

DINGO CONTROL POLICY



PREAMBLE

The dingo, (*Canis familiaris dingo*) is a wild dog which is a relative of the Asian wolf. Dingoes arrived in Australia about 3,500 years ago. In the Northern Territory the dingo is a protected animal across all land tenures.

Dingoes readily cross with domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) and resultant hybrids are often difficult to distinguish from pure dingoes. Hybrids and feral domestic dogs are not protected in the Northern Territory.

POLICY

The Parks and Wildlife Commission recognises that the dingo is an important component of natural ecosystems.

The Commission acknowledges that dingoes can be a significant predator of livestock.

The Commission's dingo and feral dog control program provides a level of protection against economic loss to landholders consistent with the objective of maintaining wild populations of the dingo.

Pastoral and rural landholders experiencing minor livestock damage by dingoes will be encouraged to apply for a relevant permit and undertake control through the use of dog proof fencing, shooting or trapping.

Where the problem is such that poisoning is likely to be the only effective method of control, baiting using Compound 1080 will be conducted by Government officers possessing appropriate authority under the *Poisons and Dangerous Drugs Act*. Only Government officers who have undergone a course of training in the use of 1080 will be recommended to the Chief Medical Officer for issue of the appropriate authority.

The Commission will not conduct dingo and feral dog control programs within town boundaries except on Parks and Reserves.

Where it is considered necessary to conduct control operations on Aboriginal lands in the Northern Territory, it will be done in consultation with and the approval of the landowners.

STATUS: Endorsed 96th PWCNT June 2002 **FILE:** P2002/224
RELATED POLICIES: Entry, Movement and Keeping of Non-indigenous Vertebrates