



OIA 20-E-0022 – DOC-6188372

13 February 2020

Andy Blick

fyi-request-12017-eba717c8@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Andy

Thank you for your Official Information Act request to the Department of Conservation, dated 13 January 2020. You requested the following:

... please provide me with the final costs and the total area involved in the recent (Nov. 2019) 1080 drop in the Whirinaki Conservation Park. Could you please include in the summary of costs the expenses involved with security costs and iwi consultation and approvals including any ex-gratia payments to any iwi representatives.

The total proposed area for the operation in the Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park in 2019 was for 41,044 hectares. This was subsequently reduced to 31,700 hectares, on which pre-feed was sown. Of this, 23,000 hectares was able to be treated in the available weather window on 11 and 13 December. Treatment options for the remaining 8,700 hectares are yet to be confirmed and will be based on consultation with our iwi partners.

Please find attached a Whirinaki progress map as at 13 December 2019 of the area consented and treated.

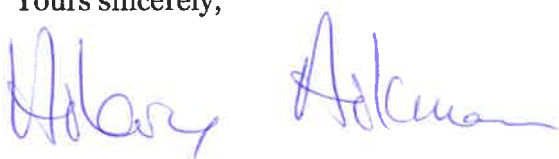
Final details and invoices for the December 2019 Whirinaki operation are still being received and processed by the Department. Therefore, I am not able to provide you with the final costs for the December 2019 Whirinaki operation under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act, as the information does not yet exist.

We anticipate that the final cost details for the December 2019 operation will be confirmed and available in approximately four months. If you would like this information you are welcome to make a new request after this time. Please note we are not able to guarantee the breakdown of costs that we would consider providing you (noting here you request a breakdown into security and consultation/approval costs), until such time as the final information is received, finalised and collated.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how you can make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department's website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hilary Aikman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Hilary Aikman
Director Operations Issues and Programmes