



# *West Coast District Health Board*

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

Corporate Office  
High Street, Greymouth 7840

Telephone 03 769-7400  
Fax 03 769-7791

14 May 2021

9(2)(a)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

### RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9554

I refer to your email dated 10 May 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically:

**A copy of the VTA permission for the aerial 1080 operation for the Whataroa Butler Aerial 1080 application.**

**This is shown under the DOC pesticide summary**

**[https://maps.doc.govt.nz/externalmaps/Index.html?=&CalledBy=Region&LayerID=2&Region=otago&configBase=http://maps.doc.govt.nz/Geocortex/Essentials/REST/sites/Pesticide\\_Summary/viewers/Pesticide\\_Summary\\_Viewer/virtualdirectory/Resources/Config/Default&run=PestSumStartUp](https://maps.doc.govt.nz/externalmaps/Index.html?=&CalledBy=Region&LayerID=2&Region=otago&configBase=http://maps.doc.govt.nz/Geocortex/Essentials/REST/sites/Pesticide_Summary/viewers/Pesticide_Summary_Viewer/virtualdirectory/Resources/Config/Default&run=PestSumStartUp)**

**Please under this OIA Act, send through a copy of the VTA permission.**

Please find attached as **Appendix 1** a copy of the VTA permission as requested. Please note we have redacted information pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect individual privacy.

I trust 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

Ralph La Salle  
**Acting Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**

**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) [REDACTED]

**Of** Zero Invasive Predators Ltd (ZIP)  
39 Waiapu Road  
Karori  
Wellington 6012

**Application Identification Code** 2021/1305/CB/GRYPH

**Operation Name** Whataroa Valley

**Application Location \*** 24,575 hectares of land in the Whataroa and Butler areas of South Westland.

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

**Purpose of Operation \*** Possum and rat control

I, 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);

*(For use when amending/revoking existing permissions – leave blank if not applicable)*

**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:** 3 May 2021

**This permission expires on:** 3 May 2022

**Contact Person:**

Amelia Haskell  
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: 2021/1305/CB/GRYPH

Application Location: 24,575 hectares of land in the Whataroa and Butler areas of South Westland.

Vertebrate Toxic Agent or other Hazardous Substance Information			
Vertebrate Toxic Agent or other Hazardous substance:	Strength	Form	Application rate <sup>1</sup>
Sodium fluoroacetate	1.5g/kg	Cereal pellets	Phase 1: 4 kg/ha Phase 2: 2 kg/ha  Spot treatment Maximum 8kg/ha
HSNO Approval Number: <b>HSR002424</b>			
Start Date of Application: <b>4 May 2021</b>		Last Date of Application: <b>4 February 2022</b>	
Methods of application for this hazardous substance allowed under this permission: <b>Aerial.</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: 2021/1305/CB/GRYPH

Application Location: 24,575 hectares of land in the Whataroa and Butler areas of South Westland.

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:

**Notifications**

**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 **4 May 2021 to 3 May 2022**. 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.

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 provide 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) to:

- Whataroa School
- South Westland Area School, Harihari

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.

- Te Nikau Hospital and Health Centre, Greymouth
- South Westland Area Practice clinics in Franz Josef, Whataroa and Harihari
- Westland Medical Centre, Hokitika
- St John Ambulance, South Westland

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 Hokitika Guardian
- 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 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.

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

## Accidental direct exposure to VTAs

### CONDITION 10: Exclusion from Public Areas

On the day prior to and on the day of the VTA application:

All the huts and campsites listed below within the operational area shall be visited on the day prior to the application of the VTA in order to warn trampers and campers, if present, and to erect information signage at the hut or campsite.

- Scone Hut
- Nolans Hut
- Goldminers Hut
- Stan's Hut
- Butler Junction Hut
- Top Butler Hut
- Whymper Hut
- Twister Biv
- Helicopter landing sites at all above mentioned hut locations
- Vehicle parking areas for the Whataroa, Butler, and Perth Valley Tracks

In addition:

- Security personnel shall be stationed at the gate at the start of the Whataroa Valley Track from the morning of the toxin operation, to advise any members of the public to avoid the areas until the operation is completed
- The Whataroa Valley Track must be closed at the road where it crosses private land.
- ZIP personnel shall be stationed at huts and other strategic points until VTA application has been completed and first clearances have begun.
- Any visitor(s) present in the operational area should be advised to leave before the VTA application takes place.
- Any visitors present in the operational area must be offered a helicopter flight out if they wish.
- Any visitor(s) who decline to leave the operational area should be advised to remain in the hut/campsite until VTA application has been completed and first clearances have begun.
- No helicopter landings (other than by the operator's aircraft) are permitted at any recognised landing site in the operational area.

The above conditions do not apply if the above listed huts and other public areas are not within a spot treatment area or within 100 metres of a spot treatment area.

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

The applicant may aerially apply the VTA to the following huts, walking tracks/routes located within the operational area:

- Carpark to Whataroa swingbridge tramping track (Perth Valley track)
- Whataroa swingbridge to Nolans Hut tramping track (Perth Valley track)
- Nolans Hut to Redfield swingbridge tramping track
- Scone Creek tramping track
- Bettison Route
- Whataroa swingbridge to Butler Junction Hut tramping track
- Butler River Track
- Gunn Ridge Track
- Butler Junction to Whympers Hut tramping track
- Scone Hut
- Nolans Hut
- Goldminers Hut
- Stan's Hut
- Top Butler Hut
- Butler Junction Hut
- Whympers Hut
- Twister Biv

If the applicant aerially applies the VTA to any of the above listed huts, tracks/routes, they shall inspect those huts, tracks/routes 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.

The clearances required for huts are:

- Once the huts have been sown over, the areas out to 50 metres around the huts must be checked and cleared on the day the VTA is applied and a repeat check must be carried out 24 hours later to ensure no baits remain within 50 metres of the huts.
- Where the terrain surrounding the listed huts is steep or otherwise inaccessible, the clearance distance may be reduced to that which is practicable to clear.

No first clearance is required if any of the above named huts, tracks/routes is/are not within a treatment area or within 100 metres of a spot treatment area.

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### **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:

- Carpark to Whataroa swingbridge tramping track (Perth Valley track)
- Whataroa swingbridge to Nolans Hut tramping track (Perth Valley track).
- Nolans Hut to Redfield swingbridge tramping track
- Scone Creek tramping track
- Bettison Route
- Whataroa swingbridge to Butler Junction Hut tramping track
- Bulter River Track
- Gunn Ridge Track
- Butler Junction to Whympers Hut tramping track
- Scone Hut
- Nolans Hut
- Goldminers Hut
- Stan's Hut
- Top Butler Hut
- Butler Junction Hut
- Whympers Hut
- Twister Biv

The second inspection shall be made within 7 days after the VTA application. It should be timed to take place immediately after the occurrence of strong winds.

The areas out to 50 metres around the huts must be checked and cleared. Where the terrain surrounding the listed huts is steep or otherwise inaccessible, the clearance distance may be reduced to that which is practicable to clear.

No second clearance is required if any of the above named huts, tracks/routes is/are not within a treatment area or within 100 metres of a spot treatment area.

### **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 25: Hut Water Supplies: Mitigation**

For huts with a roof water supply the operator shall take the following mitigation measures:

- The roof intake to the water tank(s) shall be disconnected or blocked prior to the operation and until such time as visual inspection verifies that no toxic bait has been applied over the roof.
- Immediately after the aerial application of the VTA the roof and gutters of the hut must be checked for baits and any baits found removed and disposed of to ground more than 50 metres from the hut.
- The roof gutter downpipe may only be reconnected after a second inspection of the roof and gutters has taken place. This inspection should take place within 48 hours of the VTA application.

Until the roof water supply is able to be reconnected, the operator must provide an adequate supply of alternative drinking water to persons using the hut, including their staff.

For huts with a piped water supply the operator shall take the following mitigation measures:

- The water intakes (if possible) shall be disconnected for a period of not less than 72 hours from the time of the VTA being applied in the applicable catchment.
- An alternative supply of water for drinking, cooking and oral hygiene shall be provided for a minimum of 72 hours following VTA application.
- The water containers provided shall be clearly labeled "potable water for drinking, cooking and toothbrushing" or similar.

Note: If any hut has a storage tank that can be isolated from the source water for the specified time frame, that stored water can be considered an 'alternative supply' for the purposes of complying with this condition.

No water supply mitigation is required if a hut is not within a spot treatment area or within 100 metres of a spot treatment area.

### **CONDITION 31: Hut Water Supplies Mitigation: Reporting**

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

## 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

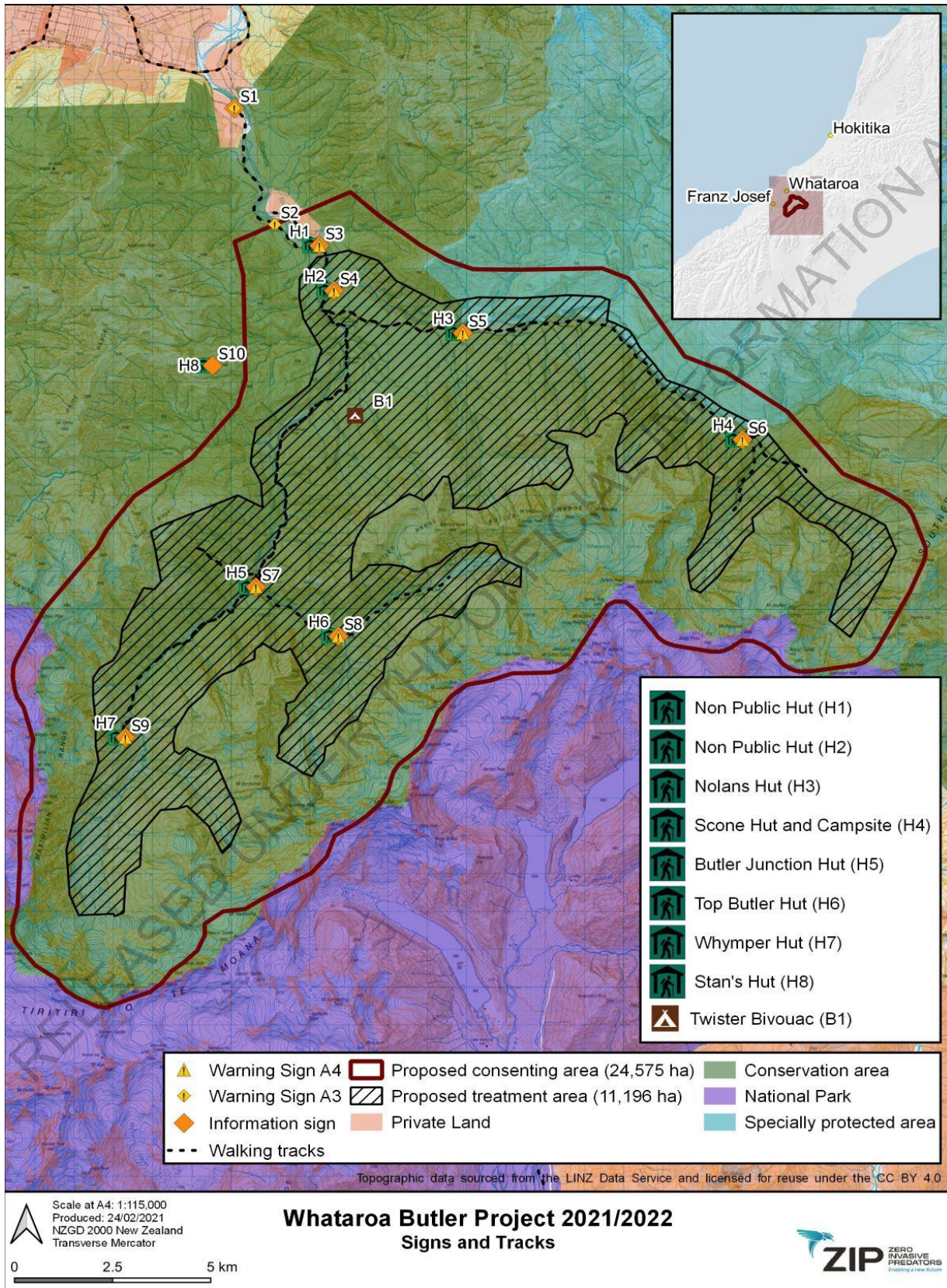
If a trickle bucket is used the applicant must supply a map of the area that 1080 is to be aerially applied to before the operation and a GPS track record print out from the helicopter after the operation.



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

Application Identification Code: 2021/1305/CB/GRYPH

Application Location: 24,575 hectares of land in the Whataroa and Butler areas of South Westland.



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