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Subject: Submission on Pest Animal Management

Natural Resources Commission,

After 50 years of hunting, any property I have visited that had adjoining areas controlled by government instrumentalities, had a bad neighbour incapable of controlling pest animals.

Economics has not been the only problem. Social and political attitudes have prevented the problem being addressed by the many shooters who would volunteer for the task of reducing the feral problem, and by professional kangaroo shooters, who should be given controlled access to the many government areas infested with a native pest which causes a very expensive problem for farmers. Properly administered, modern GPS technology could ensure that these hunters, suitably qualified, only accessed areas that did not pose a threat to local landholders and their families.

New South Wales allows the keeping of rabbits as pets. When any local authority undertakes a cull, they first warn the locals to inoculate their pets against the controlling agent. Sydney's Northern Beaches has a significant population of rabbits and one has to wonder if this is a breeding reservoir immune to the controlling agents. In areas I frequent, there has been a noticeable increase in the number of rabbits in recent years. Any one who has lived through the rabbit problems of the previous century, which drove many farmers off their destroyed land, is aware of the potential threat, but it seems to be completely lost on the younger generation of politicians and city dwellers.

Regards,

Peter Stitz,  
[REDACTED]