

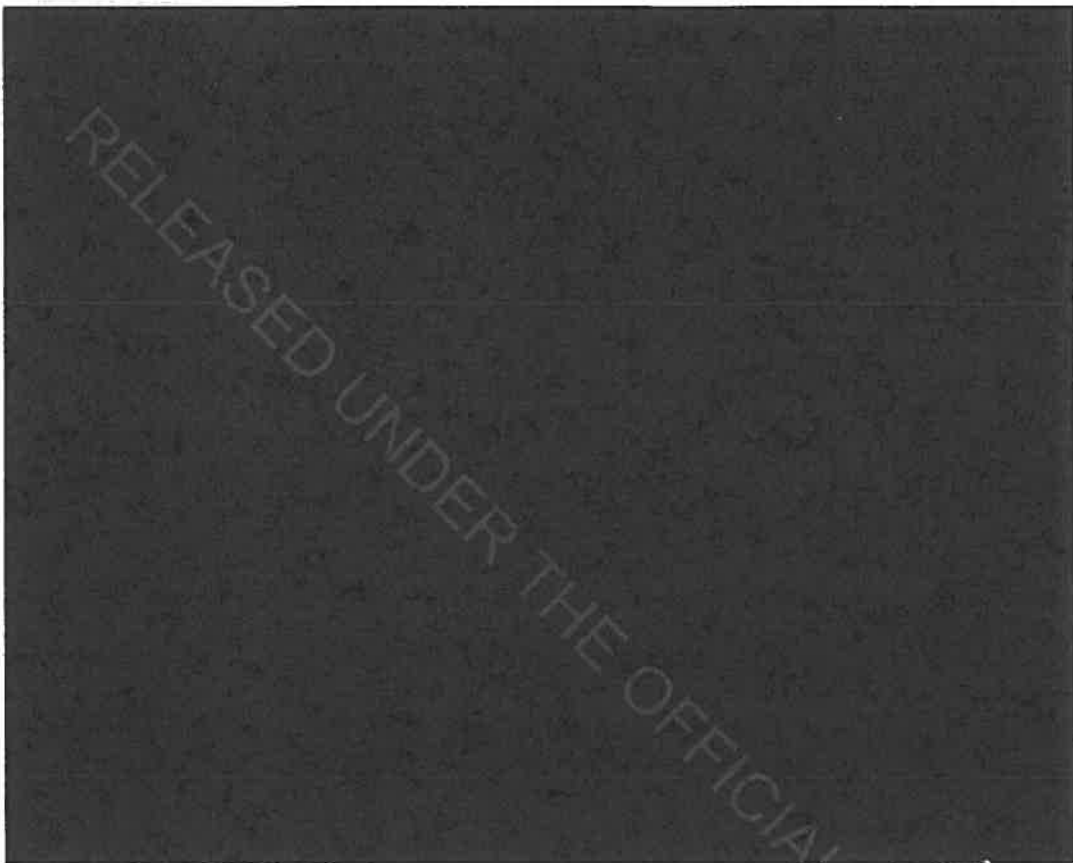
Hi Kris

16-H-145

Can this be transferred to Minister Barry's office please?

Thanks

Neil



**From:** N Smith  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 May 2016 4:34 p.m.  
**To:** Neil Deans; Tim Bennetts  
**Subject:** FW: Enquiry about Lead shot

For one of you?

Kris

[Redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 24 May 2016 11:04 a.m.  
**To:** N Smith  
**Subject:** Enquiry about Lead shot

Good Morning Nick,

I read the following article which seems to suggest that lead is still able to be used around our country for pest control and fowl shooting in season, etc.

Can you advise me what the reality for the use of lead is now, in New Zealand and if it will ever be completely banned as I believe it should be.

16-4-160

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FOIA ACT

RECEIVED  
10 JUN 2016  
PY: *Act*



SCIENCE & POLICY

Dear Ms Barry,

I am writing to ask that you consider banning the use of lead shot for lighter guns used by hunters as the damage this shot causes to wildlife, I believe, is not acceptable. Young hunters entering the 'sport' of waterfowl hunting should use heavier guns which are not used with lead shot.

Yours faithfully,

RECEIVED  
10 JUN 20  
DEPT. OF  
CONSERVATION



RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

### LEAD IN THE ENVIRONMENT

In 2012 investigations by the UK's Countryside Alliance into lead in the environment revealed that research carried out by the UK's Food Safety Agency determined that thirty commonly eaten foods contained elements of lead – none of which had come from lead shot! This is well covered in the Countryside Alliance publication - **"A CASE FOR LEAD"**. (Copies available) **So far no humans have been recorded as dying through from eating these vegetables - and no waterfowl living in the wild have died from ingesting lead shot!**

In January 2016 UK research determined that BEER had significant amounts of LEAD: <http://www.shootinguk.co.uk/guns/ammunition/there-is-more-lead-in-beer-than-game-meat-say-mps-51041>

### PSUEDO-SCIENCE

Eminent Australian scientist, **John Reid**, had this to say about the 'modern scientific' approach to 'research':

**There are issues concerning the way science and scientists are perceived by the public and by themselves. Why is it assumed that science always gets it right, that only industry is capable of wrecking the environment?**

**There are issues about the unholy alliance between environmental scientists on the government payroll and environmental activists and lobby groups acting politically.**

**There are issues about the way in which scientists continue to produce those environmental "threats" which have proven so useful in maintaining projects' funding.**

In other words - make the science fit a pre-determined outcome (pseudo-science) - and always follow/support the funding source!

### MYTHODOLOGY

In **New Zealand** it works like this: activist groups that rarely make any constructive environmental contribution, such as: Forest & Bird, Greenpeace, the Green Party, Dept of Conservation (plus all other NZ Government Departments), NZ Fish & Game Council, Save Animals from Exploitation, etc., and **Overseas**: the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the US Fish & Game Service, etc., all conspire to use psuedo-science to push for national and international action on 'invented issues' - particularly in areas such as health or the environment; even whilst knowing that the issue invariably contains no genuine scientific support. **Then** an international agreement is rapidly established, and 'the science' on which it is based becomes institutionalised and funded by government.

Time and again when this happens "the science" stops being science; because the scientists working on the relevant topic start being advocates and stop being researchers. After all, they are now being paid by the bureaucracy to support a particular doctrine, not to discover new stuff! (Most of this is courtesy John Reid)

<http://blackjay.net/?p=237> (The Subversion of Science)

In March 2015 I wrote in detail about the background to this anti-lead shot scenario in New Zealand - pointing out that it has played the major role in the demise of the mallard in New Zealand - and possibly the total demise of duck shooting in this country. (Copies are available of "THE APPROACHING DEMISE OF DUCK SHOOTING IN NZ") This article was distributed widely, here and overseas, and in New Zealand it eventually resulted in the NZ Fish & Game Council (via the Minister of Conservation) admitting that there is now a major problem with mallard numbers - now estimated to have dropped from close to 3 million to well under 400,000!

Sadly, NZ Fish & Game is at least 4-5 years too late and mallards are now rare in most areas of the North Island, with their numbers also dropping rapidly in many areas of the South Island!

**Even if it was proven that wild waterfowl die from ingesting lead shot the number of birds that die would be insignificant in comparison to the number shot, and not recovered, when alternatives to lead shot are used. The percentage of birds shot and not recorded when alternatives to lead shot is used has risen from 6% when lead shot is used to between 30-90%; according to research conducted by the Humane Society in the USA! (Little wonder that our Dept of Conservation is by far the most hated Government Dept in NZ's history, or that the Southland Fish & Game Council (the principle anti-lead shot promoter) was voted "PUBLIC ENEMY #1" in the SOUTHLAND TIMES - by game bird hunters!**

**What our bureaucratic dictators also forget (or don't know/care) is that the life expectancy of a wild mallard in New Zealand is only 1.2-years - but thanks to bureaucratic incompetence and its anti-lead shot obsession the life expectancy of a mallard is now in the vicinity of only 9 months!**

**In addition, self-styled 'armchair-experts' claim that it takes approximately three weeks for a duck, goose or swan to die from ingesting lead shot, but in a lifetime of living in wetlands neither I nor any of my six Labradors (1970-NOW) have ever found such a specimen! But what we have found since the ban on lead shot is large numbers of seriously crippled mallards - birds with broken wings and legs and with no hope of survival!**

**In 2014 my present Lab pulled out 12 such birds at the far end of Taumata Lagoon - on the Monday after the 2014 opening weekend!**

**My informants tell me that there are now no significant numbers of mallards in any areas of the North Island and long gone are the great flocks that were seen in the Waikato, Central North Island, the Manawatu, Hawkes Bay, Firth of Thames, Wairarapa, Wellington (Pauatahanui Sanctuary and the Eastbourne Lakes) and rapidly reducing numbers in all areas of the South Island. Also, that the mallard decline started soon after high capacity shotguns were allowed and the acceleration towards oblivion started as soon as lead shot was banned in 12 gauge shotguns.**

## **PROPAGANDA & CONSPIRACY**

By far the most successful propaganda/conspiracy campaign ever to take place in New Zealand (and possibly the WORLD!) is the Department of Conservation's aerial bombardment of 1080. Many believe that DOC's 1080 propaganda makes the work of Dr Joseph Goebbels look rank amateurish; because the DOC program has absolutely nothing whatever to do with the elimination of predators - it is simply a billion dollar business; for these reasons:

- **There are now very few possums & only 5% carry Bovine TB**
- **1080 has little effect on feral cats, ferret, stoat or weasel numbers – all of which carry Bovine TB**
- **1080 has little effect on rat numbers** (DOC's mythical annual 'explosion' of rat numbers in areas that have been aerially bombarded with 1080 on numerous occasions confirms that the DOC 1080 program is all about money!)
- **1080 has little effect of hedgehog numbers**
- **The movement of domestic cattle is mainly responsible for the spread of Bovine TB!**
- **It is simply a billion dollar industry that is now totally out of control!**

The death of animals and birds poisoned by 1080 is far from instant – it is an extremely slow and agonising death – as can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CNdigahLEHU&feature=youtu.be>

The DOC program has so far:

- **Eliminated over 10,000 domestic animals**
- **Pushed already endangered birds closer towards extinction – with over 10,000 Kea being killed by 1080 in the past five years!**
- **Has pushed two of the world's rarest species of frogs closer towards extinction**
- **Has contaminated rivers, lakes and town water supplies**
- **Has eliminated invertebrates in creeks, streams and rivers**
- **Has poisoned fresh-water trout, thereby destroying a major part of our tourism industry**
- **Has cost New Zealand tax-payers several billion dollars!**
- **Has eliminated millions of endemic bush birds and in areas where here the poison has been dropped the BUSH IS SILENT**

**Yet, DOC is now teaching school children about the virtues of 1080!**

DOC's 1080 program is undoubtedly a very serious crime against our endemic wildlife, all native wildlife and our environment; it is simply a billion dollar industry that has nothing whatever to do with eliminating predators - **all of which are readily eliminated by trapping and reside only in the forest fringes.**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> January this year an 'interesting' letter from the USA was published in the Wairarapa Time Age; It read **"I WAS PLANNING TO TRAVEL TO NEW ZEALAND FOR AN EXTENDED VACATION, BUT HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY THE AIR DROPPED 1080 POISON AND WILL BE SPENDING MY MONEY IN VIETNAM."** (A COPY OF THE FULL VERSION IS AVAILABLE)

(Detailed information on the conspiracy behind this politically generated lead-shot ban in New Zealand can be seen in my article **"THE APPROACHING DEMISE OF DUCK HUNTING IN NEW ZEALAND"** – copies available)

#### **NEW ZEALAND RESEARCH ON LEAD SHOT IN WATERFOWL**

The only New Zealand **Independent & thorough** (non-Governmental) **research** on the ingestion of lead shot by waterfowl (*and perhaps the only honest research of its kind in the world*) was carried between the 2001 & 2004 duck hunting seasons in the Waikato area of New Zealand, when over 700 mallards shot during the duck hunting seasons were autopsied. This research determined – that an average 4.4% of the mallards shot had lead shot in their esophagus (commonly referred to as their crop), **and that the condition of these birds was in no way indicative that they were in the process of being poisoned and like all birds shot were in very good condition – and were flying when shot!**

#### **WETLAND DEGRADATION**

On top of all this is the wanton disregard and degradation of our major wetlands – by Government departments, district, city & regional councils, Fish & Game Councils and most so-called conservation groups is a national disgrace. Here are just a few wetlands that are in such a degraded state that they are unlikely to ever recover:

- **The Whangamarino wetlands**
- **All Waikato wetlands**
- **Lake Ellesmere wetlands (now a cess-pit!)**
- **Lake Forsyth**
- **Wairarapa wetlands**
- **Horowhenua & Manawatu wetlands**

In spite of New Zealand being a signatory to the Ramsar Convention – under which major New Zealand lakes **must** be maintained to international standards – 95% of New Zealand lakes do not come close to achieving this standard; because, the problem is far too difficult, and expensive, for DOC, Fish & Game, a host of other Government departments, all NZ Councils' and 90% of all so-called conservation groups. (**Where apathy rules supreme!**)

**Of course, it has been far easier for these groups to create a diversion by introducing their ill-conceived anti-lead shot philosophy!**

**OVER THE LAST FOUR DECADES ONLY DUCKS UNLIMITED (NZ) & the OEH NATIONAL TRUST HAVE MADE ANY LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARDS CREATION, ENHANCEMENT, PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT OF NEW ZEALAND'S WATERFOWL & WETLANDS – see later comments**

Pollution problems in all our once immense wetlands and fresh water rivers have all been generated by people, spreading; insecticides, sewage, pesticides, herbicides, effluent from dairy farming, excessive nutrients, alien weeds, irrigation bores and a major lowering of the water table, 1080, and with non-existent management from an ever increasing numbers of bureaucrats!

Many New Zealand estuaries are also suffering from identical problems!

If any readers have doubts about the degradation of our wetlands they should purchased a copy of Dr Mike Joy's new book **"POLLUTED INHERITANCE: NZ'S FRESHWATER CRISIS"**. This book is readily available via the Internet for \$15.

## CONSPIRACIES IN THE UK

Anyone who does not believe that conspiracy exists will soon change their thinking when they read that in a UK High Court Judgement by Justice Ouseley (13/11/2015) a shocking abuse of institutional power was revealed.

This judgement sets out comprehensive details that show how two UK Government Departments - Natural England and the Department for Environment Food & Environment Affairs – conspired with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (currently under investigation for sidetracking public funding into a non-constitutional area), to systematically deprive an innocent man of his livelihood.

Over a four year period the conspirators continually refused to grant this man a Licence to control the Common Buzzard in order to protect his game birds, despite his fulfilment of all normal requirements, was challenged - and condemned by Justice Ouseley in a 61-page decision.

The individual received great support from the National Gamekeepers Association and had it not been for this Association these Government Departments and the RSPB would have got away with it.

There is no right of appeal against a Natural England Licensing decision, hence the need for a judicial review.

The full details of this sordid affair can be seen here:

<http://www.nationalgamekeepers.org.uk/news/fairness-in-wild-bird-licensing-as-keeper-wins-landmark-legal-battle>

## KEEP LEAD AMMUNITION PETITION IN THE UK

In October 2015 this Petition was launched in the UK:

<https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/112165>

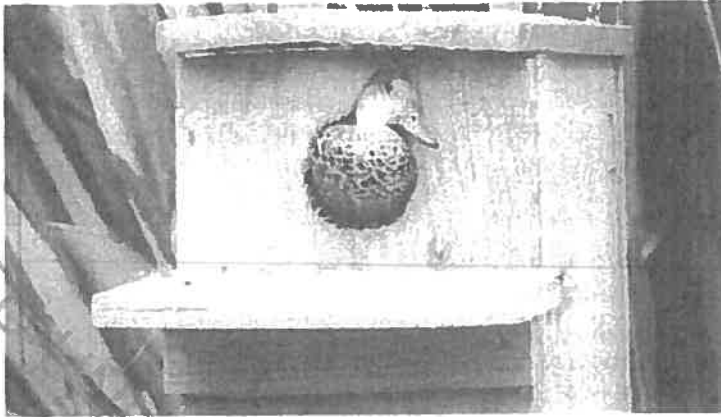
Sadly, both the British Association for Shooting & Conservation and the Countryside Alliance have so far failed to put this Petition on their websites (sounds very reminiscent to the NZ Fish & Game anti-lead shot stance!). Currently at 12,000 signatures (15.11.15) after only one week and still growing rapidly! 10,000 means a government response is forthcoming and 100,000 means a House of Commons debate. It has 6 months to run. (These notes above provide brief details as to what is happening overseas – all very much the same as here!)

**The now infamous OXFORD LEAD SYMPOSIUM** (Internet link is available) is one of the best examples of the anti-lead shot conspiracy – with all participants having convinced each other that wild waterfowl die from lead shot poisoning – **WHICH IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE!**

In my piece – **“THE APPROACHING DEMISE OF DUCK SHOOTING”** – I discuss my meeting in 1995 with Sir Thomas Thorp, when he was researching Firearms Control in New Zealand, and he stated quite categorically: **“The United Nations want to ban all these things (firearms)”**



**"OPERATION GRETEL"** – the aim of which was to dramatically increase the New Zealand grey teal population, by erecting suitable nesting boxes. Several thousand boxes were erected in carefully selected wetlands and these boxes are the main reason why grey teal numbers have risen from 20,000 in 1974 to well over 100,000 by 2015.



Grey teal leaving a nest box.  
Grey teal are the most populous waterfowl species in Australia

**SINCLAIR WETLANDS PROJECT** – in 1985 Horrie Sinclair MBE gifted his 370-hectare wetland (810-acres & recognised as the World's best privately owned wetlands) to Ducks Unlimited NZ and in a very short time a Management plan for the wetlands was produced, involving:

1. The building of a Wetland Educational Centre
2. A walkway through the wetland to 'Lonely Island' – from which the entire wetland can be seen
3. The erection of a viewing hide on 'Lonely Island'
4. The construction of a captive waterfowl enclosure
5. Place a QEII National Trust 'OPEN SPACE COVENANT' on the 370-hectares

By 1987 the Educational Centre had been completed, the walkway was finished and the captive waterfowl enclosure was finished – and every species (apart from blue duck) was ensconced.



**THE SINCLAIR EDUCATIONAL CENTRE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN 1986**

In 1988 the Governor General, Sir Paul Reeves, officially opened the Educational Centre with close to 200 invited guests present

Sadly, Ducks Unlimited fell into financial difficulty in the early 1990's and sold the Sinclair Wetlands to Ngai Tahu – but the DU philosophy remains at the wetlands, and they are open to visitors.

### **EXAMPLES OF THE INEFFECTIVENESS OFF STEEL SHOT**

- I have been an avid shotgun shooter for well over 50-years – sporting clays (with many scores in the 90's out of a 100 and one 98/100), was an "A" Grade SKEET shooter for many years, an avid game bird hunter of all species (including 20-years hunting Canada geese on Ellesmere), plus, hares, rabbits, feral pigeons, etc., etc., but when lead shot was banned in 12 gauge shotguns my first attempt to shoot ducks with steel shot was a total disaster!
- Not only was I blowing feathers out of mallards at relatively close range very few fell out of the sky and on the Sunday morning I gave up and went home – 200 metres away – where there were 50-60 mallards on the home pond!
- I fired a couple of shots into the air and most of them took to the air, none headed for the main lagoon and within a minute a pair came back and I shot at the drake at only 15-metres – seeing his wing break. It took my very experience Lab 'Scott' at least 10-minutes to catch this bird and when he presented it to me it was very much alive - and I had to ring his neck.
- His wing was well broken, but when I plucked him found that the breast had been struck numerous times, but the pellets had not penetrated - and he was inedible!



**THE HOME POND – WHERE OVER 150 MALLARDS HAVE BEEN REARED DURING THE LAST THREE BREEDING SEASONS**



**MALLARD PRODUCTIVITY**

- There are numerous similar examples regarding the use of lead – a good/bad one being a friend who had 2 visitors shooting at ducks, using 12-gauge semi-autos and steel; they fired 5 boxes of ammunition for 5 ducks! My friend was on an adjacent wetland and all he could see, after the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> shots from each shotgun, were birds gliding down in the distance – none of which were retrievable. The friends were pretty experienced duck hunters!
- Whilst there are some quite good alternative to steel shot the good ones – at \$4 per round are only used by a few wealthy individuals! Steel shot cartridges at less than \$1 per round are what the majority of 12ga duck hunters use!

**BUT THE INTRINSIC POINT HERE IS THAT THE ANTI-LEAD SHOT SCENARIO IS A COMPLETE & COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE FARCE - AND A FARCE THAT LOOKS LIKELY TO DESTROY WATERFOWL HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES – HERE AND OVERSEAS! ON TOP OF THIS NZ FISH & GAME HAS ALREADY TOTALLY DESTROYED THE CANADA GOOSE IN NZ – IN A DISGUSTING CONSPIRACY WITH NZ FEDERATED FARMERS**

**However, there is some hope, because NZ FIRST is the only political party that is seriously active in environmental matters and a party that has already indicated that it will ban the use of 1080 and re-introduce lead for all shotgun gauges used for game bird hunting – and NZ FIRST is the only political party that is a consistent supporter of shooting sports!**

A **conspiracy** exists between the National and Labour political parties, DOC, NZ Fish & Game Council and most Regional Councils' is where the anti-lead shot scenario is being generated and there is little doubt that their aims are to destroy game bird hunting – and clay target shooting!

There has only ever been three organisations that have made serious contributions to the welfare of our environment and our endemic birds – **Ducks Unlimited NZ, the NZ Wildlife Service** and the **QEII National Trust**.

Sadly, neither the NZ FISH & GAME COUNCIL (Founded in co-ordination with the Dept of Conservation in 1987) nor any of its 12 regional offices have shown any intrinsic interest in protecting our endemic wildlife, supporting game birds - or in predator control – and only very minimal interest in wetlands and waterfowl. In fact Fish & Game has eliminated Canada goose hunting, mallards – and the next in line will be the NZ Paradise Shelduck!



**HAPPIER DAYS!**

**WE ARE UNLIKELY TO EVER SEE THIS AGAIN**

The graph on the final page relates to the total number of mallards shot at three Wairarapa wetlands between 2004 & 2015 and clearly shows that unless drastic action is taken by the NZ Fish & Game Council to rectify the mallard problem (which is highly unlikely) there will soon be no duck hunting in New Zealand in five years! Draconian measures are needed to improve mallard numbers – **SHORT SEASONS, MAGAZINE RESTRICTIONS, A RETURN TO LEAD SHOT, LOW DAILY BAG LIMITS, CAPTIVE BREEDING AND PREDATOR CONTROL!**

(As already detailed in four articles in NZ GUNS & HUNTING)

I sincerely thank John Reid, Hunt for Truth, UK's Shooting News, Ducks Unlimited (NZ), Bud Jones QSM, David Craze, Murray Dench, my right hand man Richard Pinkerton, plus numerous other dedicated wildfowlers for their contributions towards these notes – which are based on factual information.

**I WELCOME CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENT ON THESE NOTES**

E-mail: [haltd@actrix.co.nz](mailto:haltd@actrix.co.nz) Phone: 06.3796692

P O Box 188, CARTERTON 5743

An abbreviated version of these notes were published in the Ducks Unlimited (NZ) 'FLIGHT' magazine in Nov 2015

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

16-H-358

(H)

RECEIVED  
23 NOV 2016  
BY: *[Signature]*

Dear Maggie,

I am writing to you as the Minister for Conservation, as I have just learnt that lead shot is still permitted for use in NZ during duck shooting season in lighter models of shotguns.

I find this unacceptable, as most lead has already been banned due to contaminating waterways. Also, as birds accidentally ingest pellets, they can be poisoned to death.

I feel that the excuse of using lead in lighter weapons to allow younger people into the "sport," is unacceptable, & urge you to use your powers to see that all lead shot is banned.

Yours faithfully

RECEIVED

23 NOV 16

Dept. of Conservation