

# Dog Fence Board

## Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

28 August 2023 – 11 December 2023



## Dog Fence Board – Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

Information current as of 11 December 2023

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## Objective

This report, prepared by the Dog Fence Board, provides Dog Fence stakeholders with a quarterly summary of Board and staff activities, and Dog Fence maintenance and repair activities undertaken by Local Dog Fence Boards and the private owner.

## Key Activities

During the reporting period:

- Patrolmen deployed approximately 3,600 baits along the fence.
- Continued herbicide project – One applicator about to be deployed, four additional units being built.
- Procurement of 2.5 ton granulated herbicide for Penong fence treatment.
- Coober Pedy depot repairs and upgrades.
- Completed procurement of forklift for Coober Pedy depot.
- Completed work on Stage 2 Cyclone Tiffany flood repairs on the Marree and Frome sections.
- Started work on a new and improved method of digital reporting for Patrolmen and dashboard for ease of information access.
- Collection of Dog Fence rates. Notices for the 2023/24 financial year issued 16 October.
- Met with CFS representatives to discuss fuel hazard management on the Dog Fence.
- Worked on surveying and plotting new fence realignments and updating condition monitoring.
- Assisted Frome Local Dog Fence Board with recruitment and field induction of its new Patrolman contractor.
- Surveyed Erudina fence section for upcoming sand drift management (Frome LDFB).

# Inspections and Patrols

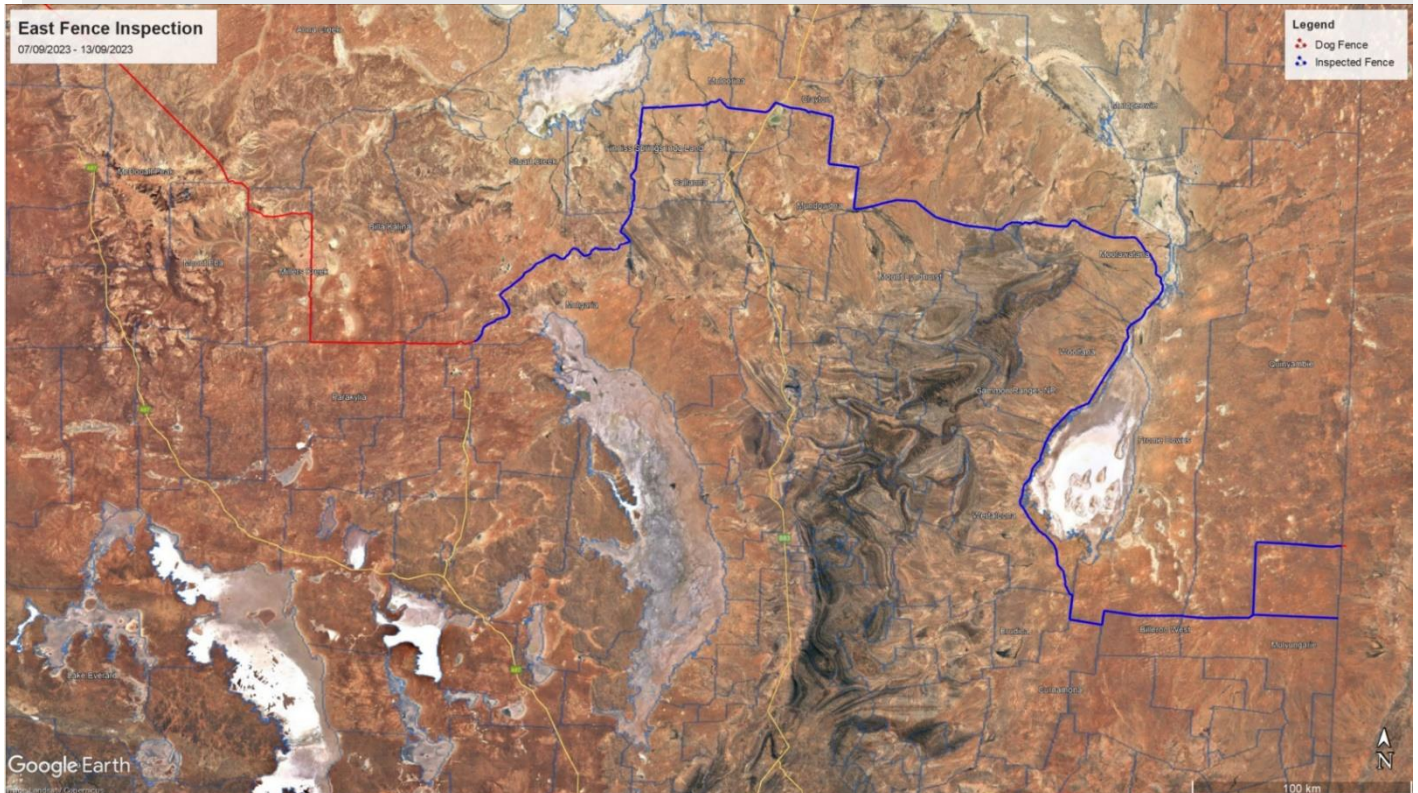
During the reporting period the Dog Fence Board undertook the following inspections:

## Eastern Fence Inspection 07/09/2023 – 14/09/2023

Section/s Inspected: Central, Marree, Frome - 860 km approx.

Inspected by: Dog Fence Inspector

- Noted increased kangaroo pressure from the North.
- 1 grid alarm on Oodnadatta Track was vandalised, 1 alarm still operational. Replacement PIR sensor sent to Patrolman to install.
- Observed brumby/horse tracks – Mundowdna.
- Met with Contractor finishing floodgates and fence replacement on Mt Freeling section (Marree LDFB) and starting Stage 12 of rebuild (Moolawatana).
- Increased camel numbers around Moolawatana / Lake Callabonna.
- Met with Frome Patrolman.
- Surveyed Frome Fence for flood repairs.

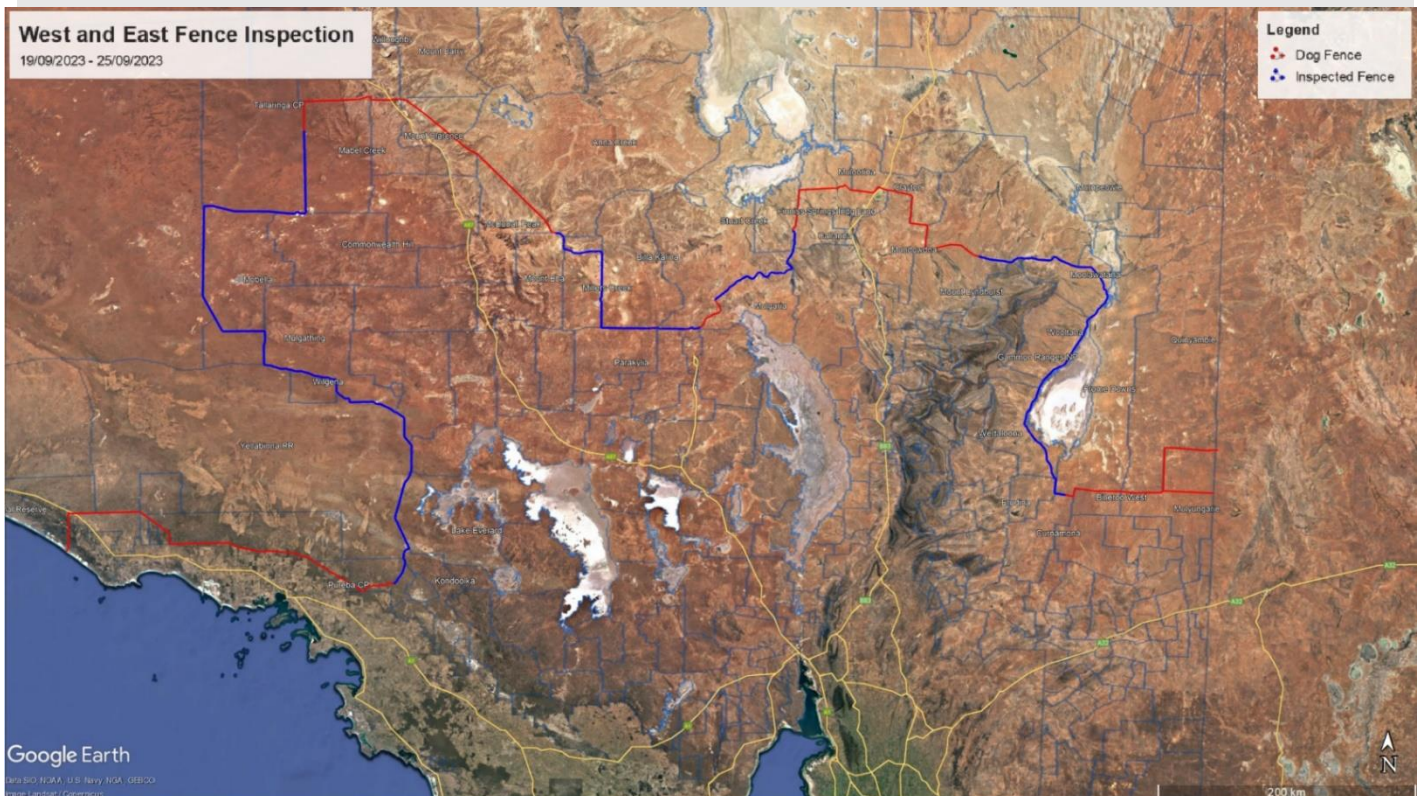


## West and East Fence Inspection 19/09/2023 – 25/09/2023

Section/s Inspected: Penong, Northwest Private, Central, Marree, Frome – 1170 km approx.

Inspected by: Dog Fence Inspector, Penong Local Dog Fence Board

- Met with Penong Local Dog Fence Board and joined them on their Fence inspection trip.
- Met with Rebuild Contractors replacing the Lake Everard section.
- Noted stump regrowth occurring on Malbooma section of fence rebuilt ~2019 (NWP), property manager notified.
- Minor camel damage sustained to Mobella/Commonwealth Hill Fence (NWP), fixed.
- Visited Coober Pedy depot to take measurements for repair to wall lining and for storage racking.
- Met with Central LDFB Patrolman.
- Met with contractors working on the flood repairs (Frome).
- Inspected sections of fence are dog-proof unless stated otherwise; grid alarms operational.



**Eastern Fence Inspection and Frome Patrolman Induction 29/11/2023 – 07/12/2023**

Section/s Inspected: Central, Marree, Frome – 860 km approx.

Inspected by: Dog Fence Inspector

- Met with materials supplier.
- Mapped new fence alignments and maintenance tracks.
- Noted the use of new pegs on curling lap mesh in Marree section.
- 1 day maintenance and repairs at Lyndhurst depot.
- Inspected and mapped newly replaced floodgates.
- Met with fencing Contractor working on the Marree/Frome flood repairs and Stage 12 of Rebuild.
- Met with Marree LDFB Patrolman – discussed future 1080 bait preparation options.
- Met with Frome LDFB Patrol team – discussed the creation of an annual work plan and options for improving/digitising patrol reports.
- Inspected and plotted addition fence to be replaced under Rebuild project (Vulkathunha-Gammon Ranges/Wertaloon).
- Inspected completed sand drift management works - Frome LDFB.
- Met with Station Manager (Erudina) who completed the Erudina sand drift management works.
- Reinspected herbicide trials (Frome).





Rebuild floodgate (Marree)



Lap mesh being pinned down by new pegs



## Local Dog Fence Boards & Private owner

During the reporting period:

- The fence was inspected at a minimum of every 14 days by the Penong, Northwest Private, Central, Marree and Frome Patrolmen.
- Patrolmen baited at a rate of 1 bait per 1 km, or 1 bait per 200 m where there was dog activity.
- Patrolmen reported wild dog activity in Penong and Marree sections.
- Increased kangaroo pressure north of the fence, particularly Marree and Frome.

## Dog Fence Rebuild

As of 8 December, 938.5 kilometres of fence rebuild has been completed and the rebuild of an additional 172 kilometres of fence is underway.

The rebuild of Stage 12 has commenced; Stage 12 is a 30-kilometre section of fence adjacent to Mount Freeling and Moolawatana pastoral leases in the north Flinders Ranges. Much of this stage was damaged by floodwaters in January 2022 and temporary repairs were completed at the time to ensure the fence remained dog-proof. The work to be completed under the rebuild project will see these temporary repairs replaced with permanent fencing to the rebuild standard.

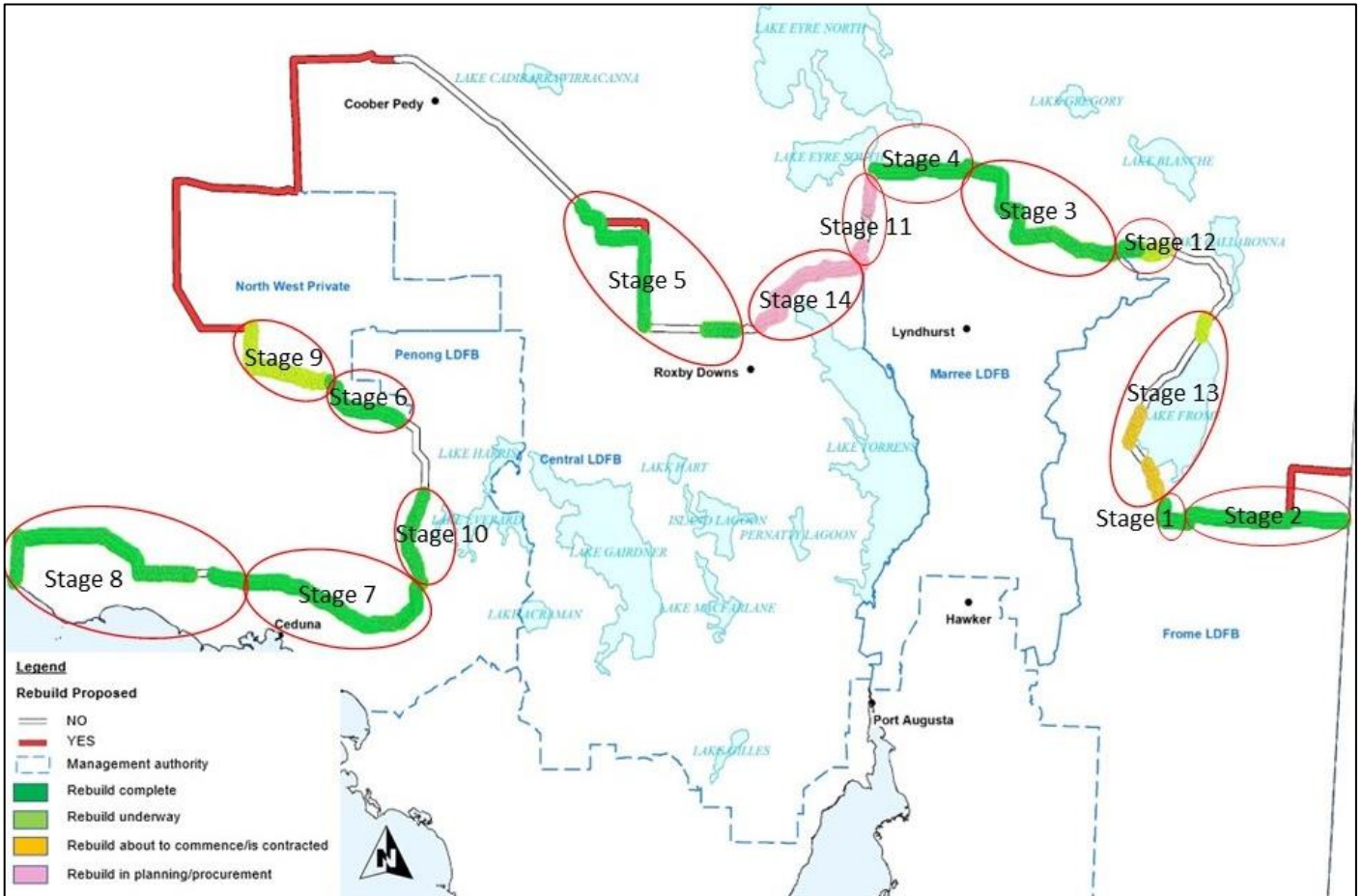
Materials, equipment and machinery have been moved to Stage 9 and started works in early November. Stage 9 is 84 kilometres long, with about 59 kilometres running alongside the Tarcoola road and the Trans-Australian railway before the fence turns north for the remaining 25 kilometres.

Stage 13 works commenced on 20 November. This stage runs along the western shore of Lake Frome and comprises four sections of fence that together will give us another 68 kilometres of rebuilt fence. About 54 kilometres will be completely rebuilt, with the remaining 14 kilometres gaining a new lap. Running alongside a salt lake means that some of the fence will be constructed using timber posts, which are better suited to saline soils, and other sections will use steel posts.

Stage 10 (adjacent to Lake Everard; 63 kilometres) is complete and the wombat fencing associated with Stage 8 (154 kilometres) is almost complete.

### **Progress as of 8 December 2023**

Rebuild completed	938.5 km
Rebuild underway	172 km
Rebuild about to commence/contracted	0 km
Rebuild planning/procurement underway	152 km



## Conclusion

The Dog Fence Board will focus efforts in coming months on:

- Implementing a weed control program across the fence.
- Deploying prototype herbicide applicator to Penong LDFB to apply herbicide on rebuilt sections.
- Continuation of Dog Fence Rebuild.
- Research sand drift management options.
- Improvements to Patrolman recording, reporting and dashboard for information access.
- Relocate leftover flood repair materials to containers along fence.
- Stocking Coober Pedy depot with materials.
- Collection of 2023/24 Dog Fence rates.