



# Dingoes

## Champions of Biodiversity



Beyond their ecological importance, dingoes are a unique, sentient species that have a value in and of themselves.

Founded by Lyn Watson and her late husband, Peter Watson, the **Australian Dingo Foundation (ADF)** & the associated **Dingo Discovery Sanctuary & Research Centre**, are based in Toolern Vale, Victoria. The ADF is a not-for-profit organisation that:

- Advocates for the preservation and conservation of Dingoes,
- Provides education on the role Dingoes play to maintain ecosystem stability & resilience as Australia's apex land predator &
- Maintains a conservation breeding population for critical non-invasive research & potential future rewilding projects.



<http://dingofoundation.org.au/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/dingoHQ>



# Dingoes Champions of Biodiversity

Dingoes are deeply & have very strong social bonds & are set to a partner for life.

A Unique Sentient species



# Dingoes **Champions of Biodiversity**

Stable Families = Ecological Strength & Resilience



# Dingoes Champions of Biodiversity

Australia's Native Apex Land Predators

Australia's native wildlife have survived & thrived for thousands of years under the protection of dingoes, shaped by nature to fulfill the critical role of apex predators, providing ecosystem resilience & stability. Dingoes pick off the old, the weak & the diseased, ensuring genetically strong & healthy populations of their native prey species.

Image credit: Michelle J Photography

# Dingoes Champions of Biodiversity

## Apex Predator Rewilding = Ecological Restoration

- There is ample evidence in Australia & globally of the rewilding / repopulating of apex predators transforming degraded landscapes back to ecological health, regulating, not only their own populations, but those of their prey.
- There is zero evidence anywhere in the world of successful ecosystem restoration projects as a result of the broadscale use of poisons.



Unique Australian species driven to extinction.

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## Sacred Dingoes Protecting Endangered Species

*'Since getting Country back in 2014 we have stopped 1080 baiting and the results are showing – the Dingo – boss of Olkola Country – is making a comeback and that is good news for his mate Alwal – the endangered golden shouldered parrot and Olkola totem.'*

Olkola Aboriginal Corporation (Qld)

Dingoes are the dreaming animal for Paruku IPA's Mulan mob (WA) where both night parrots and bilbies are still present in the landscape. Dingoes are attributed with protecting critical habitat from overgrazing as well as suppressing foxes and feral cats.

Image credit: Olkola Aboriginal Corporation

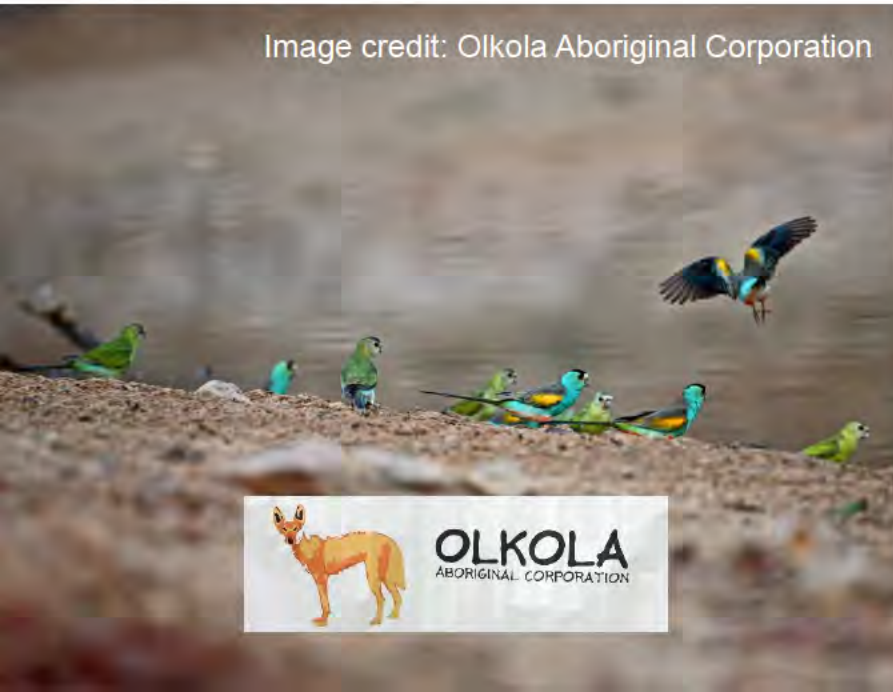


Image credit: Paruku Rangers



# Dingoes Champions of Biodiversity

Provide 24/7 Pest Control Services



In the context of a broad landscape, dingoes as 24/7 pest controllers are unmatched by time consuming and expensive poisons, trapping and shooting, that only serve to create a temporary disturbance in population numbers.



# Dingoes Champions of Biodiversity

Provide 24/7 Pest Control Services



Video credit: Australian Wildlife Conservancy

A lone dingo at full pace hunting feral pigs, one of Australia's worse feral animals.

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## Native Prey is Preferred

Dingoes have a paleolithic digestive system with a strong preference for lean protein as they don't produce the enzymes required to digest fatty meat, such as lamb.



At 13 – 20 kgs, dingoes  
require only 350 - 500  
grams of food/day

Image credit: Charles Davis Photography

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## A Cat In A Dog Suit

Dingoes may look like dogs but they acts like cats, incredibly agile, wary, aloof and independent, with the intelligence to rival some primates and as flexible as a snake on legs.

They are skilled problem solvers with one report of a captive dingo learning to open the ring pull on a tin of sardines.

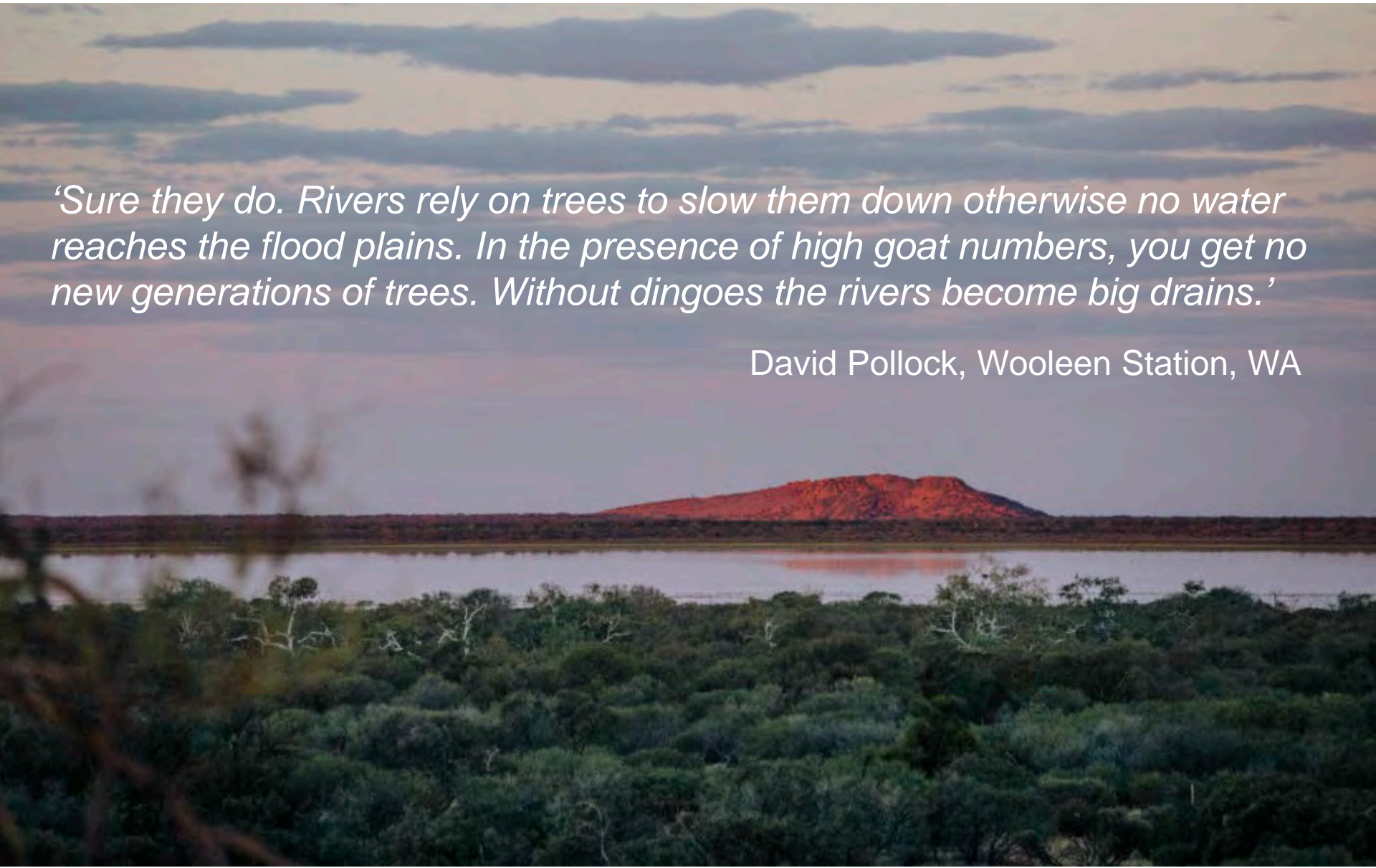


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Can Dingoes (just like Wolves) Change Rivers?

*'Sure they do. Rivers rely on trees to slow them down otherwise no water reaches the flood plains. In the presence of high goat numbers, you get no new generations of trees. Without dingoes the rivers become big drains.'*

David Pollock, Wooleen Station, WA



# Dingoes Champions of Biodiversity

David Pollock, Wooleen Station (WA): 155,000 hectares



Dingoes returned to Wooleen in approx. 2010.

# Dingoes Champions of Biodiversity

Biodiversity is thriving in Queensland's drought stricken outback.

*'Just on our property, Noonbah, I've documented well over 500 plant species and up to 188 bird species, adding up to 321 vertebrate species in total.'*

Angus Emmott, Noonbah Station, Qld



Pictured: Cooper Creek (or Emmott's) short-necked turtle  
Image credit: Angus Emmott

# Dingoes **Champions of Biodiversity**

Angus Emmott, Noonbah Station (Qld): 52,000 Ha



Stopped baiting dingoes in 2001.

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Dingoes NOT 'Wild Dogs' Are Dying as a Result of 'Wild Dog Control'



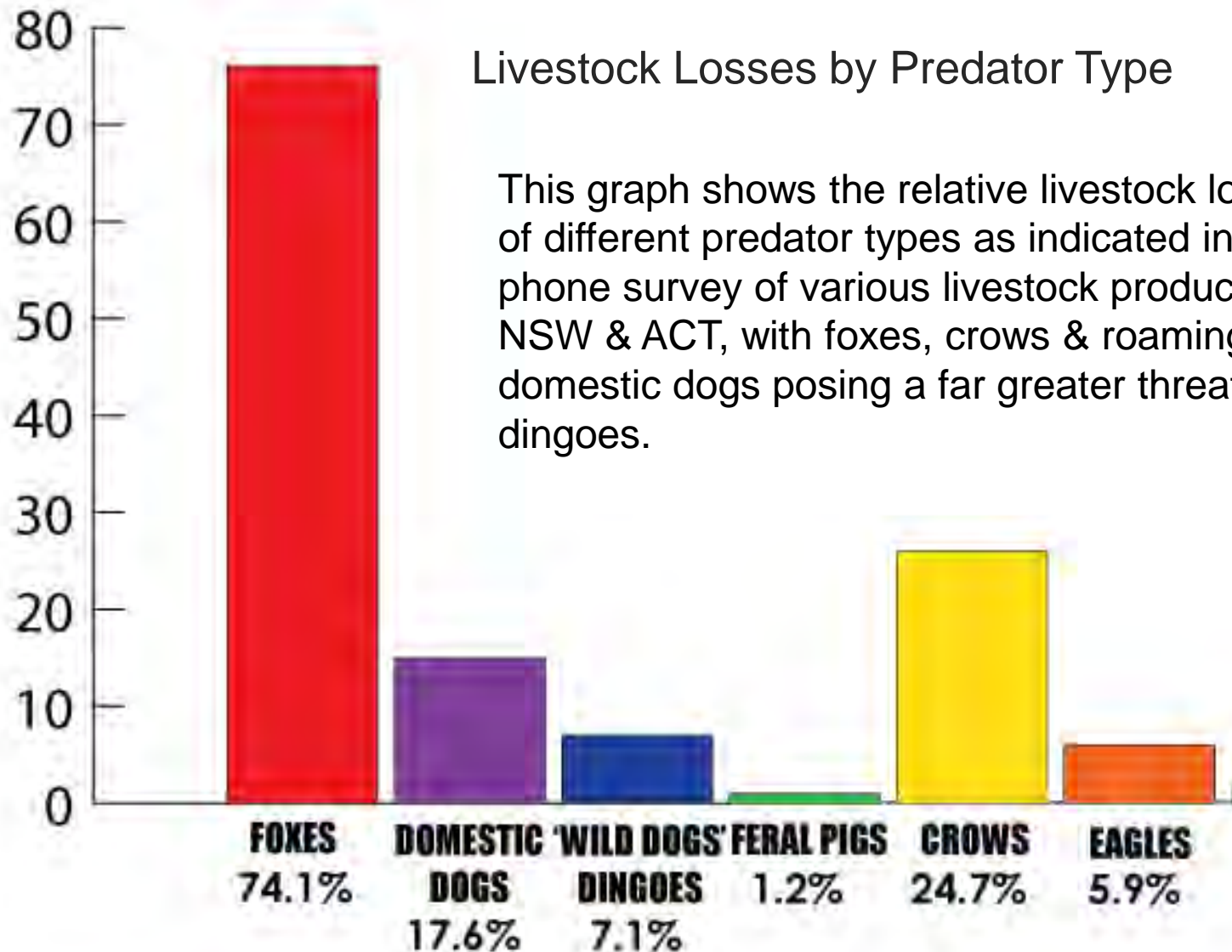
23 dead dingoes hanging from a tree near Omeo all tested pure.

'Warpun' wild rescued cub from near Alexander tested as pure.



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Why Are Dingoes So Heavily Targetted for Livestock Protection?



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When All Things are Considered: Lamb / Sheep Deaths due to Predation are Low

Death by exposure kills a reported 15 million lambs / year across Australia.

A study in Hamilton, (where dingoes have been extirpated) Victoria, found the major causes of lamb loss (22%) were:

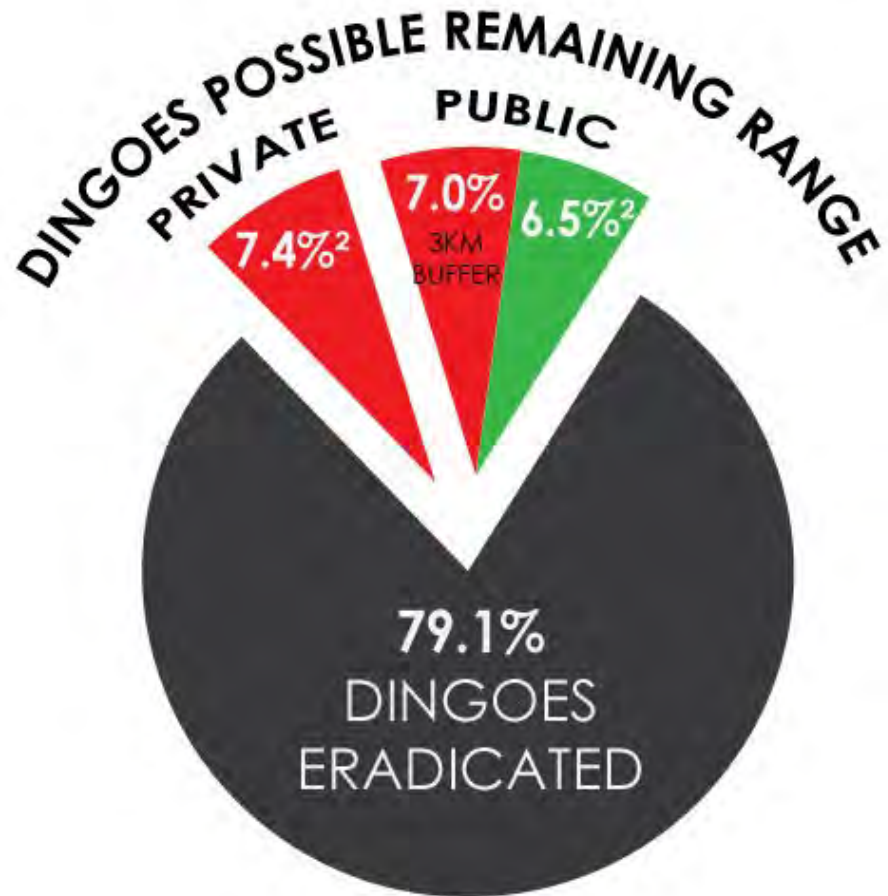
- exposure (56 percent)
- starvation (16 percent)
- dystocia (16 percent)
- foxes (9 percent).



Image credit: Animal Liberation / Emma Hakansson

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Dingoes Extirpated from 79% of Victoria's Landscape



Protection is afforded to dingoes in just 6.5% of the Victorian landscape.



**DINGOES KILLED AS 'WILD DOGS'**



**DINGOES PRESERVED AS PROTECTED WILDLIFE**

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Decades of Lethal Control in Victoria has tipped the balance to favour Foxes

Historically between 1980 & 2013, for every dingo killed in Victoria, it has been replaced by 252 foxes.

As the ONLY native predator that kills and suppresses foxes, current bounty payments incentivise killing dingoes, offering 12 times the bounty payment of foxes!

- Dingo     **\$120**
- Fox        **\$10**

YEAR 1980<sup>1</sup>



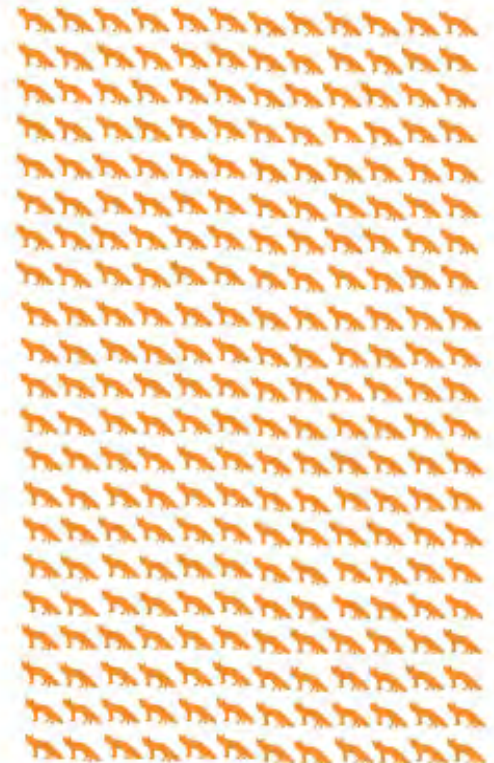
1:1



YEAR 2013<sup>2</sup>

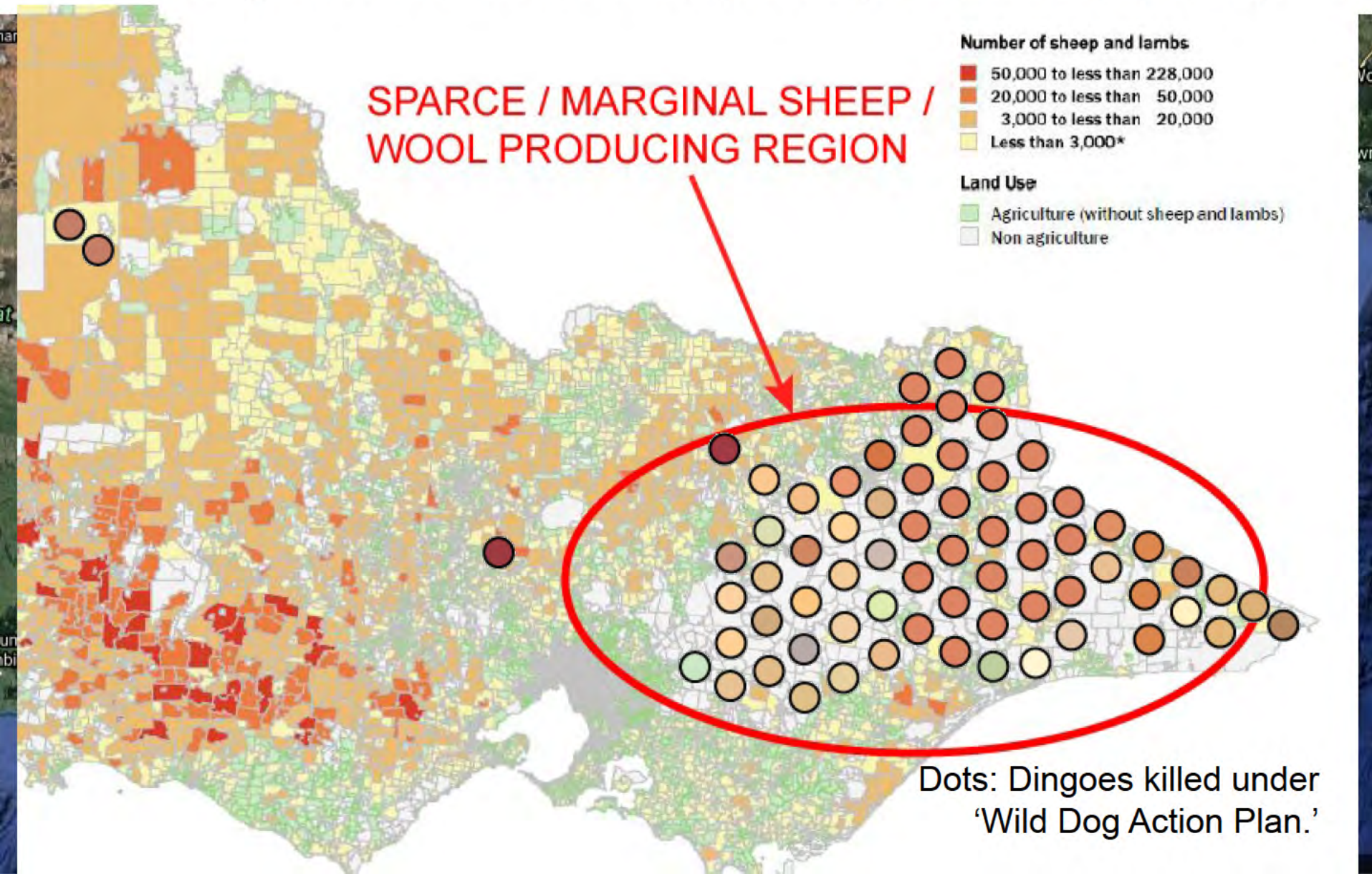


1:252



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Dingoes killing is Concentrated in Victoria Alpine Regions where Sheep are Sparce



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Lethal Control of Dingoes – Humane? Effective? Justifiable?



To date the killing of dingoes, has been largely out of sight and out of mind and yet we need to ask ourselves as a civilized society is the killing of dingoes: Humane? Effective? Justified?

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Lethal Control of Dingoes – Humane? Effective? Justifiable?



Barbarically, it is currently legal for Dingoes to be trapped for up to 72 hours in pain & distress with dingoes known to chew their own foot off to escape.

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Lethal Control of Dingoes – Humane? Effective? Justifiable?



What do you say to your children when stumble upon this gruesome scene? A shot, scalped & gutted dingo dumped on the side of a road.





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Lethal Control of Dingoes – Humane? Effective? Justifiable?

1080 Aerial Baiting



Favours Feral Cats



Dingoes 27%



Fox 23%



Cats 21%



Accelerating extinctions of threatened wildlife ..

# Dingoes Champions of Biodiversity

## Lethal Control of Dingoes – Humane? Effective? Justifiable?



Are Dingoes Safe in Protected Zones?  
Our own research has determined that:

- **Dingoes find fox baits palatable**
- **They will sniff out & dig up fox baits**
- **2mg of 1080 poison will kill an adult dingo**
- **Fox bait contains 4mg 1080**

Hence an adult dingo will die from eating just one fox bait. The dingo below died from suspected fox bait deep within a National Park.



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Lethal Control of Dingoes – Humane? Effective? Justifiable?



Jennifer Pirret: Dairy Goat Farmer. Husband & 5 children. 250 acre property. Lost 4 dogs & 5 goats to crows washing poison of 1080 baits in dog bowls & troughs.

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Lethal Control of Dingoes – Humane? Effective? Justifiable?



Aaron Mortimer: Lost his beloved dog Dodge. She ate a 1080 'Wild Dog' bait illegally laid at rock pools on a popular 4WD track.

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Coexistence = Positive welfare outcomes for Livestock AND Dingoes

Livestock protection solutions need to be the first form of defence & provide the **best** welfare outcomes for both **livestock & dingoes**.

Successful solutions include:

- Guardian animals
- Improved husbandry
- Exclusion fencing
- Foxlights
- Fladry

Urgent investment is required into development & trialling of:

- Chemical deterrents
- Scare devices such as:
  - Fred-A-Scare (pictured)
  - Super fladry



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## A Last Word

If it is living wild and:

Looks like a Dingo

Acts like a Dingo

Then you can guarantee it is  
functioning as a Dingo and  
performing the critical role of  
**Apex Predator.**

Broadscale Lethal Control

**Must Cease &**

Targeted Lethal control should be a

**Last Resort**



Image credit: Charles Davis

# Dingoes Champions of Biodiversity

The Australian Dingo Foundation would Endorse the Following Actions:

1. **'DINGOES' NOT 'WILD DOGS'**
2. Enact **FFG DINGO ACTION** Statement
3. **REMOVE OIC:**
  - I. Remove \$120 bounty
  - II. Cease 'Wild Dog' broadscale ground & aerial baiting, trapping & shooting.
4. **'LIVESTOCK PROTECTION'** trials / initiatives
5. **DINGO REPOPULATION / REWILDING** projects.



Image credit: Charles Davis



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### **Australian Dingo Foundation Video Transcripts: Ecosystem Decline Inquiry PowerPoint**

*'Foxes? Um I remember shooting thirty foxes in one night when I was a kid, going from water to water, in the dry season and um I haven't seen a fox track for five years. At the end of the day, you have to be able to manage the grazing pressure on your country and without dingoes we just can't do it here. Hmm.'* David Pollock, Wooleen Station.<sup>12</sup>

*'When we talk about feral management, feral animal control, the dingoes being left alone keep feral dogs away, they keep the roo numbers right down low and they keep cats and foxes down to very low numbers. So it costs me no time and no money to come up with outcomes that are far above most of my surrounding neighbours, who spend lots of time and money to try and achieve the same result.'* Angus Emmott, Noonbah Station.<sup>34</sup>

*'What the crows do, so that the baits are safe to eat, they will wash them out in the water supply, wash all the poison out then just eat the surrounding meat. So that water that they were washing in the gutters on our house, was washing into our rainwater tank which is our drinking water.'* Jennifer Pirrett, Dairy Goat Farmer.<sup>5</sup>

*'I guess the best way to put it was, she was screaming, a screaming noise and I have never heard a dog scream like that before. Blood and saliva splatted all over the windows where she was smashing head first into all the windows. I can tell you right now when I looked into her eyes and I saw how terrified that dog was, there's nothing humane about this stuff. We have a worse problem with feral animals than what we did when we started using it, so it is not solving any problems.'* Aaron Mortimer, 4WD Enthusiast.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Full video] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbIDUB5ksDM>

<sup>2</sup> <https://wooleen.com.au/dingos/>

<sup>3</sup> [7.30 Report 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021] <https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/are-dingoes-essential-to-maintain-the-natural/13404620>

<sup>4</sup> <https://meridian.allenpress.com/australian-zoologist/article-abstract/doi/10.7882/AZ.2020.033/447850/The-Dingo-as-a-management-tool-on-a-beef-cattle>

<sup>5</sup> [Full video] <https://www.facebook.com/381674819342063/videos/929935010785714>

<sup>6</sup> [Full video] <https://www.facebook.com/clyde.graf/posts/2065556610156332>