

1080 Controversy flares again.

The **Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment** has reignited the 1080 poison debate by repeating her call to use more of the non-selective poison in New Zealand's forests. This has provoked outraged protests by hunters and other forest users, all too familiar with the devastating effects of its use.



The PCE report (16th July 2013) can be found here:

<http://www.pce.parliament.nz/media/media-releases/lack-of-action-on-pest-control-disappointing-environment-commissioner>

The Conservation Minister, Nick Smith, backed her call, as reported here:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/8934809/Nick-Smith-backs-1080-call>

Supporting the call:

This was picked up by the Christchurch Press, (<http://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/opinion/8932159/Editorial-1080-necessary-to-control-pests>)

Waikato Times (<http://www.stuff.co.nz/waikato-times/opinion/editorials/8942344/1080-still-best-bet>)

Southland Times (<http://www.stuff.co.nz/southland-times/opinion/8946260/Editorial-1080-its-the-best-we-ve-got>)

and Tananaki Daily News, and widely syndicated in other media.

Those who actually frequent the mountains and forests have quite a different view. Here are some of them.

Government Commissioner Wrong on 1080

Thursday, 18 July 2013, 12:13 pm

Press Release: Sporting Hunters' Outdoor Trust

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's call for more 1080 is badly flawed says Laurie Collins spokesman for the Sporting Hunters' Outdoor Trust (SHOT).

"She is dangerously wrong on several counts and in calling for more 1080 is unwittingly threatening native birds and indeed the integrity of the whole ecosystem," said the West Coast conservationist.

Laurie Collins had spent much of his working life as a "pest officer" working with 1080 and other poisons.

Laurie Collins said the Commissioner clearly did not understand the nature of 1080 as a toxin, basic biology and food chains.

"Ms Wright described 1080 as humane. That's utter nonsense. Taking about two days to slowly kill is not humane."

In seeking answers to PCE Jan Wright's wish for more 1080, Laurie Collins said the Commissioner's expertise was in physics not biology. In addition there was vested interest by government.

"The Commissioner, DOC and Animal Health Board are employed by government. Empires and jobs are at stake. Government owns the 1080 company Animal Products," he said.

Laurie Collins said Ms Wright was wrong that 1080 would save birds.

"If it doesn't kill them or leave them sickly with a sub-lethal dose, undermining their ability to breed, it will poison birds' food supply of invertebrates and insects. It is a broad spectrum, non-selective poison, killing everything that requires oxygen for its metabolic processes. In short it is an ecosystem poison".

Scientists like the late Mike Meads, Peter Notman and others warned 1080 disrupts whole forest ecosystems and food chains. In addition to direct, or secondary poisoning, birds suffer afterwards from 1080 which causes predator numbers to rise rapidly. After a poison drop, the fast-breeding rats and stoats with litters totalling 30 kittens per annum explode in numbers. Possums, (one kitten a year), do not. The stimulated plague of rats and stoats seeking food then "prey-switch" to birds.

The majority of hunters care about the environment, the forests and birds. The fact is 1080 is banned in almost every other country.

He urged every caring hunter to read conservationist Bill Benfield's book "The Third Wave." It outlines all the damaging effects and side effects of 1080.

"Commissioner Wright should read it too" he said. "Poisons, not so-called pests are killing forests and bird ecosystems - a major environmental tragedy."

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Letter to "The Press" Christchurch which lauded the PC E and 1080 in its editorial.

Both the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment and your editorial (18 July) misunderstand 1080. The toxin, developed about 1920s as an insecticide but found to kill everything including animals and birds. It kills everything requiring oxygen for its metabolic processes. In two words - an "ecosystem poison".

Scientists like the late Mike Meads, Peter Notman and others warned 1080 disrupts whole forest ecosystems. After 1080 the fast-breeding rats and stoats with litters totalling 30 kittens per annum explode in numbers. Possums, (one kitten a year), do not. The stimulated plague of rats and stoats then switch to birds.

Scientists raising concerns have had findings ignored even lost jobs or had funding cut. The rest are forced to comply with pro-1080 policy

But don't expect the Commissioner to understand food chains. Her science is in physics not biology. Those who frequent the mountains "off-track" do understand.

The 1080 tragedy is trumped up by government for vested interest reasons. The Commissioner, DOC and Animal Health Board are employed by government. Government owns the 1080 company Animal Products - surely a revealing investigative journalism story?

Poisons, not "pests" are killing forests and bird ecosystems - a major environmental tragedy.

Laurie Collins
Spokesman Sporting Hunters Outdoor Trust

Watch these youtube clips:

New Zealand Rivers - The Fight to Keep Them Poison-Free

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nKL7KllorWw&feature=youtu.be>

Poisoning Stewart Island

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIBGx78mcTQ&feature=youtu.be>

Letter to the Dominion Post

Sent: Thursday, 18 July 2013 1:04 p.m.
To: Letters (DPT) (letters@dompost.co.nz)
Subject: letter for publication

Dear Editor

Subject : TV1 Item 6:00pm Tues July 16th re: **1080 Poison**

Viewers of TV1 at 6:00pm Tuesday July 16th should be rightly annoyed at the glib reporting exercise of a complex subject whereby the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment called for the use of more aerially broadcast 1080 poison.

None of the facts were emphasized:

1. 1080 is a broad spectrum poison that kills everything that metabolizes oxygen from insects right through to large animals.
2. 1080 was developed as an insecticide in the 1920's and is banned in almost all countries.

3. There is a severe risk of secondary poisoning of scavengers and sub lethal uptake right through the food chain.
4. There is every risk of non-target unintended consequences of indiscriminate aerial broadcast of poison in vast areas of wilderness under no control or scientific monitoring.
5. There is no scientific evidence that there is a so called "pest" out there in numbers that would warrant such an extreme and dangerous exercise.
6. The poisoning regime favors fast breeding animals like rats and stoats and disadvantages slow breeding native birds.
7. 1080 has been used for 60 years and has not worked against fast breeders but has decimated native birds like kea.
8. The forest evolved with the presence of browsing [moa and others] from snow grass down to lowland and swamp. Unlike the myth propagated of forests evolving in the absence of browsers.
9. The government owns the 1080 factory; jobs of DoC, AHB and the factory are all tied up in a \$120 million dollar poison industry spinning go around.
10. The PCE Jan Wright has no qualifications whatsoever in biology or zoology, she is nothing but a state mouth piece for the poison industry.

Year 10 biology would reveal to students that you cannot aerielly spread a broad spectrum poison indiscriminately across vast areas of wilderness without disrupting the entire ecosystem and food chain.

It is time the PCE and the Minister of Conservation, DoC and the AHB enrolled in a basic high school biology course before they find themselves in a world environment court charged with massive destruction of our native species.

If this madness persists our grandchildren will be gob smacked at our stupidity just like we are gob smacked at bad ideas like slavery, genocide, female genital mutilation and cannibalism.

Bud Jones QSM
Pokai Parera Farms
R.D. 2
Eketahuna

Letter to the Editor.

In calling for more 1080, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment woefully misunderstands the toxin, possibly because she is a physicist, not a biologist.

Hunters, anglers, trappers and all who cherish the wilderness want to hear birdsong not helicopters and their rain of aerial 1080 pellets.

1080 was first synthesised in 1896, a chemical era that also bequeathed us DDT and organo-phosphates and whilst every country on the planet has banned large scale use of 1080 (save for Australia), we chuck 3,500,000 kg of the stuff over our forests, rivers, lakes and mountains with joyful abandon every year.

Make no mistake it kills EVERY living creature from fleas to kiwis and is one of the world's most powerful "ecosystem poisons".

After a 1080 drop fast breeding rats and stoats, with litters of up to thirty per annum, rapidly out-populate slower breeding species such as possums (one joey per annum) and our native birds. The resultant plague of rats and stoats kill and eat all remaining birds and their eggs – a double whammy for our native bird life.

Poisons, not "pests" are killing our ecosystems and if you're still not convinced read Bill Benfield's book "The Third Wave" and then decide.

David Haynes
President
New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers
www.nzffa.net

Press Release – New Zealand First Party

New Zealand First says Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Dr Jan Wright is wrong to be calling for an increase in the use of 1080 poison on DOC land. Outdoor Recreation spokesperson Richard Prosser says New Zealand First will seek to find ...Richard Prosser MP
Spokesperson for Outdoor Recreation
19 July 2013

New Zealand First Calls For End to Aerial 1080

New Zealand First says Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Dr Jan Wright is wrong to be calling for an increase in the use of 1080 poison on DOC land.

Outdoor Recreation spokesperson Richard Prosser says New Zealand First will seek to find an alternative, followed by a ban of the use of air-dropped 1080 altogether.

“1080 is an inhumane and indiscriminate poison which is banned in most of the rest of the world.

“New Zealand is one of only a half-dozen countries which allow 1080 use, and we take something like 90% of the total global supply. 1080 kills everything from native birds to deer and pigs and dogs and horses as well as possums, and it kills them slowly and painfully.

“A ban here is inevitable and the Government should be focussing on developing alternative products and strategies for pest control.

“There are better ways of controlling possums and other TB vectors around the fringes where farmland meets the bush, including bait stations and humane traps. These allow for the harvest of possum fur and don’t leave unrecovered carcasses to become a food source for other predators such as rats and stoats.

“Game animals such as deer and pigs might have been introduced species once, but they’re naturalised and endemic now, and are best controlled through sustainable hunting.

“New Zealand First supports our hunting community as one of the guardians of the land, and we applaud their efforts in helping to protect both native bird species and the biosecurity of this country’s farming operations.

“We oppose the continued use of aerial 1080, and will look to promote and encourage alternative methods of pest control,” says Mr Prosser.

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Letter: Plea to trap possums

Last updated 11:24 22/07/2013

Letters Southland Times

OPINION: I am a small player in the New Zealand possum industry.

I have orders at present for more than 1000 tanned possum skins and am finding it hard to buy enough raw skins to fill these orders.

When I can fill these orders, it provides income for the trapper, my staff, my business, and tax revenue for the Government.

The big players in the industry are in the same position. We are all fighting to source raw skins to fill orders.

It defies logic that MP Nick Smith wants to continue using 1080 and even increase the amount used across the country.

All the possums that are killed this way are never harvested. They are left to rot.

Also, as I understand it, some Animal Health Board contracts forbid the contractors from skinning any possums killed as it slows them down and that is not what they are paid to do. So they are left to rot as well.

We have a resource in this country that has huge value in it.

Skinning or plucking them at least provides an income for the trapper and business for the tannery. This provides employment and therefore tax revenue.

The Chinese would take every possum New Zealand has if that was possible. They already buy most of the possum fur for the wool/possum-blend garments.

Obviously, it would be better for our economy if the skins were processed here then sold to China but as with everything, our cost to produce is too high.

I know all this has been said before and has fallen on deaf ears with politicians.

We all know 1080 kills all sorts of animals, not just possums. We also all know many countries no longer use it due to its toxicity on the environment. "Clean Green NZ" - yeah right!

ADAM COWIE

Animal Skin Tanning Services Ltd

Wednesday 17 July 2013 – Wellington

Forest & Bird media release for immediate use

Forest & Bird joins call for more aerial 1080

Forest & Bird is backing the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment's latest report, released last night, advocating greater 1080 use.

This update report follows up her 2011 report that recommended more 1080 should be used to protect New Zealand's unique wildlife and forests.

Using 1080 as a method to control pests has generated heated opposition, despite research showing it does not build up in the environment and seldom kills non-target species.

Forest & Bird Advocacy Manager Kevin Hackwell says the PCE's latest report reinforces Forest & Bird's stance that 1080 remains the most cost effective way of controlling the three "key pests of possums, rats and stoats" over large areas.

"Pests are decimating our native forests and killing an estimated 25 million birds a year, pushing some of them towards extinction. We need to get on top of the pest situation if we want to reverse the decline of our native wildlife.

"We fully agree with the Commissioner in that aerial 1080 drops over large areas are the best way to do that," he says.

"Other methods of pest control, like trapping and ground-based poison operations, are expensive, time-consuming, cover small areas, and often fail to get into the heart of the back country where it's most needed. Aerial 1080 drops, at this stage, offer the most cost-effective way to tackle New Zealand's pest problem," Kevin Hackwell says.

Forest & Bird is disappointed that the Department of Conservation has not acted on the PCE's key recommendation from the initial 2011 report to increase the use of aerial 1080 operations.

“DOC should move resources from the less effective ground-based control to the more effective use of aerial 1080. There’s no need for any more delay, we should be acting on the PCE’s recommendations now,” Kevin Hackwell says.

Contact: Forest & Bird Advocacy Manager Kevin Hackwell

United Future Supports Doc Investigating 1080 Alternatives

Wednesday, 17 July 2013, 9:15 am

Press Release: [United Future NZ Party](#)

17 July 2013

United**Future** leader Peter Dunne is supporting the Department of Conservation against criticisms from the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment that it is not using enough 1080 poison to curb possums.

Yesterday, the Parliamentary Commissioner criticised DOC for not spending enough on 1080 drops and too much on research into alternatives to 1080.

But Mr Dunne says he supports DOC’s efforts to find alternatives to 1080.

“I think the Parliamentary Commissioner is being short sighted.

“Very few people argue that 1080 is the ideal solution, and there have been constant calls over the years for more research to be done into viable alternatives.

“DOC has under strong criticism from many recreational groups for what was seen as too rigid an approach to 1080 – now when it is doing much more at looking at viable alternatives, it gets criticised by the Parliamentary Commissioner for not being rigid enough!

“In my view, DOC has got the balance about right.

“Of course, we must protect the conservation estate in particular from unwelcome predators – no-one seriously questions that – but as New Zealand is one of the few countries in the world to still use 1080, we must also be constantly looking at alternatives,” he says.

Mr Dunne says the Parliamentary Commissioner’s 2001 and 2013 reports show a “blinkered” approach which “detracts from the impartiality of her office.”

Mr Dunne is calling on the Parliamentary Commissioner to work with DOC on a balanced approach to the use of 1080 and alternatives, rather than to keep attacking its efforts.

“All she ends up doing is looking like a stooge for the Animal Health Board and the 1080 industry,” he says.

Hon Peter Dunne
MP for Ohariu
Leader of UnitedFuture

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“The Third Wave - Poisoning the Land”

Conservation Policies Warped Due to 1080

Wairarapa organic winemaker, architect, conservationist and angler Bill Benfield is angry about 1080 and the resulting warping of conservation in New Zealand.

Of his recently published book "The Third Wave - Poisoning the Land" he says if there is any message he has endeavoured to get through, it is that conservation in New Zealand is nothing about saving forests and fauna. "Instead, as the corporate statement of the government's Animal Control Products that distributes 1080 quite clearly states, is about maintaining a roughly \$120 million a year government owned poisoning industry."

For more information, or to order a copy, see:

<http://coranz.org.nz/resources/publications>