



DOG FENCE B O A R D

ABN 43 171 091 361

Quarterly Report from the Dog Fence Board on the activities of the Inspector of Dog Fences

October 2019 – February 2020

Fence inspection

The fences that were inspected during this period were from the Coast near Fowlers Bay to New South Wales border.

Fence maintenance

Unless stated below, the fence is in good condition.

Fowlers Bay, Penong and Pureba(West Coast)

- *Even though it was middle of January, it was raining and cold when I did the inspection. Where the latest fire went through on the Penong section this needs fixing. Many of the plastic droppers are heat affected and this is causing wires to short out and very little voltage in the fence. As the fence is due for upgrade to a 1500mm high Dog fence with the rebuild, it would not be worth replacing the plastics. Some of the plastics could be salvaged to make a wombat fence as a number of wombats were seen along this section. I think the rain may have brought them out. The patrolman is trying to stop sand buildup along The Pureba section by using an excavator to shift sand. This is so he can reach over the fence with it. When the rebuild along this section takes place maybe claying on the inside as well as outside will help stop this from reoccurring.*

Lake Everard

- *This fence hasn't changed a lot. The sand is still hard to climb when its hot. The rebuild committee needs to look at claying some of these sand hills. The patrolman has put up signs for vehicles to use bypass tracks but for inspections we still have to go over. Shot a camel inside Lake Everard.*

Wilgina

- *Put more baits on the rack so the patrolman can bait heavily along the Penong section when they do the rebuild there. This fence was ok.*

Malbooma

- *Still the same. Lots of sand and have to squeeze between the trees.*

Mulgathing

- *Not a lot to report. Still requires some posts quite a few leaning especially where the fence turns North.*



Commonwealth Hill

- *Still the same. Requires some posts.*

Mabel Creek

- *There is a lot of dead camels along the Western side from the recent helicopter shoot. I would suggest if we could be notified of any aerial shoots taking place along the fence so the patrolman could remove the dead animals from the road before they start to decompose. There is quite a lot of green from the rain a month ago. The beeper on the railway line wasn't working properly. Spoke with the patrolman regarding this and have since sent him a new sensor which he is going to fit.*

Mt Clarence

- *Short section and hasn't changed. Is old and earmarked for replacement.*

Coober Pedy

- *The fence is the same. Track is in need of some work. i.e. grading. I did speak to a contractor to grade the section a while ago but he hasn't done it. I believe he got a bigger job with the mine. He may come back.*

Balta Baltana

- *This fence was all OK at the time of inspection but since my inspection a major flood has come through and the patrolman is flat out trying to stand up around 3 kms of fence that was pushed over.*

Mt Eba

- *This fence was all OK at the time of inspection but received around 130 mm of rain at Prominent Hill and there is a flood in progress.*

Millers Creek

- *Still extremely dry. Very drifty where it gets to the sand at the time of inspection but the flood from Mt Eba since the inspection has washed away around 2 kms of fence. The Mudla Creek and most creek floodways through to the Mt Eba boundary were washed away. The repairs have now been carried out.*

Parakylia

- *This fence was all OK.*

Roxby Downs

- *This fence hasn't changed, it's old and needs replacing.*

Cat Fence

- *The fence is not old and all ok. Someone had bypassed our lock on the gate and I was locked in. I now have the combination to the arid recovery lock. As well I cut the chain and put our lock on the other side so it cannot happen again.*

Mulgaria

- *There is a lot of sand drift along this section. Only rain can fix that. I checked the droppers that were rusting of. They come in waves and the patrolman has been dummies them up but would be good to do the job properly. Most seem to be in the top 50 kms. I thought if you got someone to go along with around 400 droppers and replaced any broken ones the job would be pretty well done.*

I went home for a week and on my return to the fence it had rained in places and the roads around Marree were closed so I resumed my inspection from the Strzelecki road on Mt Lyndhurst and went through to the border. The Marree patrolman reported to me that several sections of fence were washed away on Munday, Muloorina



and Callanna. He stood them up and made the fence dog proof and will take some help out to repair it properly. I then resumed my inspection from the Strzelecki road.

Mt Lyndhurst

- *The fence is old and marked for replacement. All the creeks had run but not much rain away from the ranges. I only inspected east from the Strzelecki through to the border. The Adnowie Creek has run and is now impassable. We have tried to fix this before but the creek finishes at the fence and there is a flood out where the water wont run and we have tried cutting a channel but we just don't get a big enough flood to wash the silt through. .*

Mt Freeling

- *Fence ok the flood way needs to be fixed with a new box section and pulled up as its hanging too low.*

Moolawatana

- *The first section of fence 10km is composite and it's a pity it wasn't changed to 5' mesh by now. Not a big job and it needed to be done. Over Prospect Hill is all ok and what a difference meshing it over has made. Then there is 20 kms of composite which same as the other could have been meshed over and given the fencers something to do and the job would have been done. All the creeks had run out of the ranges but no rain away from the hills. The patrolman on this section had repaired all the floodways and no animal activity along this section.*

Wooltana

- *The fence was all ok. Creeks had run. The Spectacle creek needed a rebuild from the flood.*

Balcanoona

- *Fence was the same and creek had run.*

Wertaloona

- *Creeks had run but no rain and the drift is worst. Big John creek has water in it once again. South of Lake View hut the patrolman has been topping the topping and the latest blow which was only a day before I came along and around 4 days since it was topped dumped another 18'' of sand on the fence. Topping is a waste of time and we need to shift the sand or we will need a metal detector to find the fence. There are lots of places where the fence is only 30'' high. The sand is very soft and getting along is difficult. Patrolman told me he wont be able to get along with a trailer any more unless the sand is shifted.*

Erudina

- *Sand drift is the main problem. The fence is just old.*

Curnamona

- *Bit of sand drift. There is a new grid on the Arkaroola road on the boundary between Curnamona and Frome Downs. Other wise the fence is ok.*

Billeroo

- *Sand drift is getting out of control. We need to start shifting sand straight away. It was hard to travel along this section. 10 to 15 kms /hour and bogging in the sand. A lot of the old netting is falling apart. Did not see a roo or emu or dog along this section. A couple of wild brumbies was all.*



Benagerie

- *The sand was worst than Billeroo. Really hard going. Patrolman would not be able to pull a trailer along this section. He has already told me until the sand problem is fixed he wont be able to do any more topping as he needs the trailer and it took him 4 hours to dig himself out last trip. You just bog trying to drive along.*

Mulyungarie

- *This section has had a big blow but most was able to get along. The sand shifting that was done last year has made this section still passable, although it is rapidly building up in places. You could see the latest sand build up of around 18" over the last few days. It was still very soft sand. The sooner the fence is shifted south the better. We shoveled sand for about an hour to be able to open the gate at the corner to get out and then drove for around 20kms before bogging in the sand in the middle of the road. It is really tough out there at the moment and the North East seems to have missed out on the rain that went through.*

Baiting

- All the patrolman are baiting along the fence. I injected baits at Wilgina for the West Coast. No live wild dogs were seen during the inspection. Dog activity is probably at the lowest I have ever seen it.

General summery

This inspection was done in 2 parts. The Western section was completed and then before I did the eastern section there was a good rain over parts of the Western section and sections of the fence were washed away mainly on Millers Creek and Balta Baltana. Millers Creek has been repaired. Most of Balta Baltana has been repaired. I was waiting for the patrolman to get right along this section to know exactly how much material we would require and now we are just waiting on material to arrive which will be there Wednesday as we ran out of material up there due to the size of the damage. We always keep around 3 kilometers of material on hand in Coober Pedy but this time it wasn't enough. It was lack of vegetation and the speed of the flood caused more damage than usual. The road to Prominent Hill mine still has around 1 meter of water flowing across it.

Marree section suffered the same fate but the patrolman was able to salvage most of the fence and stand it back up to make it dog proof. There are some sections which will need to be tidied up and I advised him to take someone to help with him when he does that.

Frome missed the rain but most of the creeks had run from run off out of the ranges and the patrolman had to just clean out the debris and reposition except for Spectacle Creek down on the bottom of Wooltana near the start of Balcanoona which was washed away and had to be rebuilt.

It is good to see some green feed on the ground and dams full of water again and already pastoralists are bringing stock back to their properties.



Figure 1: The Dog Fence between Coast and Witchelina was inspected in January 2020.

