1 March 2011

WAIVER ON DOG FENCE LEVY THIS YEAR

Minister for Lands Tony Kelly said today the Keneally Government would continue to subsidise the wild dog fence levy this year, saving Western Division landholders over $680,000.

“The wild dog levy subsidy will continue to provide financial support to graziers and landowners in the Western Division impacted by drought and more recently by floods,” Mr Kelly said.

“A waiver of 50 per cent will apply to this year’s wild dog levy of 4.5 cents per hectare for ongoing maintenance of the border dog fence.

“This is the ninth straight year the NSW Government has paid all or part of the levy to the Wild Dog Destruction Board to help Western Division landholders through these difficult times.

“The impact of the nine year drought continues to cause significant hardship across NSW, and the Western Division in particular.

“Recent climatic improvements have yet to result in financial relief for farmers and graziers and the added impact of floods will significantly reduce crop yields and have resulted in livestock losses.

“The Western Division of NSW comprises 42 per cent of the state and landholders there are levied a rate to maintain the barrier fences separating NSW from Queensland and South Australia.

“The fences prevent wild dogs from entering NSW from the other states and killing sheep and livestock.

“Maintaining the integrity of the dog fence is essential for the preservation of the wool and livestock industry across NSW, not just the Western Division.

“The payment of the levy by government is a welcome contribution to maintaining viable farm businesses, rural infrastructure and skilled jobs to ultimately support the return to normal production.

“It is a tangible means of helping to reduce the serious financial, social and emotional impact on western division farming and grazing families and rural communities affected by drought.”