

Box Flat Dingo Control Coordinating Committee

Box 443
Karoonda SA 5307

Phone: 08 8578 1493
Email: helane.norman@sa.gov.au

Fax: 08 8578 1492

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11th August, 2014

The Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Minister for Water and the River Murray
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation
Email Minister.hunter@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister,

RE: Review of State Government Boards and Committees

Thank you for your letter updating us and requesting information on the Box Flat Dingo Control Coordinating Committee.

The Box Flat Dingo Control Coordinating Committee has brought together different funding partners, agencies and the farming community into the one space to deal with a specific problem that is peculiar to just one area of the state. This is the wild dog/dingoes that are in and around the Ngarkat complex of parks, encroaching across the border from Victoria, where there is a large amount of native vegetation, and where these animals are only controlled around the perimeter of their parks system. During previous decades dingoes and wild dogs had at times a devastating effect on livestock production in the Upper South East and the Murray Mallee in areas adjacent to the Ngarkat complex of parks and the Billiat complex.

The committee is funded by 3 district councils, 2 NRM Boards and the SA Sheep Advisory Group (SASAG, whose funds are from sheep producers who contribute to the Sheep industry Fund). Local Government, NRM and industry each provide one third of the low annual cost of the Committee's operations. Community representatives from each of the 3 district councils, both the NRM Boards and SASAG, as well as representatives from DEWNR and the NRM Biosecurity unit constitute membership of the committee. The committee feel that it would be impossible to come up with alternatives to cover the void that would be left if this committee was abolished, especially for the same quantum of funding.

Landholders appreciate the ability to talk to and work with people that they know and that understand their problems. The way in which the committee is structured operationally enables it to respond immediately to incidents that would not be possible with an internal agency role. We have also developed a long term strategy in conjunction with the community, industry and the listed entities above that clarifies role, expectations and commitments. The community members on this committee fulfil their role by

- Coordinating control activities for dingoes in response to dingo activity.
- Liaising with other natural resources management groups.
- Liaising with the appropriate Victorian authorities, such as in joint control measures.

- Providing reports, advice and recommendations to the South East and the SA Murray Darling Basin NRM Boards.
- Coordinating surveys and monitoring for current pest activity.
- Supporting and encouraging landowners to carry out their own private dingo control measures.

Box Flat was one of the very first examples decades ago of different levels of government, industry and community working efficiently together to provide enduring and flexible solutions to a local problem. The very low cost is only possible because of the in-kind nature of much of the contribution.

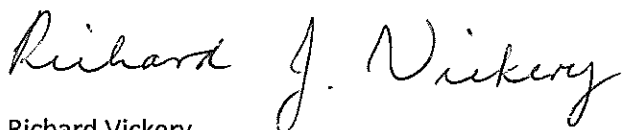
The community membership of the committee brings credibility to State Government's obligation to control prescribed vertebrate pests in public parks that can have such a devastating impact on neighbouring farms.

This committee relies on minimal input from the boards, has very low administrative requirements, basic financial support and the ability to leverage 3 times the combined NRM Boards contribution (which is actually funded by the NRM levy funds) from industry and local government. The in-kind work that the community committee leverages from landowners would not occur if this accountability to and connection with it were not in place. The committee holds public and private land holders to account for their obligations under the Act through an excellent cooperative model.

Over recent years we have built up an excellent relationship with the Victorian authorities who manage the adjacent and contiguous parks in Victoria. Our success in radically reducing wild dog/ dingo attacks in the last fifteen years is the envy of the Victorian farming community and authorities. I was invited to address the Victorian Parliamentary enquiry into wild dogs as a result of our ongoing success. They are seeking to emulate our low cost highly effective arrangements. They like the way we do things in South Australia and are envious of the results we are getting here.

I hope this has assisted you in understanding the importance of this committee to the community, and feel free to contact me if you require any further clarification.

Yours sincerely,



Richard Vickery
Chair, Box Flat Dingo Control Coordinating Committee

