



**Always use chemicals responsibly**  
**Article courtesy of Tablelands LHPA**

When undertaking pest control, the only chemicals that should be used are those that are registered for the pest you are targeting. When using these chemicals you need to read and follow all the instructions on the registered chemical's label. The label contain information such as the active chemical, dose rates, safety precautions, and withholding periods just to name a few.

The LHPAs quite often receive inquiries about chemical misuse, that is, chemicals being used for purposes other than they are registered for. Not only are you breaking the law in doing this, but you are also putting yourself and others at risk. Non target animals are also in danger with this type of practice. While there are risks associated with the use of registered poisons, quite often family pets and native birds can fall victim to non registered poisons. The small things you do with chemicals can also have far ranging impacts for the wider community. With better testing systems now available, small traces of chemical can be identified in fibre, food stuffs and the environment.

If chemicals are identified as being used illegally or in situations other than what they are registered for, it can lead to them being deregistered.

In NSW, the LHPAs provide some chemicals which are used in pest animal and insect control. 1080 is one of the main registered poisons for controlling wild dogs, foxes, feral pigs and wild rabbits. These pests cost Australian agriculture millions of dollars in lost production every year. 1080 is a restricted chemical and there are tight restrictions on where it can be used and who can use it – some of these include distance restrictions to houses, boundary fences and domestic water sources. There are also notification requirements that must be met prior to using 1080.

Currently there are very few alternatives to 1080 that are as efficient and cost effective as a pest control agent. This may change in the future as new chemicals are being tested and developed. In the meantime we need everyone doing the right thing with chemicals so that they can continue to be used for the intended purpose.

For more information on controlling pest animals contact your local LHPA office.