

PIRSA

Dog Fence Board Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

2 September 2021 to 27 January 2022



Dog Fence Board - Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

Information current as of 27 January 2022

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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:

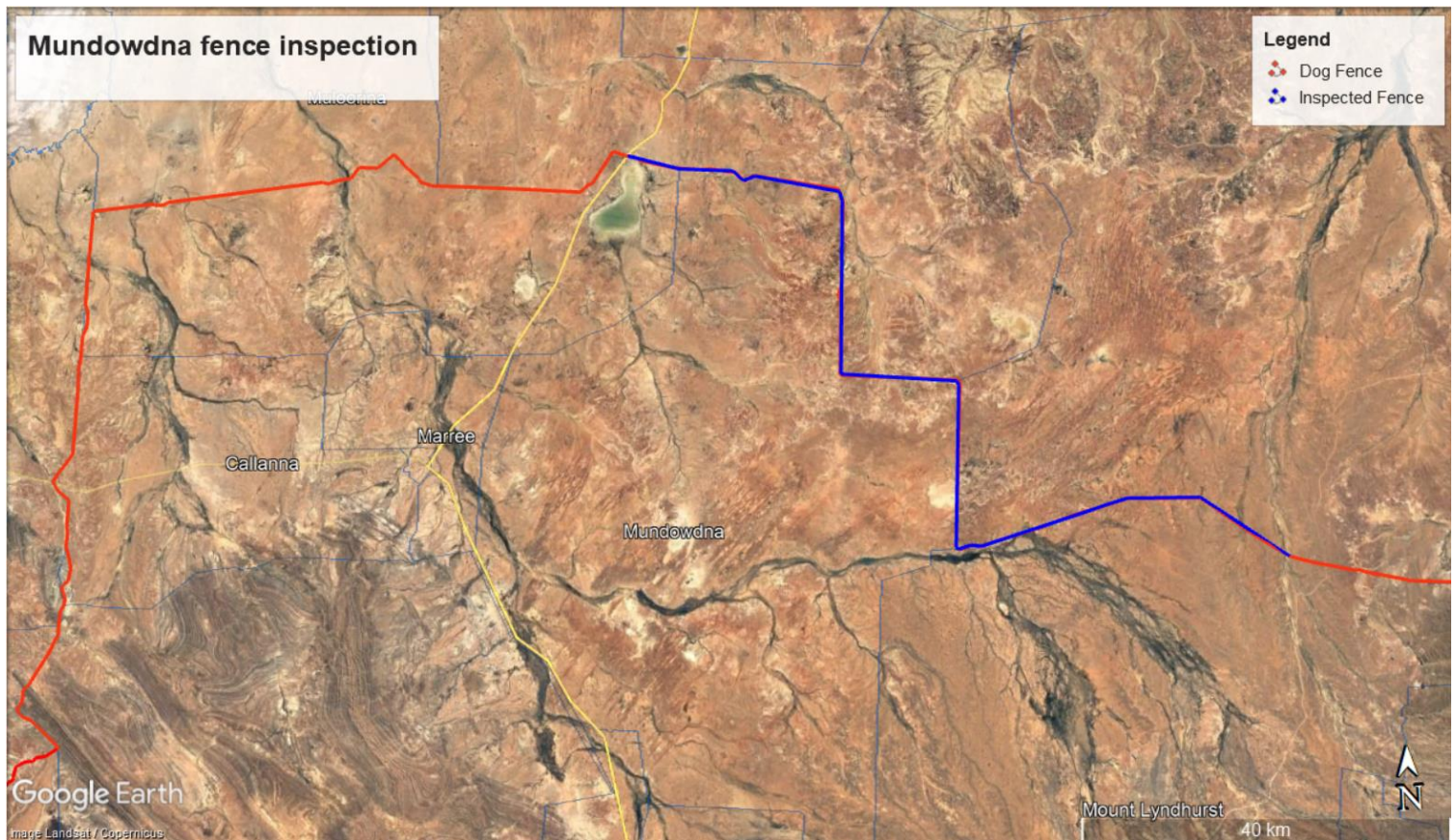
- The Dog Fence Board rateable area has extended by 2 Hundreds to the South or to any Hundred within 150km of the Dog Fence. Rates for the 2021/22 financial year have been mailed out.
- Undertook a 2 day maintenance and clean-up of the Lyndhurst Depot.
- Conducted an inquiry into options for meat storage to be used in the preparation of meat baits. Submitted a funding application for the construction of a walk in freezer capable of storing 4 tonne of meat at the Lyndhurst Depot.
- Purchased 6 new grid alarms to have replacements on hand.
- The Board distributed a total of 1200 manufactured baits to Patrolmen and Patrolmen deployed 3350 1080 injected meat baits along fence.
- Mapped all Board assets (containers, grids and alarms) along the fence.
- Undertook an audit of all grids along the Dog Fence against the Board's standard.
- Continued procurement of replacement for Balcanoona grid.
- Conducted final monitoring of herbicide trials at Erudina and on the West Coast. Commenced investigation into broad scale application of herbicide along the fence.
- Undertook procurement of 2 species recognition machine learning camera systems to trial on grid alarms triggered only by wild dogs.

Inspections & patrols

Dog Fence Board

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

Mundowdna fence inspection – November 2021
1 November – 3 November 2021
Mundowdna, Mount Lyndhurst
Mundowdna to Mount Lyndhurst – 118km approx.
Dog Fence Inspector & Dog Fence Program Manager
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Inspected and undertook assessment of Dog Fence rebuild works at Mundowdna.Updated emergency procedures and signage at Lyndhurst depot.Birdsville and Strzelecki beepers operating correctly.



West fence inspection – December 2021

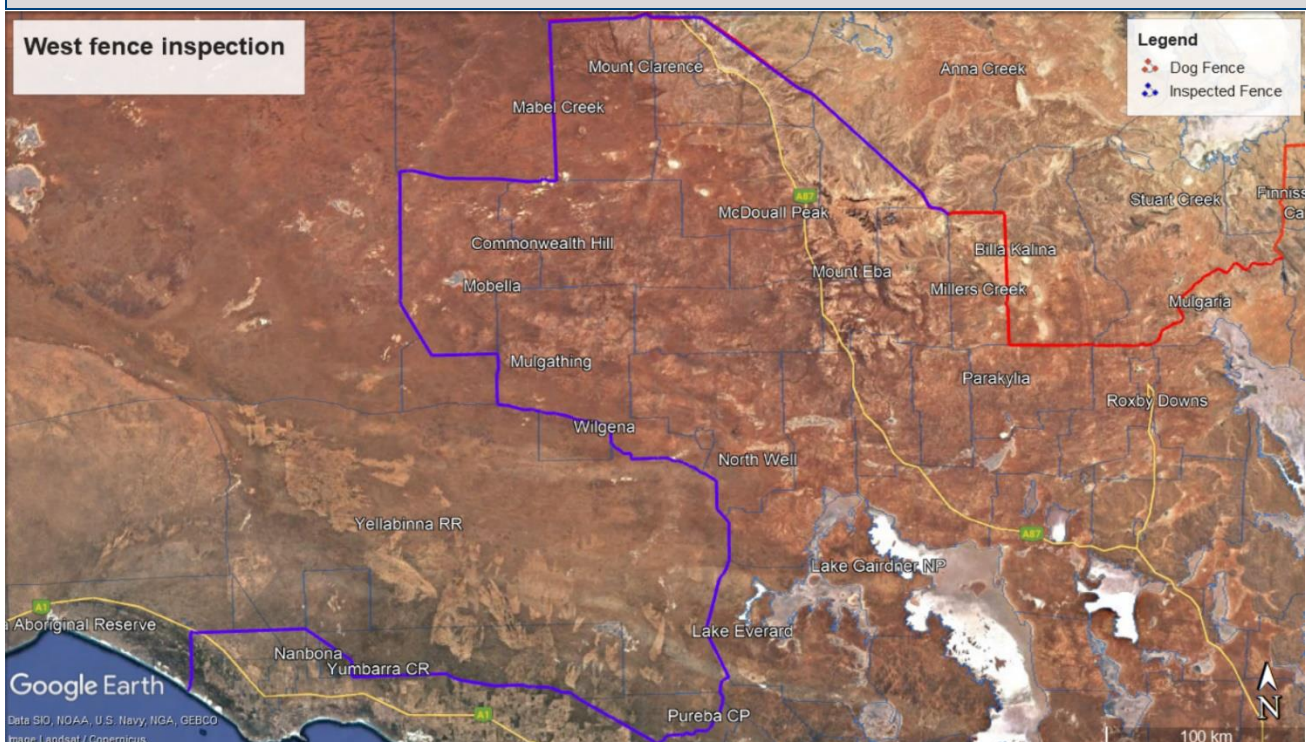
1 December – 5 December 2021

Penong, North West Private, Central West

Fowlers Bay to Mt Eba – 1130km approx.

Dog Fence Inspector

- Inspected Western half of Dog Fence.
- Observed replacement works of the Oodlea Road grid being carried out by Iluka Jacinth-Ambrosia mine. Iluka are replacing the grid to bring it in line with the Dog Fence Board's grid standard. Works were eventually put on hold due to damage being found on the already installed concrete abutments.
- Fowlers Bay, Penong, Pureba Fence is in a dog-proof condition. Curling of lap was noted in areas. Grid alarms to be installed on Eyre Highway, Old Eyre Highway and Yalata.
- Inspected and recorded results of the Board's Herbicide trail which will guide the broad scale management of weeds along the Dog Fence.
- Lake Everard and Wilgena Fence is in a dog-proof condition. Vegetation is an issue in this fence and upcoming Dog Fence Rebuild Project works will address this. Very soft sand in places.
- North West Private Fence is in a dog-proof condition. Noted a grid in this section has wing damage and build up dirt and weeds. The NWP fence is under constant camel pressure, with camel activity noted along this fence section.
- Mabel Creek, Mt Clarence and McDouall Peak fences are in dog proof condition. 4 dogs sighted inside the fence in the Coober Pedy Commonage. 1 destroyed. Patrolman intensifying baiting in this area.
- One grid alarm to be installed on Stuart Highway.
- Balta Baltana Fence is in a dog-proof condition. Recent rain through here cut the trip short due to track conditions





Grid Replacement – Oodlea Road



Camel damage – North West Private



Jumbuck Grid – North West Private

East fence inspection – January 2022

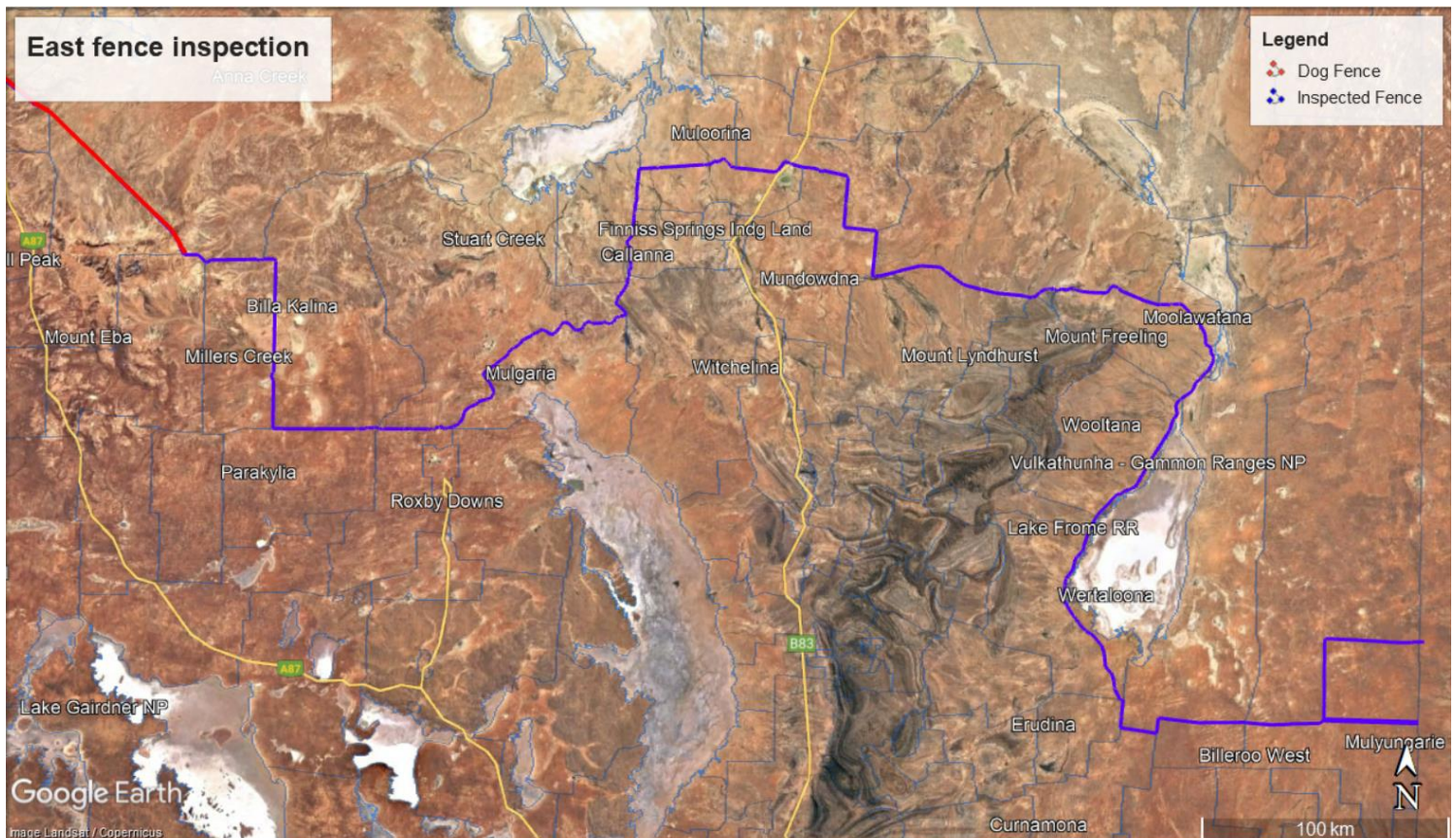
10 January – 16 January 2022

Frome, Maree, Central

Mulyungarie to Mt Eba – 1100km approx.

Dog Fence Inspector

- Inspected Eastern half of Dog Fence.
- Observed all beepers working correctly.
- Mulyungarie corner fence still being maintained and is dog proof. Sand and vegetation continue to be an issue.
- Mulyungarie, Billeroo West, Curnamona, and Erudina new fence all dog proof.
- Inspected and recorded results of the Board's Herbicide trail at Erudina which will guide the broad scale management of weeds along the Dog Fence.
- Wertaloona, Balcanoona, Wooltana, Moolawatana, Mount Freeling, Mount Lyndhurst all in dog proof condition.
- Roo damage in top corner of Muloorina. Noted a few dead in the paddock.
- Inspected Callanna fence, several posts have been installed too high. Patrolman will undertake repairs.
- Witchelina, Roxby Downs, Parakylia, Millers Creek, Billa Kalina in good condition and dog proof.
- Noted a lot of old material and empty pallets along fence. Bent droppers and wires were left on the track in places, Fence inspector to remove on future fence trips.





Old solar units to be removed – Balcanoona, Moolawatana



Old material on track



Material shed – Lyndhurst Depot

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 rate of 1 bait per 1km or 1 bait per 200m where there was dog activity.
- All Patrolmen reported occasional wild dog activity.
- Significant rainfall in the East during October – November period has caused several damaged floodgates. This created access challenges for Patrolman. All floodgates were repaired as soon as access was permitted.
- December and January's heat has deterred wild dogs in the East, minimal dog tracks to be seen.
- 355km of new fencing has been erected.
- Patrolmen have enquired about distribution of containers along the fence for ease of material delivery and pick up, especially after significant rain events. (i.e 1 container every 100 – 150km)



November rain event – Mt Eba

Dog Fence Rebuild

To date, 355km of fence rebuild has been completed.

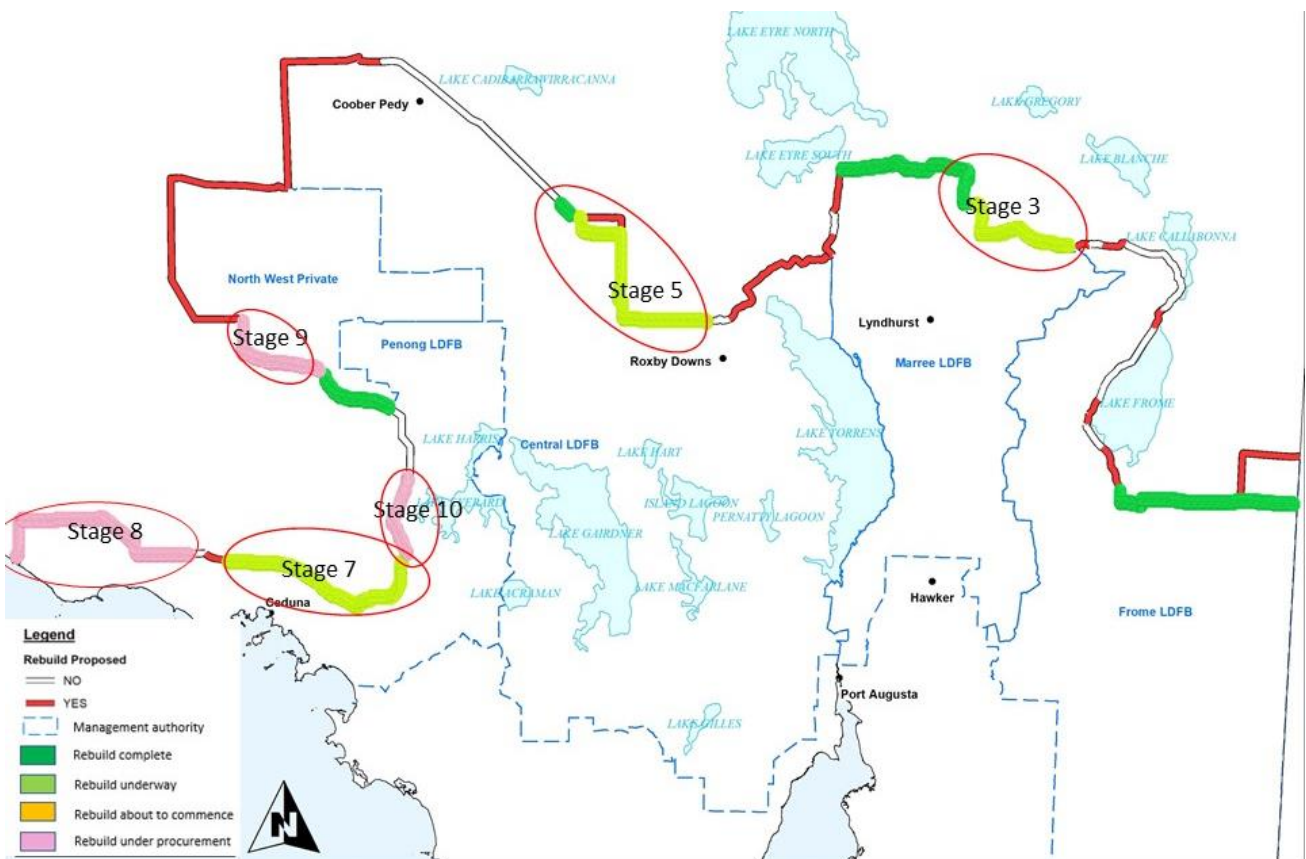
Significant rainfall across the state has caused small delays due to limited access to areas of the rebuild. However, earthworks and post installation have continued in the interim where access is permitted.

The rebuild committee are evaluating offers for the fencing of Stage 8 (from the coast, 131 km), and offers to supply material for Stage 9 (Mulgathing, 84 km) and Stage 10 (Lake Everard, 63 km).

Many contractors won't fence in the hot months, so the rate of rebuild will slow over the early months of 2022. Procuring suppliers during this time means when summer ends, rebuild activity can recommence immediately.

The rebuild of the Dog Fence is a high-profile project in South Australia. In 2021, the rebuild was the focus of or was noted in more than 35 media stories, including print, online, radio, television and a published paper. This does not include the numerous posts on social media platforms. Our most recent coverage is in the December edition of AWI's 'Beyond the Bale': <https://beyondthebale.wool.com/beyond-the-bale/december-2021/flipbook/54/>.

The Fencing contractors typically build the new fence before removing the old fence, to minimise any risk of wild dogs getting through the fence during the rebuild. There are some locations where this method is not practical – here, fencing contractors remove small lengths of fence, then rebuild the new fence. Baits are also laid as an added precaution.



Conclusion

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

- Dog Fence Board annual half fence inspection (west).
- Collection of Dog Fence rates for the 2021/22 financial year.
- Investigate different application methods for granular herbicides including aerial. Do broad scale applications with a focus on newly rebuilt sections of fence.
- Explore different methods of recording maintenance reports for Patrolmen and Board.
- Tractor, wooden posts and pallet disposal (Lyndhurst depot).
- Installation of replacement grid for Balcanoona.
- Continuation of rebuild.
- Commencement of NSW border fence build.
- Distribution of containers along the fence for Patrolmen to store materials.
- Maintenance, repair or replacement of Jumbuck grid and wing.

