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**Killing dingoes is unethical, irresponsible and un-Australian, therefore stop it. The use of enthymeme in the petitions on endangered species sent to the Parliament of Australia**

**Abstract:** The present paper analyses the use of enthymeme in the petitions sent to the Parliament of Australia. The study was suggested by the fact that petitions, being supposed to be relatively short in size, present their argument in a concise manner, leaving apart what is supposed to be already shared by the petitioners and the addressees, i.e. the Members of Parliament. The result is often the occurrence of enthymemes, i.e. of syllogisms that leave out either one of the premises or the conclusion. The analysis is carried out on a corpus of petitions on the endangered species and the approach is done from the perspective offered by classical Logic. The thirty six petitions on the topic of Endangered species listed on the website of the Parliament of Australia are summed up as enthymemes. For each enthymeme the missing part that separates it from a full syllogism was identified. The corresponding full syllogism will be analysed, to identify its form as well as its three terms. The results of the study revealed regular features such as the fact that the missing premise is in all cases the Major Premise, or the prevalence of enthymemes corresponding to syllogisms in the BARBARA Figure. The occurrence of such common features is quite unexpected as long as the petitions are written by different authors. A plausible explanation could be the fact that the common topic of these petitions, i.e. 'Endangered species', is a recurring subject of much debate in Australia, which makes people assume that people are familiar with the problems related to it as well as with the principles to be respected in order to prevent the worsening of the Endangered species problem..

**Keywords:** logic, syllogism, enthymeme, corpus linguistics, petition, parliament, endangered species.