



Media Release

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**Agriculture and Environment
Committee**

Chair: Jennifer Howard MP

Deputy Chair: Stephen Bennett MP

Queensland's wild dog and rabbit fences under the spotlight

An all-party parliamentary committee will examine the role of Queensland's wild dog fence and rabbit fence, in protecting farming communities.

The inquiry by the Parliament's Agriculture and Environment Committee will also consider whether existing barrier fences managed by the State Government should be expanded to new areas.

The Chair of the committee, Jennifer Howard MP, said the inquiry is timely as farmers and communities struggle with stock losses due to wild dog attacks.

"Wild dogs are costing our agricultural industries up to \$67 million annually," Ms Howard said.

"These costs are crippling farmers who are already carrying the heavy costs of protracted drought. Containing the wild dog problem in western areas could hold the key to reviving our once great sheep industry and boosting confidence in rural communities," Ms Howard stated.

"The committee will also examine the effectiveness of the rabbit fence. Rabbits were released by early settlers in Victoria in the 1800s and quickly spread across the country. They remain a constant threat to our small crop farmers and communities in the south east of the state," Ms Howard said.

"The committee is keen to examine how well the wild dog fence and the rabbit fence are working to defend our state from these pests, and whether they offer value for money for Queensland taxpayers," Ms Howard said.

The closing date for submissions to the committee's inquiry is **29 February 2016**. The committee has published an [information paper](#) for the inquiry, and aims to report its findings in May 2016.

For media comment: please contact the committee Chair, Jennifer Howard MP on 0438 916 111

For background information: please contact the committee secretariat on (07) 3553 6662, via email at: aec@parliament.qld.gov.au or visit the committee's webpage at: www.parliament.qld.gov.au/aec.