



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

**MEDIA RELEASE**

Issued: 14 April 2004

Chair: Kay Elson MP

## New Inquiry

# The Impact of Pest Animals on Agriculture

The House of Representatives Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee is to conduct an inquiry into the impact of pest animals on agriculture.

The inquiry has been requested by the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, the Hon Warren Truss MP. Pest animals cause approximately \$420 million worth of agricultural damage, lower future productive capacity and are a potential reservoir of human and livestock disease.

The inquiry will examine:

- Linking Commonwealth and State government processes for more coordinated management of significant pest animal issues across state boundaries;
- The approaches to pest animal issues across all relevant jurisdictions, including:
  - prevention of new pest animals becoming established;
  - detection and reporting systems for new and established pest animals;
  - eradication of infestations (particularly newly established species or 'sleeper' populations of species which are considered to be high risk) where feasible and appropriate; and
  - reduction of the impact of established pest animal populations.
- The adequacy of State Government expenditure on pest animal control in the context of other conservation and natural resource management priorities, with particular reference to National Parks.
- The scope for industry groups and R&D Corporations to improve their response to landholder concerns about pest animals.
- Ways to promote community understanding of and involvement in pest animals and their management.

Committee Chair, Mrs Kay Elson MP, said: "Pest animals are a major threat to the prosperity of rural and regional Australia. Governments must come up with more effective and better coordinated responses to this issue."

The committee is seeking written submissions by **Friday 14 May 2004**. Submissions can be e-mailed to [Primary.Industries.Reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:Primary.Industries.Reps@aph.gov.au) or sent to:

The Secretary  
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**For media comment, please contact:**

**Mrs Kay Elson MP**, Chair, House Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee, on (07) 3807 6340

For background information, including the full terms of reference, please contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or at [Primary.Industries.Reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:Primary.Industries.Reps@aph.gov.au), or visit the Inquiry website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/index.htm)