

Dog Fence Board

Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

9 December 2024 – 10 February 2025



Dog Fence Board – Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

Information current as of 10 February 2025

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Contents

Objective	4
Key Activities	4
Fence Condition and Inspection Report	5
Local Dog Fence Boards & Private owner.....	7
Dog Fence Rebuild.....	8
SA Trapper Program	9
Upcoming Priorities and Key Intiatives	10

Objective

This quarterly report, prepared by the Dog Fence Board, provides stakeholders with a summary of Board and staff activities, as well as updates on Dog Fence maintenance and repair efforts carried out by local Dog Fence boards and the private owner.

Key Activities

During the reporting period:

Operational:

- Finalised office accommodations for the Auditor - Dog Fence Maintenance position.
- Initiated procurement of foothold traps, cameras and accessories.
- Submitted insurance claim related to asset loss.

Recruitment and Staffing:

- Reviewed and updated Business Support Officer role description and classification.

Technology and Innovation:

- Continued development of the digital patrolman reporting application to improve reporting efficiency.

Collaboration and Capacity Building:

- Engaged with NSW's Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding the Wild Dog Fence Extension Project.
- Met with PIRSA staff to discuss Dog Fence aerial baiting program.
- Consulted with the Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit to determine the timeline for commencing debt collection on behalf of the Board.
- Held discussions with the CEO of Yalata Aboriginal Corporation to discuss upcoming stock grid works.

Governance and Reporting:

- Completed an external financial audit of all local boards.
- Continued debt collection for outstanding Dog Fence rates from previous years
- Issued 2024/25 Dog Fence rates.
- Submitted Government \$:\$ Subsidy minute to Chief Executive (PIRSA).
- Developed new Dog Fence Board policy, standards and procedures.
- Reviewed and updated existing Dog Fence Board policies.



A: Erudina – October 2020



B: Erudina – March 2024



C: Erudina – January 2025

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 patrollers.
- Patrollers baited at a rate of 1 bait per 1 kilometre, or 1 bait per 200 metres where there was dog activity.
- Patrolmen reported increased wild dog activity in all sections.
- Continued sightings of large feral camel mobs in the Penong Local Dog Fence Board section.
- The following activity was recorded on Wild Dog Scan by patrollers and the public:
 - 47 reports of wild dog activity.
 - 22 wild dogs destroyed inside the fence.
 - 3 reports of stock losses attributed to wild dogs inside the fence.

Dog Fence Rebuild

As of 10 January 2025, about 1,034 kilometres of the fence have been rebuilt (see map below).

The total project expenditure to 31 January 2025 is \$22,667,910.03 (GST excl.) (78.2 per cent of the \$29 million project budget).

Frome Local Dog Fence Board area:

- 220 kilometres of fence has been completed in the Frome LDFB.
- The thirteenth stage runs along the west side of Lake Frome. There are 68 kilometres of fence to rebuild. Replacement of the lap at the northern end of this stage (14 kilometres) has been completed. Most of the remaining 54 kilometres has been completed; the final grade will occur when there is moisture in the soil.
- The completion of the thirteenth stage will see 239 kilometres of fence built in the Frome LDFB (59 per cent of fence) as part of the rebuild project.

Marree Local Dog Fence Board area:

- 221 kilometres of fence has been completed in the Marree LDFB.
- Part of the fourteenth stage is the rebuild of the fence adjacent to Witchelina (18 kilometres). Contracts have been awarded for the rebuild of the fence, which is expected to commence in 2025.
- The completion of the fourteenth stage will see 239 kilometres of fence built in the Marree LDFB (85 percent of fence) as part of the rebuild project.

Central Local Dog Fence Board area:

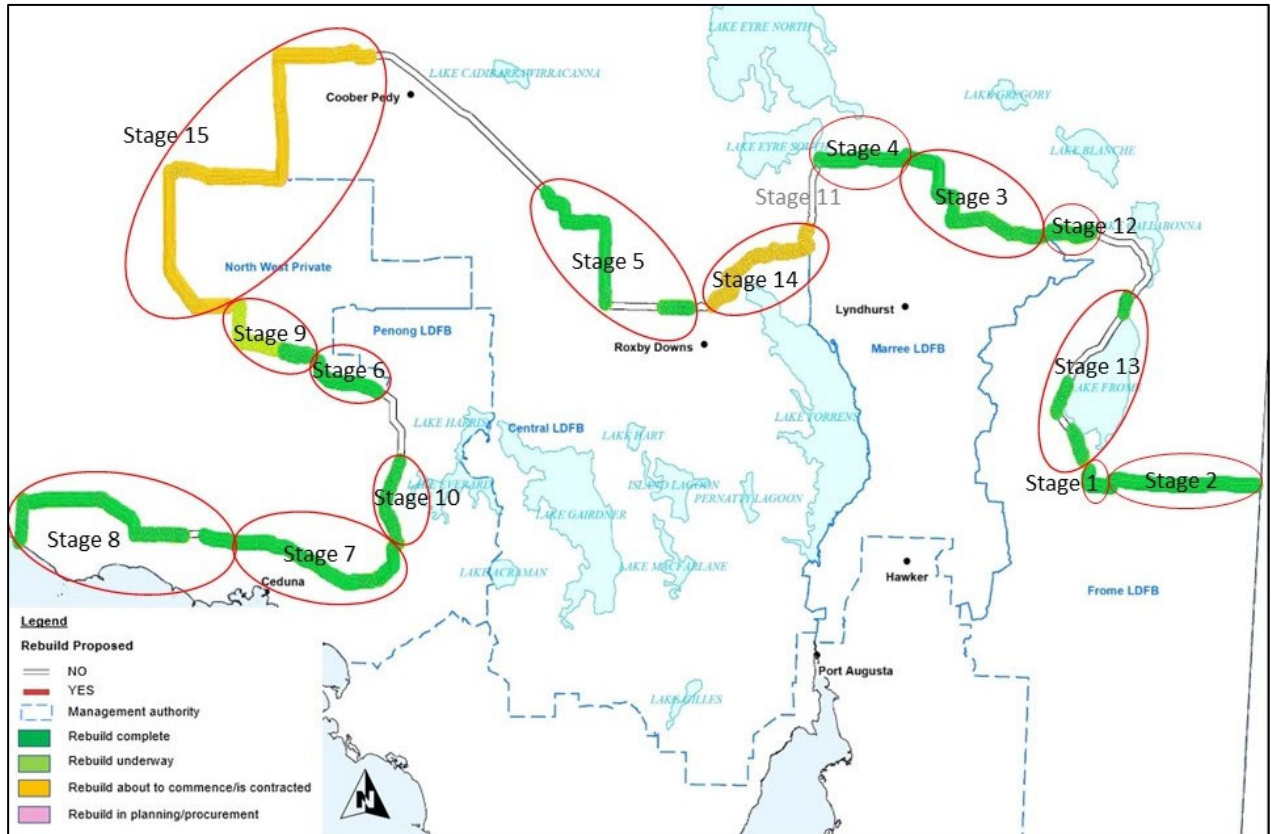
- 157 kilometres of fence has been completed in the Central LDFB
- Part of the fourteenth stage is the rebuild of the fence adjacent to Mulgaria (104 kilometres). Contracts have been awarded for the rebuild of the fence, which is expected to commence in 2025.
- Part of the fifteenth stage is the upgrade and installation of electric fence for to deter feral camels adjacent to Mabel Creek and Mount Clarence (156 kilometres). Contracts have been awarded for this stage; materials are ready for delivery.
- The completion of the fourteenth stage will see 261 kilometres of fence built in the Central LDFB (43 percent of fence); when the fifteenth stage is completed, 417 kilometres of fence will be built in the Central LDFB (68 per cent of fence) as part of the rebuild project.

Privately-owned Northwest section:

- 81 kilometres of fence has been completed in the north-west section.
- The ninth stage of the rebuild is 84 kilometres adjacent to Mulgathing. About 26 kilometres of fence has been completed, and grading has been completed for an additional 16 kilometres in preparation for fence construction.
- Part of the fifteenth stage of the rebuild of the Dog Fence runs adjacent to Mobella (192 kilometres) and Commonwealth Hill (21 kilometres) This rebuild requires installation and upgrade of electric fencing to deter feral camels from damaging the fence. Contracts have been awarded for this stage; materials are ready for delivery.
- The completion of the fifteenth stage will see 294 kilometres of fence completed in the privately-owned north-west section (82 per cent of fence) as part of the rebuild project.

Penong Local Dog Fence Board area:

- 349 kilometres of fence has been completed in the Penong LDFB.
- There is no further work scheduled for this area; 77 per cent of the fence has been rebuilt as part of the project.



SA Trapper Program

The Wild Dog Trapping Program commenced in 2018 and continues to be hailed as a necessary tool in the drive to eradicate wild dogs from inside the SA Dog Fence. Landholders are extremely supportive of the program because trappers can get the wild dogs that landholders have been unable to trap themselves.

- Since 2018, more than 870 wild dogs have been removed through the program; most of these have been trapped.
- Activity has increased in the past few weeks – about 15 dogs have already been trapped this year, mainly from the Flinders Ranges and the far west coast.
- About 63 per cent of the dogs removed were male; 37 per cent female.

The program is currently funded until June 2026; if funding is secured the program may extend until 2030. The trappers have spent 320 hours training property staff in how to trap dogs; this needs to continue, or preferably increased so that when the program is completed, property staff can continue to trap wild dogs.

Upcoming Priorities and Key Initiatives

The Dog Fence Board will focus on the following key activities:

- Complete recruitment process for the Business Support Officer position.
- Complete procurement for trapping and camera equipment.
- Initiate procurement and replacement of stock grid(s) in Penong section.
- Deployment and field testing of digital patroller reporting app.
- Collection of outstanding rates from previous years.
- Collection of 2024/25 Dog Fence rates.
- Submit application to the Sheep Industry Fund for maintenance contributions.
- Facilitate herbicide application training course for the Northwest private owners.
- Attend Gallagher workshop (Central) and conduct electric fence consultation (Penong).
- Manufacture 10,500 poison baits for local board distribution.
- Manufacture 22,000 poison baits for aerial program.
- Update Dog Fence condition scoring and map and finalise forecast fence replacement plan.
- Continuation of Dog Fence Rebuild Project.