

Dog Fence Board

Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

11 December 2023 – 5 February 2024



Dog Fence Board – Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

Information current as of 5 February 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:

- 60x 1080 meat baits have been manufactured for the use on pigs along Marree and Frome sections of fence.
- Continued herbicide project – 1 applicator deployed to Penong LDFB and applied 500kg / ~25Ha in 7 hours. (12% of Penong LDFB section)
- Continued constructing 4 additional herbicide applicator units, 1 for each of the remaining Local Boards and Private Owner.
- Completed procurement and delivery of diesel forklift to Lyndhurst depot.
- Relocated petrol forklift to Coober Pedy depot.
- Completed procurement and delivery of Coober Pedy interim stockpile.
- Commence procurement of steel drill pipe for emergency stockpile.
- Updated Penong LDFB and Northwest Private condition scoring.
- Documented and prioritised upcoming floodgate repair works in Frome LDFB.
- Continued work on a new and improved method of digital reporting for Patrolmen and dashboard for ease of information access.
- Commenced design and procurement of steel and signage for a 1080 bait drying rack – to be installed in Marree section.

Inspections and Patrols

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

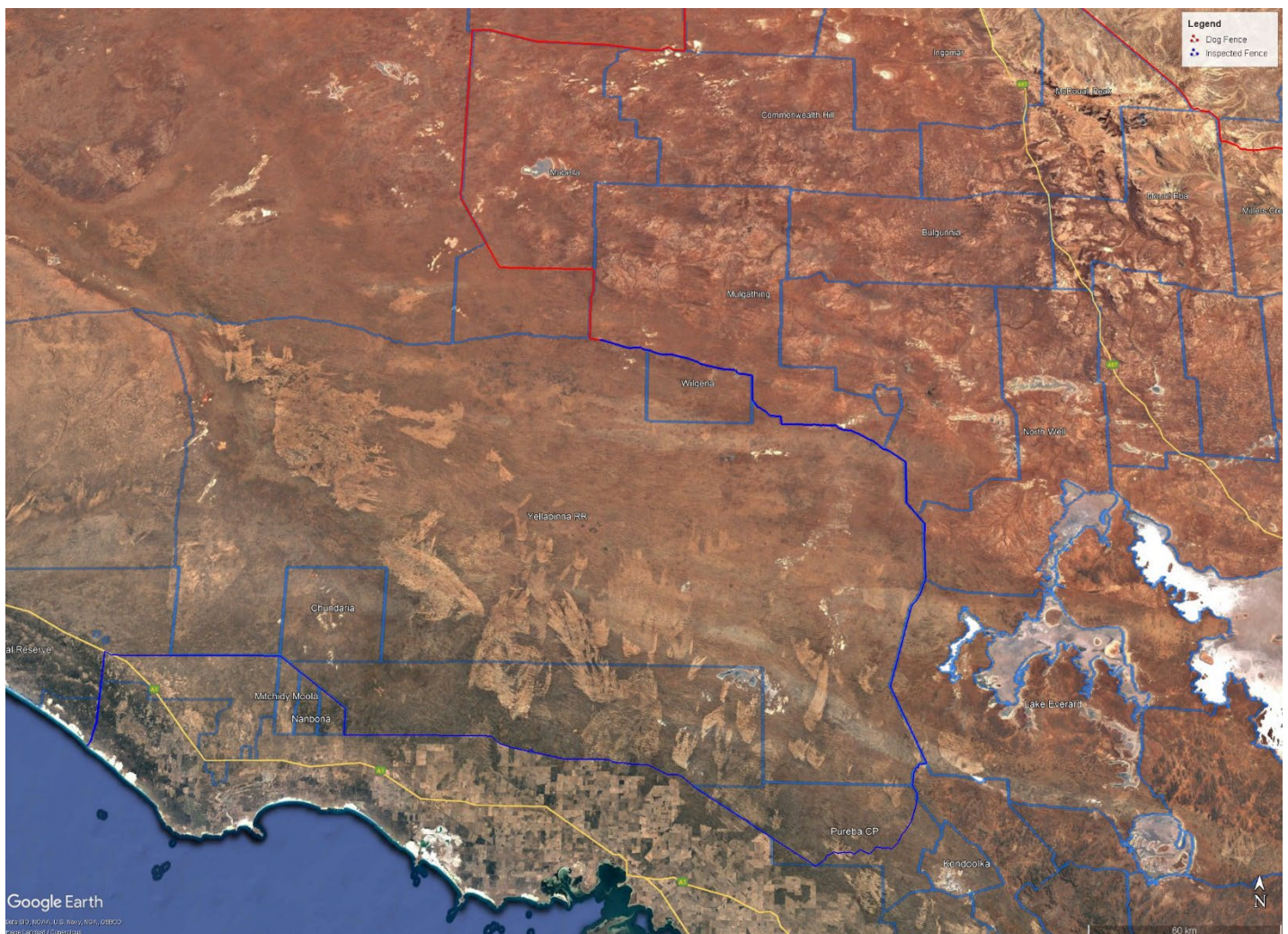
Western Fence Inspection + Herbicide application

21/01/2024 – 24/01/2024

Conducted by: Dog Fence Inspector

Sections inspected: Penong, Northwest Private - 582km approx.

- Abandoned vehicle left on maintenance track – removed
- New grid alarm installed on Fowlers section
- Met with Penong Patrolman and Penong Local Board member
- Deployed herbicide applicator, treated 80km / ~ 500kg of granules
- Damages cause by wombats has decreased substantially following reactivation of electric fence in Fowlers Bay and Penong sections
- Updated GPS plots and scoring to reflect current condition of fence following fence rebuild works
- Observed burned scrubland adjacent to Dog Fence, no damage caused to fence line.
- Plotted and recorded track damages caused by heavy rainfall late 2023, a loader, grader and labourer have been organised works to commence mid – late February
- Documented continued acacia regrowth and general vegetation on southern Mulgathing/Wilgena sections of fence (Northwest Private)
- Inspected sections of fence are dog proof and grid alarms operational unless stated otherwise.





Track damage caused by heavy rainfall – Pureba



Granulated herbicide applicator & boom arm in use



Evidence of fire damage caused by dry lightning – Lake Everard



Rebuild material stockpile – Mulgathing

Local Dog Fence Boards & Private owner

During the reporting period:

- The fence was inspected at a minimum of every 14 days by the Far West Coast, Northwest Private, Central, Marree and Frome Patrolmen.
- Patrolmen baited at a rate of 1 bait per 1 km, or 1 bait per 200m where there was dog activity.
- Patrolmen reported wild dog activity in Marree and Frome sections.
- Reports of increased feral goat numbers around the Dog Fence and neighbouring properties in Pureba section.
- Reports of increased camel sightings and damages in Northwest Private and Central sections
- 4 – 6 spot fires recorded in Lake Everard section
- Major track damage caused by water erosion following heavy rainfall end of 2023 in Pureba section

Dog Fence Rebuild

As of 19 January, 949 kilometres of fence rebuild has been completed and the rebuild of an additional 162 kilometres of fence is underway.

Although four stages of work currently underway, work had slowed over the Christmas, New Year and summer periods with fencing contractors returning home to spend time with their families.

In the past month there has been rain, fire and feral animals threaten the fence, with the Penong LDFB area being hit the hardest. An isolated rain cell dumped an extraordinary amount of rain on the fence (in Stage 10) in mid-December, creating a chasm beside the fence (image above). Fortunately, this did not compromise the fence itself.

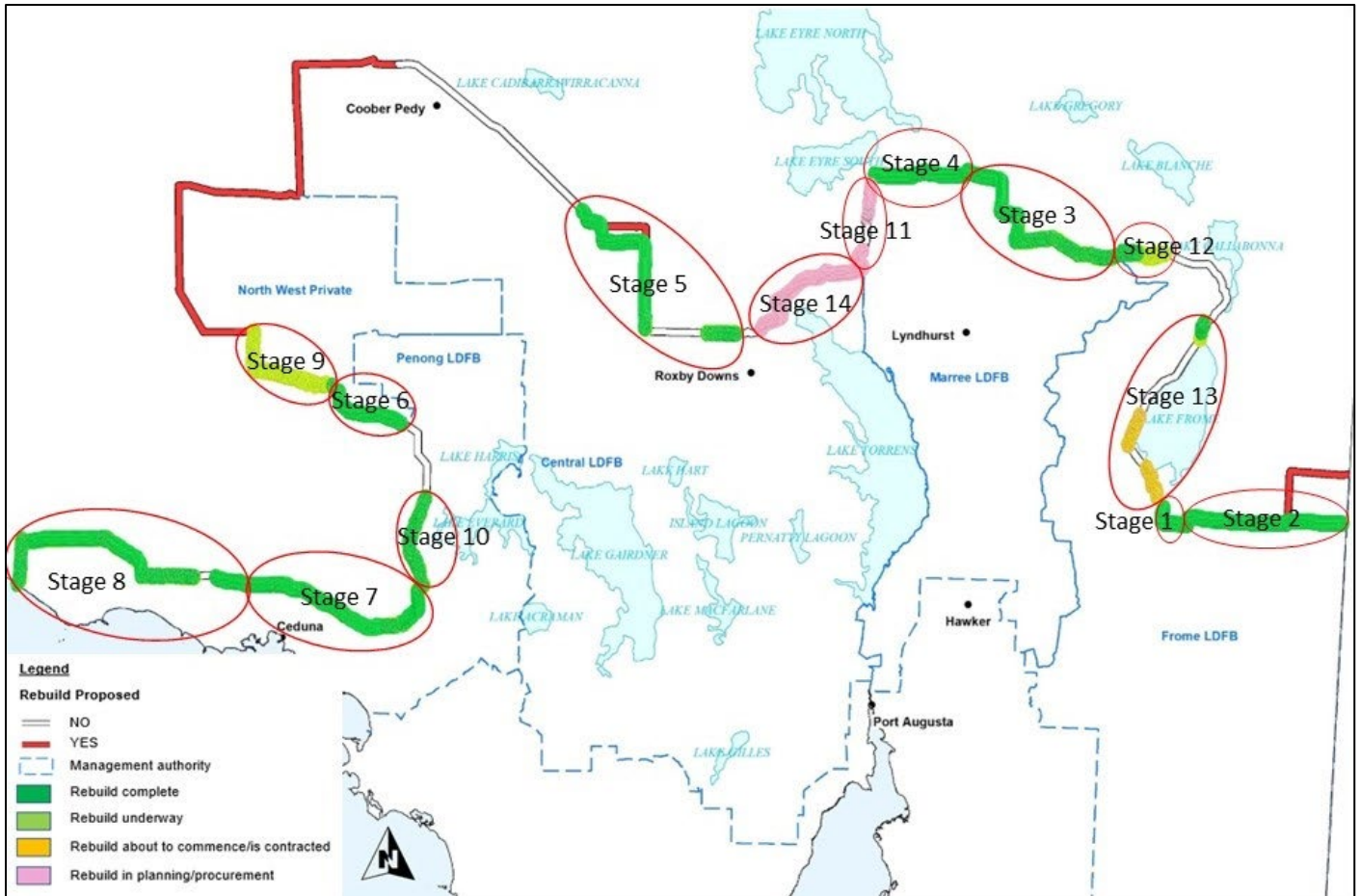
A few weeks later, multiple fires broke out in the region, with one fire crossing over about 900 metres of fence in Stage 7.

The fence was not impacted, largely because of the cleared track on either side that acts as a fire break, and importantly because there was no vegetation in or up against the fence to burn.

Heavy rains have also impacted parts of the Central LDFB area, and while this has restricted the patrolman's access along the fence, there is no reported damage to the fence. And just to make this patrolman's job a little more interesting when the rain already presented challenges, a mob of about 20 feral camels had knocked the fence, causing damage to the old fence in a few places. Feral camels can cause substantial damage to the Dog Fence, and in some sections of the fence that are being rebuilt under this project, an electric off-set wire is installed to add additional protection to the fence.

Progress as of 8 December 2023

Rebuild completed	949 km	
Rebuild underway	162 km	
Rebuild about to commence/contracted	122 km	*materials only
Rebuild planning/procurement underway	152 km	



Conclusion

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

- Implementing a weed control program across the fence
- Begin procurement of an additional 8.5T granulated herbicide
- Build and deliver remaining herbicide applicators to Local Boards and Private Fence Owner
- Relocate unused materials to containers and creeks along fence (Frome)
- Begin procurement of 10km fence materials for emergency response stockpile
- Continuation of Dog Fence Rebuild
- Commence floodgate replacement on high priority creeks (Frome)
- Improvements to Patrol recording and reporting (digital app)
- Collection of 2023/24 Dog Fence rates