

# PIRSA

## Dog Fence Board

Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

1 June to 28 September 2020



# Dog Fence Board - Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

Information current as of 27 September 2020

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## All Enquiries

Josh Rosser, Inspector – Dog Fence  
Invasive Species Unit, Biosecurity SA  
Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA)  
CSIRO Building 1, Entry 4 Waite Road, Urrbrae SA 5064  
GPO Box 1671, Adelaide SA 5001  
T 08 8429 3219 M 0484 007 439  
E [Joshua.Rosser2@sa.gov.au](mailto:Joshua.Rosser2@sa.gov.au)

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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

### Dog Fence Board

During the reporting period:

- Board staff undertook a review of the Patrolmen's contracts. The main reason is to better clarify what work is deemed to be patrols and what is deemed additional work needing additional payments. These have been sent to Local Dog Fence Boards for comment.
- Board staff have developed a Patrolmen's reporting template. This report is a requirement after each patrol. It has been refined to standardise the information, and provide more usable data for each fence section. These have been trialled by some patrolmen to fine tune its use. These have been sent to Local Dog Fence Boards for comment.
- Board staff have developed a rebuild/maintenance prioritisation template. The aim of the template is to record fence condition along the entire fence to better guide the Dog Fence Rebuild Project.
- 5 fence inspections have been conducted for inspection of fence condition and rebuild mapping.
- The annual Dog Fence Board trip was planned for September, was cancelled due to the on farm commitments of Board Members. A Dog Fence mapping inspection was conducted instead, by the Dog Fence Inspector and Program Manager.
- The Dog Fence Inspector received training in the Dog Fence Rates Database, and is working on updating the database ahead of rates notices going out at the end of September.
- Board staff have taken delivery of significant amount of pallet racking to increase depot capacity and safety at Lyndhurst.
- The Dog Fence Board Tractor and post knocker were relocated to Lyndhurst Depot and tagged out of use. Maintenance will be undertaken and a Safe Operating Procedure will be developed before the tractor is deemed safe to use.
- The Board commenced the development of a Work, Health and Safety improvement plan for the Lyndhurst Depot. A timeline has been put in place to achieve these goals.
- The Board distributed a total of 1840 manufactured 1080 baits to patrolmen for deployment along fence.
- 2 Advance Communications Wild Dog Beeper units have been installed on Dog Fence grids/ramps and rail crossings. One in the Penong LDFB and the other in the Central LDFB. A Safe Operating Procedure has been developed for these units.
- Safe Operating Procedures have also been developed for the Rebar Tying machine and Forklift use at the Lyndhurst Depot

- Board Staff and the Board Chair attended the AGMs of the Penong (Charra), Central (Glendambo), Marree (Lyndhurst) and Frome (Yunta) Local Dog Fence Boards. Board Members also attended the Central and Frome AGMs. Topics covered at the AGMs included:
  - Financial reports
  - Local Dog Fence Board Governance
  - Local Dog Fence Board Incorporation
  - Election of Officers
  - Dog Fence Rebuild update
  - Review of 2020/21 draft budget and contractor rate
  - Review of Patrolmen's contract
  - General business

## Contractors

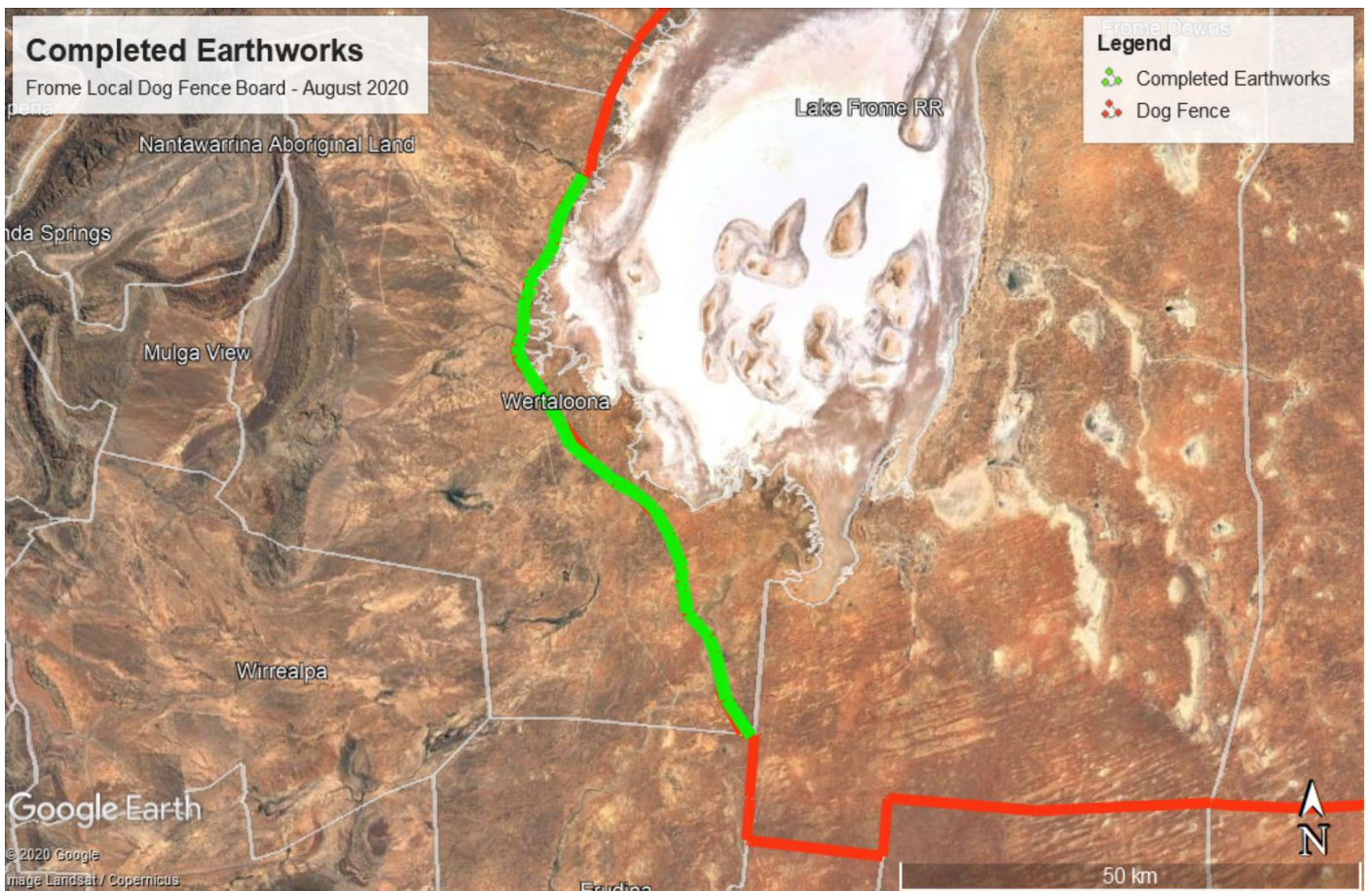
Significant earthworks have been completed along the Dog Fence from the Erudina/Wertalooona boundary to Big John Creek. These works were carried out by an earthmoving contractor working under instruction of the Frome Local Dog Fence Board to manage sand drift and track condition. This work minimises the need for the Patrolmen to top the fence to maintain it at an acceptable height and also maintains an access track for fence inspections. A D6H Dozer and 120H Grader have been used to shift the sand, with a combined 168 plant work hours undertaken. Work has focussed on sand drift management, track maintenance, erosion control and creek crossing improvement.



Typical creek crossing – erosion channel developing on entry.



Volume of sand drift that has been common in the Frome LDFB area



# Inspections & patrols

## Dog Fence Board

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

Condition inspection	
Date	29 June – 5 July 2020
Section/s	Penong, North East Private, Central
Location description	Fowlers Bay to Roxby Downs – approx. 1270kms
Inspected by	Inspector, Dog Fence
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspected western half of Dog Fence.</li> <li>• Inspected fence maintenance works.</li> <li>• Inspected new grid alarms installed in Penong LDFB section.</li> <li>• Marked out Herbicide trial plots with Penong LDFB Patrolman.</li> <li>• Fowlers Bay, Penong, Pureba Fence is in a dog-proof condition. Lap wire along coastal strip has been flagged needing replacement. Curling of lap was noted in other areas. This was discussed with Patrolman and Board member during inspection. Wombats have been causing significant issues along this fence. No wild dog activity observed.</li> <li>• Lake Everard and Wilgena Fence is in a dog-proof condition. Vegetation is an issue in this fence. The maintenance track will require monitoring to maintain its condition. Very soft sand in places.</li> <li>• North West Private Fence is in a dog-proof condition. Vegetation is an issue in the southern sections. Discussion with managers has shown that they have been addressing it but the dry conditions have limited its success rate with granular herbicide. This fence is under constant camel pressure, with camel activity noted all along this fence section.</li> <li>• Mabel Creek, Mount Clarence, Balta Baltana Fence is in a dog-proof condition. Some minor camel damage noted on Mabel Creek. Inspector did temporary repairs and discussed permanent repair with Patrolman. Camel activity was noted all along this fence section. Large mobs of Kangaroos were noted along this fence also adding to fence pressure.</li> <li>• Millers Creek Fence is in a dog-proof condition. The track on the northern end of Millers Creek requires urgent attention. Erosion guttering could become a major issue with run off from the nearby hills.</li> <li>• Parakylia, Roxby Downs and Cat Fence is in a dog-proof condition.</li> </ul>

	<p>There is a section of lap along Roxby Downs that could be replaced, have discussed this with Patrolman.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weed control needed along various sections of Penong, North West Private and Central. Patrolmen are all attending to this, lack of rain has affected the uptake of chemical.</li> </ul>
<p>Recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation is an issue along various sections. All patrolman to continue with management. As herbicide trial results become available, switch to most effective granular product.</li> <li>• Various sections of lap wire require pinning or replacement. This has been discussed with patrolmen and needs LDFB approval to proceed.</li> <li>• Millers Creek track earthworks have been quoted and tabled at Central LDFB AGM.</li> <li>• Utilise rebuild/maintenance prioritisation template. Use this to help guide fence maintenance and rebuild process to a consistent standard.</li> </ul>



The End of the Dog Fence at Fowlers Bay



Fowlers Bay Dog Fence near coast

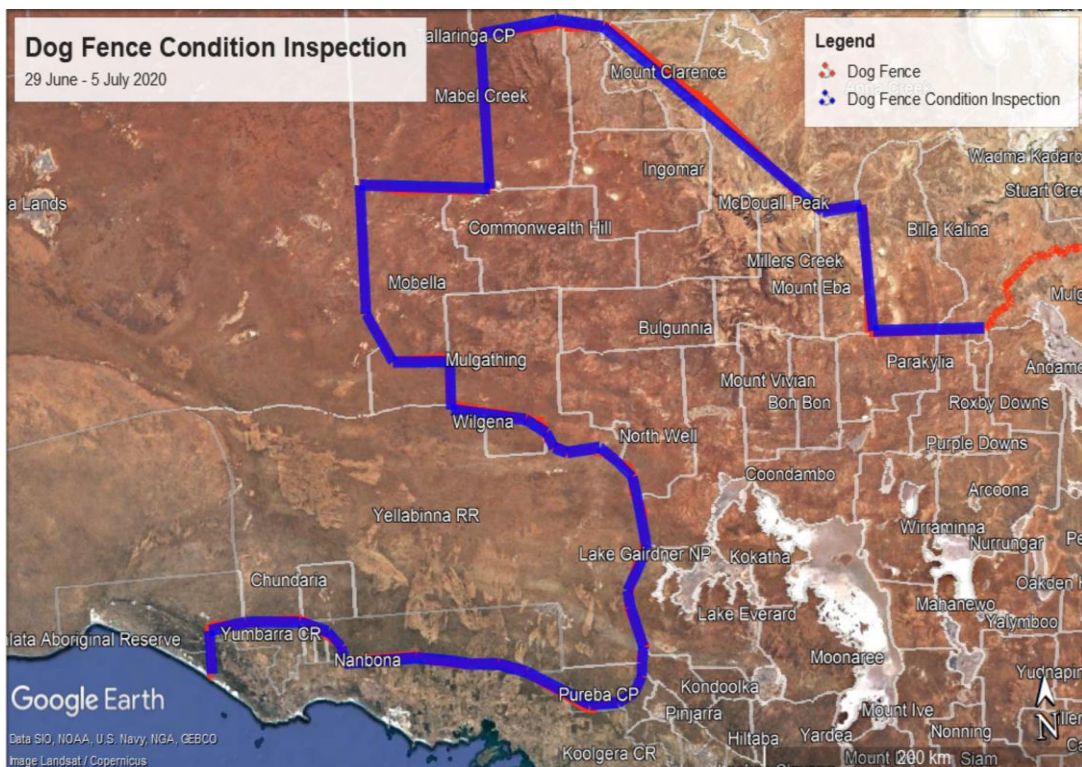




Track erosion requiring work on Millers Creek



The Parakylia Fence



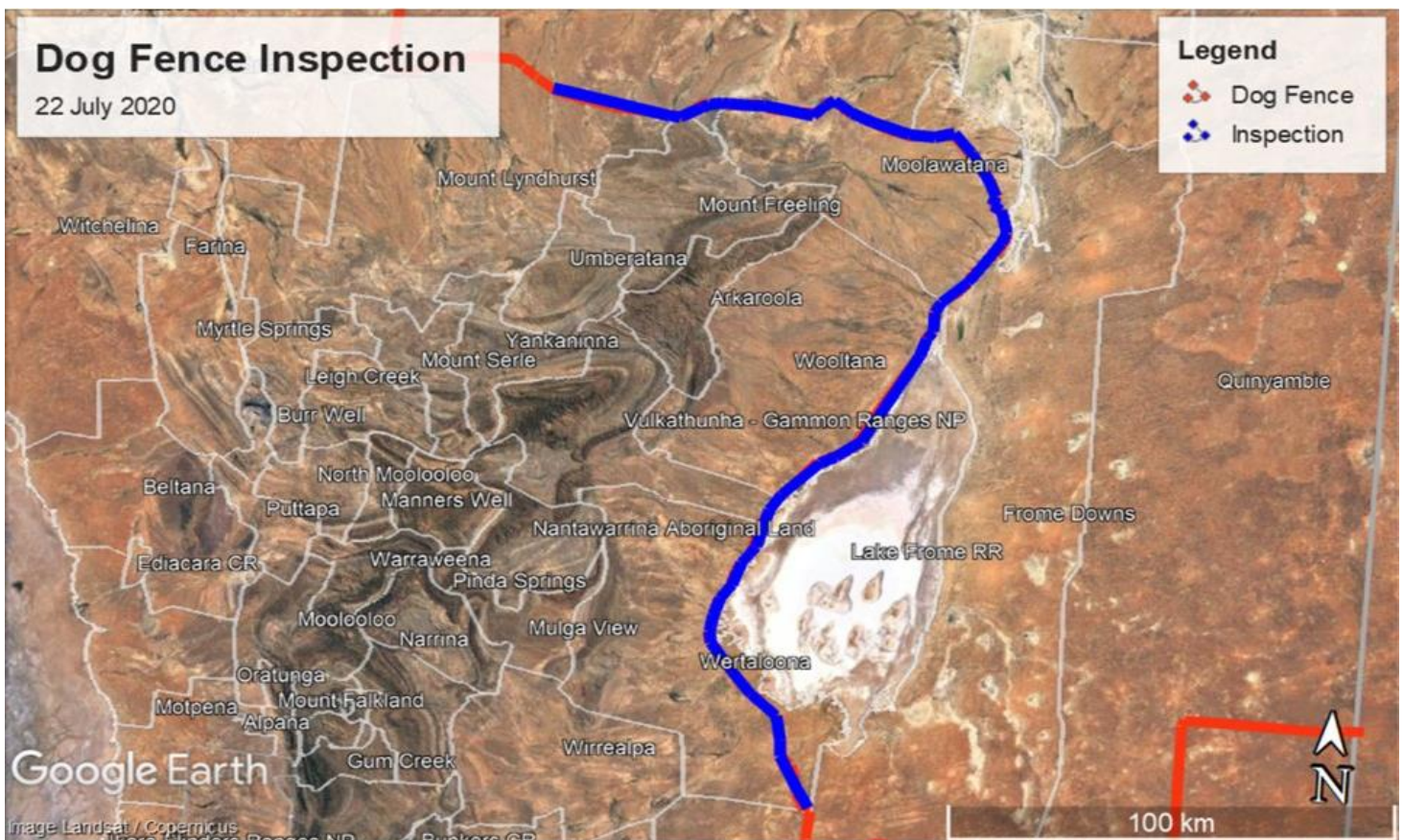
Dog Fence Inspection	
Date	22 July 2020
Section/s	Frome/Marree
Location description	North end of Erudina to the Strezlecki Track, Mt Lyndhurst
Inspected by	Dog Fence Inspector, Dog Fence Program Manager, Dog Fence Rebuild Inspector
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspected completed sand removal works.</li> <li>• Inspected sand and track issues on Moolawatana and Mt Freeling.</li> <li>• Made minor repairs to track at 2 creek crossings.</li> <li>• Followed camel tracks for many kilometres along Wertalooona. Continued monitoring required as camels are not usually in this location. Brumbies also noted on Wertalooona section.</li> <li>• Fence in a dog-proof condition.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Dog Fence Board continue to support the Frome Local Dog Fence Board to carry out sand removal and track maintenance works north of Erudina to Big John Creek.</li> <li>• Continue to monitor camels, as they are not usually in this location. A rise in numbers will add to fence pressure.</li> <li>• Monitor track issues on Moolawatana and Mt Freeling. At this time no major earthworks required.</li> </ul>



Minor Track repair - Before



Minor Track repair – After



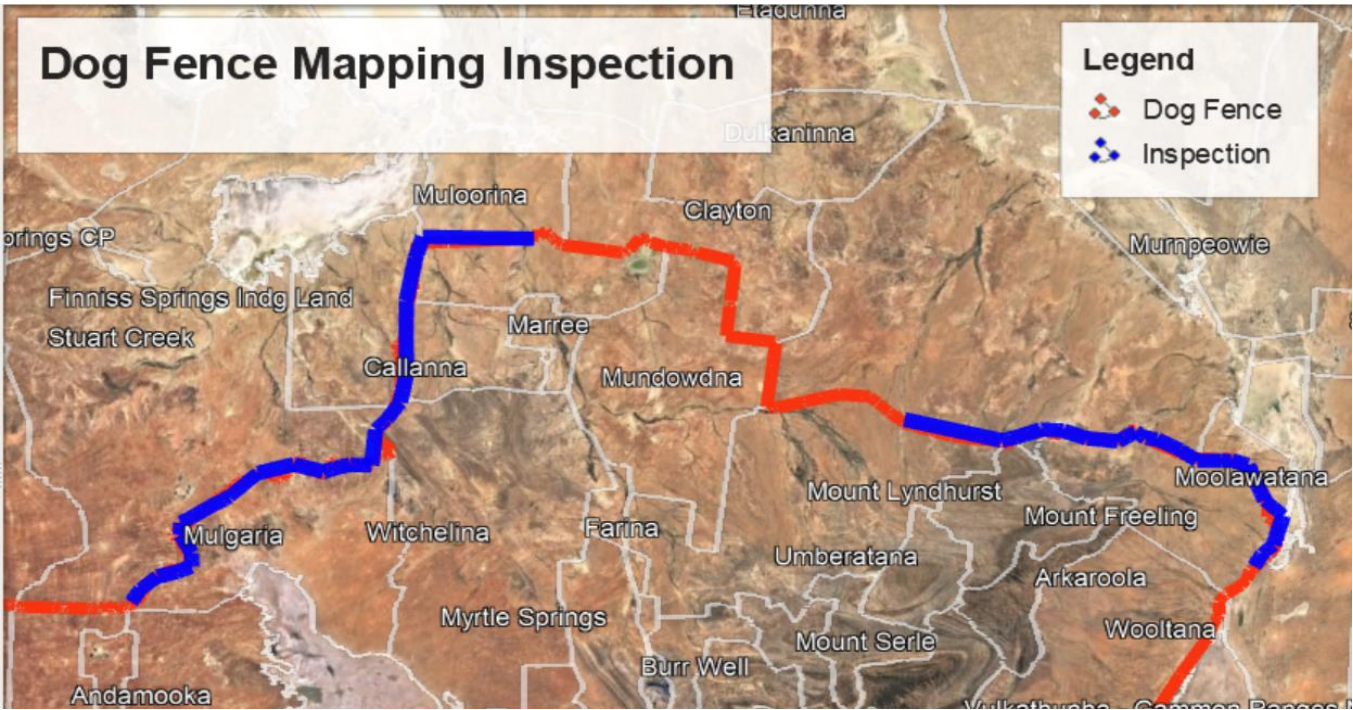
Dog Fence Mapping Inspection	
Date	10 to 14 August 2020
Section/s	Marree
Location description	Dog Fence from Callanna to Mt Freeling
Inspected by	Dog Fence Rebuild Inspector,
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping and recording of all fence features for rebuild material requirements – fence type changes, direction changes, box frames, gates, wash outs and flood gates</li> <li>• Evidence of dogs digging under fence in this section.</li> <li>• Approximately 253 kms inspected</li> </ul>



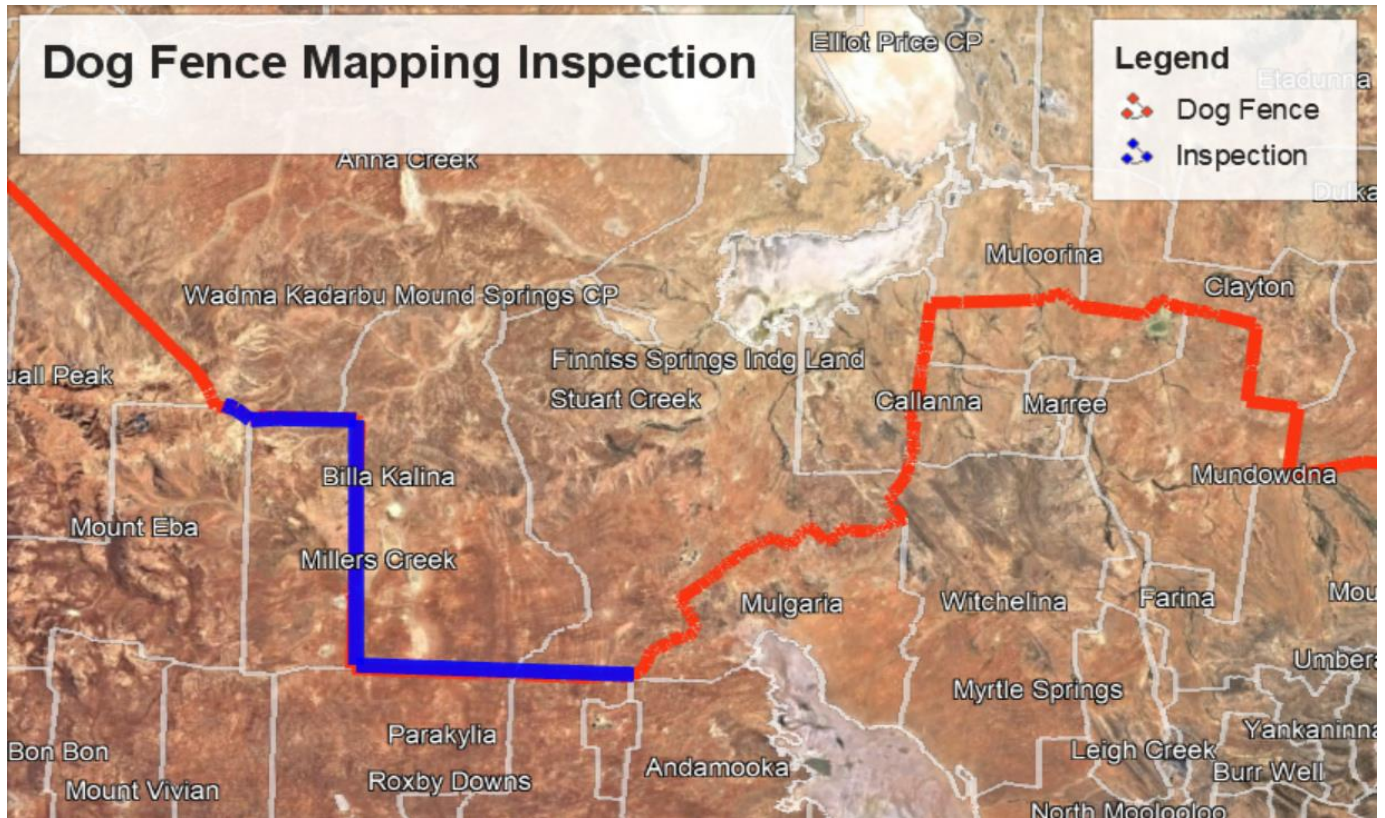
Evidence of Dogs attempting to dig under fence



Dog Fence Mapping Inspection	
Date	5 to 9 September 2020
Section/s	Central, Marree and Frome
Location description	Dog Fence from Roxby Downs to Muloorina and Mt Lyndhurst to Moolawatana
Inspected by	Dog Fence Inspector, Dog Fence Program Manager
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping and recording of all fence features for rebuild material requirements – fence type changes, direction changes ,box frames, gates, wash outs and flood gates</li> <li>• Approximately 316km inspected</li> </ul>



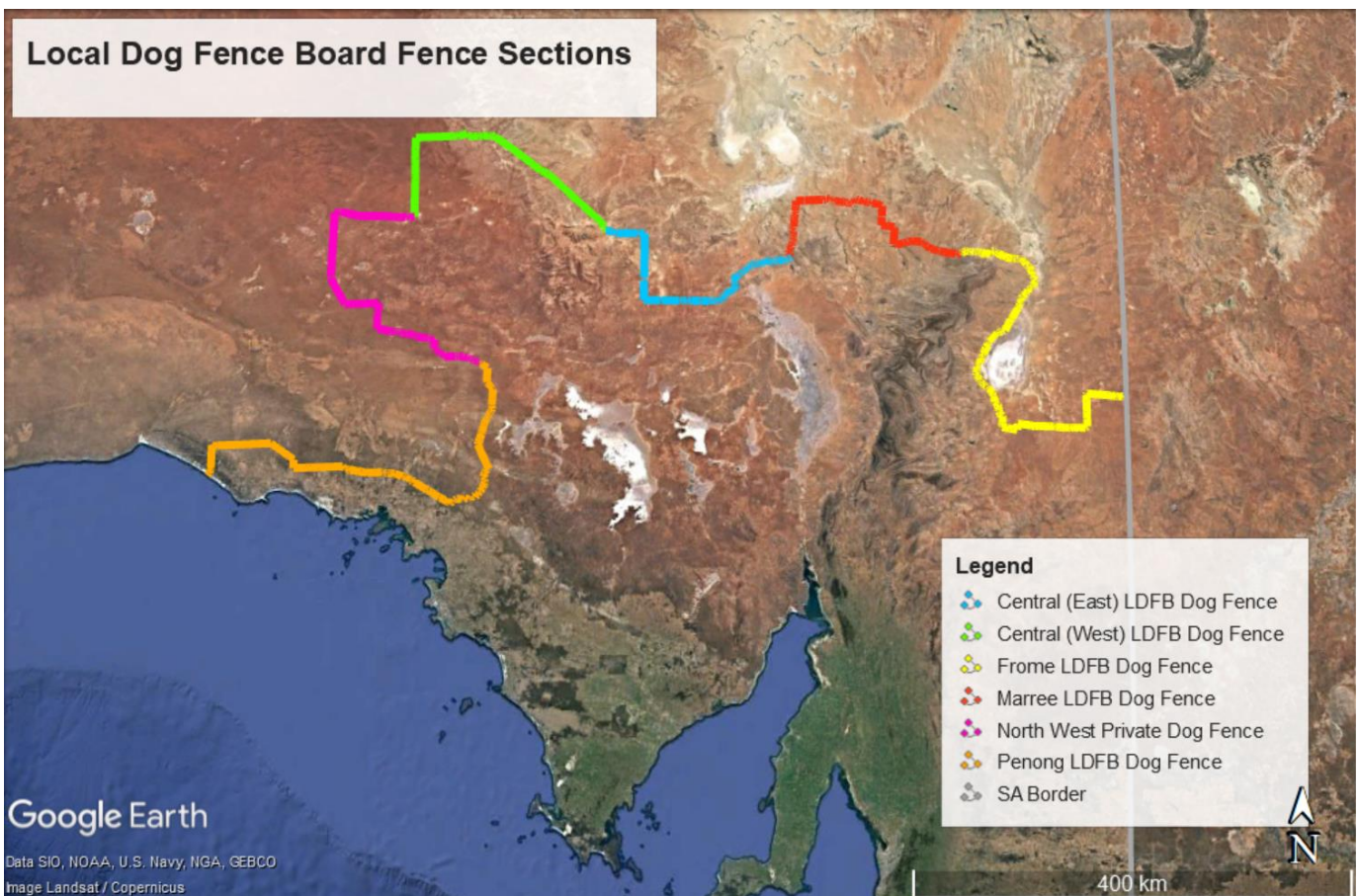
Dog Fence Mapping Inspection	
Date	14 to 18 September 2020
Section/s	Central
Location description	Dog Fence from Roxby Downs to Mt Eba
Inspected by	Dog Fence Rebuild Inspector,
Comments	Mapping and recording of all fence features for rebuild material requirements – fence type changes, direction changes, box frames, gates, wash outs and flood gates Approximately 174km inspected



## Local Dog Fence Boards & private owner

During the reporting period:

- The entire length of the fence was inspected at a minimum of every 14 days by the Patrolmen.
- All Patrolmen baited at a minimum rate of 1 bait per kilometre.
- Patrolmen in the Penong, North West Private and Central West sections experienced some camel damage and undertook camel control.
- Patrolmen reported wild dog activity has been low on both sides of the fence.
- Dogs were reported trying to dig under the fence in the Marree section on several occasions.
- Sand drift due to dry conditions in the Frome section resulted in the Frome Patrolman carrying out significant fence topping works to insure the fence was maintained at a dog-proof height as well as a section of lap was pinned to prevent curling.
- Reports of a pig in the Frome section and Kangaroo numbers increasing close to NSW border.
- Significant earthworks have been completed along the Dog Fence from North of the Erudina section to Big John Creek. These works were carried out by an earthmoving contractor working under instruction of the Frome Local Dog Fence Board



## Conclusion

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

- Developing a long term investment strategy to fund the ongoing maintenance of the Dog Fence.
- Reviewing the Dog Fence rates, rateable area with a view to better sharing the rates burden across a greater number of properties who benefit from the fence.
- Updating the Dog Fence rates database and sending out the rates notices
- Implement Herbicide trial on far west coast.
- Installing new alarms on grids/ramps with DPTI approval.
- Working with the Local Dog Fence Boards to improve management of camels along the fence.
- Complete the review of the Patrolmen's contracts.
- Implement a standard Patrolmen's reporting template, if approved by Local Dog Fence Boards.
- Continue to refine a rebuild/maintenance prioritisation template.
- Install pallet racking at Lyndhurst.
- Implement components of Work, Health and Safety improvement plan for the Lyndhurst Depot, as per timeline.
- Dog Fence Inspector to do complete fence inspection during late October and early November



