

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Wanaaring Pest Management Group

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Wanaaring Pest Management Group would like to make a submission to the inquiry into Dingoes on National Parks. In particular we would like to address the key focus area to investigate baiting on these public areas.

Whilst this may be feasible in some Public conservation areas it would severely hamper any control mechanism available to National Parks in our region. This would have devastating impacts to the financial and mental wellbeing of farming families whose grazing properties neighbour or are in the close proximity to these National Parks.

The Wanaaring Pest Management Group helps co-ordinate and manage the control of Dingoes / wild dogs over an area of 2,834,500 hectares. 18% of this area is now owned by the NPWS. The National Parks have been an important and integral participant in our group baiting programmes. They do this to meet their Biosecurity Act duties but also because they are aware of the consequences that not baiting on the peripheral sections of the Parks can have on the viability of their neighbours operations.

Whilst it is acknowledged that stable / undisturbed dingoes / wild dogs in National Parks have conservation values. We would also like to acknowledge that these populations can also become destabilised under a number of conditions.(such as drought, hybridisation, high litter survival). In those circumstances their pack structures alter and the potential for them to maul and kill small livestock on neighbouring grazing properties increases.

To remove the ability of the NPWS to continue to use baiting as a control measure in such instances takes an important option out of their integrated management response.

Grazing small animals in the Wanaaring district and for that matter the Western Division of NSW has been happening for the last 160 years. Long before any National Parks were established in the area. Over this period the dingo / wild dog populations have not become extinct. However, it remains a constant task to keep dingo and wild dog numbers to a level where they do not impact seriously on grazing operations. The use of baiting as part of an integrated management program on a nil tenure approach including the National Parks in our area is vital.