



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 31 May 2005

Chair: Alby Schultz MP

Agriculture Committee to hear about 1080 and Wildlife Management

Public Hearing at Parliament House, Canberra, 1 June 2005

The House of Representatives Agriculture Committee will hear tomorrow from representatives of the Department of Environment and Heritage and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority in relation to its pest animals inquiry.

The public hearing will take place in Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Level 1 at 5pm.

Representatives from the Department of Environment and Heritage's Sustainable Wildlife Industries and Wildlife Trade sections will appear at 5pm. They will provide the committee with evidence in relation to wildlife trade management plans, which are approved plans for the commercial use of Australian wildlife. Most exporters of native wildlife products operate under one of these plans. The committee will hear how native animals that are considered in some areas to be pests, due to their large populations, may be commercially harvested under these plans.

At 5.45pm, the committee will hear from representatives of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). The APVMA recently released its preliminary review findings on the registration of 1080 poison. The use of 1080, and its importance as a tool in the fight against pest animals, has been a central theme of the committee's inquiry.

The Committee Chair, Mr Alby Schultz, said: "The appearances by representatives of the Department of Environment and Heritage and the APVMA will be of great interest. The committee took evidence in Tasmania about wildlife management plans and how they can be used to commercially harvest wallabies and possums."

"We have also noted with interest the preliminary findings of the APVMA's recent 1080 review. The committee will hear in further detail about this review, and also about the registration process for new pest animal products, such as baits, which is important in ensuring that effective control methods are available on the market."

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 primind.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.

For background information:

please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500