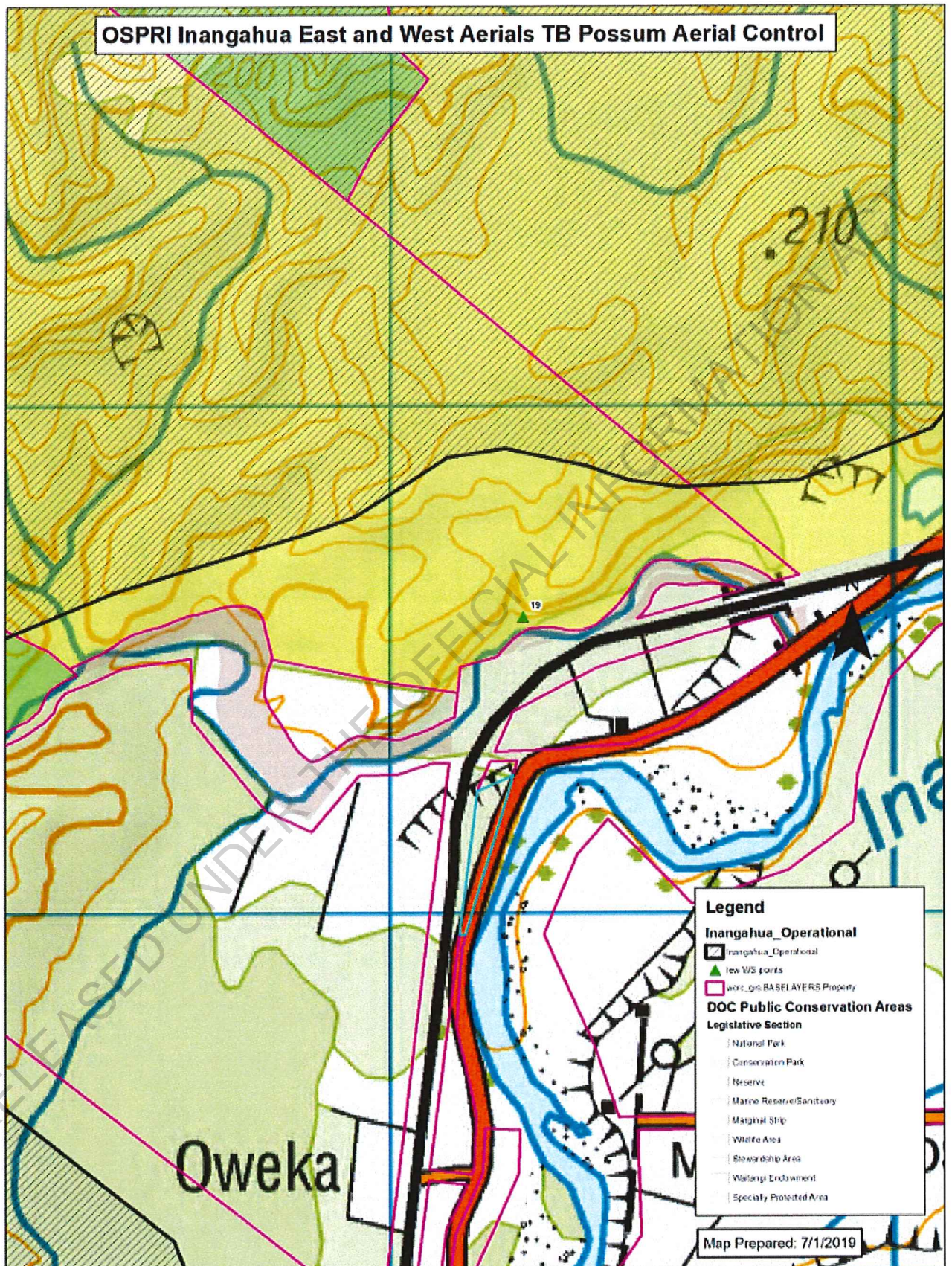
Regards

9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone



# OSPRI Inangahua East and West Aerials TB Possum Aerial Control



Scale: 1:6,618

0 0.05 0.1 Kilometers

This map was produced by VCS on behalf of OSPRI (NSI), for the purposes of bovine tuberculosis control.





Kathleen Smitheram

---

**From:** 9(2)(a)@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 June 2019 9:18 a.m.  
**To:** Mona Andreas  
**Subject:** Re: No notifications for 1080 drop

Good morning

Just got phone call from 9(2)(a) operations manager which halfway alleviated my worries as our water supply is excluded but as there can be mistakes with it getting over boundaries and we have had no notice so are not prepared have accepted with thanks his offer of bottled water as would be happier if they , especially 9(2)(a) have alternative water supply

Sent from my iPhone

On 24/06/2019, at 5:24 PM, 9(2)(a)@gmail.com> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

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I would appreciate any help from you

Regards

9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

Kathleen Smitheram

---

**From:** Mona Andreas  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 June 2019 9:39 a.m.  
**To:** 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: No notifications for 1080 drop

Good morning

Acknowledge receipt of your email. I will make further inquiries and let you know.  
Thank you.

**Kind regards**  
**Mona Andreas**  
**Health Protection Officer**  
**Health Protection Team**  
**Community & Public Health**

A Division of the Canterbury District Health Board  
3 Tarapuhi Street | PO Box 443 | Greymouth | 03 768 1160  
DD: 03 768 1179 | [Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz) | [www.cph.co.nz](http://www.cph.co.nz)

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**Date:** 24 June 2019 at 4:57:53 PM NZST  
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**Subject:** No notifications for 1080 drop

9(2)(a)

Good afternoon

I am extremely concerned as I have just been informed by my daughter in law



who resides at my property at [REDACTED] that with no notice to her or me prefeed has been dropped in the only water supply to my property.

I would appreciate any help from you

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

**From:** 9(2)(a)@wrc.govt.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 4 July 2019 9:37 a.m.  
**To:** Cheryl Brunton; Mona Andreas  
**Cc:** 9(2)(a)@doc.govt.nz; 9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: No notifications for 1080 drop  
**Attachments:** Inangahua Aerial O Cook.jpg

Hi Cheryl and Mona

Sorry for the delay in responding in writing. As per our phone conversation we made contact with 9(2)(a) with regard to the water supply that comes from the operational area and that they had not been informed of the operation.

They were sent an initial letter by OSPRI as a party who lives within three kilometres of the operational area as part of the initial consultation.

When we visited the adjoining landowners we were ordered off the adjoining property who maintain and use the supply that supplies 9(2)(a) house for stock drinking water. We were told they were not interested in talking with us and we were not to return to the property to talk about 1080. We knew the intake existed and had placed an exclusion on it.

When I spoke with the landowners 9(2)(a) who owns the adjoining dairy farm I raised the issue we had with 9(2)(a) property and he undertook to act as a go between for the property that we were ordered off. He confirmed that if the boundary was flown the same as last time there would be no problem. When I checked the boundary from 2011, I noted it was very close to the intake, so I moved the boundary back to avoid the intake by 300m.

During this process it was missed that the water supply was also still used for the neighbouring property and therefore we had not made contact with the house owner who was not an adjoining landowner.

I have contacted and apologised to 9(2)(a) for missing them out of our initial consultation and subsequent notification. We have agreed to supply an alternative drinking water supply and test the water post op ( it returned a non detectable result in 2007). 9(2)(a) has arranged access across the adjoining property for the water sample to be collected.

9(2)(a) has been acting as the contact person for the house, which is occupied by her daughter. While we have made an agreement with 9(2)(a) we have noted there has been further comments posted online that indicate the occupant is still not happy with the agreed measures put in place on her behalf by the property owner.

We accept that we did not identify this house as drawing water from the control area and apologise for this. The inability to talk to the owners of the water supply and the need to use a third party for consultation has contributed to this situation arising. Both of the staff were affected by the initial hostile encounter with the adjoining landowners and this also contributed to the situation.

Using a third parties knowledge of the water supply in hindsight was not a good solution to the lack of information we had obtained about the water supply. At the time we considered it to be the only way to gather information about the supply, as we could not approach the owners of the supply.

I had flagged the difficulties we had with one landowner in obtaining a GPS location of his water supply in the application (since resolved), and I should have flagged this one also for further investigation.

If you have any further questions or require any other follow up from us please feel free to contact me



Regards

9(2)(a)

**Vector Control Services**

9(2)(a)

**From:** Cheryl Brunton [<mailto:Cheryl.Brunton@cdhb.health.nz>]

**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2019 8:05 PM

**To:** Mona Andreas <[Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz)>

**Cc:** 9(2)(a) <[@wrc.govt.nz](mailto:@wrc.govt.nz)>

**Subject:** Re: No notifications for 1080 drop

Hi 9(2)(a)

This woman has been on Facebook 9(2)(a) complaining. She received less than helpful advice on that forum - including being told to contact Buller District Mayor - and was also told this is a DOC operation. You may hear from these sources too.

Please let us know where the property in question is in relation to your operational boundary.

Regards, Cheryl

PS. Mona - just checking that you have replied to 9(2)(a) to let her know you have received her email and are making inquiries?

Sent from my iPhone

On 24/06/2019, at 5:48 PM, Mona Andreas <[Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz)> wrote:

Hi 9(2)(a)

Please see the below email from 9(2)(a)

She said that she was never been consulted or notified of this operation. She is currently not living at the property but her daughter in-law is lives there 9(2)(a)

9(2)(a)

**Kind regards**

**Mona Andreas**

**Health Protection Officer**

**Health Protection Team**

**Community & Public Health**

A Division of the Canterbury District Health Board

3 Tarapuhi Street | PO Box 443 | Greymouth | 03 768 1160

DD: 03 768 1179 | [Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz) | [www.cph.co.nz](http://www.cph.co.nz)

**From:** 9(2)(a) <[@gmail.com](mailto:@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, 24 June 2019 5:24 p.m.

**To:** Mona Andreas <[Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:Mona.Andreas@cdhb.health.nz)>

**Subject:** Fwd: No notifications for 1080 drop

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** 9(2)(a)@gmail.com>  
**Date:** 24 June 2019 at 4:57:53 PM NZST  
**To:** [alistair.humphrey@cdhb.health.nz](mailto:alistair.humphrey@cdhb.health.nz)  
**Subject:** No notifications for 1080 drop

9(2)(a)

Good afternoon

I am extremely concerned as I have just been informed by my daughter in law who resides at my property at 9(2)(a) that with no notice to her or me prefeed has been dropped in the only water supply to my property.

I would appreciate any help from you

Regards

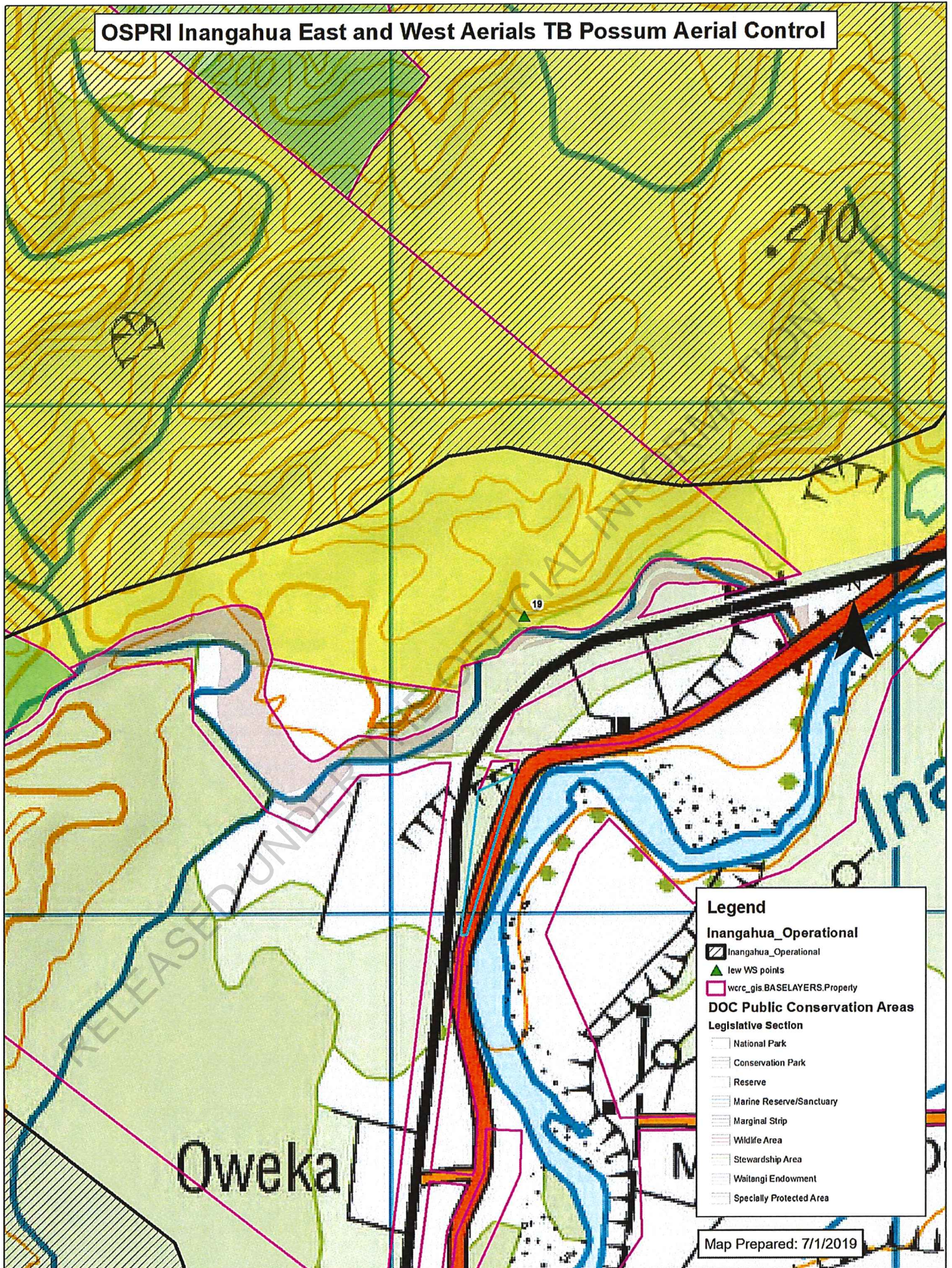
9(2)(a)

Sent from my iPhone

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# OSPRI Inangahua East and West Aerials TB Possum Aerial Control



Scale: 1:6,618

0 0.05 0.1  
Kilometers

This map was produced by VCS on behalf of OSPRI (NSI), for the purposes of bovine tuberculosis control.





Kathleen Smitheram

**From:** 9(2)(a)@ospri.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 July 2019 10:49 a.m.  
**To:** 9(2)(a)@epa.govt.nz  
**Cc:** 9(2)(a) Cheryl Brunton  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent Attention  
**Attachments:** TBfree-TMA-Factsheet-Buller.pdf; Inangahua-West-Coast-Aerial-Operation-May-2019.pdf

Hi 9(2)(a) Garry

Further to the letter below from 9(2)(a), I would like to add some additional information.

The Buller TMA (Tuberculosis Management Area) in which the Inangahua aerial is located is not TB free and is therefore a priority area for OSPRI.

Although there have not been recently identified TB cases in wildlife (due to a lack of surveillance activities), there is clear evidence that TB is present in wildlife in the Inangahua area. 11 herd TB breakdowns, including in closed herds, have occurred since 1 January 2012 with the most recent herd breakdowns in 2017. The aerial block has not been controlled since 2011 and possum populations are expected to have returned to close to the possum carrying capacity based on available habitat and modelling. The adjacent ground control area (to the Inangahua aerial block) has received control over a long period but there are aerial exclusion areas such as the Perseverance where the residual possum population is high enough to maintain the disease. Our field staff and contractors have observed moderate to high possum numbers throughout.

With respect to the reference to the "4% chew card result", this is a misinterpretation of information supplied by OSPRI to an OIA request. It does not relate to the Inangahua aerial at all.

The 4% refers to the bite mark index from post-operational monitoring in the Paparoa Range aerial exclusion areas following the Paparoa Range aerial in 2018. These exclusion areas (in the Buller Gorge) were treated by ground control. What this means is that 4% of wax tags (not chew cards) placed in the exclusion areas have been found to have been bitten by possums. This information is used to check the effectiveness of the ground control undertaken.

There has been no pre-op population assessment via wax tags or similar for Inangahua although there was monitoring undertaken in 2014 (after the aerial in 2011). OSPRI used a formula to determine the population increase in possums based on known population growth rates and data taken from that monitoring. The possum control threshold has been exceeded.

For TB eradication to take place, possums have to be eliminated and their population levels kept low for several years to break the transmission cycle that maintains TB in possum populations.

It is hoped that the control measures being currently undertaken in the region, both aerial and ground, will result in TB freedom in the Buller TMA in the not-too-distant future. I have attached two factsheets for you: one on the plan to eradicate TB from the Buller TMA; and the other is on the Inangahua aerial operation.

If you have any further questions about any of our operations in the Buller district, please do get back to me.

Ngā mihi

9(2)(a)



From: 9(2)(a)@wrc.govt.nz>  
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 2:12 PM  
To: 9(2)(a)@bdc.govt.nz>; cheryl.brunton@cdhb.govt.nz; 9(2)(a)@epa.govt.nz  
Cc: 9(2)(a)@wrc.govt.nz>; 9(2)(a)@ospri.co.nz>  
Subject: RE: Urgent Attention

Hi 9(2)(a) Gary

I have answered the query with regard to concerns about the Blacks Point drinking water supplies. I will now reply to the other concerns in the letter in order

- I met with 9(2)(a) about his concern for stock that may drink from streams that flow from the control area and the potential for dust to poison stock feeding on crops on the land he lives on, and the impact on deer on the adjoining property. The property 9(2)(a) lives on draws its drinking and dairy shed water from a well. The buffer on this property was not increased as there was no water supply intake identified (for drinking or stock) that was affected by the owner of the property or 9(2)(a). If there was a surface water drinking water supply intake located within or near the control area that was going to be affected we would locate it with a GPS and identify it to the Medical Officer of Health in our application to use Vertebrate Toxic Agents. We would then comply with the conditions of the permission from the MOH to use a VTA, to ensure the safety of the identified drinking water supplies. We would also identify stock drinking water and apply the same standards.
- I have no comment about the hydroponics, as I'm not sure of the relevance and there is no location information.
- The boundary is the same as previously treated in 2007 and 2012 along the back of Reefton and Blacks Point. I managed the 2007 operation, while another contractor completed the later operation.
- VCS has consulted with all of the adjoining landowners and is confident it has identified all the drinking water supplies affected and has agreed mitigation strategies in place with the users of those supplies.
- We have an extensive plan to install warning signs and have to date undertaken the required notifications. Further notification will be undertaken prior to toxic bait being applied.
- Chew card monitoring is not a tool used by OSPRI for possum population assessments so no one knows where this came from. The operation meets the threshold of 5% RTCI for control for TB vectors.
- It is a myth that trapping can meet the same standards that aerial control can achieve over the entire operational area within the timeframes required to meet the requirements of OSPRI's TBfree program. There is also nothing currently stopping any person from becoming an approved contractor for OSPRI other than motivation and ability.
- The pilots we use are highly experienced and have completed at least 2,000 flying hours to obtain their commercial pilots licenses as well as agrichemical ratings and a controlled substance license. I have complete confidence in their ability to complete the tasks asked of them.
- An assessment of environmental effects was undertaken to obtain permission to use a vertebrate toxic agent from the Department of Conservation. This assessed the impacts of the operation on native flora and fauna. While there have been negative effects recorded on kea, it has been proven they benefit from control being undertaken. The operation will also have a positive benefit on the great spotted kiwi known to be present within the control area.
- All walking tracks within the control area were identified by the Department of Conservation and using our local knowledge. Tracks within the control area will have a warning sign installed and a barrier placed with a sign to advise any users of the track of the risks should they choose to enter while control is being undertaken. The walking tracks will be sown with bait, then cleared according to the conditions in the



permissions. VCS has also identified walking tracks adjacent to the control area where dogs maybe at risk if they were to wander off the adjoining tracks (though weka are at risk from wandering dogs....), these will also have signs installed.

- Dog owners must always take responsibility for their animals and their safety. They can do this by obtaining a permit from the Department of Conservation to take dogs on public land managed by the Department (if permitted), then monitoring the online pesticide summary so they can keep informed of areas where pesticides have or are going to be laid.

We will always welcome information that is provided to us that adds to our knowledge of the control area that can improve our service. I encourage any person with information they believe is beneficial to this operation or any other operation we're undertaking to provide the information so we can assess and verify it, and act if required.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further queries, otherwise we will consider this closed.

Regards

9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)

Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 11:23 AM

To: 9(2)(a) <[@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:@bdc.govt.nz)>; [cheryl.brunton@cdhb.govt.nz](mailto:cheryl.brunton@cdhb.govt.nz); 9(2)(a) <[@epa.govt.nz](mailto:@epa.govt.nz)>

Cc: 9(2)(a) <[@wcrc.govt.nz](mailto:@wcrc.govt.nz)>; 9(2)(a) <[@ospri.co.nz](mailto:@ospri.co.nz)>

Subject: RE: Urgent Attention

Morning 9(2)(a)

Thanks for the letter.

The first point to note is that there is **no water that drains from the control area** towards Blacks Point. The control boundary **does not cross the ridgeline** outside of the Waitahu River water catchment into the Inangahua River catchment above Blacks Point. If it did that would have triggered the requirement for us to identify any drinking water sources for Blacks Point residents.

9(2)(a) has previously been asked directly to supply information to support her allegations and has not provided any details to date. We are confident in our processes to identify drinking water sources and will not engage with people with agendas or who peddle misinformation as fact, and play on people's emotions to further their cause.

I'm comfortable for you to let the Blacks Point residents listed in the letter know their water supplies are known to us from previous operations and that they are **not affected** by this operation as soon as possible. The sooner they know they're not affected the sooner the anxiety that has been created by 9(2)(a) and other anti-1080 protagonists can be eased.

I will reply to the other requests in the letter as best I can by the end of the day. OSPRI will need to reply to the rest as the TBfree program and the justification for the control and the methods used is their responsibility. VCS is contracted to undertake the work for OSPRI's TBfree program, VCS does not make decisions about control methods.

Regards

9(2)(a)

*Vector Control Services*



9(2)(a)

From: 9(2)(a)@bdc.govt.nz  
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:57 AM  
To: cheryl.brunton@cdhb.govt.nz; 9(2)(a)@wcrc.govt.nz; 9(2)(a)@epa.govt.nz  
Subject: FW: Urgent Attention  
Importance: High

Good Morning

Please find attached corrected letter, 9(2)(a) name was removed as an affected Blacks Point resident.

Kind regards

9(2)(a)

Buller District Council | Freephone 0800 807 239 | [www.bullerdc.govt.nz](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz)  
PO Box 21 | Westport 7866

Community Driven | One Team | Future Focussed | Integrity | We Care

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From: 9(2)(a)  
Sent: Wednesday, 17 July 2019 4:12 PM  
To: cheryl.brunton@cdhb.govt.nz; 9(2)(a)@wcrc.govt.nz; 9(2)(a)@epa.govt.nz  
Subject: Urgent Attention  
Importance: High

Good Afternoon

Please find attached letter from Mayor Howard.

Kind regards

Buller District Council | Freephone 0800 807 239 | [www.bullerdc.govt.nz](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz)

PO Box 21 | Westport 7866

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# ERADICATING BOVINE TB FROM BULLER

JUNE 2019 | VERSION 2.0

## OVERVIEW

The TBfree programme is delivered through TB Management areas (TMAs) and aims to control, and eventually eradicate, bovine tuberculosis (TB) from New Zealand by 2055. OSPRI's main goals for TB control in the Buller area are:

- TB freedom in livestock by 2019
- TB freedom in possums by 2027

The programme uses possum control, regular herd testing and movement

restrictions to control TB. When planning for operations wild animal surveys, TB history, herd testing results and past operation history are all used to determine the level of control required to eradicate TB.

The TBfree programme is delivered through TB management areas (TMAs). Each TMA has a specific TB control plan designed to eradicate TB as effectively as possible.

This notice provides an overview of TB control work planned for this TMA.

It is not a formal notice of any specific operation. All operation dates provided are provisional and subject to consultation.

## TB HISTORY

The Buller TMA has a long history with TB infection in both local wildlife and cattle herds. Past infection in this area dates to 2009. However, the most recent cases of TB infections were found in Buller's wildlife and cattle herds in 2016.

## OPERATIONAL TIMEFRAME

Planned control and surveillance management activities are outlined in the table below.



TYPE OF CONTROL	WHEN?*	HOW MANY HECTARES?	WHERE?
Ground control	2019/2020	8,900	Inangahua, Iron Bridge
Aerial control	2019	32,300	Inangahua East, Inangahua West
Aerial control	2020	20,000	New Creek North
Ground control	2020/2021	19,400	Cronadun, Mackley, New Creek South, Inangahua
Ground control	2021/2022	23,700	Cronadun, Mackley, New Creek South, Iron Bridge, Inangahua, Blacks Point

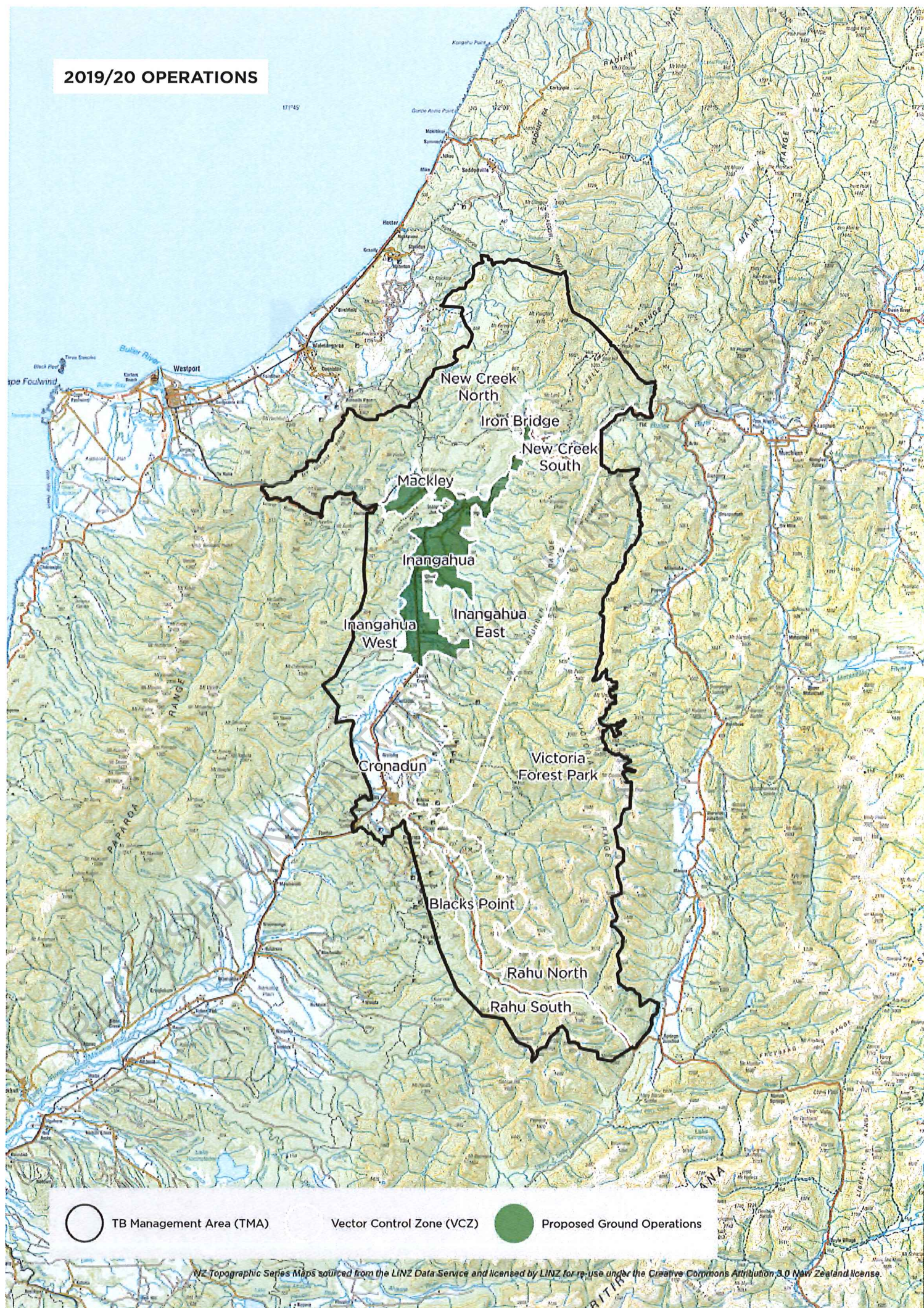
Hectares under control are indicative only and may change after consultation.

\* The operational year runs from 1 July – 30 June





## 2019/20 OPERATIONS







## BULLER

The Buller TMA covers 172,900 ha north of Reefton, between the northern end of the Paparoa Range and the Victoria Range. The area includes much of the Inangahua, parts of the Buller River catchments and the townships of Reefton, Cronadun and Inangahua. It also includes the Mackley and New Creek control areas. The habitat type is farmland interspersed with stands of Kaihikatea, willows, scrub and riparian margins. Altitudes range from several hundred metres up to 1500m.

## CONTROL HISTORY

Ground based possum control was undertaken in 2016/2017 in the Cronadun, Inangahua, Iron Bridge, Mackley and the New Creek South blocks. The Blacks Point block was last completed in 2015. Aerial control has previously been undertaken in 2016 in the New Creek North block. In 2011, the Inangahua East block and the Inangahua West block operations were completed and in 2009 the Rahu North & South blocks also had work completed. Some areas such as Victoria Forest Park have had very little or no control.

## POSSUM POPULATION ASSESSMENT

Before control work is carried out, an assessment of the wildlife population may be undertaken.

Following control work, the possum population density may also be monitored to assess the operation's

success. From the results, OSPRI can assess whether further possum control work needs to be done in the area.

## TARGETING POSSUMS

To eradicate bovine TB from possum populations, possum numbers need to be kept extremely low – around one to two animals every ten hectares. Previous possum control and livestock disease management has dramatically reduced the number of infected herds in the Buller TMA.

## THE METHOD

### AERIAL CONTROL

Possum control is mostly done by contractors using ground-based traps and hand-laid toxins such as cyanide. In some areas the most efficient method of control is aerial, and this involves the aerial application of baits containing biodegradable 1080 from helicopters. Aerial control is efficient, cost effective and extremely successful at knocking possum numbers down to very low levels. For more information on the use of this poison visit [1080facts.co.nz](http://1080facts.co.nz)

### GROUND CONTROL

OSPRI contractors will use toxins and traps to carry out this possum control operation. Different toxins are used depending on the size and terrain of the operational area. Toxins will either be placed in bait stations, stapled to trees in biodegradable bags or hand-laid. Contractors will consult with landowners on which toxin will be used to ensure the safety of livestock, pets and native animals. There are many different types

## ROAD TO TB ERADICATION



### TESTING WILDLIFE

We check the wildlife to see if TB is present in an area.



### POSSUM CONTROL – YEAR ONE

Possums spread TB. Getting numbers low will help stop TB.



### KEEPING POSSUM NUMBERS LOW

It's really important to keep possum numbers low over multiple years to break the TB cycle.



### TESTING WILDLIFE

We test wildlife to check if TB still exists. The animals will be checked for signs of TB. Samples may be grown in a laboratory. If TB is found, you will be told by TBfree.



### TB ERADICATED







of traps, such as leg-hold or kill traps. In choosing the right one, we will take into consideration ease of access, set-up and maintenance time, animal welfare factors and the potential risks to livestock, pets and native animals. On occasion our contractors may also use corflute chew cards or wax tags to identify possum populations where control is required.

## CONSULTATION

OSPRI listens to feedback from communities, land occupiers and land users about proposed operations and notifies planned operations well in advance so affected parties can submit feedback about any possible risks or sensitive areas that need to be managed. OSPRI will always seek the willing cooperation of land occupiers when TBfree programme work needs to be carried out on their land. Before any operation begins, affected landowners and occupiers will be contacted and visited by one of our contractors. Depending on the methods used and the location of the operations, consents may be required from the Department of Conservation and Ministry of Health.

## WHAT NEXT?

Dates and control methods for the proposed operations are provisional and subject to consultation. OSPRI

contractors will be in contact with affected landowners and occupiers before any work starts.

## MOVEMENT CONTROL

The Buller TMA is in the West Coast Movement Control Area. That means TB testing is required for cattle and deer before they are moved to another herd or farm.

## TESTING HERDS

Cattle and deer herds are monitored for TB through a combination of herd testing and carcass inspection at slaughter. The frequency of testing depends on the herd's location, management and TB history

**To check the testing frequency for your property visit [ospri.co.nz/dcamap](http://ospri.co.nz/dcamap)**

## ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

OSPRI has made significant progress towards eradicating TB from vector risk areas (VRA) across New Zealand. Since 2011, VRA status has been revoked from 2.02 million hectares, with 7.78 million hectares in 14 areas still to be cleared before freedom from disease in wildlife can be declared.



## CONTACT DETAILS

### OSPRI Christchurch Office

PO Box 8674  
Riccarton  
Christchurch 8440

**P** 03 363 3090

**E** [vectornsi@ospri.co.nz](mailto:vectornsi@ospri.co.nz)

The eradication activities in this TMA are delivered by specialist wildlife and pest control Contractors employed by OSPRI. The contact details for the contractor delivering are below.

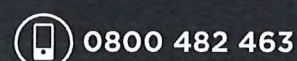
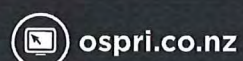
### Vector Control Services

**P** 0508 141 268

**E** [info@vcs.net.nz](mailto:info@vcs.net.nz)



TBfree is an OSPRI programme





# INANGAHUA BOVINE TB CONTROL OPERATION

## OSPRI'S TBFREE PROGRAMME

The TBfree programme aims to manage and eventually eradicate bovine tuberculosis (TB) from New Zealand's farmed cattle and deer and wild animal populations. Controlling disease prevents livestock production losses and protects the world leading reputation of New Zealand's dairy, beef and deer products. We use possum control, along with regular herd testing and movement restrictions, to achieve our eradication goals. Information gathered from wild animal surveys, recent and historic findings of TB in wild animals, herd testing results and the operational history of the region are used when planning operations.

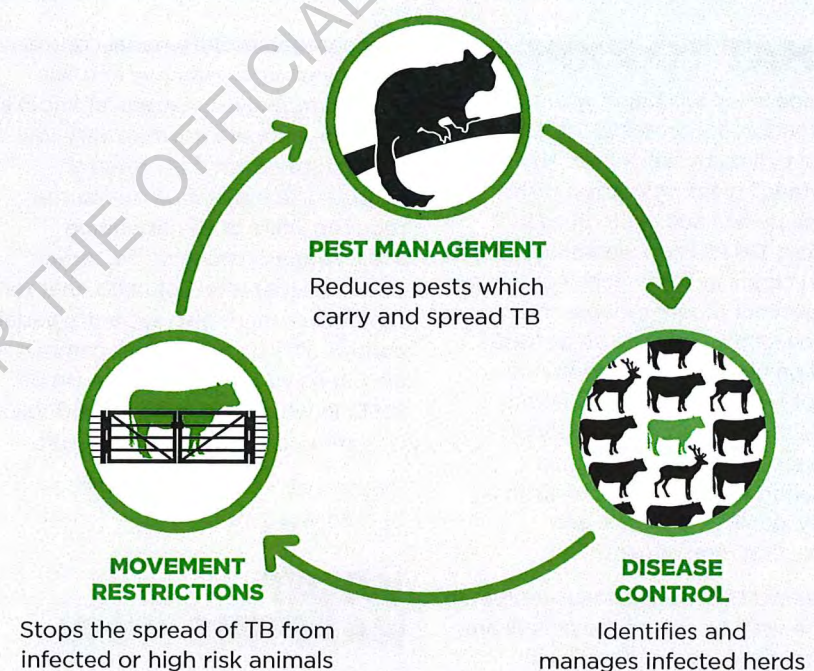


## TARGETING POSSUMS

We're running a possum control operation in the Inangahua area (please see map provided for the operation area). It will cover approximately 40,390 ha, boundaries & treatment areas may change after consultation is completed.

To eradicate bovine TB, possum numbers need to be kept extremely low – around one to two animals every 10 hectares. Further control

## HOW WE CONTROL TB



work is needed in the Inangahua area to maintain a low possum population and minimise the risk of the disease spreading through wild animal populations and onto farmed

cattle and deer. Possum control has dramatically reduced the number of infected herds in the West Coast region. This area was last treated in 2011.





## WHAT TO EXPECT

The operation will begin with the distribution of non-toxic, tan-coloured cereal pellets by helicopter. This “pre-feed” gives possums a taste for the pellets and overcomes bait shyness. One to two weeks later, toxic, green cereal pellets – each containing 0.15 percent biodegradable sodium fluoroacetate (also known as 1080) – will be applied by helicopter at a rate of two kilograms per hectare. That’s about one bait to every 60 square metres. The Inangahua operation will be subject to strict safety, quality-assurance and monitoring requirements.

Advanced GPS navigational equipment will be used to ensure the pellets are accurately placed and exclusion zones avoided.

## THE METHOD

The vast majority of possum control in the region is done by contractors using ground-based traps and hand-laid toxins. The remaining, far smaller area is controlled using aerially applied pellets containing

biodegradable 1080. Aerial control is efficient, cost effective and has been extremely successful at knocking possum numbers down to very low levels in the past. It is preferred in areas like Inangahua due to the required scale of the operation & the rugged nature of the terrain. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment also supports aerial control. The commissioner completed an extensive review into the use of 1080, in which she strongly endorsed its continued use in New Zealand.

Please visit [pce.parliament.nz](http://pce.parliament.nz) to read this report.

## WHAT HAPPENS NOW

This operation is planned from May 2019 onwards. A contractor will be doing the work on behalf of OSPRI’s TBfree programme. Before the operation, affected landowners and occupiers will be contacted and visited by one of our contractors. They will discuss boundary issues, water supply safety and the management of any risks to

dogs and livestock. Permissions from the Department of Conservation and the Ministry of Health are required for this operation. Affected landowners and occupiers will be contacted again before the operation starts, notices will be published in local newspapers and warning signs will be placed at all likely access points to the operational area.

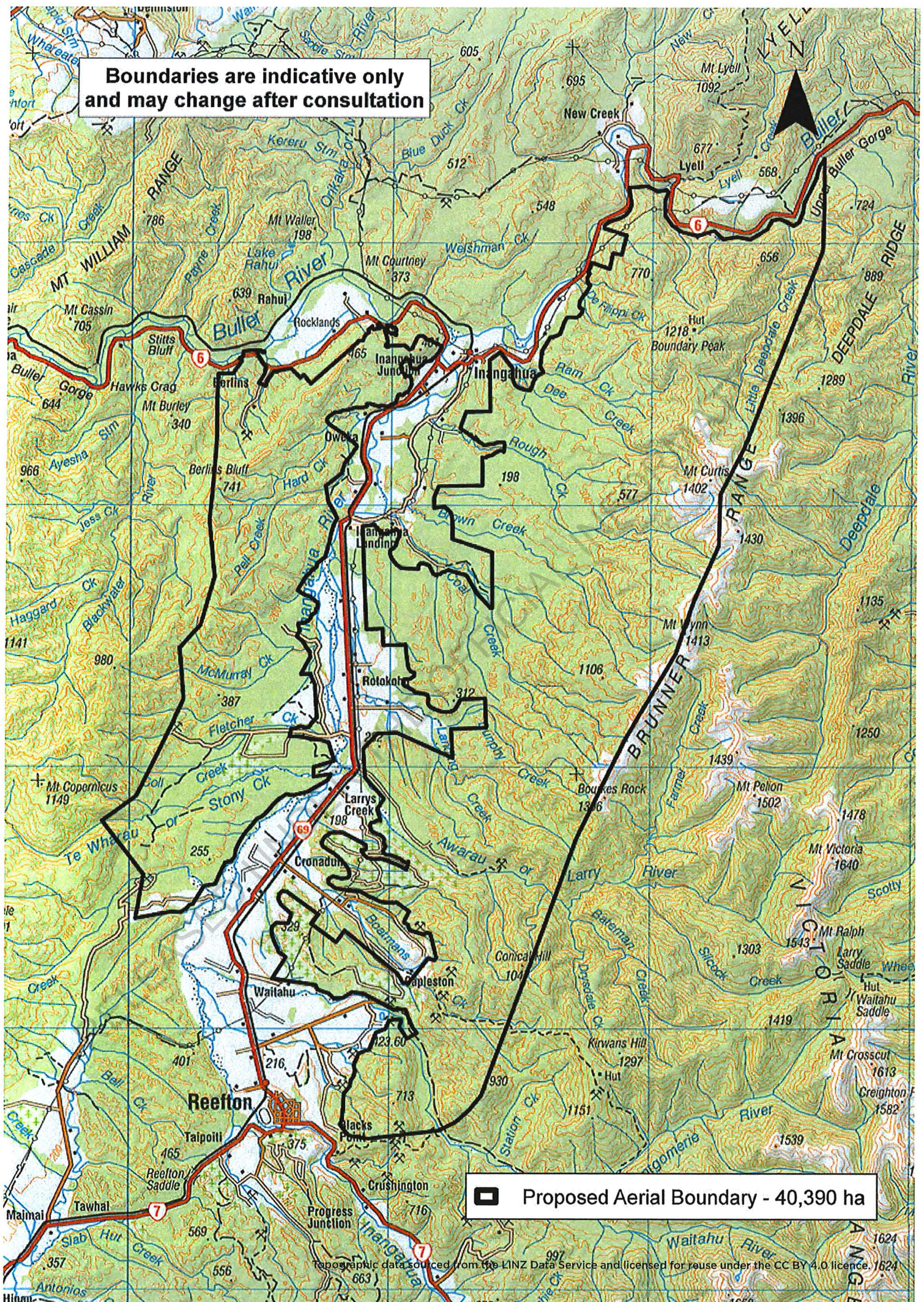
## BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS

The operation will have additional conservation benefits for native birds and bush. Possums eat the forest canopy and prey on native birdlife, including eggs and chicks. Biodegradable 1080 is also extremely effective at controlling other introduced predators such as ship rats and stoats.

This operation is likely to occur during a predicted beech mast event which would have significant benefits to native birds in the area and support the efforts of other agencies programmes such as the Department of Conservation “Battle for our Birds”.



Boundaries are indicative only  
and may change after consultation



Proposed Aerial Boundary - 40,390 ha

Topographic data sourced from the LINZ Data Service and licensed for reuse under the CC BY 4.0 licence.



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Warning signs will be placed at all main access points to the operational area and everyone must follow the cautions on the signs. There's no health risk when using this area as long you follow these instructions:

**Do not** handle any bait or allow children to wander unsupervised. Cereal baits containing 1080 are dyed green.

**Do not** hunt or take game from within a two-kilometre radius of

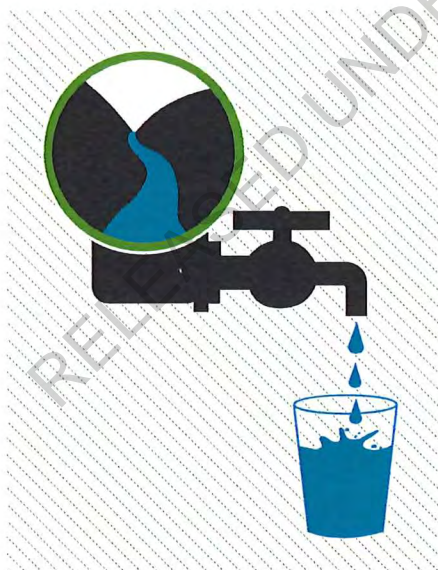
the operational area for human or pet consumption. Please refer to Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) food safety requirements for more information.

Please observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about the pesticide. Warning signs indicate that pesticide residues may still be present in the baits or carcasses. When the signs are officially removed, you can resume normal activities in the area.



**Do not bring dogs into the area until the warning signs have been officially removed.**

Dogs are particularly susceptible to 1080. They must not be allowed access to bait or poisoned carcasses which remain toxic to dogs until they have fully decomposed.



## THERE IS NO RISK TO PUBLIC DRINKING WATER

Biodegradable 1080 is highly soluble and does not persist in water or soil. Local health authorities apply strict conditions to aerial operations so that drinking water supplies are not contaminated. Safety has been confirmed by tests on several thousand water samples taken after aerial 1080 operations over many years.



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT POISONING

Contact your local hospital or doctor, or **dial 111**

National Poisons Centre  
**0800 POISON (764 766)**

If a domestic animal is poisoned, contact a local veterinarian.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

### OSPRI

Christchurch Office  
PO Box 8674, Riccarton,  
Christchurch 8440  
**P** 03 3633090  
**E** vectornsi@tbfree.org.nz  
ospri.co.nz

### Contractor

Vector Control Services,  
Aerial Coordinator  
**P** 0508 141 268  
**E** info@vcs.net.nz

**For more information on controlling bovine TB and how and why 1080 is used in New Zealand, visit [1080facts.co.nz](http://1080facts.co.nz)**

**For guidance on recreational hunting see our factsheet 'TB Information for Hunters' at [ospri.co.nz](http://ospri.co.nz)**

**For guidance on commercial hunting see the Ministry for Primary Industries and Department of Conservation websites.**





18 July 2019

Garry Howard  
Mayor  
Buller District Council

Dear Garry

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Reefton residents concerned about the aerial 1080 drop which is to take place in the near future. When I received your letter I made contact with 9(2)(a) of VCS, the contractor carrying out this operation on behalf of Ospri, and asked him to provide me with a response to the concerns of the residents, in particular those related to water supplies. As I indicated in my email acknowledging your letter, some of the matters referred to such as the justification for the operation, are outside my jurisdiction.

9(2)(a) has subsequently provided two email responses to me, your office and the EPA. The first of these refers to the water supplies at Blacks Point. In it, he points out that *"there is no water that drains from the control area towards Blacks Point. The control boundary does not cross the ridgeline outside of the Waitahu River water catchment into the Inangahua River catchment above Blacks Point. If it did that would have triggered the requirement for us to identify any drinking water sources for Blacks Point residents"*. I have attached a map provided by VCS, at my request, which clearly confirms this and you are welcome to provide copies to concerned residents. We have not had any inquiries to our office about the operation from Blacks Point residents or 9(2)(a). One of the residents mentioned in your letter had been sent a letter and information about the proposed operation by VCS as part of their pre-operational communications.

Our office did receive a complaint from a non-resident property owner near Reefton about a failure to notify residents on an affected water supply. This has been investigated by our office and responded to by the operator. An oversight had occurred in relation to a property whose water supply came from a source on adjoining land – that landowner would not allow the operator to GPS the water intake which supplied his property (and the neighbouring one). Fortunately, the operator knew where the intake was and had already imposed an exclusion on it. The person who owns the neighbouring house (but doesn't currently live there) was the complainant. She was contacted by the operator and water supply mitigation was agreed with her. The operator also visited the property to apologise to the occupant (the complainant's daughter-in-law) and to check that she was also happy with the agreed mitigation (provision of an alternative water supply). The operator provided a full report to me and I was satisfied with the actions taken to address the matter.

9(2)(a) second email responds to the other matters in your letter. I have reviewed his response and am satisfied with it in regard to matters under my jurisdiction. In particular:

- I can confirm that his comments about 9(2)(a) property and the information about drinking water supplies in applications for public health permissions are correct. Indeed, VCS's application identified and provided details about the location and source of 25 water supplies in relation to the operation and the mitigation, if any, requested by the supply owners. Twenty three of these were private water supplies and the other two were the Buller District Council's Inangahua and Reefton water supplies. In the case of those two supplies, VCS also provided copies of correspondence with Council water staff in their application.
- With the exception noted above, VCS have provided evidence in their application to me that it has consulted with all of the adjoining landowners. I am also confident they have identified all the drinking water supplies affected and have agreed mitigation strategies in place with the users of those supplies, as this information was provided with their application for permission. In fact, VCS has identified more than twice as many private water supplies as the contractor who carried out the aerial 1080 operation in the area in 2011.
- I have checked our files and can confirm that the boundary for this operation is more or less the same as when the area was previously treated in 2007 and 2011 (particularly) along the back of Reefton and Blacks Point. I cannot be more exact as the quality of the maps from these earlier operations is not as good as the ones I have from VCS in 2019.
- VCS also provided a copy of their signage plan for the operation with their application which we require as part of our risk assessment. The requirements regarding warning signage are now contained in the Hazardous Substances Regulations (2017) which are under the jurisdiction of Worksafe, not public health. However, warning signage is only required in relation to the toxic operation, not the prefeed, which is why none is present in the area as yet. It must be erected before the toxic operation takes place and I believe VCS is well aware of this and will comply (as they have always done so in previous aerial 1080 operations which public health staff have field audited).
- In their application, VCS provided evidence of the required notifications having been carried out and I can confirm that further notification will be undertaken prior to toxic bait being applied (as this is a requirement in conditions 6 and 7 of my permission).
- I can also confirm that 9(2)(a) comments about walking tracks are correct, including with regard to track closures, signage and clearances specified in my permission. The higher use tracks (Murray Creek, Murray Creek Loop and Konini Tracks) are subject to exclusions.
- My remit does not extend to canines but the standard warning signage used for 1080 operations includes prominent warnings about the risks to dogs (who are particularly sensitive to 1080). I am aware (because the information was included in their application) that VCS has also agreed to provide muzzles and emetics to dog owners in properties adjacent to the operational area for use with their pet/working dogs.

I do appreciate that residents in the area may be anxious about aerial 1080 operations, as the use of 1080 has become increasingly controversial and some people feel very strongly about it. There is also considerable and alarming misinformation to be found on social media and in videos such as the one shown at the meeting you attended.

Our service will always respond to public health concerns people have about 1080 operations. We impose conditions in our permissions, based on our risk assessment, which ensure that the risk that



people will be exposed to 1080 is minimised as far as possible (though I am well aware that there is a small segment of the West Coast community that does not believe that).

Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C Brunton', written in a cursive style.

Dr Cheryl Brunton  
Medical Officer of Health, West Coast

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Kathleen Smitheram

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**From:** 9(2)(a)@ospri.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Friday, 19 July 2019 10:49 a.m.  
**To:** 9(2)(a)@epa.govt.nz  
**Cc:** 9(2)(a) Cheryl Brunton  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent Attention  
**Attachments:** TBfree-TMA-Factsheet-Buller.pdf; Inangahua-West-Coast-Aerial-Operation-May-2019.pdf

Hi 9(2)(a) Garry

Further to the letter below from 9(2)(a), I would like to add some additional information.

The Buller TMA (Tuberculosis Management Area) in which the Inangahua aerial is located is not TB free and is therefore a priority area for OSPRI.

Although there have not been recently identified TB cases in wildlife (due to a lack of surveillance activities), there is clear evidence that TB is present in wildlife in the Inangahua area. 11 herd TB breakdowns, including in closed herds, have occurred since 1 January 2012 with the most recent herd breakdowns in 2017. The aerial block has not been controlled since 2011 and possum populations are expected to have returned to close to the possum carrying capacity based on available habitat and modelling. The adjacent ground control area (to the Inangahua aerial block) has received control over a long period but there are aerial exclusion areas such as the Perseverance where the residual possum population is high enough to maintain the disease. Our field staff and contractors have observed moderate to high possum numbers throughout.

With respect to the reference to the "4% chew card result", this is a misinterpretation of information supplied by OSPRI to an OIA request. It does not relate to the Inangahua aerial at all.

The 4% refers to the bite mark index from post-operational monitoring in the Paparoa Range aerial exclusion areas following the Paparoa Range aerial in 2018. These exclusion areas (in the Buller Gorge) were treated by ground control. What this means is that 4% of wax tags (not chew cards) placed in the exclusion areas have been found to have been bitten by possums. This information is used to check the effectiveness of the ground control undertaken.

There has been no pre-op population assessment via wax tags or similar for Inangahua although there was monitoring undertaken in 2014 (after the aerial in 2011). OSPRI used a formula to determine the population increase in possums based on known population growth rates and data taken from that monitoring. The possum control threshold has been exceeded.

For TB eradication to take place, possums have to be eliminated and their population levels kept low for several years to break the transmission cycle that maintains TB in possum populations.

It is hoped that the control measures being currently undertaken in the region, both aerial and ground, will result in TB freedom in the Buller TMA in the not-too-distant future. I have attached two factsheets for you: one on the plan to eradicate TB from the Buller TMA; and the other is on the Inangahua aerial operation.

If you have any further questions about any of our operations in the Buller district, please do get back to me.

Ngā mihi

9(2)(a)



From: 9(2)(a)@wrc.govt.nz>  
Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2019 2:12 PM  
To: 9(2)(a)@bdc.govt.nz>; cheryl.brunton@cdhb.govt.nz; 9(2)(a)@epa.govt.nz  
Cc: 9(2)(a)@wrc.govt.nz>; 9(2)(a)@ospri.co.nz>  
Subject: RE: Urgent Attention

Hi 9(2)(a) Gary

I have answered the query with regard to concerns about the Blacks Point drinking water supplies. I will now reply to the other concerns in the letter in order

- I met with 9(2)(a) about his concern for stock that may drink from streams that flow from the control area and the potential for dust to poison stock feeding on crops on the land he lives on, and the impact on deer on the adjoining property. The property 9(2)(a) lives on draws its drinking and dairy shed water from a well. The buffer on this property was not increased as there was no water supply intake identified (for drinking or stock) that was affected by the owner of the property or 9(2)(a). If there was a surface water drinking water supply intake located within or near the control area that was going to be affected we would locate it with a GPS and identify it to the Medical Officer of Health in our application to use Vertebrate Toxic Agents. We would then comply with the conditions of the permission from the MOH to use a VTA, to ensure the safety of the identified drinking water supplies. We would also identify stock drinking water and apply the same standards.
- I have no comment about the hydroponics, as I'm not sure of the relevance and there is no location information.
- The boundary is the same as previously treated in 2007 and 2012 along the back of Reefton and Blacks Point. I managed the 2007 operation, while another contractor completed the later operation.
- VCS has consulted with all of the adjoining landowners and is confident it has identified all the drinking water supplies affected and has agreed mitigation strategies in place with the users of those supplies.
- We have an extensive plan to install warning signs and have to date undertaken the required notifications. Further notification will be undertaken prior to toxic bait being applied.
- Chew card monitoring is not a tool used by OSPRI for possum population assessments so no one knows where this came from. The operation meets the threshold of 5% RTCI for control for TB vectors.
- It is a myth that trapping can meet the same standards that aerial control can achieve over the entire operational area within the timeframes required to meet the requirements of OSPRI's TBfree program. There is also nothing currently stopping any person from becoming an approved contractor for OSPRI other than motivation and ability.
- The pilots we use are highly experienced and have completed at least 2,000 flying hours to obtain their commercial pilots licenses as well as agrichemical ratings and a controlled substance license. I have complete confidence in their ability to complete the tasks asked of them.
- An assessment of environmental effects was undertaken to obtain permission to use a vertebrate toxic agent from the Department of Conservation. This assessed the impacts of the operation on native flora and fauna. While there have been negative effects recorded on kea, it has been proven they benefit from control being undertaken. The operation will also have a positive benefit on the great spotted kiwi known to be present within the control area.
- All walking tracks within the control area were identified by the Department of Conservation and using our local knowledge. Tracks within the control area will have a warning sign installed and a barrier placed with a sign to advise any users of the track of the risks should they choose to enter while control is being undertaken. The walking tracks will be sown with bait, then cleared according to the conditions in the



permissions. VCS has also identified walking tracks adjacent to the control area where dogs maybe at risk if they were to wander off the adjoining tracks (though weka are at risk from wandering dogs....), these will also have signs installed.

- Dog owners must always take responsibility for their animals and their safety. They can do this by obtaining a permit from the Department of Conservation to take dogs on public land managed by the Department (if permitted), then monitoring the online pesticide summary so they can keep informed of areas where pesticides have or are going to be laid.

We will always welcome information that is provided to us that adds to our knowledge of the control area that can improve the our service. I encourage any person with information they believe is beneficial to this operation or any other operation we're undertaking to provide the information so we can assess and verify it, and act if required.

Please feel free to contact me if you any further queries, otherwise we will consider this closed.

Regards

9(2)(a)

**Vector Control Services**

9(2)(a)

---

**From:** David Priest

**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2019 11:23 AM

**To:** 9(2)(a) <[redacted]@bdc.govt.nz>; cheryl.brunton@cdhb.govt.nz; 9(2)(a) <[redacted]@epa.govt.nz>

**Cc:** 9(2)(a) <[redacted]@wrc.govt.nz>; 9(2)(a) <[redacted]@ospri.co.nz>

**Subject:** RE: Urgent Attention

Morning 9(2)(a)

Thanks for the letter.

The first point to note is that there is **no water that drains from the control area** towards Blacks Point. The control boundary **does not cross the ridgeline** outside of the Waitahu River water catchment into the Inangahua River catchment above Blacks Point. If it did that would have triggered the requirement for us to identify any drinking water sources for Blacks Point residents.

9(2)(a) <[redacted]> has previously been asked directly to supply information to support her allegations and has not provided any details to date. We are confident in our processes to identify drinking water sources and will not engage with people with agendas or who peddle misinformation as fact, and play on people's emotions to further their cause.

I'm comfortable for you to let the Blacks Point residents listed in the letter know their water supplies are known to us from previous operations and that they are **not affected** by this operation as soon as possible. The sooner they know they're not affected the sooner the anxiety that has been created by 9(2)(a) <[redacted]> and other anti-1080 protagonists can be eased.

I will reply to the other requests in the letter as best I can by the end of the day. OSPRI will need to reply to the rest as the TBfree program and the justification for the control and the methods used is their responsibility. VCS is contracted to undertake the work for OSPRI's TBfree program, VCS does not make decisions about control methods.

Regards

David Priest

**Vector Control Services**



9(2)(a)

**From:** [9(2)(a)]@bdc.govt.nz]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 18, 2019 8:57 AM  
**To:** [cheryl.brunton@cdhb.govt.nz](mailto:cheryl.brunton@cdhb.govt.nz); [9(2)(a)]@wrc.govt.nz>; [9(2)(a)]@epa.govt.nz  
**Subject:** FW: Urgent Attention  
**Importance:** High

Good Morning

Please find attached corrected letter [9(2)(a)] name was removed as an affected Blacks Point resident.

Kind regards

9(2)(a)

Buller District Council | Freephone 0800 807 239 | [www.bullerdc.govt.nz](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz)  
PO Box 21 | Westport 7866

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**From:** Kirstin McKee  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 17 July 2019 4:12 PM  
**To:** [cheryl.brunton@cdhb.govt.nz](mailto:cheryl.brunton@cdhb.govt.nz); [9(2)(a)]@wrc.govt.nz>; [9(2)(a)]@epa.govt.nz  
**Subject:** Urgent Attention  
**Importance:** High

Good Afternoon

Please find attached letter from Mayor Howard.

Kind regards

Buller District Council | Freephone 0800 807 239 | [www.bullerdc.govt.nz](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz)  
PO Box 21 | Westport 7866

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# ERADICATING BOVINE TB FROM BULLER

JUNE 2019 | VERSION 2.0

## OVERVIEW

The TBfree programme is delivered through TB Management areas (TMAs) and aims to control, and eventually eradicate, bovine tuberculosis (TB) from New Zealand by 2055. OSPRI's main goals for TB control in the Buller area are:

- TB freedom in livestock by 2019
- TB freedom in possums by 2027

The programme uses possum control, regular herd testing and movement

restrictions to control TB. When planning for operations wild animal surveys, TB history, herd testing results and past operation history are all used to determine the level of control required to eradicate TB.

The TBfree programme is delivered through TB management areas (TMAs). Each TMA has a specific TB control plan designed to eradicate TB as effectively as possible.

This notice provides an overview of TB control work planned for this TMA.

It is not a formal notice of any specific operation. All operation dates provided are provisional and subject to consultation.

## TB HISTORY

The Buller TMA has a long history with TB infection in both local wildlife and cattle herds. Past infection in this area dates to 2009. However, the most recent cases of TB infections were found in Buller's wildlife and cattle herds in 2016.

## OPERATIONAL TIMEFRAME

Planned control and surveillance management activities are outlined in the table below.



TYPE OF CONTROL	WHEN?*	HOW MANY HECTARES?	WHERE?
Ground control	2019/2020	8,900	Inangahua, Iron Bridge
Aerial control	2019	32,300	Inangahua East, Inangahua West
Aerial control	2020	20,000	New Creek North
Ground control	2020/2021	19,400	Cronadun, Mackley, New Creek South, Inangahua
Ground control	2021/2022	23,700	Cronadun, Mackley, New Creek South, Iron Bridge, Inangahua, Blacks Point

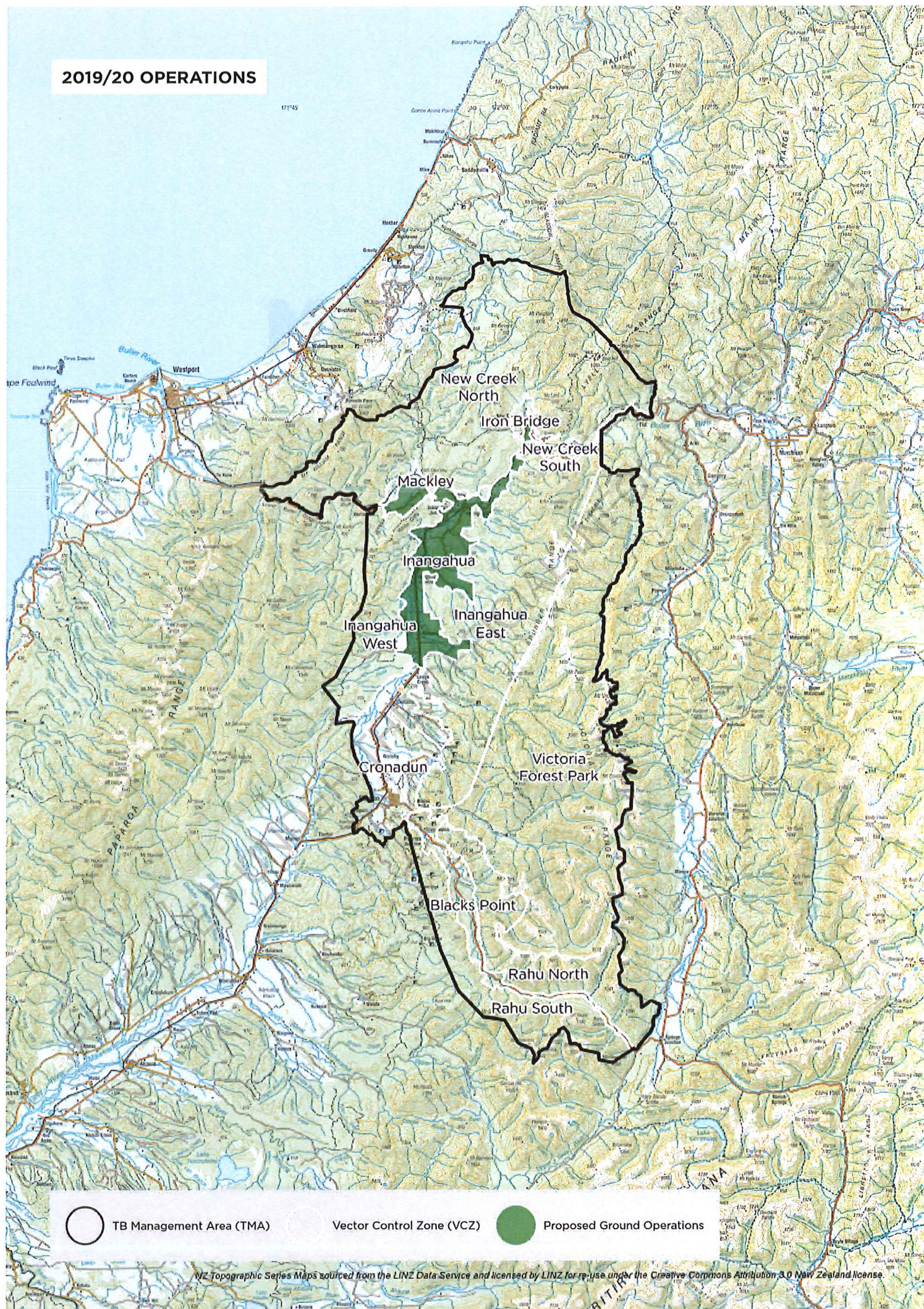
Hectares under control are indicative only and may change after consultation.

\* The operational year runs from 1 July – 30 June





## 2019/20 OPERATIONS







## BULLER

The Buller TMA covers 172,900 ha north of Reefton, between the northern end of the Paparoa Range and the Victoria Range. The area includes much of the Inangahua, parts of the Buller River catchments and the townships of Reefton, Cronadun and Inangahua. It also includes the Mackley and New Creek control areas. The habitat type is farmland interspersed with stands of Kaihikatea, willows, scrub and riparian margins. Altitudes range from several hundred metres up to 1500m.

## CONTROL HISTORY

Ground based possum control was undertaken in 2016/2017 in the Cronadun, Inangahua, Iron Bridge, Mackley and the New Creek South blocks. The Blacks Point block was last completed in 2015. Aerial control has previously been undertaken in 2016 in the New Creek North block. In 2011, the Inangahua East block and the Inangahua West block operations were completed and in 2009 the Rahu North & South blocks also had work completed. Some areas such as Victoria Forest Park have had very little or no control.

## POSSUM POPULATION ASSESSMENT

Before control work is carried out, an assessment of the wildlife population may be undertaken.

Following control work, the possum population density may also be monitored to assess the operation's

success. From the results, OSPRI can assess whether further possum control work needs to be done in the area.

## TARGETING POSSUMS

To eradicate bovine TB from possum populations, possum numbers need to be kept extremely low – around one to two animals every ten hectares. Previous possum control and livestock disease management has dramatically reduced the number of infected herds in the Buller TMA.

## THE METHOD

### AERIAL CONTROL

Possum control is mostly done by contractors using ground-based traps and hand-laid toxins such as cyanide. In some areas the most efficient method of control is aerial, and this involves the aerial application of baits containing biodegradable 1080 from helicopters. Aerial control is efficient, cost effective and extremely successful at knocking possum numbers down to very low levels. For more information on the use of this poison visit [1080facts.co.nz](http://1080facts.co.nz)

### GROUND CONTROL

OSPRI contractors will use toxins and traps to carry out this possum control operation. Different toxins are used depending on the size and terrain of the operational area. Toxins will either be placed in bait stations, stapled to trees in biodegradable bags or hand-laid. Contractors will consult with landowners on which toxin will be used to ensure the safety of livestock, pets and native animals. There are many different types

## ROAD TO TB ERADICATION



### TESTING WILDLIFE

We check the wildlife to see if TB is present in an area.



### POSSUM CONTROL – YEAR ONE

Possums spread TB. Getting numbers low will help stop TB.



### KEEPING POSSUM NUMBERS LOW

It's really important to keep possum numbers low over multiple years to break the TB cycle.



### TESTING WILDLIFE

We test wildlife to check if TB still exists. The animals will be checked for signs of TB. Samples may be grown in a laboratory. If TB is found, you will be told by TBfree.



### TB ERADICATED







of traps, such as leg-hold or kill traps. In choosing the right one, we will take into consideration ease of access, set-up and maintenance time, animal welfare factors and the potential risks to livestock, pets and native animals. On occasion our contractors may also use corflute chew cards or wax tags to identify possum populations where control is required.

## CONSULTATION

OSPRI listens to feedback from communities, land occupiers and land users about proposed operations and notifies planned operations well in advance so affected parties can submit feedback about any possible risks or sensitive areas that need to be managed. OSPRI will always seek the willing cooperation of land occupiers when TBfree programme work needs to be carried out on their land. Before any operation begins, affected landowners and occupiers will be contacted and visited by one of our contractors. Depending on the methods used and the location of the operations, consents may be required from the Department of Conservation and Ministry of Health.

## WHAT NEXT?

Dates and control methods for the proposed operations are provisional and subject to consultation. OSPRI

contractors will be in contact with affected landowners and occupiers before any work starts.

## MOVEMENT CONTROL

The Buller TMA is in the West Coast Movement Control Area. That means TB testing is required for cattle and deer before they are moved to another herd or farm.

## TESTING HERDS

Cattle and deer herds are monitored for TB through a combination of herd testing and carcass inspection at slaughter. The frequency of testing depends on the herd's location, management and TB history

**To check their testing frequency for your property visit [ospri.co.nz/dcamap](http://ospri.co.nz/dcamap)**

## ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

OSPRI has made significant progress towards eradicating TB from vector risk areas (VRA) across New Zealand. Since 2011, VRA status has been revoked from 2.02 million hectares, with 7.78 million hectares in 14 areas still to be cleared before freedom from disease in wildlife can be declared.



## CONTACT DETAILS

### OSPRI Christchurch Office

PO Box 8674  
Riccarton  
Christchurch 8440

**P** 03 363 3090

**E** [vectorsi@ospri.co.nz](mailto:vectorsi@ospri.co.nz)

The eradication activities in this TMA are delivered by specialist wildlife and pest control Contractors employed by OSPRI. The contact details for the contractor delivering are below.

### Vector Control Services

**P** 0508 141 268

**E** [info@vcs.net.nz](mailto:info@vcs.net.nz)



TBfree is an OSPRI programme



[ospri.co.nz](http://ospri.co.nz)



0800 482 463



# INANGAHUA BOVINE TB CONTROL OPERATION

## OSPRI'S TBfree PROGRAMME

The TBfree programme aims to manage and eventually eradicate bovine tuberculosis (TB) from New Zealand's farmed cattle and deer and wild animal populations. Controlling disease prevents livestock production losses and protects the world leading reputation of New Zealand's dairy, beef and deer products. We use possum control, along with regular herd testing and movement restrictions, to achieve our eradication goals. Information gathered from wild animal surveys, recent and historic findings of TB in wild animals, herd testing results and the operational history of the region are used when planning operations.

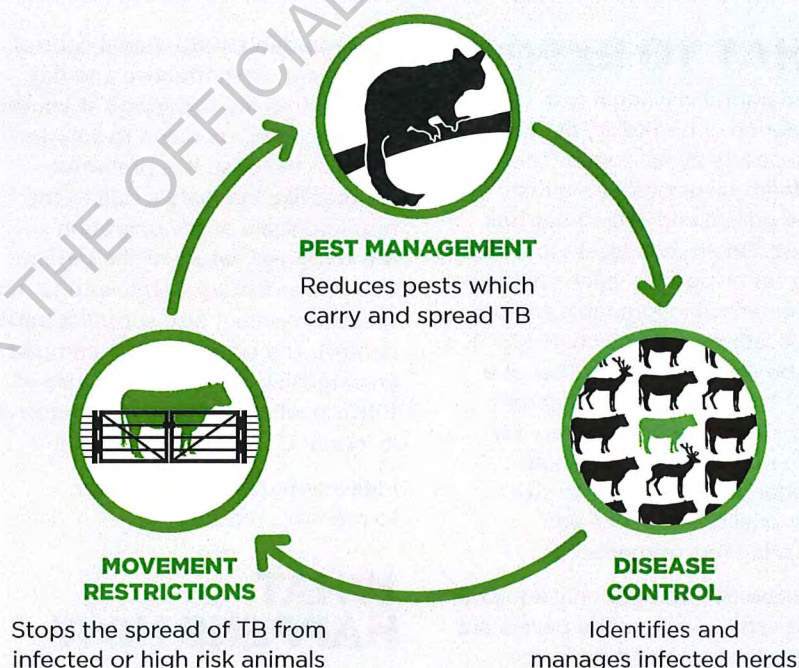


## TARGETING POSSUMS

We're running a possum control operation in the Inangahua area (please see map provided for the operation area). It will cover approximately 40,390 ha, boundaries & treatment areas may change after consultation is completed.

To eradicate bovine TB, possum numbers need to be kept extremely low – around one to two animals every 10 hectares. Further control

## HOW WE CONTROL TB



work is needed in the Inangahua area to maintain a low possum population and minimise the risk of the disease spreading through wild animal populations and onto farmed

cattle and deer. Possum control has dramatically reduced the number of infected herds in the West Coast region. This area was last treated in 2011.





## WHAT TO EXPECT

The operation will begin with the distribution of non-toxic, tan-coloured cereal pellets by helicopter. This “pre-feed” gives possums a taste for the pellets and overcomes bait shyness. One to two weeks later, toxic, green cereal pellets – each containing 0.15 percent biodegradable sodium fluoroacetate (also known as 1080) – will be applied by helicopter at a rate of two kilograms per hectare. That’s about one bait to every 60 square metres. The Inangahua operation will be subject to strict safety, quality-assurance and monitoring requirements.

Advanced GPS navigational equipment will be used to ensure the pellets are accurately placed and exclusion zones avoided.

## THE METHOD

The vast majority of possum control in the region is done by contractors using ground-based traps and hand-laid toxins. The remaining, far smaller area is controlled using aerially applied pellets containing

biodegradable 1080. Aerial control is efficient, cost effective and has been extremely successful at knocking possum numbers down to very low levels in the past. It is preferred in areas like Inangahua due to the required scale of the operation & the rugged nature of the terrain. The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment also supports aerial control. The commissioner completed an extensive review into the use of 1080, in which she strongly endorsed its continued use in New Zealand.

Please visit [pce.parliament.nz](http://pce.parliament.nz) to read this report.

## WHAT HAPPENS NOW

This operation is planned from May 2019 onwards. A contractor will be doing the work on behalf of OSPRI’s TBfree programme. Before the operation, affected landowners and occupiers will be contacted and visited by one of our contractors. They will discuss boundary issues, water supply safety and the management of any risks to

dogs and livestock. Permissions from the Department of Conservation and the Ministry of Health are required for this operation. Affected landowners and occupiers will be contacted again before the operation starts, notices will be published in local newspapers and warning signs will be placed at all likely access points to the operational area.

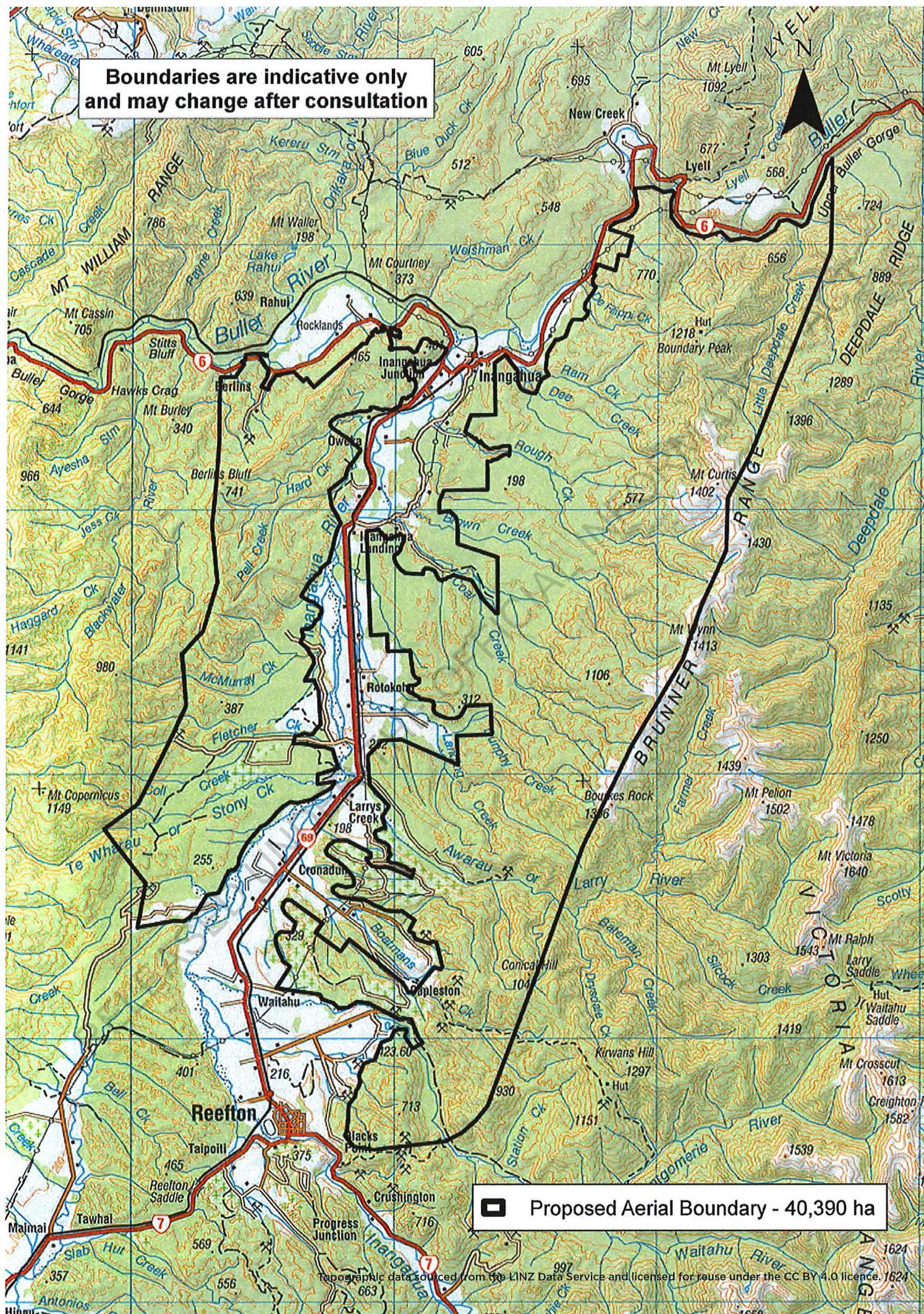
## BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS

The operation will have additional conservation benefits for native birds and bush. Possums eat the forest canopy and prey on native birdlife, including eggs and chicks. Biodegradable 1080 is also extremely effective at controlling other introduced predators such as ship rats and stoats.

This operation is likely to occur during a predicted beech mast event which would have significant benefits to native birds in the area and support the efforts of other agencies programmes such as the Department of Conservation “Battle for our Birds”.



Boundaries are indicative only  
and may change after consultation



Proposed Aerial Boundary - 40,390 ha

Topographic data sourced from the LINZ Data Service and licensed for reuse under the CC BY 4.0 licence.



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Warning signs will be placed at all main access points to the operational area and everyone must follow the cautions on the signs. There's no health risk when using this area as long you follow these instructions:

**Do not** handle any bait or allow children to wander unsupervised. Cereal baits containing 1080 are dyed green.

**Do not** hunt or take game from within a two-kilometre radius of

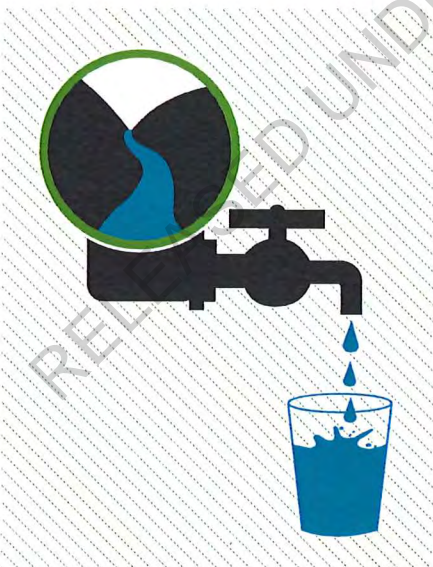
the operational area for human or pet consumption. Please refer to Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) food safety requirements for more information.

Please observe these rules whenever you see warning signs about the pesticide. Warning signs indicate that pesticide residues may still be present in the baits or carcasses. When the signs are officially removed, you can resume normal activities in the area.



**Do not bring dogs into the area until the warning signs have been officially removed.**

Dogs are particularly susceptible to 1080. They must not be allowed access to bait or poisoned carcasses which remain toxic to dogs until they have fully decomposed.



## THERE IS NO RISK TO PUBLIC DRINKING WATER

Biodegradable 1080 is highly soluble and does not persist in water or soil. Local health authorities apply strict conditions to aerial operations so that drinking water supplies are not contaminated. Safety has been confirmed by tests on several thousand water samples taken after aerial 1080 operations over many years.



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT POISONING

Contact your local hospital or doctor, or **dial 111**

National Poisons Centre  
**0800 POISON (764 766)**

If a domestic animal is poisoned, contact a local veterinarian.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

### OSPRI

Christchurch Office  
PO Box 8674, Riccarton,  
Christchurch 8440  
**P** 03 3633090  
**E** [vectorsi@tbfree.org.nz](mailto:vectorsi@tbfree.org.nz)  
[ospri.co.nz](http://ospri.co.nz)

### Contractor

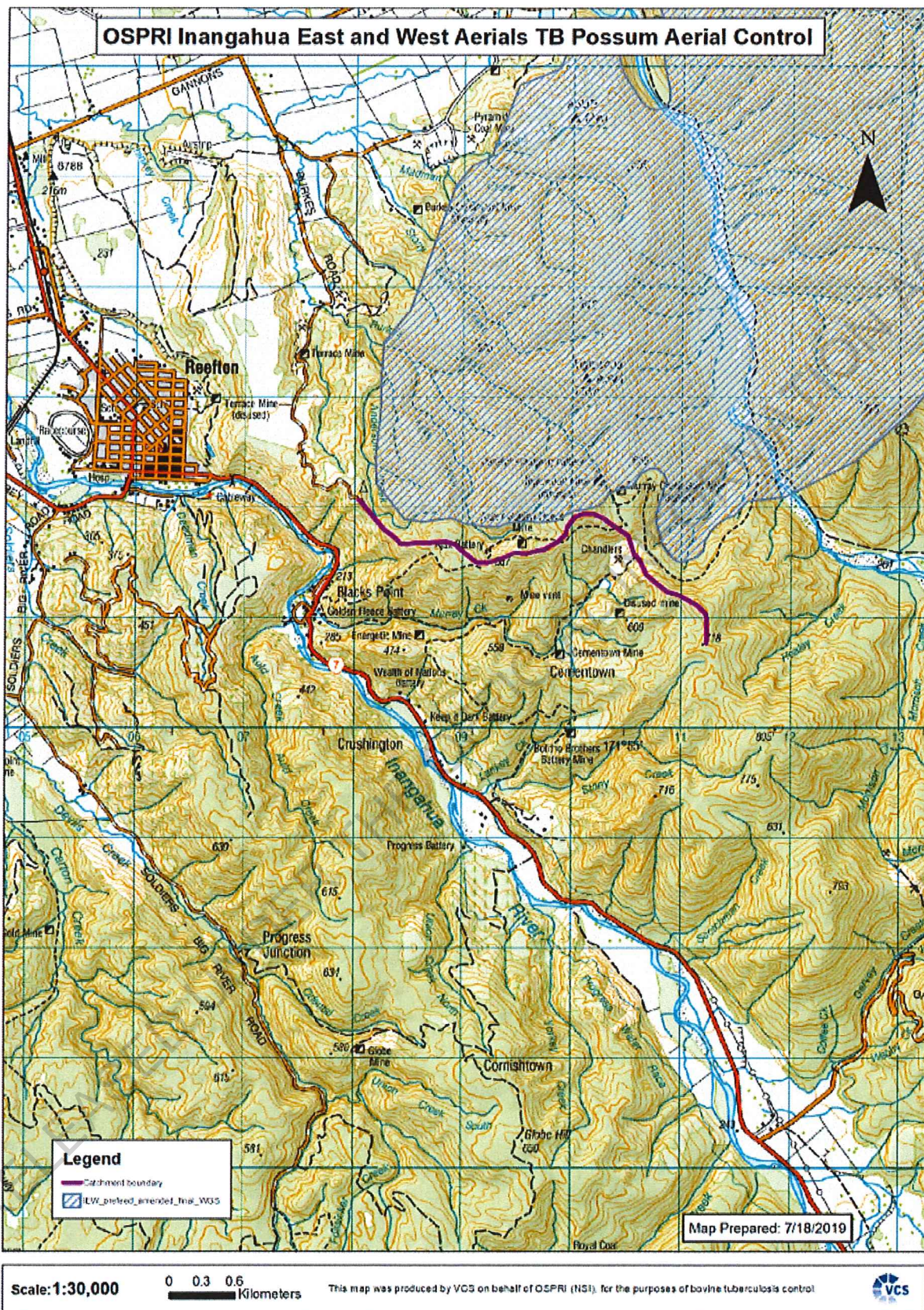
Vector Control Services,  
Aerial Coordinator  
**P** 0508 141 268  
**E** [info@vcs.net.nz](mailto:info@vcs.net.nz)

**For more information on controlling bovine TB and how and why 1080 is used in New Zealand, visit [1080facts.co.nz](http://1080facts.co.nz)**

**For guidance on recreational hunting see our factsheet 'TB Information for Hunters' at [ospri.co.nz](http://ospri.co.nz)**

**For guidance on commercial hunting see the Ministry for Primary Industries and Department of Conservation websites.**







19 August 2019

Garry Howard  
Buller District Mayor  
Buller District Council  
6-8 Brougham Street  
Westport 7866

cc <sup>9(2)(a)</sup> [REDACTED] Cheryl Brunton  
By email

Private Bag 63002  
Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Level 10, Grant Thornton House  
215 Lambton Quay  
Wellington 6011, New Zealand

epa.govt.nz  
+64 4 916 2426

Dear Mr Howard

#### Reefton Residents Concern-Inangahua East West Aerial 1080 application (ENQ-36723-R2V7K0)

As recently acknowledged we are in receipt of your letter (18 July, 2019). This letter outlines the concern of Reefton residents in regards to a planned aerial pest operation (Inangahua East West Aerial 1080 application) involving baits containing sodium fluoroacetate (1080). The expressed concerns related to the impact baits may have on water supplies and raised specific questions in regard to:

- Drop zone boundaries.
- The sufficiency of any risk assessments undertaken in approving the aerial operation.
- The adequacy of notification and signage.
- Whether the area was a priority.
- Experience of the helicopter pilots.
- Risks to Kea and Kiwi.
- Consideration of the residents and their animal (dogs) use of tracks in the area.

We acknowledge the responses already submitted to you by Dr Cheryl Brunton, Medical Officer of Health, West Coast (18 July, 2019), <sup>9(2)(a)</sup> [REDACTED] Vector Control Services (VCS) (18 July, 2019) and <sup>9(2)(a)</sup> [REDACTED] Ospri New Zealand Ltd (19 July) addressing various aspects of the concerns raised following their reviews.

All 1080 bait applications require permission from the Ministry of Health (MOH) if the application raises public health risks and from the Department of Conservation (DOC) if conducted on a conservation estate. The Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has delegated the power to grant permissions, contained in s95A of the Hazardous Substance and New Organisms Act, 1996 (HSNO) to MOH and DOC while retaining the responsibility to oversee the exercise of these delegations. EPA has therefore conducted its own review of the information related to this aerial application and the concerns raised.

#### Concerns relating to drinking water and stock water

Based on the reviews conducted by responsible parties and our own review of the information, we conclude that the risks to public, private and stock water supplies in and adjoining the operational area have been identified and appropriate risk mitigations planned. We note that water supplies have been grid referenced, physically inspected and recorded by GPS. We also acknowledge the complaint received by Canterbury District Health Board regarding failure to notify a resident and that appropriate mitigations have been subsequently applied.



## Operation Boundaries

Based on the reviews conducted by responsible parties and our own review of the information and maps, we conclude that the boundaries are approximately the same for the 2007, 2011 and 2019 aerial operations and have not extended closer to Reefton than in previous operations.

## Consultation, notification and signage

Based on the reviews conducted by responsible parties and our own review of the information we conclude there is evidence that:

- Osprei advised adjoining landowners and interest groups within 3km of the operational area of the proposed operation. This was completed by letter and fact sheet (October 2018).
- Site visits were undertaken in person by VCS to adjoining landowners, occupiers and residents (with one exception noted above that resulted in a complaint).
- Consultation was undertaken with Maori, DOC and recreational groups.
- Plans for signage to be erected prior to the application of the toxin were included in the permission and application (signage is not required at the pre bait stage).
- The pre-drop notification of the 1080 operation occurred in the form of public notices in the Greymouth Star, weeks beginning 10 June and 22 July 2019 and the West Coast Messenger 24 July 2019.

## Bird Life

Based on the reviews conducted by responsible parties and our own review of the information we conclude:

- The application to DOC includes the mitigations for native at risk species as required. It includes identification of required conditions outlined in the Department's publication Aerial 1080 in Kea Habitat - Code of Practice (DOC Code of Practice).
- The DOC permission includes performance standards that refer to the DOC Code of Practice. This includes using a 1080 bait which neutralises in half the rainfall of a standard 1080 pellet.
- That as advised by Mr Priest, the Kiwi area at Perseverance Road is not a Kiwi Sanctuary and up until recently was not a controlled area.

## Consideration of residents and their animals

Based on the reviews conducted by responsible parties and our own review of the information we conclude the proposed mitigations demonstrate due consideration has been given to these issues particularly:

- Inclusion of Condition 11 of the Public Health Canterbury/West Coast permission stating '*no VTA shall be ground applied within 20 meters or aerially applied within 80 meters of walking tracks.*'
- Land owners were advised of the specific risks to dogs and provided with strategies to minimise the risks in the initial consultation phase. Dog owners were issued with muzzles and emetics where requested.
- Risks where the public have access to tracks have been assessed and mitigated through the proposals around closures, using danger tape, placing warning signage during the period the toxin has been applied, the clearing of the baits and reopening of the tracks.

## Other matters



With regards to other matters raised in the letter such as chew card results, priority area status, consideration of alternative eradication methods and the general experience of helicopter pilots and their specific experience relating to 1080 operations, we have considered these as part of our review but are outside the jurisdiction of the EPA. You could contact relevant parties e.g. Civil Aviation Authority in regards to the pilots' experience.

### **General Conclusion**

On the basis of our review of the evidence, we conclude that:

- The issues referred to in your letter have been responded to by Dr Cheryl Brunton (Medical Officer of Health) <sup>9(2)(a)</sup> VCS and <sup>9(2)(a)</sup> OSPRI to a satisfactory level.
- All sources of public and stock drinking water were identified, locations recorded and mitigations against contamination planned and agreed.
- Affected landowners, occupiers (with one exception) and adjacent properties were identified and consultation occurred. Signage has been planned for and the locations marked on a detailed map.
- The position of the operational boundaries in relation are approximately the same for the 2019 operation as those conducted in 2007 and 2011.
- Safety of the public and their animals using the walking tracks has been considered, including identification of tracks, and mitigations planned.

Yours sincerely

<sup>9(2)(a)</sup>



**Environmental Protection Authority**



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

Garry Howard

17 July 2019

9(2)(a) Vector;  
9(2)(a) EPA;

Sheryl Brunton, Medical Officer of Health DHB

**Urgent Attention**

Buller District Council has been approached by Reefton residents very concerned at the imminent drop of 1080 around the Inangahua – Reefton area. Pre baiting has occurred and caused considerable anxiety from some residents that have water supplies within the 1080 dispersion area. This is the first concern for councillors as we have advocated in the past the drop zone in such instance be adjusted to ensure residents and stock water supplies are not affected.

Concerns in regards to water supplies have been raised for –

- 9(2)(a) Blacks Point resident, source of domestic drinking water Murray Cr and smaller subsidiary streams.
- 9(2)(a) Blacks Point, Some Blacks Point properties are on well water. Several houses and stock water supplies are sourced from Murray Creek. Several from Auld Creek. And some are supplied from a small creek which emerges at the northern end of Blacks Point near 'whirlpool corner'. It's difficult to tell from the maps published which of these water supplies are in danger of being in the 1080 drop zone. It certainly looks like the Murray Creek and the stream to our north are likely to be affected.
- 9(2)(a) farmer (has met with 9(2)(a) today) and no set back adjustment.
- Richard Thomas, hydroponic cannabis cultivator
- 9(2)(a) and been approached by several concerned farmers

In regards to the above we have the following questions –

The map indicating the drop zone shows boundaries considerably closer than the previous drop around Reefton as conducted a few years back. Is the boundary extension essential as the boundary areas can be trapped?

Has full analysis been completed to ensure stock and human water supplies are outside of the area?

Has full notification and signage been completed? (this was of considerable concern)



On behalf of those concerned residents we also ask the following questions –

- Given the chew card results show 4% is this a priority area?
- Those at the meeting advised the area can be trapped and they have trappers available to undertake. Has this option been explored?
- Concern raised in regards to young helicopter pilots with very limited experience with 1080 dispersion. Has this risk been given enough thought?
- What procedures in place to protect the kea in town and the kiwi sanctuary at Perseverance Rd ?
- Has enough thought been given to residents and their animals, particularly dogs that venture on local tracks around Reefton?

We would strongly encourage the above questions be answered and publicised prior to commencing 1080 drop.

On behalf of Council I have communicated these questions for our residents as we do have advocacy role and risk/liability in regards to drinking supplies.

Kind regards

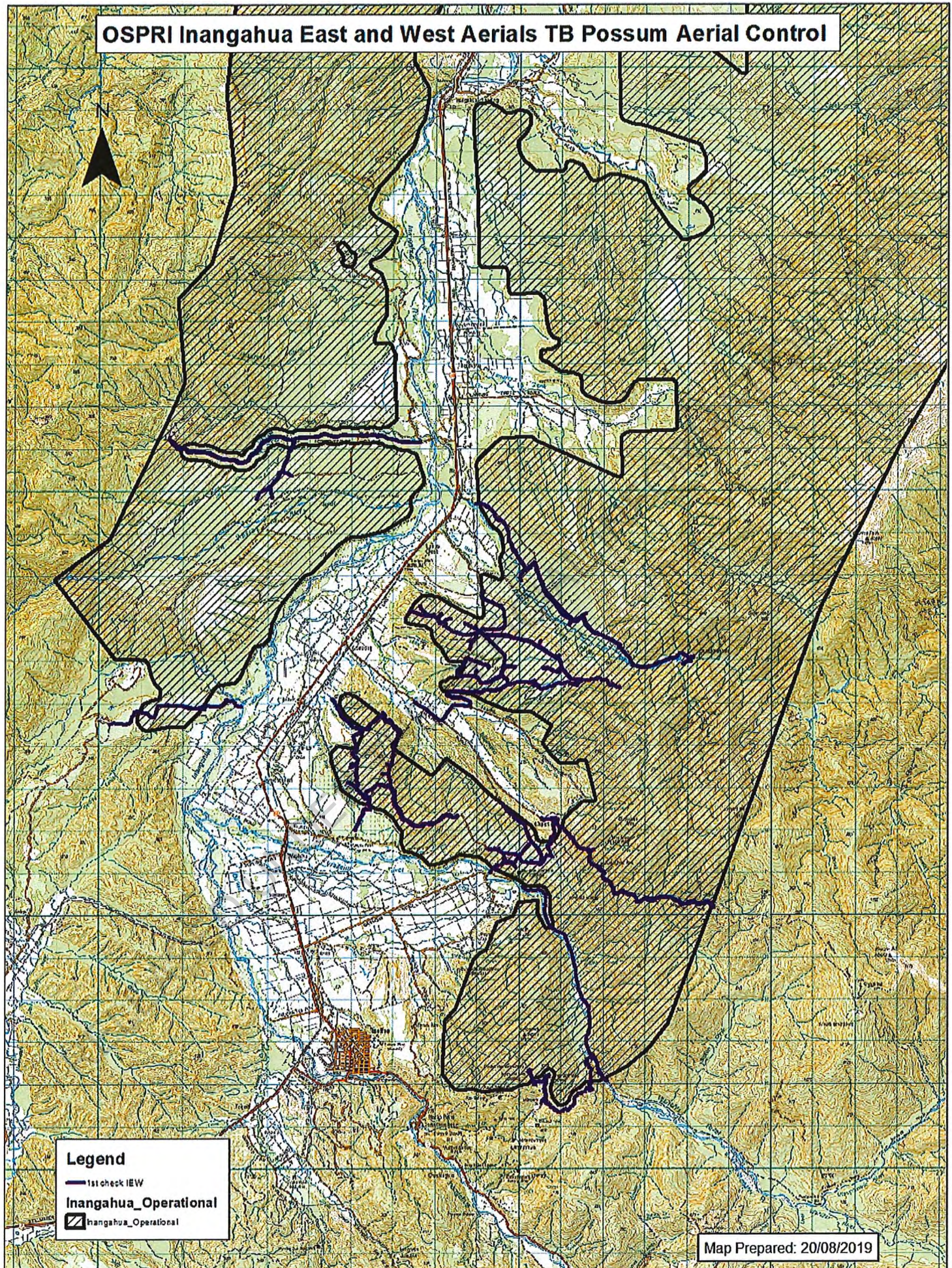


Garry Howard

**Buller District Mayor**

Phone 03 788 9684 | Email [garry.howard@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:garry.howard@bdc.govt.nz)





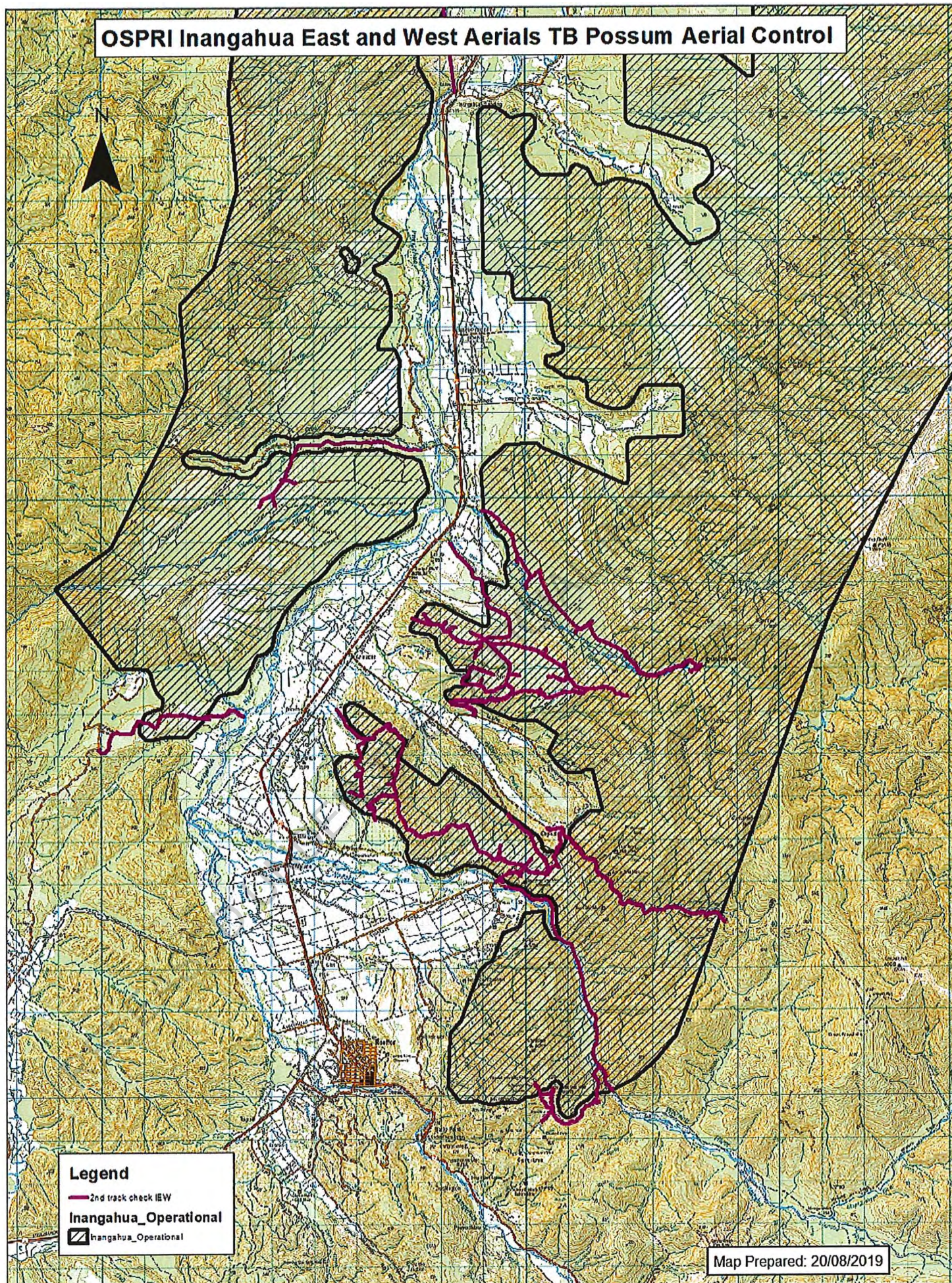
Scale: 1:79,508

0 0.75 1.5  
Kilometers

This map was produced by VCS on behalf of OSPRI (NSI), for the purposes of bovine tuberculosis control.



# OSPRI Inangahua East and West Aerials TB Possum Aerial Control



Scale: 1:79,508

0 0.75 1.5  
Kilometers

This map was produced by VCS on behalf of OSPRI (NSI), for the purposes of bovine tuberculosis control.