MEDIA RELEASE

DINGO ERADICATION NEEDED URGENTLY

December 12th, 2011

The Government must move immediately to stop packs of roaming dingoes from intimidating residents and threatening domestic animals in Darwin’s Northlakes and Marrara.

Member for Sanderson, Peter Styles, said a number of residents have spoken with him about the problems caused by the dogs, which live at RAAF Base Darwin but make frequent incursions into surrounding suburbs.

"People are telling me they’re genuinely afraid of the threats caused by the dingoes," Mr Styles said.

“There are stories of packs of up to five dogs setting upon family pets in their own backyards.

“Another resident told me how a dingo was able to dig its way out of his backyard after being inadvertently locked in.

“While it is the responsibility of the Department of Defence to ensure dingo numbers are maintained, the current baiting, trapping and relocation program appears to be falling short.

“The Henderson Government should step in, either by issuing their own permits for the removal of surplus dingoes through the Department of Natural Resources or by stepping up the pressure on the Defence Force to reduce dingo numbers.

“Residents concerned at the increased number of dingoes shouldn’t be powerless to act simply because the dogs live on Defence Force land.

“With two domestic dogs taken in the last two days, the problems appear to be escalating as the dingoes realise there is easy prey within several hundred meters from where they appear to live.

“Concerns have been raised by residents in relation to fears that their children may not be safe, even in an enclosed yard.”

Further comment: Peter Styles 0411 640 660