



Our ref: CORP F2026/000033  
Receipt No: 23032485

CORPORATE SERVICES  
Level 20  
11 Waymouth Street  
Adelaide SA 5000  
GPO Box 1671  
Adelaide SA 5001  
DX 667  
Tel 8429 0422  
www.pir.sa.gov.au

7 May 2026

Removed from Disclosure Log

Dear Removed from Disclosure Log

### Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* which was received by the Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA) on 24 February 2026, seeking access to the following:

*"All correspondence and documents between 1 January 2024 to present between PIRSA Principal Biosecurity Officer Brad Page and the following organisations/people:*

- i. *Greg Mifsud - The National Wild Dog Action Plan Committee & Centre for Invasive Species Solutions*
- ii. *Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee*
- iii. Removed from Disclosure Log - *The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)*
- iv. Removed from Disclosure Log - *The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)*
- v. Removed from Disclosure Log - *The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)*
- vi. *Agriculture Victoria/Trevor Pisciotta*
- vii. *Australian Museum/Stephen Jackson*
- viii. *Ben/Benjamin Allen*
- ix. *Danielle Stephens*
- x. *Peter Fleming (New South Wales Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development)*

*Relating to dingoes/wild dogs in the Ngarkat/Big Desert/Wyperfeld region."*

Timeframe: 14/03/2024 to 24/02/2026

On 26 February 2026, you confirmed the timeframe commencement date as 14 March 2024.

On 27 February 2026, PIRSA's Accredited Freedom of Information Officer invited you to refine your application. A response was received from you on 1 March 2026.

Following the consideration of your response, on 5 March 2026 your application was confirmed as being amended as follows:

*"All correspondence and documents between 14 March 2024 to present between PIRSA Principal Biosecurity Officer Brad Page and the following organisations/people:*

- i. Greg Mifsud – The National Wild Dog Action Plan Committee & Centre for Invasive Species Solutions*
- ii. Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee*
- iii. The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)*
- iv. Agriculture Victoria / Trevor Pisciotta*
- v. Australian Museum / Stephen Jackson*
- vi. Ben/Benjamin Allen*
- vii. Danielle Stephens*
- viii. Peter Fleming (New South Wales Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development)*

*Relating to dingoes/wild dogs in the Ngarkat/Big Desert/Wyperfeld region."*

Accordingly, pursuant to Section 13(d) of the Act, your application became valid on 5 March 2026.

Pursuant to Section 14A of the Freedom of Information Act, the legislative timeframe in which to provide a determination was extended until 7 May 2026.

Accordingly, the following determination has been finalised.

I have located one hundred and eight documents that are captured within the scope of your request.

Please note that no documents were located for the organisations/people identified in points v and vii of your application.

**Determination 1**

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in full**:

<b>Doc No.</b>	<b>Description of document</b>	<b>No. of Pages</b>
1	Microsoft Teams Meeting Request dated 17/12/2024 re Dingo DNA Update	1
3a	Attachment to Document 3 – Sheep Central article dated 15/4/2024 titled "Vic sheep producer under dog attack told not to scare dingoes"	4
4a	Attachment to Document 4 – Map of Victoria – Areas where dingoes are protected/unprotected	1

OFFICIAL

7a	Attachment to Documents 5 and 7 – Weekly Times article dated 10/4/2024 titled “Dingo deal: Animals Australia drops case against Victorian Government”	2
7b	Attachment to Document 7 – Sheep Central article dated 10/4/2024 titled “South Australians seek action on Victorian wild dog changes”	6
8a	Attachment to Document 8 – Weekly Times article titled “Dingoes not a threatened species: reclassified as domestic dogs”	2
10c	Attachment to Documents 10 and 15 – Weekly Times article titled “Big Desert farm destocks, while new property faces dingo attacks”	3
15a	Attachment to Documents 10e, 15, 23 and 44 – Research Article titled “Landscape drivers of population density of a vulnerable apex predator	57
18a	Attachment to Document 18 – Extract from ACTA Update #25 re article titled “Wild dogs put the bite on State Agency”	1
26	Microsoft Teams Meeting dated 4/9/2025 re Reducing impacts of dingoes/dogs	1
27a	Attachment to Document 27 – Stock Journal article dated 28/3/2024 titled “New wild dog threat for SA”	1
27b	Attachment to Document 27 – Stock Journal article dated 28/3/2024 titled “Vic govt decision putting SA’s flocks at risk”	1
35a	Attachment to Document 35 – Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action fact sheet titled “Baiting declared pest animals in North West Victoria”	5
36	Microsoft Teams Meeting request dated 7/8/2025 re reducing impacts of dingoes and wild dogs	2
37	Microsoft Teams Meeting request dated 6/8/2025 re updated date and time for reducing impacts of dingoes and wild dogs	2
38	Microsoft Teams Meeting request dated 15/10/2025 re updated time for reducing impacts of dingoes and wild dogs	2
39	Microsoft Teams Meeting request dated 9/10/2025 re updated date and time for reducing impacts of dingoes and wild dogs meeting	2
40	Microsoft Teams Meeting request dated 4/9/2025 re reducing impacts of dingoes and wild dogs meeting reminder	2
41	Microsoft Teams Meeting request dated 8/9/2025 re updated reducing impacts of dingoes and wild dogs meeting reminder	2
42	Microsoft Teams Meeting request dated 8/9/2025 re reducing impacts of dingoes and wild dogs meeting reminder	2
51a	Attachment to Document 51 – Country News article dated 13/9/2024 titled “Accept the science and win”	4
51b	Attachment to Document 51 – Country News article dated 14/9/2024 titled “Grazier condemns wild dog strategy”	4
57a	Attachment to Document 57 – Australian Mammal Society Scientific Meeting – Melbourne Zoo 2024  Refer following link: <a href="#">1541_ams_2024_program.pdf</a>	-

58a	Attachment to Documents 58 and 59 – Media release dated 12/11/2024 titled "Ongoing dingo protection in north-west Victoria poses risks to livestock producers"	2
60	Acceptance email for meeting of 2/9/2024 from Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA to Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action re invitation to discuss dingo conservation and livestock predation management policy in Victoria	1
61	Acceptance email for meeting of 3/9/2024 from Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA to Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action re invitation to discuss dingo conservation and livestock predation management policy in Victoria	1
62	Microsoft Teams Meeting request dated 9/10/2025 re reducing impacts of dingoes and wild dogs	2
63	Acceptance email for meeting of 19/2/2025 from Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA to Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action re Fox baiting discussion	1
64	Acceptance email for meeting of 22/5/2024 from Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA to Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action re AgVic meeting with PIRSA	1

**Determination 2**

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
3	Email from National Wild Dog Management Coordinator, Centre for Invasives Species Solutions to Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA dated 16/4/2024 re Sheep Central article	2
4	Emails between the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA dated 14/3/2024 re regulatory settings for Dingo control in Victoria	2
7	Emails between National Wild Dog Management Coordinator, Centre for Invasives Species Solutions and Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA dated 11/4/2024 re Weekly Times article	1

OFFICIAL

8	Email from National Wild Dog Management Coordinator, Centre for Invasives Species Solutions to Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA dated 26/3/2024 re Weekly Times article	1
9	Email from Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA to National Wild Dog Management Coordinator, Centre for Invasives Species Solutions dated 17/4/2024 re Motion in Upper House SA Parliament re wild dogs in Victoria	3
10	Emails from Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board to Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and other recipients dated 3/10/2025 and 9/10/2025 re Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Meeting No 39 Agenda and Meeting Papers	3
10a	Attachment to Document 10 – WildDogScan - New damage record for Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee dated 7/10/2025	1
10b	Attachment to Document 10 – Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Victorian Northwest Report dated 13/10/2025	1
10e	Email from Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board to Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and other recipients dated 3/10/2025 re Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Meeting No 39 - Agenda and Meeting Papers	1
10ea	Attachment to Document 10e – Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee - Meeting No 39 dated 13/10/2025 – Agenda	2
10eb	Attachment to Document 10e - Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee – Draft Minutes for meeting dated 17/3/2025	9
10ec	Attachment to Document 10e – Email re Wild Dogs	4
10ed	Attachment to Document 10e – Email re Wild Dogs	1
10ee	Attachment to Document 10e - Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee – Meeting Report dated October 2025	3
11	Microsoft Teams Meeting Request dated 13/10/2025 re Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Meeting	1
12	Microsoft Teams Meeting Request dated 13/10/2025 re Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Meeting – updated time	2
13	Microsoft Teams Meeting Request dated 13/10/2025 re Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Meeting – updated time	1
14	Email from Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board dated 9/2/2026 re Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee meeting	1
15	Email between Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board and Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA dated 3/10/2025 and 7/10/2025 re request for agenda items for Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee and Big Desert farm destocks article	3

OFFICIAL

18	Email thread between Animal Control Technologies (Australia) Pty Ltd, Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and National Wild Dog Management Coordinator, Centre for Invasives Species Solutions dated 14/11/2024 and 18/11/2024 re wild dogs and foxes in Victoria	2
19	Emails between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board dated 20/11/2024 and 21/11/2024 re Meeting minutes for Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee  (Note: The two attachments dated 19/2/2024 are outside of the scope of your application)	2
19a	Attachment to Documents 19 and 22 – Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Special Meeting - Draft Minutes dated 26/3/2024	1
19b	Attachment to Document 19 – Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee - Draft Minutes dated 5/6/2024	4
20	Emails between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board dated 20/11/2024 and 21/11/2024 re Meeting minutes for Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee	2
20a	Attachment to Document 20 – Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee - Draft Minutes dated 30/4/2024	3
21	Emails between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board dated 19/8/2025 re Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Meeting invitation	2
22	Emails between Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board, Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and other recipients dated 27/3/2024 and 28/3/2024 re revised minutes for Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Out of Session meeting	2
23a	Attachment to Documents 10e and 23 – Eradication of Wild Dogs from SA Sheep Country – Tracking progress of the 10-year eradication program – Program update March 2025	18
24	Email from Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board dated 30/9/2025 September 2025 survey of wild dogs in Ngarkat by wild dog trapper	1
25	Email from Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA to Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action dated 24/9/2024 re Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee meeting availability	1
27	Email from Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA to Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action dated 28/3/2024 re articles re wild dogs	1
28	Emails between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action dated 24/9/2024 and 3/10/2024 re Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee meeting	2

29	Email between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action dated 22/8/2025 and 25/8/2025 re Dingo report of population status in Victoria	1
30	Emails between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action dated 22/8/2025 and 8/9/2025 re Dingo report of population status in Victoria	2
31	Email thread between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action dated 8/10/2025 re meeting request for 9/10/2025 re reducing impacts of dingoes and wild dogs	2
32	Emails between Regional Manager South West, Plants, Chemicals and Invasives, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA dated 12/5/2025 re SA – Vic meetings	2
33	Email from Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action to Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA dated 15/10/2025 re rescheduling meeting for reducing impacts of dingoes and wild dogs	1
34	Emails between Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA dated 8/9/2025 re meeting for reducing impacts of dingoes and wild dogs	1
35	Emails between Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA dated 24/2/2025 re baiting fact sheet	1
50	Emails between National Wild Dog Action Plan Communications and Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and other recipients dated 12/11/2024 re media release titled "Ongoing dingo protection in north-west Victoria poses risks to livestock producers"	3
51	Emails between National Wild Dog Action Plan Communications and Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA dated 23/9/2024 re media release from NSW Farmers re wild dog control	3
58	Emails between National Wild Dog Action Plan Communications, Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action dated 12/11/2024 re Media release titled "Ongoing dingo protection in north-west Victoria poses risks to livestock producers"	1

59	Emails between National Wild Dog Action Plan Communications, Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action dated 12/11/2024 re Media release titled "Ongoing dingo protection in north-west Victoria poses risks to livestock producers"	1
65	Acceptance email for meeting of 12/9/2024 from Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA to Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action re follow up to consultation on dingo conservation and management	1

The information removed from the above documents is pursuant to Clause 6(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

**"6 - Documents affecting personal affairs**

*(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter the disclosure of which would involve the unreasonable disclosure of information concerning the personal affairs of any person (living or dead)."*

The information removed consists of the following:

- Documents 3, 15, 19, 20, 32, 35 and 50: Names, email addresses and mobile telephone numbers of Departmental officers and other individuals
- Documents 4, 7, 8 and 9: Email addresses and mobile telephone numbers of individuals and Departmental officers
- Documents 10, 10e, 14, 21, 24, 25, 27, 34, 51, 58 and 59: Names and mobile telephone numbers of Departmental officers and other individuals
- Document 10a: Name, email address, username, location details and unique ID relating to an individual
- Documents 10b, 10ea, 10ee, 11, 12, 13, 19a, 19b, 20a and 65: Names of individuals
- Documents 10eb, 10ec, 10ed: Names of individuals and identifying information and locations
- Documents 18, 23a and 28: Mobile telephone numbers of Departmental officers and other individuals
- Document 19b: Names, email address and mobile telephone numbers of individuals and identifying information and locations
- Document 22: Name and direct telephone number of an individual
- Documents 29, 30 and 31: Names and email addresses of individuals and mobile telephone numbers of Departmental officers
- Document 33: Names and email addresses of individuals, mobile telephone number of a Departmental officer and personal information relating to an individual

The remaining information removed from Documents 4, 9, 10, 10e, 11, 12, 13, 14, 22, 27, 50, 51, 58 and 59 is outside of the scope of your request.

The term 'personal affairs' has been held to involve 'matters of private concern to an individual' and the 'composite collection of activities personal to the individual concerned'.

Consent has not been provided to disclose the names of the individuals concerned and, accordingly, there would be an expectation that their personal information would not be released in this way.

As a mobile telephone number allows a person, including an officer of an agency, to be contacted outside of business hours and is information that is not ordinarily available to the public, the information is taken to concern the personal affairs of an individual.

Accordingly, it is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

**Determination 3**

I have determined that access to the following documents is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
10d	Attachment to Document 10 – Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee - Draft Minutes dated 13/10/2025	3
16	Email between Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board and Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA dated 16/10/2025 and 17/10/2025 re Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee - Draft Minutes of Meeting 39	2
17	Emails between Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board and Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA dated 16/10/2025 re Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Draft Minutes of Meeting 39	3
23	Email thread between Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board and Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA dated 25/9/2025 and 30/9/2025 re requests for reports and contributions - Upcoming Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee meeting	3

The information removed from the above documents is pursuant to Clause 6(1) and Clause 9(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act.

The information removed pursuant to Clause 6(1) consists of the following:

- Document 10d: Names of individuals and locations
- Documents 16 and 17: Names and mobile telephone numbers of Departmental officers and other individuals
- Document 23: Names, mobile telephone numbers and email addresses of individuals

Consent has not been provided to disclose the names of the individuals concerned and, accordingly, there would be an expectation that their personal information would not be released in this way.

Accordingly, it is considered that disclosure of this information would be an unreasonable intrusion into the privacy rights of the individuals concerned.

Clause 9(1) states:

***“9—Internal working documents***

*(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter—*

*(a) that relates to -*

*(i) any opinion, advice or recommendation that has been obtained, prepared or recorded; or*

*(ii) any consultation or deliberation that has taken place, in the course of, or for the purpose of, the decision-making functions of the Government, a Minister or an agency; and*

*(b) the disclosure of which would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.”*

The information removed pursuant to Clause 9(1) consists of detail relating to a matter for internal decision-making purposes.

In addressing the public interest test for the Clause 9(1) exemption, I have balanced the following factors:

*In favour of the public interest:*

- Meeting the objects of the Freedom of Information Act favouring access to documents.
- Ensuring optimal use of public resources.
- High level of interest in the accountability of public office holders.
- The importance of transparency and openness and the interest that the public has in the decision-making processes of Government.
- Providing members of the public with access to information of special interest to them.

*Contrary to the public interest:*

- The recent age of the information was considered and the continuing relevance of the matters.
- Providing an agency with the ability to undertake internal consultation without unnecessary interference.
- Protection of the deliberative processes of Government.
- Preserving the integrity of information gathering processes leading up to the finalisation of decisions.
- Disclosure may prejudice the agency's ability to obtain similar information from other agencies in the future.
- Allowing internal communications to occur in a reasonably uninhibited manner, where the discussion may be sensitive.

- Disclosing this information may compromise the manner in which information is gathered in the future for the decision-making processes of Government to the detriment of the betterment for South Australia.

Having considered the various factors weighing for and against disclosure, I have determined that disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

**Determination 4**

I have determined that access to the following document is **granted in part**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
10ef	Attachment to Document 10e – PIRSA Biosecurity Update – SA wild dog eradication program	1

The information removed from the above document is pursuant to Clause 9(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act.

The information removed consists of detail relating to a matter for internal decision-making purposes.

In addressing the public interest test for the Clause 9(1) exemption, I have balanced the following factors:

*In favour of the public interest:*

- Meeting the objects of the Freedom of Information Act favouring access to documents.
- Ensuring optimal use of public resources.
- High level of interest in the accountability of public office holders.
- The importance of transparency and openness and the interest that the public has in the decision-making processes of Government.
- Providing members of the public with access to information of special interest to them.

*Contrary to the public interest:*

- The recent age of the information was considered and the continuing relevance of the matters.
- Providing an agency with the ability to undertake internal consultation without unnecessary interference.
- Protection of the deliberative processes of Government.
- Preserving the integrity of information gathering processes leading up to the finalisation of decisions.
- Disclosure may prejudice the agency's ability to obtain similar information from other agencies in the future.

- Allowing internal communications to occur in a reasonably uninhibited manner, where the discussion may be sensitive.
- Disclosing this information may compromise the manner in which information is gathered in the future for the decision-making processes of Government to the detriment of the betterment for South Australia.

Having considered the various factors weighing for and against disclosure, I have determined that disclosure of this information would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

**Determination 5**

I have determined that access to the following document is **refused**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
6a	Attachment to Document 6 – Letter re dingo management	4

Access to the above document is refused pursuant to Clause 5(1)(a)(i) and (b) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act which states:

***“5—Documents affecting inter-governmental or local government relations***  
*(1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter—*  
*(a) the disclosure of which -*  
*(i) could reasonably be expected to cause damage to intergovernmental relations; and*  
*(b) the disclosure of which would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.”*

The document consists of a draft letter forwarded to members of the National Wild Dog Action Plan Committee seeking their endorsement.

In addressing the public interest test for the Clause 5 exemption, I have balanced the following factors:

*In favour of the public interest:*

- Meeting the objects of the Act favouring access to documents.
- Ensuring optimal use of public resources.
- High level of interest in the accountability of public office holders.
- The importance of transparency and openness and the interest that the public has in the decision-making processes of Government.
- Providing members of the public with access to information of special interest to them.

*Contrary to the public interest:*

- Pursuant to Sections 25 and 27 of the Freedom of Information Act, third party consultation was undertaken and consent was not provided to release this information.
- The recent age of the information was considered and the continuing relevance of the matters.
- Ensuring the efficient operation of Government.
- Disclosure of this information would undermine the nationally coordinated approach to managing the negative impacts of wild dogs on primary production, environment and social assets throughout Australia.
- The release of such information could limit and hinder the intended purpose of negotiations between interstate counterparts in achieving satisfactory outcomes in delivering the National Wild Dog Action Plan.
- Departmental and Committee members across jurisdictions should be able to discuss matters in confidence without fear that information of a sensitive nature is released into the public domain.
- Disclosure could result in a loss of trust and confidence between PIRSA and its interstate counterparts resulting in damage to relationships between the agencies.

Having considered the various factors weighing for and against disclosure, I have determined that disclosure of this document would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

### **Determination 6**

I have determined that access to the following documents is **refused**:

<b>Doc No.</b>	<b>Description of document</b>	<b>No. of Pages</b>
2	Email from National Wild Dog Management Coordinator, Centre for Invasives Species Solutions to Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and other recipients dated 17/12/2024 re documents re project proposal	1
2a	Attachment to Document 2 – Project brief final	3
2b	Attachment to Document 2 – Project description	4
5	Emails between National Wild Dog Management Coordinator, Centre for Invasives Species Solutions and Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and other recipients dated 18/4/2024 re project proposal	1
5a	Attachment to Document 5 – Project proposal	11

Access to the above documents is refused pursuant to Clause 5(1)(a)(i) and (b) and Clause 8(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Documents 2a, 2b and 5a consist of project proposals for research purposes.

Documents 2 and 5 are the covering emails associated with the above three documents.

In addressing the public interest test for the Clause 5 exemption, I have balanced the following factors:

*In favour of the public interest:*

- Meeting the objects of the Act favouring access to documents.
- Ensuring optimal use of public resources.
- High level of interest in the accountability of public office holders.
- The importance of transparency and openness and the interest that the public has in the decision-making processes of Government.
- Providing members of the public with access to information of special interest to them.

*Contrary to the public interest:*

- The recent age of the information was considered and the continuing relevance of the matters.
- Ensuring the efficient operation of Government.
- Protecting the scientific data, methodologies and other sensitive information shared by interstate counterparts in their communications with PIRSA.
- Disclosure of this information would undermine the nationally coordinated approach to managing the negative impacts of wild dogs on primary production, environment and social assets throughout Australia.
- The release of such information could limit and hinder the intended purpose of negotiations between interstate counterparts in achieving satisfactory outcomes in delivering the National Wild Dog Action Plan.
- Departmental and Committee members across jurisdictions should be able to discuss matters in confidence without fear that information of a sensitive nature is released into the public domain.
- PIRSA's involvement in seeking funding for research projects requires ongoing relationships with Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments.
- Disclosure could result in a loss of trust and confidence between PIRSA and its interstate counterparts given the expectation of confidence between all parties in the conduct of grant funding assessment processes.

Having considered the various factors weighing for and against disclosure, I have determined that disclosure of these documents would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

Clause 8(1) states:

**“8—Documents affecting the conduct of research**

- (1) A document is an exempt document if it contains matter—
- (a) that relates to the purpose or results of research (other than public opinion polling that does not relate directly to a contract or other commercial transaction that is still being negotiated), including research that is yet to be commenced or yet to be completed; and
  - (b) the disclosure of which—
    - (i) could reasonably be expected to have an adverse effect on the agency or other person by or on whose behalf the research is being, or is intended to be, carried out; and
    - (ii) would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.”

In addressing the public interest test for the Clause 8 exemption, I have balanced the following factors:

*In favour of the public interest:*

- Meeting the objects of the Act favouring access to documents.
- Ensuring optimal use of public resources.
- High level of interest in the accountability of public office holders.
- The importance of transparency and openness and the interest that the public has in the decision-making processes of Government.
- Providing members of the public with access to information of special interest to them.

*Contrary to the public interest:*

- The age of the information was considered and the continuing relevance of the matters.
- Disclosure of this information would undermine the nationally coordinated approach to managing the negative impacts of wild dogs on primary production, environment and social assets throughout Australia.
- The need to preserve the confidentiality of the details of research projects being undertaken prior to the release of their findings.
- Protecting the ideas and methodologies of researchers.
- Ensuring research being undertaken on wild dog management approaches is not undermined by interested parties prior to completion.
- Disclosure of such research details would jeopardise the work of all agencies involved in delivering the National Wild Dog Action Plan.
- Revealing this information would be detrimental to the researchers undertaking their planned research in fear that their research is undermined and their ideas are stolen.

Having considered the various factors weighing for and against disclosure, I have determined that disclosure of these documents would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

**Determination 7**

I have determined that access to the following documents is **refused**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
6	Emails between National Wild Dog Management Coordinator, Centre for Invasives Species Solutions and Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and other recipients dated 24/4/2024 re dingo management	2
43	Email from Wildlife Management and Research Team Leader, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Systems/Institute for Life Sciences and the Environment, University of Southern Queensland dated 14/3/2024 re dingoes in North-West Victoria	2
44	Email thread between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA, Wildlife Management and Research Team Leader, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Systems/Institute for Life Sciences and the Environment, University of Southern Queensland and Senior Principal Research Scientist/Research Leader, Containment of Predator Threats, Vertebrate Pest Research Unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and other recipients dated 12/9/2025 to 18/9/2025 re draft response	10
44a	Attachment to Document 44 (attached to email dated 12/9/2025) – Draft paper	5
44b	Attachment to Document 44 (attached to email dated 17/9/2025) – Updated draft paper	7
44c	Attachment to Document 44 (attached to email dated 18/9/2025) – Updated draft paper	7
44d	Attachment to Document 44 – Updated draft paper	7
44e	Attachment to Document 44 (attached to email dated 15/9/2025) – Updated draft paper	7
45	Email thread between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA, Wildlife Management and Research Team Leader, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Systems/Institute for Life Sciences and the Environment, University of Southern Queensland and Senior Principal Research Scientist/Research Leader, Containment of Predator Threats, Vertebrate Pest Research Unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and other recipients dated 12/9/2025 and 15/9/2025 re draft response	3
46	Email thread between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA, Wildlife Management and Research Team Leader, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Systems/Institute for Life Sciences and the Environment, University of Southern Queensland and Senior Principal Research Scientist/Research Leader, Containment of Predator Threats, Vertebrate Pest Research Unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and other recipients dated 12/9/2025 and 15/9/2025 re draft response	4

**OFFICIAL**

46a	Attachment to Document 46 - Updated draft paper	6
47	Email thread between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA, Wildlife Management and Research Team Leader, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Systems/Institute for Life Sciences and the Environment, University of Southern Queensland and Senior Principal Research Scientist/Research Leader, Containment of Predator Threats, Vertebrate Pest Research Unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and other recipients dated 12/9/2025 to 23/9/2025 re draft response	12
47a	Attachment to Document 47 – Updated draft paper	8
48	Email thread between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA, Wildlife Management and Research Team Leader, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Systems/Institute for Life Sciences and the Environment, University of Southern Queensland and Senior Principal Research Scientist/Research Leader, Containment of Predator Threats, Vertebrate Pest Research Unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and other recipients dated 12/9/2025 to 23/9/2025 re draft response	10
48a	Attachment to Document 48 – Updated draft paper	7
49	Email thread between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA, Wildlife Management and Research Team Leader, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Systems/Institute for Life Sciences and the Environment, University of Southern Queensland and Senior Principal Research Scientist/Research Leader, Containment of Predator Threats, Vertebrate Pest Research Unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and other recipients dated 12/9/2025 to 16/9/2025 re draft response	7
49a	Attachment to Document 49 – Updated draft paper	6
52	Email thread between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA, Wildlife Management and Research Team Leader, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Systems/Institute for Life Sciences and the Environment, University of Southern Queensland and Senior Principal Research Scientist/Research Leader, Containment of Predator Threats, Vertebrate Pest Research Unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and other recipients dated 12/9/2025 to 16/9/2025 re draft response	9
53	Email thread between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA, Wildlife Management and Research Team Leader, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Systems/Institute for Life Sciences and the Environment, University of Southern Queensland and Senior Principal Research Scientist/Research Leader, Containment of Predator Threats, Vertebrate Pest Research Unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and other recipients dated 12/9/2025 to 25/9/2025 re draft response	16
53a	Attachment to Document 53 – Updated draft paper	8

54	Email thread between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity PIRSA, Wildlife Management and Research Team Leader, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Systems/Institute for Life Sciences and the Environment, University of Southern Queensland and Senior Principal Research Scientist/Research Leader, Containment of Predator Threats, Vertebrate Pest Research Unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and other recipients dated 12/9/2025 to 23/9/2025 re draft response	12
55	Email thread between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA, Wildlife Management and Research Team Leader, Centre for Sustainable Agricultural Systems/Institute for Life Sciences and the Environment, University of Southern Queensland and Senior Principal Research Scientist/Research Leader, Containment of Predator Threats, Vertebrate Pest Research Unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and other recipients dated 12/9/2025 to 18/9/2025 re draft response	9
56	Email thread between Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA and Senior Principal Research Scientist/Research Leader, Containment of Predator Threats, Vertebrate Pest Research Unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development dated 4/11/2025 and 5/11/2025 re National Wild Dog Action Plan	4
57	Email thread between Senior Principal Research Scientist/Research Leader, Containment of Predator Threats, Vertebrate Pest Research Unit, NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and Principal Biosecurity Officer - Pest Animals, Biosecurity, PIRSA dated 10/2/2026 re article	3

Access to the above documents is refused pursuant to Clause 5(1)(a)(i) and (b) and Clause 9(1) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act.

The documents consist of communications between PIRSA and staff of other jurisdictions for internal decision-making purposes as follows:

- Document 6: Email from the National Wild Dog Management Coordinator to Committee members and a response from PIRSA in the capacity as a member of the National Wild Dog Action Plan Committee
- Documents 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 and 57: Emails between officers of PIRSA and other jurisdictions
- Documents 44a, 44b, 44c, 44d, 44e, 46a, 47a, 48a, 49a and 53a: Draft versions of a document

In addressing the public interest test for the Clause 5 exemption, I have balanced the following factors:

*In favour of the public interest:*

- Meeting the objects of the Freedom of Information Act favouring access to documents.
- Ensuring optimal use of public resources.
- High level of interest in the accountability of public office holders.
- The importance of transparency and openness and the interest that the public has in the decision-making processes of Government.
- Providing members of the public with access to information of special interest to them.

*Contrary to the public interest:*

- The need to preserve confidentiality of information being shared between government agencies on matters which are still under consideration.
- The recent age of the information was considered and the continuing relevance of the matters.
- Ensuring the efficient operation of Government
- Officers from other jurisdictions should be able to work together without fear that their internal communications are aired into the public domain.
- Protecting the scientific data, methodologies and other sensitive information shared by interstate counterparts in their communications with PIRSA.
- Disclosure of this information would undermine the nationally coordinated approach to managing the negative impacts of wild dogs on primary production, environment and social assets throughout Australia.
- The release of such information could limit and hinder the intended purpose of negotiations between interstate counterparts in achieving satisfactory outcomes in delivering the National Wild Dog Action Plan.
- Departmental and Committee members across jurisdictions should be able to discuss matters in confidence without fear that information of a sensitive nature is released into the public domain.
- It is expected that disclosure would harm inter-governmental relationships with the Commonwealth Government and interstate agencies resulting in the agencies reconsidering their position regarding their future interactions with the South Australian Government.
- Disclosure could result in a loss of trust and confidence between PIRSA and its interstate counterparts resulting in damage to relationships between the agencies.

Having considered the various factors weighing for and against disclosure, I have determined that disclosure of these documents would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

In addressing the public interest test for the Clause 9(1) exemption, I have balanced the following factors:

*In favour of the public interest:*

- Meeting the objects of the Freedom of Information Act favouring access to documents.
- Ensuring optimal use of public resources.
- High level of interest in the accountability of public office holders.
- The importance of transparency and openness and the interest that the public has in the decision-making processes of Government.
- Providing members of the public with access to information of special interest to them.

*Contrary to the public interest:*

- The recent age of the information was considered and the continuing relevance of the matters.
- Providing an agency with the ability to undertake internal consultation without unnecessary interference.
- The information is not widely published or disseminated.
- Protection of the deliberative processes of Government, particularly where a matter is continuing to be dealt with.
- Preserving the integrity of information gathering processes leading up to the finalisation of decisions.
- Recognising that internal decision-making processes are required to be undertaken to enable an agency to provide information to the public on matters of concern and interest.
- Disclosure may prejudice the agency's ability to obtain similar information from other agencies in the future.
- Allowing internal communications to occur in a reasonably uninhibited manner, where the discussion may be sensitive.
- Disclosure of this information would undermine the nationally coordinated approach to managing the negative impacts of wild dogs on primary production, environment and social assets throughout Australia.
- Disclosing this information may compromise the manner in which information is gathered in the future for the decision-making processes of Government to the detriment of the betterment for South Australia.

Having considered the various factors weighing for and against disclosure, I have determined that disclosure of these documents would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest.

If you are dissatisfied with this determination, you are entitled to exercise your right of review and appeal as outlined in the attached documentation [Making a Freedom of Information Application | State Records of South Australia \(archives.sa.gov.au\)](#), by completing the "FOI Application Form for Internal Review of a Determination" and returning the completed form to:

OFFICIAL

Freedom of Information Principal Officer  
Department of Primary Industries and Regions  
GPO Box 1671  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

or via email [PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au](mailto:PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au)

In accordance with the requirements of Premier and Cabinet Circular PC045, details of your application, and the documents to which you are given access, will be published in PIRSA's disclosure log. A copy of PC045 can be found at [http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf](http://dpc.sa.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/20818/PC045-Disclosure-Log-Policy.pdf)

If you disagree with publication, please advise the undersigned in writing within fourteen calendar days from the date of this determination.

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Lisa Farley, Senior Freedom of Information Advisor on 8429 0422 or email [PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au](mailto:PIRSA.FOI@sa.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



Michelle Griffiths  
**Accredited Freedom of Information Officer**  
**DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS**

**Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)**

---

**Subject:** Dingo DNA Update  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Start:** Tue 17/12/2024 12:30 PM  
**End:** Tue 17/12/2024 1:30 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Organizer:** Greg Mifsud

---

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 428 167 185 583

Passcode: tT6Nn7Ky

---

For organizers: [Meeting options](#)

---

# Vic sheep producer under dog attack told not to scare dingoes

Terry Sim April 15, 2024



A NORTH-WEST Victorian sheep producer has been told he must convince authorities a wild dog or dingo attacked his sheep and that he has implemented all reasonable and effective non-lethal control measures before he will be issued a wildlife control permit.

Lawloit-based Alan Bennett, who estimates he has lost about 30 sheep from dog attacks in the past three weeks, has been denied an Authority to Control Wildlife after the Victorian Government changed wild dog control rules on accepting evidence the north-west dingo population is at risk of extinction.

Mr Bennett is one of the first farmers to be impacted by the government's decision on 14 March to end the Wildlife Act (1975) Order In Council that while in force effectively 'unprotected' dingoes on private land, and on public land within a 3km buffer from the borders to private land, enabling baiting and trapping. On 1 October 2024, the government has said it will do the same in eastern Victoria.

Last week Mr Bennett was told via email by Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action director Callie Donaldson "that any deliberate scaring or active disturbance to dingoes may also require an ATCW (Authority to Control Wildlife)."

"So if they are eating my sheep, I've got to pretty much sit there and watch them do it," Mr Bennett said.

"If they turn up and get into my chook house, I've just got to sit there and watch them eat my chooks, I can't hunt them out of my chook house.

"It's a full three weeks since I lodged the (ATCW) application and in anybody's assessment that's an unrealistic turnaround when we've got dogs attacking our sheep," he said.

"Realistically if I can't get a permit to take one dog out now I don't think there is going to be any sort of application that will ever be granted."

Mr Bennett said the tone of an email he received from Ms Donaldson was insulting and very dismissive.

"They hold the power and they are taking advantage of it."

Ms Donaldson told Mr Bennett that: "Given evidence of the risk of extinction of the dingo population in north-west Victoria, I must consider the implications of any control on the long-term survival of this population."

She also told Mr Bennett she is considering refusing his application, "on the basis that there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that the damage being caused is proportionate to the impact of the proposed control on the wildlife population which is at risk of extinction."

Mr Bennett said this raises the question as to what level of damage is sufficient for the Victorian Government to allow a marauding dog or dingo to be killed in the north-west.

"What is that level of cost, we've probably lost 30 grown sheep, I think we are losing lambs now – what's the figure?"

"Is it 100 sheep, is it \$5000, \$10,000, if they are going to have that attitude and sit in judgment on our losses? He said.

"The other thing they can't put a figure on is the emotional toll it is taking on us, and the time that it is taking."

Mr Donaldson told Mr Bennett she acknowledged the "difficulty and concern" that the damage to his livestock may be causing him.

"Acknowledging my loss doesn't do me any good; he doesn't pay me for the sheep, it doesn't stop the dogs from taking my lambs right now – it's an absolute insult to be honest," Mr Bennett said.

He said DEECA is asking for more evidence of the attacks when he has already had two DEECA officers on the property collecting evidence at the site of the initial attack, who refused an invitation to be taken to where the most recent attacks occurred and left the property "saying they had gathered enough information."

"So either they haven't been briefed well enough or haven't done their job well enough that now they come back on me and the responsibility is now on me to gather this information in my own time and expense to keep this process going.

"They just keep shifting the goal posts, in my opinion."

Ms Donaldson told Mr Bennett to make a decision on his application she must be satisfied that damage is being caused by wildlife named in the application, all reasonable non-lethal control options have been implemented and of the effectiveness of the proposed control to mitigate the risk of ongoing damage.

Mr Bennett said north-west farmers were not consulted about the new ATCW rules and the first he knew of a change was when his initial ATCW application was denied because of the impending unprotection buffer policy change, but before it was implemented on 14 March.

"We had no consultation, we weren't included in discussions."

He believes his initial ATCW application should have been granted and acted on because it was made before the buffer policy was announced.

He believes his initial ATCW application should have been granted and acted on because it was made before the buffer policy was announced.

"They've actually done the wrong thing because they haven't played by the old rules.

"They bring the new rules in and then suddenly all these new rules involve all these requirements that we are supposed to suddenly click our fingers and have exclusion fencing and guardian animals with all our flocks, well how the hell do we do that? he said.

"We can't change our farming practices at the snap of our fingers."

Mr Bennett said he has erected about 5-6 kilometres of exclusion fencing and planned to do another eight kilometres, and has repaired an existing netting fence, but there is "just ridiculous" pressure from kangaroos leaving the adjacent Big Desert Wilderness Park seeking food and water on his property. The dogs were accessing his land through the holes made in the fence by the kangaroos.

"Once again this our State Government being a really good neighbour."

He said alpacas had been trialled, but were no match for a wild dog. He hasn't tried guardian dogs or donkeys.

"They can make the rules up as they go along, which is sort of what is happening now."

Mr Bennett has destocked about 2000 hectares across two properties adjacent to the Big Desert Wilderness Park to limit further losses, but has had to leave lambing ewes and ewe weaners.

### No time given for farmers to adjust

National wild dog management coordinator Greg Mifsud said the Victorian Government has implemented its decision in north-west Victoria without consultation with affected producers.

"It takes a long time to get a Maremma (guardian dog) to work in a paddock with livestock, it takes a long time to get a donkey to be acclimatised and undertakes his role and takes a long time to put up a fence.

"So you can't just say this is going to occur from today without giving landholders an opportunity to phase in all those non-lethal control tools that take a considerable amount of time to become established," he said.

"This is where this Victorian process and this commentary from Callie Donaldson is inconsistent and shows their complete disregard and ill-informed knowledge on how long it takes to implement non-lethal control effectively.

"If they were genuinely concerned about consultation and engaging with stakeholders on this, they would have allowed a phase-in period which would have given people an adequate amount of time to implement non-lethal control prior to make the area fully protected and that would mitigated the issue we are dealing with right now with Alan Bennett."

Mr Mifsud questioned the level of evidence that farmers are being asked to produce to prove dog or dingo attacks.

"What else is out there that is going to cause that level of damage to stock.

“Genuine ecologists would look at that (sheep mauled) and say that is obviously an attack by a large canid, much larger than a fox, it’s not an eagle — nothing out there in the landscape is going to do it, and removing one dog from a population is not going to affect the population’s viability.”

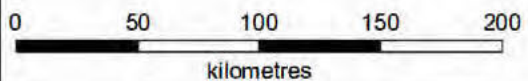
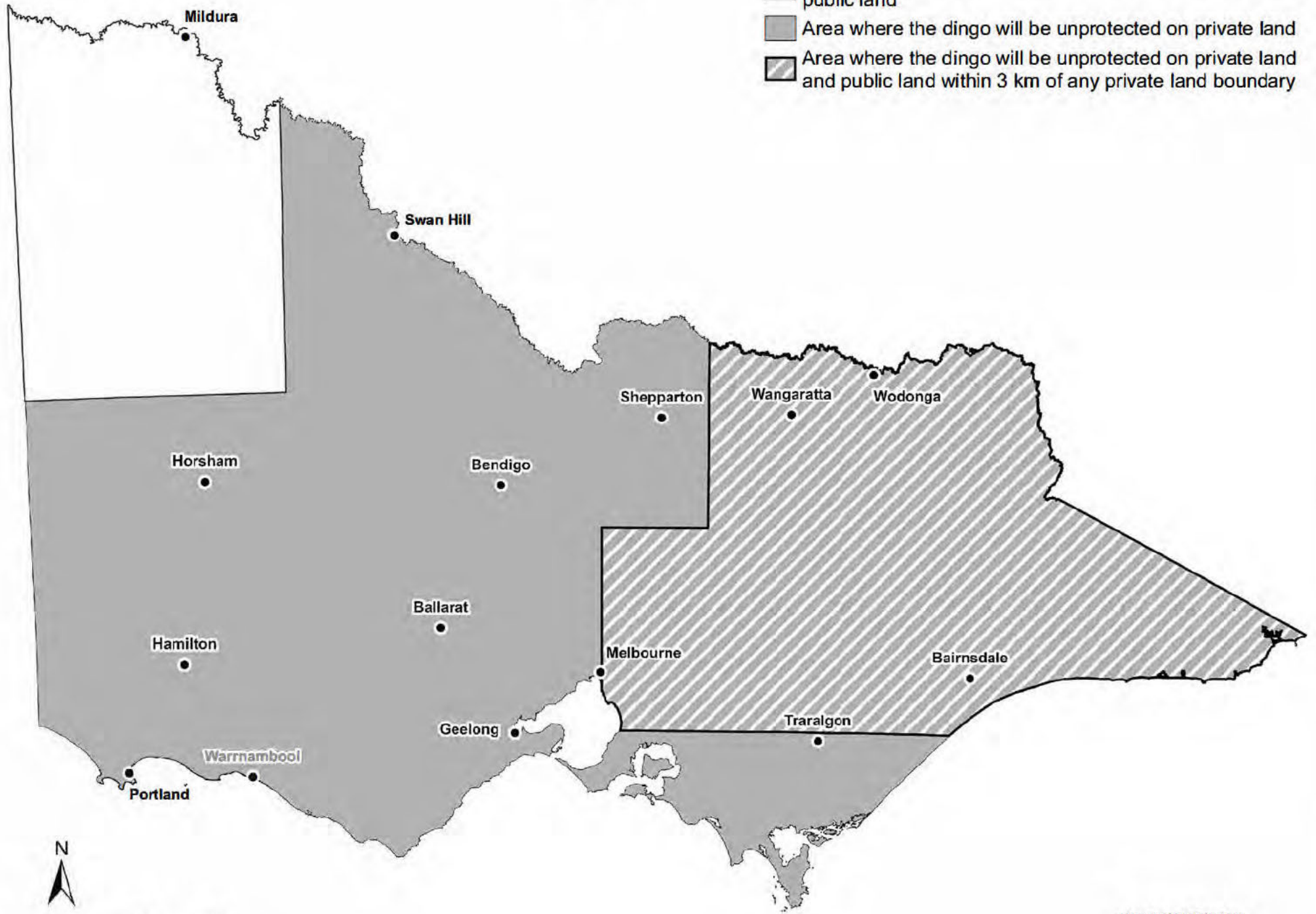
Mr Mifsud said the department also has not said what has been the historical size of the north-west dingo population.

“They are all saying there is only 40 to 260 there currently, and it could have been that for the last 50 years.

“The density of dingoes in similar semi-arid environments across the country is quite low so realistically 40 to 260 is probably what you would expect in there anyway, given the productivity of that landscape,” he said.

“The Victorian Government has not come and said what numbers they would expect there based on the food, water and habitat availability.”

- Area where the dingo will be protected on private land and public land
- Area where the dingo will be unprotected on private land
- ▨ Area where the dingo will be unprotected on private land and public land within 3 km of any private land boundary



# Dingo deal: Animals Australia drops case against Victorian Government

Animals Australia dropped its Supreme Court case against Victorian Government dingo controls, just four days after wild dog protections were put in place.

**Peter Hunt**

April 10, 2024 - 1:00PM

The Weekly Times

0 comments



One of the sheep that wild dogs killed on Alan Bennett's north-west Victorian property

Animals Australia dropped its Supreme Court case against the Victorian Government's dingo control program, just four days after both environment and agriculture ministers agreed to protect wild dogs in the state's north-west.

The Supreme Court verified the case brought by Animals Australia against the Victorian Attorney-General in November last year was "dismissed by consent" on March 19.

Just four days earlier Victorian Environment Minister Steve Dimopoulos and Agriculture Minister Ros Spence signed off on an Order in Council that ended decades of dingo control in the north-west, protecting all dingoes and wild dogs on public and private land.

The move stunned farmers, who had been assured by both ministers that they and other stakeholders would be consulted on a review into dingo control that was not due to be finalised until later this year.

Both Ministers refused to answer questions on why the case had been dismissed and if some sort of deal had been struck with Animals Australia.

Court [documents show Animals Australia's original motion from November last year](#) argued previous government orders, extending lethal control of wild and dingoes until October 1 this year, were "invalid and of no effect" and that sheep losses were "minuscule".

Victorian Farmers Federation livestock councillor Peter Star said farmers needed to know if the government had struck a deal with Animals Australia and if "there was more pain to come" for livestock producers in the state's east, where dingo control on public land remains in place.

The government has promised to consult farmers on removing controls, but Mr Star said the VFF was left in the dark on the north-west decision.

The offices of Ministers Dimopoulos and Spence said "we're undertaking a comprehensive assessment of Victoria's dingo population to guide management practices that most appropriately balance the protection of livestock and the conservation of dingoes."

"We will continue to work closely with traditional owners, farmers and private landholders across Victoria to build on existing programs and regulations to support best practice management that balances livestock protection and dingo conservation."

---

## More Coverage



### [Dingoes reclassified as domestic dogs](#)



### [Dingoes dine on natives](#)

Meanwhile north-west Victorian sheep producers have been left with their hands tied, unable to kill dogs that attack their sheep.

Yanac farmer Alan Bennett, who runs sheep on 4400ha adjacent to the Big Desert, said dogs had attacked his sheep five times over the past month.

"If they want to protect dingoes there has to be some evening of the cost," Mr Bennett said. "(Either) pay for the sheep or exclusion fencing".



(<https://www.sheepcentral.com>)

Doc 7b

(<https://www.sheepcentral.com>)

Wednesday 1 April  
2026

A A A  
Search

MENU

## WILD DOG & PEST CONTROL

# South Australians seek action on Victorian wild dog changes

Terry Sim April 10, 2024

REMOVAL of north-west Victoria's livestock protection order against wild dogs has sparked action by South Australian livestock producers concerned about the likelihood of increased dog attacks in South Australia.

Tatlarra District Council member and former WoolProducers Australia president Richard Halliday said the Victorian wild dog control changes would put pressure on the South Australian dog control system.

"Our legislation says that if there is a dog inside the SA Dog Fence it is to be destroyed," he said.

"So that means we don't have a fence between us and Victoria, but there is still a border.

"So once a dog crosses into South Australia (from Victoria), it puts extra strain on our system to make sure our programs are up to speed to try to address any issues that may arise from dogs crossing," Cr Halliday said.

Cr Halliday's concern follows [Sheep Central's report about north-west Victorian farmer Alan Bennett](https://www.sheepcentral.com/sheep-producer-under-dog-attack-told-to-put-mauled-ewes-on-ice/) (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/sheep-producer-under-dog-attack-told-to-put-mauled-ewes-on-ice/>) whose sheep have been killed by wild dogs or dingoes, but he has been unable to obtain a control permit and was told to store mauled ewes in his freezer for DNA testing.

Areas in north-west Victoria that contain dingoes or wild dogs include the Big Desert Wilderness Park and the Murray-Sunset Park, both of which abut the South Australian border below the SA Dog Fence. These parks were subject to Victoria's Wildlife Act (1975) Order In Council that effectively 'unprotected' the dingo on private land, and on public land within 3km of the private land boundaries to public lands, enabling baiting and trapping.



But on 14  
March, the  
Victorian

Tatiara councillor and former WoolProducers president Richard Halliday.

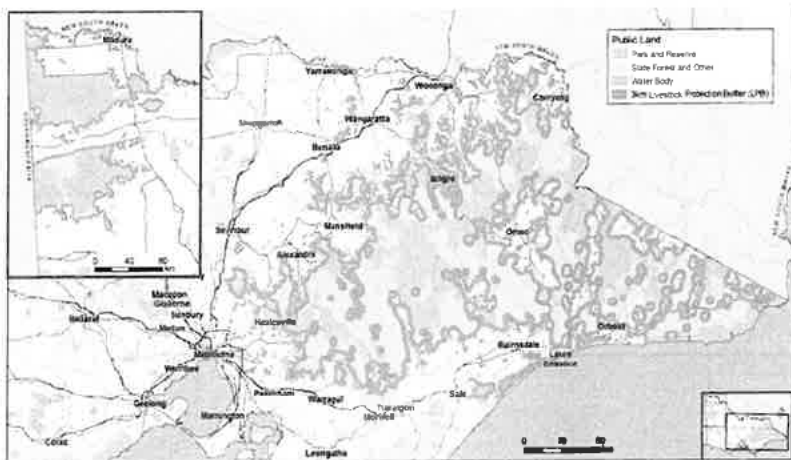
Government, removed the dingo unprotection order in north-west Victoria and has said on 1 October 2024 it will do the same in eastern Victoria. The government has said it is helping protect a vulnerable population of dingoes in Victoria's north-west "while ensuring farmers are able to protect their livestock."

However, a wild dog attack on sheep was recently reported north-west of the Ngarkat Conservation Park in South Australia, adjacent to the Big Desert Wilderness Park in Victoria, whose boundary had been subject to regular baiting and wild dog control under the former unprotection order.

[A Wild Dog Scan upload on 5 April](#)

[https://feralscan.org.au/WildDogScan/map.aspx?](https://feralscan.org.au/WildDogScan/map.aspx?zoom=18&lat=-35.503133&long=140.18808&type=Damage&id=6068&viewMode=email&dir=6&f6E2F-4EEA-A176-84D8F70EDABF)

[zoom=18&lat=-35.503133&long=140.18808&type=Damage&id=6068&viewMode=email&dir=6&f6E2F-4EEA-A176-84D8F70EDABF](https://feralscan.org.au/WildDogScan/map.aspx?zoom=18&lat=-35.503133&long=140.18808&type=Damage&id=6068&viewMode=email&dir=6&f6E2F-4EEA-A176-84D8F70EDABF)) notes two sheep were killed and another mauled, and includes a graphic photograph of a gutted sheep.



Map 1. This map is a much more accurate representation of wild dog control under the Order in Council. The orange areas indicate the 3km Livestock Protection Buffer (LPB) where dingoes are unprotected, and the Victorian Wild Dog Program operates in eastern and north-western Victoria. This map clearly shows there are substantial areas of public land (the grey areas inside the 3km LPB) where no control occurs for the conservation of Dingoes.

A map of public lands in Victoria showing the orange 'unprotection' buffers, including the discontinued buffers in north-west Victoria abutting the South Australian border.

National Wild Dog Management co-ordinator Greg Mifsud said dog attacks are starting again in South Australia and this will be ongoing and more frequent without effective management on the Victorian side.

Mr Halliday also expected that wild dog attacks would increase in eastern South Australia with the unprotection order change in Victoria.

"I'm not aware that wild dogs carry compasses or maps."

Mr Halliday said the attack north-west of Ngarkat showed that South Australia was not immune to attacks from dogs crossing the border from Victoria.

"It's very difficult for us, because we've got a very effective baiting program, that we have no support on the other side of the border.

"There have been lots of comments on how many dogs there are (in north-west Victoria) but no-one would have any true idea on that number."

The lack of surface water in the north-west Victorian public lands mean there was an increased risk of wild dog predation outside the parks if dogs were looking for water, Mr Halliday said.

"We (livestock producers) are providing a pretty handy food source (to the dingoes) this time of the year."

As a Tatiara district councillor successfully proposed a motion to the council giving it the ability to write to the relevant South Australian authorities to express concerns and issues with the Victorian Government's unprotection order decision.

Cr Halliday said the Tatiara District Council would write to South Australia's Environment Minister Susan Close and Primary Industries minister Clare Scriven to support their efforts to discuss the issue with their Victorian counterparts.

"And also we will be utilising the cross-border commissioner space that was developed to hopefully work our way through into the Victorian side with our concerns over the way the whole process has happened."

Cr Halliday said South Australia was well that the Victorian Government was reviewing its wild dog management legislation.

"But then while walking around the Lucindale Field Days (in mid-March) .... and PIRSA told me that the wild dog controller in north-west Victoria has been told not to go to work, there is no more baiting of dogs in north-west Victoria – effective immediately.

"That is poor governance to me; when you say you are going to have a review and you just change the rules overnight, well that's not great governance, it's flying by the seat of your pants stuff."

Cr Halliday said the possibility that the genetic purity of any dingoes in north-west Victoria might now be at risk with their unrestricted movement out of the Victorian parks is a pertinent point.

CR Halliday said the Victorian decision was also representative of the declining political clout of regional areas as populations in metropolitan centres grow.

"So decisions are made that have enormous impact on us that a lot of others might consider 'well that's really not going to hurt is it?'

"But it does hurt, because they don't realise how it impacts us – take Allan Bennett who loses 30 sheep attacked or more, that might have produced 45 lambs and if 85 percent of them survive (to lambing) – that's a loss of 37 lambs that are dead plus the ewes," he said.

"Very quickly that could stack up to \$4000-\$5000 that he has lost and the worst part is that it has been three weeks since first contact with authorities and he still hasn't got a permit to bait.

"That is just not on."

## HAVE YOUR SAY

Your email address will not be published. Required fields are marked \*

**Name \***

**Email \***



**Save my name, email, and website in this browser for the next time I comment.**

**Comment \***

Your comment will not appear until it has been moderated.  
Contributions that contravene our [Comments Policy \(/comment-policy/\)](#) will not be published.

SUBMIT

## COMMENTS

**Ian Brown**

February 13, 2025 (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/south-australians-seek-action-on-victorian-wild-dog-changes/#comment-269403>)

Every person has the right under law to protect their property and livestock. The Victorian Government needs to change or have a better rethink and allow the farmers adjoining the parks the right to shoot/trap wild dog/dingo that are coming from the government lands onto the freehold land and damaging the farmers' living. I would bet that if a politician had wild dogs/dingoes attacking, mauling and killing their stock they would be the first to have a rethink and change the policy. Wild dogs and dingoes have been controlled for decades and the numbers kept at what we think a manageable figure. Alternatively, the government should either erect a dog between states, and also public lands, and compensate the farmer at current stock prices for loss by dogs/dingoes.

**REPLY**

**Beatrice Braun**

April 11, 2024 (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/south-australians-seek-action-on-victorian-wild-dog-changes/#comment-213591>)

Good on Victoria!

**REPLY**

**Get Sheep Central's new headlines emailed to you**

**FREE!**

**SIGN UP NOW**

Name

Email

**SUBSCRIBE**

([https://twitter.com/Sheep\\_Central](https://twitter.com/Sheep_Central))

(<https://www.facebook.com/SheepCentral>)

(</contact-us>)

Wednesday 1 April 2026

**OUR NETWORK**

- Beef Central (<https://www.beefcentral.com>)
- Grain Central (<https://www.graincentral.com>)
- AgCarbon Central (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/carbon/>)
- AgProperty Central (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/property/>)
- AgJobs Central (<https://www.beefcentral.com/recruitment/>)
- Ag Tech Central (<https://www.agtechcentral.com>)
- About Us (</about-us>)

**SECTIONS**

- News (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/news/>)
- Features (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/features/>)
- Carbon (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/carbon/>)
- Markets (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/markets/>)
- Sponsored Content (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/sponsored/>)
- Lamb Production (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/lamb-production/>)
- Wool Production (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/wool-production/>)
- Processing (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/processing/>)
- Trade (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/trade/>)
- Property (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/property/>)

**ADVERTISING**

- Advertise With Us (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/advertise-with-us/>)

**CONNECT**

- RSS Feeds (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/rss-feeds/>)
- News Headline Emails (<https://www.sheepcentral.com/daily-newsletter/>)

- [Twitter \(https://twitter.com/@James\\_Nason\)](https://twitter.com/@James_Nason)
- [Feedback \(https://www.sheepcentral.com/contact-us/\)](https://www.sheepcentral.com/contact-us/)

**SHEEP CENTRAL**

- [About Us \(https://www.sheepcentral.com/about-us/\)](https://www.sheepcentral.com/about-us/)
- [Contact Us \(https://www.sheepcentral.com/contact-us/\)](https://www.sheepcentral.com/contact-us/)
- [Privacy Policy \(https://www.sheepcentral.com/privacy-policy/\)](https://www.sheepcentral.com/privacy-policy/)
- [Terms of Use \(https://www.sheepcentral.com/terms-of-use/\)](https://www.sheepcentral.com/terms-of-use/)

## **Dingoes not a threatened species: reclassified as domestic dogs**

Dingoes are no longer a threatened species, after Museums Victoria reclassified them as domestic dogs, undermining protections.

Dingoes can no longer be called a threatened species under Victoria's Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, undermining the Allan Government's attempt to protect them.

Museums Victoria, upon which the Victorian Government relies to classify the dingo, no longer recognises it as a species of wolf, *Canis lupus*.

A Museum spokesman said it had recently adopted the Australasian Mammal Taxonomy Consortium's current listing "that the dingo should be placed under *Canis familiaris*" – the same classification as domestic dogs.

The decision raises questions as to how dingo protection can continue under the Victorian Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, given the Scientific Advisory Committee that listed it as threatened species relied on the Museums' old classification of *Canis lupus*.

The SAC's last review of the dingo as threatened species in 2021 stated: "In regard to the nomenclature that should be adhered to, the SAC abides by the agreed standard of Museums

Victoria, being the accepted state authority for faunal taxonomy."

SAC's review went on to state: "Museums Victoria currently (in 2021) recognises the dingo as *Canis lupus dingo*, which is also the gazetted name for the taxon listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988."

But Museums Victoria's decision to now join the rest of Australia in classifying the dingo as a species of domestic dog – *Canis familiaris*, has several legal implications.

The reclassification would appear to mean the species *Canis lupus* no longer exists.

National Wild Dog Management Coordinator Greg Mifsud said Museums Victoria's reclassification raised serious questions as to how the dingo could

meet the eligibility requirements for consideration as a threatened species under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1998, or any other Victorian Act.

It also raises questions about the validity of [Environment Minister Steve Dimopoulos' and Agriculture Minister Ros Spence's decision earlier this month to protect all dingoes](#) on public and private land in Victoria's northwest, given their order refers to the dingo as *Canis lupus*.

The reclassification also appears to undermine [Animals Australia's Supreme Court bid to stop all dingo control in Victoria](#), given it is based on protecting *Canis lupus* and the government's failure to protect what it terms a threatened species under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.

A government spokesman said: "In Victoria, the dingo is listed under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 as *Canis lupus dingo*" and "under Victorian law, all native animals, including dingoes, are considered protected wildlife – regardless of taxonomy or nomenclature."

---

### More Coverage



[Dingoes dine on natives](#)



[Review dispels dingo myth](#)

Read the Paper Tributes 8:58am Tuesday, October 7th, 2025

Melbourne Today 9°/20°

**THE WEEKLY TIMES**  
Writers by you

Read the Paper News Livestock Dairy Cropping Horticulture Property Sport Lifestyle

News > Victoria

video

# Big Desert farm destocks, while new property faces dingo attacks

A Wimmera farmer has destocked his flock after losing 300 lambs, while neighbouring properties now face increasing dingo attacks. See the details.

Rachel Simmonds

X @chel\_simmonds 2 min read August 25, 2025 - 12:35 PM The Weekly Times



Two injured lambs at a property near the Big Desert

One Wimmera farming family has completely destocked their Big Desert property after a staggering number of lamb losses to wild dog attacks.

Former wild dog trapper and farmer Murray Miller - whose family has farmed next to the Big Desert since the 1960s - destocked his flock bordering the Big Desert National Park, after an estimated 300 lambs were attacked this season.

He later lost an additional 30 lambs from wounds, and 80 breeding ewes last year at the property spanning 1600ha.

"It's only the new non-management practices that made that decision inevitable, we just could not keep sheep out there," he said. "We have lost in excess of \$150,000 worth of stock, and we just can't keep sustaining that loss."

The Victorian Government removed a dingo unprotection order for northwest Victoria in March 2024. It is an offence to destroy dingoes without authorisation, and wilfully disturb, injure or chase wildlife.

"(Before) the dog never got a chance to move south," Mr Miller said. "These dogs that are moving south at the moment are only moving south because we destocked our block."

He said he would need to install exclusion fencing if he wanted to run stock, which could cost in excess of \$20,000 a kilometre.

South of Mr Miller's property, Yanac farmer Michael Dart started facing wild dog attacks in early July after Mr Miller destocked.

Mr Dart said 40 lambs and five ewes had died across five attacks, with another on Friday that led to two euthanised breeding ewes.

Mr Dart farmed about five kilometres from the edge of the Big Desert National Park, and now had DEECA cameras placed at his property for monitoring.

"I've been here for 20 years and I think we've had one attack, and it was just one ewe in that time," he said.

"It's fairly distressing to come across."



A dead sheep at a property near the Big Desert National Park. Picture Supplied

Fellow Big Desert farmer Alan Bennett said 16 of his marked Merino lambs died last week, and he continued to liaise with DEECA.

He installed 11km of new exclusion fencing last year, which cost \$300,000, and would need 39km to secure his farm boundary. He said it would cost over \$1m with no financial assistance.

"In terms of ground support, absolutely nothing has happened," he said.

"We don't really see light at the end of the tunnel, that's the issue we face. At the moment livestock values are rapidly increasing, so it's a twofold problem."

A DEECA spokesperson said landholders should report incidents to the Vertebrate Species Management Program so authorities could confirm the nature of attack and provide advice on dingo access and "appropriate mitigation strategies".

"We continue to have close and regular engagement with landholders in northwest Victoria who have reported ongoing frequent predation to provide support," the spokesperson said.

"Results from trials along with the on-ground advice from landholders will help provide the evidence base to better understand dingo movement and behaviour."



Twelve dead lambs at a farming property near the Big Desert National Park. Picture: Supplied

DEECA conducted a camera monitoring project between July 2024 and March of this year, between two landholder properties with 53 cameras across 3300ha.

DEECA's Arthur Rylah Institute estimated there were 40-230 dingoes in northwest Victoria, including 12-20 dingoes capable of breeding. It is conducting its next round of dingo population estimate surveys, which included cameras at 50 sites at the Big Desert.

The Weekly Times contacted Environment Minister Steve Dimopoulos's office for comment about financial assistance for farmers and guardian animals, but did not receive a response.

## Landscape drivers of population density of a vulnerable apex predator

(Wilkerr/dingo)

Amanda Lo Cascio<sup>1</sup>, Elisha Martion, Dave Ramsey<sup>3</sup>, Rachel Mason<sup>1</sup>, Ange Pestell<sup>1</sup>, William Geary<sup>2</sup>, Will Sowersby<sup>3,4</sup>, Euan G. Ritchie<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Deakin University, Victoria 3125, Australia.

<sup>2</sup> School of Agriculture, Food and Ecosystem Sciences, The University of Melbourne, Parkville Victoria 3010, Australia

<sup>3</sup> Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), 123 Brown Street, Heidelberg, Victoria, 3084, Australia

<sup>4</sup> Biodiversity Division, Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), 8 Nicholson St, Melbourne 3000

Email: [a.locascio@deakin.edu.au](mailto:a.locascio@deakin.edu.au)

Acknowledgements: We pay our respects to First Nations and Traditional Owners of the land on which our research was conducted: the Ngarkat and Wotjobaluk peoples. We thank the South Australian Department of Environment and Water, Parks Victoria, and Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) for logistical and project assistance. Our study was supported by funding from Deakin University, DEECA ('Assessing fox, dingo, and wild dog management, and its ecosystem consequences in semi-arid Victoria') and the Australian Research Council (DP180100747).

Keywords: camera trap; carnivore; dingo; fire; population estimation; semi-arid; spatial mark–resight (SMR) model

Conflict of interest: The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

Open Data Statement: due to the sensitivity of records open data are not available

# 1 Abstract

2 Apex predators shape ecosystems globally, yet robust monitoring that assesses the effects of  
3 management actions and environmental variation on their populations is challenging. The  
4 dingo, Australia's largest terrestrial predator, is ecologically and culturally significant. In  
5 many parts of Australia, dingoes now exist in fragmented and isolated populations, and our  
6 understanding of how their population abundance and distribution is influenced by  
7 environmental and anthropogenic factors is limited. Here, we employed a flexible spatial  
8 mark–resight (SMR) modelling framework with strategically placed camera traps to estimate  
9 the density of an isolated and genetically distinct dingo population across a fire- and drought-  
10 prone, water-limited, semi-arid region of southern Australia. Our approach addressed  
11 detection challenges in remote landscapes and enabled the integration of key environmental  
12 covariates—including water availability, road proximity, and fire regime—to better  
13 understand spatial variation in dingo density. From over two million camera trap images, we  
14 identified 20 unique individuals at 38 locations using a combination of machine learning and  
15 manual validation. Dingo abundance and density was estimated as 77 (64–94) individuals and  
16 0.014 (0.012–0.017) dingoes/km<sup>2</sup>—lower than previously reported estimates—and varied  
17 significantly in response to aspects of the fire regime and distance from roads. Our findings  
18 highlight the value of integrating environmental covariates and resource-focused sampling  
19 strategies to improve detection, population estimates and inference of environmental  
20 preferences of large carnivores. Our approach can be adopted elsewhere to help inform  
21 management of landscapes and apex predator populations through robust population  
22 estimation of low-density carnivore populations in remote area contexts.

## 23 Introduction

24 Apex predators perform critical roles in ecosystems (Ritchie and Johnson 2009, Ripple et al.  
25 2014). Due to their high resource requirements, large carnivores typically occupy large  
26 territories and occur at low densities, and hence, management actions (e.g. lethal control),  
27 habitat modification (e.g. roads), and broader climate-and environmental-change can quickly  
28 drive changes in movements and/or result in declines in the distribution and population  
29 abundance of these species (Taylor and Goldingay 2010, Stier et al. 2016, Hradsky et al.  
30 2017, Geary et al. 2020, Ordiz et al. 2021, Lee et al. 2024). As habitats and climate change,  
31 so too might key resources such as water or the likelihood and severity of key agents of  
32 disturbance such as fire. Shifts in space use due to changes in the availability of suitable  
33 habitat and resources can also intensify human–carnivore conflict (Woodroffe 2000, Ripple et  
34 al. 2014). It is therefore vital that we better understand such complexities for effective  
35 conservation and management of large carnivores.

36

37 Wildlife monitoring is crucial for protecting biodiversity and managing human-wildlife  
38 conflict, but because of their ecological traits, effective monitoring of large carnivores is  
39 often difficult and this, in turn, limits the efficacy of conservation and management efforts.  
40 Obtaining robust estimates of population density is inherently challenging (Murphy et al.  
41 2019, 2024, Nolan et al. 2023), with spatial and/or temporal variability in environmental  
42 factors potentially further contributing to estimation biases (Schroeder et al. 2015, Supp et al.  
43 2021, Hu et al. 2025). Understanding how environmental variables influence predator density  
44 has the potential to improve the accuracy of these estimates and, in turn, strengthen  
45 environmental policy and conservation outcomes.

46

47 As environmental and anthropogenic factors continue to shape predator distributions, reliable  
48 monitoring methods and adaptable modelling frameworks are becoming increasingly  
49 essential for understanding population dynamics and informing conservation strategies.  
50 Camera trapping has become an increasingly common non-invasive method for estimating  
51 species occurrence, abundance and to derive demographic patterns, distribution, and  
52 population densities for terrestrial wildlife (Miranda Paez et al. 2021, Bruce et al. 2025). This  
53 method can be particularly useful for large, low density, wide-ranging carnivores that are  
54 difficult to study with other methods (Forsyth et al. 2019, Gabriele-Rivet et al. 2020).  
55  
56 Camera-trapping surveys, combined with traditional capture–recapture or spatially explicit  
57 capture–recapture techniques, are widely used to estimate the density of individually  
58 identifiable carnivores. When only a subset of the population can be uniquely identified,  
59 spatial mark–resight models (SMR) offer a valuable alternative (Sollmann et al. 2013, Efford  
60 and Hunter 2018). SMR combine spatially explicit detection histories with survey area  
61 information to estimate population density. In the case of partially marked populations, SMR  
62 models integrate individual encounter histories of marked (identifiable) individuals with  
63 counts of unmarked (unidentifiable) individuals (Chandler and Royle 2013, Alonso et al.  
64 2015, Whittington et al. 2018).  
65  
66 SMR models are also well-suited for investigating how habitat features, or environmental  
67 variables influence population distribution by modelling their effects on the spatial  
68 distribution of activity centres and detection probabilities (Efford 2004, Efford and Fewster  
69 2013). By describing how individuals use and access different parts of the landscape, SMR  
70 models allow inference into behaviours such as mate seeking, home range dynamics, and  
71 resource tracking. This information enhances our understanding of how species respond to

72 anthropogenic and environmental stochasticity, such as fire, water availability, and other  
73 spatial or temporal shifts in resource distribution (Payne et al. 2014, Geary et al. 2018), which  
74 is becoming increasingly important in a rapidly changing world (Johnson et al. 2023).

75

76 The dingo (*C. dingo*/*C. lupus dingo*. *Canis familiaris*, see (Cairns et al. 2025) is Australia's  
77 only large (>15kg) (non-human) native terrestrial apex predator (Letnic et al. 2012). Dingoes  
78 are widespread but patchily distributed across mainland Australia, and they are greatly  
79 reduced in number or have been extirpated from some regions (Fleming et al. 2001, Cairns et  
80 al. 2018). As a keystone predator they play a critical role in shaping ecosystems in Australia  
81 (Letnic et al. 2009b, 2012) and have been observed to exert top-down control on large  
82 herbivores such as kangaroos, wallabies and emus (Pople et al. 2000, Letnic and Koch 2010,  
83 Letnic et al. 2012, Dawson et al. 2023). They may also reduce the impact of introduced  
84 and/or feral mesopredators—red foxes and feral cats—through direct predation or fear-  
85 mediated changes to cat and fox spatial and temporal activity (Johnson and Vanderwal 2009,  
86 Letnic et al. 2009b, Brook et al. 2012, Colman et al. 2014, Geary et al. 2018), in turn  
87 indirectly protecting small-medium sized native prey (Johnson et al. 2007, Letnic et al.  
88 2009a).

89

90 Despite the important ecological role of dingoes, their populations are subject to lethal  
91 control across much of mainland Australia, due to their perceived and actual impacts on the  
92 livestock industry (Allen and West 2013, Van Eeden et al. 2019, Campbell et al. 2022). These  
93 management practices do not always result in reduced dingo population sizes (Wallach et al.  
94 2017, Stephens et al. 2023) and the removal of 'important' individuals can also lead to pack  
95 destabilisation causing a collapse of dingo social structures inadvertently increasing livestock

96 predation (Allen 2014, 2015) and exacerbating conflicts over other shared resources, such as  
97 water (Wallach et al. 2009, O'Neill et al. 2017).

98

99 Comprehensive understanding of the dingo's ecological role in Australian ecosystems has  
100 been hindered by a severe lack of robust estimates of population abundance and density, and  
101 in relation to environmental variation. This challenge is especially pronounced for  
102 populations occurring at very low densities across vast, remote, and often inaccessible  
103 landscapes. Detecting such populations is difficult, even with camera traps—particularly  
104 when spatially random placement is used, which may be inefficient for sampling terrestrial  
105 predators whose movements and habitat use are typically non-random (Dickson et al. 2005,  
106 Newsome et al. 2013a, Murphy et al. 2024). In arid environments, water sources can serve as  
107 strategic focal points for camera deployment, particularly for water-limited predators such as  
108 dingoes (Allen 2012a, Newsome et al. 2013b). Targeting resource locations has been shown  
109 to improve detection rates and increase survey efficiency (Read et al. 2015, Edwards et al.  
110 2016, Weijerman et al. 2024).

111

112 We undertook a landscape-scale analysis in a fire-prone, water-limited ecosystem in southern  
113 Australia to estimate the density of a wide-ranging, low-density carnivore: the dingo (*Canis*  
114 *familiaris/C. dingo*). Using a combination of resource-based and site-based camera traps, and  
115 a spatial mark–resight (SMR) modelling framework, we address the challenge of suspected  
116 low detection rates while accounting for both marked and unmarked individuals. To  
117 understand how key environmental variables influence dingo density, we modelled their  
118 effects on the spatial distribution of activity centres and detection probabilities, to inform  
119 management strategies. Maximizing detections while ensuring representative habitat  
120 sampling requires careful compromise in study design, balancing precision in abundance

121 estimates with reliability in environmental inference. Due to the suspected extremely low  
122 density of dingoes in the region our design prioritised maximising detection probability while  
123 also attempting to capture environmental variation across the broader landscape.

124

125 Our specific objectives were to:

- 126 • Estimate dingo population size and density within the Big Desert Wilderness  
127 landscape.
- 128 • Understand how landscape features (water availability, fire regime and road density)  
129 affect dingo population size and density.
- 130 • Use these results to provide management recommendations for dingoes in the region.
- 131 • Provide broader insights for surveying and managing low-density carnivore  
132 populations in remote areas.

133

## 134 Methods

### 135 Study region

136 The Mallee region of Victoria's north is one of Australia's most fire-prone landscapes. This  
137 semi-arid, water limited region supports an isolated and genetically distinct population of  
138 dingoes (Wilkerr, the Wotjobaluk name) that was previously thought to be locally extinct  
139 (Weeks et al. 2025). Despite targeted monitoring efforts, this population has proven difficult  
140 to detect—likely due to its low density, large home ranges, and remote and largely  
141 inaccessible landscape.

142

143 Our *c.* 6,848 km<sup>2</sup> study area extends across a complex of conservation reserves in the Mallee  
144 region of north-western Victoria, encompassing Big Desert State Forest and Wilderness Area

145 and Wyperfeld National Park, collectively referred to as “Big Desert Wilderness” (Fig. 1).  
146 The park complex occurs on the unceded, traditional lands of the Wotjobaluk and Ngarkat  
147 peoples. The region has a semiarid climate with mean annual rainfall ranging from  
148 approximately 267.9 mm in the north to around 370 mm in the south. Over the past 30 years  
149 (1989–2018), the region's average annual rainfall has decreased by about 20 mm (7%), from  
150 approximately 320 mm to 300 mm, compared to the previous 30 years (1959–1988)  
151 (Australian Bureau of Meteorology, 2024). Native vegetation within the reserves consists of  
152 “Mallee” vegetation consisting of Mallee eucalypt (*Eucalyptus leptophylla* and *Eucalyptus*  
153 *incrassata*) canopy with a heathy shrub understorey. “Heathland” vegetation generally lacks  
154 eucalypt trees and is instead dominated by a mixed layer of small (<2 m), heathy shrubs.  
155  
156 Fire has been a key ecological driver in this region, shaped over millennia by First Nations  
157 peoples, who applied fire to enhance productivity, aid in hunting, and for cultural purposes  
158 (Neale et al. 2019, McKemey et al. 2019, Fletcher et al. 2021). These practices maintained  
159 characteristic fire regimes, which were largely disrupted following British colonisation in the  
160 early to mid-1800s (Kimmerer and Lake 2001, Bowman et al. 2011). Post colonisation the  
161 region is characterised by large wildfires exceeding 100,000 hectares occurring  
162 approximately every 10–20 years (Pausas and Bradstock 2007, Avitabile et al. 2013), while  
163 smaller fire events occur more frequently (Gill and McCarthy 1998). Wildfire behaviour in  
164 mallee vegetation is typically characterized by uniform burn severity, resulting in large  
165 contiguous areas—often exceeding 10,000 hectares—experiencing a synchronized post-fire  
166 recovery stage. Because both wildfire and prescribed burns are generally stand-replacing and  
167 remove most above-ground vegetation, fuel accumulation occurs slowly, leading to prolonged  
168 fire intervals (Haslem et al. 2011) . As a result, the structure and composition of mallee  
169 vegetation are tightly coupled with fire regimes, which play a dominant role in shaping

170 landscape heterogeneity and successional dynamics and therefore fauna habitat (Bradstock  
171 and Cohn 2002).

172

## 173 Dingo data

174 We employed both systematic (site-based camera arrays) and strategic sampling (resource-  
175 based camera arrays) designs to ensure representative sampling of relevant environmental  
176 variables while also attempting to maximise dingo detection rates across the study area.

## 177 Site - based arrays

178 An array of 289 cameras was deployed across sites primarily stratified by fire age class to  
179 represent the region's fire history: recently burnt ( $n = 54$ ), mid-successional ( $n = 126$ ), and  
180 late-successional ( $n = 83$ ). This distribution reflects the proportional extent of each fire age  
181 class across the landscape. In total 81 Swift Enduro wildlife monitoring cameras and 101  
182 Reconyx (Reconyx H500) cameras over a period of three and a half years from November  
183 2019 – March 2023 (Mason et al. 2025b, Pestell et al. 2025). Each camera was mounted on a  
184 wooden stake 50 cm above the ground. In front of each camera at approximately 3 m distance  
185 and within the field of view, scent lures were secured to an additional wooden stake baited  
186 with a combination of fish oil, anchovies and blood and bone to attract predators.

## 187 Resource - based arrays

188 An additional 125 Swift Enduro wildlife monitoring cameras were placed at temporary water  
189 holes within Big Desert Wilderness area, from May 2023 to December 2024. Water is an  
190 important and limiting resource for dingoes, particularly in the arid zone (Newsome et al.  
191 2013b, Wysong et al. 2020a). This approach is similar to carcass baiting (Sievert et al. 2023)  
192 and is suitable for sampling low density and wide-ranging animals (Nichols et al. 2019,  
193 Gabriele-Rivet et al. 2020, Harmsen et al. 2020, Carter et al. 2022).

## 194 Image processing and final site selection

195 A total of 2,031,525 images were processed using a semi-automated approach. We used a  
196 combination of You Only Look Once (YOLO ) architecture for object detection and  
197 Microsoft MegaDetector for classification to species level (Redmon et al. 2015, Fennell et al.  
198 2022). Once images were tagged as containing dingoes, manual inspection was used to  
199 identify individuals. Photographic catalogues were compiled for each uniquely identifiable  
200 dingo based on variation in pelage, distinctive markings, body size, scarring, and genetic  
201 deformities such as stumpy tails (Fig. 2).

202

203 Identification was only accepted if at least two distinctive features were visible (Fig. 2). As  
204 new individuals were encountered, they were added to the photographic catalogues. A  
205 double-blind protocol was applied, whereby only those dingoes independently identified by at  
206 least two researchers were included in the final dataset. Individual detection histories  
207 (presence/absence of an individual per location and 24-hour period beginning at 00:00) were  
208 constructed for each identifiable dingo. For those that could not be individually identified, we  
209 constructed a daily (24-hour) detection history for each uniquely named camera. We then  
210 selected the period with the highest number of known individuals and restricted the data from  
211 both site- and resource-based arrays to an approximate 12-month window (08/02/2024–  
212 15/01/2023) to minimise statistical issues associated with population turnover (immigration,  
213 emigration, recruitment), which can affect the reliability of population estimates (Allen et al.,  
214 2017; Balme et al., 2009; Royle et al., 2011). The final data set consisted of 7,923  
215 survey days over 99 sites - consisting of three site-based and 96 resource based arrays (Table  
216 S1).

217

218 Figure 1. Location of site and resource-based camera arrays traps in Big Desert Wilderness Area. Panel a) indicates all sampled sites. Panel b) indicates sites

219 where dingoes were detected within the 12-month survey period.

220 Figure 2. Three typical camera-trap images of dingoes (Wilkerr) in northwestern Victoria, Australia.  
221 Image a and image b indicate similar marked individuals which can be separated by length and shape  
222 of front leg 'socks'. White chest pattern on the top individual is also extended while the button  
223 individual stops more abruptly. Image c contains three individuals with some patterning visible,  
224 however markings are not sufficient to reliably separate them.

## 225 Landscape data

226 Dingo detections within the 12-month survey period were used to define the state space over  
227 which landscape variables were calculated for the SMR model. Given evidence that dingo  
228 movement and habitat use vary significantly across their range (Allen and West 2013,  
229 Newsome et al. 2017), we selected a 2.5 km resolution for all landscape layers to match the  
230 scale of likely space use and ensure ecological relevance. This resolution was chosen to  
231 capture variation in habitat features relevant to dingo ecology (Letnic and Dworjanyn 2011,  
232 Fleming et al. 2021) and is aligned with the spatial scales at which the species interacts with  
233 its environment (Brook et al. 2012, Fancourt et al. 2019).

## 234 Distance to known water locations and roads

235 While rainfall in the Big Desert Wilderness region is generally seasonal there can be  
236 significant spatial and temporal variation across the landscape. During the 12-month survey  
237 period from December 31, 2022, to December 27, 2023, the Big Desert region in Victoria,  
238 Australia, experienced typical rainfall patterns with little to no recorded rainfall during April  
239 and May while the wettest period was August – September.

240

241 Water locations for the study area were derived from field-based data and remotely sensed  
242 imagery using a combination of deterministic layers and satellite-derived water observations  
243 (Geoscience Australia, 2024). Remotely sensed data was accessed via the Google Earth  
244 Engine (GEE) platform (Gorelick et al., 2017). Sentinel-2 Level 2A imagery  
245 (COPERNICUS/S2\_SR\_HARMONIZED) was used to assess surface reflectance over the  
246 12-month survey period (31/12/2022 – 27/12/2023). Images were filtered to <10% cloud  
247 cover and further refined by masking clouds and cirrus (QA60 band). To capture seasonal  
248 variation in water availability and identify more permanent water bodies, imagery was  
249 grouped into four seasonal stacks: Summer (December–February), Autumn (March–May),

250 Winter (June–August), and Spring (September–November). We applied a median composite  
251 to normalize illumination effects, computing median reflectance for each pixel in each stack  
252 (Mohammadimanesh et al. 2019). The final image sets included 16 spectral bands and 3 QA  
253 bands, from which we derived water and vegetation indices: Normalised Difference Water  
254 Index (NDWI) (McFeeters 1996), Modified Normalised Difference Water Index (MNDWI),  
255 and Modified Soil Adjusted Vegetation Index 2 (MSAVI-2) (Qi et al. 1994) Calculations for  
256 these indices are detailed in Table S2.

257

258 To supplement these data, we integrated Geoscience Australia's Water Observations, Multi-  
259 Year Frequency Statistics (WO-STATS, Landsat Collection 3, 30m, Frequency, 3.1.6), which  
260 provides water occurrence statistics from 1986 to the present. Finally, all data layers were  
261 imported into ArcGIS Pro v3.4, where known water locations were digitized using both field  
262 observations and high-resolution imagery. We derived a total of 37 known water locations  
263 across the state space.

264

265 Road data was derived from a publicly available Victorian government dataset from state  
266 agency records and included unsealed roads and tracks (Department of Transport and  
267 Planning, Victoria 2024). These roads are typically unsealed, single-lane management tracks,  
268 with access primarily via the Murrayville-Nhill Track, which runs approximately north–south  
269 through the park. These tracks are not systematically maintained and can become overgrown  
270 with vegetation, making many parts of the park inaccessible.

271

272 We calculated distance to known water and distance to roads layers in ArcGIS Pro v3.4 using  
273 the Distance Accumulation tool. This produced continuous 30 m resolution rasters  
274 representing cumulative ‘cost’ surfaces from each feature, thereby characterising spatial

275 variation of the surrounding landscape (Singleton et al. 2002). Distances were calculated  
276 from the center of each pixel, and subsequently resampled to 2.5 km resolution using bilinear  
277 interpolation, which also assumes cell-centred values, with the R package terra (Hijmans  
278 2025). Distance to water (km) from digitized water sources provided a continuous measure of  
279 water accessibility within the state space. The mean distance to water was 12.87 km, with  
280 values ranging from 1.11 km to 43.86 km. This variation reflects the spatial distribution of  
281 water bodies across the landscape, where some areas had readily available water sources,  
282 while others were located farther from permanent water (Table 1). The Euclidean distance to  
283 roads within the study area varied widely, with a mean distance of 2.45 km and a range from  
284 0.21 – 10.85 km, reflecting the remoteness and limited accessibility of the landscape (Table  
285 1).

286 Table 1. Landscape variables describing disturbance and landscape fire used to calculate the response of dingo population size and density

Variable	Ecological reason	Description	mean (min – max)	
			State space	Final camera locations
Distance to water (km)	Dingoes are water limited predators (Allen 2012a, Newsome et al. 2013b). The Big-Desert Wilderness is a semi- arid water limited region, and as such this resource is critical for the persistence of dingoes.	Distance Accumulation tool producing a continuous ‘cost’ raster	12.87 km (1.11 – 43.86 km)	4.09 km (1.11 – 32.01 km)
Distance to roads (km)	Infrastructure such as roads may be exploited by carnivores as travel corridors (Mercer et al. 2005, Dickson et al. 2005) while in other contexts they are avoided due to perceived risk (Kerley et al. 2002, Shepherd and Whittington 2006). As available habitat becomes increasingly fragmented, these shifts in space use can intensify human–carnivore conflict (Woodroffe 2000, Ripple et al. 2014).	Distance Accumulation tool producing a continuous ‘cost’ raster	2.45 km (0.21 – 10.85 km)	0.93 km (0.22 – 2.73 km)
Extent of recently burnt (%)	Dingoes have been found to positively respond to recently burnt areas in this region (Geary et al. 2018), and elsewhere (Bliege Bird et al. 2018). Relationships have been linked to habitat openness and numbers of preferred prey items (Catling et al. 2001).	Area of the recently burnt vegetation (0 -11years post-fire).	12.86 (0 – 100)	18.53 (0 - 100)
Extent of long unburnt (%)	Much of the oldest mallee vegetation in the region exists in isolated, long-unburnt fragments—a structural attribute identified as key for threatened vertebrate persistence (Takach et al. 2022). Currently there is little information linking dingoes explicitly to long-unburnt habitat.	Area of the late fire age class (> 35 years post-fire)	35.62 (0 -100)	35.96 (0 – 100)
Fire diversity (0 – 1)	Previous work in the region has indicated that a desirable mix of fire histories for biodiversity (birds, small mammals and reptile) conservation includes a combination of early, mid and late post-fire age-classes, weighted toward late seral stages (Kelly et al. 2012, Taylor et al. 2013, Giljohann et al. 2017).	Shannon diversity of fire age classes, based on the extent of recently burnt (0–11 years post-fire), mid (11 - 35 years post-fire), and late (>34 years post-fire)	0.43 (0-1)	0.67 (0 -1)

287

	The influence of pyrodiversity on dingo distribution is less studied.			
--	---	--	--	--

## Fire variables

Fire history and vegetation digital overlays were determined through 65 years (1958–2023) of LANDSAT satellite imagery state agency records (Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action 2024). Three fire age classes were used to represent key post-fire successional stages in semiarid, Mallee ecosystems (Haslem et al. 2011), including recently burnt (< 11 years post fire), Mid-successional vegetation (11–35 years post-fire) and long-unburned vegetation (>35 years post-fire). These age classes were selected as they represent key post-fire successional stages in semiarid, Mallee ecosystems (Haslem et al. 2011, Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, Victoria 2025).

To represent the areas fire history, we used three fire age class variables, the extent of recently burnt and long unburnt vegetation within a 2,5 km moving window along with the diversity of fire age classes. Shannon's Diversity Index (SHDI) was calculated using:

$$SHDI = - \sum_{i=1}^m (P_i * \ln P_i)$$

Where  $P_i$  is the extent of class  $i$  and  $m$  is the number of classes, and  $\ln$  the natural logarithm. The extent of mid-successional vegetation was not included as it is negatively and highly correlated with the extent of recent and long unburned vegetation.

## Data Analysis

All predictor variables were continuous and, prior to statistical analysis, were standardised by subtracting the mean and dividing by two standard deviations (following Gelman 2008) to allow comparison of regression coefficients and interpretation of effects. We assessed spatial autocorrelation by constructing spline correlograms of the Pearson residuals (Bjørnstad and Falck 2001) using 1,0000 permutations for all individuals (marked and unmarked) and

marked individuals only using the R-package *ncf* (Bjørnstad 2016). There was no evidence of spatial autocorrelation (Brooks and Gelman 1998) (Figure S1). Correlation between covariates; distance to roads, distance to water, extent of recently burnt and long unburnt vegetation, and diversity of fire age classes were weak (Pearson correlation coefficient  $<0.6$ ), and were therefore all retained in the final model.

We used a Spatial Mark Recapture (SMR) model that used data from both marked and unmarked individuals to estimate dingo density and abundance. We fitted a discrete-space version of the SMR model used by (Forsyth et al. 2019, Bengsen et al. 2022), which uses data augmentation of the number of ‘marked’ and ‘unmarked’ individuals within a Bayesian framework (Chandler and Royle 2013). We augmented the number of potential marked and unmarked individuals to 100 as visual inspection of posterior distributions confirmed these values were sufficient to avoid truncation of abundance estimates (Chandler and Royle 2013, Royle et al. 2014). The state space was defined as a boundary of the park roughly encompassing the locations of cameras detecting dingoes (Fig 1) giving an area of 5,515 km<sup>2</sup>. This state space was then discretised using a resolution of 2.5km with the locations of each camera assigned to a cell. To account for the effects of landscape variables on abundance and density we calculated values for distance to water, distance to roads, extent of long unburnt and fire diversity for each 2.5 km cell and included these values for all camera locations in our model. These covariates potentially influence the spatial distribution of individual dingo activity centres thereby altering expected number of individuals per cell. Model parameters were estimated using Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) sampling in NIMBLE version 0.6–12 (NIMBLE Development Team 2017). To fit the model, we drew 60,000 samples from each of 3 MCMC chains, using diffuse initial values. We applied a thinning rate of 5 and discarded the first 20,000 samples as burn-in, leaving 8,000 samples from each chain to form

the posterior distribution of the parameters, resulting in a total of 24,000 posterior samples. Convergence of the chains was assessed using the Brooks–Gelman–Rubin convergence statistic ( $\hat{R}$ ) (Brooks and Gelman 1998) as well as visual inspection of traceplots (Figure S2).

Finally, the model parameters were used to predict spatial variation in dingo density across the state-space. This was undertaken by predicting dingo density for each pixel in the state-space using the environmental predictors for each pixel and the posterior distribution of the corresponding parameters. A total of 1000 posterior samples of the parameters were used to construct the spatial distribution of dingo density.

## Results

### Dingo data

We detected a total of 20 distinctly marked dingo individuals at a total of 30 unique locations, and unmarked dingoes at 34 unique camera locations, over 7,923 camera-days (Table S1). We identified eight individual dingo pups. Pups can have different activity centres and movement patterns than adults (Thomson et al. 1992) and were therefore removed from the analysis.

Marked adult dingoes were detected a total of 249 times, with a median detection rate of 10.5 (range 1 – 39). Movements travelled by individuals varied from 0.00 km over a day to 119.83 km over 300 days (Table S2).

### Estimating dingo population size and density

The estimated abundance ( $N$ ) of dingoes within the state space (5,515 km<sup>2</sup>) Abundance was estimated at 77 dingoes (95% CrI = 64–94; Fig. 2A), corresponding to a density of 0.014 dingoes/km<sup>2</sup> (95% CrI = 0.012–0.017; Table 2). The estimated spatial scale parameter ( $\sigma$ ) was 7.64 km (95% CrI = 6.95–8.40; Table 2), equivalent to an average 95% area of activity ( $s$ ) of 924 km<sup>2</sup> (Royle et al., 2013; Forsyth et al., 2019). The daily encounter rate ( $\lambda$ ) when a camera coincided with the centroid of a dingo activity centre was 0.0060 (95% CrI = 0.0048–0.0075; Table 2).

Gelman–Rubin statistics were 1 for all parameters, and visual inspections of the trace plots indicated that the Markov chains successfully converged (Figure S2). Effective sample sizes exceeded 1,000 for all parameters (4,609–18,645), indicating good precision in the parameter estimates (Table 1).

### How does density vary in relation to landscape features

Dingo density was spatially variable across the region and decreased with increasing distance from water sources (mean =  $-3.40$ , 95% CrI =  $-5.51$  –  $-1.69$ ). Density was also positively

related to distance to roads (mean = 2.20, 95% CrI = 1.35 – 3.03) (Fig. 4). Additionally, density was positively associated with the extent of long-unburnt areas (mean = 2.03, 95% CrI = 0.82 – 3.45) and with fire diversity (mean = 2.72, 95% CrI = 1.34 – 4.11), while it was negatively associated with the extent of recently burnt areas (mean = –3.23, 95% CrI = –5.94 – –0.72) (Fig. 4). Predicted dingo density based on landscape covariates indicated highest values in the central and eastern portions of the study area, with very low densities along the western margin (Fig. 3).

Table 2. Summary of posterior distributions of dingo abundances  $\hat{N}$  and densities  $\hat{D}$  (number of dingoes/km<sup>2</sup>) estimated from the SMR model. We also provide information for the detection function, detection probability ( $\lambda_0$ ) and spatial scale ( $\sigma$ ).

Parameter	Estimate	Median (50%)	SD	2.5% Credible limit	97.5 % Credible limit	Effective sample size
$\hat{N}$	77.10	76.00	7.89	64.0	94.0	12,207
$\hat{D}$	0.014	0.0138	0.0014	0.0116	0.0170	12,207
$\sigma$	7.64	7.63	0.37	6.95	8.40	18,645
$\lambda_0$	0.0060	0.0060	0.0007	0.0048	0.0075	11,185

Figure 3. Spatial probability distribution of relative dingo occurrence across the Big Desert Wilderness Area, Victoria, Australia, over an approximate 12-month period (8 February 2023 – 15 January 2024). The distribution was modelled from posterior predictions of dingo density based on landscape covariates.

## Discussion

Robust population estimates for large carnivores and detailed knowledge of what environmental variables and landscape features influence variation in population abundance and density are poorly quantified for most species. Such information is vital, however, as understanding the ecological roles of large carnivores and how environmental factors influence population density can help guide more effective management and conservation actions. We employed strategically placed camera traps in combination with a flexible spatial mark–resight modelling framework to overcome challenges associated with detecting and estimating populations of elusive carnivores (dingoes) in a remote semi-arid ecosystem. By linking spatially explicit population estimates to landscape variables—including, water availability, habitat structure and aspects of the fire regime—we were able to better understand how dingo density varied across the landscape. This information will help to guide refinement of dingo monitoring and management. Importantly, our approach can be adapted for surveying low density populations of large carnivores elsewhere.

Recent work has shown that dingoes in the Big Desert-Wyperfeld region exhibit significant inbreeding and that they are the most genetically isolated group of dingoes in Australia, on a trajectory towards local extinction (Weeks et al., 2024). Our population density estimate of 0.014 per km<sup>2</sup> (77 individuals), is similar to some recent estimates (0.06, mesic southeastern Australia, Forsyth et al., 2019) but much lower than several other previous estimates for dingoes (Mcilroy et al. 1986, Thomson et al. 1992, Corbett 1995, Allen 2012b). In addition the activity areas calculated in this study (924 km<sup>2</sup>) are much larger than previously reported by either Forsyth et al. (2019;69 km<sup>2</sup>) and Gabriele-Rivet et al. (2020;30 km<sup>2</sup>). This may be both a consequence of the need to access key resources such as water (see table S2. for

distances moved for identifiable individuals) and/or the possible effects of lethal control on dingo demography, movements and territories (Allen 2015).

Our results indicate non-random landscape use by dingoes, as has been found for other large carnivores (Dickson et al. 2005, Pereira et al. 2012), with significant relationships detected for all environmental covariates. This has important implications not only for monitoring and conservation efforts but also for understanding spatial patterns of prey and mesopredator distribution and habitat use (Wooster et al. 2022). In line with previous findings in semi-arid and arid environments, our results indicate that dingo density varied significantly and negatively with an increasing distance to water. Dingoes are considered water-limited predators (Allen 2012) and in semi-arid regions are therefore more likely to be present closer to available water sources (Newsome et al. 2013).

Dingoes also showed a significant and consistent positive response of to an increased distance to roads. Large carnivores, including jaguars, pumas and wolves, have been found to preferentially use roads to varying extents (Harmsen et al. 2009, Whittington et al. 2011, St-Pierre et al. 2022, Dickie et al. 2022), while others such as lynx and bears (black, brown and grizzly) have been found to avoid roads (Brody and Pelton, 1989; Dixon, 1997; Suring et al., 1998; Basille et al., 2013; Grilo et al., 2015). In other parts of Australia dingoes are known to use roads, creeks and fence lines to more easily traverse landscapes Raiter et al. 2018).

Vehicle tracks can enhance predator movement efficiency, potentially increasing hunting success and altering predator-prey dynamics. The low density of dingoes in our study region may mean that individuals have less need to exploit linear infrastructure or they are being actively avoided due to a perceived risk e.g. vehicle presence or lethal control (Mason et al. 2024), such as that observed in wolves (Latham et al., 2011 Mech et al., 1988).

Apex predators are likely to select habitats based on the location and abundance of preferred prey and in sections of the landscape where those prey are easiest to capture (Hopcraft et al. 2005, Milakovic et al. 2011, Cristescu et al. 2019, Wysong et al. 2020a). Much of the oldest mallee vegetation in the region is in isolated, long-unburnt fragments, representing relatively open understory, which is easier to navigate than the thick understorey of mid fire age class vegetation and the former also provides more shaded microclimatic refugia (aiding thermoregulation in a region where summer temperatures regularly exceed 40°C) compared to recently burnt areas. In Mallee ecosystems recently burnt vegetation has a simpler vegetation structure that supports major prey species of the dingo, including eastern (*Macropus giganteus*) and western grey kangaroos (*M. fuliginosis*) and swamp wallabies (*Wallabia bicolor*) (Davis et al. 2015, Mason et al. 2025a). Dingoes have been found to positively respond to recently burnt areas in this region, potentially suppressing the activity of foxes (Geary et al. 2018), and have demonstrated positive responses to recent burns elsewhere (Bliege Bird et al. 2018). In addition, in other systems dingoes have demonstrated decreasing abundance with increasing time since fire, likely associated with declines in large (predominantly macropod) prey abundance and habitat openness with increasing time since fire (Catling et al. 2001).

The negative response of dingo density to recently burnt vegetation and positive response to long unburnt vegetation in our study, is interesting, and possibly related to the scale at which individuals interact with their environment. As highly mobile, generalist predators, dingoes may select for areas that offer a range of fire age classes (see (Nimmo et al. 2018). Our results, along with recent dietary studies (Mason et al. 2025a), support the finding that dingoes likely require a range of fire age classes in the landscape. The negative association

between dingo density and recently burnt vegetation may not reflect a direct avoidance of recently burnt habitat but rather a response to the broader landscape context. For example, recently burnt areas in this region are more commonly located near roads (Pearson's  $r = -0.44$ ) due to fuel reduction burning, and further from permanent water sources (Pearson's  $r = -0.42$ ).

The influence of the spatial and temporal patterns of fire is also influenced by surrounding land context, environmental gradients and particularly in arid and semi – arid regions recent rainfall history (Avitabile et al. 2013, Clarke et al. 2021). For example, rainfall patterns within Big Desert Wilderness area can be strongly influenced by El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phases (Noble and Vines 1993). During the survey period, the ENSO phase transitioned from a La Niña event, which concluded in early 2023, to neutral conditions. Increased water availability in the landscape may have influenced how social predators like dingoes utilised the area, with patterns of space use driven by both resource availability and socio-spatial interactions.

Dingoes have also been observed to exploit their environment to aid social learning of pups using vegetation or rocky outcrops to slow down prey (Pollock et al. 2022). Similarly, operating in the vicinity of a waterholes to target drinking kangaroos (Shepherd 1981, Purcell 2010). Additionally, temporal partitioning of waterhole access among individual dingoes has been documented in the Strzelecki Desert, suggesting structured resource use likely influenced by social hierarchy (Allen 2012b). Socio-spatial patterns of resource use are also observed in other social predators. For example, including African lions that concentrate around water and landscape features to increase prey vulnerability (Valeix et al. 2010) arctic foxes whose habitat selection reflects territoriality and parental care (Grenier-Potvin et al.

2021), and gray wolves that vary pack cohesion seasonally in their space use (Benson and Patterson 2015).

## Management implications

Our research successfully estimated the abundance and density of a vulnerable dingo population across a large, remote and difficult to access landscape. Importantly, our statistical approach was successful in estimating, with high certainty, the density and abundance of a wide ranging, hard-to-detect carnivore. Our approach could be modified and applied for other low density carnivore populations in remote and difficult to access landscapes elsewhere.

Fire-driven shifts in habitat structure also influence predator-prey dynamics, for herbivores and mesopredators, including some invasive species. Herbivores, including kangaroos (Meers and Adams 2003), are often attracted to recently burnt areas to graze on vegetation regrowth whereas mesopredators, including foxes, may avoid these areas due to the presence and potential fear of larger predators (Geary et al. 2018). Furthermore, fire-induced habitat openness may enhance predator hunting success, leading to localized increases in invasive mesopredator activity. Our findings emphasize the need for fire and wildlife management to take a whole-of-ecosystem approach that considers how species interactions between predators and prey might be shaped by variation in habitats and the availability and configuration of resources within landscapes.

The influence of disturbances affecting predator dynamics have significant implications for management. Our results indicate that human disturbances may influence dingoes both locally in the maintenance of vehicle tracks and prescribed burns, and globally due to the impacts of climate change on weather and water availability (Dore, 2005). With drought periods becoming more prolonged and severe, and changes in fire regimes (more frequent and severe fires) (Abatzoglou et al., 2019; Kelly et al. 2020; O'Donnell et al., 2014), the consideration of the spatial and temporal availability of water, and the extent and diversity, of

fire-generated habitat variation, will be important for guiding dingo management and conservation and reducing conflict at the public-private land interface. Maintaining suitable habitat, with enough water and natural prey sources while and minimising future disturbances and though time poses on-going challenges for managing this vulnerable population. The extremely low density of individuals and the distances moved may also limit the success of genetic rescue or attempts to arrest the decline of genetic diversity, due to low encounter rates, or the strong social nature of the resident population. A better understanding of social interactions at important resources such as carcasses or water would likely aid monitoring and assessing any future management interventions.

Key recommendations include:

Ensuring access to water with spatial and temporal availability that supports a preferred prey population.

Protecting long - unburnt vegetation, in conjunction with a diversity of age classes especially near water sources.

Minimisation of new track creation to prevent further fragmentation of dingo habitat.

# Figures

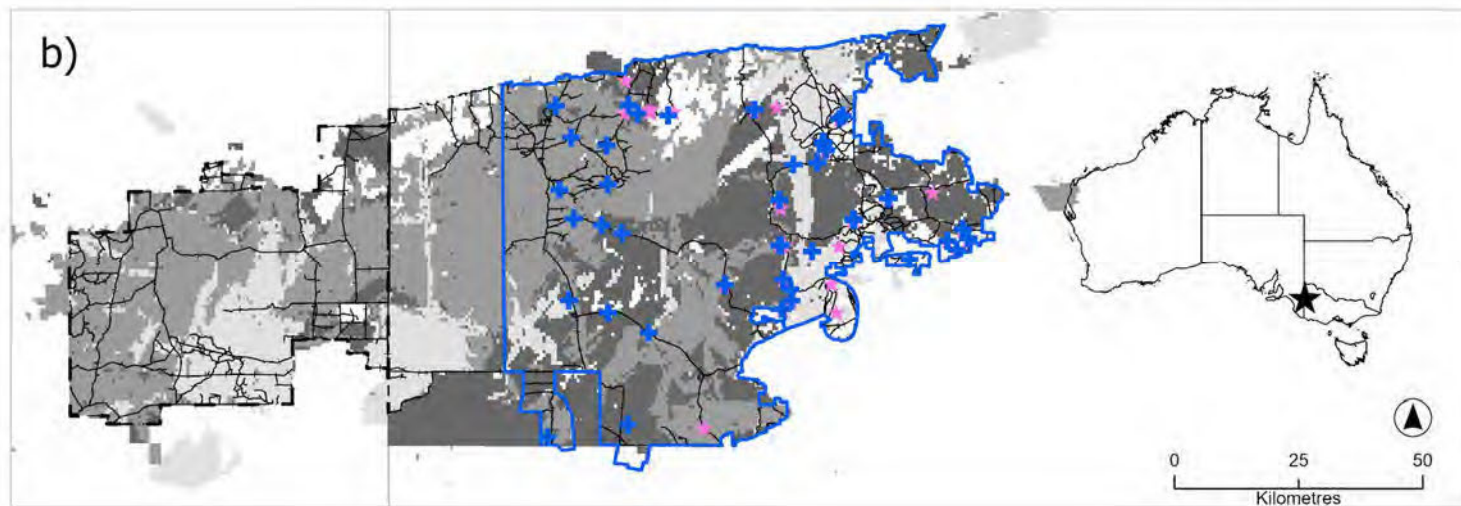
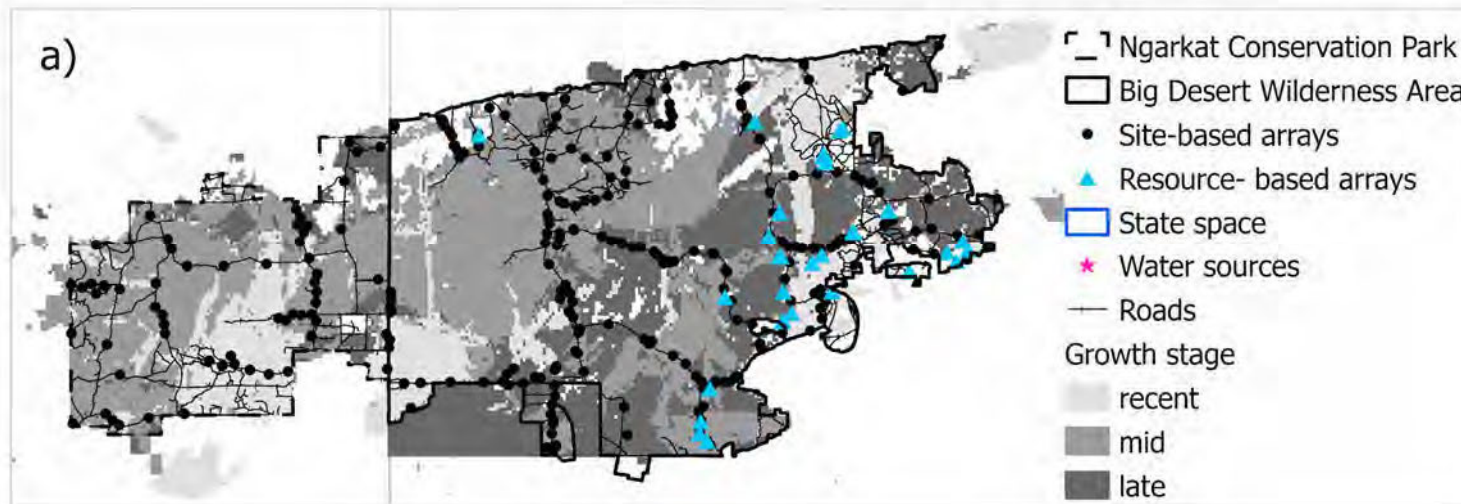
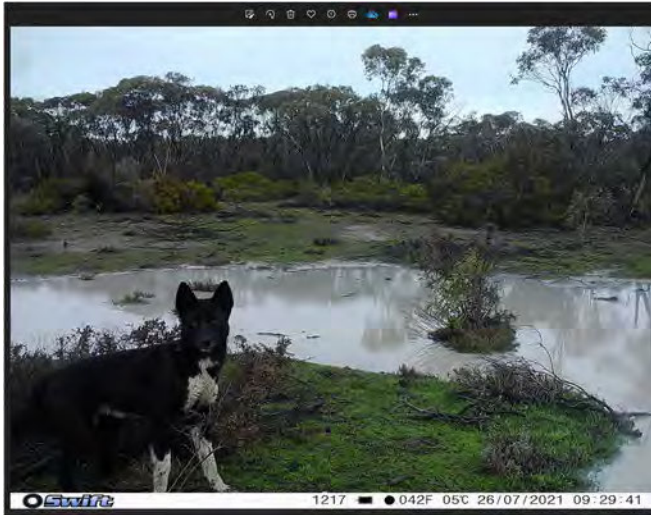
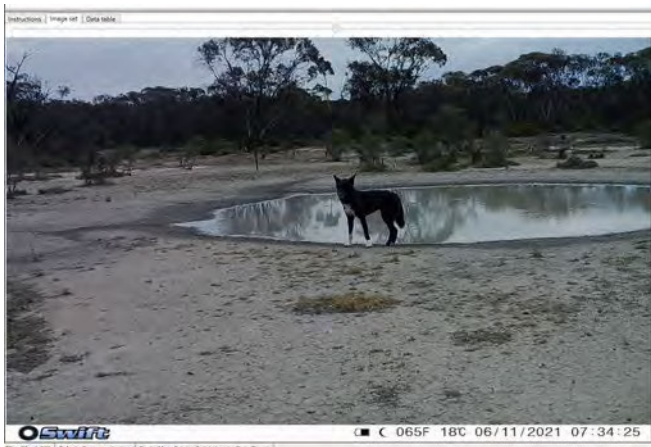


Figure 1. Location of site and resource-based camera arrays traps in Big Desert Wilderness Area. Panel a) indicates all sampled sites. Panel b) indicates sites where dingoes were detected within the 12-month survey period.



a



b



c

Figure 2. Three typical camera-trap images of dingoes (Wilkerr) in northwestern Victoria, Australia. Image a and image b indicate similar marked individuals which can be separated by length and shape of front leg 'socks'. White chest pattern on the top individual is also extended while the bottom individual stops more abruptly. Image c contains three individuals with some patterning visible, however markings are not sufficient to reliably separate them.

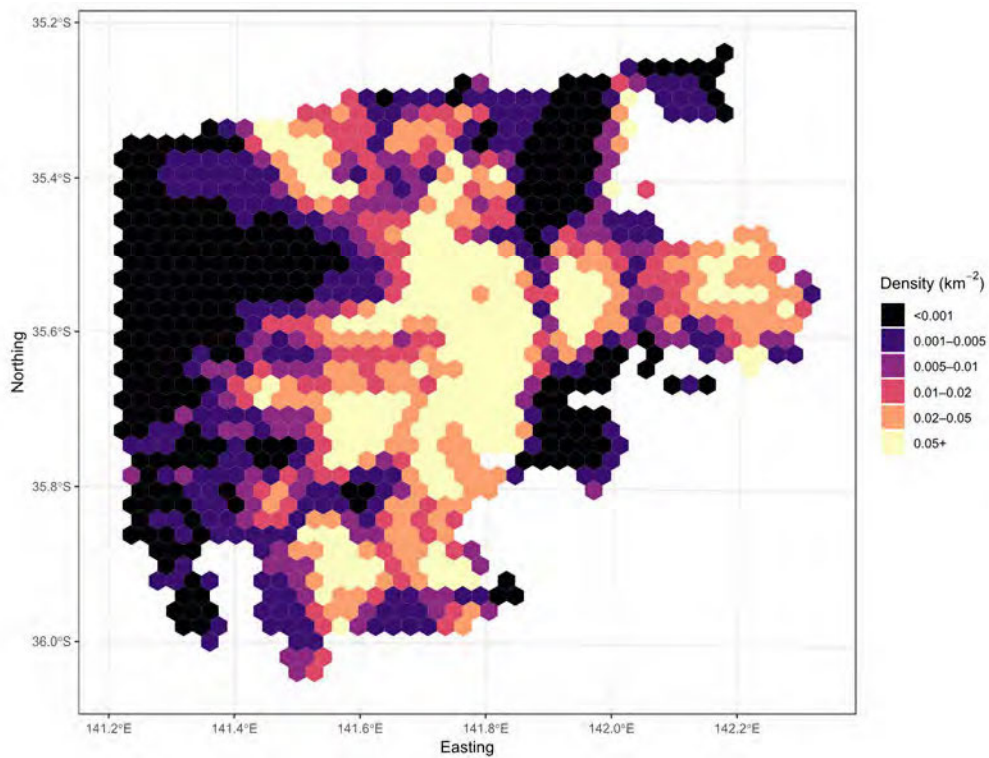


Figure 3. Spatial probability distribution of relative dingo occurrence across the Big Desert Wilderness Area, Victoria, Australia, over an approximate 12-month period (8 February 2023 – 15 January 2024). The distribution was modelled from posterior predictions of dingo density based on landscape covariates.

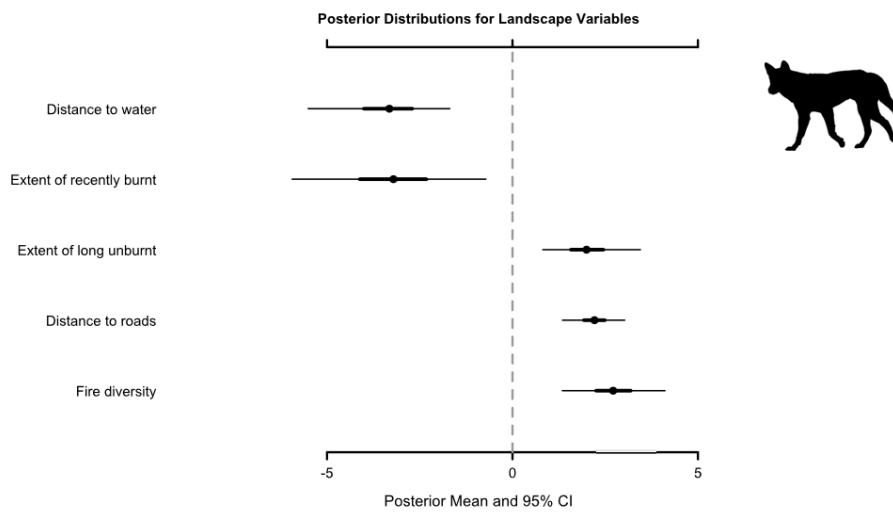


Figure 4. Posterior distributions for environmental covariates showing the influence of landscape variables on dingo density and abundance. The central dot represents the posterior mean, the thick line shows the 60% credible interval, and the thin line shows the 95% credible interval.

## References

- Allen, B. L. 2012a. The effects of lethal control on the conservation values of *Canis lupus dingo*. Pages 79–108 *Wolves: Biology, Behavior and Conservation*.
- Allen, B. L. 2012b. Do desert dingoes drink daily? Visitation rates at remote waterpoints in the Strzelecki Desert. *Australian Mammalogy* 34:251.
- Allen, B. L., and P. West. 2013. Influence of dingoes on sheep distribution in Australia. *Australian Veterinary Journal* 91:261–267.
- Allen, L. R. 2014. Wild dog control impacts on calf wastage in extensive beef cattle enterprises. *Animal Production Science* 54:214–220.
- Allen, L. R. 2015. Demographic and functional responses of wild dogs to poison baiting. *Ecological Management & Restoration* 16:58–66.
- Alonso, R. S., B. T. McClintock, L. M. Lyren, E. E. Boydston, and K. R. Crooks. 2015. Mark-Recapture and Mark-Resight Methods for Estimating Abundance with Remote Cameras: A Carnivore Case Study. *PLOS ONE* 10:e0123032.
- Avitabile, S. C., K. E. Callister, L. T. Kelly, A. Haslem, L. Fraser, D. G. Nimmo, S. J. Watson, S. A. Kenny, R. S. Taylor, L. M. Spence-Bailey, A. F. Bennet, and M. F. Clarke. 2013. Systematic fire mapping is critical for fire ecology, planning and management: A case study in the semi-arid Murray Mallee, south-eastern Australia. *Landscape and Urban Planning* 117:81–91.
- Bengsen, A. J., D. M. Forsyth, D. S. L. Ramsey, M. Amos, M. Brennan, A. R. Pople, S. Comte, and T. Crittle. 2022. Estimating deer density and abundance using spatial mark–resight models with camera trap data. *Journal of Mammalogy* 103:711–722.
- Benson, J. F., and B. R. Patterson. 2015. Spatial overlap, proximity, and habitat use of individual wolves within the same packs. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 39:31–40.
- Bjørnstad, O. N. 2016. *ncf: Spatial Covariance Functions*.
- Bjørnstad, O. N., and W. Falck. 2001. Nonparametric spatial covariance functions: Estimation and testing. *Environmental and Ecological Statistics* 8:53–70.
- Bliege Bird, R., D. W. Bird, L. E. Fernandez, N. Taylor, W. Taylor, and D. Nimmo. 2018. Aboriginal burning promotes fine-scale pyrodiversity and native predators in Australia’s Western Desert. *Biological Conservation* 219:110–118.
- Bowman, D. M. J. S., J. Balch, P. Artaxo, W. J. Bond, M. A. Cochrane, C. M. D’Antonio, R. DeFries, F. H. Johnston, J. E. Keeley, M. A. Krawchuk, C. A. Kull, M. Mack, M. A. Moritz, S. Pyne, C. I. Roos, A. C. Scott, N. S. Sodhi, and T. W. Swetnam. 2011. The human dimension of fire regimes on Earth: The human dimension of fire regimes on Earth. *Journal of Biogeography* 38:2223–2236.
- Bradstock, R. A., and J. S. Cohn. 2002. Fire regimes and biodiversity in semi-arid mallee ecosystems. Pages 238–258 in R. A. Bradstock, A. M. Gill, and J. E. Williams, editors. *Flammable Australia: The Fire Regimes and Biodiversity of a Continent*. First edition. Cambridge Univ. Press, Cambridge.

Brook, L. A., C. N. Johnson, and E. G. Ritchie. 2012. Effects of predator control on behaviour of an apex predator and indirect consequences for mesopredator suppression. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 49:1278–1286.

Brooks, S. P., and A. Gelman. 1998. General methods for monitoring convergence of iterative simulations. *Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics* 7:434–455.

Bruce, T., Z. Amir, B. L. Allen, B. F. Alting, M. Amos, J. Augusteyn, G. Ballard, L. M. Behrendorff, K. Bell, A. J. Bengsen, A. Bennett, J. S. Benshemesh, J. Bentley, C. J. Blackmore, R. Boscarino-Gaetano, L. A. Bourke, R. Brewster, B. W. Brook, C. Broughton, J. C. Buettel, A. Carter, A. Chiu-Werner, A. W. Claridge, S. Comer, S. Comte, R. M. Connolly, M. A. Cowan, S. L. Cross, C. X. Cunningham, A. H. Dalziell, H. F. Davies, J. Davis, S. J. Dawson, J. Di Stefano, C. R. Dickman, M. L. Dillon, T. S. Doherty, M. M. Driessen, D. A. Driscoll, S. J. Dundas, A. C. Eichholtzer, T. F. Elliott, P. Elsworth, B. A. Fancourt, L. L. Fardell, J. Faris, A. Fawcett, D. O. Fisher, P. J. S. Fleming, D. M. Forsyth, A. D. Garza-Garcia, W. L. Geary, G. Gillespie, P. J. Giumelli, A. Gracanin, H. S. Grantham, A. C. Greenville, S. R. Griffiths, H. Groffen, D. G. Hamilton, L. Harriott, M. W. Hayward, G. Heard, J. Heiniger, K. M. Helgen, T. J. Henderson, L. Hernandez-Santin, C. Herrera, B. T. Hirsch, R. Hohnen, T. A. Hollings, C. J. Hoskin, B. A. Hradsky, J. E. Humphrey, P. R. Jennings, M. E. Jones, N. R. Jordan, C. L. Kelly, M. S. Kennedy, M. L. Knipler, T. L. Kreplins, K. L. L'Herpinier, W. F. Laurance, T. H. Lavery, M. Le Pla, L. Leahy, A. Leedman, S. Legge, A. V. Leitão, M. Letnic, M. J. Liddell, Z. E. Lieb, G. D. Linley, A. T. Lisle, C. A. Lohr, N. Maitz, K. D. Marshall, R. T. Mason, D. F. Matheus-Holland, L. B. McComb, P. J. McDonald, H. McGregor, D. T. McKnight, P. D. Meek, V. Menon, D. R. Michael, C. H. Mills, V. Miritis, H. A. Moore, H. R. Morgan, B. P. Murphy, A. J. Murray, D. J. D. Natusch, H. Neilly, P. Nevill, P. Newman, T. M. Newsome, D. G. Nimmo, E. J. Nordberg, T. W. O'Dwyer, S. O'Neill, J. M. Old, K. Oxenham, M. D. Pauza, A. J. L. Pestell, B. J. Pitcher, C. A. Pocknee, H. P. Possingham, K. G. Raiter, J. S. Rand, M. W. Rees, A. R. Rendall, J. Renwick, A. Reside, M. Rew-Duffy, E. G. Ritchie, C. P. Roach, A. Robley, S. M. Rog, T. M. Rout, T. A. Schlacher, C. R. Scomparin, H. Sitters, D. A. Smith, R. Somaweera, E. E. Spencer, R. E. Spindler, A. M. Stobo-Wilson, D. Stokeld, L. M. Streeting, D. R. Sutherland, P. L. Taggart, D. Teixeira, G. G. Thompson, S. A. Thompson, M. O. Thorpe, S. J. Todd, A. L. Towerton, K. Vernes, G. Waller, G. M. Wardle, D. J. Watchorn, A. W. T. Watson, J. A. Welbergen, M. A. Weston, B. J. Wijas, S. E. Williams, L. P. Woodford, E. I. F. Wooster, E. Znidarsic, and M. S. Luskin. 2025. Large-scale and long-term wildlife research and monitoring using camera traps: a continental synthesis. *Biological Reviews* 100:530–555.

Cairns, K. M., M. Letnic, E. G. Ritchie, J. W. Adams, M. S. Crowther, C. R. Dickman, M. Fillios, J. Pascoe, B. P. Smith, and T. M. Newsome. 2025. Taxonomic tangles posed by human association – the urgent need for an evidence-based review of dingo and domestic dog taxonomy and nomenclature. *Australian Mammalogy* 47.

Cairns, K. M., L. M. Shannon, J. Koler-Matznick, J. W. O. Ballard, and A. R. Boyko. 2018. Elucidating biogeographical patterns in Australian native canids using genome wide SNPs. *PLOS ONE* 13:e0198754.

Campbell, G., A. Emmott, D. Pollock, and B. J. Traill. 2022. Can dingoes increase graziers' profits and help maintain Australia's rangelands? *Rangeland Journal*.

Carter, A., J. M. Potts, J. Stephens, and D. A. Roshier. 2022. A comparison of methods for monitoring a sparse population of the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) subject to lethal control using GPS telemetry, camera traps and sand plots. *Wildlife Research* 50:366–380.

- Catling, P. C., N. Coops, and R. J. Burt. 2001. The distribution and abundance of ground-dwelling mammals in relation to time since wildfire and vegetation structure in south-eastern Australia. *Wildlife Research* 28:555.
- Chandler, R. B., and J. A. Royle. 2013. Spatially explicit models for inference about density in unmarked or partially marked populations. *The Annals of Applied Statistics* 7.
- Clarke, M. F., L. T. Kelly, S. C. Avitabile, J. Benshemesh, K. E. Callister, D. A. Driscoll, P. Ewin, K. Giljohann, A. Haslem, S. A. Kenny, S. Leonard, E. G. Ritchie, D. G. Nimmo, N. Schedvin, K. Schneider, S. J. Watson, M. Westbrooke, M. White, M. A. Wouters, and A. F. Bennett. 2021. Fire and Its Interactions With Other Drivers Shape a Distinctive, Semi-Arid 'Mallee' Ecosystem. *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution* 9:647557.
- Colman, N. J., C. E. Gordon, M. S. Crowther, and M. Letnic. 2014. Lethal control of an apex predator has unintended cascading effects on forest mammal assemblages. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 281:20133094.
- Corbett, L. K. 1995. *The dingo in Australia and Asia*. New South Wales University Press, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.
- Cristescu, B., S. Bose, L. M. Elbroch, M. L. Allen, and H. U. Wittmer. 2019. Habitat selection when killing primary versus alternative prey species supports prey specialization in an apex predator. *Journal of Zoology* 309:259–268.
- Davis, N. E., D. M. Forsyth, B. Triggs, C. Pascoe, J. Benshemesh, A. Robley, J. Lawrence, E. G. Ritchie, D. G. Nimmo, and L. F. Lumsden. 2015. Interspecific and geographic variation in the diets of sympatric carnivores: Dingoes/wild dogs and red foxes in south-eastern Australia. *PLoS ONE* 10.
- Dawson, S. J., T. L. Kreplins, M. S. Kennedy, J. Renwick, M. A. Cowan, and P. A. Fleming. 2023. Land use and dingo baiting are correlated with the density of kangaroos in rangeland systems. *Integrative Zoology* 18:299–315.
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action. 2024. Fire History Records of Fires across Victoria. [data.vic.gov.au](https://data.vic.gov.au).
- Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, Victoria. 2025. Fire History Records of Fires across Victoria showing the fire scars.
- Department of Transport and Planning, Victoria. 2024. Vicmap Transport – Road Line.
- Dickie, M., R. Serrouya, T. Avgar, P. McLoughlin, R. S. McNay, C. DeMars, S. Boutin, and A. T. Ford. 2022. Resource exploitation efficiency collapses the home range of an apex predator. *Ecology* 103:e3642.
- Dickson, B. G., J. S. Jenness, and P. Beier. 2005. Influence of vegetation, topography, and roads on cougar movement in southern California. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 69:264–276.
- Edwards, S., A. C. Gange, and I. Wiesel. 2016. An oasis in the desert: The potential of water sources as camera trap sites in arid environments for surveying a carnivore guild. *Journal of Arid Environments* 124:304–309.
- Efford, M. 2004. Density estimation in live-trapping studies. *Oikos* 106:598–610.

- Efford, M. G., and R. M. Fewster. 2013. Estimating population size by spatially explicit capture–recapture. *Oikos* 122:918–928.
- Efford, M. G., and C. M. Hunter. 2018. Spatial Capture–Mark–Resight Estimation of Animal Population Density. *Biometrics* 74:411–420.
- Fancourt, B. A., P. Cremasco, C. Wilson, and M. N. Gentle. 2019. Do introduced apex predators suppress introduced mesopredators? A multiscale spatiotemporal study of dingoes and feral cats in Australia suggests not. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 56:2584–2595.
- Fennell, M., C. Beirne, and A. C. Burton. 2022. Use of object detection in camera trap image identification: Assessing a method to rapidly and accurately classify human and animal detections for research and application in recreation ecology. *Global Ecology and Conservation* 35:e02104.
- Fleming, P., L. Corbett, R. Harden, and P. Thomson. 2001. *Managing the Impacts of Dingoes and Other Wild Dogs*. Bureau of Rural Science, Canberra, Australia.
- Fleming, P. J. S., G. Ballard, and N. Cutter. 2021. There is no Dingo dilemma: legislation facilitates culling, containment and conservation of Dingoes in New South Wales. *Australian Zoologist* 41:408–416.
- Fletcher, M.-S., A. Romano, S. Connor, M. Mariani, and S. Y. Maezumi. 2021. Catastrophic Bushfires, Indigenous Fire Knowledge and Reframing Science in Southeast Australia:11.
- Forsyth, D. M., D. S. L. Ramsey, and L. P. Woodford. 2019. Estimating abundances, densities, and interspecific associations in a carnivore community. *The Journal of Wildlife Management* 83:1090–1102.
- Gabriele-Rivet, V., J. Arsenault, V. J. Brookes, P. J. S. Fleming, C. Nury, and M. P. Ward. 2020. Dingo Density Estimates and Movements in Equatorial Australia: Spatially Explicit Mark–Resight Models. *Animals* 10:865.
- Geary, W. L., T. S. Doherty, D. G. Nimmo, A. I. T. Tulloch, and E. G. Ritchie. 2020. Predator responses to fire: A global systematic review and meta-analysis. *Journal of Animal Ecology* 89:955–971.
- Geary, W. L., E. G. Ritchie, J. A. Lawton, T. R. Healey, and D. G. Nimmo. 2018. Incorporating disturbance into trophic ecology: Fire history shapes mesopredator suppression by an apex predator. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 55:1594–1603.
- Gelman, A. 2008. Scaling regression inputs by dividing by two standard deviations. *Statistics in Medicine* 27:2865–2873.
- Giljohann, K. M., M. A. McCarthy, D. A. Keith, L. T. Kelly, M. G. Tozer, and T. J. Regan. 2017. Interactions between rainfall, fire and herbivory drive resprouter vital rates in a semi-arid ecosystem. *Journal of Ecology* 105:1562–1570.
- Gill, A. M., and M. A. McCarthy. 1998. Intervals between prescribed fires in Australia: what intrinsic variation should apply? *Biological Conservation* 85:161–169.

Grenier-Potvin, A., J. Clermont, G. Gauthier, and D. Berteaux. 2021. Prey and habitat distribution are not enough to explain predator habitat selection: addressing intraspecific interactions, behavioural state and time. *Movement Ecology* 9:12.

Harmsen, B. J., R. J. Foster, and H. Quigley. 2020. Spatially explicit capture recapture density estimates: Robustness, accuracy and precision in a long-term study of jaguars (*Panthera onca*). *PLOS ONE* 15:e0227468.

Harmsen, B. J., R. J. Foster, S. C. Silver, L. E. T. Ostro, and C. P. Doncaster. 2009. Spatial and Temporal Interactions of Sympatric Jaguars (*Panthera onca*) and Pumas (*Puma concolor*) in a Neotropical Forest. *Journal of Mammalogy* 90:612–620.

Haslem, A., L. T. Kelly, D. G. Nimmo, S. J. Watson, S. A. Kenny, R. S. Taylor, S. C. Avitabile, K. E. Callister, L. M. Spence-Bailey, M. F. Clarke, and A. F. Bennett. 2011. Habitat or fuel? Implications of long-term, post-fire dynamics for the development of key resources for fauna and fire. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 48:247–256.

Hijmans, R. J. 2025. terra: Spatial Data Analysis.

Hopcraft, J. G. C., A. R. E. Sinclair, and C. Packer. 2005. Planning for success: Serengeti lions seek prey accessibility rather than abundance. *Journal of Animal Ecology* 74:559–566.

Hradsky, B. A., C. Mildwaters, E. G. Ritchie, F. Christie, and J. Di Stefano. 2017. Responses of invasive predators and native prey to a prescribed forest fire. *Journal of Mammalogy* 98:835–847.

Hu, W., X. Li, K. O. Onditi, H. Wang, W. Song, Z. Hu, C. Pu, M. Pu, Y. Xiong, S. Yang, L. Zhu, J. Yin, L. He, H. Song, Y. Li, G. Gao, W. V. Bleisch, and X. Jiang. 2025. Spatiotemporal distribution patterns of large and medium-sized mammals in a biodiversity hotspot: mplications for conservation. *Biological Conservation* 301:110863.

Johnson, C. N., J. L. Isaac, and D. O. Fisher. 2007. Rarity of a top predator triggers continent-wide collapse of mammal prey: Dingoes and marsupials in Australia. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 274:341–346.

Johnson, C. N., and J. Vanderwal. 2009. Evidence that dingoes limit abundance of a mesopredator in eastern Australian forests. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 46:641–646.

Johnson, T. F., N. J. B. Isaac, A. Paviolo, and M. González-Suárez. 2023. Socioeconomic factors predict population changes of large carnivores better than climate change or habitat loss. *Nature Communications* 14:74.

Kelly, L. T., K. M. Giljohann, A. Duane, N. Aquilué, S. Archibald, E. Batllori, A. F. Bennett, S. T. Buckland, Q. Canelles, M. F. Clarke, M.-J. Fortin, V. Hermoso, S. Herrando, R. E. Keane, F. K. Lake, M. A. McCarthy, A. Morán-Ordóñez, C. L. Parr, J. G. Pausas, T. D. Penman, A. Regos, L. Rumpff, J. L. Santos, A. L. Smith, A. D. Syphard, M. W. Tingley, and L. Brotons. 2020. Fire and biodiversity in the Anthropocene. *Science* 370:eabb0355.

Kelly, L. T., D. G. Nimmo, L. M. Spence-Bailey, R. S. Taylor, S. J. Watson, M. F. Clarke, and A. F. Bennet. 2012. Managing fire mosaics for small mammal conservation : a landscape perspective. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 49:412–421.

- Kerley, L. L., J. M. Goodrich, D. G. Miquelle, E. N. Smirnov, H. B. Quigley, and M. G. Hornocker. 2002. Effects of Roads and Human Disturbance on Amur Tigers. *Conservation Biology* 16:97–108.
- Kimmerer, R. W., and F. K. Lake. 2001. The Role of Indigenous Burning in Land Management. *Journal of Forestry* 99:36–41.
- Lee, S. X. T., Z. Amir, J. H. Moore, K. M. Gaynor, and M. S. Luskin. 2024. Effects of human disturbances on wildlife behaviour and consequences for predator-prey overlap in Southeast Asia. *Nature Communications* 15:1521.
- Letnic, M., M. S. Crowther, and F. Koch. 2009a. Does a top-predator provide an endangered rodent with refuge from an invasive mesopredator? *Animal Conservation* 12:302–312.
- Letnic, M., and S. A. Dworjanyan. 2011. Does a top predator reduce the predatory impact of an invasive mesopredator on an endangered rodent? *Ecography* 34:827–835.
- Letnic, M., and F. Koch. 2010. Are dingoes a trophic regulator in arid Australia? A comparison of mammal communities on either side of the dingo fence. *Austral Ecology* 35:167–175.
- Letnic, M., F. Koch, C. Gordon, M. S. Crowther, and C. R. Dickman. 2009b. Keystone effects of an alien top-predator stem extinctions of native mammals. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences* 276:3249–3256.
- Letnic, M., E. G. Ritchie, and C. R. Dickman. 2012. Top predators as biodiversity regulators: the dingo *Canis lupus dingo* as a case study. *Biological Reviews* 87:390–413.
- Mason, R. T., A. R. Rendall, R. D. Sinclair, A. J. L. Pestell, and E. G. Ritchie. 2025a. What's on the menu? Examining native apex- and invasive meso-predator diets to understand impacts on ecosystems. *Ecological Solutions and Evidence* 6:e70032.
- Mason, R. T., A. R. Rendall, R. D. Sinclair, and E. G. Ritchie. 2025b. Assessing target and non-target species interactions with buried non-toxic meat baits across fire mosaics. *Wildlife Research* 52.
- McFeeters, S. K. 1996. The use of the Normalized Difference Water Index (NDWI) in the delineation of open water features. *International Journal of Remote Sensing* 17:1425–1432.
- Mcilroy, J., R. Cooper, E. Gifford, B. Green, and K. Newgrain. 1986. The Effect on Wild Dogs, *Canis-F-Familiaris*, of 1080-Poisoning Campaigns in Kosciusko-National-Park, NSW. *Wildlife Research* 13:535.
- McKemey, M. B., M. (Lesley) Patterson, B. Rangers, E. J. Ens, N. C. H. Reid, J. T. Hunter, O. Costello, M. Ridges, and C. Miller. 2019. Cross-Cultural Monitoring of a Cultural Keystone Species Informs Revival of Indigenous Burning of Country in South-Eastern Australia. *Human Ecology* 47:893–904.
- Meers, B. T., and R. Adams. 2003. The impact of grazing by eastern grey kangaroos (*macropus giganteus*) on vegetation recovery after fire at reef hills regional park, victoria. *Ecological Management and Restoration* 4:126–132.
- Mercer, G., C. C. St. Clair, and J. Whittington. 2005. Spatial responses of wolves to roads and trails in mountain valleys.

Milakovic, B., K. L. Parker, D. D. Gustine, R. J. Lay, A. B. D. Walker, and M. P. Gillingham. 2011. Habitat selection by a focal predator (*Canis lupus*) in a multiprey ecosystem of the northern Rockies. *Journal of Mammalogy* 92:568–582.

Miranda Paez, A., M. Sundaram, and J. R. Willoughby. 2021. Comparison of Minimally Invasive Monitoring Methods and Live Trapping in Mammals. *Genes* 12:1949.

Mohammadimanesh, F., B. Salehi, M. Mahdianpari, E. Gill, and M. Molinier. 2019. A new fully convolutional neural network for semantic segmentation of polarimetric SAR imagery in complex land cover ecosystem. *ISPRS Journal of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing* 151:223–236.

Murphy, S. M., B. S. Nolan, F. C. Chen, K. M. Longshore, M. T. Simes, G. A. Berry, and T. C. Esque. 2024. Most Random-Encounter-Model Density Estimates in Camera-Based Predator–Prey Studies Are Unreliable. *Animals* 14:3361.

Murphy, S. M., D. T. Wilckens, B. C. Augustine, M. A. Peyton, and G. C. Harper. 2019. Improving estimation of puma (*Puma concolor*) population density: clustered camera-trapping, telemetry data, and generalized spatial mark-resight models. *Scientific Reports* 9:4590.

Neale, T., R. Carter, T. Nelson, and M. Bourke. 2019. Walking together: a decolonising experiment in bushfire management on Dja Dja Wurrung country. *cultural geographies* 26:341–359.

Newsome, T. M., G. -A. Ballard, C. R. Dickman, P. J. S. Fleming, and R. Van De Ven. 2013a. Home Range, activity and sociality of a top predator, the dingo: A test of the resource dispersion hypothesis. *Ecography* 36:914–925.

Newsome, T. M., G.-A. Ballard, C. R. Dickman, P. J. S. Fleming, and C. Howden. 2013b. Anthropogenic Resource Subsidies Determine Space Use by Australian Arid Zone Dingoes: An Improved Resource Selection Modelling Approach. *PLoS ONE* 8.

Newsome, T. M., A. C. Greenville, D. Ćirović, C. R. Dickman, C. N. Johnson, M. Krofel, M. Letnic, W. J. Ripple, E. G. Ritchie, and S. Stoyanov. 2017. Top predators constrain mesopredator distributions. *Nature communications* 8:15469.

Nichols, M., J. Ross, A. S. Glen, and A. M. Paterson. 2019. An Evaluation of Systematic Versus Strategically-Placed Camera Traps for Monitoring Feral Cats in New Zealand. *Animals* 9:687.

Nimmo, D. G., S. Avitabile, S. C. Banks, R. B. Bird, K. Callister, M. F. Clarke, C. R. Dickman, T. S. Doherty, D. A. Driscoll, A. C. Greenville, A. Haslem, L. T. Kelly, S. A. Kenny, J. Lahoz-monfort, C. Lee, S. Leonard, H. Moore, T. M. Newsome, C. L. Parr, E. G. Ritchie, K. Schneider, J. M. Turner, S. Watson, M. Westbrooke, M. Wouters, M. White, and A. F. Bennett. 2018. Animal movements in fire-prone landscapes. *Biological Reviews* Nimmo, D. G. et al. (2018) 'Animal movements in fire-prone landscapes', *Biological Reviews*. doi: 10.1111/brv.12486.

Nolan, V., N. Wilhite, P. E. Howell, R. B. Chandler, D. Ingram, J. M. Yeiser, C. Scott, and J. A. Martin. 2023. Distance sampling and spatial capture-recapture for estimating density of Northern Bobwhite. *Ecological Informatics* 78:102330.

O'Neill, A. J., K. M. Cairns, G. Kaplan, and E. Healy. 2017. Managing dingoes on Fraser Island: Culling, conflict, and an alternative. *Pacific Conservation Biology* 23:4–14.

- Ordiz, A., M. Aronsson, J. Persson, O.-G. Støen, J. E. Swenson, and J. Kindberg. 2021. Effects of Human Disturbance on Terrestrial Apex Predators. *Diversity* 13:68.
- Pausas, J. G., and R. A. Bradstock. 2007. Fire persistence traits of plants along a productivity and disturbance gradient in mediterranean shrublands of south-east Australia. *Global Ecology and Biogeography* 16:330–340.
- Payne, C. J., E. G. Ritchie, L. T. Kelly, and D. G. Nimmo. 2014. Does Fire Influence the Landscape-Scale Distribution of an Invasive Mesopredator? *PLoS ONE* 9:e107862.
- Pereira, P., A. Alves Da Silva, J. Alves, M. Matos, and C. Fonseca. 2012. Coexistence of carnivores in a heterogeneous landscape: habitat selection and ecological niches. *Ecological Research* 27:745–753.
- Pestell, A. J. L., A. R. Rendall, R. D. Sinclair, E. G. Ritchie, D. T. Nguyen, D. M. Corva, A. C. Eichholtzer, A. Z. Kouzani, and D. A. Driscoll. 2025. Smart camera traps and computer vision improve detections of small fauna. *Ecosphere* 16:e70220.
- Pollock, T. I., D. O. Hunter, D. P. Hocking, and A. R. Evans. 2022. Eye in the sky: observing wild dingo hunting behaviour using drones. *Wildlife Research* 50:212–223.
- Pople, A. R., G. C. Grigg, S. C. Cairns, L. A. Beard, and P. Alexander. 2000. Trends in the numbers of red kangaroos and emus on either side of the South Australian dingo fence: Evidence for predator regulation? *Wildlife Research* 27:269–276.
- Purcell, B. V. 2010. A novel observation of dingoes (*Canis lupus dingo*) attacking a swimming eastern grey kangaroo (*Macropus giganteus*). *Australian Mammalogy* 32:201.
- Qi, J., A. Chehbouni, A. R. Huete, Y. H. Kerr, and S. Sorooshian. 1994. A modified soil adjusted vegetation index. *Remote Sensing of Environment* 48:119–126.
- Raiter, K. G., R. J. Hobbs, H. P. Possingham, L. E. Valentine, and S. M. Prober. 2018. Vehicle tracks are predator highways in intact landscapes. *Biological Conservation* 228:281–290.
- Read, J. L., A. J. Bengsen, P. D. Meek, and K. E. Moseby. 2015. How to snap your cat: Optimum lures and their placement for attracting mammalian predators in arid Australia. *Wildlife Research* 42:1–12.
- Redmon, J., S. Divvala, R. Girshick, and A. Farhadi. 2015. You Only Look Once: Unified, Real-Time Object Detection. *arXiv*.
- Ripple, W. J., J. A. Estes, R. L. Beschta, C. C. Wilmers, E. G. Ritchie, M. Hebblewhite, J. Berger, B. Elmhagen, M. Letnic, and M. P. Nelson. 2014. Status and ecological effects of the world's largest carnivores. *Science* 343:1241484.
- Ritchie, E. G., and C. N. Johnson. 2009. Predator interactions, mesopredator release and biodiversity conservation. *Ecology Letters* 12:982–998.
- Royle, J. A., R. B. Chandler, R. Sollmann, and B. Gardner. 2014. *Spatial Capture-recapture*. Elsevier.

- Schroeder, T., M. M. Lewis, A. D. Kilpatrick, and K. E. Moseby. 2015. Dingo interactions with exotic mesopredators: Spatiotemporal dynamics in an Australian arid-zone study. *Wildlife Research* 42:529–539.
- Shepherd, B., and J. Whittington. 2006. Response of Wolves to Corridor Restoration and Human Use Management. *Ecology and Society* 11:art1.
- Shepherd, N. 1981. Predation of Red Kangaroos, *Macropus rufus*, by the Dingo, *Canis familiaris dingo* (Blumenbach) in North-Western New South Wales. *Wildlife Research* 8:255.
- Sievert, O., E. Comley, W. Phiri, and R. S. Davis. 2023. Using camera traps to assess carcass use and the intraguild dynamics of understudied African mesocarnivores. *Food Webs* 36:e00287.
- Singleton, P. H., W. L. Gaines, and J. F. Lehmkuhl. 2002. Landscape permeability for large carnivores in Washington: a geographic information system weighted-distance and least-cost corridor assessment. Page PNW-RP-549. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Portland, OR.
- Sollmann, R., B. Gardner, A. W. Parsons, J. J. Stocking, B. T. McClintock, T. R. Simons, K. H. Pollock, and A. F. O’Connell. 2013. A spatial mark–resight model augmented with telemetry data. *Ecology* 94:553–559.
- Stephens, D., M. S. Kennedy, and T. L. Kreplins. 2023. Stable dingo population structure and purity over 11 years of lethal management. *Wildlife Research* 50:980–992.
- Stier, A. C., J. F. Samhouri, M. Novak, K. N. Marshall, E. J. Ward, R. D. Holt, and P. S. Levin. 2016. Ecosystem context and historical contingency in apex predator recoveries. *Science Advances* 2:e1501769.
- St-Pierre, F., P. Drapeau, and M.-H. St-Laurent. 2022. Stairway to heaven or highway to hell? How characteristics of forest roads shape their use by large mammals in the boreal forest. *Forest Ecology and Management* 510:120108.
- Supp, S. R., G. Bohrer, J. Fieberg, and F. A. La Sorte. 2021. Estimating the movements of terrestrial animal populations using broad-scale occurrence data. *Movement Ecology* 9:60.
- Takach, B. von, C. J. Jolly, K. M. Dixon, C. E. Penton, T. S. Doherty, and S. C. Banks. 2022. Long-unburnt habitat is critical for the conservation of threatened vertebrates across Australia. *Landscape Ecology*.
- Taylor, B. D., and R. L. Goldingay. 2010. Roads and wildlife: impacts, mitigation and implications for wildlife management in Australia. *Wildlife Research* 37:320.
- Taylor, R. S., S. J. Watson, A. F. Bennett, and M. F. Clarke. 2013. Which fire management strategies benefit biodiversity? A landscape-perspective case study using birds in mallee ecosystems of south-eastern Australia. *Biological Conservation* 159:248–256.
- Thomson, P., K. Rose, and N. Kok. 1992. The behavioural ecology of dingoes in north-western Australia. V. Population dynamics and variation in the social system. *Wildlife Research* 19:565.
- Valeix, M., A. J. Loveridge, Z. Davidson, H. Madzikanda, H. Fritz, and D. W. Macdonald. 2010. How key habitat features influence large terrestrial carnivore movements: waterholes and

- African lions in a semi-arid savanna of north-western Zimbabwe. *Landscape Ecology* 25:337–351.
- Van Eeden, L. M., B. P. Smith, M. S. Crowther, C. R. Dickman, and T. M. Newsome. 2019. 'The dingo menace': an historic survey on graziers' management of an Australian carnivore. *Pacific Conservation Biology* 25:245.
- Wallach, A. D., D. Ramp, and A. J. O'Neill. 2017. Cattle mortality on a predator-friendly station in central Australia. *Journal of Mammalogy* 98:45–52.
- Wallach, A. D., E. G. Ritchie, J. Read, and A. J. O'Neill. 2009. More than mere numbers: The impact of lethal control on the social stability of a top-order predator. *PLoS ONE* 4:e6861.
- Weeks, A. R., P. Kriesner, N. Bartonicek, A. Van Rooyen, K. M. Cairns, and C. W. Ahrens. 2025. Genetic structure and common ancestry expose the dingo-dog hybrid myth. *Evolution Letters* 9:1–12.
- Weijerman, M., R. Nawaz, A. AlAbdulwahab, K. AlShlash, and T. AlHarigi. 2024. Species diversity assessment from camera traps in a hyper-arid desert ecosystem in central Saudi Arabia. *Global Ecology and Conservation* 56:e03331.
- Whittington, J., M. Hebblewhite, and R. B. Chandler. 2018. Generalized spatial mark–resight models with an application to grizzly bears. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 55:157–168.
- Whittington, J., M. Hebblewhite, N. J. DeCesare, L. Neufeld, M. Bradley, J. Wilmshurst, and M. Musiani. 2011. Caribou encounters with wolves increase near roads and trails: a time-to-event approach. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 48:1535–1542.
- Woodroffe, R. 2000. Predators and people: using human densities to interpret declines of large carnivores. *Animal Conservation* 3:165–173.
- Wooster, E. I. F., D. Ramp, E. J. Lundgren, A. J. O'Neill, E. Yanco, G. T. Bonsen, and A. D. Wallach. 2022. Predator protection dampens the landscape of fear. *Oikos* 2022.
- Wysong, M. L., B. A. Hradsky, G. D. Iacona, L. E. Valentine, K. Morris, and E. G. Ritchie. 2020a. Space use and habitat selection of an invasive mesopredator and sympatric, native apex predator. *Movement Ecology* 8.
- Wysong, M. L., G. D. Iacona, L. E. Valentine, K. Morris, and E. G. Ritchie. 2020b. On the right track: Placement of camera traps on roads improves detection of predators and shows non-target impacts of feral cat baiting. *Wildlife Research* 47:557–569.

# Supplementary

## Tables

Table S1 - Final data set used in the SMR model

Site type	Site ID	Start date	End date	No. of days a dingo was seen	Survey days
resource based	AG-site-4-cam1	1/01/2023	2/02/2023	1	33
resource based	AG-site-5	1/01/2023	10/02/2023	11	44
resource based	site-10-C006	11/06/2023	4/10/2023	3	116
resource based	site-100-C082	10/12/2023	21/01/2024	20	54
resource based	site-101-C005	17/10/2023	27/12/2024	1	438
resource based	site-102-C052	11/12/2023	10/02/2024	0	62
resource based	site-103-C006	6/10/2023	8/12/2023	0	64
resource based	site-104-C009	23/10/2023	8/02/2024	0	109
resource based	site-11-C010	19/06/2023	4/10/2023	0	108
resource based	site-12-C027	21/06/2023	16/08/2023	0	57
resource based	site-125-S011	1/01/2023	2/03/2023	0	61
resource based	site-13-C028	22/05/2023	5/10/2023	2	137
resource based	site-131-S021	1/01/2023	6/03/2023	0	65
resource based	site-132-S022	1/01/2023	5/03/2023	0	64
resource based	site-137-S027	1/01/2023	6/03/2023	0	65
resource based	site-14-C033	5/06/2023	21/10/2023	0	139
resource based	site-140-S030	1/01/2023	6/03/2023	0	65
resource based	site-145-S035	1/01/2023	19/01/2023	0	19
resource based	site-147-S037	1/01/2023	5/03/2023	0	64
resource based	site-148-S038	1/01/2023	6/03/2023	0	65
resource based	site-149-S039	1/01/2023	13/01/2023	0	13
resource based	site-15-C029	11/06/2023	15/09/2023	3	98

resource based	site-150-S040	1/01/2023	1/02/2023	0	32
resource based	site-152-S042	1/01/2023	5/03/2023	0	64
resource based	site-153-S043	1/01/2023	4/03/2023	0	63
resource based	site-158-S048	1/01/2023	6/03/2023	0	65
resource based	site-16-C029	12/06/2023	23/09/2023	0	104
resource based	site-161-S051	1/01/2023	10/02/2023	0	41
resource based	site-17-C047	26/06/2023	2/09/2023	0	69
resource based	site-18-C026	2/07/2023	2/09/2023	1	63
resource based	site-184-S074	1/01/2023	8/03/2023	0	67
resource based	site-189-S079	1/01/2023	10/02/2023	0	41
resource based	site-19-C041	9/07/2023	22/10/2023	6	107
resource based	site-20-C093	16/07/2023	22/10/2023	19	106
resource based	site-21-C095	10/07/2023	15/10/2023	2	98
resource based	site-22-C097	10/07/2023	15/10/2023	3	98
resource based	site-24-C076	23/07/2023	27/08/2023	0	36
resource based	site-26-C063	30/07/2023	21/10/2023	0	84
resource based	site-27-C086	30/07/2023	21/10/2023	0	84
resource based	site-28-C054	30/07/2023	21/10/2023	0	84
resource based	site-29-C051	31/07/2023	15/10/2023	5	78
resource based	site-30-C091	14/08/2023	23/09/2023	5	43
resource based	site-31-C068	14/08/2023	23/09/2023	10	45
resource based	site-32-C092	14/08/2023	23/09/2023	4	41
resource based	site-33-C073	4/09/2023	17/09/2023	0	14
resource based	site-34-C096	4/09/2023	17/09/2023	0	14
resource based	site-35-C067	10/09/2023	4/10/2023	4	26
resource based	site-36-C040	10/09/2023	4/10/2023	3	26
resource based	site-37-C036	17/10/2023	28/10/2023	0	12
resource based	site-39-C001	19/06/2023	29/07/2023	0	41

resource based	site-40-C004	22/05/2023	23/07/2023	0	63
resource based	site-41-C008	19/06/2023	29/07/2023	0	41
resource based	site-42-C009	16/07/2023	22/10/2023	11	100
resource based	site-43-C038	26/06/2023	2/09/2023	0	69
resource based	site-44-C-098	16/07/2023	22/10/2023	8	100
resource based	site-45-C-094	16/07/2023	22/10/2023	11	102
resource based	site-46-C-088	16/07/2023	22/10/2023	4	99
resource based	site-51-C-066	23/07/2023	27/08/2023	10	39
site based	site-53-S050-C087	1/01/2023	5/03/2023	4	65
site based	site-54-S053-C017	1/01/2023	6/03/2023	0	65
site based	site-58-S083-C027	1/01/2023	8/03/2023	2	68
resource based	site-65-C001	17/12/2023	21/01/2024	6	39
resource based	site-66-C002	29/01/2024	10/02/2024	1	13
resource based	site-67-C007	5/10/2023	9/02/2024	0	128
resource based	site-68-C008	16/10/2023	10/02/2024	0	118
resource based	site-69-C028	7/10/2023	26/01/2024	17	116
resource based	site-7-C003	11/06/2023	4/10/2023	2	116
resource based	site-70-C019	5/10/2023	10/02/2024	9	131
resource based	site-71-C047	3/09/2023	26/12/2023	0	115
resource based	site-72-C038	3/09/2023	26/12/2023	0	115
resource based	site-73-C026	3/09/2023	26/12/2023	0	115
resource based	site-74-C041	11/10/2023	2/02/2024	15	118
resource based	site-75-C093	23/10/2023	2/02/2024	18	107
resource based	site-76-C095	16/10/2023	26/12/2023	0	72
resource based	site-77-C097	16/10/2023	26/12/2023	0	72
resource based	site-78-C098	23/10/2023	8/02/2024	69	157
resource based	site-79-C024	3/02/2024	8/02/2024	32	32
resource based	site-8-C004	24/07/2023	5/10/2023	0	74

resource based	site-80-C094	23/10/2023	2/02/2024	88	152
resource based	site-81-C088	23/10/2023	2/02/2024	45	124
resource based	site-82-C066	28/08/2023	16/12/2023	31	119
resource based	site-83-C076	28/08/2023	16/12/2023	0	111
resource based	site-84-C059	11/12/2023	10/02/2024	0	62
resource based	site-85-C003	5/10/2023	8/12/2023	0	65
resource based	site-86-C051	16/10/2023	9/12/2023	0	55
resource based	site-87-C091	24/09/2023	27/01/2024	0	126
resource based	site-88-C068	24/09/2023	27/01/2024	0	126
resource based	site-89-C092	24/09/2023	27/01/2024	0	126
resource based	site-9-C005	17/10/2023	28/10/2023	0	12
resource based	site-90-C039	28/08/2023	16/12/2023	0	111
resource based	site-91-C067	5/10/2023	8/12/2023	0	65
resource based	site-92-C004	6/10/2023	26/01/2024	0	113
resource based	site-93-C040	5/10/2023	8/12/2023	4	66
resource based	site-94-C036	17/10/2023	27/01/2024	0	103
resource based	site-95-C081	29/10/2023	27/01/2024	0	91
resource based	site-96-C069	29/10/2023	27/01/2024	0	91
resource based	site-97-C083	29/10/2023	27/01/2024	0	91
resource based	site-98-C071	10/12/2023	21/01/2024	0	43
resource based	site-99-C072	17/12/2023	21/01/2024	0	36

Table S2: distance (km) move by each identifiable individuals over time (days)

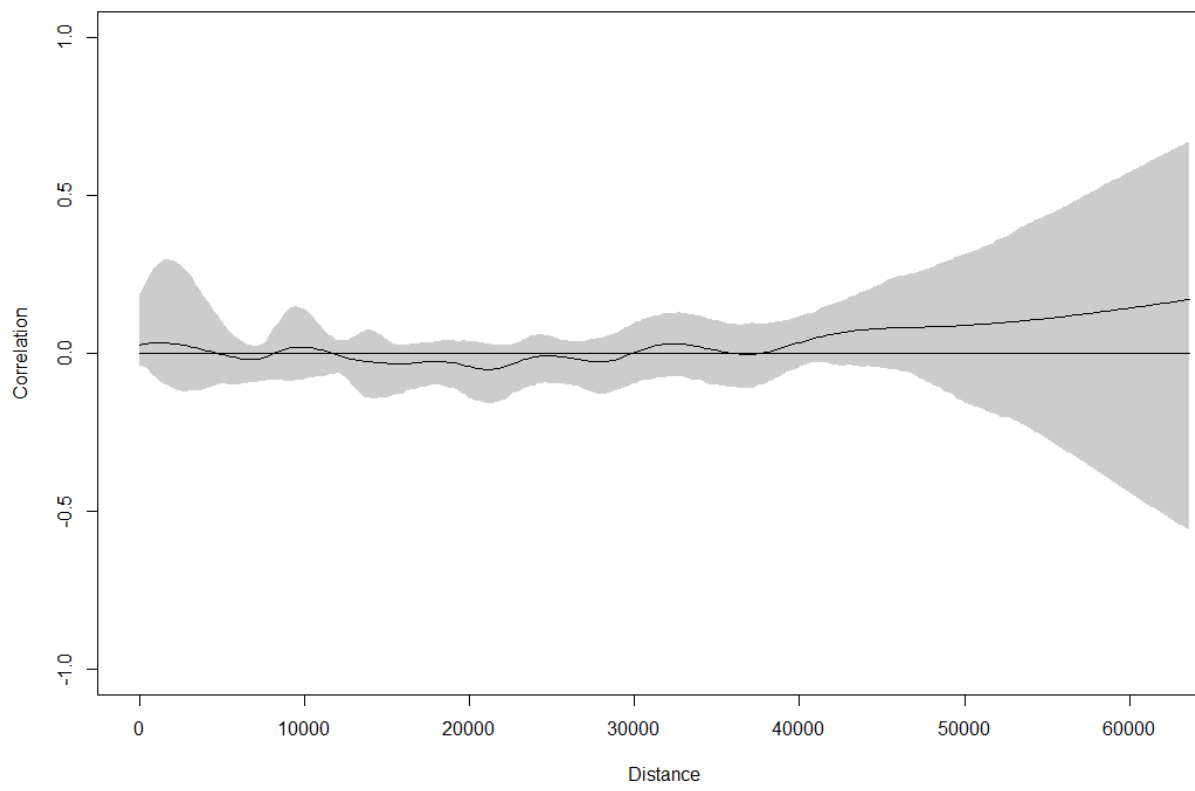
ID	Total distance in Km	Total days	Number of observations
AGS1A1	0.00	0	2
AGS2A1	56.15	185	77
AGS3A1	119.83	300	68
AGS4A1	86.53	305	114
AGS5A1	92.73	295	70
AGS5A2	88.52	259	21
AGS5A3	48.38	302	83
AGS5A4	49.03	295	76
AGS6A1	0.02	34	8
EMS100A1	82.94	142	20
EMS13A1	96.19	87	10
EMS19A1	0.00	0	1
EMS20A1	82.67	122	22
EMS20A2	115.94	120	30
EMS42A1	0.00	53	2
EMS44A1	86.16	70	14
EMS65A1	0.00	0	2
EMS7A1	75.12	123	18
RMS53A1	0.00	15	4
RMS82A1	0.00	88	8
AGS1A1	0.00	0	2
AGS2A1	56.15	185	77
AGS3A1	119.83	300	68

Table S3: indices used to derive known water locations from Sentinel-2 Level 2A imagery seasonal stacks

Sensor	Data extracted	Resolution	Formula	Band width (nm)	Reference
Sentinel-2	B11 - Short-wave infrared (SWIR 1)	20 m		1613.7	
	B8 - Near-infrared (NIR)	10 m		842	
	B4 - Red	10 m		665	
	B3 - Green	10 m		560	
	B2 - Blue	10 m		490	
	Normalised Difference Water Index (NDWI)		$(G-NIR)/(G+NIR)$		(McFeeters, 1996)
	MNDWI		$(Green - SWIR2) / (Green + SWIR2)$		
	Modified Soil Adjusted Vegetation index (MSAVI-2)		$(2 \times NIR + 1 - \sqrt{((2 \times NIR + 1)^2 - 8 \times (NIR - RED))}) / 2$		(Qi et al., 1994)

# Figures

(a)



(b)

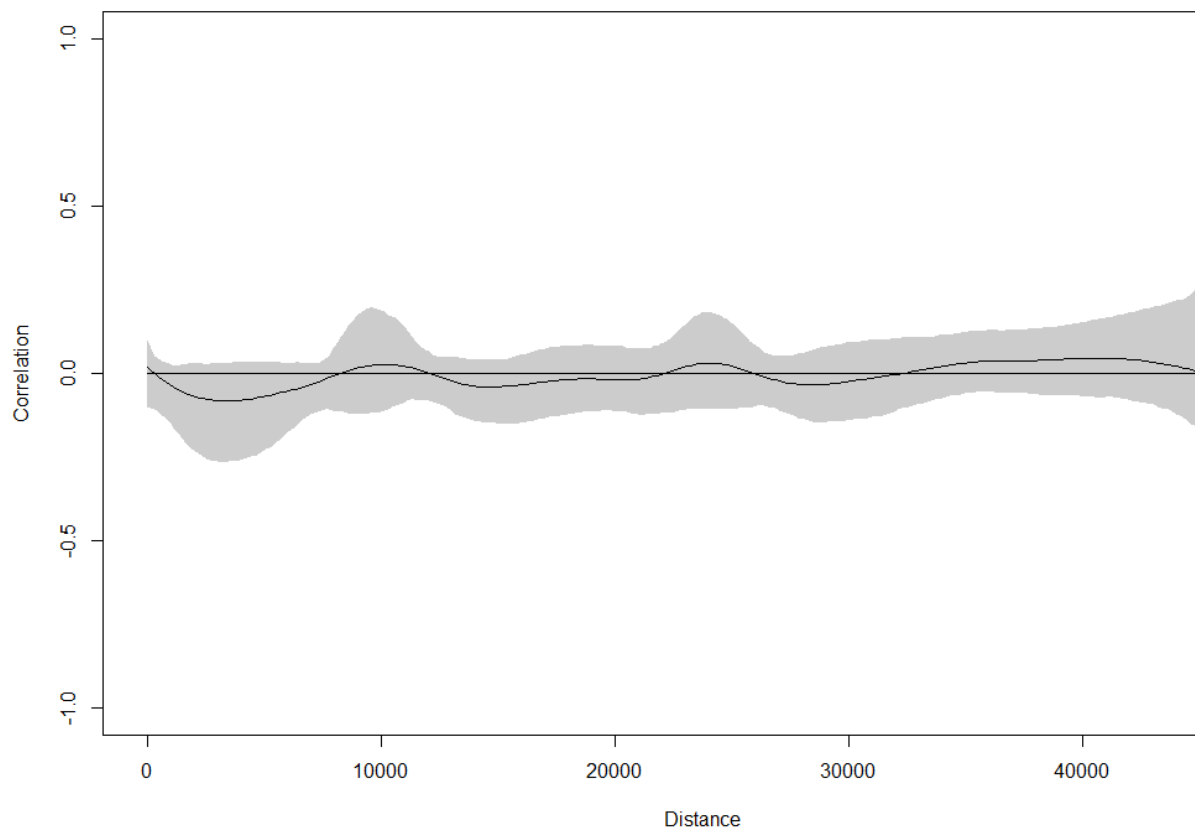
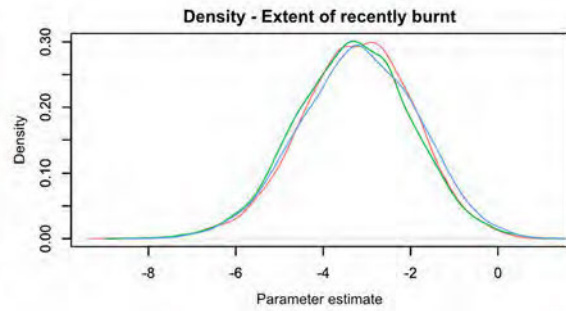
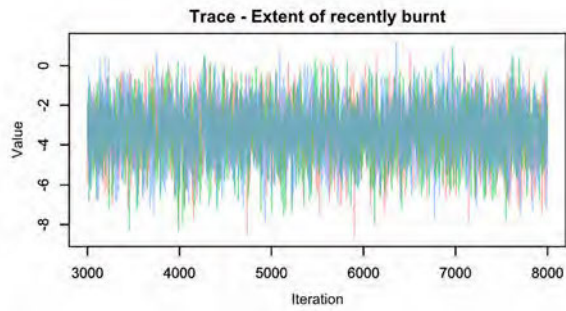
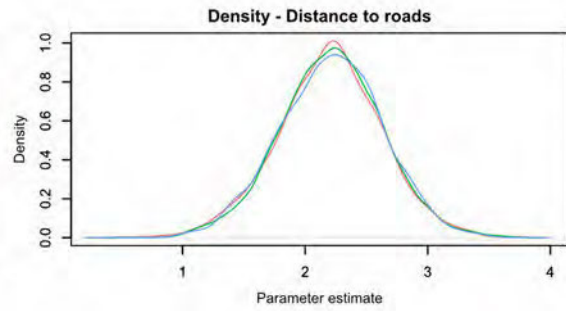
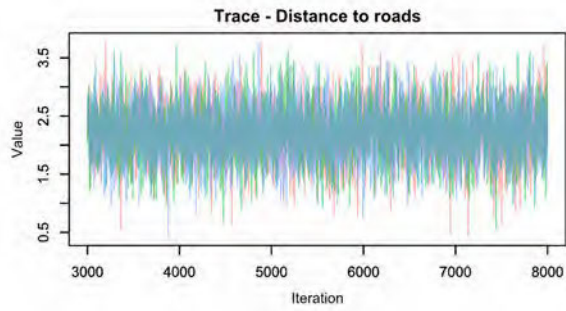
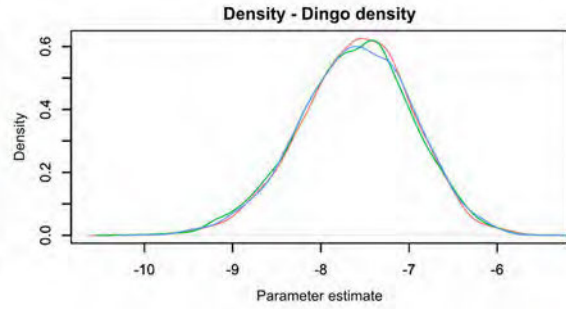
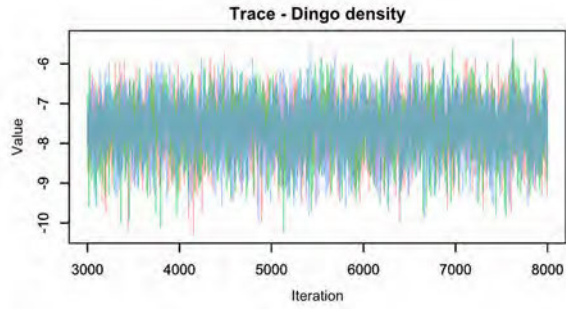


Figure S1: Spatial autocorrelation plots for the count of all individuals (a) and the count of marked individual only (b)



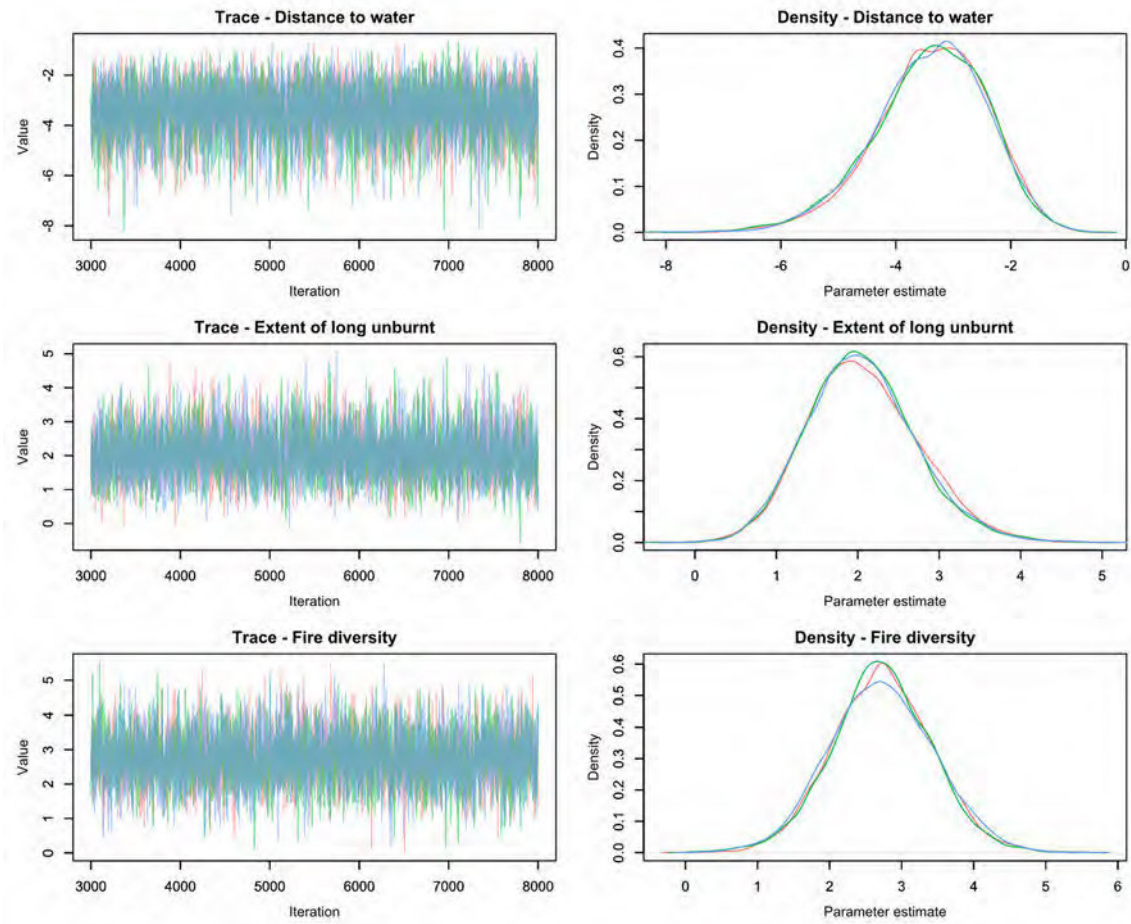


Figure S2 Trace plots for SMR Model

# Wild dogs put the bite on State Agency



Image courtesy Old DNR/M&amp;E

A court case in the Supreme Court of Victoria has provided a landmark ruling as to the liabilities of landowners in taking action to reduce the damage to neighbours from pests crossing property boundaries.

The much-publicised case was commenced in 1995 by Mr Ron Stockwell as plaintiff with the State of Victoria (Department of Natural Resources and Environment) as defendant.

ACTA does not pretend to be experts in law and recommend a full reading of the 80 page judgement. The following is a simplified summary as we understand it.

## The Farm & the Dog Problem

The Stockwell family operated a 681 acre grazing property 18km from Corryong abutting crown forest near the Kosciusko ranges. The area is still well known for wild dog problems but in the early 1980's the dog attacks on Mr Stockwell's sheep increased in severity.

In 1982 he lost 20 sheep with another 40 maimed by dog attack. Mr Stockwell attempted to bait on his own land and sometimes into the adjoining forest, but was advised that this was not approved.

The then Department of Forests and Lands declared the forest area adjoining the Stockwell's land as a 'reference area' that prevented all access, except for a 200m wide 'buffer zone'. According to the Department, measures to reduce dog numbers could not be conducted within a reference area.

It is not surprising that once control was prevented, dog attacks became more severe.

Though records were patchy, in 1987 Ron Stockwell claimed that he lost up to 250

sheep to dog attack. He complained bitterly to the Department and was supported with a grant to establish a 1.3km length of electric fencing.

The dogs could move around the ends of the fence, and attacks continued.

After further complaints and requests for assistance, the Department sent the Chief Vet in 1990 to review the problem. To Mr Stockwell's astonishment, the Chief Vet advised that it was cruel to be subjecting sheep to such regular dog attacks and Stockwell was threatened with possible prosecution under the Cruelty to Animals Act.

Stockwell had considerable debt and ran off-farm businesses that were not doing well.



Though records were patchy, in 1987 Stockwell claimed that he lost up to 250 sheep to dog attacks

He elected to sell off his remaining sheep at a time of low stock prices and thus lost one source of income to service mounting debt.

Though the exact losses attributable to the dog problem were clouded in many other matters and were confused by poor farm records, the final result was that the property was sold under instructions from the bank.

The price the Stockwell's received in a depressed market was further affected by the menace from wild dogs in the area. Mr Stockwell was ruined and decided to sue the Department for negligence in failing to control pest animals that affected his land, and for in-effect preventing him to do the same.

According to Justice Gillard, the legal case rested on three points:

- The State allowed a nuisance from their land to affect his rights on his land
- The State was negligent for not controlling the wild dogs
- The State breached its statutory duty under the Vermin & Noxious Weeds Act (1958)

The ruling took into account the history of the site and the problem; the obligations of the crown to control pest animals (and plants); and the failure of the crown to take effective action despite being advised of the adverse consequences of their failures for neighbours, in this case the Stockwells.

## The dogs could move around the ends of the fence, and attacks continued.

## The Defence

The Crown, in defence, argued that the wild dogs were not 'theirs' and that dogs were *ferae naturae* - or wild animals able to roam freely.

The Crown also argued that it had some dog-men trapping in the area and had assisted with the electric fencing even though budgets were limited.

The judge rejected this defence and was forceful in determining that the obligations of the then Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act 1958 (and subsequent Land Protection Act) clearly required that the Crown managed pest animals (and weeds) that existed on their land:

*"Given the obligations imposed by the Vermin and Noxious Weeds Act 1958 ..... no land holder in this State can defend any claim brought against him in nuisance and negligence, on the ground that the animals concerned were ferae naturae and he had no control over them."*

## The Ruling

After consideration of the historical laws and precedents regarding the tort of nuisance over several centuries of case law, Justice Gillard summarised as follows:

*"Where a nuisance has been created .... without the actions, omissions, authority or permission of the occupier of land, the occupier is liable if he has knowledge or ought to know of the existence of the nuisance, it is foreseeable that damage could occur, and he fails to comply with a measured duty of care to abate the nuisance."*

This means that, even though the landowner (in this case the Crown owning the State Forests) was not in control of the pest animals, it was still liable for the consequences of harbouring the pests if they moved onto and caused damage to a neighbouring property. The onus for action is now clearly on the landowner to do something to mitigate the problem if a neighbour is being affected.

The 'do something' in this case was, according to the judge, to take a 'measured duty of care' to address the problem.

Justice Gillard went on to define the nature of a 'measured duty of care' and distinguish this from a general duty of care.

*"However, the duty is different to the normal duty of care which rests upon a person to take reasonable care in the particular circumstances. This measured duty of care takes into account the resources of the land owner, the gravity of the nuisance, and the ability of the land owner to eradicate it."*

The definition allows for a test of reasonable action in the light of resources, as distinct from the achievement of absolute control.



The Crown argued that the wild dogs were not 'theirs' but were wild animals able to roam freely.

Nevertheless, having regard for the command and control chain from the local officers, regional officers, department head, minister and finally the Crown, the judge was forceful in his finding that:

*"...the relevant employees...failed to carry out the duty of care which rested upon each of them in respect to the nuisance, caused by dogs coming from the Reference Area onto the plaintiff's land and causing a nuisance. I also find that the nuisance was a cause of the losses suffered by the plaintiff."*

*"If...employees of the State...who, in the course of their employment by the State, were guilty of permitting a nuisance which caused harm to the plaintiff, and failed to take reasonable steps to eradicate it, they would be liable to the plaintiff. It follows that the State is vicariously liable for the commission of the tort of nuisance."*

*"I find that the said employees, as from 1 July 1989 through to July 1996, were negligent, ...that they were negligent in the course and scope of their employment, and that the State is vicariously liable for their negligence."*

## The Damages

The judge found in favour of Mr Stockwell, but in assessing damages, was critical of the manner in which he and his advisors and expert witness had maintained records and detail.

The judge found that they had not adequately justified their exact losses and could not claim the amount of several million dollars originally envisaged.

Nevertheless the judge did award damages of \$60,047 for destruction of sheep, loss in value of wool clip, operating expenses, abatement and inconvenience, and diminution in value of land.

Claims for losses due to inability to farm sheep, personal injuries and consequential losses were denied.

With legal costs also awarded against the Crown, the total damages exceeded \$100,000.

## The Outcome

The Crown lodged notice of appeal but this was withdrawn. We are advised that, since this ruling steps may have been taken to reduce the liabilities of the State under such claims.

## The Message

The case demonstrates the cross liabilities of all landholders - both private and public. It is no longer good enough to say that the pests are not yours or that you can't do anything about them if the pest are affecting a neighbour and you are advised of their impact.

## The importance of this case should not be underestimated.

Clearly it provides a precedent for any landowner who has pest animals on his land that cause a nuisance for a neighbour.

The landowner harbouring the nuisance must take a 'measured duty of care' to control the pest. If he fails to do this, he can be sued by the affected neighbour.

It is also important to note that the ruling does not seem to distinguish between Crown and private land in principle. Thus the Crown could sue a neighbouring farmer if pests were coming from a farm and damaging the Crown's wildlife.

It is a two edged sword that establishes a legal precedent that must surely encourage neighbourly cooperation on pest animals and, by default, weed problems.

We encourage all those with an interest to carefully read the full judgement.

We have little doubt that the judge was well aware that the ruling may be extended in principle to weed issues as well!

A full transcript of the ruling given by eminent Justice Gillard is available on the court web site: The case was #6720 of 1995 and the ruling was VSC 497 brought down on the 17th December 2001.

**From:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#); [Trevor J Pisciotta \(DEECA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Canceled: Reducing impacts meeting 4/9/25 (1 week reminder)  
**Importance:** High

---

Hi Trevor

Please send times that suit you, this week or next week.

Regards, Brad

Hi Nick and Trevor

This is the reminder that the meeting to discuss ways to reduce impacts of dingoes/dogs is in one week. Ill change this now to make the reminder 15 min before the meeting.

Regards, Brad

Hi Nick and Trevor

As discussed today, could we please catch up to update each other on the issues and opportunities. The meeting would be without prejudice, with a focus on how we can work together to reduce the impacts of dingoes/dogs.

Please suggest alternative times if this one doesn't suit.

Regards, Brad

---

Microsoft Teams Need help? <<https://aka.ms/JoinTeamsMeeting?omkt=en-US>>

Join the meeting now <[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_NTAXMjI3ODUtZjYxNi00NTk3LWE5YjYtMDAzYzE4MDE4ZDhl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22bda528f7-fca9-432f-bc98-bd7e90d40906%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221d6fd1bb-7565-49ed-85ce-780e62de3eb1%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NTAXMjI3ODUtZjYxNi00NTk3LWE5YjYtMDAzYzE4MDE4ZDhl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22bda528f7-fca9-432f-bc98-bd7e90d40906%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%221d6fd1bb-7565-49ed-85ce-780e62de3eb1%22%7d)>

Meeting ID: 413 992 460 492 9

Passcode: 8SW6f5CH

---

Dial in by phone

+61 8 7079 7539,,695153908# <tel:+61870797539,,695153908> Australia, Adelaide

Find a local number <<https://dialin.teams.microsoft.com/8d083e6a-331a-49c5-a9fb-32344ad8d547?id=695153908>>

Phone conference ID: 695 153 908#

Join on a video conferencing device

Tenant key: [teams@cvn.sa.gov.au](mailto:teams@cvn.sa.gov.au) <<mailto:teams@cvn.sa.gov.au>>

Video ID: 134 842 368 1

More info <<https://pexip.me/teams/cvn.sa.gov.au/1348423681>>

For organizers: Meeting options <[https://teams.microsoft.com/meetingOptions/?organizerId=1d6fd1bb-7565-49ed-85ce-780e62de3eb1&tenantId=bda528f7-fca9-432f-bc98-bd7e90d40906&threadId=19\\_meeting\\_NTAXMjI3ODUtZjYxNi00NTk3LWE5YjYtMDAzYzE4MDE4ZDhl@thread.v2&messageId=0&language=en-US](https://teams.microsoft.com/meetingOptions/?organizerId=1d6fd1bb-7565-49ed-85ce-780e62de3eb1&tenantId=bda528f7-fca9-432f-bc98-bd7e90d40906&threadId=19_meeting_NTAXMjI3ODUtZjYxNi00NTk3LWE5YjYtMDAzYzE4MDE4ZDhl@thread.v2&messageId=0&language=en-US)> | Reset dial-in PIN <<https://dialin.teams.microsoft.com/usp/pstnconferencing>>

---

# New wild dog threat for SA

By BY CATHERINE MILLER

## Stock Journal

Thursday 28th March 2024

611 words

Page 5 | Section: NEWS

459cm on the page



# New wild dog threat for SA

BY CATHERINE MILLER

SIGNIFICANT work on replacing the SA Dog Fence in the state's north has seen dog attacks on SA sheep flocks drop dramatically but there is a new threat - wild dogs roaming in from the east.

Earlier this month, the Vic government announced it was ceasing all baiting in the north west of the state to protect the dingo, which a report had found was close to extinction, with only about 40 dogs remaining.

The move has taken the SA government and sheep industry by surprise as they were not consulted first.

Primary Industries Minister Clare Scriven says she has written on several occasions to the Victorian Agriculture Minister Ros Spence raising concerns about the potential for the change of approach to wild dog management and the impact on SA's livestock industry.

"The Victorian government should be engaging with stakeholders, including in SA, and detail how our producers and regional communities will be protected



Box Flat Wild Dog Control chair Richard Halliday is concerned about wild dogs roaming into SA from Vic after the Vic government ceased its baiting programs in the north west of that state. Picture by Catherine Miller

from the scourge of wild dogs," she said.

Ms Scriven is also questioning the science behind the decision. She says she has been advised the decision has been made based

on one research paper funded by the Australian Dingo Association and "contested by dingo experts around the country".

Ms Scriven said the eradication of dogs inside the SA

Dog Fence remains a priority of the state government. More than 900 kilometres of the Dog Fence have been rebuilt with state and federal government and industry money since the project

started. The remaining 700km is due for completion in June 2025.

Box Flat Wild Dog Control committee chair Richard Halliday says they will continue to push for a meeting or even communication with Vic, although it has been made much harder without a Cross Border Commissioner to help facilitate this.

"They have made some decisions without consulting with the people this will affect so now we really need to be having a rational discussion about the challenges it brings," he said.

The Vic government is offering affected north-west Vic producers \$550,000 for guardian animals such as Maremma dogs to protect their flocks and exclusion fencing but Mr Halliday says this will not go far at all, with exclusion fencing alone costing about \$15,000 per kilometre.

The Box Flat Wild Dog Control Program has been successful keeping wild dog numbers down in the Ngarakat Conservation Park with only a few isolated attacks on sheep flocks neighbouring

the park, but Mr Halliday says this has also been reliant on Vic authorities controlling the dogs on their side of the border.

Ms Scriven says the state government is still considering its options but Mr Halliday says SA may be forced to make the Border Track its first line of defence, which will be way more costly than the existing program.

In 2023-24 the SA Sheep Industry Fund contributed about \$4000 to the Murraylands and Riverland Landscapes Board, which manages the Box Flat program, includes baiting in the park and fox and dog baiting by landholders adjoining Ngarakat.

There has also been some reserves set aside to employ a dogger when needed.

"(The Vic govt) are saying they are at risk of extinction if baiting continues but here in SA, even if this is the case, we know from experience how quickly the population can build up," Mr Halliday said.

The Vic government was contacted for comment but did not respond by *Stock Journal's* deadline.

# Vic govt decision putting SA's flocks at risk

By LTRAVIS TOBIN, CEO

## Stock Journal

Thursday 28th March 2024

559 words

Page 27 | Section: LIVESTOCK

297cm on the page



# Vic govt decision putting SA's flocks at risk

## LIVESTOCK SA

By TRAVIS TOBIN, CEO

THE sudden decision by the Victorian government to stop wild dog controls in the northwest of Victoria, which became effective from March 14, is the latest seemingly politically-motivated government decision we have seen impacting the livestock industry.

The decision came without consultation with Victorian producers, so it is unsurprising but no less disappointing, that there hasn't been any consultation with affected South Australian producers and communities in the relevant border regions.

More alarmingly though is the lack of consultation with

the South Australian government, given our states share a very long border and this decision may have serious and lasting implications for livestock production in our state.

The Victorian government has advised that its northwest producers will be supported by a \$550,000 investment to adopt non-lethal control methods via a pilot of measures, such as exclusion fencing and guardian animals to protect livestock.

We have a bit of experience building fences to keep wild dogs out of sheep producing areas here in SA and, unless the support offered is per producer, half a million dollars won't go far.

For example, the area in question has a 250 kilometre border with SA.

At current rates, just to fence off our impact zone would cost about \$5 million.

Alternatively, the supporting investment would purchase about 220 Maremma sheepdogs.

I'm no expert but I do know there are no examples where guardian animals have been shown to be effective in preventing wild dog attacks at scale.

As such, the Victorian government is using its, and our, producers to test an unproven theory.

Pivotal in justifying the decision is new research and data, which claims the dingo

population throughout northwest Victoria is at risk of extinction.

However, this information was not publicly available, nor has it been peer-reviewed.

It is also claimed that recent genetic research justifies actions to protect the northwest dingo.

Leaving the taxonomy debate aside - where Victoria takes a jurisdictionally unique position that dingoes are a species rather than a breed of dog - a review of this DNA research found the work to be contested by several leading researchers that asserted no policy changes were justified.

The research relies on

a small sample size study and was conducted by an academic who advises the Australian Dingo Foundation lobby group.

The decision undermines the investments that have been made here in SA, including the \$26m Dog Fence Rebuild Project, and the subsequent gains we have made in wild dog control.

Prior to these investments, in 2018-19, SA livestock producers lost 20,000 sheep annually to wild dogs.

This had direct costs exceeding \$4m per year, not to mention the emotional toll on producers when they experience livestock attacks and watch their lambing percentages plummet.

The dingo unprotection order remains in place for eastern Victoria until October 1.

There needs to be a genuine consultation with industry, as well as those bordering jurisdictional governments, as these arrangements are reviewed during the next six months.

Although only a couple of years ago, it seems that little has been learnt from the COVID years.

Victoria must consult with those states it shares a border with and the industries that will be impacted by its decisions, if it wants to realise a functional future policy for dingo conservation and management.

# Baiting declared pest animals in North West Victoria

This fact sheet provides landowners with practical guidance on how to safely bait for declared pest animals in the north-west of Victoria using agricultural chemical products. It includes practical steps to reduce the risk to other wildlife when baiting.

This factsheet is a guide only and must be read with the labels of the products used and the 'Directions for the use of 1080 and PAPP pest animal bait products in Victoria' (DfU) document.

## CONTEXT

All landowners and land managers have a responsibility to manage declared pest animals on their land, such as rabbits, foxes and feral pigs, according to the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*. Landowners and managers can destroy pest animals on their property but must be aware of the risks control methods, such as baiting, pose to native wildlife.

## Managing adverse impacts of 1080 and PAPP

Landowners and managers are expected to make reasonable efforts to detect wildlife on their property before baiting and to avoid harming wildlife. Deliberate or negligent poisoning of native wildlife may result in prosecution.

Our understanding about dingoes in Victoria has evolved as a result of new scientific research. Evidence suggests that a significant proportion of wild dogs are pure dingoes, not hybrids as previously believed. Landowners and managers are to assume any animal previously considered to be a wild dog is now a protected dingo.

Dingoes are protected in north-west Victoria on public and private land and it is an offence to harm or destroy them without authorisation.

## Animal monitoring

The first step of any control program is determining the presence of declared pests and other animals including domestic animals and wildlife. There are a range of ways to do this including using spotlighting, a thermal monocular or motion sensing cameras, and/or searching for physical signs such as tracks,

scats, dens and kills. This should be done over multiple nights and locations to get an overall picture of the number and species of animals in the area.

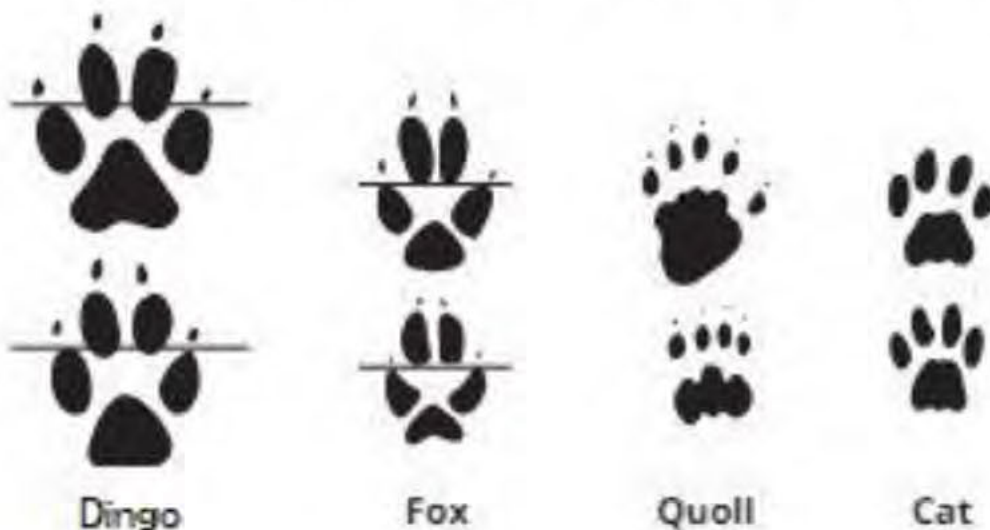
Additional steps can include the use of sand or activity pads to capture paw prints, free feeding to get animals used to the food source to support future baiting, and scat analysis. Figure 1 is a guide to different animal paw prints.



More details and an example video on how to conduct a pest animal monitoring program can be found on the [Agriculture Victoria website](#) or scan the QR code, right.

The types and population size of species will then determine the most suitable control method.

If monitoring indicates the risk to non-target native species, such as dingoes, is too great, then it is important to look at alternative control options.



**Figure 1** shows dingo, fox, quoll and cat paw prints (not to scale). Fox prints can be distinguished from dingo prints by the separation of the pads, as demonstrated by the straight line shown. Diagram taken from 'Planning guide for fox management in Australia' Centre for Invasive Species Solutions.

## Using agriculture chemicals

When agricultural chemicals are used as a control option, landowners must consider:

- Uptake and effectiveness of the bait for the target pest species.
- The risk to non-target species (refer to Table 1).
- Impacts to the environment.

Landowners planning to use 1080 or PAPP must have a '1080 and PAPP' endorsed Agricultural Chemical Users Permit (ACUP) before buying and using these products and comply with all label directions and the Directions for Use (DfU) document.

There is no scientific data to suggest that bait substrate (the substance the poison is mixed with to make the bait) alters the risk of 1080 baits to dingoes.

Table 1 shows vertebrate pesticides and their toxicity to dingoes

Agricultural chemical	Registered species as per label	Likely lethal bait quantity for dingoes	Secondary poisoning <sup>1</sup> risk
1080	Rabbit, fox, feral pig, wild dog	Less than 1 fox bait	High – carcass and stomach contents
PAPP	Fox, wild dog, feral cats	Less than 1 fox bait	Low
Sodium Nitrite	Feral pig	Approximately 10g feral pig bait	Low
Pindone	Rabbit	Approximately 4.8kg of rabbit bait in a single sitting or 160g a day for 6 days <sup>2</sup>	Low

<sup>1</sup> Secondary poisoning occurs when a predator eats an animal, or fluids from an animal, that has previously been poisoned.

<sup>2</sup> Pindone becomes more toxic as it accumulates in the body.

**Scientific studies indicate that the toxicity of 1080 and PAPP in dingoes is such that ingesting a single fox bait would be more than enough to kill that animal.**

## Bait monitoring

Bait stations must be checked daily to confirm the number of baits taken and evidence of the animal that took the bait/s.

Where landowners and managers believe pest animals (foxes) may be caching (taking and stockpiling) baits, landowners should consider use of a Canid Pest Ejector as the baits used in these devices cannot be moved.

## Managing off-target poisoning

Potential risks to non-target species must be reduced by correct 1080 and PAPP bait placement, selection of the minimum effective baiting rate and not baiting during the non-target species' main breeding seasons.

The “Protections section” of product labels contains information on how to protect non-target animals from the pesticide.

Additionally, the ‘Directions for the use of 1080 and PAPP pest animal bait products in Victoria document’ ([the Directions for Use](#)) contains additional information and requirements on preventing off-target poisoning when using 1080 and PAPP.

If dingoes have been detected as part of monitoring before a baiting program, then 1080 and PAPP baits cannot be used at the location at that time, as the risk to dingoes is too high. It is an offence under the *Wildlife Act 1975* to lay baits with intent to harm wildlife, and an offence to harm wildlife.

Some other practical steps landowners can take when using 1080 and PAPP baits include:

- placing baits at the appropriate distance apart (baiting density) as per the label
- burying baits at the appropriate depths as per the label
- locating bait stations in areas of confirmed high pest activity.
- timing (day and year) of baiting programs when pest species are most likely to be foraging.
- actively monitoring for cached baits.
- using the minimum number of baits possible.

## **Other important considerations when baiting**

Ongoing monitoring of the baits and removal of carcasses is vital. It will help reduce the risk of non-target animals feeding on them. Any carcasses or uneaten baits must be disposed of in accordance with the Directions for Use and product label.

It is important to keep records of pest control activities for yourself and to meet legal requirements. In addition to the minimum standards, landowners should also make records of risk management strategies such as:

- keeping photos and logs of monitoring activities.
- records of free feeding.
- evidence of sand or activity pad usage.
- remote camera logs.
- maps and photos of where baits are laid, taken, collected and carcasses recovered.
- any additional steps taken to protect wildlife from accidentally accessing the baits. Where accidental off-target poisoning occurs.



Figure 1 Scan QR code for more information.

Any suspected wildlife poisoning must be reported to the Conservation Regulator via the DEECA Customer Service Centre or CrimeStoppers on 1800 333 000.

It is a specific requirement under the Directions for Use, that all incidents of suspected 1080 or PAPP poisonings of non-target animals (including species that are not classified as wildlife), are reported to Agriculture Victoria via the DEECA Customer Service Centre.

**While there are risks in undertaking baiting programs in north west Victoria, when landowners appropriately manage these risks, and record the steps taken, a successful program can be run.**

### Further Information

- Customer Contact Centre: **136 186**
- Agriculture Victoria Chemical Use website: [agriculture.vic.gov.au/chemicals](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/chemicals)
- Agriculture Victoria Chemical Biosecurity Officers:  
[chemical\\_standards@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:chemical_standards@agriculture.vic.gov.au)
- Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority website:  
[apvma.gov.au](http://apvma.gov.au)

**Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)**

---

**Subject:** Reducing impacts  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Start:** Thu 7/08/2025 1:30 PM  
**End:** Thu 7/08/2025 2:00 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded

**Organizer:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Required Attendees:** Secomb, Nick (PIRSA); Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA)

Hi Nick and Trevor

As discussed today with Trevor, could we please catch up to update each other on the issues and opportunities. The meeting would be without prejudice, with a focus on how we can work together to reduce the impacts of dingoes/dogs.

Please suggest alternative times if this one doesn't suit.

Regards, Brad

---

## Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

### [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 495 635 753 984

Passcode: KL3Ty7om

---

### Dial in by phone

[+61 8 7079 7539,,216554166#](#) Australia, Adelaide

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 216 554 166#

### Join on a video conferencing device

Tenant key: teams@cvn.sa.gov.au

Video ID: 137 619 314 5

[More info](#)

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

---

**Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)**

---

**Subject:** Reducing impacts  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Start:** Wed 6/08/2025 3:00 PM  
**End:** Wed 6/08/2025 3:30 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded

**Organizer:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Required Attendees:** Secomb, Nick (PIRSA); Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA)

Hi Nick and Trevor

As requested by Trevor, Im updating this meeting time to Wednesday 6/8/25 at 3pm SA time, 330pm Vic time.

Regards, Brad

Hi Nick and Trevor

As discussed today with Trevor, could we please catch up to update each other on the issues and opportunities. The meeting would be without prejudice, with a focus on how we can work together to reduce the impacts of dingoes/dogs.

Please suggest alternative times if this one doesn't suit.

Regards, Brad

---

## Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

### [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 495 635 753 984

Passcode: KL3Ty7om

---

### Dial in by phone

[+61 8 7079 7539,216554166#](#) Australia, Adelaide

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 216 554 166#

### **Join on a video conferencing device**

Tenant key: [teams@cvn.sa.gov.au](mailto:teams@cvn.sa.gov.au)

Video ID: 137 619 314 5

[More info](#)

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

---

**Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)**

---

**Subject:** reducing impacts  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Start:** Wed 15/10/2025 9:00 AM  
**End:** Wed 15/10/2025 9:30 AM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded

**Organizer:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Required Attendees:** Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA); Secomb, Nick (PIRSA)

Hi Trevor

Changing the time of this meeting to avoid clashes

Regards, Brad

Hi Trevor

I trust you are well.

We would appreciate the opportunity to catch up, noting we missed the meeting we had booked a few weeks ago

This time suits Nick and I, please let me know if it suits you.

Regards, Brad

---

**Microsoft Teams** [Need help?](#)

**[Join the meeting now](#)**

Meeting ID: 477 551 830 304 7

Passcode: DW6BT7iE

---

**Dial in by phone**

[+61 8 7079 7539,216953413#](#) Australia, Adelaide

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 216 953 413#

## Join on a video conferencing device

Tenant key: [teams@cvn.sa.gov.au](mailto:teams@cvn.sa.gov.au)

Video ID: 132 976 707 8

[More info](#)

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

---

**Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)**

---

**Subject:** reducing impacts  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Start:** Thu 9/10/2025 4:00 PM  
**End:** Thu 9/10/2025 4:30 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded

**Organizer:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Required Attendees:** Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA); Secomb, Nick (PIRSA)

Hi Trevor

Changing the time of this meeting to avoid clash with your leadership team

Regards, Brad

Hi Trevor

I trust you are well.

We would appreciate the opportunity to catch up, noting we missed the meeting we had booked a few weeks ago

This time suits Nick and I, please let me know if it suits you.

Regards, Brad

---

## Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

### [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 477 551 830 304 7

Passcode: DW6BT7iE

---

### Dial in by phone

[+61 8 7079 7539,216953413#](#) Australia, Adelaide

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 216 953 413#

## Join on a video conferencing device

Tenant key: [teams@cvn.sa.gov.au](mailto:teams@cvn.sa.gov.au)

Video ID: 132 976 707 8

[More info](#)

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

---

**Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)**

---

**Subject:** Reducing impacts meeting 4/9/25 (1 week reminder)  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Start:** Thu 4/09/2025 9:30 AM  
**End:** Thu 4/09/2025 10:00 AM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded

**Organizer:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Required Attendees:** Secomb, Nick (PIRSA); Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA)

Hi Nick and Trevor

This is the reminder that the meeting to discuss ways to reduce impacts of dingoes/dogs is in one week. Ill change this now to make the reminder 15 min before the meeting.

Regards, Brad

Hi Nick and Trevor

As discussed today, could we please catch up to update each other on the issues and opportunities. The meeting would be without prejudice, with a focus on how we can work together to reduce the impacts of dingoes/dogs.

Please suggest alternative times if this one doesn't suit.

Regards, Brad

---

## Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

### [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 413 992 460 492 9

Passcode: 8SW6f5CH

---

### Dial in by phone

[+61 8 7079 7539,695153908#](#) Australia, Adelaide

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 695 153 908#

### **Join on a video conferencing device**

Tenant key: [teams@cvn.sa.gov.au](mailto:teams@cvn.sa.gov.au)

Video ID: 134 842 368 1

[More info](#)

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

---

**Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)**

---

**Subject:** Reducing impacts meeting 4/9/25 (1 week reminder)  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Start:** Mon 8/09/2025 2:00 PM  
**End:** Mon 8/09/2025 2:30 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded

**Organizer:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Required Attendees:** Secomb, Nick (PIRSA); Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA)

Hi Nick and Trevor

This is the reminder that the meeting to discuss ways to reduce impacts of dingoes/dogs is in one week. Ill change this now to make the reminder 15 min before the meeting.

Regards, Brad

Hi Nick and Trevor

As discussed today, could we please catch up to update each other on the issues and opportunities. The meeting would be without prejudice, with a focus on how we can work together to reduce the impacts of dingoes/dogs.

Please suggest alternative times if this one doesn't suit.

Regards, Brad

---

## Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

### [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 413 992 460 492 9

Passcode: 8SW6f5CH

---

### Dial in by phone

[+61 8 7079 7539,695153908#](#) Australia, Adelaide

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 695 153 908#

### **Join on a video conferencing device**

Tenant key: [teams@cvn.sa.gov.au](mailto:teams@cvn.sa.gov.au)

Video ID: 134 842 368 1

[More info](#)

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

---

**Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)**

---

**Subject:** Reducing impacts meeting 4/9/25 (1 week reminder)  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Start:** Mon 8/09/2025 2:30 PM  
**End:** Mon 8/09/2025 3:00 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded

**Organizer:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Required Attendees:** Secomb, Nick (PIRSA); Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA)

Hi Nick and Trevor

This is the reminder that the meeting to discuss ways to reduce impacts of dingoes/dogs is in one week. Ill change this now to make the reminder 15 min before the meeting.

Regards, Brad

Hi Nick and Trevor

As discussed today, could we please catch up to update each other on the issues and opportunities. The meeting would be without prejudice, with a focus on how we can work together to reduce the impacts of dingoes/dogs.

Please suggest alternative times if this one doesn't suit.

Regards, Brad

---

## Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

### [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 413 992 460 492 9

Passcode: 8SW6f5CH

---

### Dial in by phone

[+61 8 7079 7539,695153908#](#) Australia, Adelaide

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 695 153 908#

### **Join on a video conferencing device**

Tenant key: [teams@cvn.sa.gov.au](mailto:teams@cvn.sa.gov.au)

Video ID: 134 842 368 1

[More info](#)

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

---



Subscribe

Hi, Zac

September 17, 2024  
Shepparton, AU



15°C

Clear Sky  
Wind: 14 Km/h

You have unlimited free premium article(s) left this month

Subscribe now to keep informed and connected with what's really happening in your community. Cancel anytime.

Subscribe

PREMIUM OPINION

# Accept the science and win



By **Andy Wilson**

Sep 13, 2024



*Farmers can lead the debate on dingos by focusing on the need for effective control management, and not on the genetics. Photo by AAP*

At the end of this month the Victorian Government will decide whether to maintain the unprotected status of dingos or not.

At present, the management program of professional trappers working within the three-kilometre buffer zone bordering native forests works well in cooperation with landholders.

Critically, it has reduced the number of cruel deaths of sheep (and young cattle) and of course the financial and emotional cost to farmers.

David (Starchy) Laurence's story, which appeared in last week's *Country News*, is but just one, and if Starchy's back-of-the-envelope calculations are as much as a couple of thousand off, that figure is still in the thousands.

Thousands of sheep getting mauled alive in the dead of night with some surviving until discovery by distraught farmers.

One farmer told me of a calf found with its legs eaten off mid-birth.

None of these horror stories seem to hit the city media outlets, which is a great shame since the common thought is that inner-Melbourne affogato-sipping environmentalists are what's putting pressure on the government.

Do they know that just one dog — one — can destroy \$20,000 worth of lambing production, or that lambs need shooting at dawn with their guts dragging along the ground?

Kylie Cairn's 2023 paper is a must read. If not, then see the link below for her summary on UNSW's website.

Some farmers want to reject her science, but they shouldn't for two very good reasons, both of which work in their favour.

I've had a thorough read. The science is quite robust: 23 genetic markers in 2015 suggested only one per cent of all dingoes were pure.

You don't need to know what a marker is if I tell you just this: Dr Cairn's study used 195,000 markers to find out the complete opposite of the 2015 study, that said more than 87 per cent of Victoria's wild dogs are 99.99 per cent dingo.

Ninety thousand different ways of measuring something is far better than just 23.

It's reversed the story, sure, but then think what one voyage by Magellan did to the shape of the planet.

Farmers need to accept the new research (on dingos, not a round earth).

First, it shows a widespread nature of accepting science as it gets better and better.

Secondly, environmentalists can now rest assured that the dingo is not close to extinction in eastern Victoria after all, so managing them outside of their natural habitat is less of a problem for the species' survival.

The north-west is a different story, with the boffins agreeing that about 170 dingos remain there.

The east of the state holds possibly 4900.

That's about one dingo having the area of Kyabram town all to itself, but of course they are not that evenly spread out.

The argument for protecting livestock will be better if we don't squabble over genetics.

Yes, Dr Cairns was funded by a dingo research body but to suggest she has a political agenda is folly — that's why we have peer reviewing — and is more in keeping with Big Tobacco's 'research' of last century or the Soviet manipulation of Lysenkoism which saw hundreds of scientists imprisoned or executed.

But there is bad timing: the population numbers shown here were shared publicly but are not published, so the government may well ignore them.

However, my discussion with the right scientist has assured me there's no conspiracy.

Farmers are the ones at the conservation coal face, not someone who's never stepped outside of Kew, and so farmers need to speak up.

Grazier Gary Breadon said it perfectly to *Country News*: "Call them whatever you want, they are still going to prey on livestock."

Just as importantly, Dr Cairns said to me: "They absolutely need to be managed. There has to be a balance."

Read Kylie Cairn's article at: <https://www.sydney.edu.au/news-opinion/news/2023/06/08/new-dna-testing-shatters-wild-dog-myth.html>

*Andy Wilson writes for Country News. He is a pre-peer review science editor in a range of fields and has a PhD in ecology from the University of Queensland.*



By **Andy Wilson**  
Country News journalist



Keep current with more stories like this

Subscribe now to stay informed and connected with news you can trust. Cancel anytime.

Subscribe

**You May Also Like...**

Sponsored Links by Taboola

**Cost Of Pressure Transmitter Suppliers Luxembourg Might Surprise You**

Pressure Transmitters

**This Couple's House Is Only 8 Feet Wide, But Wait Till You See The Inside!**

BuzzAura

**New Portable Stair Lift Requires No Installation (Search Here)**

Mobile Stairlifts | Search Ads

**Entrepreneurs Can't Believe This Business Opportunity**

CouriersPlease Franchising

Learn More



Subscribe

Hi, Zac

September 17, 2024  
Shepparton, AU

**15°C** Clear Sky  
Wind: 14 Km/h

You have unlimited free premium article(s) left this month

Subscribe now to keep informed and connected with what's really happening in your community. Cancel anytime.

Subscribe

PREMIUM NEWS

## Grazier condemns wild dog strategy

By **Andy Wilson**  
Sep 14, 2024



*Gary Breadon welcomed DEECA's consultation with farmers on wild dog management, but is worried that past data on numbers is being ignored.*

One sheep grazier has blasted the Victorian Government's effort in managing wild dogs after attending the final day of consultation with DEECA representatives in Mansfield on Friday, September 6.

Gary Breadon is a second-generation grazier north of Mansfield who has seen the number of dog attacks rise in the past 40 years and said the government's responsibility on its 'own' land was negligent.

"At the end of the day, the government is a public land manager, and they have to manage the animals on that public land," Mr Breadon said.

"We farmers are required to control any pests on our land, so they should as well; it's as simple as that."

Mr Breadon's frustration has stemmed from his involvement with the north-east Wild Dog Management Group, which he was a founding member of in 2000, and the data collected over many years.

"It's interesting – we've had dogs here forever, but it's getting worse," Mr Breadon said.

"Back then, you'd deal with a dog and there would be no troubles for about another five to 10 years.

"Now, it's every 12 months.

"Years ago, we were looking out for foxes, and wild dogs never entered the consciousness; now they are more and more prevalent."

Mr Breadon said the former management group had been successful in managing different strategies because of the access to the agriculture minister of the day.

"We would meet monthly for about 10 years and there were department reps there, landholders — all the major stakeholders," he said.

"And a direct line of communication with the minister's secretary.

"That has ceased to occur."

Mr Breadon said the group's disbanding had been a 'political decision'.

Australian Wool Innovations later formed a wild dog management group and approached Mr Breadon to be involved.

“That was then succeeded by the state government’s wild dog group, but I simply got frustrated,” he said.

“I thought ‘I’m just going to do it myself’.”

Mr Breadon’s property borders native forests which are the habitat for wild dogs and dingoes and he is a supporter of the three-kilometre buffer zone which is currently managed by professional trappers.

He said managing an access corridor on the forest side of his fence required any fallen timber to be removed via his property.

“In some parts, my fence is on a very steep hill, so I have to move timber uphill over my fence,” he said.

“And of course, land clearing approval is needed.”

Mr Breadon was critical of the government’s acceptance of recent genetic data that suggested most wild dogs were dingoes and that earlier population data and other research was being ignored.

“I cannot believe that a scientist to do his job right would disregard the data from so many years,” he said.

“My cynicism is that the scientific research has its own agenda for dingo control, and I question how DNA evidence can be relied on after just one paper.”

UNSW geneticist Kylie Cairns published a report in 2023 showing evidence that very few pure feral domestic dogs existed in the wild, with the majority of ‘wild dogs’ being dingoes.

“Call them whatever you want, they are still going to prey on livestock,” Mr Breadon said.

Mr Breadon now spends the first ‘two or three’ hours of every day checking his boundary electric fence for damage.

“If I ever go up the paddock, I always have a firearm with me now,” he said.

“And it’s frustrating, because you can’t sleep not knowing the fences are okay.

“You have to do it so you can actually sleep at night.”



By **Andy Wilson**  
Country News journalist



### Keep current with more stories like this

Subscribe now to stay informed and connected with news you can trust. Cancel anytime.

[Subscribe](#)

### You May Also Like...

Sponsored Links by Taboola

**Portable solar carports with storage require almost no installation. Search here!**

Solar Carport | Search Ads

**Bikini Trends In 2024-2025 May Be Mindblowing!**

Bathing Suits | Search Ads

[Search Now](#)

**Australian Capital Territory: One Day Full Mouth Dental Implants - See The Costs**

WallStreet Viral

**New Portable Stair Lift Requires No Installation (Search Here)**

Mobile Stairlifts | Search Ads

**Nina Hartley Steps Out With Her New Look And Stun Fans**

Cars And Yachts

[Read More](#)

**Easy Screen Time Management for Kids**

Qustudio

[Click Here](#)



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Ongoing dingo protection in north-west Victoria poses risks to livestock producers

12 November 2024

The Victorian Government's ceasing of the dingo unprotection order in north-west Victoria in March continues to threaten the livelihoods of livestock producers across Victoria and South Australia, with several reports of producers in the region struggling with the impacts of wild dog attacks.

Geoff Power, Chair of the National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordination Committee and South Australian wool farmer, said this decision was based on questionable wild dog population estimates, leaving sheep and cattle producers in the region ill-equipped to prevent attacks on their livestock.

"We've repeatedly requested to view the scientific report the Victorian Government based their decision on, with no response. As Chair of the National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordination Committee, the reluctance of the Victorian Government to share the report is alarming and raises concerns about the validity of the science used to justify their decision," said Mr Power.

In addition, the National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordination Committee and livestock industry stakeholders have requested the Victorian Government undertake a peer review of the paper that informed their decision - in line with standard practice to inform policy settings - and look forward to seeing results from this review if undertaken.

Mr Power said, "It's not just Victorian farmers who are impacted. There is real concern being felt by South Australian farmers, with 80% of livestock in South Australia residing in the south-east of the state - right on the verge of the unprotection order in north-west Victoria."

As announced last month, the Coordination Committee were pleased by the Victorian Government's announcement to continue the dingo unprotection order in eastern Victoria; however, dingoes are still protected in the north-west of the state.

"We're well aware that wild dogs don't respect state lines. Over the border in Ngarkat Conservation Park in South Australia - which is connected to the Big Desert Wilderness Park in Victoria - recent surveys for wild dogs recorded signs of at least 21 dogs by a professional trapper, in just one small section of the park.

"Given the density of dogs in Ngarkat Conservation Park, I will be recommending to the South Australian Government that professional trappers are engaged in this area with urgency, in line with SA policy for management of dingoes inside the fence," said Mr Power.

Based on this information, the National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordination Committee is calling on the Victorian Government to review all the available data and revisit the end of the dingo unprotection order for the north-west of the state.

The National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordination Committee will continue to actively engage with the Victorian Government on this issue, to ensure livestock producers in Victoria and South Australia are appropriately protected from the very real impacts of inadequate wild dog control measures.



## MEDIA RELEASE

For more information on Australia's approach to wild dog control, visit the National Wild Dog Action Plan website [here](#).

-ENDS-

### Media contact

Danika Barnard  
National Wild Dog Action Plan Communications  
E: [comms@wilddogplan.org.au](mailto:comms@wilddogplan.org.au) | M: 0447 007 806

Fri 30/06/2024 2:16 PM


Page, Brad (PIRSA)

**Accepted: Invitation to discuss dingo conservation and livestock predation management policy in Victoria**

To Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA)

When Monday, 2 September 2024 2:00 PM-2:45 PM (UTC + 10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Location Microsoft Teams Meeting

 We couldn't find this meeting in the calendar. It may have been moved or deleted.  
Page, Brad (PIRSA) has accepted this meeting.

Fri 30/08/2024 3:45 PM


Page, Brad (PIRSA)

**Accepted: Invitation to discuss dingo conservation and livestock predation management policy in Victoria**

To Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA)

When Tuesday, 3 September 2024 1:45 PM-2:30 PM (UTC + 10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Location Microsoft Teams Meeting

 We couldn't find this meeting in the calendar. It may have been moved or deleted.  
Page, Brad (PIRSA) has accepted this meeting.

**Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)**

---

**Subject:** reducing impacts  
**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Start:** Thu 9/10/2025 2:00 PM  
**End:** Thu 9/10/2025 2:30 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Meeting Status:** Not yet responded

**Organizer:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Required Attendees:** Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA); Secomb, Nick (PIRSA)

Hi Trevor

I trust you are well.

We would appreciate the opportunity to catch up, noting we missed the meeting we had booked a few weeks ago

This time suits Nick and I, please let me know if it suits you.

Regards, Brad

---

## Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

### Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: 477 551 830 304 7

Passcode: DW6BT7IE

### Dial in by phone

[+61 8 7079 7539, 216953413#](#) Australia, Adelaide

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 216 953 413#

### Join on a video conferencing device

Tenant key: [teams@cvn.sa.gov.au](mailto:teams@cvn.sa.gov.au)

Video ID: 132 976 707 8

[More info](#)



Mon 17/02/2025 9:54 AM


Page, Brad (PIRSA)

**Accepted: Fox baiting discussion**

To Trevor I Piscrotta (DEECA)

When Wednesday, 19 February 2025 10:30 AM-11:00 AM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney.

Location Microsoft Teams Meeting

 We couldn't find this meeting in the calendar. It may have been moved or deleted.  
Page, Brad (PIRSA) has accepted this meeting.

Fri 16/05/2024 8:46 AM


Page, Brad (PIRSA)

**Accepted: AgVic Meeting with PIRSA**

To: Fraser I. Hansen (DEECA)

When: Wednesday, 22 May 2024 1:30 PM-2:30 PM (UTC+10:00) Camberis, Melbourne, Sydney

Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

 We couldn't find this meeting in the calendar. It may have been moved or deleted.  
Page, Brad (PIRSA) has accepted this meeting.

**Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)**

---

**From:** Greg Mifsud <[redacted]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 16 April 2024 1:38 PM  
**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** FW: FYI - Sheep Central article

**Greg Mifsud | National Wild Dog Management Coordinator**  
**CENTRE FOR INVASIVES SPECIES SOLUTIONS**

Email: [redacted]  
Phone: [redacted]



**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 9:01 AM  
**To:** Greg Mifsud  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** FYI - Sheep Central article

Hi Greg,

FYI – article out of Sheep Central yesterday: [Vic sheep producer under dog attack told not to scare dingoes](#). You’ve probably already seen this one as it features some comments from you, but I thought this part of the article was interesting:

*Last week Mr Bennett was told via email by Department of Energy Environment and Climate Action director Callie Donaldson “that any deliberate scaring or active disturbance to dingoes may also require an ATCW (Authority to Control Wildlife).”*

*“So if they are eating my sheep, I’ve got to pretty much sit there and watch them do it,” Mr Bennett said.*

We’ll chat about recent media in our comms meeting with the Committee today and send another summary of media articles to them this afternoon.

Thanks,  
[redacted]

[redacted]  
Senior Communications Manager

Three60 Consulting Pty Ltd  
E: [redacted]



**THREE60**  
CONSULTING

Engage  
Connect  
Deliver

**Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)**

---

**From:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 March 2024 3:55 PM  
**To:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: OFFICIAL-Sensitive: For Information - Update of regulatory settings for Dingo control in Victoria  
**Attachments:** \_20240314\_2024\_DingoUnprotection\_Media\_A3L.png

Hi Greg  
Geoff will call you, re below  
Cheers, Brad

**Brad Page** | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | P  
(08) 8429 0803 | M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

**From:** Joanne M Wall (DEECA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 14, 2024 3:15 PM  
**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Cc:** Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA); [Out of scope](#)  
**Subject:** OFFICIAL-Sensitive: For Information - Update of regulatory settings for Dingo control in Victoria

1 You don't often get email from [joanne.wall@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:joanne.wall@agriculture.vic.gov.au). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Brad

I am writing to update you on a change to current regulatory settings for the control of dingoes in Victoria. On 1 October 2023, an order under Victoria's *Wildlife Act 1975* was remade which declared the dingo as unprotected within a 3km buffer zone on public land in eastern and northwest Victoria and on private land across the state.

Since making the previous Victorian dingo unprotection order in October 2023, preliminary population estimates of dingoes in Victoria (developed as part of research to inform the review to reassess the conservation status of dingo), have revealed that the dingo population in the northwest of Victoria is at greater risk of extinction than was thought at the time that the previous Order was made.

From 14 March 2024, to allow the control of dingoes where they threaten livestock, a new Order in Council has been made under the *Wildlife Act*, declaring the dingo as unprotected within a 3km buffer zone on public land in eastern Victoria and on most private land across the state. A map which illustrates relevant areas is attached for reference. The new unprotection order will have effect for the remainder of the term of the previous Order (i.e. until 1 October 2024).

The new Order is different from the previous Order in that the areas where dingoes are unprotected excludes the northwest of the state. This new Order excludes northwest Victoria due to the risk of extinction of its local dingo population. There will be no change to the existing regulatory arrangements across the rest of the state, with the new unprotection order remaining in place until 1 October 2024.

Where dingoes threaten livestock in the northwest of the state, farmers are able to apply for an Authority to Control Wildlife, which permits the use of lethal control in circumstances where no other options are available.

During the life of this new Order (until 1 October 2024), the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action will continue to review existing arrangements to agree on a future policy for dingo conservation and management in Victoria in light of new scientific research. As part of the review stakeholders will be consulted to inform the development of proposed options for future dingo conservation and management.

If you have any questions regarding the new Order or the review, you are welcome to contact myself or Dr Trevor Pisciotta, Executive Director Regulatory Policies and Programs in Agriculture Victoria at [trevor.x.pisciotta@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:trevor.x.pisciotta@agriculture.vic.gov.au).

Regards,

Jo

**Joanne Wall**

Acting Director, Animals & Invasives Regulatory Policy | Animal Welfare Victoria  
Agriculture Victoria | Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action  
475 Mickleham Road Attwood Victoria 3049

[joanne.wall@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:joanne.wall@agriculture.vic.gov.au)

[animalwelfare.vic.gov.au](http://animalwelfare.vic.gov.au)



We acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners and their Elders past and present as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters and commit to genuinely partnering with them and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.

OFFICIAL-Sensitive

**From:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Greg Mifsud](#); [Scanlon, Annette \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Weekly times article  
**Date:** Thursday, 11 April 2024 8:10:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Thanks Greg

Pretty sure you also mentioned this one yest [https://www.sheepcentral.com/south-australians-  
seek-action-on-victorian-wild-dog-changes/](https://www.sheepcentral.com/south-australians-<br/>seek-action-on-victorian-wild-dog-changes/) (we can access the full version of this one)

Cheers, brad

---

**From:** Greg Mifsud  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 7:27 AM  
**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA) ; Scanlon, Annette (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** Weekly times article

Hi Brad,

Here is the weekly times article you requested.

Cheers

Greg

**Greg Mifsud** | National Wild Dog Management Coordinator

**CENTRE FOR INVASIVES SPECIES SOLUTIONS**

Email: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Phone: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)



**Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)**

---

**From:** Greg Mifsud <Clause 6(1)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 26 March 2024 8:59 PM  
**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** Weekly times article  
**Attachments:** Weekly times Dingo article 26 March 24.docx

Here you go.

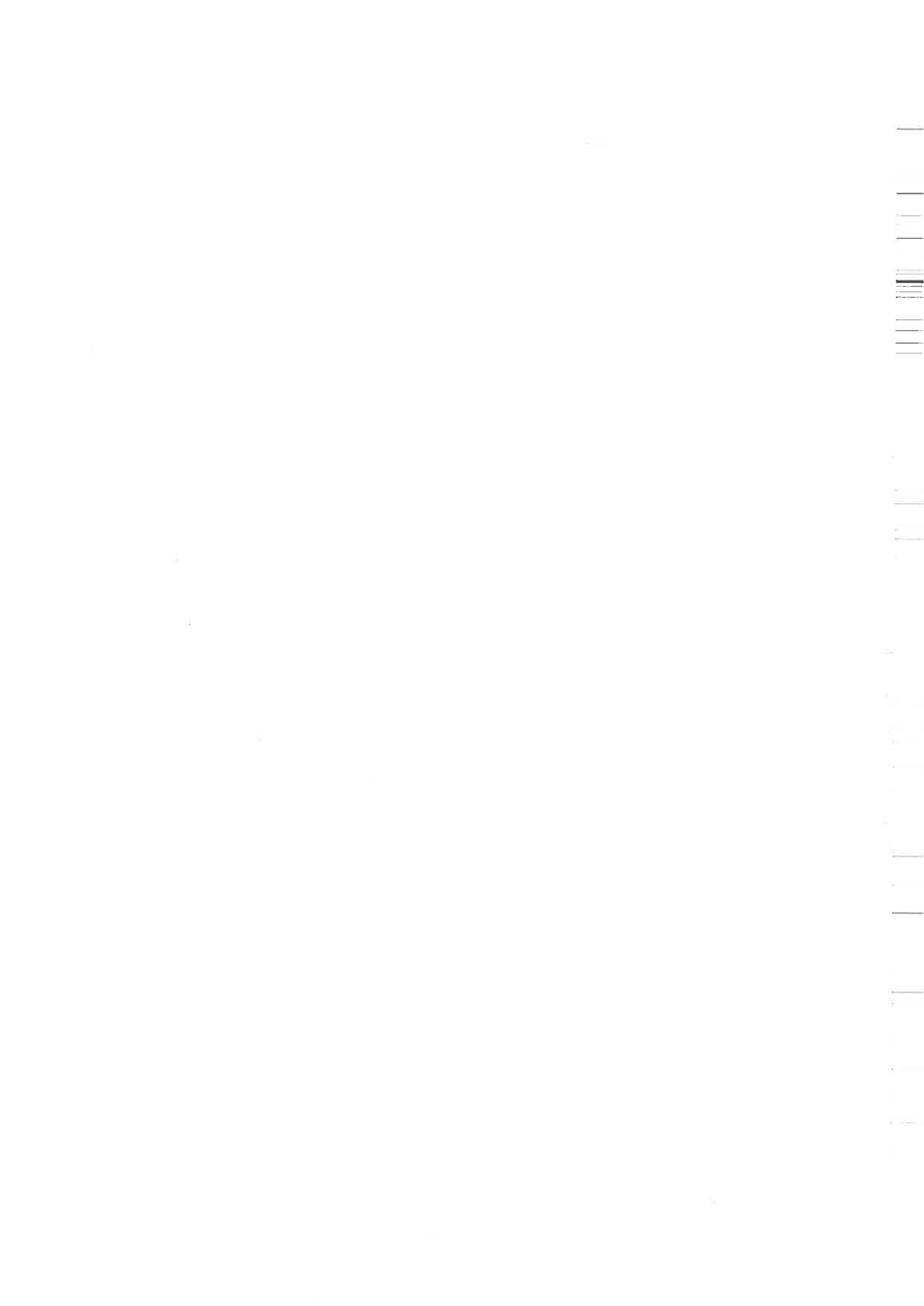
**Greg Mifsud | National Wild Dog Management Coordinator**

**CENTRE FOR INVASIVES SPECIES SOLUTIONS**

Email: Clause 6(1)

Phone: Clause 6(1)





**From:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Out of scope](#) [Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
**Subject:** Wild dog SA/Vic  
**Date:** Wednesday, 17 April 2024 10:53:00 AM

Hi [Out of scope](#) and Greg

Please note below motion from last week in Upper House SA Parliament about Vic wild dogs last week.

Thanks, Brad

[Brad Page](#) | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | P: (08) 8429 0803 | M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
<https://hansardsearch.parliament.sa.gov.au/daily/uh/2024-04-10/42?sid=929c87813bda4ccea2>

## WILD DOG MANAGEMENT

**The Hon. N.J. CENTOFANTI (Leader of the Opposition) (16:48):** I move:

That this council—

1. Acknowledges the livestock industry's longstanding contribution to the South Australian economy;
2. Notes that changes to the policy for wild dog management by the Victorian state Labor government have resulted in an immediate threat to livestock along the affected border of South Australia;
3. Acknowledges that the impact of policy decisions transcend state boundaries;
4. Notes that the reappointment of a Cross Border Commissioner continues to be delayed to the detriment of cross-border communities; and
5. Calls on the Malinauskas government to show leadership on this issue to ensure the Victorian state Labor government continues to manage their wild dog and dingo populations into the future.

Ripped throats, faces torn off, back legs missing, gouges to the belly, raw bleeding, weeping in agonising pain, screaming and left to bleed, and stressed, to die, surrounded by other terrified livestock. It might be confronting and it is certainly gruesome, but that is the reality of wild dog attacks on a working farm. The majority of mauled animals do not survive. Whether they be native animals, sheep, cows, alpacas, poultry or domesticated working dogs, a single wild dog can cause mayhem on a farm. A pack of wild dogs hunting together can be catastrophic. An InDaily article from last year opens:

Farmer Nathan Redpath recalls moving 2000 pregnant ewes into a northern Flinders Ranges paddock and within eight months losing 500 of them to wild dogs and dingoes. No lambs survived.

Wild dog incursions cost Australian farmers millions of dollars per annum. Travis Tobin, CEO of Livestock SA, estimates that, prior to the 2019 wild dog fence upgrades, that figure would sit at around \$4 million per annum for sheep exclusively.

I myself as a country veterinarian have seen the aftermath of multiple wild dog attacks on agricultural lands, particularly on flocks of sheep. By the time the landowners were able to alert our clinic and I arrived on the farm, these animals were usually in shock, often covered in blood and were hugely susceptible to their wounds becoming infected or flyblown into the future, if they survived at all. To be blunt, mostly our job and my job was to euthanase these animals so damaged and torn and so far gone in shock and pain that all we could do was ease their suffering.

Wild dogs—that is, dingoes and mixed-breed dingo mongrels—are known to not only hunt for food but for sport, for the chase. They often attack from behind. Many of the wounds I attended to were on the rear legs and tails of the livestock attempting to run away. The Minister for Primary Industries knows this grisly reality and we the opposition applaud the plan to continue the improvements and maintenance of the wild dog fence in South Australia to protect our livestock, native animals, farmers and their working animals. As already noted, the major investment began on that program in 2019, and we intend to continue this important bipartisan approach to wild dog incursion.

But we are one land, and wild dogs do not care about state boundaries. Whilst we have responsible landowners across the country, they cannot and should not have to bear the brunt of bad policy by city-centric bureaucrats. What we have seen from the Victorian government recently is reckless, irresponsible and flies in the face of both animal and

community safety. What we are witnessing is a winding back of the 'unprotected status' of wild dogs in western Victoria at a time when we know there are wild dog incursions in South Australia from the Victorian border.

The Ngarkat Conservation Park is fast becoming an expressway for wild dogs between privately owned and managed lands. The Victorian government's recent decision to end wild dog control programs in the state's north-west has created concern for livestock producers and hobby farmers on both sides of the South Australian-Victorian border.

Livestock SA have stated publicly that they have real concerns about the potential impact of this decision. It is noted that it is not only the cost of lost livestock but the very real added personal and social trauma of dealing with the aftermath of wild dog attacks as well as the obvious animal welfare concerns.

National industry information site Sheep Central notes that the Allan Labor government is also investigating concerning recommendations in the parliamentary report into ecosystem decline in Victoria that included removing the order-in-council with its three-kilometre livestock protection buffer, reintroducing dingoes in some parks such as the Grampians and phasing out 1080 baiting.

According to the National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordination Committee, the government's choice has left livestock producers in the area vulnerable to wild dog attacks, with insufficient resources for prevention. This will certainly leak across the border into South Australia. Geoff Power, the committee chair, expressed deep disappointment at the lack of industry involvement and consultation in this decision, emphasising its potentially severe consequences for livestock producers in the north-west region.

It strikes me as incredibly shortsighted that conservation and animal rights groups and some First Nations corporations have welcomed the dingoes' protection, yet are willing to see a plethora of livestock, hobby farm animals and domestic pets mauled ferociously for sport by these now protected hunting packs.

It should be noted that, according to wild dog management coordinator Greg Mifsud, Museums Victoria has updated the taxonomy of the dingo to bring it in line with the Australian Faunal Directory and the recommendations of the Australasian Mammal Taxonomy Consortium. Mr Mifsud has said:

This change in taxonomy within Victoria means that the dingo is no longer considered a subspecies of wolf (*Canis lupus*), but actually an ancient type of domestic dog (*Canis familiaris*), bringing into the question the need to change the Victorian Wild Dog Management Program at all.

As the dingo is now considered a wild living dog, there is no longer need to have special provisions for their control—they can and should be managed as wild dogs on private property without further restrictions.

He then goes to state that:

This change in classification poses a new consideration for the Victorian government as it reviews wild dog control in the state.

This shows the complete inconsistency between the Victorian government's policymakers and its own state museum, which must be called out by the leaders in this state.

CEO Travis Tobin of Livestock SA is quoted in the *Stock Journal* as saying, 'You can't make these decisions in isolation when your decisions are going to have severe impact on others.'

The opposition completely agrees. This issue absolutely underlines the importance of the role of the Cross Border Commissioner in facilitating communication about cross-border issues.

Communication between state governments is imperative on issues where decisions have the almost instant impact across state lines.

I note that the minister is quoted as noting that she has written to the Victorian agricultural minister Ros Spence multiple times regarding the potential impact of altering wild dog management strategies in South Australia's livestock industry. Writing is a start, but a letter is too easy to downplay or ignore. Trust me, I have written plenty of letters to the current minister and a number of her colleagues on various issues, only to be provided with the standard 'thanks for writing' response, with no practical outcomes.

These farmers need practical outcomes and they need it fast. They need a minister who will stand up, who will be the leader they deserve and who will fight to ensure the wild dog and dingo populations are managed appropriately into the future. They need a Cross Border

Commissioner who can 100 per cent focus on this issue as a priority. Farmers on the ground are begging for a line into PIRSA—they want to deal with someone who understands regional cross-border realities.

Our farmers should not have to suffer the incompetence and repercussions of terrible policy decisions and six-monthly reviews and research periods at the behest of animal groups that would see the entire livestock industry dismantled. I commend this motion to the chamber on behalf of the South Australian producers now at risk from these decisions across the nearby border in Victoria.

Debate adjourned on motion of Hon. J.E. Hanson.

[Brad Page](#) | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | P: (08) 8429 0803 | M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

**From:** [Clause 6\(1\) \(LandscapeSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Out of scope](#); [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#); [Out of scope](#)  
**Cc:** [Out of scope](#)  
**Subject:** BFDCC Meeting No 39 Agenda and Meeting Papers  
**Date:** Thursday, 9 October 2025 1:52:22 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-Email face.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email inst.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email Twit.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email yout.png](#)  
[Outlook-2tiamft0.png](#)  
[Out of scope](#)  
[WildDogScan - New damage record for Box Flat Wild Dog Committee.pdf](#)  
[Out of scope](#)  
[13.10.2025\\_Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee#1 Clause 6\(1\).pdf](#)  
[Out of scope](#)  
[Out of scope](#)  
[Big Desert Farmer destocks 26 Aug 25.pdf](#)  
[Outlook-Email face.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email inst.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email Twit.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email yout.png](#)  
[Outlook-xbjwqdr.png](#)

---

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Everyone,

I hope this message finds you well.

Please note that some additional reading material has come through after the agenda papers were circulated. It's relevant to our upcoming meeting on Monday and may help inform our discussion.

I've attached the documents for your reference. If you have time to review it ahead of the meeting, that would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your understanding.

Kind Regards,

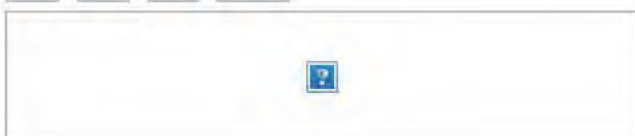
[Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Business Support Coordinator Riverland  
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board  
P 08 8429 8452

[Clause 6\(1\)](#)

28 Vaughan Tce  
PO Box1374 Berri SA 5343

[landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/](http://landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/)



The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and

work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information to anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error please advise by return email.

---

**From:** Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA) <Clause 6(1)>

**Sent:** Friday, October 3, 2025 4:34 PM

**To:** Out of scope

Out of scope

Page, Brad (PIRSA) <Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au>;

Out of scope

**Cc:** Out of scope

Out of scope

**Subject:** BFWDC Meeting No 39 Agenda and Meeting Papers

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good Afternoon Everyone,

I hope you're all having a great week.

Please find attached the agenda and meeting papers to help you prepare for our upcoming meeting on Monday 13th October. If you have any questions or need anything clarified before then, feel free to reach out.

Kindest Regards,

Clause 6(1)

Business Support Coordinator Riverland  
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board  
P 08 8429 8452

Clause 6(1)

28 Vaughan Tce  
PO Box1374 Berri SA 5343

[landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/](https://landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/)



The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information to anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error please advise by return email.

**Subject:** WildDogScan - New damage record for Box Flat Wild Dog Committee

**WildDogScan- New damage record**

[Click here to view this record on the map](#)

**Created by:**

**Name:** Clause 6(1)

**Email:** Clause 6(1)

**Username:** Clause 6(1)

**Member of group:** Box Flat Wild Dog Committee

**Record details:**

Summary: Sheep killed: 0

Sheep mauled: 5

Comments: Neighbours 2 sheep killed. Black animal going across paddock towards Dukes Highway Happenings over last 4 weeks

**Location details:**

Date: 07 Oct 2025

Latitude: Clause 6(1)

Longitude: Clause 6(1)

Image: No

Type: Public

Unique ID: Clause 6(1)

**Instructions** - Learn how to record or view information in WildDogScan ? [Click here](#)

**Additional Information:**

- [Glovebox guide for managing wild dogs](#)
- [A field guide to poison baiting: wild dogs and foxes](#)

13/10/2025

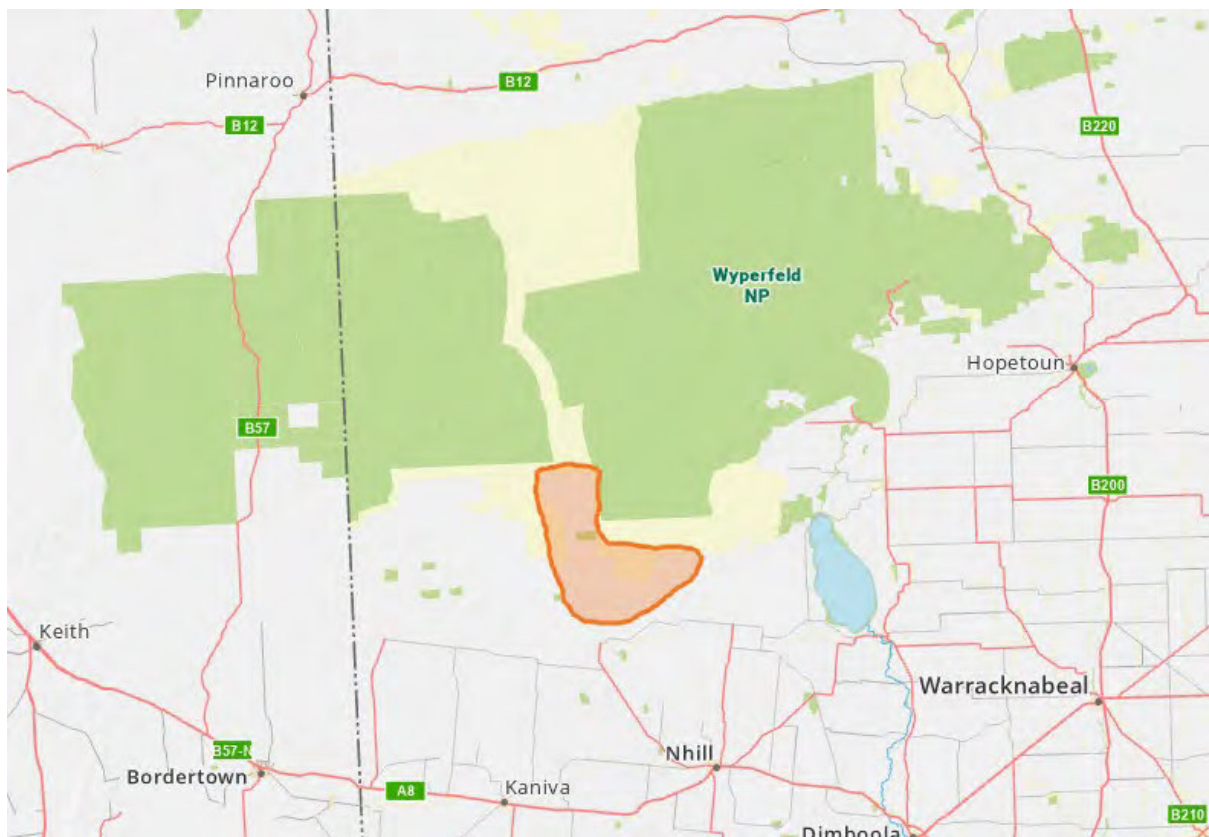
Victorian Northwest Report;

- Dingoes are still active within the Wagon Flat/Yanac / Broughton area (see orange area in map below)
- There has been 6 Dingoes captured on remote cameras within this area
- Recent activity is pushing into open farmland
- Dingo activity is very quiet within the remainder of the Big Desert and Wyperfeld NP
- No 1080 fox baiting
- Electric fence “outrigger” trials at four properties have been promising and will be evaluated over time as a non-lethal control method

Clause 6(1)

Vertebrate Species Management Coordinator, NW

DEECA / Mildura



# Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee

## Draft Minutes

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water we live and work upon, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

Meeting Title: No 39	
<b>Date:</b>	13 October 2025
<b>Time</b>	1:30pm
<b>Location:</b>	Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Lameroo Office
<b>Attendees</b>	<p><b>Members:</b> Clause 6(1) (Chair) (Tatiara District Council), Clause 6(1) (Coorong District Council), Clause 6(1) (Southern Mallee District Council), Clause 6(1) (Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board), Clause 6(1) (Limestone Coast Landscape Board), Clause 6(1) (Department of Primary Industries and Regions-Biosecurity) Clause 6(1) (National Parks and Wildlife Service) and Clause 6(1) (Livestock SA)</p> <p><b>Landscape SA Staff:</b> Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Clause 6(1) (Limestone Coast Landscape Board)</p> <p><b>Guests:</b> Clause 6(1) (Cross Border Commissioner), Clause 6(1) (National Parks and Wildlife Service)</p>
<b>Apologies:</b>	Clause 6(1) (Sheep Industry Fund), Clause 6(1) (Department Energy, Environment and Climate Action,
<b>Absent</b>	

1. Welcome	
1.1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair, Clause 6(1) acknowledged the Country, welcomed all present, noted the apologies and checked the agenda.</p>
1.2	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>Clause 6(1) – Chair – Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee</p> <p>Minutes of the previous meetings held on 17 March 2025 were reviewed and were adopted as circulated.</p> <p>Moved – Clause 6(1)</p> <p>Seconded – Clause 6(1)</p> <p>All in favour – Yes.</p>
1.3	<p><b>Business and Actions Arising</b></p> <p>Clause 6(1) – Chair – Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee</p> <p>Richard discussed the Actions arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Item 4.1 (35) – Clause 6(1) <b>to draft information, provide to committee for comment, and then distribute to councils etc to get message out.</b> – completed can be removed.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Item 4.4 (35) – <b>NPWS will update WildDogScan with the scheduled monitoring site information/results (Ongoing)</b> – this will remain an ongoing as NPWS continue to work with <b>Clause 6(1)</b> from Feral Scan and will remain on the action items.</li> <li>Item 4.5 (35) – <b>Clause 6(1)</b> and <b>Clause 6(1)</b> <b>to look at communications strategy for the committee</b> – this item will be re investigated.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Reports</b></p>	
2.1	<p><b>Victorian Report</b>  <b>Clause 6(1)</b> – Chair – Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee</p> <p>The Chair discussed the written reports submitted by <b>Clause 6(1)</b> and <b>Clause 6(1)</b> with the committee.</p>
2.2	<p><b>DEW/National Parks and Wildlife Service Report</b>  <b>Clause 6(1)</b> – National Parks and Wildlife Service</p> <p><b>Clause 6(1)</b> discussed the National Parks and Wildlife Service Report with the committee. Key items of this report included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wild Dog Report on 8 June 2025 10km North of Pinnaroo. Animal was shot.</li> <li>Baiting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>08/05/2025 – 29/05/2025 1060 Manufactured Roo Baits dropped.</li> <li>21/08/2025 – 30/08/2025 964 Manufactured Roo Baits dropped.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>June 2025 – No sites recorded Dingo Presence, 6 Sites recorded fox signs, 1 site recorded cat signs, 1 site recorded goat signs, 1 site recorded deer signs and 4 sites recorded rabbits signs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.3	<p><b>Landscape Boards Report</b>  <b>Clause 6(1)</b> – Murraylands District Team Leader – Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board  <b>Clause 6(1)</b> – Northern Operations Team Leader- Limestone Coast Landscape board  <b>Clause 6(1)</b> discussed the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board report with the Committee. Key points of this report were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District staff were contacted by a landholder from <b>Clause 6(1)</b> in late August. They were enquiring about the dog that had been shot in the area. They reported having lost a number of baby goats around the same time and after discussion, suspected that they had seen the same dog as the one that was shot. The landholder didn't require any further assistance or take up the offer of bait due to being confident the dog had been destroyed. There have been no further reports of wild dog impacts since the one reported was destroyed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Clause 6(1)</b> gave a verbal report about the Limestone Coast Landscape Board region with the committee. Key points of this report were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landholder has had 5 sheep mauled over a period of 4 to 5 weeks, they have seen a black animal heading across the paddock towards Dukes Highway.</li> <li>Landholder did not want to bait due to owning multiple high value working dogs.</li> </ul>
2.4	<p><b>Biosecurity SA Report</b>  <b>Clause 6(1)</b> Principal Biosecurity Officer- Department of Primary Industries and Regions  <b>Clause 6(1)</b> discussed the PIRSA Biosecurity SA Report with the committee. Key points of this report were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professional Trapper has reported signs of 9 to 10 dogs within their survey zone within Ngarkat.</li> <li>There has been a nomination by Dingo Advocates that the Wild Dogs in Big Desert and Ngarkat should be declared as an endangered species.</li> <li>The PIRSA dog trappes has noted a high density of foxes in Ngarkat.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clause 9(1)</li> </ul>
2.5	<p><b>SA Wild Dog Advisory Group report</b></p> <p>Clause 6(1) – Councillor – Southern Mallee District Council</p> <p>Clause 6(1) let the committee know that SAWDAG have not met again since the last Box Flat meeting.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Financial Update and Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Financial Update and Report</b></p> <p>Clause 6(1) – Murraylands District Team Leader – Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</p> <p>Clause 6(1) discussed the financial reports with the committee.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b></p> <p>Moved – Clause 6(1)</p> <p>Seconded – Clause 6(1)</p> <p>All in favour – Yes.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Close</b>
4.1	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>NIL</p>
4.2	<p><b>Advice to the Boards</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> PIRSA to approach National Parks and Wildlife Service and Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board and Limestone Coast Landscape Board with a proposal to codesign an aerial baiting program of full strength wild dog baits for foxes and wild dogs in and around the Ngarkat conservation park in an ongoing capacity, this is to include a supply of the baits and buffer for emergency response purposes. To clarify, this is a control measure of foxes, if fox numbers are not adequately controlled, wild dogs will have a reduced opportunity to access the baits.</p> <p>Moved – Clause 6(1)</p> <p>Seconded – Clause 6(1)</p> <p>All in Favour – Yes.</p>
4.2	<p><b>Next Meeting Details</b></p> <p>Next Meeting will be March 16, 2026, at 1pm in Lameroo.</p>
4.3	The meeting closed at 3:00pm

**Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)**

**From:** Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA)  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 October 2025 4:34 PM  
**To:** Out of scope; Page, Brad (PIRSA); Out of scope  
 Out of scope  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** BFWDCC Meeting No 39 Agenda and Meeting Papers  
**Attachments:** Meeting No 39 BFWDCC Agenda and Papers.pdf

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good Afternoon Everyone,

I hope you're all having a great week.

Please find attached the agenda and meeting papers to help you prepare for our upcoming meeting on Monday 13th October. If you have any questions or need anything clarified before then, feel free to reach out.

Kindest Regards,

Clause 6(1)

Business Support Coordinator Riverland  
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board  
P 08 8429 8452

Clause 6(1)

28 Vaughan Tce  
PO Box1374 Berri SA 5343  
[landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/](http://landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/)



The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

# Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee

## Agenda

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water we live and work upon, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

<b>Meeting Title: Meeting No 39</b>			
<b>Date: 13 October 2025</b>			
<b>Start Time:</b>	1.30pm	<b>Finish Time:</b>	3:30pm
<b>Location:</b>	Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Office - Lameroo	<b>Room:</b>	Conference Room
<b>Apologies:</b>			

Item	Time	Meeting Standing Items	Action	Lead
<b>1. Welcome</b>				
1.1	1:30pm	Welcome, Apologies and agenda check	Noting	Chair
1.2	1:35pm	Acceptance of Meeting 38 Minutes <b>Attachment 1.2 – Minutes of 17 March 2025</b>	Approval	Chair
1.3	1:40pm	Business and actions arising for the minutes <b>Attachment 1.3 - Actions</b>	Discussion	Chair
<b>2. Reports</b>				
2.1	1:45pm	Victorian report <b>Attachment 2.1.1 - Wild Dogs by Alan Bennett</b> <b>Attachment 2.1.2 - Wild Dogs by Terry Miller</b>	Noting	Chair
2.2	1:55pm	DEW/National Parks and Wildlife Service Report <b>Attachment 2.2.1- National Parks and Wildlife Service Report</b>	Noting	Clause 6(1)
2.3	2:05pm	Landscape Boards Report	Noting	Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1)
2.4	2:15pm	Biosecurity SA Report <b>Attachment 2.4.1 - Biosecurity Report</b> <b>Attachment 2.4.2 - SA Wild Dog Eradication Program</b> <b>Attachment 2.4.3 - Landscape Drivers</b>	Noting	Clause 6(1)
2.5	2:25pm	SA Wild Dog Advisory Group Report	Noting	Clause 6(1)

3. Financial report and correspondence				
3.1	2:35pm	Financial Update Report and Discussion	Discussion	Clause 6(1)
4. Close				
4.1	3:05pm	Any Other Business		All
4.2	3:15pm	Advice to the Boards		
4.2	3:25pm	Next meeting details –March 2026		
4.3	3:30pm	Meeting closed		

# Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee

## Draft Minutes

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water we live and work upon, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

Meeting Title: No 38	
<b>Date:</b>	17 March 2025
<b>Time</b>	1:30pm
<b>Location:</b>	Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Lameroo Office
<b>Attendees</b>	<p><b>Members:</b> Clause 6(1) (Chair) (Tatiara District Council), Clause 6(1) (Coorong District Council), Clause 6(1) (Southern Mallee District Council), Clause 6(1) (Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board), Clause 6(1) (Lim Landscape Board) and Clause 6(1) (PIRSA - Biosecurity SA) and Clause 6(1) (National Parks and Wildlife Service)</p> <p><b>Landscape SA Staff:</b> Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) and Clause 6(1) (Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board)</p>
<b>Apologies:</b>	<p>Clause 6(1) (Sheep Industry Fund), Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) (Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board) Clause 6(1) (Limestone Coast Landscape Board), Clause 6(1) (Department Energy, Environment and Climate Action, Victoria) Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) National Parks and Wildlife Service)</p>
<b>Absent</b>	

1. Welcome	
1.1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair, Clause 6(1) acknowledged Lands, welcomed all present, noted the apologies and checked the agenda.</p>
1.2	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>Clause 6(1) – Chair – Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee</p> <p>Minutes of the previous meetings held on 10 October 2024 were reviewed and were adopted as circulated.</p> <p>Moved – Clause 6(1)</p> <p>Seconded – Clause 6(1)</p> <p>All in favour</p>
1.3	<p><b>Business and Actions Arising</b></p> <p>Clause 6(1) – Chair – Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee</p> <p>Richard discussed the Actions arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Item 4.1 (35) – Clause 6(1) <b>to draft information, provide to committee for comment, and then distribute to councils etc to get message out.</b> – completed can be removed.</li> <li>Item 4.4 (35) – <b>NPWS will update WildDogScan with the scheduled monitoring site information/results (Ongoing)</b> – this will remain an ongoing item and will remain on the action items.</li> </ul>

- **Item 4.5 (35) – Clause 6(1) and Clause 6(1) to look at communications strategy for the committee** – completed can be removed.

**2. Reports**

**Victorian Report**

Clause 6(1) – Senior Vertebrate Species Management Officer– Department, Energy, Environment & Climate Action

Clause 6(1) shared the Victorian Report with the committee before the meeting. Key points of this were:

**Victorian Northwest Report.**

- In the Northwest, the Wild dog/Dingo still remains protected as the population is critically low and there’s little evidence that Wild dogs/ Dingos are present in large numbers within this area of the state.
- 1080 Fox baiting has stopped within this area, and there has been no baiting since March 2024
- The Southern end of the Clause 6(1) (Clause 6(1) Area) is still getting wild dog attacks. Since my last report:
- There has been 30 wild dog incident reports recorded for this area.
- With 57 stock reported as killed or maimed.
- This area is still getting monitored with remote cameras, with 4 different Dogs captured on camera now, with 11kms of exclusion fence being put up within this area it has brought three dogs together that now seem to be working in a pack.

2.1

**Department for Environment and Water/National Parks and Wildlife Service Report**

Clause 6(1) – District Ranger, Murraylands – National Parks and Wildlife Service

Clause 6(1) discussed her report with the committee, key points of this were:

NPWS staff continue to undertake the four rounds of baiting per year within Ngarkat with support from the M&R and LC Landscape staff.

Baiting is returning to a quarterly program baiting in February, May, August and November. We act as a point of contact for landholders and park neighbours relating to wild dog impacts.

**WILD DOG REPORTS**

Report received from Clause 6(1) when called in regarding to Kangaroo Permit, mentioned lambs being attacked/killed on the border road properties, after speaking with him he made an official report to Clause 6(1) from the MRLB.

A Dogger also trapped one wild dog within the park. An ear sample was collected for genetic testing and provided to PIRSA.

2.2

**COORDINATION**

National Parks continue to work with Landscape SA staff when issues arise.

**FERAL SCAN**

National Parks are continuing to work with Clause 6(1) on getting data into feral scan from previous monitoring surveys. Working towards establishing permanent monitoring sites within Wild Dog Scan so we can build on the information and data for each one rather than having to create a new site recording and data set for each site for each round of monitoring.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

**BAITING**

DATE	LOCATION	AMOUNT	BAIT SUBSTRATE	COMMENTS
------	----------	--------	----------------	----------

05/02 – 09/02 2024	Ngarkat CP	1000	Manufactured Roo Bait	
23/4 – 04/05 2024	Ngarkat CP	920	Manufactured Roo Bait	
28/10 – 3/11 2024	Ngarkat CP	1080	Manufactured Roo Bait	
10/12 – 14/12 2024	Ngarkat CP	930	Manufactured Roo Bait	
Return to quarterly baiting program				
23/02 – 28/02 2025	Ngarkat CP	990	Manufactured Roo Bait	

**MONITORING**

LOCATION	LENGTH	RECORDINGS	COMMENTS
Ngarkat Conservation Park (12 Permanent Sites)	February 2024	2 Sites recorded a Dingo Presence 6 sites recorded fox sign. 3 sites recorded cat sign. 1 site recorded goat sign. 2 sites recorded deer sign. 6 sites recorded rabbit or hare sign.	The 2 sites with Dingo records are both on internal tracks.
Ngarkat Conservation Park (12 Permanent Sites)	November 2024	2 Sites recorded a Dingo Presence (McCallum Track). 4 sites recorded fox sign. 1 site recorded cat sign. 2 site recorded goat sign. 2 sites recorded deer sign. 4 sites recorded rabbit or hare sign.	7 out of 12 sites surveyed due to poor weather conditions making checks lot viable. Had issues loading into feral scan in the field and yet to load post survey.

**Landscape Boards Report**

Clause 6(1) – Murraylands District Team Leader - Murraylands & Riverland Landscape Board

Clause 6(1) – Northern Operations Team Leader – Limestone Coast Landscape Board (not present but provided report content via Clause 6(1))

Clause 6(1) updated the Committee with their reports. Key points of this were:

**Murraylands and Riverland**

• **WILD DOG REPORTS**

**From October 2024 To March 2025**

- **November 2024 (Meribah)** – Clause 6(1) reported the loss of a lamb to a suspected dog attack. Wild dog baits were provided by the Murraylands District team.
- Reports received of 3 domestic farm dogs eating a lamb on Clause 6(1) Meribah. Landholders suspected they were dogs owned by another landholder in the district.
- **February 2025 (Meribah)** - Clause 6(1) reported an additional 3 lambs and 4 ewes lost to dog attack. 2 domestic dogs found on the property with 1 shot.
- Further lamb and ewe losses occurred the following day with an additional 2 dogs were shot.
- Dogs were suspected to be a local farmer’s according to landholder accounts. They were taken to the local council, but no microchip was located.

2.3

- Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board staff coordinated with PIRSA to utilise the trapper at this site. No update received from the trapper at this time.
- **February 2025 (Ngarkat Clause 6(1) boundary)** - Clause 6(1) reported approximately 30 lambs lost to suspected dog attack on his property on the Clause 6(1) boundary of Ngarkat. Murraylands District staff offered to supply wild dog baits but Wade was already coordinating with the PIRSA dog trapper.

- **BAITING**

- Murraylands and Riverland District staff assisted NPWS staff to bait tracks within Ngarkat in both December 2024 and February 2025.
- Wild dog baits will continue to be provided to landholders who report wild dog activity.

**Limestone Coast**

- Only one dog sighting at Kangaringa



**Biosecurity SA Report**

Clause 6(1) – Senior Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals – PIRSA

Annette gave an update to the committee; key points of this update were:

**General**

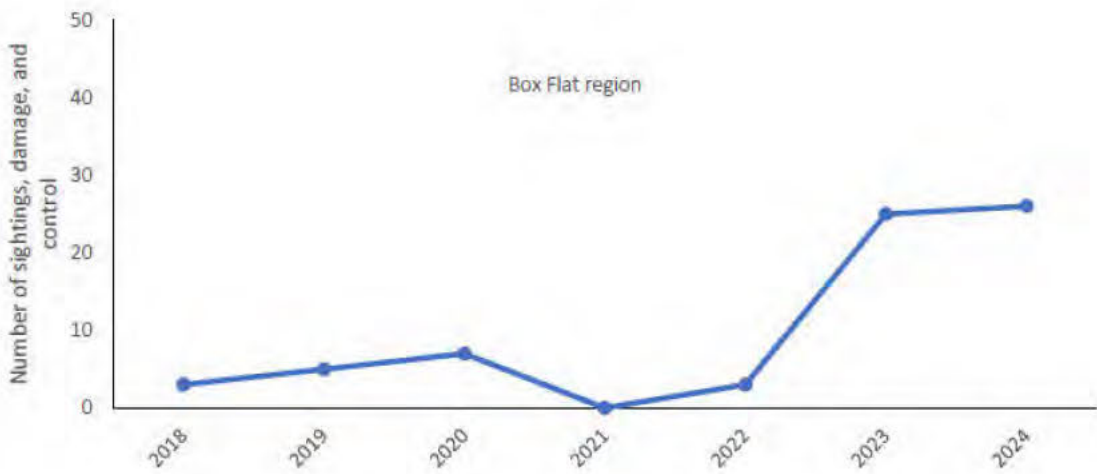
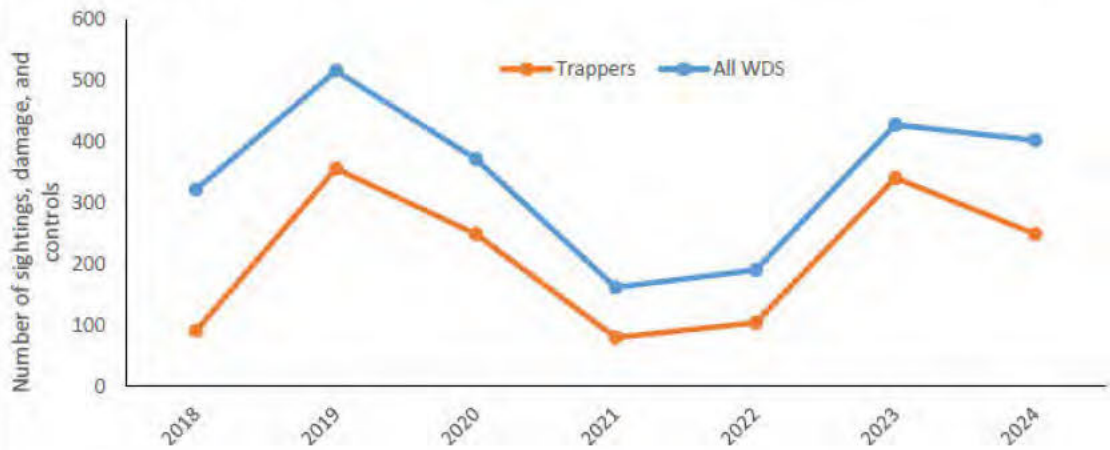
2.4

- Implementation of the SA Wild Dog Management Strategy 2023-2033 and the policy declaring wild dogs for destruction inside the Dog Fence continues. PIRSA and landscape boards respond to all reports of wild dogs, including those entering from northwest Victoria.
- Minister Scriven recently met with the Victorian ministers of environment and agriculture to discuss wild dog management. Since the decision, it is understood that 500-600 sheep have been lost in Victoria; a total of 27 reports of wild dog activity and impacts have occurred in the Box Flat region (including one this week). Victoria agrees that fox control is necessary.

PIRSA has proposed a cross-border, landscape-scale fox baiting program as a means for supporting producers and wildlife in the region.

**Trapper program update:**

- Funding secured from Livestock SA's Sheep Industry Fund, Commonwealth and State governments will see the program run until June 2026. Seven trappers are contracted to continue this free program; they also train landholders to control wild dogs and use WildDogScan (WDS). WDS is linked to a management response.
- The professional trapper program began in July 2018, they have now removed 878 wild dogs from inside the Dog Fence. The first graph below shows the number of sightings, damage, and control reported for all WildDogScan and for the trappers only among years. Activity was high in 2019 and 2020, dipped in 2021 and 2022, and recovered in 2023 and 2024. A similar pattern of increase in 2023 and 2024 is seen in activity recorded in the Box Flat region (second graph), which is probably also reflective of increased survey effort.
- A trapper worked in Ngarkat CP in February and March 2025, they recorded wild dog activity along the eastern boundary track and destroyed one wild dog there. They noted, like other trapper surveys in spring 2023 and 2024, that foxes were highly abundant in the park. Normally fox baiting occurs before wild dog trappers work in an area to remove foxes and increase efficacy of trapping efforts. Unfortunately, baiting occurred concurrently with trapping, and several traps caught foxes. Recommendation from the trapper is for large fox baiting programs in the area.



- Concerns in many regions this season, including Far West Coast where

- Many reports of wild dog activity were made recently, include three of livestock attacks
- Wild dogs are coming out of scrub areas and from outside the Dog Fence (crossing grids) looking for water/food; the numbers are very high outside the Dog Fence
- In response, producers, PIRSA trappers, and Dog Fence patrollers have destroyed at least 15 wild dogs since January 2025
- Tracking another 8 wild dogs now
- PIRSA staff are headed there this week to run a workshop with affected producers, which will include trialling 2 x AI cameras at two grids of concern; these cameras will provide instant email/text alerts to stakeholders when a wild dog is detected
- PIRSA staff are also working with the EP Landscape Board and NPWS to deliver 14,000 baits in an aerial baiting program to the region on 17-19 March 2025

#### **Aerial Baiting Update**

- PIRSA collaborate with multiple agencies and groups to deliver aerial baiting programs; partners include:
  - Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board
  - SA Arid Lands Landscape Board
  - National Parks and Wildlife Service
  - Dog Fence Board
- In 2024/25 a total of 100,000 baits will be delivered in aerial programs. It is the third year of a 3-year program funded by the Commonwealth and will have delivered 300,000 baits by June 2025.
- Currently applying for funding to deliver aerial baiting programs targeting wild dogs and foxes.

#### **Ground Baiting Update**

- PIRSA continue to support landscape boards in their ground baiting efforts, including notifications of wild dog reports within their regions. Around 100,000 baits distributed annually by the landscape boards.

#### **Dog Fence Rebuild Update**

- Progress as of 4 March 2025
  - 1,054 km of Dog Fence is rebuilt
  - 55 km underway
  - 491 km about to commence
  - All planning/procurement stages completed
- Rebuild is returning confidence to sector; 11 properties covering over 18,000 km<sup>2</sup> (1.8 million ha) have restocked with over 35,000 more sheep.

#### **Dog Fence Update**

- Work to maintain the fence and reduce risks of incursions
- Includes plant control initiatives, bespoke herbicide applicator and new tech for patrollers
- Long term planning, including sustainable funding models

#### **Livestock Productivity and Predator Control Network**

- \$2.9 million producer-led program, launched in 2023, have started delivering second year of 3 years of engagement activities. The network of 15 groups comprises:
  - 108 properties
  - > 11 million hectares
  - Combined experience > 2,200 years
  - Run > 270,000 sheep and > 100,000 cattle

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• So far in 2025, we have delivered 9 workshops on predator control and cyber security and connectivity for small agribusinesses.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fox Bait Proposal – seeking feedback from BFWDC</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PIRSA is in the early stages of planning to deliver a large fox baiting program in areas adjacent to northwest Victoria. That program would include manufacturing 50,000 baits, delivering 30,000 baits in aerial programs to conservation parks (Ngarkat, Billiatt, Karte, and Peebinga), and providing 20,000 baits to private properties at risk (i.e. those north Bordertown and located within the LC and MR landscape bord regions and within designated distance from the border with northwest Victoria).</li> <li>• <b>For discussion by BFWDC.</b> Proposed roles and responsibilities: PIRSA administration (procurement, contracts, aviation etc.) and manufacture of baits. Landscape boards: coordinate the distribution of ground baits? NPWS and other landholders: signage and neighbour notifications?</li> </ul> <p><b>Action:</b> PIRSA to approach National Parks and Wildlife Service and Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board and Limestone Coast Landscape Board with a proposal to codesign an aerial baiting program of wild dogs in Ngarkat conservation park in an ongoing capacity, this is to include a supply of the baits and Buffer for emergency response purposes.</p> <p>Moved: Clause 6(1) [Redacted]          Seconded: Clause 6(1) [Redacted]          All in favour</p>
2.5	<p><b>SA Wild Dog Advisory Group report</b></p> <p>Clause 6(1) [Redacted] – Councillor – Southern Mallee District Council</p> <p>Clause 6(1) [Redacted] Gave a report on the SA Wild Dog Advisory Group, key points of this were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report from PIRSA Biosecurity SA was included in the meeting.</li> <li>• Mention of Victoria needing to install a Dog Fence along the border.</li> </ul>
3.	<p><b>Financial Reports</b></p>
3.1	<p><b>Financial Report</b></p> <p>Clause 6(1) [Redacted] – Murraylands District Team Leader – Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</p> <p>Clause 6(1) [Redacted] discussed the proposed 2024/25 budget with the committee.</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> The Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Approve the 2024/25 Annual Budget</p> <p>Moved – Clause 6(1) [Redacted]          Seconded – Clause 6(1) [Redacted]          All in favour - Yes</p>
3.2	<p><b>Funding 2025/2026 – Applications for funding from SIF, Boards and Councils</b></p> <p>Clause 6(1) [Redacted] – Murraylands District Team Leader – Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board</p> <p><b>Decision:</b> The Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Approve the no increase for the 2025/26 Annual Budget</p> <p>Moved – Clause 6(1) [Redacted]          Seconded – Clause 6(1) [Redacted]          All in favour – yes</p>
4.	<p><b>Close</b></p>

4.1	<b>Other Business</b> <i>All</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There is a degree of concern regarding changes to Wild Dog management in the biodiversity bill, however, advice received is that the bill will not change the way wild dogs are managed.</li><li>• Will the rainfall deficit have an influence on wild dog numbers i.e. will they search for water outside the park? The rainfall deficit is affecting flora, so it is presumed fauna is also being effected.</li></ul>
4.2	<b>Advice to the Boards</b> NIL
4.2	<b>Next Meeting Details</b> Next Meeting will be 13 October 2025
4.3	The meeting closed at 3:17pm

## Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Actions

	Item (Meeting)	Actions	Timeframe	Person Responsible	Comment	Comple te
1	4.1 (35)	Clause 6(1) to draft information, to committee for comment, and then distribute to councils etc to get message out.	ASAP	Clause 6(1)	Letter has been drafted and will be sent in the coming months.	
2	4.4 (35)	NPWS will update WildDogScan with the scheduled monitoring site information/results.	Ongoing	NPWS		
3	4.5 (35)	Clause 6(1) and Clause 6(1) to look at Communications and Engagement strategy for the committee.	Feb 2024	Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1)	A Letter of advice to the Boards in regards to the Communications Strategy and if the committee can be included.	

**Email from Clause 6(1) – Wild Dogs**

After 18 months of the non-management of wild dogs around the perimeter of the Big Desert, I think it's worth just giving a recap of our situation, experiences and the impact of the lifting of the non-protection order on the lethal control of wild dogs in the 3km buffer zone in March 2024.

Let's just reinforce what a highly effective wild dog management program we had around the Big Desert prior to the decision on the 14/03/2024. In the previous 10 years we had never lost a sheep to a wild dog attack on our Big Desert properties.

Any wild dog activity or attacks that landholders observed were reported to the relevant DEECA contact in Mildura and the DEECA dogger was engaged to establish the dog activity and deploy cameras and traps where necessary when wild dogs were entering private property causing stock losses and trap and euthanise these dogs. For the last 5 years of this management program he controlled and killed on average 9 wild dogs per year along a 440k perimeter of the Big Desert. So only those wild dogs that were leaving the 700,000 ha Big Desert and causing stock losses were controlled, and livestock losses were kept to extremely low levels, as our experience of no sheep losses from wild dog attacks in 10 years bears testament to. It was a true win/win situation. Wild dog numbers were kept to sustainable levels inside the state owned land and live stock losses from wild dogs in attacks on private land were kept to extremely low numbers. I think the success of this management plan gave the false impression that stock predation from wild dogs around the Big Desert just wasn't a problem, and that the lifting of the non protection order would have little impact on livestock producers around the Big Desert. This was even stated by Ros Spence, Minister for Ag, on ABC radio whilst justifying her decision. This could not have been further from the reality we were about to face.

It should also be remembered that there was simply no prior consultation with livestock farmers and communities around the Big Desert before this decision was made, and yet we were the people with the most at stake, and the last 18 months have clearly shown the enormous impact this decision has had on all facets of our farming and our lives. The decision makers, on the other hand, have had to bear no cost or responsibility for the decision, and the consequences we face on a daily basis.

On the 08/03 last year we had our first ever wild dog attack on part of our property known as Clause 6(1), on the west side of the Clause 6(1), after we put merino ewes onto a paddock that had been de stocked for many months. This paddock has numerous clay holes that had held water over summer, and in hindsight the wild dogs had been accessing water from these holes for some considerable time. We lost 8 ewes in the direct attack and at least 20 other ewes were bitten. The ewes knocked 2 fences down and were spread over about 1200 acres. We immediately mustered the ewes and

moved them across the road to another of our blocks, Clause 6(1). I notified DEECA Mildura that afternoon, as per the protocols of the wild dog management plan, but to my shock and surprise I was told that no action could be taken because there was a decision pending. So even though there had been no official change to our wild dog management plan, we were not allowed to use any form of lethal control on these wild dogs. We saw 2 wild dogs in this paddock on four separate occasions in the week following this attack, but were not permitted to use any form of lethal control. Then the announcement was made on the 14/03/2024 to lift the non protection order and scrap the highly successful wild dog management plan.

We were told we could apply for an Authority to Control Protected Wildlife for lethal control of a dingo, which we did, but the whole process and the way we were treated by the Office of the Conservation Regulator was obscene. We were totally demeaned, put through the wringer and ultimately told that regardless of our livestock losses, not one dingo could be lethally controlled due to their highly threatened status. This assessment was on the back of research by ARI which showed 2 images of wild dogs from only 15 trail cameras placed in the Big Desert, and an estimate made of wild dogs numbers being in a range from 40-230. The lowest number was consistently used to cite the dingo population in the Big Desert. During the months it took to get an outcome from our application for an ATPCW, we continued to have constant wild dogs attacks on our property resulting in significant livestock losses. 3 of our neighbours were also suffering constant attacks. Two other livestock farmers made applications for an ATPCW and both their experiences mirrored ours.

During this time we constantly moved sheep away from paddocks where wild dogs were active, we de stocked our Clause 6(1) most block, Clause 6(1) at Clause 6(1) which is still de stocked now. We made the decision to put up <sup>Cl</sup><sub>6(1)</sub> km of exclusion fence along our Clause 6(1) boundary where the dogs were entering our property from the Big Desert. This was in addition to 5 km of existing exclusion fence along the northern side of Clause 6(1). This project meant a lot of site work as we moved the fence inside our property by 6 m due to the harsh and inflexible native vegetation regulations that prevented us from clearing regrowing vegetation on our existing boundary fence. The cost of the project was around \$300,000 and was completed in November 2024 and we received no support of any kind from the VIC State Gov for this project. We have a total of Clause 6(1) of boundary fence at the Big Desert, so this is a massive undertaking if we are to complete our boundary. After the fence was completed, the wild dogs changed their movement patterns and starting coming down the Clause 6(1) and accessing our property away from where the exclusion fence was, and the sheep attacks and losses continued for us and our <sup>Cl</sup><sub>6(1)</sub> neighbours. The impact these attacks were having on our business and our well being were massive, and we felt abandoned and helpless.

There were some tightly controlled “community consultation meetings” coordinated by AgVic during winter 2024, limited to less than 10 landholders at each meeting. A consultant was present who was to write a report from these meetings, which we have not seen yet. We were offered support with cameras to be set up around our properties to monitor wild dog activity and movement. These cameras picked up a high number of images of wild dogs entering our property, but then issues arose around who these images could be shared with including a reluctance to share them with the effected landholders who had helped and assisted in the placement of these cameras. A great deal of trust was lost in this process. The cameras were subsequently removed. We have been left to manage this abhorrent situation ourselves, largely unsupported by any state gov departments. There appears no solution to our current situation.

Here are the key points.

We are continuing to have weekly wild dog attacks on our sheep and lambs with total direct losses now in the hundreds of head.

The wild dogs are now moving further out into the open country and a 5th farmer in our area is getting impacted. They have never previously had any wild dog attacks. One of our neighbours has completely destocked their Clause 6(1) acre property due to massive stock losses in lambing ewes from wild dogs attacks. They have had this property for over 31 6(1) years and never had to take such drastic action. Wild dogs will continue to roam further and become established away from the Big Desert and the implications of this on the sheep industry in our whole area could be catastrophic.

Our ability to run sheep safely on our Big Desert land is now under serious doubt. This land is best suited to sheep production and sheep production is central to our farm viability.

Cropping is high cost and very risky in this area with highly variable climate and light soils.

Cattle are harder to run with more infrastructure, higher feed and water demands and less suited to our environment. The experience of northern cattle producers shows that cattle are not immune to the impact of wild dogs.

We are extremely limited in non lethal control options to protect our stock. Large paddocks and hilly terrain with large areas of remnant vegetation make it very difficult for guardian animals to be effective. We have tried alpacas. Our neighbour has Clause 6(1) and yet he has been as heavily impacted from wild dog attacks as we have. We are still waiting on the commencement of the project around guardian animals as part of our support package.

Exclusion fencing is a massive cost, and our experience shows that unless our entire property perimeter is enclosed then we are still vulnerable to wild dogs attacks. And our fencing just pushes wild dogs to other properties not exclusion fenced. It doesn't solve the big picture problem. The trial offset electric fencing on the outside of existing boundary fencing is not applicable or suitable to our area due to our highly vegetated boundary fence lines and perimeter.

The value of our land has diminished since the decision to commence the non management of the wild dogs. It would be very hard for us to sell our Big Desert land now for a fair price if we decided to exit the area and farm elsewhere, an option we are currently seriously considering.

Clause 6(1)

Clause 6(1)

Clause 6(1) VIC

Email from Clause 6(1) – Wild Dogs

Here is our story.

With running sheep in the desert for 6(1) generations and over Cl 6(1) years we have always had the dog as a manageable adversary. Clause 6(1) were first involved in the desert in Clause 6(1) with grazing licences from the SA border Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) ending incrementally in Clause 6(1) Our private ownership of land in the desert started in Clause 6(1) selection of adjoining land Clause 6(1) was achieved in Clause 6(1) continuing to this day.

Selective control of the dog was carried out with trapping and to a lesser extent with baiting.

By the request of landholders mostly at Cl 6(1) own expense over this area Clause 6(1) trapped 20 -25 dogs every year from the Clause 6(1) s till the mid Clause 6(1) s when Cl 6(1) was engaged by the DCNR to continue control as a contractor in this area.

This ended abruptly in march 2024 without any consultation with stakeholders.

Prior to the lifting of the unprotection order losses amounted to 2 problem dogs and losses of approximately 25 head. from march 2024 till june 2025 losses of 80 ewes and conservatively 300 lambs were incurred till the point of managing stock on this property was not only financially unviable but also derelict in our duty as shepherds. As a result this property has been completely destocked with hand feeding undertaken on a property Clause 6(1).

Until reinstatement of the unprotection order or the considerable financial cost of exclusion fencing properties adjoining crown land are now rendered unfit to run sheep.

We fear that the attempt to propagate the dog in the desert will lead to overpopulation with the dog seeking wider territory. At this early stage we believe we have noticed changes in the dogs behaviour and if this proves correct the problem will spread to other areas.

Please contact me regarding any more information.

Regards Clause 6(1).

**BOX FLAT WILD DOG COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

**MEETING REPORT**

<b>ORGANISATION</b>	National Parks and Wildlife service
<b>REPRESENTATIVE NAME</b>	Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1)
<b>MEETING DATE</b>	October 2025

Murraylands district staff continue to undertake the four rounds of baiting per year within Ngarkat with support from Landscape staff.

Baiting has returned to a quarterly program baiting in a February, May, August and November to cover the longest period of time with baits on the ground. We act as a point of contact for landholders and park neighbours relating to wild dog impacts.

**WILD DOG REPORTS**

Only reports of received were from Clause 6(1) Dog shot north of Pinnaroo body collected for DNA sampling, no stock attacked cane into mate domestic dog in heat.

DATE	LANDHOLDER	LOCATION	ACTION	COMMENTS
8/6/2025	Clause 6(1)	10km North of Pinnaroo	Animal shot coming into dog on heat	Didn't request any further baits as they believed it to be a once off. samples sent to PIRSA and Cairnes for testing

**COORDINATION**

We continue to work with Landscape when issues arise and have landscape board staff assist with the scheduled baiting program

**FERAL SCAN**

Continual issues with recording into feral scan manually for now, Continuing to work with Clause 6(1) on best approach.

Looking into doing smaller areas of monitoring each round with higher site intensity to see if we can more information out of the surveys and rotate between areas of the park observed each round.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

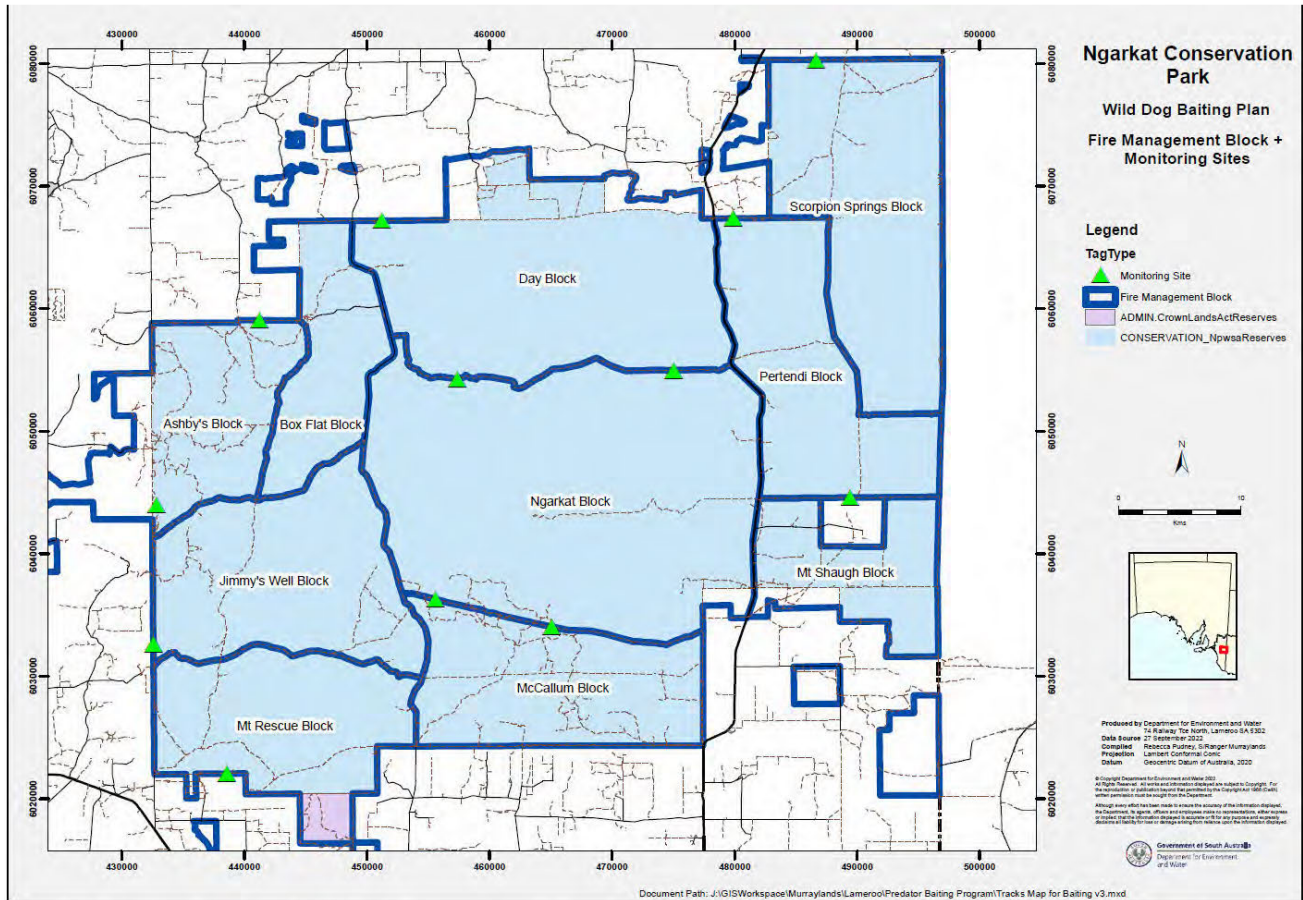
**BAITING**

DATE	LOCATION	AMOUNT	BAIT SUBSTRATE	COMMENTS
28/10-3/11/2024	Ngarkat CP	1080	Manufactured Roo Baits	
10/12-14/12/2024	Ngarkat CP	930	Manufactured Roo Baits	
Return to quarterly program				
23/2-28/2/2025	Ngarkat CP	990	Manufactured Roo Baits	
8/5-29/5/2025	Ngarkat CP	1060	Manufactured Roo Baits	
21/8-30/8/2025	Ngarkat CP	964	Manufactured Roo Baits	

**MONITORING**

LOCATION	LENGTH	RECORDINGS	COMMENTS
Ngarkat Conservation park (12 Permanent sites)	2 Nights	2 sites Recorded a Dingo presence 8 sites recorded fox sign 3 sites recorded cat sign 1 site recorded goat sign 2 site recorded deer sign 6 sites recorded rabbit or hare sign	3-6/5/2023 The presence of dingos has dropped across the park whilst cats have risen. the 2 sites with dingo records are both on internal tracks
Ngarkat Conservation park (12 Permanent sites)	December	Postponed to Feb	Postponed due to emergency response and personnel availability
Ngarkat Conservation park (12 Permanent sites)	Feb 2024	2 sites Recorded a Dingo presence 6 sites recorded fox sign 3 sites recorded cat sign 2 site recorded goat sign 0 site recorded deer sign 5 sites recorded rabbit or hare sign	the 2 sites with dingo records are both on internal tracks
Ngarkat Conservation park (12 Permanent sites)	November 2024	2 sites Recorded a Dingo presence (McCallum Trk) 4 sites recorded fox sign 1 sites recorded cat sign 2 site recorded goat sign 2 site recorded deer sign 4 sites recorded rabbit or hare sign	7 out of 12 sites surveyed due to poor weather conditions making checks lot viable. Had issued loading into feral scan in the field and yet to load post survey
Ngarkat Conservation park (12 Permanent sites)	<u>June 2025</u>	No sites Recorded a Dingo presence) 6 sites recorded fox sign 1 sites recorded cat sign 1 site recorded goat sign	**2 sites recorded Australian Bustard tracks and one mature breeding male bird was seen on the bottom of

	<p>1 site recorded deer sign 4 sites recorded rabbit or hare sign</p>	<p>Baan Hill Track whilst doing the surveys</p>
--	---	---



**PIRSA Biosecurity Update:**

## SA wild dog eradication program

- Report attached that I will go over at the meeting (Attachment 1)
- Trappers removed 11 dogs so far this financial year, 63 dogs in 2024/25, and a total of 923 since the program commenced in 2018.
- 1070km of Dog Fence Rebuild has been completed, with the total of 1600km due to be completed by June 2026
- Dog Fence Board project underway to build 290 km of new Dog Fence along the NSW-SA border, \$13m funding received by Dog Fence Board

## Progress on the review of the SA wild dog policy

## Survey of dogs in Ngarkat by professional trapper

- 14 in 2023, 21 in 2024
- 2025 results to be provided at the meeting

Clause 9(1)

Nomination by dingo advocates of the wild dogs in Big Desert and Ngarkat as an endangered species will be discussed at the meeting

High fox densities in and around Ngarkat.

## Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)

---

**Subject:** Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Meeting  
**Location:** 74 Railway Tce, Lameroo South Australia 5302, Australia  
**Start:** Mon 13/10/2025 1:00 PM  
**End:** Mon 13/10/2025 3:00 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Organizer:** Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA)

**Required Attendees:**

Out of scope



**Optional Attendees:**

Out of scope Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
Out of scope

---

## Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

### [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 427 641 474 162 8

Passcode: sU6D3SS6

---

### Join on a video conferencing device

Tenant key: teams@cvn.sa.gov.au

Video ID: 132 587 983 9

[More info](#)

For organizers: [Meeting options](#)

---

## Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)

---

**Subject:** Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Meeting  
**Location:** 74 Railway Tce, Lameroo South Australia 5302, Australia

**Start:** Mon 13/10/2025 1:30 PM  
**End:** Mon 13/10/2025 3:30 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Organizer:** Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA)

**Required Attendees:**

Out of scope  
Out of scope  
Out of scope Page, Brad (PIRSA); Out of scope  
Out of scope  
Out of scope

**Optional Attendees:**

Hi Everyone,

Just confirming our upcoming Boxed Flat Wild Dog Committee meeting is scheduled for **Monday, 13 October at 1:30pm**.

The agenda and supporting documents will be sent later today.

If you haven't already responded, could you please confirm your availability? Much appreciated!

Kind Regards,

Clause 6(1)

---

## Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

### [Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 427 641 474 162 8

Passcode: sU6D3SS6

---

### Join on a video conferencing device

Tenant key: teams@cvn.sa.gov.au

Video ID: 132 587 983 9

[More info](#)

For organizers: [Meeting options](#)

---

**Findlow, Ellan (PIRSA)**

---

**Subject:** Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Meeting  
**Location:** 74 Railway Tce, Lameroo South Australia 5302, Australia  
**Start:** Mon 13/10/2025 2:00 PM  
**End:** Mon 13/10/2025 4:00 PM  
**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Recurrence:** (none)

**Organizer:** Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA)

**Required Attendees:** Out of scope [Redacted]

Out of scope Page, Brad (PIRSA); Out of scope

Out of scope [Redacted]

**Optional Attendees:** Out of scope [Redacted]

---

**Microsoft Teams** [Need help?](#)

**[Join the meeting now](#)**

Meeting ID: 427 641 474 162 8

Passcode: sU6D3SS6

---

**Join on a video conferencing device**

Tenant key: teams@cvn.sa.gov.au

Video ID: 132 587 983 9

[More info](#)

For organizers: [Meeting options](#)

---

**From:** Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA)  
**To:** Out of scope  
Out of scope Page, Brad (PIRSA): Out of scope  
**Cc:** Out of scope  
**Subject:** Boxed Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee | March 16  
**Date:** Monday, 9 February 2026 1:39:09 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-Email face.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email inst.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email Twit.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email yout.png](#)  
[Outlook-n10zbnqy.png](#)

---

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon everyone,

I hope you're all well. With the meeting invitation now sent, I just wanted to check if there are any items you'd like included on the agenda. Please feel free to send them through when you can.

Also, if you have any reports or documents to be included with the agenda papers, if you can email them to me by Friday, 6 March, that would be much appreciated.

Kind Regards,

Clause 6(1)  
Business Support Coordinator Riverland  
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board  
P 08 8429 8452  
Clause 6(1)  
28 Vaughan Tce  
PO Box1374 Berri SA 5343  
[landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/](http://landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/)



The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information to anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error please advise by return email.

**From:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Clause 6\(1\) \(LandscapeSA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Request for a agenda items at Box Flat meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, 7 October 2025 10:06:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [Big Desert Farmer destocks 26 Aug 25.docx](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)

---

Hi [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Sorry for my slow response

Ive attached the article

I also have some video from an earlier series of attached by dogs in June 2025 on the same property. Ill try to have it on my laptop for the meeting, if required

Cheers, Brad

[Brad Page](#) | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | CSIRO Building 1, Entry 5, 40 Waite Road, Urrbrae SA 5064 | P: (08) 8429 0803 | M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

---

**From:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#) (LandscapeSA) <[Clause 6\(1\)](#)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 October 2025 10:03 AM  
**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA) <[Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au](mailto:Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Fw: Request for a agenda items at Box Flat meeting

OFFICIAL

Hi Brad,

Just putting together the agenda today for the boxed Flat meeting today and was wondering if have a copy of the Big Desert farm destocks, while new property faces dingo attacks news article.

Thanks Brad.

Kind Regards,

[Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Business Support Coordinator Riverland  
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board  
P 08 8429 8452

Clause 6(1)

28 Vaughan Tce  
PO Box1374 Berri SA 5343

[landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/](http://landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/)



The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information to anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error please advise by return email.

---

**From:** Clause 6(1) <Clause 6(1)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 18, 2025 6:42 PM  
**To:** Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA) <Clause 6(1)>  
**Cc:** Page, Brad (PIRSA) <[Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au](mailto:Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Request for a agenda items at Box Flat meeting

Hi Clause 6(1)

Can you please include these items to our agenda for the October meeting.

Regards

Clause 6(1)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Page, Brad (PIRSA)" <[Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au](mailto:Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au)>  
**Date:** 18 September 2025 at 1:42:21 pm ACST  
**To:** "Clause 6(1)" <Clause 6(1)>  
**Cc:** "Stevens, James (PIRSA)" <[James.Stevens@sa.gov.au](mailto:James.Stevens@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Request for a agenda items at Box Flat meeting

OFFICIAL

Hi Richard

Would you please consider putting these two items on the agenda for the upcoming Box Flat meeting:

- Attached draft paper on counts of dingoes in NW Victoria. Note that researchers around Australia are preparing a response to this draft paper.
- Big Desert farm destocks, while new property faces dingo attacks. Please put this news article on the agenda, to ensure we have a formal chance to discuss the dog impacts on sheep that are happening in Vic and SA
- September 2025 survey of wild dogs in Ngarkat by wild dog trapper

Thanks, Brad

[Brad Page](#) | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals  
Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions  
Government of South Australia  
CSIRO Building 1, Entry 5, 40 Waite Road, Urrbrae SA 5064  
T: 08 8429 0803 | M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#) | E: [Brad.Page@sa.gov.au](mailto:Brad.Page@sa.gov.au)  
[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)



The Department of Primary Industries and Regions respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations. We recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.

Disclaimer: The information in this email may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful.

**From:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Clause 6\(1\) \(LandscapeSA\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\) \(LandscapeSA\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
[Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
[Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
[Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: BFWDC Draft Minutes of meeting 39  
**Date:** Friday, 17 October 2025 1:38:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

---

Hi [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Thanks. I agree with the edit that [Clause 6\(1\)](#) suggested below, otherwise the minutes are a good record.

Regards, Brad

**Brad Page** | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | CSIRO Building 1, Entry 5, 40 Waite Road, Urrbrae SA 5064 | P: (08) 8429 0803 | M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

---

**From:** [Clause 6\(1\) \(LandscapeSA\)](#) <[Clause 6\(1\)](#)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 16 October 2025 10:42 AM  
**To:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
[Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
[Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
[Clause 6\(1\)](#) Page,  
Brad (PIRSA) <[Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au](mailto:Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au)>; [Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
[Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
[Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: BFWDC Draft Minutes of meeting 39

OFFICIAL

Hi [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Please add me as attending on Teams

I suggest this should be removed

[Clause 9\(1\)](#)

Regards  
[Clause 6\(1\)](#)

**From:** Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA) <Clause 6(1)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 16 October 2025 9:49 AM

**To:** Clause 6(1)

Clause 6(1)

Page, Brad (PIRSA) <[Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au](mailto:Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au)>; Clause 6(1)

**Cc:** Clause 6(1)

Clause 6(1)

**Subject:** BFDCC Draft Minutes of meeting 39

**Importance:** High

OFFICIAL

Dear Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Members,

Please see attached the draft minutes of meeting 39.

If you wish to have any changes made, please let me know.

Thank you

Kind Regards

Clause 6(1)

Business Support Coordinator Murraylands  
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board  
Ph 08 8532 9100

M Clause 6(1)

Units 5 - 6, Level 1 Sturt Centre, 2 Sturt Reserve Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253  
PO Box 2343, Murray Bridge SA 5253

[landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/](http://landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/)



The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information to anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error please advise by return email.

**From:** Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA)  
**To:** Clause 6(1); Clause 6(1); Clause 6(1); Page, Brad (PIRSA);  
**Cc:** Clause 6(1); Clause 6(1);  
**Subject:** Re: BFWDC Draft Minutes of meeting 39  
**Date:** Thursday, 16 October 2025 10:46:51 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email\\_face.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email\\_inst.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email\\_Twit.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email\\_yout.png](#)  
[Outlook-rjfbblp.png](#)

---

OFFICIAL

Sorry Clause 6(1) will add in.

I will remove the suggested section as mentioned.

Thank you

Kind Regards

Clause 6(1)  
Business Support Coordinator Murraylands  
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board  
Ph 08 8532 9100  
M Clause 6(1)  
Units 5 - 6, Level 1 Sturt Centre, 2 Sturt Reserve Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253  
PO Box 2343, Murray Bridge SA 5253  
[landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/](http://landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/)



The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information to anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error please advise by return email.

---

**From:** Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA) <Clause 6(1)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 16, 2025 10:41 AM  
**To:** Clause 6(1); Clause 6(1);

Clause 6(1)  
Clause 6(1) Page,  
Brad (PIRSA) <Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au>; Clause 6(1)  
Cc: Clause 6(1)  
Clause 6(1)  
Clause 6(1)

**Subject:** RE: BFWDC Draft Minutes of meeting 39

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Clause 6(1)

Please add me as attending on Teams

I suggest this should be removed

Clause 9(1)

Regards

Clause 6(1)

---

**From:** Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA) <Clause 6(1)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 16 October 2025 9:49 AM

**To:** Clause 6(1)

Clause 6(1)

Page, Brad (PIRSA) <Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au>; Clause 6(1)

**Cc:** Clause 6(1)

Clause 6(1)

**Subject:** BFWDC Draft Minutes of meeting 39

**Importance:** High

**OFFICIAL**

Dear Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Members,

Please see attached the draft minutes of meeting 39.

If you wish to have any changes made, please let me know.

Thank you

Kind Regards

Clause 6(1)

Business Support Coordinator Murraylands  
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board  
Ph 08 8532 9100

M Clause 6(1)

Units 5 - 6, Level 1 Sturt Centre, 2 Sturt Reserve Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253  
PO Box 2343, Murray Bridge SA 5253

[landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/](http://landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/)



The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information to anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error please advise by return email.

**Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)**

---

**From:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2024 11:44 AM  
**To:** greg.mifsud@invasives.com.au  
**Subject:** Re: Will wild dogs and foxes for Victoria affect SA farmers near the border?

Hey greg

Alan Bennet may be interested in this ACTA newsletter snippet. Pls feel free to forward.  
 cheers, Brad

**Brad Page** | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions** | **P:** (08) 8429 0803 | **M:** Clause 6(1)

---

**From:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Monday, 18 November 2024 11:39 AM  
**To:** Scanlon, Annette (PIRSA) ; greg.mifsud@invasives.com.au ; Ian Evans  
**Subject:** Fw: Will wild dogs and foxes for Victoria affect SA farmers near the border?  
 Hi Annette and Greg

Annette, this is the article I mentioned earlier, for inclusion with the letter.

Greg, are you aware whether Vic Govt was able to better protect themselves from additional action for not controlling pests/weeds? See this part of the article:

### **The Outcome**

The Crown lodged notice of appeal but this was withdrawn. We are advised that, since this ruling steps may have been taken to reduce the liabilities of the State under such claims.

Annette/Greg, this may warrant discussion at the lama/maremma workshop. If there is still a risk that neighbours are not controlling pests, and if this presents some risk to them if their neighbours suffer nuisance, then we should ensure the workshop includes discussion "because lama/maremma push wild dogs and foxes to neighbouring properties (ie they dont kill them), then lama/maremma may not help landholders meet their obligations under various land management acts"

cheers, Brad

**Brad Page** | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions** | **P:** (08) 8429 0803 | **M:** Clause 6(1)

---

**From:** Linton.Staples  
**Sent:** Thursday, 14 November 2024 3:32 PM

**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)

**Cc:** ian.evans@wool.com ; Hayley Barry

**Subject:** Will wild dogs and foxes for Victoria affect SA farmers near the border?

**You don't often get email from l Staples@animalcontrol.com.au. [Learn why this is important](#)**

Hi Brad,

I was speaking with Ian Evans today and alerted him to a Supreme court case in Victoria where a farmer sued the state for not controlling wild dogs that were predated his sheep.

Ian said that you might be interested in this legal precedent, as it seems probable that pests from Vic will soon (if not already) affect landholders on the SA side of the imaginary border fence! Note visa versa also applies!

I reviewed the case many (20!) years ago in the ACTA newsletter and this is attached. At the end I give details of the full 80 page ruling if you want to read it all. Justice Gillard (no relation to the then female Prime Minister) was regarded as one of the best Supreme court judges and had few, if any, judgements overturned or successfully challenged. He knew the importance of the case for all landowners. He has passed now but a mutual friend did pass my review on to him many years ago and the feedback was that I had summarised the key points well. The farmer also died before he got any of the awarded settlement – so a very sad story.

Perhaps this may be applicable to a situation where failure to control pests in one state affects the rights of landholders in another state to enjoy their land. Notice of the nuisance must be given and the nuisance source property must then “take a measured duty of care” to rectify the nuisance or becomes liable for losses incurred. I did note that the state was implementing measures to reduce the future legal risk, but I do not know what measures were taken legally.

Happy reading. Apologies if Hayley has already sent this to you.

Regards Linton



**Dr Linton Staples**

Managing Director

Animal Control Technologies (Australia) Pty Ltd

46-50 Freight Drive

Somerton 3062 Vic

AUSTRALIA

Office: +61 3 9308 9688

Mobile: [Redacted]

Email: [l Staples@animalcontrol.com.au](mailto:l Staples@animalcontrol.com.au)

Web: [www.animalcontrol.com.au](http://www.animalcontrol.com.au)

**Excellence in Pest  
Animal Management**

**Note:** This email and any files transmitted with it may contain privileged and confidential information intended only for the use of the addressee named above. If you are not the intended recipient of this message you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, distribution of the contents and/or attachment is prohibited. If you have received this message in error please accept our apologies and delete it immediately from your system and notify the sender by return email.

**From:** [Clause 6\(1\) \(LandscapeSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Box Flat Minutes  
**Date:** Thursday, 21 November 2024 8:54:04 AM  
**Attachments:** [BFDWCC Out of Session Meeting 26.03.2024.docx](#)  
[Draft Minutes 19.02.2024 BFDWCC FINAL...docx](#)  
[Draft Minutes 05.06.2024 BFDWCC.docx](#)  
[Draft Minutes 19.02.2024 BFDWCC FINAL...docx](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Brad I have just seen your other email. Apologies I have also found the 26.03.2024. Please see February 2024, June 2024 and October 2024 attached.

Kind Regards

[Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Administration Officer/Volunteer Support  
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	✓	✓	✓	✓

Ph 08 8532 9100

M [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Units 5 - 6, Level 1 Sturt Centre, 2 Sturt Reserve Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253

PO Box 2343, Murray Bridge SA 5253

[landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/](http://landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/)



The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information to anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error please advise by return email.

**From:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)

**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2024 8:44 AM

**To:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#) (LandscapeSA)

**Subject:** RE: Box Flat Minutes

OFFICIAL

Hi [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Please send me the final versions of minutes for

30/4/24

26/3/24

Thanks, Brad

**Brad Page** | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions** | P: (08) 8429 0803 | M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

**From:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 20, 2024 3:59 PM

**To:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#) (LandscapeSA) [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

**Subject:** Box Flat Minutes

Hi [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Would you please email me the minutes, excluding the draft minutes from the last meeting, of the box flat meetings for this calendar year

Thanks, Brad

**Brad Page** | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals

Biosecurity Division | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**

Government of South Australia | Building 1, Entry 4 Waite Rd, Urrbrae

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

**T:** 08 8429 0803 | **M:** Clause 6(1) | **E:** [Brad.Page@sa.gov.au](mailto:Brad.Page@sa.gov.au)

[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)



*The Department of Primary Industries and Regions respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations. We recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.*

Disclaimer: The information in this email may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful.

# Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Draft Minutes

## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water we live and work upon, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

Meeting Title: Special Meeting	
<b>Date:</b>	26 March 2024
<b>Time</b>	12:00pm
<b>Location:</b>	Teams
<b>Attendees</b>	Clause 6(1) (Chair & Tatiara DC), Clause 6(1) (Coorong DC), Clause 6(1) (DEW – NPWS District Ranger Murraylands), Clause 6(1) (PIRSA) Clause 6(1) (Limestone Coast Landscape Board), Clause 6(1) (Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board) and Clause 6(1) (Minutes)

Change to Order in Council, stopping wild dog control in North West Victoria	
	<p><i>All Members</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Parks and Wildlife Service have noted that monitoring impacts of wild dogs is difficult</li> <li>• PIRSA Biosecurity noted that monitoring is possible under the PIRSA-MLS Project, and that monitoring would be targeted at detecting the presence of any dogs</li> <li>• Group to note the research showing wild dogs have little influence over wild fox and cat populations. (Research paper was sent to committee members after meeting).</li> <li>• Clause 6(1) is planning to do a media interview.</li> </ul> <p>1.1 The Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee recommends to the Limestone Coast and Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Boards that they should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Engage with the SA Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, the SA Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, the Office of the Cross Border Commissioner in SA and the Victorian Minister for Agriculture and impacted Victorian Catchment Management Authorities to ensure they are aware of the impact of this decision on SA producers.</li> <li>b. Engage with the Victorian Government to ensure they are aware of the likely impact of this decision on SA producers who have previously not seen activity of Dingoes and Wild Dogs, to seek a review of the Order in Council and seeking compensation for measures that will be required to prevent wild dog incursions from Victoria.</li> </ol>

# Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Draft Minutes

## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water we live and work upon, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

Meeting Title: Special Meeting 05/06/2024	
<b>Date:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> of June 2024
<b>Time</b>	1:30pm
<b>Location:</b>	Lameroo Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board Office
<b>Attendees</b>	Clause 6(1) (Chair), Clause 6(1) (Coorong DC), Clause 6(1) (National Parks and Wildlife Service), Clause 6(1) (DEECA), Clause 6(1) (Southern Mallee DC), Clause 6(1) (Limestone Coast Landscape Team Leader Northern Operations), Clause 6(1) (District Officer Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board), Clause 6(1) (Biosecurity SA), Clause 6(1) & Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) (Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board - Minutes)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Clause 6(1) (General Manager Limestone Coast Landscape Board), Clause 6(1) (Manager, Murraylands & Riverland Landscape Board), Clause 6(1) (Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board), Clause 6(1) (National Parks and Wildlife Service) Clause 6(1) (Senior Wild Dog Controller, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning), Clause 6(1) (Limestone Coast Landscape Board)
<b>Absent</b>	

1. Welcome	
1.1	<b>Welcome</b> The Chair, Clause 6(1) acknowledged Lands, welcomed all present, noted the apologies and checked the agenda.
2. Discussions	
2.1	<b>Terms of Reference</b> Clause 6(1) – Chair – Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Clause 6(1) discussed the Terms of Reference with the Committee Key Points of this s follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add Clause 6(1) to end of sentence on 1.1</li> <li>• In section 4.1.1                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Remove SA from the end of Biosecurity Unit, Biosecurity SA Under Sheep Industry Fund Board include Livestock SA</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In section 5.4.1 Remove “Constituent Organisation” and change to All Member Organisations                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Section 6.2 change to the following: 6.2 The Committee Chair and Administrative Officer, together with staff members of Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board and Limestone Coast Landscape Board will be</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

provided with a delegation from the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board to engage in or instigate other operational activities in response to wild dog sightings or stock attacks, but only in accordance with a procedure approved by the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board.

- In section 8.2 Remove all the dollar values and put split amounts instead.
- TOR 8.1 funding requested annually
  - In order for the BFWDC to return to a balance of \$30,000 at the start of the 2025/26 financial year, meeting the intent of the Terms of Reference 8.1, funds of \$35,550 will need to be sought from contributing bodies.

	<b>Current 2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board	\$2,500	\$5,925
Limestone Coast Landscape Board	\$2,500	\$5,925
Sheep Industry Fund	\$5,100	\$11,850
Coorong District Council	\$1,700	\$3,950
Southern Mallee District Council	\$1,700	\$3,950
Tatiara District Council	\$1,700	\$3,950

Contributions to be sought will therefore increase to the following:

- For noting,
  - The committee agreed in February 2024 to increase the amount of funding towards wild dog bait provision in NPWS to \$12,264, with the understanding this would push budget below the \$30,000.
  - The committee agreed in April 2024 to increase the number of meetings to four per year (two on MS Teams, two in person).
  - Costs of bait have increased several times while the BFWDC budget has remained static.
  - The proposed \$35,550 amount assumes the fox bait program has not been budgeted, and will need to be a consideration of the committee if surplus exists.
  - Cost recovery from operational activities (as described in TOR 6.3) have not been updated for several years and will need to increase to \$7,300 + \$300. These figures were also calculated on salary, not fee-for-service as stated in the budget.
  - Should the committee elect to reduce the amount of funding sought then the \$30,000 will be achieved for multiple years, and will need to seek in excess of \$21,600. Calculations suggest that \$21,600 = 0% growth.

	<p><b>ACTION:</b> The Administrative Officer of the Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee to amend the Terms of References as above.</p>
<p>2.2</p>	<p><b>Update from Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change Victoria</b>  <i>Clause 6(1)</i> – Engagement Officer - Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Change Victoria</p> <p>Fraser held a discussion with the members of the committee, key points of this were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEECCA is trying to coordinate some landscape scale pest program for land owners.</li> <li>• They are looking at increasing programs across border.</li> <li>• The best practice is making sure people are aware to do proper risk assessment before laying baits.</li> <li>• There is research being done in Australia relating to the depth of baits being buried to target foxes, being sure foxes are taking bait rather than dingoes. These research programs are run on private land but is currently in talks with Public Land in Big Desert</li> <li>• Fraser can talk to private owners regarding other vertebrate species management such as foxes, rabbits and goats.</li> <li>• Victorians are encouraged to come to small group discussions that are being held, the main aim of these is to understand what they want collectively             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It was expressed that Victorians are concerned that the small meetings 6-10 are going to be more like consultations and are a bit sneaky.</li> <li>○ Fraser explained that the smaller groups are so it's more targeted and they can all have a voice,</li> <li>○ It will be relayed back to Victorian farmers that it's good to have those meetings and coordinate getting rid of foxes before we do dog control.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Clause 6(1)</i> Contact Details are –  <i>Clause 6(1)</i>  Engagement Officer - Vertebrate Pests   Plants, Chemicals and Invasives Branch  Biosecurity and Agricultural Services   Agriculture Victoria   Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action  703-709 Raglan Pde, WARRNAMBOOL, Victoria 3280  <b>M:</b> <i>Clause 6(1)</i>   <b>E:</b> <i>Clause 6(1)</i>  <b>deeca.vic.gov.au</b></p>
<p>2.3</p>	<p><b>Communications Strategy</b>  <i>Clause 6(1)</i> – District Officer - Murraylands &amp; Riverland Landscape Board  <i>Clause 6(1)</i> updated the committee on the current communication strategy. Key points of this were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The monitoring and Scanning of Dog Activities and Contact with Land Owners is ongoing.</li> <li>• Extra Media Releases and Signs are to be put up if and influx of Dog Activities and attacks occur</li> <li>• A flyer may be developed to be sent out to land owners</li> </ul>
<p>2.4</p>	<p><b>Update from Primary Industries and Regions South Australia</b>  <i>Clause 6(1)</i> – Senior Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals – PIRSA</p>

	<p>Annette gave a verbal update to the committee on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The aerial baiting program has seen 65,000 wild dog baits delivered in April and May 2024 across South Australia.</li> <li>• The trapper Program continues to be very busy at this time with 842 dogs destroyed since 2018, 14 were in May 2024.</li> <li>• PIRSA has concern around the spring numbers to come.</li> <li>• One wild dog has been destroyed in May on a Ngarkat bordering property.</li> <li>• Cats and foxes are also very abundant across South Australia.</li> <li>• PIRSA is very interested in supporting both Landscape Board work including holding workshops and trapping programs.</li> <li>• PIRSA is working with Victoria for a potential fox control program.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p>3.1</p>	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p><i>All Members</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Clause 6(1)</b> passed out report and maps for National Parks             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Summary of Observation Change and Maps showing tracks and distribution across the park.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Wild Dog report for the Victorian Mallee Region              Received - Wednesday 5th June 2024              How things can change so quick since my last report on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024              The decision by the Victorian Government to immediately end the dingo unprotection order in the northwest of the state was announced on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Taking us all by surprise. Therefore, stopping my trapping and baiting immediately.              Since this decision there has been continuous wild dog activity happening down the <b>Clause 6(1)</b> end of the Big Desert around the <b>Clause 6(1)</b> area on the Western side of the <b>Clause 6(1)</b>              1 farmer has lost around 20 to 30 sheep to date and the farmer next door has lost around 15 to 20 sheep              1 farmer on the <b>Clause 6(1)</b> end of the Big Desert near <b>Clause 6(1)</b> has reported 4 lambs killed only a couple days ago.              There has been no 1080 baiting done since last report.              Ag Vic/ DEECA personal are about to proceed with their pilot programme meetings with those landowners affected that join the Big Desert State Forest  <b>Clause 6(1)</b>              Senior Wild Dog Control Officer              Mildura</li> </ul>
<p>3.2</p>	<p><b>Next Meeting Details</b></p> <p>Next Meeting will be 14 October 2024.</p>
<p>3.3</p>	<p>The meeting closed at 2.38 pm</p>

**From:** [Clause 6\(1\) \(LandscapeSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Box Flat Minutes  
**Date:** Thursday, 21 November 2024 8:50:48 AM  
**Attachments:** [Draft Minutes Special Meeting 30.04.2024 V2.docx](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image010.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Hi Brad,  
 Please see attached 30/04/2024.  
 The Meeting on the 26/03/2024 was a brief teams discussion (10 Minutes) that was not recorded in minutes.

Thank you  
 Kind Regards

[Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Administration Officer/Volunteer Support  
 Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board

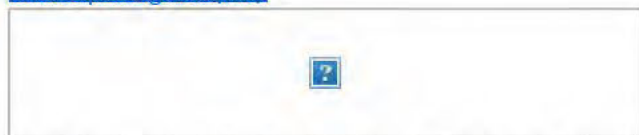
Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
	✓	✓	✓	✓

Ph 08 8532 9100

M [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Units 5 - 6, Level 1 Sturt Centre, 2 Sturt Reserve Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253  
 PO Box 2343, Murray Bridge SA 5253

[landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/](http://landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/)



The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information to anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error please advise by return email.

**From:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 21, 2024 8:44 AM  
**To:** [Clause 6\(1\) \(LandscapeSA\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Box Flat Minutes

OFFICIAL

Hi [Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
 Please send me the final versions of minutes for  
 30/4/24  
 26/3/24

Thanks, Brad

**Brad Page** | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions** | P: (08) 8429 0803 | M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

**From:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 20, 2024 3:59 PM  
**To:** [Clause 6\(1\) \(LandscapeSA\)](#) [Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
**Subject:** Box Flat Minutes

Hi **Clause 6(1)**

Would you please email me the minutes, excluding the draft minutes from the last meeting, of the box flat meetings for this calendar year

Thanks, Brad

**Brad Page** | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals

Biosecurity Division | **Department of Primary Industries and Regions**

Government of South Australia | Building 1, Entry 4 Waite Rd, Urrbrae

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

**T:** 08 8429 0803 | **M:** **Clause 6(1)** | **E:** [Brad.Page@sa.gov.au](mailto:Brad.Page@sa.gov.au)

[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)



*The Department of Primary Industries and Regions respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations. We recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.*

Disclaimer: The information in this email may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful.

# Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Draft Minutes

## Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge Aboriginal people as the First Peoples and Nations of the lands and water we live and work upon, and we pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect the deep spiritual connection and relationship that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have to Country.

Meeting Title: Special Meeting 30 April 2024	
<b>Date:</b>	30 April 2024
<b>Time</b>	12:00pm
<b>Location:</b>	Teams
<b>Attendees</b>	Clause 6(1) (Chair & Tatiara DC), Clause 6(1) (Coorong DC), Clause 6(1) (Southern Mallee DC), Clause 6(1) (DEW – NPWS District Ranger Murraylands), Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) Clause 6(1) (Limestone Coast Landscape Board), Clause 6(1) (Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board), Clause 6(1) (Biosecurity SA), Clause 6(1), Clause 6(1) and Clause 6(1) (Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board) Clause 6(1) (Minutes)
<b>Apologies:</b>	
<b>Absent</b>	Clause 6(1) (Coorong DC), Clause 6(1) (Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board),

1. Welcome	
1.1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair, Clause 6(1), acknowledged Lands, welcomed all present, noted the apologies and checked the agenda.</p>
2.1	<p><b>History/Background of BFWDCC</b></p> <p>Clause 6(1) – Chair – Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee</p> <p>Clause 6(1) discussed the history and background of the Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee. Keys points of this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clause 6(1) has been in contact with Minister Clare Scriven about similar things outlined in the letter sent from Clause 6(1)</li> </ul>
2.2	<p><b>Update of Wild Dog Management in North West Victoria</b></p> <p>Clause 6(1) – Senior Biosecurity Officer – Primary Industries and Regions South Australia</p> <p>Annette updated the committee on Wild Dog Management in North West Victoria. Key points of this update are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Victorian Museum has updated their Taxonomy to align with all other jurisdictions within Australia.</li> <li>• It is currently unknown how the interpretation will payout in terms of the legislation.</li> <li>• There has been a few reported Wild Dog attacks in the last few months with the biggest being 30 sheep mauled in north-west Victoria, this producer has been unable to obtain a permit to destroy the wild dog regardless of the attacks.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been Wild Dog attacks reported north-west of Ngarkat, reactive baiting was done and no more reports have been received.</li> <li>• The Victorian state-wide Order in Councils decision is still being reviewed, PIRSA is trying to have input into this at the director and ministerial level. Minister Scriven is seeking a Ministerial meeting with the Agriculture Minister and the Environment Minister but no date has been set as yet.</li> </ul>
2.3	<p><b>Review of Terms of Reference of BFWDC</b></p> <p>Clause 6(1) – Chair – Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee</p> <p>Clause 6(1) discussed with the committee the Terms of Reference for the Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee, key points of this were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Terms of Reference has been shared with the committee, at the next Face to Face meeting in June 2024 they will be discussed in more depth to ensure they are up to date.</li> </ul>
2.4	<p><b>Monitoring and Reporting of Wild Dogs</b></p> <p>Clause 6(1) – Chair – Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee</p> <p>Clause 6(1) discussed with the committee monitoring and reporting of Wild Dogs. Key points of this discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Parks and Wildlife South Australia have finished their quarterly baiting in the past fortnight.</li> <li>• Monitoring will commence in 2 weeks' time.</li> </ul>
2.5	<p><b>Proactive Management and Funding</b></p> <p>Clause 6(1) – Chair – Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee</p> <p>Clause 6(1) discussed with the committee proactive management and funding. Key points of this discussion were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting will stay the same with extra meetings called quarterly if required.</li> <li>• District staff of the Landscape Boards to look into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Running workshops with PIRSA to further educate landholders in the surrounding area.</li> <li>○ Develop a communications strategy to target border properties and promote WildDog Scan.</li> <li>○ Look at direct calling neighbouring properties to get their involvement.</li> <li>○ Look into potential for aerial baiting on private land, getting the permissions in place if this is required down the line.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Landscape Board staff and Chair to have a strategy prepared to bring back to the June 2024 meeting to discuss with the committee.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Clause 6(1) to prepare proposed financial contributions listed in the TOR and 25/26 financial budget.</p>
3.1	<p><b>Other Business</b></p> <p>All Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ross Spence written back to Minister Scriven with the reasoning behind the Victoria Order in Council decision.</li> </ul>

3.2	<b>Next Meeting Details</b> Next Meeting will be 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2024 Lameroo
3.3	The meeting closed at 1:02pm

**From:** Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA)  
**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA); Scanlon, Annette (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** Re: Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, 19 August 2025 10:37:43 AM  
**Attachments:** image.png  
image.png  
image.png  
image.png  
image.png

---

OFFICIAL

Hi Brad,

No worries at all. I'll send one through shortly for you.

Kind Regards,

Clause 6(1)  
Business Support Coordinator Riverland  
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board  
P 08 8429 8452  
Clause 6(1)  
28 Vaughan Tee  
PO Box1374 Berri SA 5343  
[landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/](http://landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/)



The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information to anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error please advise by return email.

---

**From:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 19, 2025 10:25 AM  
**To:** Scanlon, Annette (PIRSA) ; Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA)  
**Subject:** RE: Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Meeting

OFFICIAL

Hi Clause 6(1)  
Would you please send me the meeting invite  
Thanks, Brad

**Brad Page** | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division |

**Department of Primary Industries and Regions** | CSIRO Building 1, Entry 5, 40  
Waite Road, Urrbrae SA 5064 | **P:** (08) 8429 0803 | **M:** Clause 6(1)

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Scanlon, Annette (PIRSA)

**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 August 2025 10:23 AM

**To:** Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA)

**Cc:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)

**Subject:** Declined: Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Meeting

**When:** Monday, 13 October 2025 1:00 PM-3:00 PM (UTC+09:30) Adelaide.

**Where:** 74 Railway Tce, Lameroo South Australia 5302, Australia

Hi Clause 6(1) please note that Brad Page will be attending in my place.

Many thanks

Annette

**From:** Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA)  
**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA); Out of scope  
 Out of scope  
**Cc:** Out of scope  
**Subject:** RE: Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Out of Session Meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, 28 March 2024 11:40:17 AM  
**Attachments:** BFWDC Out of Session Meeting 26.03.2024.docx  
 image001.png

OFFICIAL

Dear All,  
 I have received a request to add further detail to the minutes. Please see revised version attached.

Regards,  
 Clause 6(1)

Administration Officer  
 Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board  
 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
 Ph 08 8532 9100  
 Direct 08 Clause 6(1)  
 Units 5 - 6, Level 1 Sturt Centre, 2 Sturt Reserve Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253  
 PO Box 2343, Murray Bridge SA 5253

[landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/](http://landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/)  
 cid:image001.png@01D72191.5155C8F0



The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information to anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error please advise by return email.

**From:** Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 27 March 2024 12:38 PM  
**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA); Out of scope  
 Out of scope  
 Out of scope  
**Cc:** Out of scope

**Subject:** Box Flat Wild Dog Coordinating Committee Out of Session Meeting  
**Importance:** High

OFFICIAL

Dear All,  
 Please see attached draft minutes from yesterday's out of session meeting.  
 Thank you.

Kind Regards  
 Clause 6(1)

Administration Officer  
 Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board  
 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday  
 Ph 08 8532 9100

Direct 08 **Out of scope**

Units 5 - 6, Level 1 Sturt Centre, 2 Sturt Reserve Road, Murray Bridge SA 5253

PO Box 2343, Murray Bridge SA 5253

[landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/](http://landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/)

cid:image001.png@01D72191.5155C8F0



The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information to anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error please advise by return email.

**From:** [Clause 6\(1\) \(LandscapeSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Request for Reports and Contributions – Upcoming Box Flat Wild Dog Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, 30 September 2025 4:08:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email\\_face.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email\\_inst.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email\\_Twit.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email\\_yout.png](#)  
[Outlook-ruzneiga.png](#)

---

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Thanks Brad, much appreciated.

Kind Regards,

[Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
Business Support Coordinator Riverland  
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board  
P 08 8429 8452  
[Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
28 Vaughan Tce  
PO Box1374 Berri SA 5343  
[landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/](http://landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/)



The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information to anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error please advise by return email.

---

**From:** Page, Brad (PIRSA) <Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2025 4:06 PM  
**To:** [Clause 6\(1\) \(LandscapeSA\)](#) <[Clause 6\(1\)](#)@sa.gov.au>  
**Cc:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#) <[Clause 6\(1\)](#)>  
**Subject:** RE: Request for Reports and Contributions – Upcoming Box Flat Wild Dog Committee Meeting

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Hi Clause 6(1)

The update from PIRSA Biosecurity is below.

Cheers, Brad

#### SA wild dog eradication program

- Report attached that I will go over at the meeting (Attachment 1)
- Trappers removed 11 dogs so far this financial year, 63 dogs in 2024/25, and a total of 923 since the program commenced in 2018.
- 1070km of Dog Fence Rebuild has been completed, with the total of 1600km due to be completed by June 2026
- Dog Fence Board project underway to build 290 km of new Dog Fence along the NSW-SA border, \$13m funding received by Dog Fence Board

#### Progress on the review of the SA wild dog policy

#### Survey of dogs in Ngarkat by professional trapper

- 14 in 2023, 21 in 2024
- 2025 results to be provided at the meeting

Clause 9(1)

Nomination by dingo advocates of the wild dogs in Big Desert and Ngarkat as an endangered species will be discussed at the meeting

High fox densities in and around Ngarkat.

[Brad Page](#) | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | CSIRO Building 1, Entry 5, 40 Waite Road, Urrbrae SA 5064 | P: (08) 8429 0803 | M: Clause 6(1)

---

**From:** Clause 6(1) (LandscapeSA) <Clause 6(1)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 25 September 2025 1:12 PM

**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA) <Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au>

**Cc:** Clause 6(1) <Clause 6(1)>

**Subject:** Request for Reports and Contributions – Upcoming Box Flat Wild Dog Committee Meeting

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Good Afternoon Brad,

I hope this message finds you well.

As we prepare for our upcoming meeting, it would be helpful if you could send through any member reports, updates, or items you'd like included in the agenda papers by **Thursday, 2 October**. I've got the paperwork you sent through to Richard the other day but if you have anything else, feel free to send it through to me. Thank you!

This will allow us time to compile and circulate the materials in good time ahead of the meeting. If you have any questions or need a hand with anything, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you in advance for your contributions and ongoing support.

Warmest regards,

Clause 6(1)

Business Support Coordinator Riverland  
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board  
P 08 8429 8452

Clause 6(1)

28 Vaughan Tce  
PO Box1374 Berri SA 5343  
[landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/](http://landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/)



The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information to anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error please advise by return email.

# PIRSA

## Eradication of Wild Dogs from SA Sheep Country

Tracking progress of the 10-year eradication program

Program update: March 2025



# Eradication of wild dogs from SA sheep country: Tracking progress of the eradication program

Information current as of March 2025  
© Government of South Australia 2025

## Disclaimer

PIRSA and its employees do not warrant or make any representation regarding the use, or results of the use, of the information contained herein as regards to its correctness, accuracy, reliability and currency or otherwise. PIRSA and its employees expressly disclaim all liability or responsibility to any person using the information or advice.

## All Enquiries

Dr Annette Scanlon  
Biosecurity Division - Invasive Species Unit  
Department of Primary Industries and Regions (PIRSA)  
Level 14, 25 Grenfell Street  
GPO Box 1671, Adelaide SA 5001  
T Clause 6(1)  
E [Annette.scanlon@sa.gov.au](mailto:Annette.scanlon@sa.gov.au)

[www.pir.sa.gov.au](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au)

# Contents

Executive summary.....	4
Introduction .....	5
Background to the eradication program .....	5
Economic impacts from eradicating wild dogs .....	5
Industry sector growth.....	6
Independent economic analyses.....	6
Activities to implement the eradication program.....	7
Secure funding.....	7
Coordinated ground baiting.....	8
Coordinated aerial baiting .....	9
Professional Trapper Program .....	10
Workshops.....	12
State Coordination .....	14
Summary of progress.....	15
Economic and social benefits.....	16

*“We sold the station at the end of 2018 due to dogs taking everything”*

Livestock producer, April 2025

# Executive summary

**This document provides an update on the implementation of the \$15 million, 10-year Wild Dog Eradication Program, inside the SA Dog Fence.**

The government’s commitment to wild dog management in South Australia has increased dramatically since 2018. Through targeted promotion of industry needs, PIRSA secured the investment to rebuild the Dog Fence, as well as funding to ramp up other game-changing wild dog control activities. To realise the benefits of these investments to the state, wild dogs remaining inside the fence must be eradicated.

A program of activities required to achieve eradication was proposed by the livestock industry, landscape boards, the SA Wild Dog Advisory Group, and other stakeholders. This input is now encapsulated within the [SA Wild Dog Management Strategy 2023-2033](#) as Goal 1; the Strategy also includes activities to support the Dog Fence barrier in the buffer zone (Goal 2) and maintaining cultural and ecological values of dingoes outside the Dog Fence (Goal 3).

The \$15 million, 10-year Wild Dog Eradication Program is the most ambitious and complex part of the Strategy. Independent economic analyses by BDO EconSearch showed that the program is a worthwhile investment, with an overwhelmingly positive impact on the South Australian economy, including a net benefit of \$56.8 million and 49 FTE jobs over a 20-year period.

This report provides an update on the progress of eradication activities, including securing funding; deploying ground and aerial baits; running the trapper program; coordinating; and delivering workshops.

Activity	Required in 10 years	Delivered	Percentage complete	Notes
Secure funding	\$15 million	\$5 million secured	33%	\$5 m of \$15 m eradication program secured
Ground baiting	24 FTE	12 FTE	50%	Landscape board staff (SAAL, EP, LC), requirements taper with time
Aerial baiting	1 million baits	460,000 by 30 June 2025	46%	<i>Pending - SIF application to support activities from 25/26 until 27/28 (equate to 75% of eradication program)</i>
Trappers	25 FTE	12	48%	<i>Pending SIF application to support activities until 27/28, matched by PIRSA (equate to 75% of eradication program)</i>
State coordination	7 FTE	4 FTE	57%	PIRSA staff, requirements taper with time; all future costs to be covered by PIRSA
Workshops	24 workshops	24 delivered	100%	45 workshops, fully funded by PIRSA, will be delivered until 2027 – exceeding activity requirements

**“The goal must be eradication, nothing less”**

Livestock producer, May 2021

# Introduction

## Background to the eradication program

The government’s commitment to wild dog management in South Australia has increased dramatically since 2018. This commitment includes PIRSA support for the Dog Fence Board, to improve their governance, and for the Minister’s Wild Dog Advisory Group (SAWDAG), to improve their focus on strategic priorities.

Through targeted promotion of industry needs, PIRSA secured the \$25 million (\$10 million each from State/Commonwealth governments and \$5 million from the livestock industry) investment to rebuild the Dog Fence (now \$29 million program), as well as funding to ramp up other game-changing wild dog control activities.

Following the \$29 million rebuild of the SA Dog Fence, wild dog incursions into South Australian sheep country will soon end. To realise the benefit (between \$56.4 million and \$112.9 million over 20 years) of these investments to the state, wild dogs remaining inside the fence must now be eradicated.

The program of activities required to achieve eradication was proposed by the livestock industry, landscape boards, the SA Wild Dog Advisory Group (SAWDAG), and other stakeholders. These activities form the backbone of the SA Wild Dog Management Strategy (the Strategy).

The infographic features a landscape photograph with sheep in the foreground and a dog fence line in the distance. The text is as follows:  
**Goal 1**  
**Eradicate wild dogs inside the Dog Fence**  
Image courtesy of Stefania Rossetti.  
The rebuilding of 1,600 kilometres of the ageing Dog Fence provides a once-in-a-generation opportunity to eradicate wild dogs inside the Dog Fence. Most critical for the success of the eradication program is the involvement of all land managers inside the Dog Fence. Baiting is the most effective landscape-scale method to control wild dogs and trapping is important for targeting wild dogs that do not take baits.  
10 | SA Wild Dog Management Strategy

# Economic impacts from eradicating wild dogs

## Industry sector growth

Wild dogs cost livestock industries in Australia \$90 million per year. In 2018-19, it was estimated that wild dogs injured and killed 20,000 sheep, costing the South Australian livestock sector \$4 million.

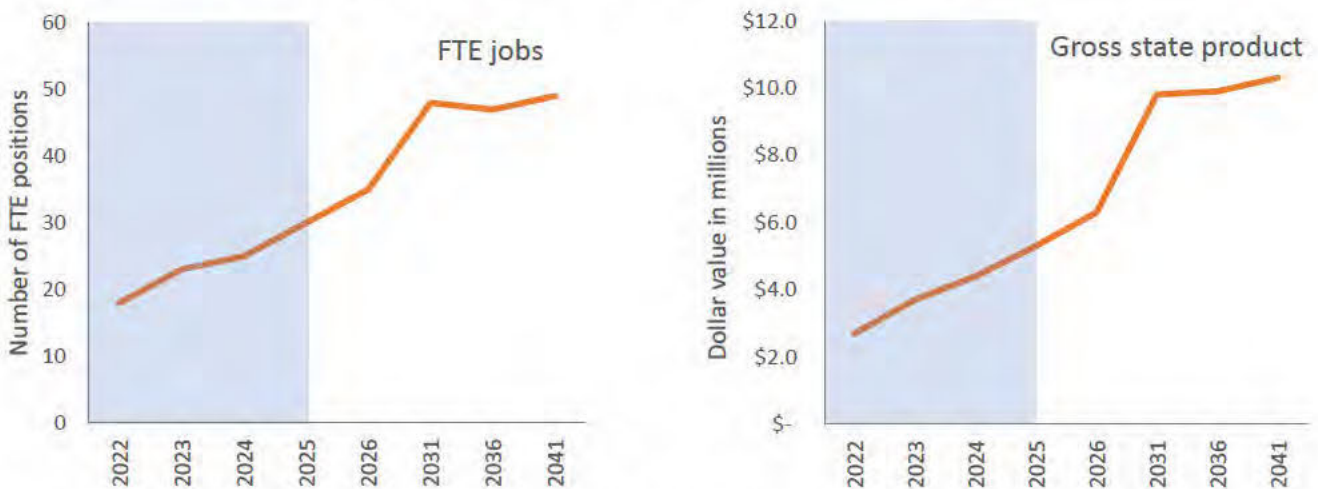
The rebuild of the Dog Fence will prevent wild dogs moving into pastoral sheep country, but the wild dogs remaining inside the Dog Fence will continue to impact the industry. The economic benefits of the Dog Fence will be undermined if wild dogs inside the fence are not also eradicated. The program will:

1. Ensure sustainability of the \$1.5 billion sheep industry, which employs 15,000 people
2. Increase productivity and profitability of the sheep industry by reducing stock losses and the need for large-scale wild dog control activities
3. Increase capacity of land managers to control wild dogs via training programs, including the use of existing and emerging technologies
4. Alleviate negative social impacts in rural communities from wild dog attacks

## Independent economic analyses

After proposing the \$15 million, 10-year Wild Dog Eradication Program, independent economic analyses were necessary to assess the program’s merit as an investment for government and industry. The analyses were conducted by BDO EconSearch in May 2021. They found that the program would have an overwhelmingly positive economic impact (see Figure 1). Specifically, they showed:

- Positive economic impacts will be greater if the program is implemented compared to no action
- The program is a worthwhile investment with a net benefit of \$56.8 million over a 20-year period
- The internal rate of return on capital invested is 96% (projects above 6% are considered viable)
- Economic impacts will be sustained for years following the completion of the program in 2032
- Expected impact on gross regional product is \$10.3 million over a 20-year period
- Implementing the program will generate 49 FTE jobs by the twentieth year



**Figure 1** Projected economic impacts in FTE jobs (left) and gross state product (right) derived from implementing the \$15 million, 10-year eradication program. Shaded areas completed.

# Activities to implement the eradication program

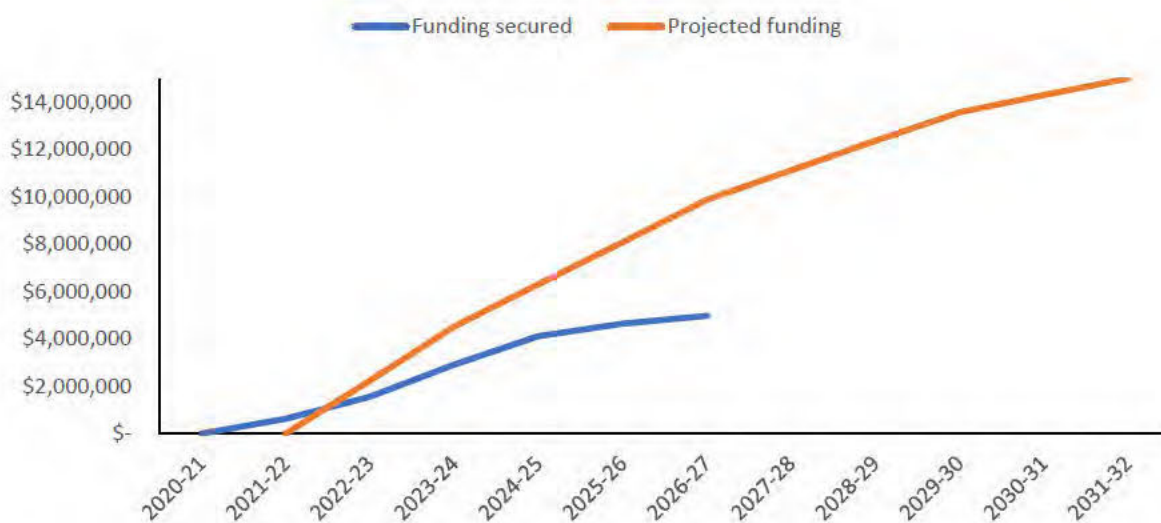
## Secure funding

**Goal:** A \$15 million, 10-year budget is required to implement the eradication activities; the intensity of spending is greatest in the first five years, tapering to 2032.

**Requires:** \$15 million over 10 years to 2032.

**Activities:** PIRSA continues to work to secure funding from diverse sources, which includes the Commonwealth Government, State Government, and industry, including Livestock SA, Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA), and Australian Wool Innovation (AWI).

**Outcome:** \$5 million in funding (33% of program requirements) secured by 30 June 2025.



**Figure 2** The secured funding and projected funding needs of the Wild Dog Eradication Program over 10 years to 2032.



## Coordinated ground baiting

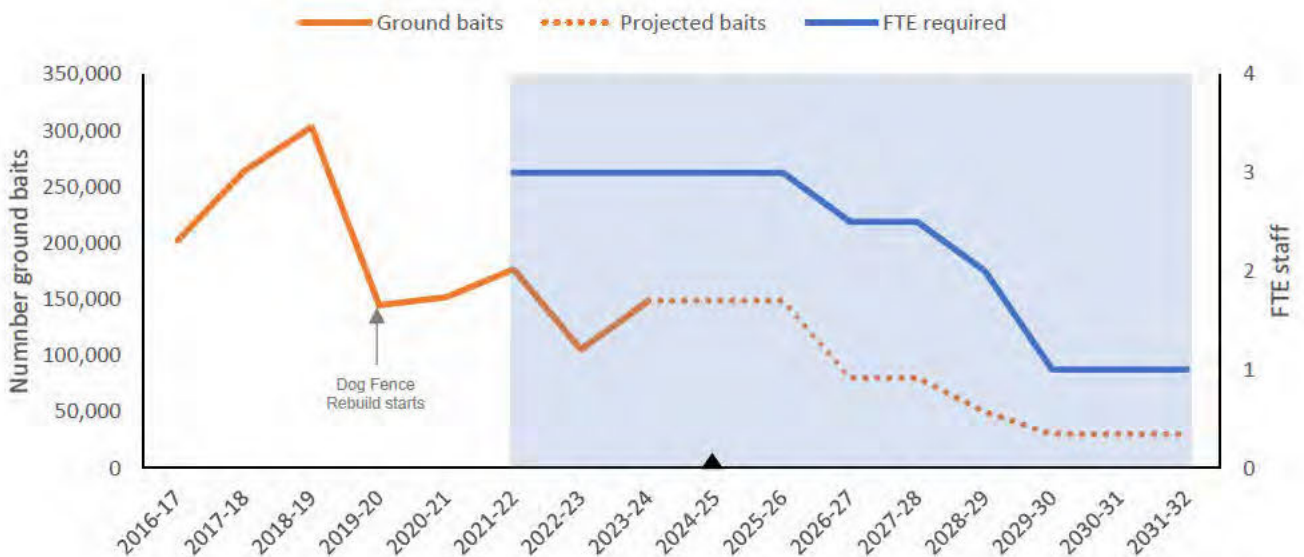
**Goal:** Coordinated ground baiting is an effective and efficient wild dog control tool. To achieve eradication inside the Dog Fence requires:

- An intensive, landscape-scale baiting program
- Focus on ensuring landholder compliance with new legislative requirements to bait is required
- Strategic ground baiting by landholders must be conducted twice per annum in pastoral areas, in autumn and spring, and quarterly in the Ngarkat area
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) will conduct baiting, at the same rates, within protected areas

**Requires:** 24 FTE agency staff over 10 years.

**Activities:** 2-3 FTE staff have been working across the state to deliver ground baits. Primarily, they include staff from the landscape board regions of the Arid Lands, Eyre Peninsula, Murraylands and Riverland, and Limestone Coast. PIRSA staff and NPWS staff are also involved in facilitating delivery of ground baits, including responding to incursions. Note that requirements decrease with time.

**Outcome:** 12 FTE (50% of program requirements) completed by 30 June 2025.



**Figure 3** Number of baits laid in ground programs, projected number of baits in future programs, and the FTE requirements to deliver the activities of the Wild Dog Eradication Program over 10 years to 2032 (shaded area).

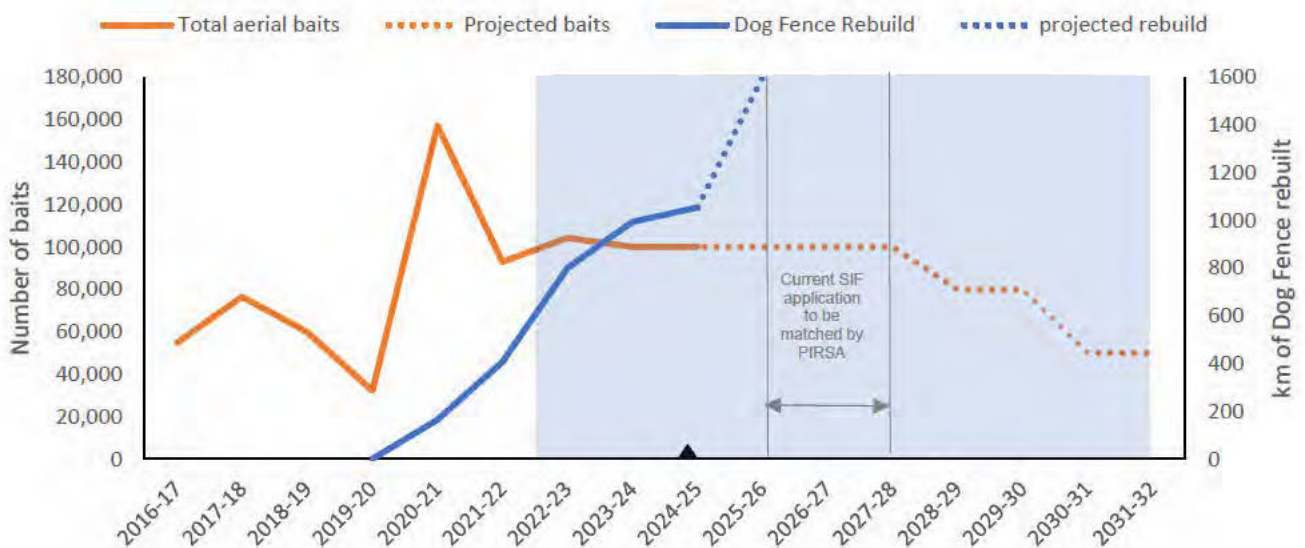
## Coordinated aerial baiting

**Goal:** Aerial baiting programs involve the distribution of wild dog baits into inaccessible and rugged terrain and wild dog hot spots. Aerial baiting complements the broadscale, ground-baiting programs by targeting areas that would otherwise become wild dog safe havens.

**Requires:** 1 million baits delivered over 10 years.

**Activities:** PIRSA staff have been collaborating with staff from the landscape boards and NPWS to deliver aerial baiting programs. The number of baits being delivered had been declining since 2017-18. With the announcement of the Dog Fence Rebuild Project, a large effort was made in 2020-21, delivering over 150,000 baits. PIRSA received co-funding from the Commonwealth Government to facilitate the delivery of around 100,000 baits per year over 3 years to June 2025. A total of 460,000 baits have been delivered; the current application to SIF includes aerial baiting programs for the next 3 years (delivering 100,000 baits per annum), with funding to be matched by PIRSA. That initiative would enable delivery of a further 300,000 baits (total 760,000) by June 2028, which would comprise 76% of eradication requirements.

**Outcome:** 460,000 baits (46% of program requirements) deployed by 30 June 2025.



**Figure 4** Number of baits deployed in aerial programs, projected number of baits in future programs, and tracking the Dog Fence Rebuild Project, for delivering the activities of the Wild Dog Eradication Program over 10 years to 2032 (shaded area; includes proposed SIF project over 3 years to June 2028).

*“The baiting programs, professional trapper program and the Dog Fence renewal have had major impact on the wild dog numbers south of the Dog Fence and must remain a high priority to capitalise on the gains”*

Livestock producer, April 2025

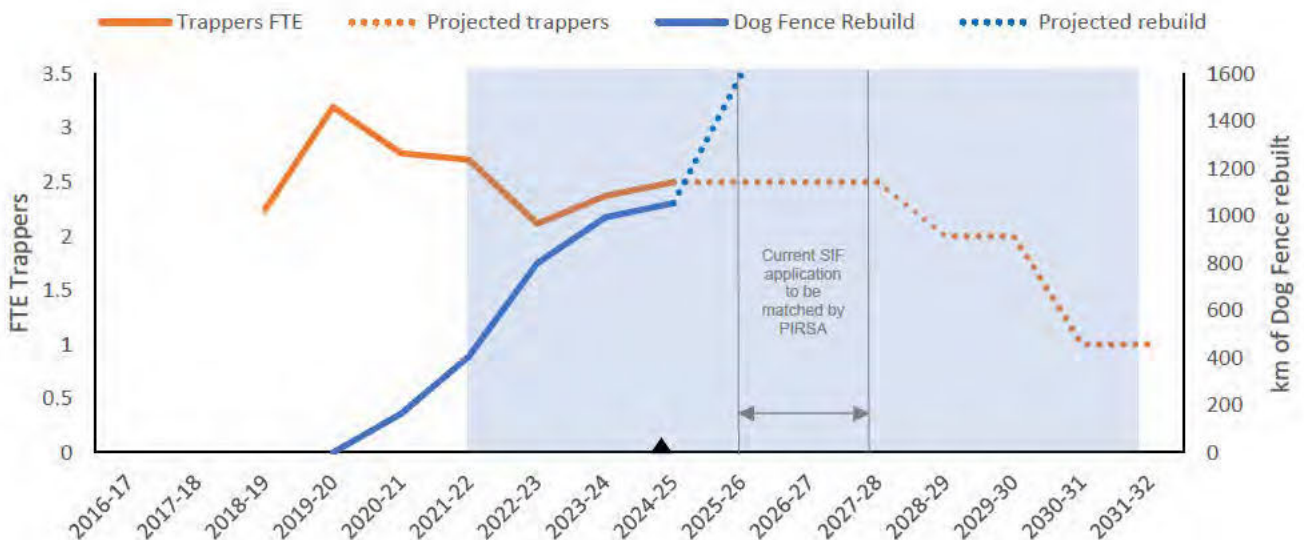
## Professional Trapper Program

**Goal:** The statewide SA Wild Dog Trapping Program involves coordination and deployment of a team of professional wild dog trappers to areas experiencing persistent problems with wild dogs. Eligible properties must have participated in ground baiting programs in the past 6 months. Trappers target the elusive wild dogs that do not take baits. They work across all land tenures inside the Dog Fence, including private properties and municipal and protected areas.

**Requires:** 25 FTE over 10 years.

**Activities:** The SA Wild Dog Trapping Program was launched by PIRSA in 2018-19. A large trapping effort over the last 7 years has removed 881 wild dogs from inside the Dog Fence. The trappers were highly efficient in the first few years of the program when the numbers were very high, and the Dog Fence Rebuild Program was in its infancy. As wild dog numbers reduce the time and patience required to trap the remaining wild dogs increases. Trappers work with landholders and train them in wild dog detection and control techniques so that early detection and action occurs. The current application to SIF includes support to continue the trapper program over the next 3 years (delivering 2-3 FTE per annum), with funding to be matched by PIRSA. That initiative would enable delivery of 19.5 FTE by June 2028, comprising 78% of eradication requirements.

**Outcome:** 12 FTE (48% of program requirements) completed by 30 June 2025.



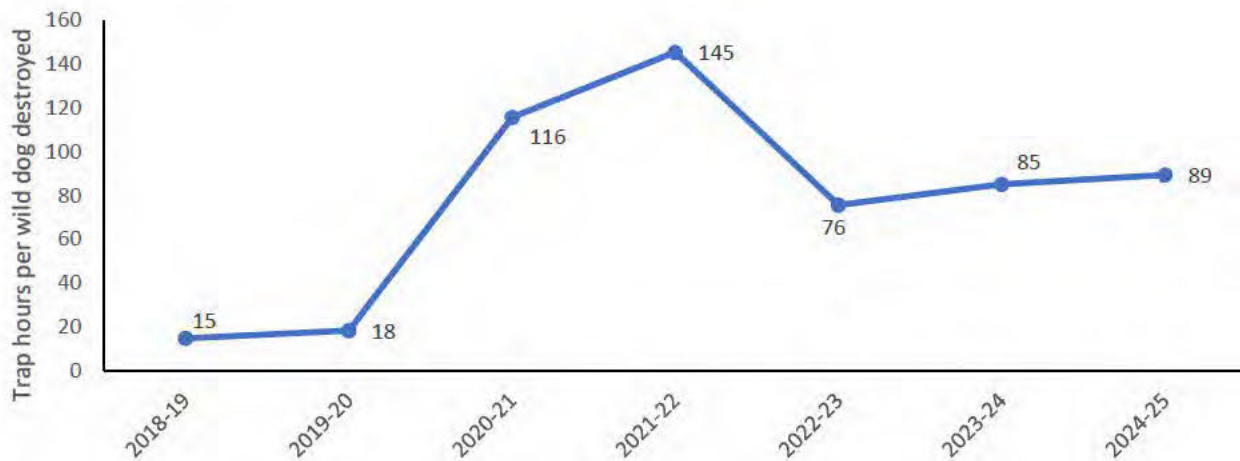
**Figure 5** Number of FTE trappers, projected FTE trappers in future programs, and tracking the Dog Fence Rebuild Project, for delivering the activities of the Wild Dog Eradication Program over 10 years to 2032 (shaded area; includes proposed SIF project over 3 years to June 2028).

It is “really important not to drop the ball... don't let up control measures”

Livestock producer, May 2021

**Other PIRSA trapper program statistics:** the wild dog trappers are very highly regarded by producers. They work across the state, including in remote and challenging conditions. In addition to controlling the wild dogs that are difficult to get, they provide training for controlling and reporting of wild dogs. Since June 2023, they have worked across over 11 million hectares of properties, including pastoral properties, indigenous land, and public parks.

Initially the effort required to catch wild dogs was very low, with just 15 trapping hours per wild dog destroyed in 2018-19. As expected, the effort has increased with time, hitting 154 hours per wild dog destroyed in 2021-22. With some favourable conditions, wild dogs increased in 2022-23 and the effort required declined. The trend indicates how quickly wild dogs can rebound, and the need to keep trappers on the ground.



*“Need to keep on with trapping and eradication of wild dogs as they will breed up again once the pressure is off.*

Livestock producer, May 2021

## Workshops

**Goal:** Workshops involve engaging with landholders on wild dog controls to build their knowledge and capacity to manage wild dogs. Over a 10-year period, employees and landowners will turn over, so some may not have been exposed to wild dog predation. Regular upskilling of these land managers, as well as introduction to new and emerging technology, is an important component of maintaining wild dog eradication into the future.

**Requires:** 24 workshops over 10 years.

**Activities:** PIRSA and landscape board staff have delivered workshops as required; topics included baiting on organic properties, trapper training, use of Canid Pest Ejectors (CPEs), and desexing dogs in remote indigenous communities. Those activities were associated with policy development and strategic planning.

A 4-year program is now working to deliver 45 wild dog workshops across the state by January 2027. This producer-led initiative is funded by PIRSA, Livestock SA, and MLA; it is delivering workshops and trials to 15 producer groups that experience impacts with wild dogs and includes 3 groups located outside the Dog Fence (see map). Over 100 properties are involved in the project; together they run over 11 million hectares, have a combined experience in livestock management that exceeds 2,200 years, and they run over 270,000 sheep and 100,000 cattle. Workshop and trial activities are focused on predator control and livestock productivity.

**Outcome:** 24 workshops (100% of program requirements) completed by 30 June 2025.



**Figure 6** The number of workshops delivered and projected for delivery within the Wild Dog Eradication Program over 10 years to 2032 (shaded area).

**Snap shot** Images below provide a snapshot of workshops delivered in the last 18 months with 15 producer groups located across SA in wild dog risk areas.



## State Coordination

**Goal:** Statewide coordination ensures the seamless management of wild dog control activities across agencies and land tenures of the State. For example, coordinators work with staff from landscape boards, Department for Environment and Water (DEW), NPWS, contractors, landholders, industry representatives, and other stakeholders.

**Requires:** 7 FTE over 10 years.

**Activities:** PIRSA provide coordination of wild dog eradication activities, including effective management of the statewide trapper program and aerial baiting programs, supporting all agencies to deliver wild dog eradication activities, engaging with producers and deliver wild dog control training (i.e., through workshops), providing reports on activities and progress to funding bodies.

**Outcome:** 4 FTE (57% of program requirements) completed by 30 June 2025.

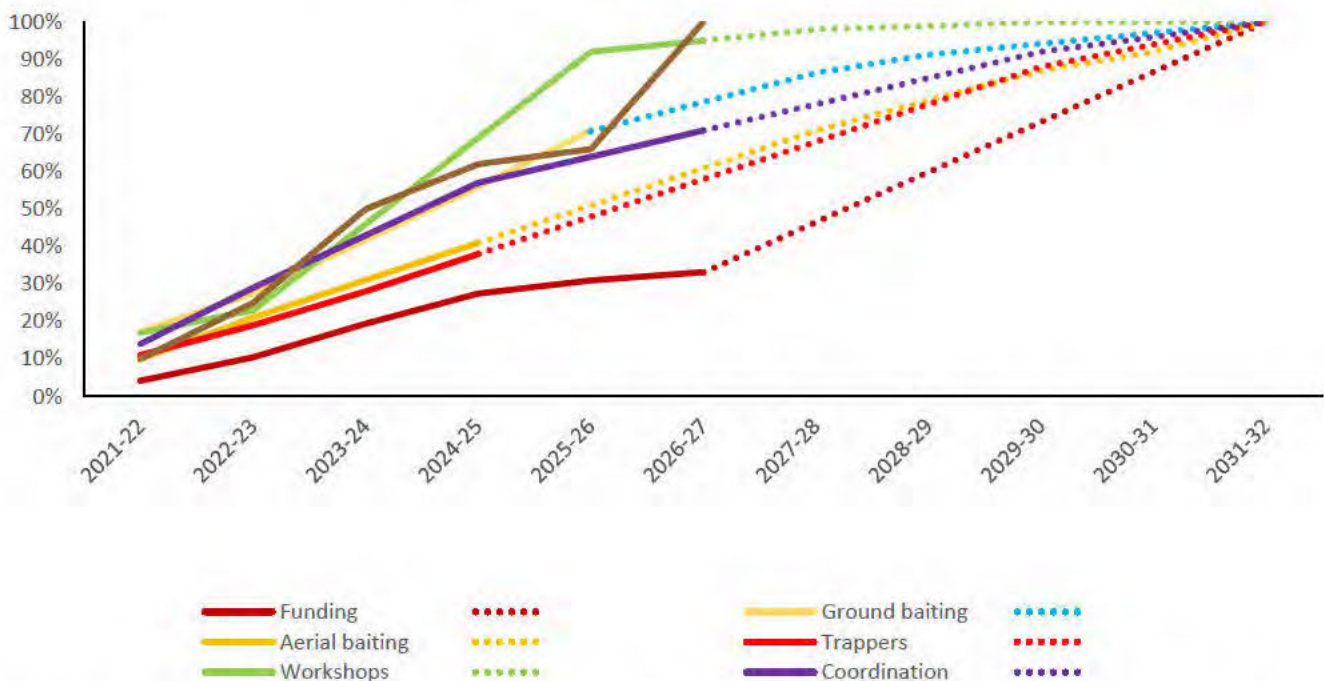


**Figure 7** Number of FTE staff coordinators required, secured, and projected for delivering the activities of the Wild Dog Eradication Program over 10 years to 2032 (shaded area).

# Summary of progress

The activities required to achieve wild dog eradication inside the SA Dog Fence are at varying levels of completion and resourcing (see Table and Figure below). A SIF application for \$300,000 per year for 3 years to June 2028 has been submitted to deliver aerial baiting and trapper program in line with other activities to support delivery of the eradication program.

Activity	Required over 10 years	Delivered	Percentage complete	Notes
Secure funding	\$15 million	\$5 million secured	33%	\$5 m of \$15 m eradication program secured
Ground baiting	24 FTE	12 FTE	50%	Landscape board staff (SAAL, EP, LC), requirements taper with time
Aerial baiting	1 million baits	460,000 by 30 June 2025	46%	<i>Pending - SIF application to support activities from 25/26 until 27/28 (equate to 75% of eradication program)</i>
Trappers	25 FTE	12	48%	<i>Pending SIF application to support activities until 27/28, matched by PIRSA (equate to 75% of eradication program)</i>
State coordination	7 FTE	4 FTE	57%	PIRSA staff, requirements taper with time; all future costs to be covered by PIRSA
Workshops	24 workshops	24 delivered	100%	45 workshops, fully funded by PIRSA, will be delivered until 2027 – exceeding activity requirements



**Figure 8** Activities to achieve eradication over 10 years; full line indicates activities are complete or due for completion; dashed lines indicate the effort required, but not yet resourced.

# Economic and social benefits

**Context:** The economic and social benefits to producers and their communities from eradicating wild dogs are undeniable. We know that prior to the rebuild project and wild dog eradication activities, producers were losing over 20,000 sheep per annum to wild dogs, costing over \$4 million; the indirect costs, such as plummeting lambing percentages with wild dog presence, were costing millions more.

Recently, PIRSA received reports of at least 11 properties covering over 18,000 km<sup>2</sup> (1.8 million ha) restocking with over 35,000 more sheep in areas that were smashed by wild dogs just 5 years ago. That stock equates to around \$7 million gained and a \$11 million turnaround in the economic fortunes for those properties inside the Dog Fence. After landscape-scale aerial baiting programs in the region, one property in the Gawler Ranges also reported an increase in lambing percentages from 85-90% to 120% in the last 12 months. These gains are encouraging; as part of this initiative PIRSA staff have undertaken a systematic analysis of producer experiences.

In May 2021, during development of the eradication plan, PIRSA staff worked closely with producers to understand the impacts from wild dogs. That work included a survey of 30 producers and the calculation of 20,000 sheep being impacted annually. In March and April 2025, PIRSA staff repeated the survey of 11 producers running 18 properties and more than 100,000 sheep on country exceeding 23,000 km<sup>2</sup> (2.3 million ha) in area.

**Economic gains from wild dog eradication activities:** All producers reported a decline in impacts from wild dogs from 2018 to 2025, with an average decline of 95%. In 2018, producers reported 77 sheep were killed per 100 km<sup>2</sup> of country, that number is less than 1 sheep per 100 km<sup>2</sup>. The average lambing percentage in 2018 with wild dogs present was 43%; at that time, producers estimated that without wild dogs their lambing percentage would increase to 106%. That prediction has unfolded, with the same producers reporting an average lambing percentage of 110% in the last 12 months.

In addition to direct benefits to producers from wild dog controls, over 45 SA-based businesses have been engaged in the rebuild project, including \$17 million to the suppliers to provide materials (\$9 million) and fencing services (\$8.3 million). Other SA businesses engaged include freight providers, cable locators, landholders, earthworks, engineers, and suppliers of peripheral materials, many of these businesses are regionally based.

**Social benefits from wild dog eradication activities:** In the first survey, at least 43% of respondents indicated severe emotional stress from wild dog attacks. A decrease in wild dog attacks was necessarily assumed to increase wellbeing, in addition to productivity gains. The recent survey found much improved outlooks, including optimism and opportunity, as well as importance to maintain the effort and not to return to previous times (see Table).

*“Professional trappers are so valuable. We need them so badly to keep dog numbers controlled”*

Livestock producer, May 2021

Impact	2021 Survey	2025 Survey
Financial losses	<i>"Whilst dogs kept impacting, we could never build our breeding ewes up... very frustrating"</i>	Experiencing <i>"significantly less impacts than in 2018"</i>
Mental health	<i>Wild dogs had. "Massive impact... didn't matter what we did they just kept coming... took and still has a huge impact on wellbeing... I chose to ignore it, so it doesn't get on top of me... even the kids are worried their pets are going to be attacked by dogs"</i>	<i>"The focus on wild dog control though the baiting programs, professional trapper program and the Dog fence renewal have had major impact on the wild dog numbers south of the dog fence and must remain a high priority to capitalise of the gains made in controlling wild dogs"</i>
Management	<i>It is "really important not to drop the ball... don't let up control measures" "The goal must be eradication, nothing less"</i>	<i>"The new Dog Fence is a massive improvement" "Since the renewal of the dog fence north of Mount Victor Plumbago, there has been significantly less dog activity seen, however we regularly bait" "Fence is a major improvement, but it was compromised with flooding rains and dogs came inside the fence and have bred up again. We've killed/trapped 50 dogs inside the fence in the last 24 months"</i>



*"The dogs are not gone yet and won't be for a long time yet... we need to continue to eradicate these wild dogs and keep good control of the wild dog numbers like we have now... a couple of years with no control and we will back where we started. We couldn't face that again"*

Livestock producer, 2021



**From:** [Clause 6\(1\) \(LandscapeSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Subject:** September 2025 survey of wild dogs in Ngarkat by wild dog trapper  
**Date:** Tuesday, 30 September 2025 2:13:11 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-Email\\_face.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email\\_inst.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email\\_Twit.png](#)  
[Outlook-Email\\_yout.png](#)  
[Outlook-y5mknzaw.png](#)  
[Outlook-du3ujiky.png](#)

---

OFFICIAL

Hi Brad,

Hope you are well. Do you have the link for the September 2025 survey of wild dogs in Ngarkat by wild dog trapper? Just starting to put together agenda and papers for the upcoming Boxed Flat meeting.

Thank you

Kind Regards,

[Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Business Support Coordinator Riverland  
Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board  
P 08 8429 8452

[Clause 6\(1\)](#)

28 Vaughan Tce  
PO Box1374 Berri SA 5343  
[landscape.sa.gov.au/mt/](http://landscape.sa.gov.au/mt/)



The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board acknowledges the First Peoples of the lands and waters we live and work upon. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge and respect their deep spiritual and cultural connection to Country.

The information in this e-mail may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information to anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this email in error please advise by return email.

 [Book time to meet with me](#)

**From:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Joanne M Wall \(DEECA\)](#)  
**Subject:** Box Flat meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, 24 September 2024 2:50:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

---

Hi Joanne

Would you please let me know if you or another senior representative from DEECA could be available to attend (in-person or online) the next meeting of the Box Flat Dingo Control Coordinating Committee. If could please confirm you are available, noting that I will then confirm your invitation via the Chair of the Committee, Clause 6(1).

The meeting will be held Monday, 14 October 2024 1:30 PM-3:30 PM (SA time) in Lameroo. If you can attend in-person, I could arrange for one of our staff to drive you from Adelaide to Lameroo and back.

Thanks, Brad

[Brad Page](#) | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals  
Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions  
Government of South Australia | Building 1, Entry 4 Waite Rd, Urrbrae  
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

T: 08 8429 0803 | M: Clause 6(1) | E: [Brad.Page@sa.gov.au](mailto:Brad.Page@sa.gov.au)

[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)



The Department of Primary Industries and Regions respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations. We recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.

Disclaimer: The information in this email may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful.

**From:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Out of scope](#) [Out of scope](#) (DEECA)  
**Subject:** FW: articles  
**Date:** Thursday, 28 March 2024 8:58:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [Richard Halliday article 28 March 2024.pdf](#)  
[Livestock SA article 28 March 2024.pdf](#)

---

Hi [Out of scope](#) and [Out of scope](#)

Please see attached articles with an SA perspective. I would appreciate a quick chat today if you can please make time.

There was a Box Flat meeting on this on Monday.

Thanks, Brad

[Brad Page](#) | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | P: (08) 8429 0803 | M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

**From:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Joanne M Wall \(DEECA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Scanlon, Annette \(PIRSA\)](#); [Clause 6\(1\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL: RE: Box Flat meeting  
**Date:** Thursday, 3 October 2024 1:53:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

Thanks for letting me know Joanne  
 I will let the Chair know. I expect the Committee will discuss this matter in the absence of DEECA. To inform their discussion, please provide any information that has been released in recent weeks, including the ARI reports on the dingo population abundance in NW Victoria. I understand that DEECA planned to release the reports soon after the Order in Council was resolved.

Regards, Brad

[Brad Page](#) | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | P: (08) 8429 0803 | M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

**From:** Joanne M Wall (DEECA)  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 3, 2024 1:48 PM  
**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** OFFICIAL: RE: Box Flat meeting

You don't often get email from [joanne.wall@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:joanne.wall@agriculture.vic.gov.au). [Learn why this is important](#)

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Brad

Thanks for the invitation. Unfortunately a DEECA representative will not be available to attend the Box Flat meeting.

Kind Regards

Jo

**OFFICIAL**

**From:** Page, Brad (PIRSA) <[Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au](mailto:Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 24, 2024 3:21 PM  
**To:** Joanne M Wall (DEECA) <[joanne.wall@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:joanne.wall@agriculture.vic.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Box Flat meeting

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.**

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Joanne

Would you please let me know if you or another senior representative from DEECA could be available to attend (in-person or online) the next meeting of the Box Flat Dingo Control Coordinating Committee. If could please confirm you are available, noting that I will then confirm your invitation via the Chair of the Committee, [Clause 6\(1\)](#).

The meeting will be held Monday, 14 October 2024 1:30 PM-3:30 PM (SA time) in Lameroo. If you can attend in-person, I could arrange for one of our staff to drive you from Adelaide to Lameroo and back.

Thanks, Brad

[Brad Page](#) | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals

Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions  
Government of South Australia | Building 1, Entry 4 Waite Rd, Urrbrae  
GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001

T: 08 8429 0803 | M: Clause 6(1) | E: [Brad.Page@sa.gov.au](mailto:Brad.Page@sa.gov.au)

[pir.sa.gov.au](http://pir.sa.gov.au)



The Department of Primary Industries and Regions respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations. We recognise Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters. We pay our respects to Aboriginal cultures and to Elders past, present and emerging.

Disclaimer: The information in this email may be confidential and/or legally privileged. Use or disclosure of the information by anyone other than the intended recipient is prohibited and may be unlawful.

From: [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
 To: [Trevor J Pisciotta \(DEECA\)](#)  
 Cc: [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#)  
 Subject: RE: OFFICIAL: RE: Dingo report of population status in Victoria  
 Date: Monday, 25 August 2025 4:42:00 PM  
 Attachments: [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)

Thanks [Clause 6\(1\)](#) and Trevor  
[Clause 6\(1\)](#) apparently jumped the gun. Looking forward to seeing the report; please send me a copy when you can.

Cheers, Brad

[Brad Page](#) | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | CSIRO Building 1, Entry 5, 40 Waite Road, Urrbrae SA 5064 | P: (08) 8429 0803 | M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

From: [Clause 6\(1\)](#) (DEECA) On Behalf Of Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA)

Sent: Monday, 25 August 2025 3:23 PM

To: Page, Brad (PIRSA)

Cc: Secomb, Nick (PIRSA)

Subject: OFFICIAL: RE: Dingo report of population status in Victoria

Hello Brad,

I have checked with our team and understand that report is yet to be released. Most likely next week.

Happy to discuss.

Ta

[Clause 6\(1\)](#)

**Executive Assistant | Office of the Executive Director**  
**Regulatory Policy and Programs | Animal Welfare Victoria**  
 Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)  
 Level 8, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002

E: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

[agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au)

Available via MS Teams.

We acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners and their Elders past and present as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters and commit to genuinely partnering with them and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.

OFFICIAL

From: Page, Brad (PIRSA) <[Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au](mailto:Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au)>  
 Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 9:31 AM  
 To: Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA) <[trevor.x.pisciotta@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:trevor.x.pisciotta@agriculture.vic.gov.au)>  
 Cc: Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <[Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au](mailto:Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au)>  
 Subject: Dingo report of population status in Victoria

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.**

OFFICIAL

Hi Trevor

I hope you are well.

Would you please send me a copy of the report that [Clause 6\(1\)](#) wrote on the population sizes of dingoes in Victoria. I understand from [Clause 6\(1\)](#) that it was released this week.

Thanks, Brad

Brad Page  
 Principal Biosecurity Officer, Pest Animals

[Clause 6\(1\)](#)

From: [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
To: [Trevor J Pisciotta \(DEECA\)](#)  
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL: RE: Dingo report of population status in Victoria  
Date: Monday, 8 September 2025 2:42:00 PM  
Attachments: [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)

Hi Trevor

Would you please let me know if the report has been released. Please send me a copy if you have one available.

Thanks, Brad

[Brad Page](#) | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | CSIRO Building 1, Entry 5, 40 Waite Road, Urrbrae SA 5064 | P: (08) 8429 0803 | M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

**From:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#) (DEECA) **On Behalf Of** Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA)  
**Sent:** Monday, 25 August 2025 3:23 PM  
**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Cc:** Secomb, Nick (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** OFFICIAL: RE: Dingo report of population status in Victoria

Hello Brad,

I have checked with our team and understand that report is yet to be released. Most likely next week. Happy to discuss.

Ta

[Clause 6\(1\)](#)

**Executive Assistant | Office of the Executive Director**  
**Regulatory Policy and Programs | Animal Welfare Victoria**  
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)  
Level 8, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002

**E:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

[agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au)

Available via MS Teams.

Placeholder for MS Teams integration with icons and a footer message: "We acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners and their Elders past and present as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters and commit to genuinely partnering with them and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations."

OFFICIAL

**From:** Page, Brad (PIRSA) <[Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au](mailto:Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 22 August 2025 9:31 AM  
**To:** Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA) <[trevor.x.pisciotta@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:trevor.x.pisciotta@agriculture.vic.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Secomb, Nick (PIRSA) <[Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au](mailto:Nick.Secomb@sa.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Dingo report of population status in Victoria

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.**

OFFICIAL

Hi Trevor

I hope you are well.

Would you please send me a copy of the report that Dave Ramsay wrote on the population sizes of dingoes in Victoria. I understand from [Clause 6\(1\)](#) that it was released this week.

Thanks, Brad

---

Brad Page  
Principal Biosecurity Officer, Pest Animals

Clause 6(1)

**From:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**To:** Clause 6(1) (DEECA)  
**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL: RE: reducing impacts  
**Date:** Wednesday, 8 October 2025 12:00:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)

Hi Clause 6(1)

No, we cannot make that time work.

Please make additional suggestions

Thanks, Brad

Brad Page | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | CSIRO Building 1, Entry 5, 40 Waite Road, Urrbrae SA 5064 | P: (08) 8429 0803 | M: Clause 6(1)

**From:** Clause 6(1) (DEECA) Clause 6(1)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 October 2025 11:53 AM  
**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA) <Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** OFFICIAL: RE: reducing impacts

You don't often get email from Clause 6(1) [Learn why this is important](#)

No worries Brad

Would it be possible to move the meeting to 4pm Monday 13/10?

Clause 6(1)

**Executive Assistant | Office of the Executive Director**  
**Regulatory Policy and Programs | Animal Welfare Victoria**  
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)  
Level 8, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, Victoria 3002  
**E:** Clause 6(1)  
[agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au)

Available via MS Teams

Placeholder for MS Teams meeting link and a row of five small icons with question marks. Below this is a text box with a question mark icon and a paragraph: "We acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners and their Elders past and present as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters and commit to genuinely partnering with them and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations." To the right of this text is another small icon with a question mark.

OFFICIAL

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Page, Brad (PIRSA) <Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 8 October 2025 11:51 AM  
**To:** Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA); Secomb, Nick (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** reducing impacts

**When:** Thursday, 9 October 2025 4:00 PM-4:30 PM (UTC+09:30) Adelaide.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hi Trevor

Changing the time of this meeting to avoid clash with your leadership team

Regards, Brad

Hi Trevor

I trust you are well.

We would appreciate the opportunity to catch up, noting we missed the meeting we had booked a few weeks ago

This time suits Nick and I, please let me know if it suits you.

Regards, Brad

---

**Microsoft Teams** [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 477 551 830 304 7

Passcode: DW6BT7IE

---

**Dial in by phone**

[+61 8 7079 7539,,216953413#](#) Australia, Adelaide

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 216 953 413#

**Join on a video conferencing device**

Tenant key: [teams@cvn.sa.gov.au](#)

Video ID: 132 976 707 8

[More info](#)

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)

---

**From:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Clause 6\(1\) \(DEECA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Clause 6\(1\) \(DEECA\)](#); [Scanlon, Annette \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: OFFICIAL: SA-VIC meetings  
**Date:** Monday, 12 May 2025 1:13:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.jpg](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Hi [Clause 6\(1\)](#) and [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Thanks for getting in touch.

Im happy to cancel these meetings, and to instead call you if we think you might be able to help with Vic/SA issues.

We will try to reinstate the meetings with Trevor, which have dropped out of our calendars.

Cheers, Brad

[Brad Page](#) | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | CSIRO Building 1, Entry 5, 40 Waite Road, Urrbrae SA 5064 | P: (08) 8429 0803 | M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

---

**From:** [Clause 6\(1\) \(DEECA\)](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, 12 May 2025 11:30 AM  
**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Cc:** [Clause 6\(1\) \(DEECA\)](#)  
**Subject:** OFFICIAL: SA-VIC meetings

Hi Brad,

I hope you're well. I noticed we have another SA – VIC meeting scheduled tomorrow at 11:00am. Jason will be an apology, and while I'm available to attend, I don't have any new updates to provide since our last meeting. Please let me know if you would still like to go ahead.

You may be interested to know that DEECA is holding three community drop-in sessions this week in north west Victoria (13-15 May in Murrayville, Patchewollock and Yanac). These sessions aim to increase awareness of the \$2.5M dingo support package, increase engagement with individual projects and supports, and provide an opportunity for impacted stakeholders to provide feedback. Representatives from across will be attending, including Jason Wishart and Trevor Pisciotta from Ag Vic. It will be interesting to hear the feedback we receive.

I've also been reflecting on how we can make the most of our monthly meetings. Jason and I are responsible for a relatively small portion of the dingo support projects—specifically, the passive camera monitoring on private land (due to conclude 30 June 2025), and the \$47K pest animal management project focused on building public and private land managers capacity to control rabbits, foxes, feral pigs, and goats.

While we're more than happy to continue meeting with you, I wonder if it might be more beneficial for you to connect more regularly with Trevor Pisciotta from Ag Vic policy (which I believe is already happening), and possibly [Clause 6\(1\)](#) or someone from his team who oversees invasive species management on public land. I'd be happy to put you in touch with [Clause 6\(1\)](#) or invite him along to our next meeting ([Clause 6\(1\)](#) is not available tomorrow). He may be able to answer some of your

questions related to fox management on public land.

Please let me know how you would like to proceed with tomorrow's meeting, and future meetings.

**Kind Regards**

Clause 6(1)

**Regional Manager South West – Plants, Chemicals and Invasives**

Biosecurity and Agriculture Services | Agriculture Victoria

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action

219A Main Street, Bacchus Marsh, Victoria 3340

M: Clause 6(1) | E: Clause 6(1)

**deeca.vic.gov.au**



[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)



We acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners and their Elders past and present as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters and commit to genuinely partnering with them and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.

OFFICIAL

**From:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** ["Trevor J Pisciotta \(DEECA\)"; Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: reducing impacts  
**Date:** Wednesday, 15 October 2025 8:56:00 AM

---

Hi [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Thanks for letting us know

Regards, Brad

[Brad Page](#) | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | CSIRO Building 1, Entry 5, 40 Waite Road, Urrbrae SA 5064 | **P:** (08) 8429 0803 | **M:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#) (DEECA) [Clause 6\(1\)](#) **On Behalf Of** Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 15 October 2025 8:52 AM  
**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA); Secomb, Nick (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** Declined: reducing impacts  
**When:** Wednesday, 15 October 2025 9:00 AM-9:30 AM (UTC+09:30) Adelaide.  
**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Hi Brad, apologies to be doing this so last minute. Trevor [Clause 6\(1\)](#) and not working.

I'm declining this to save everyone joining but I will send through meeting slots separately for a reschedule.

Thank you for your understanding.

**From:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Trevor J Pisciotta \(DEECA\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Secomb, Nick \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Reducing impacts meeting 4/9/25 (1 week reminder)  
**Date:** Monday, 8 September 2025 11:08:00 AM

---

Thanks for letting me know

Regards, Brad

[Brad Page](#) | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | CSIRO Building 1, Entry 5, 40 Waite Road, Urrbrae SA 5064 | P: (08) 8429 0803 | M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#) (DEECA) **On Behalf Of** Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA)  
**Sent:** Monday, 8 September 2025 11:02 AM  
**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Cc:** Secomb, Nick (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** Declined: Reducing impacts meeting 4/9/25 (1 week reminder)  
**When:** Monday, 8 September 2025 2:00 PM-2:30 PM (UTC+09:30) Adelaide.  
**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Good morning,

Apologies, but Trevor won't be able to make this meeting today.

He has been asked to attend an in-person meeting, so I need to rejig his diary.  
Apologies for the inconvenience!

**From:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#) (DEECA)  
**Subject:** RE: Unofficial: Baiting fact sheet  
**Date:** Monday, 24 February 2025 2:27:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Thanks [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Will be interesting to hear how this meeting goes tomoro. My boss is attending, so Ill get feedback pretty quickly. Call me if youre keen on an update

Cheers, Brad

[Brad Page](#) | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | CSIRO Building 1, Entry 5, 40 Waite Road, Urrbrae SA 5064 | P: (08) 8429 0803 | M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

---

**From:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#) (DEECA)  
**Sent:** Monday, 24 February 2025 10:42 AM  
**To:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Subject:** Unofficial: Baiting fact sheet

Hi Brad,

Attached is a copy of a baiting fact sheet that was developed to help farmers in the NW.

Cheers,

[Clause 6\(1\)](#)

[Clause 6\(1\)](#)

**Biosecurity Manager – Established Invasive Animals** | Plants, Chemicals & Invasives

Biosecurity and Agriculture Services | Agriculture Victoria

*Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action*

Sending to you from Wadawurrung Country.

30-38 Little Malop Street Geelong, Victoria 3220

**M:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#) | **E:** [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

[Deeca.vic.gov.au](http://Deeca.vic.gov.au)



[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Linkedin](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)



We acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners and their Elders past and present as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters and commit to genuinely partnering with them and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.

Unofficial



The Victorian Government's ceasing of the dingo unprotection order in north-west Victoria in March continues to threaten the livelihoods of livestock producers across Victoria and South Australia, with several reports of producers in the region struggling with the impacts of wild dog attacks.

Geoff Power, Chair of the National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordination Committee and South Australian wool farmer, said this decision was based on questionable wild dog population estimates, leaving sheep and cattle producers in the region ill-equipped to prevent attacks on their livestock.

"We've repeatedly requested to view the scientific report the Victorian Government based their decision on, with no response. As Chair of the National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordination Committee, the reluctance of the Victorian Government to share the report is alarming and raises concerns about the validity of the science used to justify their decision," said Mr Power.

In addition, the National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordination Committee and livestock industry stakeholders have requested the Victorian Government undertake a peer review of the paper that informed their decision - in line with standard practice to inform policy settings - and look forward to seeing results from this review if undertaken.

Mr Power said, "It's not just Victorian farmers who are impacted. There is real concern being felt by South Australian farmers, with 80% of livestock in South Australia residing in the south-east of the state - right on the verge of the unprotection order in north-west Victoria."

As announced last month, the Coordination Committee were pleased by the Victorian Government's announcement to continue the dingo unprotection order in eastern Victoria; however, dingoes are still protected in the north-west of the state.

'We're well aware that wild dogs don't respect state lines. Over the border in Ngarkat Conservation Park in South Australia - which is connected to the Big Desert Wilderness Park in Victoria - recent surveys for wild dogs recorded signs of at least 21 dogs by a professional trapper, in just one small section of the park.

"Given the density of dogs in Ngarkat Conservation Park, I will be recommending to the South Australian Government that professional trappers are engaged in this area with urgency, in line with SA policy for management of dingoes inside the fence," said Mr Power.

Based on this information, the National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordination Committee is calling on the Victorian Government to review all the available data and revisit the end of the dingo unprotection order for the north-west of the state.

The National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordination Committee will continue to actively engage with the Victorian Government on this issue, to ensure livestock producers in Victoria and South Australia are appropriately protected from the very real impacts of inadequate wild dog control measures.

For more information on Australia's approach to wild dog control, visit the National Wild Dog Action Plan website [here](#).

-ENDS-

**Media contact**

Clause 6(1)

National Wild Dog Action Plan Communications

**E:** [comms@wilddogplan.org.au](mailto:comms@wilddogplan.org.au) | **M:** Clause 6(1)

**From:** [Page, Brad \(PIRSA\)](#)  
**To:** [Out of scope](#)  
[Out of scope](#)  
[peter.fleming@dpi.nsw.gov.au](#);  
[Benjamin.allen@usq.edu.au](#); [Out of scope](#)  
[greg.mifsud@invasives.com.au](#); [Out of scope](#)  
[Out of scope](#); [Clause 6\(1\)](#) [Out of scope](#)  
**Subject:** RE: NWDAP - articles of interest  
**Date:** Monday, 23 September 2024 9:10:00 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

Thanks for sharing [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

Thanks to Greg and team and NWDAP members who pulled together responses.

Cheers, Brad

[Brad Page](#) | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | P: (08) 8429 0803 | M: [Clause 6\(1\)](#)

**From:** [comms@wilddogplan.org.au](mailto:comms@wilddogplan.org.au)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 23, 2024 8:52 AM  
**To:** [Out of scope](#)

[Out of scope](#)

**Subject:** NWDAP - articles of interest

Dear NWDAP Coordination Committee,

FYI - please see release from NSW Farmers below around wild dog control. We'll also share this across NWDAP social media.

Also, not sure if these came around last week, but attached is the article Wendy was referring to in our comms meeting last Tuesday (see the one titled 'Prune it back'). The other article attached was kindly sent to us by [Clause 6\(1\)](#) from NFF for distribution to the Committee, as it may also be handy!

With thanks,

[Clause 6\(1\)](#)

[Clause 6\(1\)](#) **National Wild Dog Action Plan Communications**

Email: [comms@wilddogplan.org.au](mailto:comms@wilddogplan.org.au)

Image



**From:** Eliza Fessey, NSW Farmers <[fesseye@nswfarmers.org.au](mailto:fesseye@nswfarmers.org.au)>  
**Date:** Monday, 23 September 2024 at 9:09 AM  
**To:** [comms@wilddogplan.org.au](mailto:comms@wilddogplan.org.au) <[comms@wilddogplan.org.au](mailto:comms@wilddogplan.org.au)>  
**Subject:** Call to keep wild dog control

**NSW Farmers Media Release**

Hi there,

Please see below media release for immediate distribution.

**September 23, 2024**

### **Call to keep wild dog control**

Wild dog and dingo control must be a top priority for NSW, farmers warn, as a Victorian government decision could send the predators swarming across state lines.

The government ruling, due by 1 October, could see the control order for dingoes lifted in Victoria's northeast – rendering these animals a protected species in the state and leaving farmers powerless to stop the predators from attacking and killing their livestock.

Southern Tablelands sheep and cattle farmer John Rolfe said while the NSW government had voiced the concerns of farmers around the issue, more must be done to ensure the control order remained in place.

“Lifting this order means there is nothing Victorian farmers can do to control wild dogs and dingoes and stop them from killing their calves, lambs or other livestock en mass,” Mr Rolfe said.

“Regardless of whether they're a wild dog or a dingo, both species viciously attack and kill livestock, and can travel hundreds of kilometres across the landscape in a week.

“If Victorians can't stop their spread, there's no doubt we will see significant numbers of these predators flooding into NSW and it will be a huge struggle for us to get it under control.”

As debate continues around the protection of wild dogs and dingoes, Mr Rolfe said the state government must be ready to stop the spread of the animals into the state if the control order is lifted

“This isn't just a decision that will affect Victoria – the ramifications of unleashing these wild dogs and dingoes will have a huge impact on NSW producers too,” Mr Rolfe said.

“Setting a wild species loose in our farming communities is not just naive, but seriously dangerous, putting our livestock at a grave risk we simply cannot ignore.

“Understanding the issue is the first step for our government, but now, we need to get coordination and funding secured – and fast – to control these predators before it’s too late.”

--- ENDS ---

Media Contact:

**Eliza Fessey** | 0427 411 220 | [fesseye@nswfarmers.org.au](mailto:fesseye@nswfarmers.org.au)

Ref: MR/083/24

Contact Us

**NSW Farmers**

L4/154 Pacific Hwy St Leonards

MSC: 1300 794 000 | Email: [emailus@nswfarmers.org.au](mailto:emailus@nswfarmers.org.au)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

|

**Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)**

---

**From:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2024 8:41 AM  
**To:** [Redacted] (DEECA)  
**Subject:** FW: Media release: Ongoing dingo protection in north-west Victoria poses risks to livestock producers  
**Attachments:** Media release\_Ongoing dingo protection in north-west Victoria poses risks to livestock producers in SA and Victoria.pdf

Hi [Redacted] and [Redacted]

Below FYI

Cheers, Brad

**Brad Page** | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | P  
(08) 8429 0803 | M: [Redacted]

**From:** comms@wilddogplan.org.au  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 8:34 AM  
**To:** [Redacted]

[Redacted] Page, Brad (PIRSA) ;  
[Redacted]

**Subject:** NWDAP Media release: Ongoing dingo protection in north-west Victoria poses risks to livestock producers

Dear NWDAP Coordination Committee,

Please find attached and below the media release *Ongoing dingo protection in north-west Victoria poses risks to livestock producers*. This release was distributed to media and other stakeholders this morning.

Please also find an image attached to accompany the media release. If you could please share this release through your channels, that would be great!

We have published the release on the NWDAP website here and will share on LinkedIn and X shortly. We will tag your organisation into the LinkedIn post.

With thanks,  
[Redacted]

[Redacted] | **National Wild Dog Action Plan Communications**  
Email: comms@wilddogplan.org.au

**Farley, Lisa (PIRSA)**

**From:** Page, Brad (PIRSA)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 November 2024 8:40 AM  
**To:** Clause 6(1) @deeca.vic.gov.au  
**Subject:** FW: Media release: Ongoing dingo protection in north-west Victoria poses risks to livestock producers  
**Attachments:** Media release\_Ongoing dingo protection in north-west Victoria poses risks to livestock producers in SA and Victoria.pdf

Hi Clause 6(1)

In Clause 6(1) absence, I thought you might be interested in this media release.

Cheers Brad

**Brad Page** | Principal Biosecurity Officer – Pest Animals | Biosecurity Division | Department of Primary Industries and Regions | P  
 (08) 8429 0803 | M. Clause 6(1)

**From:** [comms@wilddogplan.org.au](mailto:comms@wilddogplan.org.au) <[comms@wilddogplan.org.au](mailto:comms@wilddogplan.org.au)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 12, 2024 8:34 AM

**To:** Clause 6(1)

Clause 6(1)

Brad (PIRSA) <[Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au](mailto:Bradley.Page@sa.gov.au)>

Clause 6(1)

Page,

**Subject:** NWDAP Media release: Ongoing dingo protection in north-west Victoria poses risks to livestock producers

Dear NWDAP Coordination Committee,

Please find attached and below the media release *Ongoing dingo protection in north-west Victoria poses risks to livestock producers*. This release was distributed to media and other stakeholders this morning.

Please also find an image attached to accompany the media release. If you could please share this release through your channels, that would be great!

We have published the release on the NWDAP website [here](#) and will share on LinkedIn and X shortly. We will tag your organisation into the LinkedIn post.

With thanks,

Clause 6(1)

Clause 6(1)

**National Wild Dog Action Plan Communications**

Email: [comms@wilddogplan.org.au](mailto:comms@wilddogplan.org.au)

Tue 3/09/2024 3:59 PM


Page, Brad (PIRSA)

**Accepted: Follow up to consultation on dingo conservation and management - meeting with Clause 6(1) from Arthur Rylah Institute**

To Trevor J Pisciotta (DEECA)

When Thursday, 12 September 2024 2:30 PM-3:30 PM (UTC+10:00) Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney.

Location Microsoft Teams Meeting

 We couldn't find this meeting in the calendar. It may have been moved or deleted.  
Page, Brad (PIRSA) has accepted this meeting.