

# PIRSA

## Dog Fence Board

Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

14 May to 01 September 2021



# Dog Fence Board - Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

Information current as of 30 August 2021

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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:

- The Board undertook public consultation on their proposal to expand the Dog Fence rateable area by 2 Hundreds to the south, to all Hundreds within 150 kilometres of the Dog Fence, and to not extend beyond the River Murray. The consultation ran from 14 May to 9 July 2021, with the number of responses received (88) well below what the Board expected. Most respondents were in favour of the Board's proposal.
- The five members of the Dog Fence Board, along with 3 members of Local Dog Fence Boards, inspected the Eastern half of the Dog Fence.
- A resignation was received from the Dog Fence Inspector, who has taken a job with the Limestone Coast Landscape Board. The Dog Fence Board thank Josh for his time on the Dog Fence and wish him well in his new role.
- The Dog Fence Board Chair, Geoff Power, attended a meeting of wild dog management partners hosted by the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board. The meeting's focus was on the eradication of wild dogs from inside the fence by 2030. The Dog Fence Board support this target.
- The Board's Annual Financial Statements were prepared and delivered to the Auditor-General's Department ahead of the 2020/21 Dog Fence Board annual audit.
- The Dog Fence Board Chair and the Dog Fence Program Manager attended Annual General Meetings of the four Local Dog Fence Boards, held in Lyndhurst (Marree LDFB), Yunta (Frome LDFB), Ceduna (Penong LDFB) and Glendambo (Central LDFB). Items discussed at the meetings included, the Dog Fence Rebuild Project, the eradication of wild dogs from inside the fence, and the rateable area expansion. Attendance at all meetings was down on the previous year.
- Dog Fence Board staff met with the government's Fines Enforcement and Recovery Unit (FERU) to discuss options to improve the collection of outstanding Dog Fence rate. Nine outstanding rates notices remain from the 2020/21 financial year, totalling around \$11,000. The collection of rates puts significant strain on the Board's resources which comes at a cost to those paying their rates on time.
- The board disposed of their Caravan, which was used for the storage of materials at Urrbrae and was in an unserviceable condition.

# Inspections & patrols

## Dog Fence Board

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

2021 Annual Board Inspection	
Date	14 May – 20 May 2021
Section/s	Central, Marree, Frome
Location description	Roxby Downs to the NSW Border – approx. 800km
Inspected by	Dog Fence Inspector Dog Fence Program Manager All Dog Fence Board Members 2 Members Frome LDFB (part inspection) 1 Member Marree LDFB (part inspection)
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspected Eastern half of Dog Fence.</li> <li>• Inspected fence maintenance works.</li> <li>• Part inspected Chocolate Strip realignment</li> <li>• Observed faulty new alarm on Muloorina grid</li> <li>• Noted significant progress with the rebuild of the Dog Fence.</li> <li>• Greatest issue noted along a significant portion of the inspected area was the lifting/curling of the lap.</li> <li>• Vegetation growth along the fence remains a significant issue and was noted on most sections of fence, including newly rebuilt sections.</li> <li>• The Board deemed the Balcanoona grid to not be suitable for the Dog Fence. The grid doesn't meet the Board's grid/ramp standard and all agreed it should be replaced.</li> <li>• New signage purchased by the Board erected on most access tracks and gates.</li> <li>• Dog Fence at top of Mulyungarie in need of topping due to sand dunes increasing in height.</li> <li>• 2 wild dogs sighted outside the fence and minimal activity noted. This could be a result of the Board's renewed baiting program that's utilising professionally prepared meat baits laid at the SAAL Landscape Board's best practice standard.</li> <li>• The inspection party met with all Patrolmen responsible for this section of fence.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetation to become a focus of the Board during 2021/22.</li> <li>• Replace Muloorina beeper.</li> <li>• Replace/improve grid at Balcanoona.</li> <li>• Address lap curling issues.</li> </ul>



The Board met with local land holders on the newly rebuilt fence



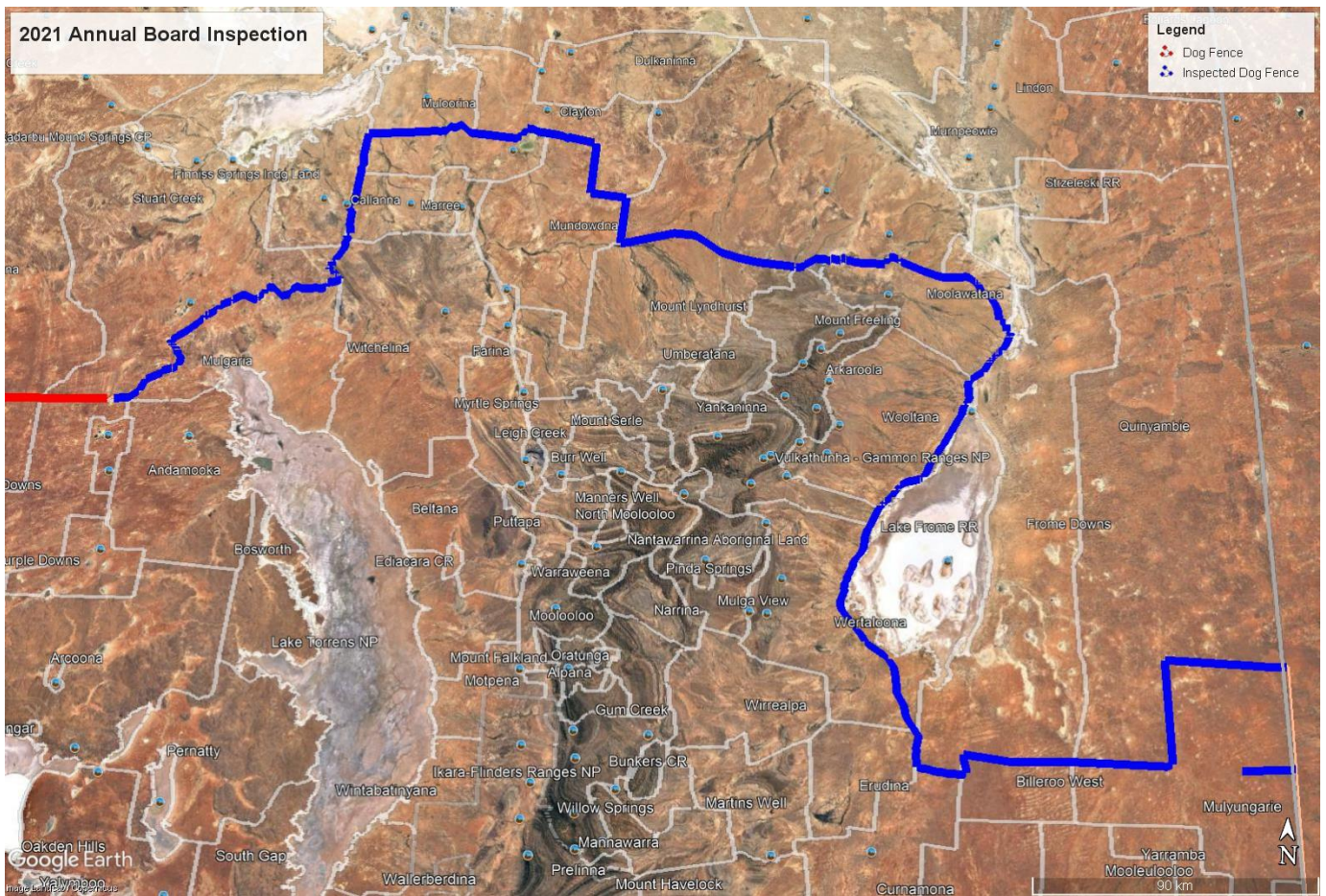
The Balcanoona grid which the Board plans to replace



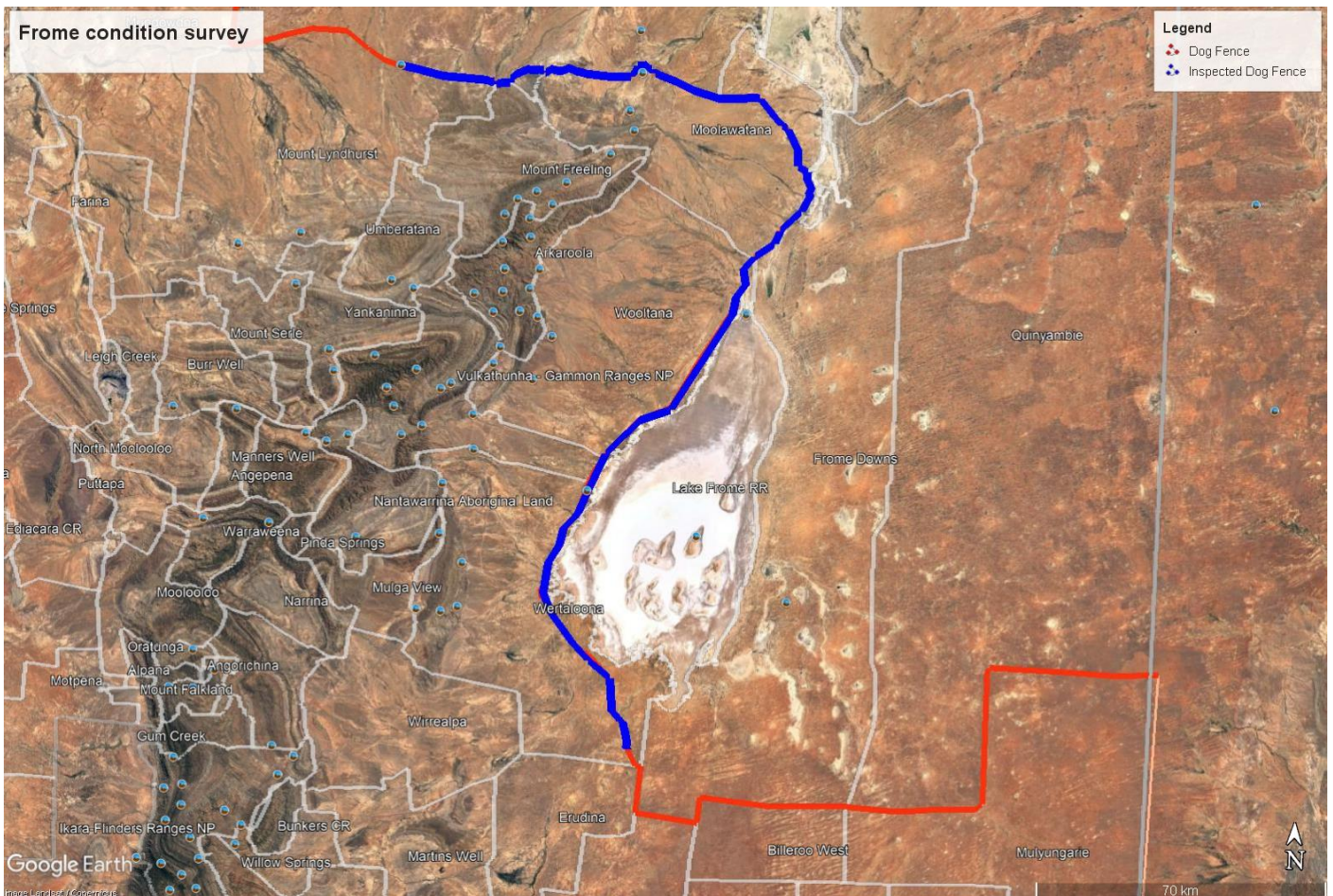
New gate and access track signage



One of several sections requiring urgent topping due to sand dune height increase



Frome condition survey	
Date	6 - 8 July 2021
Section/s	Marree, Frome
Location description	Strezlecki Track to Erudina
Inspected by	Dog Fence Program Manager and Dog Fence Rebuild Manager
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carried out condition assessment along Lake Frome.</li> <li>• Identified areas in need of rebuild</li> <li>• Inspected newly installed dingo beepers</li> <li>• Noted lap lift near Hamilton Creek at bottom of Moolawatana fence</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Frome Local Dog Fence Board carry out lap pinning/wiring works.</li> </ul>





Erudina pegging trial	
Date	24 - 26 August 2021
Section/s	Frome
Location description	Erudina
Inspected by	Dog Fence Rebuild Inspector, Biosecurity Project Officer and Dog Fence Rebuild Manager
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trial of 1000 10mm reo-rod pegs along the Erudina fence.</li> <li>• Pegs placed at 3.5m, 7m, or further spacings.</li> <li>• Observed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veg and foot mesh catching sand, pushing lap up</li> <li>• Strained lap wire pulls lap up, particularly in undulating terrain – z-pegs and hooked pegs pulled up by lap wire where tension is high; multiple pegs needed in some places</li> <li>• Where there is no veg, wind swirls around posts and creates space under foot mesh</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Took first comparative photographs of vegetation plots in Erudina herbicide trial.</li> </ul>
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the pegging trial continue to be monitored</li> <li>• That the herbicide trial is upscaled to treat longer sections of fence</li> </ul>



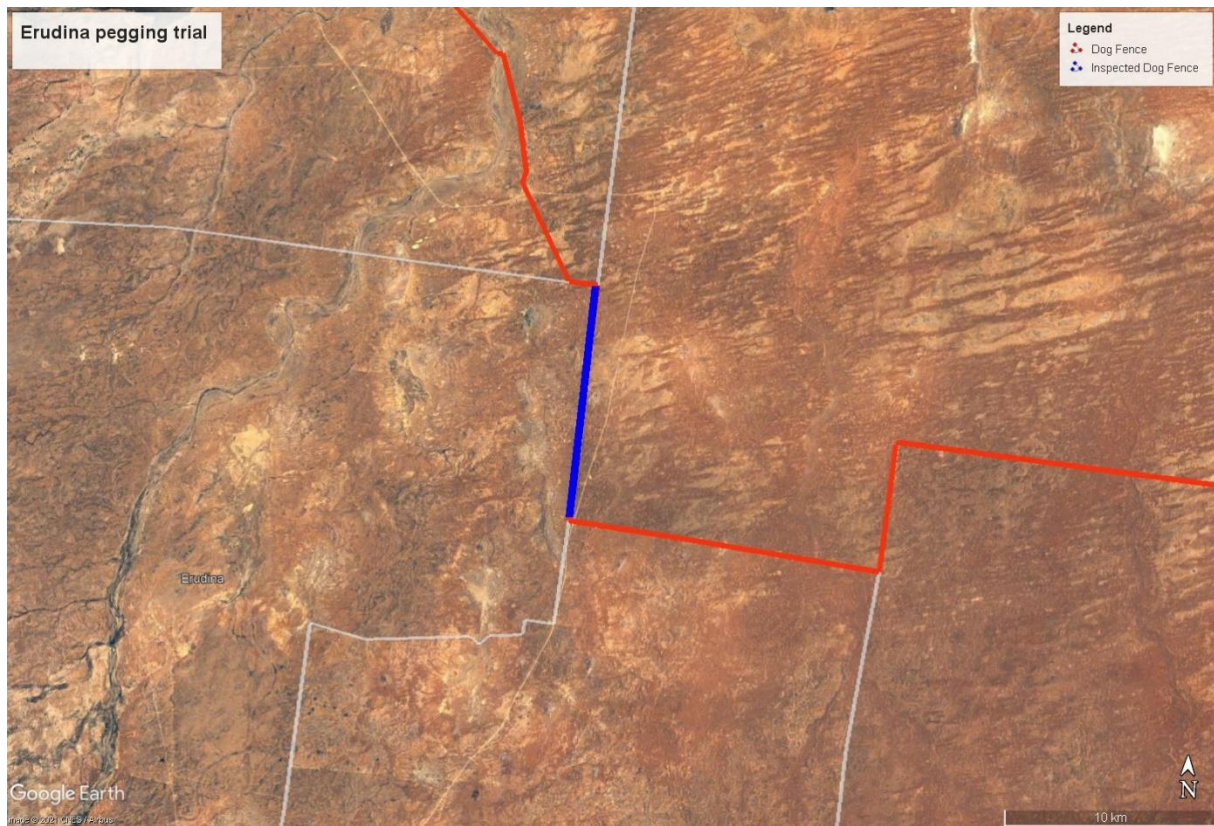
Reo-rod peg before fitting showing lap lift



Lap lift and vegetation issues along the Erudina fence



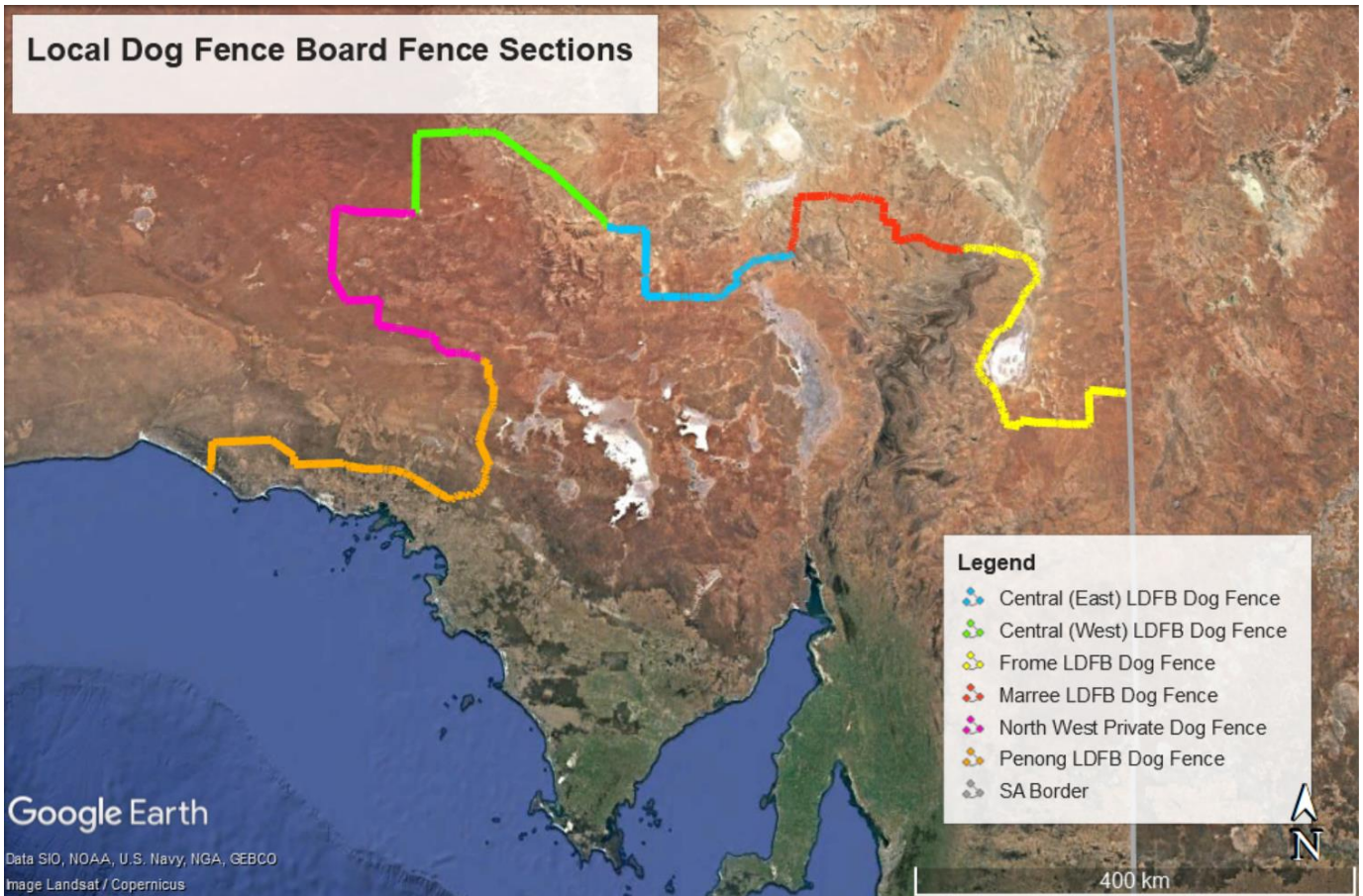
Sand has been observed building-up at base of vegetation



## 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 reported that wild dog and kangaroo 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.
- Fence topping works continue in the Frome section.



## Conclusion

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

- Progressing plans to expand the Dog Fence rateable area.
- Recruitment of a new Dog Fence Inspector.
- Replacement of the Balcanoona grid.
- Investigating and developing a granulated herbicide dispersal unit.

