

1080 poison

IN reference to Dr Kevin Shannon (1.12.06), this is no deerstalker or bird watcher trying to "feather his own nest", but a medical man giving a long overdue wake up call to Doc, Erna, the Animal Health Board and Biosecurity New Zealand decision-makers on our environment.

7 People of Oxford, Alabama, have been fighting for years to close down the production of this toxic poison, of which New Zealand takes 90%. In 17 households during the past 10 years, 21 members of their families died of cancer, cardiac irregularities and unexplained symptoms.

Our family has lost two young men, both trained as pest control students to become area managers in Otago.

Both died from different forms of cancer in their 40s and early 50s. Their manager in the 1960s, the late Jim Hall, spoke up before his recent death to cancer of his real concern with 1080 and the human contact. From 22 of his early students, seven had died in midlife. No tests were sought for these young men. With cancer on the rise, how long can this be dismissed as coincidental?

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[Abridged. — Ed.]

SUBMISSION 3 : AERIAL DISTRIBUTION OF 1080 POISON AFFECT ON OVERSEAS VISITORS (NEW ZEALAND'S IMAGE)

1080 is condoned by farmers and foresters and the political wing of the Department of Conservation (Forest & Bird).

New Zealand flies in the face of the manufacturers recommendations with this poison.

We should be leading research into other controls of opossums and allowing others to manufacture specific cost saving control methods (Like rabbit control views).

1080 and its 'gung ho' use will eventually cause more problems for our country if it is found in our food chain overseas.

Also our image of 'clean and green' is constantly on view in 'skull and crossbones' poison signs in large areas of wilderness.

People visiting our country will get to know or could be told more facts about this poison and this could cause possible damage to our tourism industry.

1080 should only be used where opossums cannot be controlled by ground application. Some areas where the poison has been aerially used don't even warrant application due to the low opossum habitation. This is a blatant disregard for other people's views and to the animal and insect species themselves. It is totally unsatisfactory, after all this country doesn't belong totally to the Forest, Bird and Conservation desk minders.