

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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I am a fifth generation farmer in our property in the far south east corner of NSW. My husband and I purchased a parcel of land of my parents farm in 2021. In our very first year of operating our prime lamb and beef cattle operation we were plagued with wild dog attacks during our main joining period for our ewes. We had to redirect our budget so as to try and establish a wild dog exclusion fence so as our livelihood wouldn't be completely diminished. Being only relative young and just getting on our feet after securing a substantial loan to allow us to buy the parcel of land our funds couldn't stretch in that first year to entirely fence our boundary on to neighbouring bushland. We relied heavily on LLS dog trappers and National Park dog trappers. We worked closely with these personnel who have extensive and vast skills in carrying out their job. Through vigilant monitoring with cameras and track checks the dog trappers managed to catch 4 dogs and the impact on our stock ceased for some time. In 2025 we again came under attack at the peak of lambing. It was absolutely soul destroying undertaking daily stock runs to monitor lambing only to find ewes standing over dead lambs that had been bitten and traumatised by wild dogs. We carried out assessments on lamb carcasses daily to be sure it was dogs. The bite pattern was consistent. The dogs weren't killing for food they were killing for fun. Over a 4 week period we lost in excess of 50 lambs and 12 ewes that we needed up euthanising due to attack wounds. We again worked tirelessly playing Shepard to our flock and with the dog trappers and again managed to trap and destroy 3 dogs before the losses stopped. We have again redirected our budget funds to concentrate on exclusion fencing to help in our battle to stay viable when wild dogs pressure seem to keep rising. As a producer and as a generational farmer who wants to see the one cared for and our kids and their kids see the fruits of life in the land we beg you to ensure resources are there for us to help manage wild dogs and also other vermin crippling to agriculture including pigs and deer. Until you've lived through the gruesome attacks on defenceless livestock you really can't make judgement on the management of these wild dogs.