



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Windsor Calls For National Summit On Feral Animals

In seconding a motion in Federal Parliament yesterday the Independent Member for New England, Mr Tony Windsor, has called on the Federal Government to consider bringing all those concerned about the existence of feral animals to a national summit to debate a national approach.

The motion moved by fellow Independent Peter Andren read as follows:

Mr ANDREN (Calare) (3.25 p.m.) — I move:

That this House:

- (1) recognises that feral pigs pose a threat to the nation due to their impact on the welfare of livestock, damage to the environment and natural biodiversity, and potential to harbour exotic animal diseases and zoonoses;*
- (2) notes estimates that the population of feral pigs in Australia could be as high as 23 million; and*
- (3) calls on the Government to develop a nationally coordinated approach to the feral pig issue.*

Mr Windsor said, “The motion received Bipartisan support by representatives of all sides of politics with Peter Andren, Independent moving the motion, Tony Windsor, Independent seconding the motion, and the following members speaking in support of the motion, David Tollner, Country Liberal from the Northern Territory, John Cobb, Nationals NSW, Bruce Billson, Liberal Party Victoria and Michael Hatton, ALP NSW.”

Mr Windsor seconded and spoke in support of the motion:

Mr WINDSOR (New England) (3.36 p.m.) — It was with pleasure that I seconded the motion put forward by the member for Calare that promotes a national campaign in relation to feral pig control. If ever there were a need for the nation to take the lead on a particular domestic issue within the agricultural sector, it is on this issue, particularly in regional Australia. There is a need to have a national program, as is being promoted by the Cattle Council, the Australian Veterinary Association and many other groups.

Mr Windsor concluded by saying, “If we are serious about the protection of internal Australia—and we seem to be very serious about our external protective mechanisms and allowing, or not allowing, people to come to our nation — we should be very serious about the threats within, particularly the spread of disease, the impacts on the environment that the Member for Calare mentioned, and all the other economic disadvantages that are incurred by allowing these feral animals to go about their business as they are now, without a national approach to the problem.”

“The New England electorate is typical of all of rural Australia in that a variety of feral animals are in need of broad scale integrated control programs with the problems of dingo attacks on livestock near Tenterfield the most recent example of this problem.”

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