

**Vertebrate Pests Committee**

**Review of**

**Wild Dog and Fox Programs**

November, 2003

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## Executive Summary

The Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council (NRMMC), at its third meeting in October 2002, considered an item (5D) submitted by Hon Sherryl Garbutt, Victorian Minister for Environment and Conservation regarding Wild Dog and Fox Management. In response, NRMMC:

- a) NOTED the outcomes of the National Wild Dog Summit.
- b) NOTED the potential benefits to be gained from an integrated cross-tenure and cross-jurisdictional program to control wild dogs and foxes over large areas of public and private land.
- c) AGREED to request the Vertebrate Pest Committee to review current wild dog and fox control programs and cross-jurisdictional collaboration, and to provide recommendations to NRMMC on areas for improvement and resourcing options to achieve these.
- d) NOTED that there is currently a review into the use of 1080 by the National Registration Authority.

The following report details the response to Resolution (c) above.

Wild dogs is a term to describe dingoes, dingo hybrids, feral dogs and dogs run wild. Wild dogs are a well established component of the mainland Australian fauna with dingoes having arrived on the continent with Asian seafarers some 4,000 years ago. Since the arrival of Europeans, however, wild dogs have emerged as a major impediment to agricultural pursuits, particularly in the sheep/wool industry. In south eastern Australia the effect of wild dog predation is felt most keenly by farmers with properties adjoining public land in areas where wild dogs generally occur. The cost to individual farmers and their families both emotionally and economically can be significant.

Foxes have had a much shorter history in Australia than wild dogs, having been introduced to the mainland in the 1870s. Since that time, the species has proved to be a major threat to biodiversity, impacting significantly on medium-sized Australian mammals and ground-nesting birds. Predation of native wildlife by foxes is now listed as a threatening process at the Commonwealth level through the **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999** and in Victoria under the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**. A similar listing also occurs in New South Wales under the **Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995**. Foxes also represent a significant threat to agriculture, particularly for sheep during the lambing season, and this combined with their biodiversity impacts, highlight the fox as one of Australia's most formidable economic and environmental vertebrate pests.

VPC established a working group, to oversee the review of current wild dog and fox programs. The working group membership had representation from Victoria(Chair) Bureau of Rural Sciences, Tasmania, New South Wales, Northern Territory, South Australia and Australian Capital Territory.

The following Terms of Reference were drafted from the task that NRMMC charged VPC with:

*TOR 1. Review current wild dog and fox control programs implemented in each jurisdiction in Australia, outlining current control programs, research and development programs, control techniques used and variations of these across land tenures.*

*TOR 2. Review current inter-jurisdictional collaboration on policy, planning, research and development and program implementation for wild dog and fox control.*

*TOR 3. Identify potential areas for improvement in cross-jurisdictional collaboration in the above areas of wild dog and fox control programs.*

*TOR 4. Recommend to NRMMC, via LWBC, preferred options for implementation and resourcing of areas identified for improvement*

The task was largely handled by teleconference and email with a two day workshop held in Canberra at the CSIRO Discovery Centre Black Mountain on 5 and 6 June 2003. The Cattle Council Australia, with funding support from Meat and Livestock Australia, cosponsored with VPC the two day workshop held in Canberra.

Following consideration of the outcomes of the Terms of Reference 1 to 3 and in the context of identifying areas for improvement to cross-jurisdictional and cross tenure collaboration in wild dog and fox programs and resourcing these areas, recommendations were developed to respond to TOR 4. Accordingly, the Vertebrate Pests Committee recommends:

- a. The development of an overarching national vertebrate pests animal strategy to contribute to cross jurisdictional and cross tenure collaboration and provide direction for a national approach to vertebrate pest animal management that will have clear benefits to the community.

## Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs

- b. That two sub-strategies for wild dogs and foxes, are formed under a national vertebrate pest animals strategy, similar to the National Weeds Strategy and Weeds of National Significance model. (It is noted that that this is consistent with recommendations in respect of a national approach for management of feral pigs.)
- c. That the process for development of a national vertebrate pest animal strategy and sub-strategies be genuinely consultative of all stakeholders, maximise use of existing technical information or collaboration in reviews of relevant plans and be overseen by a steering committee representing at least VPC, PISC (animal welfare and agriculture production) and biodiversity interests.
- d. That the preparation of the overarching strategy, and wild dog and fox for sub-strategies, be funded based on NRMCC cost sharing principles to undertake the necessary consultation and draft of the strategies.
- e. That the national vertebrate pests animal strategy and for wild dog and fox sub-strategies be completed within 18 months from agreement being reached to fund the process.

Note that recommendations a, b, c and d are consistent with draft recommendations arising from the LWBC review of the Vertebrate Pests Committee.

## A. Introduction

The Natural Resource Management Ministerial Council (NRMMC), at its third meeting in October 2002, considered an item (5D) submitted by Hon Sherryl Garbutt, Victorian Minister for Environment and Conservation regarding Wild Dog and Fox Management. In response, NRMMC:

- a) NOTED the outcomes of the National Wild Dog Summit.
- b) NOTED the potential benefits to be gained from an integrated cross-tenure and cross-jurisdictional program to control wild dogs and foxes over large areas of public and private land.
- c) AGREED to request the Vertebrate Pest Committee to review current wild dog and fox control programs and cross-jurisdictional collaboration, and to provide recommendations to NRMMC on areas for improvement and resourcing options to achieve these.
- d) NOTED that there is currently a review into the use of 1080 by the National Registration Authority. The following report details the response to Resolution (c) above.

## B. Background

Wild dogs is a term to describe dingoes, dingo hybrids, feral dogs and dogs run wild. Wild dogs are a well established component of the mainland Australian fauna with dingoes having arrived on the continent with Asian seafarers some 4,000 years ago. Since the arrival of Europeans, however, wild dogs have emerged as a major impediment to agricultural pursuits, particularly in the sheep/wool industry. In south eastern Australia the effect of wild dog predation is felt most keenly by farmers with properties adjoining public land in areas where wild dogs generally occur. The cost to individual farmers and their families both emotionally and economically can be significant.

National experts express the opinion that very few if any pure dingoes remain in south eastern Australia. Action needs to be taken to protect the dingo as a species from the impact of interbreeding between domestic dogs and dingoes and further hybridisation between wild dog hybrids and dingoes.

Foxes have had a much shorter history in Australia than wild dogs, having been introduced to the mainland in the 1870s. Since that time, the species has proved to be a major threat to biodiversity, impacting significantly on medium-sized Australian mammals and ground-nesting birds. Predation of native wildlife by foxes is now listed as a threatening process at the Commonwealth level through the **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999** and in Victoria under the **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988**. A similar listing also occurs in New South Wales under the **Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995**. Foxes also represent a significant threat to agriculture, particularly for sheep during the lambing season, and this combined with their biodiversity impacts, highlight the fox as one of Australia's most formidable economic and environmental vertebrate pests.

In February 2002 a National Wild Dog Summit was held in Wodonga, North-east Victoria. This summit was coordinated by the community, attended by more than 300 people and strongly supported by the Commonwealth Government, most State Governments and agencies and wild dog experts from Northern Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Victoria.

## C. Review Process

### (i) VPC Working Group

The VPC established a working group to oversee the review of current wild dog and fox programs. The working group membership had representation from Victoria (Chair), Bureau of Rural Sciences, Tasmania, New South Wales, Northern Territory, South Australia and Australian Capital Territory, being those people who expressed a desire to be involved. Other VPC representatives agreed to contribute to the review as required.

### (ii) Terms of Reference

Terms of reference were drafted from the task that NRMMC charged VPC with, circulated among all VPC members and agreed upon. The Terms of Reference with expected outcomes for each are detailed in Appendix 1.

### (iii) Data Collection

VPC members distributed a template (Appendix 2) to capture broad details of current wild dog and fox management programs for each jurisdiction. All jurisdictions responded appropriately. The responses from the jurisdictions were consolidated into one template, analysed and redistributed nationally to provide an opportunity for data quality check and any revision. Consolidated responses from all jurisdictions are shown in Appendix 3.

## Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs

In addition, a two day workshop was held in Canberra at the CSIRO Discovery Centre Black Mountain on 5 and 6 June 2003 to enable involvement of industries in the process and to derive draft outcomes for VPC to consider in preparing their response for NRMMC. The Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria, provided the secretariat for the task.

### (iv) Partnership with Industry

Early in the process of the Review, Cattle Council Australia (CCA) wrote to the VPC requesting a national workshop of wild dog and wild pig programs. The CCA had funding support from Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) to contribute to the cost of a review. Discussions between the VPC, CCA and MLA resolved that as a review of wild pig programs was outside of the terms of reference of the NRMMC's request to the VPC the Wild Dog and Fox Programs Review would continue, but there would be an opportunity for non government industry participation. The CCA, with funding support from MLA, cosponsored the two day workshop held in Canberra.

### (v) Workshop Format and Attendance

The workshop was attended on day one by government agency representatives only and day two was attended by the same government agency representatives and non government industry representatives. Agencies and industries represented at the workshop over the two days are listed in Appendix 4. The workshop was professionally facilitated for both days. Each day had a focus on TOR 3: *Identify potential areas for improvement in cross-jurisdictional collaboration in the above areas of wild dog and fox control programs for consideration by the VPC*

### (vi) Workshop Outcomes

The agenda and detailed outputs of the workshop for both days are attached in Appendix 5. The VPC has given thoughtful consideration to the outcomes of both days from the workshop, as well as data collected for jurisdictions, to accomplish TOR 4, *Recommend to NRMMC, via LWBC, preferred options for implementation and resourcing of areas identified for improvement.*

## D. Current Program Review

Analysis of the consolidated responses illustrates that the issues identified in the context of the Terms of Reference for this review, for both wild dog and fox management programs, are extremely similar. Thus, the following material for this report segment may be considered to apply equally to both wild dog and fox programs.

*TOR 1. Review current wild dog and fox control programs implemented in each jurisdiction in Australia, outlining current control programs, research and development programs, control techniques used and variations of these across land tenures.*

There are strong similarities in the control programs being implemented in each jurisdiction. Perhaps the most significant difference is the varying approach to aerial baiting. Aerial baiting is used in WA, QLD and part of NSW. A recent (2003) review found that a lack of landholder involvement and an over reliance on aerial baiting are key contributing factors to increasing wild dog numbers in Western Australia.

It was recognised in the workshop that there are peculiar nuances applied to implementation of any control technique between jurisdictions and practitioners. It was also identified as a potential benefit to foster communication between jurisdictions to encourage the sharing of practical knowledge and ideas.

Funding for current programs is largely derived from state/territory treasury, however with the exception of ACT all jurisdictions have private land managers making some contribution to programs.

*TOR 2. Review current inter-jurisdictional collaboration on policy, planning, research and development and program implementation for wild dog and fox control.*

It is in this area that there are the greatest gaps. Although there are some collaborative research and development projects, there is limited collaboration at program implementation level for onground works and virtually no collaboration for policy and planning development. Among other issues the Review identified is a need for a consistent nationally accepted position on conservation of dingoes and minimisation of the impacts of wild dogs on this.

## Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs

Areas identified where further inter-jurisdictional collaboration could most usefully occur included measurement of program performance, strategic planning of programs and management of animal welfare issues.

### *Intra jurisdictional collaboration.*

Responses from all jurisdictions indicated that there is a high level of collaboration across various government agencies within jurisdictions for policy and planning, research and development and program implementation. Onground works also appear to commonly have a high level of participation of private land managers eg. farmers. However there is the potential for greater formal engagement of private industry stakeholders.

*TOR 3. Identify potential areas for improvement in cross-jurisdictional collaboration in the above areas of wild dog and fox control programs.*

This TOR was the major focus of the two day workshop. Prior to the workshop jurisdictions nominated a number of issues for consideration. These issues are summarized in the points below, and detailed in Appendix 3.

- Performance measures for damage, abundance, program outcomes and national adoption and consistency
- Strategic planning framework with ability for consistent application to consider environment, social and economic values and recognition and engagement of all stakeholders
- Codes of practice in respect of animal welfare issues to provide agreed standards regarding the use of steel-jawed traps, both padded and non-padded, firearms and toxins.
- A national position on the status of dingoes that gives consideration to the current different laws that either declare dingoes as a native vertebrate or as a pest animal.

### Workshop Day 1

The first day of the workshop was structured around review of current programs and identification of benefits from collaboration across jurisdictions and land tenures for wild dog and fox management. Additionally, barriers to successful management of wild dog and fox impacts were also discussed.

Sixteen issues were identified as priorities as Areas for Improved Collaboration either as cross jurisdictional, cross tenure or both. These are provided in detail in Appendix 5. They are broadly represented by the areas noted above under TOR2, although a number provide greater operational detail of issues identified as worthy of collaboration.

A record of proceedings of day 1 of the Workshop is contained in Appendix 5, Day 1 Workshop Agenda and Outputs.

### Workshop Outcome Day 1

The workshop participants concluded that the identified opportunities for increasing the effectiveness of wild dog and fox management programs via improvement in cross-jurisdictional and cross-tenure collaboration could best be packaged in a National Pest Animal Strategy with sub-strategies specific to wild dogs and foxes.

It was noted that the development of sub-strategies would apply to other vertebrate pest animal species, in particular feral pigs which were the topic of another workshop held during the same week with similar stakeholder representation. Additionally the workshop participants provided recommendations for contents of a national vertebrate pests animal strategy.

A record of the Day 1 Workshop Outcome appears in Appendix 5 – Day 1 Outcome.

### Workshop Day 2

Day 2 of the workshop was attended by non government livestock industry and farmer/community group representatives along with the government agency people who attended day 1. Three presentations led into an open issues session.

The facilitators presented a synopsis of Day 1 and then managed the discussion into addressing “Identification of areas for improvement” and “Establishing industry outcomes for the VPC’s consideration”. A record of proceedings of day 2 of the workshop, with a summary of the context of the presentations are contained in Appendix 5, Day 2 Workshop Agenda and Outputs.

## Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs

### Workshop Outcome Day 2

The workshop participants concluded that there were significant benefits and opportunities for national collaboration on fox and wild dog management and that a national approach requires direction that should be through a national strategy and a mechanism to formally and genuinely engage all stakeholders. Further detail regarding the recommendations of Day 2 of the workshop are available in Appendix 5, Day 2 Outcome.

### **Recommendations**

*TOR 4, Recommend to NRMMC, via LWBC, preferred options for implementation and resourcing of areas identified for improvement.*

The Vertebrate Pests Committee has given consideration to the outcomes of Terms of Reference 1 to 3 of the Review of Wild Dog and Fox Programs. In the context of identifying areas for improvement to cross jurisdictional and cross tenure collaboration in wild dog and fox programs and resourcing these areas recommends:

- a. The development of an overarching national vertebrate pests animal strategy to contribute to cross jurisdictional and cross tenure collaboration and provide direction for a national approach to vertebrate pest animal management that will have clear benefits to the community.
- b. That two sub-strategies for wild dogs and foxes, are formed under a national vertebrate pest animals strategy, similar to the National Weeds Strategy and Weeds of National Significance model. (It is noted that that this is consistent with recommendations in respect of a national approach for management of feral pigs.)
- c. That the process for development of a national vertebrate pest animal strategy and sub-strategies be genuinely consultative of all stakeholders, maximise use of existing technical information or collaboration in reviews of relevant plans and be overseen by a steering committee representing at least VPC, PISC (animal welfare and agriculture production) and biodiversity interests.
- d. That the preparation of the overarching strategy, and wild dog and fox for sub-strategies, be funded based on NRMMC cost sharing principles to undertake the necessary consultation and draft of the strategies.
- e. That the national vertebrate pests animal strategy and for wild dog and fox sub-strategies be completed within 18 months from agreement being reached to fund the process.

Note that recommendations a, b, c and d are consistent with draft recommendations arising from the LWBC review of the Vertebrate Pests Committee.



**Terms of Reference**

**TOR 1. Review current wild dog and fox control programs implemented in each jurisdiction in Australia, outlining current control programs, research and development programs, control techniques used and variations of these across land tenures.**

**Process:** Desktop study/response from responsible officers.

**Outcome:** Expectations to gain sufficient information to:  
State the current leading stakeholders driving the programs and funding sources e.g. state treasury, rate levy, other, and  
Describe the land tenures and areas and provide an indication of implementation of control programs for each land tenure type and relevant leading stakeholder, and  
Describe the control techniques implemented in each land tenure, and  
Describe the various projects and objectives for current research and development programs and sources of funding.

**TOR 2. Review current inter-jurisdictional collaboration on policy, planning, research and development and program implementation for wild dog and fox control.**

**Process:** Desktop study/response from responsible officers.

**Outcome:** Produce a matrix/table that illustrates the level of current inter-jurisdictional collaboration on policy, planning, research and development and program implementation for wild dog and fox control.

**TOR 3. Identify potential areas for improvement in cross-jurisdictional collaboration in the above areas of wild dog and fox control programs.**

**Process 1.:** Nomination of issues from each jurisdiction.  
Distribution of nominated issues to VPC members for further comment and feedback.  
Timeline: December 2002 - mid March 2003

**Process 2.:** Facilitated workshop through issues to produce succinct recommendations for NRMCC.

**Outcome:** Recommendations for NRMCC identifying potential areas for improvement in cross-jurisdictional collaboration for wild dog and fox control programs.

**TOR 4. Recommend to NRMCC, via LWBC, preferred options for implementation and resourcing of areas identified for improvement.**

**Process:** Facilitated workshop through recommendations of areas identified for improvement.

**Outcome:** Recommendations for NRMCC identifying potential areas for improvement in cross-jurisdictional collaboration for wild dog and fox control programs.

**Templates for responses**

**Terms of Reference Fox and Wild Dog Management Review:**

**TOR 1 Review current wild dog and fox control programs implemented in each jurisdiction in Australia, outlining current control programs, research and development programs, control techniques used and variations of these across land tenures.**

**Process:** Desktop study/response from responsible officers.

**Outcome:** Expectations to gain sufficient information to:

State the current leading stakeholders driving the programs and funding sources e.g. state treasury, rate levy, other, and

Describe the land tenures and areas and provide an indication of implementation of control programs for each land tenure type and relevant leading stakeholder, and

Describe the control techniques implemented in each land tenure.

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<i>Victoria</i>	<b>WILD DOGS</b>					
<i>Lead agency</i>	<i>Major stakeholders/partners</i>	<i>Program fund source</i>	<i>&amp; estimate % of total funds</i>	<i>Land tenure</i>	<i>Control techniques implemented</i>	<i>Degree of implementation</i>	<i>Implementation led by (agency/stakeholder)</i>

<i>Jurisdiction</i>	<b>FOXES</b>						
<i>Lead agency</i>	<i>Major stakeholders/partners</i>	<i>Program fund source</i>	<i>&amp; estimate % of total funds</i>	<b>Land tenure</b>	<i>Control techniques implemented</i>	<i>Degree of implementation</i>	<i>Implementation led by (agency/stakeholder)</i>

Describe the various projects and objectives for current research and development programs and sources of funding.

<i>Project name</i>	<i>Project fund source/s</i>	<i>% total funding</i>	<i>Project objectives</i> <i>Please limit to use of dot points and between 100 to 150 words</i>

**Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs**

(Appendix 2 cont.)

**TOR 2. Review current inter-jurisdictional collaboration on policy, planning, research and development and program implementation for wild dog and fox control.**

**Process:** Desktop study/response from responsible officers.

**Outcome:** Produce a matrix/table that illustrates the level of current inter-jurisdictional collaboration on policy, planning, research and development and program implementation for wild dog and fox control.

Data supplied by	Agency / Jurisdiction			
<b>Wild Dogs</b>				
Policy	Planning	Research & Development	R & D Project name	Program Implementation
Insert jurisdiction/agency involved in collaboration for policy development	Insert jurisdiction/agency involved in collaboration for planning programs	Insert jurisdiction/agency involved in collaboration for R & D.	Should match previous section names	Insert jurisdiction/agency involved in collaboration for coordinating work programs.

<b>Foxes</b>				
Policy	Planning	Research & Development	R & D Project name	Program Implementation
Insert jurisdiction/agency involved in collaboration for policy development	Insert jurisdiction/agency involved in collaboration for planning programs	Insert jurisdiction/agency involved in collaboration for R & D.	Should match previous section names	Insert jurisdiction/agency involved in collaboration for coordinating work programs.

## Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs

(Appendix 2 cont.)

### **TOR 3 Identify potential areas for improvement in cross-jurisdictional collaboration in the above areas of wild dog and fox control programs.**

Process: 1. Nomination of issues from each jurisdiction.

Distribution of nominated issues to VPC members for further comment and feedback.

Timeline: December 2002 - mid March 2003

Process: 2. Facilitated workshop through issues to produce succinct recommendations for NRMMC.

Outcome: Recommendations for NRMMC identifying potential areas for improvement in cross-jurisdictional collaboration for wild dog and fox control programs.

Please list issues for consideration and provide sufficient explanatory note to ensure that readers will understand why the issue is nominated and what would be considered a good outcome by the nominating jurisdiction.

### **TOR 4. Recommend to NRMMC, via LWBC, preferred options for implementation and resourcing of areas identified for improvement.**

**Process:** Facilitated workshop through recommendations of areas identified for improvement.

**Outcome:** Recommendations for NRMMC identifying potential areas for improvement in cross-jurisdictional collaboration for wild dog and fox control programs.

Note: TOR number 4 will be completed as a result of work by the working group and acceptance by VPC.

**Consolidation of Responses to Terms of Reference from agencies**

**TOR 1. Review current wild dog and fox control programs implemented in each jurisdiction in Australia, outlining current control programs, research and development programs, control techniques used and variations of these across land tenures.**

**Table 1. Wild Dog management in different land tenures in each jurisdiction**

Land Tenure	Control Techniques implemented					
	Ground baiting	Aerial baiting	Trapping	Shooting	Barrier fencing	
<b>State Forest and other crown land</b>	ACT NSW Qld Vic WA	NSW Qld WA	ACT Vic WA	Vic WA		
<b>National Parks</b>	ACT NSW NT Qld SA Vic WA	NSW Qld WA	ACT NT SA Victoria		ACT	
<b>Other conservation reserves</b>	ACT NSW NT Qld SA Vic WA	NSW Qld WA	ACT NT SA Vic		ACT	
<b>Private Land</b>	NSW NT Qld Vic WA	NSW Qld WA	NT Qld Vic WA	Qld Vic WA	Qld Vic	
<b>Public/ private land interface</b>	NSW Qld	Qld	SA	Vic WA	Qld Vic	
<b>Pastoral/ Rural Lease</b>	ACT– ACT Govt. NT Qld SA (1080/ strychnine) WA	Qld WA	ACT Qld SA WA	ACT Qld SA WA	ACT Qld SA	

**Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs**  
(Appendix 3 cont.)

**Table 1a. Program fund source for wild dog control**

Wild dog Program Funding source	State, program (where indicated) and percentage						
	ACT	NSW	Vic	Qld	SA	NT	WA
<b>State Treasury</b>	100%	Baiting 40% Trapping 40% Barrier fencing 20% Interstate dog fence 60%	100% (Barrier fencing public/private interface 50%)	10%	Baiting 50% Interstate dog fence 50%	60%	100% on public land 50% on pastoral lease
<b>Landholder levy</b>		Baiting 40% Trapping 60% Interstate dog fence 40%		10%	Baiting 50% Interstate dog fence 50%		05% on pastoral lease (DPACF)
<b>Private</b>		Baiting 20% Barrier fencing 80%	(Barrier fencing public/private interface 50%)	80%		40%	

DPACF = in WA Declared Plant and Animal Control Fund, comprising rates levied on pastoral leases, with matching dollars by Govt.

**Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs**  
(Appendix 3 cont.)

**Table 2. Fox Management in different land tenures in each jurisdiction**

Land Tenure	Control Techniques implemented						
	Ground baiting	Aerial baiting	Trapping	Shooting	Bounty	Den Fumigation	Exclusion fencing
<b>State Forest and other crown land</b>	ACT NSW NT Qld Tas (trials) Vic WA	Qld WA	ACT Qld (targeted) WA	NSW Qld Tas Vic	Vic		WA
<b>National Parks</b>	ACT NSW NT Qld SA Tas (trials) Vic WA	Qld WA	ACT Qld (targeted) Vic	Qld			WA
<b>Other conservation reserves</b>	ACT NT Qld Tas (trials) Vic WA	Qld WA	ACT Qld (targeted) Vic	Qld Tas Vic WA			WA
<b>Private Land</b>	NSW Qld SA Tas (trials) Vic WA	Qld	Qld SA Vic WA	NSW Qld SA Tas Vic WA	Vic	SA Vic WA	WA
<b>Public/ private land interface</b>	SA		SA		Vic		
<b>Pastoral/ Rural Lease</b>	ACT Qld WA	Qld	ACT	ACT			

**Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs**  
(Appendix 3 cont.)

**Table 2a. Program fund source for fox control**

Fox Program Funding source	State, program (where indicated) and percentage							
	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA
<b>State Treasury</b>	100%	State and local govt. programs 40%	100%	50%	100%	100%	100%	Western Shield 100% (with corporate sponsorship and Dept of Defence) Other community baiting programs on public land 100%
<b>Landholder levy</b>								100% DPACF (50% from levy on pastoral lease, 50% Govt funds).
<b>Private</b>		Control on private land 60 %		50%				



Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs

(Appendix 3 cont.)

**Table 3. Summary Control Techniques used for dogs and foxes in each jurisdiction in different land tenures**

Control Technique	Wild dogs			Foxes		
	Public Land	Private land/leased land	Public/private Interface	Public Land	Private land/leased land	Public/private Interface
<b>Ground baiting</b>	ACT NSW NT Qld SA Vic WA	ACT NSW NT Qld Vic WA	NSW Qld WA	ACT NSW NT Qld SA Tas (trials) Vic WA	ACT NSW Qld SA Tas (trials) Vic WA	SA
<b>Aerial baiting</b>	NSW Qld WA	NSW Qld WA	Qld WA	Qld WA		
<b>Trapping</b>	ACT NT SA Vic WA	ACT NT Qld Vic WA	SA WA	ACT Qld Vic	ACT Qld SA Vic	SA
<b>Shooting</b>	Vic WA	ACT Qld SA Vic WA	WA	NSW Qld Tas Vic WA	ACT NSW Qld SA Tas Vic WA	
<b>Bounty</b>				Vic (excluding National Parks)	Vic	Vic
<b>Fencing</b>	ACT	ACT Qld SA Vic WA (some individual properties)	Qld Vic	WA	WA (private reserves)	WA
<b>Den Fumigation</b>					SA Vic	

# Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs

(Appendix 3 cont.)

## 1.1. Research and development projects - Wild dogs:

### Improving Target Specificity/ Assessing non- target impact

- Adaptation of the mechanical ejector for target-specific baiting: pulling force and collar dimensions – Vic and Tas
- A collaborative project between NPWS and RLPBs is investigating the effects of aerial baiting on populations of spotted tailed quolls – NSW
- Palatability trials are to be undertaken by NPWS and Aust. Hydatid Control and Epidemiology Program as the first stage in finding a quoll-friendly bait for wild dogs and foxes – NSW
- Impact of 1080 on Native Fauna – Quoll – Qld
- 1080 Treatment – Qld
- Non-target impacts – Qld

### Wild dog movements and Ecology

- South east NSW & ACT Wild Dog Project: Movement studies of dogs within forested lands and interface lands – NSW and ACT, Fraser Island Dingo Project – Qld

### Training and development of control techniques

- Develop a fencing handbook for effective electric fencing for wild dog management - Vic
- A new learning program under the National Competency Standards for Conservation and Land Management Traineeships is being mapped for wild dog control specialists – NSW
- South east NSW & ACT Wild Dog Project: Feasibility study into the use of livestock guarding animals in ACT and NSW - NSW and ACT
- South east NSW & ACT Wild Dog Project: Training of wild dog control specialists/ Training of field staff in monitoring techniques – NSW and ACT
- Integrated Management of Wild Dogs/Dingos in South Eastern NSW and ACT – Nil Tenure approach to wild dog control – NSW and ACT

## 1.2. Research and development projects - Foxes:

### Improving Baiting Technology/ Reducing Non-target risk

- Bait selectivity trials to determine protocols for 1080 fox bait use in Tasmania in relation to bait selectivity and effects on native wildlife – Tas.
- Palatability trials are to be undertaken by NPWS and Aust. Hydatid Control and Epidemiology Program as the first stage in finding quoll-friendly bait for wild dogs and foxes – NSW.
- Impact of 1080 on native fauna in particular, the Quoll – Qld.
- 1080 Treatment – Qld.
- Non-target impacts – Qld.
- Fox bait delivery: improve bait uptake by foxes and reduce bait uptake by non-targets, especially dingoes – NT.
- Development and testing of an alternative (to dried meat) bait for foxes – WA.
- Ongoing long-term program to develop a bait-delivered immunocontraceptive vaccine to compromise the fertility of wild foxes. The vaccine is intended to provide a humane measure for the biological control of foxes to be integrated with existing on-ground control programs. - DEH
- Study of the control methods used across Australia to control foxes (and other feral animals) and available information on the success of control methods, especially in regard to recovery of affected native wildlife - DEH
- Study into the interaction of foxes, cats and rabbits and native prey/predators, in control and non-control situations, to recommend appropriate integrated control -DEH

**Monitoring**

- scat DNA as an improved estimate of fox abundance and management success – Vic.

**Improving Humaneness**

- Assessment of 1080/analgesic for the control of red foxes – Vic.

(Appendix 3 cont.)

### Strategic Fox Management

- “Southern Ark” – Control of foxes across 1 million ha of public land in SE Victoria - Vic (proposal only).
- Adaptive Experimental Management of foxes – Vic.
- “Project Deliverance” Broadscale fox control assessing recovering of threatened taxa – Vic.
- Fox control prioritisation using a multi-criteria decision tool – Vic.
- Behavioural responses of medium sized mammals to fox control-Vic.
- “Western Shield” - reducing fox densities on public land to such a level that native fauna populations can recover or translocated populations can establish and increase – WA.
- Fox control and priority setting for integrated pest management on upper Eyre Peninsula (2003-05) – SA.
- Western Integrated Pest Management Project – SA.
- Operation Bounceback, Flinders Ranges – SA.
- To identify possible means of improving the effectiveness of existing fox management strategies and derive potential alternative approaches for use in broad-scale fox management in eastern Australia – NSW.
- Develop a research protocol for testing of alternative or improved strategies, involve land management agencies in the testing of these strategies to ensure long term acceptance and develop appropriate extension material – NSW.
- Evaluation of the fox bounty trial – Vic.

## Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs

(Appendix 3 cont.)

**TOR 2. Review current inter-jurisdictional collaboration on policy, planning, research and development and program implementation for wild dog and fox control.**

**Table 4. Current INTER-jurisdictional collaboration – wild dog control**

State	Inter-jurisdictional collaboration			
	Policy development	Planning	R&D	Program implementation
<b>VIC</b>			Collaborative project with NRM (QLD) and Victorian DPI (VIAS).	DPI, Parks Vic, RLPBs Cooma & Bombala Box Flat Wild Dog Group (SA), Landholders.
<b>NSW</b>			South east NSW & ACT Wild Dog Project: sub-projects: Training of field staff in monitoring effects of aerial baiting on populations of spotted tailed quolls. NPWS and Aust. Hydatid Control and Epidemiology Program trials to find a quoll-friendly canid bait. Traineeships for wild dog control specialists Communication with Qld DNRM re quoll research.	
<b>ACT</b>			Integrated Management of Wild Dogs/ Dingos in South Eastern NSW and ACT – Nil Tenure approach to wild dog control	Environment ACT in collaboration with NSW Department of Agriculture Vertebrate Pest Control Unit.
<b>QLD</b>			Quoll non target research- NRM communication with NSW NPWS Collaborative project between NRM and Victorian DPI (VIAS).	
<b>WA</b>				
<b>SA</b>		Recent collaborations between Box Flat Dingo Control Committee (SA) & “Mallee Community Group” (Vic) to plan joint dingo control programs		Recent collaborations between Box Flat Dingo Control Committee (SA) & “Mallee Community Group” (Vic) to plan joint dingo control programs
<b>NT</b>				

Note: Qld, SA, Vic and WA collaboratively meet regarding barrier fencing (in particular) and other issues regarding wild dog control. Meetings occur every 3-4 years.

Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs

(Appendix 3 cont.)

**Table 5. Current INTRA-jurisdictional collaboration – wild dog control**

State Inter-jurisdictional collaboration				
State	Policy development	Planning	R&D	Program implementation
VIC	DSE, DPI, Parks Vic, Wild dog management groups	DSE, DPI		DPI, Parks Vic
NSW	NSW Ag NPWS State Forests, DLWC, RLPBs	All Stakeholders Local plans are being developed based on model Cooperative Wild Dog/ Fox control Plan Regional plans using the same model are being developed for NPWS and State Forest Regions and for RLPB districts. Statewide management plan is being developed to encompass the regional and local plans. Vertebrate Pest Research Unit (VPRU) of NSW Agriculture is responsible for overseeing wild dog control, extending technological developments and the strategic model, and training field staff and managers	Training of field staff in monitoring techniques. NPWS and RLPBs effects of aerial baiting on populations of spotted tailed quolls. NPWS and Aust. Hydatid Control and Epidemiology Program trials to find a quoll-friendly canid bait. Traineeships for wild dog control specialists under the National Competency Standards.	All Stakeholders  RLPBs are the lead agency.
ACT	Environment ACT	Environment ACT and ACT Parks and Conservation Service.	Integrated Management of Wild Dogs/ Dingos in South Eastern NSW and ACT – Nil Tenure approach to wild dog control	Environment ACT
QLD	NRM EPA Rural Lands Protection Board Local Government Association of Qld Individual local governments Agforce Qld Farmers Federation Qld Conservation Council Landholders Wild Dog Control Syndicates RSPCA	Local Government Natural Resources and Mines Landholders – private Landholders – government Wild Dog Control Syndicates	Fraser Island dingo project – NRM and QPWS Quoll and other non target research Dingo research write –up	Control on State Lands (not leased) – NR&M, QPWS Control on State Lands (leased) – NR&M, QPWS, landholders Control on Private Lands (group) – Local governments, NR&M, control syndicates, landholders Control on Private Lands (individual) – Local governments, NR&M, landholder
WA	Dept of Agriculture (DAWA) Agriculture Protection Board (APB) Review of Wild dog Program	DAWA, APB, DCLM and Dept. Health	DAWA and DCLM	DAWA and DCLM
SA	Review of APCC policy on Dingo management - Consult stakeholders - APCC, RSPCA, Dog and Cat Management Board, SAFF, DEH, Conservation Council			
NT	N T health and Community Services			NT Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development

**Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs**

(Appendix 3 cont.)

**Table 6. Current INTER-jurisdictional collaboration in Fox control**

State	Inter-jurisdictional collaboration			
	Policy development	Planning	R&D	Program implementation
<b>VIC</b>			<b>Behavioural responses of medium-sized mammals to fox control – collaboration with CSIRO (Federal).</b>	
<b>NSW</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Impact of 1080 on quolls- NSW NPWS communication with Qld NRM</b></li> </ul>	
<b>ACT</b>				
<b>QLD</b>			<b>Impact of 1080 on quolls- NRM communication with NSW NPWS</b>	
<b>WA</b>		DAWA, DCLM input to Tas fox plans	<b>DAWA, DCLM input to Tas fox plans</b>	DAWA supply of baits to Tas
<b>SA</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Western Integrated Pest Management Project –NHT funded</b></li> <li>• <b>Operation Bounceback, Flinders Ranges – NHT funded</b></li> </ul>	
<b>NT</b>				
<b>TAS</b>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bait selectivity trials – federally funded</b></li> <li>• <b>Mechanical ejector trials undertaken by VIAS (Victoria)</b></li> </ul>	

**Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs**

(Appendix 3 cont.)

**Table 7. Current INTRA – jurisdictional collaboration in Fox control**

State Intra-jurisdictional collaboration - Foxes				
State	Policy development	Planning	R&D	Program implementation
VIC	DSE, DPI Parks Victoria Victorian Farmers Federation	DPI and Parks Victoria	DSE, DPI and Parks Victoria collaborating in the following programs: Adaptive Experimental Management Program in National Parks Project Deliverance Southern Ark	DSE, DPI, Parks Victoria and landholders
NSW	NPWS NSW Agriculture RLPBs	NPWS, State Forests, VPRU of NSW Ag, CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems, Victorian DPI/DSE, RLPB pest animal management plans in consultation with Private and Crown land managers	Implementation of Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by the Red Fox NPWS, this project has research as well as management components	RLPBs, NPWS, State Forests NSW NSW Agriculture has promoted group-baiting programs through RLP Boards and local programs of between 10 – 40 landholders became operational. Large scale, multi Board programs such as “Outfox the Fox” have since been developed, covering 1000 properties in a synchronised and cooperative control program.
ACT				
QLD	NRM EPA Rural Lands Protection Board Local Government Association of Qld Individual local governments Agforce Qld Farmers Federation Qld Conservation Council Landholders Wild Dog Control Syndicates RSPCA	Local Government Natural Resources and Mines Landholders – private Landholders – government	Impact of 1080 on quolls 1080 treatment for domestic dogs Impact of 1080 on non target species	Control on State Lands (not leased) – NR&M, QPWS Control on State Lands (leased) – NR&M, QPWS, landholders Control on Private Lands (group) – Local governments, NR&M, control syndicates, landholders Control on Private Lands (individual) – Local governments, NR&M, landholder
WA	DCLM DAWA	DCLM DAWA Health Department	DCLM and DAWA collaborate on: Western Shield Program Development and testing alternative fox bait	DCLM implements Western Shield
SA			Western Integrated Pest Management Project – NHT funded Operation Bounceback, Flinders Ranges – NHT funded	DEH APCC Local Animal and Plant Control Boards Landholders
NT	NT Parks and Wildlife Service  NT Health and Community Services		Fox bait delivery: Collaborative program between: NT Parks and Wildlife Service and Dept of Infrastructure Planning and Environment	
TAS				Recreational shooting, baiting and spotlighting programs: State Government, Field and Game Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Tasmanian Conservation Trust



# Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs

(Appendix 3 cont.)

**TOR 3. Identify potential areas for improvement in cross-jurisdictional collaboration in the above areas of wild dog and fox control programs.**

## **3.1. Performance Measures**

**Areas identified by different states:**

- Accurate records of damage and wild dog presence. For wild dogs, a centralised relational database has been constructed and will be implemented in southern NSW after final negotiations with stakeholders - NSW
- Currently, RLPBs record damage, wild dog activity and some control activity. Control by individual landholders is not well recorded - NSW
- A standardised method of indexing wild dog, fox and large prey abundance is gradually being accepted and this is being enhanced by training of field staff - NSW
- The development of capacity to participate in the national property event management system (PEMS) should facilitate broader adoption of these information strategies in NSW.
- Performance measures for outcomes /results of wild dog and fox management techniques. Need to identify how success or otherwise of wild dog and fox programs determined – Victoria.
- There is a need to look at the assessment techniques used to assess programs and the accuracy of these techniques – Victoria.
- No formal process exists for monitoring the success or otherwise of the wild dog control program. Largely relies on reports from landholders, who report on stock losses and, for example, apparent increased numbers (or lack of decrease) of wild dogs. Would be useful to have more objective reporting, not only of stock losses, but also some measure of population densities – WA.
- For fox management in the Western Shield program is not measured by way of changes to fox densities, rather the response of native fauna populations is monitored using a range of standard techniques applicable to different species – WA.

## **3.2. Strategic Planning**

**Areas identified by different states:**

- Determining Government investment priorities in wild dog and fox control. There is a need for an agreed and consistent decision framework, based on the principles of ESD, which can be applied to decide priorities for action and levels of response appropriate to each particular situation – Vic.
- Management on Defence lands and EPBC implications – Qld.
- Recognition of differences across states and need for different approaches – Qld.
- Improvements to inter-agency procedures and co-ordination and public education when baiting near QPWS estate and sensitive habitats e.g. quoll habitats – Qld.
- Strategic planning tools have been developed but resources are needed for facilitation of management plans to ensure uptake by all stakeholders – NSW.

## **3.3 Animal Welfare issues**

**Areas identified by different states:**

- A new code of practice is needed for the use of soft-jawed leghold traps – NSW.
- Appropriate use of firearms for vertebrate pests including dogs (e.g. suitable calibre, users, etc.) – NSW.
- Need for a more humane, rapid-acting toxin for use on traps set for >24 hours – NSW.
- Use of steel-jawed traps, strychnine, leghold traps, codes of practice for shooting – Vic.
- Steel-jawed traps are allowed in WA for wild dog and fox control; dog traps must be treated with strychnine pads to ensure rapid death of trapped dogs. Changes to Animal Welfare Act will continue to stipulate this, as well as the use of only Soft-catch-type traps for foxes – WA.

(Appendix 3 cont.)

- Strychnine only registered in WA for use on trap jaws, not for making canid baits. Dept of Agriculture and DCLM have codes of practice for shooting, and encourage use of these amongst other operators – WA.
- DCLM: all activities that have the potential to have direct impacts on fauna and feral predators are covered by an Animal Ethics Committee endorsement (as are all R&D activities of DCLM and Dept Agriculture) – WA.

### 3.4 Status of dingoes

- Status of dingoes varies across jurisdictions eg. Dingoes are classed as a native vertebrate in the NT and protected on all tenures but in WA dingoes are *declared pests of agriculture* under the provisions of *Agriculture and related Resources Protection Act 1976* and as *unprotected fauna* through provisions of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 1950*.

**Agencies & Industries represented at Wild dog/Fox Workshop, Canberra  
5&6 June, 2003**

Day 1 & 2

**Government agency representation:**

CSIRO/Pest Animal Control Cooperative Research Centre, Canberra  
NSW Agriculture  
Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria  
Department of Primary Industries, Victoria  
Department of Agriculture Western Australia  
Animal and Plant Control Commission, South Australia  
Australian Capital Territory Parks, Canberra  
Northern Territory Parks and Wildlife  
Bureau of Rural Sciences  
Environment Australia  
Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Queensland

Day two only

**Non government Industry representation:**

Cattle Council Australia  
Meat and Livestock Australia  
Victorian Farmers Federation  
NSW Farmers Federation  
SA Farmers Federation  
Tasmanian Farmers & Graziers Assoc.  
AgForce QLD  
Agriculture Protection Board Western Australia  
Wool Producers  
Australian Wool Industry  
Sheep Meat Council

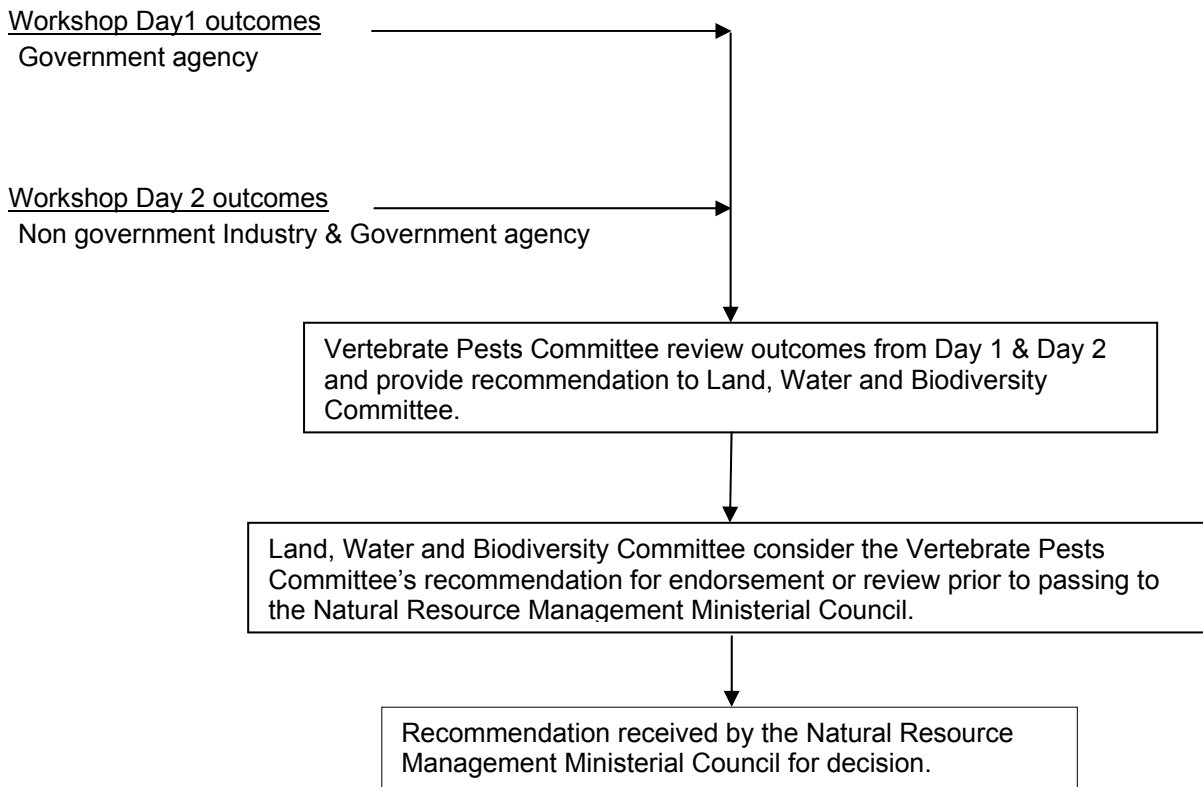
Record of Workshop proceedings

Day 1 Workshop Agenda and outputs

<b>A 1</b>	Registration and morning tea
<b>A 2</b>	Introduction / Purpose
<b>A 3</b>	Benefits of Collaboration
<b>A 4</b>	Program objectives Barriers to the success of current Wild Dog and Fox programs by state/territory
<b>A 5</b>	Lunch
<b>A 6</b>	Areas for Improved Collaboration Priorities – agreement?
<b>A 7</b>	Afternoon Tea
<b>A 8</b>	Identify outcomes for VPC consideration
<b>A 9</b>	Close

**A 2 Introduction / Purpose**

To identify opportunities for increasing the effectiveness of wild dog and fox control programs via improvement in cross-jurisdictional and cross-tenure collaboration. These opportunities to be packaged as outcomes from Day 1 of the workshop and provided to the VPC for consideration with the outcomes of Day 2 as shown below.



(Appendix 5 cont.)

### A 3 Current Level of Collaboration

How do you rate the current level of collaboration in wild dog and fox management?

#### Benefits from Collaboration

- R & D (eg movement of dogs across boundaries (NSW/ACT) – control techniques)
- feasibility studies (eg livestock guarding animals NSW/ACT)
- training (eg field staff in monitoring techniques – NSW/ACT)
- integrated management (eg NSW/ACT – nil tenure approach to wild dog control)
- monitoring (eg impacts – consistent method)
- project planning (eg Box Flat Vic/SA)
- policy development (?) – but do the states stick to the policy? eg. Vic fox bounty
- public education (?)
- consistency in field operations, eg best practice in animal welfare: understanding that the operation in one state can have an impact more broadly. Lack of a national approach or overarching policy.
- Extension – focused at landholders level. Skills of stakeholders involved in group control projects.
- Saving time and money and getting results out quickly due to collaboration. The problems are large and the available resources for research for example are limited.
- Improving impact of programs through collaboration
- Cross tenure collaboration provides political benefits.
- Generating funding opportunities
- Maintain collaborative effort through formalising approaches
- Increasing Ministerial support from seeing collaboration.

**Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs**

(Appendix 5 cont.)

**A 4 Program objectives**

**Barriers to the success of current Wild Dog and Fox programs by state/territory**

<b>State</b>	<b>Wild Dogs</b>	<b>Foxes</b>
Qld	Lack of co-operation between landholders.	Not seen as priority.
NSW	Agency resources. Lack of collaboration across tenure/between neighbours. Information gaps in relation to impacts. Conflicting objectives (dingo conservation). Limited control options. High cost of target specific techniques (EIS).	Resources (limited to high priority species). Insufficient priority for some landowners. Lack of clarity on level of impact and benefit from control. Limited control option.
ACT	Lack of clarity on defining a dingo. Change of rural ownership / interests (lifestyle owners have different values). Limit to control options (humane).	Lack of co-operation across the landscape due to different ownership (values). Foxes seen as needing protection by animal rights groups. Perception of govt responsibility.
Vic	Lack of collaboration between public / private. Seen as Govt dogs. Politics driving control to dog numbers rather than impacts (catch/kill dogs rather than exclusion fences/prevention of damage). Not using all techniques used elsewhere (aerial baiting).	Lack of understanding of principles and benefits from control. Misplaced resources. Lack of community engagement. Agency disruption.
Tas		Lack of public awareness and belief in the existence of foxes. Leads to funding problems.
SA	Land use conversion to cattle (reduced impact). Organic limits 1080.	(Ag areas) Concern over killing farm/home dogs (lack of fox specific control/bait). Funding limitations.
WA	Co-ordination between private and public. Lack of involvement of landholders. Insufficient data on impacts. Individual owners don't "own" the dogs. Limited control options - Loss of 1080 (potential barrier).	Long-term funding commitment. Competition from cats if control foxes. Co-ordination between private and public. Limited control options - Loss of 1080 (potential barrier).
NT	Lack of techniques for control near urban areas. Aboriginal community dogs among pastoral control areas.	Lack of impact definition. Concern over control implications (poison).

Measures of success are not clear

**Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs**

(Appendix 5 cont.)

**A 6 Areas for Improved Collaboration**

Priorities – agreement?

<b>Wild Dogs &amp; Foxes</b>			
<b>Issue</b>	<b>National</b>	<b>X-State</b>	<b>X-Tenure</b>
Lack of co-operation between landholders (public/private).	Information exchange (learn from other's success).		yes
Agency resources.	Gain momentum (political/industry support). Less duplication.		
Information gaps in relation to impacts.	Common voice on what is known. Common approach to assessing impacts.	yes	yes
Conflicting objectives (dingo conservation).	National policy.		yes
Limited control options (including 1080 future use). (this may be considered as limitations on use of available control options)	1080 is being reviewed nationally. Yes (scale needed to warrant work).	yes	yes
High cost of target specific techniques.		Yes (may apply to just certain species/states).	
Lack of clarity on what is a dingo.	Must apply nationally –research.		
Change of land use (values/enterprises).			Local issue.
Different priorities.			local
Responsibility seen as govt not private landholders.	Work with national industry bodies.		Local.
Unrestrained domestic dogs.	National link with dingo conservation.	Policy within a state.	Local (main area).
Animal rights.	National position needed to balance debate (represent broader community view).	Support national position.	Support national position.
Animal welfare.	Commitment to best practice. Research for more humane control techniques.		Consistent application.
Broader awareness (appreciation of impacts & what is being done).	Proactive Community education. Consistent message.	Consistent.	Consistent.
Private & public landholder resources.	National strategy for regional groups to relate projects to		Local. Regional groups can lever funding through state/federal programs.
Dingo/Cat/fox interaction.	Research on impacts.	Information exchange.	Local operation.

(Appendix 5 cont.)

## **A 8 Identify outcomes for VPC consideration**

### **Day 1: Outcome**

The workshop participants concluded that the identified opportunities for increasing the effectiveness of wild dog and fox management programs via improvement in cross-jurisdictional and cross-tenure collaboration could best be packaged in a National Pest Animal Strategy with sub-strategies specific to wild dogs and foxes to be developed as subordinate documents. It was noted that the development of sub-strategies would apply to other vertebrate pest animal species.

### **Suggested content of a National Pest Animal Strategy**

- Nature and impact of the problem
  - Biodiversity
  - Economic
  - Social
- What is being done? – principles for successful control
- Represent broad community views
- Priorities for research and information needs
- Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders
- Indicators/targets

### **Suggested process for National Pest Animal Strategy development:**

How could this be achieved? (or be successful) – it must be inclusive of industry, environment, welfare interests (others?)

Development of a strategy could follow a similar process to the National Weeds Strategy.



## Vertebrate Pests Committee Review of Wild Dog and Fox Management Programs

(Appendix 5 cont.)

### Day 2 – Workshop agenda and outputs

(Agency Representatives and Industry Stakeholders in attendance on day 2)

A 1	Consideration of resourcing options for priority areas for improvement: wild dog programs / fox programs
A 2	Industry people arrive/morning tea
A #	Introduction / Purpose - Facilitator
A 4	Presentations: Michael Hartman CCA Speaking on behalf of industry Peter Bird – Wild Dog fencing (SA) Rob Hunt and Helen Cathles – Brindabella & Wee Jasper (NSW) Chris Richardson - Chair WA Agriculture Protection Board
A 5	Lunch
A 6	Day 1 Synopsis
A 7	Identification of priority areas for improvement
A 8	Afternoon Tea
A 9	Establish industry outcomes for VPC consideration
A 10	Close – Chris McRae, Director, Land Management, Catchment and Water Division, DSE Victoria - VPC member with responsibility to lead the review process

Mr Michael Hartmann, Director Cattle Council Australia presented on behalf of the livestock industry. Key points of Mr Hartmann's presentation were disease risks associated with dogs, recognition of damage by straying domestic dogs and a perception that wild dogs were having an increasing impact on the cattle industry.

Dr Peter Bird, Animal and Plant Control Commission of South Australia provided an extensive presentation on barrier fencing as a key technique tool for proactive management to prevent stock losses. This presentation included material contributed by a number of agencies from other jurisdictions.

Mr Rob Hunt, Ranger with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service spoke as a public land manager and focussed on strategic planning, ownership of managing the impact of wild dogs and community engagement in the Brindabella and Wee Jasper area of NSW. Ms Helen Cathles then presented part two of the Brindabella and Wee Jasper success story, emphasising the nil tenure approach undertaken in the area.

The nil tenure approach initially ignores land ownership or land tenure with mapping of the issues followed by agreed works for solutions before finally overlaying land ownership or tenure. The land tenure contributes to identifying roles and responsibilities in the management program costs allocation.

Mr Chris Richardson, Chair of the Agriculture Protection Board of Western Australia, gave a brief presentation on the findings of the recent review of Western Australia's wild dog program. One of the significant findings of the review is that a lack of landholder involvement and an over reliance on aerial baiting are key contributing factors to increasing wild dog numbers in Western Australia.

(Appendix 5 cont.)

**Comments from workshop participants following presentations (as recorded on the whiteboard)**

- ❑ Agree with the need for a co-operative approach
- ❑ Concern about high costs of Wee Jasper approach (eg Aerial only 10 k/yr)
- ❑ Success of aerial baiting. 'Cunning' dogs difficult to control with trapping/baiting
- ❑ Successful control needs to be strategic and over a broad scale
- ❑ Restriction on access to national parks makes control much more difficult. Change legislation.
- ❑ Research must build on existing knowledge
- ❑ Need to capture knowledge of trappers and others with experience
- ❑ Silos within Government do not help
- ❑ How to get the stock welfare issue raised in the broader community
- ❑ Understand costs and benefits
- ❑ Government – declining budget for control programs
- ❑ Landholder apathy is a key barrier
- ❑ Need national approach
- ❑ Need a national co-ordinated approach with all states/territories – help each other
- ❑ If Victoria continues with fox bounty, believes others should participate
- ❑ The full story needs to be understood – all impacts, especially social
- ❑ Cattle impact can occur as for sheep
- ❑ Proper control programs also benefit wildlife
- ❑ Wild dog/kangaroo interaction
- ❑ Neosporin parasite – potentially huge (research opportunity) → trade implications
- ❑ Wool industry – economic loss not significant nationally, however social cost appears more important (this comment was disputed in next 5 comments)
- ❑ Sheep numbers declining is an issue
- ❑ Economic losses are significant at local/regional scale
- ❑ Queensland – wild dogs are a major factor in sheep economic loss
- ❑ Want people to be able to stay in sheep production
- ❑ Actual losses are only part of the impact
- ❑ Bounties are not necessarily effective
- ❑ Potential restriction on 1080 use
  - must not be seen to be baiting indiscriminately – aerial baiting will be examined closely in the review
  - cannot afford negative signals
  - opportunity for industry to make submissions
- ❑ WA Review by industry – planning starts at the local level with all land managers
  - better targeting of baits achieves much better results for less \$
  - Achieving wildlife re-introduction
- ❑ Unrestricted domestic dogs are also important in this debate – broader community understanding
- ❑ Legislation does not support the control effort
- ❑ Environmental benefits from control needs to be included
- ❑ Don't have the resources to use the regulatory tools that are available
- ❑ Cannot simply translate a control method to another area
- ❑ What is the priority of pest animal control in regional NRM groups?
- ❑ Careful about putting domestic dogs in with wild dogs
- ❑ Policy - need to get principles clear

(Appendix 5 cont.)

## Day 2: Outcome

### National Collaboration on Foxes & Wild Dogs

A National Approach involves:

1. Direction —————> national strategy
2. Mechanism —————> eg. an alliance; have a VPC charter to formally/genuinely engage stakeholders

The Strategy should cover the following:

- Identify & communicate the real impact (because stock losses are not enough):
  - Animal welfare
  - Economic
  - Environment
  - Social
- Education of community
- Principles for successfully managing impact (ownership of the need to act)
- Compatible legislation & policy within & between States & Territories
- Represents broader community
- Clear priorities, for example for research
- Managing perceptions
- Roles & responsibilities of public and private landholders including urban, etc. Cost-sharing.
- Position on Dingo conservation
- Targets – level of impact that is acceptable (this was linked to local community control programs)
- The right as property owners to be free of pest animals