

TO  
Committee Secretary  
House of Representatives  
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry

I wish to make a submission to the Committee relative to the impact of wild dogs and also rabbits in the area of Glastonbury in the Sire of Cooloola in Queensland. Our property is located in a narrow valley and is surrounded by forestry and national park.

#### WILD DOGS

Being surrounded by forest, there is ample space for dogs to breed and camp without the scrutiny of visual sighting. These dogs travel from one forest to another across the pasture lands used for raising cattle and as a consequence are able to take small calves and be able to quickly escape to the sanctuary of the forests.

The land holders are faced with a significant increase in the population of these dogs for several reasons:

- 1--- There is little opportunity to see the dogs.
- 2--- They live in the forests.
- 3--- Most are crossbred with town dogs and have two litters of pups each year.
- 4--- Legislation restricts the ability of many landowners to bait the dogs, primarily because of the size of individual titles and the proximity of other more closely settled areas
- 5--- Government agencies are generally reticent to spend sufficient funds to control dogs which live in their forests.
- 6--- Officers of Government Departments at ground level are anxious to control the problem, but it seems that at higher levels in the Departments there is little interest shown or there is a total rejection of the need for control.
- 7--- Local Authority By-Laws require landowners to control animal pests but the State legislation in most cases renders that impossible.
- 8--- It is plainly evident State Government has relinquished the stewardship of its own land in respect of proper management and how that lack of management impacts on other lanholders. It has and still is forcing officers to become regulatory and compliant oriented with landowners ahead of the what is really needed.

The economic viability of farmers is being restricted because of the dogs, and while our Local Authority is active in finding ways to help farmers control the animals, the problems we face lie squarely on the shoulders of our State Government who generally ignore the matter as a principle and who do not allocate the funds for their officers to do a job..

From newspaper reports the problem of wild dogs is serious throughout the whole of south-east Queensland and in residential areas as well as rural areas.

If your Committee has ways of encouraging our State Government to get the proper mindset into the control of these dogs, then it is going a long way to achieving its objectives.

#### RABBITS

Until very recent years, the area has been relatively free of feral rabbits, but we notice a marked increase in the past four years. Our efforts in baiting and shooting has not been successful, and while our Local Authority is keen to help us eradicate the pest, the population is increasing at an increasing rate. Again, officers of Government agencies are willing to co-operate, but there is little they can do because of the lack of funding. The landowners believe that unless the State Government takes ownership of this issue as well, it won't be long before the whole area including coastal areas will be over-run.

With regard to the Term of Reference, this submission only touches those parts on which we have first hand knowledge. The State Government pays no attention to pest problems, but our Local Authority tries its best to inform the community and to facilitate baiting programmes. However, its ability to do so effectively is almost rendered impotent because of the real lack of interest by State Government.

Yours Sincerely,  
T.S.Hore