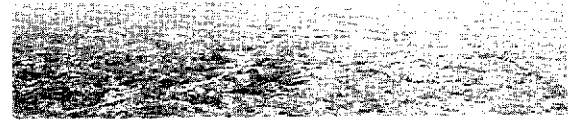


SUBMISSION NO. 89

Tasmanian



Conservation



Trust inc.

Mr Alby Schultz, MHR
Chair
Standing Committee on
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

29 March 2005

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**INQUIRY INTO
THE IMPACT OF PEST ANIMALS ON AGRICULTURE**

**SUBMISSION FROM
THE TASMANIAN CONSERVATION TRUST**

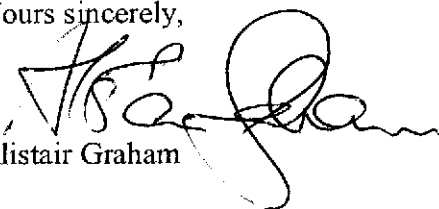
The TCT is grateful for this opportunity to make a submission to your inquiry into the impact of pest animals on agriculture and regrets its inability to arrange an invitation to appear before the Committee during its current visit to Tasmania. By way of a preliminary submission to your Committee, we have attached some recent, relevant documentation. I have set out some annotations below:

1. **A copy of the TCT's letter (1 Dec 2004) to the Prime Minister** urging him to make good on his recent pre-election promise to end the use of 1080 against native wildlife in Tasmania no later than the end of 2005 despite predictable attempts at filibustering from farmers and foresters. Such vested interests have successfully filibustered local attempts to end this abhorrent practice by supporting inconsequential and purposefully unsuccessful research into alternatives. The letter points out that the APVMA could, by simple administrative action, implement the PM's promise if requested to do so. Subsequent APVMA discussions have confirmed this capability.
2. **A copy of the TCT's preliminary submission (30 Jan 2002) to the then NRA (now APVMA)** following its announcement of a review of the use of 1080 against feral pests because of potentially harmful side-effects on threatened species. The submission identifies threatened species and other native wildlife already subject to harmful impacts in Tasmania; identifies the extent to which the use of 1080 is heavily subsidized in Tasmania; identifies the extent to which the Code of Practice for the use of 1080 is widely disregarded.

3. **A copy of the TCT's submission (23 Dec 2002) to the NRA on reconsideration of products containing 1080 and their labels.** Complementing the TCT's earlier submission, this one: reviews published scientific information on the use and direct and indirect impacts of 1080 on target and non-target species, including humans; and appends documentation and information in support of assertions made (not appended to this submission but identified material is available from the AVMA) should the Committee request it.
4. **A copy of the TCT's submission to DPIWE on the proposed revised 1080 Code of Practice.** This correspondence makes it clear that proposed changes are retrograde despite growing community concern and state policy assurances of phasing out its use. In particular, the submission estimates that, even with increased fees, cost recovery at current Code implementation levels is only about 30% - and only 10% recovery if the Code was properly implemented. The main area of Code non-compliance is that likely impacts on non-target species, especially threatened species are not realistically assessed - through lack of resources because of poor cost recovery.
5. **A copy of the TCT's letter (2 July 2003) to Tasmanian DPIWE Minister Bryan Green urging Code review** following a Supreme Court decision establishing that users of 1080 have a compensatable obligation to avoid impacts on neighbours. We await a substantive response. The proposed changes to the Code were ignored in the latest government/industry Code revision exercise.
6. **A copy of a TCT media release following successful negotiation of conditions for the issuing of Australian government licences for the export of harvested possums and wallabies from Tasmania.** This agreement has become known in wildlife management circles as 'the Whitemark Agreement' (it was negotiated in Whitemark, on Flinders Island). It recognizes a link between use of 1080 and wildlife abundance but problems with DPIWE reluctance to implement the agreement is delaying finalization of management plans to allow export trade. Again, reluctance to recover costs of administration is reflected in reluctance to meet management obligations such that it is likely that the TCT will be back in the Tribunal seeking compliance with the original agreement.
7. **A copy of a TCT information brochure on 1080 (July 2003) which summarises the TCT's concerns** and rebuts self-serving and deceptive propaganda from users and officials.

In summary, it remains the TCT's strong view that the Prime Minister should be pressed to deliver on his pre-election promise to end 1080 use against native wildlife in Tasmania and to use some of the \$4M available to develop support and assistance programs for any landholders with verifiable adjustment problems.

Yours sincerely,



Alistair Graham