



Gerard O'Neill, Chief Executive
Bush Heritage
PO Box 329 Flinders Lane Melbourne, VIC 8009

20 May, 2016

Dear Mr O'Neill,

I write with two comments and three questions. Comments first!

Warm congratulations on the Pullen Pullen project. How wonderful that this rare bird has been located and is being given *in situ* protection. This is what I love about Bush Heritage and why I continue to donate. I have published an essay to honour the bird and to praise your work (<http://deborahbirdrose.com/2016/05/03/crypto-creatures/>).

It was distressing to learn about the grooming trap. I write regularly against the use of 1080 (in books, journal articles and essays). My first concern is that it causes terrible deaths. I know we can do conservation well without causing such suffering. My wider concern is the ethics-numbing social context of 1080: the pest industry, its government funding, its culture of vilification and its role in sanctioning death by 1080 as best practice conservation and land management. In brief, a culture of righteous cruelty surrounds this killing industry and is ethically disastrous for our society as well as utterly terrible for individual animals and for ecosystems.

I don't oppose killing if that is what it takes to keep endangered species safe. Maggie the collie is on the job, and it was particularly wonderful to learn that there are dingoes in the area. Encouraging both dingoes and the work of the collie/Woods family must surely be enough.

Here are the questions:

1. Is it certain that the grooming trap won't harm dingoes? The claim is that it has been tested to ensure that only cats are sprayed, but are dingoes included in the test design?
2. Is Bush Heritage able to liaise with other landowners in the region to develop a 1080-free region? It seems quite probable that dingo-baiting has been going on in this area as in so much of Queensland and other states and Territories. Loss of dingoes leads to a rise in cat and fox populations which in turn leads to loss of native animals, and so it goes in extinction cascades that start with man-made mass-death.

3. Is it possible for Bush Heritage to set up a funding structure that would allow donors to specify that their donations will not be used for 1080 and similar poisons? I am sure I am not alone in my desire to continue to donate to Bush Heritage while at the same time refusing to contribute to the 1080 industry and the pest culture that subtends it.

Again, congratulations on the Pullen Pullen project and all the wonderful work that is being done there.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deborah Bird Rose". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Professor Deborah Bird Rose, FASSA
Environmental Humanities Program, UNSW