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Mr R D Doyle
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Alice and George Streets
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Doyle

I refer to your letter of 18 September 2002 forwarding a copy of a Petition lodged in the Queensland Legislative Assembly, requesting the House to arrange for the eradication of dingoes in the Woocoo Shire Area.

My Department of Natural Resources and Mines shares the concerns of Woocoo Shire residents over the problems created by wild dogs. Pest managers must rely on managing impacts because it is rarely possible to completely eradicate pest animals that are well established. Eradication is only possible in exceptional circumstances, such as on islands.

Officers of my Department have drawn the wild dog problem to the attention of the Woocoo Shire Council. Council officers have recently worked with local landholders to conduct a wild dog-baiting program. In addition, Council officers have been humanely trapping animals, and I am informed that the Council makes humane traps available to landholders.

My Department supports local governments and landholders in fulfilling their responsibilities under the *Rural Lands Protection Act 1985* to manage declared pest animals. The Act places the responsibility for declared animal control, including wild dogs, in the hands of landowners and local governments. My Department provides support and coordination for declared animal control where multiple landowners or managers need to be involved to ensure the success of control programs. Coordinated efforts of this kind are often required in relatively densely settled areas where groups of animals can range across many properties. In the long term, successful management of wild dogs must be based on an improved awareness of the causes of the problem, and implementation of a variety of preventative measures.

I suggest that landholders in Woocoo Shire continue to provide Council officers with specific information on the locations and circumstances of wild dog problems. Departmental officers will continue to provide expertise and support to the Woocoo Shire Council to ensure coordinated and effective pest animal management.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

STEPHEN ROBERTSON MP