

Hokonui Aerial Costs (as provided by AHB) for 1080 drop 23rd & 24th July 2004

“The cost per hectare for helicopter services = \$10.00 /ha per application”

“The cost of RS 5 feed bait per kilogram = \$ 1.56 per kilo”

“The cost of RS 5 toxic bait per kilogram = \$ 2.16 per kilo”

The quantity of bait to the hectare (according to the Conditions Schedule) was to be 5 kilos/ha.

Feed bait (x 2 applications) = \$ 1.56 x 2 (\$3.12) x 5 = \$15.60 per hectare

Toxic bait (1 application) = \$ 2.16 x 5 = \$10.80 \$10.80 per hectare

Helicopter/ha per application (x 3 applications) = \$10.00 x 3 = \$30.00 \$30.00 per hectare

Total = \$56.40 per hectare

The above costs exclude the following added costs, all part of the operation but not included by AHB.

There could have been other costs not included in this list.

Excludes: Target Pest Contracting (sub-contracted by Environment Southland to organise the drop)

Helicopter hours (monitoring, dropping men off to check for baits outside the drop zone)
(Environment Southland personnel to oversee operation)
(Helicopter tour of Hokonuis prior to operation taking place etc)

Spare Helicopter (On ‘stand-by’ at site in case of sabotage of helicopters by protesters)

‘Hi-Mac’ Digger (To upgrade road to site for helicopter landings)

2 x Graders (To upgrade road & tow freight trucks to site with containers of baits)
(Spreading gravel to upgrade road)

Freight (From factory to Winton for pre-feed and toxic baits)

Freight (From Winton Depot to sites at Wilson Road and Dunsdale)

‘Securitas’ Firm (Days and nights on patrol on sites at Wilson Road and Dunsdale)

Public Liability (Insurance for entire operation)

Resource Consent (Hearing costs, as well as cost of Independent Commissioner for day)

Administration (Environment Southland/Animal Health Board/Dept. of Conservation)

Consultation (Pre-hearing at Environment Southland, several Hui with Iwi & scientists)
(Numerous woolshed meetings with affected farmers and local people)

To gain the Consent for the aerial drop the AHB relied on the findings of a Landcare Research experiment carried out in the Hokonui Hills prior to the Hearing. This was to prove the Hokonui possums were not “bait-shy” as claimed by the ground operators and local community. The report title is: “Overcoming Possum Control Problems in the Hokonui Hills” Project No: R-10573 (LC0203/107) and cost \$77,738.00, prepared and paid for by AHB. Date: August 2003

On examination of the scientific report, it can be seen that the experiment was fundamentally flawed as there was no toxin in the baits which were fed out in an attempt to prove the possums were not bait-shy. The feed baits instead contained rhodamine dye, which was able to be seen on the possums after they had been trapped and killed by a local possum contractor. The experiment only proved that the Hokonui possums would eat feed baits containing dye – there was no proof of them dying from toxic baits in the bush.

Discussions with a local possum contractor who was prepared to control possums by a ground operation instead of an aerial 1080 drop provided a firm quote of \$16.00 per hectare. This offer was ignored by the authorities and the much more costly aerial took place.