



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 16 February 2005

Chair: Alby Schultz MP

The Impact of Pest Animals on Agriculture

Public Hearing at Parliament House, Canberra, 16 February 2005

The House of Representatives Agriculture Committee will hear evidence today (16 February) from the Bureau of Rural Sciences as part of its inquiry into the impact on agriculture of pest animals in Australia.

The public hearing will take place in Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Level 1 at 5pm.

The Bureau of Rural Sciences is the scientific agency of the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. Its role is to provide scientific assessments, tools and advice to rural and regional decision makers.

The inquiry, which was set up before the election, lapsed when the Parliament was dissolved last August. This will be the first public hearing held since the inquiry was re-referred to the Committee by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

To date, more than 80 submissions have been received from individuals and organisations across Australia. Before the election, public hearings were held in Albury and Canberra. Further hearings are anticipated later this year.

Further details about the inquiry, including terms of reference and submissions, can be obtained from the committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/ or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or emailing primind.reps@aph.gov.au.

For media comment:

please contact the office of committee chair, Alby Schultz, on (02) 4822 2277 or mobile 0419 425547 or email rebecca.mcalister@aph.gov.au

For background information:

please contact the committee secretary, Ian Dundas, on (02) 6277 4194