

Dog Fence Board

Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

23 February 2026 – 17 May 2026

Dog Fence Board – Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

Information current as of 17 May 2026

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Objective

The quarterly report provides stakeholders with a clear and comprehensive overview of the Dog Fence Board's activities for the reporting period. It outlines strategic and operational actions undertaken by the Board and staff, and details inspection, maintenance, and repair work delivered by Local Dog Fence boards and the private owner. This report aims to keep stakeholders informed of progress, highlight key achievements, and identify any emerging issues or priorities related to the ongoing protection and performance of the Dog Fence.

Key Activities

During the reporting period:

Operational:

- Awarded contract to Platinum Operations Pty Ltd to supply fence materials for the build of the SA–NSW dog fence
- Evaluated offers for appointment to the panel to supply fencing services for construction of the SA–NSW dog fence; suppliers recommended and approvals underway
- Submitted a funding request to the Minister under the Primary Industry Funding Schemes (PIFS) to support Dog Fence maintenance
- Submitted a briefing minute to the Minister recommending establishment of a primary dog fence along the South Australia–New South Wales border
- Initiated procurement for meat for processing into ground baits for the control of wild dogs
- Progressed debt collection activities for 2025–26 Dog Fence rates
- Submitted an impact report and funding request under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements for damage to the Dog Fence and access tracks following the February–March flood event
- Application submitted for Authorisation under sections 21 and 23 of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988* for the build of the SA–NSW dog fence

Recruitment and Staffing:

- Continued review of the Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement (MOAA) between PIRSA and the Dog Fence Board to incorporate provisions supporting delivery of the SA–NSW dog fence
- Contract executed with PIRSA to manage the build of the SA–NSW dog fence, commencing 1 July 2026 and expiring 30 June 2030

Technology and Innovation:

- Continued development of the digital patroller application and associated reporting dashboard; field tested by patrollers

- Commenced development of a new system for Dog Fence rates and levies, incorporating invoicing functionality and audit reporting capability

Collaboration and Capacity Building:

- Facilitated an aerial baiting program on the Far West Coast in collaboration with the Eyre Peninsula Landscape Board, Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board, National Parks and Wildlife and PIRSA
- Continued collaboration with the Department for Infrastructure and Transport on replacement of the Muloorina Road stock grid; grid installation completed
- Continued collaboration with Arid Recovery with the installation of the remote gate through the Dog Fence at the corner of Arid Recovery

Governance and Reporting:

- Submitted quarterly project and finance updates to NSW Department of Primary Industries for the SA–NSW fence build project
- Dog Fence Board meeting held on 23 February 2026

Inspections and Patrols

During the reporting period, significant rainfall events impacted much of the Dog Fence network, preventing access to large sections of the fence and maintenance track. The Inspector's time was primarily focused on liaising with property owners, Local Dog Fence Boards and patrollers to monitor rainfall impacts, assess damage, and coordinate response activities.

Following the rainfall events, contractors were engaged to undertake aerial inspections of the Frome and Marree sections of the Dog Fence to assess the extent of damage. This information enabled the Board to begin planning the repair program and identify the scope of works required once floodwaters receded and ground conditions improved.

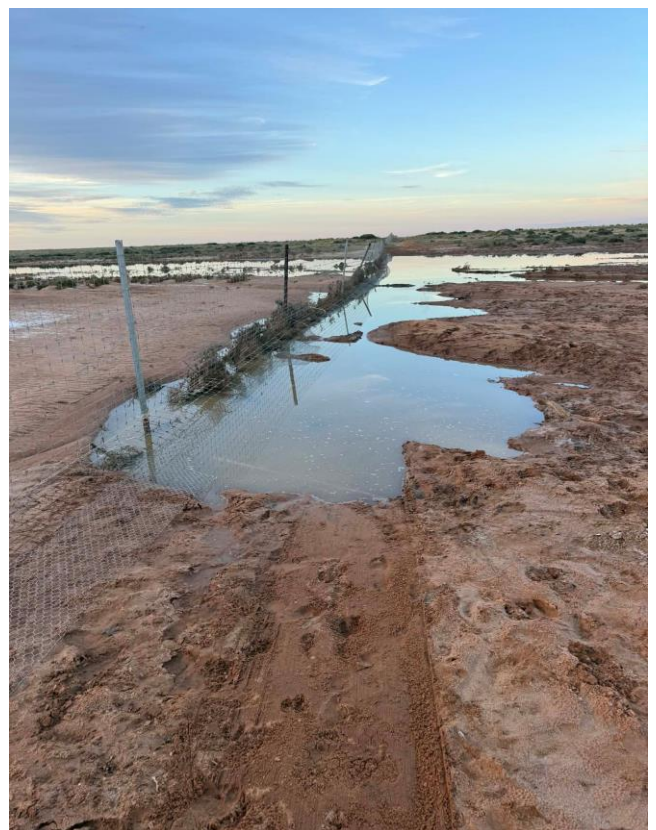
Patrollers recommenced inspections as soon as landholders advised that access was possible. Initial patrols across the Central, Marree and Frome Board areas required additional personnel and vehicles to assist with temporary repairs and vehicle recoveries in difficult conditions. Progress was initially slow, with some sections remaining inaccessible; however, the fence was progressively restored and deemed dog-proof by 22 April 2026.

While the fence has been returned to a dog-proof standard, many repairs remain temporary. Permanent reconstruction works will be undertaken as site conditions allow and contractors are able to access damaged locations with the necessary equipment.





Significant damage has also occurred to the maintenance track throughout the Frome, Marree and Central Board areas. Although patrol access is currently being maintained through the use of detours around major erosion sites and areas of standing water, substantial earthworks will be required to restore access for contractors and machinery to undertake permanent fence reconstruction works.



Eastern Fence Inspection

Central, Marree, Frome
Inspector

Inspected by: Dog Fence Rebuild

- Delivered 1080 solution to the bait making facility at Oraparinna
- Performed induction on Mulgaria (stage 14) for the rebuild project
- Inspected the fence adjacent to Mulgaria, Witchelina, Callana and part of Muloorina
- Inspected the newly installed grid on the Muloorina road

The inspection from Borefield Road to the Muloorina Grid identified numerous water detours, multiple minor scours beneath the fence, and several floodgates requiring restoration or replacement.

Large numbers of young cattle were observed on Stuarts Creek travelling along the fence line. At three locations, the fence netting had been damaged and required reattachment to the top wire.



Fence damage caused by cattle activity



Good feed along the Dog Fence following rains

Recent rainfall events have resulted in exceptional grass and stock feed growth along much of the fence line. Although some areas have begun to dry out, extensive sections remain green and continue to provide abundant feed for livestock and native animals.



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The Department for Infrastructure and Transport has replaced the grid on Muloorina Road. While the grid itself meets Dog Fence Board standards, it has been installed within an excavated pit at natural ground level rather than being elevated above the surrounding surface. This design is likely to be susceptible to the accumulation of silt and debris during rainfall events and will require regular inspection and cleaning to maintain its effectiveness.



Western Fence Inspection

Penong, Northwest Private, Central

Inspected by: Dog Fence Rebuild Inspector

- Delivered dog baits collected from Port Augusta to Penong patroller
- Delivered camel exclusion panels to rebuild contractor to take to Mulgathing
- Inspected access into the Pureba container from Nunjirkompita for future collection and freight of posts
- Inspected the progress of the Dog Fence rebuild on Mulgathing and Mobella
- Replaced metering roller in the herbicide applicator at Mulgathing

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 patrollers.
- Patrollers baited at a rate of 1 bait per 1 kilometre, or 1 bait per 200 metres where there was dog activity.

Dog Fence Rebuild

The SA Dog Fence is the backbone to wild dog control in South Australia. A \$29 million project to rebuild 1,600 kilometres (about 2/3) of the Dog Fence commenced in 2019; as of 30 April 2026, almost 1,140 kilometres has been rebuilt and the rebuild of a further 340 kilometres is underway.

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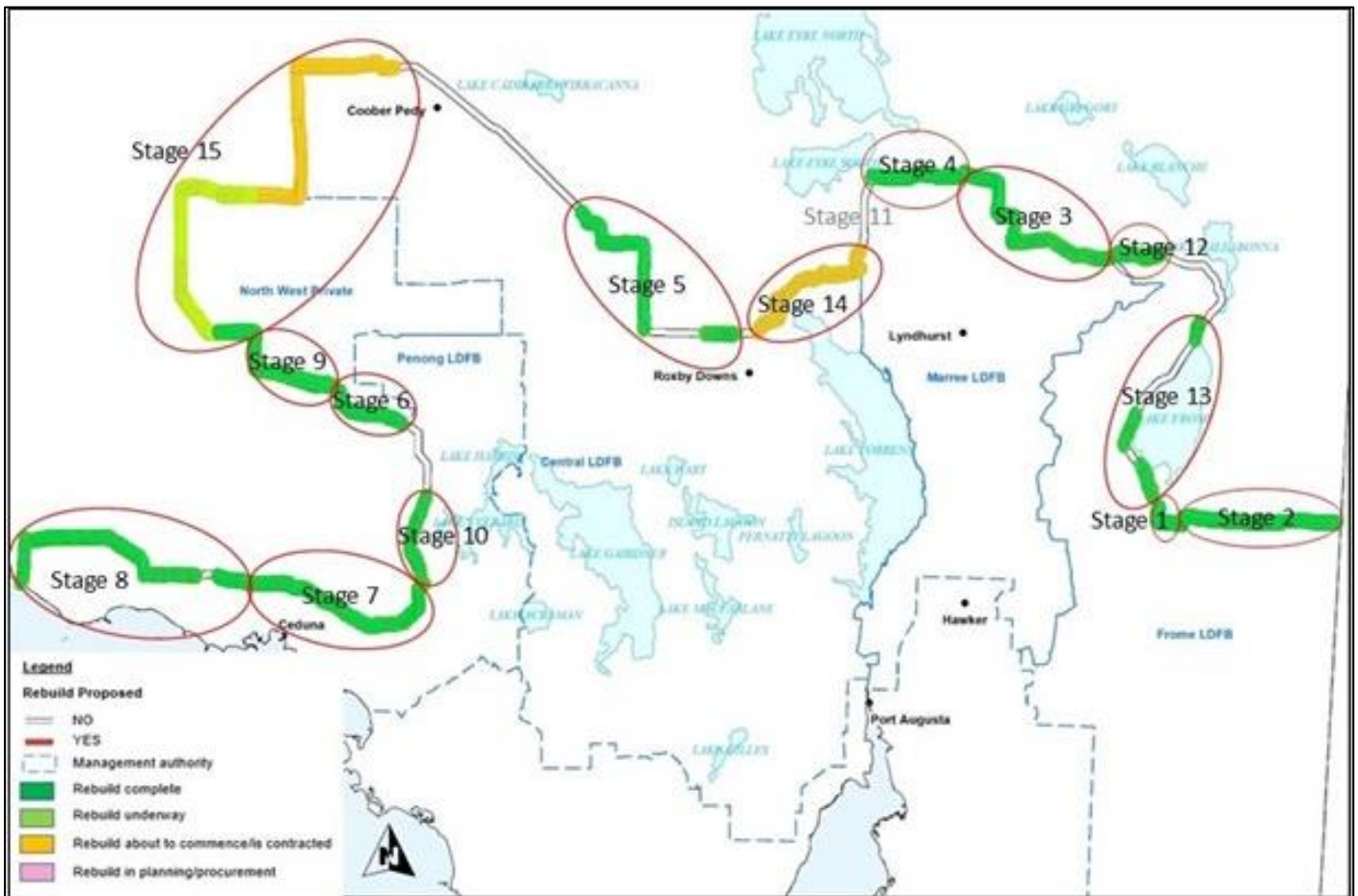
Due to multiple rain events, Woomera Exclusion periods and contractor availability, the rebuild of the Dog Fence is now unlikely to be completed by 30 June 2026. Project staff and contractors are working towards the fence being completed by December 2026.

The fence has been rebuilt in stages of work across the four local Dog Fence board areas and the private north-west section. The rebuild of the fence will be completed in 15 stages; 12 of these are complete, one is almost complete, one is underway and one is soon to commence.

- All sections proposed for rebuild in the **Frome LDFB** have been completed - **239 kilometres** of fence built (59 per cent of fence) as part of the rebuild project.
- 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). The completion of the fourteenth stage will see **239 kilometres** of fence built in the Marree LDFB (85 per cent of fence) as part of the rebuild project.
- 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). Part of the fifteenth stage is the upgrade and installation of electric fence to deter feral camels adjacent to Mabel Creek and Mount Clarence (156 kilometres).
- When completed, **417 kilometres** of fence will be built in the Central LDFB (68 per cent of fence) as part of the rebuild project.
- 173 kilometres of fence has been completed in the **north-west section**.
- 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. This stage is underway.
- When completed, **294 kilometres** of fence will be rebuilt in the privately-owned north-west section (82 per cent of fence) as part of the rebuild project.
- All sections proposed for rebuild in the **Penong LDFB** have been completed - **349 kilometres** of fence built (77 per cent of fence) as part of the rebuild project.

Progress as of 8 May 2026

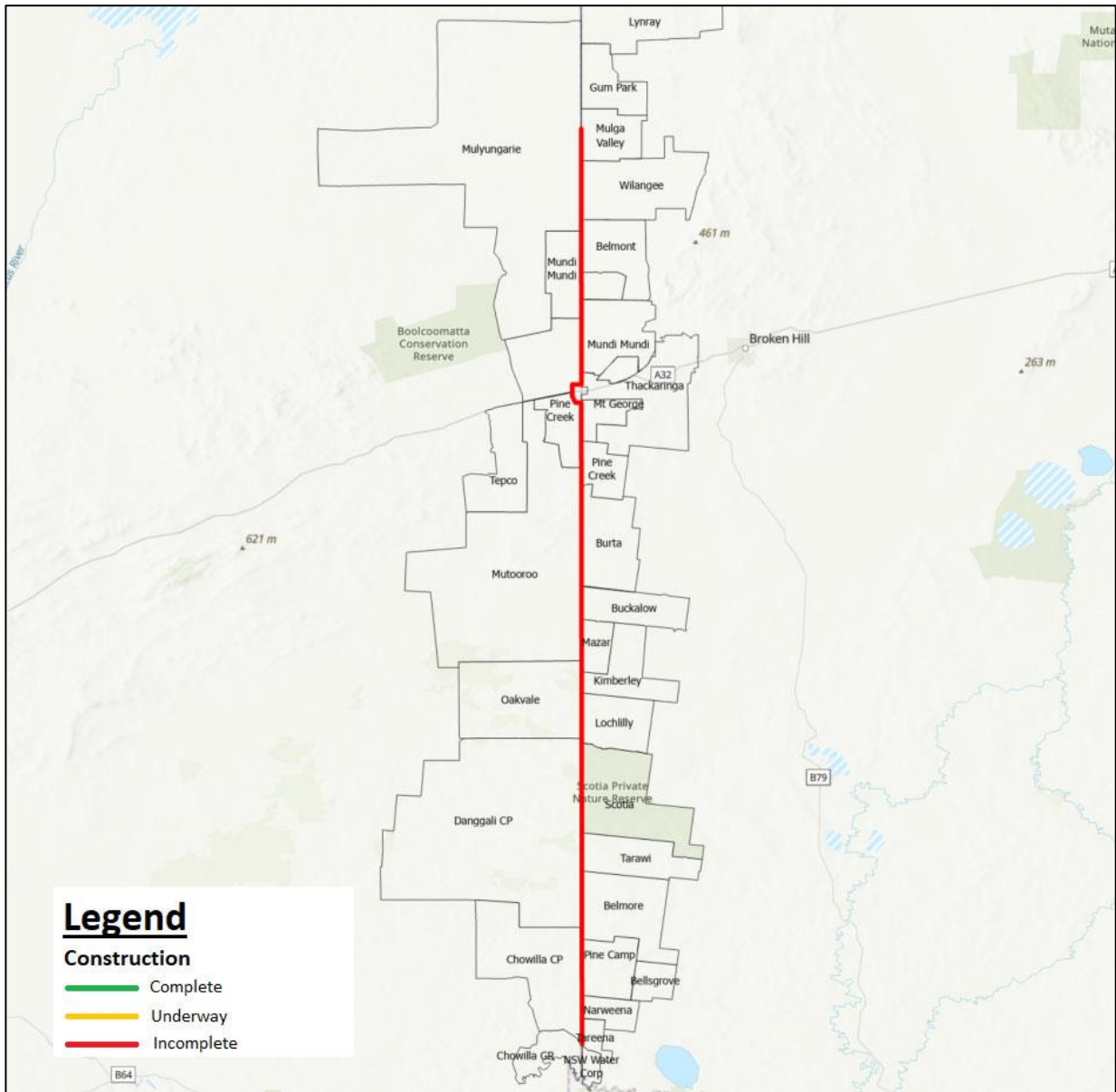
Rebuild completed	1,140 kilometres
Rebuild underway	338 kilometres
Rebuild about to commence/contracted	122 kilometres
Rebuild planning/procurement underway	0 kilometres



Build of the SA–NSW dog fence

In June 2025, a Services Contract was executed between the DFB and the NSW Government, providing for the DFB to construct up to 290 kilometres of fence along the SA–NSW border. Planning for the build of this fence is underway. This fence will be declared a Dog Fence under SA legislation.

The build of the fence is scheduled to commence early in the 2026/27 financial year.



Progress as of 8 May 2026

Construction completed	0 kilometres
Construction underway	0 kilometres
Construction about to commence/contracted	0 kilometres
Construction planning/procurement underway	0 kilometres

SA Trapper Program

The Wild Dog Trapping Program commenced in 2018 and continues to be hailed as a necessary tool in the drive to eradicate wild dogs from inside the SA Dog Fence. The project is administered by the Invasive Species Unit, Biosecurity, PIRSA.

Since 2018, professional wild dog trappers have removed 964 wild dogs from inside the Dog Fence. There has been an increase in wild dog activity in the past few months; trappers have removed almost 40 wild dogs in 2026, mainly in the Central Local Dog Fence Board area.

Aerial Baiting Program

The aerial baiting program is a key, landscape-scale wild dog control measure supporting the protection of South Australia's sheep industry and the eradication of wild dogs inside the Dog Fence. Operating since 2012, the program complements on-ground control activities including trapping, ground baiting and shooting, and has historically been delivered at scale to reduce wild dog populations and limit reinvasion risk.

In 2025–26, delivery was reduced compared to recent years due to reliance on short-term funding. Despite this, targeted deployment was undertaken to support core Dog Fence operations, respond to flood impacts and maintain control efforts in priority regions.

2025–26 Program Delivery

- Total deployment of approximately 47,500 baits, representing a 50 per cent reduction on peak program delivery:
 - Dog Fence (October 2025): 20,500 baits
 - Flood response (March 2026): 13,500 baits
 - Eyre Peninsula (April 2026): 13,400 baits

Conclusion

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

- Progressing establishment of the SA–NSW Dog Fence as a primary dog fence
- Progressing the build of a dog fence on the SA–NSW border
- Continuing recovery works with local Dog Fence boards following the February–March 2026 flood event, including replacement of floodgates, reconstruction of damaged fence sections and restoration of access tracks
- Transition Dog Fence rates and levies administration to a new database system
- Review and update the Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement (MOAA) between the Dog Fence Board and PIRSA
- Continuing collaboration with key stakeholders, including NSW Department of Primary Industries, landscape boards and other agencies, to support coordinated wild dog management
- Investigate the delivery of ChemCert training for Dog Fence patrollers
- Deliver and install 1080 bait exclusion panels on organic properties located outside the Dog Fence