

16 March 2018

Mike Knowles
Safari Club International – New Zealand Chapter Inc.
PO Box 11 320
Sockburn, Christchurch 8443

Tēnā koe Mr Knowles,

Thank you for your letter dated 13th February 2018, and please accept my apologies for the delayed response.

The approach to predator management that ZIP is testing and refining in the Perth Valley, in collaboration with DOC and Predator Free 2050 Ltd, aims to completely remove possums from the area and prevent their re-establishment (and will also seek to achieve this result for rats). If successful, this approach could negate the need for the repeated use of landscape-scale aerial 1080 to control possums and rats in the Perth Valley and at similar sites elsewhere in New Zealand.

I acknowledge your concerns about the potential impact of the work programme on both wild game species and the recreational hunting experience in the Perth Valley.

ZIP and DOC staff have liaised with Kāti Māhaki ki Makaawhio, local people and other users of the Perth Valley (including the hunting community), in order to identify any impacts of the work programme and to discuss options to reduce any that are identified. These conversations have been a critical part of the planning process, and have resulted in the establishment of:

- Marcus and Kaylyn Pinney as liaison people for the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA), with Phil Bell at ZIP, to establish and maintain communication for mutual understanding and co-operation.
- An advisory group that includes representation from the Game Animal Council, ZIP, NZDA, DOC, Landcare Research, a local helicopter company and the hunting guides association to implement a monitoring program to assess the effects of the operation on tahr. ZIP has not previously researched the impact of its modified technique for applying aerial 1080 on wild game animals, and as far as we are aware no research has been done to date on the uptake of cereal baits by tahr.
- An offer by DOC of alternative hunting opportunities for parties in four of the 2018 balloted tahr hunting areas in the Adams Wilderness Area affected by the planned aerial 1080 operation (i.e. the Barlow River, Perverse Creek, Teichelmann Creek and Abel Lake).
- Ongoing liaison with Makaawhio and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu regarding the Perth Valley research and ZIP's broader work programme.

Unfortunately, due to supply and timing constraints, deer repellent is not able to be used in this operation. However, ZIP has close relationships with bait and repellent manufacturers, and is keenly interested in their progress toward developing more effective (and cost-effective) game animal repellents for use in future operations of this nature. The results gained from the tahr monitoring program will also help to inform whether repellents should be advocated for in future operations where valued tahr herds are present.

I do not agree that the presence of ZIP's small field team in the Perth Valley will result in them monopolizing the catchment. It's a very large site, and staff will largely be working below the alpine zone. Staff will generally be accommodated permanently at three temporary bivvies (two in the Barlow catchment, one near Teichelmann Creek), and frequently, but not permanently, at Scone Hut. In addition, the temporary routes that are being established will provide easier access for others to enjoy the Valley.

Finally, ZIP staff will not be permitted to carry or use rifles in the research area during the 2018 tahr ballot season, including into parts that are outside the Adams Wilderness Area. Just like any member of the public (excluding people who have obtained a tahr block), staff are legally not allowed to fly rifles or other hunting weapons into a wilderness area; therefore, they will not have unfair hunting access.

Mike, please don't hesitate to give me a call if you wish to discuss this work further. I'd also be keen to know your thoughts on how Safari Club International could support the work, particularly the tahr trial I outlined above.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Bramley'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Al Bramley
Chief Executive
Zero Invasive Predators Ltd (ZIP)
027 449 5483

CC: Lou Sanson, Director General, Department of Conservation
CC: Don Hammond, Chairman, Game Animal Council
CC: Bill O'Leary, President New Zealand Deerstalkers Association