It is distressing to see the government touting its use of excruciatingly painful poisons as a solution to an alleged problem with Australia’s naturalised wild pigs (How the ACT government is culling pigs, CT 27 June 2018).

Culling, by poisoning or any other means, invariably results in higher, not lower populations of fast-breeding animals. As older animals with established territories are killed, younger, more fertile animals, and many more of them because they are smaller, survive to rapidly fill those territories. Sustained lethal control maintains these unnaturally high populations in perpetuity.

It is clear, therefore, that ACT governments does not, in fact, have the slightest inclination to eradicate or reduce wild pig populations. There are two possible reasons for this. Either they want to maintain a population of wild pigs to entertain the Territory’s recreational hunters, or it is deliberate scapegoating of the defenceless to distract attention from the government’s unmitigated failure to protect the environment. Scapegoating of the innocent has been a standard tactic of governments down all the ages of human history.

We see the same viciousness in the government’s treatment of other fast-breeding, naturalised wild animals such as cats, foxes and rabbits, as well as slow-breeding, late-maturing native animals like kangaroos where the impact is not a sustained higher population but a population declining towards extinction.

Frankie Seymour

Animal Protectors Alliance

Government Sells Canberrans a Pig in a Poke

The article by Brett McNamara (The Chronicle/Queanbeyan Age - Parks take a poke at pigs 3/7/18) reveals the ACT Government is refusing to evolve, still stuck in our colonial past that culling is the only way to manage the environment.

Culling, by poisoning or any other lethal means, invariably results in higher, not lower populations of fast-breeding animals. As older animals with established territories are killed, younger, more fertile animals, and many more of them because they are smaller, survive to rapidly fill those territories.

Sustained lethal control maintains these unnaturally high populations in perpetuity as explicitly admitted in the article. The ACT Government has been touting its use of excruciating painful poisons as a solution to an alleged problem with Australia’s naturalised wild pigs for over 30 years. Instead, it is universally accepted by wildlife experts the most effective solution to reduce fast breeding animals is fertility control.

It is clear, therefore, that ACT governments does not, in fact, have the slightest inclination to eradicate or reduce wild pig populations. There are two possible reasons for this. Either they want to maintain a population of wild pigs to entertain the Territory’s recreational hunters, or it is deliberate scapegoating of the defenceless to distract attention from the government’s unmitigated failure to protect the environment.

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Robyn Soxsmith

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