

Our Reference: E03.7261

23 May 2016

To whom it may concern,

Submission to the NRC review of pest animal management in NSW

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the review into pest animal management in NSW.

Council would like to submit the following recommendations and considerations.

1. **Local Lands Service (LLS) rating of properties >2Ha.** Our records show that there are approximately 2,200 rateable private properties of 10 hectares and over in the Eurobodalla. Under the recommendations, this number will double, as an extra 2,000 private properties between 2Ha and 10Ha will be rated, and thus serviced by the LLS. While this is a welcome addition, especially with regards to community baiting programs for rabbits and foxes, it will essentially double the current work load. LLS officers cannot currently meet existing demand and as such, adequate resourcing must be a key feature for the Eurobodalla Shire Council area to ensure coordinated control works are undertaken and the LLS are meeting what will be a much higher demand for on ground works, and regional coordination of plans and policies.
2. **Alternative delivery model.** Where LLS cannot meet local demand, another authority could be enabled to perform these services via a function under the relevant legislation, in a scenario similar to that of the NSW Weeds Action Program.
3. **Current Local Government enforcement capacity** under the Rural Lands Protection Act 1998 and associated Pest Control Orders (Pigs and Rabbits) must be carried over into the Biosecurity Act 2015, this will continue to enable Councils to enforce the control of declared pest animals on private property (e.g. Rabbits on suburban blocks <2Ha) for the benefit of their ratepayers.
4. **Declaration of cats as pests under the Biosecurity Act 2015.** The recommendations are welcome, however Eurobodalla Shire Council does not currently have the resources required to undertake such work, particularly with regards to increased enforcement and education.
5. **Recurrent Local Government funding.** Local Government must be provided with recurrent external funding (non-ratepayer based) that ensures adequate servicing levels for cat control, enforcement and education are met.
6. **Deer to be declared as a pest animal.** The recommendation is welcome. Clarity over which agency will be responsible for their control must be noted in the Biosecurity Act 2015 and in any relevant pest control orders. Adequate resourcing must also be noted.
7. **Locally significant pest animal declarations.** Legislative capacity for the declaration of locally significant vertebrate and invertebrate pests must be available for Local Government, e.g., Indian Mynas on the Far South Coast NSW, under the Biosecurity Act 2015. This could function in a similar manner to the noxious weeds risk assessment process.

Yours sincerely,



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