



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

13 September 2007

More 1080 baits allowable for Walcha Wild Dog problem

The Walcha wild dog problem has been the subject of two meetings in Canberra this week with the outcome being the allowance of higher intensity 1080 dog baiting.

Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor met with the Hon Susan Ley MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, and with Mr Alby Schultz MP, the Chairman of the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry, that recently undertook an Inquiry into Australia's feral animals.

The meetings discussed the concerns expressed at a recent rally held at the Winterbourne Fire Shed – east of Walcha.

“Walcha landholders were greatly concerned at the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) recommendation that the 1080 dog baiting intensity should be reduced from 40 baits per kilometre to 10 per kilometre.

Ms Ley and Mr Schultz both had a good knowledge of the issue and because of the backgrounds fully understood the damage that wild dogs can wreak.

It was agreed that the baiting rate could remain at the current rate under licence application from the local Rural Lands Protection Boards (RLPB) to the APVMA.

We also discussed the research currently being carried out by the Invasive Animals Co-operative Research Centre as to the effectiveness of various baiting methods and intensity with further decisions to be made when this research becomes available.

This is what the landholders wanted to happen immediately with other matters of fencing of National Parks and training of dog trappers to be pursued as part of the follow up to the Parliamentary Committee's Report.

It's a good start," Mr Windsor said.