

WILD DOG COMMUNIQUE 8

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Wild Dog Action Plan steps to implementation

National recognition of the significance of wild dog impacts in Australia has been achieved through the endorsement and public launch of the National Wild Dog Action Plan. The Plan provides a set of strategic actions to assist in the delivery of wild dog management across the country.

Investment is now focusing on the Plan's enabling actions so that the much touted: '*national collaboration and consistency*' can see the light of day.

The implementation phase will take about nine months, overseen by Duncan Fraser, the appointed Independent Chair and a five person team made up of one small (wool, sheepmeat, goats) and one large (cattle) production animal representative, a state/territories government representative, a research representative and a federal government agriculture/environment representative. They will be supported by a stakeholder consultative group currently being formed.

This puts the next stage of the Plan in good hands. The steering and consultative groups come with excellent on-the-ground management and dog experience, they really understand the devastation that wild dogs cause.

The National Plan is not meant to supplement local or regional plans, and cannot do so. The control of wild dogs is up to producers and communities involved in developing management programs. To support producer needs, the Plan aims to ensure that the resources and information to achieve control outcomes are available to community groups to reach their control objectives.

We need your input / contributions

What do we need to manage dogs more effectively than we can already?

Is it access to more trappers or better access to control tools?

Or more support with coordination of programs, that is needed?

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

Tell us by replying to this Communiqué Email

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The project team will soon distribute a SURVEY to capture the vital data required to get a BETTER PICTURE of the current INVESTMENT in wild dog management across Australia. We

look forward to receiving your input.

The National Plan was always intended to be delivered at a high level so that the federal and state governments would endorse it and therefore acknowledge the significance of wild dog impacts on social, economic and natural values.

At present we don't have recognition and wild dogs are not listed as a pest of national significance. However, getting endorsement for this plan is but one step to achieving that recognition and from there we can work with all the stakeholders involved to improve wild dog management outcomes.

The Action Plan supports and advocates the continued use of 1080 for wild dog control in accordance with relevant state and federal legislation.

1080 is an important tool in wild dog management, both now and in the foreseeable future.

The continued use of 1080 is under considerable scrutiny from a range of animal welfare organisations from within and outside Australia who are concerned about the humaneness of the toxin on pest animals and domestic dogs accidentally baited during wild dog control campaigns. The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority Review of 1080 use in Australia found that the current legislation and regulations imposed by state authorities did in fact provide sufficient safeguards for non-target animals and there was no evidence that use of 1080 baits led to an adverse impact on non-target species at a population level. However despite this, there is increasing pressure from animal welfare and animal rights groups to ban the poison. In order for 1080 to remain as an effective tool for the management of wild dogs and other vertebrate pests, **state authorities and individual producers** must ensure that 1080 is used in accordance with relevant state and federal legislation.

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