

"Pest Free" is a lie ! We can not achieve such a state in any environment. Man will make new rules. So, start now to manage our assets. Not follow ecofundamentalists flawed dreams!!
#3: Yes but does this include whitetail deer as they are managed/controlled by hunters and due to this are an economical resource to the Oban community (from hunters visiting the island for this specific purpose). The Pest Free status and goal to obtain this requires a delicate targeting of rats and cats primarily due to their predation relationship. In regards to #7 - although I have answered yes, this would vary greatly on the specific application and target type. A Predator-proof fence only controls a small section of the island and is only a limiting starting point.
(more on photocopied sheet)
A pest free Stewart Island is a loaded question as it can only mean aerial poisoning. Balanced control of pests is the only acceptable arrangement.
Aerial based on targeted areas as opposed to large scale operations. eg difficult terrain or logistics
Aerial drops of 1080 should not be tolerated anywhere. There is absolutely no way it should even be considered as an option on Rakiura.
aerial poisoning is a bloody stupid idea, this island is able to be bait stationed by foot, i realise it will cost more but thats too bloody bad, no need to mass drop over the whole island! think of the by kill,
Aerial poisoning should be outlawed worldwide as there are other ways that have little or no impact on non-targeted species. This is why I no longer visit NZ and actively deter others from going until this toxic attack on the environment ceases.
Aerial poisoning will not only kill the rats, cats and possums,But ALL wild life Native Birds TOO!!!
All areas that have been aerial sprayed with 1080 have significant by kill of un-targeted species , especially birds that take years or in some cases never recover.
as a visitor here the above needs to be done
As long as deer are not included in the pests catagory
Do it once do it correctly as long as it does not have an effect on the wider community,or domestic animals that are already resident
Do not support poisoning of whitetail deer. Hunting can control numbers.
Do you consider Deer as predator's?
Don't 10/80 the island, trapping is good needs monitoring more manually
Don't poison paradise we will all have to live with it and answer to our grandchildren for our actions on their world.
Don't waste money on a fence system that will not work
Erect laws on pet animals that may likely become feral, eg like cats esp. and dogs. Most most native birds are more vulnerable to feral cats.
Expand your consultation to the wider community. Be prepared to fully listen and consider others ideas and attitudes.Be humble.
fencing people in so that aerial brodificum poison can be used is the agenda here in my opinion. that would destroy the island! they did it on tiny Ulva isl and cant even keep rats off that so i cant support a project that knows full well that brodificum poison is the only way to achieve what they are promising. while i support the protection of native species the extreme greenies pushing this idea are doing so at the expense of the rest of NZ and users of Rakiura.
Feral cats are the biggest problem on the island.
Get rid of the cats for a start!
Have made 55 to 60 visits to the Is since the early 70 s. do not agree with the use of toxins in bait stations as poisoned insects are eaten by birds. Will deer be classed as pests
I also support maintaining a healthy herd of Whitetail deer on the island.
I am a recreational hunter and my fear is that once the rats and cats have gone the so called eco do gooders will want the whitetail deer poisoned and hence the loss of a unique herd and income

source for the locals thru the hunters spending while on the island etc... I see it as the thin edge of the wedge wanting a predator free island as in the eyes of the eco Nazis the deer are a pest and will have to go come hell or high water ... They'll swear black and blue that is not the case !! but there will be a hidden agenda for sure . Just remember a pest free island to ecos includes deer . Living inside a fence would not appeal to me if I was a resident ... That's my 2 cents worth any way.. Thanks for the chance to express my thoughts . Cheers

I do not support any control method that results in killing of non target species such as birds and deer

I do not support the aerial use of brodifacoum baits. They historically have been shown to impact on native wild life as well as desirable wildlife such as deer (Desirable from my point of view as well as quite a lot of Islanders relying on hunters along with wildlife enthusiasts and the money they bring to the island. Gareth Morgan should be required to guarantee the provision of a hedge fund to cover these financial losses to islanders and have a repopulating white tail scheme etc in place should the aerial poisoning scheme take place. In my view manual poisoning and trapping is the only way to accurately target the pests concerned. (Cats Rats and possums)

I dont believe an Island of this size can ever be made totally predator free, and the enviromental and monetary costs to even attempt are to high.

I don't believe eradication of pests on this scale is actually possible so the project is doomed to failure from the start. It's also impossible to know what will happen with the economy so continuing support and maintenance of a fence (which may or may not even be effective at keeping predators at one side or the other - look at how effective the Dancing Star Foundation fence has been) is likely to be unrealistic in the long term. Using aerial poisoning will also put the fisheries industries of the island in jeopardy - if consumers get wind of the fact that toxic poisons have been used in the vicinity, no matter how much the toxicity and persistence is played down, they will simply not buy. It would be better instead to put resources into intensive trapping or ground poisoning of particular key areas (like the township and ridges where the pests hang out) and to use the locals or local contractors to do this, thus putting something real and tangible back into the community (not just empty promises of magical tourist dollars which may backfire when the tourists see how un-green this whole project is). Create Eco-Tourism opportunities. Look at possums as a resource rather than a pest... use this opportunity to create a sustainable industry for locals. Do a skills assessment of the locals. Find out how they might be keen to help in order to support a sustainable, local, and potentially lucrative, pest management effort / business endeavour. Be pioneers in applying creative solutions that are truly friendly to the environment - I think you would find a lot of local support.

I freely offer my help in eradication of pests, especially feral cats.

I have smelt the stench of an aerial poisoned forest. Dead birds, the odd possum and deer carcasses. Some rotting in streams. Is this what our tourists want to see ? I think not!! I LOVE visiting Rakiura National Park . I do not want to see some 2mtr high fence dividing part of the island

I know a lot of people would give their time for free to assist with manual trapping and poisoning

I support the eradication of cats, possums and rats and any other pests other than deer which is one of the reasons for the high numbers of visitors to the island. In my opinion "The whitetail deer" have little impact on the flora & fauna of the island

I support the idea of a pest free Stewart Island but its only a dream.Cats eat rats and if rats are removed first and say the cat attempt fails then the birds will get eaten.I suggest a smaller island with similar pests first and count the dollars.Remember the kiori rat has been here for around 1000 years and fits into the eco cycle.The ship rats and cats are the problem.

I support the manual trapping and hunting of pests and/or predators on stewart island.I think of the employment opporitunties ,and the poison free environment will be the best win ,win result for islanders and all New Zealanders..

I think any aproach needs to be slow and cautious nothing radical.

<p>if you want to keep this island beautiful you have to take the above steps what is the alternative! Deer maybe lovely but will destroy and eat all your lovely flora and fauna</p>
<p>I'm sure aerial poisoning would occur and the long term effects are not fully known, but I have major concerns there. Kiwi must not be affected as they would eat insects that could be partly poisoned. If not killed from that, it could affect their breeding capability badly. Garte Morgan should go further into poiison effects and have a broad minded search. I sincerly hope th elocal community does not support aeiral poisoning. DOC have done a good job with propaganda and many people have been sucked in with their "truth". I deal to wild cats and possums when I visit. I'm involved with stost and rat control in the mountains around Lake te Anau with the fjordland wapiti foundation.</p>
<p>In defining Pest I consider Whitetail deer to be a resource of emense value to the island and new Zealand.</p>
<p>Is there some way hunters from the rest of the country could have some input, or hands on help with pest eradication?</p>
<p>Is this project motivated by love of Nature or personal Kudos? Be careful not to override the concerns of residents. Whatever steps are taken, I urge NO use of 1080.</p>
<p>Just that all stakeholders need to be adequately represented and all of their concerns adequately addressed. Agree in principle but the details need to be debated.</p>
<p>Keen to get rid of the pest's IE Cat's and rats but also keen not to have Stewart Island fenced off and a BIG NO to aerial poisoning</p>
<p>Like the idea of each hut having predator traps and bait stations and the encouragement to hut users to assist in pest control.</p>
<p>Love the Island!</p>
<p>Make sure they answer all your questions before they get the go ahead to start any more poisoning</p>
<p>Mice , rats, cats and possums should be targetted in a way as not to effect any deer . Deer are a valuable assett to the island with many of the annual visitors to the island being hunters who help boost the local economy and who carry out some pest control free .</p>
<p>My agreement is dependent on the definition of what a "predator" is? I don't believe that the Whitetail deer on Stewart Island is a very great pest threat to the flora and fauna and numbers of deer are already well managed and controlled by hunting pressure. This hunting pressure will continue to grow as Stewart Island has a reputation as one of NZ's "must do" hunting locations. The monetary value of hunter visitors to Stewart Island contributes conserably to the Island's economy. I would like to see Whitetail deer placed as a WOGC management resource and removed as a pest species. Any management controls of Cats, Possums, Rats etc would have to be carried out in a manner that does not harm any whitetail deer on the Island. I am in favour of a fence around Oban Township as this is where the majority of tourist visitors (non hunters) would access the island scenery and birdlife etc.without having to resort to extreme camping or tramping. Due to the considerable difficulty of access to the majority of the island(particularly inland areas) safe controls on small animal predators will be very expensive. DOC should allow hunters (subject to a vetting and approval process for this) to be able to bring .22 caliber to DOC stewart Island hunting blocks and encourage the contol of possum and cats. RMLT blocks on stewart island already allow this. On a further slightly diverse note: Having visited the island for many years I believe most of the issues caused by non compliant hunting is casued by locals who have little respect for the rules or for other visitors and have a sense of entitlement regards their perseved rights. This attitude results in many (observed by me) incidents of damage to the bush and to wildlife as well as firearm and poaching breeches that creates an impression that "all hunters" care little for the environment. This is not the case and it is once again an example of the minority spoiling it for the majority. Regards.</p>
<p>New Zealand is the only place in the universe where our endemic species live. How can we not do everything within our power to preserve them? Stewart Island has a unique opportunity to be a</p>

significant predator free land mass. Stewart Island belongs to all the citizens of NZ, not just the rate payers of Stewart Island (some of whom are not even NZ permanent residents). While it might seem unfair to some SI residents that they are being asked to 'pay' (in inconvenience if nothing else) for the environmental carelessness of our history, they should take this as a rare moment in history to make a decision beyond mere self interest; as an opportunity to undo some of the damage done by our species. The idea that Stewart Island is some sort of last frontier for freedom loving misfits to live beyond the constraints of society belongs in the 19th century. The history of frontier societies is that they generally presage the ruination of the very environment they exist in. A new mindset that sees Stewart Islanders as world leaders would make me so proud.

no 1080 aerial drops ever

no fence

No widespread untargetted aerial distribution of ANY poison at ANY time.

Not in favour of aerial poisoning if it could result in birds and deer being killed. Unsure what 'pest' means, if this includes deer then not in favour of pest free.

Not sure whether deer are regarded as pest or resource by the group. I'd fully support a predator-free plan, but pest - free is ambiguous and needs clarification

only visit the island on a regular basis to hunt whitetail deer. no deer no reason to travel and invest money in the local economy

Pest and predator control are eco-fascist actions that seek to create some imagined ideal that is not achievable. Kakapo, for example, were removed from the island not because of the effect of predators, but the fear of them (see www.whekenui.org/ephemera17). Modern ecologies are mixed, we need to get over it and take actions that enhance these assemblages.

pest free a pipe dream? Definitely no aerial dropping, there is enough evidence to suggest that aerial poisoning is not species specific. A question for Mr Morgan "What sort of legacy does he want?" To even entertain the idea of aerial poisoning is a sure death sentence to kiwi and other birdlife similar to Arthurs Pass. I know I was working there in the 80s. No birdlife now as compared to then. TARGET SPECIES WITH APPROPRIATE RESEARCHED BAITS

Pls do not allow the wide spread application of toxins or the change of the landscape. Spend the funds on targeted and controlled eradication methods, which while labour intensive have minimal side effect and hit the target species. visitor groups (tamperers/tourists/hunters) can assist in this.

Poisoning is more cruel than trapping. 1080 takes two days to kill, brodifacoum 22 days. How do you define a pest? Pest is a misnomer. A predator - how do you define??? Native falcons and hawks are predators. A predator is not necessarily detrimental. In fact a predator is part of the food chain. and in balance, is beneficial mainly killing sick or weedy-hence the prey population is based on healthy individuals. Poisoning upsets food chains. For example surviving rats will bounce back and within 3 years be two to three times their original pre-poison number thus disrupting the original balance. The whole predator-free programme is misguided, ill conceived and ignoring basic 3rd form biology.

Poisoning the whole island and killing thousands of native birds and animals is not the answer. We must stop the indiscriminate use of 1080. It is disgusting that this country markets itself as clean green NZ when we are the biggest user of one of the worst poisons man has ever produced. Get it right for a change.

Predator free not PEST FREE as deer are classified as a pest and are not in this plan

Predators are not defined. Do they include weka, falcons and gull? Do they include vegetarian possum?

Put the pest proof fence around Gareth Morgan's house to keep him locked in. He's the real pest.

Question 3: The word pest needs to be defined, Cats, Rats & Possums are pests while some will consider deer as pests. If you mean Cats, Rats & Possums then I support the idea, if you mean deer as well then I support only part of the question.

Rakiura has excellent birdlife NOW cos there are no stoats or mice. Modern Science tells us there is no need for predator control. Its a beaucroatic beat up.

Rakiura is a very special place, be careful you don't make it worse! take the islanders into your confidence and seek their feed back on all your proposals!

Rakiura is National Park and any decisions on it's future should involve all New Zealand citizens. As DOC admit it is impossible at present to achieve a 100% predator free Rakiura and trying to turn the ecological clock back thousands of years is totally impossible. Has this ever been achieved anywhere else ? Need more information on implications of a predator fence - is even a totally predator free small area feasible, rats in particular could re-infest by sea, does it mean only predators that prey on birds or others that may damage the forest (deer), would this be a sufficient goal or only the first step to a predator free Rakiura, who pays the ongoing maintenance costs, what are the environmental, social and economic benefits, how may people would come to enjoy them, would there be any areas set aside for whitetail hunting or would they be annihilated ? Don't hear much about Mt Maungatautari near Cambridge these days, which was supposed to be the epitome of predator free fenced areas. I am totally against aerial poisoning - it is indiscriminate, can kill virtually everything including aquatic and marine live (e.g. Rangitoto Island in Auckland), is inhumane in the case of 1080 and ends up being repeated over and over and over without ever achieving the goal of being predator free with flourishing bird life (e.g Pureora Forest Park - once a recreational hunting area - yeah right !)

Re Q3-Depends on the definition of "PEST". Rats,Cats, Mice OK. Deer at current levels not a pest in my opinion. Aerial poisoning with anticoagulants (or 1080) are not specific to targeted pest. DoC say deer are not targeted but they will be a "by-catch" of the poison. Definitely against wide area aerial poison.

Save the deer - they are unique

So many treasured species there that are being reduced by introduced predators. We traveled from Georgia in the US specifically to see the wildlife...a difficult trip for my husband who is an above-knee amputee. If there is a decision to do this, and a fund is established, we would contribute what we could. I've been all over the world and New Zealand is my favorite place I've ever been.

Stewart Island belongs to all New Zealanders - not just residents or Gareth Morgan Of course I wish to see less predators and more birds protected and able to thrive Widespread aerial applications of toxin is not feasible now and unlikely to be so in the future A predator proof fence is unlikely to be sustainable - it will fail at some time and all the work done will be wasted There are far too many extremists involved in this project to reduce predators You need to develop a plan that is acceptable to all NZ and you would receive huge support I am actively involved in predator control on my own rural property and on other local community reserve project - predators can be controlled on the ground with careful application of toxins

Stop using aerially dropped 1080, I'd volunteer my time and my friends time to help eradicate pests through trapping, hunting means.

The Governance group would do well to look at control of predators rather than total eradication

The only reason I and many others travel to Stewart Island is to hunt the beautiful Whitetail deer. 18 trips and counting.

The Predator fence is a nonsense it simply would not work. It is environmental vandalism. The meetings are arrogant and orchestrated attempts to com people into a flawed plan. Unless their is 1005 backing it could well be an environmental disaster with some idiot releasing other predators. The way the idea has been handled has all the hallmarks of a disaster arrogant bully boy tactics will not work.

The proposed eco terrorism by PFNZ is a smoke screen to kill everything that is not native or endemic but conveniently excludes the introduced terrorists themselves. The idea that we can poison our way back to some previous pre-human time and then put the result under a bell jar is total pie in the sky. The unintended consequences of saturation poisoning on the food chain and

<p>the ecosystem is catastrophic madness and an environmental holocaust on the land and every living form in association. Question 3 is misleading and open-ended when pests are not defined or named nor the method of target only precision eradication specified insuring there is no other unintended by-kill. If a magic wand was waved and all rats, cats, stoats, ferrets, and weasels ONLY would disappear then I would support this. THAT IS NOT WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED AND THEREFORE Q.3 IS A NONSENSE.</p>
<p>The whole idea of making Stewart island predator free is an idealistic one rather than a practical one. Someone please grow an brain and consider the feasibility and reality of making Stewart Island predator free and KEEPING IT THAT WAY. A complete waste of money is what it is.</p>
<p>This appears to be an attack on deerstalkers, who are one of the main visitor groups to Stewart Island. They usually bring quite an amount of income to the Island. Given the extreme expense and difficulty of providing walkable tracks through the forests of Stewart Island, because of the mud, and unstable swampy nature of the Island, I cannot see that any tourists are going to put up with this, even if the island was believed to be "predator free". Rest Free Stewart Island is an extreme view of madmen, with their own agenda, that puts little reliance on helping the Stewart Island Community. We fought the Second World War to get rid of people like this.</p>
<p>Totally disagree about attempting to remove pests completely from the Island. Not feasible. Increased control is required.</p>
<p>tread softly for you tread on my dreams</p>
<p>unrealistic goal, the island is just too big with too many nooks & crannies, however given that I have seen feral cats at the top left corner of the island we need to do something. cat traps at all huts and campsites maybe</p>
<p>We must NEVER allow 1080 on Stewart Island and we must NEVER Allow Aerial poisoning on Stewart Island</p>
<p>Would only support 100% species specific traps (eg using image recognition, or live traps), and not for all predators- eg not Skua, Falcon, Morepork. Would only support any interference after international, independent island ecologists have been consulted and a comprehensive ecological study of the current inhabitants and their interactions have been made, and only with comprehensive, ongoing monitoring of the whole ecology (including freshwater, marine, soil, terrestrial, and aerial organisms). So far DoC's interference with poisons and traps in NZ has lacked any of this and has had disastrous consequences with plagues of pests as the rapidly breeding, invasive species are favoured when resources (food, space) are made available by killing animals. Our less robust, slower breeding, slow-dispersing, less generalist feeding native species lose out. DoC's heavy handed approach has caused the decline of their monitored species such as mohua, while impacts on the vast majority of species have gone unmonitored, but can only be presumed to be as bad. DoC's impacts to date show that leaving things well alone, in the balanced state they have been for decades, is much better than interfering. Note there will be thousands of unique and as yet unknown species on the island (as there are throughout NZ). Far better to put effort into describing and beginning to understand what's there than interfering, for the sake of preserving our ancient natural heritage, and tourism, and ultimately the economic prosperity of the island.</p>
<p>You're only stating principles/broad brush actions, so answers are in principle too. Answer to each question of support would be conditional on details</p>
<p></p>