

ITEM C

LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - SUBMISSION TO THE SENATE INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT OF FERAL DEER, PIGS AND GOATS IN AUSTRALIA

The environmental and social impact that feral deer are causing in the Illawarra is significant. Since 2011 Wollongong City Council has contributed up to \$85,000 per year to the Illawarra Wild Deer Management Program, with other government agencies and private landholders contributing to collectively match or exceed this contribution.

Despite the best efforts of all parties, the scale of the problem and the cost of operating in the urban environment exceed financial resources available.

Council has been advised that without additional funding, operational activities at the broad landscape scale will not be able to continue.

South East Local Lands Services (SELLS) has estimated that a sustainable deer management program for the Illawarra would cost a minimum \$400,000 per year. Representations have been made to the State government to commit to funding a co-contribution of up to 50% of the program costs up to a maximum \$200,000 per year.

Operational activity is still occurring on Council and Water Catchment land, however without additional Government support the deer numbers cannot be managed effectively and the impact of these feral pests in the Illawarra is likely to increase.

It is important that the extent of the deer problem in the Illawarra is raised with all levels of Government. A submission from Wollongong City Council to the Senate inquiry will assist in highlighting this issue.

RECOMMENDATION

I move that -

- 1 Wollongong City Council, as a matter of urgency, make a submission and offer to appear at the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications inquiry into the impact of feral deer, pigs and goats in Australia.
- 2 In the submission to the inquiry, Wollongong City Council emphasise:
 - a The extent of the feral deer problem in the Illawarra.
 - b The environmental and social impact of feral animals, especially deer, in the Illawarra.
 - c The inadequacy of Government funding to manage the feral deer problem in the Illawarra.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.