

Tasmania's forest industries aim for the highest environmental and sustainable management credentials.

The Australian Government is providing \$4 million to fast-track research, trials and adoption of alternatives to 1080 use. This work will provide humane and environmentally sound alternative methods of controlling browsing animals for use by Tasmanian forestry companies and land managers.

The Tasmanian Government, forest industry and the Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Production Forestry have, for a number of years, been researching and implementing alternatives to the use of 1080 to control animal browsing damage to new tree crops. Many landowners have developed Game Management Plans for their properties as an alternative to the use of 1080 to reduce browsing damage. The use of 1080 has dramatically reduced in recent years as a result of these initiatives.

The Tasmanian Government has recently announced that Tasmania will end the use of 1080 for browsing control in State forests by December 2005. However, 1080 is also used on private land to protect agricultural as well as tree crops. The Australian Government will therefore work with the Tasmanian Government to fast-track and broaden research to assess the practicality, effectiveness and financial costs of alternative treatments.

Reducing the Use of 1080

Research will use the skills and expertise of Australia's peak scientific research institutes, including the CSIRO.

The objective is to develop and encourage adoption of alternatives to 1080 that land managers can use to protect seedlings in plantations, regrowth forests, crops and pastures from grazing animals.

The alternatives to 1080 will be thoroughly assessed, with testing of some methods over two planting seasons, in order to provide effective alternatives for land managers. The program will also involve demonstration trials to encourage adoption of alternative management methods. The governments will work together in light of these results to further reduce 1080 use on private land.

Research will be consistent with the approach taken by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), which is reviewing 1080 and its uses. Governments will support any decision by the independent regulator.

The Tasmanian Government will progress the development of wallaby management plans as a component of the browsing animal control strategy.