

Declining Little Eagles *Hieraaetus morphnoides* and increasing rabbit numbers near Canberra: is secondary poisoning by Pindone the problem?

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The Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides* is declining in parts of south-eastern Australia, including the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), even though the number of European Rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* is increasing. A non-pathogenic lagovirus related to Rabbit Haemorrhagic Disease Virus (RHDV) is protecting rabbits from RHD in cooler areas of south-eastern Australia. Consequently, the chemicals Pindone (2-pivalyl, 3-indandione) and 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) are used to poison rabbits, and Pindone may disable raptors and/or be fatal to them. Little Eagles take proportionally more rabbits than do Wedge-tailed Eagles *Aquila audax*, so Little Eagles may be more affected by secondary poisoning. We recommend that (i) the Little Eagle be uplisted from *vulnerable* to *endangered* in the ACT, and (ii) Pindone be banned in Little Eagle home ranges in the ACT.