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### **Submission supporting the use of 1080 on Organic Certified Properties**

Livestock SA strongly supports the allowance of the use of 1080 on Organic Certified properties to control wild dogs, foxes and feral pigs. To understand the difficulties these animals cause pastoralists in the north of South Australia it is first necessary to understand the immense size of the properties and the lack of natural barriers to prevent wild dogs moving from one property to another. Wild dogs, foxes and feral pigs roam far and wide and do not differentiate between organic farmed land and any other farming system.

The damage wild dogs do to the sheep and cattle industries is heart breaking. Lambs, adult sheep and calves are easy prey and are taken not just for food but also seemingly as a form of entertainment. In packs they will also bring down grown cows.

Pastoralists in the area do their best to control dogs through shooting and it is not uncommon to hear of more than 2,000 wild dogs shot per annum on a single property. Even at this rate they hardly put a dent in the predator population. They need some other form of control in order to keep levels of populations in check and the opportunity to have a financially sustainable property.

By preventing the use of 1080 on organically certified properties huge gaps are created in the defence against dog population. As fast as dogs are destroyed in one area and not in others a vacuum is created. This space is then filled with dogs from other areas where populations have built up. Consequently an orchestrated approach focusing on all properties is needed in order to have any impact on populations.

The use of 1080 on all properties in the pastoral zone is vital and should be allowed. The product is effective and selective, its use does not impact on the product being produced, and it does not enter the food chain. Unless products such as 1080 are allowed to be used across all the pastoral zone there will be an explosion in wild dog numbers that will be unable to be controlled. Ultimately this will lead to properties becoming unviable and eventually closure.

In order to have a viable organic certified industry it is important to act now and continue into the future with 1080. Failure to act now will mean that the organic certified industry, just like all others in the area, would be lost. This would be an appalling price to pay, when with the use of a little common sense now, all sections of the sheep and cattle industries would be able to prosper into the future.

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**President Livestock SA**