

Dog Fence Board

Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

13 May 2024 – 2 September 2024



Dog Fence Board – Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

Information current as of 2 September 2024

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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 3,200 baits along the fence.
- Track maintenance completed between Muloorina and Clayton (Marree LDFB).
- Attended local board annual general meetings.
- Initiated recruitment process for the Dog Fence Program Manager position.
- Completed procurement of 9000 kilograms herbicide – stock has been delivered to both Coober Pedy and Lyndhurst depots.
- Track maintenance completed between Moolawatana and Wooltana (Frome LDFB).
- Completed the replacement of nine floodgates between Moolawatana and Wooltana (Frome LDFB).
- Delivered fencing materials to Ceduna and Lyndhurst depots.
- Continued development of the digital patrolman reporting application.
- Continued upgrade to the Dog Fence rates database.

Inspections and Patrols

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

Eastern Fence Inspection

Central, Marree, Frome

Inspected by: Dog Fence Rebuild Inspector

- Took delivery of fencing materials at Lyndhurst depot for the Witchelina/Mulgaria rebuild and general Dog Fence maintenance.
- Delivered fence materials to contractor working on the floodgate replacement project.
- Inspected floodgate replacement works.
- Collected wooden posts from Frome fence and returned to Lyndhurst depot.
- Inspected completed section of the Wertaloon fence rebuild.
- Surveyed Callanna, Witchelina and Mulgaria sections of fence with contractors for upcoming Stage 14 rebuild works.
- Noted water has flowed through new floodgate along Mt Freeling and has settled well.
- Gate found open on Moolawatana and damage to box strainer post. Suspected damaged caused by cattle pushing through, as cattle tracks on both sides of gate.
- All grid alarms operational and fence dog-proof unless stated otherwise.



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Floodgate replacement - Pootana Creek (Frome LDFB)



Floodgate replacement – Fossils Creek (Frome LDFB)

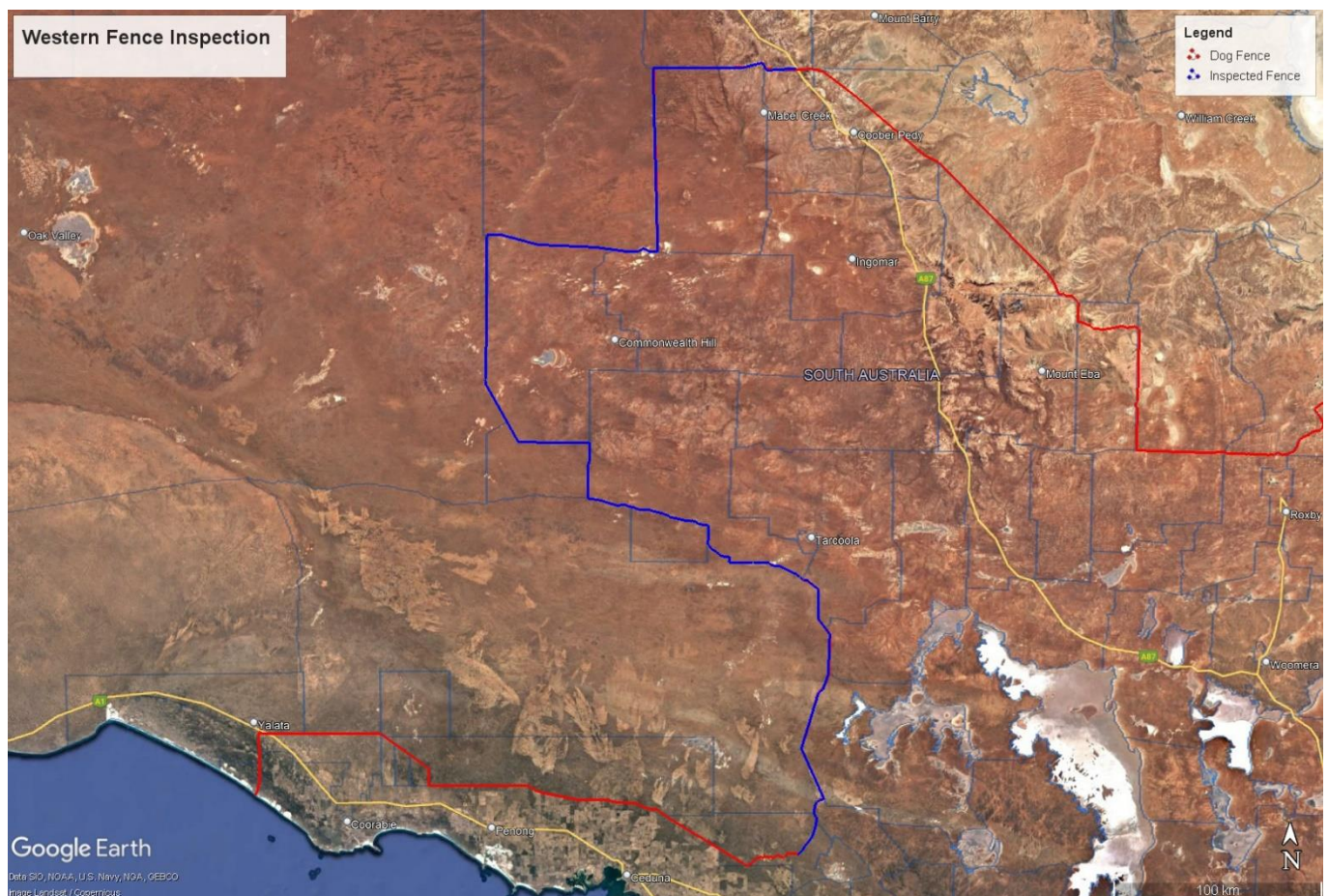
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Western Fence Inspection

Penong, Northwest Private, Central

Inspected by: Dog Fence Rebuild Inspector

- Delivered fencing materials to Penong patrolman.
- Collected leftover rebar and c-clips from Penong container and delivered to contractor working on Mulgathing fence rebuild.
- Noted telecommunication contractors had cut the Dog Fence between the railway line and the road at Malbooma to install NBN cable; not sufficiently repaired.
- Met with the station manager of Mobella to discuss upcoming fence rebuild.
- Surveyed access routes on Mobella for potential rebuild material stockpile deliveries.
- Noted increased camel damage on Pureba, Lake Everard, Mobella and Mabel Creek sections of fence.
- Identified the upcoming camel electric wire on Mobella will not be able to be strained to some of the old wooden posts in gateways and corners. Some of the mulga posts are quite old and brittle, resulting in potential for parts of the fence to fall if any pressure is applied.
- Took delivery of herbicide order at Coober Pedy.
- All grid alarms operational and fence dog-proof unless stated otherwise.





Insufficient repairs made by telecommunication contractors – Malbooma (NW Private)

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Broken pine post caused by camel pressure – Lake Everard (Penong LDFB)

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Local Dog Fence Boards & Private Owner

During the reporting period:

- The fence was inspected 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 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 damages in all local board and private owner sections.
- Granulated herbicide applied to Penong LDFB fence.
- Increased wild dog activity reported around the western end of Parakylia fence.

Dog Fence Rebuild

As of 31 August, about 1,000 kilometres of fence rebuild has been completed and the rebuild of an additional 110 kilometres of fence is underway.

Stage 9 is 84 kilometres long, with about 59 kilometres running alongside the Tarcoola Road and the Trans-Australian railway before the fence turns north for the remaining 25 kilometres. Grading and other earthworks commenced on Stage 9 before Christmas but paused over the summer. Work has now recommenced; about 40 kilometres has been cleared and graded, and the installation of posts is underway.

The rebuild of Stage 12 is now complete. Stage 12 was 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. These temporary repairs replaced with permanent fencing to the rebuild standard.

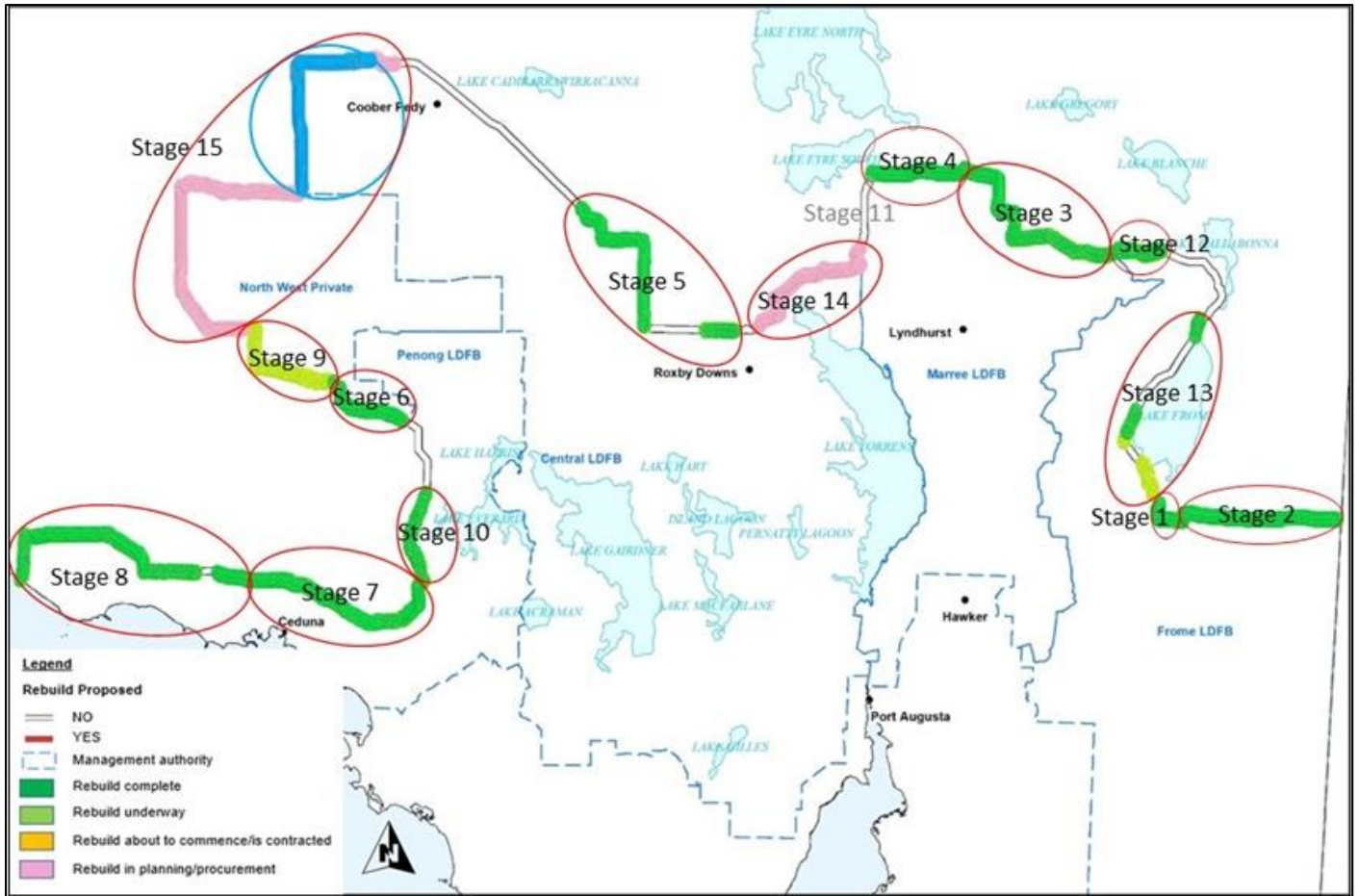
Stage 13 runs along the western shore of Lake Frome and comprises four sections of fence that together will give us another 68 kilometres of rebuilt fence. A new lap has been replaced on 14 kilometres in the north part of the stage. The remaining 54 kilometres will be completely rebuilt – about 19 kilometres has been completed and posts installed for an additional 4 kilometres; 15 kilometres of old fence has also been pushed up.

The rebuild of the Dog Fence through Arabana country, up to 122 kilometres adjacent to Witchelina and Mulgaria, is now ready to proceed. Due to restrictions under the Indigenous Land Use Agreement between the State and the Arabana Aboriginal Corporation, no major earthwork can occur without the engagement of heritage monitors. As such, fencing contractors have been asked to visit the site and tell us what they can do within this restriction. Materials for this Stage 14 have been delivered; submissions from fencing contractors are currently being evaluated.

The final stage of fence in the rebuild project is that adjacent to Mobella, Commonwealth Hill, Mabel Creek and Mount Clarence (about 370 kilometres; Stage 15). Due to budget constraints and in focussing on the best way to improve the longevity of the existing fence, the rebuild project will install an electric wire to deter feral camels on the fence adjacent to Mobella. An electric wire already exists on the fence adjacent to Mobella and Commonwealth Hill, but it is under-performing. The upgrade of this electric wire

set-up is dependent on remaining project funding. The request-for-quote for the supply of materials and for fencing contractors are in draft.

Progress as of 31 August 2024



Rebuild completed	1,000 kilometres
Rebuild underway	110 kilometres
Rebuild about to commence/contracted	122 kilometres (materials only)
Rebuild planning/procurement underway	490 kilometres

Conclusion

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

- Deliver instructional training to patrolmen for herbicide applicator and a trapping workshop.
- Continue work on digital patrolman reporting app.
- Replacement of two stock grids (Penong LDFB)
- Engage contractor to replace floodgates between Gammon Ranges and Wertaloon (Frome)
- Issue 2024/25 Dog Fence rates notices.
- Debt collection of 2023/24 Dog Fence rates.
- Continuation of Dog Fence Rebuild Project.