

# NSW STATE PEST ANIMAL COMMITTEE

## COMMUNIQUÉ 5

OCTOBER 2018 | EDITION 2018/3

The NSW State Pest Animal Committee met for their fifth meeting in Sydney on 28 August 2018. The meeting was chaired by Mr Jock Laurie (Land & Water Commissioner) and representatives were present from all member organisations: NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI), Local Land Services (LLS), Office of Environment and Heritage, Local Government NSW, Landcare NSW, RSPCA NSW, Nature Conservation Council and NSW Farmers' Association.

Key agenda items included:

- LLS regional pest animal plan progress update,
- Landcare's involvement with the Established Pest Animals and Weeds project, and
- The allocation of Special Purpose Pest Management Rate funds for strategic statewide projects.

LLS presented a summary of each region's progress under their recently launched Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plans. Most regions are progressing well with strategic planning activities. Many new programs and projects have been initiated, and new coordination roles are being filled. Existing strategic control programs are being maintained and networks are being strengthened to improve management outcomes. LLS will continue to provide progress reports at future committee meetings.

Landcare provided an overview of the activities they are engaging in as part of their collaboration with DPI and LLS to complete work under the federally funded Established Pest Animals and Weeds project (part of the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper). The project seeks to improve the tools, technologies, information and skills farmers and their communities need to tackle pest animals and weeds. Landcare NSW will be focusing on identifying training and extension opportunities to increase landholder uptake of best practice established weeds and pest animal management.

The committee was called upon to determine statewide priorities to be funded by the Special Purpose Pest Management Rate in 2018-19. During the meeting, the committee discussed a range of potential activities that cover all stages of invasion (incursion/eradication, containment, and asset protection) and multiple species for which a statewide approach is appropriate. The committee considered a proposal out of session, and a decision was made to fund the following priority projects:

- Eradicating distinct sub-populations of cane toads just south of the Clarence River containment line.
- Raising community awareness about the emerging Red-eared Slider Turtle population in NSW to improve detection and reporting and development of a more accurate distribution map to guide future management.
- Supporting the Willow Tree fallow deer management program to demonstrate the ability of integrated management (aerial and ground shooting) to reduce high density populations to acceptable levels and to maintain these levels.

- Supporting the Western Riverina Pig Project to demonstrate the ability to reduce high density populations to acceptable levels, taking advantage of current drought conditions, and to maintain these levels post-drought.
- Delimitation and containment of sambar deer incursions in NSW.
- Operational projects to take advantage of drought conditions to achieve high-level knockdown of feral pig populations across NSW.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 2019.