

Declared Animal Policy

This policy relates to natural resources management under section 9(1)(d) of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (the Act), enabling co-ordinated implementation and promotion of sound management programs and practices for the use, development or protection of natural resources of the State. Specifically, this policy provides guidance on the use and management of natural resources relating to the prevention or control of impacts caused by pest species of animals that may have an adverse effect on the environment, primary production or the community, as per object s7(1)(f) of the Act.

Wild dogs and dingoes (*Canis familiaris*)

This policy applies to dingoes, wild-living domestic dogs and any hybrids, which all have severe impacts on livestock industries in South Australia.

This policy summarises the requirements to manage wild dogs under the following legislative instruments: *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, *Landscape South Australia (General) Regulations 2020* (and associated Chief Executive Notices under Regulations 24 and 25), *Animal and Welfare Act 1985* and *Regulations*; *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*; *Dog Fence Act 1946*; *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*; *Controlled Substances Act 1984* and *Regulations*. This policy also provides interpretation and best practice on how legislative requirements can be met.

Preamble

In South Australia, the management actions that apply to dingoes and wild dogs are delineated by the Dog Fence. Inside the Dog Fence wild dogs are declared for destruction under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (hereafter LSA Act). Dingoes have important cultural roles inside and outside the Dog Fence. Outside the Dog Fence they are managed as unprotected native animals under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* because they also have an important ecological role.

Despite efforts to maintain the Dog Fence, and ongoing baiting, shooting and trapping programs, wild dog numbers are increasing in the sheep zone inside the fence and their distribution has expanded further south. Outside the Dog Fence dingoes have been effectively maintained as a wildlife species, but their impacts on cattle production can at times be severe.

This policy outlines control measures required to eradicate wild dogs inside the Dog Fence, whilst managing populations outside the Dog Fence to minimise impacts on cattle.

Definitions

Dingo – Native animal introduced to Australia about 3,500 years ago.

Domestic dog – breeds other than dingoes usually living in association with humans.

Wild dog – wild-living dogs including dingoes, domestic dogs living at large and their hybrids.

Declared to be destroyed – land managers must carry out proper measures to remove all wild dogs.

Purpose

- Protect and support the growth of South Australia's sheep industry.
- Protect and support the growth of South Australia's cattle industry.
- Maintain the cultural role of dingoes in Aboriginal culture, and outside the Dog Fence maintain their ecological role.
- Reduce the risk of wild dogs potentially attacking humans and spreading disease.

Objectives

- Maintain the Dog Fence to prevent incursions of wild dogs.
- Eradicate wild dogs inside the Dog Fence.
- Minimise the impacts of wild dogs on cattle outside the Dog Fence.

Wild Dogs – Inside the Dog Fence

Feasibility of containment

In 2019, more than two-thirds of the Dog Fence was more than 100 years old – it was ageing and brittle. The new Dog Fence is being built from the best available materials to suit different terrain and pressure on the Dog Fence from wild dogs. The new Dog Fence will prevent incursions of wild dogs.

State level risk assessment

The SA Pest Animal Risk Management Guide was used to assess the risks posed by wild dogs and the feasibility of managing incursions inside the Dog Fence. The guide highlighted the need to destroy all wild dogs inside the Dog Fence.

Even once the Dog Fence is rebuilt, there will be incursions, such as when the Dog Fence is damaged by floods or fires. The eradication of wild dogs inside the Dog Fence will require a whole of landscape approach on wild dog control i.e. baiting, trapping and shooting.

The guide also indicated a need to prevent people keeping, moving and selling dingoes.

Management required to eradicate wild dogs inside the Dog Fence

Inside the Dog Fence the wild dog is declared for destruction under the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019* (LSA Act). This requirement applies to all properties, not just those used for livestock production.

The most effective and efficient way to kill the majority of wild dogs is with poison baits. Minimum baiting standards are outlined in Appendix 1 to ensure sufficient wild dogs are destroyed and that baiting programs are effective at a landscape scale. These standards will be implemented through Section 192(1) of the LSA Act and Section 24(1) of the LSA Regulations as determined by the Chief Executive by notice in the Gazette. Some wild dogs are difficult to bait from the ground, and need to be killed by aerial baiting, the use of leg-hold traps (as specified by *Animal Welfare Regulations 2012*) or shooting.

On properties that are certified for organic production, land managers should ensure their property management plans include baiting procedures. Sufficient areas need to be excised so organically certified properties meet minimum baiting standards. Excised areas are often around dams or turkey's nests, and are fenced to exclude organic livestock.

Regional Landscape boards should inform land managers of the required baiting measures and the importance of coordinated landscape-scale management of wild dogs. The boards should try to source external funding to assist land managers in coordinating baiting programs, accessing control tools, and provide training in the areas of greatest impacts. The effectiveness of baiting programs should be reported.

Management required to prevent wild dog incursions through the Dog Fence

Under the *Dog Fence Act 1946*, the Dog Fence must be maintained so that it provides an effective barrier to wild dogs.

In a 35 kilometre-wide buffer zone outside the Dog Fence, including the dog fence along the NSW border to the north of Mulyungarie Station, wild dogs are declared for control under the LSA Act. This requirement applies to all properties.

Minimum baiting standards are outlined in Appendix 1 to ensure wild dog activity is reduced to limit incursions through the Fence. These standards will be implemented through Section 192(3) of the LSA Act and Section 25(1) of the LSA Regulations, as determined by the Chief Executive by notice in the Gazette.

On properties in the buffer zone that are certified for organic production and to assist with their requirements under the LSA Act, land managers should ensure their property management plans include baiting procedures so organic properties can meet the minimum baiting standards.

Management required to prevent dingoes being released inside the Dog Fence

Dingoes and wild dogs pose a safety risk to humans, pets and livestock. Inside the Dog Fence, permits are required to keep, move, sell or release dingoes or their hybrids (under the LSA Act). Permits to keep dingoes have been granted to zoos and wildlife parks, which are open to the public for educational purposes and have a high level of security.

Under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995* dingoes are not recognised as a dog breed and so cannot be registered as a domestic dog in South Australia inside the Dog Fence.

Wild Dogs – Outside the Dog Fence

Outside the Dog Fence dingoes are culturally important to Aboriginal people (as they are inside the Fence) and roam free. They also have important ecological functions, including reducing kangaroo numbers outside the Fence.

On Aboriginal Lands, public lands, mining lands and townships, dingoes are typically only controlled when they pose a threat to human safety.

Cattle producers outside the Dog Fence limit their control of dingoes to times and places where they are impacting cattle. The Wild Dog Management Plan of the SA Arid Lands Landscape Board limits the amount of poison bait that can be used.

Management required to minimise impacts on cattle outside the Dog Fence

Where impacts on cattle are too high, land managers outside the Dog Fence may control dingoes by ground or aerial baiting, shooting, or leg-hold trapping. Some of these activities are managed under the *Animal Welfare Regulations 2012* or policies of the regional Landscape board.

Regional Landscape boards should inform land managers about options to bait dingoes, and the importance of coordinated landscape-scale management. The boards should support land managers with training and coordination of baiting programs.

On properties certified for organic production, land managers should ensure their property management plans include baiting procedures.

Management plan to maintain ecological and Aboriginal cultural values of wild dogs

Aboriginal people in South Australia have strong cultural connections with dingoes, both inside and outside the Dog Fence. The regional management plans of the SA Arid Lands and Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape boards aim to maintain the cultural role of dingoes in lands held by Aboriginal Prescribed Body Corporates and in National Parks outside the Dog Fence. The regional management plans require that the landowners and relevant regional Landscape boards are consulted before any baiting activities are undertaken.

Where remote Indigenous communities neighbour pastoral land, wild dog management programs should include humane, veterinary-based domestic dog population management programs, aiming to stabilise the community dog population to reduce the risk of overflow to wild dog populations.

Management required to reduce risk of wild dogs attacking people

People in remote towns, communities and mine sites are at risk of being attacked by wild dogs, which sometimes become habituated to people. Wild dogs can also carry diseases that can affect humans. Regional Landscape boards should encourage and inform people in these areas not to feed wild dogs, and to fence dumping sites to restrict access by wild dogs.

This does not negate any actions that would otherwise be conducted under the *Dog and Cat Management Act 1995*.

Review

Regional Landscape boards should encourage landholders to collect data on livestock damage and loss, dingo and wild dog sightings, and control activities.

The effectiveness of this policy will be reviewed by 2025. The review will evaluate:

- Whether the policy was effectively implemented.
- Whether the livestock industries have been adequately protected and supported.
- Whether the cultural values of dingoes and wild dogs have been maintained, and that their ecological value has been maintained outside of the fence
- Unintended consequences.

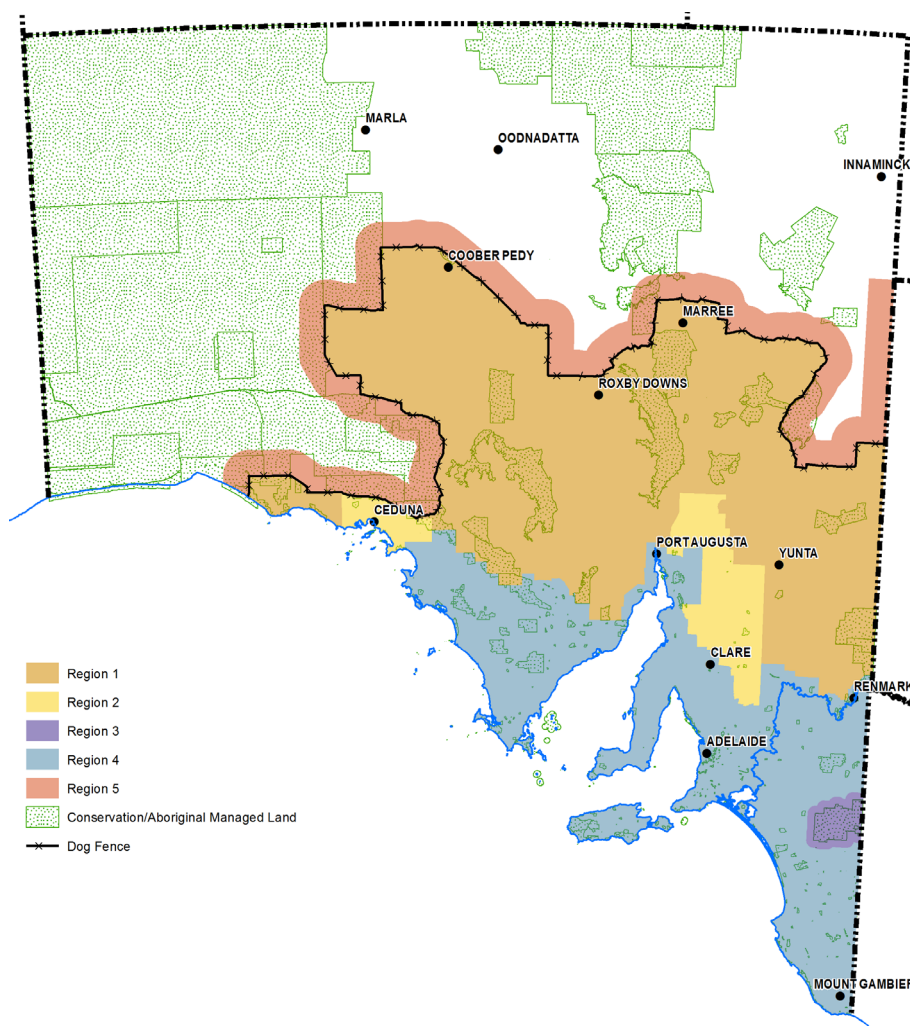
Refer Chief Executive Notices under Regulation 24 (for areas inside the Dog Fence) and 25 (for areas within 35 km of the outside of the Dog Fence) of the *Landscape SA (General) Regulations 2020*

This document outlines the areas, manner and treatment that land managers must follow to eradicate wild dogs inside the Dog Fence.

For the purpose of these measures, the term wild dog means any wild-living dingo, domestic dog or hybrid. The term evidence means wild dog tracks, scats, living wild dogs and damage to livestock, native or feral animals that is attributable to wild dogs.

Control of wild dogs inside the Dog Fence and in the 35 kilometre buffer zone outside the Fence (including the dog fence along the NSW border to the north of Mulyungarie Station) must be undertaken by laying poison baits as described for the five regions below. Lethal baits are authorised under the license of the relative Landscape Board. These baits are designed to deliver a lethal dose of a registered poison – Sodium Fluoroacetate (1080) or Paramino Propriophenome (PAPP) – to a wild dog.

In all regions listed below, land managers must act in accordance with the label instructions and the South Australian Government documents entitled “Approval to Possess 1080 & PAPP Bait” and the Directions for Use relative to the control of wild dogs.



REGION 1 has the following boundaries - any property located within the Pastoral Unincorporated region inside the Dog Fence in South Australia.

- (1) If there is evidence of wild dog activity, it should be reported to all neighbouring property managers and the regional Landscape Board.

A management zone must be defined within 10 kilometres of the evidence and the following measures and treatment to destroy wild dogs that may be on that land must be taken:

- a) At a minimum, immediately lay at least one lethal wild dog bait along every 200 metres of vehicle track, within 10 kilometres of the evidence or the equivalent amount within fenced areas (preventing access by livestock) near water points.
 - b) If wild dog activity is detected after one month of baits being laid, the land managers must repeat the baiting, undertake trapping or employ the services of a professional trapper to destroy all wild dogs.
- (2) Irrespective of evidence of wild dog activity, land managers must take the following measures to destroy wild dogs that may be on that land:
 - a) At a minimum, all land managers must lay at least one lethal wild dog bait along every kilometre of vehicle track or the equivalent amount within fenced areas (preventing access by livestock) near water points. Baits must be laid once in autumn and once in spring. Baits that are laid near track intersections, stock pads and tracks leading to water sources must be checked monthly and replaced as required.

REGION 2 is any property greater than 300 hectares in size in the boundaries of the Flinders Ranges Council, District Council of Orroroo Carrieton, District Council of Peterborough, Northern Areas Council, Regional Council of Goyder and the District Council of Ceduna.

- (1) If there is wild dog activity, the land manager should report it to all land managers with an adjoining boundary of the property with the activity, and the local Landscape Board. The land manager with the activity and all land managers with adjoining boundaries must take the following measures and treatment to destroy any wild dogs that may be on that land:
 - a) All land managers must lay in a density that is equivalent to ten lethal wild dog bait per 100 hectares of land or single baits are to be laid at a minimum interval of 200 metres along stock pads and private tracks.
 - b) If wild dog activity is still detected after one month of baits being laid, the land managers must repeat the baiting, undertake trapping or employ the services of a professional trapper to destroy all wild dogs, until evidence has not been reported for one month.

REGION 3 is the area of Southern Mallee Council, Tatiara Council and Coorong Council incorporating Ngarkat Conservation Park and all properties with an adjoining boundary to the Park.

- (1) Within Ngarkat Conservation Park the following measures to destroy any wild dogs that may be on that land are required:
 - a) Baiting will be undertaken at a minimum of four times each year, with at least one lethal poison bait laid on major tracks and perimeter fencing of adjoining properties at distances of no more than 500 metres and every 250 metres along the border with Victoria.
- (2) Any land manager with wild dog activity and the immediate adjoining neighbours must undertake the following measures:
 - a) Lay baits in a density that is equivalent to a minimum of one bait every 500 metres along stock pads and private tracks.
 - b) If wild dog activity is detected on the land after one month of baits being laid, the land manager and their neighbours must repeat the baiting, until evidence has not been reported for one month or employ the services of a professional trapper to destroy all wild dogs.

REGION 4 is any property in South Australia not already covered by Regions 1, 2, 3 or 5 inside the Dog Fence.

- (1) Regional Landscape boards should be notified of any evidence of wild dog activity. The land manager must comply with instructions to destroy wild dogs on that land. Instructions will include destruction measures, such as a particular number of baits to be laid, and the timing and locations of such measures.

REGION 5 has the boundary of 35 kilometres from the outside of the Dog Fence, including the dog fence along the NSW border to the north of Mulyungarie Station, and only on SA land.

- (1) Irrespective of evidence of wild dog activity, the land manager must lay a minimum of ten lethal wild dog baits within a 10 km radius of each man-made water point which is active or the equivalent amount within fenced areas (preventing access by livestock) near water points, within 35 km of the Dog Fence, once in Autumn and once in Spring.