



David Littleproud MP

Federal Member for Maranoa

Media statement

October 18, 2016

Palaszczuk Government slow to act on pest management with five-month delay

AS WILD dogs continue to ravage the sheep and cattle industries, the Queensland Government's five-month delay to work out how to spend pest management funding to only then allocate the lion share to an existing scheme has been slammed by Maranoa MP David Littleproud.

"I'm appalled it's taken the Labor State Government five months to work out how to spend vital funding to address the wild dog scourge in my electorate," Mr Littleproud said.

Mr Littleproud – whose electorate spans more than 42% of rural Queensland – criticised the Labor State Government's inability to swiftly handle the crisis, affecting the economy of rural towns being held ransom in the jaws of wild dogs.

"Back on Labor Day in May, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk visited Barcaldine and promised \$5 million for wild dog management. Now, five months later, the State Government late last week came out stating that \$4.5 million of the total \$5 million package will simply go towards the existing scheme while \$500,000 will be spent on a study to determine whether a concessional loan scheme is feasible," he said.

"This delayed approach misses the mark and proves how out-of-touch this State Government really is. What's more frustrating is the State Government has completely failed to respond to my call for them to match the Federal Government's recent additional contribution of \$2 million to the \$10 million previously provided.

"This investment is already delivering for pastoralists by not only providing diversification opportunities and environmental benefits but also increasing employment in rural communities.

"However the reality is there's a lot more work to be done to wild dog-proof Maranoa and timely investment is crucial."

-- ENDS --

Media Contact:

Eloise Handley

M: 0411 095 860

E: eloise.handley@aph.gov.au
