

# SA Arid Lands Landscape Board Communiqué



The South Australian Arid Lands Landscape Board held its bi-monthly meeting in Port Augusta on 23 – 24 June 2021. This included a two-hour workshop for multiple stakeholders keen to partner with the board to manage wild dogs in the region (please see below for more details).

## Partnering for Wild Dog Management

The board hosted a workshop on day one of the June meeting, inviting key partners of the SAAL Landscape Board and PIRSA to address the issue of wild dog management in South Australia, and more specifically in the SAAL region.

Representing PIRSA was Principal Biosecurity Officer Pest Animals Brad Page; Acting Executive Director Biosecurity John Virtue, Wild Dog Planning Co-ordinator Heather Miller and Dog Fence Rebuild Manager, Lindell Andrews.

Guests included the President and CEO of Livestock SA (Joe Keynes and Andrew Curtis); the Chair of the SA Dog Fence Board (Geoff Power); Program Manager Vertebrate Pests Australian Wool Innovation (Ian Evans); the Chair, Sheep Industry Fund Board (Ian Rowett); the Director and the Assistant Director, Established Pest Animals and Weeds, Biosecurity Strategy and Reform Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (Shalan Schofield and Chris Clowes).

National Wild Dog Management Co-ordinator (Greg Mifsud) and Program Manager, Meat and Livestock Australia (David Beatty) also attended virtually.

Each partner presented on their current investment into wild dog management, acknowledging the quantifiable costs in sheep country as well as social and management costs.

The dog fence rebuild (pictured below), post drought conditions with lower dog numbers, and the recent investment in management, provides a perfect opportunity to eradicate dogs inside the fence.



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Recent regulation and policy adoption will see a heightened focus and appetite for land manager compliance and shared responsibility across all partners.

A strong commitment to this partnership was evident with a focus on a 10-year eradication strategy and investment prospectus. This will be dually led by PIRSA and the SAAL Landscape Board with plans to leverage further investment.

## ***Optimising Kangaroo Management in SA***

The Landscape Priorities Fund is funded from Landscape levies collected by Green Adelaide in the Adelaide metropolitan area and redistributed to South Australia's regional landscape boards. This enables them to invest in regional environmental projects through partnerships with other groups/individuals. The fund is part of the *Landscape South Australia Act 2019*, enabling investment in large, landscape scale projects addressing regional and cross-regional priorities.

The board has successfully secured \$350,000 for the 'Optimising Kangaroo Management in SA' - a multi region, multi partner project that will address the significant threat posed by over-abundant kangaroos to the condition and resilience of rangelands ecosystems and the enterprises they support.

A new role will be created to support the Kangaroo Management Partnership and will be responsible to align the partners with a set of common goals and maximise the opportunities that come from a co-ordinated role that supports the many stakeholders. An aim of the project is to consider economic, policy, conservation, cultural and land management facets of (over-abundant) kangaroos in the landscape.

A tender process will occur soon to attract the right person to the role, led by the SAAL Landscape Board and supported by a governance structure that involves partners ongoing input and support.

## ***Landscape Groups Membership Call***

The board endorsed new members on Landscape Groups and were pleased to see the continued and new interest generated among the region. Most of the six existing landscape groups are fully subscribed along with the new Port Augusta-Quorn Landscape Group.

The newly re-constituted Landscape Groups provide a key conduit between the community and the board. They facilitate the sharing of regional issues with the board to ensure they are well understood. This promotes alignment between the boards strategic plan and investment and the soon to be reviewed district action plans of the Landscape Groups.

## ***Next Meeting in the Region***

The board is keen to be more accessible to communities in the region and will hold its next meeting in Hawker (24-26 August 2021).

The board will hold one meeting regionally per year. These meetings will provide an opportunity for the board to see first hand 'on ground' works; meet with landholders and communities, immerse in the Culture of the land and host a community BBQ.

These annual board meetings complement the role individual board members have through their membership on local Landscape Groups and their link to regional field based activity or meetings.

## ***Upcoming Events***

- Marree Pastoral Boot Camp - 13 August  
*Charlie Eager, Community Landscape Officer is the contact for this event on 0437 795 792.*
- SAAL Pastoral Field Day 2 & 3 December

*Use link below for details of SAAL board meetings.*

[SA Arid Lands Landscape Board](https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/saal)