

# Dog Fence Board

## Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

4 May 2025 – 18 August 2025



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

Information current as of 18 August 2025

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## Objective

The purpose of this quarterly report is to provide stakeholders with a clear and comprehensive overview of the Dog Fence Board's activities for the reporting period. It outlines strategic and operational actions undertaken by the Board and staff, and details inspection, maintenance, and repair work delivered by local Dog Fence boards and the private owner. This report aims to keep stakeholders informed of progress, highlight key achievements, and identify any emerging issues or priorities related to the ongoing protection and performance of the Dog Fence.

## Key Activities

During the reporting period:

### Operational:

- The Board undertook its annual inspection trip, visiting the eastern half of the fence.
- Completed survey of the proposed SA-NSW border fence alignment.
- Procured and delivered 2,000 kilograms of meat for bait production.
- Procured foothold traps and accessories for all local boards.
- Supplied herbicide applicators to the Marree, Frome boards and North-West private owners.
- Collection of 2024–25 Dog Fence rates and progressed debt collection.
- Manufactured 11,800 1080 meat baits for distribution by patrollers.
- Procured and delivered granulated herbicide to the Penong section
- Conducted Work Health and Safety inspections and stocktake of materials at all Dog Fence Board depots.
- Delivered two replacement stock grids to the Penong section.
- Replaced the northern “fauna” grid with rumble grid on the Old Eye Highway.
- Issued 2024–25 outside fence levies.
- Continued delivery of the 1600-kilometre Dog Fence Rebuild Project.

### Recruitment and Staffing:

- Advertised the reclassified of Business Support Officer (ASO3) position.
- Submitted request to review Board Chair and Member remuneration.

**Technology and Innovation:**

- Continued development of the Patroller App and dashboard in collaboration with the PIRSA Spatial team.
- Delivered training and demonstrations on the new Patroller App to Frome patrollers.
- Installed and monitored a camera trap on the Old Eyre Highway to track animal movements near stock grids.

**Collaboration and Capacity Building:**

- Met with granulated herbicide manufacturer to discuss potential product enhancements for the fence application program.
- Participated in a Livestock SA webinar on Aboriginal Heritage legislation changes.
- Met with Minister Scriven to discuss ongoing operations and future projects.
- Finalised an agreement with NSW Department of Primary Industries to design, construct and maintain up to 290 kilometres of fence along the SA-NSW border.
- Met with PIRSA finance to address SA-NSW fence extension project funding and general ledger code set up.
- Met with the Department of Premier and Cabinet to discuss board and committee remuneration.
- Attended four local Dog Fence board Annual General Meetings.
- Collaborated with PIRSA and DPIRD media teams on the SA-NSW joint media release.
- Issued media release and engaged with media outlets regarding the SA-NSW border fence extension project.
- Scheduled a Q&A / meet-and-greet with the landholders down the proposed border fence alignment (September 2025).
- Attended a Livestock SA Q&A session on future funding requirements.

**Governance and Reporting:**

- Submitted a funding application to the Livestock Advisory Committee for fence ongoing maintenance.
- Worked with the Crown Solicitors Office to review and update fence maintenance service agreements used by local boards.
- Updated the Dog Fence Board's asset database.
- Submitted financial report to Audit Office of South Australia.

# Fence Audit Inspections

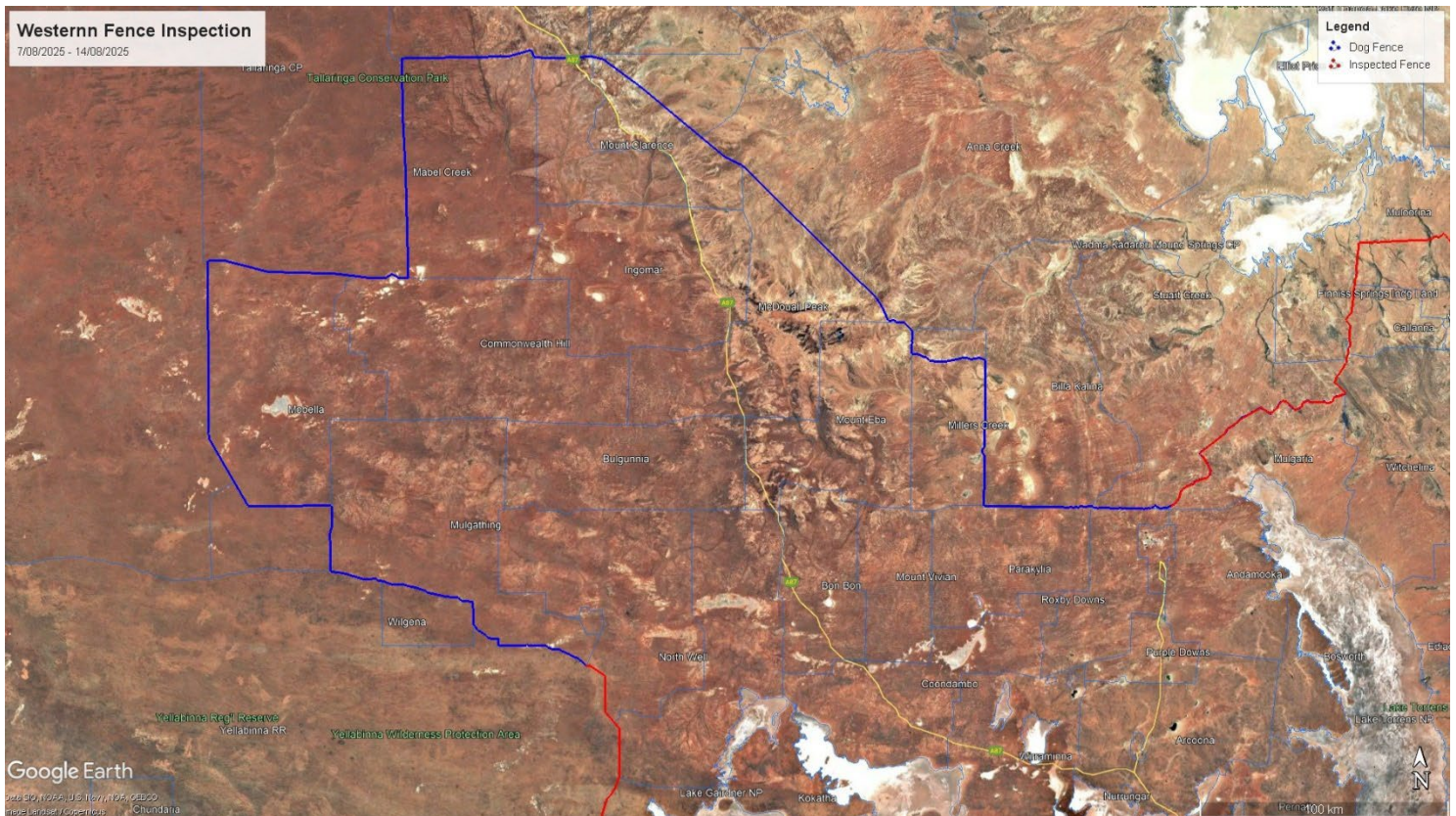
During the reporting period the Board undertook the following inspections:

## Western Fence Inspection

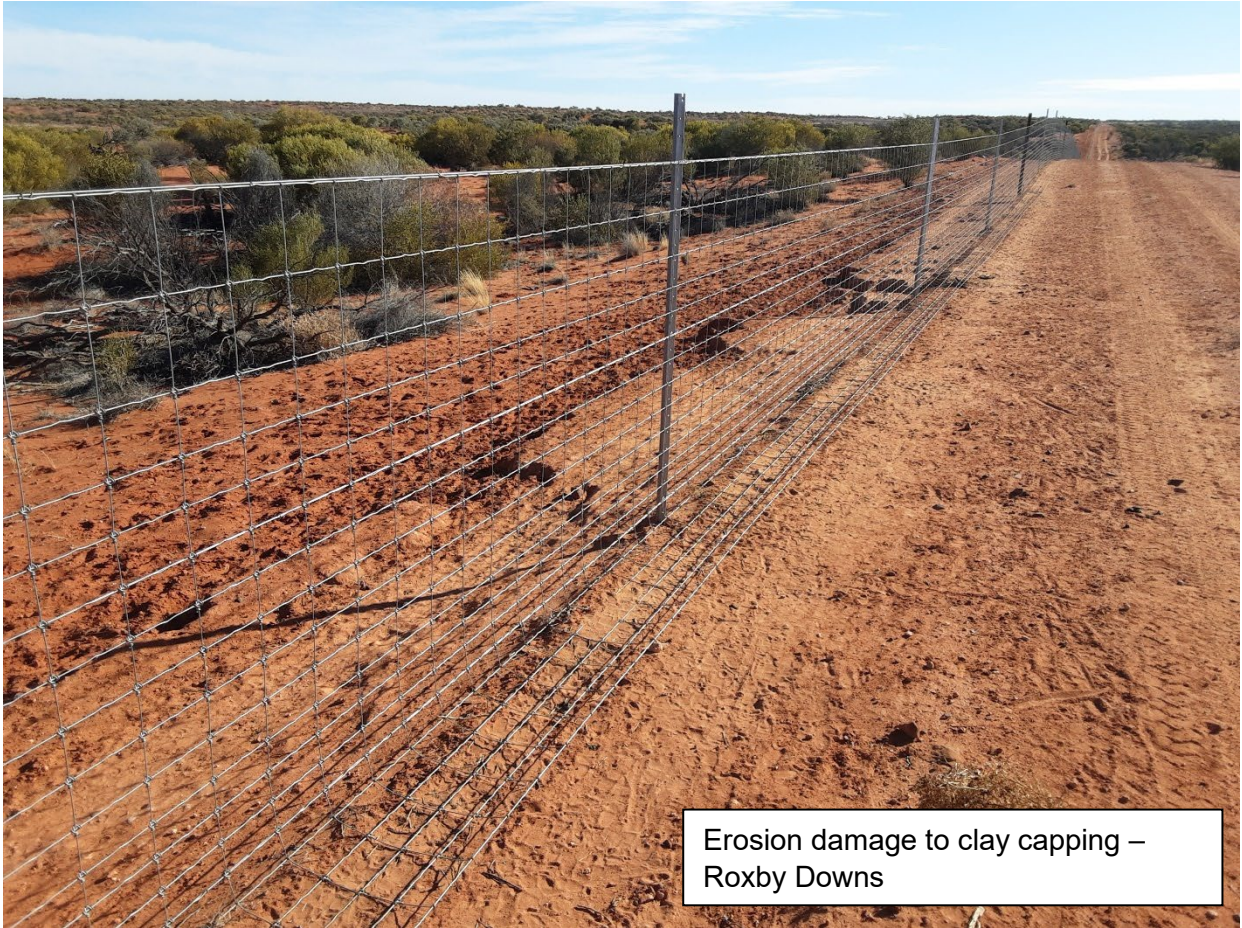
[Northwest Private, Central]

Inspected by: Auditor, Dog Fence Maintenance

- Delivered a granulated herbicide applicator to Mulgathing.
- Inspected and recorded the condition of the Mulgathing Dog Fence grid for future replacement.
- Delivered rebuild materials to the fencing contractor working on the Mobella section.
- Inspected the integrity of fence posts every 10 kilometres from Mt. Christie Corner as part of the fence condition rating for the future rebuild program.
- Signed off on 11.5 kilometres of fence rebuild works in Stage 9 (Mulgathing).
- Conducted condition scoring of posts on Mabel Creek to inform future rebuild priorities.
- Assessed foot netting/apron on the Parakylia section — previous grading has been partially effective; recommend pegging down the worst sections and re-grading over the foot mesh.
- Observed severe erosion of clay-topped sandhill sections along the rebuilt Roxby Downs section due to kangaroo and emu pressure on the inside; repairs will be required.
- All grid alarms were operational, and fence is dog-proof unless stated otherwise.







## Eastern Fence Inspection

[Frome]

Inspected by: Auditor, Dog Fence Maintenance

- Delivered polyethylene belting to install under foot mesh to mitigate salt corrosion
- Signed off Stage 13 rebuild section (Wertaloona).
- Adverse weather conditions (rainfall) required the trip to be cut short.
- All grid alarms were operational, and fence is dog-proof unless stated otherwise.





Example of salty creek – Frome section



Example of salty creek – Frome section

## Local Dog Fence Boards & Private Owner

During the reporting period:

- The fence was inspected 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 kilometre, or 1 bait per 200 metres where there was dog activity.
- Patrolmen reported wild dog activity in all sections.
- Increased camel sightings and damage on Central, North-West and Penong sections.
- Frome section received reasonable rainfall, however no major erosion or damage sustained. Sand drift monitoring to continue on Erudina / Billeroo sections.

## Dog Fence Rebuild

As of 18 August 2025, 1,072 kilometres is complete, 227 kilometres is underway.

About \$23.2 million has been spent in the rebuild of the Dog Fence (to 30 June 2025). This is about 80 percent of the total project budget of \$29 million.

### Frome Local Dog Fence Board area:

- All sections proposed for rebuild in the Frome LDFB have been completed - 239 kilometres of fence built (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 late 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 late 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).
- When 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:**

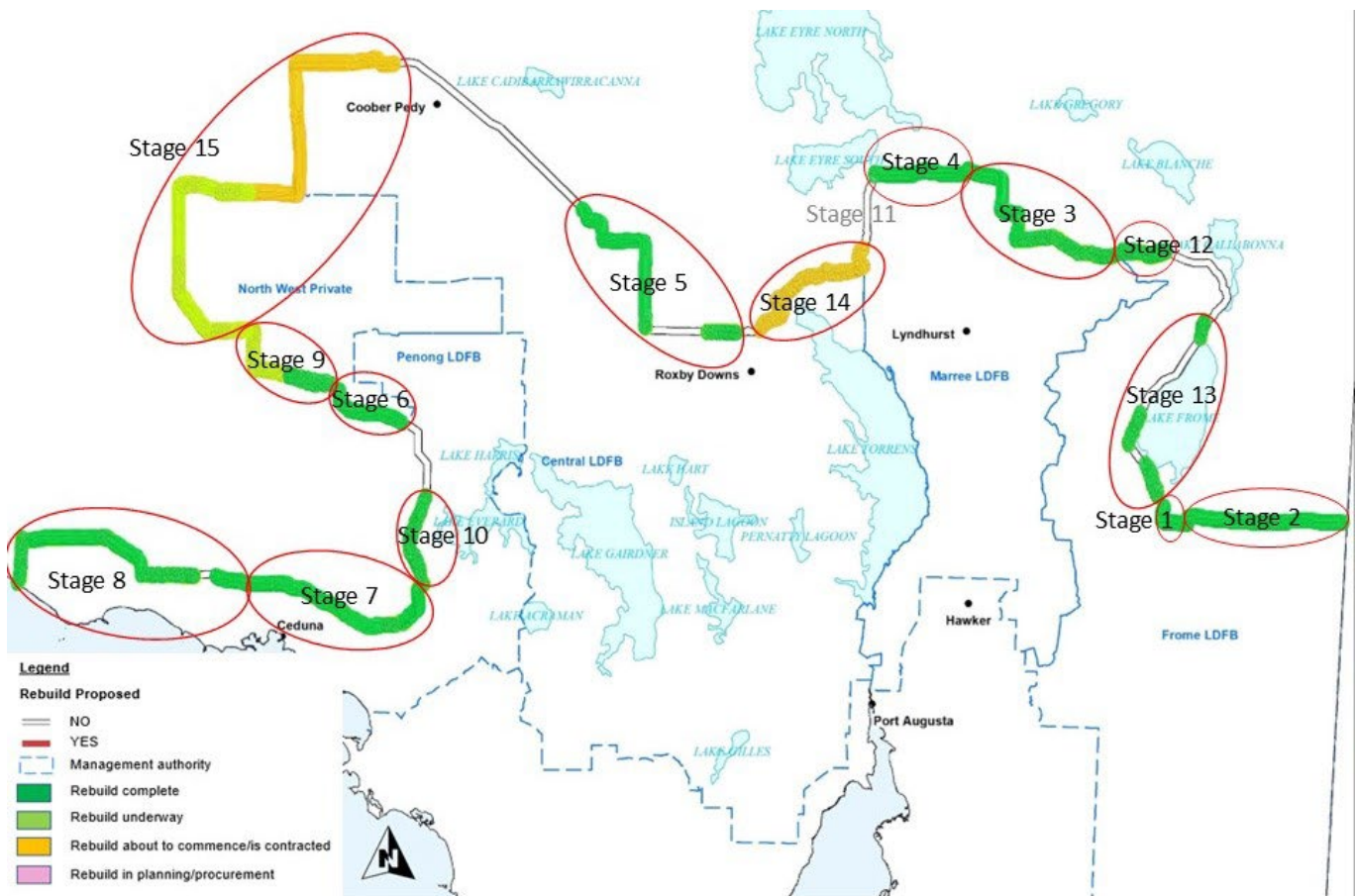
- Work is currently underway at Stage 9 (Mulgathing) and Stage 15 (Mobella)
- 104 kilometres of fence has been completed in the north-west section.
- The ninth stage of the rebuild is 84 kilometres adjacent to Mulgathing. All clearing and grading work has been completed and there is 42 kilometres of fence to build.
- 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. About 46 kilometres of spacers have been tied to hand-cut posts to support the electric camel wire, and about 5 kilometres of wire has been rolled out and strained but still needs to be clipped.
- When completed, 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:**

- All sections proposed for rebuild in the Penong LDFB have been completed - 349 kilometres of fence built (77 per cent of fence) as part of the rebuild project.

**Progress as of 18 August 2025**

Rebuild completed	1072 kilometres
Rebuild underway	227 kilometres
Rebuild about to commence/contracted	301 kilometres
Rebuild planning/procurement underway	0 kilometres



## 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.

In 2024–25, the Trappers:

- Were deployed to 61 properties inside the Dog Fence, including three conservation parks.
- Removed 63 dog from inside the Dog Fence
  - 42 – Arid Landscapes
  - 20 – Eyre Peninsula Landscapes
  - 1 – Murray Lands Landscapes
- Spent 48 hours training landholder and property staff in how to trap wild dogs, and an additional 152 hours training attendees at workshops.
- Since 2018, almost \$3 million has been spent on the program, resulting in the removal of 912 dogs

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.

## Aerial Baiting Program

Since 2020, PIRSA, regional landscape boards, and the National Parks and Wildlife Service have jointly coordinated over 20 aerial baiting programs, delivering almost 800,000 baits to inaccessible areas inside the Dog Fence. The program is on track to deploy over 57,000 baits this calendar year.

- **March 2025** – 13,460 baits deployed over the Gawler Ranges (1,584-kilometre flight path).
- **October 2025** – 22,000 baits are scheduled to be deployed over 22 properties inside the Dog Fence. (3,778-kilometre flight path)

## Wild Dog Bounty

PIRSA's wild dog bounty program was established in 2019 and provides landholders inside the Dog Fence with the opportunity to claim \$120 per wild dog killed humanely on their land.

- 774 bounties have been claimed since April 2020.
- Approximately \$93,000 has been paid to landholders.
- The scheme will continue until the allocated funding runs out. Approximately \$7,000 left to be claimed.

## Upcoming Priorities and Key Initiatives

In the coming months, the Dog Fence Board will focus on:

- Conducting interviews for the Business Support Officer (ASO3) position.
- Completing the delivery of trapping supplies to fence patrollers.
- Consulting with organic property owners regarding the installation of 1080 baiting panels.
- Completing the attachment of herbicide applicators to trailers in preparation for use.
- Continuing assessments of remaining Dog Fence sections not included in the rebuild program to determine priorities for future replacement.
- Upgrading batteries and energiser boxes on the electric fence to improve battery longevity.
- Installing polyethylene belting under the foot netting in salt scald areas on new floodways in the Frome section.
- Installing replacement stock grid in the Penong section.
- Writing to Minister Scriven to request variation of Local Board membership via Government Gazette.
- Writing to Minister Scriven with recommendations for the 2025 –26 Dog Fence rates.
- Preparing to issue 2025–26 rates notices and undertake collection activities.
- Continuing development of the Patroller App and dashboard.
- Holding a Q&A / meet-and-greet with landholders along the proposed SA–NSW border fence alignment.
- Finalising the financial audit report for presentation to Parliament.
- Submitting a \$:\$ briefing to the Minister.
- Investigating the replacement of grids at Mulgathing and Muloorina.