

Outdoor policies

Editor,

What a very good letter Laurie Collins of Sporting Hunters' Outdoor Trust wrote last issue on how crucial the election on September 20 is. He highlighted the threats to the public's outdoor recreation, whether it be sea fishing, rivers, trout fishing or deer stalking.

Minister of Conservation Nick Smith's 1080 dowsing of public lands is so destructive. As an ecosystem poison it will kill insects, invertebrates, birds, possums, rats, deer – in fact, everything that lives. Some animals will survive, of course, and it is fast breeders like rats that explode back. Deer and possums do not. So Smith is

causing a plague of rats. Is he stupid?

In sea fishing this government has cut the recreational take to give to the commercial fishers, mostly 'fat cat' corporates.

Laurie Collins set it out very well. I liked that he clarified the importance of strategic voting under MMP.

The important vote is the party one. Even if you are a National supporter, by all means vote for your National candidate, but for the party vote don't tick National – unless you want to see more 1080, lower recreational sea-fishing bag limits and more [catch] for the

commercial sector, less water in rivers, low river-water standards, more asset sales, more oil exploration in forest parks and offshore – the list goes on.

Who to tick? Well my tick is going very probably to NZ First, which wants: guaranteed access for recreational fishers; the protection of existing game fish species; no licensing system for recreational saltwater anglers; and an end to 1080 – just a few of its excellent outdoor recreation policies.

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