



23rd October 2018

Ms Christine McDonald
Secretary
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Tel: (02) 6277 3526

Via email: ec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Ms McDonald

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) is the research, development and marketing organisation for the Australian wool industry. It currently invests in research, development and extension with a range of different partners to develop best practice management tools and methods to reduce the impact of feral pigs and wild dogs on the wool industry, the environment and local communities.

Notwithstanding the major biosecurity threat from invasive species, they present direct competition to wool producing sheep through total grazing pressure and predation by feral pigs and dogs.

This has a direct impact not only on the profitability of livestock enterprises, but also on the mental health of producers. These species place continuous pressure on the environment and hence undermine the provenance story which is core to the international marketing of Australian wool.

AWI bases its investment on the principles of integrated management of multiple pest species at a landscape scale, driven by whole of community participation. AWI is mindful that best practice tools must consider the interaction between predators and all types of feral prey (hence deer and goats).

Social science evidence and AWI's experience in delivering effective community-based landscape scale wild dog and feral pig control suggests that high community engagement through awareness and participation is an imperative input into any feral pest control.

AWI recognises the need for a shared-approach strategy in the control of feral deer, pigs and goats.

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AWI's experience with the National Wild Dog Action Plan, as a single species plan, is that profile for the target species becomes a rallying point for best practice management, collaboration and justification for funding and participation, however there needs to be a mechanism that promotes landscape management plans that integrate control tools for all vertebrate pest species, hence linkage between species specific plans. The latter objective should drive research questions beyond the obvious surveying and culling tools.

AWI is an investor in rabbit and wild dog research within the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions and views this centre and its investments in feral deer as a potential hub for developing measures and advice on integrated species management.

AWI look forward to the outcome of this Inquiry and if the Committee require any further information, please contact AWI's General Manager, Research, Dr Jane Littlejohn on _____ or at _____

Yours sincerely

Stuart McCullough
Chief Executive Officer