



#69 Contents

- [New South Australian wild dog strategy now available](#)
- [New research shows dingoes do not suppress feral cat and fox populations](#)
- [Draft updated threat abatement plan for predation by feral cats has focus on leaving or re-establishing wild dog and dingo populations for feral cat control.](#)
- [Rebuild of the Dog Fence passes half-way point](#)
- [New tick disease risk to dogs](#)
- [Upcoming events](#)

New South Australian wild dog strategy now available



The new South Australian Wild Dog Management Strategy 2023-2033 has just been released!

The Strategy aims to eradicate wild dogs inside the dog fence, stop incursions through the Dog Fence and maintain dingoes for their ecological and cultural roles outside the Dog Fence (whilst protecting the cattle industry and the public).

[Click here](#) to view the Strategy.

[Back to contents](#)

New research shows dingoes do not suppress feral cat and fox populations



A newly released scientific paper has found the argument to leave dingoes unrestricted in the environment due to their control of invasive pests such as feral cats and foxes is flawed.

The paper, 'Stuck in the mud: Persistent failure of 'the science' to provide reliable information on the ecological roles of Australian dingoes', was published in the September 2023 edition of Biological Conservation and provides a critical review of the past 30 years of research into the relationship between dingoes and other mesopredators, such as feral cats and foxes.

The paper has found the majority of research did not have the scientific rigour to support conclusions that dingoes suppress feral cat and fox populations, with only eight studies over the past 30 years capable of assessing whether or not dingoes suppressed foxes and cats - and each of those showing they did not. [Read more](#)

[Back to contents](#)

Draft updated threat abatement plan for predation by feral cats has focus on leaving or re-establishing wild dog and dingo populations for feral cat control.



People can now have their say on the draft Feral Cat Abatement Plan, which aims to guide Australia's approach to feral cats, which pose a serious risk to threatened species.

Greg Mifsud, National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordinator, said that the current emphasis on leaving or re-establishing dingoes and wild dogs to control feral cats across Australia in the draft threat abatement plan was extremely concerning. This focus on dingoes and wild dogs controlling feral cats could have serious

implications for wild dog control programs but is also seriously flawed given the current science (see above).

“It is often claimed that wild dogs help suppress feral cat populations, and this argument is used to justify the removal or hinder the delivery of wild dog control programs. Feral cats spread across the continent in the presence of dingoes and wild dogs so why would they offer any sort of protection to native fauna? Long term ecological [research](#) has shown that dingoes and wild dogs have very little impact on feral cats and fox populations across the country.”

“The constant reference to Dingoes and wild dogs as being able to protect native fauna from predation by feral cats, completely ignores the fact that Dingoes are generalist predators and have been shown to prey on most of the key species the plan sets out to protect.”

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water are currently seeking public comment and feedback on the draft Threat Abatement Plan for Predation by Feral Cats.

I encourage anyone affected by wild dog populations to have their say during this public consultation process to ensure all of the relevant science and the impacts of wild dogs on primary production and native fauna are considered when finalising the Feral Cat Abatement Plan,” said Mr Mifsud.

[Public comments and submissions](#) are open until 11 December.

[Back to contents](#)

Rebuild of the Dog Fence passes half-way point



The rebuild of the Dog Fence in South Australia has passed the construction halfway point.

More than 800 kilometres of new fencing has now been constructed as part of the Dog Fence Rebuild Project, which commenced in May 2020. Under the project, 1,600 kilometres of new fence will replace the more than 100-year-old fence that had been degraded over time through a combination of weather, sand erosion and the impacts of kangaroos, emus, feral camels, and wild dogs.

In addition, there is more than 100 kilometres of fence under construction and work will commence on another 150 kilometres of fence in the coming months.

In areas where the Dog Fence Rebuild has now been completed, the combination of the new fence work, along with the integration of other wild dog control methods such as baiting and trapping, have provided landholders with the confidence to restock sheep on their properties. Eleven properties, covering 18,036 km² have now restocked, with more than 20,000 sheep returning to paddocks that had previously not been able to hold sheep due to wild dog attacks.

Due to be completed in June 2025, the Dog Fence Rebuild Project is estimated to deliver net benefits to the state between \$56 million to \$113 million over 20 years.

The original \$25 million Dog Fence Rebuild project was launched in mid-2019, funded through the Federal Government (\$10 million), State Government (\$10

million) and the South Australian livestock industry (\$5 million). In June 2023, the State Government committed an additional \$1.6 million in response to unforeseen price increases for materials, to ensure the completion of 1,600 kilometres.

[Back to contents](#)

New tick disease risk to dogs



Hunting dogs are valuable which is why we want a few minutes of your time to read this, it might just save your dog's life.

Dog owners, especially those in coastal and tropical areas are aware of the risk that ticks pose. But did you know that in 2020 a new tick disease emerged in Australia? Called canine ehrlichiosis this tick-borne disease was first detected in northern parts of Western Australia in 2020 and since, dogs in the Northern Territory, north-western Queensland and in the northern parts of South Australia have also been found infected.

Canine ehrlichiosis is caused by a bacterium called *E.canis* which is carried by the brown dog tick. The dog can become infected if bitten by an infected brown dog tick, however, the disease does not get passed from dog to dog without the help of the tick.

[Read more](#) or view [this factsheet](#) for dog owners.

[Back to contents](#)

Upcoming events

- October 17-19: [2023 NSW Vertebrate Pest Management Symposium](#), 'Pest management for practitioners', Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Dubbo, NSW.
- October 26-27: [National Farmers Federation National Conference](#), Canberra.
- 29 July – 1 August 2024: [19th Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference](#), Aerial UTS Function Centre, Ultimo, Sydney

[Click here - go to National Wild Dog Action Plan website](#)



National Wild Dog Action Plan

This email was sent to {{contact.EMAIL}}
You've received this email because you subscribed to our newsletter.

[Update your preference](#) | [View in browser](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)