

# Protecting our Catchments

## WaterNSW Baiting Program

WaterNSW is committed to protecting the Greater Sydney drinking water catchment.

One of the dangers to the catchments is feral animals, which impact overall catchment health as well as the quality of the water collected within the catchment. Large numbers of feral animals in the catchments can also damage the environment, lead to the extinction of native animals and plants, and impact agricultural protection enterprises.

To control the populations of feral animals within our catchments, agencies including WaterNSW and National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) work with NSW Local Land Services (LLS) on the use of 1080. The use of 1080 is highly regulated in NSW. Only Authorised Control Officers can prepare and supply poison baits. People that use the baits must also complete training and provide proof of training before baits will be supplied. All programs using 1080 need to be monitored and reported on, including their outcomes.

Domestic animals such as pets can potentially be affected by 1080 so you need to ensure you keep them away during a baiting program. This is why you will see a 1080 program identified by appropriate signage as one of the many controls undertaken for these baiting programs.

1080 is water soluble and it does not cause a build-up of residues in soil, water or plants. It is broken down naturally by water and soil bacteria. In fact, the acid form of fluoroacetate, the active ingredient in 1080, is known to exist in 30 species of native Australian plants, including *Acacia georginae* (*Georgina gidgee*), *Gastrolobium* spp. (e.g. heart leaf poison bush) and *Oxylobium* spp. (e.g. box poison bush).

WaterNSW has performed an extensive risk assessment on using 1080 across the catchments, with results showing that 1080, at the amounts used in the baiting program, will not adversely effect water quality in the immediate or long-term.

- We are committed to protecting the Greater Sydney drinking water catchment.
- 1080 is used to control the numbers of feral animals that would otherwise negatively impact the catchment.
- 1080 does not cause a build-up of residue in soil or plants and readily degrades in water.
- Baits are only active until rain causes the active agent to break down, rendering the bait harmless.
- Under pesticide control orders regulating the use of 1080 baits they are not laid within 100m (minimum) of any bodies of water within the catchment.

To learn more about how we protect the Greater Sydney drinking water catchment, visit [www.watarnsw.com.au](http://www.watarnsw.com.au).