

DRAFT

FLINDERS SHIRE COUNCIL



2023 - 2027

WILD DOG MANAGEMENT PLAN

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ABOUT THE PLAN

This Plan is the result of a review of the Flinders Shire Council's Wild Dog Management Plan. This plan was compiled in conjunction with the North West Queensland Regional Biosecurity Plan (NWQRBP) working group and then put to public consultation, to develop an objective and achievable strategy to improve wild dog management in the Flinders Shire.

This Strategy incorporates improvements in knowledge and techniques and aims to address the social issues that can hinder effective wild dog management.

Improvements include, but not limited to:

- A better understanding of wild dog behaviour.
- Better knowledge of wild dog movements, which aids improved control methods and control practices.
- An increased understanding of how environmental factors influence wild dog behaviour.
- Providing more information about wild dogs to people living in rural areas.
- Encouraging community involvement in public consultation at regular pest management meetings.
- Inclusion of wild dog barrier fencing in the Shire; and
- Providing an effective tool for all stakeholders to implement improvements and achieve long-term effective wild dog management.

The new FSLGWDMP has resulted in the development of a draft renewed plan, which provides opportunities for the local community and other stakeholders to have input into determining strategic directions and priority pest programs for the next four years.

Stakeholders and community consultation on the draft plan has involved:

- Development of a working for the establishment of a new plan.
- Draft plan made available to the public for review both electronically and hard copy.
- Public advertisement requesting submissions within a 28-day period; and
- Following consultation, council will seek to adopt the plan for implementation.

On adoption of the plan, it will be made available in both written and electronic form at the Council Office. The plan will remain current until 31st December 2027. The Flinders Shire Local Government Wild Dog Management Plan will be reviewed annually to monitor and sure its effectiveness.

Any amendments to the plan will require its re-submission to Council for approval, and the old plan will be replaced upon the adoption of the new one.

The Purpose of the FSLGWDMP is to provide support to all stakeholders in implementing these effective wild dog management strategies.

SUMMARY

Wild dogs have significant impacts on human health, the economy, the environment, and social amenity. The objective of managing Wild Dogs is to minimise the negative impacts of this species.

The purpose of the Flinders Shire Local Government Wild Dog Management Plan (FSLGWDMP) is to establish a Local Government planning framework that will address the impacts of Wild Dogs within the Flinders Shire. The development and implementation of this strategy is based on the management principles of integration; public awareness; commitment; consultation and partnership; planning; prevention and early intervention; best practice; and improvement.

The management of Wild Dogs is a shared responsibility of land managers, industry, the community, and all levels of government. While the primary responsibility rest with the land manager, collective action which engages all stakeholders is best practice, particularly for this transient species.

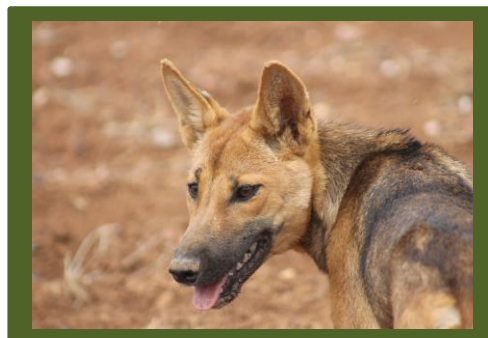
MISSION

The goal of this wild dog management plan is to implement a proactive, effective coordinated approach to controlling wild dogs that aims to reduce impacts on agricultural production, increase participation and allow for diversification of industry within the shire.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

The plan looks to increase awareness, define agreed responsibilities and coordinate strategic actions to:

- Reduce the economic, environmental, and social impacts of wild dogs,
- Improve the use of resources and expertise available for managing wild dogs within the shire,
- Lessen the local impacts of wild dogs,
- Improve the protection of environmentally significant areas.



COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

The plan is a four-year plan (from 2023 - 2027), which commences from the date of Council adoption. The plan will remain in force until end of December 2027, or until such time as a review establishes that this plan be extended, amended, or revoked.

Council may review or renew the plan at their own discretion. However, two types of reviews will be adhered to:

- An annual review.
- A full review when a state wild dog management strategy is amended.

DEFINITIONS

Wild Dogs – All wild living dogs (including dingoes, feral dogs, and hybrids)

Dingoes – Dingoes were present in Australia before domestic dogs but are native of Asia. They were bred from wolves. Pure dingoes are populations or individuals that have not hybridized with domestic dogs or hybrids

Feral Dogs – Domestic Dogs that are wild-living.

Hybrids – Crossbreeding of a dingo and a domestic dog, and the descendants of crossbred progeny

Domestic Dogs – A dog, other than a dingo or dingo hybrid that is fed and kept by someone

Free-roaming dogs – Dogs that are not under an owner's direct supervision and management, while being owned by humans.

Commensal dogs - Wild dogs that live independently from humans, but in close association.

Nil tenure planning process – An approach where a range of control methods are applied across all tenures by all stakeholders at a 'landscape' level in coordinated manner. This approach focuses on mapping and information gathered from landholders to identify areas of wild dog habitat, movement corridors, historical and recent stock loss, and current control. The information collection process clearly identifies the responsibilities of each stakeholder with regard to wild dog management in the area.

Peri-urban - Landscape that combines urban and rural activities. These areas contain a mixture of land usages including suburban pockets, rural residential and small-to-medium farming Lots.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Predation on livestock from wild dogs in the Flinders Shire area has been an issue for many years. Many landholders have implemented various forms of control with varying success. Sheep and wool producers have felt the brunt of the impacts, and many have left the industry due to varying reasons, but most recently it is due to predation from wild dogs. Many have re-stocked with cattle but are now still feeling the impacts of wild dogs on their cattle herds. Historically, the main control technique has been the use of 1080 in fresh meat baits. This technique has been used by distributing meat baits from the air or by hand on ground. Some landholders have also resorted to exclusion fencing and guardian animals to protect livestock from predation whilst trapping is also growing in popularity again.

LEGISLATION

The dingo is a restricted invasive animal under the Biosecurity Act 2014. It must not be moved, kept, fed, given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit.

The wild dog must not be moved, fed, given away, sold, or released into the environment without a permit.

The Act requires everyone to take all reasonable and practical steps to minimise the risks associated with invasive animals under their control. This is called a General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO).

Landholders have a GBO to take reasonable steps to control wild dogs. Control must be done in a humane way and in accordance with animal welfare, firearms, and poisons legislation.

Under the Biosecurity Act 2014, everyone, including government agencies responsible for state lands, are obliged to take reasonable steps to control invasive animals on their land. Under the same Act, local governments must have a biosecurity plan that covers invasive animals in its area. This plan may include actions to be taken on certain species. Some of these actions may be required under local laws.

The dingo is defined as both 'wildlife' and 'native wildlife' under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and is a natural resource within protected areas such as national parks. Under the Act, protected areas have prescribed management principles, which refer to protecting and conserving the natural resource and the natural condition. Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS) is responsible for administering the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and is obliged to manage dingoes within protected areas according to this rationale. Outside protected areas, a dingo is not protected wildlife. The Nature Conservation (Wildlife) Regulation 1994 (Schedule 5) specifically excludes dingoes from the common mammal (indigenous to Australia) category; therefore, dingoes are only protected inside protected areas. Wild dogs and dingoes are defined as 'animals' under the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001. This legislation allows for the control of feral animals as long as the control is done in a way that does not cause the animal unnecessary pain and suffering.

Under the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996, the toxins 1080 and strychnine are classified as S7 poisons. The regulation of 1080 in Queensland is the responsibility of Queensland Health. Queensland Health can issue landholders with a permit for strychnine and 1080 capsules for canid pest ejectors for their own land only.

A person authorised under the Biosecurity Act and authorised by Queensland Health can supply landholders with 1080 baits for use on their land in accordance with detailed written instructions that comply with national requirements for the use of 1080. In order to become an authorised 1080 or strychnine operator, an applicant (either a Biosecurity Queensland employee or an employee of another state government department, local government, or approved business) must undergo a Biosecurity Queensland training course and pass a Queensland Health examination. The Weapons Act 1990 and laws covering trespass also relate to the control of pest animals.



WILD DOG FACTS

Wild dogs weigh between 8–38 kg, depending on the breed of the parent dogs (dingoes weigh 12–15 kg). Their coats can be yellow, black, white, brown or any variation or combination of these. Some wild dogs may have larger heads in proportion to their body size, and larger canine teeth than domestic dogs. Wild dogs can live for up to 12 years, although most live only 5–7 years.

Food, water, and shelter

Wild dogs can be found anywhere there is a food source, water, and shelter. Many of the changes that people make to the landscape make more of these things available.

Wild dogs feed opportunistically. That is, they will eat whatever is easiest to obtain when they are hungry. They scavenge and will eat animal or vegetable matter, will hunt for live prey, or will eat road-killed animals, dead livestock, and scraps from compost heaps or rubbish tips. Wild dogs mostly take small prey such as rabbits, possums, rats, wallabies, and bandicoots. However, when hunting in packs, they will take larger animals such as kangaroos and goats. The young of larger livestock such as cattle and horses are also vulnerable to attack. Their choice of primary prey species depends on what is abundant and easy to catch.

They usually hunt in the early morning and early evening, when they locate individual prey animals by sight, approach them silently, and then pursue them. A fleeing animal will encourage attack.

Wild dogs rest during the day, often not far from water, and their travel routes to and from resting or den sites may be well defined. Their tracks depend on the size and weight of the animal; however, they are usually larger and more rounded than those of a fox.

Their home ranges vary considerably and are influenced by the availability of food. Wild dogs that depend primarily on rubbish may remain in the immediate vicinity of the source, while those that depend on livestock or wild prey may travel up to 20 km.

Wild dogs are attracted to places where they can scavenge food, and deliberately or inadvertently feeding them can make them dependent on humans. This is a source of many conflicts between people and wild dogs.

Social structure

Wild dogs in remote areas live in packs, often of 3–12 animals, with a dominant (alpha) male and female controlling breeding. Packs establish territories (home ranges) which do not usually overlap. The size of a territory seems to be directly related to the availability of food in the area. In pastoral areas where there are regular wild dog control programs and where hybridisation is prevalent, social structures may differ and packs may be less stable. These changes are not well documented or understood.

Wild dogs, particularly dingoes, visit the edge of their territory regularly. This checking of the boundaries is termed the dog's 'beat'. Knowing a wild dog's beat helps identify the best place to conduct control measures.

Breeding

Wild dogs are often heard howling during the breeding season which, for pure dingoes, occurs once a year, mostly between April and June. Hybrid dogs have two oestrus cycles each year, although they may not always successfully raise young in each cycle.

After a nine-week gestation, four to six pups are born in a den that provides protection from the elements and other animals. Dens may be in soft ground under rocks, logs, or other debris, or in logs or other hollows. Pups are suckled for 4-6 weeks and weaned at four months. Pups become independent of their parents when they are 6-2 months old, with those becoming independent at the later time having a higher rate of survival. Increased food supply also enables more pups to survive to maturity.

IMPACTS

During the planning process it was clear that loss of production from the impacts of wild dogs on livestock is one of the key problems that producers are encountering. It must also be noted that loss of production is just one of several impacts that wild dogs are having on all stakeholders of the area.

As wild dogs have been in the landscape for many years, it is important to focus on managing the impacts that they are having rather than individual dogs. At no stage in this plan are we recommending that wild dogs will be totally eliminated from the shire, however, the goal of reducing impacts and / or eliminating the impacts in some areas is an achievable long-term outcome.

The varying impacts that landholders are experiencing are:

- Livestock losses, injuries, and damage
- Reduced or lost wool production
- Reduced lambing / calving percentages from stress to livestock and predation
- Disease impacts such as Neosporin in cattle
- Personal / financial stress and concern on landholders
- Lack of community cohesion due to differing views on wild dog impacts/control
- Social impacts on local communities i.e., loss of employment

These impacts are being experienced at varying levels across the Flinders Shire Council area but in general all landholders are experiencing impacts at some level.

The ability of wild dogs to move across the landscape, sometimes unnoticed, makes management difficult. Greater awareness, measuring and monitoring the impacts are crucial to the success of this plan that will help implement strategic and coordinated management.

STAKEHOLDERS

All stakeholders in reference to this wild dog management plan have the responsibility to participate and/or have input into the actions implemented by the plan.

The following is a list of stakeholders and their roles and responsibilities in wild dog management.

| | |
|--|--|
| Australian Government | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide the framework for pest management in Australia.• Coordinate, facilitate and promote national pest management policies and programs; and• Provide leadership and coordination for emergency responses to pests of national significance. |
| Biosecurity Queensland | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide support and relevant input to the FSLGWDMP in areas such as legislation and state government regulations.• Provide the technical support and advice in regard to best practice wild dog control; and• Work closely with councils RLO's to ensure the regular supply of 1080 solution and other products for baiting programs |
| Flinders Shire Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a baiting service to landholders to allow for coordinated management.• Promote the FSLGWDMP and its action through local newsletters and publications and provide administrative support; and• Support a consistent funding supply for wild dog control activities within the FSC area in partnership with landholders. |
| Landholders | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Actively participate in coordinated 1080 baiting programs biannually or as required (Aerial or ground).• Carry out or permit proactive best practice control on private land within the plan area. i.e., trapping, baiting, and shooting.• Provide relevant wild dog data to their area coordinator to be submitted at committee meetings; and• Work with and support neighbouring landholders to participate in wild dog control activities. |
| AgForce Queensland | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide support to all stakeholders in their actions to reduce wild dog impacts.• Provide access to training and information relevant to best practice wild dog control.• Fully support and assist the leadership of the FSLGWDMP; and• Provide linkages / contacts between neighbouring shires and address wild dog control at a catchment / regional scale. |
| State land representatives (QPWS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Represent their relevant departments as an active, contributing landholder in wild dog management; and• Provide relevant information to landholders in respect to some restrictions that are encountered on state lands. |

| | |
|--|---|
| Community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to be kept informed of the impacts that wild dogs are having on the producers of their region; and • Business owners should understand the possible impacts that can occur on their business due to consequences of increased numbers of producers leaving their industry of choice due to dogs. |
| Macropod Harvesters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kept informed of advisory group priorities as they are more than likely to encounter wild dogs whilst working. • Assist with reporting of wild dog sightings and impacts to the landholders they shoot for; and • Now have the opportunity to provide a service to the wild dog advisory group and landholders through the use of macropod carcasses that have been harvested for skins (bait meat supply). |
| Regional NRM Groups (DCQ and SGNRM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide assistance with funding applications and project management in regard to a coordinated wild dog program in the shire; and • Assist with the dissemination of awareness and educational materials / workshops through newsletters, websites and contact lists. |
| Contractors / Trappers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide landholders and FSC information on dog sightings, trappings, and shootings; and • Work closely with the FSC Rural Lands Department to ensure effective and strategic use of the trappers' time and expertise. |
| Queensland Rail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a landholder of the shire, contribute to coordinated programs when conducted. |
| MLA & AWI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to support wild dog control activities within the shire and North West Queensland. |
| Media (printed and radio) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the general public informed of the impacts that wild dogs are having on the producers of their region; and • Report Good News / success stories. |
| Commercial Bait Manufacturers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the Manufacture of quality baits; and • Continue working on improvements |
| Animal Welfare Groups (RSPCA etc.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote responsible management of domestic dogs; and • Review and participate in education, information, conservation, and planning process. |

BIOSECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

The Flinders Shire Council is 41,422 sq. kms with a population of approximately 1,791 people. Wild Dogs have the potential to adversely alter ecosystem function, reduce primary industry productivity and profitability, and threaten human and animal health and social amenity.

Environmental Impacts:

Wild dogs predate on native animals and disrupt nature's balance.

Negative Impacts of Pest Animals on Biodiversity: Direct Predation, loss of food and shelter for native species; degradation of habitats; reduction and possible extinction of native animals; spread of disease; competition for shelter and food; and loss of genetic purity (Hybridisation).

Economic Impacts: Wild Dogs pose an economic burden on government and industry. The cost of managing wild Dogs coupled with the loss in production can be crippling.

Negative economic impacts of pest animals: Direct control and management costs; predation on livestock; competition for resources; destruction of natural resources; and destruction of pastures.

Human Health and Social Amenity: Wild dogs don't discriminate between town boundaries and rural properties, and particularly in the Flinders Shire, with small populations; everyone can be affected by Wild Dogs.

Negative human health and social amenity impacts of pest animals: Predation of livestock and pets; increased risk of motor vehicle accidents; damage to structures and spread of disease.

'Stakeholders need to work together in a coordinated effort to deliver an effective and humane wild dog Management Program'



STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

A well-defined strategy is needed to guide policy, inform stakeholders, and provide for coordination of the multifaceted approach required for effective Wild Dog management.

BIOSECURITY PLAN ACTIVE PROGRAM – WILD DOG

| PROGRAM OBJECTIVE | OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE | MEASURE/INDICATOR |
|---|--|--|
| Impact Reduction; Asset Protection; extension and technical support | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biannual 1080 Baiting Program • Wild Dog Trappers contracted by Council • Scalp Bounty | No. of Properties participating in Aerial and Ground Baiting Number of Scalps surrendered by trappers Number of Scalps surrendered by the public |

| OBJECTIVE | ACTIONS |
|--|--|
| Increase proactive, on ground landholder participation within the three shire land type areas, (Basalt, Desert and Downs). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biannual Baiting • Regular Advertising in Cooee • Regular information sharing of research findings and success stories • Collation and dissemination of maps displaying areas of “concern”, general impact data and identifying gaps in the control program. • Seek Funding for Opportunistic Aerial Shooting • Support Landcare groups in funding applications for control of Wild Dogs. |
| General reduction in damage to livestock caused by wild dogs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild Dog Trapper • Maintain a Register of Guardian Animals • Retain Wild Dog Scalp bounty • Employ the services of a Second Wild dog Trapper where necessary • Investigate and implement if practical a Trainee/Scholarship program for a Wild Dog Trapper |
| Maintain and possibly increase the number of sheep and wool producers returning to the industry | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lobby Government for more proactive Wild dog management funding. • Support Industry Representatives in their applications for funding including assistance with mapping |
| Provide education to landholders and community through workshops and field days to increase awareness, skills and knowledge in wild dog behaviour and control techniques | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular promotion of the FSLGWDMP and its role in wild dog management via a regular newsletter namely ‘Cooee’ • Promotion of “good news stories” to demonstrate that positive outcomes can occur from implementing strategic/coordinated management. • Seek Funding for Engagement of all landholders in awareness raising / training events such as planning workshops, trapping schools. |

TECHNIQUES FOR CONTROLLING WILD DOGS IN QUEENSLAND

| Options | Features |
|---|---|
| Trapping Only padded or offset laminated jawed traps are acceptable. May be used in conjunction with strychnine (Strychnine requires QLD Health approval) to ensure a quick death in remote areas only. | Advantages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective when used as part of an integrated approach. • Especially suited to the control of small population or problem individuals. • Can be used in peri-urban areas. • Can be used as an additional tool in conjunction with 1080 baiting programs to target bait shy dogs: and • Minimal impact on non-target species if used correctly. Disadvantages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time consuming and labour-intensive; and • Requires a certain level of expertise. |
| Shooting Must be in accordance with the Weapons Act 1990. | Advantages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suited to control of small populations or problem individuals. • Effective when used as part of an integrated approach; and • Has no effective on non-target species. Disadvantages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time-consuming and labour-intensive. |
| Aerial Shooting Must be in accordance with CASA and the Weapons Act 1990. | Advantages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suited to control of small populations or problem individuals. • Effective when used as part of an integrated approach; and • Has no effective on non-target species. Disadvantages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time consuming and labour-intensive. • Expensive; and • Must have consistent marksmanship to ensure dogs don't become helicopter shy. |
| Baiting – 1080 (Fluoracetate) | Advantages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flinders Shire Council offers a biannual baiting program. • 1080 has a low cost. • 1080 is efficient and more target-specific than other poisons. • 1080 does not persist in the environment. • 1080 is considered more humane than strychnine. • Available as off the shelf manufactured baits • Allows a flexible approach depending on the location; and • Baits can be distributed by land/air or buried/tied to reduce non-target impacts. Conditions can be implemented to reduce risk. Disadvantages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are some areas where 1080 baits cannot be laid. Conditions apply. • Working dogs' safety can be an issue; and • Non-target animals can be affected. |

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Baiting – Strychnine Strychnine permits are required from QLD Health, subject to conditions.</p> | <p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strychnine permits are required from Qld Health, subject to conditions. • May be used as a bait or in conjunction with traps to ensure a quick death for captured wild dogs. • Flexibility in timing of use; and • Reactive tool responding to wild dog impacts. <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered less humane than 1080. • Because of its limited use, is not as successful as participating in coordinated 1080 baiting programs; there are some areas strychnine baits cannot be laid. Conditions apply. Must be used in accordance with APVMA permit PER14004; and • Non target animals can be affected. |
| <p>Baiting – PAPP Para-aminopropiophenone is the active ingredient of PAPP Baits.</p> | <p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered more humane than other baits. • Low risk of secondary poisoning. • Antidote for working dogs if treated within 30mins of ingesting poison. • Breaks down in the environment in both soil and water by microorganisms; and • Animals destroyed by PAPP can be distinguished from animals destroyed by other chemicals by the inclusion of yellow beads in the carcass stomach. <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufactured baits have been found to be less palatable than fresh meat baits. • Native animals have been known to be susceptible to baits. |
| <p>Fencing</p> | <p>Advantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to protect high value assets (e.g., Sheep) • Can limit impacts and dispersal of wild dogs' movement back into areas where they have been controlled; and • Exclusion fencing can be an appropriate control measure in peri-urban areas. <p>Disadvantages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expensive to build; ongoing maintenance required; and • Can have negative impacts on non-target species by reducing access to water and food. |

NOTE:

It is recommended that landholders use more than one if not all of the above-mentioned control techniques to ensure effective all year-round control of wild dogs. It is to be noted that the use of one technique on its own will not ensure effective control of wild dogs and their impacts.

**MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

Monitoring and evaluation is critical in allowing wild dog management within the FSC area to be effective, measurable, and accountable.

This plan will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it remains a “live” document that can be adapted and changed to meet the changing impacts of wild dogs due to successes and/or failures.

Monitoring data will include but is not limited to:

- Collection of and interpretation of baiting statistics, scalp bounty data, guardian animal register and contract trapper data.
- Information from landholders collected by questionnaire/survey at baiting stations including:
 - Branding / lambing numbers, bitten stock, number of dead stock seen, contract trapper data.
 - Number of field days, information days, trapping schools, advisory group/public meetings, mail outs, baiting days.

It is to be noted that monitoring stock damage and losses on such a large scale with a large number of landholders will be difficult. As mentioned in point 2 above, landholders will be asked to provide this stock impact data at baiting days as a prerequisite to receiving the baiting service. A suitable brief questionnaire to capture the required data needed to evaluate success or failures will be generated.

From the inception of the Flinders Shire Local Government Wild Dog Management Plan, detailed data will be collected from control programs consisting of:

- volume of bait distributed and how (aerial and ground)
- percentage of the shire covered by the baiting program
- number of landholders participating
- aircraft track logs
- points where dogs are trapped or shot (scalp data)
- those landholders using guardian animals and / or exclusion fencing

This information/data will continue to be collected and collated and provided to the working group and community on a regular basis. This will ensure successful and strategic control is achieved by utilising the most accurate up to date information. This is critical to ensure that funds are targeted at known wild dog areas and value for money is achieved from the budget allocation.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN

The FSLGWDMP will only endorse and promote best practice control and management for wild dogs under this plan. Best practice techniques include:

- baiting
- trapping
- shooting
- Exclusion fencing
- Guardian animals
- Livestock management



REPORTING

Regular reporting on success and failures of the program is essential for the improvement of techniques and strategies.

The Chair of the Flinders Shire Council Wild Dog Advisory Group will prepare and present reports at regular council meetings to provide elected members with information to support the wild dog committee and its effective use of the budget allocation. Also, the map data that has been collated will be presented in a suitable format to demonstrate effectiveness of the program.

Council's Rural Lands Department will continue to provide data to the committee on who participated in both aerial and ground baiting activities as well as the amount of bait material used. This data will be critical in assisting council on targeting control.

ESSENTIALS FOR SUCCESS

- It is critical that this wild dog management plan is owned and implemented as a combined effort from all stakeholders of the Flinders Shire Council area.
- It has been shown in other western Queensland shires that community led wild dog programs can be very effective in reducing the impacts on all stakeholders of the area.
- Keys to success will be:
 - Landholders taking full ownership of the problem via active participation through Pest Management Meetings.
 - Honest and open communication with council.
 - Utilising best practice methods and being open to new and innovative techniques.
 - Continued funding support for the program from council.
 - A team approach is used to combine landholders' resources and efforts; and
 - Effective promotion and endorsement for the Flinders Shire Local Government Wild Dog Management Plan and the role it plays in the community.

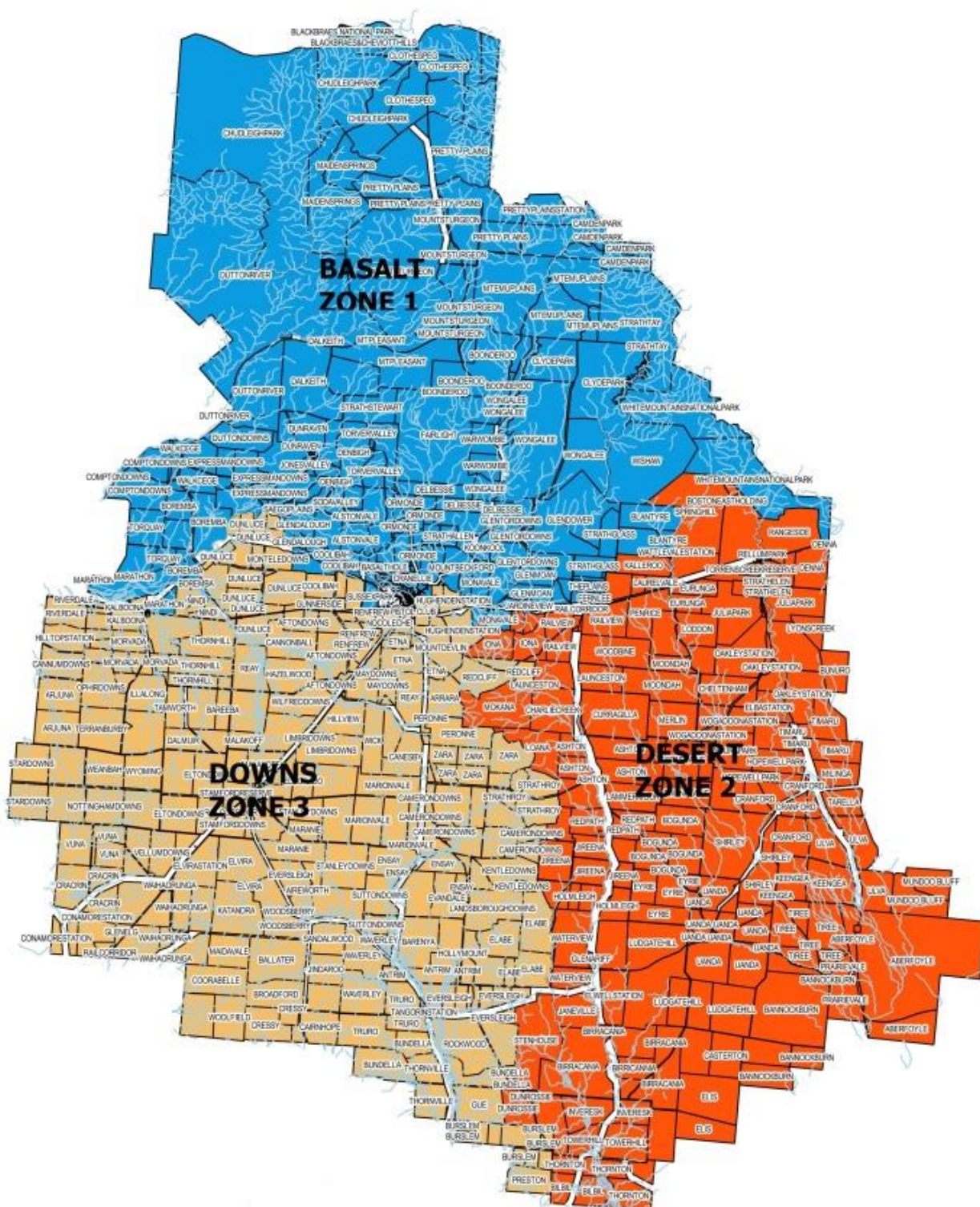


DISCLAIMER

While every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of this publication, Flinders Shire Council accepts no liability for any loss or damage that result from reliance on it.

North West Queensland Regional Biosecurity Plan – A plan to assist the Flinders Shire community to protect and restore the environment through best management practices.

APPENDIX 1

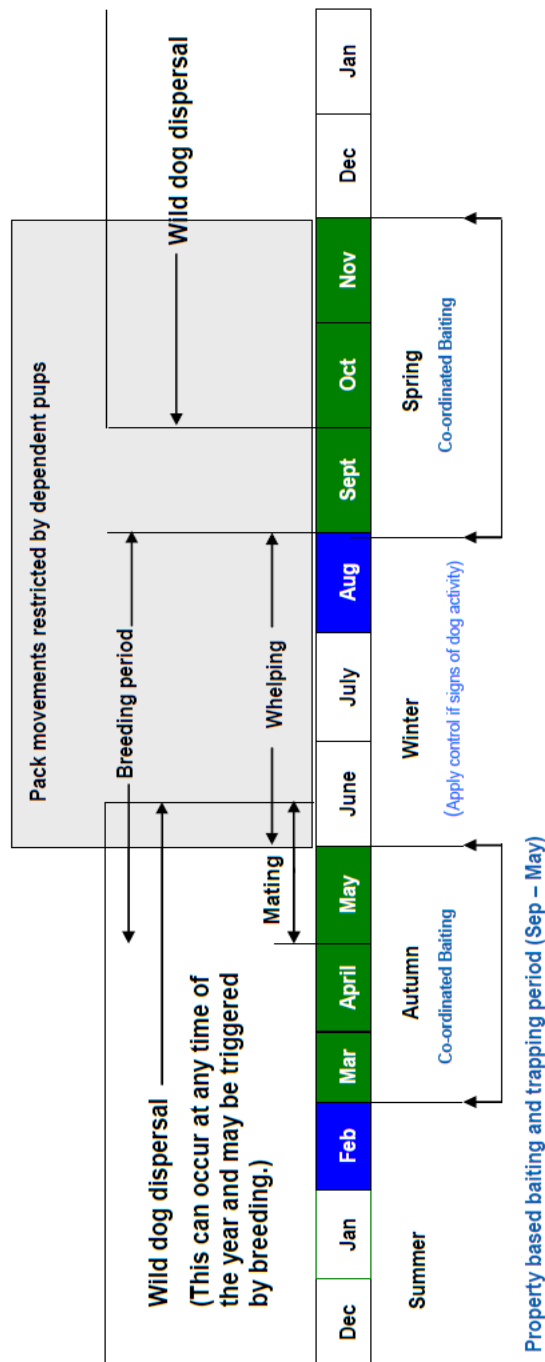


APPENDIX 2



Wild dog facts

Wild dog control planning calendar



Keys to effective wild dog control

1. Ensure cooperation between stakeholders.
2. Coordinate control activities across properties—broad participation is critical!
3. Ensure effective local management and proactive decision making.
4. Integrate control techniques.
5. Conduct key wild dog control activities during the autumn months.
6. Spring baiting may protect stock during key lambing and calving seasons, **but** control must be properly coordinated to ensure young dogs do not recolonise vacated territories.

July 2016

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Department of Agriculture and Fisheries