



Wild Dog Action Plan Stakeholder Engagement

In April 2014 an ABARES¹ study identified that on average, each landholder reporting attacks on their property suffered livestock losses of around 100 animals a year, with a further 65 to 70 animals injured.

This study found that there are likely benefits associated with government or industry bodies providing a coordination role for wild dog management. Securing cooperation of all landholders, including private and government—the so called ‘nil tenure’ approach, is central to the effective management of wild dogs.

As another step towards consolidating national coordination and collaboration: over 30 delegates recently met in Canberra to establish the National Wild Dog Action Plan **Stakeholder Consultative Group (SCG)**. The SCG membership includes broad representative coverage across peak industry councils, state farming organisations, state/territory agriculture/environmental jurisdictions, RD&E organisations as well as national animal welfare entities and a number of industry champions/stewards.



Stakeholder Consultative Group members meeting in Canberra

The first item of business saw Dr Bill Sykes (Victoria) elected as the Group Chair and Geoff Power (South Australia) Deputy Chair.

As part of the proceedings a motion was passed to decommission the National Wild Dog Management Advisory Group (NWD MAG) while acknowledging the group’s vital achievements over the past five years in wild dog management across mainland Australia.

Michael Mc Cormack, NWD MAG’s outgoing Chair expressed “*sincere thanks to all members for the commitment of their time, effort and open mindedness.*” Mr Geoff Power went on to convey “*special thanks for the five years of work to Greg Mifsud, National Wild Dog Facilitator and Queensland Grazier, Peter Lucas. Both are key advocates for full wild dog management participation across the landscape.*”

¹ Wicks, S, Mazur K, Please P, Ecker S & Buetre B, 2014, An integrated assessment of the impact of wild dogs in Australia, ABARES Research report no. 14.4, Canberra, April.

SCG members identified potential Commonwealth Research & Development for Profit Program projects. These have been submitted to Australian wool Innovation and Meat & Livestock Australia for consideration in this current funding round (December 2014). A longer term SCG Research and Development Working Group was also established tasked with identifying and prioritising logic-based RD&E requirements in the longer-term.

Four other SCG Working Groups have been formed and will progress identified and future actions in conjunction with the implementation manager.

Achievements and progressions so far

- The governance structure is established providing the national coordination framework.
- National consistency across training programs is in progress. Pilot dogger (pest control officers) skill set will roll out in early 2015 through a state/territory jurisdiction co-investment funding model.
- Extension resources are being updated to convey current best practice models.
- Value-add outcomes are in-train with:
 - the roll-out of a Communication and Engagement Strategy action plan
 - a jurisdiction/industry co-investment approach to development of mutually agreed nationally consistent wild dog management metrics.

Did you know

The 1950s movie 'Back of Beyond' central motif was the fortnightly journey made by mailman Tom Kruse along the remote Birdsville Track from Marree, in South Australia, to Birdsville, in southwest Queensland.

One character 'Jake the dogger' received a £1 per scalp bounty

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