

Media Release

The Hon Ros Spence MP

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Treaty and First Peoples

Minister for Community Sport

Minister for Carers and Volunteers



Thursday, 12 February 2026

COMMUNITIES LEADING THE CHARGE AGAINST INVASIVE PESTS

The Allan Labor Government is strengthening Victoria's frontline against invasive pests, backing Community Pest Management Groups to drive decisive, community-led projects across the state.

Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence today announced the recipients of the Partnerships Against Pests grants program – empowering communities to lead the fight against invasive pest species at local and regional levels.

The Victorian Blackberry Taskforce will receive \$76,553 over the next 12 months to collaborate with communities, delivering innovative and practical solutions to manage blackberry infestations.

The Victorian Rabbit Action Network will receive \$44,900 to continue operating the Community Leadership in Rabbit Management Course, along with \$31,400 over two years for a rabbit exclusion fencing video series.

A further \$99,000 has been allocated over two years for a directory to manage public enquiries for rabbits, gorse and serrated tussock.

The Victorian Serrated Tussock Working Party has also been allocated \$47,500 over two years to assist with business partnerships for financial sustainability. In total, \$347,753 will support the strategic expansion of these initiatives, including improved planning and long-term sustainability.

The Community Pest Management Groups are known for delivering strong results where they matter most – on the ground and in local communities – helping recipients embed their expertise through local leaders and champions, educate community leaders within areas and allow the groups to maintain a focus on state-wide issues.

For more information and a full list of previous recipients, visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/funds-grants-programs/partnerships-against-pests-grants

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Ros Spence

“These groups are leading the fight against pests where it matters most – in local communities – and this funding strengthens their ability to educate, engage and act.”

“Educating communities and empowering communities is vital in our fight against pests, that’s why these grants matter because they give Victorians the knowledge and tools to take action and protect their land.”

Quotes attributable to Victorian Rabbit Action Network Chair Gerald Leach

“The Partnership Against Pests grant program has enabled the Victorian Rabbit Action Network to reach more communities and organisations. This helps build the knowledge and relationships people need for effective long-term rabbit control in Victoria.”

“It has also has greatly increased our capacity to expand our community services by providing funding to train 19 new community rabbit control mentors.”