



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 24 March 2005

Chair: Alby Schultz MP
Deputy Chair: Dick Adams MP

The Impact of Pest Animals on Agriculture Public Hearing at Longford, Tasmania, 29 March 2005

The House of Representatives Agriculture Committee will hear evidence in Tasmania next Tuesday (29 March) from a number of organisations in relation to its inquiry into the impact of pest animals on agriculture in Australia.

The public hearing will take place at Jesson Lodge, 3 William Street, Longford, beginning at 1.30pm.

Organisations which will appear to give evidence at the public hearing include the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers' Association, Forestry Tasmania, the Forests and Forest Industry Council and the Forest Industries Association. Mr Dick Bashford and Dr Graham Hall are also scheduled to appear.

The submission by the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers' Association (no 56 on the website) indicates the serious threat to pastures, crops and seedlings faces by pest animals like wallabies, pademelons, possums and rabbits. The Association has concerns about the proposed banning of 1080 poison and the impact that will have on farmers' ability to control the pest animals on their properties.

Forestry Tasmania's submission (no 67 on the website) indicates that Tasmanian forests and conservation areas face threats from both browsing mammals and exotic insect species. The submission discusses trapping techniques for exotic insects that have been trialled in Australia. Dick Bashford, in his submission (no 2 on the website) goes into further detail in relation to insect trapping devices.

The Committee Chair, Mr Alby Schultz, said Tasmania's farming and forest industries make it a place of great interest for the committee to visit.

"The committee has received submissions in relation to the proposed banning of 1080 and the impact that might have on farmers' ability to deal effectively with pest animals," Mr Schultz said.

"The committee will be interested to hear about this issue, and about research into possible alternatives to 1080 poison.

"The Tasmanian forest industry also faces problems due to the threat posed by exotic insect species. The Tasmanian public hearing will be an excellent opportunity for the committee to hear evidence in relation to these issues and their impact on farming and forest industries in Tasmania."

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/ or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or emailing Aff.reps@aph.gov.au.

For media comment:

please contact the office of committee chair, Alby Schultz, on (02) 4822 2277 or email Alby.Schultz.MP@aph.gov.au.

For background information:

please contact the committee secretary, Ian Dundas, on (02) 6277 4194
The secretariat can also be contacted on 29 March on 0401 718 890