

# Dog Fence Board

## Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

2 September 2024 – 9 December 2024



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

Information current as of 9 December 2024

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# Contents

Objective .....	4
Key Activities .....	4
Inspections and Patrols .....	4
Local Dog Fence Boards & Private owner.....	5
Dog Fence Rebuild.....	5
SA Trapper Program .....	7
Conclusion .....	8

## 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:

### Operational:

- Prepared 4,187 poison baits for local boards.
- Deployed 20,000 poison baits aurally on properties south of the Dog Fence in collaboration with PIRSA.
- Completed procurement for replacement grid alarm assets.
- Completed updates to the rates database.
- Issued 2024/25 Dog Fence rates.

### Recruitment and Staffing:

- Finalised recruitment for the Dog Fence Program Manager position.
- Commenced recruitment for the Auditor – Dog Fence Maintenance and Business Support Officer positions.

### Technology and Innovation:

- Continued development of the digital patrolman reporting application to enhance reporting efficiency.
- Initiated procurement for trapping and camera equipment.

### Collaboration and Capacity Building:

- Met with NSW's Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to discuss the Wild Dog Fence Extension Project.
- Facilitated trapping and herbicide applicator training workshop for Penong, Central, Marree, and Frome patrollers.

### Governance and Reporting:

- Submitted the Dog Fence Board Annual Report to the Auditor General.

## Inspections and Patrols

No inspections were undertaken during the reporting period due to staff shortages.

## Local Dog Fence Boards & Private owner

During the reporting period:

- The fence was inspected at a minimum of every 14 days by the Penong, Northwest Private, Central, Marree and Frome patrollers.
- Patrolmen baited at a rate of 1 bait per 1 kilometre, or 1 bait per 200 metres where there was dog activity.
- Patrolmen reported wild dog activity in all sections.
- Reports and sightings of feral camels and damage caused by feral camels in all local board and private owner sections.
- Continued wild dog activity reported around Miller's Creek and the western end of Parakylia.

## Dog Fence Rebuild

As of 29 November 2024, about 1,026 kilometres of the fence have been rebuilt (see map below).

The total project expenditure to 30 November 2024 is \$22,376,776.33 (GST excl.) (81.7 per cent of the \$27.4 million project budget).

### **Frome Local Dog Fence Board area:**

- 220 kilometres of fence has been completed in the Frome LDFB.
- The thirteenth stage runs along the west side of Lake Frome. There are 68 kilometres of fence to rebuild. Replacement of the lap at the northern end of this stage (14 kilometres) has been completed. Of the remaining 54 kilometres, about 49 kilometres of prefabricated mesh has been erected (but not yet pegged down), 5 kilometres of posts left to install and about three floodgates to complete.
- The completion of the thirteenth stage will see 239 kilometres of fence built in the Frome LDFB (59 per cent of fence) as part of the rebuild project.

### **Marree Local Dog Fence Board area:**

- 221 kilometres of fence has been completed in the Marree LDFB.
- Part of the fourteenth stage is the rebuild of the fence adjacent to Witchelina (18 kilometres). Contracts have been awarded for the rebuild of the fence, which is expected to commence in 2025.
- The completion of the fourteenth stage will see 239 kilometres of fence built in the Marree LDFB (85 percent of fence) as part of the rebuild project.

**Central Local Dog Fence Board area:**

- 157 kilometres of fence has been completed in the Central LDFB
- Part of the fourteenth stage is the rebuild of the fence adjacent to Mulgaria (104 kilometres). Contracts have been awarded for the rebuild of the fence, which is expected to commence in 2025.
- Part of the fifteenth stage is the upgrade and installation of electric fence for to deter feral camels adjacent to Mabel Creek and Mount Clarence (156 kilometres). This section will only proceed if funding is available.
- The completion of the fourteenth stage will see 261 kilometres of fence built in the Central LDFB (43 percent of fence); if the fifteenth stage is completed, 417 kilometres of fence will be built in the Central LDFB (68 per cent of fence) as part of the rebuild project.

**Privately-owned Northwest section:**

- 81 kilometres of fence has been completed in the north-west section.
- The ninth stage of the rebuild is 84 kilometres adjacent to Mulgathing. About 20 kilometres of fence has been completed, and grading has been completed for an additional 16 kilometres in preparation for fence construction.
- Part of the fifteenth stage of the rebuild of the Dog Fence runs adjacent to Mobella (192 kilometres) and Commonwealth Hill (21 kilometres) This rebuild requires installation and upgrade of electric fencing to deter feral camels from damaging the fence. Contracts have been awarded for the first 192 kilometres; the remaining 21 kilometres is dependent on funding.
- The completion of the fifteenth stage will see between 273 and 294 kilometres of fence completed in the privately-owned north-west section (between 76 and 82 per cent of fence) as part of the rebuild project.

**Penong Local Dog Fence Board area:**

- 349 kilometres of fence has been completed in the Penong LDFB.
- There is no further work scheduled for this area; 77 per cent of the fence has been rebuilt as part of the project.

**Procurement for future sections:**

- The contract to supply materials for the fifteenth stage has been awarded and is with the supplier for signing.
- The contract to supply fencing services for the fifteenth stage has been awarded
- Both contracts have an extension clause to cover the remaining 156 kilometres if \$1.6 million is secured through State Government.



- The trappers have worked on 170 different properties since 2018. Seven properties have engaged the trappers every year of the program; 90 properties have only engaged the trappers in one year.
- Since 2018, 857 wild dogs have been removed through the program; most of these have been trapped. for the location of wild dogs destroyed since 1 January 2024.
- 64 per cent of the dogs removed were male; 36 per cent female.
- Most wild dogs are removed from January to March; July-September is the quiet period. We are just starting to see the number of reports of wild dog sign increase now, and three dogs have been removed in the past two weeks.

The program is currently funded until June 2026; if funding is secured the program may extend until 2030. The trappers have spent 305 hours training property staff in how to trap dogs; this needs to continue, or preferably increased so that when the program is completed, property staff can continue to trap wild dogs.

## Conclusion

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

- Finalise recruitment process for the Auditor – Dog Fence Maintenance position.
- Complete recruitment process for the Business Support Officer position.
- Complete procurement for trapping and camera equipment.
- Commence procurement for materials and contractor to replace 2 stock grids (Penong).
- Collection of 2024/25 Dog Fence rates notices.
- Debt collection of 2023/24 Dog Fence rates.
- Continue work on rates database program upgrades.
- Continue work on digital patroller reporting app.
- Update Dog Fence condition scoring document and map.
- Continuation of Dog Fence Rebuild Project.