



## **Changing times in pest species attitudes**

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Today in NSW wild dogs, feral pigs, wild rabbits, some locust species, and in some areas foxes, are declared pest species. However, these are not the only species that have been targeted for control in NSW since European settlement.

The Goulburn area which is located on the Southern Tablelands of NSW has not only a rich history for livestock production but farmers that are keen on protecting pasture and stock through pest control. The following is a recent history on how some attitudes have changed.

On 5 February 1885, the Goulburn Herald reported that the Goulburn Pasture Protection Board (PP Board) had paid for the scalps of 56 761 wallabies, 18 920 kangaroos, 20 native dogs and 10 pups amounting to 931 16/18 pounds.

In 1959 the state government declares an open season for three months in parishes of Goulburn for kangaroos, wallaroos and swamp wallabies.

The Goulburn PP Board received correspondence in 1960 that the Department of Agriculture had decided that wombats were no longer declared as noxious; however in the same article Mr Cooper of the Goulburn PP Board stated "I don't suppose there's a more noxious animal in the state".

In 1935 a fund of 30 pounds was provided to the Goulburn PP Board from the Department of Agricultural for the scalps of crows and eagle hawks. Crows scalps were valued at 4d, while eagle hawks scalps were valued at 2d per head. In 1940, 716 crows were paid for along with 19 eagles but in 1941 there were only 444 crows and 7 eagles paid for. A comment was made that the crows had not become scarcer; it was just that rabbit skins were more worthwhile!

Obviously the species declared as pests have changed over the years. Most of the above animals are now protected. If you have any concerns about native animals contact your local National Parks and Wildlife Service office. The species currently declared as pests in NSW are wild dogs, feral pigs, wild rabbits and a number of locust species.

The LHPA can assist in the control of these pests by providing advice, assistance and materials including suitable bait, traps, etc. The LHPA has over 150 years of experience in pest management programs, so make sure you contact your local LHPA office or ranger for further information and advice.