Dear Mr Zacharin

Re: Review of the Draft Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017 - 2027

The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Board (the Board) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the Draft Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017 – 2027.

The Board would like to thank all of the staff at the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources involved with this very important strategy. The following comments are intended to be constructive and improve effectiveness of the strategy.

Structure and context
It is suggested that Figure 2, which shows the relationship between related documents, could be explained earlier in the strategy to provide more context for the reader.

Over-abundant native animals
Native animals are mentioned early in the document and need more context to ensure the reader isn’t given the wrong impression of pest animal priorities (i.e. explain the concept of over-abundant native animals).

Education and extension
Goal 2 (Pg 22) of the strategy ‘to minimise impacts and limit spread of established pests’ should include education programs and promotional elements. It might be assumed these are a part of the best practice control programs but should be made more obvious.

Social impacts
Social impacts should include increasing dangers to road and trail users and impacts on recreation opportunities. Some recent examples include rail delays in NSW due to deer strike and deer road kill in metropolitan Sydney.

Direct and indirect management options
Pg 12 – ‘pest management in practice’ can include education/extension programs and changing food availability for pest animals. These indirect management methods could be added alongside habitat manipulation and farming practices.
NRM Boards
Pg 15 explains that 'NRM boards have a surveillance role', however this could be an unrealistic expectation for the smaller NRM boards with fewer resources and very large areas (such as SA Arid Lands and Alinytjara Wilurara).

Landholder expectations
Pg 38 – Appendix B, "There is increasingly an expectation that landholders... will take appropriate action"? It is unclear what evidence has been used for the development of this statement and how this assumption has been made.

Should you require further information on this matter please contact James Donnelly, A/Regional Coordinator Animal & Plant Control on telephone (08) 8389 5900.

Yours sincerely

Chris Daniels
PRESIDING MEMBER