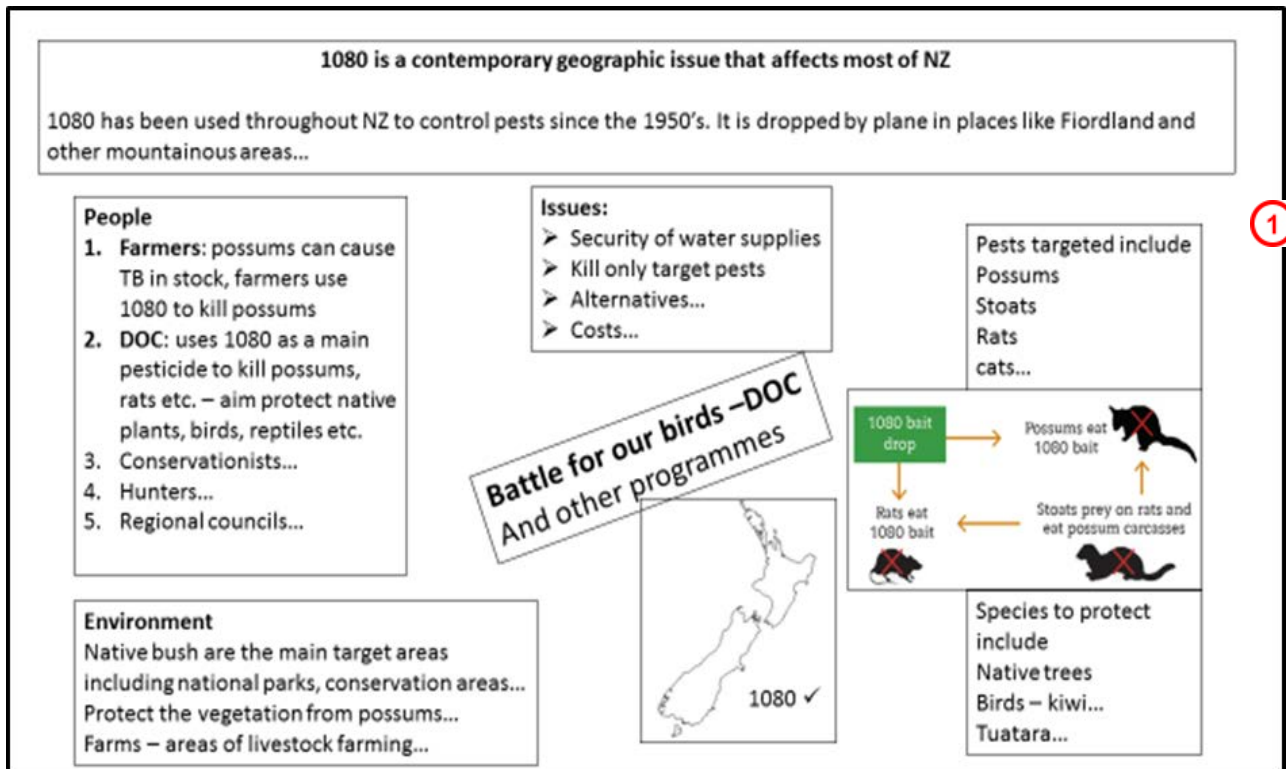


The nature of the issue



1

Viewpoints on the issue

Basically Bush

Sue and Steve Boot run a business called Basically Bush. They are quite strongly against the use of 1080 poison being used because when a possum eats 1080 they don't die instantly and the possum can walk away and not be found. This poison causes Basically Bush to lose possums and money as they often don't find the possums and miss out on the fur. **Possum fur earns \$105 a Kg this makes 1 bail worth \$1200 which is more than 5 times the price of merino wool.** The use of 1080 is slowly destroying the possum wool business...

2

They support **alternatives like trapping where and baits are coated with cyanide. When the possum eats the cyanide they die faster (4-8 hours) than with 1080 and they stay within a certain radius of the bait. The possums can then be collected and skinned...** Even though cyanide is more expensive and the time to set baits and collect the possums is time consuming, if the fur can be sold this means that there is a profit being made...

3

Basically Bush's viewpoint has changed from totally opposing 1080 to partly supporting it for use in regions where the terrain is rugged and particularly if areas where they trap are avoided (4)... Basically bush might also start to support 1080 if it killed the possum more quickly...

4

Strengths and weaknesses of the courses of action

Strengths:

The strengths of maintaining the use of 1080 poison is that it can protect native plants and animals by lowering the possum population to a more manageable level and holding them there. Another strength is that you can do aerial drops of 1080 pellets in terrain that is difficult for trapping or poisoning by hand. This method enables it to be accurately dropped in high possum population areas which will keep possum numbers more manageable.

5

Weakness(es)

The weaknesses of maintaining the use of 1080 poison is that 1080 can kill dogs, deer, native insects and birds. Another weakness is that 1080 does not kill the animal straight away, meaning it can travel away from the poison site and not be found by people who want to harvest their pelts. This also leaves poisoned carcasses in the bush...