

Summary of comments received during the 20 business day public consultation period for EPBC 2011/6183

Comment provider	Detail
1	Aerial baiting is non-species specific and adversely affects Victoria's terrestrial biodiversity
	Aerial baiting will have an adverse impact on the spot-tailed quoll. No further detail is provided.
	The variation fails to acknowledge the dingo as the top-order predator.
	Aerial baiting may increase stock loss. No further detail is provided.
	The variation fails to place sufficient emphasis on the use of guard animals.
	The operation misuses public money as the cost of the program is greater than the value of the stock loss in affected areas.
	The maps do not clearly show that transects are within 3km livestock protection buffer zone.
	1080 is not humane as defined by the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986.
2	Areas controlled for wild dogs are less sustainable or profitable than those areas left alone.
	The costs of the operation far outweigh the possible gains in protection of stock.
	The dingo is the apex predator and its removal from the environment will lead to an increase in fox and feral cat populations.
	The aerial baiting will impact on pure dingoes as protected under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.
	Aerial baiting will fracture social hierarchies leading to problem dogs in the future.
	Non-target bait take may be significant.
	The areas to be baited are not inaccessible
	Reported stock losses may not be solely attributable to wild dogs.
	The use of 1080 in the proposed areas will render produce in the area unable to be labelled 'organic'.
	The use of 1080 to control wild dogs is not humane.
3	Concerned with the over-use of poisonous chemicals in the environment and the impact on non-target species.
	Monitoring should be undertaken pre- and post-baiting to determine effect on native species.
	The aerial baiting may negatively impact upon populations of the spot-tailed quoll.
	Monitoring should be undertaken prior to baiting during quoll breeding and juvenile recruitment periods.
	Pet and working dogs will be exposed to 1080.
	The government should promote the use of guardian animals.
	Incentives should be provided for farmers to remove carcasses from their properties.
	Queries how will the success of the program be assessed.

Comment provider	Detail
4	The aerial baiting may negatively impact upon populations of the spot-tailed quoll.
	Monitoring was not undertaken in all six sites, nor did it use alternative techniques to cameras such as latrines, dens, tracks or hair sampling.
	The variation fails to place sufficient emphasis on the use of guard animals.
	The current baiting regime used in Victoria is ongoing, indicating that baiting has no effect on wild dog numbers / livestock loss. Baiting may also affect social stability of dog packs, potentially resulting in dogs being less likely to hunt macropods.
	The dingo is the apex predator and its removal from the environment will lead to an increase in fox and feral cat populations.
	The use of 1080 to control wild dogs is not humane.
	The maps do not clearly show that transects are within 3km livestock protection buffer zone.
	Unsure of the legality of aerial baiting
	The operation misuses public money as the cost of the program is greater than the value of the stock loss in affected areas.
5	Aerial baiting causes more non-target deaths than ground baiting.
	Data on wild dog, fox and feral cat numbers are lacking.
	Data on native species in the areas to be aerielly baited are lacking.
	Data on the numbers of pure dingoes are lacking
	The use of 1080 to control wild dogs is not humane.
	1080 will pollute waterways
	Secondary poisoning is a concern
	The dingo is the apex predator and its removal from the environment will lead to an increase in fox and feral cat populations.
	Farmers in close proximity to National Parks or State Forests should review their husbandry practices.
6	The aerial baiting may negatively impact upon populations of the spot-tailed quoll.
	Monitoring should be undertaken in all sites for at least 12 months prior to baiting make certain spot-tailed quolls are absent.
	Monitoring should be ongoing to determine the success of the program.
	Aerial baiting leaves poison in the environment until it breaks down.
	The dingo is the apex predator and it should not be removed from the environment.
	There is no distinction made between wild dogs and pure dingoes
	If approved, aerial baiting must only be for a trial period subject to monitoring showing proven impact on wild dogs and no impact on non-target species.
7	The dingo provides a critical ecological role and the biodiversity costs and risks of the aerial baiting operation exceed potential benefits.
	Dingoes should not be persecuted because of failed resource management policies.

Comment provider	Detail
8	The dingo is the top-order predator in the Australian environment which plays an important role in limiting abundance of mesopredators.
	The dingo must be protected
9	The dingo is the apex predator and its removal from the environment will lead to an increase in feral cat populations.
	Feral cats will begin hunting during optimum times (dusk and night) instead of sub-optimum times as they will no longer be avoiding predation by wild dogs.
	Species listed under the EPBC Act, such as the endangered Smokey mouse <i>Pseudomys fumeus</i> , may be impacted upon due to potential increase in cat populations.
10	The aerial baiting may negatively impact upon populations of the spot-tailed quoll.
	The overall population impact on quolls of aerial bating needs to be determined.
	The monitoring may not have identified the presence of quoll, however, the sites chosen for aerial baiting may be important for connectivity and dispersal of the spot-tailed quoll.
	Historic Atlas records indicate the presence of quoll at Wabba and in close proximity to Wonnangatta/Punchen Budweid and Bullhead
	Concerns over bait take by native bird species
	Impacts on other natural values such as Reference, Wilderness and Remote and Natural areas as well as catchments.
11	Buried baits and aerial baits are a very useful tool if thought is put into their use.
	Ongoing bait use can lead to avoidance behaviour which can be passed down from bitches to pups.
	Baits laid in summer, spring and autumn will break down and become non-lethal within days.
	During summer, spring and autumn there is a wide range of available food such as ground nesting birds, antechinus and bush rats so dogs may not take baits.
	Baiting should occur in the middle of winter when alternative food sources are not available and baits remain lethal for longer.
	Ridge lines should be baited as dogs use them in winter
	Aerial baiting allows for fast baiting over a large area; ground baiting lets you monitor bait take. Whichever method is used results in dead dogs and foxes.
	Soft catch or rubber traps are effective and should be used
	Remote trap monitoring will reduce time spent checking traps
12	The dingo is the apex predator in the Australian environment which plays a critical part in the Australian ecosystem.
	A bounty on true wild dogs should be developed to protect the minimal remaining dingo genetic stock.

Comment provider	Detail
13	Dingo populations are compromised.
	Evidence suggests baiting increases stock attacks. When pack leaders are killed juveniles who can't hunt properly will maim many sheep as opposed to simply killing one.
	The use of 1080 to control wild dogs is not humane.
14	Most stock loss is due to feral domestic dogs.
	The dingo is the apex predator and its removal from the environment will lead to an increase in fox and feral cat populations.
	The use of 1080 to control wild dogs is not humane.
	Baits may be taken by non-target species.
	The Australian public is not happy with the treatment of native wildlife.
15	The use of 1080 to control wild dogs is not humane.
	Baits may be taken by non-target species.
	The dingo is the apex predator and an iconic native animal that may be eradicated.
16	The dingo must be conserved for its biological and cultural significance and wild dogs were they perform the same ecological role.
	The use of 1080 to control wild dogs is not humane.
	Better management of livestock including the use of guardian animals could play a high profile role.
17	The aerial baiting operation will be expensive and funds could be better spent
	Dogs do not kill livestock for food, they kill for fun
	A baiting program using thousands of baits laid on the ground had no effect on dog populations and livestock loss
	Queries whether the results of the aerial baiting operation will be made public.