



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

**MEDIA ALERT**

Issued: 7 April 2005

Chair: Alby Schultz MP

# The Impact of Pest Animals on Agriculture

## Public Hearing in Perth, Western Australia, 11 April 2005

The House of Representatives Agriculture Committee will visit Western Australia next week as part of its inquiry into the impact of pest animals on agriculture.

The Committee will conduct a public hearing at the Duxton Hotel, No 1 St Georges Terrace, Perth, commencing at 1.30pm on Monday, 11 April.

Organisations which will be represented at the public hearing include the Western Australian Conservation Council, the Western Australian Farmers Federation and the Western Australian government. The Committee will also travel to Leonora to attend roundtable discussions with local pastoralists.

In its submission (No 37 on the website), the Conservation Council of Western Australia expresses concern about the potential for new exotic species, such as the bumblebee, to be introduced into Australia. It points to the need for effective quarantine measures to be implemented as part of intra-state mail services to prevent the introduction and spread of exotic insect species.

The Western Australian government submission (No 70 on the website) advocates a national approach to pest animal management, including knowledge-sharing, uniformity of policy and regulation, standardisation of control techniques and coordination of research efforts.

The Western Australian Farmers Federation (No 36 on the website) highlights problems with deterioration of the State Barrier Fence due to funding constraints. The Committee plans to make a visit to the Barrier Fence as part of its visit.

The Committee Chair, Mr Alby Schultz, said: "The size and distance of Western Australia mean that it experiences unique challenges in managing the pest animal population."

"The submissions that the Committee has received to date indicate that wild dogs are a serious problem for pastoralists and the Committee will be hearing from local landholders in relation to the best way to manage the dog problem. However, other animals, such as wedge-tailed eagles, are also a serious pest and evidence will also be taken in relation to the effects these animals have for pastoralists."

Further details about the inquiry, including terms of reference and submissions, can be obtained from the committee's website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/) or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or emailing [aff.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:aff.reps@aph.gov.au).

**For media comment:**

please contact the office of committee chair, Alby Schultz, on (02) 6277 4386 or email [Alby.Schultz.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Alby.Schultz.MP@aph.gov.au).

**For background information:**

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