

Dog Fence Board Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

28 January 2022 to 8 May 2022







Dog Fence Board - Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

Information current as of 8 May 2022 © Government of South Australia 2022

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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

Dog Fence Board

During the reporting period:

- Collection of Dog Fence rates. Final overdue notices for rates for the 2021/22 financial year were mailed out 21 March 2022.
- The Board distributed a total of 2400 manufactured baits to Patrolmen, 2000 manufactured baits aerially and 225 baits to professional trappers for deployment along the fence.
- Continued procurement of 2 species recognition machine learning camera systems to trial on grid alarms triggered only by wild dogs.
- Undertook a 1 day maintenance and clean-up of the Lyndhurst Depot.
- Received delivery of the replacement grid for Balcanoona, which will be installed in coming months.
- Continued investigation into broad scale application of herbicide along the fence. Herbicide procurement to commence and further broader scale trialling to begin.
- Relocated fence materials back to Lyndhurst from Mulgaview.
- Undertook flood damage repairs with Marree LDFB.
- Completed procurement of replacement fence material used during flood repairs.

Inspections & patrols

Dog Fence Board

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

East fence inspection – November 2021

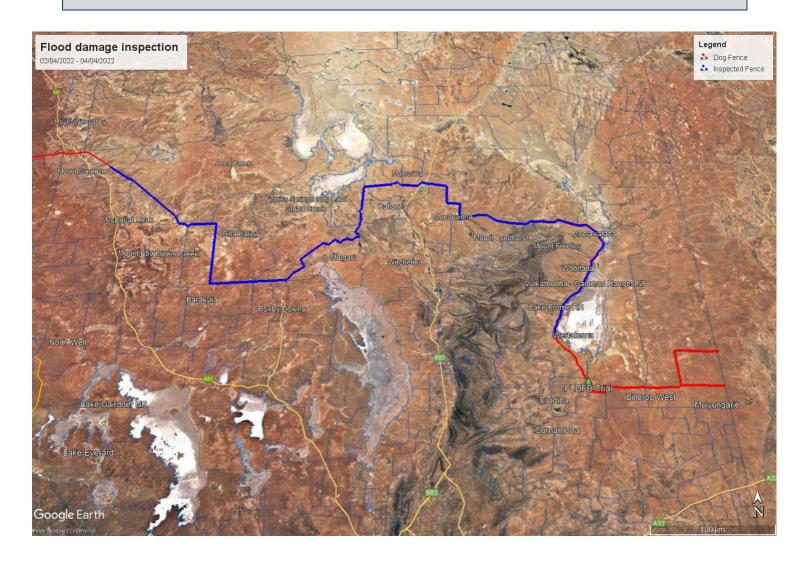
2 February – 4 February 2022

Frome, Marree, Central – 880km approx.

Wertaloona - Mount Clarence

Dog Fence Inspector & Dog Fence Program Manager

- Inspected and surveyed flood damages along fence.
- Deployed 2000 manufactured baits along downed sections of fence.
- Inspected and surveyed alternative tracks into Dog Fence.





January flooding – Aerial view

Marree flood repair – February 2022

15 February – 19 February 2022

Marree

Mount Freeling to Mount Lyndhurst – 71km approx.

Dog Fence Inspector

- Inspected flood damages.
- Assisted landholders and Board members replace and repair damaged fence and floodways.
- Grid alarm on Strzelecki track is operational.
- Observed contract trappers setting foot hold traps





Marree flood repairs – Before / After

Frome Flood repair material delivery – March 2022

1 March – 7 March 2022

Frome

Mount Freeling to Moolawatana – 50km approx.

Dog Fence Inspector

- Inspected flood damages.
- Delivered materials for contract repairer to use.
- Moolawatana grid alarm is operational.
- Mapped alternative access routes for contract repairer to use.



Local Dog Fence Boards & Private owner

During the reporting period:

- The entire length of the fence was inspected at a minimum of every 14 days by the Patrolmen.
- All Patrolmen baited at a rate of 1 bait per 1km or 1 bait per 200m where there was dog activity.
- All Patrolmen reported occasional wild dog activity.
- Significant rainfall in the Central, Frome and Marree sections damaged 25km of fence across 40 different sctions. Road closures and track washouts created access challenges for Patrolman.
- 1/3 of damages were replaced to rebuild standards, 1/3 temporarily repaired and will be fixed by the rebuild committee and 1/3 was temporarily repaired and will be rebuilt through the Dog Fence Board.
- Bill Reschke retired as the Frome LDFB's Patrolman after 14 years of service to the Board. David King has now been contracted by the Frome LDFB to do their patrols.

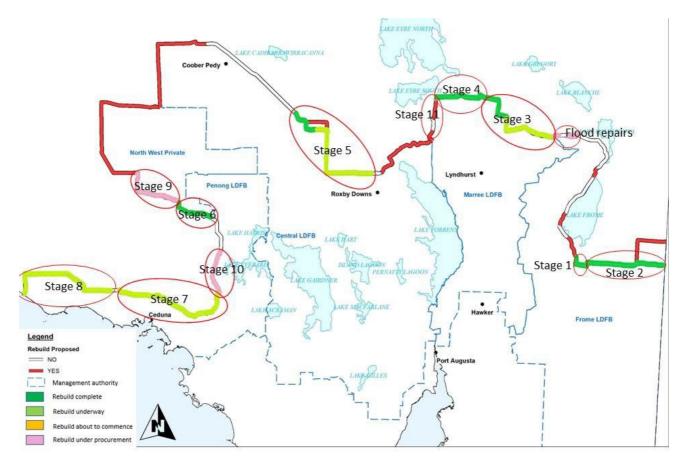
Dog Fence Rebuild

To date, 407km of fence rebuild has been completed, with 470 km currently under construction.

Rainfall across the state has caused minor delays and limited access to areas of the rebuild. Rebuild committee employed contractors to repair floodgates in the Central section.

- Installation of posts are underway in the seventh and eighth stage of the rebuild.
- A contractor has been appointed to rebuild the tenth stage of the Dog Fence.
- Offers to supply electric fence components for the eighth and ninth stages being evaluated.
- Offers to fence the ninth stage are being evaluated.

The Fencing contractors typically build the new fence before removing the old fence, to minimise any risk of wild dogs getting through the fence during the rebuild. There are some locations where this method is not practical – here, fencing contractors remove small lengths of fence, then rebuild the new fence. Baits are also laid as an added precaution.



Rebuild progress map

Conclusion

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

- Dog Fence Board annual half fence inspection (west).
- Collection of Dog Fence rates for the 2021/22 financial year.
- Report on application trials for granular herbicide. Continue with broad scale applications with a focus on newly rebuilt sections of fence.
- Tractor, wooden posts and pallet disposal (Lyndhurst depot).
- Installation of replacement grid for Balcanoona.
- Continuation of rebuild.



