

**National Wild Dog Action Plan
Stakeholder Consultative Group
Annual Forum**

Thursday 3rd December and Friday 4th December 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The **Terms of Reference** for both the Implementation Steering Committee (ISC) and Stakeholder Consultation Group (SCG) were reviewed and endorsed.

State of the Nation Report – Greg Mifsud, National Wild Dog Facilitator

Reports from the grass roots confirm that landholders are seeing benefits from the National Wild Dog Action Plan and support for funding thus are confident that the money being put forward is hitting the ground quickly.

Cluster fencing has significant support; and in Queensland work is currently on agreement around fencing options and processes which will result in funding.

The role of the National Wild Dog Facilitator has shifted from being hands on at a regional level now that Wild Dog Coordinators are active and implementing on ground programs.

The application to have 1080 registered for use on organic properties has been prolonged. The submission was finally reviewed on the 28th October and the standards committee has now formed a working group to again review the submission. An alternate standard to pursue is through a submission under the Australian Standard for Organics (AS600-2009).

State of the State Report – representatives from states/territories (producers, agencies, coordinators) gave an informal assessment of wild dog impacts and activities in their region.

State of Play Reports – Informal reports were given on activities or concerns by representatives from Cattle Council, WoolProducers Australia, Australian Wool Innovation, Meat and Livestock Australia, RSPCA, Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (IACRC), Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, and natural resource management representatives

Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS)

Helen Cathles, Chair of the IACRC led a presentation on the prospectus for the CISS. This is a company envisioned to take on the aims of the IACRC when it finishes. For more information visit www.invasives.com.au

Wild Dog Scan

Peter West, NSW Department Primary Industries/IACRC, presented the web and mobile based platforms for Wild Dog Scan, a mapping and management tool which, as more people and groups use it, is being refined to increase its benefits. For more information please contact Peter West Email: peter.west@dpi.nsw.gov.au
Phone: 02 6391 3887 or 0407 622 191

Research in NSW and IACRC

Peter Fleming, NSW Department Primary Industries /IACRC presented some key findings from research on DNA, aerial bait rates and dog tracking and an outline of current IACRC research. Information on aerial baiting can be found at <http://us9.campaign-archive1.com/?u=9d40317e3f0dfd9af70647a4e&id=dc664933c0&e=483fa973a9> or <http://www.pestsmart.org.au/aerial-baiting-rates-for-strategic-control-of-wild-dogs/> . Information on the research program can be found at <http://www.invasiveanimals.com/research/phase2/land-pests/landscape-control-wild-dogs/>

Wild Dog Management project outcomes Stage 1

Michel Jackson, National Wild Dog Action Plan Implementation Manager (APIM), presented the achievements of stage 1 of the National Wild Dog Action Plan implementation. Summary information can be found at <http://www.pestsmart.org.au/national-wild-dog-action-plan/progress/>

Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper

Matt Koval, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, outlined the Federal Governments financial commitments to Agriculture. This includes \$4Million across the Wild Dog Alert research project, state planning in Western Australia and the National Wild Dog Action Plan. Summary information on the White Paper can be found at <http://agwhitepaper.agriculture.gov.au/>

R&D Gap Analysis Report

Malcolm Kennedy, Leader of the Stakeholder Consultative Group's Research &Development Working Group presented the findings. For more information, please contact Jane Littlejohn Email: jane.littlejohn@invasiveanimals.com ; Phone 0427827498.

Metrics Working Group Report

John Robertson presented the status of the metrics projects preliminary findings. For more information, please contact Jane Littlejohn Email: jane.littlejohn@invasiveanimals.com ; Phone 0427827498.

Wild Dog Management Stage 2 Operational Plan

Jane Littlejohn (incoming APIM) and Greg Mifsud presented the operational plan for Stage 2 implementation of the National Wild Dog Action Plan. For more information, please contact Jane Littlejohn Email: jane.littlejohn@invasiveanimals.com ; Phone 0427827498.

Working Groups for 2016

The four Working Groups convened in break out groups and commenced workshopping their planning for 2016. Key findings from the groups were

- training and extension: to be a licensed vertebrate pest controller it is recommended there be 12 units from Certificate III (Maintain workplace safety, Implement pest management strategies, Work effectively in a pest management environment, Prepare and apply chemicals, Transport handle and store chemicals, Treat weeds or pests and disease in plants, Use firearms to humanely destroy animals, Survey pests, Apply animal trapping techniques, Determine pest control techniques and Apply animal control techniques). There will then be licences required for firearms, chemical use, remote area first aid and 4 wheel driving. The final requirement will be a mentor or logbook signoff or recognition of prior learning. Certificate IV will add additional units.
- investment and collaboration: Goal 3.1 in the Stage 2 operational plan to be referred to the Training and Extension WG. Any existing investment mapping survey results and any reporting system development are to be referred to the Standardised Metrics WG as an essential outcome from a national metrics framework regarding a national economic cost of wild dogs. There must be linkages of

different data sets such as ABARES and AWI and more specific detailed data from states. Research and coordination must have a strategic value if adoption of best practice is to occur. Collaboration needed a definition with an aim of avoiding duplication and enhancing and accelerating outcomes. It needed to be mapped (such as with the IACRC research) and it includes regional cooperation, communication and advocacy.

- communication and engagement: The challenges included identifying the information needed to be communicated, improving internal communication, sharing between state and national plans and actions and interstate sharing, and getting the information to the end user. Actions identified were video clips as a potent media vehicle, develop a national communications network lead by the IACRC, identifying leads from each state, keep key messages current for each audience, develop a media engagement calendar for each key message/product, enhance face to face engagement through extension officers, develop a feedback loop via the APIM and the IACRC. This will be discussed at a January 2016 teleconference.
- standardised metrics: The objective is to have a workable data collection process as soon as possible to deliver a 2016 baseline. Therefore, the system will have to undergo continuous improvement with implementation in phases. The first phase will test standardised data collection fields in the template for the SCG State of the State reporting added to high quality data coming from areas/groups hand picked by coordinators. A governance structure will drive continuous improvement. Feedback loops between “experts” and those voluntarily supply data (landholders/agencies) will provide value to the volunteers whilst improving the quality of data. Immediate challenges are agreement on standardised data fields and agreement to amendments or additions to existing databases (requires stakeholder identification and engagement plan) and data access agreements (requires legal input). Future challenges will be maintaining the quality and quantity of voluntary data collected (requires a communication and engagement plan).

Date of the next Stakeholder Consultation Group Forum is Thursday 6th and Friday 7th October, 2016 in Sydney.

SUMMARY OUTCOMES:

- ISC and SCG TORs reviewed and endorsed
- Intelligence was gathered and shared between participants
- Outcomes from 2015 activities were presented
- Plans for 2016 were presented and enhanced by preliminary Working Group findings on Investment and Collaboration, Training and Extension, Communication and Engagement and Standardisation of Metrics
- Summary of actions
 - The Communications Plan will be reviewed as a priority to incorporate the issues identified and the findings of the Working Groups from this forum
 - Immediate and short term communications will include a Communiqué on the 2015 SCG Forum, recommendations on aerial bait rates and a video produced for Wild Dog Scan
 - The ISC will target the Working Group R&D report 2015 at relevant potential supporters or funders
 - The national metrics project will include a pilot of standardised data fields for the 2016 State of the State reports and work with Wild Dog Scan
 - Working Groups will reflect on the report of the 2015 SCG forum when furthering their plans.