

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
Harvest Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

11 September 2017

Dear Chairman

Petition No 018 – Management of wild dogs in Nullagine

As head petitioner please accept this letter as my written submission in support of the above petition which was tabled in the Legislative Council on 17th August 2017.

In Nullagine, our small town of approximately 80 - 100 people, we have unnecessarily lost domestic pets to unidentified baiting in the township and close outlying areas. We believe more could have been done to avoid this loss by erecting a sign where the baiting was placed and mailing notices to residents to alert us.

As residents we strongly oppose to the use of Bait 1080 as it is not an accurate way to reduce wild dogs and the bait has also exterminated wildlife in the area. It is a cruel death and if anyone saw how the animals suffer before they die, they would think again before using it.

We urge the government to find another manageable treatment for wild dogs within the area

The cattle in this area just go wherever they please. There are no fences. They come into the town regardless of the cattle grids. They are not a native to this country. Also they are dangerous as they are all over the roads causing many accidents, but my biggest concern is for residents' pets. Last year a resident took his dog for a run at Garden Pool, (a nice picnic area 2kms from town). She picked up a bait and there was nothing that could be done except watch her suffer and die. It was heartbreaking. Also two more dogs from the community picked up baits. I also wonder, and don't know for sure, but what if a baby was taken to any of these beautiful picnic spots around the area, and picked up a bait and put it in their mouth. Would that baby die a horrendous death too? If they have to use this inhumane method, why should it be so close to town? If the cattle were fenced, then the baits would not be required, after all, dingos were here first, but I guess that wouldn't be viable for the cattle station. Also, there would be fewer accidents on the roads.

I guess it's all about the money in the end. They are baiting again at the moment but this time we did receive an email but still no signs around the area warning of them. It could be months before the baits are inactive as we have to wait until some heavy rain to dilute them, and we may not get rain for months at a time. The baits are dropped from the air so they could be anywhere. Something really needs to be done about this. Please help.

Yours sincerely

Cate Clancy
Nullagine Community Resource Centre