

The Learner provided evidence of the research and investigation, development of plan and undertaking of the action as required for Achieved and then in their evaluation wrote...

The importance of this issue, to me, is it is a major issue for New Zealand because we have so many native species that are at risk of extinction from pests or human violation of the environment. I will definitely keep using baits and Timms traps around our farm.

Here we are focusing on the risk of our wildlife through pests that have invaded our bushlands that hold our precious species. **If the monitoring and control recommendations that we did are not heeded it will be just a problem that keeps getting worse. The impact that it will have is that our trees will be stripped of their resources that are supplying our birds and other animals with food and shelter (habitat). If we don't act it will just get so much worse, losing more and more species from forest until the ecosystem collapses.**

1

Possums are having the biggest economic impact. The funding to control them that was decided by government agencies was \$117 million for a decade from 2006. This was mainly because the cost of the TB they can spread from possums to cows would be even greater and wreck the economic sustainability of many farms and farming towns. There are an estimated 70 million possums and they eat about 21,000 tonnes of vegetation a night! (ref www.doc.govt.nz/documents/science-and-technical/everybodyspossum.pdf).

2

That is not a good look for tourists when the forest has dead trees sticking out. When there are too many possums they also eat pasture grass. This causes a decrease in farm production...

2

The environmental effects and the economic effects are linked because if we do not look after the environment, tourism will not be good because who wants to see dead bush and squashed possums on the road. Also, the cost of killing possums is getting split between DoC and Animal Health Boards because it has environmental and economic benefits that are combined.

3

My own attitude to pests is now hardened. I used to ignore them or just think they were a nuisance now I know that they can destroy everything from trees to the whole agriculture economy. My attitude is we need to be tough on pests even if that means using poisons like 1080. The use of 1080 is controversial. Ban 1080 groups have challenged DOC's use of it and I myself am unsure of how safe it is. However, maybe at this point there is no other effective, long term solution and it may be the most effective measure to control possum numbers.

4

I will also be trying tracking tunnels at home to see what is hanging around at night so we can choose the appropriate trap or bait to get them because every little bit helps...

5