

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCCION NO. 58

FOX BAITING ON CALM MANAGED LAND AND IN OTHER CALM PROGRAMS

1. Introduction:

This Administrative Instruction summarises the procedures that must be followed by CALM personnel involved in 1080 fox baiting and must be read in conjunction with the CALM Fox Control Manual (September 1994).

The need to control feral animals, particularly the fox, is an essential component of ecosystem and native fauna management.

In Western Australia there are some outstanding wildlife conservation achievements which have resulted from the use monosodium fluoroacetate (1080). Examples include the numbat, woylie and black footed rock wallaby.

Control of foxes is also practised by the Agriculture Protection Board (APB) on neighbouring private properties to protect agricultural values. As a good neighbour, CALM often contributes to these control activities by allowing the placement of 1080 baits on CALM managed land.

1080 is an extremely valuable tool for feral animal control and fauna protection in WA due to the high tolerances to the toxin exhibited by native fauna and the low tolerances exhibited by introduced animals. It is also a very toxic compound to humans and their domestic animals. It must be handled safely and responsibly if its continued use is to be assured.

2. Baiting for Fauna Conservation:

Baiting operations to conserve native fauna involve the control of introduced, in particular the red fox and feral cats. Effective control techniques for feral cats are still in the developmental stage. Techniques for control of foxes have been developed and are set out in the Fox Control Manual.

Approvals of new programs

All proposals for fox baiting programs are to be submitted to Environmental Protection Branch in the form prescribed in the Fox Control Manual (Section 2.4) for approval by the Director of Nature Conservation.

Maintenance of existing programs

Approved programs are to be reviewed annually as per the instruction set out in Section 2.6 of the Fox Control Manual.

3. Baiting for Neighbour Relations

CALM neighbours are commonly concerned with the control of foxes to protect agricultural values on their properties. CALM may be approached by the APB on behalf of these neighbours. to assist by baiting CALM land that abuts their property.

APB policy is not to bait Crown land unless the adjoining private property is baited at the same time.

Approval to proceed with operations of this nature must be obtained from the CALM Regional Manager and conform to the following procedures:

1. Baiting is undertaken by the officers of the APB. CALM officers, whether or not they are accredited to handle 1080, will not undertake baiting.
2. The adjoining property owner(s) implement, at the same time and at their expense, baiting on their land.
3. There is a specific and reasonable purpose for the baiting, eg: the adjoining landholder wishes to protect lambing ewes in a paddock adjoining CALM managed land.
4. The cost of baiting CALM managed land is met from the local District budget.
5. Baits are concealed as much as possible to avoid birds moving baits.
6. Only the perimeter of CALM managed land is baited.
7. At the completion of the work a short report describing the results of the work is placed on the appropriate District file.
8. Only standard 1080 dried meat fox baits are used.

9. The use of strychnine baits by property holders is to be discouraged within 100 metres of CALM managed land to minimise the risk to native fauna.

4. Procedures for the Safe Use and Handling of 1080 Products:

1080 is toxic to humans. It takes less than 100 mg of 1080 to kill an adult human. Domestic animals, particularly dogs and cats, are very susceptible to the 1080 toxin. Consequently, there are strict guidelines on the use, handling, storage and transport of 1080 products.

The procedures set out in Section 2.3.3 to 2.3.8 (inclusive) of the Fox Control Manual concerning the obtaining, transporting and handling of 1080 meat baits will be applied for all fox control operations. In addition, appropriate signage, advertisements and buffer zones, as set out in the Fox Control Manual, must be used.

Syd Shea
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

6 December 1994

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