

Declared Animal Policy
under section 10 (1)(b) of the Natural Resources Management Act 2004

[This policy is interim and will be updated in the future to align with the
proposed Landscape South Australia Act]

Wild dogs and dingoes
(Canis familiaris)

Preamble

This policy applies to dingoes, wild-living domestic dogs and their hybrids, which all have severe impacts on livestock industries in South Australia. For example, sheep producers in South Australia reported losing more than 10,000 sheep to wild dogs in 2018.

In South Australia, the management actions that apply to dingoes and wild dogs are delineated by the Dog Fence. Outside the Dog Fence, dingoes have important cultural and ecological roles and so they are managed as native animals under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*. Inside the Dog Fence they are managed as wild dogs, which all land managers are required to destroy under the *Natural Resources Management Act (2004)* (NRM Act).

The previous policy on wild dogs was introduced in 2005 aiming to maintain the Dog Fence, remove wild dogs from the sheep zone and control wild dogs outside the Dog Fence, where they kill cattle. The policy also aimed to ensure dingoes survive outside the Dog Fence.

Despite efforts to maintain the Dog Fence, and ongoing baiting, shooting and trapping programs, wild dog numbers are increasing in the sheep zone, and their distribution has expanded further south. Outside the Dog Fence dingoes have been effectively maintained as a wildlife species, but their impacts on cattle have been excessive.

This policy stipulates the control measures required to virtually eradicate wild dogs inside the Dog Fence, whilst managing their populations outside the Dog Fence to minimise their impacts on cattle.

Definitions

Dingo – Native animal introduced to Australia about 3,500 years ago.

Domestic dog – breeds other than dingoes usually living in association with humans.

Wild dog – wild-living dogs including dingoes, domestic dogs living at large and their hybrids.

Declared to be destroyed means that land managers must carry out proper measures to remove all wild dogs.

Outcomes

- Protect and support the growth of South Australia's resilient sheep industry.
- Reduce the risk of wild dogs attacking people.
- Maintain the ecological role of wild dogs outside the Dog Fence and their role in Aboriginal culture.

Objectives

- Maintain the Dog Fence to prevent incursions of wild dogs.
- Virtual eradication of wild dogs inside the Dog Fence.
- Minimise the impacts of wild dogs on cattle outside the Dog Fence.

Wild Dogs – Inside the Dog Fence

Feasibility of containment

In 2019, more than two-thirds of the Dog Fence was more than 100 years old – it was ageing and brittle. The new Dog Fence is designed and built from the best available materials to suit different terrain and pressure on the Dog Fence from wild dogs. The new Dog Fence will greatly improve our capacity to contain wild dogs outside the Dog Fence.

State level risk assessment

The [SA Pest Animal Risk Management Guide](#) was used to assess the risks posed by wild dogs and the feasibility of containing them outside the Dog Fence. The guide highlighted the need to destroy all wild dogs inside the Dog Fence.

Even once the Dog Fence is rebuilt, there will be occasional incursions of wild dogs, such as when it is damaged by floods or fires. The virtual eradication of wild dogs inside the Dog Fence will require that land managers work together on their wild dog baiting, trapping and shooting activities.

The guide also indicated a need to prevent people keeping, moving and selling dingoes.

Management required to virtually eradicate wild dogs inside the Dog Fence

Inside the Dog Fence, all land managers are responsible for destroying every wild dog on their properties. This is a requirement under both the NRM Act and will transition in 2020 to the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (LSA Act). This requirement applies to properties that are used for livestock production as well as properties that are not.

The most effective and efficient way to kill wild dogs is with poison baits. Land managers are required to meet minimum baiting standards (Appendix 1) to ensure sufficient wild dogs are destroyed and that baiting programs are effective at a landscape scale. It is anticipated these standards will be included in a Chief Officer Determination, under proposed new regulations of the LSA Act.

Wild dogs can also be killed by aerial baiting, shooting, or by setting leg-hold traps (as specified by *Animal Welfare Regulations 2012*).

On properties that are certified for organic production, land managers must ensure their property management plan include baiting procedures. Sufficient areas need to be excised so organically certified properties can meet the minimum baiting standards outlined above. Excised areas are often around dams or turkey's nests, and are fenced to exclude organic livestock.

NRM boards will inform land managers of the required baiting measures and the importance of coordinated landscape-scale management of wild dogs. The boards will try to source external funding to assist land managers in coordinating baiting programs, accessing control tools, and provide training in the areas of greatest impacts. The effectiveness of baiting programs will be reported.

Management required to prevent wild dog incursions through the Dog Fence

Under the *Dog Fence Act 1946*, the Dog Fence must be maintained so that it provides an effective barrier against the movement of wild dogs.

To further reduce the risk of wild dogs incursions, land managers outside the Dog Fence must control wild dogs by meeting minimum baiting standards within a 35 kilometre wide buffer zone along the outside of the Fence (including the section that borders New South Wales dog fence (see map in Appendix 1).

On properties that are certified for organic production, land managers must ensure their property management plans include baiting procedures. Sufficient areas need to be excised so organic properties can meet the minimum baiting standards outlined above.

Management required to prevent dingoes being released inside the Dog Fence

Dingoes pose a safety risk to humans, pets and livestock. Permits are required to keep, move, sell or release dingoes or their hybrids (under the NRM Act). Keeping of dingoes has generally been granted to zoos and wildlife parks, which are open to the public for educational purposes and have a high level of security.

Under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* dingoes are not recognised as a dog breed and so cannot be registered as a domestic dog in South Australia.

Wild Dogs – Outside the Dog Fence

Dingoes roam free outside the Dog Fence where they are culturally important to Aboriginal people and where dingoes have important ecological functions, including reducing kangaroo numbers.

Land managers outside the Dog Fence limit the control of wild dogs to times and places where they are impacting cattle.

Management required to minimise impacts on cattle outside the Dog Fence

Where impacts on cattle are too high, land managers outside the Dog Fence may control wild dogs by ground or aerial baiting, shooting, or leg-hold trapping. Some of these activities are managed under the *Animal Welfare Regulations 2012* or policies of regional NRM boards.

Landscape boards will inform land managers about options to bait wild dogs, and the importance of coordinated landscape-scale management of wild dogs. The boards will support land managers with training and coordination of baiting programs.

On properties that are certified for organic production, land managers must ensure their property management plans include baiting procedures.

Management plan to maintain ecological and Aboriginal cultural values of wild dogs

Aboriginal people in South Australia have strong cultural connections with dingoes. The regional wild dog management plans of the SA Arid Lands and Alinytjara Wilurara NRM boards both aim to maintain the cultural role of wild dogs in lands held by Aboriginal Prescribed Body Corporates and in National Parks outside the Dog Fence. The regional wild dog management plans require that the land owners and NRM boards are consulted before wild dogs are controlled.

Management required to reduce risk of wild dogs attacking people

People in remote towns, communities and mine sites are at risk of being attacked by wild dogs that are habituated to these places and people. NRM boards will encourage and inform people in these areas not to feed wild dogs, and to fence dumping sites to restrict access to wild dogs.

Review

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed by Biosecurity SA by 2024. The review will evaluate:

- Whether the policy was effectively implemented.
- Whether the livestock industries have been adequately protected and supported.
- Whether the ecological and cultural values of wild dogs outside of the fence have been maintained.
- Unintended consequences.

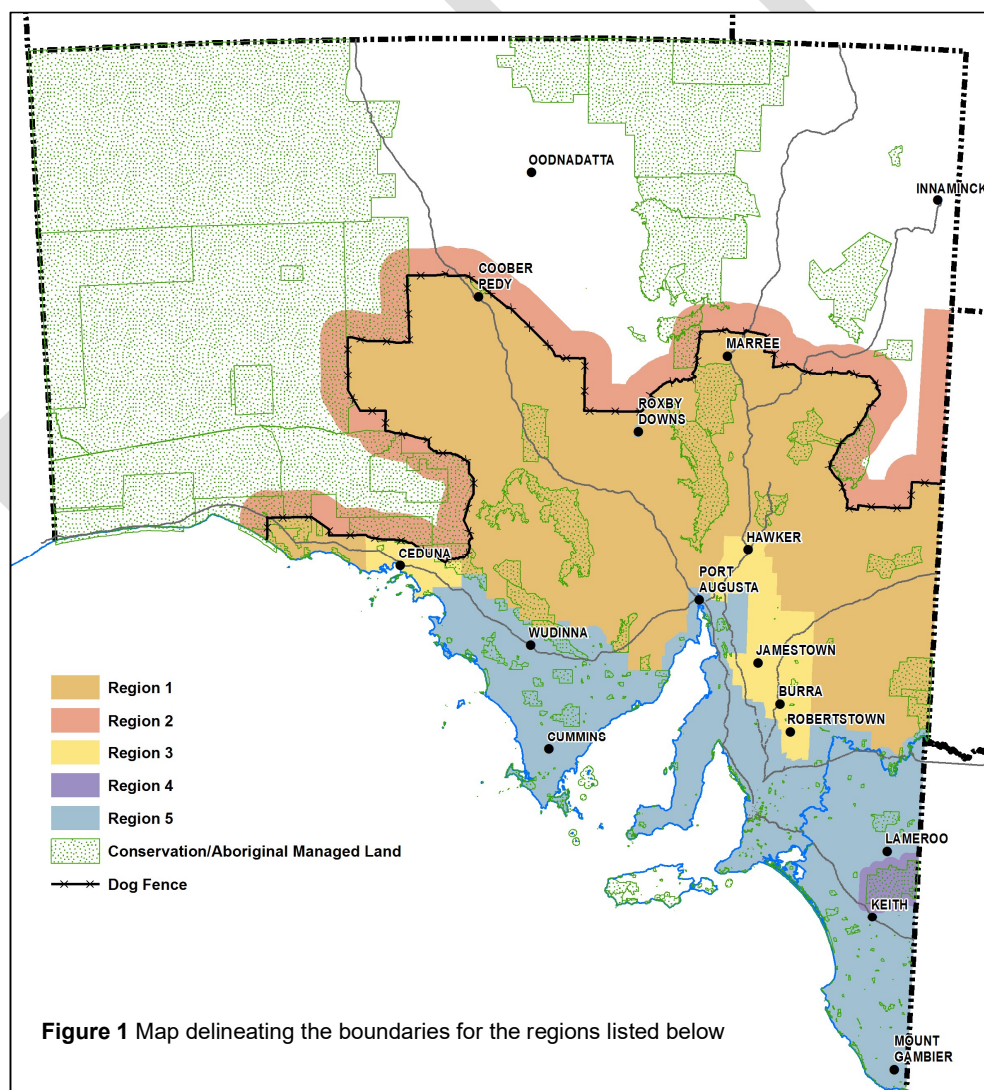
Prescribed Manner and Specified Treatment for Wild Dog Control

This document outlines the areas, prescribed manner and specified treatment that land managers are required to follow to virtually eradicate wild dogs inside the Dog Fence.

For the purpose of these measures the term wild dog means any wild-living dingo, domestic dog or hybrid.

Control of wild dogs inside the Dog Fence and in the 35 kilometre buffer zone outside the Fence should be undertaken by laying poison baits as described for the five regions below. Lethal baits are authorised under the license of the relative NRM boards. These baits are targeted to deliver a lethal dose of a registered poison – Sodium Fluoroacetate (1080) or Paramino Propriophenome (PAPP) – to a wild dog.

In all regions listed below, land managers must act in accordance with the label instructions and the South Australian Government documents entitled “Approval to Possess 1080 & PAPP Bait” and the Directions for Use relative to the control of wild dogs.



REGION 1 has the following boundaries - any property located within the Pastoral Unincorporated region inside the Dog Fence in South Australia.

- (1) If there is evidence of wild dog activity, it should immediately be reported to all neighbouring property managers and the local NRM board.

A management zone is required to be defined within 10 kilometres of the evidence and the following prescribed measures and specified treatment to destroy any wild dogs that may be on that land are required to immediately be taken:

- a) At a minimum, immediately lay at least one lethal wild dog bait along every 200 metres of vehicle track, within 10 kilometres of the evidence.
 - b) If wild dog activity is detected after a month of baits being laid, the land managers are required to repeat the baiting, undertake their own trapping or employ the services of a professional trapper to destroy all wild dogs.
 - c) If a relevant authority is of the opinion the level of baiting is not adequate to destroy all wild dogs, then the land manager is required to follow directions of the relevant authority to ensure all wild dogs are destroyed.
- (2) When there is no evidence of wild dog activity, land managers are required to take the following measures to destroy any wild dogs that may be on that land:
 - a) At a minimum, all land managers are required to lay at least one lethal wild dog bait along every kilometre of vehicle track. Baits are required to be laid once in autumn and once in spring. Baits that are laid near track intersections, stock pads and tracks leading to water sources are required to be checked monthly and replaced as required.

REGION 2 has the boundary of 35 kilometres from the outside of the Dog Fence, including the eastern shared border with New South Wales.

- (1) Irrespective of evidence of wild dog activity, the land manager is required to lay a minimum of ten lethal wild dog baits within a 10 km radius of each water point that contains water and is within 35 km of the Dog Fence, once in autumn and once in spring.

REGION 3 is any property greater than 300 hectares in size in the boundaries of the Flinders Ranges Council, District Council of Ororoo Carrieton, District Council of Peterborough, Northern Areas Council, Regional Council of Goyder and the District Council of Ceduna.

- (1) If there is wild dog activity, the land manager is required to immediately report it to all land managers with an adjoining boundary of the property with the activity, as well as the local NRM board. The land manager with the activity and all land managers with adjoining boundaries to the activity are required to immediately take the following prescribed measures and specified treatment to destroy any wild dogs that may be on that land:
 - a) All land managers are required to lay ten lethal wild dog bait per 100 hectares of land or single baits are to be laid at a minimum interval of 200 metres along stock pads and private tracks.
 - b) If wild dog activity is still detected after a month of baits being laid, the land managers are required to repeat the baiting, until evidence has not been reported for a month.

REGION 4 has the boundaries of the Ngarkat Conservation Park and all properties with adjoining boundaries of that Park.

- (1) Within Ngarkat Conservation Park the following specified measures to destroy any wild dogs that may be on that land are required:
 - a) At a minimum lay at least one lethal wild dog bait along every 500 metres of most vehicle tracks and perimeter fencing of the property, every three months.
- (2) Any land manager with an adjoining boundary with the property where wild dog activity has been detected, are required to immediately take the following prescribed measures and specified treatment to destroy any wild dogs that may be on that land:
 - a) Lay ten lethal wild dog bait per 100 hectares of land or single baits are to be laid at a minimum interval of 200 metres along stock pads and private tracks.
 - b) If wild dog activity evidence is detected on the adjoining land after a month of baits being laid, the adjoining land managers are required to repeat the baiting, until evidence has not been reported for a month or employ the services of a professional trapper to destroy all wild dogs.

REGION 5 is any property in South Australia not already covered by Regions 1, 3, or 4 inside the Dog Fence.

A land manager is required to immediately notify the local NRM board of any evidence of wild dog activity on their land. The land manager is required to comply with instructions to destroy any wild dogs on that land. Instructions will include destruction measures, such as a particular number of lethal wild dog baits to be laid, trapping or shooting, and the timing and locations of destruction measures.