

WILD DOG COMMUNIQUE 6

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United approach to Action Against Wild Dogs

The National Wild Dog Action Plan's positive momentum was given a boost through the bringing together of around 50 stakeholders from industry (cattle, sheepmeat, wool and goats), governments (State, Territory and Commonwealth) and research bodies in Brisbane on 13 and 14th May. The purpose for the Forum was to 'kick-off' the implementation aspects of the Plan.



Action Against Wild Dogs Forum Delegates

Developed in a little over 12 months the Plan is an exemplar of industry and government working together to develop a Plan that identifies a collaborative and coordinated approach to tackling great management of the serious threat of wild dog predation to Australian industry. It is not just a matter of direct stock losses – although these losses run into millions of dollars each year – but wild dogs are increasingly acknowledged as a source of spread for serious animal-borne diseases. They are highly damaging to local and regional economies, to local wildlife, and are a growing animal welfare concern.

The Forum delegates agreed that what is currently being done to mitigate the devastating impact of wild dog predation in Australia is good, but we need to work out how to coordinate and collaborate better. It all comes down to sharing problems, sharing solutions and this is what the Action Plan delivers.

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“DOING THINGS SMARTER”

The positive decisions and outcomes resulting from the Forum included:

- *agreement that wild dogs are a shared problem and that the draft Action Plan offers a structure and actions to deliver a shared solution*
- *acknowledgement that the Plan is about building on the good work already being done and*

identifying ways of doing things smarter

- *agreement the planned consultative arrangements are a vital part of the Plan if success is to be achieved. These arrangements will ensure that landholders especially get the maximum benefit from this nationally coordinated approach*
- *acceptance of the recently released ABARES Report, An integrated assessment of the impact of wild dogs in Australia, where the need for coordinated wild dog management was highlighted. This accords strongly with the central tenet of the Wild Dog Action Plan.*
- *consensus agreement on an appropriate governance structure to ensure the Plan is implemented effectively and efficiently*
- *initial development of implementation work plans for a number of the Action Plan activities*
- *delegates agreeing that, as a result of the Forum, they gained a sound understanding of the intent of the Plan and working group activities.*

Resulting from the Forum, the implementation enabling actions will be finalised over the next few weeks for approval by the Project Steering Committee, which will then disband. This will result in a 'Program of Works' in readiness for hand-over to a yet-to-be-appointed Implementation Steering Committee.

BREAKING NEWS

The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP, Federal Minister for Agriculture - in conjunction with State and Territory Ministerial representatives will officially launch the Action Plan on Friday 4th July in Armidale, NSW.

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