

Policy Document – 1080

1080 is used by public and private organisations to poison mammals. The three main public users are:

- Department of Conservation, who use it principally to suppress rat, stoat and to a lesser extent possum populations.
- OSPRI, who disperse it primarily to poison possums as vectors of bovine tuberculosis.
- Regional Councils, who use 1080 to control unwanted mammals on public and private land.

The use of 1080, specifically aerial dispersal, is a hugely contentious subject. Many believe that without it rodents and mustelids would annihilate our bird populations, particularly the ground nesters. Others believe the impact of poisoning non-target species is under-estimated and unquantified. We know that deer are particularly susceptible to 1080 poisoning and find the cereal pellets highly palatable.

The NZ Outdoors Party believes that we must find common ground within the outdoors community - we are all conservationists whether trampers, hunters, duck shooters, anglers, kayakers or those simply seeking solitude, peace and quiet.

The NZ Outdoors Party believes, given a choice, no outdoors person would choose to have rats, stoats, ferrets, feral cats, hedgehogs and other mammals that predate on our native birds and/or their eggs. Birds have a tough enough time fending off wekas, pukeko, falcons, hawks, morepork and other native predators.

We also believe no conservationist would choose to poison any bird, insect or game animal by 1080. The loss of even a single kea by 1080 is unacceptable and there are certainly better ways of managing our valuable game herds.

The long-term risk of immediate cessation of aerial 1080 is untested and unknown. Similarly, the long-term impact of aerial 1080 is unknown - the longest known impact study is three years.

The extent of our intervention to date has likely created an imbalance that we are now obliged to manage, particularly in respect of rat and stoat numbers as they have rapid breeding cycles. Whilst we all wait for “the alternative to 1080” we believe we need to continue to manage the imbalance we have created.

Possums are more of a grey area – they breed slowly, are solitary and territorial creatures and support a valuable trapping industry for fur, pelts and pet food. Only where their numbers are high and access difficult would there be a case for poisoning and only if by-kill of valued species can be eliminated.

Thus, the NZ Outdoors Party policy on 1080 is: ***If it only kills rats and stoats we like it, if it kills anything else, we don't.***

To deliver this policy we will implement the following controls for all aerial 1080 operations:

- Do not drop it in our rivers and lakes. We have enough freshwater problems without adding to them.
- Mandatory requirements for OSPRI, DoC and Regional Councils to measure and report on pre and post drop numbers of both target and non-target species kills for each aerial 1080 operation.
- Increase investment and rate of research into alternative repellents for our game animals and birds.
- Investment in alternatives to cereal based pellets to deter non-target species poisoning e.g. meat or fish based matrix.
- Stricter protocols for aerial 1080 drops. Too many are occurring in the absence of evidential support or where land-based access is available.
- Mandatory accommodation of all game animal interests, commercial and recreational by the responsible agencies.