

### **Re: Notice of fox poisoning program using DeFox<sup>®</sup> baits**

An ongoing fox control program is being conducted in the Alpine National Park (Mt Loch and Razorback Spur areas) and the adjacent Mt Hotham Alpine Resort to protect the endangered Mountain Pygmy Possum. The program, which is expected to run over a number of years, is being conducted by Parks Victoria and the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning.

The aim of this program is to control foxes by the use of DeFox<sup>®</sup> or Foxoff<sup>®</sup> poison baits. Baits will be covered by snow during winter times; they will be checked and replaced with fresh baits every week.

The poison to be used is compound 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) impregnated into DeFox<sup>®</sup> or Foxoff<sup>®</sup> baits which will be buried to a depth of at least 10 cm.

The use of DeFox<sup>®</sup>/Foxoff<sup>®</sup> will comply with all regulatory requirements, including label conditions and directions for the use of DeFox<sup>®</sup>/Foxoff<sup>®</sup> in Victoria. When used in accordance with the directions the chances of non-target animal deaths from the use of DeFox<sup>®</sup>/Foxoff<sup>®</sup> are reduced but there is still some associated risk. By being aware of the dangers you are able to help manage the risks. To minimise the risk of poisoning to your animals you are advised:

- Dogs are not permitted in the Alpine National Park.
- Steps (eg. muzzling, restraint) need to be taken to ensure that domestic dogs do not gain access to 1080 pest animal baits or poisoned animals.
- 1080 may remain active in poisoned animals and/or baits for several weeks dependent on prevailing environmental conditions. Over time, 1080 is leached from DeFox<sup>®</sup>/Foxoff<sup>®</sup> by rain and degraded by bacteria and moulds.
- Foxes may sometimes carry DeFox<sup>®</sup>/Foxoff<sup>®</sup> baits to a different location and cache them (store them). These baits are still poisonous.
- Your animals may be poisoned if they eat DeFox<sup>®</sup>/Foxoff<sup>®</sup> or carcasses of poisoned animals. It is unusual for domestic pets to ravage fox carcasses.
- Closely monitor the health and behaviour of your domestic pets. If you notice any unusual or uncharacteristic behaviour contact your local veterinarian immediately.
- Do not disturb sand mounds or bait stations.

For more information, please contact the Mt Beauty office of Parks Victoria on (03) 5754 4693.