

From: Mrs Joanne Milne

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Submission to QLD Parliaments Agriculture and Environment Committee

To whom it may concern

I wish to bring to your attention, via this submission, a focus on the **human emotional aspect** of dealing with dingoes attacking our livestock. I know you will be receiving the written documentation outlining the effects from dingo infestation on animal welfare, production, finances, communities large & small, town businesses, so many, many aspects of this region are badly impacted, almost to the point of non-return in a lot of cases. Just imagine what we'll be dealing with if that case happens.

We are already seeing our families leaving in droves; their expertise as shearers, livestock handlers, musterers, a huge loss of skills, can't be learnt from a book, but learnt from the trials of generations before us.

These people are our mates & the backbone of our community.

I have lived in this area, South of Longreach, for almost 35 years & before that, even further South in the Yaraka district for 20 years, both districts being very unique by their community pride & self sufficiency. Until recently I had seen minimal evidence of dingoes. This evidence of dingoes attacking our sheep has increased over the last few years, from lambs with infected wounds to markedly reduced lambs surviving, in certain paddocks, down to 20% survival only. The dingoes race the sheep around till they collapse from exhaustion up against a fence, they can't go any further, or a pack of dingoes race around amongst the Mothers, & lambs are mismothered or maimed or killed. This is a heartbreaking thought & despite driving amongst the sheep randomly day & night to protect them, while fitting in all the other pressing jobs, it's hard to know what else to do, & the pain & worry keeps our family awake at night & awake very early by morning.

We are now getting serious & more regular attacks to adult sheep & close to our house. The sinking feeling of finding a beautiful healthy ewe in lamb, dead & her mates with their necks punctured & their rumps ripped apart, bleeding & limping or cowering in a corner, looking at you for help, is very distressing & emotionally challenging & time consuming in management of the few that we may be able to save.

Until this scene actually touches you personally it's hard to imagine the emotional distress.

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We have been very proactive in pest & weed control & used 1080 for 35 or more years & sadly lost some very good pet working dogs as well, & now borrowed a lot of money from the bank to complete an area of dingo proof fencing to protect our lambing ewes, a lot of work, almost completed.

It worries me also to think of other producers going through even worse attacks & distress & can't afford to fence.

My solution: ***Start with Govt funded fencing to the whole perimeter of this Longreach Regional Council, 'clusters' around the whole perimeter, even better.***

Small select clusters randomly positioned will only benefit the "select few" who in some cases don't care about the long term wellbeing of the region, only themselves.

Another ***idea to help everyone maybe interest free funding*** for dingo fencing for 10 years, up to \$250,000 each producer. That might be easier.

Please consider, What will happen to the people left on the outside of the proposed clusters.? Dissension amongst neighbours & friends & continued distressing & horrific dingo attacks on the sheep & cattle that we care for & love doing so.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Milne