

Dog Fence Board

Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

10 February 2025 – 4 May 2025



Dog Fence Board – Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

Information current as of 4 May 2025

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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, the Dog Fence Board:

Operational:

- Continued procurement of foothold traps and accessories.
- Met with CFS representatives to discuss and initiate a Vegetation and Fire Hazard Plan for the Dog Fence.
- Completed procurement of stock grids to be installed in the Penong section in May.

Recruitment and Staffing:

- Continued recruitment process for the Business Support Officer role.
- Submitted request for a review of the remuneration paid to the Chair of the Board.
- Technology and Innovation:
- Continued development of the digital patrol reporting application to improve reporting efficiency and effectiveness.
- 4G camera installed on Old Eyre Highway grid to better monitor dog activity.

Collaboration and Capacity Building:

- Engaged with New South Wales Department of Primary Industries regarding the Wild Dog Fence Extension Project.
- Met with Northwest private landowners to discuss ongoing wild dog management and other Dog Fence Board led activities along the fence.
- Met with the Minister for Primary Industries and Regions, the Hon. Clare Scriven, to present updates on the Dog Fence Rebuild Project, future fence replacement program, and broader state wild dog management programs.
- Met with the Pastoral Board to provide updates on the Dog Fence Rebuild Project and ongoing maintenance programs.
- Met with the CEO of Livestock SA to present updates on the Dog Fence Rebuild Project, future fence replacement program, and broader state wild dog management programs.

Governance and Reporting:

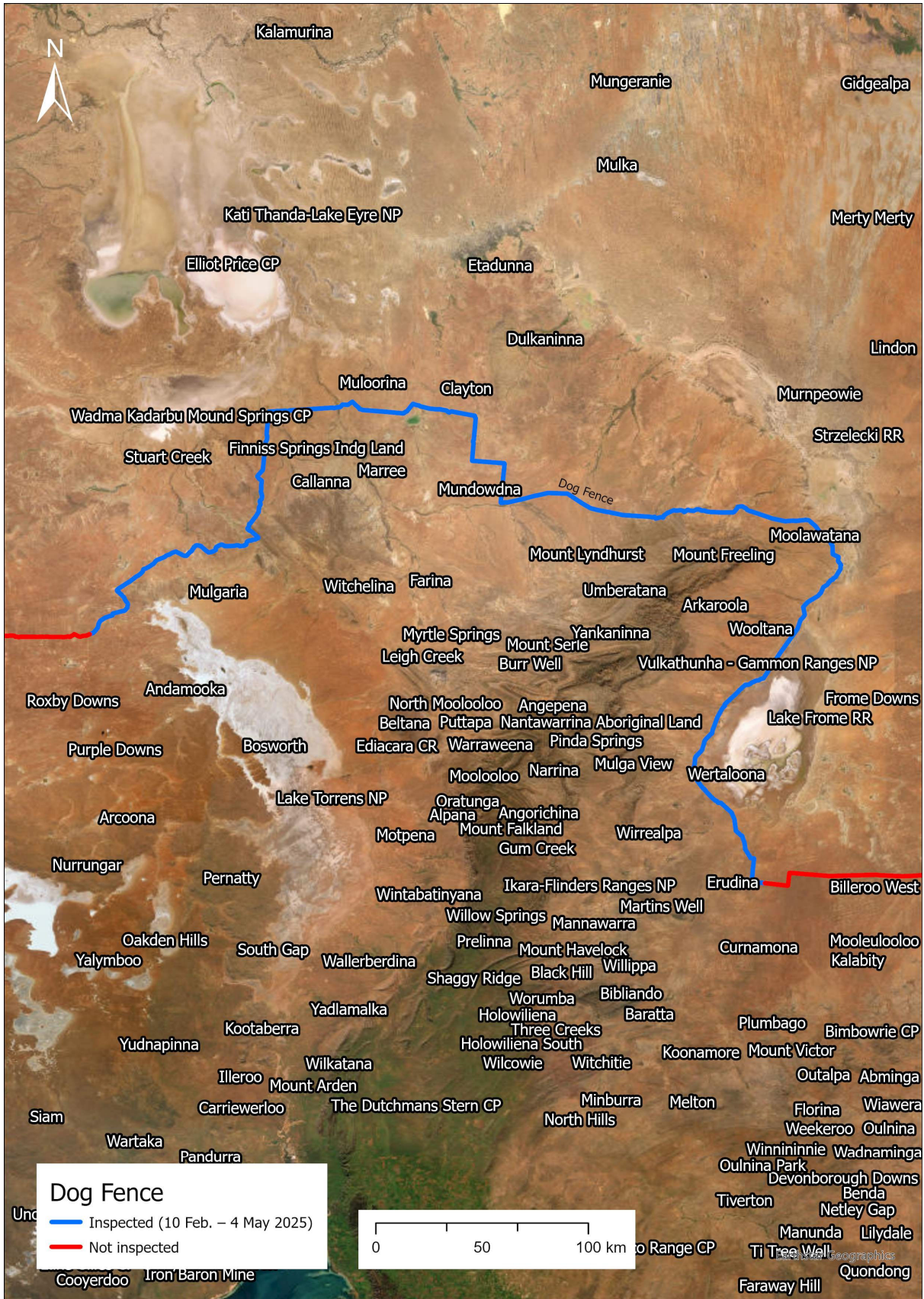
- Undertook debt collection for outstanding 2024-25 Dog Fence rates, including arrears from previous years.
- Continued improvements to new and existing Dog Fence Board policies, standards and procedures.

Fence Condition and Inspection Report

Eastern Fence Inspection

Sections inspected: Central, Marree, Frome
Inspected by: Auditor, Dog Fence Maintenance
Dates: 7-13 April 2025

- Inspected Mulgaria section following reports of rough sections of track that was destroying tyres (Image 1) and requested track maintenance:
 - The sections identified were relatively short. Grading may not be a long-term solution; propose discussion with Marree LDFB to determine whether these sections could be clay-topped similar to the rough section east of the Strzelecki track.
 - There were a few sections where the top of the added foot netting has been pushed down and requires pulling back up.
 - Observed an increased number of kangaroos on both sides of the fence.
- Wild dog activity noted on western side of Muloorina and Callanna.
- Rusting sections of buried foot netting at Muloorina need to be monitored.
- Muloorina grid is well below current standard – this was cleaned recently and already half full. Recommend discussion with DIT to replace with a grid that meets our current standard.
- Mundowdna flood repairs have been completed (Image 2 & 3):
 - Some extra chicken wire may need to be added.
 - High kangaroo numbers on the inside of the fence.
- Moolawatana
 - Current fence showing substantial lap curling - extra pegging will be required.
 - Pipeline road double gates below standard and too easy to be left with a gap between when closed (Image 4).
- Wertaloona
 - Rebuild is complete, but chicken wire and rubber under gates still needed.
 - The old fence has been removed and general site clean is required.
 - Final grading will be done once there has been rain and the ground is more stable.
- The quantity of patch-up materials spread along the Frome LDFB section is excessive (27 piles).
- All grid alarms were operational, and fence is dog-proof unless stated otherwise.



Eastern fence inspection



Image 1 - Rough access track at Mulgaria



Image 2 - Flood repairs at Mundowdna



Image 3 - Flood repairs at Mundowdna



Image 4 - Double gates on the pipeline road

Western Fence Inspection

Sections inspected: Penong, NW Private

Inspected by: Auditor – Dog Fence Maintenance

Dates: 17-21 February 2025, 11-14 March 2025

- Attended the Gallagher electric fence workshop in Penong.
- Gate hanging over the cliff is showing significant surface rust (Image 5).
- Potential for more erosion along the old maintenance track just south of the Eyre Highway.
- Telstra contractors cut the fence at the Eyre highway. The fence was reinstated to an adequate standard while contractors are going back and forth with machinery. Penong LDFB patroller is monitoring the break in the fence to ensure it is kept dog-proof (Image 6).
- Numerous dog tracks observed inside the fence just east of the Old Eyre Highway grid. A trapper has been deployed in the area.
- Electric fence energisers are all performing well.
- Camel tracks were observed from the Iluka haul road to Goog's track - 1 camel was removed.
- 2 gates were identified as having a gap that exceeded 100 mm, due to settling in of the sand under the conveyor belt and the traffic. The patroller has been asked to roll back the conveyor belt and build the height up to standard.
- Dog tracks observed inside Kondoolka gate; landholder notified and wild dog trapper deployed.
- Maintenance track along Lake Everard still sandy, unstable and challenging to drive through. Patroller has started topping the fence where required (Image 7).
- Vegetation is starting to grow or is present – a second application of herbicide is required.
- Mulgathing grid is in poor condition and damaged. Recommend it be considered for replacement (Image 8).
- All grid alarms were operational, and fence is dog-proof unless stated otherwise.



Image 5 - Gate over the cliff at the western end of the fence



Image 6 - Telstra working through the new fence



Image 7 - Fence heightening at Lake Everard due to sand drift



Image 8 - Grid at Mulgathing

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.
- Patrollers reported wild dog activity in all sections.
- Continued sightings of feral camels in the Penong Local Dog Fence Board section.

Dog Fence Rebuild

As of 30 April 2025, about 1,060 kilometres of the fence have been rebuilt (see map below).

The total project expenditure to 30 March 2025 is \$22.8 million (GST excl.) (79 per cent of the \$29 million project budget).

The project end date is now 30 June 2026. This has been extended for 12 months due to multiple rain events and contractor availability.

Rebuild of the Dog Fence in Frome Local Dog Fence Board area

- The thirteenth stage, 68 kilometres adjacent to Lake Frome, was completed on 7 March. A final grade will be done after rain.
- 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.

Rebuild of the Dog Fence in 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.

Rebuild of the Dog Fence in 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.

Rebuild of the Dog Fence in the privately-owned north-west section

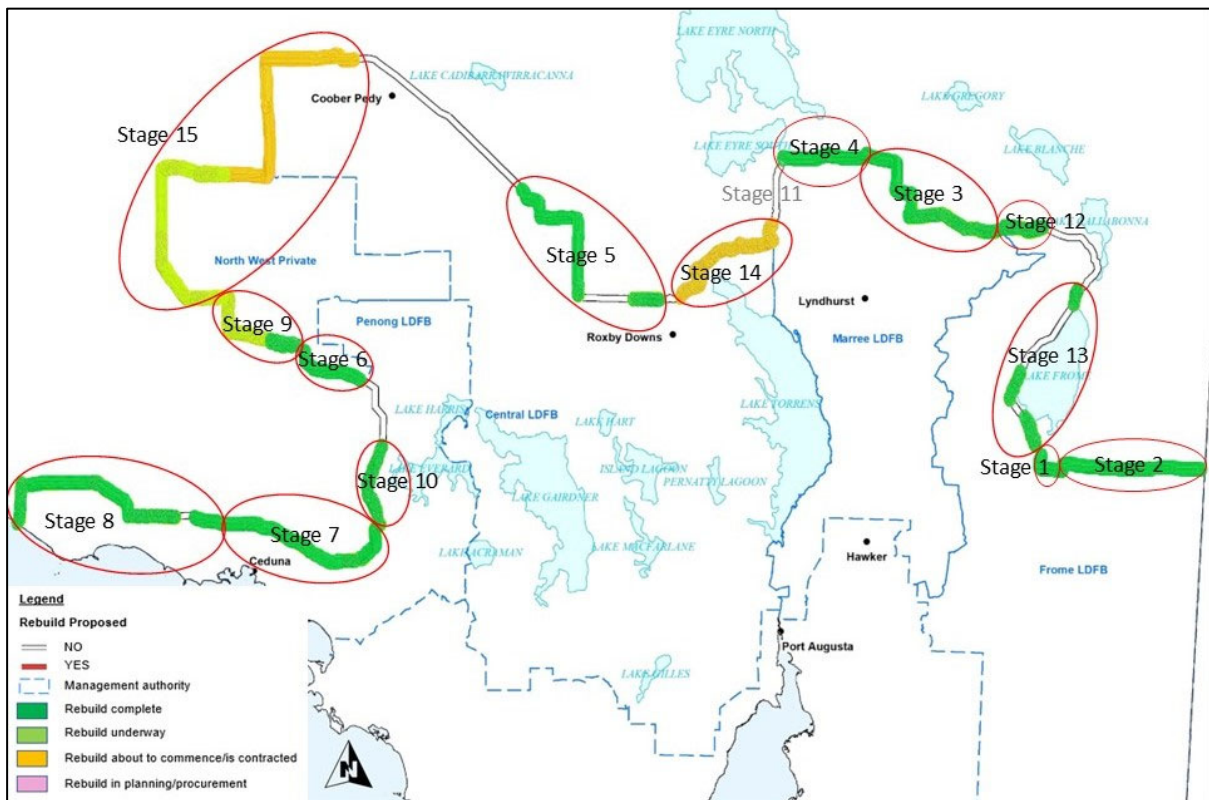
- 81 kilometres of fence has been completed in the north-west section.
- The ninth stage of the rebuild is 84 kilometres adjacent to Mulgathing. About 40 kilometres of fence has been completed, and grading has been completed for an additional 19 kilometres in preparation for fence construction.
- Part 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. Work commenced at Mobella on 24 March 2025.
- 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.

Rebuild of the Dog Fence in 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.

Procurement for future sections

- The materials and fencing suppliers have been procured for all stages of work required to complete the rebuild of 1,600 kilometres of Dog Fence. Minor procurements will still be required for secondary goods and services.



Progress of the rebuild of the Dog Fence

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, 882 wild dogs have been removed through the program; most of these have been trapped.
- Reported activity has slowed since the beginning of the year, though dogs are still being reported in the far west, central north and Flinders Ranges.

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.
- Install replacement 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.
- Facilitate herbicide application training course for the Northwest private owners.
- Manufacture 10,500 poison baits for local board distribution.
- Manufacture 22,000 poison baits for aerial program.
- Continue updating the Dog Fence condition scoring and maps to finalise forecasted fence replacement plan.
- Continuation of Dog Fence Rebuild Project.
- Work with CFS to establish a Vegetation and Fire Management Plan for the entire Dog Fence.
- Install new 1080 bait enclosures along the north side of the Dog Fence on organic properties.