

# Are Wild Dogs Eating a Hole in Your Back Pocket?

## ACT NOW AND ATTEND

### WILD DOG PLANNING WORKSHOP

#### Mt Magnet and Paynes Find

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August Boogardie Station and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> August Pullagaroo Station**

The plan is to have all landowners/managers and interested parties in the Meekatharra Zone attend a workshop to address the increasing wild dog problem and develop an attack on how to best manage the problem.

The planning session will be facilitated by Mr Greg Mifsud, National Wild Dog Facilitator based in Queensland. Local DAFWA staff will also be in attendance to conduct a trapping and baiting demonstration session (Jim Miller)

#### Advantages of the Strategic Planning Process

- ❖ Provides information on wild dog control, movements, ecology and areas of impact at both a regional and local scale;
- ❖ Clearly identifies roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder (government agencies, private industry and local government) in an area with regard to wild dog control;
- ❖ Provides local landholders with a clear and defined area for control and a sense of ownership for wild dog management in their local community, with the outcome being greater participation;
- ❖ Provides stakeholders that rely on annual budgets the ability to forward plan for wild dog control programs and submit budget applications well in advance.
- ❖ The monitoring component of these plans measures dog and wildlife activity, therefore having a biodiversity outcomes as well as providing information for targeted wild dog control.
- ❖ Local area management plans can provide operational direction for wild dog management.

#### Nil Tenure Approach to Local Wild Dog Area Management Plans

- ❖ Removal of all boundaries during the information gathering process avoids any bias against individual stakeholders and fosters more accurate information gathering.
- ❖ Utilise mapping to identify areas of wild dog habitat and movement corridors, historical and recent stock loss and current control in the absence of property boundary information for a particular area.
- ❖ Information collected comes from stakeholders in the local area and provides stakeholders with a sense of ownership of the plans and has more relevance to on ground control operations.

- ❖ Replacing the boundaries on the map following the information collection clearly identifies the responsibilities of each stakeholder with regard to wild dog management in the area.

### **How does the local management planning process work.**

- ❖ Firstly - need to establish wild dog committee/association which oversees wild dog management throughout the shire. In most instances shire will already have a Wild Dog Control Group (Murchison Declared Species Group coordinated by Sandy McTaggart) in place which can coordinate the program.
- ❖ Secondly divide the shire into smaller local area “units” in order to develop plans, with a key stakeholder in each area that reports back to the Shire’s Wild Dog Group;
- ❖ Information on wild dog activity, behaviour, stock attacks, movement corridors and breeding sites are then identified by landholders and the community in each area;
- ❖ This information is then mapped at a landscape level and an overlay of current control practices to identify whether the areas of concern with regard to wild dogs are actually being treated/trapped.
- ❖ The group then begins looking at avenues for management including different types of control and how to foster greater participation from the rest of the community. Simple changes in control techniques or educating landholders with regard to 1080 use often facilitates cooperation.
- ❖ Local area plans also need to identify other pest species and their impacts on producers and the environment following wild dog management and may lead to control for those species to avoid further impacts as a result of increasing numbers following a decline in wild dog numbers.

### **Benefits of the developing local area management plans**

- ❖ The planning process fosters a sense of ownership amongst landholders and a feeling that something is being done rather than feeling helpless;
- ❖ Uses local knowledge to target wild dog management utilizing various techniques.
- ❖ Baiting campaigns are generally more successful as a result of better placement of baits following the planning process as a result of refinement of the baiting process, i.e. seasonal timing, bait type or the time they are put out;
- ❖ The planning process may identify key movement corridors where dogs that have impacts far and wide can be controlled before they cause any damage further a field;
- ❖ Each local area plan is developed in recognition of adjoining plans in order to shut down movement corridors and breeding sites;
- ❖ Monitoring programs put in place to measure wild dog activity allowing for proactive control and provide feedback on the effectiveness of control, while providing information on biodiversity responses;
- ❖ Non-target bait uptake by foxes has great benefits to biodiversity as well as making wild dog traps more effective for targeting problem dogs;
- ❖ Eventually wild dog numbers are reduced and impacts on landholders brought back to levels that can be tolerated.

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