



Your details

Mrs

Title

First name

Susan

Last name

Cruttenden

Submission details

I am making this submission as

A resident in a bushfire-affected area

Submission type

I am making a personal submission

Consent to make submission public

I give my consent for this submission to be made public

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story

Planned Action for Feral Animal Control

The plight of animals and birds that have recently endured recent catastrophic bushfires in our region is of concern if they are found injured and hungry on the margins of townships, but seemingly beyond any help or rescue if they sought refuge in the unburnt areas of bushland away from town.

The state government's Planned Action for Feral Animal Control is designed to take advantage of bushfire devastation to get rid of feral animals such as goats, foxes, wild dogs, cats, pigs, rabbits that have survived the holocaust but are still but are still regarded by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment as posing a risk to farmers' livestock.

Over a million 1080 poison baits are ready to be employed state-wide in this war on the land. The very real possibility of harm

being caused to other creatures such as quolls, dingoes, birds and lizards, and the likelihood of soil and water-ways being contaminated is overlooked or minimised.

Lawyer and animal activist Marilyn Nuske questions the legality of using this poison and says it could be used in a case of "toxic trespass" when there has been a reasonable chance that a bird or a fox carried the bait to a private property, and caused the death of a domestic dog.

There appears to have been little or no notification explanation or justification for such a dangerous scheme to kill feral animals, let any consideration given to the fate of native wildlife or to the opinions of scientists, ecologists, indigenous people, animal welfare groups, the Australian Wildlife Protection Council, or dingo conservation groups. There are so few dingoes in the south east of the state that this magnificent native animal, already suffering the results of logging, climate change, and development may well become extinct as a result of a killing plan which makes no distinction between wild dogs and dingoes.

A spokesperson from the NPWS attempted to defend the scheme when he stated among other things that dingoes in "core areas" would be protected, and that scientists had approved the scheme as the best way to get rid of feral animals, especially foxes. Were these unnamed scientists aware of the 248 scientists who wrote a letter to the Prime Minister in late 1019 urging strong leadership to arrest the decline in the number of native species?

Have farmers and the government considered alternative ways of stock protection other than simply increasing the failed killing methods of the past?

It was also claimed by NPWS administering the scheme that this current killing plan is being widely communicated and promoted! This certainly appears not to have not been the case in Eurobodalla region where no information came from council, and there was only a small brief mention in the public notices section of the local Narooma News (April 29). This notice warned people to lock up their dogs to prevent them from being poisoned with 1080 from 4th May-20th November when the lethal poisoning plan will be implemented by Local Land Services in partnership with the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

State-wise the present feral animal control part of the scheme was brutally summed as:

- *1,500-2,000 hours of aerial shooting
- *localised follow-up of ground shooting
- *up to 60,000km of serial baiting
- *deployment of 1 million baits

The areas involved the local region are Wadbilliga, Deua, Monga, Kooraban, South East Forests, Badja Swamps, Egan Peaks, Araluen, Bondi Gulf and Coolumbooka, Majors Creek and Berlang.

Opponents of the elimination plan can only hope that other shires are better informed and people are given the opportunity to influence the continuation or termination of a plan which affects us all.

In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "The greatness of a nation is judged by the way its animals are treated." How will Australia be judged if and when this poisoning plan becomes known?"

Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#).

Supporting documents or images
