

Review of Dog Fence rateable area

Consultation Paper



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Information current as of 13 April 2021

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Preface

Wild dogs cost the Australian economy upwards of \$89 million a year in lost production and control costs. They pose a severe threat to South Australia's \$4.3 billion livestock industry. At greatest risk is the state's \$1.5 - \$2 billion sheep industry (11 million sheep, 15,000 full time workers) inside the Dog Fence.

Nationally, barrier or exclusion fences have continued to prove their worth to livestock industries and the communities they support. The Western Australian Esperance extension (\$11 million), the New South Wales State Barrier Fence (\$37.5 million), and the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative Cluster Fence (\$34.1 million) projects demonstrate that today communities across the country rely on wild dog exclusion fencing as much as they did in the 1800s.

In South Australia the barrier fence, the South Australian Dog Fence, is currently undergoing a once in a generation rebuild. The Dog Fence Rebuild Project has seen South Australia's livestock industry (\$5 million), the Government of SA (\$10 million), and the Commonwealth Government (\$10 million) pool funds to rebuild the most deteriorated 1,600 kilometres of the 2,150 kilometre long fence.

The Dog Fence Board and Livestock SA have partnered to establish a long-term vision for the management of the fence with the aim of addressing replacement requirements beyond the 1,600 kilometre Dog Fence Rebuild Project. Key to achieving this is a fair and equitable rates system that reflects those that have the most to gain from a secure fence. The plan is to ensure the fence doesn't again need the once in a generation spend seen in the current rebuild.

The Dog Fence Board and Livestock SA endeavour to act in the best interests of their stakeholders, with vision, purpose and transparency. To this end we seek your views, input and support for a review of the Dog Fence rateable area.

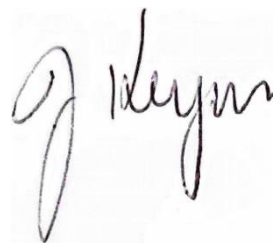
Geoff Power



Chair, SA Dog Fence Board

April 2021

Joe Keynes



President, Livestock SA

April 2021

Background

The South Australian Dog Fence runs for 2,150 kilometres from Fowlers Bay to the SA/NSW border near Broken Hill. The Dog Fence prevents incursions of wild dogs (dingoes and their hybrids), and as a result all land managers on the inside of the Dog Fence benefit from it.

The Dog Fence is the most important asset protecting the sheep industry in South Australia, which generates \$1.5 to \$2 billion per annum.



The Dog Fence Board (whose membership comprises of pastoralists and farmers) is responsible for ensuring the Dog Fence is inspected and maintained in a dog-proof condition and that wild dogs in the vicinity of the Dog Fence are destroyed. The Board receives an annual income of \$1.73 million from three sources:

- Annual Dog Fence rates
- The Sheep Industry Fund
- The Government of South Australia matching the above 2 sources

In total, \$560,000 of this income comes from a five-year increase to Annual Dog Fence rates which contributes to the Dog Fence Rebuild Project. This is set to expire at the completion of the Rebuild Project in June 2024.

Most of the remaining income of \$1.17 million is invested in the inspection and maintenance of the Dog Fence and in the destruction of wild dogs in its vicinity. Remaining funds are spent repairing the Dog Fence and access tracks following flood, fire and sand drift. Under this funding model, the Board does not have the capacity to invest in the replacement of the Dog Fence at the end of its serviceable life.

Dog Fence rates are a core component of the funding and are payable by those who own 10 square kilometres (1,000 hectares or 2,471 acres) or more of land in the Dog Fence rateable area. Rates are payable regardless of land tenure (including livestock production, farming, cropping, private conservation, parks and reserves, cultural use, mining and exploration, lifestyle, and investment).

The list of Hundreds in the current rateable area is in Appendix 1.

The rebuild of the Dog Fence highlights the implication of the current funding model. Instead of funding, planning and building small sections of the Dog Fence each year, about 1,600 kilometres of the 2,150 kilometre long fence in being rebuilt in 5 years. This has required significant funding from the Commonwealth government (\$10 million), the state government (\$10 million), and the livestock industry (\$5 million), and is a massive logistical and administrative project.

What is being proposed?

The current funding model resulted in a deteriorated Dog Fence that, for the past decade, was prone to breaches by wild dogs. The condition of the Dog Fence contributed to the spread of wild dogs from the pastoral zone and into the agricultural areas of the state.

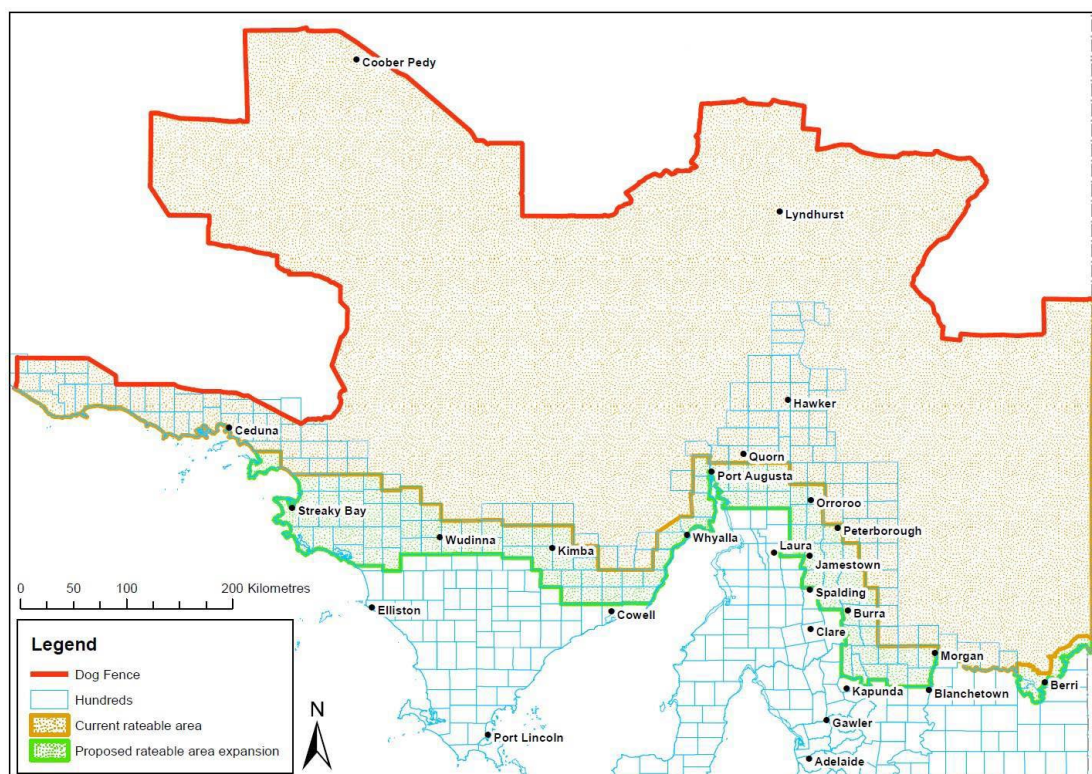
A significant, once in a generation, Dog Fence Rebuild Project, funded through an industry and government partnership, is bringing the Dog Fence's condition back to a standard that will re-establish land manager confidence in the structure.

To ensure the rebuilt Dog Fence never deteriorates back to the previously seen condition, the Dog Fence Board and Livestock SA propose to expand the Dog Fence rateable area. The proposed expansion would better align with the areas that receive the greatest benefits from the Dog Fence, and would result in a Dog Fence capable of protecting all land managers.

The proposal includes expanding the rateable area from the 2021/22 rates year:

- By 2 Hundreds to the south.
- To all Hundreds within 150 kilometres of the Dog Fence.
- To not extend beyond the River Murray.

South Australian Dog Fence current and proposed rateable areas



It is proposed that about 600 landowners, who have more than 10 square kilometres in the expanded rateable area would pay \$1.70 per square kilometre with a minimum rate payable of \$245 each year. About 98 per cent of these landowners would be on the minimum rate of \$245.

It is proposed that landowners in the current rateable area would continue to pay \$2 per square kilometre with a minimum rate payable of \$475.

At the completion of the Dog Fence Rebuild Project in June 2024, this 2-tiered model is proposed to be replaced by a single rate that would apply to all landowners in the rateable area.

A list of Hundreds in the proposed expanded rateable area is in Appendix 2.

Ratepayers in the expanded area will contribute a further \$174,000, which would be matched by the Government of South Australia, contributing an additional \$348,000 to Dog Fence Board income, bringing the total funding available for Dog Fence replacement to \$390,000 per year. These funds will ensure the Board is able to invest in the replacement of the Dog Fence at the end of its serviceable life.

The Dog Fence Board proposes to ensure that these additional funds are preserved specifically for Dog Fence improvements by including this requirement in legislation.

Dog Fence annual income and expenditure		
	Current (\$,000)	Proposed (\$,000)
Income ¹	1,733	2,081
Expenditure ²	1,691	1,691
Available for Dog Fence replacement	42	390

Dog Fence annual income ¹		
	Current (\$,000)	Proposed (\$,000)
Dog Fence rates	611	785
Sheep Industry Fund	248	248
Government \$:\$	859	1,033
Outside fence rates	15	15
Total	1,733	2,081

Dog Fence annual expenditure ²		
	Current (\$,000)	Proposed (\$,000)
Dog Fence Rebuild Project	560	560
Dog Fence Board expenses	512	512
Dog Fence inspection and repair, and dog destruction	619	619
Dog Fence replacement	42	390
Total	1,733	2,081

Appendix 1

Hundreds in the current rateable area

Name	Number	Name	Number
Adams	3501	Lucy	6203
Arkaba	3502	Magarey	6307
Ash	5601	Markaranka	7601
Bagster	6301	Maude	2010
Barndioota	3001	May	6204
Bartlett	6601	Miller	6205
Batchelor	5602	Minburra	3603
Bendleby	3401	Moockra	3805
Bice	6201	Moonabie	5606
Blacker	6602	Moralana	3504
Bockelberg	6524	Morgan	3106
Bonython	6603	Moule	6609
Boolcunda	3801	Nackara	3604
Buckleboo	5002	Nash	6308
Bundey	2004	Nilginee	5607
Bunyeroo	3901	Nilpena	3904
Burgoyne	6302	Nunnyah	6105
Caldwell	6202	OConnor	5008
Carawa	6101	OH (Andamooka)	8338
Carr	3902	OH (Barton)	8335
Castine	5401	OH (Billakalina)	8329
Catt	6604	OH (Burra)	8358
Cavenagh	3601	OH (Callabonna)	8332
Chillundie	6605	OH (Childara)	8344
Coglin	3602	OH (Chowilla)	8359
Cohen	6303	OH (Curdimurka)	8330
Corrobinnie	6403	OH (CO Burra)	2014
Cotabena	3002	OH (CO Herbert)	3607
Crozier	3802	OH (CO Kimberley)	2207
Cudlamudla	3803	OH (CO Lytton)	3700
Cunyarie	5005	OH (Coober Pedy)	8328
Edeowie	3903	OH (Copley)	8339
Erskine	3103	OH (Curnamona)	8348
Eurelia	3104	OH (Fowler)	8343
Eurilpa	3402	OH (Frome)	8340
French	3503	OH (Gairdner)	8345
Giles	6304	OH (Kingoonya)	8337
Goode	6606	OH (Lake Eyre)	8322
Gumbowie	2201	OH (Marree)	8331
Guthrie	6607	OH (Murloocoppie)	8320
Hague	6102	OH (Olary)	8354
Handyside	5404	OH (Orroroo)	8353
Hardy	2202	OH (Parachilna)	8347
Haslam	6103	OH (Port Augusta)	8352
Horn	6608	OH (Pt Augusta)	8352
Kanyaka	3804	OH (Renmark)	8362
Keith	6305	OH (Tallaringa)	8327
Ketchowla	2203	OH (Tarcoola)	8336
Kevin	6306	OH (Torrens)	8346
King	2006	OH (Yardea)	8351
Koolgera	6104	Oladdie	3107
Lindley	2009	OLoughlin	6610

Hundreds in the current rateable area

Name	Number	Name	Number
Oratunga	3905	Wallala	6109
Palmer	3806	Wallanippie	6612
Parachilna	3906	Walpuppie	6110
Paratoo	3605	Wandana	6613
Parcoola	7602	Warcowie	3505
Parnaroo	2204	Waroonee	3606
Perlubie	6106	Warrakimbo	3003
Pethick	6611	Wilcherry	5012
Petina	6107	Wirreanda	3405
Pichi Richi	3807	Wonna	2206
Pooginook	7603	Wonoka	3004
Pureba	6108	Wookata	6209
Rees	2012	Woolyana	3005
Russell	6206	Wyacca	3808
Stuart	7604	Yalpara	3111
Sturdee	6207	Yantanabie	6111
Tomkinson	2013	Yanyarrie	3406
Trunch	6208	Yarrah	3809
Uroonda	3404	Yednalue	3407

Appendix 2

Hundreds in the proposed expanded rateable area

Name	Number	Name	Number
ADDISON	6501	MCGREGOR	5318
ANNE	2401	MILTALIE	5319
APOINGA	2001	MINBRIE	5320
AYERS	2301	MINNIPA	6408
BALDINA	2002	MONGOLATA	2011
BARNA	5001	MOORKITABIE	6513
BEATTY	1203	MOSELEY	5007
BELALIE	2402	MURRAY	6514
BLACK ROCK PLAIN	3101	NEALES	1212
BOWER	1204	PALABIE	6409
BRIGHT	2003	PANITYA	5009
BROWNLOW	1205	PEELLA	6410
CAMPBELL	6502	PEKINA	3108
CARINA	6503	PILDAPPA	6001
CHANDADA	6504	PINBONG	6411
CHARLESTON	5306	PINDA	3308
CONDADA	6505	PINKAWILLINIE	5010
COOMOOROO	3102	PORDIA	6412
COONATTO	3304	POYNTON	5604
COPLEY	5402	PYGERY	6413
CORTLINYE	5004	RANDELL	5605
CULTANA	5603	REYNOLDS	2411
CUNGENA	6506	RIPON	6515
DAVENPORT	3306	ROUNSEVELL	6516
EBA	1207	SCOTT	6517
ENGLISH	1208	SOLOMON	5011
FINLAYSON	6508	TARCOWIE	3109
FORREST	6509	TARLTON	6518
GILLEN	5403	TEROWIE	2205
GLYNN	5309	TRAVERS	6519
GREGORY	3307	WALLANIPPIE	6612
HALLETT	2005	WALLIS	6520
HAY	1210	WALLOWAY	3110
HEGGATON	5312	WANNAMANA	6414
HILL	6404	WARREN	5332
INKSTER	6510	WATERLOO	1609
JAMES	5314	WHYTE	2413
JAMIESON	5315	WILLOCHRA	3310
JENKINS	5405	WILLOWIE	3311
JULIA CREEK	1603	WINNINOWIE	3312
KALDOONERA	6512	WITERA	6521
KARCULTABY	6511	WOOLUNDUNGA	3314
KATARAPKO	7413	WRENFORDSLEY	6522
KELLY	5006	WRIGHT	6523
KINGSTON	2007	WUDINNA	6416
KOONGAWA	6406	YALANDA	5013
KOORINGA	2008	YANINEE	6417
LOVEDAY	7407	YONGALA	3112
MAMBLIN	6407		
MANGALO	5316		
MANNANARIE	3105		