

**Farmers in Khancoban, Indi, Tooma Area  
All of which adjoin the Kosciusko National Park**

June 11<sup>th</sup> 2004

**House of Representatives  
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.**

**INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE OF PEST ANIMALS.**

From a farmer's perspective, damage to boundary fencing by kangaroos, wombats, wild pigs and wild dogs are ongoing and electric wires in fencing are of little deterrent, devastation of pastures is common.

Of particular concern is the intermittent killing of sheep, lambs, calves and goats by wild dogs. These defenceless animals are ravaged and left to die.

The vast area and inaccessibility of the National Park and State Forest makes pest control a difficult task.

The Tumbarumba Shire Feral Animal Working Group which is funded 40% NSW Forestry, 40% National Parks and 20% Hume Rural Lands Protection Board which also provides a part time co-ordinator and the services of a part time dog trapper which due to funding part time is not enough and the area he is required to control is too vast for him to be effective. This funding is now due to change.

Prevention of new pest animals would be reliant on sightings by private landholders. Because pest animals have a different impact on different areas, reporting's may not be reliable.

Established and "sleepers" population of species emerge according to weather patterns i.e. drought, fire, cold etc and the supply of food within their area's.

State Government expenditure on control of feral animals appears to be minimal. National Park annual baiting programs are carried out but the results are inconclusive. Farmers strive to keep their animals contained and are held responsible for any damage their animals may cause whether it be on private property or within the Park but the National Park does not reciprocate.

Industry groups such as the Hume Rural Lands Protection Board and Tumbarumba Shire Feral Animal Working Group are managed by concerned farmers who travel long distances and give valuable time but finances and resources available can only govern their response to landholder concerns.

If pest animals are not controlled the loss to agriculture in regard to breeding programs, pastures and safety of humans, farm animals and protected species will be greatly affected.

Human safety within the National Parks and State Forest's may be compromised and the beautiful areas, which we are all entitled to enjoy, will be inaccessible.

The time has come for Governments to stop ignoring this ongoing problem and cease passing the blame from one Area (Department, State or Federal) to the next and actually accept responsibility and do something to help the communities fight the ongoing and devastating effect this is having.

In conclusion Farmers within this area require immediate funding for the employment of a full time dog trapper and the support of all levels of Government to achieve this and help eradicate these Pest Animals.

Graeme & Carol Jarvis

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Tumbarumba Shire