



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

**MEDIA ALERT**

Issued: 8 September 2005

Chair: Alby Schultz MP

# The Impact of Pest Animals on Agriculture

## *Committee travels to Cooma investigating wild dog problems*

The House of Representatives Agriculture Committee travels to Cooma, NSW, tomorrow to undertake a final public hearing in relation to its pest animals inquiry.

The public hearing will take place at the Cooma-Monaro Shire Council Chambers, commencing at 10.00am.

The committee will hear from a range of organisations and individuals, including the Cooma and Bombala Rural Lands Protection Boards, the Monaro Merino Association, and the NSW Farmers' Association Cooma District Council.

Both the Cooma RLPB (Submission no. 15) and the Bombala RLPB (Submission no. 80) call for national coordination of pest animal issues. The Bombala RLPB submission also speaks of the need for better management of pest animals in national parks.

The Monaro Merino Association (Submission no. 60) calls for better management in national parks and on public land generally, including the reintroduction of aerial baiting on Crown land.

The NSW Farmers' Association Cooma District Council (Submission no. 75) supported the need for aerial baiting to protect rural sector production and native fauna.

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

"It is apt that the committee should conclude this important inquiry by visiting Cooma," Mr Schultz said. "The terrible impact of wild dogs, which includes social impacts and environmental damage, as well as damage to agriculture, has been a main theme in this inquiry.

"The committee will be particularly interested to hear whether recent resumption of aerial baiting in some public areas of New South Wales has had a positive effect on the pest animal problem in the Cooma region."

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 0428 693 553 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 or 0419 468 689