



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**TONY WINDSOR MP**  
**INDEPENDENT**  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND

Shop 5  
259 Peel Street  
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

**All Mail:** PO Box 963  
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

**Ph:** (02) 6761 3080  
**Toll Free:** 1300 301 839  
**Fax:** (02) 6761 3380  
**e-mail:** [Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au](mailto:Tony.Windsor.MP@aph.gov.au)  
**Web Page:** [www.tonywindsor.com.au](http://www.tonywindsor.com.au)

## Media Release

30 November 2005

### Pest animals put in the spotlight

Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor believes a report on the problems associated with pest animals released on Monday by the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee has put a spotlight on the issue.

“Pest animals are a huge problem for Australian farmers and cost the Australian economy over \$700 million annually.

Whether the pest animals are wild dogs, feral pigs, foxes, rabbits, goats, deer, cane toads, donkeys or camels, they cause much damage to agricultural production and the environment.

The Report by the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee has really put the spotlight on the problem of pest animals for our communities,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor supports the 47 recommendations of the Report – ‘Taking control: a national approach to pest animals’ and will now be working with his fellow members of the Agriculture Committee to have them acted upon.

“There are 47 recommendations in the report with a major recommendation being to call for a National Pest Animals and Weeds Committee charged with the task of achieving a consistent approach to the problem across Australia.

This is in keeping with the national biosecurity strategy that is currently being developed to improve Australia’s response to pest animals and weeds and includes improving quarantine measures to reduce the possibility of pest species entering Australia,” Mr Windsor said.

Other recommendations include increasing funding for control and eradication of pest animals, employment of doggers and pest animal controllers, continued availability of 1080 poison to landholders, encouragement of state and territory governments to better manage pest animals on their lands, commercial use of pest animals for harvesting and hunting and the Invasive Animals Co-operative Research Centre be tasked to co-ordinate pest animal research across the country.

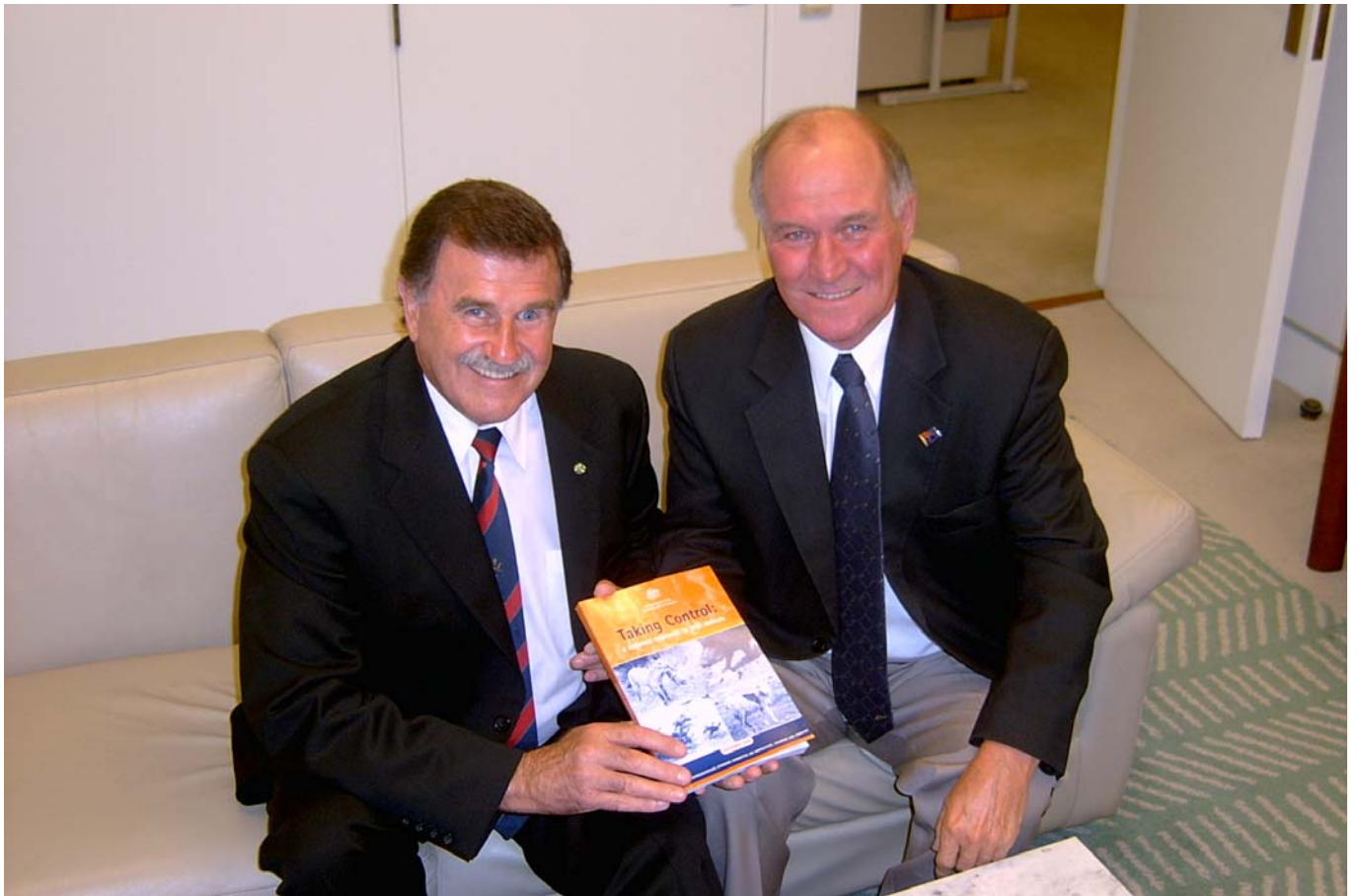
“The issue of pest animals needs a higher priority of attention and concerted action taken at all levels to reduce their impact on our environment and economy.

This Report sets out the way forward and I look forward to working with others in its implementation,” Mr Windsor said

**Photo attached: Mr Alby Schultz MP Member for Hume – Chairman House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry discussing the Report on Pest Animals with fellow Committee Member – Tony Windsor MP Member for New England**

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**For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868**



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