

Wild Dog Management Best Practice Guidelines

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the SA Arid Lands Board doing to assist land managers in wild dog control?

The SA Arid Lands NRM Board provides a range of programs through 'Biteback'.

These include:

- Bait injection services twice a year,
- Trapper Training
- Subsidised manufactured baits
- Trapper Rebate with a 50% reimbursement on the hire of a professional trapper

What are the Wild Dog Management Best Practice Guidelines for?

The Guidelines are a reference tool for the best methods to control wild dogs. They outline an integrated management approach coordinating shooting, trapping and baiting along with monitoring.

The Guidelines can be used as a proactive tool on properties where wild dog populations aren't currently known to exist or on properties where wild dogs are seldom sighted to prevent growth of populations. They are for all land managers in the SAAL region, including livestock, non-livestock properties, conservation and national parks.

Land managers are legally required to control wild dogs, and the Guidelines set a benchmark for land managers and the Board to assess community efforts to control wild dogs. Livestock SA have endorsed the Guidelines and they have also received in-principle support from the SA Sheep Advisory Group.

I already bait, trap and/or shoot and believe my current level of control is enough. Is there a requirement to do more?

Following discussions with the pastoral community over a number of years, the SAAL NRM Board have considered the concerns and input of land managers and have identified that there is a significant wild dog issue largely due to an inadequate amount of control being undertaken across the region. The Best Practice

Guidelines for Wild Dog Control detail a clear expectation from the Board for all land managers.

If your efforts are in line with the Best Practice Guidelines for Wild Dog Control, you should be achieving a reasonable level of control. However, if wild dogs continue to persist on your property you are advised to talk to the NRM Board to see what assistance may be available.

If you are undertaking control below the Best Practice Guidelines, the Board's expectation is that your level of control will need to be improved in order to be effective in controlling wild dogs. The Board will be monitoring annual baiting activity to ensure land managers meet expectations.

Aren't dingoes a native animal?

Yes they are but under the Natural Resources Management Act 2004 inside (south of) the Dog Fence they are a declared pest species and land owners are required to destroy any wild dogs. Wild Dogs are a major threat to the sheep industry and can also pose a public safety risk at tourist locations or near townships.

Are national parks and conservation properties exempt from controlling wild dogs?

No. Public land managers, like all land managers in the SAAL Region inside of the Dog Fence, are obliged to meet the Best Practice Guidelines.

It's rare for a wild dog to be seen on my property. Why do I need to undertake control?

While you may not see the impacts of wild dogs, or be aware of their presence, wild dogs are known to be widespread in the region and research has shown they have the ability to travel many hundreds of kilometres across a variety of landscapes. Wild dogs are likely to be present on or traversing your property without your knowledge. The proactive level of control under the Best Practice Guidelines is designed to ensure all land managers work together to provide a landscape scale level of control.



My property has organic certification which doesn't allow me to bait. Does that exempt me from meeting the Best Practice Guidelines?

Under the NRM Act 2004 all land managers have a legal requirement to destroy wild dogs where they are present on their property. An organic property is not exempt from this legal requirement and will need to identify how it will comply with the legislation. Options available to organic properties include excising certain areas of their property from the organic certification to allow for baiting and/or trapping and by undertaking more intensive planned shooting programs. Programs such as FARM Assist offer volunteer shooters who will assist in feral animal control.

The Best Practice Guidelines for baiting relate to the length of tracks on my property. How do I find out how many kilometres of track there are on my property?

If you are unsure of how many kilometres of track are on your property you can contact the SA Arid Lands NRM Wild Dog Management Team on (08) 8648 5300 and they can advise you on your track length using their database of mapped tracks throughout the SA Arid Lands.

I'm controlling wild dogs on my property, but my neighbour isn't. What can be done to make sure my neighbour is controlling wild dogs too?

The Guidelines provides a benchmark for land managers and the Board to assess the efforts of land managers in controlling wild dogs. If a property is not controlling wild dogs on their property, the Board may choose to implement compliance action. This may require a land manager to enter into a mandatory management plan to ensure wild dog control is implemented. The management plan would heavily rely on the guideline to establish specific actions for implementation by the land manager.

I prefer not to bait because I have working dogs on my property. Is there any alternative technique I can use to manage wild dogs?

Ground baiting for wild dogs is the most cost effective and efficient control technique for managing wild dogs. Land managers can use simple precautions to protect their working dogs from accessing baits, such as muzzling and restricting their movements in specific areas of the property, or they could use specific tools such as Canid Pest Ejectors or PAPP (an alternative chemical to 1080 which has an antidote).

If a land manager chooses not to use baits on their property, the Board may ask the land manager to enter into a mandatory management plan and outline what

control measures will be implemented to ensure satisfactory wild dog control is maintained on the property.

My property is outside (north of) the dog fence. Do I have to follow the Best Practice Guidelines?

No. These guidelines are only applicable to properties in the SA Arid Lands Region inside (south of) the Dog Fence. Outside the Dog Fence dingoes are an unprotected wildlife species with control permitted when high populations threaten the cattle industry or public safety.

What's the SAAL NRM Board's responsibility for the Dog Fence?

Overall management of the Dog Fence is overseen by the Dog Fence Board. The State Board, through four Local Dog Fence Boards employs contractors to inspect the fence at intervals of 14 days and to undertake necessary repairs to maintain the fence in a dog-proof condition. The statutory responsibilities for management of the Dog Fence as identified in the Dog Fence Act 1946 rest with the Dog Fence Board and any queries should be directed to them on (08) 8303 9517.

Does involvement in the Wild Dog Aerial Baiting program constitute effective wild dog control?

Although the Aerial Baiting program contributes to the overall wild dog control effort inside (south of) the dog fence, on its own it is not the most effective measure. Ground baiting remains the most effective control measure for managing wild dogs on a property. The aerial baiting program was developed to complement ground baiting efforts by baiting inaccessible terrain that cannot be accessed by a vehicle and therefore is not included in the assessments through the Best Practice Guidelines.

For more information

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