

11 May 2018

Mike Knowles
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Dear Mr Knowles

Thank you for your letter of 28th March 2018.

Owing to the technical nature of many of the questions you asked, Al has asked me to reply to you, as I lead the development of the research programme of work.

Since ZIP received your recent letter we have been looking for an opportunity to arrange to meet with you, as we have with representatives of other hunting organisations. On finding a suitable time, I was disappointed to learn that you actually live in Tauranga! It's good to know that you are available to meet there - please don't hesitate to call me if you are here in Wellington.

In response to your questions:

1) *When was this programme first planned?*

The programme was first envisaged in late September/early October 2017, following successful trials on the West Coast in key elements of work - i.e. initial removal of predators, and their detection. Planning began in earnest from early November.

We started liaison about the project at about the same time. For example, I met with Bill O'Leary (President, New Zealand Deerstalkers Association) in early November 2017, and Al met with the New Zealand Game Animal Council Executive in late November 2017. This was before the project had been formally approved by the Department of Conservation, which was appropriate.

2) *Given that an operation of this scale must have had a long planning phase, what exactly are the "supply and timing" constraints that prevented deer repellent being used?*

EPro are the only registered provider of deer repellent currently in New Zealand. They order the raw components of their recipe from overseas, based on their understanding of the coming season's aerial operations. Orders are generally placed 12 months in advance. The Perth Project was conceived and planned inside that timeframe. The project is also too large to draw on the contingency component of the EPro order.

- 3) *Has this 1080 operation been legally consented to be performed by a private organisation on public land? If so when and where was this notified?*

Yes, ZIP has received approval from the Department of Conservation and the Medical Officer of Health to carry out the aerial operation. There is no legal requirement for either party to notify the application.

However, there is a requirement that ZIP meet a 'consultation' threshold - both agencies consider we did that, based on the communications records we provided, and hence they have approved the operation.

- 4) *Will the impact of 1080 poison on tahr, chamois and deer in the Perth Valley be monitored and who will do this work.*

A tahr monitoring plan was developed by the NZGAC, in association with ZIP, NZDA, Professional Hunting Guides Association, and DOC.

A NZGAC-led team recently spent one day in the research area, with helicopter support, and attached collars containing radio transmitters to 21 tahr (nannies and young males). These will be monitored using Sky Ranger (an aerial receiver on a fixed wing plane) after each application of the toxic bait.

The Sky Ranger work will be done by a contractor (to ZIP), but the analysis and final report write up will be done by Manaaki Whenua (Landcare Research) for NZGAC. We expect that work to be completed by end of November. The report will be made available on both the NZGAC and ZIP websites.

Chamois and deer are not being monitored as both the NZGAC and the NZDA advised that tahr were the most valued game species in the area, and the one they were most concerned about.

- 5) *Will the impact of 1080 poison on native birdlife present in the Perth Valley, particularly whio and kea populations be monitored and who will do this work?*

Yes, the potential impact (if any) of the 1080 to Zero treatment on kea and whio will be monitored.

29 kea have had radio tags attached on them. The transmitters change frequency in the event that it stops moving, which would indicate that the animal has died or the transmitter has fallen off.

Whio are being monitored, at a couple of locations in the area. We are not using radio-transmitters or other tags to do this due to the safety risk of attempting to catch ducks in those large rivers.

Repeat surveys of kea (using Sky Ranger) and whio will be done after each application of the toxic bait.

In addition, we have also initiated monitoring of selected areas of known rock wren habitat, within and outside of the treatment area. Repeat surveys will be carried out after each application of the toxic bait.

ZIP and DOC staff (and/or contractors) are carrying out all of this monitoring work.

We will make the results of all of the monitoring available via our website.

- 6) *What proportion of the 1080 poison bait that is applied by ZIP has deer repellent incorporated.*

As per the answer to your question 2 (above), and Al's reply to your previous letter, none of the bait that will be used in the Perth Valley project will have deer repellent on it.

You also requested that Safari Club International (New Zealand) be part of the 'advisory group' for the Perth Valley project. There is no 'advisory group' for this project. Instead, NZDA and ZIP have: (i) agreed to operate on a 'no surprises' basis and to share information (and comment/concerns) with each other, and (ii) appointed liaison positions to be the intermediary for information flow between NZDA and ZIP - i.e. Marcus and Kaylyn Pinney and me.

I assume that you have discussed your request with Marcus and Kaylyn, and that they have confirmed that they are willing to act as the liaison positions between SCI(NZ) and ZIP. As such, Marcus and Kaylyn will henceforth be responsible for disseminating the ZIP-provided information back to the wider SCI(NZ) membership, including its executive levels. They will also provide, on behalf of SCI(NZ), prompt identification of concerns or confirmation of support for/opposition to ZIP project actions.

Yours Sincerely



Phil Bell
Innovation Director
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Cc:

Bill O'Leary, President, New Zealand Deer Stalkers Association
Don Hammond, Chair, Game Animal Council
Lou Sanson, Director-General, Department of Conservation
Marcus and Kaylyn Pinney, Whataroa