



Niall Blair

Minister for Primary Industries
Minister for Regional Water
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MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 1 June 2017

NSW TARGETS FERAL PESTS

The NSW Government has set a tougher target on regional pest management and improved deer control strategies as part of its response to the Natural Resource Commission's (NRC) review of pest animal management.

The state-wide review made 33 recommendations to Government for improving the management of pest animals across all land tenures and to develop long-term solutions.

NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair said the NSW Government response is based on the principle that biosecurity is a shared responsibility - binding Government, public land managers, private land holders and the broader community equally.

"A comprehensive pest management framework will ensure our state-wide strategies and regional plans are consistent with the new biosecurity legislation which will commence on July 1 2017. This will inform all stakeholders of their general biosecurity duty," Mr Blair said.

"Each of the 11 Local Land Services regions will develop a regional pest animal management plan to ensure that tools, actions and investments are targeted to the specific needs and impacts across each region.

A new State Pest Animal Committee will be established in 2017 (replacing the existing Pest Animal Council) to provide advice on best practice and offer a state-wide oversight that includes the regional pest animal management planning process."

The NSW Government will also facilitate the development of a NSW Deer Management Strategy by the end of 2017.

Mr Blair said the deer strategy will help inform regional pest plans, which will in turn, replace the need for a statewide pest list.

"The NSW Government has already triggered a number of interim plans which allows the targeted control of deer in hotspot areas," Mr Blair said.

"We now have nine LGAs across the State with suspended hunting licence restrictions, making it easier to hunt deer in areas where they are a threat to primary production, the environment, or the community.

"Landholders, their families and employees remain exempt from any deer hunting restrictions on their own land."

The pest review was an election commitment and part of the MOU between the NSW Liberals & Nationals with the NSW Farmers Association.

The full NSW Government response to the NRC review is available on the DPI website at www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity

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