
[Your Name]

[Your Street Address]

[Your Suburb, State Postcode]

[Date]

[Name of Council or MP]

[Address]

Re: Use of 1080 poison in our community

Dear [Councillor / Mayor / Member],

I am writing as a concerned resident about the use of 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) poison in or near my community. I am asking you to **stop the current baiting program, collect any remaining baits, and fund non-lethal alternatives.**

I understand that fox management is a legitimate concern, and I appreciate that you are trying to protect native wildlife. I am not writing to dismiss those concerns. I am writing because 1080 is one of the cruellest methods available, it is a genuine risk to family pets, and kinder methods exist and work.

I also want to note that baiting programs are sometimes carried out by Local Land Services or National Parks rather than council directly. If this is the case in our area, I would ask you to tell me which body authorised the baiting so I can write to them as well, and to advocate on behalf of your residents for the baiting to stop.

What 1080 actually does

1080 blocks the body's ability to produce energy at the cellular level. It has no antidote. An animal who eats a lethal dose typically suffers vomiting, extreme anxiety, uncontrolled running, drooling, convulsions and seizures for many hours, sometimes up to 48 hours, before death finally comes. One veterinarian has described the experience as "like being electrocuted for two days straight." This is not a humane method of killing, by any reasonable standard. It would not be considered acceptable for a stray dog in a council pound. I do not believe it should be considered acceptable for a fox in the bush either.

The risk to family pets

1080 is not species-specific. Dogs are especially sensitive to it, and cats are sensitive to it. Every year in Australia, beloved family pets die after accidentally ingesting a bait, or after scavenging the body of an animal that was killed by one. Warning signs are required, but they are not always seen, and a dog who gets out of a yard for an hour can find a bait within minutes. My concern is not hypothetical. It is about real families in [your suburb/region] who would lose their dog or cat if a bait was found.

Orphaned cubs

1080 baiting is often carried out in spring, which is when fox cubs are tiny and most dependent on their mothers. A vixen who eats a bait typically dies hours later, hidden, far from her den. Her cubs wait for her, and when she does not come back, they slowly starve to death. These deaths are not counted in any official figures, but they are real, and they are part of the true cost of this method.

What I am asking

I am asking you to take the following actions:

- 1. Stop the current 1080 baiting program** in our area and direct staff to collect and destroy any remaining baits.
- 2. Publicly commit to non-lethal alternatives**, including predator-proof fencing for threatened species recovery sites, proper fencing for farming properties, and funding for fertility control research.
- 3. Consult with the community** before any future baiting program is approved, and make the consultation meaningful, not just a notice buried on a website.
- 4. Publish a plain-English summary** of any future baiting program, including the areas affected, the dates, the risks to family pets, and the contact details for the responsible officer, in a place where residents can actually find it.

Kinder alternatives work

Lethal control of foxes has been running in Australia for decades and the fox population is still present across most of the continent. Poisoning cannot solve the problem. It only causes suffering. The methods that actually protect threatened native species are predator-proof fencing, habitat restoration and ongoing monitoring. Fox-proof fencing and well-managed lambing sheds are available for farming properties. Properly built, locked enclosures protect chickens far better than poison ever will. None of these methods kill family pets as collateral damage.

Immunocontraceptive vaccines like GonaCon already work in other species, including horses and kangaroos. Research into fox-specific fertility control has been running since the 1990s but has never received the funding it needs to reach practical deployment. I am asking you to support the redirection of baiting budgets into this research. The science exists. What is missing is the political will to fund it.

In closing

I am not a single-issue voter, and I understand the pressures on council [or: on your office]. But I want you to know that this is an issue I care about deeply, that many of my neighbours care about it too, and that the ongoing use of 1080 is inconsistent with the values most Australians hold about kindness to animals. I would welcome a written response setting out your position and what steps, if any, you intend to take.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

[Your Name]

[Email address]

[Phone, optional]

This template was created by NSW Hen Rescue for anyone who wants to speak up for animals affected by 1080 poisoning. You are welcome to copy, adapt and share it freely.

henrescue.org/live-kind/ban-1080-fox-bait