



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN RANGELANDS WILD DOG MANAGEMENT POLICY

“Responsibility for wild dog control resides with all land managers”

Overview

The objective of the wild dog management program in the WA rangelands is to minimise the impact of wild dogs on economic and community values through the implementation of a strategic approach to wild dog management on both private and public land that focuses on the activities of individual landholders. The policy not only contributes to the protection of livestock, it also seeks to aid the conservation of pure dingoes in other areas of the state.

Policy assumptions

1. Small stock (sheep and managed goats) have no tolerance to the presence of wild dogs.
2. Large stock (cattle) are able to tolerate a certain level of wild dog activity.
3. Buffers zones around large stock areas will have different control requirements than those around small stock areas (i.e. reducing numbers rather than eradicating).
4. All landholders/managers that neighbour small stock (including other small stock properties) are required to maintain a 15 km wild dog eradication buffer zone on their side of the common boundary.
5. All landholders whose properties graze small stock must maintain a 15 km wide wild dog eradication buffer zone within that property boundary..
6. In areas where large stock are run, the minimum level of control that each landholder undertakes may be influenced by the level of control that is being undertaken by their neighbour.
7. Where a landholder/manager of large livestock or non-stocked property neighbours a large livestock property that is not conducting any demonstrated wild dog control there shall be no obligation to maintain a buffer zone.
8. Focus of the DPACF funded dogger program will be the maintenance of district/regional wild dog eradication buffer zones between small stock properties and other lands as defined by the ZCA.
9. The buffer control requirements do not preclude any land manager from achieving a higher level of control on their property.

Policy requirements of landholders

1. All landholders must maintain a 10 km wide wild dog control buffer zone on lands neighbouring properties grazing large stock, where it can be demonstrated by that landholder that wild dogs are being actively controlled on that property.

For cattle properties, the requirement for a neighbour to establish and maintain a buffer zone will depend on whether the landholder has implemented and is maintaining an appropriate level of control. For example, if there is no demonstrated control by the landholder/manager of the cattle property then the neighbouring landholders/managers would not be expected to maintain a buffer zone.

2. All landholders neighbouring properties grazing small stock must eradicate all wild dogs within the 15 km zone from the common boundary.
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- 3 All landholders whose properties graze small stock (sheep and managed goats), must maintain a 15 km wide wild dog eradication buffer zone within the boundaries of properties grazing small stock.

Demonstration of wild dog control requires:

1. An annual property plan for wild dog control on their property that outlines
 - a. Baiting exclusion areas (for example homesteads, public camp grounds etc)
 - b. Areas where large and/or small stock units are run
 - c. The type of control and frequency for each method being implemented for
 - Ground baiting
 - Aerial baiting
 - Trapping
 - Shooting
2. Permission for DAFWA (on behalf of the ZCA) to audit wild dog control activities and the outcomes being achieved on their property. The audit may require
 - confirmation of bait manufacture and placement
 - confirmation of 1080 poison purchase and use
 - confirmation of shooting and/or trapping
 - confirmation of strychnine purchase and use

Compliance with the policy

Minimum wild dog control compliance by landholders/managers requires participation in the planning and delivery of aerial/ground baiting programs and active participation in a DSG as appropriate.

Enforcing compliance

The following steps shall be taken where the landholder refuses, or fails to comply with their obligation to control wild dogs in a buffer zone.

1. DAFWA Biosecurity staff will give the occupier of the pastoral lease a written notice¹ confirming their responsibilities and advise them that an authorised person will lay poison baits on their property in the area of the buffer zone in accordance with section 69 on a specified date
2. An authorised person may issue a notice under section 50 of the Act specifying any additional measures that the landholder is required to take to control wild dogs in the buffer zone. If the landholder fails to comply with this notice an authorised person may, enter the land and undertake the necessary control work under section 52 of the Act and recover any expenses incurred in a court of competent jurisdiction.

¹ A notice must specify the area of land to be baited and may be served by delivering it to the occupier in person, posting it to the last postal address shown on the rate record held by the local government at least 14 days before the notice takes effect, or affixing or displaying it in a conspicuous position on the land and leaving it on display for a least 14 days before the notice takes effect.