

Supplementary Questions

Inquiry into the Game and Feral Animal Legislation Amendment (Conservation and Hunting) Bill 2025

- 1 Your opening statement spoke of the recent review into invasive species management. This includes a case study on NSW investment in the feral pig management program. Given the relevance of pig control to this Bill, can you provide an update of the NRC's view of the success and effectiveness of this program?**

As noted in our Statewide Review of Invasive Species Management, it is difficult to discern the success and effectiveness of the LLS Feral Pig program due to a lack of consistent monitoring, evaluation and reporting. Although the number of feral pigs dispatched, baits issued to landholders and number of participants have been reported, it is unclear how effective the program has been in reducing local feral pig numbers below breeding rates or protection of important assets. We have recommended that future pest management programs take a more strategic approach, clearly identifying assets to be protected, and putting in place mechanisms to monitor and report outcomes and effectiveness rather than just outputs.

- 2 Do you believe this Bill would add to its success?**

As the NPWS Supplementary Pest Control program has shown, volunteer shooters could contribute to the success of the feral pig program, if they were incorporated into a planned strategic approach that applied ground shooting in conjunction with a range of other pest management techniques such as cross tenure aerial shooting and baiting. However, expansion of this program could be undertaken under the existing legislation, so it is unclear how this Bill would provide any additional benefit to that process.

- 3 Is a right to hunt, without a coordinated approach between recreational hunting and Government programs, consistent with effective pest species management.**

A right to hunt, without a coordinated approach between hunters and government programs is not consistent with effective pest animal management.

- 4 Is it of concern to the NRC that the currently proposed Conservation Hunting Authority has a statutory requirement to only promote the benefits of recreational hunting, rather than examining and distributing evidence in a scientific and non-biased way?**

The Natural Resources Commission values the provision of transparent science and evidence based independent advice to inform decision making while also acknowledging the value of diverse groups to advocate for their interests. The two functions should be kept distinct and have clarity of purpose.