

Dog Fence Board

Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

5 February 2024 – 13 May 2024



Dog Fence Board – Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

Information current as of 13 May 2024

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Objective

This report, prepared by the Dog Fence Board, provides Dog Fence stakeholders with a quarterly report summarising 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 3,200 baits along the fence.
- Completed sand clearing – Erudina (Frome LDFB)
- Continued herbicide project – 1 applicator sent to Central LDFB, remaining units for Marree, Frome and Northwest Private completed and awaiting delivery.
- Continued procurement for 9000kg of granulated herbicide, market approach scheduled for 29th May, delivery of stock late July.
- Completed procurement and delivery of drill pipe to Coober Pedy depot for emergency stockpile.
- Completed procurement and delivery of creek mesh, droppers and foot netting to Coober Pedy depot for emergency stockpile.
- Continued procurement of exclusion fence mesh for 10km Coober Pedy emergency stockpile
- Plotted sections of access track/fence requiring earthworks and sand clearing (Marree & Frome LDFB)
- Completed procurement of steel rebar pegs and polycarbonate sand pegs
- Completed Malbooma new fence section sprayed with herbicide, approx. 60km (Northwest Private)
- Engaged earthwork contractor to repair water erosion/damage following heavy rains – Kondoolka (Penong LDFB)
- Continuation of Frome floodway replacement project.

Inspections and Patrols

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

Eastern Fence Inspection 21/04/2024 – 29/04/2024

Central, Marree, Frome - 750 km approx.

Inspected by: Dog Fence Inspector

- Took delivery of drill pipe and other fencing materials at Coober Pedy depot
- Gate on Muloorina pipeline road (south) replaced by stock grid and alarm.
- Surveyed and plotted upcoming earthworks and sand clearing sites. (Muloorina, Mundowdna, Billeroo)
- Noted rusted posts NW corner of Muloorina – added to Marree LDFB annual plan to replace (approx. 5km).
- Moved unused floodgate/fencing materials from creeks to container.
- Noted increased kangaroo and emu activity North and South of fence.
- Met with Contractor working on rebuild on Wertaloona. (Frome LDFB)
- Increased Dog activity on inspected sections.
- All grid alarms operational and Fence Dog proof unless stated otherwise.





Muloorina Pipeline Road (south) gate replacement before & after



Water erosion and sand build up – Muloorina (Marree LDFB)



Rusted posts around Lake Eyre South (5km section)



20 – 30cm sand build up – Billeroo (Frome LDFB)

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 all sections.
- Sightings of feral camels sighted in large mobs in Penong, Northwest Private, Central and Frome sections.
- Increased kangaroo pressure north of the fence, particularly Marree and Frome.
- Increased fox and goat activity noted in Penong section.
- New station manager started on Mulgathing. (Northwest Private)

Dog Fence Rebuild

As of 13 May, about 960 kilometres of fence rebuild has been completed and the rebuild of an additional 150 kilometres of fence is underway.

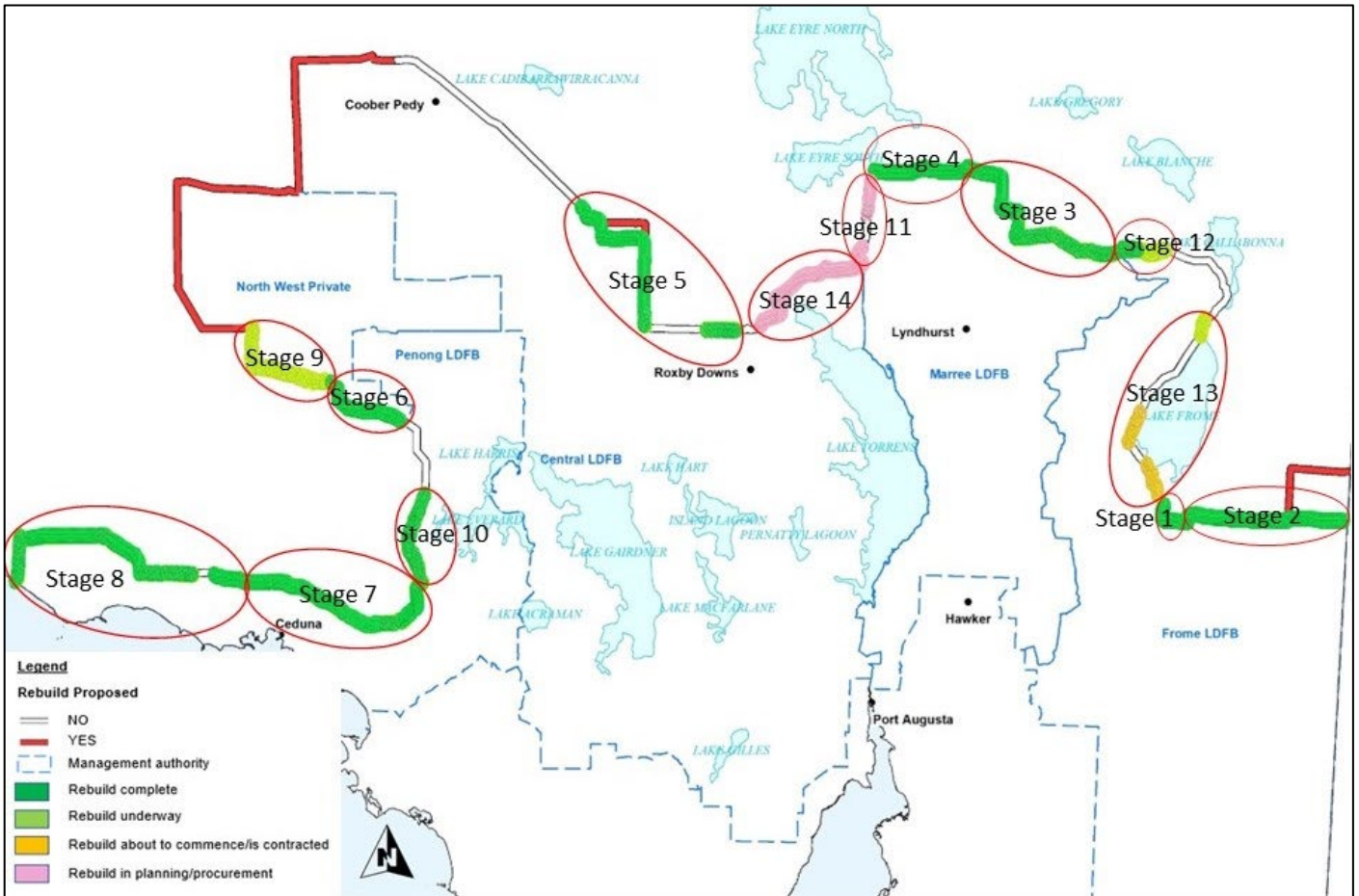
The rebuild of Stage 8, over in the far west, is complete. This section runs for about 155 kilometres, starting at the coast. In addition, about 200 kilometres of electric fencing to deter wombats has been installed (100 kilometres on either side of the fence), making the completion of this stage a mammoth achievement.

Grading and other earthworks commenced on Stage 9 before Christmas, but paused over the summer, and has yet to re-commence. 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.

The rebuild of Stage 12 continues after a pause over the summer; 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.

Stage 13 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. A new lap has been replaced on 14 kilometres; the remaining 54 kilometres will be completely rebuilt. Posts are being put in and the erection of the prefabricated mesh is underway.

The rebuild of the Dog Fence through Arabana country (about 150 kilometres) has stalled as discussions with the Arabana Aboriginal Corporation continue. The fence adjacent to Mobella, Commonwealth Hill, Mabel Creek and Mount Clarence (about 370 kilometres) has now been assessed and the Dog Fence Rebuild Committee will determine the rebuild requirements at its forthcoming meeting.



Progress as of 8 December 2023

Rebuild completed	960 km
Rebuild underway	150 km
Rebuild about to commence/contracted	122 km (materials only)
Rebuild planning/procurement underway	490 km

Conclusion

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

- Implementing weed control program across the fence.
- Deploying remaining herbicide applicators to Local Boards and Private owner to apply herbicide on rebuilt sections.
- Continuation of Dog Fence Rebuild.
- Improvements to Patrol recording and reporting (digital app)
- Completion of Frome floodway repair/replacement.
- Collection of 2023/24 Dog Fence rates.