

## Amendment to current 1080 use for pest animal management in the Northern Territory

Pest animal species are a serious concern throughout the Northern Territory. They destroy the natural environment, spread weeds, compete with native animals and domestic stock for food and water, and damage infrastructure.

To increase flexibility and improve management opportunities for landholders, the Northern Territory Government has made significant amendments to the use of 1080 (Sodium Monofluoroacetate) for the control of pest animal species in the Northern Territory. **These changes came into effect in January 2009.**

Previously landholders relied on Government to undertake all baiting activities for pest animal management. However, under this new system, landholders will have several options when managing pest animals. They can;

1. **Undertake the relevant training** so they can conduct baiting themselves
2. **Elect to engage a suitably qualified contractor** to bait on their behalf
3. **Continue to use the existing fresh meat baiting service** offered by the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, the Arts and Sport.

These new arrangements will enable landholders to plan and carry out their own management activities, free of those constraints that have previously hindered pest animal control programs. Landholders will also be able to use manufactured dry meat baits, which are commonly used in other parts of Australia, but haven't previously been available for use in the Territory.

Landholders will now simply be required to obtain the relevant training (if undertaking the management themselves), and an authorisation and permit to undertake 1080 baiting, prior to conducting management activities.

Those landholders that would prefer to maintain current management practices will be able to do so, as the existing fresh meat baiting service will continue to be offered free of charge until 31 August 2009, after which time a fee for service will apply.

In 2010, the Department of Regional Development, Primary Industry, Fisheries and Resources will introduce a training program enabling accredited Pest Animal Controllers to become authorised to prepare and lay fresh meat baits using liquid 1080. This service will then be available to landholders through private operators, further increasing flexibility in management activities.

**The following fee for service schedule will apply for the provision of fresh meat 1080 baiting by the Northern Territory Government as of 1 September 2009.** Costs will be reviewed on 1 January 2010.

**Costs of attendance plus up to 1,000 baits<sup>^\*</sup>**

<250 km from Alice Springs, Katherine or Darwin = \$600

250 – 500 km from Alice Springs, Katherine or Darwin = \$1,800

> 500 km from Alice Springs, Katherine or Darwin = \$2,400

The maximum number of baits that can be laid on a property during a single baiting exercise may vary depending on the target species, the size of the property and the biodiversity value of the property. Previous baiting cover may also be considered when assessing applications. In the case of wild dogs, the number will be determined by either:

(a) Multiplying the number of registered bores and dams on the property by 25; or

(b) Dividing the total property size in square km by 3.

The largest of these figures is the maximum.

<sup>^</sup> Assumes pastoralist will provide fresh, cubed meat for baiting

\* Additional baits will be charged at the rate of 20c per bait

### For more information:

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