

4. APPROVAL FOR THE USE OF A CONTROLLED PESTICIDE

Officer responsible Director of Policy	Author Terence Moody, DDI 941-8834
--	--

The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's approval for the use of a controlled pesticide in an area of Christchurch City in accordance with the provisions of the Pesticides (Vertebrate Pest Control) Regulations 1983. This is a continuation of a programme that commenced in 2001.

INTRODUCTION

This application, received from Target Pest Enterprises Ltd, seeks approval to apply a controlled pesticide, encapsulated cyanide pellets, by hand application in the north-west area of Christchurch. This is for the purpose of controlling possums and ferrets on behalf of the Animal Health Board as part of its Bovine Tuberculosis control programme.

Approval was granted for similar programmes for the same areas in October 2000 and November 2001.

In areas of public access it is intended to use brodifacoum baits and some live traps will be used to monitor the success of the programme. All poison baits will be screwed or strapped to trees at a level of two metres above ground level.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 replaced the Pesticides Act 1979 in relation to the use of pesticides. It restricts the use of pesticides to approved operators and subject to the conditions of the licence issued by Environmental Risk Management Authority.

The Pesticides (Vertebrate Pest Control) Regulations 1983 in regulation 12 provides that no person may use a controlled pesticide in or within 400 metres of the boundaries of a local authority that is a City unless there is prior approval of the appropriate local authority and the Medical Officer of Health for the area. The applicant must apply to each of these authorities in writing. Regulation 15 provides that the Medical Officer of Health must give his permission, with or without conditions, if he is satisfied that the proposed use of the pesticide will not contravene any of the following Acts or regulations:

- The Health Act 1956,
- The Poisons Act 1960,
- The Toxic Substances Act 1979,
- The Pesticides (Vertebrate Pest Control) Regulations 1983.

Regulation 16 provides that the City Council **must** give its permission to the applicant where it is satisfied that the applicant has obtained the permission of the Medical Officer of Health and the proposed use of the pesticide will not harm or inconvenience the public.

The Medical Officer of Health has previously agreed to the use of Cyanide Bait in the areas and has done so in this case.

CONCLUSIONS

It is considered approval should be provided for the use of encapsulated Potassium Cyanide, to control possums and ferrets. The requirements for closing the areas to the public and posting notices around the areas being poisoned are required by the regulations and it is normal for public notices to be published setting out the details of the events. In the past, in giving approval to operators the Council has required explanatory notices setting out the details to be provided to residents of properties adjacent to the areas being poisoned. Target Pest Enterprise Ltd accepts these conditions.

It should be noted that there have been no reported incidents of poisoning of other than the targeted animals from any of the previous poisoning programmes.

Recommendation: That approval be granted for the use of encapsulated Potassium Cyanide in the areas of North Christchurch as specified with the application subject to compliance with the provisions of the Pesticides (Vertebrate Pest Control) Regulations 1983.