

WILD DOG COMMUNIQUE 5

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NATIONAL WILD DOG ACTION PLAN



Moving ahead to Final Draft

The National Wild Dog Action Plan (*the Plan*) Exposure Draft Consultation Phase closed on 25 October. The majority of the 68 submissions supported progression of the Exposure Draft to the final review phase, this support included all mainland state and territory governments.

See full January update at: <http://www.woolproducers.com.au/national-wild-dogs-action-plan/>

Extract from one submission: *“We commend WoolProducers for undertaking this important piece of work to address the issue of wild dog damage to primary production. The plan is well considered and well written. The Action Plan provides a framework to bring together all stakeholders, and all jurisdictions, so that we are working on the same page and making best use of always limited resources. The plan offers the opportunity to reduce duplication and eliminate inefficiencies brought about by uncoordinated efforts.”*



Image by Ricky Richardson, Blackall QLD: one of the many shooters around Queensland using their skills to destroy dens such as this one with 22 dogs in three or four different litters.

A very positive indicator of the Exposure Draft support was that focused on the Plan's Goals, Objective and Action Items with very few changes identified. Further clarification and consideration of the proposed Governance Structure was requested.

It was noted by a number of submitters that the plan aims to increase effectiveness of wild dog

management in itself, but by doing so could have the potential to increase effectiveness of pest plant and animal management. and hence a suggestion to add a new objective to expand on actions encompassing an integrated, multi-faceted and multi-creature approach to pest management.

Concern regarding dingo conservation, the mesopredator debate and use of 1080 was received. Amendments to strengthen animal welfare and humaneness aspects of the Plan were also submitted.

Refer to the Exposure Draft Feedback Summary on the WoolProducers Australia website for more details regarding the submissions.

The Project Steering Committee met in November to consider the submissions and supported a range of amendments to some sections of the Plan. This included reinforcing the environmental and cultural significance of the dingo and its conservation and legal status in a number of jurisdictions. The committee then tasked the project Writing Group to conduct a final review. This review was finalised in late December and the final draft has now been distributed seeking support from industry peak bodies, the National Wild Dog Management Advisory Group as well as federal, state and territory governments to progress through the various government stages in order to gain endorsement for *the Plan* at the Coalition of Australian Governments (COAG) level.

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