

01 FEB 2017



OIA16-0748

Gary Stephenson
Care of FYI website

Dear Gary Stephenson

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request which was transferred from the office of the Prime Minister (Ref: PMO 167-2016) and received by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) on 14 December 2016, regarding the difference between the biological control of feral rabbits and feral cats in New Zealand.

As advised to you in previous correspondence on the Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus, responsibility for pest management falls, in the first instance, to regional councils under their Regional Pest Management Strategies. MPI provides support and co-ordination when issues with particular pests are widespread.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is not used in the control of feral cats as it would not be an effective or efficient control method. Evidence shows that, while lethal (mortality among affected cats is virtually 100% once clinical signs appear), FIP only clinically presents in a small proportion of the population (less than 5%).

A biological agent could be used as a control method for feral cats if an effective and efficient method was identified, and it met the appropriate regulatory and legislative requirements in place.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Gwyn', written over the typed name.

Geoff Gwyn
Director Readiness and Response Services