

**Submission
No 155**

INQUIRY INTO DINGOES IN NATIONAL PARKS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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NSW, Animal Welfare Committee

Dear Committee

I am seriously concerned with the welfare of my livestock, in particular my sheep. Between 1999 and 2003 I lost well over 600 sheep and lambs to wild dog-dingo predation and again in 2020 I lost over 100 sheep to wild dogs. Not only did we suffer these kills but in a lot of cases they were mauled, some with back legs chewed out and others with their guts let out to the point of dragging on the ground. THIS is a serious animal welfare issue to me. In addition to the financial losses we have incurred from wild dog predation there is the mental health and welfare struggle we have to cope with when we see our sheep and lambs torn to pieces by wild dogs. See file photos of damage to sheep bitten by wild dogs. These animals all died as a result of the dog bites.

My properties are on the eastern escarpment of Monaro, in places adjoining Deua National Park and within easy dog-jog range of Gourock National Park and Badja Swamps Nature Reserve.

We have reduced wild dog predation since 2020 by installing, along with my neighbours, over 15 km of electric exclusion fences. There is a 1.9 km gap with no exclusion fence, a boundary between Deua N.P. and a "bush block" owner who is not interested in fencing his block. East Monaro Wild Dog group along with Cooma LLS have been trying for over 6 years now to get National Parks to close this gap in the fence but can get no satisfaction from this process.

At the present time there are serious and ongoing incursions of wild dog attacks on sheep in the Jerangle, Shannons Flat and Bungarby areas. There are also large swathes of country which have been destocked of sheep over the years, and in some cases for many years due to people being unable to bear the financial and psychological strains of trying to cope with wild dogs attacks on their sheep and livelihoods.

Dingos, and wild dogs are by no means all dingos, many are hybrids, are NOT native to Australia, but naturalised, having originated in Asia. So why should they be protected when they are NOT NATIVE ANIMALS.

When wild dogs are not rampaging and killing domestic livestock they predate on small native marsupials, such as wallabies, wallaroos, quolls and bandicoots, to name a few, driving these small species towards extinction. They also prey on native birds, such as lyrebirds in our area.

I feel as graziers we are UNDER SEIGE, from wild dogs, feral pigs and deer, all coming out of National Parks. It is my firm belief that National Parks should be fencing in THEIR WILDLIFE in with EXCLUSION FENCES, it should NOT be the responsibility of private land holders to keep National Parks "livestock" off our properties.



Ernie Constance
Property Owner/Manager