

Sucked in

Your editorial writer "Concern over 1080 is groundless" has been sucked in by the spin doctors of the Department of Conservation, the naive Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment and the "flat earth" shrill shrieking of the vociferous vivid green lobby.

The fact is 1080 was originally developed as an insecticide that was later found to kill anything living that came in contact with it. Scientists such as the late Mike Meads and others expressed fears of aerial 1080 destroying the ecosystem's functioning.

Your editorial's fear of "population explosions" of

animals is pure fantasy spun by DOC's propagandists. Scientist Thane Riney's classic Lake Monk study showed both possums and deer in Fiordland naturally do not explode in numbers.

A modicum of thought about the beech seeding and "mast years", when DOC says explosions will occur, would reveal beech seeding has gone on for millions of years.

Finally, why do so many overseas countries ban 1080?

TONY ORMAN
Marlborough

Arrant nonsense

Sadly, whoever wrote your editorial on the use of 1080 had no idea what he or she was talking about, choosing instead to recycle the arrant nonsense distributed by the Department of Conservation.

It is widely known that the department's obsession with poisoning our native bush has very little effect on feral cats, ferrets, stoats, weasels, rats,

hedgehogs and possums (because there are few possums left and very few carry bovine tuberculosis) and the department blindly pursues its desire to spend \$3 million every year. Yet DOC is already short of money.

What is also known is that thousands of kiwi, kea, morepork and bush birds of all species, most of which DOC is legislated to protect, are being poisoned and eliminated in all areas which DOC has poisoned.

The time is long overdue for this insanity to cease.

NEIL HAYES
Carterton

Predictable

In-depth investigative journalism might have tempered the editorial on 1080 (Dec 20) and delivered another conclusion. The essence of the article should promote reassurance, however, there is nothing "safe" about any poison.

Dr Wright and other bodies' "rigorous" evaluations of 1080

have had only the Department of Conservation and other vested interests' scientific literature, and misinformation, on which to make their findings. Their conclusions are predictable.

Proper appraisal of this evidence shows that there are large areas with missing or hidden data. The efficacy, and the collateral by-kill, of specific operations is not published.

None of the various scrutineering bodies have been allowed, funded, or directed, to undertake totally independent investigations.

What is evident is that 1080 is a very effective poison, and a useful tool. That it kills all is undoubted. Nothing survives unaffected from ingesting this poison. No antidote is available.

Independent operations have proven that many large tracts of land, sown aerially, could have been much more efficiently treated through allowing ground access. Aerial deliveries have repeatedly fallen short of the standards

dictated by the administrators, and the conditions set through the courts are ignored.

Promoting the cutting of the "red tape" is irresponsible. It would unaccountably allow a return to the dangerous old ways.

LINDSAY EAGLE
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Christchurch "The Press"
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