### WHAT WE ARE ASKING YOU TO DO:

Please contact your local South Australian MP, the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development (Clare Scriven MLC), and the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water (Emily Bourke MLC) to raise concerns about South Australia's dingo eradication policy south of the Dog Fence, particularly in and around Ngarkat Conservation Park.

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

We are particularly concerned about documents obtained through Freedom of Information revealing discussions about aerial baiting of foxes in Ngarkat Conservation Park to improve "*wild dog*" control.

This comes on top of the existing requirement for lethal baiting four times a year in an area occupied by Wilkerr, a small, genetically vulnerable dingo population currently undergoing federal threatened species assessment.

We are asking South Australians to seek answers about the scientific justification for these activities, the potential conservation impacts and whether appropriate assessments have been undertaken.

### WHY THE PROPOSED AERIAL BAITING MATTERS:

Ngarkat Conservation Park forms part of the landscape occupied by Wilkerr, a genetically distinct and vulnerable dingo population occurring across the South Australian and Victorian border.

South Australia requires lethal baiting to be undertaken four times a year in Ngarkat Conservation Park. Documents obtained through Freedom of Information have now revealed discussions about aerial baiting of foxes as a means of improving wild dog control.

This raises serious questions about the cumulative impacts of lethal control on an already vulnerable population, particularly while Wilkerr is undergoing assessment for potential listing as a threatened species under federal environmental legislation.

Before any expansion of lethal control proceeds, the public deserves to know what scientific evidence supports it, whether independent environmental and conservation risk assessments have been completed, and what consultation has occurred with First Nations peoples and relevant scientific experts.

A copy of the draft document, *"Aerial baiting of foxes in Ngarkat to improve wild dog control"*, obtained through Freedom of Information request **CORP F2026-000034 ER** is available.

We encourage you to read the document and share it with your local MP/s and the relevant Ministers when raising questions about the proposed aerial baiting, its scientific justification and potential impacts on Wilkerr.

### WHO TO CONTACT:

1. Start with your local South Australian Member of Parliament.

You can find your local MP here: https://www.parliament.sa.gov.au/en/Members/Members-Home

On 19 August 2026, the Hon. Melanie Selwood MLC submitted parliamentary questions to the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, Emily Bourke MLC, concerning lethal control, 1080 baiting, conservation risks and the management of dingoes in Ngarkat Conservation Park.

We encourage residents to ask their MPs to follow up on these outstanding questions, particularly in light of the proposed aerial baiting and Wilkerr's ongoing federal threatened species assessment.

2. We also encourage residents to seek written answers from both the
   - **Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development** (*Clare Scriven MLC*) and
   - **Minister for Climate, Environment and Water** (*Emily Bourke MLC*).

3. You can also contact Legislative Council members, who represent the whole state, including the Greens SA member the Hon. Melanie Selwood MLC.

### WHAT TO SAY:

You do not need to be an expert to raise concerns about South Australia's dingo eradication policy. Simply explain why you are concerned and ask for evidence, transparency and accountability.

To make things easier, we've prepared **three email templates** you can copy, personalise or use as a guide:

1. **Your local MP:** Ask them to raise formal Questions on Notice with the relevant Ministers.
2. **The Ministers:** Contact the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and/or the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water directly to request written answers.
3. **The Hon. Melanie Selwood MLC:** Thank her for the questions she has already raised in Parliament and request an update, including further questions about the proposed aerial baiting in Ngarkat.

You'll also find **additional questions further down on pages 6 & 7** that you may wish to include in your email. You don't need to ask them all. Simply choose those most important to you.

We've included **links to relevant scientific research on page 7** covering dingo genetics, population estimates, ecology and baiting impacts. You are welcome to reference or share these studies when contacting MPs and Ministers.

We've also provided **screenshots highlighting discrepancies in the South Australian Government's reported livestock-loss figures for 2018**, published in 2020 and 2022. You can attach these to your email as supporting evidence, with the relevant sections highlighted for you. **These can be found on pages 8 and 9**.

We encourage you to personalise your message, remain respectful when contacting Members of Parliament and Ministers, and share the supporting information provided to help others better understand why the conservation of Wilkerr matters.

For additional information, we've prepared a two-page **Wilkerr Fact Sheet** outlining the population's cultural and ecological significance, genetic vulnerability, population estimates and the conservation concerns surrounding South Australia's dingo eradication policy. We encourage you to include it when contacting your local MP and the relevant Ministers.

## EMAIL TEMPLATES

Here are three short email templates you can copy and paste and/or edit yourself.

Don't forget to add the screenshots on pages 8 and 9 if you include questions about the 2018 livestock loss discrepancies.

### TO YOUR LOCAL MP:

Dear [MP name],

I am writing as a concerned South Australian resident regarding the ongoing eradication of dingoes south of the Dog Fence, particularly in and around Ngarkat Conservation Park.

I recently became aware of the requirement for 1080 baiting four times a year in Ngarkat, along with government discussions about introducing aerial baiting to improve "wild dog" control.

I am concerned about what this could mean for Wilkerr, a small, genetically vulnerable dingo population currently undergoing federal threatened species assessment.

I fully appreciate the challenges farmers face in protecting their livestock and support practical, effective solutions. However, I believe greater consideration should be given to non-lethal livestock protection methods, alongside independent scientific assessments of the ecological consequences of lethal control.

Would you be willing to raise formal Questions on Notice with the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water regarding:

- The scientific evidence supporting the existing and proposed baiting programs.
- Whether independent conservation risk assessments have been undertaken.
- What non-lethal livestock protection measures have been investigated or supported.
- What consultation has occurred with First Nations peoples and relevant scientific experts.

I would sincerely appreciate your assistance in seeking greater transparency and ensuring that livestock protection and biodiversity conservation are both considered.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

[Your name]
[Your town or suburb]

## To the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and/or Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

Dear Minister,

I am writing to express my concerns about the continued lethal control of dingoes in Ngarkat Conservation Park, particularly the requirement for 1080 baiting four times a year and recent discussions about introducing aerial baiting to improve "wild dog" control.

I understand the importance of supporting South Australian farmers and protecting livestock. However, I am also concerned about the potential consequences of these activities for Wilkerr, a genetically vulnerable dingo population currently undergoing federal threatened species assessment.

I believe it is important that wildlife management decisions are supported by transparent scientific evidence and carefully consider both animal welfare and biodiversity conservation.

I would be grateful if you could provide some clarification on the following:

1. What scientific evidence supports the existing baiting requirements and any proposed aerial baiting in Ngarkat?
2. Have independent assessments considered the cumulative impacts of lethal control on Wilkerr and other native wildlife?
3. What non-lethal livestock protection measures have been investigated, trialled or made available to producers as alternatives to lethal control?
4. What consultation has occurred with First Nations peoples and relevant scientific experts?

I hope that effective livestock protection and the long-term conservation of this vulnerable dingo population can be pursued together, rather than being treated as competing priorities.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these concerns. I would greatly appreciate a written response.

Kind regards,

[Your name]
[Your town or suburb]

THE HON. MELANIE SELWOOD MLC

Dear Ms Selwood,

I am writing as a concerned South Australian resident to thank you for raising important parliamentary questions regarding dingo management in Ngarkat Conservation Park on 19 August 2026.

I greatly appreciate the attention you have brought to this issue, particularly the need for transparency, scientific evidence and consideration of the conservation risks associated with lethal control.

I have recently become aware of government discussions about introducing aerial baiting of foxes to improve "wild dog" control in Ngarkat, in addition to the existing requirement for 1080 baiting four times a year.

This is particularly concerning given the genetic vulnerability of Wilkerr and their ongoing federal threatened species assessment.

While I recognise the importance of protecting livestock and supporting farmers, I would also like to see greater consideration given to non-lethal management options that could reduce livestock losses without further threatening this vulnerable population.

I was hoping you might be able to provide an update on whether your previous parliamentary questions have received a response, and whether there may be an opportunity to raise further questions regarding the proposed aerial baiting and the consideration of non-lethal alternatives.

Thank you again for your efforts in bringing attention to this important issue. Your willingness to raise these questions is genuinely appreciated.

Kind regards,

[Your name]
[Your town or suburb]

### KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK:

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

1. Has aerial baiting of foxes or dingoes within Ngarkat Conservation Park been formally proposed, assessed or approved, and what is the intended purpose?

2. What scientific evidence supports aerial baiting as an additional control measure, given the existing 4 times yearly lethal baiting program?

3. Has an independent assessment been undertaken of the potential impacts of aerial baiting on Wilkerr and other non-target wildlife?

4. Has the South Australian Government consulted with the Commonwealth Government regarding the potential impacts of lethal control on Wilkerr, given its current assessment under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999?

5. Will the Government commit to not introducing additional aerial baiting in Ngarkat Conservation Park until an independent conservation risk assessment has been completed and publicly released?

6. Before South Australia committed to eradicating dingoes/wild dogs south of the Dog Fence, were independent population surveys completed?

7. How many dingoes/wild dogs are estimated to live in Ngarkat Conservation Park and surrounding areas?

8. How many animals have been killed through baiting, trapping, shooting, or bounty programs in and around Ngarkat?

9. How many of those animals have been genetically tested?

10. Has a conservation risk assessment or population viability analysis been completed before continuing lethal control in this landscape? If so, when was it completed?

11. Has the government assessed the impact of baiting four times a year in the Ngarkat Conservation Park area on a small, isolated and genetically vulnerable dingo population? If so, when?

12. What First Nations consultation has occurred regarding the killing of dingoes in South Australia, and in and around Ngarkat Conservation Park?

13. 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?

14. What was the source of each livestock-loss figure?

15. Were those losses confirmed kills, producer reports, industry estimates, modelling, or a combination?

16. Were the figures independently verified?

17. 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?

## 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

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

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). *Ecoevorxiv*. 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 Rahbek, 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

### 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

### 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

### First Nations:

Barengi Gadjin Land Council/Wotjobaluk Nations Peoples

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

MEDIA RELEASE | Government of South Australia

## 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.

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.