



The Hon. Robert Brown MLC

Parliament of New South Wales
Legislative Council
Shooters and Fishers Party



MEDIA RELEASE

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Shooters and Fishers Party MLC Robert Brown has criticised the hypocrisy of the State Government's announcement that it will take two years to draw up a plan to control feral goats in New South Wales.

Mr Brown said he was amazed Environment Minister Sartor announced today that feral goats are one of the biggest threats to biodiversity and threatened species after foxes and cats, but would do nothing about it until 2012.

"My Game and Feral Animal Control Amendment Bill 2009 was all about having these feral animals controlled in our National Parks – but the Government has refused to support it, because it fears upsetting the Greens and the preference deals it is banking on in March.

"My Bill would see volunteer hunters culling these feral animals from remote national parks.

"The system already works in our State Forests, and I see it as a natural extension of the program to have it operate in National Parks.

"Mr Sartor says 46,000 feral goats were removed from national parks by the National Parks and Wildlife Service in the past year – but at what cost?

"We already know that when they shot pigs on Toorale it cost about \$30 per pig.

"There is no doubt the NPWS is grossly inefficient at culling feral animals, and it is time Mr Sartor agreed to let the Game Council volunteer hunter system help the environment.

"The Minister is talking about erecting goat proof fencing to keep them away from watering points in Western New South Wales, in an effort to stop them wandering into National Parks.

"Why not do the job properly and immediately, by having conservation hunters cull them as our Bill proposed, rather than take another two years to draw up a plan to control them – the environment cannot wait until then to have firm action taken to remove the feral goats.

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