

I fully support the review of NSW pest management.

As a recreational hunter I would like more access to public land to remove pest animals.

From an economic viewpoint I have already put many thousands of dollars on licenses, safe storage as well as associated camping, boating and vehicle costs into the NSW economy. This input of my dollars will continue if I choose to remain a legal hunter and fisher. (I don't hunt or fish illegally). If the opportunities to hunt and fish aren't available hunters will give up and do other things therefore a loss of revenue for the government will occur.

Current methods of pest control have not managed to contain the spread of pest animals. Ground shooting alone will not remove all pests but combined with the existing control methods I believe organised ground shooting will make a contribution to the overall objective of pest management. This can only be a positive move for the environment.

I have always been involved in hunting or fishing so it is a part of my life and I could not imagine not being involved in these activities. Many others feel this way so these outdoor pursuits are part of a culture or a way of life among a large section of the NSW population.

Currently hunting is allowed in some NSW state forests. While most hunters follow the rules far too many people hunt illegally. This should be discouraged more than it is. Higher fines and even jail sentences should be applied to illegal hunters.

The battle to contain pest animals is ongoing and I believe that current investment in to research and removal programs should be at least maintained and even have funding increased. The use of emerging technologies should be utilized as they become available. Technology such as drones, GPS and game surveillance cameras should be tools of choice. Humane traps such as those employed in Tasmania to help save the swift parrot could also be used (catalyst 20/10/15).

All of this is expensive. To pay for this I feel that the government should embrace an untapped resource in the community. Hunters and hunting organisations would pay for the opportunity to hunt pest animals in National parks. A ballot and tag system similar to the USA would raise funds to sustain the pest management plan in National parks. Our National parks could have allocated days/periods for hunting/culling to avoid interaction other members of the public using the park.

Many people would volunteer for monitoring cameras/traps etc. to lower the pressure of cost from the state government.

Education should be a key objective to raise public awareness of the environmental issues at stake.
Accredited courses in pest management/environmental management should be promoted.

Thankyou