




Speech By
Shane Knuth

MEMBER FOR HILL

Record of Proceedings, 21 April 2021

ADJOURNMENT

Feral Pigs

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (7.19 pm): I want to give a big shout-out to our recreational feral pig hunters in Queensland. Feral pigs are the biggest environmental vandals in this country. They are worse than cane toads or feral cats. They dig up turtle eggs, kill cassowaries, and cause hundreds of millions of dollars in crop damage and massive destruction to our native wildlife. It is estimated there are 24 million feral pigs across Australia.

Last year a study was conducted by Australian Pork as part of the federal government's Feral Pig Action Plan. In a news article the study coordinator, Dr Heather Channon, stated that 70 per cent of feral pigs need to be culled annually to keep the population size from expanding. She also said that if the culling of feral pigs stopped, there would be an increase of up to 85 per in the feral pig population each year. I table the article from *Queensland Country Life*.

Tabled paper: Article from *Queensland Country Life* online, dated 24 July 2020, titled 'Feral pigs: \$100m damages bill only tip of the iceberg' [539](#).

If feral pigs are not kept in check we will see widespread devastation to our farming industries, the spread of Panama disease, and the destruction of our native fauna and flora. Governments have failed to address the feral pig problem, but thank goodness we have recreational feral pig hunters. Not only do they reduce pig numbers in their own time and at their own expense but they also contribute to the local economy; for example, by purchasing vehicles, four wheelers, fuel, camping gear, pig crates, and the list goes on.

However, the government has now announced a review of Queensland's Animal Care and Protection Act with the RSPCA. This is straight after a Toowoomba woman was fined \$5,000 for a video of her dog latching onto a feral pig. There are huge concerns from farmers and industry bodies that this review is being used to mask the introduction of more regulation to limit the cull of feral pigs. Any targeting of feral pig hunting will spark a massive uproar. Instead of targeting recreational pig hunters, we should be rewarding them with a bounty program and giving them permits to access national parks and state forests, which are breeding grounds for feral pigs. Our rural communities are warning the government to listen to the people in rural and regional Queensland rather than a minority of southern radicals who display more sympathy for the feral pig than our native wildlife. Once again I give a big shout-out to our recreational pig hunters.