





January 2015

South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board

SA Arid Lands Wild Dog Management Plan

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Definition of Acronyms

BSA Biosecurity South Australia

DEWNR Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources

DFB Dog Fence Board

NR SAAL Natural Resources, SA Arid Lands

NRM Natural Resources Management

OCA Outback Communities Authority

PIRSA Primary Industries and Regions South Australia

SAAL NRMB South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board

SAWDAG South Australian Wild Dog Advisory Group

Acknowledgements

- All land holders responsible for the management of land within the SAAL NRM region who provided their knowledge and expertise in the drafting of the Plan
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Wild Dog Management Plan

1 PURPOSE

This Wild Dog Management Plan is an operational plan, developed to guide the implementation of the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management (SAAL NRM) Wild Dog Management Policy.

'The effects of wild-living dogs (dingoes, hybrids or unmanaged domestic) will be managed to limit the impact to the livestock industry and ensure public safety whilst recognising the ecological role of dingoes as a wildlife species. This policy recognises the cultural significance of the dingo to Aboriginal people'.

2 OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF THIS PLAN

- Resourcing of additional activities to those already listed for all zones (Sections 9-12)
- Alterations to current state policies, Acts, regulations and levies

3 DEFINITION

For the purpose of this Plan, the term 'wild dog' refers to dingoes (*Canis lupus dingo*), domestic dogs that are wild-living or wandering at large¹ (*Canis lupus familiaris*) and their hybrids.

4 POSITION STATEMENT

The effects of wild dogs will be managed to reduce impacts to livestock, and public safety, whilst preserving the ecological role as a wildlife species (refer to Zone 3 as identified in Section 7). The linkages between the cultural significance and ecological role of the dingo to the Traditional Owners, will be acknowledged and recognised. The general public will be made aware about the risks related to wild dogs becoming habitually accustomed to associating with humans. Best practice management should ensure humane destruction of wild dogs².

5 CONTEXT

Wild dog management is a complex issue because in addition to its status as a pest of livestock, and other enterprises, it is also valued for its role as a top order predator in ecosystems on native and feral herbivores, and carnivores, including feral predators.

Management of wild dogs is essential to the viability of livestock enterprises, as their impacts can be severe; sheep and wild dogs do not co-exist and wild dogs do impact cattle enterprises.

The SAAL NRM Board is responsible under the *Natural Resources Management Act, 2004* (NRM Act) for overseeing the control of pest animals within the region, including wild dogs. Under the Act, land owners including occupiers (i.e. property managers and other industry operators) are responsible for



¹ Cat and Dog Management Act 1995 refers to 7 - Dog wandering at large (1a), (1b (i, ii)), (2a,b,c)

² National Model Code of Practice for the Humane Control of Wild Dogs 2008, NSW Department of Primary Industries

undertaking control of pest animals on their property. The dingo, and their hybrids³, are a declared pest animal for the region, requiring destruction inside the Dog Fence. Prohibition on the possession and sale of dingoes inside the Dog Fence, and restrictions on movement and release of dingoes is also specified in the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004 Declaration of Animals and Plants*.

In South Australia the Dog Fence extends across the north of the state—it aims to prevent wild dogs moving south, thereby maintaining an area inside (south of) the Fence where sheep can be grazed. The native form of wild dog, the dingo, is an unprotected native wildlife species.

The Board has developed this Wild Dog Management Plan to guide the management of wild dogs within the SA Arid Lands Region. NRM stakeholders with an interest in wild dog management were encouraged to contribute to the development of this plan through extensive consultation (during 2012-14). This included individual property visits, emailed surveys, phone surveys, presentations at meetings and seven workshops. The plan is consistent with the requirements of wild dog management plans at state and national levels.

6 STAKEHOLDERS

The following table summarises the diversity of stakeholder groups consulted, their roles and expectations. These have been grouped into stakeholder types.

Stakeholder group	Roles and Expectations
Animal welfare organisations	The Animal Welfare Act 1985 and Regulations 2012 specify conditions on the humane treatment of wild dogs. Expect: ▶ requirements for humane methods of wild dog control to be upheld
	 the National Code of Practice to be adhered to Conservation groups aim to foster conservation of wildlife and natural
	habitats by actively managing feral herbivores and predators.
Conservation groups	Expect:
	 that outside the Fence, the ecological role of the wild dog is preserved by fostering management plans that take this into consideration
	District NRM Groups have a role in ensuring community involvement in delivery of NRM within their district.
	Expect:
District based NRM Groups	 to be involved in wild dog management capacity building across their communities landowners in their districts to be supported in implementing their
	wild dog management obligations
	 NRM extension services to promote best practice methods of wild dog management
	The general public who live in and visit the region
	Expect:
General Public	 to be aware of the level of risk to livestock and public safety posed by wild dogs
	 to be aware of the ecosystem services provided by wild dogs as a top order predator

³ The Natural Resources Management Act, 2004 Declaration of Animals and Plants refers to the dingo (Canis lupus dingo). This Plan follows the terminology proposed for the Draft South Australian Wild Dog Strategic Plan 2013-2018 (PIRSA) which uses the term "wild dog" as inclusive of dingoes, wild-living domestic dogs and their hybrids



Stakeholder group	Roles and Expectations
Government agencies: Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) Pastoral Board Dog Fence Board Local Dog Fence Boards Outback Communities Authority Local District Councils	DEWNR: management of natural resources on public and privately managed lands in accordance with legislated responsibilities. PIRSA (inc. Biosecurity SA): support and regulate primary industries, including agriculture in accordance with its legislated responsibilities, development of NRM Act state policy for declared plants and animals. Pastoral Board: make decisions with respect to pastoral leasehold land that ensure they are used and managed in accordance with the Pastoral Act. Dog Fence Board and Local Dog Fence Boards: ensure the Dog Fence is maintained and also control wild dogs within the vicinity of the fence. Outback Communities Authority and Local District Councils provide a service for the management of dogs and cats in communities in the SA Arid Lands. All government agencies are required to implement pest animal policies and compliance measures including the Policy on Management of Dingo Populations in South Australia (Amended 2011). Expect: ▶ this Wild Dog Management Plan to be consistent with other state government policies, plans and Acts ▶ to have a role in provision of government services that support wild dog management
Livestock producers and land managers	All livestock producers and land managers have responsibility for wild dog control. Expect: • to contribute significant resources to protect livestock from wild dog predation • the NRM Board to ensure a level of wild dog control that adequately protects livestock enterprises • records of control kept by government agencies are maintained and shared with stakeholders • the general public adequately control domestic dogs
Livestock industry bodies (Meat & Livestock Australia, Livestock SA, SA Sheep Advisory Group, SA Cattle Advisory Group)	Representing livestock, these bodies address the barriers to effective wild dog management where the impacts on their industry are unacceptable. Expect: commitment through this Plan to a strategy that minimises the impacts of wild dogs on all livestock industries
SA Wild Dog Advisory Group	Responsible for advising the Minister on wild dog issues. Expect: to be asked for and provide advice on wild dog related issues to be kept informed on wild dog issues by land managers
Traditional Owners Co-Management Boards and Advisory Committees	"The Dingo has been of great significance to Aboriginal people for a very long time – long enough for it to have come an integral part of camp life, the diet, oral literature, beliefs and practices". Expect: recognition of the linkages between cultural and ecological significance of the dingo within Aboriginal culture, and that outside the Fence, populations are to be safeguarded
Other industries (mining, exploration, tourism)	Responsible for ensuring education on the risks associated with human/wild dog interactions and documenting incidents. Expect: to be informed and educated on the impacts human interaction with wild dogs can have on human safety and wild dog ecology/behaviour

⁴ Tunbridge, Dorothy, The Story of Flinders Ranges Mammals, 1991, pg 84



7 MANAGEMENT ZONES

Wild dog management in the SA Arid Lands NRM region will be guided by the goals specified for the three zones⁵ defined below:

- Zone 1 Inside (south of) the Dog Fence
- Zone 2 A 35km buffer immediately outside (north of) the Fence
- Zone 3 Outside (north of) the Dog Fence

8 SPECIFIC GOALS

The specific goals for each of the three zones are:

- Zone 1: Allow for the destruction of all wild dogs to protect livestock enterprises or public safety.
- Zone 2: Allow for the management of wild dog populations to very low numbers to minimise pressure on the Dog Fence.
- Zone 3: Minimise wild dog impacts on livestock or public safety whilst ensuring self- sustaining
 populations remain viable in the broader landscape. Promote and appreciate the linkages
 between the cultural significance and ecological role of the dingo to Traditional Owners.

Goals that apply across all zones:

- Allow for the management of wild dogs where they represent a risk to public safety.
- Ensure all wild dog control follows the National Model Code of Practice to ensure humane destruction of wild dogs.

9 IMPLEMENTING THE GOALS

9.1 Inside the Dog Fence (Zone 1)

Wild dogs are present across Zone 1, with incursions through the Dog Fence, domestic dogs and wild breeding all contributing to their persistence. Therefore ongoing surveillance and coordinated control activities by all landholders are required to protect livestock enterprises.

The following dog removal methods are supported through this plan and each of the methods should be used together as a complete management package where possible:

9.1.1 Ground baiting:

A 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) injection service will be provided by NR SAAL⁶, at multiple selected sites (refer to Map 2) at least twice each year (targeting wild dog dispersal in autumn and breeding in spring). Land managers are encouraged to use this service as their main bait supply. Fresh meat suitable for bait preparation in an amount adequate for their property area is to be provided by land managers for qualified staff to inject with 1080 solution. Particular attention must be paid to bait preparation prior to injection and for freezing, to ensure maximum benefit from baiting efforts.

Baits are typically laid along tracks and around waters. The recommended method is for a larger quantity of bait to be laid twice each year (in autumn and spring) over a period of a couple of weeks, combined with laying a small number of baits, monthly from mid spring through to early winter at sites frequented by wild dogs. A coordinated approach is the method used nationally to ensure optimum levels of control, so it is important land managers all undertake baiting at the same time.

Land managers may freeze or dry baits, for use in-between the bi-annual bait injection times. Freezers and drying racks are placed at selected locations for landholders to store baits for use

⁶ The SA Arid Lands NRM Board uses services provided by operational staff from Natural Resources SA Arid Lands (NR SAAL) or other qualified personnel.



⁵ These zones were formed around the zones listed in the Biosecurity SA (in Draft), South Australian Wild Dog Strategic Plan 2013-2018, Primary Industries and Regions South Australia.

during monthly baiting. Additionally, manufactured baits for this purpose are available for land managers to purchase (via NR SAAL) all year round.

If wild dog numbers are not brought under control during the bi-annual injection service, then additional bait injection services, coordinated by the Wild Dog Planning Group, may be possible.

Land managers are responsible for laying baits according to the *Directions for use of 1080 wild dog baits in South Australia*.

9.1.2 Aerial baiting:

Aerial baiting by accredited operators, is permitted inside the Dog Fence⁷. Aerial baiting is used periodically, only to target inaccessible sites where residual populations of wild dogs are thought to be persisting. Aerial baiting should only be used after ground baiting and as a supplement to other wild dog control methods, not as a replacement. During the development of Local Area Plans, properties will be nominated to receive aerial baiting, (where funding is available), by the Wild Dog Planning groups.

9.1.3 Trapping:

Soft-jawed foot-hold trapping is a method of control used for controlling wild dogs that ignore baits. Traps are available for loan on a monthly basis from NR SAAL and each Wild Dog Planning Group has a minimum of 5 traps to be shared within the group.

Land managers who set traps are responsible for complying with animal welfare legislation⁸, which prohibits the use of steel-jawed traps and has specific requirements for the way traps are used, including the necessity for the application of strychnine to the jaws of the traps.

9.1.4 Shooting:

Shooting is a targeted method of control, used as an addition to baiting. Shooting is the responsibility of the landholders/managers who are responsible for determining who can shoot on their lands. Shooting must be undertaken in a humane manner.

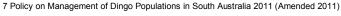
9.1.5 Local Area Plans for Wild Dog Planning groups:

Optimal wild dog control is only possible if there is a high level of coordinated land manager participation in the control effort. Local area planning has proven effective in the SAAL NRM region; between 2009 and 2011 a total of 22 groups were formed. These groups function cooperatively with NR SAAL staff who assist in planning and 1080 bait injection. Each group has a group contact who ensures all group members are notified of times when a bait injection service will be available, and assists with encouraging group members to attend injection services. They also have the responsibility to encourage neighbours to notify one another when wild dogs are sighted and more intensive effort of control may be required.

NR SAAL will support groups in formulating Local Area Plans specific to their area/group. Local Area Plans need to address the minimum standard of control required, develop standards for bait preparation, establish a way in which information will be effectively shared to improve communication, and nominate properties requiring assistance to effectively control wild dogs in difficult or inaccessible terrain.

9.1.6 Compliance:

Where a reasonably achievable level of wild dog control is not demonstrated (as determined by the SAAL NRM Board) compliance measures will be implemented in line with the Board's Incentive Compliance Pest Management Framework⁹.



⁸ Animal Welfare Act 1985 and Regulations 2012



⁹ SAAL NRM Board Incentive Compliance Pest Management Framework 2014

9.2 Buffer outside the Fence (Zone 2)

The Dog Fence Board has responsibility for maintenance of the Dog Fence ¹⁰ and undertakes wild dog control measures in the vicinity of the Fence. Six Local Dog Fence Boards are custodians of the Dog Fence and employ contractors to patrol and maintain the Fence. Limited trapping is undertaken along the Fence (mostly in the west coast region) by patrolmen and local landholders, and baiting in the buffer zone is funded by the Dog Fence Board to reduce wild dog numbers adjacent to the Dog Fence, lowering the risk of Dog Fence breaches. Each property in this buffer zone has a management plan (developed between 1993-2011) which is used to guide bait distribution. Under this plan the buffer zone is defined by a 35km distance from the dog fence.

The SAAL NRM Board supports managers of properties located in the buffer zone by offering biannual 1080 bait injection services (refer to Map 3, Group 23). These services are held at the same time and location as part of the injection services provided inside the Fence. Properties within the buffer zone immediately outside the Dog Fence are encouraged to participate in these injection services to fulfil the requirements of buffer zone baiting.

9.3 Outside the Dog Fence (Zone 3)

Land managers in this zone should limit wild dog control activities to areas where wild dog impacts on livestock and public safety are likely. To support the ecological role of the wild dog, the level of control will be restricted by limiting the amount of baits available for each property on an annual basis. Restrictions already exist on aerial baiting and trapping in this zone through State Policy, Acts and Regulations¹¹.

Each region (Oodnadatta Track, Birdsville Track and Strzelecki Track) has been divided into Wild Dog Planning groups (9 in total, refer to Map 3). Properties requiring wild dog population control should work with their Local Wild Dog Planning Group.

The following control methods are recommended:

9.3.1 Ground baiting:

A 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) injection service will be provided by NR SAAL ¹² on an annual basis where requested by a Wild Dog Planning group. The contact person for each of the Wild Dog Planning groups is responsible for organising an appropriate location and time for the injection service, which will be negotiated with and delivered by appropriately qualified staff within 4 weeks of contact. Individual properties are required to provide fresh meat suitable for injection, or alternatively, may order manufactured baits through NR SAAL. The amount of baits to be injected, or manufactured baits to be purchased, will be set at an annual maximum of 1 bait per 2km² per property.

Land managers are responsible for laying baits according to the *Directions for use of 1080 wild dog baits in South Australia*.

9.3.2 Bait request for exceptional circumstances:

In situations where annual control measures are not sufficient to reduce impacts to livestock, there may be the need for an additional service to be provided. The landholders will be required to provide evidence of this through submitting a "Bait Request for Exceptional Circumstances" form (Appendix 1) to NR SAAL with a decision to this request provided within 7 days.

¹² The SA Arid Lands NRM Board uses services provided by operational staff from Natural Resources SA Arid Lands (NR SAAL) or other approved technicians



¹⁰ Dog Fence Act 1946

¹¹ Policy on the Management of Dingo Populations in South Australia (amended 2011) and Animal Welfare Act 1985 and Regulations 2012

9.3.3 Shooting:

Shooting is the responsibility of the landholders/managers who are responsible for determining who can shoot on their lands. Shooting must be undertaken in a humane manner.

9.3.4 Aerial baiting:

According to the *Policy on Management of Dingo Populations in South Australia (amended 2011)* baits cannot be distributed aerially in this region.

9.3.5 Trapping:

According to *Animal Welfare Act 1985* and *Regulations 2012* trapping is only permitted within a 100 metre zone outside the Dog Fence.

9.4 Public Safety

Currently, there are no known cases of wild dogs harming humans in SA, though interstate experience indicates there is a risk to safety from wild dogs that have become accustomed to associating with humans. Domestic dogs wandering at large can pose a risk to public safety. DEWNR operates in partnership with Biosecurity SA to promote public understanding of the behaviours that can reduce the risk to humans. In addition to being a risk to livestock, hydatids (worms) can also pose a risk to human safety through contact with dog faeces. In circumstances where individual wild dogs may present a risk to public safety they may need to be removed to maintain a safe environment for humans.

9.5 Across all Zones

NR SAAL will work closely with all organisations and communities involved in wild dog management (eg. Outback Communities Authority, Local Councils and mine sites) throughout the SAAL NRM region.

10 COMMUNICATION

The SAAL NRM Board will promote wild dog management via existing communication channels (e.g. newsletter, website, media).

Information about best practice control methods will be made available to all landholders to support the implementation of this Plan. The use of printed materials, electronically available information, and in-field demonstrations, will be used for publicising information. Regular communication between land managers and others involved in wild dog management will form a part of the Local Area Plans. Where necessary, specific forums will be supported by DEWNR.

11 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The Board is responsible for monitoring, evaluation and review of the implementation of this management plan. To facilitate this, the Board requires landholder input into reporting of wild dog activity, impact and control resources.

Landholders undertaking wild dog control have responsibility for assessing dog activity on their land to determine if their various control efforts are being effective. Landholders in Zone 1 sharing this information with their planning groups and NR SAAL will enable the effectiveness of wild dog control activities to be evaluated across the region including identification of areas that may be a source of wild dogs and where assistance to destroy dogs may be required.

Landholders and contractors operating in Zone 2 should monitor activity levels (tracks and trap rates) as part of their buffer zone control work.

Landholders and contractors operating in Zone 3 should monitor wild dog impacts on livestock.



11.1 Evaluation

Evaluation directs the monitoring needed to be undertaken. Evaluation activities will include:

- The extent to which landholders are participating in coordinated wild dog control in zone 1
- Trend in impacts and wild dog activity in zone 1
- Success in reducing wild dog populations and maintaining low numbers in zone 2
- Mapping areas where wild dogs are controlled in zone 3
- Determining if public safety risks were managed, and incidents reported in all zones

11.2 Monitoring – information collection

NR SAAL will support Wild Dog Planning Groups by coordinating the collection and collation of the following information relevant to their area. This information will be used to evaluate progress (as outlined above) in an annual review process.

In all 3 zones:

- NR SAAL, Biosecurity SA and the Dog Fence patrolmen and inspectors will collect, collate and share data related to individual agency activities involving wild dog management.
- Baiting transects by land managers obtained through the annual provision of maps through stock returns for pastoral leases and individual property maps to all other leases.
- NR SAAL collect information provided by landholders, relating to impacts caused by wild dogs.

Zone 1:

Through the annual stock returns for pastoral leases an individual property map will be supplied. Individual property maps will also be supplied to all other properties in Zone 1 to obtain:

- Individual property records of wild dog activity and stock loss attributable to wild dog attacks.
- Reports of wild dogs trapped or shot on properties.

11.3 Review

This management plan will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains current and relevant for the SAAL NRM Board, and assists the Board to meet its obligations under the NRM Act associated with the management and control of wild dogs.

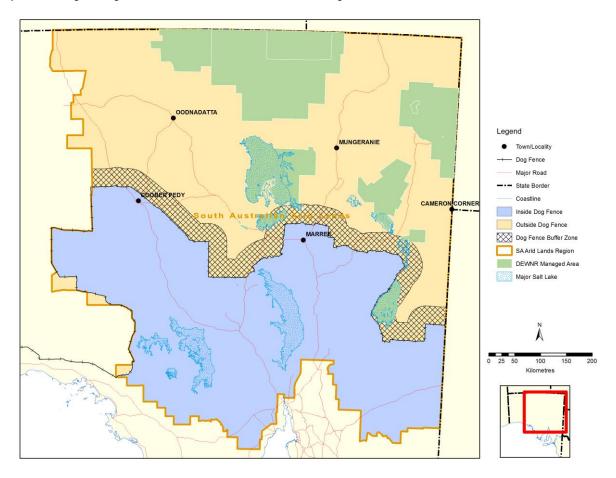
12 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION

- NR SAAL work with landholders to take opportunities to secure funding to increase control and education (including trapper training workshops) for wild dog control.
- That standards for bait preparation be developed and incorporated into the Local Area Plans.
- NR SAAL work closely with the Dog Fence Board and properties in the buffer zone to ensure adequate control is undertaken.
- NR SAAL work with Biosecurity SA, the Dog Fence Board and Local Dog Fence Boards to review the buffer zone management plans.
- During large feral herbivore culls, and if climatic conditions lead to large increases in the number of wild dogs, additional effort may be required by all landholders to protect vulnerable livestock. This will be done in consultation with the relevant District NRM groups and NR SAAL.
- The amount of annual allowed baits per km² in zone 3 be reviewed after 2 years
- NR SAAL work in conjunction with the Dog Fence Board, patrolmen and inspectors to undertake data collection with regard to the amount and location of baits laid and wild dog numbers seen, trapped, and shot in the vicinity of the Fence in zone 2.
- NR SAAL work with landholders interested in camera based monitoring to secure funding and develop standardised wild dog activity monitoring programs on their lands.

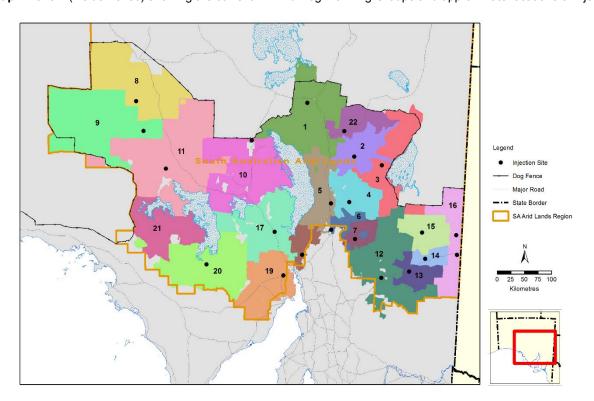


13 MAPS

Map 1 Wild Dog Management zones within the SA Arid Lands region



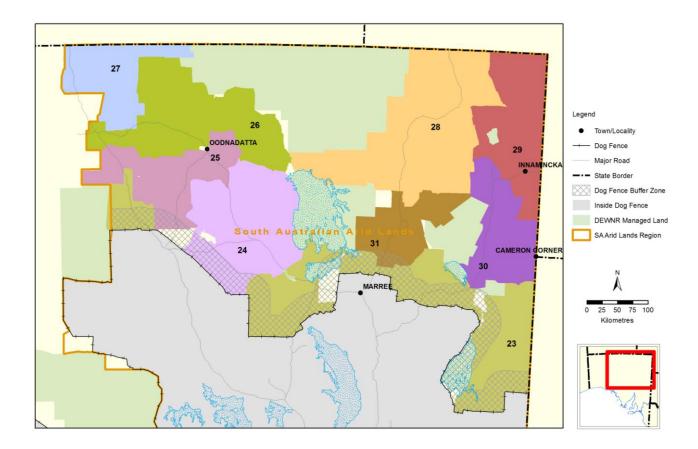
Map 2 Zone 1 (inside Fence) showing the current 22 Wild Dog Planning Groups and approximate locations of injection services





Map 3 Zone 3 (outside Fence) showing the 9 Wild Dog Planning Groups

NB Group 23 are all in Zone 2 and may participate at injection services inside the Fence





14 DECLARATION STATUS

The Dingo is declared for the area inside the Dog Fence for the following sections of the *Natural Resources Management Act*, 2004

175(1)(3)	Prohibiting movement of the animal into or within the region
176(1)	Prohibiting possession of the animal in captivity
177	Prohibiting sale of the animal
179	Prohibiting release of the animal
181(1)	Requirement for compliance with the instructions of an authorised officer with respect to keeping in captivity
182(1)	Requiring landowners to destroy the animal on their properties

15 REFERENCES

- Biosecurity SA (2011), Policy on Management of Dingo Populations in South Australia 2011, Government of South Australia, Adelaide.
- Biosecurity SA (2013), Draft South Australian Wild Dog Strategic Plan 2013-2018, Primary Industries and Regions South Australia.
- National Wild Dog Action Plan, July 2014
- NRM Biosecurity Unit Biosecurity SA (2011), Directions for use of 1080 wild dog baits in South Australia,
 - http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/nrm_biosecurity/pest_animal/1080_use_in_sa
- SA Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board (2015), Incentive Compliance Pest Management Framework, October 2015

Legislation

Animal Welfare Act 1985 and Regulations 2012
Natural Resources Management Act, 2004

Dog Fence Act 1946

Cat and Dog Management Act 1995



APPENDIX 1



BAIT REQUEST FOR EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

January 2015

South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Board

The South Australian Arid Lands NRM Board is responsible for 1080 bait supply within the arid lands region. This form is to be used during situations when wild dog numbers have not responded to the annual service provided.

Download form or submit online from:

http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/aridlands/land/land-management/baiting-north-of-dog-fence

Downloaded pdf can be faxed to:

Fax number: 08 8648 5301

_	Landholders will be required to pay the cost of manufactured baits purchased.
Property inf	formation:
Property nar	me:
Contact nam	ne and phone number:
This property DEWNR stat	y has / has not (delete as appropriate) participated in the annual service provided by ff.
What is pro	mpting the need for an additional bait request? (eg rainfall, prey availability):
Other releva	ant information:
Which (if any	y) neighbouring properties are experiencing similar potential impacts?
What is the s	size of your property and how many baits are requested?
Describe the	e proposed location/s for laying baits (eg names of paddocks/water points)

