1. Wild dogs are present in all areas of Queensland and have a number of adverse impacts including contributing to declining sheep numbers in western Queensland.
2. In the fifteen years from 2001 to 2016, sheep numbers across Queensland fell over 80 per cent, from more than 7 million to 1.35 million. Whilst several factors may have contributed, anecdotally, many landholders cited wild dog impacts as the reason for discontinuing their sheep enterprises.
3. The management of wild dogs is primarily a landholder responsibility, and local governments have an obligation to manage wild dogs in their area.
4. The Queensland Government supports effective wild dog management by the provision of grant funding for wild dog exclusion fencing and wild dog management activities; maintaining the Wild Dog Barrier Fence; assisting local government with conducting baiting programs; providing a strategic framework for coordinated wild dog action in Queensland; and conducting wild dog management research.
5. To date, these initiatives have supported the construction of nearly 9000 kilometres of fencing, protecting more than 400 sheep-producing properties from wild dogs.
6. This investment, according to data produced by Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD), has seen a rise in sheep numbers and jobs with a decrease in loss productivity. RAPAD reports that, because of its cluster fencing projects, lambing rates have increased 75 per cent, with sheep numbers almost doubled in the area, up to 720,000 head.
7. Increased sheep numbers flow onto longer-term regional employment in the labour- intensive sheep and wool industries (e.g. on-farm, shearing, marketing and sales, freight).
8. Cabinet noted the information on actions the Queensland Government has undertaken to reduce the impact of wild dogs on agricultural industry in Queensland.
9. *Attachments*
* Nil.