

How a viewpoint has changed over time:

Viewpoints about the use of 1080 poison to kill possums have changed from full support to large scale opposition and now there are groups who accept it, but want research into alternatives so it can be stopped in the future. Many of the people who moved from supporting to opposing the use of 1080 used reasons like:

1. it is killing native birds and animals
2. it creates risks for other uses of the bush
3. it affects the possum fur industry.

1

At first when possums weren't controlled large areas of native bush was being destroyed. People supported 1080 as it was the best way of killing large numbers of possums quickly. As new methods of controlling possums, like biological controls and ... are introduced enabling a direct target on the possum, more people have moved away from supporting the use of 1080.

This opposition group includes Forest and Bird, conservationists and hunters who now see 1080 as creating a risk to people in the bush through being poisoned and a risk to birds like robins, and kea etc. Their view moved from support to strongly against, but are now less strongly opposed as the amount of 1080 has been reduced but possum numbers are still very high in some less accessible areas like Fiordland.

2

The degree of change varies among people within this group. People involved in the fur industry like Basically Bush are probably the most strongly opposed because use of 1080 directly affects them economically.

Different courses of action:

Maintain the use of 1080

Strengths:

Some strengths of maintaining the use of 1080 poison include its widespread success rate. This poison guarantees the killing of masses of possums per drop, it is easily used in areas with limited accessibility that trappers can't get to. 1080 has the added advantage of being described by DOC as being soluble and is rapidly diluted, as well as not being able to exist for more than a few weeks...

3

Weakness:

A weakness of maintaining the use of 1080 is that although possums are getting killed other animals are also dying. It is estimated that 20,000 deer are killed annually by 1080 drops and 55% of robins...

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