

EMRA 1080 Hearing – KFC Submission.

8985.

KC experience - >30 years involved in the conservation of threatened herpetofaunal species ~~conservation~~, based in UK but covering the length and breadth of Europe. Many, many problems, but none like that facing NZ. Since retiring here have become increasingly involved locally and nationally with reptiles, perhaps most notably within SRARNZ (Executive).

NZ's lizards are at least as important as its more famous threatened birds, 26 : 40 : 60 and last month the 90th in a remote Fiordland valley. The majority are listed as threatened. While there are common causes of their decline – forest clearance, environmentally unsympathetic farming, urban growth around the obvious centres and for retirement/holiday homes along our coasts, the unique NZ problem concerns the introduction of mammalian pests and predators - rats x 2, ferrets, stoats, weasels, hedgehogs, possums and cats. No powers of flight/escape yet like the birds evolved in the absence of mammals, less than 200 years to develop any instinct against these mammals, needs 100,000s if not millions of years.

Now to come to some of the relevant matters raised within EMRA's comprehensive Review (bed time reading).

Reptiles poorly dealt with, whether by way of toxicity or benefits.

1080 : NZ Biodiversityquestionable.....again reptiles not just threatened plants and birds. Where were you on this one DoC ?

There is an apparent ^{sole} almost emphasis on forests; cf. coastal dunes, upland tussock grass, etc. ?

Large blocks of habitat ? Yes a priority but 1080 should also be available where relevant for smaller Scenic Reserves eg. around the Auckland bush fringe/green belt.

1080 persistence in carcasses (upto 75 days) very important for bykill of rats and some of the mustelids.

Arguments against from hunters, animal welfare, understandable but no contest when it comes to preventing the extinction of endemic biodiversity.

Deer cf. native flora and fauna ?

1080 Suffering ?

The use of 1080 should be recognised as a valid biocide, whether as an efficient alternative or an extra aid to combat the dire situation brought to this land, in ignorance, by homesick colonial Europeans.

Yes, as an additional tool in our environmental toolbox, but perhaps even more as an additional weapon in the battle to save our natural heritage.