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# *Pastoralists' Association*

*of West Darling Inc.*

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## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

### ISSUES PAPER

#### FUNDING

The issues paper cites future shortfalls in funding for pest animal control and research. The government needs to recognise that private landholders are contributing a great deal of their own resources in the control of pest animals the majority of which is undocumented and unrecognized.

Further like government agencies landholders are always working to remain financially viable in a competitive economic environment, and also meet the same challenges of rising costs of production. It would be grossly unfair to simply fund pest animal management through increased Local Land Service rates on private landholders.

#### GOATS

Goats should be viewed as a valuable resource and not a pest animal. As a domesticated animal rangeland goats have been run as a successful livestock enterprise making a significant financial contribution to the rural commerce of Western NSW.

With a very diversified landscape across the western division and the need for landholders to ensure they remain commercially viable in a competitive economic environment, goats play an important role in giving landholders flexibility and diversity of their livestock enterprises.

Quote MLA & GICA data.

\$ 60 million abattoir development at Bourke

As part of NPWS management in the western division the mustering and removal of goats is providing employment opportunities and capacity building within the local aboriginal community.

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Goats pose no biosecurity risk and the current mob based NVD movement is providing ample security and traceability.

It should be noted that the current industry management practices have delivered strong growth in demand and sustained buoyant farm gate prices.

The strong prices being achieved by the industry will ensure sustained pressure is placed on the capture and removal of rangeland goats that are not being actively managed behind wire.

## RABBITS

The Calici virus' impact on rabbit populations has delivered significant environmental gain across the western division. Resulting in the regeneration of native shrubs, trees and pastures. The virus is still proving very successful in the dry climate but as history has shown it pays not to be complacent when dealing with this pest animal.

PAWD would ask that the NRC ensure that resources are made available to ensure that the virus continues to remain effective in controlling rabbit populations in our arid environment.

## REGULATION

Removal of regulatory barriers to ensure landholders have access to the broadest possible range of tools e.g. 1080 baits for pigs.

## KANGAROOS

PAWD understands that native animals are not within the terms of reference for this review. But would take this opportunity to highlight whilst pastoralists recognise Kangaroos have their rightful place within the landscape; there is currently a massive in balance of population.

It is the mass over population of the Kangaroo that is making them a pest animal. Across the western division, they are having a visible impact on feed resources and causing significant damage to infrastructure and fencing.

PAWD take this opportunity to highlight this fact out of sheer frustration, and call on anybody within government to help bring about change within the industry, to deliver a buoyant and viable industry such has been built around rangeland goats. So that what is currently a pest placing pressure on the viability of the pastoral industry can be utilised as a valuable resource to bring population of kangaroos back to a sustainable level.