

To whom it may concern

The control of feral animals in Australia is a major problem both environmentally and financially, in order to save our diminishing native flora and fauna from disease starvation and death caused by the loss of native vegetation and by being forced onto our roads there needs to be changes in the way the government deals with the environment but this the proposed bill is not it, as it damages the chances of making a real difference.

The current methods to control feral animal numbers are flawed as there is nothing more cruel then the baiting campaign presently being employed by government bodies by the use of poisons that can take up to days to kill some animals. More humane methods need to be employed the aerial baiting system in current use is the worst offender with baits being thrown out the back of airplanes with no regards as to what animals are targeted as they could be feral or native and the poisons taking anywhere from hours up to days to finish there gruesome work.

One of the best and most humane methods by far is trapping by means of either cages or "soft jaw" leg hold traps so that no non target species aren't harmed or injured and so that target species can be immediately euthanized with as little stress as possible as opposed to lying down for hours up to days curled up waiting for death in pain and agony.

The best most humane option currently available is by the use of properly licensed Australian hunters used to control feral animal numbers in remote areas and on state and crown land using the user pay licensing system that is employed in some states And this bill could remove both those options.

By opening our wilderness areas up to licensed persons where by the funds for licences can be utilised to control weeds and erosion and other such environmental problems we can prevent suffering of both our native and feral animals in our reserves and crown land with reduced feral numbers and more native vegetation to feed local wildlife but if this bill is given a chance to stop that from occurring our wilderness areas will remain a money sink, when they could have become more self-sufficient and pest species could be euthanized by the most humane method available today.

We have to move away from the current problem of closing off areas and letting feral animals and weeds take over from the native species resulting in disease and starvation taking its disastrous tolls and forcing native wildlife out of there natural environment and on to our roads and return them back to a state where our native flora and fauna can breed and flourish without suffering from the present problems.

Cruelty comes in many forms but the result is the same this bill could end up destroying vital environmentally necessary jobs in places such as the feral pig and goat meat industry and in controlling our native kangaroo populations by the use of the wild meat harvesting program in use as opposed to letting them die on our roads at a cost to insurance and human life I have seen kangaroos lying by the roadside with horrific injuries that have been left for hours as it happens so often people desensitise to the problem and that in my opinion is beyond cruel and truly inhumane.

We need to protect our environmentally sustainable industries and not let a misguided few destroy them and the income they produce.

We already have legislation in place to see that animals do not suffer we don't need more we just need the one's in current use to be taken more seriously by our courts and that offenders of real cruelty are punished for there actions this bill wont change anything but making the public and the courts accountable under the current laws will.

Yours faithfully
Damian McInnes