



## MINISTRY NEEDS NEW MASCOT

Dompost 23/7/14

Conservation Minister Nick Smith believes the use of 1080 should be expanded to protect "iconic native species".

He represents an unhealthy obsession with everything native to this country.

The kiwi may be iconic, but this creature cannot survive on

its own. The stoat, however, would be a much more inspiring mascot.

These small but ambitious fellows have been tackling the rabbit population since the 1880s. And they pass the cuteness test.

It is not enough for the Government to control 30 per

cent of the land and do nothing with it.

To add insult to injury, it is poisoning this land, too.

A country saturated with 1080 is the next milestone after the Resource Management Act.

**JARED WARREN**  
Kelburn

## DOC running toxic empire

New Zealand should be grateful to DOC's Kevin O'Connor for showing us how this department works (Letters, July 21).

He claims that rat tracking tunnels in the Maruia Forest near Hanmer show there are currently seven rats per hectare.

He then goes on to claim that in

the middle of winter, which will be pretty cold down there right now, the population will nearly treble to 20 rats per hectare by spring.

This truly amazing claim for New Zealand rat fertility flies in the face of what happens everywhere else in the world - rat populations decline in winter due to cold and lack of food.

What O'Connor is really telling us is that DOC uses contrived

environmental "threats" to gain both the public's tax dollar and corporate sponsorship to maintain its toxic empire.

Tony Orman's letter on the same page is right on the button - it's nothing to do with conservation or saving our birds.

It is all about boosting profits for government-owned industries.

**BILL BENFIELD**  
Martinborough

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