



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Jo Clay MLA

Addressed to: Minister for City and Government Services

Redirected to: Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Reference: City and Government Services— City and Environment Directorate

Hearing: 22 July 2026

In relation to: Dingoes

Question received: 30 July 2026

Answer Due: 11 August 2026

1. Is research being undertaken to quantify the current number of dingoes in Namadgi National Park and the rate and percentage of their loss through culling and/or baiting?
2. What is the percentage of dingoes from the estimated population being removed from Namadgi National Park yearly?
3. How are the dingoes that are killed by baiting and shooting on both private and public land assessed and recorded?
4. In 2023-24 there were 1,971 baits laid and to date in 2026 there have been 3,308 baits. Is there government research underway on the impact of the increase in dingo baiting and its implications on the long term survival of Namadgi's dingoes?
5. Does the increase in buffer zone baiting disrupt the gene flow between the ACT and NSW populations, resulting in an increased risk of genetic bottlenecks or inbreeding?
6. Are there considerations within management policy for the ramifications of baiting during dingo breeding season on pup mortality?
7. In 2024-25 only 27 stock were killed by Dingoes, out of a total of 10,658 stock. This shooting and trapping was said to cost \$500,000. That seems like a lot to spend to protect a small number of stock animals. How does the government assess what an appropriate and proportional amount is to spend on stock protection? Has government considered a compensation scheme instead?
8. How many rural properties are impacted by dingo predation, and how many receive subsidies for pest control?

9. Will the data from the network of remote sensing cameras in Namadgi National Park be accessible to landholders or confined to use by researchers?
10. With new technologies such as camera traps and thermal imaging drones being utilised for both research and lethal control, will there be protective regulations incorporated into Dingo management policy to safeguard against an ACT Dingo extinction event?
11. In 2025-26, how many Dingoes were trapped or shot?

Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Researcher James Vandersteen is undertaking PhD research on dingo numbers and behaviour in Namadgi National Park. This work includes field investigations and is supported by a network of remote sensing cameras established in the park to collect information on dingo presence and activity. There is currently no completed analysis that quantifies the current dingo population or the rate or percentage of loss attributable to culling or baiting.
2. As the total dingo population in Namadgi National Park is not currently known, the percentage removed each year cannot be calculated.
3. Outcomes from shooting and baiting activities conducted by private lessees are not recorded by the ACT Government, and there is no legal requirement for lessees to provide this data. Shooting and baiting activities undertaken by the Parks and Conservation Service are recorded and used to support program planning and operations.
4. No specific ACT Government research is currently underway on the impact of increased dingo baiting or its implications for the long-term survival of dingoes in Namadgi National Park.
5. The impact of buffer zone baiting on gene flow between ACT and NSW dingo populations is not currently known. However, based on current management arrangements, it is considered unlikely that baiting in the buffer zone would result in a genetic bottleneck or inbreeding risk for the broader population.
6. Management of dingoes is guided by the National Code of Practice and Standard Operating Procedures for the Effective and Humane Management of Wild Dogs. Operational planning considers humane control requirements and program objectives, including seasonal factors where relevant.
7. The ACT's dingo management program seeks to balance conservation objectives with the need to protect stock on agricultural land adjacent to Namadgi National Park. Program expenditure is assessed in the context of reducing predation risk, supporting rural landholders, and maintaining appropriate control measures in designated areas while protecting dingoes in non-control areas. The ACT Government has no current plans to consider or introduce a compensation scheme.
8. The number of properties impacted by dingo predation varies throughout the year. No ACT rural lessee received a subsidy for pest control.
9. Access to data from the remote sensing camera network is a matter for the researcher and would be subject to research arrangements, data management requirements and any relevant ACT Government approvals.

10. The ACT Government, through the Conservator of Flora and Fauna, is developing a Controlled Native Species Management Plan for the dingo. The plan will provide the policy framework for balancing conservation objectives with the protection of stock on properties bordering Namadgi National Park, including consideration of the appropriate use of control technologies.
11. In 2025–26, 38 dingoes were trapped or shot.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

Signature:



Date: 13/08/26

By the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Suzanne Orr MLA