

GUIDE FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS

How to ask MPs to question South Australia's dingo eradication policy

WHAT WE ARE ASKING YOU TO DO:

Please contact your local South Australian MP and ask them to raise questions with the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development about South Australia's eradication policy for dingoes/wild dogs south of the Dog Fence.

You do not need to be an expert. You only need to ask for evidence, transparency and accountability.

WHO TO CONTACT:

Start with your local House of Assembly MP.

You can find South Australian Members of Parliament and their contact details here:

<https://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/en/Members/Members-Home>

Ask them to put Questions on Notice to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. Questions on Notice are written questions asked of a Minister and answered in writing.

You can also contact Legislative Council members, because they represent the whole state – We highly suggest contacting Hon. Melanie Selwood & Hon. Robert Simms from the Greens SA.

WHAT TO SAY:

I am a South Australian resident and I am concerned about South Australia's eradication policy for dingoes/wild dogs south of the Dog Fence, especially in and around Ngarkat Conservation Park.

I support farmers being helped to protect livestock, but I do not believe the public has been shown clear evidence that eradication is scientifically, culturally or ecologically justified in this landscape.

I am asking you to question the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and request written answers.

You can also include the screens shots of the 2018 livestock loss discrepancies from 2020 and 2022 on pages 4 and 5 of this document. We've highlighted the important sections for you.

KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK:

1. Before South Australia committed to eradicating dingoes/wild dogs south of the Dog Fence, were independent population surveys completed?
2. How many dingoes/wild dogs are estimated to live in Ngarkat Conservation Park and surrounding areas?
3. How many animals have been killed through baiting, trapping, shooting, or bounty programs in and around Ngarkat?
4. How many of those animals have been genetically tested?
5. Has a conservation risk assessment or population viability analysis been completed before continuing lethal control in this landscape? If so, when was it completed?
6. Has the government assessed the impact of quarterly baiting in the Ngarkat area on a small, isolated and genetically vulnerable dingo population? If so, when?
7. What First Nations consultation has occurred regarding the killing of dingoes in South Australia, and in and around Ngarkat Conservation Park?
8. South Australian Government material has used different livestock-loss figures. In 2020, government material stated that South Australian farmers reported losing more than 10,000 sheep to wild dogs in 2018 alone. In 2022, later government material stated that South Australian producers were losing more than 20,000 sheep to wild dogs in 2018 alone. Which figure is correct?
9. What was the source of each livestock-loss figure?
10. Were those losses confirmed kills, producer reports, industry estimates, modelling, or a combination?
11. Were the figures independently verified?
12. Were those figures used to justify the Dog Fence rebuild, expanded aerial baiting, trapping, bounty programs, or South Australia's ongoing eradication policy inside the Dog Fence?

You do not need to list all the above questions, you can pick out a few or you can use your own questions.

SHORT EMAIL YOU CAN COPY

Here is a short email you can copy and paste or edit yourself.

Don't forget to add the screenshots on pages 5 and 6 if you include questions about the 2018 livestock loss discrepancies.

Dear [MP name],

I am a South Australian resident and I am asking you to raise questions with the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development about South Australia's dingo/wild dog eradication policy south of the Dog Fence.

Before eradication continues, I believe the public deserves clear answers about population surveys, genetic testing, livestock-loss claims, First Nations consultation and conservation risk assessments, especially in and around Ngarkat Conservation Park.

Please ask the Minister whether independent population surveys were completed before the eradication policy was developed, how many animals have been killed, how many have been genetically tested, and what evidence shows the animals being targeted are not part of the cross-border Wilkerr/Big Desert dingo population protected in Victoria.

Please also ask the Minister to explain the different livestock-loss figures used in South Australian Government material. In 2020, government material stated that farmers reported losing more than 10,000 sheep to wild dogs in 2018 alone. In 2022, later government material stated that producers were losing more than 20,000 sheep to wild dogs in 2018 alone.

Please ask which figure is correct, what the source of each figure was, whether the losses were independently verified, and whether they were used to justify the Dog Fence rebuild, expanded baiting, trapping, bounty programs, or the eradication policy.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request.

Kind regards,

[Your name]

[Your town or suburb]

LINKS TO WILKERR RELATED RESEARCH

GENETICS & POPULATION:

CAIRNS, K. M., CROWTHER, M. S., PARKER, H. G., OSTRANDER, E. A., & LETNIC, M. (2023). GENOME-WIDE VARIANT ANALYSES REVEAL NEW PATTERNS OF ADMIXTURE AND POPULATION STRUCTURE IN AUSTRALIAN DINGOES. *MOLECULAR ECOLOGY*, 32, 4133–4150. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1111/MEC.16998](https://doi.org/10.1111/MEC.16998)

ANDREW R WEEKS, PETER KRIESNER, NENAD BARTONICEK, ANTHONY VAN ROOYEN, KYLIE M CAIRNS, COLLIN W AHRENS, GENETIC STRUCTURE AND COMMON ANCESTRY EXPOSE THE DINGO-DOG HYBRID MYTH, *EVOLUTION LETTERS*, VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1, FEBRUARY 2025, PAGES 1–12, [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1093/EVLETT/QRAE057](https://doi.org/10.1093/evlett/qrae057)

AMANDA LO CASCIO, ELLISHA MARTION, DAVE RAMSAY, RACHEL MASON, ANGE PESTELL, WILLIAM L GEARY, WILL SOWERSBY, EUAN G RITCHIE. (2025 [PRE-PRINT]). LANDSCAPE DRIVERS OF POPULATION DENSITY OF A VULNERABLE APEX PREDATOR (WILKERR/DINGO). *ECOEVOXIV*. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.32942/X2MD3G](https://doi.org/10.32942/X2MD3G)

RAVISHANKAR, S., N. C. NGUYEN, L. TAUFIK, NATHAN M. MICHELSEN, ANDERS BERGSTRÖM, RAYMOND TOBLER, DAMIEN FORDHAM, ANNA BRÜNICHE-OLSEN, CARSTEN RAHBK, BASTIEN LLAMAS, YASSINE SOUILMI. (2026). “PALEOGENOMICS-INFORMED INFERENCES OF EUROPEAN DOG ADMIXTURE ENABLES SCALABLE DINGO CONSERVATION.” *CONSERVATION LETTERS* 19, NO. 3: E70052. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1111/CON4.70052](https://doi.org/10.1111/CON4.70052)

DIET:

MASON, R. T., RENDALL, A. R., SINCLAIR, R. D., PESTELL, A. J. L., & RITCHIE, E. G. (2025). WHAT'S ON THE MENU? EXAMINING NATIVE APEX- AND INVASIVE MESO-PREDATOR DIETS TO UNDERSTAND IMPACTS ON ECOSYSTEMS. *ECOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS AND EVIDENCE*, 6, E70032. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1002/2688-8319.70032](https://doi.org/10.1002/2688-8319.70032)

1080 BAITING:

MASON RT, RENDALL AR, SINCLAIR RD, RITCHIE EG. (2025) ASSESSING TARGET AND NON-TARGET SPECIES INTERACTIONS WITH BURIED NON-TOXIC MEAT BAITS ACROSS FIRE MOSAICS. *WILDLIFE RESEARCH* 52, WR24117. [HTTPS://DOI.ORG/10.1071/WR24117](https://doi.org/10.1071/WR24117)

FIRST NATIONS:

BARENGI GADJIN LAND COUNCIL/WOTJOBALUK NATIONS PEOPLES

[HTTPS://BGLC.COM.AU/PROTECTING-WILKERR/](https://bglc.com.au/protecting-wilkerr/)

NATIONAL FIRST NATIONS' DINGO DECLARATION

[HTTPS://HSI.ORG.AU/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2023/10/DINGO-DECLARATION-FINAL-A3.PDF](https://hsi.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/dingo-declaration-final-a3.pdf)

Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP

Acting Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Friday 7 February 2020

Changes afoot for managing wild dogs in SA

The Marshall Liberal Government is determined to remove wild dogs inside South Australia's Dog Fence and is consulting on policy changes to achieve this goal.

The revised policy proposes minimum baiting standards inside the Dog Fence and a declaration of wild dogs in a 35km buffer zone outside of the fence to reduce the number of dogs reaching the fence.

Acting Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Dan van Holst Pellekaan said a revised and practical wild dog management policy will ensure we have the right strategies in place to pursue the eradication of wild dogs inside the Fence.

"Unfortunately, under the watch of the former government the wild dog population increased dramatically," said Acting Minister van Holst Pellekaan.

"The Marshall Liberal Government is working with industry and the Federal Government and is determined to combine the once-in-a-generation \$25 million rebuild of the dog fence and effective strategies to remove wild dogs from inside the fence.

"Wild dogs rip nearly \$89 million a year from the Australian economy as estimated by the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions. South Australian farmers reported losing **more than 10,000 sheep to wild dogs in 2018 alone.**

"Our Government is focused on improving the management of wild dogs to support the growth of our \$4.3 billion livestock sector.



[Home](#) » [News feed \(source\)](#) » **Thousands of extra aerial baits as storms damage Dog Fence**

News

Thousands of extra aerial baits as storms damage Dog Fence

Tuesday 15 February 2022

Thousands of extra aerial baits for wild dogs are being deployed across northern South Australia in response to damage caused to the Dog Fence during recent heavy rainfall.

More than 250 kilometres of the Dog Fence between Coober Pedy and the Ikara/Flinders Ranges has sustained damage with a total of 2,000 baits deployed in response to ensure wild dogs don't migrate south. A barrier of baits has been deployed to stop wild dogs slipping through an estimated 40 storm damaged breaches of the dog fence.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development David Basham said recent heavy rainfall has caused widespread damage across northern South Australia.

"Unfortunately, the Dog Fence has sustained some damage from the recent rainfall event across northern South Australia and the extra aerial baiting will help protect our livestock industry from the scourge of wild dogs while repair work is undertaken," Minister Basham said.

"Wild dogs rip nearly \$89 million a year from the Australian economy with South Australian producers **losing more than 20,000 sheep to wild dogs in 2018 alone.**

"The State Government has a multi-pronged approach when it comes to tackling the issue of wild dogs, the additional baiting efforts complementing the historic \$25 million rebuild of the South Australian Wild Dog Fence as well as trapping and bounty programs.