



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES
SUZANNE ORR MLA (CHAIR), CANDICE BURCH MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JAMES MILLIGAN MLA

Inquiry into referred 2017–18 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Elizabeth Lee MLA: To ask the Minister for the Environment

In relation to: Feral pig control program [page 51]

1. Were the 17 southern ACT landholders that were supported with traps etc the only landholders to apply?
2. Is the reported 300 pigs trapped to date a meaningful number in terms of reducing populations?
3. What studies or monitoring are or have been done to determine the extent of the problem?
 - a. Are only traps used?
4. If not, what other methods are used?
5. Are feral pigs in every ACT National Park area?
 - a. What estimates of numbers, categorised by each National Park?
6. Has any assessment been done on the potential for a commercial tourist opportunity for feral pig hunting and trapping?
 - a. If so, what are those findings?
 - i. Are they public? Please provide a copy.
 - b. If not, why not?

MICK GENTLEMAN: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

1. This program in question was specifically targeted towards landholders in the Tharwa region responding to concerns about increasing feral pig impacts in the region. The group of landholders who were invited to participate were identified by community representatives. The ACT Parks and Conservation Service provides assistance and advice to all rural landholders on pest animal management issues if required.
2. Best practice pest animal management is focussed on impact reduction rather than numbers killed. Landholders involved in the program have reported reduced amounts of pig damage on their properties since this program began. Pest animal control programs rely on long term consistent efforts over many years.
3. There has been a considerable amount of research into feral pig impacts and management in the ACT region that began in the mid 80's. The management approach and techniques that are used here today have been informed by this work.

- a. No. Traps are one technique used as part of an integrated approach.
4. Poisoning and shooting in keeping with animal welfare protocols and chemical use restrictions.
5. The ACT only has one National Park – Namadgi National Park.
 - a. No estimate of absolute numbers are available. Monitoring that is undertaken annually focusses on levels of pig damage (i.e ground disturbance) rather than pig numbers. Such monitoring occurs across our conservation estate including Namadgi National Park, Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve and the Murrumbidgee River Corridor.
6. No assessment has been completed on the potential of a commercial tourist venture centred on pig hunting. There is no provision for recreational hunting on Public land in the ACT under any ACT legislation.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services

Signature:



Date:

30/11/08

By the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Mick Gentleman MLA