

2010 1080 FREE

...PROMOTING REAL 1080 ALTERNATIVES FOR 2010 AND BEYOND...

ISSUE THREE – APRIL 2010

Welcome to the Tasmanian Conservation Trust (TCT) 1080 campaign email update issue 3.

The TCT is seeking your support to end the use of 1080 as a control method for native species and to ensure it is not replaced by any other poison.

Use of 1080 to eradicate foxes in Tasmania

The Tasmanian Fox Eradication Program (FEP) recently announced a broadscale 1080 baiting effort to be conducted over southern Tasmania starting in the Huon Valley area in the coming months. There has been a significant amount of public concern expressed about this so we think it is important to clarify the TCT's position.

The TCT strongly supports the FEP's goal of stopping foxes establishing in Tasmania and supports the selective and accountable use of 1080 fox baiting to achieve this goal.

Using 1080 poison to kill foxes is justified because it is the most effective method currently available. Without 1080 it is probable that foxes will not be eradicated from Tasmania – dooming bandicoots, bettongs, potoroos and numerous other species to extinction.

Also, if we fail to eradicate foxes from Tasmania and a large population establishes itself then farmers and park managers will resort to on-going control programs, killing thousands of foxes each year. As well as the enormous cost this would involve, it would cause far more death and cruelty than baiting foxes with 1080 for a few years.

Sadly, the death of a fox from 1080 is no less prolonged and cruel than that of a wallaby or possum, but this is a necessary and unpleasant cost of eradicating foxes.

Unlike broadscale forestry and agricultural baiting programs, fox baits are individually placed and recorded across the landscape (using a GPS) and are target-specific. Very low dose rates of 1080 are used in fox baits, with a Tasmanian devil having to eat more than 9 FEP fox baits to die from poisoning (which is very unlikely to ever happen).

The TCT does not condone the use of 1080 for any other application; however there is no reliable or effective alternative method in the battle with foxes in Tasmania. The

TCT remains firm on its support for the FEP and would urge all concerned individuals to attend a FEP information night to obtain further information regarding fox baiting programs.

For more information check out the FEP website at www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au

Alternatives to 1080 Program – the end is near?

The 'Alternatives to 1080 Program' is nearing its end. The TCT will be sending delegates to the final program stakeholder workshop in mid-April 2010 which will include an opportunity to discuss and provide input into the draft program report prior to its finalisation in mid-2010.

The TCT has also written to the Australian Government seeking continued funding and support for implementation and further refinement of non-lethal native browsing animal management methods in Tasmania.

Of the 42 permits issued by DPIPWE for 1080 between November 2008 and August 2009, 37 permits were issued for the protection of forestry plantations and 5 permits were issued for farming purposes (4 for new pasture establishment and 1 for fodder crop protection).



tasmanian conservation trust inc

Please contact TCT if you do not wish to receive further '2010**1080**FREE' emails. Please feel free to forward this email to friends and family who may be interested.

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