



CENTRE FOR
INVASIVE SPECIES SOLUTIONS

NATIONAL WILD DOG MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

FINAL REPORT FOR PROJECT P01-E-005

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Cover image: The National Wild Dog Management Coordinator, Greg Mifsud, explains the use of canid pest ejectors to participants at a vertebrate pest training course held in the Adelaide Hills, South Australia. Credit: Gillian Basnett.

NATIONAL WILD DOG MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR PROJECT

FINAL PROJECT REPORT FOR PO1-E-005

Greg Mifsud¹

¹ *Centre for Invasives Species Solutions*

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ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|------|---|
| AISC | Australian Industry Skills Council |
| AWI | Australian Wool Innovation |
| CCA | Cattle Council of Australia |
| CISS | Centre for Invasive Species Solutions |
| CPE | Canid pest ejectors |
| DAF | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland |

| | |
|--------|---|
| DAWE | Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment |
| DELWP | Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning |
| DPI | Department of Primary Industries |
| DPIRD | WA Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development |
| EIC | Environment and Invasives Committee |
| EP | Eyre Peninsula |
| EPBC | Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation |
| IACRC | Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre |
| LLS | Local Land Services |
| MLA | Meat and Livestock Australia |
| NABRC | North Australia Beef Research Council |
| NASAA | National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia |
| NBC | National Biosecurity Committee |
| NFF | National Farmers' Federation |
| NOP | National Organic Program |
| NRM | Natural resource management |
| NTCA | Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association |
| NWDA | National Water Development Agency |
| NWDC | National Wild Dog Committee |
| NWDMC | National Wild Dog Management Committee |
| PAC | Project Advisory Committee |
| PAG | Project Advisory group |
| PAMA | Pest Animal Management Authorisation |
| PAPP | para-amino propiophenone |
| PCC | Parliamentary Counsel's Committee |
| PDS | Producer Demonstration Site |
| PIRSA | Department of Primary Industries and Regions, South Australia |
| QAAFI | Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation |
| QDAF | Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland |
| QDOG | Queensland Dog Offensive Group |
| QFPI | Queensland Feral Pest Initiative |
| R&D | Research and development |
| RAPAD | Remote Area Planning and Development |
| RD&E | research, development and extension |
| RTO | Registered training organisations |
| SAAL | South Australian Arid Lands |
| SALRC | Southern Australia Livestock Research Council |
| SAWDAG | South Australia Wild Dog Advisory Group |
| SCG | Stakeholder consultation group |
| SDRC | Southern Downs and Goondiwindi Regional Council |
| SWNRM | South West Natural Resources Management |
| US | United States |
| USDA | United States Department of Agriculture |
| VFF | Victorian Farmers Federation |
| VWDMAG | Victorian Wild Dog Advisory Group |
| WDMAG | Wild Dog Advisory Group |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The National Wild Dog Management Coordinator (NWDMC) project builds on 10 years of strategic management and aims to combat the devastating impacts of wild dogs on livestock, native fauna and regional communities.

The NWDMC has ensured the delivery of the 2014–2019 National Wild Dog Action Plan. The project provided landholders, industry and government agencies with the best source of information on wild dog management and drove community-led management of the problem. At the heart of this success is the cooperative and collaborative culture that has been developed by the coordinator with the key stakeholders involved. This approach continues to generate engagement opportunities at the federal, state, regional and local levels – leading to delivery of successful wild dog management programs and support for ongoing policy development and management based on current best practice.

Agtrans Research reviewed the \$2.62-million-dollar investment in the National Wild Dog Action Plan (2014–2019) and estimated it had produced total benefits ranging a net present value of \$13.31–40.68 million. This represents a benefit-cost ratio of between 6.1 and 16.5 to 1. These benefits accrued from wild dog management having:

- more efficient public and private expenditure
- more efficient resource allocation to RD&E
- maintained or improved social licence
- improved community and government leadership and capacity
- increased government and industry confidence to leverage increased investment.

By 2019, the Action Plan had achieved or partially achieved 94% of its actions. The NWDMC used the review's recommendations and worked with key stakeholders to lead the development of a revised Action Plan (2020–2030).

A core activity of the NWDMC project has been to work through community engagement programs to develop self-reliant, community-led wild dog management groups. The NWDMC is valued by stakeholders, industry organisations and government as a vital source of information on best practice wild dog management, technical information, policy development and consistently driving national coordination for community-led nil-tenure management. The role breaks down barriers between agencies and on-ground stakeholders, and enhances cooperative approaches between those stakeholders at local, regional, state and national scales. These cooperative approaches provide all stakeholders with a voice and a role in decision-making.

Over the past five years, the coordinator has engaged with more than 2,500 stakeholders at over 180 events such as meetings, field days, workshops and conferences.

The NWDMC has also:

- promoted adoption of best practice wild dog management techniques to all relevant agency, industry organisations and stakeholders, including developing and delivering extension materials and programs
- developed and mentored a team of regional wild dog management coordinators
- promoted and defended our social licence to manage wild dogs using best practices
- provided scientific evidence to counteract misleading or incorrect information about wild dog management
- shared knowledge gained through interactions across states with those involved in wild dog management, policy and extension
- identified research gaps in wild dog management

- developed training programs for vertebrate pest animal controllers
- spoken regularly with the media about wild dog issues and management
- consulted stakeholders about their information and capacity development needs, and priorities
- launched a webpage, wilddogplan.org.au, to build recognition for the National Wild Dog Action Plan that provides a one-stop shop for current research and best practice wild dog management.

WHY AUSTRALIA NEEDS A NATIONAL WILD DOG MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

The National Wild Dog Management Coordinator Project continued to build on the platform for strategic management of wild dogs that has been developed over the past 10 years. Significant progress in community-led wild dog management programs has been achieved during that time, as has an increased level of stakeholder involvement in local, regional, state and national decision-making around wild dog management. This culminated in the development and sign off of the National Wild Dog Action Plan (NWDAP) in 2014 which the coordinator has a key role in delivering. Without the coordinator the NWDAP would be like so many others: just a document sitting on a shelf!

The National Wild Dog Management Coordinator (the coordinator, or NWDMC) is valued by stakeholders, industry organisations and government as a vital source of information on best practice wild dog management, technical information, policy development and consistently driving national coordination for community-led, nil-tenure management. The role breaks down barriers between agencies and on-ground stakeholders, and improves cooperation between those stakeholders at local, regional, state and national scales. This cooperation provides all stakeholders with a voice and a role in decision-making. For example, all states now have a consultative approach to wild dog policy which has led to the development of state action plans and strategies. The NWDAP relies heavily on broad stakeholder input to maintain ongoing support and implementation.

At a local scale, the coordinator is seen as an independent expert in facilitating, informing, engaging with, and empowering stakeholders to adopt best practice – generating local and regional behaviour change in relation to wild dog and vertebrate pest management. The coordinator is a conduit for sharing wild dog management experiences of other groups from across the country with land managers and key stakeholders, enabling community groups to make evidence-based decisions when developing their own wild dog management programs. The coordinator has the capacity to maximise the benefits of research by bringing applied evidence-based findings to inform local communities and incorporate into programs locally. The coordinator has also been heavily involved in identifying research and development (R&D) needs based on gaps in current information that have been identified by stakeholders.

The success of the project has generated significant investment in regional wild dog management facilitators across Australia, funded by industry and various state agencies to provide on-ground support for development of community-led wild dog management at the local and regional scale. The coordinator role provides mentoring and operational supervision of these roles. This approach has provided the basis for federal government investment into a National Coordinator for feral pigs, and now feral deer.

The skills the NWDMC developed through working with communities for the control of wild dogs and pest animals have been recognised by community engagement specialists. The coordinator has been integral in delivering many of the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) community engagement projects and the position continues to be heavily involved in the development and delivery of training and capacity-building programs for pest and natural resource management (NRM) professionals across Australia and internationally.

The coordinator has continued to promote work on multiple pest species in an integrated management approach as and when communities determine the impact on primary production and biodiversity assets is excessive. Huge inroads have been made into wild dog management over the past 10 years, but despite these efforts, wild dogs continue to cause problems across the country. Wild dog predation continues to impact livestock production, particularly sheep and wool, and remains one of the key factors limiting enterprise selection in some regions of country. Stakeholders are becoming increasingly aware of the impacts of wild dogs on the cattle industry through predation on calves, but also through disease and negative interactions between cattle and wild dogs across northern Australia. While management may differ in these production settings, stakeholders have identified the need to manage wild dogs effectively for their landscapes, and have started working with the coordinator through targeted projects to identify the level of impact and what management approaches are required.

Predation by wild dogs continues to adversely impact populations of endangered fauna (Robertshaw and Harden 1989) and was recently listed as a Key Threatening Process for threatened species, populations and

communities in New South Wales. There are presently 14 national-level recovery plans under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999* that identify wild dogs as a known or potential threat to some native mammal, bird and reptile species. Additionally, as wild dogs spread into urban areas, we are seeing greater impacts on domestic pets and threats to human health through attacks and disease. Wild dog impacts are prevalent across much of the country, and while in some circumstances their impacts have been reduced dramatically, there are other areas where the issue is still concerning and causing significant impact to livestock production – and in some cases, biodiversity.

The coordinator plays a vital role in promoting and defending our social licence to continue managing wild dogs. Despite significant progress in reducing wild dog impacts by adopting best practice wild dog management and delivering evidence-based targeted management, there are still sectors of the community that would prefer to see wild dog/dingo control abolished, along with many of the control tools such as baiting with sodium fluoroacetate (1080). These anti-1080 and dingo-preservation advocates are extremely vocal and active on traditional and social media; the information that they provide is often misinterpreted from existing science and management and then used to support their cause. The NWDMC plays a major role in defending effective and best practice wild dog management and the use of 1080 in both social and traditional media. The coordinator is seen as the one person that can actively defend ongoing management in the media due to the independent nature of the position, and can speak openly and freely about management programs and 1080 when government often cannot. Working cooperatively with key industry and government stakeholders, the coordinator can often promote key messages on behalf of these organisations to get the ‘other side’ of the story and factual scientific evidence out to the public in order to counteract the rhetoric from these lobby groups.

Animal welfare has become a key political platform for some independent politicians and political parties. Taking a position on lethal control of vertebrate pest species has occurred by these proponents, and the information put forward has in the past been found to be ill-informed and/or out of context. The coordinator has been called upon on numerous occasions during the term of this project to develop position statements and letters on behalf of the NWDAP and its stakeholders that provide scientific evidence and facts surrounding the use of 1080 and wild dog control to counteract these misleading and incorrect claims. The activities of the coordinator in defending best practice wild dog management and our social licence to do so has been seen as critical and highly successful by our stakeholders.

The coordinator plays a key role in developing and providing information to key stakeholders to inform them of relevant science and management information so that they can provide informed responses to the media and their constituents in regard to anti-1080 and dingo-preservation concerns. This has been a pivotal role for the coordinator in the last three years with the increasing focus on dingo conservation and the use of 1080 – brought about by political parties and members of parliament continually calling for control and for 1080 use to be banned. This approach has been very successful, and having well-informed stakeholders in the media from a variety of backgrounds defending our wild dog management and the use of 1080 in a calm and rational manner with evidence-based responses has seen us hold back the tide and, in many cases, push back significantly – to the point where we have seen no major changes in policy of management to date.

The ongoing nature of the position has resulted in the coordinator having significant corporate and operational knowledge of wild dog management within Australia and each of the states. The interaction with stakeholders and department staff through on-ground operations, policy development, extension activities and being a member of each state wild dog advisory committee means the coordinator often has greater knowledge of state process and history of its development than the staff within those organisations. Possessing this knowledge has prevented the literal ‘re-invention of the wheel’ in some circumstances and prevented or halted the development of policies or regulations that could severely restrict wild dog control in some states that would have led to significant impacts on landholders.

Similarly, the coordinator has the ability and knowledge to inform new staff and elected members of the history of wild dog management in the various states and regions to manage concerns and limit going backwards when it comes to management programs. In some circumstances where programs are working, and working very well, there is a risk that staff and elected members, unaware of the history of the issue and the past impacts felt by producers, could make budget and policy decisions detrimental to effective ongoing management. This could risk plunging those communities back into a diabolical situation with large numbers of wild dogs and increasing impacts. The coordinator has on many occasions negated such attempts to

reduce funding, limit access to 1080 and or reduce resources for management as a result of meeting or writing to incoming elected members or department staff to convey the history of the current programs and how they evolved. Possessing this long-term corporate knowledge and input has been greatly appreciated by stakeholders particularly when the government changes or agencies look to change policies surrounding wild dog management.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COORDINATOR PROJECT

The NWDMC activities are intrinsically linked to the delivery of the National Wild Dog Action Plan 2014–19 and now the revised NWDAP 2020–30 and as such many of the milestones will be directly linked to the Action Plan deliverables. One of the key deliverables for the plan and the coordinator was to undertake a five-year review of the plan and its Stage 3 activities as a prelude to revising and rewriting the new plan from 2020. The NWDAP committee activities are done in accordance with the approval and support of the NWDAP Coordination Committee (the Committee). The Committee comprises landholder representatives from state farming bodies, industry in the form of Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA), Sheep Producers Australia and Wool Producers Australia, state and federal government. This committee undertakes the role of the project advisory committee for NWDMC project as required by CISS. The coordinator actively consults with the Committee in determining direction for activities for not only the coordinator project but also for Action Plan delivery. The NWDAP goals for 2014–19 and 2020–30 are closely linked to the project deliverables of the coordinator project and align with the goals and intent of CISS. The broad objectives of the coordinator project can be summed up by the following; however, the breadth and range of the project activities and outcomes are significant and far reaching. These will be discussed later in the report.

DEVELOP AND PROMOTE ADOPTION OF BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

- Promote adoption of best practice wild dog management techniques to all relevant agencies, industry organisations and stakeholders.
- Promote the adoption and integration of new control technologies into existing and newly developed wild dog management programs in landscapes across Australia.
- Facilitate wild dog management plan development with agencies, producers and NRM groups for wild dog-affected locations throughout Australia.
- Provide continued support for the NWDAP to manage national issues and support industry.
- Continue to champion current best practice wild dog and vertebrate pest management activities in traditional and electronic media.
- Deliver best practice wild dog management information and accurately disseminate results from research conducted around the country.

DEVELOP AND DELIVER EXTENSION MATERIAL/PROGRAM

- Identify and develop nationally applicable extension material promoting national best practice in order to build capacity and knowledge.
- Support the development and delivery of community engagement training to improve the skills and capacity of on-ground practitioners to work with stakeholders and the community.
- Continue to support development and implementation of the CISS digital platform and PestSmart web tools.
- Support and promote the adoption and use of Wild Dog and Feral scan applications to stakeholders in order improve their capacity to monitor and report vertebrate pest presence, control and impacts.
- Continue to work with industry to incorporate current best practice vertebrate pest management principles into existing livestock and agricultural production extension programs.

- Provision of a template and process by which to conduct nil-tenure planning and building the capacity of local officers to continue developing wild dog management plans at the local community level.
- Continue to identify funding opportunities to develop new and innovative extension and media material for wild dog management.

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT MENTORING PROGRAM

- With the support and approval of relevant funding bodies, develop and mentor a team of regional wild dog management coordinators across the country to support community-led wild dog management activities.

DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

- Develop producer and service sector capacity to manage vertebrate pests through training activities and extension programs.
- Assist in the development of self-reliant, community-led wild dog management groups in communities affected by wild dogs.
- Support community groups in vertebrate pest and wild dog management and planning activities to ensure sustainable long-term control programs.
- Support and lead the delivery of Australia Wool Innovation's Strategic Plan 2016–19 vertebrate pest management targets including, but not limited to effective national and regional coordination of vertebrate pest control effort in sheep producing areas

KEEP ABREAST OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND THREATS TO ONGOING BEST PRACTICE MANAGEMENT AND ASSOCIATED SOCIAL LICENCE

- Remain ever vigilant regarding threats to ongoing effective management of wild dogs and vertebrate pests from the broader community and work with stakeholders to manage those threats with sound evidence-based facts and targeted messaging.

BUILD AND MAINTAIN PARTNERSHIPS

- Maintain and develop enduring partnerships across all levels of government and industry in order to reduce the impacts of wild dogs on the community.
- Engage with industry commodity council meetings, national RD&E consultation groups such as Southern Australia Livestock Research Council (SALRC), North Australia Beef Research Council (NABRC) and Western Australian Livestock Research Council (WALRC), state farming bodies and other relevant industry groups.
- Provision of improved extension for wild dog management and flow of information between management groups, state industry bodies and stakeholders.
- Improved social licence for wild dog management by developing media and communications packages and articles to better inform the general public of the impacts of wild dogs on livestock, wildlife and regional communities, and need to manage these species humanely.
- Continued support for state wild dog management activities and policy through membership of relevant state wild dog committees.
- Attend commodity council committee meetings and develop media packages.

COORDINATOR-PROJECT OUTCOMES

The NWDMC project continues to achieve its objectives and be one of the most successful projects within the CISS portfolio. At the heart of this success is the cooperative and collaborative culture that has been developed by the coordinator with the key stakeholders. This continues to generate engagement opportunities at the federal, state, regional and local levels and deliver successful wild dog management programs and support for ongoing management based on current best practice. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the coordinator has engaged with over 2,500 stakeholders at over 180 events over the past five years. These events include meetings, field days, workshops, webinars, Ag shows and conferences. These figures are conservative to say the least and don't consider property visits, casual field trips and phone calls. This level of engagement is not unusual and is largely why the project and the coordinator role has been so successful, with the model now being used as the blueprint for the coordination of other vertebrate pests of national significance.

STUDY TOUR TO MONTANA AND WYOMING TO INVESTIGATE PREDATOR MANAGEMENT AND THE APPLICABILITY OF NON-LETHAL CONTROL TECHNIQUES FOR USE IN AUSTRALIA

The coordinator undertook a study tour of Wyoming and Montana in August 2017 to investigate the management and impacts of predators, particularly in relation to canid species in the United States. Gaining a better understanding of how these species are managed in relation to US livestock production systems will better inform the debate here in Australia on positive dingo/wild dog management for ecosystem restoration. Of particular interest was the implementation of non-lethal control techniques in the US and their ability to manage predation by wild dogs and dingoes here in Australia. These non-lethal control techniques are often promoted by dingo conservation groups as a means of avoiding lethal control of dingoes. It is the NWDMC's role to work with stakeholders to develop and implement community-led wild dog management plans that aim to reduce impacts on agricultural and biodiversity assets while meeting relevant conservation management outcomes. Radical changes in policy direction to cease or limit wild dog control would have significant impacts on rural and regional communities and may cause irreversible impacts on biodiversity within Australia (Fleming et al. 2012).

An increasing number of conservation groups and academics are promoting that dingoes and wild dogs should not be lethally controlled in Australian environments so that they manage mesopredators (cats and foxes) and restore ecosystems through predation on large native herbivores. The premise for this push comes from comparisons with the reintroduction of wolves into Yellowstone National Park, USA, and the perceived benefits on elk numbers and suppression of smaller predators such as coyotes. Theories surrounding the role of large or 'apex' predators in restoring ecosystems are gaining support from many conservation organisations despite limited evidence in most situations. They are also capturing the attention of policymakers and sectors of the public to the point that public land managers, state and federal government agencies and public figureheads, were considering incorporating 'positive dingo/wild dog management' into conservation and land management policies. This would lead to a significant reduction in wild dog control activities, particularly on public land, potentially resulting in devastating impacts on the livestock industries and increased predation on native fauna in Australia. This study tour investigated the current management of wolves and other predators in the USA in relation to impacts on their livestock industries, particularly sheep, and the applications of those learnings to Australia.

The above-mentioned groups regularly promote using non-lethal control tools as a means of living 'in harmony' with wild dogs and dingoes, using their application for wolf management in the USA as an example of how they could be implemented here in Australia. These recommendations are made without considering differences in livestock production and husbandry between countries, nor the differences in predator species that affect livestock producers and their distribution across the USA. However, despite using these non-lethal techniques, predation is still a major cause of stock loss in the USA.

The study tour revealed that livestock producers in the USA face an uphill battle against predation given the range of native carnivore species (wolves, bears, coyotes, mountain lions), breadth of landscapes they inhabit, and the impacts generated on production and social values. In addition to the predators themselves, the producers and industry groups are consistently defending the need for lethal predator control to a largely

ignorant and massive urban population that are often ideologically opposed to killing animals. This is further complicated by conservation programs and the listing of predator species, such as grizzly bears and gray wolves, under the *Federal Endangered Species Act*, limiting the capacity of landholders to manage the risk of predation. Despite opposition from some sectors of the community in the USA, predator species are heavily managed towards a target population size through lethal control techniques in order to minimise impacts on livestock production and native species of economic, cultural and conservation value such as white tail and mule deer, elk and sage grouse.

Travelling with members of the United States Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services Team (USDA Wildlife Services) in Montana and the chair of the Wyoming Animal Damage Management Protection Board, the coordinator visited numerous properties in both states to discuss the impact and management of predators as well as to gain a better understanding of livestock production and husbandry practices and showcase the vast differences in livestock production between the two countries. These differences are important when looking at the applicability of non-lethal control techniques used in the USA to manage predation by wild dogs and dingoes here in Australia.

The coordinator also presented talks on wild dog management in Australia to the Montana USDA Wildlife Services team at their annual conference in Red Lodge and was invited to attend the growers' dinner and 89th Annual Wyoming Ram Sale in Douglas with Amy Hendrickson CEO of Wyoming Wool Growers. These events provided additional opportunities to talk to wildlife technicians and livestock producers on the issues of predator management and the impacts felt by growers due to increasing numbers of predators in the landscape, and the frustrations felt due to limited ability to manage these species due to their listing under the *Federal Endangered Species Act*.

KEY FINDINGS OF THE STUDY TOUR

- Effectiveness of non-lethal control techniques is limited in the absence of lethal management of predator populations.
- Non-lethal techniques need to be adapted or be modified regularly to avoid habituation by predator species. Many of the techniques implemented in the USA, including guardian dogs, have limited effectiveness against opportunistic and adaptable predators such as coyotes and wolves.
- Wolf distribution in both Montana and Wyoming is extremely limited to the eastern areas of each state near forested habitats of the northern Rocky mountain system at the time of the tour, but they are moving eastward onto the open plains.
- Contrary to current argument for positive dingo management in Australia, **lethal control of predators is done regularly in the USA to prevent livestock–wildlife conflict.**
- **Wolf numbers are heavily regulated through hunting and predator management in both states to limit their abundance and reduce conflicts with livestock while maintaining conservation objectives.**
- Coyotes are the numerically superior predator in both states and responsible for significantly more stock attacks than wolves.
- Coyotes would be considered the apex predator in most of the landscapes within Montana and Wyoming.
- Presence of wolves in agricultural areas did not limit the impacts of coyotes on livestock production.
- **Coyotes are far more similar in behaviour, social structure and size to dingoes than wolves and as such comparisons between wild dogs and dingoes here in Australia with wolves are unfounded.**
- Husbandry practices and livestock management in the USA differ significantly from those in Australia and as such many of the non-lethal techniques would have limited success given our animal and livestock husbandry techniques.
- Unlike here in Australia, guardian dogs used to protect sheep are always accompanied by herders and are less effective if humans aren't present.
- Constant or regular human presence in the form of herders or range riders is seen as the most effective non-lethal control technique in use within Montana and Wyoming. This has limited applicability to livestock management in Australian.

OUTCOMES FROM THE STUDY TOUR

The knowledge and experience gained by the coordinator from this study trip has been vital in defending and protecting wild dog management and management techniques over the past five years. In the media and from some research groups there has been ongoing and considerable debate about the ecological role of the dingo and using non-lethal control to protect livestock. The arguments for protecting dingoes and ceasing lethal control continue, not just in the public arena, but also at the state and federal government policy levels. The firsthand experience of predator management in the states has allowed the coordinator to challenge a range of myths and misconceptions regarding predator management in the USA raised by dingo-conservation and anti-1080 advocates. At the policy level, the coordinator has used the information and knowledge to manage discussions to focus on effective integrated management and using best practice techniques, lethal or otherwise, where they are most appropriate rather than making outlandish comparisons with predators and their management in environments and production systems in the USA that have very few, if any, similarities to those here in Australia.



John and Vicki Childs standing with a mount of one of the wolf pack responsible for killing 900 sheep in one season, and the grass meadows that are grazed in the lease country where this sort of predator and livestock conflict occurs.



National Wild Dog Management Coordinator, Greg Mifsud presents a talk on Wild dog Management in Australia to staff of the Montana USDA Wildlife Services at their state conference in Red Lodge



A young male wolf from a pack living near livestock in Montana is fitted with a radio collar so the packs activity can be monitored. If the pack is involved in attacking livestock on more than two occasions USDA Wildlife Services use the radio collar to track the pack down and remove all the pack members by aerial shooting.

NATIONAL WILD DOG ACTION PLAN

ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

At commencement of the project the National Wild Dog Action Plan (NWDAP) 2014–2019 (the Plan) was in its third year and the coordinator was in the process of delivering a range of stage 3 project activities that started in 2016. During the project the coordinator has successfully maintained funding for the plan and the associated support positions while also ensuring funding was available for the review of the 2014–19 plan. In 2019 the coordinator led the development of the new 2020–2030 plan in consultation with industry and government. The plan was endorsed by the Environment and Invasives Committee (EIC) and National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) in May 2020 and fully endorsed, funded, and announced by the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Water, David Littleproud in July 2020. The coordinator has overseen delivery of the objectives of the National Plan since its inception, but during this project that has ramped up significantly bringing onboard a greater range of stakeholders. The coordinator has implemented a range of processes and initiatives to ensure stakeholders have been adequately consulted and engaged particularly during the period of COVID-19-induced lockdown when face-to-face meetings were not permitted.

The following project highlights outline the breadth and reach of the coordinator role in delivering the Plan and its activities.

NWDAP 2014–19 REVIEW, FINDINGS AND ACTIONS

- An application seeking a variation to the current NWDAP contract for additional funds to conduct the five-year review, hold a stakeholder consultation meeting and secure funds for the action plan support positions was submitted to the Dept Agriculture and Water Resources in late November 2018.
- On 6 February the Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Honourable David Littleproud MP agreed to fund the review and administrative support to the value of \$352,000.
- A contract variation was developed between the federal government and Australian Wool Innovation, as the administrator of the action plan.
- The coordinator negotiated with industry to support the remaining \$20,000 required for the five-year review. The remaining funds were provided by the national R&D companies, AWI and MLA, as well as the peak industry councils, Sheep Producers Aust, Wool Producers Aust, Cattle Council of Australia and Animal Health Australia.
- Agrans Research was contracted by AWI (on behalf of the Australian Government and industry funding) to complete the end of term NWDAP review and deliver both an assessment of the performance of the NWDAP Stage 3 and a combined assessment of the overall impacts of the NWDAP 2014–2019.
- A Stakeholder Consultation Group meeting was held in Canberra on the 2 May 2019 to explain the review process and seek involvement in its development. A decision was made to engage and consult with the stakeholders early in the process so they could be involved in its development rather than explain the outcomes to them towards the end of the project.
- This meeting was attended by the members of the National Wild Dog Management Coordination Committee, the peak industry bodies, and state and federal government agencies.
- A Coordination committee and Project Advisory group meeting was held in Canberra on the following day providing Agrans further opportunities to inform the committee and seek advice on the direction of the project and where to access information on wild dog management activities in each state.

REVIEW OUTCOMES

- The Agrtrans review found that the NWDAP 2014–2019 was overall a very successful national initiative across a range of areas and achieved its overarching goals and objectives.
- The review found that, over the five-year period of the current NWDAP, the Plan had achieved or partially achieved 94% of the actions.
- **Total investment in the NWDAP 2014–2019 (Stage 1 to 3 activities only) was \$2.62 million (present value terms). The investment was estimated to produce total benefits between \$15.93 million and \$43.30 million with a net present value between \$13.31 million and \$40.68 million and a benefit-cost ratio between 6.1 and 16.5 to 1.**
- The direct, primary benefits of the NWDAP investment came from:
 - a. more efficient expenditure (both public and private) on wild dog management
 - b. more efficient resource allocation for RD&E investment associated with wild dog management
 - c. maintained and/or improved social licence to control wild dogs
 - d. improved leadership and increased capacity in wild dog management at all levels of government and community
 - e. increased government and industry confidence in wild dog management activities by community leading to increased leverage and investment for wild dog management at all levels throughout Australia
 - f. [National Wild Dog Action Plan proves worth in review.](#)
- Recommendations from the review at the conclusion of the 2019 assessment – the following items were recommended for consideration by the NWDAP Coordination Committee when developing the new plan:
 - a. All stakeholders to support continuation of the NWDAP post–2019.
 - b. The Australian Government Department of Agriculture support through funding and representation on the NWDA PCC for NWDAP 2020–2030.
 - c. Succession and continuity planning for key NWDAP roles is required to ensure the continued delivery and success of Plan activities
 - d. Continue to pursue and develop consistent, national reporting of wild dog impacts and the benefits of a wild dog management program through nationally consistent and agreed reporting.
 - e. The NWDAP needed a greater public identity
 - f. NWDAP (post–2019) clearly defines its purpose and target audience to improve communication and engagement with stakeholders and the broader community.

DEVELOPMENT AND ENDORSEMENT OF THE NWDAP 2022–2030

- The coordinator led the consultation and writing group for the new NWDAP 2020–30.
- A Coordination Committee was convened following the Agrtrans review to discuss the recommendations and consider how they would be incorporated into the NWDAP revision process. The coordinator commenced consultation and drafting of the new NWDAP in the latter half of 2019 following the outcomes of the review.

- The coordinator pulled together a writing group in accordance with the direction of the Coordination Committee in March 2019. The writing group comprised the coordinator, the NWDAP team, and key stakeholders including, AWI, SA Government, EIC, DAW and CISS.
- Based on the outcomes from this meeting and consideration of feedback from the Stakeholder consultation group meeting in March, a draft plan was produced and provided to the Coordination Committee in October 2019.
- This draft was provided to EIC in an out-of-session paper for review in October 2019.
- The suggested edits and revisions were incorporated into a final draft paper that went to EIC In February 2020. EIC committee agreed that the Plan was vitally important to ongoing community-led wild dog management across the country and supported the paper being put forward to the NBC meeting on 11 March 2020.
- The paper was well received by the NBC committee and the Plan was fully endorsed at the national level by all of the state and federal government representatives on the committee on 11 March 2020.
- **The NWDAP 2020–2030 was announced and launched by the Minister for Agriculture, drought and emergency services, David Littleproud, on Monday 29 June 2020.**
- An operation plan was developed in consultation with the newly formed Coordination Committee. A funding application was developed and submitted to the federal government in October 2020. Funds were approved to deliver the first-year projects and key objectives.
- The Australian Government's Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Water (new title) have provided funds upon application and consultation for the Action Plan activities, including meeting of the coordination and SCG committees, additional projects and to support salaries to maintain the Action Plan. The implementation manager and communications manager positions were approved in late 2020 and again in 2022.
- A range of additional projects has been funded through these grants including the NWDAP webpage, pilot specialist vertebrate pest controller training and best practice management training videos.

NWDAP 2014–19 STAGE 3 ACTIVITY: DEVELOP TRAINING PROGRAM FOR VERTEBRATE PEST ANIMAL CONTROLLERS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON WILD DOG CONTROL

This includes the development of a Certificate III course in pest management specific to the control of vertebrate pests. A course of this type with a specific focus on wild dog control was identified at the NWDAP Stakeholder Consultation Group meeting in 2014. The Certificate III in Pest Management Course reviewed in 2016 did not provide the required skill sets for effective wild dog management by the NWDAP stakeholders and was often confused with domestic or household pest management.

In order to develop an appropriate course, the coordinator took part in the [Skills Impact review of the Agriculture and Horticulture courses](#) which commenced in 2017. Outlined below is a summary of the work done to develop a new recognised training course and the additional competencies deemed essential by industry for effective pest management.

- A workshop was held by Skills Impact and Ron Barrow on 10 October 2017, as part of the Skills Impact review of the Agriculture and Horticulture courses. This industry engagement approach was managed by the NWDMC and included Geoff Power, (SA farmers and chair of the NWDAP Coordination Committee) as well as key personnel from RTOs in each state involved in vertebrate pest training.
- At that meeting a decision was made to rename the course so as not to confuse it with other courses related to domestic pests such as rodents and termites. Further consultation occurred with the panel and at the suggestion of the coordinator, the course was renamed the Cert III Rural and Environmental Pest Management and it incorporated the control of pests on farmland and conservation estates.
- The Industry Reference Committee wanted a single course on pest management and as such the course had to include vertebrate and weed pest management.
- The coordinator worked closely with Ron Barrow to review the competencies in order to develop a course structure that allowed students to complete competencies under the packaging rules identified by the Australia Industry Skills Committee so that they could specialise in vertebrate pests, weed pests or undertake a mix of competencies for general pest management.
- The coordinator developed and wrote a new competency entitled **Apply poison baits for vertebrate pest control in rural and environmental landscapes**.
- This knowledge was identified as a major gap in the training curriculum. This competency was developed to provide students with knowledge of how each toxin works, how and where it can be applied and how to develop a baiting program to target pest animals safely without impacts on other species or the environment.
- This competency would be further developed by state agencies and RTOs as the basis for their Authorised Officer or commercial operator training for the delivery and injection of 1080 solution.
- In September 2018 the new [Cert III course ACH30318, Rural and Environmental Pest Management](#) was fully endorsed by the Australian Industry Skills Council (AISC).
- The course comprising 29 competencies on the management of rural and environmental pests meets the NWDAP Stage 2 operational plan objective of developing nationally endorsed pest animal controller training.

- The course contains competencies developed through Stage 2 funding including:
 - a. AHCPMG304 Use firearms to humanely destroy animals
 - b. AHCPMG414 Apply predator trapping techniques.
- The coordinator applied for funding through Australian Wool Innovation to appoint a consultant to develop nationally endorsed course material for the new AHCPMG312 Apply poison baits for vertebrate pest control in rural and environmental landscapes competency.
- The education material including course guides, training material and assessments were developed and are held by AWI who provide access to the material under certain copyright conditions.
- This will allow for the updating of the material as it comes to hand and with a register of RTO's using the material, we can ensure that any developments in current best practice are rapidly included in the material and delivered in courses.

NWDAP STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND PRIORITY SETTING

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated lockdowns prevented many of the annual stakeholder engagement activities undertaken through the NWDAP because of restrictions on travel and meetings. Despite the restrictions there was still a need to consult with key stakeholders to ensure the action plan was delivering on their needs and to identify where or how the Plan and the coordinator could further support their activities, promote their successes, provide further information to assist with wild dog management and to provide an overarching national approach to managing social licence issues.

A range of stakeholder survey questions based on the NWDAP operational plan objectives were developed by the NWDAP team including Jane Littlejohn (AWI) and Richard Price (CISS). The resulting NWDAP national stakeholder survey was conducted in February 2022. In order to make the survey a more engaging process two questions were asked per day for a period of five days, with the results from the previous day's questions provided to the participants when the new questions arrived.

Ninety stakeholders across Australia were sent the survey with responses from over 50 organisations that included state and federal government, national RD&E organisations, state farming bodies, peak industry councils, NRM groups and regional biosecurity associations. Responses were received from 38 organisations with an average response rate of 40% per day. Responses from the survey were summarised and the top five key responses from each question were put to a focus group that included the NWDAP Coordination Committee and additional key industry and government stakeholders to determine priority activities for the NWDAP team to focus on over the next three years.

The focus group was held using the Mural platform and organised and run by Aaron Pobjie from CISS. The focus group was asked to prioritise the five actions per NWDAP activity over one, two and three years to focus the Plan activities. The results included.

NWDAP STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

Following the NWDAP national stakeholder survey conducted in February 2022, a Stakeholder Consultative Group workshop was held online on 30 March. Participants prioritised the survey outcomes which will now guide the NWDAP's focus and projects over the next 2–3 years.

The summary of identified priorities from the workshop under the five topic headings is next.

CURRENT NWDAP RESOURCES

The current NWDAP resources used by organisations to share wild dog best practice management with stakeholders were identified and ranked in order of importance.

High importance:

1. WildDogScan
2. management plans
3. research papers
4. fact sheets.

Medium importance:

1. case studies
2. fact sheets
3. videos
4. Glovebox Guides.

Low importance:

1. podcasts
2. videos
3. Glovebox Guides.

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

The top four topics for workshops/training participants would like to see developed in the next three years to support and improve the capacity of stakeholders/landholders to manage wild dogs in the regions were identified.

First-year priorities:

1. measuring and monitoring the impacts of wild dogs
2. best practice wild dog management field days that target local groups and producers, WildDogScan, best practice baiting and bait preparation, wild dog behaviour, trapping techniques and exclusion-fencing
3. pest animal controller workshops and, training in the effective use of baits and pest animal traps.

Second year priorities:

4. measuring and monitoring the impacts of wild dogs
5. grower demonstration days including the use of poisons and feral scan and, WildDogScan, best practice baiting and bait preparation, wild dog behaviour, trapping techniques and exclusion-fencing
6. best practice wild dog management field days that target local groups and producers.

Third year priorities:

1. training in the use of firearms for effective control including using thermal scopes
2. training in the effective use of baits and pest animal traps and, using remote-sensing cameras and how to set them up
3. WildDogScan, best practice baiting and bait preparation, wild dog behaviour, trapping techniques and exclusion-fencing.

INFORMATION GAPS

Key knowledge and information gaps that are most relevant to improving ongoing wild dog management were ranked in priority of importance over the next three years.

High priority

- research on bait uptake and palatability for different meat types and bait densities for effective control in different environments and, effectiveness of aerial baiting in semi-arid and arid landscapes
- barriers and drivers to adoption of current best practice on various social and production landscapes and, community understanding of Nil Tenure and cooperative approach by all land managers
- information on wild dog movements, short term and long term, from across a range of landscapes in Australia
- information on the impacts of wild dogs on cattle and how and when the interactions between them occur, and the true impacts of wild dogs on cattle productions and reproductive rates and how to measure the impacts and attribute them to wild dogs.

Medium priority

- further evidence of the effectiveness of landscape-scale management in different production systems
- integrated pest management – Can multiple pests (dogs, cats and foxes) be controlled with one bait type?
- biodiversity benefits of cluster fencing programs and the development of biodiversity credits
- cost-benefit analysis of wild dog management on properties.

Low priority

- impacts of wild dogs on native fauna, and on feral cats and foxes
- impacts on red fox populations in areas where wild dog control is being delivered, and the production and biodiversity benefit from the non-target control of foxes.

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

Evidence-based, best practice management demonstration projects aimed to increase adoption and participation in wild dog management programs were ranked in terms of priority for the next three years.

High priority

- promotion of successful wild dog management plans
- demonstration sites to investigate how multiple pest species can be controlled for production and biodiversity gains
- research looking at wild dog impacts on cattle, native fauna and domestic animals.

Medium priority

- demonstration sites to investigate how multiple pest species can be controlled for production and biodiversity gains
- integrated predator management: Eradicator® use as effective control of control of cats, dogs and foxes
- demonstration projects delivered in conjunction with engagement activities.

Low priority

- integrated predator management: Eradicator® use as effective control of control of cats, dogs and foxes
- demonstration projects delivered in conjunction with engagement activities.

SOCIAL LICENCE

Participants prioritised how the NWDAP Coordination Committee members and key stakeholders should manage social licence issues affecting wild dog management on a national scale.

The top five are listed in each priority

High priority

1. promoting the use and selectiveness of 1080 for wild dog control to overcome conceptions about its usefulness as the key tool for wild dog management
2. build a robust communications strategy and have sufficient resources to meet the needs of the strategy. Probably needs greater advocacy to industry and governments to fund these communication needs.
3. standing up/speaking out—in strong support of responsible best practice management of pest species at local, regional, state and national levels. All levels and players are important.
4. continuing to play a key role in educating broader community on the benefits of wild dog control and dispelling myths surrounding wild dog management
5. education, consistent evidence-based messaging, and proactive media presence to educate the broader community and dispel misconceptions.

Medium priority

1. keep the public informed of the products and humane best practice used to manage wild dog and vertebrate pests
2. standing up/speaking out—in strong support of responsible best practice management of pest species at local, regional, state and national levels. All levels and players are important.
3. pushback against so-called experts calling for no control and spreading de-contextualised/ill-informed issues
4. clear research around the role of the dingo in managing foxes and cats, at the moment the jury still seems to be out, and it created confusion.

NWDAP WEBPAGE WILDDOGPLAN.ORG.AU

In response to the Agtrans review finding that the plan lacked recognition in some stakeholder circles it was decided that the Plan needed a standalone webpage rather than being tucked away within the CISS PestSmart pages. This was also considered the reason that the review found that the Plan lacked its own identity.

Following consultation with the Coordination Committee it was agreed that a standalone webpage was required and would greatly benefit the Plan in terms of expanding its reach and improving its identity.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STANDALONE WEBPAGE

- providing easy access to information on the impacts, control and benefits to biodiversity from wild dog management
- providing a space where stakeholders can quickly access best practice management tools for managing wild dogs

- provide up-to-date research and information on wild dog management to maintain social licence to manage wild dogs
- provide access for NWDAP stakeholders to scientific papers that show wild dogs and dingoes have limited capacity to restore ecosystems and manage feral cats and fox populations
- providing access to this information allows NWDAP stakeholders to be better informed so they are equipped with evidence to manage discussions around effective best practice wild dog management with members of the public, neighbours and in some circumstances less informed members of government.

So, the company responsible for developing the www.Notjustafence.com.au webpage that reports on the cluster fence rollout and regional benefits in central western Qld for Remote Area Planning and Development (RAPAD), was chosen as the webpage developer.

Their knowledge of the wild dog management issue and previous work was a huge advantage and despite a relatively short turnaround the webpage was up and running in time for the 2020–2030 NWDAP launch on 1 July 2020.

Considerable credit needs to be given to the communications manager and Action Plan Implementation manager for their work on getting the webpage ready in time.

The format and appearance of the webpage is very user friendly, and there was strong support from the Coordination Committee and NWDAP key stakeholders.

The webpage has been extremely successful in raising awareness of the wild dog issue and their management, with people visiting the site from across the world.

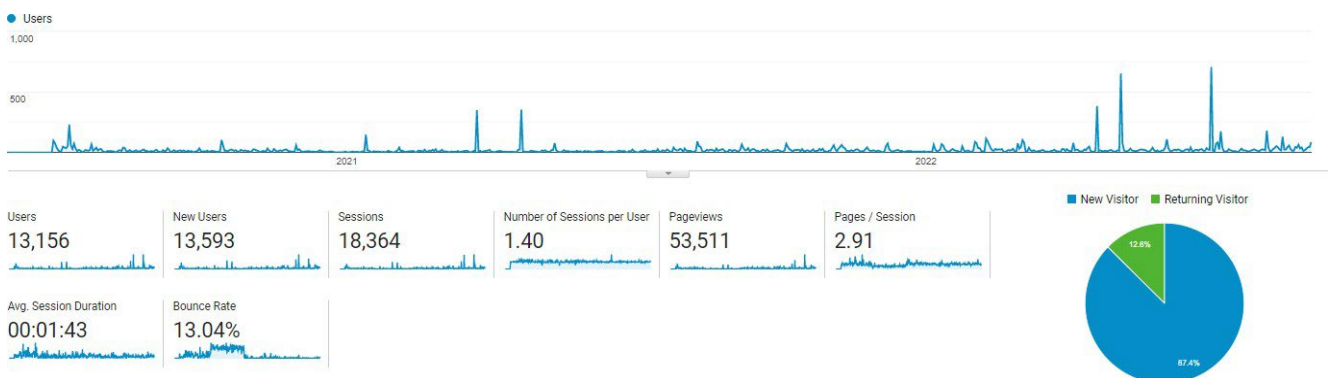
Visitation to the webpage continues to increase with a bounce rate of 13.04% sitting within the optimal range for website use according to Google Analytics. Simply put, people visiting are staying on the website and browsing several pages rather than just opening a page and leaving immediately.

The NWDAP webpage links back to the CISS PestSmart best practice management pages so quite often visitors to the NWDAP page are then diverted to the PestSmart site for further best practice information.

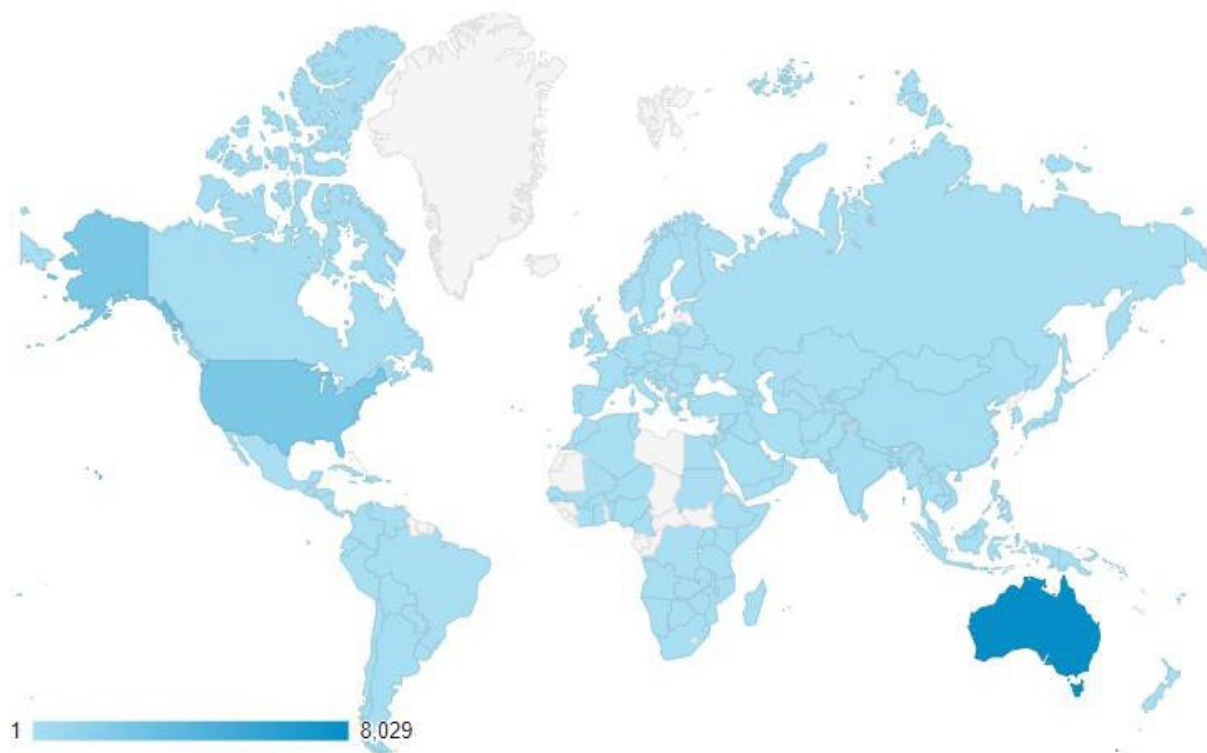
DATA SINCE THE NWDAP WEBSITE WAS DEVELOPED

From July 2020 to 1 September 2022:

- avg session duration – 1:40 mins per user
- total sessions since development of website – 18,364
- total number of page views – 53,511
- pages per session – 2.91



Worldwide website visitation



| Country ? | Acquisition | | | Behavior | | |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| | Users ? ↓ | New Users ? | Sessions ? | Bounce Rate ? | Pages / Session ? | Avg. Session Duration ? |
| | 13,156 % of Total: 100.00% (13,156) | 13,599 % of Total: 100.04% (13,599) | 18,364 % of Total: 100.00% (18,364) | 13.04% Avg for View: 13.04% (0.00%) | 2.91 Avg for View: 2.91 (0.00%) | 00:01:43 Avg for View: 00:01:43 (0.00%) |
| 1. Australia | 8,029 (61.33%) | 8,189 (60.22%) | 11,907 (64.84%) | 9.38% | 3.36 | 00:02:23 |
| 2. United States | 2,216 (16.93%) | 2,244 (16.50%) | 2,334 (12.71%) | 24.89% | 1.84 | 00:00:09 |
| 3. China | 216 (1.65%) | 233 (1.71%) | 273 (1.49%) | 39.19% | 1.80 | 00:00:20 |
| 4. Canada | 169 (1.29%) | 177 (1.30%) | 194 (1.06%) | 45.36% | 1.80 | 00:00:14 |
| 5. United Kingdom | 163 (1.25%) | 174 (1.28%) | 221 (1.20%) | 11.31% | 2.87 | 00:01:06 |
| 6. India | 158 (1.21%) | 169 (1.24%) | 200 (1.09%) | 17.50% | 2.08 | 00:00:21 |
| 7. Germany | 110 (0.84%) | 118 (0.87%) | 140 (0.76%) | 20.00% | 1.94 | 00:00:25 |
| 8. Philippines | 105 (0.80%) | 110 (0.81%) | 140 (0.76%) | 18.57% | 2.07 | 00:00:30 |
| 9. Japan | 83 (0.63%) | 109 (0.80%) | 150 (0.82%) | 14.00% | 2.08 | 00:00:31 |
| 10. Argentina | 75 (0.57%) | 79 (0.58%) | 118 (0.64%) | 7.63% | 2.75 | 00:01:38 |
| 11. Brazil | 73 (0.56%) | 87 (0.64%) | 122 (0.66%) | 16.39% | 2.16 | 00:00:30 |
| 12. France | 71 (0.54%) | 80 (0.59%) | 99 (0.54%) | 18.18% | 2.27 | 00:00:42 |
| 13. Mexico | 71 (0.54%) | 84 (0.62%) | 108 (0.59%) | 14.81% | 2.25 | 00:00:36 |
| 14. South Korea | 65 (0.50%) | 76 (0.56%) | 96 (0.52%) | 12.50% | 2.15 | 00:00:28 |
| 15. New Zealand | 64 (0.49%) | 65 (0.48%) | 130 (0.71%) | 4.62% | 2.45 | 00:01:17 |

NWDAP COMMUNICATION

OBJECTIVE

The keystone of the NWDAP communications strategy is collaboration and cooperation among stakeholders for the promotion and adoption of best practice wild dog management. This means NWDAP taking the lead on encouraging communicators across jurisdictions to amplify the same positive messages (reflecting the values of NWDAP), cross-promotion, sharing and adapting of media/posts/resources and working together to preserve social licence as well as to responding to direct threats.

In this way NWDAP sets the bass tone for communication of wild dog management nationally and provides a collaborative mechanism for translating messaging to positive on-ground outcomes that explains why best practice wild dog management, including lethal control measures, is necessary to protect agricultural, biodiversity and social and community assets.

This is distilled into numerous micro-messages which support the key message including (but not limited to):

- The NWDAP endorses evidence-based, best practice wild dog management tools and strategies.
- The NWDAP is abreast of the latest research outcomes in wild dog and native species ecology.
- Agriculture needs wild dog management to remain productive and profitable.
- Wild dog management plays an important role in safeguarding the mental health of agricultural workers and land managers.
- The NWDAP promotes and supports community-driven action for strategic landscape-scale wild dog management.
- Best practice wild dog management requires the use of multiple control tools delivered as part of a targeted and strategic control program.
- Animal welfare is a priority concern of NWDAP and all best practice management tools and strategies are informed by the latest research available.
- Wild dog management plays an important role in native species conservation and biodiversity protection.
- 1080 is safe for humans. If used in accordance with safety directions, 1080 is as safe to humans as most common household chemicals.
- 1080 is safe for the environment. An organic compound that occurs naturally in plants, 1080 breaks down leaving nil residue.
- Native animals are highly tolerant of 1080.
- The most recent research shows quolls are not killed (or their breeding impaired) by 1080 baiting – in fact it's the opposite. The areas where quoll populations are rebuilding are areas where long-term 1080 baiting has occurred.

TARGET AUDIENCES

In October 2019, CISS commissioned Briarbird, a user-experience and research consultancy, to investigate the needs and experiences of current and potential users of its PestSmart website to inform the development of its new site. To date this is the only guidance NWDAP has as to its target audience profile other than subjective evaluation, informed by expert opinions offered by communicators, the NWDMC, wild dog coordinators, researchers and others who have worked in wild dog management/policy development for extended periods. The target audience includes:

- land managers
- wild dog/pest animal management workers/advisers/researchers
- environment/biodiversity/conservation employees and champions

- policy/management plan creators
- uninformed public (yet to form views on wild dog management)
- anti-1080, anti-wild-dog-management activists.

Each of these audiences has its own dynamics requiring tailored communication to maximise the effectiveness of NWDAP messaging and positive responses to calls to action. Additionally, each of these audiences responds to different forms of communication and, as such, delivery of communication occurs across a range of formats encompassing both traditional and social media.

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES OVER THE COURSE OF THE PROJECT

Communication of the key messages listed above are delivered via a range of tailored publications, online and social media, all of which are displayed through the [NWDAP website](https://wilddogplan.org.au/). These include a monthly newsletter to over 1,900 subscribers, podcasts, media releases and the development of cases studies to showcase new tools or successful community-led wild dog management programs. This information is then shared via social media platforms to amplify their reach as well as being passed on to the huge network of NWDAP stakeholders for inclusion and distribution through their networks.

Communication and media delivered over the course of the project include:

| Media type | Location | Number produced |
|----------------------|---|-----------------|
| NWDAP newsletters | https://wilddogplan.org.au/newsletters/ | 25 since 2017 |
| NWDAP media releases | https://wilddogplan.org.au/media-releases/ | 78 |
| NWDAP podcasts | https://wilddogplan.org.au/podcast/ | 5 |
| NWDAP blog articles | https://wilddogplan.org.au/nwdap-blog/ | 5 |
| Case study videos | https://wilddogplan.org.au/case_study/ | 12 |

While the coordinator provides direction and oversight of the communication developed the communication manager and Action Plan implementation manager manage the development and delivery. Both these positions must be credited with building what has become an extensive communication network and managing the online delivery of the NWDAP communication on the webpage and in social media. More recently the Action Plan implementation manager created a LinkedIn account for the NWDAP so that the Plan could share stories on best practice wild dog management to a much more professional audience to cut through some of the key messages without the negative commentary and trolling seen on other platforms from anti-1080 and dingo-preservation advocates.

AUSTRALASIAN VERTEBRATE PEST CONFERENCE 2021

The National Wild Dog Management Coordinator presented at numerous conferences during the period of this project and while some are described later in the document the most recent was the presentation at the Australian Vertebrate Pest Conference in 2021.

The coordinator was also involved in a number of sessions and activities delivered as part of the conference but more importantly encouraged and supported a range of stakeholders and regional coordinators to participant in the conference and tell their story. The feedback and involvement for a broader range of impacted stakeholders and those coordinating management was extremely positive and we believe it improved the experience of the conference which was held virtually rather than face to face due to COVID-19.

The papers presented by the coordinator or as a co-author include:

- **Strengths and weaknesses of the NWDAP 2014–2019: A truly collaborative industry-led National Strategy, *Greg Mifsud and Geoff Power***
- Planning to succeed: How NWDAP helps landholders regain control of the wild dog problem in Victoria, *Simon Lawlor and Sonya Lawlor, Omeo Landholders and Greg Mifsud.*

OTHER MEDIA

In addition to the media described above, the coordinator has taken part in a countless number of radio interviews over the past five years. The coordinator is the one person that is often called upon to discuss contentious issues in the media as many government agencies refuse or are not permitted to speak publicly on these issues. While many of the interviews are related to NWDAP media releases, the coordinator is often called upon to provide expert advice or opinion on matters related to controversial issues such as dingo conservation and more recently the use of 1080. As the spokesperson for the Plan and an advocate of best practice management the profile of the coordinator and commentary in the media is essential to counter the extreme viewpoints and decontextualised information often promoted by the dingo conservation and anti-1080 groups campaigning to stop wild dog management. The coordinator provides the general evidence-based information to which the general public can look to make their own decisions about wild dog management programs and why they are delivered.

This has been a pivotal role of the coordinator position and has been crucial in maintaining the social licence to conduct wild dog management programs across the country, despite personal attacks on the coordinator from a range of dingo-preservation and anti-1080 campaigners.

BEST PRACTICE VIDEO – TRAINING WORKING DOGS TO USE AND WORK WITH A MUZZLE

https://wilddogplan.org.au/media_release/learn-how-to-use-muzzles-for-working-dog-safety-in-just-one-click/

- Concerns regarding working/sheep dogs and 1080 baiting is seen as one of the largest by landholders when baiting wild dogs and foxes and is the also the number one excuse provided by landholders that refuse to take part in coordinated control programs around the country.
- The development of extension material around training landholders and their working/sheep dogs to use muzzles was seen a constructive way forward in terms of increasing participation in wild dog and fox control programs around the country.
- Managing reasons for non-participation in coordinator management programs is one of the key aspects of this project, so the coordinator embarked on developing a project to produce a video featuring a prominent working dog trainer, and someone who was successful in working dog trial competitions, to provide his expert opinion on why they use muzzles on their dogs and provide advice on how to train dogs to use them.
- Funds were also sought to purchase the muzzles approved by the dog trainer in question to be provided to stakeholders at capacity-building events and training days attended by the wild dog coordinator network and associated collaborating organisations.
- A funding proposal was provided to Sheep Producers Australia, Wool Producers Australia and Animal Health Australia. Following presentations to each board, the sheep industry councils allocated \$17k to the project.
- Additional funds to the value of \$5k were obtained from NSW Local Land Services (LLS) to develop the video following an impromptu pitch of the project at a presentation provided by the NWDMC at the NSW LLS Pest Coordinator forum in Mudgee in June 2019. It had the good fortune of being in the right place at the right time just before the end of financial year!
- Following discussions with Ian Evans, Manager Vertebrate Pests at AWI and Australian sheep dog trial judge, a suitable candidate in Joe Spicer from GoGETTA Kelpies was secured to star in the video.
- The services of Crux Media (who produced the CISS rabbit video) were secured and the video was filmed on Joe Spicer's property near Hamilton in Victoria in October 2019.
- The weather was kind with bright and sunny conditions for filming, which was incredible given the filming was in western Victoria. The cameraman got some fantastic footage of the sheep dogs working with muzzles on, both in the paddock and in the yards.
- The information provided by Joe Spicer focuses more on the benefits of muzzles for training and working sheep dogs than it does on fox baiting and control.
- The video was edited and a final product was released in early 2020 following industry consultation and funding body approval.
- In order to acknowledge the contribution of the project sponsors an adhesive label displaying the project sponsor logos was developed so that they could be attached to the nose pad on the muzzle prior to supplying them to stakeholders.
- The video was launched on 22 April 2020 and was widely distributed through the funding partners, Wool Producers Australia, Sheep Producers Australia, Animal Health Australia and NSW LLS. The distribution was further improved through CISS and the Action Plan stakeholders at the state and regional levels.
- The video was extremely well received, and the uptake has been fantastic with numerous enquiries on where to purchase the muzzles used in the video.

- With the support from Elders Australia 1,500 economy wire dog muzzles were ordered with project funds at a significantly reduced price than recommended retail.
- Thanks must be given to Bruce McLeish, Elders Northern Wool Manager, for his support for the project. A wild dog-affected producer himself, Bruce has worked closely with Greg Mifsud over the years as the chair of the Karara Wild Dog Control group, Qld.
- Bruce McLeish could see the value of the video in increasing participation and agreed that unless you gave producers one to try at a field day, they wouldn't give them a go. Bruce facilitated the purchase through their National Sales Manager, Craig Ward, based in Toowoomba and who assisted with the purchase.
- Muzzles have been distributed across the country through the wild dog coordinator network and throughout NSW by LLS in Southeast, Riverina, Upper Murray, North Coast and Northern Tablelands.
- The approach has been so successful that many of the NSW LLS are looking at purchasing more muzzles to support landholders through fire recovery and encourage greater participation from landholders concerned about risk to working dogs from using 1080 baits.
- A Survey Monkey survey was created to track muzzle use and to see if people have adopted their use and are now baiting.
- Responses to the survey have been limited; however, anecdotally the coordinators and LLS staff have indicated that participation rates have increased marginally in some areas due to the use of muzzles..



National Wild Dog Management Coordinator Greg Mifsud and GoGetta Kelpie Stud principal Joe Spicer discuss the benefits of using muzzles on working dogs.





National Wild Dog Management Coordinator Greg Mifsud handing out some working dog muzzles to sheep producers Anita and Stuart Morant at the Tallangata Wild Dog Management Zone meeting on the day of the video launch.

DEVELOPING GUIDELINES FOR USING 1080 ON ORGANIC CERTIFIED PROPERTIES

- Non-participation in baiting programs by landholders who are certified organic has been a longstanding issue for delivering effective and coordinated management programs.
- The lack of capacity for organic certified properties to manage populations with baits results in significant impacts on their production but also causes a great deal of angst and frustration among communities when producers opt out of coordinated baiting programs due to their organic status.
- In the previous IACRC project the coordinator attempted to have the organic standards changed or modified to allow the use of 1080 for the emergency control of feral animals on organic properties.
- However, that attempt failed and at the time those involved in the organic industry were not terribly agreeable to any changes to support the use of what was a banned substance under the US National Organic Program (NOP).
- Regardless of that outcome, the coordinator was still dealing with disgruntled landholders who were annoyed at the lack of participation in coordinated baiting programs by adjoining organically certified properties, and then on the other, hand having organically certified property owners complaining because they want to use 1080 to manage wild dogs and can't understand why it's prohibited in Australia when it's an organically derived and nature identical product.
- In 2019 the coordinator contacted a number of Organic Certification Companies to raise the issue again. The companies wanted to work on the issue due to animal welfare concerns for animals and livestock being attacked by wild dogs on organically certified properties.
- It also became apparent that while 1080 cannot be used on land that is certified for organic production, options did exist to remove land from the certification to use 1080 baits provided livestock cannot access the poison.
- Areas of land that could easily be removed from certification and fenced (if not already fenced) could include dams or turkey nests, waterholes in creek or even riparian areas along creeks and rivers. All areas where pest animals can be easily targeted with poison baits or canid pest ejectors.
- Based on this information the coordinator developed the [guidelines for feral animal control on organic properties](#). The guidelines explain how 1080 baits can be used based on the following:
 - a. The process required to remove an area of land removed from the organic certification. Once removed a non-permitted substance, in this case 1080, can be used to control feral animals on fully fenced parcels of land once it is removed from the organic footprint.
 - b. Information on nationally endorsed, best practice, feral animal management techniques to be used in these excised areas are provided in the guidelines and it is expected that operators liaise with their certifying organisations to obtain appropriate approval before starting any control activities.
 - c. A checklist and guidelines to guide the operator through the process required by certifying organisations to receive permission to use a non-permitted substance, in this case sodium fluoroacetate (1080), under limited circumstances on a property for controlling feral animals.
- The guidelines were endorsed and released in September 2019 and have been used by organically certified producers across the country.
- [NWDAP launches new organic guidelines](#)
- The South Australian Government funded a series of field trips to explain the guidelines to organically certified producers inside and outside the dingo barrier fence as it forms part of the mandatory baiting requirements for properties under the new Landscapes Act. See the article attached.

- mailchi.mp/2161cf75b64b/nwdapnewsletter41
- The field trips were attended by Greg Mifsud, National Wild Dog Management Coordinator, Heather Miller, SA state wild dog coordinator (PIRSA), staff from the Arid Lands NRM Board and organics companies including National Association for Sustainable Agriculture Australia Ltd (NASAA) and Southern Cross Organics. Both of which fully support the guidelines and were promoting their use to prevent impacts from wild dogs and feral animals on livestock and native fauna.
- A webinar was conducted in January 2022 with Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association and producers in the Alice Springs region to discuss implementing the guidelines for managing wild dogs.
- [Guidelines streamline wild dog management under organic certification in the NT](#)

ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF NWDAP STAKEHOLDERS AND BEST PRACTICE WILD DOG MANAGEMENT

- The coordinator plays a significant role in managing risks and ill-informed communication that threatens ongoing wild dog management on behalf of the stakeholders of the NWDAP.
- On numerous occasions during the past five years the coordinator has developed briefing notes or written directly to Ministers to put forward evidence that supports ongoing wild dog management and the use of 1080 to manage campaigns based on misleading information to either ban 1080 or to limit or prevent the control (lethal or otherwise) of wild dogs and dingoes.
- For example, the coordinator sought and was granted a meeting with the then Minister for Environment, Susan Ley and the Threatened Species Commissioner, Sally Box.
- The meeting which was also attended by coordination committee chair, Geoff Power, and VFF representative Peter Star, to discuss and seek support for:
 - a. the continuation of the NWDAP for 2020–2030 based on the outcomes of the independent review of the 2014–2019 Plan
 - b. ongoing access to all available control tools, including Sodium Fluoroacetate (1080) poison, for the protection of agricultural and biodiversity assets
 - c. how the NWDAP's best practice management planning approaches are risk based and consider dingo conservation.

RESPONSE TO SENATOR HINCH MOTION TO BAN 1080

- In August 2018 the NWDAP wrote to Senator Derryn Hinch, who was the leader of the Animal Justice party at the time, who moved a motion in the Senate requesting that the federal government phase out 1080 poison use in Australia.
- The justifications for this were extreme, ill-informed and bordering on misleading. Those that were correct were taken completely out of context and didn't represent the manner in which 1080 is accessed or used here in Australia.
- The coordinator, on behalf of the chair of the National Wild Dog Management Coordination Committee, Geoff Power, wrote a letter to Senator Hinch that explained how and why 1080 is used in Australia and to ease his concerns that the public could not access sodium fluoroacetate powder for use as a 'weapon of mass destruction'.
- The letter was co-signed by all the key industry stakeholders of the NWDAP 2020–2030.
- The coordinator followed up with the Senators officer and offered to meet in person to discuss the content of the letter, but it was never taken up by the Senator.
- The letter must have caused the Senator to reconsider his position as he did not attend an Animal Justice Party Rally to Ban 1080 poison held in Melbourne the following week despite being a key speaker at the event.
- [NWDAP responds to recent calls to phase out 1080 baiting](#)

NWDAP RESPONSE TO INTRODUCE DINGOES INTO THE GRAMPIANS

- The coordinator was contacted by concerned landholders and sheep producers, John and Rhonda Crawford, regarding a proposal to reintroduce dingoes into the Grampian (Gariwerd) National Park.
- wilddogplan.org.au/?s=grampians
- The Crawford's raised a petition to oppose the reintroduction which was also shared among the NWDAP stakeholders and distributed across their networks, gaining over 6,000 signatures.
- The draft Grampians (Gariwerd) National Park proposed management plan proposed that dingoes be introduced into the park to manage over-abundant macropod populations and to suppress feral cats and foxes.
- In response the coordinator developed a submission to the plan, on behalf of the Coordination Committee, which was also signed by numerous key stakeholders that opposed the reintroduction of dingoes in the plan.
- In addition to pointing out the extreme risk this reintroduction would pose to sheep producers in the region, the submission pointed out that current research evidence, much of which was carried out in CISS projects, demonstrated that dingoes/wild dogs did not surpass feral cat and foxes populations in eastern Australia, or any other part of the country for that matter.
- The submission also pointed out that there was a significant dietary overlap in prey size and species across each of the predator species. It would therefore seem counterproductive to add yet another predator to the system if predation is the Key Threatening Process impacting on endangered native species or limiting the abundance of other fauna species.
- [Re-introducing dingoes – why we should think twice](#)
- The research evidence used in the submission was provided to the Crawford's to respond to the media enquiries and so they had the information at hand to prepare for public consultation meetings.
- The coordinator also provided best practice wild dog management material for a public meeting held in Dunkeld by John and Rhonda Crawford to voice their opposition to the proposal. That meeting drew a crowd of over 70 landholders, not just from the immediate area but from also from other areas in Victoria, concerned that a similar proposal might be put forward for national parks in their region. Some participants also came across from South Australia who were worried that dingoes could move across the border into their state if they dispersed from the Grampians.
- The coordinator undertook a series of media interviews on the issue and supported local member, Bev McArthur, who was also concerned about the impacts of dingoes on sheep producers in the region, with research evidence and best practice advice to argue against the proposal.
- The Crawford's and producers who attended voiced their opposition to the proposal and were successful with the final Gariwerd management plan leaving out any planned reintroduction of dingoes into the park.
- mailchi.mp/63179305846a/nwdap50newsletter#Community%20feedback%20stymies%20plan

INFORMING AWI AND MLA CONSULTANTS TO DELIVER PREDATOR-MANAGEMENT MESSAGES TO CLIENTS

- The National Wild Dog Management Coordinator is working closely with the extension and adoption teams for both Australian Wool innovation and Meat and Livestock Australia to ensure that effective predator management is included into their on-farm extension programs.
- While the focus for NWDAP engagement in predator management over the past 10 years has been with statutory authorities it is becoming more and more apparent that industry groups engage with greater numbers of landholders through their extension programs than the Plan can possibly do through linkages with statutory organisations and other NRM groups.
- By incorporating best practice predator management messages into the on-farm extension programs the Plan can significantly increase reach across grower groups
- AWI and MLA fully understand and recognise this and see the opportunity to integrate predator management into these programs and how this should provide significant dividends through increased lamb survival and reductions in impact on livestock.
- Predator management principles are already being incorporated into AWI's extension packages for consultants following the development of some slides for the AWI extension program booklet on current best practice predator management techniques.
- These slides provide generalised information on strategic coordinated control and small targeted asset-based management to reduce impacts by wild dogs, foxes and feral pigs on livestock production. The slides are also accompanied by significant notes that will assist the consultants to deliver this information in the absence of a dedicated pest animal controller or wild dog coordinator.
- By providing this information at the awareness stage of establishing producer groups, MLA and AWI can seek interest from those groups to further their ability and capacity-building opportunities for integrated pest management.
- The coordinator was invited to the AWI Lifetime Ewe Management Train the Trainer workshops in Dubbo in May 2019 to deliver a presentation on predator management in the information and the best practice management documents that are available to support them. An update on the canid pest ejectors (CPE) and how to use them was also provided.
- Most of the consultants at the workshops had no idea what a CPE was, highlighting that outside of the wild dog-affected areas people have no idea what a CPE is despite how effective they are for fox control.
- The coordinator developed a range of network contacts from these meetings with a number of consultants expressing interest in developing predator management demonstration sites to improve their predator management programs and monitor any subsequent production benefits.

MLA PRODUCER DEMONSTRATION-SITE PROJECTS

Less Predators More Lambs, Mansfield, Victoria

- The coordinator, working in collaboration with Lucy-Anne Cobby, north-east community baiting coordinator with DELWP, teamed up with Matt Mahoney from Agridome consultancy to submit an application for a PDS to look at lifting lamb survival through predator control with a group of producers from the Mansfield region of Victoria.
- This is an area that the coordinator and Lucy-Anne Cobby have been concerned about for some time because the wild dog group in this area is very reliant on trapping and the DELWP wild dog control officers are not conducting enough community baiting to reduce fox numbers. This was thought responsible for significant lamb loss in the region.
- Due to the land ownership in the region the delivery of coordinated fox management programs is extremely difficult. The region comprises a variety of land ownership from genuine production enterprises running sheep and cattle to lifestyle blocks and large tracks of uncontrolled land owned by absentee landowners and state forests.
- The NWDMC travelled to Mansfield in to conduct field visits to the core producers in the Less Predators More Lambs PDS project. Accompanied by Matt Mahoney from Agridome consulting, the NWDMC met on-farm to provide landholders with advice regarding bait placement and control in relation to fox or wild dog movements throughout the property.
- A workshop was delivered in February 2019 with a range of landholders from the region to discuss fox management strategies and to sign up to the program. Eight producers signed up to the program and agreed to implement the replacement baiting program delivered over four to six weeks prior to lambing. These were the same principles put forward to the AWI consultants in Dubbo previously.
- The group was set up with a FoxScan community group login and encouraged to record impacts and bait take information on the app to record bait sites, bait take and stock loss.
- Many of the producers asked about on-farm visits to look at fox movements and strategic baiting locations, so a range of property visits were held in late March.
- Fox densities were obviously extremely high in the Mansfield region with two foxes seen on the edge of the roadsides travelling to the first property and at least one if not two foxes seen per property visited over the three days in broad daylight.
- Producers were given a demonstration on how to use FoxScan on their own devices in the paddock with many recording sites for bait placement.
- The producers involved were extremely happy with the level of advice they received as they had not really considered bait placement in relation to the ecology or movements of foxes on the property, despite undertaking some form of fox control for many years.
- In most instances producers were putting out way too many baits in inappropriate locations where foxes were probably unlikely to ever encounter them.
- In one instance while investigating the track networks and water points on a property, the presence of wild dogs was found from track marks around water points and the producer was unaware that they were active on his property. Photos taken at the scene and shown to Dave Klippel, the DELWP wild dog controller for the region, confirmed that these were in fact wild dog tracks and a control program was immediately instigated.
- The field trip concluded with a meeting and best practice bait and canid pest ejector demonstration at the Bonnie Doon on Friday 5 March.
- Using muzzles and the video also assisted participation in this area given the use of working dogs within the group.
- wilddogplan.org.au/media_release/monitoring-and-evaluating-pest-predator-management/

- COVID-19 restrictions limited ability for the coordinator to get back down to Mansfield to work any further with producers in the Less Predators More Lambs producer demonstration site in the following year.
- However, Matt Mahoney from Agridome consultancy, continued to work with those producers encouraging the delivery of fox management programs and use of feral scan for monitoring bait uptake and lamb loss.
- One producer suffering ongoing wild dog attacks has been using wild dog scan to record any activity and stock loss with the system working well in terms of notifying the local wild dog controller to respond to those attacks faster than if a phone call had to be made between the two.
- The study showed that on average landholders had a two to five per cent increase in lamb survival as a result of adopting new practices relating to predator management as well as on-farm activities.
- 44 lambs were examined post-mortem by the local veterinarian to determine cause of death. 18% of those lambs were found to have died because of primary predation by foxes.
- Despite implementing some control it's obvious that fox densities in the region are still high and additional baiting is required to determine the level of control required to reduce impacts further.
- **Despite the limitations in the data a small two per cent increase in lamb survival across the group would result in 280 extra lambs a year which at a cost of approximately \$150 each would result in a return on investment of around \$42,000**
- wilddogplan.org.au/media_release/producers-implementing-collaborative-predator-management-to-lift-lamb-survival/
- A further meeting of the group in June 2022 demonstrated their eagerness to continue with the program and put greater effort into the baiting program and monitoring for this year's lambing season.
- The project still has two more years to run, and the results will be written up in a best practice document.



BARFIELD ROAD PRODUCER GROUP, BILOELA, QLD

- The NWDC teamed up with Fitzroy Basin Authority through Charisse Andersen and the Barfield Rd Producer Group, chaired by Melanie Leather, to look at improved beef production through best practice wild dog management.
- Charisse Andersen was a member of the Qld Dog Offensive Committee at the time and Melanie Leather was formally a member of Cattle Council of Australia and met the coordinator at a presentation to the CCA Animal health and welfare committee in 2016.
- The project Improved Beef Productivity through Predator Control received strong support from a range of stakeholders including Teys Australia, Queensland Department Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and was endorsed by MLA In June 2020.
- The beef production project caught the attention of MLA Northern Grass Fed Beef Project Manager, Nigel Tomkins, who was keen to see this PDS replicated across northern Australia given the Northern Breeding Business report that aims to deliver adoptions programs across northern Australia to increase calf survival, reduce herd mortality and increase meat production by 10%.
- The first meeting with the core producers of the Barfield Road PDS group was conducted on 12 August 2020.
- This group is extremely enthusiastic and very keen to look at how improving wild dog management can reduce calf loss and damage annually.
- While the core participants are cattle producers there is a range of production systems and certified organic properties in the mix, so developing wild dog management programs that meet their requirements will be quite challenging but very interesting.
- The first workshop was held in August 2020 and was tailored to provide participants with a better understanding of wild dog ecology, behaviour and best practice management with the objective of developing pest management plans that reflected wild dog activity and ecology in line with their production activities.
- The coordinator developed a property pest management template to expedite the process and the group was walked through the information required and how to fill in the template.
- A range of extension material developed through the NWDAP and Pest Smart was used to inform the producers about wild dog ecology, behaviour and control.
- The group then discussed the type of production information they could collect and how it would be shared within the group to determine the benefits of wild dog control on their production. This included a review of WildDogScan and how it could be used to monitor impact and control.
- As was expected, this area being primarily cattle production has not had any engagement or extension around the management of predators such as wild dogs, foxes and feral cats which all exist within this location. They also have a lot of feral pigs at various times of the year and did not seem aware of the best practice methods to control them either.
- This group of producers is very progressive and adopt new and emerging technology and best practice very quickly from the other work they have already undertaken on the properties so it's not a lack of interest but more a lack of opportunity.
- The group quickly took on board the information provided or had a very good understanding of what they needed to look in terms of the management plans. They also developed a spreadsheet to gather their data for the cattle and calf loss monitoring.
- In one instance one of the core producers closely examined his calf survival over the past four years only to realise that he was regularly three per cent down on calving from one particular area of his property, regardless of seasonal conditions or the breed composition of the cows in the paddock. This was also the area of the farm that he identified as regularly harbouring wild dogs. However, it

wasn't until he was asked to look at this data that he made the connection between the presence of wild dogs and lower calving percentages.

- A wild dog management field day was held at, Brookleigh on 21 October 2021.
- The field day was attended by producers all very interested in better understanding how wild dogs behave, their ecology, and what was considered current best practice management to bring them under control.
- Professional wild dog trapper vertebrate pest controller, Tony Townsend, came down from Rockhampton to assist with demonstrations throughout the day. Tony has worked extensively with the National Wild Dog Management Coordinator and the north-east wild dog coordinator across northern New South Wales.
- Several inspections were undertaken across the property to demonstrate areas or features in the landscape where dogs will travel and to look for signs of dog activity in order to select the best trap placement as well as the use of baits and cameras.
- It must be noted that the National Wild Dog Management Coordinator on both occasions found the signs of wild dog activity before the professional trapper.
- The producers were very happy with the day and gained significant insight and the feedback they provided was extremely positive.
- The demonstration of the canid pest ejector was particularly enlightening for them as many were quite afraid of the device due to stories they had heard about how it shoots the poison into the animal's mouth. The ability to handle and set a device under supervision gave them the confidence to look at building canid pest ejectors into property pest management plans.
- A number of the producers are organically certified and had a particular interest in using this device within their exclusions fences as per the guidelines for use of 1080 on organic properties developed by the Coordinator.
- Staff from the Fitzroy Basin authority organised training so that all the producers have up-to-date chemical handling certificates which allows them access, via permit, to the 1080 capsules required to use a pest ejector device. These training courses took place in March 2022.
- The National Wild Dog Management Coordinator has facilitated some pricing and delivery for canid pest ejectors by Animal Control Technologies Australia as well as trapping kits through Western Trapping Supplies to provide the producers in this group with access to the materials and equipment to undertake best practice dog control.
- The project will continue with a 12-month review in August and preparation for workshops and field days in 2023.



STATE REPORTING

At the state and regional levels, the National Wild Dog Management coordinator's role has changed significantly in terms of stakeholder engagement with individuals and community-led wild dog management groups. The rollout of co-funded industry and state government regional wild dog management coordinators in Qld, NSW, Victoria and South Australia meant that the National Coordinator is less involved in the development of wild dog management plans and facilitating outcomes at the local or regional scales. The coordinator remains in regular contact with land managers and key stakeholders involved in local and regional management and while these relationships remain strong, these stakeholders now deal directly with regional coordinators to deliver management plans and capacity building exercises when needed.

As such the coordinator's role has shifted somewhat to supporting on-ground local action by ensuring that state-level processes enable land managers to effectively manage wild dogs. Engagement and interaction with state government and statutory authorities is varied but support from the coordinator comes in a range of forms including the provision of expert advice on best practice management in relation to policy development, regulations, operational delivery of statewide management programs, supporting capacity-building workshops and training days, and rolling out nationally developed initiatives. Direct involvement with local groups still occurs regularly particularly in areas where a regional coordinator does not exist; however, for the purpose of this report, only the major state-level initiatives that the coordinator has been directly involved in will be discussed.

QUEENSLAND

QUEENSLAND DOG OFFENSIVE GROUP (QDOG)

The QDOG committee provides key stakeholders the opportunity to provide input into state policy and regulations related to wild dog management. Comprising a range of members from local government, state farming bodies and conservation groups, the coordinator and one other member are the only two members that have been on the committee since its formation by the Qld Minister for Agriculture in 2009. Some of the key activities and outcomes of the committee over the last five years include but are not limited to:

WILD DOG STRATEGY REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT

- Conducted a critical review of the expired Qld Wild Dog Strategy 2011–16. This review was undertaken by ACIL Allen after a critical report on the delivery of the strategy by the Qld Auditor-General's Office.
- The coordinator was on the writing group and provided critical input into the development of the new Queensland Wild Dog Strategy 2021–26.
- www.daf.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/62431/wild-dog-strategy-2021-26.pdf
- The new strategy, which is based on the NWDAP 2020–30, was fully endorsed and released by the Agriculture Minister, Mark Furner in November 2021.
- The coordinator sits on several strategy working groups tasked with developing, delivering and reporting on KPIs outlined in the strategy.
- One such working group is the QDOG Wild Dog Strategy survey development group with is tasked with developing surveys for the broad range of stakeholders involved in the plan to determine its reach and effectiveness.
- The first of these was released in August 2022 to assess the status of the wild dog management in Qld. Once again, these surveys are being developed with the National Wild Dog Action Plan in mind so that data is collected in a format that can be used as part of the national reporting.

MEDICINES AND POISONS ACT 2019

- QDOG played a pivotal role in advising Qld Health and QDAF around the development of new *Queensland Medicines and Poison Act 2019* in relation to access and use of vertebrate pesticides.
- QDOG members and the coordinator have developed strong relationships with officers and staff from Queensland Health over the past five years as members continue to improve their knowledge of current best practice wild dog management in order to assist Qld Health develop policy and regulations that overly restrict access or use of products required for feral animal and wild dog control.
- As expected, any changes in poison legislation causes alarm among land managers and as such QDOG members have been developing fact sheets and extension material around these changes to transition to the new legislative requirements. www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/licences/medicines-poisons/poisons/invasive-animal-control/landholder-authorisations
- Over the period of this project QDOG has worked with Qld Health to develop guidelines and permit forms that are user friendly to access RS7 poisons such as CPE capsules and para-amino propiophenone (PAPP) baits. Permits are not required to access standard 1080 baits or injected baits as they are considered low risk due to them containing not more than 0.5% fluoro acetic acid per bait.
- http://www.health.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0025/1111669/ga-landholder-application.pdf
- http://www.health.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/1120363/ga-low-risk-fluoroacetic-acid-baits-application.pdf
- As part of the discussion in developing the legislations the QDOG committee made the case to allow commercial pest management technicians to have access to S7 products for commercial pest control activities. Under the previous legislation a commercial operator was not permitted to carry or manufacture baits commercially for sale or for use in a control program.
- The legislation now allows commercial operators to manufacture baits and to carry and use them as part of a control program. This now provides landholders with another service provider that can assist with vertebrate pest control other than only local government.
- Similarly in remote parts of the state where local government authorised officers have to travel great distances or may not be available to inject or prepare baits, a landholder can undertake the training and register as a commercial operator to manufacture baits for himself and neighbours.
- This remedied a significant issue for western Qld shires where the distance to travel between property airstrips for the one authorised officer regularly saw the plane sitting idle for hours while he travelled between injection sites.
- Now landholders in some shires are registered as commercial providers that inject baits during coordinated programs free of charge, the local government provides the concentrate, and they can inject to assist with the rollout of the program.
- Local governments from western shires applied and were successful in obtaining funds from the Qld Feral Pest Initiative (described below) to train landholders as commercial operators so they could assist with coordinated baiting programs and, or, when wild dog attacks occurred.
- This was seen as essential with a move away from rolling 1080 meat baits for wild dogs (the permit that allowed this expired in June 2021) to injecting them as is done in the rest of the country.

QUEENSLAND FERAL PEST INITIATIVE

The benefits of cluster fencing and the benefits it brings landholders and rural communities has been well documented. The coordinator was integral in securing funding, establishing the guidelines and rolling the cluster fencing program out through the previous IACRC Facilitating the National Approach to Wild Dog Management. The coordinator has maintained his involvement with the cluster fencing rollout and other state management initiatives through being a member on the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative committee.

The Queensland Government supports effective invasive plant and animal management in Queensland through the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative (QFPI). Through this initiative, funding is allocated to support regionally agreed cluster fencing arrangements, as well as other invasive plants and animal control and capacity-building projects across Queensland.

Since 2015, the Queensland Government has allocated \$26.14 million to assist regional communities across Queensland with the construction of cluster fences in priority sheep-growing areas, control of invasive plants and animals, and capacity-building projects through the QFPI. This investment has been complemented with \$14 million from the federal government.

The program has been extremely successful, and credit must be given to the QFPI project team with Qld DAF who is responsible for administering the program. This would have to be one of the most professionally delivered funding programs the coordinator has been involve with over the past 10 years. The committee members are extremely diligent and pragmatic with their approach to assessing applications and reviewing reports to ensure milestones are being met. The coordinator is a vital member of the committee and provides significant background and fact checking through the vast number of local and regional contacts across the state as well as a great understanding of funding for wild dog and vertebrate pest control from other sources. Unlike other funding programs the QFPI committee and administration have implemented reporting processes and committee-approval processes to ensure funding recipients are held accountable for delivering on their milestones and project objectives. This approach can be credited with the success of the program and the management outcomes being delivered across the state.

The following is a summary of the funding objectives and wild dog-related projects delivered from each round of QFPI funding. For more detailed information of cluster fencing projects and the benefits they are delivering for producers and rural communities in central western and southern Qld see the Not Just Fence website. notjustafence.org.

ROUND 1

Funding of \$15 million was allocated in 2016, for invasive plant and animal projects. This included wild dog cluster fencing, wild dog control programs and invasive plant management.

| No. projects funded | No. wild dog-related projects funded | Fencing projects | Coordinated management or best practice capacity-building projects |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 8 | 6 | 3 | 3 |

QFPI Round 1 began in March 2016 and was finalised in September 2018 protecting 250 properties across Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD), South West Natural Resources Management (SWNRM), Maranoa and Goondiwindi Regional Council areas.

- increasing community support and participation in wild dog management activities in the Southern Downs and Goondiwindi Regional Council (SDRC) areas
- Goondiwindi Regional Council coordinated feral pest project
- Quilpie Shire/SWRED wild dog on-ground action plan.

ROUND 2

Funding of \$8.84 million was allocated in 2017, for invasive plant and animal projects. This also included wild dog cluster fencing, wild dog control programs and invasive plant management.

| No. projects funded | No. wild dog-related projects funded | Fencing projects | Coordinated management or best practice capacity building projects |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 17 | 8 | 4 | 4 |

QFPI Round 2, between November 2017 to August 2019, resulted in funding being allocated across the RAPAD, SWNRM (subsequently rebranded to Southern Queensland Natural Resource Management (Southern Queensland NRM)), Maranoa and Goondiwindi Regional Council regions, adding another 89 properties, covering a further 1.2 million hectares.

- FBA–Dawson Catchment Integrated Vertebrates pest control (DCIV)
- pests, partnerships, and people power in the Western Downs
- Maranoa–Balonne: targeted monitoring, aerial baiting and trapping program for inaccessible areas
- Southern Down Regional Council/Granite border Landcare – Strategic cross-border wild dog control and landholder capacity building

ROUND 2.2

Funding of \$1.9 million was allocated in 2018 to support local governments in regional areas to capacity build with the aim of increasing and improving landholders' pest management activities through support and mentoring. Round 2.2 did not have a component for fencing and was directed primarily at cooperative management of weeds and feral animals.

| No. projects funded | No. wild dog-related projects funded | Fencing projects | Coordinated management or best practice capacity-building projects |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 7 | 5 | 0 | 5 |

- RAPAD–Qld wild dog control coordinators project
- capacity building of Winton Shire Council landowners to improve biosecurity obligations and responsibilities including wild dog management
- SDRC Invasive Pests Control Scheme – a model for Queensland local government
- Maranoa Shire Council – Pests without borders

ROUND 3

Funding of \$7 million was allocated in 2019 for invasive plant and animal projects, including wild dog cluster fencing, wild pig and invasive plant control projects.

| No. projects funded | No. wild dog-related projects funded | Fencing projects | Coordinated management or best practice capacity-building projects |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 9 | 7 | 5 | 2 |

In March 2019, QFPI Round 3 began rollout, adding Southern Downs and Western Downs Regional Council regions to the mix. Completed by June 2022, Round 3 added another 119 properties in 26 clusters.

- FBA–Dawson and Isaac Catchment integrated pest control (DICIPC)
- using all tools in the toolbox for wild dogs in the Western Downs Regional Council

ROUND 4

Funding of \$1 million was allocated in 2020 for invasive plant and animal control projects, including wild dog, European fox, yellow crazy ants, capacity building and invasive plant and control projects.

| No. projects funded | No. wild dog-related projects funded | Fencing projects | Coordinated management or best practice capacity-building projects |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 7 | 2 | 0 | 2 |

- Bulloo Shire Invasive Animal Management Project
- Fitzroy Basin Coordinated Action for Pest Control

ROUND 5

Funding of \$5 million was allocated in 2021 for invasive plant and animal control projects, with a focus on cluster fencing, these projects continue to support the reinvigoration of the sheep regions of across Queensland.

| No. projects funded | No. wild dog-related projects Funded | Fencing projects | Coordinated management or best practice capacity-building projects |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 6 | 6 | 6 | 0 |

ROUND 6

SUB-PROJECT 1

Funding of \$1.4 million was allocated in 2021 for invasive plant and animal control projects and a Local Government Assistance Program, these projects continue to deliver on supporting the regions in developing ongoing biosecurity legacies.

| No. projects funded | No. wild dog-related projects Funded | Fencing projects | Coordinated management or best practice capacity-building projects |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

SUB-PROJECT 2

Local Government Assistance Program

Funding was allocated to support local governments in the transition from 1080 DAF State supply to commercial solution. Funds were allocated to 46 local government areas to assist in purchasing 1080 solution and equipment as designated by the committee and QDAF for wild dog baiting programs.

AGFORCE QLD REGIONAL WILD DOG COORDINATORS

- Queensland was one of the initial states to implement an industry-based coordinator. On the basis of success of the National Wild Dog Facilitator position, Australia Wool Innovation recognised the value in regional wild dog management coordinators and as such commenced funding positions in Qld back in 2011.
- The first AWI-funded regional coordinator in the state was based out of Longreach in Central Western Qld approximately nine years ago. The success of this position and its achievements in the early years led to ongoing support from industry funding the coordinators in the other states.
- The coordinator in conjunction with AgForce Qld applied for funding through the QFPI committee and MLA levy funds to fund the Northern Qld position while AWI, local government and QDAF supported the funding for a central and southern position.
- Mentored and co-supervised by the National Coordinator, the positions were extremely successful and generated significant progress towards effective wild dog management in their regions.
- A brief overview of the project and outcomes from the [north west coordinator project](#) can be found on the MLA website.
- As the Qld state coordinator project was nearing completion, AgForce Queensland, on behalf of AWI, conducted significant consultation with wool producers in the south-western and central Western Queensland to determine if funding was required for ongoing coordination in those areas of the state.
- The 13 main wool growing shires in the state had been supported by a coordinator, the National Coordinator initially and then regional coordinators, for over 10 years and as such felt that they had the committee structures, management plans and processes in place to effectively manage the wild dog problem without the necessity of coordinator support.
- The stakeholders also felt that the significant amount of training and field days undertaken by the National Coordinator working closely with the regional coordinators, AgForce Queensland and AWI provided stakeholders with the capacity to implement best practice wild dog management techniques on their properties, and they had the committee structures in place to deliver effective coordinated management across the shoulders.
- **It is a clear demonstration of the success of the national program and state coordination in western Queensland that the stakeholders felt that they now had the capacity to manage the situation on their own.**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Major advances in wild dog management have occurred in South Australia over the past five years and the NWDAP and coordinator have played a major role in supporting state agencies achieve these outcomes. The NWDAP is the nationally agreed framework that promotes and supports a strategic and risk-based approach to wild dog management emphasising humane, safe and effective management techniques and appropriate scales for mitigating the impacts of wild dog. The presence of the NWDAP and the experience provided by the coordinator in terms of delivering effective management programs provides a platform and the confidence to make changes in policy and operational delivery. Policymaker and politicians are far more likely to support legislative or policy changes and fund control or management efforts provided they meet these principles and are supported by industry stakeholders. South Australia has certainly benefited from this approach with a range of new collaborative funding arrangements to rebuild sections of the wild dog fence and policy changes to improve coordinated management. These initiatives and developments are discussed below.

SA STATE WILD DOG ADVISORY GROUP

In April 2018 the National Wild Dog Management Coordinator was invited to sit on the South Australia Wild Dog Advisory Group (SAWDAG) by the Minister for Agriculture. The coordinator's involvement on the committee was seen as vital to ensure any future directions in wild dog management were in accordance with current best practice and in line with the NWDAP. The committee chair at the time, Geoff Power, also the chair of the NWDAP Coordination Committee, impressed upon the Minister that the coordinator's involvement was paramount given the experience the coordinator has with wild dog management across the country and the value it would provide for the South Australia management going forward. The chair also highlighted the fact that the coordinator was the catalyst for the development and rollout of the Biteback program and had an extensive knowledge of wild dog management in South Australia. The following are some of the key achievements of the SAWDAG committee since the involvement of the coordinator since his appointment in 2018.

WILD DOG FENCE MAINTENANCE

- Funding for the maintenance of the fence was found to be inadequate to maintain it to dog-proof standards in drought and severe weather conditions.
- In order to increase additional revenue for the SA wild dog fence the committee reviewed a range of funding options to share the cost across producers in other parts of the state rather than just pastoralists in the north of the fenced area.
- It was agreed that producers in the south of the state were deriving a benefit from the fence and the wild dog control activities of pastoralist in the north and as such they should be sharing the burden.
- A proposal was put forward for all livestock producers in South Australia to pay a fence levy with the amount per property decreasing in line with the distance from the fence.

WILD DOG BARRIER FENCE REBUILD

- Reporting from the Wild Dog Fence board identified that 1,600 km of the fence was in urgent need of replacement. These sections of the fence were in some cases up to 100 years old and despite being constantly patched up were in such a poor state they never remained dog proof for very long.
- PIRSA's cost-benefit review of rebuilding sections of the fence showed clear long-term economic benefit from rebuilding those old sections of the fence as well as re-aligning the eastern portion of the fence to avoid sand hill country.
- The alignment would take the fence approximately 30 km south of its existing junction with the NSW wild dog barrier fence on the border and would require an extension to the NSW fence to close the gap.
- The coordinator facilitated discussions between the NSW and SA fence boards resulting in an agreement to extend the NSW fence south to meet the newly erected section of the SA fence.

- With these in-principle agreements in place PIRSA, with support from SAWDAG, put together a funding proposal to rebuild these sections of the fence.
- On the back of this proposal the SA Government committed \$10 million towards the rebuild, with the sheep industry fund committing a further \$5 million. In a true reflection of the principles of the NWDAP, this collaborative government and industry funding arrangement was matched with a further \$10 million from the federal government drought funding.
- On the tail of this \$25 million dollar funding announcement a new Fence Rebuild committee was formed. The committee comprised key stakeholders from industry, the state farming body, Livestock SA, NRM Board members and department and NRM board staff.
- Prior to deciding on a fence design for the new fence, the Rebuild Committee wanted to view other exclusion-fence designs to investigate which design and materials would best suit their environment.
- The coordinator facilitated a trip to Central Western Queensland for the newly appointed SA Wild Dog Fence Construction Committee to investigate the types of exclusion-fencing being used as part of the of the RAPAD exclusion-fencing program.
- The SA wild dog fence construction committee will use the knowledge gained from fencing in different landscapes in Central Western Queensland and apply them to the South Australian situation.
- The field trip was very successful and changed the thinking of many of the committee from their preconceived ideas of what the fence construction would look like. As a result of this trip the rebuild committee developed a design that would suit their environment but more importantly would not repeat the mistakes in constructing their fence that others had already faced.
- To date the SA rebuild has replaced 400 km of the 1,600 km with another 400 km of construction underway.
- These funds will be added to a joint funding commitment that includes \$10 million from the South Australian Government and \$5 million of levies from the sheep industry fund to provide a total of \$25 million to upgrade and replace sections of the South Australian wild dog barrier fence.

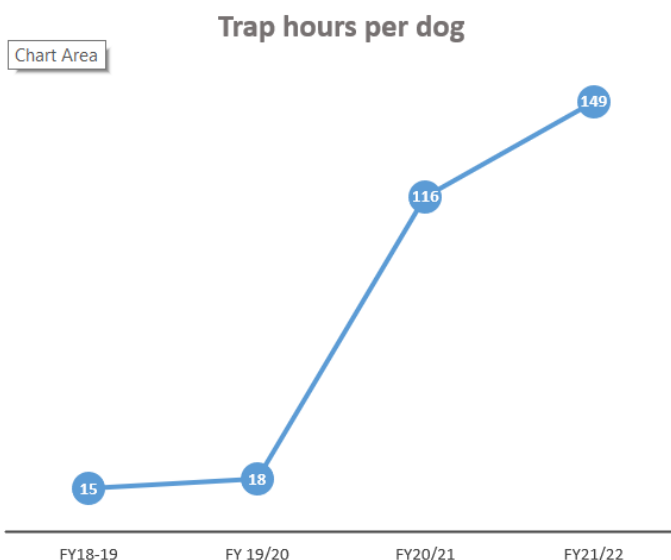


Chris Edgerton shows the newly elected members of the SA Dog Fence Rebuild committee a floodway design on his property in Barcaldine.

WILD DOG ERADICATION INSIDE THE FENCE

- Under South Australian legislation dingoes and wild dogs are a declared pest for eradication.
- As a committee member, the coordinator has provided advice based on national approaches and experiences elsewhere in the country to assist with policy discussions and delivery of operational outcomes associated with the state government election commitments, such as appoint two full-time dog trapper positions and inject \$200,000 into emergency response aerial baiting.

- Upon advice from the coordinator, the committee and PIRSA decided to use the allocated funds for the two full-time wild dog controllers to appoint seven wild dog controllers on short-term contracts to provide greater support and coverage across the wild dog-affected regions of the state.
- The coordinator assisted with the development of the contract requirements for the positions but also the process for pastoralists to request their services.
- PIRSA and SAWDAG also adopted WildDogScan for data recording for these wild dog controllers and made it a requirement for pastoralists to use the program to record wild dog activity and verify where dogs were shot or captured as part of a bounty payment scheme that was also rolled out.
- \$200,000 was provided by government for emergency aerial baiting as part of the election commitment to eradicate wild dogs/dingoes inside the fence. The coordinator actively participated and supported PIRSA and the SA Arid Lands Board staff to determine hotspots for wild dog activity to target aerial baiting. The key objective of this program was to actively reduce wild dog populations before placing the wild dog controllers into those areas to trap and ground bait any remaining animals.
- Since 2018, PIRSA and SAAL have delivered 10 aerial baiting programs in the Arid Lands and PIRSA and EP Landscape Board also delivered one program in the Far West Coast of Eyre Peninsula; over 330,000 baits have been distributed to inaccessible country of SA.
- In addition to aerial baiting the SAARL board undertakes a coordinated ground baiting program with the [BiteBack wild dog management groups](#) inside the fence groups twice a year. At present participation rates are around 34% of properties inside the fence with approximately 32–35,000 baits being put out. These gaps in participation are being picked up by the trapping program in most instances but there are still properties within the region where no control is delivered.
- Trends in the trapper program are clear and demonstrate the positive outcomes from the integrated approach to wild dog management inside the fence.
- Since its introduction in 2018 the trapping program has removed 726 wild dogs from inside the Dog Fence. The graph below shows that trappers required just 15 hours of work to trap a wild dog in FY18–19, that number has increased steadily such that by FY21–22 trappers had to work for 149 hours per wild dog.



Changes in trapping effort per wild dog inside by trappers under the SA government professional trapper program.

- The trappers have also spent over 120 hours in one-on-one training with landholders since 2018, building the capacity and knowledge of pastoralists to detect and control wild dog when necessary.

The integrated wild dog management program implemented by PIRSA, the SAARL board and pastoralists in the region embodies the principles and objectives of the NWDAP. With the support of the coordinator, the South Australia Government is implementing what could only be described as the gold standard in best practice coordinated landscape-scale wild dog management. The South Australian Government support and dedication of those staff and stakeholders involved in driving the legislative, policy and operational changes reported here, should be commended. Based on the performance of the program to date, there is no doubt they will achieve their objective of no wild dogs inside the fence.

POLICY CHANGES

- In what is a first, South Australia has become the first state to set enforceable minimum requirements for wild dog baiting and control under state legislation.
- The SA Wild Dog management advisory committee critically review current policy to determine how the legislation could be bolstered to improve wild dog management outcomes in the state given the land management practices and ownership. The main changes proposed in the policy include:
 - a. requiring landholders to follow minimum baiting standards inside the Dog Fence
 - b. declaring wild dogs for control in a buffer zone of 35 km outside the Dog Fence, including the fence that borders NSW
 - c. setting a baiting standard for the buffer zone allowing aerial baiting of wild dogs in all NRM regions (across the state).
- As a member of this committee the coordinator supported the group with best practice wild dog management advice and experiences from other parts of the country.
- One of the major issues faced by producers inside the fence is the lack of participation due to ownership of pastoral leases by non-livestock producing entities, such as ecotourism operators, organic properties and conservation groups.
- The proposed changes aim to lift participation rates in baiting from the current levels of around 34% to 90–100% once the act is endorsed and guidelines are developed for their implementation.
- Despite the dingo being declared for eradication inside the fence the lack of participation in control programs has allowed large populations of wild dogs to build up in some areas. Changes to the policymaking it mandatory to bait was seen as way forward and gave the NRM groups a platform by which they could enforce wild dog management if necessary.
- The coordinator wrote a letter to the Minister for Agriculture in support of the proposed legislative and policy changes highlighting that minimum baiting requirements and improved compliance would definitely lead to improvements in coordinated management inside the fence.
- The SAWDAG committee and PIRSA also sought to make changes to the animal welfare regulations around the use of rubber-jawed foothold traps.
- This included:
 - a. Amend Regulation 9(2) pertaining to dog traps to not require a lethal toxin if once a rubber-jawed leg-hold trap is set, it is checked at least every 24 hours, and any wild dog or dingo is humanely destroyed.
 - b. That the requirement for a rubber-jawed leg-hold trap to be set inside the Dog Fence, and 100 metres outside the Dog Fence only, be removed from the regulations Regulation 9(2) of the *Animal Welfare Regulations 2012* which previously only permitted the use of rubber-jawed leg-hold traps for wild dogs to be used south (inside) of the Dog Fence or within 100 metres to its north (outside of the Dog Fence).
- These changes were needed to allow trap use inside and outside the dog fence and also provide the flexibility to allow the use of strychnine cloths, where people were comfortable in doing so, while also

allowing those on organic properties, or were opposed to strychnine, the opportunity to still use traps as part of an integrated control program, but they would have to check their traps daily.

- The coordinator provided comment through the targeted consultation process and the NWDA PCC provided a letter congratulating the Minister for Environment on the changes in addition to provide our advice through the formal survey process.
- [South Australian Landscape Act 2019](#) now clearly identifies that landholders and pastoralists in wild dog and dingo affected regions inside the fence must undertake control in accordance with the [South Australian Wild Dog and Dingo Policy 2019](#). The minimum baiting standards for proactive and reactive management are detailed for jurisdictions across the state in these documents.
- The SAARL board is currently developing compliance and enforcement guidelines and protocol to commence engagement activities with producers to implement the SA Wild dog and Dingo Policy minimum control requirements.
- Information on current wild dog management practices, policies, guidelines and links to the national and CISS best practice can be found on the [PIRSA Wild Dogs and Dingoes](#) webpage.

ORGANIC GUIDELINE FIELD DAYS

- The NWDMC attended workshops held by PIRSA and organised by Heather Miller, the state wild dog management coordinator, in the northern rangelands to demonstrate how the [Guidelines for use of 1080 on Organic properties](#) could be implemented on-farm.
- These field days were brought about due to changes in legislation making it mandatory to baiting in the rangelands under the [South Australian Wild Dog and Dingo Policy 2019](#)
- Field days were conducted on properties within the Gawler Ranges, William Creek and Maree. The field days were supported by organic certifying companies, PIRSA and the NWDAP.
- Heather Miller did a fantastic job organising the field days and working closely with the certifying companies to develop a property management plan template that met the requirements to remove a parcel of land from their certification for the purpose of using 1080 baits. These areas then had to be fenced to exclude stock and use baiting techniques that prevent the movement of baits, or a CPE.
- The field days were well attended by cattle and sheep producers in the region and, more importantly, the organic certifiers were extremely supportive of the guidelines developed by the coordinator through the NWDAP.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOPS

- In early 2019 the coordinator was invited to attend predator management workshop in Peterborough organised by the Northern and Yorke NRM group as part of a federally funded project called Living Flinders. The coordinator presented a talk on the national approach and importance of working in groups to deliver coordinated programs to reduced fox and wild dog density (media release attached).
- This area is of importance as wild dogs are starting to move into the area so getting groups organised and working cooperatively is a vital strategy. Other presenters included Marty Bower, SA wild dog coordinator, and Kevin Smith, Northern and York NRM.
- The coordinator was invited to attend and take part in the South Australian Government's vertebrate pest management training course from 8–12 November 2021.
- The coordinator presented the opening talk to approximately 40 NRM and state government staff on how to effectively engage with community to deliver long-term pest management outcomes.
- The coordinator was also asked to support the course by providing information and hands-on demonstration and training for the use of canid pest ejectors, best practice wild dog management, and effective landscape approaches to fox control.

- The course was attended by Gillian Basnett, National Feral Cat and Fox Coordinator, who presented on feral cat management.
- The course is informative and was an excellent opportunity to network with the state land managers and NRM staff directly involved in on-ground pest management activities.
- What became apparent; however, was that in many instances public land managers were interested in delivering community pest management programs with neighbours adjoining their allotted public land, but they are often not given the opportunity or simply did not have the confidence to effectively engage with the adjoining landholders to deliver coordinated programs.
- As part of the debriefing process the coordinator has had discussions PIRSA staff to investigate opportunities whereby following the delivery of this course we may be able to support some of the public land manager staff to deliver community programs back in their local area.
- In doing so, we may be able to create a culture whereby public land managers and their staff are actively engaged in delivering or supporting coordinated landscape management programs rather than just focusing on pest management on their own lands.

NORTHERN TERRITORY

1080 BAIT ALLOCATIONS AND STATE WILD DOG ADVISORY GROUP

- The coordinator was invited to attend the NTCA branch meetings in 2020 at the request of Adam Bowen, the NTCA representative on the NWDAP Coordination committee. The coordinator attended meetings in Alice Springs, Tennant Creek, Katherine and Darwin, to provide an overview of the NWDAP, its activities, and current best practice techniques in managing wild dogs in rangeland environments.
- At these meetings NTCA members raised concerns with the coordinator that current government policies had changed regarding the use of 1080 with significant reductions in the number of baits permitted under the PAMA permit process.
- Many NTCA members at these meetings had worked closely with the coordinator in 2013 when the NT government worked with the coordinator to review bait allocation. The resulted in an increase in the number of baits being permitted on properties in line with current best practice, due to the escalation in wild dog impacts on calf production.
- The then permitted allocation of one bait per 3 km² or 25 baits per water point twice a year was significantly inadequate to effectively manage the wild dog/dingo population on cattle properties within the Northern Territory.
- The inadequacy of that level of baiting was of great concern considering that 50% of the Northern Territory is uncontrolled due to dingoes being protected on state lands, including national park, Indigenous lands, and unoccupied state land.
- As a result of those negotiations bait rates were increased to include 10 baits per linear kilometre for aerial and ground baiting applications as well, if necessary, the addition of 25 baits per water point for baiting per year. This was on the provision that all aerial and ground baiting lines were adequately marked or identified on maps that accompanied the PAMA application.
- These rates were agreed to and signed off by government in 2013–14 and were documented in chemical standards review and put up on departmental websites at the time.
- Pastoralists and graziers were considerably happier with this level of control, which anecdotally was then reflected in a reduction in stock attacks, calf damage and dog bites.
- Permits approved in the two years following those changes in bait rates were given for a period of five years.
- Government regulations changed in 2015 with what appears to be very little or no consultation with industry resulting in bait allocations being reduced back to those pre-2013. The NTCA and pastoralists were unaware of these changes until their permits were due to expire in late 2020. Upon reapplying with the same permit applications and maps outlining where they intended to aerial bait, ground bait, and bait around water points, only to have their allocations significantly reduced.
- In some cases, pastoral properties had the bait allocations reduced by over three-quarters of the previous permit allocations causing significant alarm among the industry that wild dog populations will once again explode causing significant impacts on calf production and herd health.
- The NT government established a committee to review the current bait allocations under the PAMA permit system and placed a 12-month moratorium on any changes to bait allocations while the newly formed NT Wild Dog Advisory committee reviewed the current policy.
- At the request of NTCA, the National Wild Dog Coordinator was invited by the Minister for Agriculture to sit on the committee. The request was because the NTCA were concerned that the industry representation on the committee did not have sufficient background into the current regulations use and research on 1080 and wild dog management across the country to properly advise NT Government on the decision surrounding access to 1080 and bait allocation of pastoral properties within the state.

- The first meeting of the committee was held on 30 November 2021. The coordinator still has some concerns that the NT Government is trying to restrict access and reduce the allocations of baits to cattle producers in the Northern Territory based purely on negative social media interaction rather than on best practice advice or sound research.
- Some consideration has been given to an adaptive allocation calculation to provide the variances in the number of baits given to landholders based on potential wild dog populations, proximity to uncontrolled public, as well as taking into consideration habitat and food availability, and potential to carry large numbers of wild dogs.
- No formal decisions have been made as yet with negotiations and discussion continuing between the committee members.

TRAINING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOPS

- The Northern Territory was one of the few places the Queensland-based coordinator could visit during the COVID-19 pandemic and, as such, several best practice wild dog management workshops were held in conjunction with NTCA.
- Workshops were held at Douglas Daly research station, Katherine, in April 2021 and due to restrictions, the Alice Springs workshop was conducted online in November that year. These workshops were organised, and promoted by Business Development Officer, Hannah Murray, and were quite successful.
- Attendance was varied with hay cutting in the Douglas Daly limiting attendance, while the Katherine workshop was extremely successful with over 20 pastoralists in attendance.
- Despite the concerns about the bait allocations under the current permits, the day was very successful with Adam Bowen providing demonstrations on trap setting and the coordinator allowing people a chance to try setting the CPEs.
- The CPEs were a real hit with this group as many had wild dogs and roaming domestic dogs regularly visiting homesteads and often attacking pets and poddy calves. Baiting in these areas isn't appropriate but they like the idea of the CPEs as they could be shifted and easily removed or disarmed if they were using their working dogs in the area.
- The webinar for the Alice Springs members was focused on using 1080 on organic properties under the guidelines for feral animal management.
- The webinar was hosted by NTCA and delivered in response to a number of failed attempts to host a face-to-face field day in the region due to COVID-19 and other events in the region.
- A significant number of producers within the central area of the Northern Territory are organically certified and have been experiencing large impacts of wild dog populations in the region.
- A representative from the organic industry NASAA certification company, Tammy Partridge, provided comments on the organic property planning templates that are required for landholders to get permission to use 1080 the fenced off exclusion areas.



Adam Bowen demonstrates how to set a dog trap with cattle producers at the NTCA workshop in Katherine.

VICTORIA

VICTORIAN STATE WILD DOG MANAGEMENT ADVISORY GROUP

- The National Wild Dog Management Coordinator was an active observer on the Victorian Wild Dog Advisory Group (VWD MAG) between August 2017 and November 2019.
- The coordinator applied to be the research committee member but was advised that members had to be residents from the state which made the coordinator ineligible.
- The committee comprised the Chair, Ron Harris, and four landholder representatives, two from north east and two from Gippsland, as well as a dingo conservation member and a research ecologist.
- The chair invited the coordinator to be an observer on the committee as the wild dog management expert and to provide evidence and process information on wild dog management activities both in Victoria and nationally.
- The committee was tasked with two key management issues. The first being whether to continue the governments wild dog bounty program, and if it is to be continued then how it could be improved.
- Secondly, the committee was asked to review aerial baiting, its ongoing need, expansion into new areas, and commence the *EPBC Act* referral process prior to the current one expiring in 2018.
- While not a great supporter of open bounties, the coordinator has supported the Victorian Bounty as it is used in conjunction with other control tools as part of a well-managed strategic and coordinated landscape approach to wild dog management.
- The committee, while raising some concerns about the validity of where the scalp was collected, voted in favour of supporting a Smart bounty which required participants to record data more accurately. The final paper to support the ongoing 'smart' bounty was endorsed via a teleconference on 14 December 2018.
- Discussions on the continuing aerial baiting was much more contested with the dingo conservation member, Ernest Healy (president of the Dingo Conservation Society), and the research ecologist, Euan Ritchie, putting up a range of arguments to cease aerial baiting.
- These arguments were often based on ill-informed information and a philosophical point of view rather than scientific evidence, particularly from Mr Healy.
- Despite a range of field trips to properties that had benefited from aerial baiting and others that used non-lethal control to support the wild dog program, these members, and some agency staff on the committee, failed to recognise the value of the program and were certainly not in favour of expanding the program to take in other areas that were continually impacted.
- In order to improve the level of knowledge of committee members and to investigate all options of wild dog management control, a series of forums and research presentations were provided to the committee in order to determine just how important or effective aerial baiting was to the Victorian wild dog program.
- Presentations were quite varied and included information on the benefits of aerial baiting for wild dog management use, aerial baiting and the lack of impact on quoll populations, the use of guardian dogs, the implementation of cluster fences in central western Queensland, the capabilities of remote sensing and drones for pest control, information on the Victorian rabbit action network, and finally research being conducted into wild dog management in Western Australia.
- Despite these forums some committee members still refused to accept that aerial baiting was effective and a vital part of the program in Victoria.
- In response, the chair commissioned Dave Ramsey (DELWP and CISS researcher) to analyse the Victorian wild dog program data on requests for assistance and wild dog impacts in areas where aerial baiting was conducted compared to those areas where it wasn't part of the local management program.

- The report showed there was a direct positive correlation that landholders within 5 km of an aerial bait line suffered less wild dog impacts than those not in the vicinity of aerial baiting.
- The August meeting of committee members agreed that aerial baiting should continue in the six approved locations under the [Victorian Wild Dog Program Aerial Baiting Program](#), and it would be advisable for the program to be extended to take in the area around Buchan where wild dog impacts continue to increase and cause stakeholders considerable losses.
- This was an area of concern because there was very limited access in the livestock protection zone on public land and as such, the wild dog program staff could not get in there to implement management activities. It was the ideal location for aerial baiting.
- Opposition to the expansion of aerial baiting program continued with two members of the committee from the conservation background consistently objecting to any expansion of the wild dog aerial baiting program.
- Additionally, staff from the Threatened Species Unit of the DELWP continued to argue against the expansion of aerial baiting in the Buchan area due to concerns that quoll populations may be negatively impacted by aerial baiting with dog-strength meat baits.
- The department staff in question and the dingo conservation members of the Victorian wild dog committee refused to acknowledge current up-to-date research and presentations by prominent quoll and wild dog management researchers from CISS and NSW NPWS that clearly demonstrates that quoll populations suffer **no negative** impacts from aerial baiting for wild dogs with 1080 meat baits.
- The committee was advised that an application to continue aerial baiting in the six approved locations was submitted to the *EPBC Act* referral team; however, debate continued regarding expansion of the program to the Buchan area.
- It was proposed that aerial baiting could be delivered in the area around Buchan as part of a research project investigating the impacts of aerial baiting on wild dogs, cats, foxes and spotted-tailed quoll populations.
- The Victorian Government has been particularly sensitive in regard to aerial baiting for wild dog management due to ongoing negative social media campaigns calling for the banning of 1080 and aerial baiting.
- These anti-1080 and anti-aerial-baiting campaigns are being led by dingo advocates who have in the past deliberately misinformed the public to justify their position. It was later identified that one of the committee members was involved in organising the 'stop the drop' anti-1080 and aerial baiting rally in Melbourne which contradicted the committee's terms of reference and was deemed a conflict of interest.
- Following the rally an open letter was written by a number of researchers calling for the banning of aerial baiting for wild dogs because they believe it has a negative impact on the role of dingoes as an apex predator and the potential to threaten quoll populations in the Victorian landscape.
- The letter was extremely one-sided and certainly did not put forward the range of viewpoints in relation to dingoes in the environment nor did it take into account research in southern New South Wales that showed clearly that aerial baiting was beneficial to quoll populations by removing competitors and predators.
- In response a letter was written by the coordinator, on behalf of Geoff Power, chair of the NWDAP Coordination Committee, in collaboration with the CISS predator management researchers, to provide a more balanced appraisal of recent research and clearly identified that aerial baiting does not threaten quoll populations.
- In one instance claims were made by these prominent researchers that aerial baiting was responsible for the decline of quoll populations across the entire state. While it is in fact true that quoll populations in Victoria have declined across the state except for the population surrounding Buchan, it is simply untrue and deliberately misleading to blame aerial baiting for the decline in other

regions of the state given it is only permitted under strict *EPBC Act* referral conditions in six specific locations where quoll are not known to occur.

- The irony being that the only places that quoll are persisting in Victoria is in the 3 km livestock protection zone where ground baiting for wild dogs and foxes currently occurs near Buchan and along the Victoria–New South Wales border in close proximity to a 40 bait per kilometre aerial bait line. So, in fact once again, one could argue that quoll in Victoria only persist as a result of effective wild dog management activities particularly the use of 1080 baits.
- The committee wasn't reconvened by the Minister for Agriculture after the meeting in November 2019.

TRAINING, PLANNING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING FIELD DAYS

- The NWDMC attended the [Victorian Wild dog management zone meetings](#) for the Mansfield, Whitfield, Omeo, Swifts Creek and Buchan-Gelantipy wild dog management groups in early March 2019.
- The coordinator provided an overview of wild dog management nationally and continued to reinforce key best practice management and the need for ongoing wild dog baiting on private and public lands.
- The AWI-funded coordinators had been concerned that participation rates had fallen and worried that people were becoming complacent, and the problem may re-emerge over time.
- These groups have quite different dynamics with the Mansfield and Whitfield groups in the north-east not doing as much coordinated baiting historically or recently as those have over in east Gippsland.
- The Gippsland group state that for Omeo, Swifts Creek and Buchan the producers adopted ground baiting on private lands much earlier and this, in conjunction with ground and aerial baiting on the public lands, has delivered huge reductions in stock loss to the point that some producers in the Omeo/Swifts Creek area have not had stock losses for over three to four years.
- In Buchan, however, it is a different story. This area is suffering continual stock loss as a result of limited access into the public land areas adjoining the private boundary interface and the fact that they have limited capacity to aerial bait in that region due to the spotted-tailed quoll.
- DELWP has a policy that they will not allow aerial baiting in areas with quoll. This policy has also been backed up by the federal department through the *EPBC Act* referral process.
- The issue of quoll and aerial baiting has been a key topic of discussion at the Victorian WDMAG meetings given recent evidence that aerial baiting has no impact on quoll populations or individuals. The committees are also aware that much of the research looking at the impact of aerial baiting on quoll has occurred in Southern Kosciusko National Park. The snowy river catchment where this work was carried out extends into Victoria where quoll are limited in their distribution and abundance yet they are thriving in NSW where they are exposed to aerial baiting at 40 baits per km and ongoing ground baiting.
- Aerial baiting would be the most appropriate control in the Buchan and Gelantipy area given its remote location and limited access. Two key criteria for its implementation in Victoria.
- Producers in this area have been heavily involved in ground baiting in the past and have been effective at reducing fox numbers residing in uncleared timber on the private properties and, as such, have reduced their ground baiting in response to the limited number of predators actively operating on their lands.
- They also have significantly greater confidence in the Victorian wild dog program trappers now due to the increased communication and networks that have been established; however, dogs continue to come out of the public lands in areas with limited access and cause problems for sheep producers.

- The Buchan and Gelantipy areas are also now experiencing impacts from feral pigs emanating from the Alpine National Park and, as such, the group in this area is looking to evolve into a pest management group rather than a wild dog management group in order to access funds and support to control feral pigs and wild dogs in their program.
- The Wild Dog Coordinators and Vic DELWP staff have organised field days between all the relevant group members as well as state and interstate public land managers to look at nil-tenure integrated management of both these species in late September.
- Despite limited opportunities because of COVID-19, best practice management field days to demonstrate current control techniques, electric and standard fencing design, and to organise coordinated baiting programs, were delivered by the AWI coordinators and DELWP wild dog controllers across the region including the following locations:
 - a. Mansfield
 - b. Cheshunt-Ryans Creek
 - c. Mitta valley
 - d. Gelantipy-Tubbut.

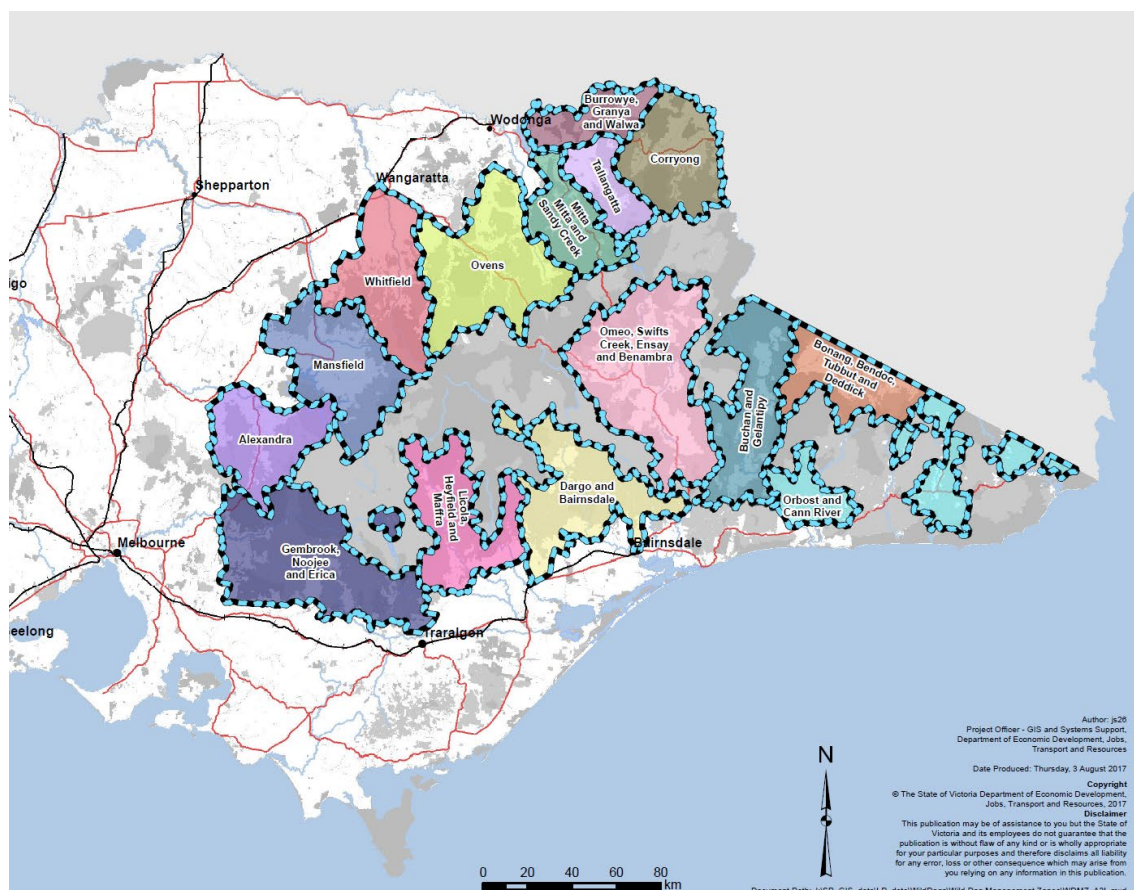


Greg Mifsud gives the landholders from the Cheshunt wild dog management group an update on the national plan and current research

- AWI and DELWP developed a series of cases studies on the rollout of their [DeFence](#) fencing program to support exclusions fencing in areas burnt out by the 2020 fires.

SUMMARY

- The [Victorian Wild Dog Program](#) continues to deliver effective integrated wild dog management programs with Dept of Environment, Land, Water and Planning staff in conjunction with community wild dog management group in the south east and north east of the state.
- Changes implemented to the control program and community group structures since the intervention by the coordinator in 2009 continue to generate management outcomes with livestock loss being kept low and community support ongoing.
- As a result of these changes and the adoption of the national approach to wild dog management there has been a 71% reduction in the number incident reports for stock attacks over the past 10 years.
- AWI-funded wild dog baiting coordinators support and organised delivery of the autumn and spring baiting campaigns with the community group members.
- March–June 2021 Coordinated Spring and Autumn Baiting Delivery Program all groups
- In 2021–22, the community based groups, involving up to 87 landholders, laid 7,700 baits subsidised by AWI that enabled 61,000 hectares of private land area to be covered.



Community wild dog management groups in Northeast and Southeast Victoria. These community groups are the focus of the DELWP wild dog management program and the zone planning meetings referred to in this summary.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The National Wild Dog Management coordinator has had significant involvement in WA in past project terms; however, engagement and face-to-face workshops in WA have been limited due to COVID-19 and the loss of the AWI-funded Coordinator. Communication and support was provided to stakeholders and networks via virtual meetings and direct communication.

SUPPORT IN DELIVERING WA GOVERNMENT FUNDING THROUGH THE WA ACTION PLAN

- On 28 November 2017 the WA Government announced \$4 million dollars for cell (cluster or exclusion) fencing in the rangeland areas.
- The coordinator facilitated contact between the WA Government department staff and the regional biosecurity association members with the RAPAD cluster-fencing program to develop guidelines and fencing standards for the WA program.
- The coordinator was asked to sit on the six-person assessment panel for the WA Cell Fencing program given the background and long history of support the coordinator had within the state.
- Announcement of the WA rangeland fencing program was expected in mid-December. No announcements were made at the time of the report being drafted.
- In November 2018 the WA Government announced the [WA Wild Dog Action Plan: Research and Development Fund](#) to investigate opportunities for new, and to improve existing, wild dog management techniques.
- The coordinator was invited to sit on the assessment panel for the research and development fund.
- The NWDMC continues to consult with DPIRD staff and researcher in relation to wild dog management activities in the state.
- Advice on ejector lure heads provided by the NWDMC based on experience from the USA were incorporated into a project delivered by Tracey Kreplins to try novel lure heads and new lure types. These new lure heads and lures were far more superior in attracting wild dogs to the CPE and triggering the device that those currently available.

NEW SOUTH WALES

COVID-19 restrictions and border lockdowns limited travel and interaction within NSW during the reporting period. While some events, meeting and workshops were achieved early in the project period very limited opportunities arose for travel between Qld and NSW once COVID-19 restrictions were implemented. Despite the restrictions the National Wild Dog Coordinator maintained strong engagement in NSW primarily through the supervision and mentoring of the two industry-funded coordinators in western NSW and the Northern Tablelands LLS regions. The coordinator also attended the NSW Pest Symposium in Coffs Harbour in 2018.

NSW GOVERNMENT FENCING INITIATIVES

- The NWDMC was invited to the NSW Farmers Western Division Council meeting in Sydney in May 2017 to provide information in the administration and funding of the state barrier and cluster fencing programs in Qld.
- There was some concern that Qld was not maintaining its Barrier Fence to the standard that NSW have come to expect.
- It was really an episode of 'he says she says' but at the end of the day the Western Division Council were concerned that Qld was spending money on cluster fencing and aerial baiting programs that should have been spent on its fence and keeping dogs out of NSW.
- However, once it was explained that the wild dog management programs were funded through local government rates and the cluster fences were funded through a 50:50 investment from landholders and state and federal funds that were not associated with the barrier fence revenue they were much less concerned.
- The barrier fence in Qld is funded through levies placed on the local government areas that border the fence or are inside of it with those dollars being matched by the Qld Government.

NSW WILD DOG BARRIER FENCE EXTENSION

- Despite the information provided to the Western Division Council and assurances that given the control programs in Qld wild dog and dingoes were not flooding out of that state into NSW, a number of Western NSW Farmers members pushed to have the NSW Wild Dog Fence extended across the NSW/Qld border.
- The coordinator was interviewed by GHD Consulting in regard to a cost-benefit analysis being undertaken by the NSW Government in relation to extending the NSW Wild Dog Barrier fence east from its current position, 420 km along the Qld border, to Mungindi, and a further 320 km south from its current position on the SA border taking it all the way to the Murray River.
- The coordinator provided the GHD Consulting with information on the extent of cluster fencing in southern and central western Qld including maps that clearly showed that the extent of fencing just north of the NSW Border all the way to central western Qld through [QFPI funding program](#).
- The network of fences developed under the QFPI program were then linked and expanded upon extensively through additional state government funding schemes, effectively creating an expansive north-south barrier to preventing wild dogs from moving out of Qld and into NSW.
- In addition to the fencing information, GHD Consulting was also provided with the scalp return data for all of the shires on the border of NSW. These shires have had well organised coordinated baiting and trapping programs as a result of local area management group developed by the coordinator in 2008. These shires have recorded data back in that period that clearly showed that there were very few or no wild dogs active in the unfenced areas adjoining the NSW Border.
- The coordinator also pointed out that **wild dogs were already established in western NSW**, a key point that the GHD consultant was not made aware of from previous interviews nor was it contained in the project brief.
- On the basis of this evidence, the coordinator strongly advised against extending the NSW Wild Dog Barrier fence from its current position on the Qld/NSW border.
- The extension south along the SA/NSW Border was a more sound proposition given that there was no cluster fencing or barriers to wild dog movement in that part of the state and as such a physical barrier between the two was a better option. Particularly given the SA fence re-alignment and need for the NSW fence to tie in with it 35 km south of its current position.
- Despite the information provided by the coordinator the feasibility study found that there would be considerable benefits to extending the dog fence by 742 km (at an assumed five per cent increase in weaning percentages), including:
 - a. • \$63 million net present value
 - b. • \$11.3 million increase in agricultural output
 - c. • \$16.2 million flow on supply chain and consumer output
 - d. • 85 jobs created through direct supply chain and flow on effects, as well as the equivalent of seven additional ongoing jobs to manage the extended fence
 - e. • community benefits including social and environmental.
- At a conservative five per cent increase in weaning percentages across livestock production sectors in the additional protected areas, the fence extension would return a positive benefit-cost ratio of 2.48 indicating the project will clearly generate a positive economic return.
- The Minister for Agriculture approved the fence extension with a public announcement and election commitment that they would fund the \$37.5 million fence construction in October 2019.
- The coordinator was not provided, nor can find, a copy of the feasibility study and would have to wonder if similar economic benefits could be achieved if the money was invested into effective on-ground management and compliance across the western division. Particularly considering that the

pest animals, wild dogs and other feral animals are now fenced into NSW and will have to be controlled regardless.

- Further information on the ongoing assessment process, community consultation and construction can be found on the [NSW Fence Extensions project site](#).
- One unintended benefit is that the Queensland producers entering into cluster-fencing programs on the border will now be able to save costs by using the brand-new NSW Dog Fence as their southern boundary.

NSW PEST ANIMAL CONFERENCE 2018

- The Coordinator and NSW regional coordinators participated in the [NSW Vertebrate Pest Symposium](#) held in Coffs Harbour in 2018.
- All of the coordinator presentations on their projects related to wild dog management and community engagement.
- The National Coordinator provided two talks:
 - a. Predator management in the mid-west USA: Is it relevant to wild dog management in Australia?
 - b. How do we get professional vertebrate pest controllers from the Cert III in Rural and Environmental Pest Management?

NSW WILD DOG COORDINATORS

- The NWDMC continued to support the two NSW-based industry-funded wild dog management coordinators during the period of this project through being a project advisory group member, supporting their regional activities and mentoring where necessary.
- In the northern NSW, Dave Worsley, Northeast NSW Wild Dog Management Coordinator, continues to work with community developing wild dog management plans with established and newly formed wild dog and vertebrate pest management groups within the Northern Tablelands, North Coast and Hunter LLS regions.
- Severe drought and later fire across the region made it difficult at times to engage effectively with landholders; however, despite those impediments Dave Worsley has successfully supported the development of over 40 wild dog management plans. These plans have been fully endorsed and signed off by all the key stakeholders both private and government.
- Similarly, the NSW Farmers Western NSW Wild Dog Coordinator, Bruce Duncan, was also actively engaged in developing community-led wild dog management plans and programs in cooperation and collaboration with state government and private landholders across the western division of NSW.
- Bruce Duncan was instrumental in getting approval and funding to aerial bait within western NSW and was the catalyst for increasing participation rates across the region.
- Both positions were successful in being awarded funding from various programs to support ongoing best practice wild dog management, from funds for aerial baiting, to capacity-building workshops across their relative regions, the coordinators were responsible for increasing participation in strategic and coordinated wild dog management.
- As a result of these capacity-building field days the coordinators significantly raised the knowledge base of land managers to implement and deliver wild dog management techniques as well as the use of the wild dog scan platform for reporting impacts and management activities.
- As a member of the AWI Project Advisory Committee (PAC) for both projects the coordinator travelled to face-to-face meetings early in the reporting period prior to COVID-19 and later by virtual meetings, to keep informed of project developments and provide strategic advice on delivery of the project.

- These AWI-funded coordinator positions were extremely successful; however, due to changes in AWI's revenue base they were no longer able to maintain the funding for both projects and after six years it looked as though they would come to an end.
- The Northern Tablelands LLS has identified that the NE coordinator position was essential for ongoing wild dog management activities in their region and approached the National Coordinator to investigate funding options. Following discussion between Hunter LLS and Northern Tablelands it was decided that a funding application would be submitted to the MLA Donor Company considering the economic value of livestock production to the state of NSW.
- Both LLS regions found funds from their budgets to contribute to the position; the National Coordinator developed a Donor company funding application, which despite the best efforts of all involved failed to be approved.
- On the basis of that the Coordinator maintained negotiations with the LLS staff and after significant consultation funds were procured from AWI to fill the funding shortfall. The Northeast Wild Dog Management coordinator project is now housed with CISS and Dave Worsley will remain the coordinator for another 2.5 years.
- Securing this position is paramount in maintaining the continuity in staff engaging with landholders in the Northern Tablelands New South Wales. One of the strengths of the coordinator model is building trust with landholders and key stakeholders within the planning areas.
- Continual changeover of staff is one of the key complaints from landholders when working on collaborative community wild dog-averted pest management programs. So it was paramount that this position was refunded for another three years in order to maintain progress made with community landscape-scale management of wild dogs within the region.
- The importance of this was clearly recognised by the LLS staff who negotiated within their own budgets to ensure funds were available and also from industry with Australian Wool Innovation once again chipping in with funding even when their budgets were under pressure.
- Unfortunately, this was not the case with the Western NSW Coordinator position and NSW Farmers were unsuccessful in obtaining funding at the time to keep the position. However, shortly after the Western LLS was awarded a project called Western Tracks to monitor the movements of feral pigs and wild dogs before and after control programs.
- NSW Farmers successfully lobbied the NSW Agriculture Minister and received funds to continue Bruce Duncan's position until June 2022. The role was more aligned to the delivery of the Western Tracks project where Bruce was responsible for the community engagement and consultation processes associated with the project.
- The majority of these funds were put towards a research program to investigate the movements of both feral pigs and wild dogs in western NSW to assist management programs in the region.
- The Western Tracks project is being supported in its development and design by NSW DPI researcher's Dr Peter Fleming and Dr Guy Ballard in cooperation with Darren Marshal from South Qld NRM to look at the feral pig ecology.
- Bruce Duncan provided logistical support for the project as well as the communication and engagement with wild dog management groups in the area in conjunction with Western LLS.

OTHER KEY NATIONAL AND STATE INITIATIVES DELIVERED

The National Wild Dog Management Coordinator plays a key role in disseminating key vertebrate pest management program information and in particular funding programs that stakeholders and the regional wild dog management coordinators may not be aware of due to being in the field or not be notified of funding announcements.

The federal government [Communities Combating Pests and Weeds](#) funding between 2018 and 2020 is one clear example. This funding was directed primarily at local government and was provided to assist local government to manage pest animals and weeds. However, in all states but Queensland, which is where the then Minister's electorate was located, management of feral and pest animals falls outside of the local government system and as such they play no role in management. This was made very clear to the Minister's office when the program was being developed; however, the advice wasn't taken on board and only local governments were eligible for the funding. Following discussions with Dept of Agriculture and Water staff it became apparent local governments in other states could apply for feral animal management projects with support from outside parties, such as the regional wild dog coordinators, as long as the council was the applicant.

Armed with this information the coordinator contacted the NWDAP stakeholders to inform them of the program and how they could support local government to apply for funds to assist with wild dog and feral animal management programs. This consultation and correspondence resulted in a well-orchestrated and collaborative range of projects being funded through the program and delivered huge benefits to communities impacted by wild dogs and feral animals, particularly in local government areas outside of Queensland that would not otherwise have applied for funding. [Round 1](#) delivered \$15 million for 48 projects in 2018–19 with [Round 2](#) of the program delivered \$10 million in 2019–20 and 2020–21 towards 23 projects.

The national and regional wild dog management coordinators played a significant role in the consultation process with local government and in some cases supported the development of the applications and rollout of the project. A couple of examples from each state include:

NSW

- Walcha Shire Council receiving \$996,000 in 2018 to rebuild 160 km of Moonah Winterbourne Escarpment fence to prevent the movement of wild dogs and feral animals from the coast onto the northern tablelands. Dave Worsley worked closely with council and the Northern Tablelands LLS staff to develop and deliver the project.
- Bourke Shire, on behalf of the nine western division councils, received \$243,000 in 2018–19 for the Western NSW combined shires community wild dog control project and a further \$926,000 for the Western Division Shires coordinated integrated wild dog program which would later also fund the Western Tracks project in 2020–21.

VICTORIA

- The East Gippsland shire were awarded \$343,000 in Round 1 for their project, East Gippsland Dog Fight–Farmers Building the Barrier, a fencing project to exclude wild dogs and to a lesser extent deer from private property.
- Benalla Shire was successful with a \$42,000 project using exclusion-fencing to improve the integrated approach to wild dog control in north-east Victoria.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- The Shire of Yalgoo was awarded \$218,000 to complete the Murchison Region Vermin Fence.
- The Shire of Ravensbourne received \$956,000 to extend the State Barrier Fence in Western Australia to the southern boundary of the shire to exclude wild dogs from key sheep-producing country.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL AND REGIONAL COORDINATORS

REGIONAL COORDINATORS AND THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The National Wild Dog Management coordinator is responsible for supporting and, in some cases, co-supervising the regional industry funded coordinator. The coordinator has been there as a mentor, colleague and, where necessary, confidant to this diligent team of people who work tirelessly to achieve community-led wild dog management. Working with people is difficult. It's difficult enough working at an individual level, but when you are trying to lead a group of people to change their behaviour and adopt a new approach which is foreign to them then it becomes even more difficult. Add to that the pressures and emotional state of those same stakeholders in the face of ongoing wild dog attacks, drought, fire, flood and low market values for their products then you have even more cause for conflict and non-participation. These impediments increase further when you take into account legislation, public land management policies and negative public opinion. The regional and national coordinators have to navigate through all of that to achieve positive community-led wild dog management and, to a lesser extent, feral animal management outcomes.

While achieving these outcomes is difficult and not without its frustrations, it is also highly rewarding on both a professional and personal level for all the coordinators. The National Coordinator has always been there to listen and provide opportunities for the coordinators to discuss the approach to managing these challenging situations when dealing with people. Alternatively, sometimes people just need to vent or get the things off their chest before they can move forward. As someone who has been there and appreciated the struggle, the coordinator has always been there to support those staff.

Over the period of this project COVID-19 has limited opportunities for the coordinator group to meet face to face. A workshop for the group was held in Toowoomba back in September 2018. A lack of funding and then COVID-19 prevented the group coming together again following that workshop. While the National Coordinator remains in direct contact with each coordinator and has had opportunities to meet face to face when travelling to the states, the group as a collective hasn't come together since 2018.

In order to improve relationships between the coordinators and to encourage them to engage with each other more regularly the coordinator implemented monthly virtual meetings. These meetings allowed each coordinator to discuss their current activities and, where necessary, raise issues and concerns that could be discussed collectively within the group. The coordinator would invite guest speakers to update the group on current research, updates on the development of new technologies or even social media. In order to make things more interactive the coordinator would send out research articles for the group to read and review and then invite the relevant authors to discuss the paper to explain their results and the research outcomes. This provides a much greater understanding of the research and the nuances of each project. That understanding placed the regional coordinators in a much better position to use the information going forward and directing people to relevant research.

While I would never underestimate the value of meeting face to face and the relationships and networking these opportunities provide, the monthly teleconferences have been very successful and the coordinators now regularly engage with each other when dealing with complex issues locally or more broadly. The coordinator group was the subject of the CISS project 'Developing and maintaining effective learning networks in invasive species management (P01-E-001)'. Please refer to this report to gain further insights into how the community of practice of wild dog coordinators was delivered and the value of the process both personally and professionally for its members.

NATIONAL COORDINATORS

The success of the National Wild Dog Management project and the NWDAP has led to the funding of additional national vertebrate pest coordinators and national plans. This project is the blueprint for the delivery of each of the new coordinators and as such the National Wild Dog Management Coordinator has been supporting and mentoring these national coordinators, just as was done with the regional wild dog coordinator positions. Additionally, these national coordinators have not been integrated into the community of practice where necessary and the National Wild Dog Management Coordinator continues to introduce the

new coordinators to the large state and local networks involved in community-led management and where possible inviting and including them in field days and workshops to promote multi-species management programs. A monthly meeting has also been instigated to provide discussions and dialogue across all of the national vertebrate coordinator programs and, where necessary, bounce ideas of each other. This will continue into the future.

APPENDIX 1. 170 EVENTS DELIVERED TO 2,400 PEOPLE

| Date | Location | Event type/name | Event details | Approx. # of participants |
|------------|--|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 09/10/2018 | Coffs Harbour | NSW Vertebrate Pest Symposium | Predator management in the mid-west USA: Is it relevant to wild dog management in Australia? | N/A |
| 09/10/2018 | Coffs Harbour | NSW Vertebrate Pest Symposium | How do we get professional vertebrate pest controllers from the Cert III in Rural and Environmental Pest Management? | N/A |
| 27/11/2018 | Warloch Station NT | Workshop | Roper River Landcare wild dog workshop | 23 |
| 06/02/2019 | Peterborough SA | Workshop | Northern and Yorke Predator management workshop | 21 |
| 29–30/4/19 | Canberra | Conference | The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources–‘Tales of success, challenges and future directions for established pest animal and weed management’. Presented paper entitled The NWDAP 2014–2019 Importance of trust and relationships for delivery of an industry led national strategy. | 100+ |
| 27/06/2019 | Mudgee, NSW | Workshop | NSW LLS Vertebrate Pest Coordinator workshop | 30 |
| 05/03/2019 | Mansfield, Whitfield, Omeo, Benambra, Swifts Creek, Ensay, Buchan, Gelantipy | Workshops | Victorian Wild Dog Management Zone Planning meetings | 85 |
| 11/07/2019 | Perth | Meeting | AWI/DPIRD wild dog management and delivery inside fence | 5 |
| 25/07/2019 | Brisbane | Meeting | MLA Adoption team meeting to develop Predator Management PDS | 5 |
| 29/07/2019 | Armidale | Project Advisory Committee Meeting | NE Wild dog Coordinator PAC meeting | 6 |
| 05/08/2019 | Sydney | Meeting | NWDAP preliminary writing group meeting | 5 |
| 07/08/2019 | Brisbane | Meeting | Qld Feral Pest Initiative Meeting | 10 |
| 19/08/2019 | Brisbane | Workshop/Forum | MLA Livestock Adviser update | 45 |
| 21/09/2019 | Melbourne | Meeting | Vic Wild Dog Management Advisory Group Meetings | 12 |
| 28/09/2019 | Phone | Teleconference | NSW Farmers Sheep and Wool Board | 25 |
| 29/08/2019 | Sydney | Meeting | NWDAP Writing Group meeting for draft NWDAP 2020–30 | 9 |
| 03/09/2019 | Sydney | Workshop Forum | SALRC workshop in Sydney | 25 |
| 17/09/2019 | Barcaldine, Qld | Field trip | RAPAD cluster fence tour with SA Barrier Fence Rebuild committee | 18 |
| 08/10/2019 | Brisbane | Meeting | Met with Teys Aust. staff to discuss wild dog impacts on meat processing industry and how NWDAP can work with Teys to promote improved wild dog management outcomes | 6 |
| 15/10/2019 | Armidale | Meeting | NE Wild dog Coordinator project advisory group meeting | 9 |
| 10/10/2019 | Brisbane | Meeting | QDOG meeting | 12 |
| 29/10/2019 | Hamilton, Vic | Field trip/video filming | Filming video on use of muzzles for sheep dogs | 3 |
| 04/11/2019 | Brisbane | Meeting | Qld Wild Dog Strategy Review workshops | 8 |
| 01/11/2019 | Port Augusta | Teleconference | SAWDAG meeting | 10 |

| Date | Location | Event type/name | Event details | Approx. # of participants |
|------------|--------------------------|--|--|---------------------------|
| 18/11/2019 | Ballan, Vic | Meeting/workshop | VFF livestock meeting for southern region. Presentation and demo on CPE use | 23 |
| 20/11/2019 | Melbourne | Meeting | Vic WDMAG meeting | 12 |
| 27/11/2019 | Canberra | Meeting/delegation | With Geoff Power (Chair NWDA PCC) met with Hon Susan Ley, Dr Sally Box and advisers to discuss wild dog management plan and related issues | 5 |
| 28/01/2020 | Sydney | NWDAP Coordination Committee and PAC | National Action Plan development and project direction | 15 |
| 05/02/2020 | Brisbane | Qld Dog Offensive Group (QDOG) | State wild dog management committee development of state strategy | 12 |
| 18/02/2020 | Picola, Vic | Upper Goulburn producer demonstration site field day | Predator management field day and invitation to participate on MLA Lifting lamb survival through fox control PDS | 25 |
| 24/02/2020 | Adelaide | EIC Face-to-Face Meeting | EIC meeting to review action plan and request to support brief to National Biosecurity Committee | 30 |
| 25/02/2020 | Port Augusta | SA Wild Dog Advisory Group (SAWDAG) | State wild dog committee, deliberating on changes to Landscapes Act, Minimum requirements for wild dog baiting and animal welfare policy | 12 |
| 27/02/2020 | Canberra | Wool Producers Australia Board Meeting | Gave presentation on current activities of NWDAP including its review and renewal as well as information on wild dog control activities across the country. | 15 |
| 02/03/2020 | Brisbane | QDOG action plan writing group | Developing and writing first draft of Qld State Wild Dog Strategy | 6 |
| 11/03/2020 | Goondiwindi | Meeting | Discussing wild dog management in the shire including restructuring the local wild dog committee based on new areas of dog impact due to cluster fencing. | 4 |
| 17/03/2020 | Shelley, Vic | Hume Wild Dog Management Zone planning meeting | Local area wild dog management plan meeting and presentation on NWDAP | 10 |
| 18/03/2020 | Mansfield, Victoria (am) | Mansfield Wild Dog Management Zone planning meeting | Local area wild dog management plan meeting and presentation on current aerial baiting and wild dog research on behalf of Peter Fleming who was not permitted to travel due to COVID-19 | 15 |
| 18/03/2020 | Whitfield, Victoria (pm) | Cheshunt Wild Dog Management Zone planning meeting | Local Aarea wild dog management plan meeting and presentation on current aerial baiting and wild dog research on behalf of Peter Fleming who was not permitted to travel due to COVID-19 | 20 |
| 19/03/2020 | Mudgegonga, Victoria | Ovens Wild Dog Management Zone planning meeting | Local area wild dog management plan meeting and presentation on current aerial baiting and wild dog research on behalf of Peter Fleming who was not permitted to travel due to COVID-19 | 10 |

| Date | Location | Event type/name | Event details | Approx. # of participants |
|------------|------------------|---|--|---------------------------|
| 30/03/2020 | Video Conference | National Feral Pig Action plan development stakeholder meeting. | Initial meeting to inform stakeholders of plan development and provision of insights from NWDAP | 35 |
| 01/04/2020 | Video Conference | MLA PDS development meeting Biloela, Qld | Video meeting to discuss development of PDS and look at what we can deliver and monitor through the project | 8 |
| 08/04/2020 | Video conference | Qld Wild Dog coordinator Project Advisory Group | Review progress and direction of Qld Wild Dog coordinator project | 6 |
| 05/05/2020 | Video Conference | NWDAP Coordination Committee | Committee met to review edits to NWDAP and intergovernmental processes to gain endorsement | 18 |
| 11/05/2020 | Video Conference | SAWDAG meeting | Review submissions to public consultation process for <i>Landscape Act</i> changes and minimum baiting guidelines | 12 |
| 28/05/2020 | Video Conference | Wild Dog Coordinator Monthly Meeting and webinar | First meeting of coordinators to develop a team environment, community of practice, and update them on current research, its implications for wild dog management and public opinion | 14 |
| 10/06/2020 | Video Conference | Meeting to discuss aerial baiting in SA | Intergovernmental meeting to discuss best practice aerial baiting and timing for SA program given extra budget for an additional program | 6 |
| 18/06/2020 | Video Conference | Meeting | Discussing PDS development, coordinator funding and recording dog impacts in abattoirs | 4 |
| 23/06/2020 | Toowoomba | Meeting | Meeting to discuss how to increase participation in wild dog control within Toowoomba Regional Council Area | 2 |
| 16/04/2020 | Online | Webinar | Sheep Connect NSW 'wild dog control 101' Greg Mifsud and Dave Worsley | 45 |
| 05/03/2020 | Online | Webinar | Ag Vic Best Wool Best Lamb Webinar 'Best Predator management' | 60 |
| 14/07/2020 | Zoom-Brisbane | Meeting | Qld Feral Pest Initiative Committee (QFPI) meeting | 10 |
| 28/07/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | Qld Dog Offensive Group Meeting (QDOG is the state wild dog committee) | 12 |
| 24/08/2020 | Alice Springs | Branch meeting | NTCA Alice Springs Branch Committee meeting | 28 |
| 25/08/2020 | Tennant Creek | Branch meeting | NTCA Barkly Committee meeting | 18 |
| 27/08/2020 | Katherine | Branch Meeting | NTCA Victoria River and Katherine Branch meeting | 26 |
| 03/09/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | SALRC chairs and stakeholder meeting | 35 |
| 04/11/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | NTCA briefing on changes to 1080 baiting applications | 4 |
| 15/09/2020 | Zoom | Project Advisory Group Meeting | NSW Western Region Wild Dog Coordinator Project Advisory group (PAG) | 12 |
| 22/09/2020 | Zoom | PAG Meeting | Northern NSW Wild Dog Coordinator PAG | 10 |
| 22/09/2020 | Goondiwindi | Meeting | Goondiwindi Regional Council Wild Dog Committee meeting | 18 |
| 24/09/2020 | Zoom | Workshop | DELWP 'What's New in Canid Control' | 40 |

| Date | Location | Event type/name | Event details | Approx. # of participants |
|------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 07/10/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | QFPI Oversight committee meeting | 13 |
| 19/10/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | SA State Wild Dog Management meeting | 13 |
| 23/10/2020 | Zoom | PAG Meeting | AgForce Qld Wild Dog Coordinator PAG | 8 |
| 26/10/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | MLA Biloela PODS project steering committee | 6 |
| 27/10/2020 | Zoom | PAG Meeting | Behaviourally effective Wild Dog engagement PAG | 10 |
| 27/10/2020 | Zoom | Stakeholder meeting | NFAP Stakeholder forum | 52 |
| 18/09/2020 | Zoom | Stakeholder meeting | NWDAP Coordination Committee Meeting and PAG | 26 |
| 28/09/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | Meeting with Qld Minister for Agriculture about ongoing funding for coordinators | 3 |
| 09/10/2020 | Gawler Ranges, SA | Workshops | SA Govt workshops to demonstrate use of 1080 on organic properties | 18 |
| 11/11/2020 | William Creek, SA | Workshops | SA Govt workshops to demonstrate use of 1080 on organic properties | 24 |
| 12/11/2020 | Maree, SA | Workshops | SA Govt workshops to demonstrate use of 1080 on organic properties | 18 |
| 17/11/2020 | Zoom | Project Advisory Group | AgForce Qld Wild Dog coordinator PAG | 9 |
| 20/11/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | Meeting with VFF and NWDAP team to discuss proposal to reintroduce dingoes into Grampians | 8 |
| 23/11/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | QDOG and Qld Health meeting to discuss 1080 permit system | 22 |
| 01/12/2020 | Iron Pot, Qld | Workshop | South Burnett Regional Council pest management workshop | 28 |
| 02/12/2020 | Brisbane | Meeting | QFPI committee meeting | 12 |
| 03/12/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | NTCA meeting to discuss 1080 allocations | 4 |
| 04/10/2020 | Zoom | meeting | EIC meeting to discuss NWDAP reporting requirements. | 25 |
| 14/12/2020 | Zoom | PAG Meeting | NSW Western Region Wild Dog Coordinator PAG | 13 |
| 14/12/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | MLA Biloela PDS project participant meeting | 12 |
| 15/12/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | QDOG meeting | 15 |
| 16/12/2020 | Zoom | PAG meeting | Victorian Wild Dog Coordinators PAG | 10 |
| 17/12/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | NTCA and chemical standards branch staff meeting to discuss changes in 1080 allocation under PAMA permits | 5 |
| 18/12/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | Northern NSW Wild Dog Coord funding meeting | 5 |
| 11/03/2021 | Zoom | Meeting | MLA Mansfield PDS project meeting | |
| 19/01/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | Sheep Sustainability review meeting | 12 |
| 27/01/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | NTCA and Director Biosecurity and animal welfare meeting to discuss changes in 1080 allocation under PAMA permits | 6 |
| 01/02/2021 | Zoom | Meeting | MLA NB2 project team meeting | 8 |
| 29/10/2020 | Zoom | Meeting | NWDA PCC meeting to introduce new members. | 24 |
| 04/02/2021 | Mansfield, Vic | Workshop | Less Predators More Lambs PGS (LPML) meeting | 14 |
| 11/02/2021 | Via video link | Meeting | Terrestrial Vertebrate Pest Working Group meeting to ratify NWDAP reporting requirements | 15 |
| 22/02/2021 | Parliament House Canberra | CISS Showcase | CISS showcase to promote current activities in the wild dog management portfolio projects. | Lots |

| Date | Location | Event type/name | Event details | Approx. # of participants |
|------------|---------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 23/02/2021 | Canberra Uni | Meeting | CISS Board Meeting | 20 |
| 03/03/2021 | Mansfield, Vic | Property visits | LPML PDS–Property visits to assist landholders with development of fox control programs | 5 |
| 04/03/2021 | Mansfield, Vic | Property visits | LPML PGS Property visits to assist landholders with development of fox control programs | 6 |
| 05/03/2021 | Bonnie Doon, Vic | Workshop | LPML workshops to develop property plans, use feral scan and review best practice fox management techniques including baiting, ejectors and trapping | 22 |
| 23/03/2021 | Via video link | Meeting | Qld Wild Dog Offensive Group (QDOG) meeting | 13 |
| 24/03/2021 | Gatton, Qld | Meeting | Discussion MLA NB2 project development with QAAFI researchers | 2 |
| 21/04/2021 | Douglas Daly | Field day | NTCA wild dog management field day | 10 |
| 22/04/2021 | Katherine, NT | Field Day | NTCA wild dog management field day | 24 |
| 28/04/2021 | Via video link | Meeting | NWDAP meeting to update members on funding | 15 |
| 10/05/2021 | Via video link | Meeting | Meeting with Vic DPI and key stakeholders to plan field days with bush fire recovery funding | 6 |
| 12/05/2021 | Via video link | Meeting | Qld Feral Pest Initiative (QFPI) committee meeting to deliberate on project reports from Round 5 and to review applications for Round 6 | 11 |
| 21/05/2021 | Via video link | Meeting | QFPI Round 6 Assessments day 2 | 13 |
| 25/05/2021 | Canberra via video | Conference | AVPC Conference oral presentation | |
| 26/05/2021 | Canberra/via video | Conference | AVPC Conference National Coord fire side Chat | |
| 27/05/2021 | Canberra/via video | Conference | AVPC conference oral presentation | |
| 28/05/2021 | Brisbane | Meeting | QFPI Round 6 Assessments day 3 | 14 |
| 02/06/2021 | Via video | Meeting | QFPI Round 6 Assessments and selection | 14 |
| 09/06/2021 | Via video | Meeting | Vic Wild dog Coordinators PAG meeting | 10 |
| 11/06/2021 | Via video | Meeting | SA Wild Dog Advisory Group Meeting | 14 |
| 15/06/2021 | Gatton | Meeting | With Peter Fleming met with Luis De Silva and Michael McGowan from QAAFI to discuss the NB2 wild dog project and site selection | 4 |
| 16/06/2021 | Monto, Qld | Property visits | Malcom Kennedy, Peter Fleming and Greg Mifsud met a number of property owners in the Monto/Rawbawlle area to discuss wild dog management and seek their interest in participating in NB2 research project | 6 |
| 17/06/2021 | Rawbelle/Monto, Qld | Property visits | Malcolm Kennedy, Peter Fleming and Greg Mifsud met a number of property owners in the Monto/Rawbawlle area to discuss wild dog management and seek their interest in participating in NB2 research project | 9 |
| 22/06/2021 | Via video | Meeting | QDOG | 15 |
| 14/07/2021 | Via video | Advisory group meeting | Western NSW wild dog Coordinator PAG meeting | 8 |

| Date | Location | Event type/name | Event details | Approx. # of participants |
|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 26/07/2021 | Via video | Meeting | Meeting with MLA Staff to discuss integrated R&D PDS's into NB2 project | 5 |
| 30/07/2021 | Via video | Meeting | NWDAP CC and P01-E005 steering committee meeting | 18 |
| 04/08/2021 | Via video | Advisory group meeting | NE NSW wild dog facilitator PAG | 8 |
| 12/08/2021 | Barfield Rd, Banana Qld | Workshop | Barfield Rd PDS management planning workshop | 8 |
| 18/08/2021 | Via video link | meeting | AgForce Qld Coordinators catch up | 4 |
| 20/08/2021 | Toowoomba | Meeting | Met with Ian Hurley from Telstra Ag tech hub to discuss current tech and relevance for wild dog research | 3 |
| 30/08/2021 | Via video | Workshops | UQ Wildlife conflict management course oral presentations and workshop sessions | 40 |
| 01/09/2021 | Video Link | Meeting | National Land Manager Survey, with regional coordinators and AWI | 7 |
| 02/09/2021 | Video Link | Meeting | QDOG Data collection Subcommittee meeting for Qld Wild Dog Strategy | 5 |
| 13/09/2021 | Video Link | Meeting | QDOG Community Engagement Subcommittee meeting for Qld Wild Dog Strategy | 5 |
| 16/09/2021 | Video Link | Meeting | AgForce Qld Coordinator Project Progress meeting | 4 |
| 15/09/2021 | Video Link | Meeting | National Land Manager Survey, with regional coordinators and AWI | 5 |
| 20/10/2021 | Banana | Field day | Wild dog management field days with producers in the MLA Barfield Rd producer demonstration site | 13 |
| 22/10/2021 | Video Link | Meeting | AgForce Qld Coordinator Project funding discussions | 4 |
| 25/10/2021 | Roma | Extension booth | AgForce wild dog coordinator for South West and National; Coordinator set up an extension table at the Roma sale yards to engage cattle producers and agents about wild dog management | 35 |
| 29/10/2021 | Video Link | Meeting | Meeting with DAWE Invasive Species team and Environment staff to discuss national coordination and how it might look into the future. | 12 |
| 05/11/2021 | Via video link | Meeting | Meeting with Nigel Tomkins from MLA about the NB2 project | 2 |
| 08/11/2021 | Adelaide | Field days and training | Attended PIRSA vertebrate pest training course to present talks and train government staff in best practice wild dog management | 54 |
| 18/11/2021 | Via video link | Meeting | Victorian Wild Dog Coordinator Project Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting | 6 |
| 25/11/2021 | Hughenden, Qld | Symposium | MLA NB2 Calves Alive participants symposium and community field day | 25 |
| 26/11/2021 | Hughenden Qld | Field day | MLA NB2 Calves Alive participants symposium and community field day | 60 |
| 30/11/2021 | Webinar, Alice Springs | Webinar | NTCA wild dog management on organic properties webinar | 28 |
| 30/11/2021 | Video Link, Darwin | Meeting | NT Government Wild Dog Management Working Group | 10 |
| 01/12/2021 | Video Link | Meeting | National Stakeholder Survey Development | 6 |

| Date | Location | Event type/name | Event details | Approx. # of participants |
|------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| 03/12/2021 | Via video | Meeting | Debrief with industry members of the NT Wild dog Management Working Group | 4 |
| 09/12/2021 | Via video | Meeting | NWDA CC meeting and National Coordinator PAC | 18 |
| 21/12/2021 | Via video | Meeting | Discussion with Bever Arthur MO about the proposed reintroduction of dingoes into the Grampians | 3 |
| 20/01/2022 | Video Link | Meeting | MLA Barfield Rd producer group update and reporting | 8 |
| 25/01/2022 | Video Link | Meeting | National Vertebrate pest coordinators monthly catch up | 4 |
| 03/02/2022 | Via video | Meeting | National and Regional Wild dog coordinator monthly catch up | 6 |
| 08/02/2022 | Via video | meeting | National Stakeholder Survey Development | 6 |
| 09/02/2022 | Via video, Brisbane | Meeting | QFPI oversight committee meeting | 10 |
| 16/08/2022 | Video Link, Vic | Webinar | Participated in a Lower Snowy Landcare webinar on quoll in Victoria | 18 |
| 22/02/2022 | Via video link | Meeting | National Stakeholder Survey Development | 4 |
| 02/02/2022 | Video link | Meeting | National Vertebrate Pest Coordinators monthly catch up | 4 |
| 13/01/2022 | Video | Meeting | Meeting of the NWDA team and Richard Price to discuss online community consultation for NWDA future directions | 5 |
| 12/01/2022 | Video | Meeting | Online meeting with Inmarsat telecommunications to discuss camera imaging in remote areas. | 8 |
| 9/2/22 | Brisbane | Meeting | QFPI Meeting | 11 |
| 2/3/22 | Video | Workshop | NWDAP team and CISS to work out Mural workshop | 5 |
| 16/3/22 | Video | Meeting/workshops | DELWP Wild dog zone and program workshop | 28 |
| 22/3/22 | Video | Meeting | QDOG meeting online | 13 |
| 30/3/22 | Video | Forum/workshop | NWDAP forum with key stakeholders to prioritise NWDAP activities from stakeholder consultation survey. | 30 |
| 4–6/4/22 | Canberra | Conference | CISS stand at NFF conference | 50 |
| 3–6/5/22 | Katherine/Mataranka NT | Workshops/field visit | Attended field visit and meetings with NT chem standards staff, NTCA and Cave Creek station | 8 |
| 21–25/6/22 | North-east, Vic | Workshops | Attended Vic Dept Ag feral pig and fox workshops in Whitfield and Walwa. | 60 |
| 24/6/22 | Bonnie Doon, Vic | Meeting | Meeting with the Less Predator More lambs PDS group | 9 |

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