

**USE OF COMPOUND SODIUM FLUOROACETATE (COMPOUND 1080)
IN THE WET TROPICS WORLD HERITAGE AREA**

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1** This policy outlines the position of the Wet Tropics Management Authority in relation to the use of sodium fluoroacetate (1080) for poison baiting in feral animal control programs within the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area (WHA). The Wet Tropics Management Authority supports a broad range of pest management programs for both plant and animal pest species. Pest management programs are important in preserving the integrity of the WHA by helping to prevent the spread of pests. Other objectives of pest management programs are to conserve non-target species, particularly threatened species, ensure public safety and to protect properties adjacent to the WHA from pests.
- 1.2** Feral animals pose a significant threat to the values of the WHA. These include predation on native species, competition for food and habitat, degradation of habitat, soil erosion, and disease, weed and fungi transmission (including *Phytophthora cinnamomi*). Feral animals including pigs and dogs may also pose a threat to primary producers and WHA neighbours, having a significant impact on both biodiversity and agricultural productivity.
- 1.3** 1080 is recognised as the most efficient, humane and species-specific vertebrate pesticide currently available. It is also regarded as the most effective method of quickly reducing feral pig numbers and is registered in Queensland for use in the control of wild dogs, feral pigs, foxes and rabbits.
- 1.4** The major concern in the use of 1080 in the WHA is potential for non-target species fatalities, especially those relating to the Cassowary when fruit is used as bait material and to the Spotted-tailed Quoll if meat baits are used.
- 1.5** The *Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993* and the *Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998* **do not** provide any provisions for feral animal management within the WHA. Although the Authority does not have any powers to regulate feral animal control programs within the WHA, the Authority has an interest in ensuring that control programs implemented by landholders are done so in a manner to provide the greatest environmental outcome for preserving the integrity of World Heritage Values with minimal impact on non-target species.
- 1.6** Feral animal management within the Wet Tropics region is regulated under the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002*, administered by the Biosecurity Queensland and places legal obligations on all landholders to manage Class 1 and Class 2 ‘declared’¹ pests on their land. As such, any control program for declared pests is undertaken by the relevant landholder which, in the WHA is primarily the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Natural Resources and Water (NRW) and relevant freehold landholders in accordance with various operational policy guidelines (listed in 4.2).
- 1.7** A major conservation priority for the next ten years outlined in the Wet Tropics Conservation Strategy (2004) is the control and spread of feral animals, with a focus on those threatening WH values. The priorities include the development and

¹ Refer to Section 77 of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Act 2002* and Schedule 2 of the *Land Protection (Pest and Stock Route Management) Regulation 2003*.

**USE OF COMPOUND SODIUM FLUOROACETATE (COMPOUND 1080)
IN THE WET TROPICS WORLD HERITAGE AREA**

implementation of integrated feral pig control programs involving targeted baiting programs (based on research into new bait technology).

2. POLICY POSITION

- 2.1** Use of 1080 for feral animal control programs will only be supported within the WHA on a case-by-case basis providing all prudent and feasible alternative control programs have been considered or where the impact of an alternative eradication program may result in a greater environmental harm or an unacceptable risk to public safety/health.
- 2.2** Any use of 1080 should result in a net benefit to maintaining the integrity of the WHA.
- 2.3** Usage will be in accordance with all applicable Government regulations, controls and guidelines and will be aimed at specifically identified pest animal problems.
- 2.4** To minimise impact on non-target species the following actions must be incorporated into the development of any 1080 program for implementation within the WHA:
 - 2.4.1** A monitoring program must be conducted prior to implementation of a 1080 baiting program to identify prevalence and location of non-target species (particularly the Cassowary and Spotted-tailed quoll) to ensure appropriate location of bait stations; and
 - 2.4.2** A strong focus on pre-feeding trials must be conducted for a period long enough to ensure appropriate bait selection, minimising risk to non-target species. Pre-feeding is seen as the most essential component of program development in ensuring minimal impact on non-target species.
- 2.5** Use of 1080 compound is recommended to be conducted in conjunction with alternative feral animal control programs i.e. trapping.
- 2.6** Ground baiting will be the preferred methodology and aerial and broad scale baiting will not be supported.
- 2.7** Use will be limited to the extent necessary to meet pest management obligations and to reduce or eliminate threats posed by target pest species.
- 2.8** In accordance with the 'Protection Through Partnerships' the precautionary principle will be applied and an adaptive management approach will be adopted. That is, all decisions for use of 1080 compound will be based on the best available knowledge of the application of the compound for use on specific species within rainforest environments in the Wet Tropics Region.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

- 3.1** This policy applies to all tenures within the Wet Tropics WHA.
 - 3.2** Use of 1080 baiting will be guided by contemporary vertebrate pesticide practices and procedures including:
-
-

**USE OF COMPOUND SODIUM FLUOROACETATE (COMPOUND 1080)
IN THE WET TROPICS WORLD HERITAGE AREA**

- APVMA “Sodium Fluoroacetate Final Review Report and Regulatory Decision, Australian Government (2008)
 - DPI&F “Use of vertebrate pesticides for pest animal management”.(2007)
 - DEWHA “EPBC Policy Statement 3.4 – Tiger Quoll. Administrative guidelines on Significance: Supplement for the tiger Quoll (southeastern mainland population) and the use of 1080 (2004)
 - WTMA “Code of Practice for the Use of 1080 for Pig Control in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area” (Goosem, 2004)
 - EPA “Operational Policy Community and other relations: Good neighbour policy (Harris, 2004)
 - DNRM “Sodium Fluoroacetate (1080) Feral Pig Baiting Guidelines for the Wet Tropics Region North Queensland” (Davis, 2003);
 - EPA “Operational Policy, Natural Resource Management – Use of Sodium Fluoroacetate (compound 1080) for poison baiting” (2003); and
 - EPA “Procedural Guide, Natural Resource Management – Wild Dog Baiting with 1080 in Potential Spotted-Tailed Quoll Habitat” (2003)
 - NR&M “Vertebrate Pesticide Manual” (2003)
- 3.3** Use will be guided by the safety and interests of landowners and users, the need to limit interference with native flora and fauna, the need to minimise impacts on non-target species and the need to protect the conservation values of the Wet Tropics WHA.
- 3.4** Development and implementation of any 1080 program must be undertaken in conjunction with state government agencies (particularly Biosecurity QLD and EPA), local government, private landholders and traditional owners.
- 3.5 Evaluation and Review**

The appropriateness of continued use of 1080 baiting for feral animal control within the WHA will be determined through continuing review of advancements in research and best practice in the application of the 1080 compound within the Wet Tropics region. The Authority will also take part in relevant interagency forums whilst undertaking periodic reviews of program effectiveness.

4. APPROVAL

- 4.1** Board Meeting Number 58
Date 3-4 November 2004

Re-endorsed
Board Meeting Number 75
10 – 11 November 2008
