



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

**MEDIA ALERT**

Issued: 15 March 2005

Chair: Alby Schultz MP

## The Impact of Pest Animals on Agriculture

Public Hearing at Parliament House, Canberra, 16 March 2005

Animals Australia and RSPCA Australia will give evidence tomorrow (16 March) to the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee in relation to its inquiry into the impact on agriculture of pest animals in Australia.

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

Both Animals Australia and RSPCA Australia are well known for advocating the interests of animals. The hearing will provide the committee with an opportunity to hear evidence as to how the welfare of animals should be taken into consideration in dealing with the pest animal problem.

In its submission (no 32 on the website) Animals Australia notes that pest animals, like other animals, deserve to be treated humanely. It expresses concern that pest animals are often destroyed using inhumane and ineffective methods without adequate follow-up. RSPCA Australia's submission (no 47 on the website) indicates the need for a uniform approach across jurisdictions, based upon the need to minimise animal suffering and to achieve a balance between animal welfare considerations and the objectives of pest animal control.

The Committee Chair, Mr Alby Schultz, said: "While recognising the need to deal effectively with pest animals, a number of submissions made to the committee have indicated concern that the methods used be as humane as possible."

"Nobody wants to see animals of any kind suffer unnecessarily. The committee will be interested to hear from the RSPCA and from Animals Australia about how pest animal control can be delivered in a humane fashion," he said.

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 [primind.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto: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](mailto:Alby.Schultz.MP@aph.gov.au).

**For background information:**

please contact the committee secretary, Ian Dundas, on (02) 6277 4194