



Anne Fergusson-Stewart

Ms Lauren Mesiti  
Committee Clerk  
Public Administration Committee  
Parliament Place  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

### **Committee Inquiry into Recreational Hunting on Public Lands.**

I wish to bring to the attention of the Committee my concerns regarding the current and wide-spread use, by government agencies and bio-security groups, of sodium fluoroacetate commonly known as 1080, for the control of feral animal.

A Question Without Notice by the Hon Rick Mazza on Tuesday 13 August, 2013 (attached) requested, at 2 (b) details of research into secondary poisoning of non-targeted species.

The response, the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment refers only to 1996 research by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, which, when examined, simply does not support to any great degree the notion that secondary poisoning does not occur.

In addition, I urge the Committee to view the following You Tube link, *Paradise Poison* which explores the use of sodium fluoroacetate in New Zealand which specifically targets the introduced Australian bush tailed possum!  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsC27K-Lck](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsC27K-Lck)

This video raises some serious questions around the effects of sodium fluoroacetate in its concentrated form (1080) on native species and, the humane dispatch of feral animals.

**The implementation of recreational hunting on public lands will provide the government with access to the most humane, economic and species selective method of dispatching feral animals.**

Yours sincerely

Anne Fergusson-Stewart  
28 March 2014

**Extract from Hansard**

[COUNCIL —Tuesday, 13 August 2013] p3175c-3176a

Hon Rick Mazza; Hon Helen Morton [1]

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT REGULATION — SODIUM FLUOROACETATE

**412. Hon RICK MAZZA to the minister representing the Minister for Environment:**

I refer to the Department of Environment Regulation practice of using sodium fluoroacetate, commonly known as 1080, to control introduced animal species in Western Australia's native forests.

- (1) (a) What quantity of sodium fluoroacetate is dispersed annually by the agency?
- (b) What is the cost of the distribution of that quantity?
- (2) (a) What is the impact on animals other than the targeted species?
- (b) What research has been conducted into secondary poisoning of non-targeted species?

**Hon HELEN MORTON replied:**

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

(1) (a) The Department of Parks and Wildlife's western shield program used more than 600 000 fox baits and 300 000 feral cat baits on 3.9 million hectares of conservation reserves and state forest to recover threatened fauna species.

(b) The Department of Parks and Wildlife's western shield program expended \$797 000 in 2012–13 on the aerial distribution of fox baits. This amount does not include the cost of bait production or the costs of on-ground baiting operations, which are undertaken locally and the expenditure for which is not available at short notice. The precise dollar figures for the distribution of feral cat baits were also not able to be compiled within the time available for responding to this question.

(2) (a) Western Australian native wildlife has a very high natural tolerance to 1080 poison, as the poison pea plants that naturally occur in the wild contain an almost identical chemical toxin. This natural tolerance has been well established by scientific research and gives Western Australia a natural advantage in the use of 1080 that is not replicated across parts of eastern Australia.

The DPAW's feral predator baiting programs are essential for the recovery and maintenance of many native animal species that would otherwise be extinct or near extinct in the wild, including the state's mammal emblem, the numbat. These programs are undertaken following state and national requirements, including the Western Australian Department of Health's "Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Management of 1080 in Western Australia" and the requirements of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. The use of 1080 baiting under these strict requirements ensures acceptably minimal levels of non-target impact in the achievement of essential native species conservation.

(b) **The secondary poisoning of non-target species has been the subject of specific research, including 1996 research by the then Department of Conservation and Land Management—Algar and Kinnear, 1996—which investigated the secondary poisoning of foxes following the use of 1080 poison to control rabbits.**