



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Assistant Minister for Tourism and Major Events

MEDIA RELEASE

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PROPOSED PEST CONTROL ORDER FOR FOXES

Minister for Primary Industries, Katrina Hodgkinson, has proposed a new pest control order (PCO) for foxes in NSW.

Ms Hodgkinson said the proposed changes will provide additional options for coordinated control, meaning foxes can be more effectively targeted in localised campaigns.

“Foxes are currently managed by landholders on a voluntary basis in NSW, through programs including fox control and pest management plans,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“This proposed PCO seeks to better support the coordination of community-wide fox control programs.

“Coordinated fox control is necessary because in order to achieve the best results, fox control requires the community’s commitment to long-term integrated programs.

“Placing a PCO on foxes will bring the control of this pest into line with other threats to our environment and agricultural production such as feral pigs and wild dogs.

“Some people presently keep foxes in captivity in NSW. If people are looking for a pet, please take on one of the thousands cats and dogs that are euthanased each year.

“The proposed control order will also mean foxes cannot be kept in captivity without a permit, nor will they be allowed to be released into the wild.”

Ms Hodgkinson said foxes have a significant impact on our agricultural industries, through killing and maiming livestock like sheep and goats, and studies indicate that lamb losses due to foxes can be as high as 30 per cent.

“This predation also threatens the survival of native fauna. Foxes in urban areas pose a risk to human health due to the transmission of disease and they impact on urban communities by disrupting pet dogs and even killing small household pets,” Ms Hodgkinson said.

“Foxes are a blight on our agricultural sector – this new PCO will send the right message and bring regulation in NSW into line with management of this pest in other States.”

Those currently with foxes in captivity will be able to apply to Local Land Services for a permit to keep the animal, but the acquiring of any new foxes will be prohibited.

For more information, or to comment on the proposed order, visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/biosecurity.