



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

MEDIA ALERT

Issued: 25 November 2005

Chair: Alby Schultz MP

Deputy: Hon Dick Adams MP

Taking control of pest animals

The House of Representatives Agriculture Committee will unveil new ways for Australian agriculture and governments to deal with a multi-million dollar pest animal problem when it releases its report, ***Taking Control: a national approach to pest animals*** next Monday (28 November).

The committee Chair, Mr Alby Schultz, said pest animals are a “huge problem for Australian farmers”.

“Wild dogs are decimating the sheep industry,” Mr Schultz said. “The number of feral pigs roaming the country is in the order of 23 million, which would create a nightmare if foot-and-mouth disease broke out here. Pest animals cost the economy more than \$700 million each year.

“Pest animals are having a serious impact on agriculture and the environment and it is time that concerted action was taken at all levels to address this issue.”

Members of the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee will hold a media conference at 12.50pm on 28 November in committee room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra.

For media comment please contact the office of committee chair, **Alby Schultz**, on **(02) 6277 4386** or mobile **0428 693 553** or email Alby.Schultz.MP@aph.gov.au.

For more detail on the inquiry and media seeking embargoed copies of the report, please contact:

The House Agriculture Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or visit the inquiry website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/pestanimals/index.htm>

Members of the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee are: Chair - **Alby Schultz** (Hume, NSW), Deputy Chair - **Dick Adams** (Lyons, Tas), **Martin Ferguson** (Batman, Vic), **Michael Ferguson** (Bass, Tas), **John Forrest** (Mallee, Vic), **Peter Lindsay** (Herbert, Qld), **Gavan O'Connor** (Corio, Vic), **Patrick Secker** (Barker, SA), **Wilson Tuckey** (O'Connor, WA) and **Tony Windsor** (New England, NSW).