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[REDACTED] 24 October 2015 9:00 AM

To: NRC
Subject: State-wide review of pest animal management - Comments

Dear Sir

Before making comment I would like to provide some background. I am 61 years old and a Qualified Supplementary Pest Control Volunteer with the SSAA working in conjunction with the NPWS as part of their pest control operations.

Let me state that we as QSPCV's are not the only solution to pest management but we are proving to be a vital part of the overall solution. Once other pest management solutions have been initiated and completed there is always going to be a "boots on the ground" component to any truly successful management solution. No one pest management program is going to solve the issue of feral pests. A combined approach is always going to be needed and I believe the QSPCV's are proving to be a valuable part of that solution.

- Roles and responsibilities
 - You state in your responsibility matrix that the general public should become the "eyes and ears' for pest animal incursion activity". This is an approach I feel needs to be expanded and more clearly defined, but as you are aware the larger population live on the eastern seaboard yet the NPWS / SSAA operations are confined to National Parks in the far west of the state. Therefore I believe that the QSPCV initiative should be expanded to include more heavily frequented National Parks nearer to larger population centres. I know from first-hand knowledge that there are issue with feral dogs in places such as Barrington Tops where they have been known to chase cyclists with the possibility of causing serious damage to life and property.
 - The QSPCV program is already proving itself to be successful with the NPWS proving they can manage an operational area with the utmost safety to QSPCV's, SPWS staff

and local residents. Therefore, expanded eastern seaboard operations should be strongly considered.

- In addition thought should be given as to how the general public will report such issues related to feral pests, also who should investigate these reports and what threshold criteria should be used before pest management action is taken. I believe the NPWS and QSPCV's could play an active role in this regard.
- I believe that expansion of the current NPWS / SSAA operations needs to be formalised and expanded. Management of small operations could be undertaken and managed by the SSAA using the successful management model currently utilised by the NPWS. These operations could allow for a more focused solution to be implemented in areas of immediate need with a faster response to localised issues.
- The NPWS deals with National Parks and not state forests. In many cases local areas are managed by local councils. I do not believe that local councils have either the resources of funding to successfully address pest management issues. A greater state wide co-ordinated approach is needed. We should be looking at groups who already have runs on the board in relation to pest management and either expanding or co-ordinating these resources as part an overall managed approach. Perhaps there should be an office of pest management within the government.
- Finally any successful solution needs to involve all relevant stake holders including but not limited to
 - General public
 - Industry groups
 - NPWS
 - SSAA and QSPCV's
 - Hunters
 - Famers & land owners
 - Forestry commission
- Shared ownership
 - Your discussion paper talks about the successful education programs and community involvement. With the SSAA planning to introduce its highly successful "Farmer Assist" program into NSW I believe there should be a tie in with the SSAA and this program. Valuable resources are going to be available through this program and a co-ordinated approach will mean a more focused solution.
 - A public advertising campaign needs to be initiated through all forms of media to bring to the attention of the general public the devastation that can be caused by these feral pests.
 - In this regard I believe that there needs to be some form of government appointment perhaps within the NPWS in regards to the overall management and co-ordination of our response to pest management. This will need to be a funded solution if we are serious about reducing the impact of feral pests on our native wildlife and fauna.
 - Also there needs to be the ability to implement a range of pest management solutions in a timely manner. Farmers do not want to wait for several months when

asking for help. So again there needs to be a co-ordinated approach in order to deploy appropriate resources in a timely manner

- Priority pest species & Landscape approach
 - I believe these two issues are closely aligned. In eastern areas of the state you will have the issues of wild dogs, cat and foxes. Whilst further west goats and pigs are a greater issue. There needs to be a co-ordinated approach that is different based upon the landscape and species. Public perception will play an important role when gauging the success or failure of pest management.
 - Therefore priorities will change based upon landscape and location and these must form part of the overall plan.
- Emerging issues
- Adequate resourcing
 - With resourcing comes the issue of funding. The NSW government needs to become serious about pest management. For any pest management process to be truly successful then funding needs to be supplied to increase:-
 - Overall management of the program
 - Reporting to gauge success of the various methods of pest management
 - Training of resources
 - Pest management officers and co-ordinators
 - Expansion of NPWS staff to cater with an increased approach to feral pest eradication
 - Greater “feet on the ground” resources
- Knowledge building
 - This ties in with reporting. Without adequate resources made available to measure and report on the various programs money will be wasted in areas where and incorrect solution has been implemented. We need to build a knowledge base in order to be successful.
 - Again the government of NSW needs to provide funding for resources in order for this to be successful.

I hope you find these comments constructive

Yours sincerely

Michael Trigg



