

SA Arid Lands Wild Dog Management Plan FAQs

In January 2015 the Board endorsed the *SA Arid Lands Wild Dog Management Plan* for the region. These FAQs provide a snapshot for stakeholders and interested parties to better understand the key components of the plan.

Q. What is a wild dog?

Wild dogs is a term that includes dingoes, hybrids or unmanaged domestic dogs.

Q. Why have a plan for wild dogs?

Wild dogs continue to have a major impact on the livestock industry and this plan helps to guide land managers and the NRM Board in coordinated management of this issue.

Q. How was the plan developed?

Considerable community consultation was undertaken with all relevant stakeholder groups to provide input into the plan. Major stakeholders included Pastoral, Conservation, Industry, Government agencies, Aboriginal Groups and Outback Communities Authority.

Q. How has the plan changed?

If you live Inside the Dog Fence

Not much has changed for you. There is still a legal requirement for all land managers inside the Dog Fence to destroy wild dogs. The Biteback program is still providing the same services as before with the aim to protect the livestock industry which consist primarily of sheep which are very prone to wild dog attacks.

If you live Outside the Dog Fence

Where there is a need to manage wild dogs outside the fence due to the impacts on the cattle industry there are a number of changes;

- Properties have been grouped into nine local area planning groups which will assist with the coordination of activities.
- An annual bait injection service outside the fence will be provided where requested by a local area planning group. Manufactured baits will still be able to be purchased throughout the year.
- Land managers will be able to access a maximum number of baits (semi-dried or manufactured) equivalent to 1 per 2km² per 12 month period.
- Where a land manager requires additional baits they will need to complete a 'Bait Request for Exceptional Circumstances' application.

Q. How does the annual bait injection service (North Fence) work?

An annual bait injection service will be provided outside of the dog fence at the request of the local area planning groups.

In seasons where local area planning groups decide that an injection service is not required, individual land managers will be able to access manufactured baits to address a localised property-level issue.



Q. How does the “Bait Request for Exceptional Circumstances” application (North fence) work?

Where baits over the maximum limit is required a ‘Bait Request for Exceptional Circumstances’ form will need to be submitted with a decision provided within 7 days.

Where a local dog planning group identifies an exceptional bait request a decision will be made to providing a bait injection service or manufactured baits based on the number of properties and baits required.

The exceptional circumstances form can be accessed on the Natural Resources SA Arid Lands website or from the SA Arid Lands Natural Resource Centre.

Q. Why only one bait for every 2km² outside the Dog Fence?

The maximum baiting level has been set based on historical levels of baiting required to manage the impacts to the cattle industry while taking into account the ecological role of the dingo.

Q. What does “linkages between the cultural significance and ecological role of the dingo to the Traditional owners, will be acknowledged and recognised” mean?

The Dingo has been of great significance to Aboriginal people for a very long time – long enough for it to have come an integral part of camp life, oral literature, beliefs and practices. This plan takes into account the cultural significance and its ecological role and therefore management of the dingo is focused on managing their impact to the livestock industry. There is still a requirement for all land managers to undertake control of dingoes inside the Dog Fence.

Q. What options are there for controlling wild dogs inside the Dog Fence?

The Board’s plan promotes all land managers undertaking humane, coordinated and integrated control programs using a combination of methods as required. These are;

- Baiting with 1080 as the primary method providing for broad scale control of wild dogs when coordinated with your neighbour
- Shooting
- Soft jaw leg hold trapping

Q. What options are there for controlling wild dogs outside the Dog Fence?

- Baiting with 1080
- Shooting
- Trapping is only permitted within 100 metres north of the Dog Fence

Q. How does the compliance framework actually work and what is the process to implement it?

The compliance framework describes the Board’s process to undertake compliance in relation to the NRM Act and in line with regional NRM plans.

When a breach of the Act is reported, the report will be investigated and if an actual breach has occurred a decision will be made as to what action is required. Depending on the severity of the breach and the risk to further harm, a range of measures may be implemented, from an initial request for voluntary action to address the breach, a Notice for an Action Plan (this is a legal management plan between the Board and a land manager outlining what is required to address the issue) or if required, a Protection order requiring immediate rectification.



Q. Where is compliance going to be implemented?

The dingo is only declared for destruction inside the dog fence. There is no legal requirement for a person to control dogs outside the dog fence.

The Buffer zone refers to the strip of land extending 35km immediately north of the dog fence where wild dog control is routinely applied to minimise the risk of wild dogs breaching the fence. This is managed by the local Dog Fence Boards.

Q. What is considered a "reasonably achievable level of wild dog control"?

The Board's expectation is that all land managers are involved in reasonably achievable level of wild dog control and is in the process of consulting all local area planning groups to assist in determining the community's minimum standards for wild dog control.

Q. How do I measure if my control efforts are effective?

The Biteback program requests land managers to map their control activity to assist in monitoring wild dog activity across the landscape. This monitoring is important to enable resources to be directed to where it is needed most and to assist in reviewing or amending the plan.

While the ability to measure dog activity accurately can be difficult, for the land manager, who is in the best position to determine this, mapping is based on dog sightings, tracks, injuries or losses to stock and control efforts.

For further information or questions please contact the SA Arid Lands Natural Resource Centre on 8648 5300

Get your copy of the plan:

Contact SA Arid Lands Natural Resource Centre

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