



**Hunter Regional Pest Animal Committee  
25 October 2017  
Communique**

The Hunter Regional Pest Animal Committee met for the first time on the 25 October 2017. This is a milestone in pest management in NSW being the first meeting of a Regional Pest Animal Committee in the Pest Animal Reform. The committee has representation across public and private land managers which have been selected for their interests in pest management outcomes and ability to contribute to best practice.

The committee discussed the NSW Government Response to the State Wide Review of Pest Animal Management. This outlines the context of the committee in relation to Hunter LLS Board and the State Pest Animal Committee. The committee's first task will be to develop a Regional Strategic Pest Animal Plan that supports the NSW Invasive Species Plan. Local scale pest management plans will support the Regional Plan.

The committee focused on the development of the Regional Strategic Pest Animal Plan by organising working groups for critical groups of pest animals. The working groups will report back to the committee on the management category to be applied to priority pests. This is based on the range of impacts that a pest species can have and how invasive it might be compared to its feasibility of control. This will be coupled to identification of assets that will be protected and the activities that will be prioritised. The committee endorsed focusing the plan at a strategic level with operational details contained in local pest management plans which will support the Regional Plan.

The committee reviewed the timeline for the delivery of the Regional Strategic Pest Animal Plan noting that targeted consultation will happen through to January with a Draft Plan to be developed by 12 February 2018. A public exhibition process is planned to commence starting on 5 March 2018. The final Plan will be with the Ministers Office on 1 June 2018 for approval on 1 July 2018.

The committee set their mind to the question of 'what does a best practice pest management future look like'. This will be a focus for the committee to gather stakeholders input about what priorities are pursued and what enabling actions are outlined on the Plan to advance pest management across the region. Critical items that the committee already see as important for pest animal management is about engaging people, simple effective communication, cross tenure coordination, technology and support.

The committee will meet again on 29 November.