

Dog Fence Board

Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

17 May 2023 – 28 August 2023



Dog Fence Board – Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

Information current as of 28 August 2023

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Objective

This report, prepared by the Dog Fence Board, provides Dog Fence stakeholders with a quarterly report summarising Board and staff activities, and Dog Fence maintenance and repair activities undertaken by Local Dog Fence Boards and the private owner.

Key Activities

During the reporting period:

- Patrolmen deployed approximately 3,402 baits along the fence.
- The Dog Fence Board undertook its annual inspection trip (eastern half of fence).
- Lyndhurst depot maintenance and annual stock take.
- Stage 2 flood repair works commenced on the Frome section.
- Continued granulated herbicide project, targeting weeds along the fence – prototype mechanical applicator successfully field tested and herbicide applied to 155 kilometers in the Frome section.
- Patrolmen trialling new peg designs along fence.
- Took delivery of crane trailer to allow the Board to better transport materials on Dog Fence.
- Dog Fence Board completed purchase of a second depot at Coober Pedy to allow stockpile of emergency materials for the western end of the fence.
- All Local Boards held their AGMs attended by Local Board members, Dog Fence Board members and Board staff.

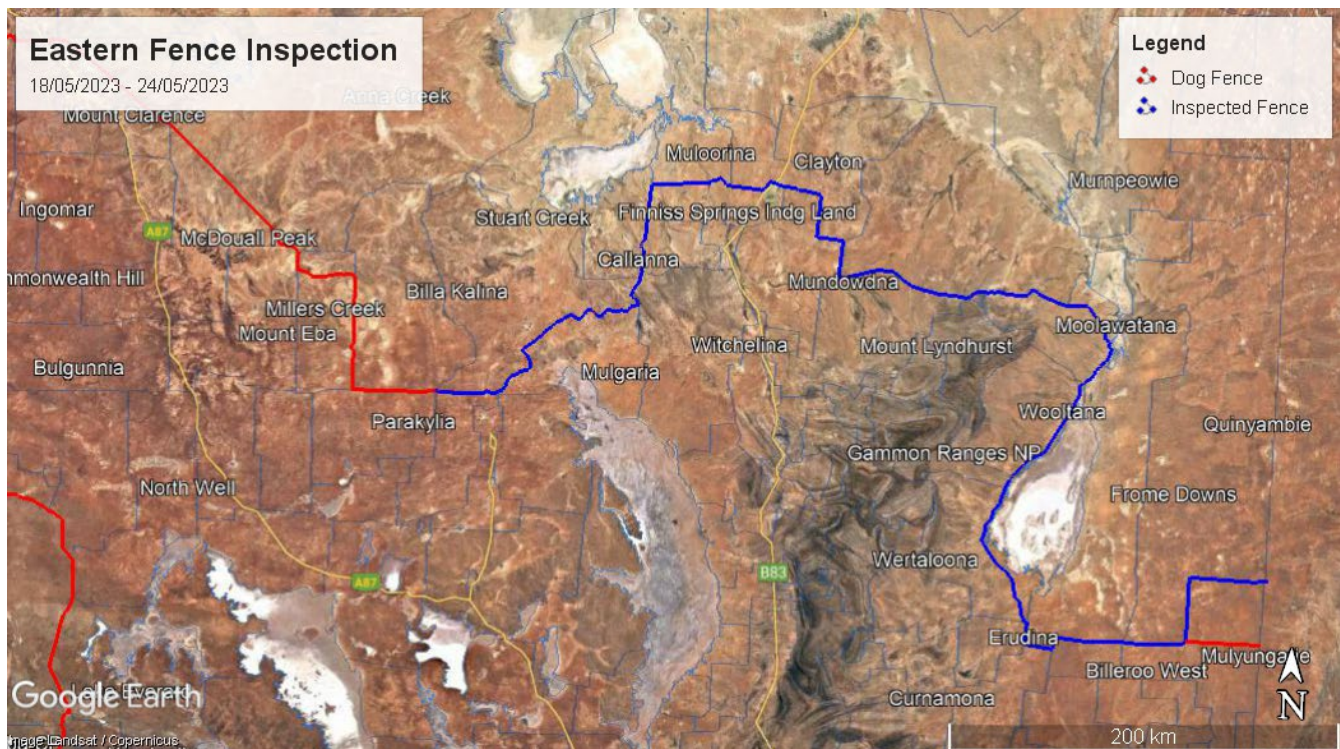
Inspections and Patrols

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

Eastern Fence – Annual Dog Fence Board Inspection

Frome, Marree, Central – 867 km approx.

- Mulyungarie NE corner showing signs of age and constant kangaroo and emu pressure from the North. Patrolman to continue general repairs and topping installation until completion of NSW 32 km border fence.
- Billeroo and Erudina rebuilt fence settling well after rebuilding, sand drift starting to appear on Erudina section (Frome).
- Wertaloona sections not marked for rebuild require lap mesh to be pegged down or replaced as a priority –1,000 pegs supplied to Patrolman to complete.
- Insulators to be replaced and faults corrected on bottom wire west of energiser to Mount Freeling (Frome).
- Observed the near completion of Stage 3 fence and floodgates (Marree).
- Witchelina sections not marked for rebuild requires lap mesh to be pegged down or replaced as a priority –1,000 pegs to Patrolman to complete.
- Buried lap trial showing signs of calcification and oxidizing after 24 months in ground (Marree).
- Met with Dog Fence stakeholders to discuss upcoming works in the area (Central).
- Met with the Minister of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Australian Wool Innovations representative, Sheep Industry Fund representative and the Dog Fence Rebuild Committee to inspect the completed rebuild works near Roxby Downs.
- Inspected fence and all sections are dog proof unless stated otherwise; grid alarms operational.



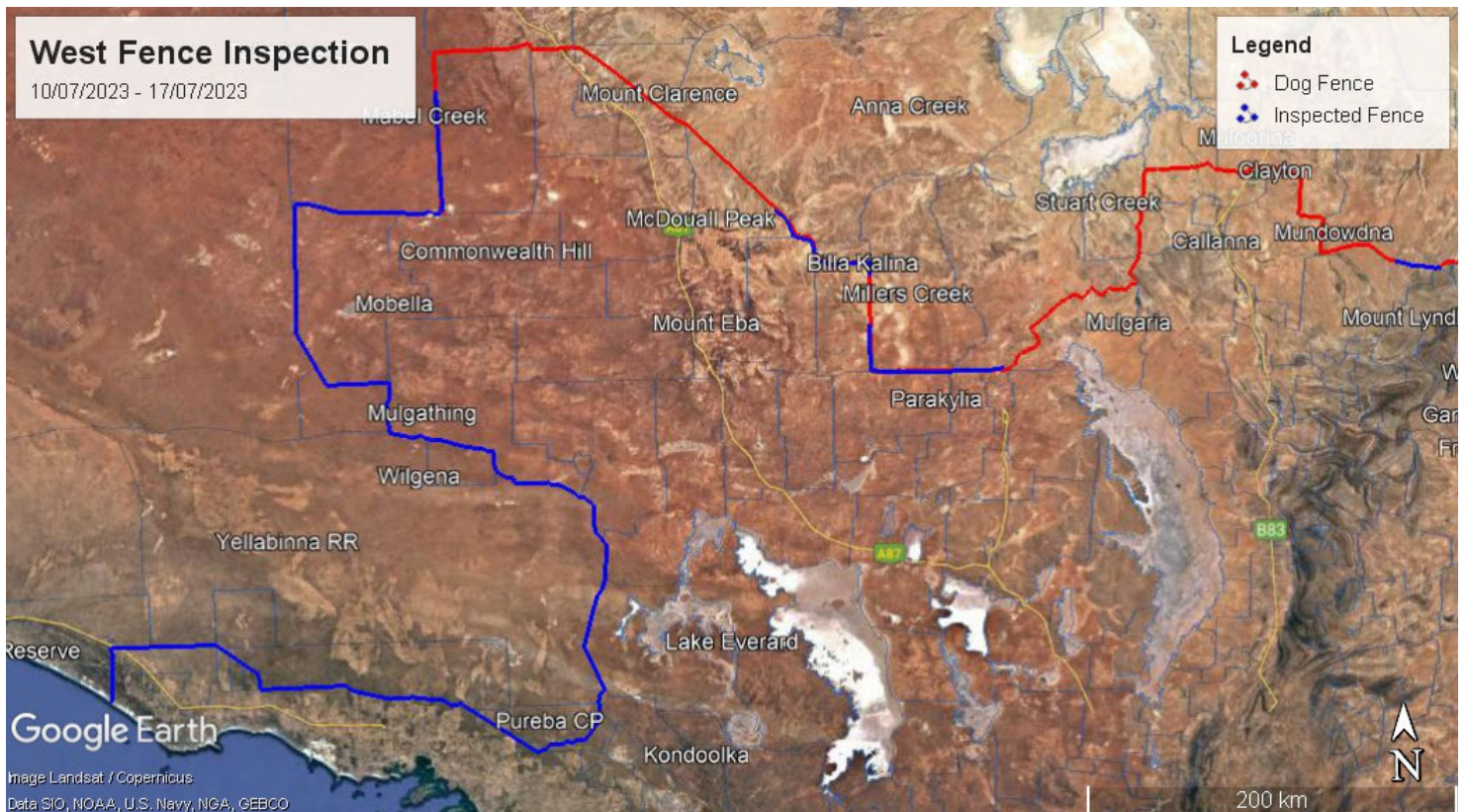


Dog Fence Board meeting with Fence Stakeholders – Mulgaria (Central)

Western Fence Inspection

Marree, Central, Northwest Private, Penong – 1,080 km approx.

- Annual stock take completed at Lyndhurst depot.
- Delivered materials and met with contractor at Mount Lyndhurst; Stage 3 of the Rebuild has been completed and redeploying camp to commence further works at Mount Freeling (Stage 12) including the floodway replacements for Marree and Frome LDFBs.
- Met with Fence stakeholders at Mount Lyndhurst and Mulgathing stations.
- Delivered sample pegs to Central and Penong Patrolmen.
- ~250 km of fence was inaccessible and unable to be inspected between Millers Creek and Mabel Creek due to poor track conditions after recent 50 mm rainfall. Central Patrolman has been able to complete the run with detours.
- Delivered materials and met with Northwest Private Patrolmen.
- Increased wombat activity and damage noted in Northwest Private and Penong sections of fence and track.
- Met with contractors working on the Penong LDFB Fence Rebuild and earthworks.
- Installed no access signs on privately owned gates through the Dog Fence.
- Reinspected herbicide trial plots.
- Inspected sections of fence are dog proof unless stated otherwise; grid alarms operational.



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Dog Fence Rebuild Stage 10 – Lake Everard



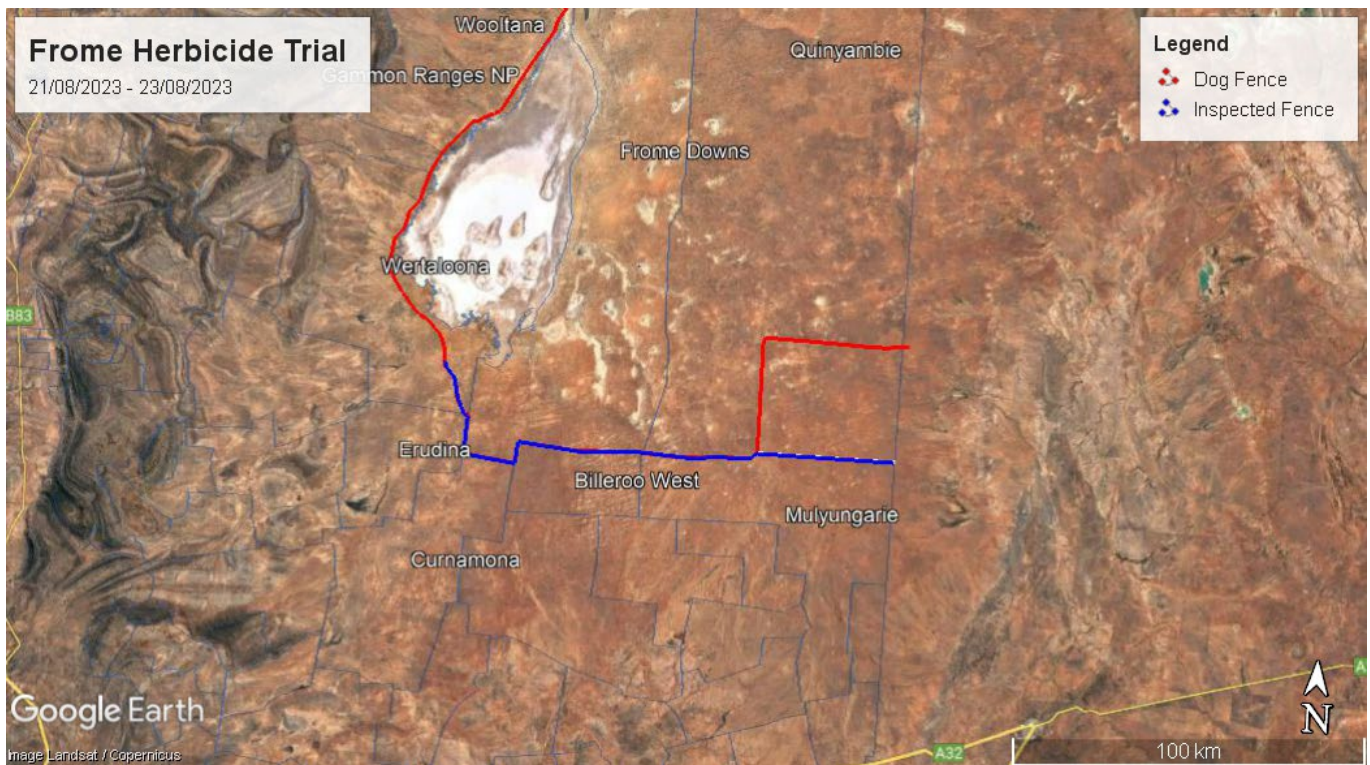
Active wombat hole under Dog Fence – Northwell

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Herbicide Applicator Trials - East Fence

Frome – 156 km approx.

- Commenced testing of DFB's prototype herbicide applicator.
- Treated 156 km of fence.
- Tried different granulated herbicides split into 3 linear plots.
- Results and findings to influence future weed control.
- Grid on southern Tea Tree Road requires clearing – DIT notified.
- Dog and multiple camel tracks seen on Quinyambie and Frome Downs sections of fence.
- Inspected sections of fence are dog proof unless stated otherwise; grid alarms operational.



Tea Tree Road Grid – North side



Tea Tree Road Grid – South side

Local Dog Fence Boards & Private owner

During the reporting period:

- The fence was inspected at a minimum of every 14 days by the Penong, Northwest Private, Central, Marree and Frome Patrolmen.
- Patrolmen baited at a rate of 1 bait per 1 km, or 1 bait per 200 m where there was dog activity.
- Patrolmen reported wild dog activity in Penong and Marree sections.
- Increased sightings of feral pigs around the Dog Fence and neighbouring properties in the Frome and Marree sections.
- Increased kangaroo pressure north of the fence, particularly Marree and Frome.

Dog Fence Rebuild

On 15 June 2023, the State Government committed an additional \$1.6 million to the rebuild of the Dog Fence, bringing the total project budget to \$26.6 million. The SA livestock industry has also committed, in-principle, an additional \$0.8 million. Following substantial increases in prices over the past two years, this additional funding is to ensure 1,600 kilometres of fence will be rebuilt. Discussion with the Commonwealth for additional funding is on-going.

As of 31 July, \$18,671,412.13 (GST excl.) has been spent on the rebuild of the Dog Fence (74.69 per cent of the \$26.6 million project budget). The total costs for six stages (1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7) have now been calculated. This covers 577.5 kilometres. Total costs include all materials, fence construction, freight, project management (staff salaries and vehicle lease fees) and all other peripheral costs required to rebuild the fence. The average per kilometre cost from the six completed stages is \$19,677.

As of 18 August, 876.5 kilometres of fence rebuild has been completed and the rebuild of an additional 52 kilometres of fence is underway.

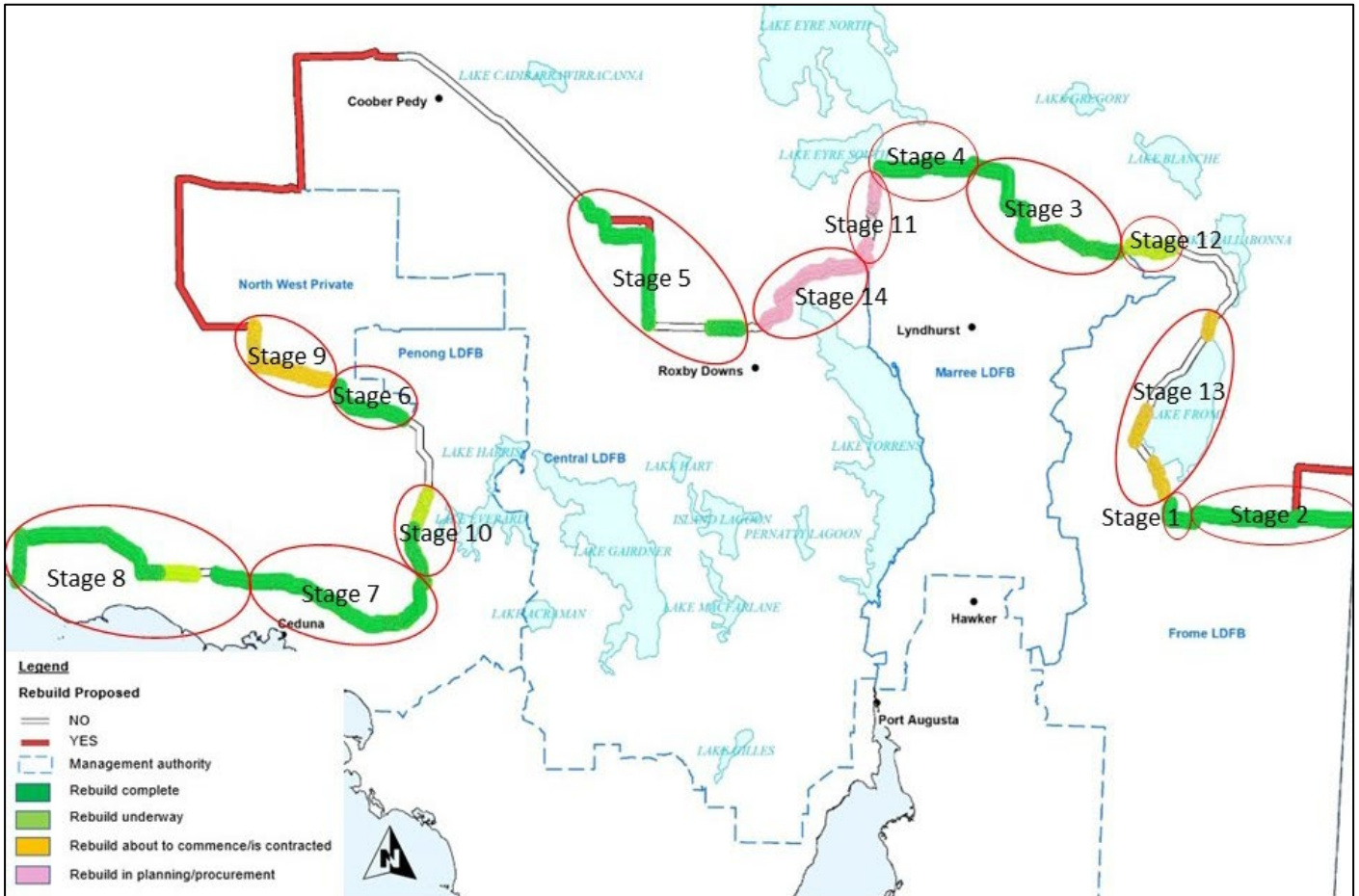
The rebuild of Stage 12 has commenced; Stage 12 is a 30-kilometre section of fence adjacent to Mount Freeling and Moolawatana pastoral leases in the north Flinders Ranges. Much of this stage was damaged by floodwaters in January 2022 and temporary repairs were completed at the time to ensure the fence remained dog-proof. The work to be completed under the rebuild project will see these temporary repairs replaced with permanent fencing to the rebuild standard.

Stage 10 (adjacent to Lake Everard; 63 kilometres) is progressing well, as is the Dog Fence and associated wombat fencing of Stage 8 (154 kilometres).

Planning is underway for the rebuild of fence adjacent to Callanna (83 kilometres), with cultural surveys for a proposed realignment to be conducted by the Arabana Aboriginal Corporation on 29-30 August. Planning is also underway for the procurement of goods and services for the 122-kilometre stretch of fence adjacent to Mulgaria and Witchelina.

Progress as of 18 August 2023

Rebuild completed	876.5 km
Rebuild underway	52 km
Rebuild about to commence/contracted	182 km
Rebuild planning/procurement underway	149 km



Conclusion

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

- Implementing a weed control program across the fence.
- Deploying prototype herbicide applicator to Penong LDFB to apply herbicide on newly rebuilt sections.
- Continuation of Dog Fence Rebuild.
- Relocate leftover flood repair materials to containers along fence.
- Completion of Frome floodway repair/replacement.
- Stocking Coober Pedy depot with materials.
- Issue of 2023/24 Dog Fence rates.