

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services

Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction

Member for Kurrajong

RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

Environment and Communications References Committee

Inquiry into the impacts and management of feral horses in the Australian Alps

23 August 2023

SENATOR HOLLIE HUGHES - Asked the Minister for the Environment:

Reference: Proof Committee Hansard, page 33-34

In relation to: Commonwealth Funding for Feral Horse Management

Senator HUGHES: I had to duck out for a second, so I apologise if anyone has asked this, but I wanted to cover off, potentially for everyone: what funding has been provided to each of the governments from the federal government for feral horse management? Is it being allocated for a specific purpose?

Mr Rutledge: We have had funding from the federal government for invasive species which we have used for feral horse management. As I stated earlier, we treat all hard-hoofed, large feral animals the same, so we've just used feral management for that. I can provide on notice recent investment from the Commonwealth government, but there is nothing specific for feral horses.

Senator HUGHES: There's nothing specific for the ACT or New South Wales?

MS VASSAROTTI MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Whilst the Australian Government has provided no funding to ACT Government specifically for feral horse management, the Australian Government did provide \$250,000 in 2022-23 to the ACT under the Commonwealth's *Enhancing National Pest Animal and Weed Management* agreement. This funding supports the delivery of projects to help manage established pest animals and weeds. The ACT is expected to receive a further \$250,000 in 2023-24, subject to the completion of agreed project milestones.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Rebecca Vassarotti MLA
Minister for the Environment

Date: 1/9/2023