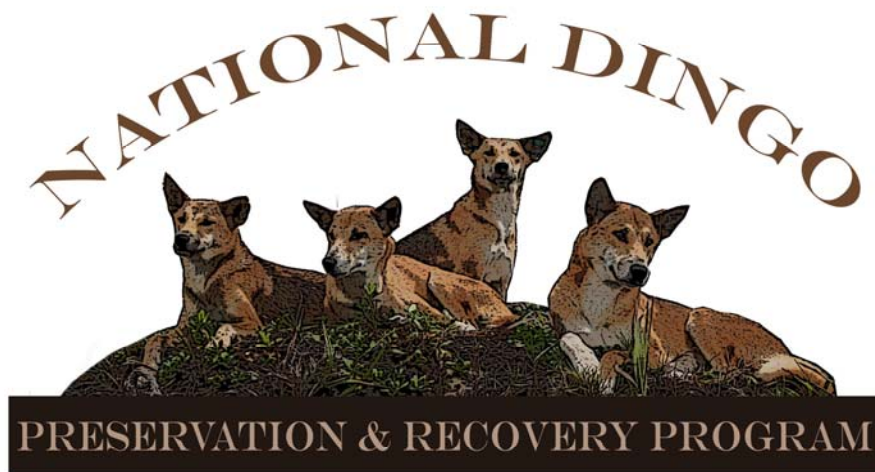


National Dingo Preservation and Recovery Program

NDPRP NEWSLETTER

Winter, 2013 Volume 2, Number 1

NDPRP brings together a small number of well-informed and experienced people who strive to intervene strategically, advocating for the dingo using environmental and ecological research



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Incorporation No. A0051763G

**‘Great spirits have always
encountered violent opposition from
mediocre minds’**

Albert Einstein

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Affiliate Organisations:



- Australian Dingo Conservation Association (NSW)
- Humane Society International (Aust)
- Save Fraser Island Dingoes (Qld)
- Gumbaya Park (Vic)
- Australian Wildlife Protection Council (Vic)

President's Report

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the retiring NDPRP committee for their contribution and commitment over the last year and at the same time welcome in the new committee for 2014-2015. I trust that we can maintain and strengthen the goals of the NDPR by achieving a united voice for all members to secure the protection and recovery of dingo populations throughout Australia.

To achieve this we need to work together across all fronts and states.

The identified targets to be addressed over the next 12 months include the following (these are not limited but judged valued items that have the potential of being achieved).

These are not listed in order of importance:

- *Develop a line of communication with the Threatened Species Commissioner
- *Develop a 'threatening process' nomination outlining the danger of removing a top-order predator from the ecosystem in direct association with the Humane Society International.
- *Look into the banning of the use of strychnine for baiting dingoes in Queensland and SA.
- *Research the poison called 'curiosity' used to kill feral cats
- *Continue the support and pressure for the welfare and preservation of dingoes on Fraser Island
- *Call for and lobby the Victorian Government and Opposition to implement the dingo management plan
- *Develop a website
- *Put out a quarterly/half-yearly newsletter

The committee will welcome all suggestions or opinions on these so that (with limited resources) the NDPRP can achieve positive outcomes. Please direct your suggestions or advice to the secretary.

During a recent trip across the Simpson desert, I was excited to observe significant numbers of healthy dingoes. The desert crossing took 5 days and at every bush camp site there were dingoes or fresh evidence of them around the sand dunes or along the sandy tracks. We encountered a fresh road kill on the western edge of the desert, photo below.

Ian Gunn



AUSTRALIAN FROZEN ZOO. WILDLIFE GENE STORAGE BANK

The Australian Frozen Zoo was established in 1995 as the Animal Gene Storage and Resource Centre of Australia (AGSRCA) through a joint venture between Monash University and the Zoological Parks Board of NSW (now known as Taronga Zoo).

The AGSRCA secured Commonwealth funding through the Australian Research Council in 1997 and, along with major corporate support, established the first national operational wildlife genetic collection and storage centre. The goal was to establish an insurance reserve of genetic samples from endangered and rare species of wildlife. In addition, the Centre instigated an extensive research program investigating the reproductive biology and physiology of some of the most significant endangered species or, in some cases, closely related species. Examples of the species selected included the Northern Hairy Nose Wombat, the Bilby, Eastern Quoll, the Cape Hunting Dog and the Grey Nurse Shark. This was important so that it could be possible to assist in the breeding of the endangered species through the developing assisted reproductive technology.

In 1997, the AGSRCA was recognized as a leader in the conservation of native wildlife and was awarded the Bankia Environment Award for Fauna and Flora.

In 2003, the AGSRCA became a founding member of the UK based Frozen Ark consortium, which now includes 22 similar centres from around the world. This creates an international network of gene banks directed to assisting in saving wildlife species that are facing extinction.



AUSTRALIAN FROZEN ZOO. WILDLIFE GENE STORAGE BANK

During the Global Financial Crisis, the AGSRCA lost its major funding partner and was forced to suspend its services for the collection and storage of important genetic samples although with support from within Monash University it was possible to protect and safely store the collected samples. At this stage, the Centre held samples from over 100 species and in some cases multiple samples from selected species.

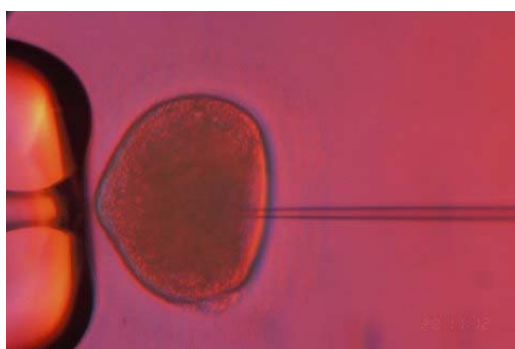
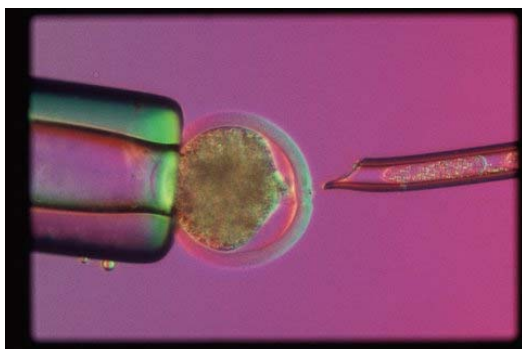
Recently, in early 2014, the AGSRCA received an exceedingly welcome funding grant from a private Foundation which, in addition to support from within Monash University, has enabled the Centre to be re-launched as the Australian Frozen Zoo. Although on a slender budget, the operations are now secure for the next 6 months, after which the Centre will need to secure support and partnerships with Government organizations, conservation organizations, corporations, and Foundations to enable operations to expand and operate to achieve our goals to support all avenues for wildlife conservation.

The Australian Dingo is considered a high priority for conservation due to its fragmented population status. An example of this is the threatened survival of the Fraser Island dingo due to its isolation on an island that has become a major tourist centre. The Frozen Zoo offers the scope and opportunity to save these populations through the collection of genetic samples (sperm, cell lines) and the adoption of proven assisted reproductive technology. If possible, the goal would be to collect samples from the remaining dingoes on Fraser Island and store these in the Gene Bank as insurance for the survival of this valuable population of pure dingoes. Similar programs could be implemented in regions where the dingo is under pressure for survival i.e. Simpson Desert.

The Australian Frozen Zoo is not an alternative to conservation programs in the wild or in Zoos; it offers support and an insurance to the programs for species recovery that are under way, which deal with threats due to climate change, fires, droughts, disease outbreaks and to human or agricultural pressure.

Further information on the Frozen Zoo will be available as soon as the web presentation is re-launched; the address is www.australianfrozenzoo.org.au

Dr. Ian M Gunn. Project Director Australian Frozen Zoo.. ian.gunn@monash.edu



Where Things Stand with Dingo Conservation in Victoria – and What Next Steps – Ernest Healy

Prior to 2009 - The way things were

Prior to the Victorian government listing of the dingo as a threatened indigenous taxon, the dingo had the legal status of an 'established pest animal' under the pest animal provisions of the Catchment and Land Protection Act (CaLP Act). The dingo was thereby placed in the same class of pest animals as rabbits, feral goats and feral pigs. Dingo hybrids shared this legal status. This designation held across the length and breadth of Victoria, even though the legislation provided for pest animal status to be geographically delimited.

Therefore, the dingo had no recognition as wildlife whatsoever.

2009-2010 - The Threatened Species Listing

Process

February 28, 2007: Nomination to list dingo as threatened under Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act lodged

March 13, 2007: Victorian Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) hands down Preliminary Recommendation to the Minister to list the dingo as threatened 'indigenous' taxon

A period of public consultation, including the lodgment of public submissions, was held to obtain feedback on the SAC's initial conclusions.

June 27, 2007: SAC hands down Final Recommendation to list the dingo as threatened 'indigenous' taxon; Key criterion for 'indigeneity' – '...occurring naturally in the wild... prior to European settlement'. In part, the SAC concluded that:

Criterion 1.2 *The taxon is significantly prone to future threats which are likely to result in extinction.*

Evidence:

Remnant populations of dingoes are subject to loss of genetic integrity through hybridisation with wild dogs *Canis familiaris familiaris* (Newsome and Corbett 1982, 1985; Wilton 2001; Elledge *et al.* 2006). The increased frequency and intensity of bushfire in remaining habitat areas, and wild-dog control programs (including baiting and other control measures) have the potential to result in a decline in remnant dingo populations and recruitment to those populations.

October 7, 2008: Minister for Environment and Climate Change approved SAC recommendation to list the Dingo as a threatened species under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (FFG Act). At the same time, the Minister expresses continued support for livestock protection from wild-dog predation.

The threatened species listing under the FFG Act meant that, to give the Dingo clear and unambiguous status across all legislation:

* It would need to be removed as an 'established pest animal' from the CaLP Act.

* The Dingo would then automatically become 'wildlife' under the *Wildlife Act 1975*.

Dingo Conservation in Victoria –

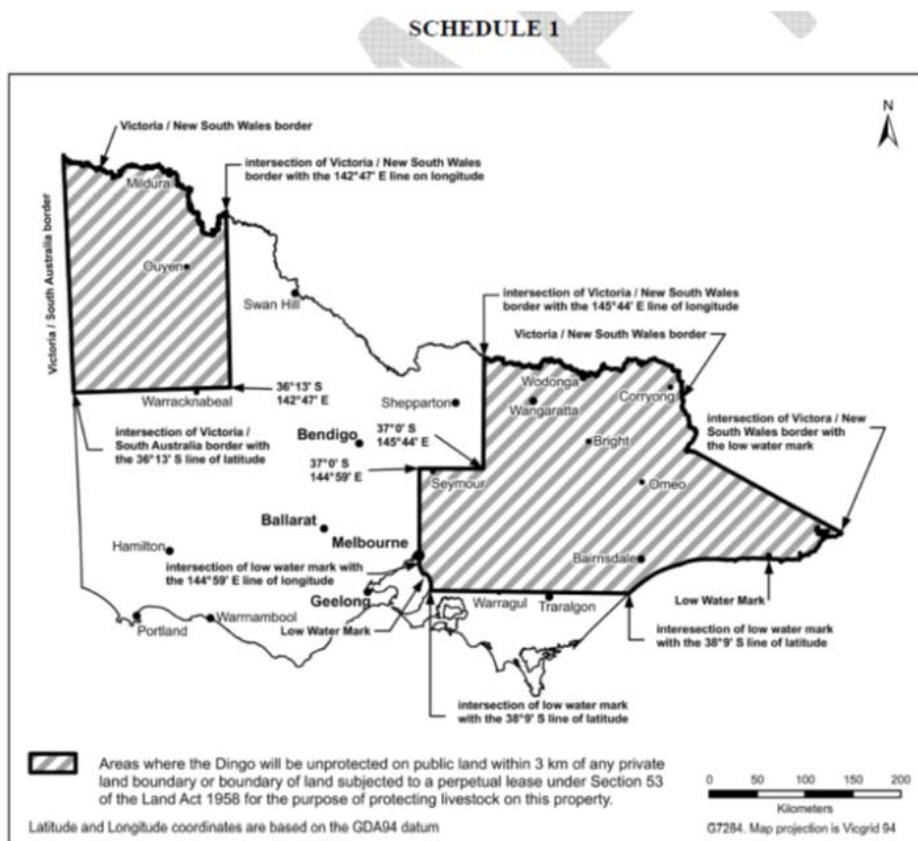
Early 2009: 'Dingo Working Group' (DWG) established by DSE to advise Minister on the framing of an Action Statement for the protection of the dingo – identification of threats and propose a set of actions to mitigate threats. Dingo Working Group included representation from:

- Victorian Farmers Federation
- Two wild dog Management groups
- Department of Primary Industries
- The Wilderness Society
- National Dingo Preservation and Recovery Program
- Environmental Defenders Office
- Indigenous representative
- Dingo CARE Network

Outcomes

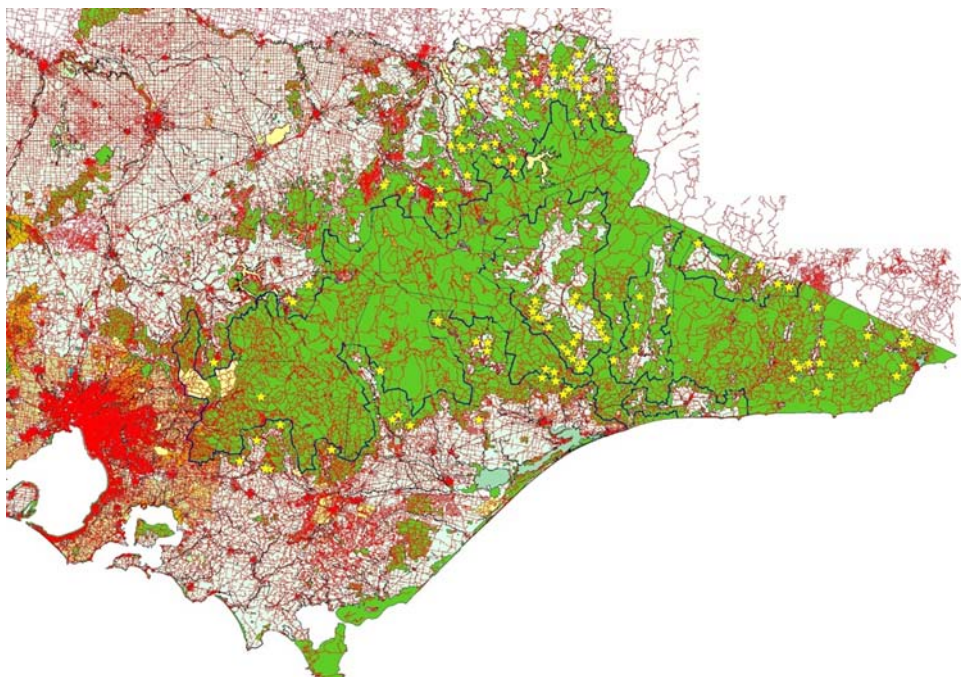
On October 1 2010, the Victorian Labor government gazetted an Order in Council declaring dingoes to be unprotected on all private land, and on public land within a 3 km boundary of private land for the protection of livestock in certain areas of the state.

Because dingoes were now protected as Wildlife under the Wildlife Act 1975, and therefore protected across the state, the Order in Council set out where dingoes could be legally killed (or were unprotected) for the purposes of protecting farm stock. The map specifying the areas of un-protection were indicated in the map below.



Dingo Conservation in Victoria –

The map below, prepared for the NDPRP, provides a more accurate idea of where dingoes were protected and unprotected in Eastern Victoria.



The blue line represents the 3 km boundary. Inside this line, dingoes are protected wildlife; outside the line, they are unprotected. A 3 km boundary was also applied in north western Victoria to the Big Desert National Park and to the Murray Sunset National Park.

An early estimate during the listing process was that a 3 kilometre boundary would result in an area of around 14,400 square kilometres of potential control area, where dingoes could be legally killed and around 26,000 square kilometres of public estate where dingoes would be protected in eastern Victoria.

Action Statement

In accordance with the legal requirements of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, an *Action Statement* was drafted, its purpose being to identify the historical and current threats to the dingo's survival, and to prescribe measures to mitigate against these threats. The content of the Action Statement was largely the result of an extensive consultation process with the (DWG) managed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment.

Limitations of Outcomes

The principal limitation of the threatened species listing was that, despite agreement amongst stakeholders within the DWG in 2009, that a phenotypic definition of the dingo would serve as the basis of the Action Statement for the first three years at least, and that the definition used to define what would be protected would not rely upon genetic criteria, departmental officials determined that only 'pure' dingoes would be protected under the threatened species provisions. Dingo hybrids continued to be governed as 'established pest animals' under the Catchment and Land Protection Act – **no matter how small the degree of hybridisation.**

Dingo Conservation in Victoria –

Given the uncertainties surrounding purity testing techniques, this was a major problem. It should be noted, however, that the Victorian government did not prescribe a testing technique that would serve as a standard. A practical outcome of the threatened species listing, however, was that dingo hybrids would receive *de facto* protection, if not in law, because of the limitations imposed on control beyond the 3 klm boundary. The clear understanding given to stakeholders at the conclusion of the DWG consultation process was that, while control would be technically possible beyond the 3 kilometre boundary, this would require case by case permission from the senior levels of the Department of Sustainability and Environment. Further, it would certainly not involve routine pre-emptive, broad-scale control.

The issue of hybridisation had been fraught from the start of the stakeholder consultation process. Nevertheless, even farming representatives were open to the prospect that at least some categories of hybrid may be included for protection. It was agreed early on in the process that the terms of reference for the DWG should allow a consideration of the hybridisation issue.

Part way through the year-long DWG consultation process, DSE announced that internal legal advice indicated that hybrids could not be protected under the dingo threatened species listing because hybridisation had been identified as a factor threatening to the dingo's survival.

Subsequent independent legal advice pointed to a significant legal grey area on this issue, indicating that the Victorian government could protect hybrids if it were to decide to. The independent advice was provided to the Department of Sustainability and Environment, but refused to budge on the issue. The Department also refused to provide DWG stakeholders a copy of the internal legal advice, despite having promised to do so.

2010-2014 - The Liberal-National Coalition Gains Office

Merging of departments of Environment and Agriculture

On gaining office, the Coalition government implemented a number of changes to the organisation of the Environment and Agriculture departments. The Department of Sustainability and Environment and the Department of Agriculture were merged into a single department – the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI).

This was accompanied by significant cuts in staff, particularly in the biodiversity area. This ensured that Agriculture would overshadow Environment within the new structure, a factor particularly important for issues where there was a conflict between environmental and agricultural interests, as with dingo conservation.

Environmental responsibilities shared between Environment and Agriculture Ministers

At the same time, the Coalition created areas of shared responsibility between the Environment and Agriculture portfolios, with the Minister for Agriculture being granted responsibility for significant sections of the Wildlife Act and the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. This put the Minister for Agriculture in the driver's seat in relation to the Dingo threatened species listing. This is particularly significant given the personal history of the Agriculture Minister, Peter Walsh, a former long-standing President of the Victorian Farmers Federation, an organisation that had been consistently hostile to the dingo threatened species listing.

Dingo Conservation in Victoria –

The Effective Dismantlement of Dingo Threatened Species Provisions

During the course of the Coalition's first term, the protective measures put in place to protect the dingo were incrementally and systematically undermined. The list below summarises these changes.

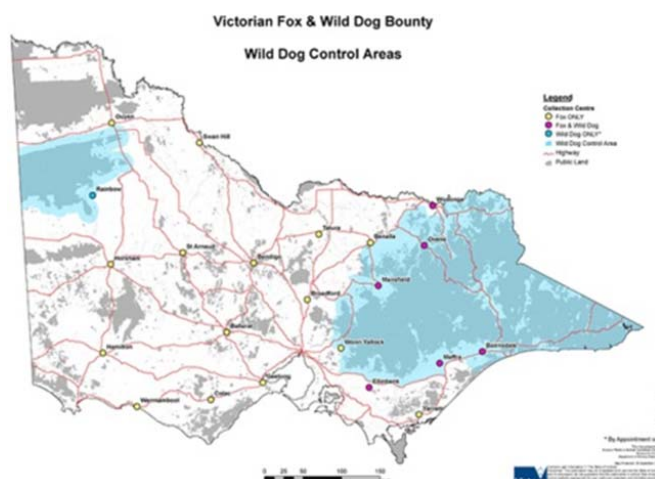
1. Re-established wild dog control zones across eastern Victoria which go well beyond the three kilometre boundary established under Labor. Fifteen such zones have been reintroduced in Eastern Victoria, more than had been in place prior to the dingo listing.
2. Reintroduced trap types previously banned by Labor because they were considered cruel.
3. Introduced a bounty system whereby recreational hunters (including those using bows and arrows) can kill dingoes ('wild dogs') for profit across virtually the whole of eastern Victoria and in the Big Desert national Park. Bounties can be taken in the Big Desert region even though there are no wild dog control zones in that part of the state.
4. Increased the period allowed by Labor between trap visitations to 72 hours. Labor had previously reduced the trap visitation time to limit cruelty.
5. Introduced aerial baiting in Victoria, which had been blocked by federal Labor when in office, and which had not been permitted by Victorian Labor when in office.

Although the Order in Council, cited above, was left in place (indeed extended for a further 5 years) by the Coalition, and the Action Statement eventually signed off by the Minister, the net practical effect of these changes was to neutralise the protections put in place by the previous Labor Government.

Worse off than before

In real terms, as distinct from legal fiction, the dingo in Victoria has less protection today than before the threatened species listing. The wild dog bounty is particularly noteworthy in this regard. Notwithstanding limitations on where firearms can legally be used, the map below shows the areas within Victoria where ‘wild dog’ pelts can be legally taken. Note that the north west of Victoria is included, even though there are no wild dog control zones in that part of the state, because the stock predation issue there is virtually insignificant.

It should also be noted that the issue of hunting in dingo protection areas was discussed by the DWG in 2009, it being decided that hunting should be prohibited in these areas.



Dingo Conservation in Victoria –

What next – Options

The options that are realistically available at this stage depend to a large extent upon the outcome of the November 2010 Victorian election.

The Coalition has now clearly demonstrated its contempt for the dingo threatened species listing, with the Agriculture Minister, Peter Walsh, using his 'responsibilities' under sections of the Wildlife and Flora and Fauna Guarantee Acts to undermine dingo protection provisions.

It is worth noting at this point that the Coalition Environment Minister, Ryan Smith, had arranged with departmental staff to meet with dingo advocates in June 2013, ostensibly to consider improvements to the then dingo protection provisions. It is now evident, however, that the government was nevertheless steadily moving ahead with its agenda for undermining these provisions, including the issue of protection for hybrids.

Although there is no guarantee that a Labor government would provide the level of protection that many dingo advocates would like, it would likely be receptive to implementing at least some measures for improvement. It has made a big deal of this in public forums. Two areas where it has committed to a winding back of the Coalition's actions relate to government's reintroduction of cattle into the Victorian high country and in failing to establish any new national parks. The Coalition is the first Victorian government for a very long time that has not established a new national park. Although not having as high a profile as the cattle-in-the-high-country issue, dingo advocates would have the opportunity to argue that the Coalition's attack on dingo protection provisions is yet another example of the Coalition's contempt for the natural environment, and also warrants restorative justice.

An initial demand upon Labor, if returned to office, should be to restore the dingo threatened species provisions that were in place when Labor lost office in late 2010, even though these were not ideal. The aim here would be to simply gain lost ground.

From that starting point, there are two broad pathways that may be pursued to improve protection for the dingo in Victoria.

One avenue is to lodge a nomination to have a threatening process listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. Under the provisions of the Act, if it can be successfully argued that particular actions or processes, for example logging in a particular location, pose a threat to a species or community of species, then a process can be listed. In light of the body of research which now exists showing that the dingo, acting as a key stone species, is necessary for the well-being and survival of other native species, then it is plausible that a case could be made that removal of the dingo, and dingo hybrids, through 'wild dog' control, constitutes such a threatening process.



Dingo Conservation in Victoria –

There are some difficulties with this option though. While there is a strong body of evidence to show the importance of the top predator role for ecosystem health, including improving the survival prospects of small marsupial species, in different parts of Australia, there has not been very much research of this kind in Victoria. And, the case has to be made for Victoria. Another consideration is that it takes a long time to process such nominations. Even if it were to succeed, it would potentially take years. In addition, a residual problem relates to the issue of whether dingo hybrids can be recognised as indigenous animals for the purposes of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act. Even if dingo hybrids can be shown to have ecological benefits in Victoria, the legal recognition of dingo hybrids under the Act may remain a stumbling block.

An alternative strategy, which would deliver essentially the same outcome as a successful threatening process nomination, would be for the government of the day to designate dingo hybrids as wildlife under the Victorian Wildlife Act 1975. Strangely, the Act provides for the recognition of even exotic species as wildlife, at the Minister's discretion, a provision that has been used in the past, for example in relation to some species of deer and quail. This is more a psychological hurdle for governments than a legal one. A barrier here is the mindset of DEPI bureaucrats, both in the Environment and Primary Industries sections. If exotic species may be declared wildlife then dingo hybrids could be seriously considered.

In practice this could be accommodated under the present provisions of the dingo threatened species listing. Within the 3 klm boundary, where pure dingoes are listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, hybrids, as wildlife, could also be protected. Outside the 3 klm boundary (near farmland), hybrids would continue to be subject to control, as they are now, along with pure dingoes. The farming lobby could not claim that they would be subject to any additional disadvantage by this approach.

If this much could be achieved, then the next stage in dingo advocacy would be to reduce lethal control and promote greater reliance upon guardian animals. It could be also argued that selected areas be identified to cease lethal control activity altogether, to see if stock losses decline and stabilise as dingo pack structures also stabilise.



IN BRIEF

NDPRP would like to thank Sime Validzic of Croatia for his generous donation of \$500.

At the moment, the NDPRP is gathering expressions of interest from people who would be willing to contribute to paying scientists \$10,000 to write up a threatening process nomination under federal legislation. Pledges can be made to The Secretary, Ernest Healy, at the e-mail address at the front of the newsletter.

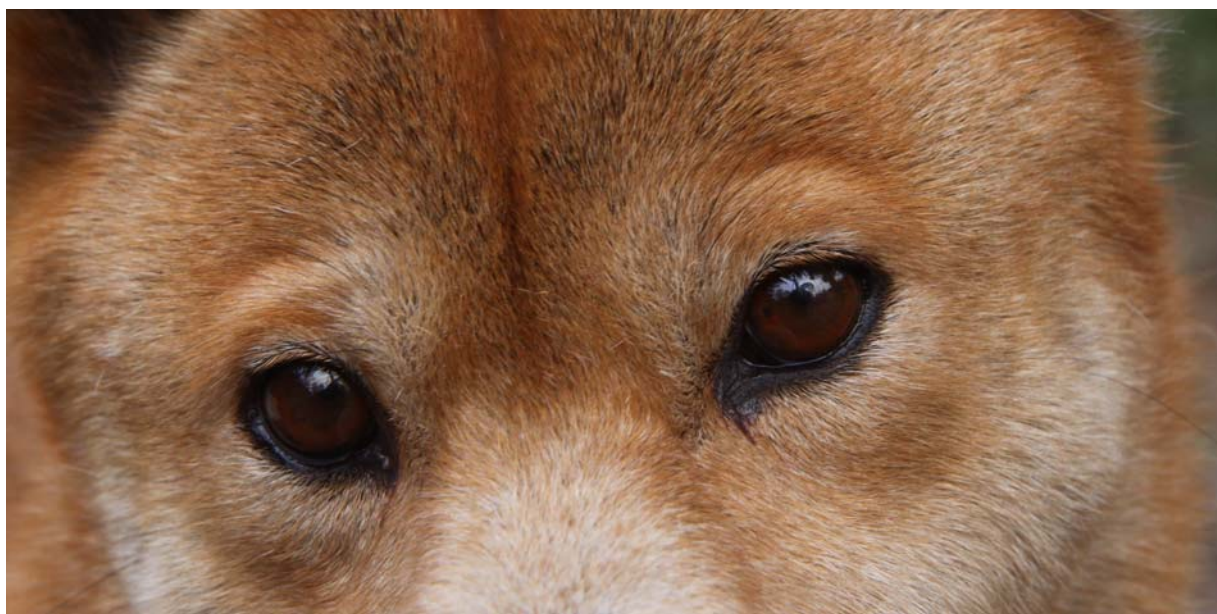
NDPRP website coming soon! We will let you know when it is live!



HUMANE SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL

HSI first submitted a federal nomination under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) in March 2010. After consideration for three consecutive years, it failed to make the shortlist for further assessment by the Threatened Species Scientific Committee. However HSI has not been put off. We are continuing to undertake further research as to how the nomination can be improved based on more recent scientific findings since 2010 with the hope that a revised nomination will be submitted in 2015. In addition, we are also looking at the ecological effects of dingo loss and how we can incorporate the increasing body of evidence into getting greater federal protection for the dingo. We also raise the issue of dingo protection at every possible opportunity in Canberra with the Federal Environment Minister and bureaucrats and will continue to do so. HSI remains extremely committed to dingo conservation and hopes that despite a concerning political environment and the recent release of the National Wild Dog Action Plan that the important role of the dingo will be recognised and protected accordingly.

Alexia Wellbelove



AUSTRALIN WILDLIFE PROTECTION COUNCIL

The Australian Wildlife Protection Council Inc (AWPC) is a non-profit Registered Charity A11002224D, founded in 1969 by Arthur Queripel and incorporated in 1981. Arthur remembers seeing “smouldering piles of mallee scrub and mounds of dead kangaroos and emus following the round ups after clearing”. He sought help from the police, conservation and animal welfare organisations to no avail, with each passing responsibility to the other. Finally in desperation he set up AWPC, dedicated to the preservation and protection of Australia’s native animals, free from commercial exploitation, as products for consumption, and any other cruelty and exploitation to which they are routinely subjected, so that they can live safely in their native habitat across their natural ranges. AWPC seeks to free kangaroos from being fugitives in their own land, despite evolving harmoniously with their environment for 25 million years.

AWPC endeavours to protect all native Australian animals, including the dingo. For years we have lobbied for the protection of the dingo through our newsletters, media releases and mail-outs. As Australia’s top-order predator, the dingo is vital for maintaining the countless variety of bionetworks that exist in Australia. The dingo plays a vital role not only in terrestrial ecosystems, but in a healthy biodiversity of marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems as well.

We believe that all dingoes should be protected, according to phenotype, not genotype. We believe that genetic testing for purity is inaccurate and possibly flawed, statistics being generated according to the outcomes desired. We can never compare the DNA of our modern dingoes to that of the ancient dingoes that once roamed this great land before Europeans came with their domestic animals, including dogs. Most dingoes in Australia, even the isolated dingoes on Fraser Island, would have some dog markers in their DNA. Wild hybrid dingo populations can be genetically distant from domestic dogs, while still performing their key ecological role. Hybridisation on Fraser Island, for example, would have happened 50 – 100 years ago, but the dingoes there are behaving phenotypically, ie, breeding once a year, howling instead of barking, maintaining stable social structures (when they can, when culling does not take place). **Therefore the entire dingo population on Fraser Island should be protected.**

Likewise, on the mainland, populations of dingoes that have dog markers in their DNA would be found everywhere. If we were to aim to protect only ‘pure’ dingoes, there would be few left to find. The invasive species control organisations say that hybrids are not performing any important ecological function and should therefore be destroyed, but this is inaccurate.

AWPC is strongly against the use of 1080 for any sort of wild animal control, be it kangaroos or dingoes. We are also against shooting and culling of any type. Kangaroos, like dingoes, live in stable family structures which once shattered through lethal control, leave behind fractured, volatile, uneducated groups of individuals who either fall victim to death by starvation, or in the case of dingoes, form new groups that are more likely to seek easy prey. All lethal control is cruel; in the case of kangaroos, shooting is haphazard and animals are not always killed instantly, left to die slow agonising deaths. The use of 1080 in all cases is considered cruel and should never be used.

As the main aim of the AWPC is to protect kangaroos, you may wonder why we are so passionate about protecting dingoes, which predate on vulnerable kangaroos. We recognise the role of dingoes in maintaining healthy populations of all animals they prey on, regulating numbers naturally and preventing over breeding. All animals in our environment deserve protection, so that they can do their job and keep our environment healthy, and as stated above, for their own sake, for their intrinsic worth and because they are unique and special in the Australian landscape.

DINGOES AND THE FAILURE OF HUMAN STEWARDSHIP

By Hans Brunner

Hans Brunner is a renowned zoologist and animal forensic expert whose work is internationally recognised. He published the world's first book on hair identification and is the author of many peer-reviewed scientific technical papers. He has trained forensic investigators and worked for international scientific organisations. A master of applied science, he has taught at Deakin University, Swinburne College and Chisholm institute. Hans was the forensic scientist involved with the first Azaria Chamberlain case.

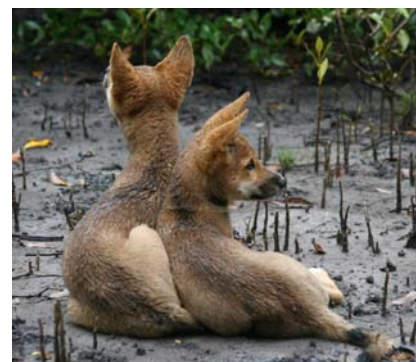
When I worked with dingoes at the Keith Turnbull Research Institute in Frankston, for about two years, I found them to be an amazing animal. You don't have to explain beauty when you see it; it is an absolute. When I faced them, they would look at me with inquisitive eyes and move their head from side to side in order to analyze who you are, then invite you to play with them. They have an ability to assess a person that is more acute than that of a psychologist- whether you are a friend, are afraid, a danger; pretension is useless.

In the undisturbed, wild state, they are the apex predator within the ebb and flow of a balanced ecology. They depend mainly on sick or old prey and never totally deplete an area of wildlife. They would move on into another area within their home range and only return again after the wildlife has recovered. They were part of a natural ecological system that existed for thousands of years.

When white man arrived, things started to change. Most of their hunting habitat was cleared for agricultural land, including for sheep grazing. The dingo soon became the enemy as the farmers declared war on them. An arsenal of trapping, poisoning and shooting is still used in order to keep them off the farm land. As a result, the dingoes have now been turned into refugees, with their family system, or pack structure, often destroyed. In spite of this, dingoes have not become hostile to humans; they have become desperate to survive and to feed their young. But, farmers still refer to them as a problem – as 'invasive' pests. How can dingoes be expected to distinguish between domestic animals on farm land and feral goats, feral pigs, deer and lost sheep in the bush?

Fraser Island was intended to become as safe haven for them. The purpose was to protect a pure dingo population. But, in this case, tourism and the hunger for profit has corrupted man's initial good intentions and dingoes were again regarded as the enemy and managed as a 'problem'.

How much longer will it take before we will treat these beautiful creatures with due respect? Their aesthetic and iconic value stirs my heart. I look with angst back to the Tasmanian Tiger which, as an apex predator, was driven to extinction.



NSW GOVT APPROACH TO DINGO MANAGEMENT

By Sally Chapman

There are no credible estimates of the number of dingoes living in NSW. (There is no current agreement in determining if a particular canine is, or is not, a dingo) Current law reflects an emphasis on the genetic purity of the animal. Genetic testing programs are difficult and expensive, so assumptions are made for operational use in species management. The general assumption is that (despite some recent evidence to the contrary) dingoes located in geographical proximity to human populations are hybrids, not dingoes.

The dingo is listed as a pest species to be eradicated under the 1998 NSW Rural Lands protection Act. This is despite the NSW Government's own recognition of the fact that domestic stock is NOT an important food source for the dingo. The government's own figures put domestic stock as comprising between 1% and 7% of their diet.

The poison "1080" is the most commonly used method of eradication of dingoes in NSW. The poison is administered through its injection into small balls or pellets of meat which are distributed throughout the control area by a variety of methods. As dingoes and wild dogs are more susceptible to 1080 poison than most other species, the NSW government holds the view that non-target species are minimally affected. (It is difficult to find reliable evidence to support this view.)

Simultaneously, the dingo is recognised as a native animal and granted some conservation 'protection'. One of the conservation methods employed is eradication of hybrids. Dingoes that have been determined to be genetically pure are protected in 113 National Parks or Conservation Reserves across NSW. However, programs for NPWS to test populations in these protected areas for genetic purity were suspended in 2002.

Dingoes may be kept as companion animals in NSW, but must be registered by 6 months of age.



SAVE FRASER ISLAND DINGOES

The LNP was true to its word when elected in 2012 and launched a review of the Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy. Unfortunately the review was conducted by a consultancy firm called 'Ecosure', with advice from QPWS personnel, and Lee and Ben Allen, and was far from being independent. Stakeholder input was sought in the form of a seminar which SFID attended. The distressing thing about the process was that a questionnaire was given out, and answers were judged on whether people had answered the questions 'appropriately' and if not it was implied that they needed further education. When we approached the Minister about the lack of independence of the process, he said he meant 'independent of government'. The finished Ecosure review was then 'peer reviewed' by a panel of independent 'experts', however their advice was not taken up. Thus the FIDMS was simply repackaged under a new name (Fraser Island Dingo Conservation and Risk Management Strategy), with the only tangible change we could see as being temporary cessation of hazing.

This blurb is on their website (including links to the FIDCRMS) - and clearly shows the lack of transparency that was involved in the process of formulating the new strategy, ie, the 2006 review was anything *but* independent. Likewise, we have been told we are not privy to the implementation plan:

'In July 2013, the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection—in collaboration with the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing—released the [Fraser Island Dingo Conservation and Risk Management Strategy \(PDF, 7.3M\)*](http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/dingoes/pdf/dingo-management-strategy.pdf) (<http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/dingoes/pdf/dingo-management-strategy.pdf>).

The strategy takes a fresh approach to dingo management, **based on recommendations from an independent scientific peer-review of the previous 2006 Fraser Island Dingo Management Strategy (FIDMS)** (<http://www.ehp.qld.gov.au/wildlife/livingwith/dingoes/fraser-island-strategy-review.html>) by environmental consultancy Ecosure Pty Ltd and an external expert Review Steering Committee.

The strategy will be delivered through an implementation plan based on the four programs. The implementation plan will contain detailed actions and will be delivered through a cross-departmental approach, in partnership with other relevant parties.'

We were pleased, but also somewhat suspicious when for 18 months no 'incidents' were reported on the island, and people started seeing healthy dingoes. The silence was deafening and we wondered how a rushed review could suddenly change everything on the island so quickly. Therefore we have put in RTI (Freedom of Information) applications to see all incident reports that may have been generated in that time.

More recently tour operators and locals have told us that they are seeing less dingoes on the island. Tim Rivers, tour operator in the area for 30 years, believes that the population is down to 60 dingoes. the number possibly is even less, this is based on a number of people for the past 6 months reporting back to us that very few have been seen in areas where dingoes were known to frequent. The reports are reliable not only from tourists but residents from Eurong and Orchid Beach.

Incidents have surfaced, such as the case of a backpacker who was attacked outside the fenced area of K'Gari, which we later discovered may have been due to the fact he had wiped his hands all over a BBQ in an attempt to lure dingoes to him. He was also so drunk that he climbed a tree and fell down, and some of his injuries no doubt resulted from that.



SAVE FRASER ISLAND DINGOES

There was another incident when an employee of a resort, a chef, went out late one night to make a phone call, and was allegedly attacked by three dingoes. He was taken to hospital, but was treated only in case of infection and wounds were not severe. We believe if the dingoes had been trying to attack him he would not have lived to tell the tale. SFID made every attempt to prevent the culling of three dingoes, because it would have been impossible to identify which dingoes were the ones who perpetrated the 'attack' at night; their ear-tags would have been impossible to see. But three juveniles were immediately culled. We were told upon enquiry that they were the only three dingoes left in that area, which is how QPWS knew which ones to kill. So now another pack of dingoes has been entirely eliminated.

Lastly and more recently, a dingo was deliberately run over by tourists. This was witnessed by a tour operator and 11 tourists in her bus. Reports were taken from other people standing around, but this tour operator was not questioned. She was extremely distressed. She later saw the same vehicle, without doubt, with its number plate removed – a deliberate attempt by the culprits to hide their identity. Nevertheless they were tracked down by police and found at the barge and questioned. Apparently they admitted to hitting the dingo but said it was not done deliberately. Not enough evidence was found to prove that they had deliberately run over the dingo.

Secretary Karin Kilpatrick received a call from Neil Cambourn, QPWS, to say that they were investigating but that it was the tour drivers' word against the driver, and no charges would be laid. In future, he said, video evidence was required – as if it would be possible to have a video camera at the ready prior to such an incident.

Under the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* there are a number of offences the driver could have been charged with. Why are the rangers adopting the role of judicial officers in making a decision not to prosecute when there is evidence that ought be put before a Court of Law?

Since that incident, only last week, another attempted dingo hit-and-run was observed, and in response QPWS has erected signs warning tourists not to run dingoes over.

This is very distressing trend, and reports indicate that many dingoes are run over each year. We suspect that in many cases, these are deliberate.

So it seems to us at SFID that while things have settled down to some degree, dingoes are still being persecuted, and QPWS still very much needs SFID as its watchdog. We eagerly await the time (should be any day now) when pups are seen wandering around. So far, only a few lactating (and very skinny) bitches have been seen, none with pups.



WILD DOG CONTROL PLAN— GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Arthur Gorrie and Jennifer Parkhurst

The Gympie Regional Council recently voted to adopt a “Wild Dog Control Plan”, on the basis of a report by authors unknown. Council unanimously accepted and adopted the plan.

We have a number of concerns about this Plan, as should the councillors who are now responsible for it, as it seems likely to create more problems than it solves and poses a significant risk to agricultural productivity, environmental conservation and public safety.

It misleadingly quotes carefully selected science as though it is representative and balanced. It is not. We find the whole document to be misleading, confusing and reliant on science which is sometimes superseded and even discredited, while more current and independent studies are ignored. The science seems to have been carefully selected to justify pre-ordained conclusions, favouring the strategies to which farm lobby and government interests seem irretrievably committed, despite the disastrous results we can see around us already, wild dog problems now being claimed to be worse than ever.

Worsening of a situation must surely be a reflection on the strategies used to manage it. We are not suggesting that farmers and local authorities should do nothing (although that would be preferable to making things worse by doing more of the same things that have failed already). We are suggesting that farmers and others should be advised on how to do things that work.

Some alarming and misleading information has been put forward in this plan, based on information provided by a number of sources, notably DEEDI, Peter Fleming, Ben Allen, Lee Allen, the Invasive Animals CRC, and Laurie Corbett’s outdated 2001 book, “The Dingo in Australia and Asia”. All these sources have an interest in supporting currently prevailing government and farm lobby strategies of dingo extermination, to which they are publicly committed, and in justifying the arguably disastrous dingo management policies on which some have based much of their careers and reputations.

Even so, one of them, Lee Allen, has in recent research recanted on the work quoted in the new Plan, blaming such ideas for worsening or creating dingo problems (ABC Rural, 15/03/2013 by Suzannah Baker “Surprise finding: dog baiting increases stock losses”).



WILD DOG CONTROL PLAN— GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Some questionable points in the plan:

- *A 'nil tenure' approach to wild dog management
- *Animals referred to as dingoes in the Gympie Region are expected to carry a significant proportion of domestic dog genes and should be controlled (thus, they presume, removing the concern of local dingo advocates that dingoes will be harmed)
- *Wild dogs can carry a significant threat to human safety (quoting incidents on Fraser Island which does not fall into Gympie Council region, nor is it relevant to mainland wild dog control)
- *Wild dogs have a significant negative impact on native species (ignoring current research that shows the opposite)
- *Wild dogs do substantial damage to koala populations (We are aware of AgForce funded research seeking to prove this, but there is no proof and any predation by dingoes on koalas would be a natural process, one that has not caused koala extinction despite the two species sharing the same territory for thousands of years.)
- *The growth in numbers of wild dogs is due to hybridisation
- *Control would have maximum effect when pups are being weaned (implying a known dingo breeding season, therefore controlling dingoes rather than free-ranging dogs which can breed at any time of the year)
- *Foxes can hinder wild dog control because they take the baits instead; therefore two baiting runs would be 'best practice'
- *Poison baiting (1080) is 'best practice' management
- *1080 breaks down relatively quickly in the environment (In Noosa when they baited the North Shore and surrounding areas, all the birds of prey disappeared – 1080 remains in carcasses for up to 12 months)
- *Non-target species are mostly not susceptible to 1080 (1080 is not species specific except that it *specifically kills any species that eats it!* Humans are highly susceptible.)
- *All control measures can be used to disrupt pack structures (wouldn't this be counter-productive?)
- *Workshops should provide each attendee with a free dog trap

The suggestion that dingoes with some domestic dog genetics are not dingoes even in cases where they look like, act like, breed like and perform the same ecological function as dingoes is misleading and unscientific and obviously written to justify pre-existing extermination policies.

The report attempts to discuss behavioural considerations associated with the difference between dingoes and dogs and there is an exhaustive table of dingo and feral domestic dog behaviour. Unfortunately, baiting programs will not discriminate which animals are killed based on behaviour.

Feral pigs have emerged as a plague threat to macadamia and other crop growers in the Gympie region since the introduction of widespread 1080 baiting, as a result of removing the dingoes that predate on feral pigs. However baiting is recommended for continuance and expansion in the council's report.

WILD DOG CONTROL PLAN— GYMPIE REGIONAL COUNCIL

Obviously Gympie Regional Council felt the need to justify this dingo management program by releasing this lengthy document. Sadly, it is possibly representative of wild dog management programs throughout Australia.

Farmers are just as likely to be conservationists as anyone else and on these issues in particular are just as likely as anyone else to be bullied and misled by farm lobby organisations, committed to self-justification. Many farmers share our concerns on this issue. Many of them have a practical expertise far greater than that of the academics this Plan relies on.

Importantly also, even farmers themselves are not the only stakeholders in an issue which involves the whole Australian environment and vast amounts of public money. If the community at large is to fund these extravagantly expensive campaigns, then all Australians are stakeholders, even more so when we are looking at wholesale environmental vandalism.

No industry has the right to deliberately exterminate a native species.

As Albert Einstein observed: “We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”



Noosa Regional Council is currently undergoing wild dog control with the use of 1080 baits. Reports are flooding in of puppies being seen aimlessly wandering around searching for their parents. Concerned locals are madly trying to rescue and re-home these pups. The puppies are slowly starving to death. This is another extremely cruel repercussion of baiting. We all know the quote by Mahatma Gandhi: ‘The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated’. Thumbs down to Australia.

DINGOES CAN BE ALLIES



AS part of the [FarmOnline Wild Dog project](#), which aims to share information, educate landholders and promote co-ordination of management programs, Queensland Country Life commissioned a series of opinion pieces on the topic "how I would manage wild dogs". This fourth article in the series is from chair of the Lake Eyre Basin Community Advisory Committee, ANGUS EMMOTT.

DINGOES, wild dogs - whatever you call them - are bad news for the sheep industry.

There is no doubt sheep producers have to keep their sheep away from dingoes and wild dogs, be it through eradication or through the use of guard animals like Maremmas, alpacas and donkeys.

Our family was in sheep for nearly a hundred years before we decided to solely focus on cattle in the 1990s. We moved out of sheep not because of dog problems, but because of manpower vs economic return and the declining value of wool during that period.

As a cattleman, I like to have dingoes on my place.

Why? Do I lose a few calves? Yes, I probably do, though it's hard to tell sometimes whether a half-eaten carcass was a healthy calf knocked over by dingoes or was sick and not going to make it anyway.

But the dingoes I have on my place help my cattle production by keeping kangaroo numbers down.

Kangaroos are their main prey and they keep the numbers in check. You can see that clearly in the huge difference in 'roo numbers on either side of a dingo fence.

This has a real impact on our bottom line – it means more feed for our cattle and it's better for the country as a whole not having an over-population of kangaroos hammering away at all the vegetation.

I think it's easily forgotten that dingoes help keep numbers of ferals down as well. They certainly help keep the number of feral pigs down.

In many types of country they suppress the numbers of feral cats and foxes. They kill some and scare others off.

This is good for native species as the cats and foxes have the greatest impact on the many species of small native mammals which are struggling to hang on.

Dingoes will get small animals sometimes, but they aren't as agile and cunning at killing as the cats and foxes. As a person who loves the bush and our native animals, that's important to me.

Often overlooked is that dingoes literally eradicate feral goats on all but the most steep and rocky country in the outback.

Huge areas of inland Australia would be infested with feral goats, with all the over-grazing problems they bring, if dingoes didn't eradicate them.

You can see this contrast along any dingo fence – feral goats on the dingo-free side, none on the other.

DINGOES CAN BE ALLIES

ANGUS EMMOTT.



No 'war on wild dogs'

Killing dingoes potentially increases cattle losses for us. There's intriguing research that shows cattle stations that bait, shoot and trap dingoes have more cattle losses than adjacent ones that don't.

This may be because when you kill-off the dominant older animals their territories get taken over by inexperienced adolescents. These young dingoes run amok and will chase, bite and kill more calves, increasing losses.

So it doesn't work for me or my family business to be told that we need to join some 'war on wild dogs'.

I don't think it's good for my cattle production or for the long-term wellbeing of the country our family is responsible for.

I don't think it's needed for the vast areas of cattle country in the inland and the north of the country.

I know many cattle producers who think the same way and consciously keep dingoes on their properties for production reasons, removing problem dogs if they arise.



JANE GOODALL AND DINGO CONSERVATION

BY ERNEST HEALY

Jane Goodall and Dingo Conservation

This year Australia had a visit by world renowned primatologist and threatened species advocate Jane Goodall. While in Melbourne, she entered the debate surrounding dingo conservation, making a number of public statements and issuing a media statement which commented on the issue.

It is not surprising that Jane Goodall would advocate for threatened species while in Australia. However, her intervention on dingo conservation is problematic as not all dingo conservation advocates and their organisations base their case on the assumption that the dingo is a threatened species. Goodall appears to have adopted a less progressive position on dingo conservation than was immediately apparent to the general public, or perhaps than she was aware of.

Background

In a nutshell, the controversy surrounding dingo conservation has been underpinned by a growing body of environmental research, which highlights the importance of conserving dingo populations for environmental balance, on the one hand, and long-established anti-dingo or 'wild-dog' sentiment amongst elements of the pastoral industry, on the other hand, who deem the dingo to be a pest animal to be eradicated or, at least, controlled through lethal means at a landscape level. The legal status of the dingo across much of Australia largely reflects this historically entrenched pest-animal perspective. Victoria is something of an exception, where the dingo was listed as a threatened native taxon in 2010 and 'wild-dog' control is geographically constrained as a result.

The growing dissonance between environmental research, which concludes that dingo conservation within ecosystems should be harnessed in the service of good environmental management, and established pest animal legislation is complicated by the fact that dingoes (*Canis lupus dingo*) hybridise with their domestic counterpart, the domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*).

Pastoral industry advocates, concerned to fend off the idea that dingoes should not be managed simply as pests, but an environmental asset, have latched hold of hybridisation to argue that what currently exists in the wild are not dingoes, but hybrids, which ought not be considered indigenous or wildlife, and are therefore ineligible for protection. It is at times further argued that in controlling hybrids through 'wild-dog' control (poisoning and trapping on a large scale) protection is afforded to remnant 'pure' dingoes. Indeed, current purity testing techniques show hybridisation to be widespread, particularly in south eastern Australia.

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So, where does this leave dingo conservation advocates, including Jane Goodall's dingo intervention? One view is that the key task at hand is to locate and protect remnant 'pure' dingo populations. This, however, implies that, from a conservation perspective, wild hybrid populations are a threat to be managed, or controlled. 'Pure' dingo populations would need to be isolated from hybrid populations. Elements of the farming lobby support this view. Adherence to this perspective also has significant consequences for where dingoes can be conserved. If dingo purity data is to be believed, hybridisation is widespread throughout much of south eastern Australia. Unless it is possible to completely eradicate wild hybrid populations across south eastern Australia, and then seed the landscape with pure dingo stock, or genetically isolate remnant pockets of 'pure' dingoes, wave goodbye to dingo conservation there.

An alternative dingo conservation perspective is one that accommodates the reality of hybridisation in defining what is to be conserved. The key consideration from this perspective is the ecological function of wild populations, even if they have undergone some degree of hybridisation. If the role played in the natural environment by hybridised populations is essentially the same as the pre-European dingo, then considerations of genetic purity become an unnecessary distraction. This approach is lent support by the fact that much of the in-the-field research into the role of the dingo in maintaining top-down ecological balance, as a top order predator, has been conducted with populations that were probably hybridised. There is currently no research to show that hybridisation presents a biodiversity risk within Australian ecosystems.

Another consideration in evaluating these different dingo conservation perspectives is the uncertainty involved with current dingo purity testing techniques. Two approaches are in use. The older method involved making a large number of fine measurements from an assumed representative sample of dingo skulls, and creating a skull profile that is presumed to represent pure dingoes. Any particular skull being tested is then compared for conformity with this profile. The other, more recent method compares key genetic markers from extant dingoes/dingo hybrids with a genetic benchmark that has been derived from a sample of dingoes presumed to have been pure. The real limitation of both of these methods is that there is no pre-European representative sample of either, skulls or genetic make-up. It may never be possible to overcome this limitation. In addition to this uncertainty, 'pure' dingoes and dingo hybrids are not readily distinguishable in appearance. Dingo researcher, Dr Laurie Corbett, once commented that although he believed dingoes in north eastern Victoria had undergone some hybridisation, this was not visually apparent. He speculated that this was because the strong selection pressure for survival in this region was effectively pushing the hybrids back into an ancestral conformation.

It is fair to say that, over time, the foremost dingo advocacy organisations have gravitated away from a pre-occupation with genetic purity towards the ecological function perspective in deciding what conservation strategies and legislative change should be pursued. Possibly the most developed policy position is that of the National Dingo Preservation and Recovery Program. This organisation makes a distinction between the remnant 'ancestral dingo' populations, representative of the pre-European type and the 'modern dingo', which encompasses wild populations that perform a desirable ecological role, but which have undergone some degree of hybridisation. Ancestral dingo populations may plausibly be conserved in isolated settings, as in island locations, and captive 'ancestral' conservation populations are encouraged as a genetic resource for reintroduction where the circumstances are appropriate. The NDPRP sees the main conservation task, however, in securing the protection of extant populations despite the hybridisation that has occurred. This does not mean that reasonable measures should not be taken to limit further hybridisation.

JANE GOODALL AND DINGO CONSERVATION

BY ERNEST HEALY

Once it is accepted that the main dingo conservation task is to secure the legal protection of extant wild dingo populations despite some level of hybridisation, and to gain official recognition of the environmental benefits of such populations, the idea that dingoes are threatened with imminent extinction becomes largely irrelevant. The conservation focus turns instead to the negative environmental consequences of dingo persecution through lethal landscape-level control regimes.

Where can Jane Goodall's intervention be located in this context?

It is significant therefore that Jane Goodall's statements appear to have fallen within the genetic purity camp. Her public pronouncements centred round the imminent extinction of the dingo and the prospect of hybridisation. The following statement was aired on Channel 10 News on June 5th:

'...I suppose that they [dingoes] will become extinct and the last few will be hybridised with domestic dogs, and the wild dingo will be gone forever. '(10 Eyewitness News, June 5)

This basic message was picked up more widely within the Australian media:

'While in Australia, she will talk about the need to protect dingoes, now regarded as being on the verge of extinction.' (Radio Australia, June 5, 15:31)

A more sophisticated account is contained in a prepared public statement by the Jane Goodall Institute Australia, dated June 5th. This account, however, remains confused on the key issues of purity, hybridisation and ecological function. The claim that 'the species could face extinction after decades of persecution' is repeated. Reference is made to the listing of the dingo as threatened by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, an assessment based on considerations of genetic purity. The regulatory role of the dingo as top land predator is correctly recognised, as is the view of many scientists that the dingo is '...ecologically vital for the health of our land and other native species'... . The relationship between the disruption of packs from poison baiting and increased hybridisation is also noted. A serious flaw in this account, however, is that the populations of dingoes which scientists have concluded are significant for ecosystem health are not necessarily pure, but characterised by some degree of hybridisation. The ecological benefit that has been observed has not depended on the genetic purity of the dingo populations. As noted above, once this is acknowledged, concerns about near-term 'extinction' go out the window. Conservation efforts then turn to how extant hybridised populations can be accepted under the rubric of wildlife and protected for their positive environmental role. The confused understanding of the issues underpins the Institute's claim that very few Alpine dingoes remain. This claim depends upon the view that Alpine dingoes in South eastern Australia are particularly hybridised, being closest to population centres where contact with domestic dogs is more likely. However, once one accepts the ecological function approach to dingo conservation, there is no shortage of Alpine Dingoes. South eastern Australia is full of them; they should be governed humanely and protected as wildlife.

JANE GOODALL AND DINGO CONSERVATION

BY ERNEST HEALY

A lost opportunity

The Jane Goodall intervention was therefore a lost opportunity to communicate more widely the complexity of dingo conservation issues. However, the thrust of Jane Goodall's intervention was at odds with what is, arguably, now the predominant perspective amongst dingo advocacy organisations in Australia, as well as the direction of much scientific research which highlights the beneficial ecological role of existing ('modern') dingo populations. This is unfortunate. Pastoral industry representative organisations are not likely to be perturbed at the basic message of the Jane Goodall's intervention. Some may openly agree with it. It is a simplistic, purist view that some dingo advocates held around a decade ago, but have now left behind for a more mature perspective.

One is left pondering how this could have occurred. Was it an informed choice by the Jane Goodall Institute? Would not a high-profile international organisation, which would have invested considerable resources in preparing for Jane Goodall's Australian visit, have been aware of the competing perspectives on dingo conservation in Australia, and the current state of play between them? Perhaps part of the explanation relates to the Goodall Institute's focus on threatened species. Did the idea that dingoes are on the 'verge of extinction' fit more neatly with the Institute's established focus? If the dingo is viewed as persecuted, but not in threat of immediate extinction, then the threatened species message loses leverage. Although the net effect on public awareness of dingo conservation has most likely been positive from the intervention, the specific message communicated may stand to frustrate the efforts of the leading dingo conservation organisations which do the heavy lifting in pushing for appropriate legislative change on the issue.



National Dingo Preservation & Recovery Program

Incorporated in Victoria No A0051763G

Affiliation/Membership Application/Renewal

Individual members please complete the personal details and sign. For Affiliated Organizations please complete the Name of Organization and position (e.g. President, Secretary Owner etc.) of person making application

Affiliated Organization Details

Name of Organization

Position of person making application

Personal Details

Title Given Name Family Name

Address Suburb

State Country Post Code

Home Phone (.....) Business Phone (.....) Mobile

Email Please notify NDPRP if you change your contact details.

Membership

Type	Cost	Amount
Single	\$20.00	
Affiliate Organization	\$50.00	
Donation		
Total		

Memberships can be paid by cheque or money order, and post to the address below; or by electronic banking to:

BSB: 033-289

Account No: 25-7130

Please snail mail or email copy of electronic banking slip with completed membership application.

Declaration

I agree to abide by the rules and the ethics of the NDPRP Inc and agree that my personal details may be released to other members of the organisation (as required by the constitution).

Signed Date

Forward completed form and remittance to:

Mr Ernest Healy

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Ernest.Healy@monash.edu



***‘Great Spirits have
Always encountered violent
Opposition from mediocre
minds’
Albert Einstein***