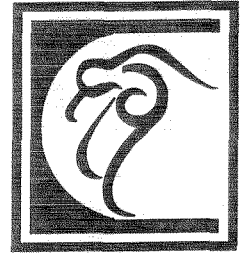




# MONARO MERINO ASSOCIATION INC.



## SUBMISSION

**INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT ON**

**OF PEST ANIMALS**

### INTRODUCTION:

The Monaro Merino Association was formed in 1984 to promote merino sheep in the three shires of Cooma, Snowy River and Bombala in New South Wales.

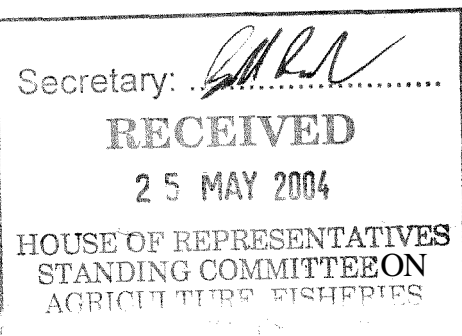
The geographic region is now surrounded by 1 million hectares of National Parks, Forestry and Reserves.

Wild dog and pest animal predation has been part of grazing since settlement of the Monaro. It was initially addressed by shepherding, then trapping, poisoning and shooting, until wild dogs and pigs and other pest animals were confined to the most inaccessible surround of the Monaro - pest species in these areas were well controlled with the above methods. With the curtailment of high country leases and declarations of National Parks landholder control was forbidden in these areas and so began the build up of pest species being harbored in National Parks and other government lands.

The above is repeated nationally and has now become a major management issue and must be addressed before livestock producers adjoining and near National Parks are unable to maintain their valuable livestock enterprises.

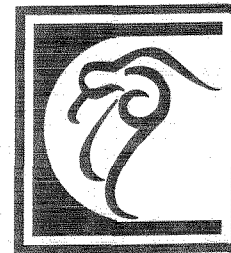
**On behalf of the Monaro Merino Association, representing 22 Merino Studs in the region and many commercial producers we submit our recommendations where possible to the terms of reference as set out in the inquiry.**

**We invite members of the Committee to visit the Monaro in New South Wales and speak with sheep producers to gain first hand knowledge into the impact on agriculture of pest animals.**





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## TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 1. To identify nationally significant pest animal issues and consider how existing Australian and State government processes can be better linked for more coordinated management of these issues across State boundaries.**

The Monaro Merino Association consider it essential that all pest species especially wild dogs and feral pigs be controlled to the point in National Parks and other Government Lands where they have minimal impact on livestock grazing enterprises

Private landholders must by legislation attempt to control/eradicate pest animals and we expect our government neighbours to have the same responsibility.

Refer to recommendations from the State Government Inquiry Standing Committee No.5 completed in October 2002.

State land managers must cooperate in management practices Pest animals do not respect State boundaries and must be managed on a national basis.

- 2. To consider the approaches to pest animals issues across relevant jurisdictions including**
  - .Prevention of new pest animals becoming established.**
  - Detection and reporting systems for new established pest animals.**
  - Eradication of infestations (particularly newly established species or 'sleeper Populations of species which are considered to be high risk) where feasible and**
  - Appropriate and reduction of the impact of established pest animal populations.**

The Monaro Merino Association (MMA) understands that all states have in existence for example Department of Agriculture that already commit resources to monitoring and controlling pest species. It is essential that these resources be recognized and coordinated on a national level.

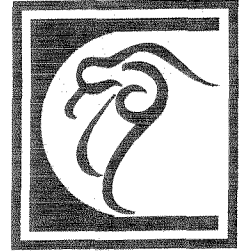
Eradicate 'sleeper' populations of species before they become a national problem.

Freehold land managers such as the MMA manage pest species on their own landholdings - it is the predators from NPWS that are out of control.

In the Monaro region established pest animals are mainly the wild dog and pigs. Many 'tools' are used to try and control the problems especially wild dogs but they are very expensive and are



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not achieving their goal. Aerial baiting for wild dogs is restricted to private lands but it is imperative that it be reintroduced as part of NPWS control strategy.

3. Consider the adequacy of State Government expenditure on pest animal control in the context of other conservation and natural resource management priorities, with particular reference to National Parks.

The MMA has first hand experience of NPWS management. Adequate funding is available for pest animals but it is not utilized by experienced on ground experts - rather wasted on lengthy planning and strategies that do not address pest animal predation.

Conservation is a high priority with landholders - pest species - especially wild dogs are killing native fauna as well as on farm livestock.

**N.B.** Consider the protection of The Dingo. NPWS has spent a disproportionate amount of money trying to prove that the Dingo should be protected within National Parks. Scientists now accept that it can not be justified as hybrid dogs are overrunning the Dingo and it makes more sense to protect what is left of Dingo genes in sanctuaries.

Aerial baiting of core wild dog habitat is a cost effective measure that must be considered.

4. Consider the scope for industry groups and R & D Corporations to improve their response to landholder concerns about pest

The MMA consider that R & D Corporations are best used for research into exotic disease, not to be responsible for the management of pest animals.

Pest species are a National problem not Corporate.

5. Consider ways to promote community understanding of and involvement in pest animals and their management.

Public relations, advertising and education into the necessity to control pest animals.  
i.e. Tell Asutralians how dangerous hydatid tapeworms are and how they can be carried from wild dogs to humans.

Pest animals are constantly depleting native fauna

Alert Australians to the dangers of foot and mouth being spread by feral pigs.

Remind Australians that livestock production helps feed the nation and earns valuable export dollars.