

Misunderstanding

The efforts by Tom O'Connor (Dec 26) and Lorne Kuehn (Dec 27) to back the destructive 1080 poison were pathetic. Both seemingly don't understand ecosystems and New Zealand's especially.

New Zealand's vegetation evolved over millions of years with heavy browsing by moas, kokaho, pigeons

and other vegetarian birds. Moas were exterminated by Maori. A number of scientists contend that basically wild animals have replaced that essential browsing component.

Nor do Messrs O'Connor and Kuehn understand that within 12 months, 1080 induces population explosions in rat numbers that impacts adversely on birds apart from 1080 killing birds directly or by secondary poisoning.

Kuehn has killed 2000 possums in 25 years - a quarter of a century. Thus possum numbers are not high.

Thane Riney's research, which Tony Orman, quoted, was conveniently ignored by Messrs O'Connor and Kuehn. Riney proved animal populations naturally reach a balance with the environment's carrying capacity.

O'Connor appears to blame possums for Tb. He doesn't understand while authorities use a skin test (error over 25 per cent) then infected animals go undetected and are transported or continue to infect.

Dr Peter Small, head of Tb programmes for the Gates Foundation, has invented a new Tb test that is 99 per cent accurate and takes 100 minutes to attain the result. Why are the Animal Health Board and Tb-free New Zealand, etc, not using it? O'Connor should brush up on farming and Tb.

LLOYD HANSON
Blenheim

Ecosystem threat

It appears some of your correspondents do not understand the reality of ecosystem poisoning (Tom O'Connor, Dec 26, and Lorne Kuehn, Dec 27). That is that 1080, which was originally registered as an insecticide, is a metabolic poison that kills everything that requires oxygen for its metabolic processes, every bird, animal and insect. It is an ecosystem poison.

Logically it is the fastest breeders, particularly rats and stoats which are able to recover quickly which will come to dominate the forest;

slower breeding natives such as kea are massively disadvantaged.

The so-called plague of pests is purely a result of 1080; what's more, it drives the so-called "pest" crisis which is blamed for killing birds.

It is a crisis that conservation organisations are able to use to garner money from public and corporates. The same crisis is used by the state to maintain an over \$120 million a year government-owned poisons industry.

It is government agencies which spread 1080 over forests, lakes and rivers. Scientists who have raised concerns have lost their jobs or had their funding cut, so the rest go along with it.

It is poisons, not "pests" that are killing our birds and destroying our forest ecosystems.

BILL BENFIELD
Martinborough

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