



MINUTES

Public Reserves Advisory Committee Meeting

5 March 2019

**MINUTES OF NORFOLK ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL
PUBLIC RESERVES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE NORFOLK ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
ON TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2019 AT 4:00PM**

PRESENT:**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Name	Representative	Present	Apology
John McCoy	Deputy Mayor	X	
Lisle Snell	Councillor	X	
David Evans	Community	X	
Marg Christian	Norfolk Flora and Fauna		X
Bruce Taylor	Group Manager Services	X	
Lotta Jackson	General Manager		X
Aaron Graham	Norfolk Island Cattle Association		X
Nigel Greenup	Park Manager, Norfolk Island National Park and Botanic Garden	X	

1 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed the committee to the meeting and opened the meeting at 4:05pm.

2 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Name	Agenda Item	Type	Nature of Interest
	Nil	Conflict of Interest	

3 CONFIRMATION & BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

Confirmation: Moved Nigel Greenup; Seconded: Lisle Snell

Business Arising: Nil

4 REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

Resolution 179/2018 of November 2018 stated:

1. That the Minutes of the Public Reserves Advisory Committee Meeting held on 6 November 2018 be received and noted.
2. That the number of feral chooks removed from public reserves in the past 12 months be published, and feedback from the community be requested on their preferred method of removal.

A Media Release issued 18 January 2019 informed the public that a survey relating to the culling of feral chickens would be available from 18 January to 15 February 2019; this was made available electronically (Survey Monkey) and in hardcopy format (Customer Care).

Respondents were advised to tick one option relating to the preferred method of removal; additional space was available for comments.

Demographic Analysis

Overall, 87 responses were received, 53 of these via Survey Monkey and 34 received as hardcopy documents.

The instructions on the survey were for respondents to tick (select) one option; however, of the 34 hardcopy responses received, three (3) responses had ticked all three options and six (6) responses had ticked two options; four (4) responses were invalid for other reasons. In this survey it is considered that of the 34 hard copy responses received only 21 of these responses were valid, this is to align with restrictions placed on the electronic survey, which only allowed the selection of one option, making all 53 electronic responses valid.

The responses are summarised in Table 1, with 66.2 per cent of respondents indicating that shooting is the preferred option for control of the feral chook population.

Table 1

Valid Responses	Total	Trap	Shoot	Bait
Hardcopy	21	6	14	1
Survey Monkey	53	18	35	0
Total	74	24	49	1

Percentages	Total	Trap	Shoot	Bait
Hardcopy	100%	28.6%	66.7%	4.8%
Survey Monkey	100%	34.0%	66.0%	0.0%
Total	100%	32.4%	66.2%	1.4%

A second data set was analysed and it included those surveys in which respondents ticked two (2) or more options. In this data set each response was treated as separate and thus valid; interestingly, the result is similar with 61.1 per cent of responses indicating shooting as the preferred option for control of the feral chook population (refer Table 2).

Table 2

Responses	Total	Trap	Shoot	Bait
Hardcopy	42	15	23	4
Survey Monkey	53	18	35	0
Total	95	33	58	4

Percentages	Total	Trap	Shoot	Bait
Hardcopy	100%	35.7%	54.8%	9.5%
Survey Monkey	100%	34.0%	66.0%	0.0%
Total	100%	34.7%	61.1%	4.2%

Comments

Additional comments received from the community are below:

Trapping

- Concerns that domestic animals could be trapped.
- Concerns that traps are not checked regularly and this could result in animals suffering.

Shooting

- Concerns in relation to the effect on other wildlife.
- Concerns around personal trauma of hearing gun shots.
- Concerns for ineffective shooting.

Baiting

- Concerns in relation to the effect on other wildlife and the environment.
- Concerns that domestic animals will be impacted.

Other suggestions for Council to consider include:

- That if trapping or shooting is the preferred method then signs should be erected to advise members of the public of the times that this will occur.
- To cull in autumn and winter months and leave chickens to eradicate the army grub in the other months.
- Consider an integrated control program that involves all three methods.
- Consider not culling chickens at all.
- Consider culling only roosters.

Despite concerns for all three methods the shooting of feral chickens remains the preferred method as it has the least impact on the environment and on domestic pets.

The Motion that the Report be noted was:

Moved: Lisle Snell; Seconded: David Evans

Carried.

5 ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Manager of Norfolk Island National Park advised tarla bird control is continuing; statistics from the cat-camera survey should be available at the end of March, and the appointment of a Cat Control Officer is imminent. Work of the officer and the NIRC Pest Officer will complement each other.

6 CLOSE OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday 2 April 2019

The Chair closed the meeting at 4:50pm