

# WILD DOG MANAGEMENT IN SWRED REGION

## PROCEDURE AND POLICY

This policy and procedure outlines the foundation that will enable all experienced and skilled managers, the tools to be reactive to wild dog presence on your land promptly.

The increased presence of wild dogs throughout the country can be attributed to numerous sources, including but not limited to:

- ☒ Good seasons
- ☒ Abundant food sources
- ☒ Limited access to 1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate) meat baits
- ☒ Lack of experienced trappers
- ☒ Travel time between identifying dog activity and accessing dog bait from 1080 operators.
- ☒ High cost of exclusion fencing
- ☒ Economic downturns making payments difficult to wild dog contractors

In the past, wild dog control programs must cover large areas, often over rugged and inaccessible terrain. In such circumstances, aerial baiting with '1080' (sodium monofluoroacetate) meat baits is the only feasible option. In Western Queensland, it has been widely accepted that two aerial baiting's were sufficient to stem the reinfestation of wild dogs within the landscape. Various scientific reports state to reduce the impacts of predators on prey, 75% of the predator population needs to be removed annually to achieve any type of success, in protecting the animals preyed upon, primarily stock. To achieve this type of outcome, all land managers need to be reactive, as soon as wild dog activity is identified on all land.

To enable this procedure to become effective, strategic placement of 1080 baits and well maintained traps are imperative until the wild dogs are removed or activity ceases. It is vital to note that wild dogs should be immediately shot as the opportunity arises.

❖ **Remember, individuals need to be reactive at all times while wild dogs are present on their land.**

If every wild dog encounters at least one management tool, be it bait or trap, it is highly plausible that it will eventually make a fatal error.

Under the current legislation, ***Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996***, land holders **must not** store 1080 baits for future use **outside** of the proposed baiting period.

To enable landholders to have access to 1080 baits for an extended period, to enable reactive laying of baits and to formally recognise the length of your baiting period, you will be required to submit a Property Pest Management Plan to your Shire Council.

The council designated 1080 operator will hand write your baiting period into the special conditions on the indemnity form you sign at the time of receiving your baits.

Strychnine poison is allowed to be used for making baits or use on jawed traps. All strychnine users must have a valid strychnine permit to possess and use the poison. These permits can be obtained from Qhealth.

Upon agreement by Bulloo, Murweh, Paroo and Quilpie Shires, a co-ordinated management plan for wild dogs in the SWRED Region, begins with this policy and an agreed set of minimum standards for the management of wild dogs on an individual land parcel, whether private or public.

# **WILD DOG MANAGEMENT MINIMUM STANDARDS OF CONTROL POLICY FOR SWRED REGION WITHIN MURWEH, PAROO, QUILPIE & BULLOO SHIRES**

This minimum standard policy must be adhered to by all land managers within the SWRED region and is agreed by all four Shire Councils and their respective Wild Dog Management Advisory Committees, to be fair and equitable to all land managers.

1. The course of action all landholders **must** undertake to manage the impacts of wild dogs from their land and within the region:

- a. Have a valid approved property plan
- b. Attend coordinated control meetings to understand what levels of control are needed and where control needs to be applied (particularly transit routes)
- c. Participate in coordinated baiting
- d. In areas of wild dog activity, lay and maintain baits and traps at all times while wild dogs are active.
- e. Employ contractor to carry out wild dog control in accordance with the wild dog plan developed by the Paroo Shire Council officer and the Wild Dog Management Advisory Group
- f. The landowner may fence their property with a fence suitable for excluding wild dogs and carry out control along it's transect.
- g. The landholder may discuss options for control with the Paroo Shire Council officer and the Wild Dog Management Advisory Group to arrive at a mutually agreed level of control.

2. If during an inspection under a Pest Survey Program, the owner of the wild dog infested property has not initiated any effective control measures, a Pest Control Notice will be issued to the landowner.

3. The Pest Control Notice will require the following actions as stated in section 1. Of this policy:

- a. Have a valid approved property plan.
- b. Attend coordinated control meetings to understand what levels of control are needed and where control needs to be applied (particularly transit routes)
- c. Participate in coordinated baiting
- d. In areas of wild dog activity, lay and maintain baits and traps at all times while wild dogs are active.
- e. Employ contractor to carry out wild dog control in accordance with the wild dog plan developed by the Paroo Shire Council officer and the Wild Dog Management Advisory Group
- f. The landowner may fence their property with a fence suitable for wild dogs and carry out control along it's transect.

4. In strategic locations, the *Paroo Shire Council* may exercise discretion to require a shorter compliance period for a control program

5. Landholders who have been served with a warning letter and a pest control notice in relation to wild dogs may also be required by *Paroo Shire Council* in a subsequent Pest control notices to prepare a Property Pest Management Plan and implement it. Provide documentary evidence implementation.

6. If a landowner does not comply with a pest control notice, the *Paroo Shire Council* will take action under the provisions of the *Land Protection (Pest & Stock Route Management) Act 2002* including entry and the works on the land required in the Pest Control Notice. The *Paroo Shire Council's* costs in undertaking this work will be recovered from the landowner as per the process set out in the Act.

7. If a landowner does not comply with a pest control notice, *the Paroo Shire Council* may initiate a prosecution under section 78(6) of the Act.