



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

**MEDIA ALERT**

Issued: 14 June 2005

Chair: Alby Schultz MP

# The Impact of Pest Animals on Agriculture

## Pest inquiry to hear about feral pig problems and research

The Cattle Council of Australia, the Australian Veterinary Association, Animal Control Technologies and Nocturnal Wildlife Research will give evidence to the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee in relation to its pest animals inquiry tomorrow.

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

In their joint submission to the inquiry (No. 49 on the website), the Cattle Council and the Australian Veterinary Association focus on the serious problem feral pigs pose for agriculture in Australia. They call for the establishment of a national body to coordinate pig control throughout the country. A national approach would involve mapping pig numbers and distribution throughout the country and developing control programs, which would focus on removing feral pigs from areas of low population and maintaining pig-free areas through increased surveillance.

Animal Control Technologies is a research company that develops and supplies technology for pest animal control products. Products which it produces include RABBAIT, MOUSEOFF, FOXOFF and RATOFF. In its submission (No. 84 on the website) it cautions against wasting valuable research funds on 'reinventing the wheel' and calls for the involvement of industry groups in deciding research priorities.

Nocturnal Wildlife Research Pty Ltd is a business that is committed to innovative research, development and education in the field of vertebrate pest control and wildlife management. Director of the company, Dr Clive Marks, will discuss the need for a culture of innovation that will lead to the development of target-specific and humane vertebrate pest control techniques.

The Committee Chair, Alby Schultz, said this public hearing will be the last in a series of hearings the committee has conducted in Canberra.

"There are estimated to be something like 23 million feral pigs in Australia, making them one of the worst pest animal problems farmers have to deal with," Mr Schultz said.

"Evidence from the Cattle Council and the Australian Veterinary Association will be important in helping the committee determine how this issue should be addressed. The committee is also interested in hearing about the research side of things from Animal Control Technologies and from Nocturnal Wildlife Research."

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:**

please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500