



Guidelines for the Preparation and Implementation of Wild Dog Management Plans in NSW

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Policy Statement

The policy provides guidelines for the preparation and implementation of wild dog management plans for lands listed under Schedule 2 of the *Local Land Services (Wild Dogs) Pest Control Order 2015* and for other lands (Schedule 1) as required. It also addresses several key actions in the NSW Wild Dog Management Strategy 2012-2015 including:

- Action 1a. Develop policy on the preparation of wild dog management plans;
- Action 2b. Develop actions to mitigate the Key threatening process “Predation and Hybridisation by Feral Dogs *Canis lupus familiaris*” in the NSW Priorities Action Statement and incorporate into wild dog management plans where appropriate;
- Action 2j. Monitor the status of dingoes in Schedule 2 areas;
- Action 4a. Develop standard cost-sharing arrangement for wild dog management plans;
- Action 5a. Define standard measures of effectiveness to be incorporated into all wild dog management plans; and
- Action 5b. Compile data on wild dog impacts, management activity, and measures of effectiveness state-wide.

Scope

The policy applies to public and private land managers, wild dog control groups and individuals in NSW that are involved in the preparation and implementation of wild dog management plans for lands listed under Schedule 2 of the *Local Land Services (Wild Dogs) Pest Control Order 2015* and for other lands (Schedule 1) as required.

This document should be used in conjunction with the:

1. Working Plan to Manage Wild Dogs ([Green book](#))
2. Guidelines for Preparing a Working Plan to Manage Wild Dogs ([Brown book](#))
3. Operational Site Plan Template

Together, these documents can assist in the development of wild dog management plans and provide the basis for a consistent approach to wild dog management by all stakeholders, allowing program results to be benchmarked and improved across NSW.

Requirements

1. Preparation of wild dog management plans

As with the management of other invasive species, across-tenure planning will greatly improve the effectiveness of wild dog control. Accordingly, wild dog management plans should seek to identify problem areas and detail the management response across-tenure as outlined in the [Guidelines for Preparing a Working Plan to Manage Wild Dogs](#) (Brown Book). The following matters should be considered and discussed during the preparation of wild dog management plans:

1a. Wild dog management plans should be prepared for all lands listed under Schedule 2 of the *Local Land Services (Wild Dogs) Pest Control Order 2015*.

1b. Wild dog management plans should include adjacent Schedule 1 lands, public or private, where problems have been identified. Whilst all land managers within a wild dog-affected area should be encouraged to be involved in the development of local wild dog management plans, the inclusion of Schedule 1 Lands in wild dog management plans is at the discretion of individual land managers.

1c. Wild dog management plans may also be prepared for other Schedule 1 lands (i.e. remote from Schedule 2 lands) where wild dog problems have been identified.

1d. Local Land Services will support the preparation of wild dog management plans in most cases although wild dog control groups or similar groups may also initiate plans.

1e. If there are delays in the preparation of a plan, managers of Schedule 2 lands may prepare an interim plan detailing works on their lands for the approval of the relevant Local Land Services.

1f. Approved wild dog management plans should be collated in an agreed Local Land Services database platform. The Wild Dog Management Plan database should be made accessible to all participating land managers.

2. Reporting on the implementation and effectiveness of wild dog management

The effectiveness of wild dog management must be monitored and the results reported to all stakeholders so that they can collectively review and refine agreed management actions. Reporting should focus on:

- clear statement(s) of whether the overarching aim(s) of the plan were met
- the nature, location and extent of management actions undertaken
- the effectiveness of management in minimising negative impacts of wild dogs
- the effectiveness of management in achieving any agreed dingo conservation objectives
- budgeted and actual expenditure on wild dog management, including in-kind contributions.

2a. The objective of the majority of wild dog management programs in NSW is to minimise the impacts of wild dogs on livestock. Thus, reduced per-capita stock loss due to predation is the primary measure of effectiveness for wild dog management. Local Land Services will collate and report data on per-capita stock loss for each wild dog management plan area at the end of each calendar month. They will also collate and report per-capita stock loss data across all wild dog management plans. Additional measures of effectiveness may be included in individual wild dog management plans as required. These measures should relate to specific objectives of the wild dog management plan.

2b. Schedule 2 land managers may monitor (e.g. via sand-plots, cameras) wild dog activity in both Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 reserves to guide wild dog management programs. For example, it is often valuable to present and discuss data on wild dog activity with landholders, Wild Dog Control Groups and Local Land Services when stock losses are occurring to assist in identifying where any response should be targeted.

2c. Schedule 2 land managers should report wild dog activity (both monitored and incidental observation) to the Local Land Services as per clause 7(b) of *the Local Land Services (Wild Dogs) Pest Control Order 2015*.

2d. Schedule 2 land managers and Schedule 1 land managers participating in control work associated with a wild dog management plan should report on the implementation of wild dog management plans and other wild dog control as follows:

- total expenditure on wild dog management in plan area, including in-kind contribution
- total area subject to wild dog control, including Schedule 1 and Schedule 2 lands – this may not need to be measured precisely (e.g. mapping all bait stations) but be based on approximate mapping of control areas based on agreed methods
- number of reserves with wild dog management programs
- proportion of Schedule 2 lands covered by an approved wild dog management plan

- list of wild dog control methods used under each wild dog management plan.

2e. The Local Land Services should collate data on the implementation of wild dog management plans across all lands in the defined wild dog management plan area.

2f. The Local Land Services should also collate available information on:

- requirements for professional wild dog controllers
- obstacles that prevent stakeholder participation in wild dog management plans
- systems for resolving conflict between stakeholders.

2g. The Local Land Services will collate data across all plan areas and take a lead role in producing an annual report in collaboration with all stakeholders.

3. Principles for cost-sharing in wild dog management plans

3a. Cost-sharing arrangements should be clearly articulated and transparent in wild dog management plans and agreed to by all stakeholders. These arrangements should accurately identify the contributions made and reflect the resources made available by each stakeholder for each plan. All management costs associated with agreed management plans should be recorded, collated and reported.

3b. Costs must be shared between stakeholders.

3c. Much of the work on Schedule 2 lands may be resourced in-kind. In general, Schedule 2 land management staff undertaking wild dog management should work on their tenure. However they may undertake a limited amount of work on other tenures where appropriate and approved.

3d. Where Schedule 2 land managers contribute to a coordinated across-tenure management action (e.g. aerial baiting or a trapper contracted to Local Land Services for reactive control across-tenure), options for apportioning costs include:

- pro-rata based on the proportion of wild dog habitat on Schedule 2 land within the target management area
- pro-rata based on the estimated km of trails (or aerial transect) to be targeted by the control action, or
- pro-rata based on the estimated time to be spent on each tenure.

3e. Alternative funding models to apportion the costs of a shared resource may be considered, but the conditions under which these models should apply needs to be resolved and agreed to by all parties.

3f. Reporting on shared management actions should be a requirement in any associated contract.

4. Defining the conservation objective of wild dog management plans

4a. The 'Note' to clause 7(d) of the *Local Land Services (Wild Dogs) Pest Control Order 2015* states that wild dog management plans will address *both wild dog control and the conservation of dingoes in NSW*. In practice, Schedule 2 Land Managers aim to achieve dingo conservation by targeting wild dog management around the perimeter of Schedule 2 lands. This does not preclude wild dog control further inside Schedule 2 lands where necessary.

4b. Where relevant, wild dog management plans should consider actions to mitigate the key threatening process 'Predation and Hybridisation by Feral Dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*)' identified in the [NSW Priorities Action Statement](#).

4c. Schedule 2 land managers may monitor the level of hybridisation and status of dingo populations within Schedule 2 areas using recognised survey methods.

4d. Schedule 2 land managers will consult with stakeholders if they undertake actions in relation to dingo conservation and seek to include these actions within the relevant wild dog management plans.

Procedures

- [Working Plan to Manage Wild Dogs](#)
- [Guidelines for Preparing a Working Plan to Manage Wild Dogs](#)
- [DPI Vertebrate Pest Control Manual](#)

Safety considerations

Pest animal management requires the consideration of a number of State and Commonwealth Acts, Regulations, Control Orders and other legislative instruments. It is important that those involved in developing and implementing pest management plans have a knowledge and understanding of the various legislative functions, obligations and powers to ensure that vertebrate pests are controlled effectively, efficiently and humanely, that the rights of all land managers are protected, and that work health and safety hazards are identified, risk rated and managed.

Delegations

There are no delegations referred to in this document.

Definitions

- across-tenure planning: A process where wild dog (or other invasive species) control is planned and applied across all land tenures by all stakeholders as a 'landscape' rather than 'property' scale in a cooperative and coordinated manner. This process is also known as nil-tenure planning.
- Schedule 1 areas: All land in NSW not included in Schedule 2.
- Schedule 2 areas: Public lands listed under Schedule 2 of the *Local Land Services (Wild Dogs) Pest Control Order 2015*.
- Wild dogs: All wild-living dogs (*Canis lupus ssp.*), including their subspecies and hybrids but excluding any dog kept in accordance with the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986* and the *Animals Research Act 1985* or any other legislation made in replacement of any of these Acts.
- Wild Dog Control Group: A group that may include public and private landholders or land managers within a well-defined area for whom wild dogs pose problems and for which a coordinated management effort is being made by the group.
- Wild Dog Management Plan: A documented strategic approach for the management of wild dogs. Wild Dog Management plans generally aim to reduce the impact of wild dogs in the vicinity of the asset of concern e.g. a livestock enterprise.

Legislation

Local Land Services Act 2013

Related policies

There are no related policies to this document.

Other related documents

- [NSW Invasive Species Plan](#)
- [NSW Wild Dog Management Strategy](#)
- [NSW Priorities Action Statement](#)

Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
1	12/01/2016	New policy	Technical Specialist Vertebrate Pests

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01/02/2021

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