

WILD DOG COMMUNIQUE

May 2013

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Welcome to this WoolProducers Australia (WPA) newsletter for all stakeholders who have responsibilities and/or a related interest in the control of wild dogs in Australia. Stakeholders include private and public landholders, commonwealth and state/territory governments and their agencies, industry bodies, research institutes, conservation groups and community members.

National Wild Dog Action Plan Development Project



Photo courtesy Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre

For many years now, wild dogs have been a major problem across all grazing industries in Australia. The issue is not just a matter of direct stock and financial losses, although these losses run into the hundreds of millions of dollars each year; wild dogs are also increasingly acknowledged as a source of spread for serious animal-borne diseases. They are highly damaging to regional economies, to local wildlife, and are a significant animal welfare concern.

In February 2013, WoolProducers Australia initiated a project to develop a National Wild Dog Action Plan. The project has the full support of the national Vertebrate Pests Committee, National Wild Dog Management Advisory Group as well as government, peak industry grazing organisations and researchers.

The project aims to bring improved coordination and promote best practice standards across the varying State and regional approaches now in place, together with lists of agreed control measures, organisation plans and funding options. Project work to date has included:

- Formation of a Project Steering Committee (PSC, a list of member organisations is attached);
- Meeting with various industry stakeholders and notifying all relevant Federal, State and Territory MPs of development of the Plan;
- Development of a Situation Analysis report based on an extensive literature review complemented by discussions with federal and state agency officers, producers and peak industry body representatives, researchers, and regional and local wild dog control group members;

- Development of the first draft by the PSC-appointed Writing Group, and review by the PSC.

We anticipate the draft Plan will be available for public consultation in July/August 2013, and that delivery of the Plan will be in March 2014.

For more information go to: www.woolproducers.com.au

Project Contacts

If you would like to be advised when the draft Plan is ready for review and/or provide other input into the project please use the contacts below.

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National Wild Dog Action Plan Project Steering Committee

Member organisations are:

- WoolProducers Australia
- Sheepmeat Council of Australia
- Cattle Council of Australia
- Australian Association of Stud Merino Breeders
- National Farmers Federation
- Meat and Livestock Australia
- Animal Health Australia
- Vertebrate Pests Committee
- National Wild Dog Management Advisory Group (NWD MAG)
- National Wild Dog Facilitator
- Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre
- Australian Pest Animal Strategy Coordinator
- Australian Government - Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Australian Government - Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities.

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A Member of the National Farmers Federation