

Submission on the application to import and release up to eleven species of dung beetle for use in New Zealand pastureland.

(Application Code: ERMA200599)

To: Dung Beetle Submissions

ERMA New Zealand

PO Box 131

Wellington

Email: submissions@ermanz.govt.nz

Fax: (04) 914 0433

This submission relates to the application being made by the Dung Beetle Release Strategy Group – comprising farmers, interest groups and the MAF Sustainability Farming Fund. Scientific support is provided by Landcare Research to import and release up to 11 species of dung beetle for the management of dung produced by livestock in New Zealand.

The eleven dung beetle species process dung by burying it then using it as a food source and breeding site. The application states that all eleven species only live on open pastoral land.

The application states the benefits of dung beetle activity include improved soil health, improved water infiltration, reduced flooding and reduced nutrient runoff and waterway pollution. It also says greenhouse gas emissions from dung will be reduced.

If you have any questions about making a submission please contact ERMA New Zealand on (04) 918 1489 or visit www.ermanz.govt.nz for details.

Closing date for submissions: Thursday 4 November 2010

Your name: **Dr Dell Panny, Convener Standing Committee for Environment, NCW.**

Organisation name: **National Council of Women**

(if you are submitting
on its behalf)

Email: **dellpanny@clear.net.nz**

Postal address: **1494 Napier Road,
Ashhurst 1494.**

Telephone number: **(06) 3269080**

Privacy

Please keep my contact details confidential

ERMA New Zealand will deal with any personal information you supply in your submission in accordance with the Privacy Act 1993. We will use your contact details for the purposes of processing the application that it relates to (or in exceptional situations for other reasons permitted under the Privacy Act 1993). Where your submission is made publicly available, your contact details will be removed only if you have indicated this as your preference in the tick box above. We may also use your contact details for the purpose of requesting your participation in customer surveys.

ERMA New Zealand is likely to post your submission on its website at www.ermanz.govt.nz. We also may make your submission available in response to a request under the Official Information Act 1982.

The application can be downloaded from:
www.ermanz.govt.nz/find/webResults.aspx?search=erma200599

Decision sought

Please select one option

I support this application and would like it approved

OR

I oppose this application and would like it declined

OR

I neither support nor oppose this application

Hearing

Please select one option

I wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submission

OR

I do not wish to speak at the hearing in support of my submission

Organism for release

It is proposed that 11 species of dung beetle be imported and released to overcome the many adverse effects caused by animal dung in New Zealand pastures.

They proposed that more than one species of dung beetle is required to deal with livestock dung across the New Zealand pastoral landscape, since they differ in climatic soil and host dung preferences.

Do you have any comments about the proposed use of the dung beetles?

The arguments for the release of dung beetles are compelling. Reservations have been voiced by some members on the grounds that the beetles do better in dryer conditions than in irrigated places in Australia. However, the fact that 11 species are proposed for NZ, suited to differing climatic conditions, should address that concern.

The other worry expressed is that there could be some unforeseen result of impact that may be negative.

On balance, the proposal seems well-reasoned and well-researched and should provide an improvement to pastoral land in New Zealand.

Do you have any comments about the characteristics of the dung beetles proposed to be imported and released?

No

Information within the application state there are many possible benefits from releasing dung beetles into New Zealand. You may wish to comment on some or all of the following questions.

Effects on the environment

What potential **adverse** effects might the Dung beetles have on the environment?

We cannot envisage any adverse effects.

What potential **beneficial** effects might the Dung beetles have on the environment?

Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

In crease of biomass activity and earthworms.

Reduction of re-infection of livestock by parasitic worms.

Improved sustainability of pastoral farming.

Effects on the market economy

What potential **adverse** effects might the Dung beetles have on the market economy?

There should be no adverse effects.

What potential **beneficial** effects might the Dung beetles have on the market economy?

Improved soil health should lead to greater productivity. Reduction of nutrient run-off and waterway pollution should contribute to the clean, green goal we aim for in New Zealand.

Effects on Māori culture and values

What potential **adverse** effects might the Dung beetles have on Māori culture and values?

NA

What potential **beneficial** effects might the Dung beetles have on Māori culture and values?

NA

Effects on human health and safety

What potential **adverse** effects might the Dung beetles have on human health and safety?

None

What potential **beneficial** effects might the Dung beetles have on human health and safety?

Reducing risk of infection by removing the source of potential parasites and the breeding habitat of flies should reduce risk to human health.

Effects on society and communities

What potential **adverse** effects might Dung beetles have on society and communities?

None

What potential **beneficial** effects might the Dung beetles have on society and communities?

Improved soil health that should follow from the introduction of dung beetles will lead to economic benefits in the farming sector and their flow-on effects throughout the economy.

Additional Information

Is there any additional information you would like to provide to help us assess the risks, costs and benefits?

The questionnaire has been sent to NCW's Environmental Standing Committee. No one has expressed any objection to the introduction of dung beetles. According to available evidence, positive effects outweigh possible, unknown, negatives.

Other matters

Please indicate if you would like to receive the following:

- Notifications of genetically modified organism applications open for submission**
- Notifications of non-genetically modified new organism applications open for submission**
- The Bulletin, our monthly electronic publication of decisions**