



**NORTHERN MALLEE
DECLARED SPECIES GROUP**

**REGIONAL WILD DOG
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

2008 – 2011

Table of Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION	1
2.	OBJECTIVES	1
3.	THE PLAN	1
4.	ADMINISTRATION	5
5.	FINANCES	5
6.	KEY STAKEHOLDERS FOR THIS PLAN	6
7.	STAKEHOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES	6
8.	MONITORING AND REVIEW	8
9	STAKEHOLDER SIGNATORIES	9
10.	DEFINITIONS	10
11	RISK PROFILES	10

1. INTRODUCTION

This document provides an overview of the Northern Mallee Declared Species Group's (the NMDSG) intentions for the management of wild dogs and their negative impacts in the area administered by the NMDSG.

This document confirms the NMDSG's objectives for the management of wild dogs.. It also outlines the wider context of wild dog management, risk profiles, appropriate contributions by stakeholders and the key stakeholders in the plan. More specifically, it details the management strategies and methods the NMDSG sees as critical to achieving its objectives. Finally, it describes required future monitoring and review of the plan.

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this plan are to assist and encourage a consistent, integrated and cooperative approach to the management of wild dogs across all lands in the shire of Esperance to:

- i. control current predation of livestock by wild dogs; and
- ii. develop and implement management strategies to minimise future wild dog impacts on livestock.

3. THE PLAN

Strategies

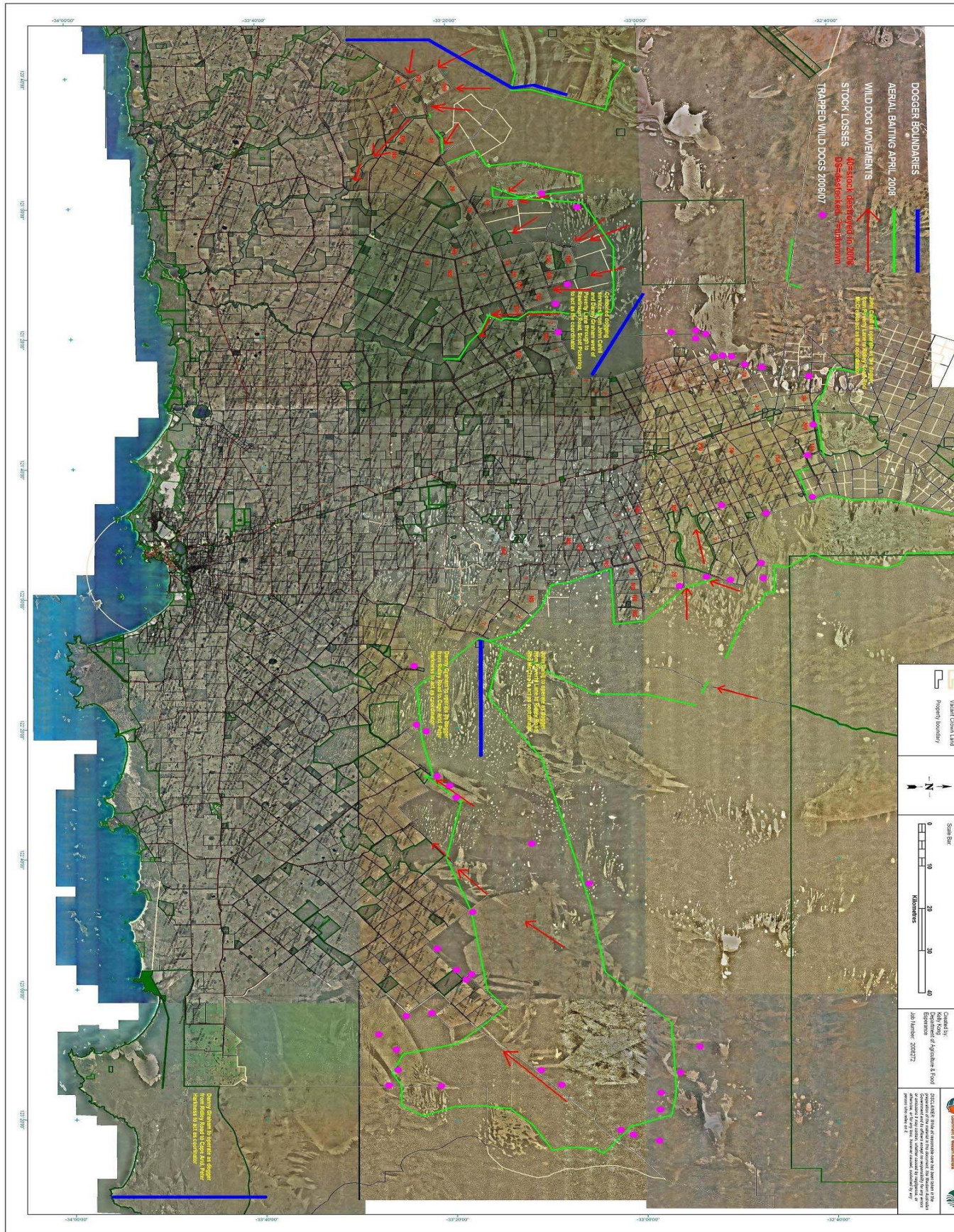
Maintain the Esperance region as a dog free area.

The primary focus or aim of the Group is to improve the co-ordination of wild dog eradication and ongoing management in the Shire of Esperance area. Other aims of the Group include;

- To implement best practice wild dog management on private and public lands in the region.
- To increase landholder participation, both private and public.
- To monitor, evaluate and report on the progress towards minimising wild dog impact on livestock in the Esperance region.
- To provide proactive and positive extension activity driven by the group that will facilitate broader community awareness of wild dog issues.

NMDSG members have consulted neighbouring landholders and generated local approaches appropriate to the various areas of the Esperance Shire.

The information from each sub region was pooled onto the following shire map:



Implementation

The NMDSG have budgeted to carry out two aerial baitings per annum, one during October / November and one in February / March. It is intended that these baiting runs will cover areas not readily accessible to the Group's doggers including known and suspected wild dog habitats and leads on public and private land throughout the Esperance shire. Where possible, aerial baiting will coincide with both the Ravensthorpe and Eastern Wheatbelt DSGs baiting program. NMDSG members have identified that approximately 25,000 baits are required to be delivered aurally in the Esperance region annually.

This work would be complimented by continuing to use doggers with ground baiting and trapping.

Scott Pickering will act as the overall coordinator for the Northern Mallee Declared Species Group.

The NMDSG currently employ two doggers on a part time basis.

- Dogger Danny Graham will conduct wild dog control work from Ridley Road eastward through to Cape Arid. Peter Harkness will act as the contact for farmers wanting to access the dogger.
- Dogger John Cahill will conduct wild dog control work from Ridley Road westward to Poverty Lane. Rod McCrea will act as the contact for farmers wanting to access the dogger.
- Dogging work required between Poverty Lane and Rawlinson Road in the West Point area will be managed on an as needs basis in a joint effort between both Danny Graham and John Cahill. Scott Pickering will act as the contact for farmers wanting to access the dogger.
- With the agreement of DEC, doggers will carry out preventative and reactive wild dog control on public lands adjacent to the Esperance farming region and will carry out reactive control on private property where landholders are requesting assistance. Doggers are required to utilise both trapping and ground baiting as part of their control program. Baits may be either field or factory prepared. Doggers are to target all wild dog habitats and leads accessible by ground. Aerial baiting is to target inaccessible areas.
- Doggers are required to use GPS connected data loggers to record all wild dog activity, including the placement of baits, traps, dog activity, stock attacks etc. Doggers will need to ensure that the data logger information is uploaded onto the Esperance DAFWA data base regularly.

Minimum Compliance

The DSG endorse the following expectations of minimum compliance for wild dog management within the Esperance Shire:

- **Private Landowners/Managers**

Landholders are expected to carry out wild dog control (baiting/trapping) where they have wild dog issues and suitable country to carry out control to compliment the two aerial baiting programs and DSG dogger activity.

Affected landholders as well as landholders not directly affected but are protected by more outlying farms are requested to make a contribution to the wild dog program by:

- providing meat,
- providing labour and
- participating in community based control programs

as requested by the NMDSG.

- **Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) Reserves and managed lands (Unallocated Crown Land).**

- the Department supports the principles, standards and approaches of the NMDSG;
- as a major landholder in the Esperance shire the Department will be an active member of the NMDSG and seek the necessary funds identified by the NMDSG to undertake agreed control programs on Unallocated Crown Land, Nature Reserves and National Parks
- in Unallocated Crown Land, Nature Reserves and National Parks the Department will participate in the two aerial baiting programs a year, but will maintain a bait free buffer around recreational areas (camp sites, public roads, etc).
- in regards to dogger access to Departmental tenure the Department:
 - requests that DAFWA conduct risk assessments prior to permitting the use of poisons etc,
 - will allow Licenced Pest Control Operators (LPCOs) doggers access to all DEC tenure for the purpose of controlling wild dogs,
 - requests that doggers manage the publics risk to baits and traps, notify neighbours and display the appropriate signage.
 - will identify any areas of exclusion and develop an MOU between the doggers and the Department.
 - will provide Departmental participation at bait racks given nil-tenure boundary approaches.

4. ADMINISTRATION

The Esperance Shire manages the NMDSG's finances and provides admin support to the NMDSG.

5. FINANCES.

Below is the endorsed summary for the expected revenue and expenditure for 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11.

		2007/08 actuals			
		30/06/2008	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
REVENUE	Opening Balance	\$ 87,708	\$ 102,495	\$ 68,795	\$ 32,845
	SCNRM	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
	Esperance Shire	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
	DEC	\$ 29,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
	DAFWA	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
	Total Funds Available	\$ 176,708	\$ 172,495	\$ 138,795	\$ 102,845
EXPEND	Doggers, 1,500 hrs @ \$50/hr for 2008/09 then increase 3%pa	\$ 48,740	\$ 75,000	\$ 77,250	\$ 79,568
	27,000 6mg Sausage baits	\$ 17,410	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,000	\$ 19,000
	Plane hire for aerial baiting	\$ 6,800	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,000
	1080 and Strychnine for doggers	\$ 370	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500
	Dogger Insurance	\$ 660	\$ 700	\$ 700	\$ 700
	Coordinators expenses		\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
	Other Expenses	\$ 233			
	Total Expenditure	\$ 74,213	\$ 103,700	\$ 105,950	\$ 108,268
	Funds Carried Forward	\$ 102,495	\$ 68,795	\$ 32,845	-\$ 5,423

NMDSG MEMBERS INKIND CONTRIBUTION

		2007/08 actuals			
		30/06/2008	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Members time	3 meetings/year = 95 hours @ \$40/hour	\$ 3,800	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000
	3 meetings, average				
Travel Expenses	200km/meeting/member = \$4000km @\$0.737/km	\$ 2,948	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
	2.5hours/week @ \$40/hour	\$ 5,200	\$ 5,200	\$ 5,200	\$ 5,200
Coordinator	incidentals	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500
Inkind contribution		\$ 13,448	\$ 13,700	\$ 13,700	\$ 13,700

6. KEY STAKEHOLDERS FOR THIS PLAN

The key stakeholders for this management plan are:

- Northern Mallee Declared Species Group;
- Esperance Zone Control Authority;
- Esperance Shire;
- Department of Environment and Conservation, Esperance Office;
- Department of Agriculture and Food, Esperance Office;
- South Coast Natural Resource Management Inc;
- Licenced Pest Control Operators

Other interested parties

These include the following:

- Ravensthorpe Declared Species Group;
- Land Conservation District Committees;
- A Sheep, Esperance;
- Kalgoorlie Zone Control Authority;
- State Wild Dog Management Advisory Committee.
- Department for Planning and Infrastructure
- Agriculture Protection Board.

7. STAKEHOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES

All land managers (private and public, including Commonwealth and State lands):

- Participate in organised groups for coordinated control.
- Conduct population and damage assessments for their lands.
- Assist in the laying of baits and maintain a record of areas baited and areas of current wild dog activity.
- Conduct control programs using the most appropriate and effective methods available.
- Notify neighbours and erect warning signs around baited areas.
- Monitor the effectiveness of control techniques.
- Participate in the program review process.

Zone Control Authorities (ZCAs) and Declared Species Groups (DSGs)

- Develop Regional Wild Dog Management Plans.
- Ensure best practice wild dog control is undertaken.
- Assist with the formation of landholder groups; organise coordinated baiting campaigns; and provide 1080 impregnation of baits in association with the Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA).
- Coordinate and monitor baiting campaigns in conjunction with DAFWA.
- Provide advice on various wild dog control techniques.
- Review program delivery and outcomes in their region.

Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC):

- Assess and, where appropriate, conduct or provide approval and funding for wild dog control on Conservation estate and other managed lands including Unallocated Crown Land.
- Apply the requirements of their Good Neighbour Policy as well as the Rangelands Wild Dog Management Policy
- Determine the genetic status of dingoes and hybrids and identify suitable areas and populations for dingo conservation.
- Develop and promote a management plan for the conservation of dingoes.

Industry groups:

- Promote availability and conditions of use of control agents.
- Promote the need for, and assist with, formation or operation of landholder groups for coordinated control.
- Raise awareness of control issues with the media.
- Participate in the review of the program.

Community and conservation groups:

- Review and participate in education, information, conservation and planning processes.

Local Government:

- Regulate the control and improve the welfare of domestic dogs.
- Participate in review of program outcomes in their areas of responsibility.
- Provide support to Wild Dog Management Groups.

Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA):

- Policy development and planning.
- Implement regulations related to the control of wild dogs

- Conduct research into wild dog management
- Encourage land managers to control wild dogs, and encourage the formation of landholder groups.
- Undertake wild dog extension activities, including provision of up to date advice on various possible control techniques and landholder training.
- Manage 1080 and strychnine administration, conduct audits and investigate any alleged poison misuse.
- Approve DSG pest management plan for funding.
- Provide the DSG with maps and reports on collected data from aerial baiting, dogger and private landholder use.

Other State Government Agencies / Authorities / Committees

Agriculture Protection Board (APB):

- Provide policy advice and direction on declared pest animal management.
- Facilitate greater integration between ZCAs, DSGs, local government and industry.

Department of Health (DoH):

- License operators for use of 1080 and strychnine.
- Dog health programs.

Department of Local Government and Regional Development (DLGRD):

- Provide advice on the Dog Act 1976 and the Animal Welfare Act 2002.
- Assist in achieving cooperation of local governments in relation to wild dog control.
- Assist in objective animal welfare debate.

8 MONITORING AND REVIEW

This plan will be reviewed 12 months after signing. . If there is clear dissatisfaction with this plan before the 12 month period has expired, it may be altered with the agreement of all signatories to the plan.

9 SIGNATURES AND CONTACT DETAILS OF STAKEHOLDERS

We, the undersigned, accept and support this plan for the management of wild dogs and their impacts within the Northern Mallee DSG for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2011.

Signed for and on behalf of:
Northern Mallee Declared Species Group
Phone (08) 9079 2012
Chairman: Scott Pickering

Signed for and on behalf of:
Esperance Shire
Phone (08) 90710693
Contact is: Darren Kennedy

Signed:
Name:
Position:
Date:

Signed:
Name:
Position:
Date:

Signed for and on behalf of:
**Department of Agriculture
and Food (WA)**
Phone (08) 9892 8465
Contact is: Colin Parry

Signed for and on behalf of:
**Department of Environment
and Conservation (WA)**
Phone (08) 9083 2100
Contact is: Klaus Tiedemann or
Julie Patten

Signed:
Name:
Position:
Date:

Signed:
Name:
Position:
Date:

10. DEFINITIONS

To avoid any ambiguity, the following definitions will apply throughout this plan:

- Wild dog:** All wild living dogs (including dingoes, feral dogs and hybrids).
- Dingo:** Purebred descendant of the Asian native dog introduced into Australia some 3,500 – 4,000 years ago by Asian seafarers.
- Feral dog:** Wild-living domestic dogs.
- Hybrid:** Dogs resulting from a cross between the dingo and a domestic dog and the descendants of crossbred progeny.
- 1080:** Sodium fluoroacetate: an acute metabolic poison particularly toxic to canids.
- Strychnine:** Strychnine Alkaloid: non-selective and highly poisonous.

11. RISK PROFILES

The approaches taken will depend on the risk profile of the relevant industries:

- Sheep/goats (highest risk, zero tolerance of wild dogs):
 - Requires intensive control on the specific enterprise, aiming for a zero impact from wild dogs, and the creation of an effective buffer in neighbouring country harbouring wild dogs (regardless of the status or tenure of that adjacent land).
- Cattle (varying risk, usually can tolerate low to moderate and sometimes even high numbers of wild dogs):
 - Control to be undertaken to significantly reduce the risk of attacks on cattle. A more sustained reduction can be achieved when control work is coordinated with neighbours. Intensive control is required when the property is adjacent to a sheep/goat enterprise.
- Unstocked country (Unallocated Crown Land, Reserves, mining leases, absentee owners, etc - no risk except when it borders stocked country, although the risk will vary with type of stock):
 - Intensive control is required when forming part of a buffer adjacent to sheep/goat enterprises. Often only limited control is warranted when adjacent to cattle country, unless that cattle country is undertaking intensive control because of specific risks (calving/weaning areas etc.).