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Sean Halse,  
Program Director,

Hi Sean,

Re our conversation at Coffs Harbour's afternoon meeting on the 21st. I have put together a summary of my presentation and a recommendation, along with the Dob A Dog Initiative.

Since 2006 I have been coordinating a group of local land owners along with LLS, NSW Forests & National Parks, the latter two authorities have substantial holdings adjoining most of our land owners properties. There for it is NO surprise in determining they are the major breeding areas for the wild dog, cat & fox problem/challenge we face. These animals DO NOT breed on our private lands, just cause havoc and distress there.

We average 9-10 local land owners and the LLS'S participation in our annual baiting and trapping program in the May/June months. Two authorities have participated four times over the 10yr period, with Forests aerial baiting 2008 program of 400 baits having a major impact on Dog numbers for a 2yr period. National Parks have been far less co-operative, but have been involved on 2 occasions with a min. 5/6 bait station program. My concern from the National Park perspective is the number of dog sightings and trap captures coming out of there Nat Park area over time has been substantial.

There have been 6 meetings over this 10yr period 2 of which were public meetings held in our local hall with very good attendance, one of 36, the other 14 locals. The other meetings have been coordinating meetings with locals participating/LLS & Forestry. These meetings were held at my property, all very good info disseminated at these meetings and appreciated by all concerned. Our Local Land Service staff have been exceptional assisting the local land owners programs.

General community objections to 1080 baiting is very evident in our area in regard to the suffering of the animal prior to its death, along with the possibility of non-targeted animals being affected. So alternate strategies need investigating for the use where smaller acreage properties are concentrated.

My recommendation would be to provide information and hands on training day, conducted by the best and most experienced trapper along with support from LLS staff. The local land owners I am very sure would attend and support such an initiative.

Dob A Dog Initiative.

Bellingen High School experienced sheep killed by local dogs over 2 nights this year. The school has had an ongoing problem with TOWN DOGS over the last few years. Police have been notified along with Bellingen Council Rangers BUT very little can be done if the dogs are not caught in the act of killing the animals.

These dogs have been identified and the owner is known, he has had a warning only from council rangers.

The Bellingen High Agg teacher Mr Nick Hiller suggests students report nuisance dogs that are in the school grounds or the agg facility, also in town roaming the streets without their owners. They should photograph with their phones and report ASAP to Nick Hiller. Nick will filter the reports from students then assess as to the appropriate next step to be taken.

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"LET'S SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE"

Hoping this will assist your deliberations .  
Alan Peterson.

