



# The Hon Barry O'Farrell MP

## Premier of NSW

### Minister for Western Sydney

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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Wednesday 30 May 2012

### GAME AND FERAL ANIMAL CONTROL ACT

The State's program of feral animal control in national parks will be extended to allow licensed shooters to cull pests including pigs, dogs, cats and goats in a limited number of areas under strict conditions.

Amendments to the *Game and Feral Animal Control Act 2002* will mean the feral animal eradication program will be extended in 79 of the State's 799 national parks, nature reserves and state conservation areas.

Shooting of feral animals will not be permitted in or near metropolitan areas, or in any wilderness area or world heritage area including Blue Mountains National Park.

Premier Barry O'Farrell said the Minister for the Environment would have ultimate control over where, when and how volunteer pest shooting took place.

Anyone applying to cull in one of the designated areas would require written permission, have to be licensed by the Game Council, have undertaken adequate training, and comply with the access conditions established by the Minister for the Environment.

"Culling of feral animals in our national parks, including the Royal National Park, occurs already," Mr O'Farrell said.

"At least 24,000 feral pigs, dogs, goats, foxes, cats, rabbits and deer were destroyed in national parks in 2010-11.

"This is a logical extension of an existing policy - a sensible measure to remove these pests which damage habitat, kill native animals, kill stock, rob stock of feed and damage crops across the State."

Protections for native animals remain in force, with fines of up to \$220,000 for harming a threatened species.

Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner said feral animals were a scourge on farming, estimated to cost NSW agriculture \$70 million a year.

"This is a sensible step that will give native fauna and our farmers better protection from feral animals," Mr Stoner said.

"Farmers do it tough enough without also having feral animals destroying their crops and livestock.

"This will also help prevent feral animals from displacing native species through predation and competition, and from devastating threatened vegetation by grazing and trampling."

Mr O'Farrell said the amendments would expand eradication programs in around 10 per cent of the State's national parks.

He said the Government had decided to expand the culling program to allow smooth passage of legislation to sell the State's power generators (see separate release).

Mr O'Farrell said other animals able to be culled include rabbits, hares, foxes and deer.

**Parks and reserves with areas for immediate consideration for volunteer pest control National Parks**

<i>Central NSW</i>	Abercrombie River National Park	Turon National Park
	Coolah Tops National Park	Warrumbungle National Park
	Goulburn River National Park	
<i>New England Tablelands</i>	Bald Rock National Park	Nowendoc National Park
	Basket Swamp National Park	Piliga East National Park
	Boonoo National Park	Piliga West National Park
	Gibraltar Range National Park	Oxley Wild Rivers National Park
<i>South Coast and Highlands</i>	Benambra National Park	Tallaganda National Park
	Brindabella National Park	Woomargama National Park
	Kosciuszko National Park (excluding ski fields)	Morton National Park
	Wadbilliga National Park	South East Forests National Park
<i>Outback NSW</i>	Goonoo National Park	Paroo-Darling National Park
	Gundabooka National Park	Yanga National Park
	Mallee Cliffs National Park	Murray Valley National Park
<i>Northern Rivers</i>	Yabbra National Park	Nightcap National Park
	Richmond Range National Park	
<i>Hunter/Mid North Coast</i>	Dorrigo National Park	Watagans National Park
	Myall Lakes National Park	Barrington Tops National Park

**Nature Reserves**

<i>Central NSW</i>	Macquarie Marshes Nature Reserve	Pilliga Nature Reserve
<i>New England Tablelands</i>	Gibraltar Nature Reserve	
<i>Outback NSW</i>	Big Bush Nature Reserve	Lake Urana Nature Reserve
	Boginderra Hills Nature Reserve	Langtree Nature Reserve
	Buddigower Nature Reserve	Ledknapper Nature Reserve
	Cocopara Nature Reserve	Loughnan Nature Reserve
	Coolbadgie Nature Reserve	Narrandera Nature Reserve
	Goonawarra Nature Reserve	Nearie Lake Nature Reserve
	Gubbata Nature Reserve	Nocoleche Nature Reserve
	Ingalba Nature Reserve	Nombinnie Nature Reserve
	Jerilderie Nature Reserve	Piliga Nature Reserve
	Kajuligah Nature Reserve	Pucawan Nature Reserve
	Kemendok Nature Reserve	Pulletop Nature Reserve
	Round Hill Nature Reserve	Quanda Nature Reserve
	Tarawi Nature Reserve	Yanga Nature Reserve
	The Charcoal Tank Nature Reserve	Yathong Nature Reserve

**State Conservation Areas**

<i>Central NSW</i>	Mullion Range SCA	Mount Canobolas SCA
<i>Hunter/ Mid North Coast</i>	Barrington Tops SCA	
<i>New England Tablelands</i>	Butterleaf SCA	Torrington SCA
	Cataract SCA	Watsons Creek SCA
	Mount Hyland SCA	Werrikimbe SCA
<i>Outback NSW</i>	Goonoon SCA	Paroo-Darling SCA
	Gundabooka SCA	Yanga SCA
	Nombinnie SCA	

