



## CATTLE COUNCIL OF AUSTRALIA

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Ferals beware!**

### **The writing is on the wall web**

Cattle Council of Australia has applauded the report titled "Taking Control : a national approach to pest animals" posted on the website of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

(<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/index.htm>)

Deputy Director Michael Hartmann said "The Committee is to be congratulated. They have heeded calls by industry; they have recognised the need for a coordinated national approach; and they have understood the need for urgency. The Committee has developed recommendations that paint a dark cloud over the future of feral and pest animals in Australia."

The Committee has recognised the role the Federal Government must play in facilitating the coordination of the States and has recommended the formation of a National Pest Animals and Weeds Committee to provide a nation-wide approach to eradicating pests.

"The current, piece-meal, State-by-State approach simply doesn't work. We've been working this way for over 100 years, and today we have more feral pigs and wild dogs than we ever had."

"Pest animals such as pigs, dogs and foxes are a scourge to the nation. They kill our livestock, create havoc to Australia's biodiversity, damage the environment, spread disease to both livestock and humans, and cause social and economic hardship. It truly is time to change our approach."

The Committee also recognised the issue of feral animals in National Parks (ie: Government land) and have suggested means to encourage action.

"For too long our National Parks have served as sanctuary for feral animals. These animals are provided with protection while they continue to feed and play with livestock 'easy-pickings'."

"We welcome recommendations that will protect not only Australian species, but also Australian agriculture" Mr Hartmann concluded.

#### **For further information contact:**

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**REPRESENTING AUSTRALIAN CATTLE PRODUCERS SINCE 1979**

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