

17 May 2016

To whom it may concern -

GLENRAC INC – (Glen Innes Natural Resources Advisory Committee) The regional Landcare organisation in the Glen Innes Severn Shire congratulates the NRC on the very comprehensive and readable draft report.

GLENRAC offers the following submissions to the Natural Resources Commission concerning the draft report on Pest Animal Management in NSW.

GLENRAC endorses the following recommendations.

1. Recommendation 16 concerning the management of deer as a pest animal.
2. Recommendation 17 concerning the management of feral cats as a pest animal.
3. Recommendation 22 concerning engaging recreational hunting groups in pest management.
4. Recommendation 20 (ii) concerning the removal of feral horses from ecological sensitive areas.

GLENRAC considers that the following recommendations should be expanded.

1. Recommendation 23 concerning the reduction of red tape. This recommendation should include public land.

Explanation – Many recreational shooters travel vast distances to target feral animals on private land, rather than deal with the red tape required to shoot on closer public land. Eg Royal National Park being bypassed by Sydney bases shooters.

2. Recommendation 24 concerning access to markets. This recommendation should include the words 'ongoing and stable' markets.

Explanation – Chiller boxes for feral and pest animals are notoriously inconsistent opening and shutting as the trade dictates. Such an unstable business platform is not conducive to an ongoing professional shooting industry.

3. Recommendation 30 (i) concerning reduction of rateable land area size from 10 ha to 2 ha. This recommendation should include a discretionary clause allowing the LLS board to rate areas smaller than 2 ha when appropriate. This does not include intensive industries which are dealt with separately.

Explanation – Smaller holdings adjacent to rural towns are often used by dealers and others to hold large numbers of stock for short periods. These holdings can be a biosecurity risk.

GLENRAC has concerns with the following recommendations.

1. Recommendation 30 (ii) concerning the funding for regional coordinators. These positions should be funded by the state government through the LLS structure and not by a special rate.

Explanation –

- (i) Page 23 of the draft report refers to the impact of pest animals. Paragraph 2.3 reports “Today, pest animals are still imposing significant economic, social and environmental costs on NSW. They adversely affect agricultural productivity, access to export markets, public health and amenity, tourism, the conservation of biodiversity and resilience of socio – ecological systems” This a case a public benefit and as such the funding of this position should be met by the entire public and not just LLS ratepayers.
 - (ii) Page 109 of the draft report refers to expenditure on pest animals in NSW. After adjustments for LLS rates and dog fence rates government expenditure amounts to \$34 million and landholder expenditure amounts to \$27 million. The imposition of an additional rate to fund a public benefit position will jeopardise the acceptance of the recommendations of the report by landholders.
 - (iii) Bio Security Officers are funded entirely from LLS rates and were formerly entitled Rabbit Inspectors. These positions were created for pest animal control and as such are funded by LLS rates. In recent years however Bio Security Officers have been engaged in matters of state and national biosecurity (equine influenza, Hendra, F & M0 and have been fully funded by LLS rates. The creation of an additional position to perform the tasks of the Bio Security Officers funded yet again by LLS ratepayers is inequitable and will alienate LLS ratepayers.
2. Recommendation 18 (i) concerning the management of wild dogs on the perimeter of national parks. Wild dog populations should be controlled throughout national parks.

Explanation – Unless wild dog populations within national parks are controlled numbers will reach a critical point at which time spill overs onto adjoining land will occur. Such spill overs and responsibility for stopping them is referred to on page 110 of the draft report.

3. Recommendation 30 (iii) Concerning the establishment of a rapid response fund. This fund and associated rate is not necessary and this recommendation should not be implemented.

Explanation – Such a fund to deal with emergency risks and new incursions currently exists, is administered by the DPI and is referred to on page 107 of the draft report.

4. Recommendation 11 (ii) Concerning expanding the coordinators role to include weed management. This recommendation should not be implemented.

Explanation –

- (i) Recent reports into weed management in NSW have highlighted the failings in weeds control programs caused by existence of fragmented weed control agencies. The expansion of the coordinators role to include weed management would exacerbate the fragmentation issue.
- (ii) The effectiveness of Regional Pest Management Coordinator would risk being severely diminished by additional responsibilities
 - Particularly weeds.



Jim Benton

Chairman

GLENRAC

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