

Ovens

Wild Dog Management Zone Work Plan 2019-2020

Wild Dog Management Responsibilities

A successful wild dog control program requires an integrated, strategic and proactive approach where all land managers, community and Government work together to protect livestock from the impacts of wild dogs through a cross-tenure approach.

The Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) is working proactively with the community to reduce wild dog impacts on livestock. DELWP undertakes large scale 1080 poison programs on public land to protect neighbouring properties. When wild dogs impact livestock DELWP Wild Dog Controllers provide support and assistance to producers.

Wild dogs are declared established pest animals under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act) on all land tenures. All public and private land owners have a responsibility under the CaLP Act, to take all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of, and as far as possible eradicate, established pest animals, including wild dogs, on their land.

Wild Dog Control Techniques

There are a variety of lethal and non-lethal wild dog control techniques available to landholders. Information and advice on the use and application of each of these methods can be provided by DELWP Wild Dog Controllers and Community Wild Dog Control Coordinators.

Lethal

Baiting with 1080 and PAPP bait products

In areas where baiting programs can be implemented, using 1080 and PAPP bait products is the most cost effective and strategic method of wild dog control. The use of 1080 and PAPP baits must comply with the product label and the Directions for Use. Information on 1080 and PAPP including the direction for use are available at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au

Trapping

Trapping is an effective wild dog management tool when used by trained and experienced operators as part of an integrated control program. The use of traps must comply with the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act* (POCTA) and its regulations.

Shooting

While shooting is the most target specific form of wild dog control, it does not provide broad scale, long term wild dog control; it is labour intensive and requires a high skill level. Shooting can be effective in the removal of a problem dog from an area or property and in supporting other control techniques. The use of firearms to control wild dogs must conform to relevant firearm legislation and is most effective when integrated with other control methods.

Non-Lethal

Exclusion fencing

Well maintained electrified wild dog exclusion fences provide an effective 'first line of defence' against wild dog predation of livestock.

Livestock protection can be further enhanced when electrified wild dog exclusion fencing is backed up by lethal control methods such as trapping, poisoning and shooting. An even higher level of protection can be achieved if adjoining landholders work together to build and maintain contiguous community electrified wild dog exclusion fences.

For further information refer to the *Wild Dog Exclusion Fencing: A Practical Guide for Woolgrowers* which is available by telephoning Kate Gosney on (03) 5152 0627 or email kathleen.gosney@delwp.vic.gov.au.

Property hygiene

The presence of carcasses may attract wild dogs onto your property and provide a plentiful food source, allowing wild dog populations to increase and remain in your area.

Stock, pest animals, deer and native animal carcasses should be buried or burnt to prevent wild dogs feeding on them.

Animal husbandry

Primary producers can reduce the impacts of wild dogs at lambing by coordinating lambing times with their neighbours, ensuring that vulnerable lambs are exposed for the shortest possible time.

Small lambing paddocks close to the house should be used to allow easier monitoring and will reduce the chances of lambs being left unattended or mis-mothered.

Guardian animals

Some producers have successfully used trained guardian animals (e.g. Anatolian shepherds, Maremma sheep dogs) to protect their flocks from wild dog predation.

For further information refer to *Guardian Dogs – Best Practice Manual for the use of Livestock Guardian Dogs* which is available at <http://www.pestsmart.org.au/guardian-dogs/>

DELWP Wild Dog Control and Reporting

DELWP delivery of wild dog control, both pro-active and reactive, is guided by and reflects wild dog incident reports, annual Wild Dog Management Zone Work Plans (WDMZWP), operational data and wild dog controller knowledge and experience.

Wild dog control is implemented using all available methods and tools authorised for use in Victoria. These include baiting on tracks, trapping and shooting. Aerial baiting may be implemented within the six Australian Government approved sites. Remote ground baiting, (areas with no track access) may be implemented in all 16 wild dog management zones. These baiting activities will complement other DELWP and community control activities.

Community Wild Dog Control Programs

Community wild dog control programs involve groups of private land owners in a local area taking part in coordinated wild dog control on private land. Coordinated control programs provide the opportunity to maximise the benefits of integrated baiting and trapping efforts conducted by private land owners and DELWP for effective long term wild dog control.

Participants in community wild dog control programs have the opportunity to:

- meet with other landholders affected by wild dogs;
- discuss ways to achieve greater coordination of control efforts;
- participate in Agricultural Chemical User Permit and 1080 endorsement training;
- participate in coordinated baiting and trapping programs;
- benefit from coordinated 1080 bait distribution; and
- receive assistance preparing submissions to potential funding providers.

For more information on how to become involved in a community wild dog control program, please contact your local Community Wild Dog Control Coordinator.

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Planned Wild Dog Control

Proactive Control

- DELWP will implement strategic 1080 baiting programs on 140 kms of wild dog corridors and tracks on public land across the Ovens Wild Dog Management Zone.
- DELWP will implement proactive trapping across the wild dog management zone within the capacity of the wild dog controller.

Reporting

Incident reports involving stock killed or maimed will be given priority over wild dogs reported seen or heard. Dependant on the capacity of the wild dog controller, seen and heard reports may not receive an on-ground response, however the details of all incident reports are recorded and used for intelligence gathering to inform control activities.

Landholders who observe wild dog activity or experience a wild dog attack **must** phone their local Senior Wild Dog Controller (SWDC) to formally lodge an incident report. The SWDC will then assign the appropriate wild dog controller for ongoing control and communication.

If contact is not made directly with the SWDC, landholders need to leave a message and the SWDC will make a return phone call within 24hrs, **excluding weekends**.

Senior WDC	Localities	Contact No.
Ian Campbell	Corryong, Biggara, Nariel, Lucyvale, Cudgewa, Tintaldr, Walwa, Burrowye, Shelley, Mt. Alfred, Tallangatta, Koetong, Granya, Tallangatta Valley, Mitta Valley, Sandy Creek, Gundowring	0409 188 465
David Klippel	Mansfield, Merrijig, Alexandra, Yea, Molesworth, Jamieson, Ovens, Whitfield	0428 503 169
Wayne Peters	Bairnsdale, Dargo, Omeo, Swift's Creek, Ensay, Benambra Gembrook, Noojee, Erica, Heyfield, Licola, Maffra	0429 401 217
Geoff Hodge	Gelantipy, Buchan, Orbost, Cann River, Bonang, Bendoc, Tubbut, Deddick,	0427 321 312

Note: to report any issues in relation to domestic dogs, please contact your local council office

Reactive Control – Our Service Agreement to Community

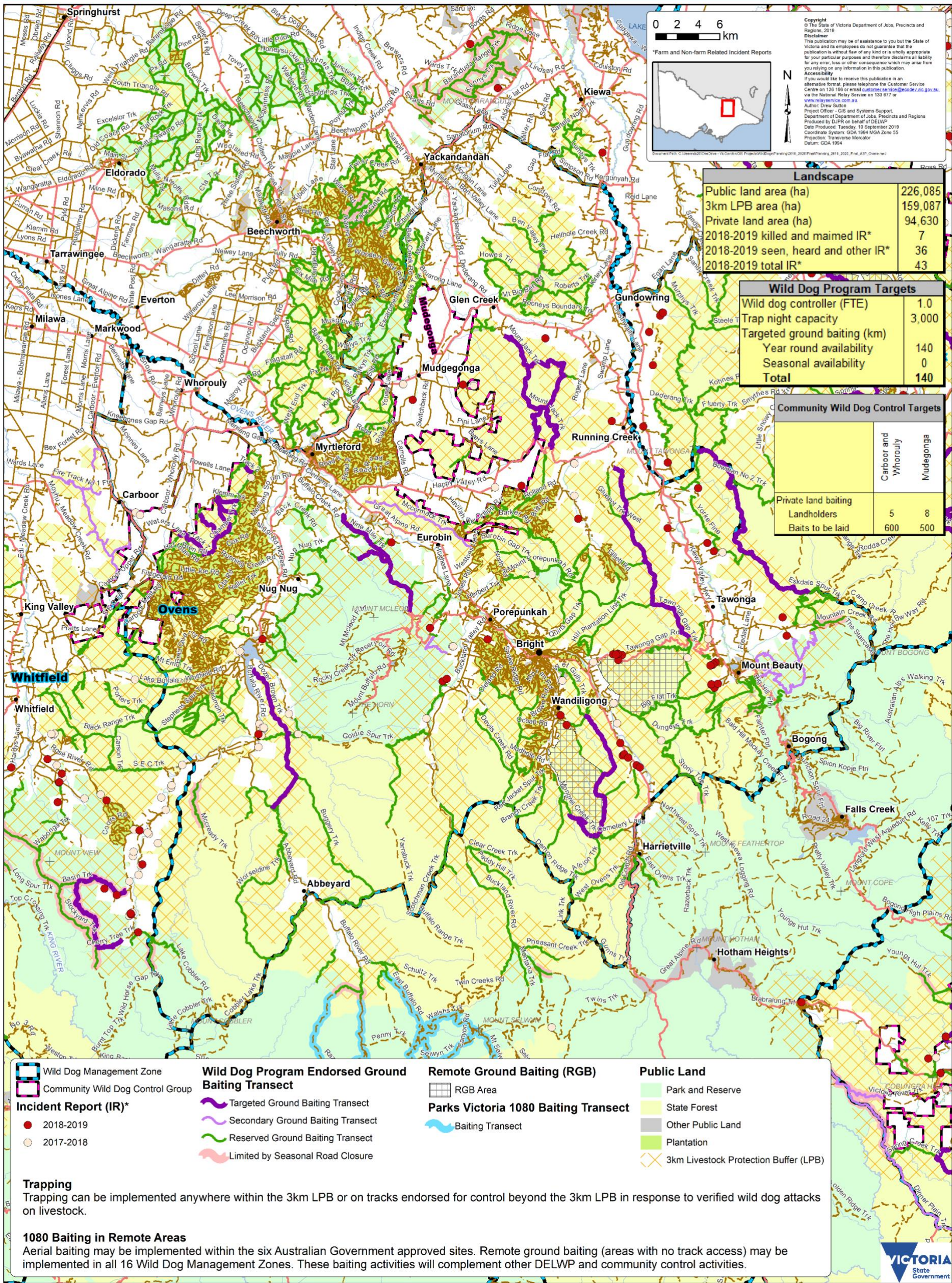
The DELWP Wild Dog Program response process for killed/maimed/harassed livestock includes:

- A landholder visit by a wild dog controller where required, within 72 hours of all incident reports involving stock maimed, killed or harassed (subject to legal requirements for wild dog controller's to service baits or traps within the mandated 14/30 day and 72hr regulations respectively).
- Verification of stock death due to wild dog attack and wild dog movement.
- Provision of advice to landholders on immediate actions to be taken to mitigate further losses (i.e. livestock management, landholder control)
- Assessment of current control in the area and any modifications needed
- Implement additional control using reactive tools and techniques such as trapping, opportunistic shooting and baiting if required.

Reactive wild dog control services may be withdrawn 30 days after the last livestock attack, the provision of advice and proactive works in the surrounding region will continue.

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Accessibility

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