

Vermin and Noxious Weeds (Poison Baits) Bill

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Clause 1 sets out the purpose of the Act.

Clause 2 provides for the Act to come into operation on the day on which it receives Royal Assent.

Clause 3 inserts a definition of pest animal into the Act. The definition excludes protected wildlife and species of special conservation significance protected under the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**.

Clause 4 provides for special powers of entry onto land for officers to ensure that Regulations concerning poison baits are adhered to. Currently officers may only enter properties to inspect for the presence of vermin or noxious weeds.

Clause 5

Sub-clause (1) sets out the powers of the Act with respect to making Regulations controlling the procedures for using poison baits, including: advertising or notification of intent to bait, use of goods and equipment, types and composition of baits, public safety, and the precautions and procedures required to prevent the killing of non-target species.

Sub-clause (2) provides for a range of duties and powers to be conferred on any person for the purposes of Regulations made under the Act.

Clause 6 amends section 52 of the **Drugs, Poison and Controlled Substances Act 1981** so that poison baits may be laid in accordance with Regulations under Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act, without an offence being committed under that section.

