

Time for fresh thinking on 1080

Graham Dick suggests that we should be eternally grateful for having Jan Wright as Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment and compliments her "carefully considered scientific approach" to the 1080 debate (Letters, Dec 23).

I beg to differ.

To assert, as the commissioner and many others do, that without pest control we would see the destruction of our native species is disturbingly naive fear-mongering, as even a cursory inspection of the ecological literature will reveal.

There is ample evidence that many of our bird species are adapting well to modern life and that those that didn't became extinct primarily because we destroyed nearly all our lowland ecosystems and much of our high country in the name of agriculture and economic growth.

It is easier to blame pests than confront this truth, and science has been marshalled to this cause.

Debating the relative merits of poison or trapping for pest control avoids questioning the fanatical and violent ethic that has arisen in our environmental movement, one that is based on fear, hatred, and guilt.

It is time for some fresh thinking, and Jan Wright and her team are sadly lacking in that.

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