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| Summary of comments received during the 20 business day public consultation period for EPBC 2011/6183 |
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| 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. |
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| 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.  |
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| 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. |
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| 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 aerially 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.  |
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| 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. |
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| 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 |
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| 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 *Pseudomys fumeus,* may be impacted upon due to potential increase in cat populations. |
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| 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. |
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| 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 |
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| 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. |

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| 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.  |
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| 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. |
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| 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.  |
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| 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. |
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| 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. |
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