

**The Chair and Members,  
The Decision Making Committee.  
Environmental Risk Management Authority.**

Re-assessment of sodium monofluoroacetate.  
Application code: **HRE05002**

Further to the submission of W. Benfield of Martinborough.

Since my original submission, the following matters have come to my attention.

- 1) A possible, indeed likely further un-marked dump of 1080 in a former Rabbit Board yard at Pongaroa, that has since been sold.
- 2) A submission by Federated farmers, to the effect that, were it not for 1080, New Zealand exports could be jeopardised by bovine TB vectored by possum.  
To this, I would suggest, that if say a London Sunday Times Insight team turned up in New Zealand, to look at the "Fruits of a clean green land", and saw the state of our lowland waterways, the use of irrigation and fertilisers. The chemical cruelty of 1080 being rained upon our hinterland, and sometimes even our accessible lowlands, the food miles of Fontera milk trucks carting milk to large central processing plants. TB wouldn't even make it onto the radar. As a nation, we would be held up as a pack of frauds and eco pariahs. The damage to our markets would be immense.
- 3) A walk up the Poley in the Aorangi's in February. The area had been subject to its first aerial 1080 operation in Sept last year with deer repellent. I came across remains of one deer and 3 possums. The bush was absolutely silent, bird and insect free. A huge dead bright green manuka beetle. About 10 or 12 mm long, a bit bigger than a finger nail. I'd never seen anything that size before.  
It occurred to me, that as 1080 operations were supposedly in remote, difficult to reach areas, the sort of area's where there could be rare fauna, maybe an as yet undiscovered sub-species of kiwi, a skink? In the case of the Aorangi's, well sorry, TOO LATE. 1080 got there first!
- 4) It was also while I was in this silent bush, the thought occurred; that what's happening here is an assault upon the entire eco-system of the forest. The insects break down the litter, the worms work it into the soil, the birds distribute the seeds, the deer keep the understorey open and allow air and light in. As 1080 kills every

living thing, one can see, that in time the health of the whole forest must be affected, the trees, soils, everything.

At which point, I wonder about the curious position of Royal Forest and Bird as a conservation organisation, and their almost shrill advocacy for the use of 1080. For the destruction of all that they are charged to protect!

5) In April, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its report for New Zealand's prospects. It is predicted that there will be substantial loss of mountain glacier, and significant extinction of indigenous bio-diversity by 2030. This has nothing to do with possums or 1080. If all the possums magically disappeared, it would still happen. Yet the managers of our forests resolutely try to turn back the clock, to some pristine past by raining 1080 upon it. Our forests and wildlife must be managed for the dynamic situation we now find ourselves in, and not some idealised past.

6) A press release by the Department of Conservation, of DG & publicist Al Morrison's address to this Committee at Dunedin on the 14<sup>th</sup> May.

He is right, it is the future of conservation at stake. Real conservation that is, not the market model conservation industry as exemplified by DoC and its conservation products. Real conservation deals in fact. The market driven model deals in marketing myths. Al Morrison cites wonderful results from the use of 1080, such as an operation in Sept. 2006 on 14000Ha of Tongariro Forest. Measurements allege a decline in rat and stoat densities, but most significant of all 3 kiwi had reached critical size at which they were able to defend themselves from stoats. 3 kiwi in 14000Ha, 4666 Ha per kiwi. Is that a sustainable population base? Would they be able to find each other for purposes of procreation? And what happened to the rest?

What good stories does Al have for the Tararua's, where every weekend hundreds of people go? A walk from Mangatere to Totara Flats reveals a silent bush. Well, they're keeping it that way, Smiths Creek and Kaitoke are about to get a fresh dousing of 1080 from the air.

But the myths go on. The press item of 1/1/07 attached to my original submission would suggest that despite all DoC's claims, 1080 doesn't touch stoats. Do stoats eat bran baits or poisoned rats. Not at all. But the biggest and most numerous predator isn't even mentioned. In a 4 year trapping programme on private land in the Eastern Wairarapa, it's roughly 60 cats to 6 stoats. But then I guess there's no Stoats Protection League.

What is going on in the New Zealand bush, in the name of "conservation" is just simply appalling. The slow lingering agony, the miserable deaths of innocent birds, insects and animals. Because its out of sight makes it no less palatable. Its New Zealand's "dirty little secret". No other country in the world permits what's going on here, and nor should we. Parallels with the US military's agent orange campaign in Vietnam are valid.

I most strongly ask that this Decision-Making Committee require **THE IMMEDIATE CESSATION** of indiscriminate aerial poisoning of the New Zealand countryside and forests, especially with 1080.

Bill Benfield.  
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May 2007.