25th June 2013.

Submission for pest animal levy/Wild Dog Control

To whom it may Concern,

I am writing due to a motion that was moved, seconded and passed at our recent AGM for the Sandy Flat Wild Dog Control Association (SFWDCA).

The motion was to seek the implementation of a levy that would be spread across all ratepayers within the LHPA / new LLS. This levy would meet the financial cost of purchasing both meat baits and prepared baits and costs associated with contracting accredited charter groups to lay baits aerially.

These above costs are well out of the reach of our paying association members. Association members already put significant amounts of personal time and financial resources into controlling wild dogs. Personally I can spend up to 20 days per year coordinating and running control programs.

There has been a change in demographics in our SFWDCA area in recent years. We now have far more absentee land holders and part time farmers in our area. These landholders are either working off farm somewhere, else or living somewhere else, and therefore do not fulfil their obligations in controlling pest animals.

Due to this lack of control by some landholders, other landholders must pick up the slack and carry the extra load of responsibility to control wild dogs in our area. Wild dog predation not only affects farm animals and enterprises, but also has a significant impact on native species such as wallabies, echidnas and frogs.

Over the past two years SFWDCA along with our many other WDCA’S in our area have developed a long term plan for controlling Wild Dogs through a Nil Tenure approach. Through this approach we are coordinating with NPWS and State Forest NSW as well.

A levy that would apply to all landholders would be the most equitable solution to this imbalance. If we could acquire the financial resources required to coordinate and run programs we would happily donate our time to facilitate these programs. A levy would bring a greater awareness to Wild Dog issues and would guarantee a consistent long term approach to managing wild dogs for the good of grazing enterprises and native wild life.

Yours Faithfully,

Hugh McCowen