



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**MEDIA RELEASE**

*Issued: 10 August 2004*

**Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

## **Impact of Pest Animals on Agriculture**

# **Wild dog control advocate to meet Committee**

**Public hearing in Canberra, 11 August 2004**

Wild dog control advocate **Noelene Franklin** of Brindabella (near Canberra) will meet the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee on Wednesday 11 August 2004.

Noelene Franklin is a landholder whose family has a long association with the Brindabella area. In her submission (no. 35 on the inquiry website), Ms Franklin argues that wild dogs are causing unacceptable carnage of domestic and native wild animals across most of Australia. She believes wild dogs are a direct threat to production and represent a serious threat to the health of livestock and people. She also warns the devastating toll of native wildlife by dogs also has implications for the fire cycle in conservation areas and state forests. The lack of grazing by natives or livestock causes a build up of fuel, making fires more frequent and devastating, with the inevitable further depletion of stock and native animals.

Ms Franklin believes that these problems are a direct result of government policy and management practices on public lands. "Park authorities are clearly experimenting with our wildlife, our livestock, our farmers' lives and futures," she said. "Once national parks are declared they deteriorate as conservation entities with ferals and fire spilling out over the region." She is calling for a substantial increase in the resources devoted to pest animal control, the resumption of aerial baiting on public land, and allowing controlled grazing on public land to reduce fire hazards.

The Committee Chair, Mrs Kay Elson MP, said: "Ms Franklin's submission highlights the extent and complexity of the wild dog problem in Australia, and the urgent need for effective action. It is incumbent on governments to listen to the concerns of landholders and take the action necessary to address the issue." Mrs Elson noted that the inquiry had already sparked widespread interest, with over eighty submissions received to date and more expected.

Ms Franklin is a member of the Brindabella and Wee Jasper Valleys Wild Dog/Fox Working Group, which produced the Cooperative Wild Dog/Fox Control Plan, now regarded as a model across New South Wales. She is also active on the Victorian and New South Wales Wild Dog Control Coordinating Committee (submission no. 66 on the inquiry website).

### **PUBLIC HEARING—Pest Animal Inquiry—Canberra**

**WHO:** Ms Noelene Franklin.  
**WHERE:** Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra.  
**WHEN:** Wednesday 11 August 2004, 5pm.

Public and media most welcome

For **media comment**, please contact:

Mrs Kay Elson, Chair of the House Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Committee on (02) 6277 4274

For **background information**, including the full terms of reference and copies of submissions, please contact the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4500 or visit the Inquiry website at [www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/pestanimals/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/primind/pestanimals/index.htm)