

Title:	Are dingoes essential to maintain the natural balance of the environment?
First Broadcast:	June 2021
Source:	ABC's 7.30 Report
Minutes:	6:31
Video & Script:	<a href="https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/are-dingoes-essential-to-maintain-the-natural/13404620">https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/are-dingoes-essential-to-maintain-the-natural/13404620</a>
Summary:	Dingoes are normally regarded by Australian pastoralists as one of the biggest threats to their livestock. One grazier, Angus Emmott, is now arguing that the mainland's apex predator is important in maintaining the natural balance of the environment.

## KEY WORDS

*Below is a list of words which appear in the report - can you match the words with their correct definition? Use a dictionary to help you if you aren't sure.*

a group of people seeking to influence lawmakers on a particular issue	
an animal that hunts or kills others	
arise, appear	
control, keep from spreading	
country, countryside, pastoral	
describe, mean	
keep safe from being damaged or destroyed	
organized actions to achieve a goal, fight	
point where two things meet and interact	
subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound	
wander, journey, go to different places	

<b>predator</b> (n)
<b>roam</b> a property (v)
<b>nuanced</b> approach (adj)
<b>rural</b>
<b>lobby</b> (n)
<b>refer to</b> (v)
<b>conserve</b> (v)
<b>spring up</b> (v)
<b>campaign</b> to protect (n)
<b>contain</b> (v)
<b>interface</b> (n)

## SUMMARY

Dingoes are normally regarded by Australian pastoralists as one of the biggest threats to their livestock. One grazer, Angus Emmott, is now arguing that the mainland's apex predator is important in maintaining the natural balance of the environment.

## FOCUS QUESTIONS

- What is an apex predator?
- What is a pastoralist?
- Pastoralist and naturalist Angus Emmott says that dingo management in Australia ignores the ecological benefits of the apex predator. What do you think those ecological benefits are?
- Do you think dingoes should be protected? Or do you think farmers should be allowed to kill them if they are a threat to their livestock?



## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

*After watching the report, try to answer the following questions*

1. Pastoralist and naturalist Angus Emmott does not kill any dingoes on his property. **T / F**
2. How are dingoes killed in places where they are considered a pest?
3. What does Angus Emmott say is an ecological benefit of dingoes?  
**They limit the number of ...**
4. According to dingo geneticist Kylie Cairns, how long have dingoes been in Australia for?
5. Does she support mass baiting of dingoes? **Yes / No**
6. What does Boyd Webb, whose family has been raising livestock since the 1860s, say about letting dingoes roam freely?  
**He thinks letting dingoes roam freely is ...**
7. How much did he spend on building 140 kilometers of special fencing to keep dingoes out?
8. What is special about the fencing?
9. During the peak of the drought, how much of his flock does he says dingoes were killing?
10. Just off the Queensland coast on the world's largest sand island (Fraser Island), how are dingoes managed?  
**Fences are used and problem animals ...**
11. Does Linda Behrendorff, the island's head ranger, think this method will work in other places?  
**a. Yes      b. No      c. She isn't sure**

## CLOZE

Use the words to complete the sentences

**The form of the word may need to be changed**

predator

roam

nuanced

rural

lobby

refer to

conserve

spring up

campaign

contain

interface

1. After another mass shooting, the anti-gun \_\_\_\_\_ group called on the government to ban automatic weapons immediately.
2. An apex \_\_\_\_\_, such as a lion, is an animal at the top of a food chain upon which no other creatures prey.
3. At the annual dinner, members of the media had an opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ with politicians on a casual basis.
4. Biodiversity is the life support system of our planet, so it is extremely important we \_\_\_\_\_ it.
5. During the construction boom in China, new buildings started \_\_\_\_\_ everywhere.
6. Firefighters had managed to \_\_\_\_\_ the fire before it could spread to neighbouring buildings.
7. People living in \_\_\_\_\_ areas in Australia often complain about poor internet reception.
8. The Bengal tiger, which is mostly found in parts of India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, \_\_\_\_\_ a wide range of habitats including high altitudes, tropical and subtropical rainforests and grasslands.
9. The government launched a new anti-smoking \_\_\_\_\_ which included graphic TV commercials which showed diseased lungs.
10. The man had lived in Nepal for more than 40 years. He understood the \_\_\_\_\_ of the culture and the language better than almost any other foreigner.
11. The word hernia \_\_\_\_\_ a loop of intestine pushing through a weak area in the wall of the stomach.

## ANSWER KEY

1. F
2. hunted or baited using a poison
3. They limit the number of kangaroos
4. at least 5,000 (but probably closer to 10,000 years)
5. no
6. irresponsible
7. more than \$1 million
8. it is a lot higher
9. almost a third
10. killed
11. She isn't sure

a group of people seeking to influence lawmakers on a particular issue	lobby
an animal that hunts or kills others	predator
arise, appear	spring up
control, keep from spreading	contain
country, countryside, pastoral	rural
describe, mean	refer to
keep safe from being damaged or destroyed	conserve
organized actions to achieve a goal, fight	campaign
point where two things meet and interact	interface
subtle difference in or shade of meaning, expression, or sound	nuanced
wander, journey, go to different places	roam

1. After another mass shooting, the anti-gun **lobby** group called on the government to ban automatic weapons immediately.
2. An apex **predator**, such as a lion, is an animal at the top of a food chain upon which no other creatures prey.
3. At the annual dinner, members of the media had an opportunity to **interface** with politicians on a casual basis.
4. Biodiversity is the life support system of our planet, so it is extremely important we **conserve** it.
5. During the construction boom in China, new buildings started **springing up** everywhere.
6. Firefighters had managed to **contain** the fire before it could spread to neighbouring buildings.
7. People living in **rural** areas in Australia often complain about poor internet reception.
8. The Bengal tiger, which is mostly found in parts of India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, **roams** a wide range of habitats including high altitudes, tropical and subtropical rainforests and grasslands.
9. The government launched a new anti-smoking **campaign** which included graphic TV commercials which showed diseased lungs.
10. The man had lived in Nepal for more than 40 years. He understood the **nuances** of the culture and the language better than almost any other foreigner.
11. The word hernia **refers to** a loop of intestine pushing through a weak area in the wall of the stomach.