

Section 1 Applicant Details



1.1 Name and postal address of applicants

This application for reassessment of 1080 is made jointly by the Animal Health Board (AHB) and the Director General of the Department of Conservation (DOC).

Animal Health Board (Inc)	Director General of the Department of Conservation
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1.2 About the Applicants

The Animal Health Board

The Animal Health Board (AHB) is a Management Agency, as defined by the Biosecurity Act 1993. AHB is a non-profit making incorporated society, made up of representatives from the following farming sector and local government organisations:

- Federated Farmers of New Zealand: Meat and Fibre Producers of New Zealand
- Federated Farmers of New Zealand: Dairy Farmers of New Zealand
- New Zealand Deer Farmers Association
- Deer Industry New Zealand
- Dairy InSight
- Meat & Wool New Zealand
- Local Government New Zealand

AHB's mission is to eradicate bovine tuberculosis (Tb) from New Zealand, in order to protect New Zealand's access to export markets for dairy, beef and deer products. It was formed specifically for this purpose, and is legally responsible for managing and implementing the National Pest Management Strategy for Bovine Tb under the Biosecurity Act 1993 (see Appendix A or website www.ahb.org.nz/AHBWebsite/NationalTBStrategy).

The objective of the current National Pest Management Strategy (NPMS) is to achieve an annual period prevalence infection rate for cattle and deer herds of 0.2% by 2013. The

effectiveness of the strategy is monitored in terms of the annual number of infected cattle and deer herds, and the number of tuberculous cattle and deer as well as the incidence of new herd infections and the clearance rate for existing infected herds.

Key functions of AHB include:

1. Vector Control

The major cause of Tb in cattle and deer herds in New Zealand is contact with wild vectors (carriers) of the disease. Vector control, mainly aimed at possums and ferrets, aims to reduce and prevent transmission of Tb from wildlife vectors to farmed cattle and deer, eradicate Tb from vector risk areas (areas where wild Tb vectors are known to be present) and to prevent the spread of infected wild animals to vector free areas (areas where tuberculous wild animals have not been identified or suspected).

The total area under bovine Tb vector control by the AHB is currently around 8.1M ha. Of this, around 5.4M ha is directly treated in pest control operations each year (as not all the area under control is treated every year). 1080 is one of a number of pest control methods used for vector control and is used to treat around 400,000 ha annually. The AHB is the largest user of 1080 in New Zealand, using approximately 65% of the total 1080 use in New Zealand (about 900-950 tonnes of bait per year).

2. Disease Control

Disease control includes all measures to detect and eradicate Tb within cattle and deer herds, and to prevent transmission of the disease through the movement of infected livestock.

3. Research and Communications

Research is primarily aimed at achieving short term improvements in existing disease and vector control technology. National and local communications support the implementation of vector and disease control programmes.

Most operational activities are contracted out to other organisations.

The AHB is responsible to the Minister of Agriculture and to the Minister of Biosecurity.

AHB Website: www.ahb.org.nz

Department of Conservation

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is the central government organisation charged with conserving the natural and historic heritage of New Zealand on behalf of and for the benefit of present and future New Zealanders. The Department manages or administers on behalf of New Zealanders:

- national parks and conservation parks (formerly called forest parks)
- reserves and conservation areas
- protected indigenous forests
- protected inland waters and wild and scenic rivers
- indigenous/native wildlife
- non-commercial freshwater fisheries

- historic places on conservation land
- marine reserves and the protection of marine mammals
- offshore islands set aside for conservation

Its mission is "to conserve New Zealand's natural and historic heritage for all to enjoy now and in the future".

The Department's responsibilities are encapsulated in the Department's Maori name - Te Papa Atawhai; Te Papa signifies a box or container (for the taonga or treasures) and Atawhai the act of caring, nurturing or preserving.

The Department is mandated under several key pieces of legislation, in particular the Conservation Act 1987, National Parks Act 1980 and Wild Animal Control Act 1977, to control pests to achieve conservation outcomes. Its responsibilities include managing over 8 million ha (approximately one third of New Zealand's landmass) of public conservation land.

The Government has set a strategic goal for halting the decline of New Zealand's biodiversity as prescribed in the NZ Biodiversity Strategy. This is a multi-agency initiative with DOC being a lead agency for achieving many of the outcomes. To fulfil these responsibilities, the Department has set a high level outcome of 'New Zealand's natural and historic heritage is protected and restored' (DOC 2005). Beneath this sits three lower order outcomes focused on:

1. Achieving habitat and ecosystem protection
2. Securing the future of threatened species
3. Reducing the range expansion of biosecurity pests.

Animal pests are a major threat to New Zealand's special native species, ecosystems and conservation lands. To achieve these outcomes the Department has taken a strategic approach, focusing intensive pest management programmes at priority conservation sites and for biosecurity pests, and a less intensive, habitat enhancement regime over a broader scale. With current resources the Department is able to sustain various levels of pest control over about a quarter of the public conservation estate.

Of the total of public land that the Department administers, about 3.8 M ha is at risk from possums. Of this, around 1M ha are under sustained possum control by DOC. Within that 1M ha, more than 30 sites had intensive, integrated pest management for a wide range of pests including possums, rodents and deer. 1080, particularly aeri ally applied 1080, is by far the most important pest control method, used on approximately 80% of the 1M ha under control. DOC uses around 30 % of the total 1080 use in New Zealand (about 430 tonnes of bait per year).

DOC Website: www.doc.govt.nz

Additional Contributors

Support for this application has been provided by Animal Control Products Ltd, the manufacturers of 1080 formulations in New Zealand, and by Environment Waikato, as a representative of regional councils.