

Declared Animal Policy

This policy relates to natural resources management under section 9(1)(d) of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the Act), enabling co-ordinated implementation and promotion of sound management programs and practices for the use, development or protection of natural resources of the State. Specifically, this policy provides guidance on the use and management of natural resources relating to the prevention or control of impacts caused by pest species of animals that may have an adverse effect on the environment, primary production or the community, as per object s7(1)(f) of the Act.

Wild dogs and dingoes

(Canis familiaris)

This policy applies to dingoes, wild-living domestic dogs and any hybrids, which all have severe impacts on livestock industries in South Australia.

This policy summarises the requirements to manage wild dogs under the following legislative instruments: *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the LSA Act), *Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020* (and associated Chief Executive Notices under Regulations 24 and 25), *Animal and Welfare Act 1985* and *Regulations*; *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*; *Dog Fence Act 1946*; *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*; *Controlled Substances Act 1984* and *Regulations*. This policy also provides interpretation and best practice on how legislative requirements can be met.

Preamble

In South Australia, the management actions that apply to dingoes and wild dogs are delineated by the Dog Fence. Inside the Dog Fence wild dogs are declared for destruction under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (hereafter LSA Act). Dingoes have important cultural roles inside and outside the Dog Fence. Outside the Dog Fence they are managed as unprotected native animals under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* because they also have important cultural and ecological roles.

Despite efforts to maintain the Dog Fence, and ongoing baiting, shooting and trapping programs, wild dog numbers persist in the sheep zone inside the fence and their distribution has expanded further south. Outside the Dog Fence dingoes are valued for their cultural and ecological roles; cattle producers can bait when they experience impacts, but the number of baits is restricted.

This policy outlines control measures required to eradicate wild dogs inside the Dog Fence, whilst managing populations outside the Dog Fence to minimise impacts on cattle.

Definitions

Dingo – Native animal introduced to Australia about 3,500 years ago.

Domestic dog – breeds other than dingoes usually living in association with humans.

Wild dog – wild-living dogs including dingoes, domestic dogs living at large and their hybrids.

Declared to be destroyed – land managers must carry out proper measures to remove all wild dogs.

Purpose

- Protect and support the growth of South Australia's sheep industry.
- Protect and support the growth of South Australia's cattle industry.
- Uphold the cultural role of dingoes in Aboriginal culture, and outside the Dog Fence maintain their ecological role.
- Reduce the risk of wild dogs potentially attacking humans and spreading disease.

Objectives

- Maintain the Dog Fence to prevent incursions of wild dogs.
- Eradicate wild dogs inside the Dog Fence.
- Uphold cultural and ecological roles of dingoes, while minimising the impacts of wild dogs on cattle outside the Dog Fence.

Wild Dogs – Inside the Dog Fence

Feasibility of containment

In 2019, more than two-thirds of the Dog Fence was more than 100 years old – it was ageing and brittle. The new Dog Fence is being built from the best available materials to suit different terrain and pressure on the Dog Fence from wild dogs. The new Dog Fence, maintained at the current standard by the Dog Fence Board, will prevent incursions of wild dogs.

State level risk assessment

The SA Pest Animal Risk Management Guide was used to assess the risks posed by wild dogs and the feasibility of managing incursions inside the Dog Fence. The guide highlighted the need to destroy all wild dogs inside the Dog Fence.

Even once the Dog Fence is rebuilt, there will be incursions, such as when the Dog Fence is damaged by floods or fires. The eradication of wild dogs inside the Dog Fence will require a whole of landscape approach on wild dog control i.e. baiting, trapping and shooting.

The guide also indicated a need to prevent people keeping, moving and selling dingoes.

Management required to eradicate wild dogs inside the Dog Fence

Inside the Dog Fence the wild dog is declared for destruction under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (LSA Act). This requirement applies to all properties, not just those used for livestock production.

The most effective and efficient way to kill the majority of wild dogs is with poison baits. Minimum baiting standards are outlined in Appendix 1 to ensure sufficient wild dogs are destroyed and that baiting programs are effective at a landscape scale. These standards will be implemented through Section 192(1) of the LSA Act and Section 24(1) of the LSA Regulations as determined by the Chief Executive by notice in the Gazette. Some wild dogs are difficult to bait from the ground, and need to be killed by aerial baiting, the use of leg-hold traps (as specified by *Animal Welfare Regulations 2012*) or shooting.

On properties that are certified for organic production, land managers should ensure their property management plans include baiting procedures. Sufficient areas need to be excised so organically certified properties meet minimum baiting standards. Excised areas are often around dams or turkey's nests, and are fenced to exclude organic livestock.

Regional Landscape boards should inform land managers of the required baiting measures and the importance of coordinated landscape-scale management of wild dogs. The boards should try to source external funding to assist land managers in coordinating baiting programs, accessing control tools, and provide training in the areas of greatest impacts. The effectiveness of baiting programs should be reported.

Management required to prevent wild dog incursions through the Dog Fence

Under the *Dog Fence Act 1946*, the Dog Fence must be maintained so that it provides an effective barrier to wild dogs.

In a 35-kilometre-wide buffer zone outside the Dog Fence, including the dog fence along the NSW border to the north of Mulyungarie Station, wild dogs are declared for control under the LSA Act. This requirement applies to all properties.

Minimum baiting standards are outlined in Appendix 1 to ensure wild dog activity is reduced to limit incursions through the Fence. These standards will be implemented through Section 192(3) of the LSA Act and Section 25(1) of the LSA Regulations, as determined by the Chief Executive by notice in the Gazette.

On properties in the buffer zone that are certified for organic production and to assist with their requirements under the LSA Act, land managers should ensure their property management plans include baiting procedures so organic properties can meet the minimum baiting standards.

Management required to prevent dingoes being released inside the Dog Fence

Dingoes and wild dogs pose a safety risk to humans, pets and livestock. Inside the Dog Fence, permits are required to keep, move, sell or release dingoes or their hybrids (under the LSA Act). Permits to keep dingoes have been granted to zoos and wildlife parks, which are open to the public for educational purposes and have a high level of security.

Under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* dingoes are not recognised as a dog breed and so cannot be registered as a domestic dog in South Australia inside the Dog Fence.

Wild Dogs – Outside the Dog Fence

Outside the Dog Fence dingoes are culturally important to Aboriginal people (as they are inside the Fence) and roam free. They also have important ecological functions, including reducing kangaroo numbers outside the Fence.

On Aboriginal Lands, public lands, mining lands and townships, dingoes are typically only controlled when they pose a threat to human safety.

Cattle producers outside the Dog Fence limit their control of dingoes to times and places where they are impacting cattle. The Wild Dog Management Plan of the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board limits the amount of poison bait that can be used.

Management required to minimise impacts on cattle outside the Dog Fence

Where impacts on cattle are demonstrated to be severe, land managers outside the Dog Fence may control dingoes by ground or aerial baiting, shooting, or leg-hold trapping. Some of these activities are managed under the *Animal Welfare Regulations 2012* or policies of the regional Landscape board.

Regional Landscape boards should inform land managers about options to bait dingoes, and the importance of coordinated landscape-scale management. The boards should support land managers with training and coordination of baiting programs.

On properties certified for organic production, land managers should ensure their property management plans include baiting procedures.

Management plan to maintain ecological and Aboriginal cultural values of wild dogs

Aboriginal people in South Australia have strong cultural connections with dingoes, both inside and outside the Dog Fence. The regional management plans of the SA Arid Lands and Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape boards aim to maintain the cultural role of dingoes in lands held by Aboriginal Prescribed Body Corporates and in National Parks outside the Dog Fence. The regional management plans require that the landowners and relevant regional Landscape boards are consulted before any baiting activities are undertaken.

Where remote Indigenous communities neighbour pastoral land, wild dog management programs should include humane, veterinary-based domestic dog population management programs, aiming to stabilise the community dog population to reduce the risk of overflow to wild dog populations.

Management required to reduce risk of wild dogs attacking people

People in remote towns, communities and mine sites are at risk of being attacked by wild dogs, which sometimes become habituated to people. Wild dogs can also carry diseases that can affect humans. Regional Landscape boards should encourage and inform people in these areas not to feed wild dogs, and to fence dumping sites to restrict access by wild dogs.

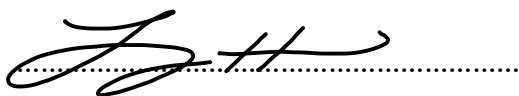
This does not negate any actions that would otherwise be conducted under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

Review

Regional Landscape boards should encourage landholders to collect data on livestock damage and loss, dingo and wild dog sightings, and control activities.

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed in 2029, in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders. The review will evaluate:

- Whether the policy was effectively implemented.
- Whether the livestock industries have been adequately protected and supported.
- Whether the cultural values of dingoes and wild dogs have been maintained, and that their ecological value has been maintained outside of the fence
- Unintended consequences.
- Relevant science around wild dogs and dingoes.



Hon Lucy Hood MP

Minister for Climate, Environment and Water

Date: 17/2/26

LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA ACT 2019

SECTION 192(1)

Notice Requiring Action to Destroy Wild Dogs in the Declared Area

For the purposes of Section 192(1) of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the Act) and in accordance with Regulation 24 of the *Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020* (the Regulations), I, Ben Bruce, Chief Executive of the Department for Environment and Water, hereby notify that, within the declared area of mainland South Australia, an owner of land in a region designated by this notice must take action to destroy wild dogs in the manner set out in this notice.

Designated Regions:

Region 1 comprises the area of South Australia (the State) that is located inside the dog fence but outside council areas under the *Local Government Act 1999*.

Region 2 comprises all properties greater than 300 hectares within the boundaries of the Flinders Ranges Council, District Council of Ororoo Carrieton, District Council of Peterborough, Northern Areas Council, Regional Council of Goyder or District Council of Ceduna.

Region 3 comprises the areas of the Southern Mallee Council, Tatiara Council and Coorong Council incorporating Ngarkat Conservation Park and all properties that have a shared boundary with the Ngarkat Conservation Park.

Region 4 comprises all land mainland South Australia inside the dog fence and not within Regions 1, 2 or 3.

In this notice:

dog fence means the dog-proof fence established and maintained in the northern areas of the State in accordance with subsection 18(2) of the *Dog Fence Act 1946*.

inside the dog fence means land within that portion of the State that is bounded by the dog fence, the eastern border of the State and the coast of the State.

lethal wild dog bait means a wild dog bait containing 0.6mg of Sodium Fluoroacetate (1080) or 1,000mg of Paramino Propriophenome (PAPP).

owner of land means—

- (a) if the land is unalienated from the Crown—the Crown; or
- (b) if the land is alienated from the Crown by grant in fee simple—the owner (at law or in equity) of the estate in fee simple; or
- (c) if the land is held from the Crown by lease or licence—the lessee or licensee, or a person who has entered into an agreement to acquire the interest of the lessee or licensee; or
- (d) if the land is held from the Crown under an agreement to purchase—the person who has the right to purchase; or
- (e) a person who holds native title in the land; or
- (f) a person who has arrogated to themselves (lawfully or unlawfully) the rights of an owner of the land,

and includes an occupier of the land and any other person of a prescribed class included within the ambit of this definition by a regulation made under the Act.

trapping means trapping an animal in a manner that complies with Regulation 9(2) of the *Animal Welfare Regulations 2012*.

wild dog means a dingo; and any dog that is any cross of a dingo; and any feral dog.

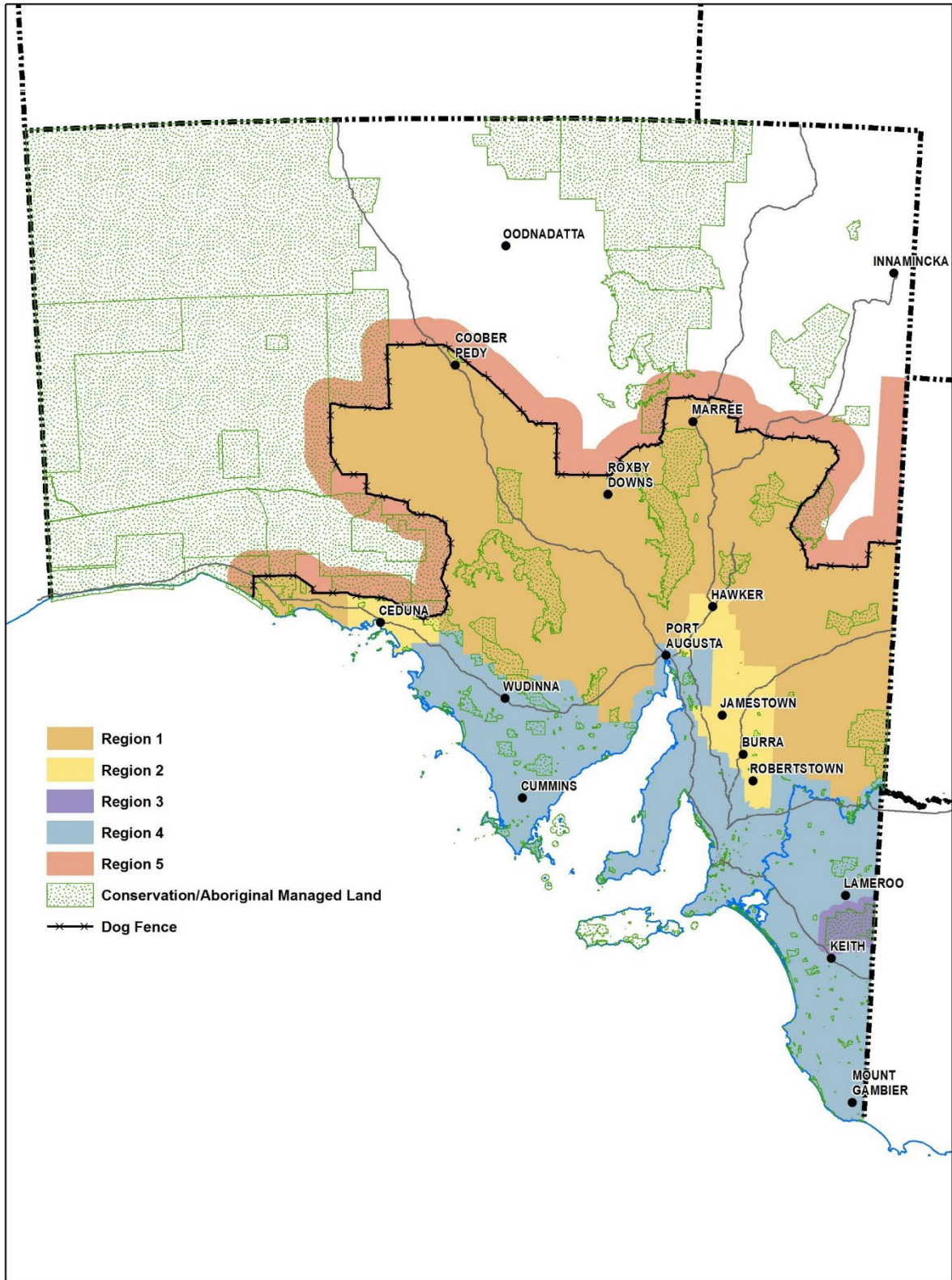
1. In all Regions, baits must be laid in a manner that complies with the “Bait label for Wild Dog Control” set out at the PIRSA website.
2. In all Regions, an owner of land must not bait or trap wild dogs on land they do not own, unless they have permission to do so.
3. In Region 1:

All owners of land must, once every autumn and once every spring (and irrespective of evidence of wild dog activity) lay at least one lethal wild dog bait per 2km² of property and for properties exceeding 2,000km² in size, at least 1,000 baits must be laid, or if organically certified, the land owner must provide to the local landscape board a plan that outlines an alternative method for laying the equivalent amount of baits, once approved by the local landscape board, immediately enact the approved plan.

 - (a) If an owner of land becomes aware of evidence of wild dog activity on that land, they:
 - (i) must, as soon as practicable, report the evidence to all owners of land adjoining that land and the local landscape board; and
 - (ii) must take the following measures:
 - (1) as soon as practicable, within 10 kilometres of such evidence lay at least one lethal wild dog bait per 2km² of property and for properties exceeding 2,000km² in size, at least 1,000 baits must be laid; or
 - (2) if the property is organically certified, the land owner must, as soon as practicable, provide to the local landscape board, for approval by that board, a wild dog control plan that outlines an alternative method for laying the equivalent amount of baits, based on baiting within 10 kilometres of such evidence, laying at least one lethal wild dog bait per 2km² of property and for properties exceeding 2,000km² in size, at least 1,000 baits must be laid, once approved by the local landscape board, immediately enact the approved plan;
 - (3) Whether the property is organically certified or not, if wild dog activity is still detected after one month of baits being laid, repeat the baiting or undertake trapping or employ the services of a professional trapper to destroy all wild dogs until no further evidence is detected for a period of at least one month and report the continued wild dog activity and control activities to all adjoining owners of the land and the local landscape board contemporaneously with the further control activities.
4. In Region 2:
 - (a) If an owner of land becomes aware of evidence of wild dog activity on that land, they:
 - (i) must, as soon as practicable, report the evidence to all owners of land adjoining that land and the local landscape board; and
 - (ii) The owner of the land, and the owners of all land adjoining that land, must take the following measures:
 - (1) as soon as practicable, lay ten lethal wild dog baits per 100 hectares of land, or one bait at minimum intervals of 200 metres along any established vehicle tracks or roads; or
 - (2) if the property is organically certified, the land owner must, as soon as practicable, provide to the local landscape board, for approval by that board, a wild dog control plan that outlines an alternative method for laying the equivalent amount of baits, based on baiting within 10 kilometres of such evidence, laying at least one lethal wild dog bait along every 200 metres of any established vehicle track or road and, once approved by the local landscape board, immediately enact the approved plan;
 - (3) Whether the property is organically certified or not, if wild dog activity is still detected after one month of baits being laid, repeat the baiting or undertake trapping or employ the services of a professional trapper to destroy all wild dogs until no further evidence is detected for a period of at least one month and report the continued wild dog activity and control activities to all adjoining owners of the land and the local landscape board contemporaneously with the further control activities.
5. In Region 3:
 - (a) If an owner of land becomes aware of evidence of wild dog activity on that land, they must, as soon as practicable, report the evidence to all owners of land adjoining that land and the local landscape board.
 - (b) Within Ngarkat Conservation Park:
 - (i) The owner of the land must provide to the local landscape board, for approval by that board, a plan which provides for baiting within the Ngarkat Conservation Park and, once approved by the local landscape board, immediately enact the approved plan.
 - (ii) The plan must include the following requirements:
 - (1) That periodic baiting is to address the whole of the Ngarkat Conservation Park;
 - (2) That periodic baiting is to occur four times per year;
 - (3) That the location of periodic baiting must be identified e.g. through identifying tracks to be baited;
 - (4) That lethal baits must be laid at minimum intervals of 500 metres along any track identified and every 250 metres along the vehicle track that borders Victoria.
 - (c) Outside Ngarkat Conservation Park:
 - (i) If the owner of land becomes aware of wild dog activity on their land, that owner and the owners of all land adjoining that land, must undertake the following measures:
 - (1) as soon as practicable, lay baits at minimum intervals of 500 metres along established tracks or roads;
 - (d) Within all of Region 3:
 - (i) If wild dog activity is still detected after one month of baits being laid, repeat the baiting or undertake trapping or employ the services of a professional trapper to destroy all wild dogs until no further evidence is detected for a period of at least one month and report the continued wild dog activity and control activities to all adjoining owners of the land and the local landscape board contemporaneously with the further control activities.
6. In Region 4:
 - (a) If an owner of land becomes aware of evidence of wild dog activity on that land, they must, as soon as practicable, report the evidence to the local landscape board and should report that evidence to all owners of land adjoining that land; and
 - (b) must comply with any instructions of the board to destroy wild dogs on that land.

Note—REGION 5 is addressed under a separate Notice pursuant to Section 192(3)(a) of the Act and Regulation 25 of the Regulations.

DESIGNATED REGIONS



Dated: 26 February 2026

BEN BRUCE
Chief Executive, Department for Environment and Water