

# Why you might reject spreading 'vertebrate pest poisons'. The case against 1080

Love waking up to the song of the Grey Shrike Thrush? The call of Kookaburras, Magpies? Consider:

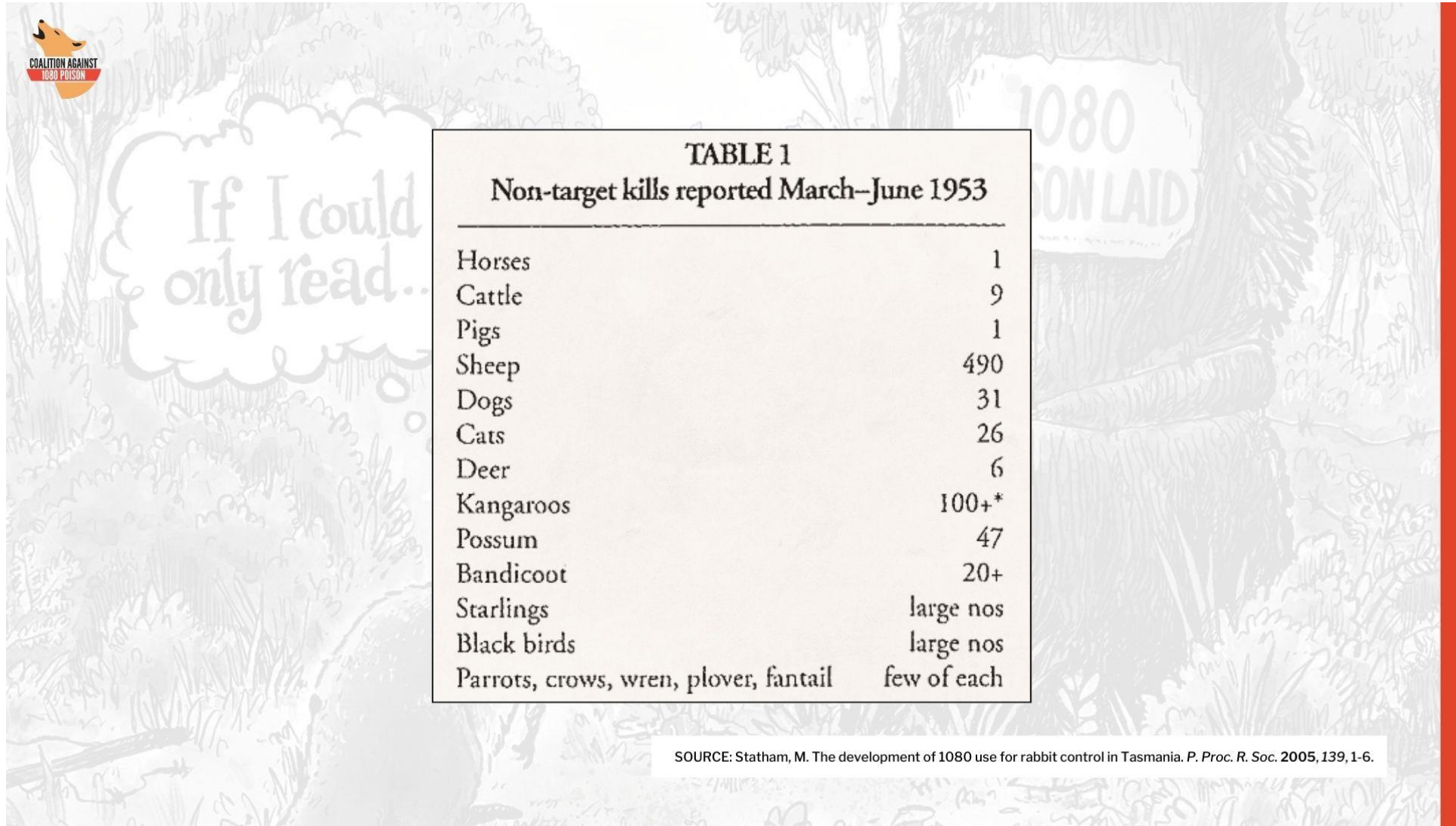


**1080 POISON**  
**AN ANIMAL WELFARE CRISIS**

**Alex Vince**

Campaign director - Animal Liberation  
Co-founder - Coalition Against 1080 Poison

# Non-target species killed in rabbit control project (Tasmania)



COALITION AGAINST 1080 POISON

If I could only read..

1080 POISON LAID

**TABLE 1**  
Non-target kills reported March–June 1953

|                                       |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Horses                                | 1           |
| Cattle                                | 9           |
| Pigs                                  | 1           |
| Sheep                                 | 490         |
| Dogs                                  | 31          |
| Cats                                  | 26          |
| Deer                                  | 6           |
| Kangaroos                             | 100+*       |
| Possum                                | 47          |
| Bandicoot                             | 20+         |
| Starlings                             | large nos   |
| Black birds                           | large nos   |
| Parrots, crows, wren, plover, fantail | few of each |

SOURCE: Statham, M. The development of 1080 use for rabbit control in Tasmania. *P. Proc. R. Soc.* 2005, 139, 1-6.

Species that are targeted, including native animals, specifically in Tasmania, show it's a myth that native species are immune



# Primary targets

---

These are the species explicitly targeted with 1080 poison in Australia:

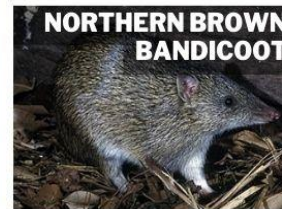
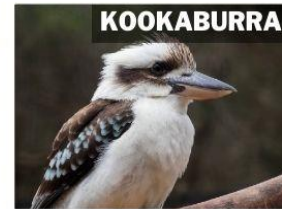


# Field assessment of risk to non-target species in a cat-baiting program



some of the  
**"non-  
target"  
species  
at risk** when  
**1080 is  
used**

SOURCE: Fancourt, B. et al. Field assessment of the risk of feral cat baits to non-target species in eastern Australia. *Int. Environ. Assess. Manag.* 2021, 18(1), 224-244.

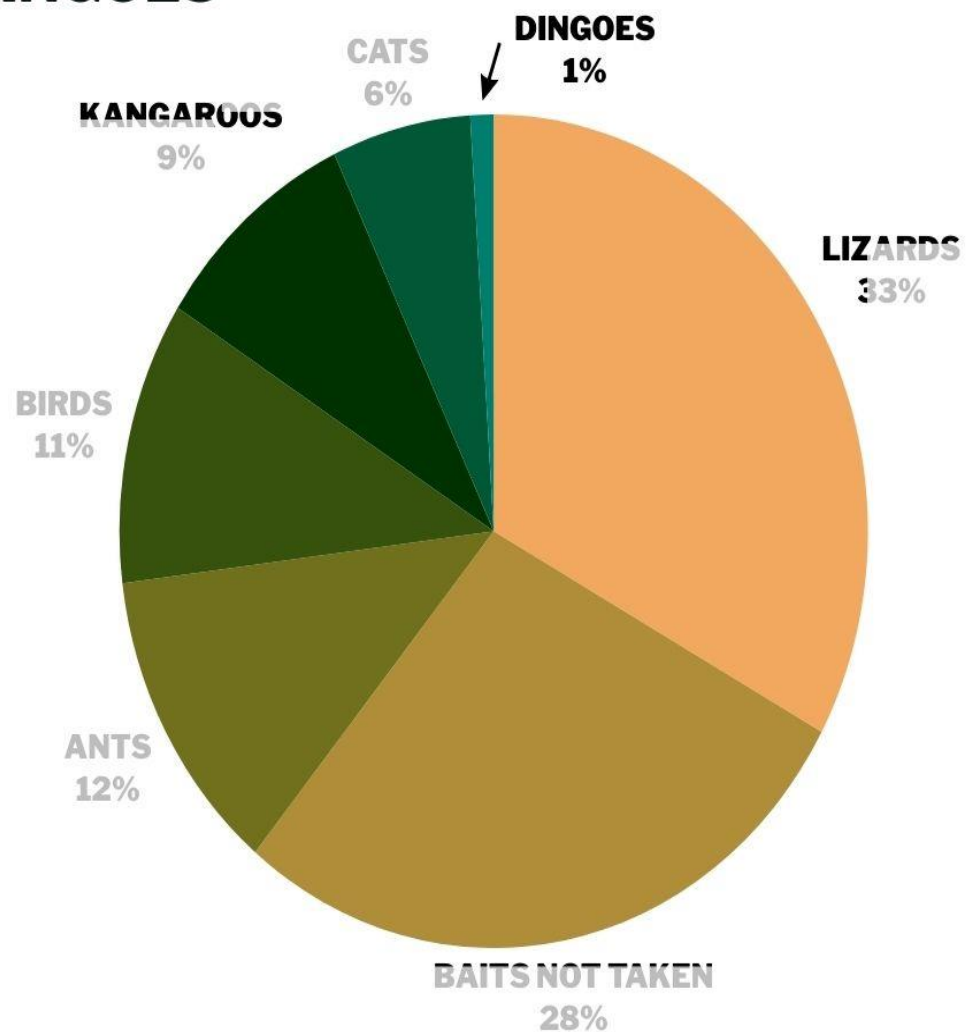


We don't approve of baiting dingos and other mammals and the next slide shows who took baits in an anti-dingo poisoning project





# BAITS TAKEN DURING A 1080 POISONING PROGRAM TARGETING DINGOES



ADAPTED FROM: Kreplins, T. et al. Fate of dried meat baits aimed at wild dog (*Canis familiaris*) control. *Wildl. Res.* 2018, 45, 528-538.

Birds, lizards, kangaroos topped the list of non-targets. For every bait taken by a dingo on that project:



**84 were taken by other species.**



SOURCE: Kreplins, T. et al. Fate of dried meat baits aimed at wild dog (*Canis familiaris*) control. *Wildl. Res.* 2018, 45, 528-538.



**1080 is lethal to all lifeforms -  
from earthworms to wedge-tailed eagles**





If I could  
only read...

1080  
POISON LAID

**How did we  
get here?**

IMAGE SOURCE: Browne (2021)



# About 1080 poison

- one thousand and eightieth (1080th) chemical trialed by scientists in WW2
- white, odourless and tasteless
- no known antidote
- most toxic category (World Health Org.)
- chemical of "security concern" (Aus.)
- lethal to all lifeforms



“

When Compound 1080 first appeared in the 1940s it was hailed as a **miracle and a wonder**, a rat control marvel without precedent, and the best predator poison ever invented.

SOURCE: Connolly, G. Development and use of compound 1080 in coyote control, 1944-1972. In R. Timm and W. Gorenzel (Eds). *21st Vertebrate Pest Conference* 2004, 221-239.



“

When Compound 1080 first appeared in the 1940s it was hailed as a miracle and a wonder, a rat control marvel without precedent, and the best predator poison ever invented. Only a few decades later 1080 was being denounced as **one of the worst evils ever perpetrated by modern science.**

SOURCE: Connolly, G. Development and use of compound 1080 in coyote control, 1944-1972. In R. Timm and W. Gorenzel (Eds), *21st Vertebrate Pest Conference 2004*, 221-239.

Australia and New Zealand world-leading users of 1080.  
Banned in most other countries. Toxic to all life forms. PLUS, as  
a victim eaten by another animal:



## **1080 is a food chain killer**



Easily available anti-coagulant poisons people use: rabbit, mouse and rat poisons, are similarly food chain killers, e.g: Pindone

You can see how dogs, cats, birds, lizards and herbivores are attracted to these baits



## Bait materials

---



meat



oats



carrots



eggs



bananas



# Ground baiting

---

Baits are laid on the ground by hand or buried along tracks and fence lines.

Baits can remain lethal for several months.



MEAT BAITS INJECTED WITH 1080 POISON

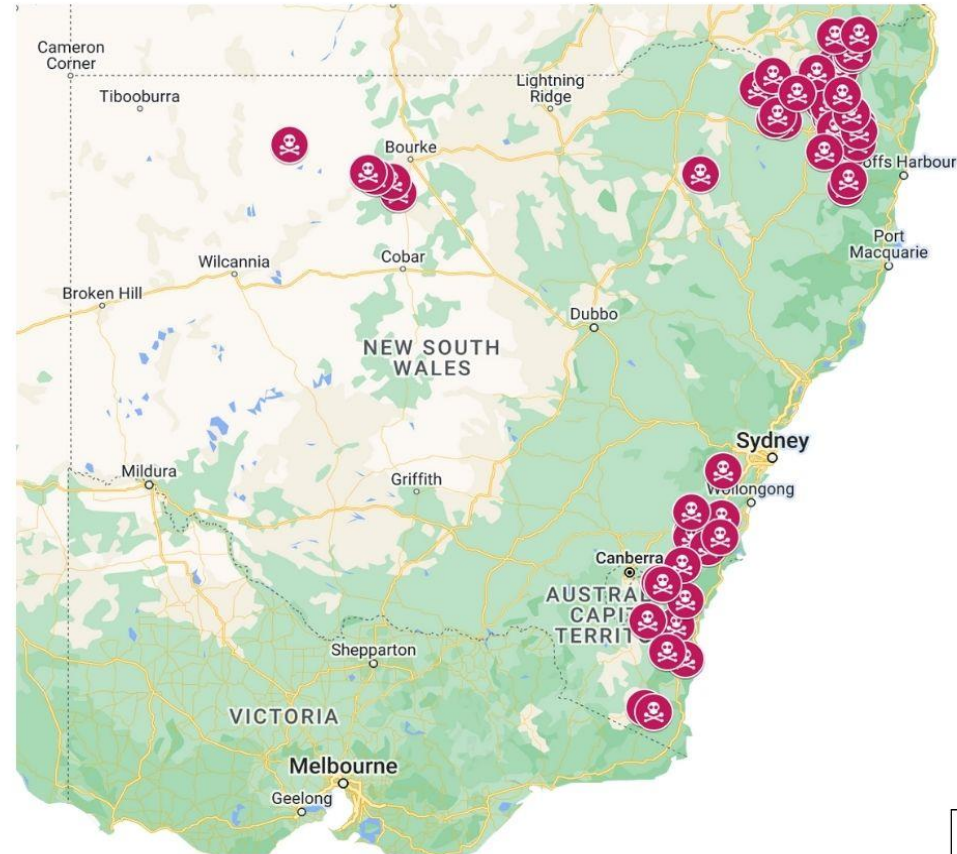
IMAGE SOURCE: ABC News



# Beyond the home fence: seeding the bush with poison. 319 aerial and ground baiting programs counted mid 2023



## **ROUTINE AERIAL BAITING BY NPWS CURRENT ACTIVE AERIAL OPERATIONS**





**1080  
FOX  
POISON  
LAID IN THIS AREA**  
SECTION 1080 LAY  
From 24-03-2019 To 24-03-2020  
POISON APPLIED BY: LANTOR OPERATOR 12  
AND UNIT TONER (EJECTOR DEVICES)  
WARNING  
DOMESTIC ANIMALS MAY BE AFFECTED  
(1080 is lethal to cats and dogs)  
DO NOT FEED DOMESTIC ANIMALS FOR 10 DAYS  
FOR MORE INFO AND HELP VISIT WWW.1080.COM.AU

# Is 1080 humane?

IMAGE SOURCE: private collection

**No way.** Dogs/canines and other victims at risk of prolonged, painful and violent death.

- It can take between two hours and two weeks for death to occur and between 30 minutes and 20 hours for first signs of vomiting, anxiety and shaking leading to extreme distress and seizures.
- If you saw the film Red Dog or know someone whose dog took a 1080 bait you will know the prolonged agony the animal goes through. Strychnine poisoning, similar effects. From a dog or fox perspective, it's a myth that 1080 is more humane.

From 2007 RSPCA study: Is sodium monofluoroacetate (1080)  
a humane poison? M Sherley 2007



“ —

there is *an urgent need* for research into  
*improving the humaneness of vertebrate control*  
*methods in Australia.*

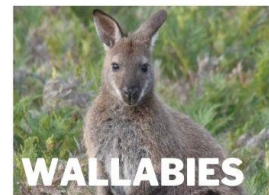
SOURCE: Sherley (2007)

Should any sentient animal, fox, rabbit, 'wild dog', deer, pig or your neighbour's cat, your local area magpies, crows, or shrike thrush, kangaroos, possums or lizards, or your pet dog be put at risk of this horrendous death either intentionally, 'by accident', or as secondary victim?



## Primary targets

These are the species explicitly targeted with 1080 poison in Australia:



# 30 dogs die: baits moved by birds the serial killer?

- 
- **Forget murder conspiracy: crows the probable culprit in dog deaths**

- 28 October 2016

- *In the West Australian goldfields, some people believe crows may have unwittingly killed 30 pet dogs since August.*

Can a bird kill a dog? In the far northern reaches of the West Australian goldfields, some people are beginning to believe crows may have unwittingly killed 30 pet dogs since August.

The poisoning deaths have shocked a small town of 300 people, 1000km northeast of Perth.

Retired mechanic Jack Long, whose beloved alsatian Bear was among the victims, believes this is the work of an unknown villain who also targeted two dogs owned by a local police officer, a barmaid's puppy, a dog owned by the shire president's daughter and some owned by Aboriginal families from a housing estate called The Village.

But police in Laverton have found no evidence of a serial dog killer. Instead, they think the deaths could be linked to the arrival of a murder of crows that "turned the sky black" nine weeks ago, before Laverton's dogs began to die. The extraordinary theory is that crows had swallowed baits meant for wild dogs in the bush then regurgitated them in town, where pet dogs found them.

Source: [direct link](#) to the Australian.

Assembled by Australian Wildlife Protection Council education and communication with thanks to research and images provided by Alex Vince and Coalition against 1080 Poison.

[www.awpc.org.au](http://www.awpc.org.au)



**Australian  
Wildlife  
Protection  
Council**  
*A voice for wildlife*