



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Windsor meets Walcha landholders over wild dogs

The damage being done to stock by wild dogs near Walcha will be the subject of meeting between landholders and the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor in Walcha tomorrow.

It is anticipated that over forty landholders will meet with Mr Windsor to discuss their concerns and action they want taken to reduce their losses as a result of the wild dogs attacking their livestock.

Mr Windsor said that he had been contacted by distraught farmers needing to not only protect their livelihood but also wanting the carnage to stop.

“Sheep and cattle graziers are basically very good at looking after their livestock.

Their high quality animal husbandry skills and practices ensure that their livestock have a good environment in which to live and therefore in which to be productive.

To have both of these destroyed by the wild dogs of the area is very distressing particularly when there are ways of controlling the situation,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor, a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry which delivered a report into Australia’s feral pest animals only last year is very concerned that the recommendations of the “Inquiry into the impact on agriculture of pest animals” are not being implemented quickly enough or are in fact being ignored.

“The Inquiry report makes recommendations with regard to baiting campaigns for wild dogs as well as the need to employ doggers on a regular and ongoing basis in areas where wild dogs are a serious problem.

It further recommends providing training programs for new doggers and employing contractors to carry out ad hoc pest animal control activities.

The committee also recommended that there be agreement among government on appropriate guidelines for the construction and maintenance of exclusion fencing and remove impediments to land clearing required specifically for fencing for the purposes of pest animal control.

It is clearly evident that these and other recommendations are not being undertaken and so we continue to have the situation like we have in the Walcha district where farmers are being severely impacted on by wild dogs when proposals have been put to Government that would alleviate the problem enormously,” Mr Windsor said.

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