

Culgoa Vertebrate Pest Animal Management Group (CVPAMG)

prepared by Michael Davis Hon Secretary/ Treasurer

Comment on Natural Resources Commission Pest Animal Management Draft Report.

Recommendation 1(vii)

Research and development should only be a priority if there is a positive return to stakeholders.

The number one priority should be the on the ground works to control increase in numbers and spread of pest animals.

Research and development should not be used as a stalling tactic, when other states have adopted and practised similar baiting techniques. A classic example is the current trial on 1080 pig strength meat baits in New South Wales, when it is common practice in Queensland to use such baits

Recommendation 3

Local leadership is important but must be effective and should not become top heavy but remain as on ground leadership, i.e. high visibility and action in local areas.

Recommendation 11 and 12

CVPAMG fully support, so long as there is no additional costs to local land service rate payers and they don't end up subsidising control measures in NSW Government lands. Local Land Services are the obvious co-ordinators as long as we don't end up with co-ordinators co-ordinating co-ordinators.

Recommendation 15 (i) b

Should read as follows ; include mandatory measures for pest control across all tenures as required.

Recommendation 17

CVPAMG fully supports this recommendation, it is long overdue and the cat and fox have a lot to answer for, regarding many native animal extinctions.

Recommendation 18

CVPAMG supports dingo conservation behind a dingo proof fence. If it is the desire of dingo interest groups to breed dingoes, these groups should be willing to fence the areas at their expense. Members of our group are already charged a levy to exclude dingoes, we do not need a wild dog reseeding area for the rest of NSW from Schedule 2 areas.

Schedule 2 lands need to be abolished and only the new fenced dingo areas exempt from wild dog management. When you lay the wild dog density maps over the Schedule 2 lands and Sturt National Park area, it is then obvious that these are the breeding grounds for wild dogs. Until Schedule 2 areas are fenced, all baits for foxes should be of dog strength. No one section of the community has the right to breed and through under dosing, select bait shy dogs to reek havoc by attacking the New South Wales sheep flock. The incursions of wild dogs are now decimating the sheep flock of NSW.

Recommendation 18 continued...

As a group of landholders we need to know who determines what lands are deemed to be Schedule 2 and are these areas changed whimsically.

Until these questions are answered no one can support this recommendation.

Recommendation 19

CVPAMG supports any method that will control carp. Since 1974, they have been a part of our river system and have lead to the demise of many native fish.

Recommendation 25

CVPAMG supports the non-commercial use of kangaroo carcasses for approved baiting programs. This resource is in plague proportions and as we reside outside the cropping area of NSW, grain becomes expensive to purchase and transport for baiting programmes. There would be a two fold benefit with a small decrease in kangaroo population and control of pest species.

Recommendation 30

- (i) This is supported by our group.
- (ii) CVPAMG is in support of a pest management coordinator as long as the financial expense is contained. Our LLS area already has a Wild Dog coordinator funded by Australian Wool International, a Local Landcare coordinator Govt. funded. Questions must be asked about the need for three coordinators.
- (iii) The need to increase rates to collect an extra \$300,000 in each LLS area for discretionary expenditure on deemed "*strategic activities*" is not supported by this group of LLS rate payers. Firstly, who decides what are "*strategic activities.*" Is this State Government in such a financial mess as not to be able to afford a one off spend and then collect the funds back. This is a rate increase, that can be spent on a bureaucratic whim and covered up by the words "*strategic activities.*"
- (iv) Cluster fencing is an expensive option that should be last resort. Extensions of existing exclusion fences, abolishing Schedule 2 lands, increased baiting and targeted shooting especially deer and feral horses, should be tried first. Does cluster fencing push the problem to another area? The life of the cluster fence loan maybe greater than the life of the fence. Not all farmers are in the position where they wish/are able to acquire more debt.

Culgoa Vertebrate Pest Animal Management Group has only made comment on the recommendations that we feel need changing. This group was founded to address the recent incursions of wild dogs in this area and we are trying to address this by using a collaborative approach with landholders and staff from Culgoa National Park.

President; David Sullivan

Sec/Tres;

