



18-D-01908

s 9(2)(a)

Wellington Community Justice Project

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Dear s 9(2)(a)

Official information request for management of pests in New Zealand

I refer to your official information request dated 28 August 2018 for management of pests in New Zealand.

The information you have requested is enclosed.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me on Jane.Strachan@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Jane Strachan
Director
Legal and Procurement

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the Official Information Act 1982

Questionnaire

1. Describe your role in pest management in NZ?

The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) does not have an operational role in pest management in New Zealand, and as such do not have internal policies, procedures or established practices on the matter. However, under the Environment Act 1986, we have the function to advise our Minister(s) on all matters of environmental administration and policy to achieve the objectives of the Act. Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), which we administer, we provided advice to the Minister for the Environment in making the Resource Management (Exemption) Regulations 2017, which relate to the use of three vertebrate toxic agents for pest control. We are also responsible for administering the Community Environment Fund (CEF), which has previously been used to fund projects that include pest control, and we administer the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act which provides the framework for considering whether to approve the use of substances for pest control.

2. Under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act what focus is there from your department on pest welfare?

The Ministry administers the HSNO Act, however the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is responsible for the operation of the Act. The EPA considers applications and issues approvals where appropriate for the use of hazardous substances and new organisms under the Act, including those that may be used for pest control purposes. The EPA makes their decisions using a Risk Assessment Model and puts rules in place to manage the risks of hazardous substances and to safeguard people and the environment. Depending on the application, the EPA consider animal welfare at this point in the process.

3. Have there been any changes to your practices due to the AWA 2015? If so, what are these?

As the Ministry does not have an operational role in pest management, no practices exist that have required changes due to the introduction of the Animal Welfare Act 2015.

4. Where can I find your policies and procedures?

As noted above, we do not have any internal policies, procedures or established practices relating to pest control. However, we have information on pest control and biodiversity programmes, as well as the RMA pest control regulations and guidance documents, available on our website: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/more/biodiversity/pest-control-and-biodiversity>

5. How often or in what situations are your regulations, practices and policies updated?

As noted above, we do not have any internal policies, procedures or established practices relating to pest control. However, the Resource Management (Exemption) Regulations

were made in April 2017 and amended in June 2017. Ministerial policy decisions direct amendments or new regulations.

6. How do you make these policies and procedures? I.e. where does your legislative/ delegated authority come from?

The Environment Act empowers the Ministry for the Environment to advise our Minister(s) on all matters of environmental administration and policy to achieve the objectives of the Act. As noted above, we also administer the RMA and HSNO.

Our administration of the CEF is as a result of Cabinet decisions.

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