

## Dingo proposal a dog's breakfast

Friday, 25 May 2007

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) today warned the Victorian Government against rushing to list the dingo as an endangered species.

VFF Land Management Committee Chairman Gerald Leach said the devastating effect wild dogs have on livestock and native fauna, and the practicalities of wild dog control must be appropriately considered in the debate.

Wild dogs contain a blend of dingo and domestic dog genes, which give them acute killing and survival skills. Wild dog numbers have risen sharply in recent years.

"The VFF's concerned that listing the dingo as endangered will hamper Wild Dog control efforts, which will have a devastating impact on livestock and native fauna," Mr Leach said.

"Wild dogs pose the greatest threat to dingoes themselves, whose numbers are in rapid decline due to hybridisation with wild dogs. This point was noted by the State Government's Scientific Advisory Committee, that also found the increased frequency and intensity of bushfires had a negative impact on dingo numbers."

The VFF strongly suggests government and the community seek to improve the plight of dingoes and other native fauna by boosting wild dog control efforts, rather than listing the dingo as endangered under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.

"If anything, the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act could be used to classify 'the reduction in biodiversity of native flora (including dingoes) by wild dogs' as a potentially threatening process. This would be a much more proactive step towards helping dingo populations," Mr Leach said.

"Wild dogs as well as dingoes are listed as an established pest under the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994. Listing the dingo as an endangered species will completely contradict this legislation," Mr Leach said.

### Media Contact

Gerry Leach  
VFF Land Management Committee Chairman  
Ph. 0429 941 235

James Meek  
VFF Media Coordinator  
Ph. 9207 5591  
Mob. 0400 874 589