

Natural Resources Commission  
GPO Box 5341  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir,  
Submission on pest animal review.

I am a beef cattle producer 12 kilometers south of the town [REDACTED] in North Western NSW. I am 61 years old and have been on the family property all my life. During my lifetime I am experiencing the pest animal problem spiral out of control to the extent that in 2002 I was forced out of sheep and wool production due to domestic dog attacks from rural subdivisions and the smaller rural properties in the area.

During the decades from the 1950's, right up until the early 1990,s my father and I were in mixed cropping activities growing the winter cereals, lupins and cowpeas. Today I would not consider growing any crops due to the kangaroo and wild pig problem coming from rural subdivisions and small rural properties in the area.

Today the kangaroo problem coming from these small rural properties is so serious I am starting to wonder how long I can survive in the beef cattle industry before I will have to sell out and leave this area.

Up until the 1980's there was very little rural subdivision in this area. Nearly all the rural properties were owned by full time farmers whose income was totally dependant on the financial success of their farms. Today I am the only full time farmer left whose livelihood depends on reasonable control of pest animals while the very great majority of landholders in this area could not care less because nearly all their income comes from off farm sources. Today in most cases 100% of their income comes from sources that are off farm.

The farm is simply just somewhere to live. Run a few horses and somewhere for the kids to ride their motorbikes for entertainment.

Very few landholders today have any incentive to control pest animals or weeds.

Back in the 1960,s all the landholders on this side of [REDACTED] would get together with their mates and organise kangaroo drives right through their properties. Kangaroos were shot in the hundreds. All farmers with sheep on their properties shot all straying dogs on sight. If the dog got off their property they would ring their neighbours to shoot it. There were very few wild pigs in the area because every bodies income depended on getting rid of them.

One neighbour has built a very expensive, special type of electric fence to stop kangaroos, domestic dogs, foxes and wild pigs. This does not fix the problem. The pest animals are simply forced elsewhere.

In some regions the pest animal problem is very serious because local and state government authorities have ignored the landuse conflict which rural subdivision has created. I have found it impossible to get the [REDACTED] council to consider the weed and pest animal problem they are creating when allowing a once viable rural property to be divided into smaller unviable holdings.

Unless state and local land-use planners take this matter into account the weed and pest animal problem will only continue to deteriorate.

Yours Faithfully,



RICHARD BUSBY