

Student 6 – High Not Achieved

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NZQA Intended for teacher use only

## The nature of the issue

**The geographic issue is**  
Should 1080 continue to be used in NZ to control possums and other pests? 1

**People** involved are DOC, and farmers, who are in favour of 1080 and hunters and Basically Bush who are against using 1080

The **environment** is affected by possums eating up to 20,000 tonnes of vegetation a night. This leads to large areas of native bush being destroyed. Pohutukawa and Rata are examples of native trees affected.

Possums also carry **TB** which can kill animals like deer but also affects stock on farms. Rats and stoats kill native birds and lizards etc.

**Issues with 1080:**  
It kills protected native birds as well as deer and other animals like dogs.  
It can pollute rivers  
Possums killed by 1080 can poison other animals that eat them

## Different Viewpoints

### Basically Bush

Against the use of 1080. Basic Bush are a company that harvest possum fur. If 1080 is used they often can't find the dead possum. They prefer to use traps or cyanide because then they can find the possum because it dies near the poison station/trap. This makes it much easier for the dead possums to be collected. They also think 1080 is cruel because it takes too long to kill the possum. 2

### Department of Conservation

Support the use of 1080, because it is their job to conserve the native bush that possums are destroying. DOC is worried about the damage to native trees because possums eat about 20,000 tonnes of vegetation in a single night and large areas of bush are being destroyed. Possums also eat eggs and chicks... 3

I think the DOC's viewpoint has changed over time. Research shows that native birds and animals are being killed in large numbers from 1080, so DOC has changed how and where they use 1080 and also use other ways of controlling pests. 4

### **Strengths and weaknesses of courses of action**

Maintain the use of 1080 poison:

#### **Strengths**

The possums will be kept under control and pest numbers will go down. Pests will be killed 24/7 constantly.

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#### **Weaknesses**

Native animals in the bush, especially birds will die from the 1080 baits and vegetation will be continued to be destroyed until the possums are controlled. People will continue to become angry at the continued use of 1080.