



26th April 2004

Dear Sir/Madam

I've lived in Benambra area most of my life and I cannot remember a period when I've seen more wild dogs in the last 45 years. It must be decimating the remaining native wildlife if an average dog eats 800gm of meat to sustain life. Around the close vicinity of my land there have been 22 dogs caught by the AFTER FIRE TRAPPER 5 dogs shot by me, 4 dogs shot by my neighbour which equals 31 dogs in the last 6 weeks.

On the average rule of thumb there are 10 remaining dogs not seen or killed this equates to 273 kilograms of meat per day or 27 possums or 13 wallabies or 8 kangaroos or 11 fat lambs if the fence isn't shorted out. Local knowledge says that bitches that whelped after the fire are already grandmothers which means in my area alone there are now 465 more dogs.

It has come to my attention that we are about to lose our most effective tool in controlling the problem. Our local trapper that was employed after the fires for however long he was needed. At this point in time DPI have no permanent on staff trapper physically on the job. So what is thinking behind it or has the government forgotten about its responsibility's.

Last but not least who or why have our local wild dog advisory group and our dogman and their CMO'S been told not to put forward submissions for the inquiry into the impact of pest animals on agriculture by the secretary of agriculture, fisheries and forestry committee. I think they would have important information to impart and access to a substantial amount of statistics like there have been more than 700 dogs caught in our local vicinity since christmas

Yours Faithfully

Robert Lee