



Troy Grant
Deputy Premier of NSW
Minister for Justice and Police

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 25 February 2016

FAIR GOAT FOR THE WEST

A rise in reports of stock theft, particularly feral goats in Western NSW, has sparked a review into trespass, poaching and illegal hunting to be led by former NSW Police Assistant Commissioner Stephen Bradshaw on behalf of the Rural Crime Advisory Group.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Justice and Police Troy Grant said there have been multiple incidents of goat theft in the past 12 months and the Government wants to ensure that ownership of livestock is clear and that those who steal livestock are held accountable.

“The law allows for up to 14 years’ imprisonment for the theft of livestock but it can often be difficult to establish ownership and therefore prove theft,” Mr Grant said.

“The NSW Government wants to ensure that our network of dedicated rural crime investigators have all the support they need to tackle this problem.”

Nationals Member for Barwon Kevin Humphries said goats are valuable and low-cost supplementary stock for landowners and that makes them prime targets for poachers.

“It’s important to have clear and effective trespass laws, otherwise poachers will continue to capitalise on these valuable animals,” Mr Humphries said.

“The penalties for trespass, poaching and illegal hunting must match the crime to be an effective deterrent.”

Chair of the Rural Crime Advisory Group and Member for Orange Andrew Gee said Mr Bradshaw, who is a member of the Rural Crime Advisory Group, had the experience to lead the review and would draw on the expertise of the entire group.

“This is a major issue for landowners and the review shows this Government is serious about tackling this issue,” Mr Gee said.

Mr Bradshaw will consult with NSW Farmers, local landowners, the RCAG, the Department of Primary Industries, local Police and other affected stakeholders before reporting back to the Deputy Premier by June 2016.

MEDIA: Jarrad Schwark 0429 234 308

Terms of Reference

The review will address the following questions:

1. Are the current offences and penalties relating to stock theft and trespass adequate to address the impact of these acts on primary producers and rural businesses? If not, what amendments could be made to address this?
2. Does the current system under which stock is identified, transferred and sold effectively protect the property interests of primary producers? If not, what amendments could be made to address this?
3. Are police and staff of other relevant agencies appropriately empowered and trained to investigate and prosecute stock theft? If not, what amendments could be made to address this?
4. What can NSW learn from other Australian jurisdictions in terms of improving our response to stock theft?