

20 D 01436

s 9(2)(a)

Dear s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 3 August 2020 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Could you please provide me the names and locations of New Zealand landfills, both historic and present, that are considered vulnerable to flood or other damage whereby their contents might reach waterways (rivers, ocean)? This includes any historic or present landfills that are located close to river or ocean systems.*

*If you have any visual representations of these and/or other landfills that would also be greatly appreciated!*

The Ministry for the Environment does not hold a list of all New Zealand landfills that are considered vulnerable to floods or other damage that would cause their contents to be discharged to rivers or the marine environment. However, we are aware of nineteen landfills that may meet this criteria and provide the names, locations and images of these landfills at Appendix 1. We have been made aware of these vulnerable landfills by councils. We note that there are likely other landfills, on which we do not hold records, which may also present risks to the environment.

The Resource Management Act requires regional councils to monitor and control discharges of contaminants to water. The councils have recognised the significance of the issues associated with vulnerable landfills and have initiated a pilot project to develop a methodology to identify and prioritise landfills vulnerable to flood and erosion. Following the erosion of the Fox River Landfill during an extreme storm event, the Associate Minister for the Environment Hon Eugenie Sage announced, on the 11 September 2019, [a multiagency response to identify and prioritise vulnerable landfills](#).

Environment Canterbury, Environment Southland and West Coast Regional Council, are currently undertaking investigations using a methodology developed, with assistance from the Ministry for the Environment, to identify the at risk landfills within their regions.

The councils intend that the methodology and the learning of the pilot project will subsequently be applied by the other regional councils to the vulnerable landfills in their regions. The councils will use the information to prioritise the landfills for further investigations to determine the remedial or mitigation measures required to protect these landfills from the effect of climate change. If you seek further information on a specific landfill please contact the relevant regional councils.

In January 2019, Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) published its report titled '*Vulnerable: the quantum of local government infrastructure exposed to sea level rise*'. This report identifies that for six regional councils a 0.5-metre increase in sea level would potentially compromise the integrity of 110 closed landfills. In terms of active landfills, of these six regional councils, Canterbury and Otago each have one landfill that may be affected by a 0.5-metre increase in sea level. This report can be

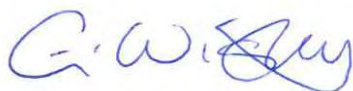
found through the following link: <https://www.lgnz.co.nz/our-work/publications/vulnerable-the-quantum-of-local-government-infrastructure-exposed-to-sea-level-rise/>.

The Ministry for the Environment released the first national climate change risk assessment for New Zealand on 3 August 2020. This report identifies that vulnerable landfills are a priority for action from local and central government. This report can be found through the following link: [www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/assessing-climate-change-risk](http://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/assessing-climate-change-risk). What we need to do to respond to these risks will be considered as part of the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan, which is currently under development and will be published by August 2022.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Executive Relations team: [ministerials@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ministerials@mfe.govt.nz).

Yours sincerely



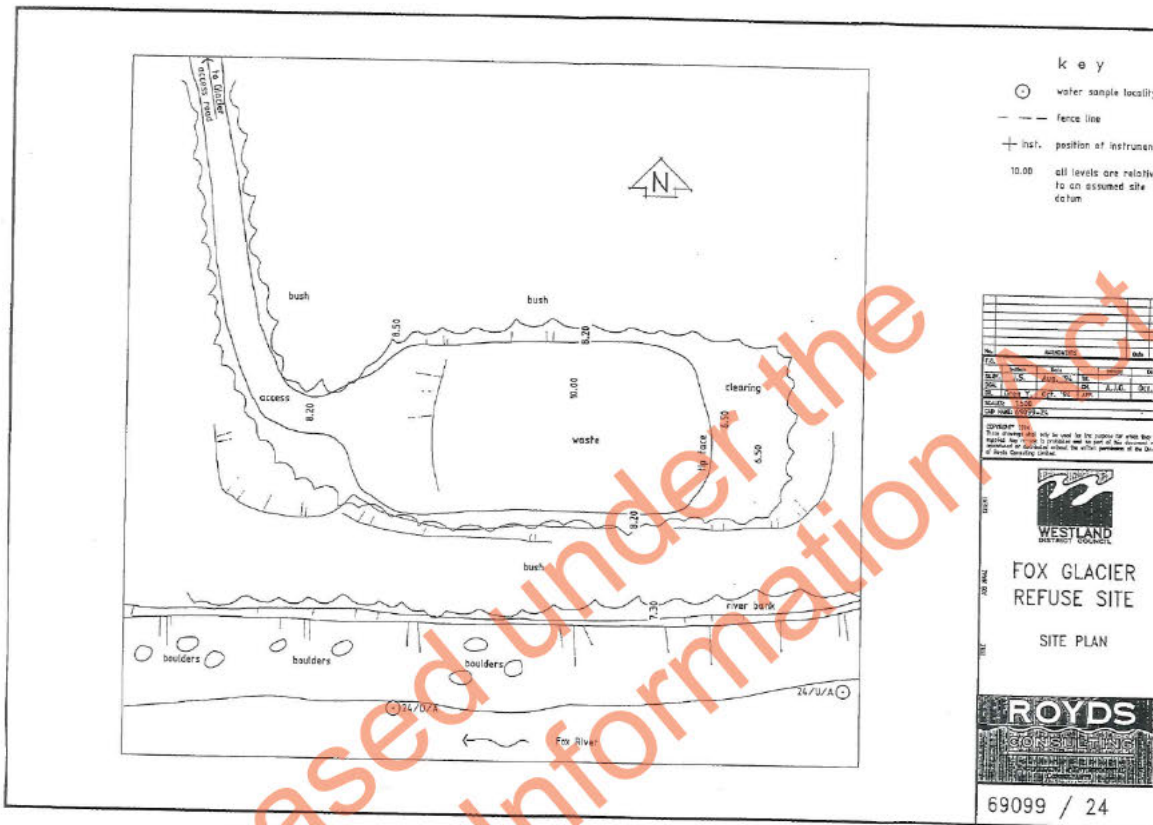
Glenn Wigley  
Director, Waste and Resource Efficiency – Regulatory and Policy

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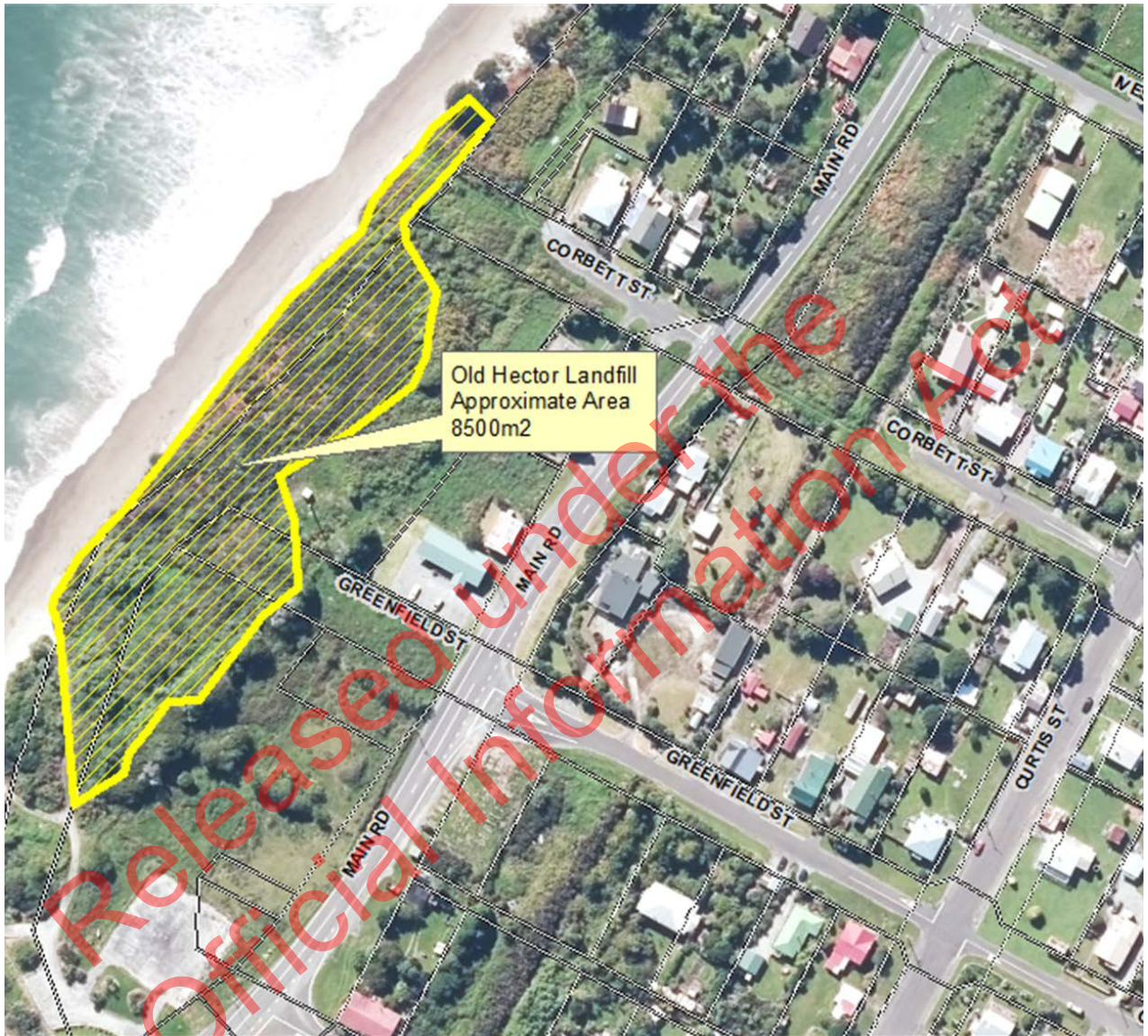
## Appendix 1 - Vulnerable landfills

Vulnerable landfills				
Name	Location	Regional Council	Territorial Authority	Attachments
Fox Landfill	Fox, Westland	West Coast	Westland District	Plan & photos
Old Hector Landfill	Hector, Buller	West Coast	Buller District	Plan & photos
Hannah's Clearing	West Coast	West Coast	Westland District	No visuals held
Neil's Beach Landfill	Jackson Bay	West Coast	Westland District	No visuals held
Harihari Old Landfill	Harihari	West Coast	Westland District	No visuals held
Sunset Point Landfill	Hokitika	West Coast	Westland District	No visuals held
Te Araroa Landfill	Gisborne	Gisborne District	Gisborne District	Photos
Ocean Beach Landfill	Invercargill	Environment Southland	Invercargill City	Plan & photos
Little Tahiti landfill	Milford Sound	Environment Southland	Southland District	Plan & photos
Waikaka Stream Landfill	Gore	Environment Southland	Gore District	Photos
Waimumu Stream Landfill	Mataura	Environment Southland	Gore District	Photos
Kettle Park Landfill	Dunedin	Otago	Dunedin City	No visuals held
Kaka Point Landfill	Kaka Point	Otago	Cutha District	Plan & photos
Te Kaha Landfill	Te Kaha	Otago	Ōpōtiki District	Photos
Hampden landfill	Hampden	Otago	Waitaki District	Plan & photos
Beach Road Landfills	Kakanui	Otago	Waitaki District	Plan & photos
Kaiaua closed coastal landfill (now remediated)	Kaiaua	Waikato	Hauraki District	No visuals held
Manaia former tip site	Manaia	Waikato	Thames-Coromandel District	No visuals held
Otaki Landfill	Otaki	Greater Wellington	Kapiti Coast District	Plan

# Fox Landfill

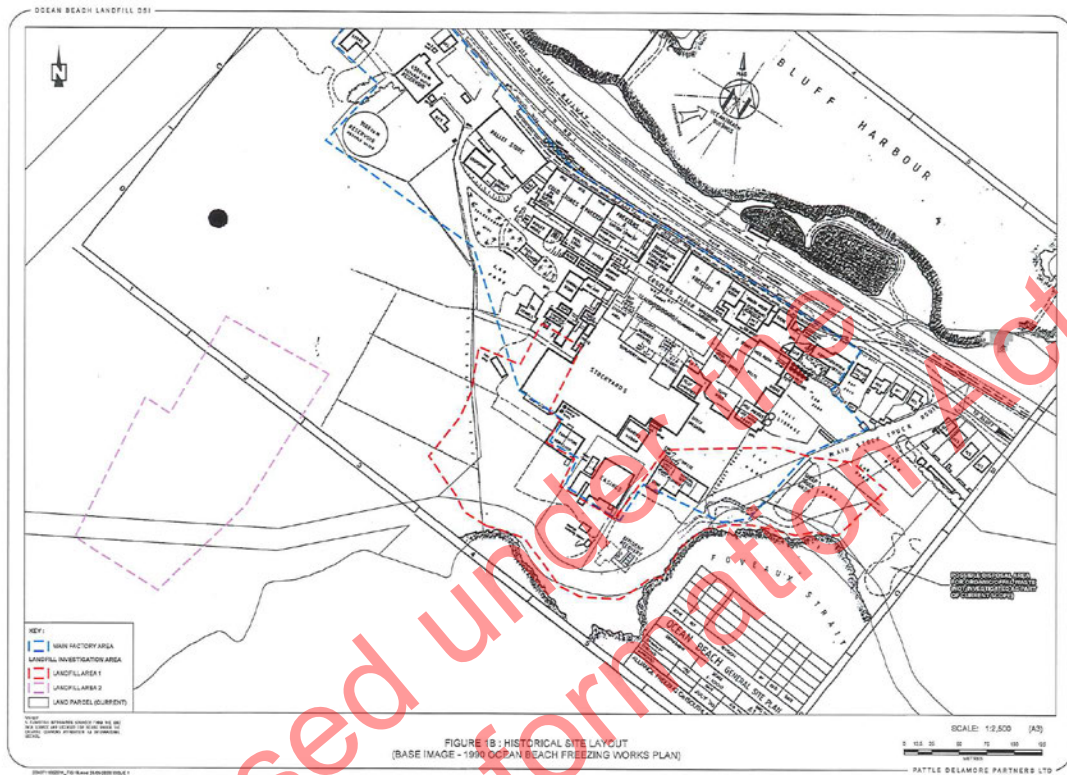


# Hector Landfill





# Ocean Beach Landfill





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# Te Araroa Landfill



# Little Tahiti landfill



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION - LITTLE TAHITI

TEST PIT LOCATIONS

# Kaka Point Landfill

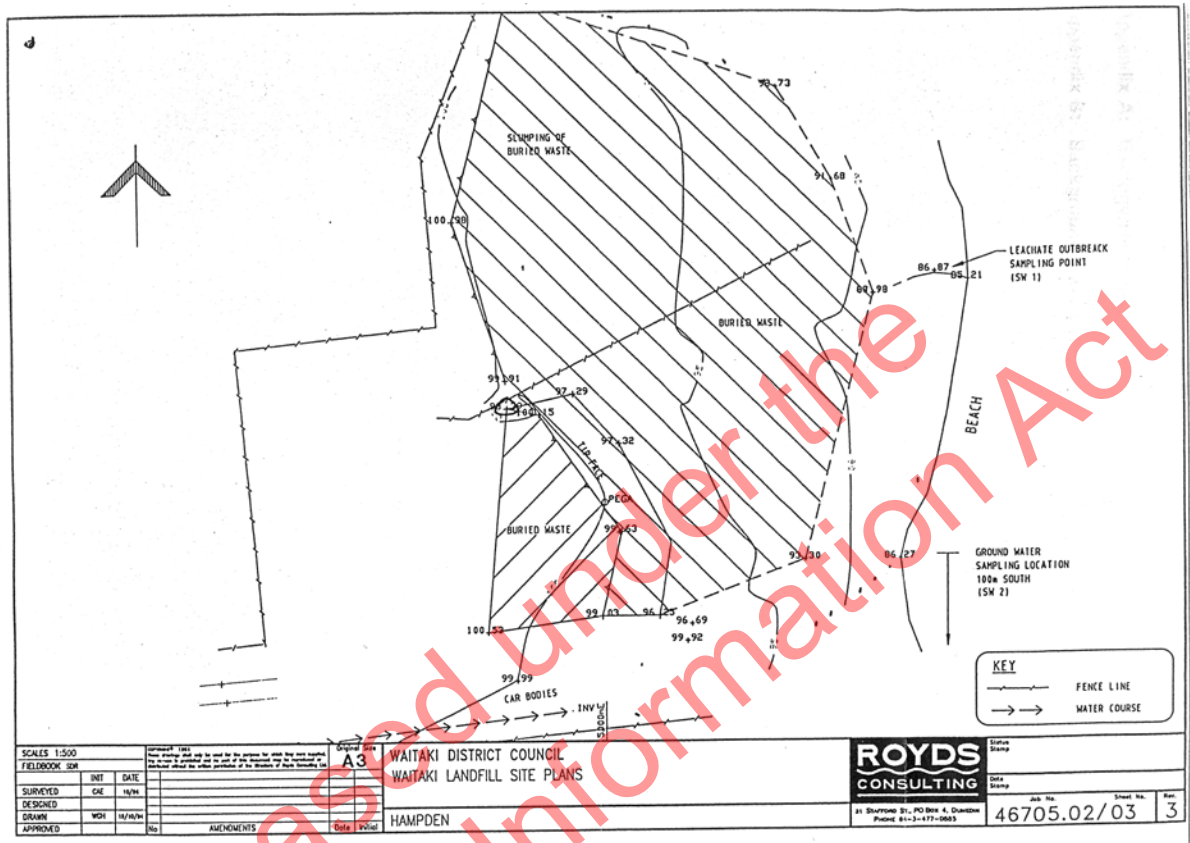




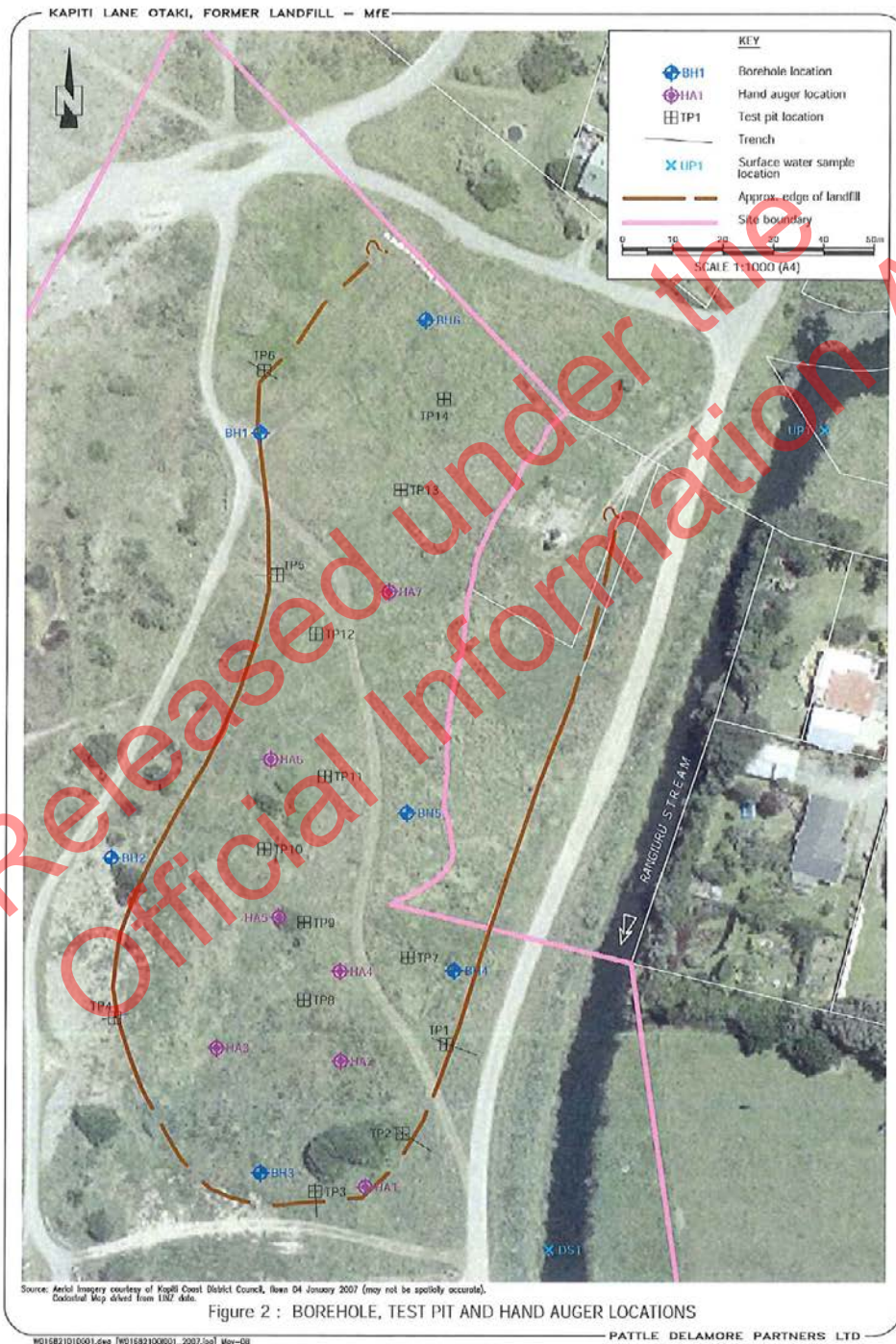
# Te Kaha Landfill



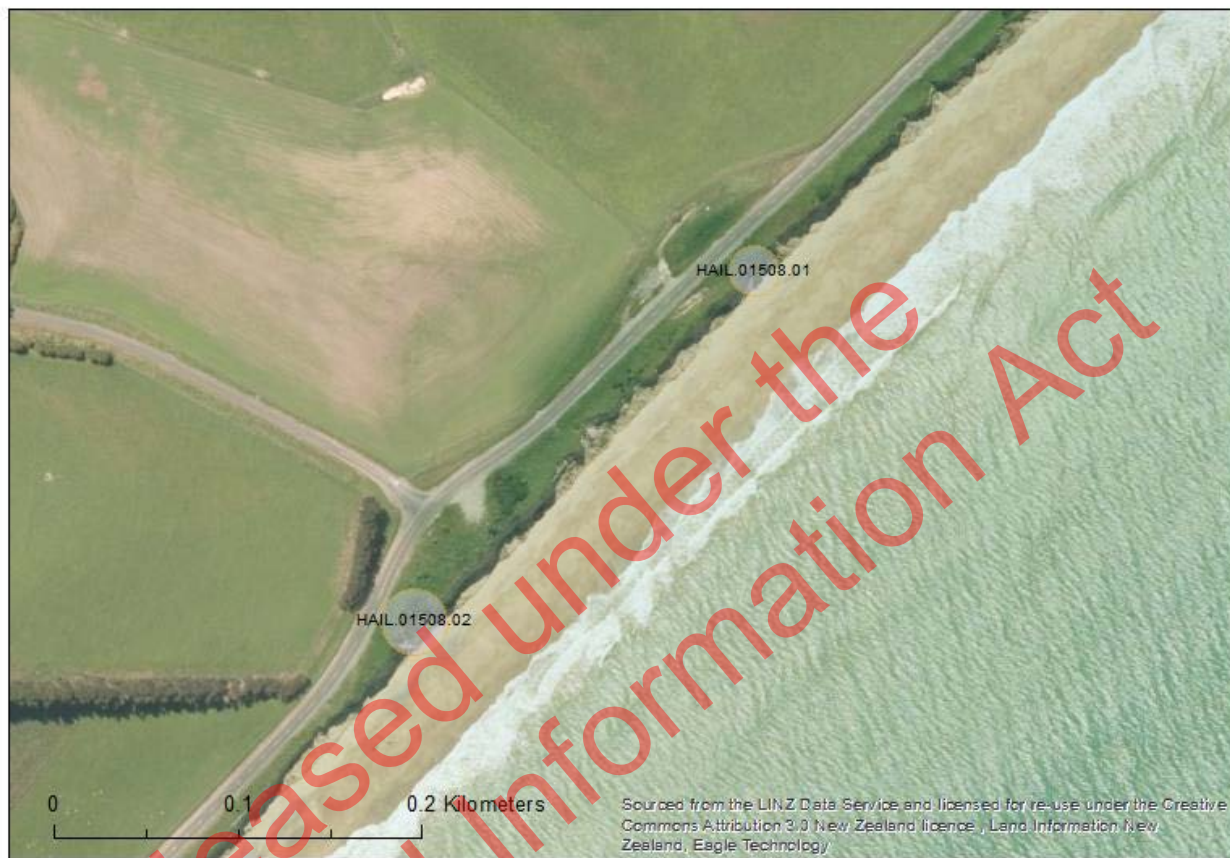
# Hampden landfill



# Otaki Landfill

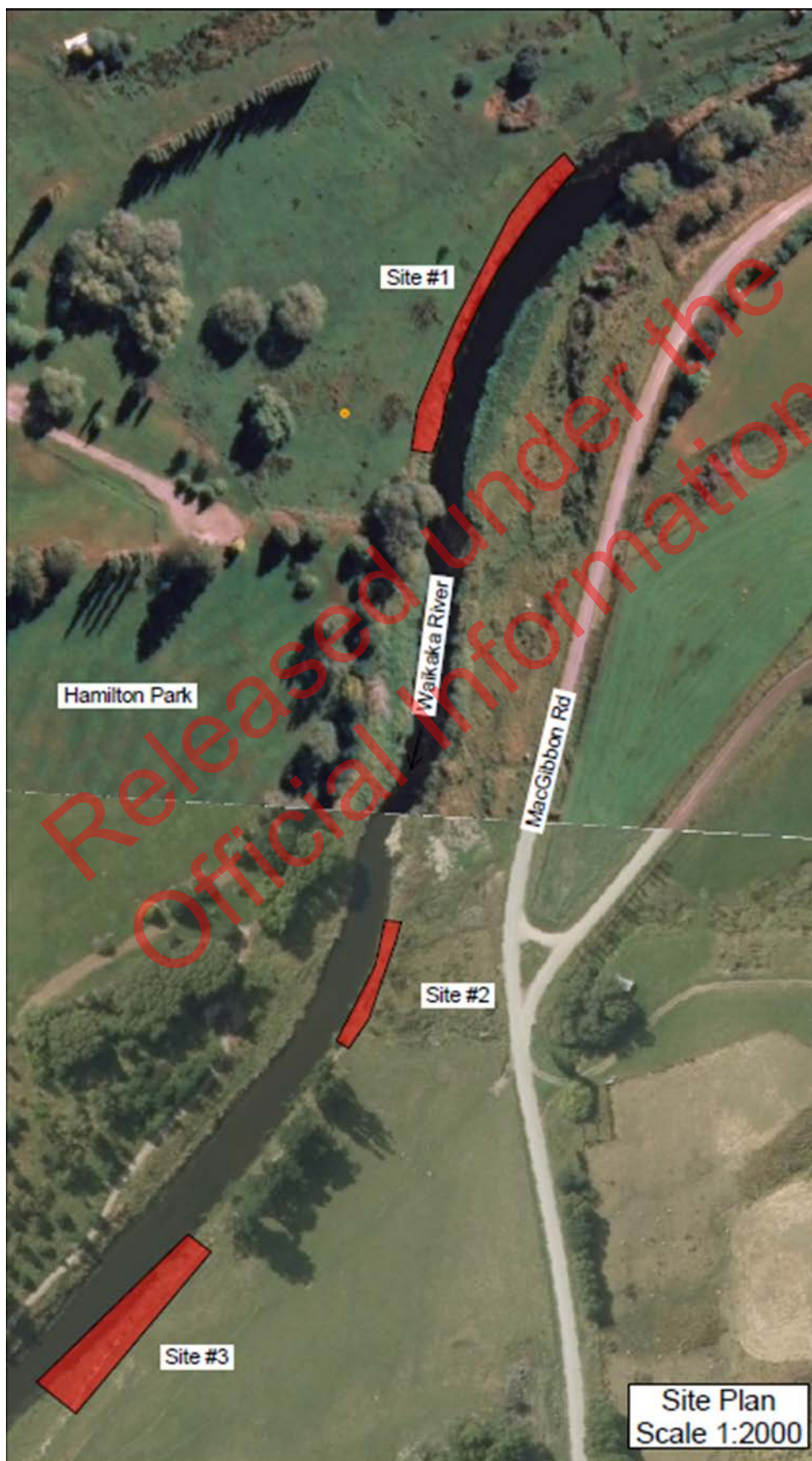


# Beach Road Landfills





# Waikaka Stream Landfill



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## Waimumu Stream Landfill



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