

0260710287

SUBMISSION NO. 53

FAX COVER SHEET

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SUBMISSION
INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT ON
AGRICULTURE OF PEST ANIMALS.

SEND TO <i>INQUIRY INTO IMPACT</i> Company name <i>ON AGRICULTURE</i> <i>OF PEST ANIMALS</i>	From <i>BRIAN FRASER</i>
Attention <i>Mrs Kay Elson MP.</i>	Date <i>18-5-04</i>
Office location <i>CANBERRA.</i>	Office location <i>HEATHERLIE</i>
Fax number <i>02 6277 4435</i>	Phone number <i>02 60 710 226</i>

- Urgent
- Reply ASAP
- Please comment
- Please review
- For your information

Total pages, including cover: _____

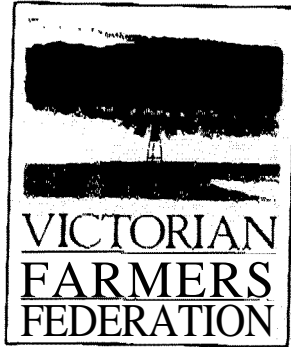
COMMENTS

Dear Mrs Elson

Our property adjoins Crown Land on the Southern Boundary. It is some 7500 acres and we run 7000 Fine & Superfine Sheep as well as cattle. It is located just North of the Dartmouth Dam and since that began to fill in the late 70's the dog problem has gone from perhaps one a year to 35 being caught in 12m 15 minutes of our workshed 2 years ago. We have spent tens of thousands of dollars on electric fencing and have lost tens of thousands of dollars in sheep losses and tenders in wool. The electric fence has been a great benefit and work done by dogmen excellent but the task will now be above us all. The Victorian Government attitude is a joke and the dogmen's role being impeded by Snobling and Jealousy as well as supervision by inexperienced staff. The farming community in this state needs help and help quickly. Brian D. Fraser Director and Part Owner.

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WODONGA U.F.F.
DISTRICT COUNCIL.



115
"Heatherlie"
Tullongatta 3700
Victoria

16.5.04.

PH 0260 710 226
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Submission
FOR

Secretary: *[Signature]*
RECEIVED
21 MAY 2004
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES
AND FORESTRY

IN QUERY INTO THE IMPACT ON AGRICULTURE
OF PEST ANIMALS.

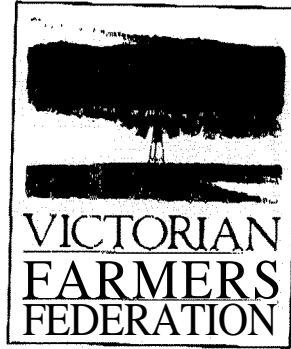
It is requested that the Committee consider having
a public hearing in Tullongatta and that the
Wodonga District U.F.F. Council be able to
present some oral evidence.

Several years ago the Wodonga District
Council initiated the formation of what was
called the Victorian and New South Wales
Wild Dog Control Coordinating Committee.
This came about because of an attempt to draw
attention to the increasing number of Wild Dogs
and the lack of recognition of the problem, and
the lack of cross border liaison with control
methods. Other pests such as Foxes, wombats
Wild Pigs exacerbate the problem with wild
dog control, and they all have a serious impact
on sheep flocks in the high country.



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As a result of the endeavours of the V+NSW.W.D.C.C. the National Wild Dog Summit was organised in Wodonga on 22-2-02. There was an attendance of over 400 people from all States, some 18 politicians and representatives from numerous Government Bodies and Agencies.

An outcome of this summit was, later in the year a deputation to Dr David Kemp, and it is great to see that this enquiry is the next step. A copy of the recommendations of the Summit has been included in the submission from the V+NSW.W.D.C.C.

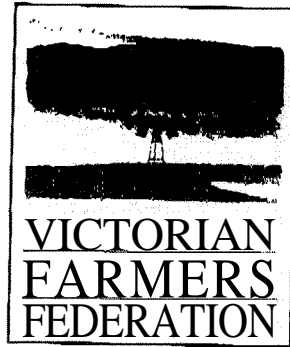
It should be noted that one of these was a recommendation for a Federally funded Apprenticeship scheme to train people as Pest Animal Control Officers with the ability to travel widely, be skilled in their field and be able to move into areas where the locality has a bad problem to help fix that problem.



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It would also enhance the skills of other control officers in their own localities.

Since the Summit whilst all the problems were highlighted and discussed very little has changed and the problems have become worse.

In a number of instances additional funds have been poured into the control programmes that have not altered for years, and the problem continues to escalate.

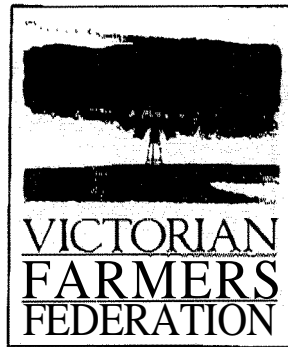
History has shown that in the case of Wild Dogs there is a solution, in the early Thirties 2 dogmen with boxes and 200 traps started with large dog numbers in some cases packs of dogs and at the end of the 2nd world war had the country from Corryong to Mt Pigeon almost free of Wild Dogs. This they achieved with a combination of Trapping & Poisoning. We now have a third method to use Electric fencing in conjunction,



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but unfortunately the great benefit of poisoning has been diluted to such an extent it is not effective. The fear of losing a small number of native animals has created this situation, but the increase in Wild Dog numbers will make sure there are no Native animals left at all. Farmers see this occurring all the time in bush areas adjacent to their farms.

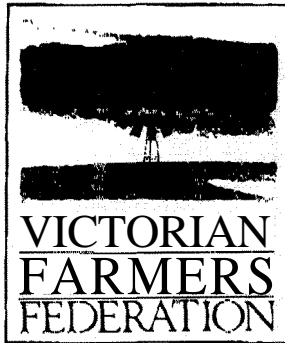
The various Governments as Land Managers of Public Land must take responsibility for the control of the pests that breed and emanate from that land just as farmers have to for their dogs and animals causing problems.

The spread of Hydatids and Neosporum are directly connected to dogs and present a very serious health problem in Public Land.



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The time has arrived when the poisoning of Wild Dogs must occur with methods that are known to work in areas where traditionally dogs breed so that trapping can be developed to a proactive state not reactive, with no hope of any progress because dogs breed quicker than current methods of control can cope.

In the situation of Cross Border Coordination being essential in N.S.W. Victorian areas of the Murray Davis and beyond, unless this happens it is just a case of spending good money after bad.

It is hoped as a result of the ongoing we can reach a situation where we can begin to overcome a problem of great National Importance, not continue to do what has not been successful in recent years.

Brian G. Fraser
Chairman
Western District VFF Council.



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