

SUBMISSION FROM NGATI KAHUNGUNU IWI INCORPORATED ON THE APPLICATION FOR REASSESSMENT OF 1080

1080 HEARINGS

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POHARA MARAE

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WAIKATO

1. Introduction:

Ngati Kahungunu has the second largest tribal rohe in the country, from the Wharerata ranges extending to the Southern Wairarapa. The coastal boundaries are Paritu north of Mahia to Turakirae in the south, and the western boundary extends through the Wharerata, Kaweka, Ruahine and Tararua ranges. Ngati Kahungunu Iwi Incorporated is mandated to represent the people of Ngati Kahungunu through its elected Board.

My role at the runanga is to advocate for Ngati Kahungunu preferences for environmental management at local, regional and national levels. I have 8 years experience in resource management issues.

2. Kahungunutanga:

For the 1080 kaupapa there are a range of views within Ngati Kahungunu. The prevailing view is of opposition to its use, if there is a better way, a more humane way to manage pests, we'd prefer these other options to be used.

Our Kahungunutanga and our relationships with the whenua have many facets, many different levels. Wairuatanga, whakapapa, tikanga and kaitiakitanga form the basis for our beliefs, our manawhenua and our cultural wellbeing. 1080 is not a naturally occurring substance within Aotearoa. It does not respect our whakapapa. It does not respect our code of ethics. It does not kill selectively. The amount of damage being caused by 1080 to taonga species is unacceptable to us.

3. Consultation:

In our view the consultation round for the 1080 was deficient. The geographical coverage was fine, but we feel the quality of engagement with Maori was not faulty. The quality of consultation will be reflected in the outcomes, and should therefore reflect our values. Most questions asked by participants at the AHB / DOC hui I attended (Te Taiwhenua o Te Whanganui a Orotu) were unable to be answered by the presenter. This was an impediment to hui participants being able to get all relevant information, and make informed comments / decisions.

4. Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi:

The main Treaty principles acknowledged by environmental case law, by regional and territorial authorities, and enshrined in Regional Policy Statements within our rohe include:

- The Principle of Tino Rangatiratanga
- The Principle of Partnership

- The Principle of Kawanatanga
- The Principle of Active Protection
- The Principle of Active Participation and Consultation

Section 4 of the Conservation Act, 1987, and recent RMA amendments require these principles to be “given effect to”. Therefore it is possible for some of our concerns as Maori to be addressed through existing legislative frameworks, provided the active protection is consistently applied through each strand of the pest control kaupapa. At the moment, this is not the case as our values are being interpreted by someone else, and then balanced against other values.

5. Research:

In my view, the research referenced throughout the application is not complete enough or in depth enough for a sound long-term decision to be made.

Relatively few species of plants have been researched to assess plant uptake and effects on cellular function. There are gaps in the data and inaccuracies for pre 1080 and post 1080 bird counts.

.What is the overall effect of 1080 on ecosystem function and integrity? As Maori we recognise and value the interconnectedness of all things, the relationships, the wholeness, the different strands that make up Te Ao Marama.

One of the key concerns expressed by the whanau has been that throughout the application, 1080 use is portrayed as the cause of net benefits, economic or otherwise; of environmental improvement, gains in bird populations, increases in

foliage and fruits, fewer incidences of Tb etc. This is misleading, as it is more the reductions in pest numbers, which result in any gains made, not the use of 1080 per se. I.e. similar results may well be obtained through increased focus and financial support for other pest control methods, but aerial application has been the tool of choice.

Some of the research looks into the amount of uptake by taonga species of flora or fauna, then equates this to western perceptions and tolerances and makes judgements as to how much is a safe level of contamination. It does not allow for evaluation using tikanga principles, for the preservation or enhancement of mauri within species, or assess all relevant physiological effects the toxin is having on the species themselves. Active protection of Maori interests extends to the protection of taonga, and tikanga values and preferences for environmental management. The application and parts of the E& R report appear to negate the requirement for active protection of taonga.

6. Precautionary Approach:

Wherever there is an element of doubt, we see a precautionary approach as necessary particularly given the potential damage to non-target flora and fauna, the inadequacies in the monitoring record, and gaps in research data.

7. Reduction in aerial applications:

This was a strong theme to emerge from hui within our rohe. There were the AHB / DOC sponsored hui. I've convened two other hui a iwi and distributed literature on 1080 through our networks. Overall, our hapu are against an expansion of aerial applications of 1080 as proposed by the AHB, and seek a reduction, with a corresponding increase in ground control methods for mammalian pest control. This is one way we can limit adverse effects on the whenua. On Maori land within our rohe and within the DOC estate we seek greater involvement of our people to ensure that our kaitiaki values are not compromised.

8. Target Pests

We do not support the use of 1080 to control other pests – particularly rabbits and deer - as it would mean associated increase in risks to predatory non-target species. Rabbits are predominantly pasture feeders with preferred habitat often in close proximity to domestic housing. Timeframes for death to occur could potentially mean secondary poisoning of domestic pets and predatory birds. There are adequate alternatives for rabbit control and we feel 1080 should be reserved specifically for possum control in inaccessible or steep country only. (Consequential mammalian mortality)

9. RMA Control Option:

1080 use could be managed under an RMA type scenario. This is environmental effect-based legislation, and a logical management tool given the concerns of our whanau, and many Maori relating to the effects of 1080. Existing 1080 controls

have failed to fully consider or allow for the full range and extent of our values as Kahungunu. We seek a more prescriptive management and monitoring system due to the impact of 1080 on our taonga in the past and an inclusive system so that wherever possible, our relationships with the different components of the environment are not sacrificed. We ask for criteria to be attached to the use of 1080, which provides for these relationships with the ngahere and all of Tane's children. **There also needs to be more focus on relationship building between hapu and vector control agencies, contractors, trappers, monitoring personnel, AHB and Department of Conservation staff. This would enable these agencies to gain an appreciation of our hapu value systems, and promote respect for our code of ethics and our relationships with the whenua.**

In our view, 1080 use should be classed as a restricted discretionary activity with tangata whenua acknowledged as an affected party.

10. Duration of use:

Presently, 1080 is regarded by the AHB / DOC as the best management option. However we do not support a long-term scenario for its continued use. Potential advances in technology, better management practices, further research requirements into its sub-lethal effects, other management tools, Maori preferences for Kaitiakitanga - all signal a need for a limit on the duration for its use. We suggest a limit of a maximum of 10 years, including a phase out period.

11. Economics:

The 1080 reassessment application fails to adequately acknowledge the economies within the possum fur trade, pet food and existing and emerging markets. Possums provide an income for hunters and trappers. The potential for employment, increased levels of meat and fur recovery as part of the possum control kaupapa needs to be acknowledged and factored into the risks, costs and benefits. Aerial applications of 1080 in marginal country limit the amount of fur and meat recovery. Increased contract ground control would enable more of our people to earn a livelihood from this activity.

No reira, tena koutou, tena koutou, kia ora tatou katoa.

