

Important Safety Notice: Pest Control Substance Found at Waiotahe Beach

Te Tāwharau o Te Whakatōhea is working closely with the **Bay of Plenty Regional Council** after discovering **Feratox**, a pest control substance, along the high tide line at **Waiotahe Beach**. *The safety of our whānau, our whenua, and our Moana is our priority*, and we urge everyone to stay away from the affected area while recovery efforts are underway.

What You Need to Know:

- Approximately **30 small bags** (mobile phone-sized) containing **Feratox (cyanide encapsulated for pest control)** have been found.
- The Regional Council was alerted via the Pollution Hotline last night, 27/02/25, and further searches have occurred.
- **Recovery teams, including local iwi representatives, are actively working** between the Waiotahe River Mouth and the Ōpōtiki Harbour entrance to locate and safely remove any remaining capsules. Beaches to the east, including Snells and Hukuwai, have been inspected with no findings; however, we advise continued caution. To the west, Bryans Beach has also been checked, with one bag discovered near the river mouth..
- **It is currently unknown how the capsules arrived at the beach or how many remain.**

How You Can Help:

- If you see a capsule, do NOT touch it.
- Report it immediately by calling the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Pollution Hotline – 0800 884 883.

Whakatōhea upholds the values of kaitiakitanga – the responsibility to protect and care for our environment. We are committed to ensuring these substances' safe recovery and disposal and will continue working with the Regional Council, the Environmental Protection Authority, and WorkSafe.

We will provide further updates as we receive them. The next official update from the Regional Council is expected at **3 pm today.**

Please share this message with whānau and the wider community to help keep everyone safe.

Mauri ora,

Logan Bertram

Toi Ora Environment Manager

Te Tāwharau o Te Whakatōhea

Additional Resource:

<https://www.bionet.nz/assets/Uploads/Publications/C6-Cyanide-2015-Nov-HR.pdf>



