

## Wild Dogs Policy

---

NUMBER POLICY\_Wild Dogs

VERSION 2.0

AUTHORISED BY Board of Chairs

AUTHORISED DATE December  
2015

ISSUED BY Executive Support Unit

EFFECTIVE DATE January 2015

### Policy Statement

Local Land Services has identified improving the capacity and capability of land managers to manage wild dog issues, building effective partnerships and engaging the community as a priority.

Local Land Services may resource specific regional programs for wild dogs on behalf of landholders should it be deemed cost effective as well as strategically beneficial. Local Land Services acknowledges that programs which have a cross tenure focus and use of local wild dog plans are considered to be the building blocks for effective wild dog programs.

Four principles have been agreed to as underpinning Local Land Services wild dog programs; cost sharing, capacity building, compliance and reporting.

### Scope

Local Land Services is committed to meeting the expectations of the community with respect to wild dog management through participation in a shared responsibility model for wild dog management. The policy is intended to articulate how Local Land Services aims to achieve these expectations.

This policy acknowledges that Local Land Services has responsibilities to oversee functions that support the provision of control options for landholders. Consistency and high levels of compliance in the application of these functions has been identified as important. The policy provides assurance to external stakeholders that wild dog programs are operating within current best practice frameworks and Local Land Services roles and responsibilities in wild dog management are articulated.

The objectives of this policy are:

- a. Cross tenure planning, as a best practice management strategy, is prioritised.
- b. Reducing the impact of wild dog predation experienced by landholders is a priority.
- c. Determining the scale of resourcing that needs to be applied to wild dog management in Local Land Services' regions.

## Background

In October 2014, Local Land Service's Board of Chairs adopted the NSW Wild Dog Management Strategy (WDMS) which is a multi-stakeholder strategy for NSW overseen by the Pest Animal Council. The Board of Chairs, through the Wild Dogs Cross Regional Team (WDCRT), also established a Local Land Services Wild Dog Policy. This policy was largely based on the main components of the WDMS. An outcome of this policy was the commencement of a process requiring regions to demonstrate progress toward the targets within that strategy.

In September 2015, at the request of the Board of Chairs, WDCRT was asked to review Local Land Services Wild Dog Policy. The policy was expanded to take account of the broader role that Local Land Services plays in wild dog management. The WDCRT was identified as needing to be finalised as preparations commenced to establish an Invasive Species CRT.

## Definitions/Glossary

*DPI*: Department of Primary Industries

*IACRC*: Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre

*WDCRT*: Wild Dog Cross Regional Team

*National Wild Dog Action Plan*: Collaborative agreement between key livestock industries and Government to achieve agreed national wild dog management targets.

*NSW Wild Dog Management Strategy*: Collaborative agreement for NSW government and key wild dog stakeholders to meet wild dog management targets in NSW.

## Cost sharing

Wild Dog Management operates in NSW in the context of shared responsibility. Local Land Services is committed to better defining and improving the cost sharing models for wild dog programs in NSW to demonstrate an improved return on investment of Local Land Services funds.

### State/Board of Chairs responsibilities

- Adopt the NSW Wild Dog Management Strategy and National Wild Dog Action Plan.
- Develop agreements with NSW Government stakeholders and land management agencies to assist regions in meeting effective cost sharing principles.
- Provide regions with access to financial management tools to monitor wild dog expenditure.

### Local Board responsibilities

- Local Land Services will support processes to facilitate the views of multiple land managers to achieve cross tenure planning control options within plans.
- Where resources are available and there is strong support, Local Land Services will utilise ratepayer funds to support the implementation of wild dog plans.

## Capacity Building

Local Land Services is committed to improving the capacity and capability of land managers to respond to the risks and effects of wild dog predation. Programs that target capacity building through coordination and facilitation are a primary focus.

### **State/Board of Chairs responsibilities**

- Ensure that a Local Land Services Wild Dog Policy is developed and implemented.
- Engage with Invasive Animals CRC (IACRC), DPI and other knowledge advisers in development of joint research opportunities that encourage innovation and best practice.
- Wild dog management planning utilising cross tenure planning principles is considered the primary tool in establishing wild dog programs.
- Workforce capability will be supported with additional flexible employment options.
- Additional sources of revenue will be investigated to support wild dog programs.

### **Local Board responsibilities**

- Drive regional wild dog management planning and ensure that the agreed programs are prioritised and given strategic direction.
- Communicate and create awareness of regional wild dog programs.
- Invest in the provision of technical advice and skill development of staff to support landholders meet their obligations to contribute to control programs.
- Additional sources of revenue will be investigated to support wild dog programs.
- Participate in joint research with IACRC, NSW DPI and other knowledge advisers to ultimately extend best practice control methodologies to the community and encourage innovation.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

Local Land Services has responsibility for ensuring that land managers in NSW meet their obligations of wild dog control. Local Land Services also provide access to approved control options and are compliant with the regulations that enable provision of these to the public.

### **State/Board of Chairs responsibilities**

- Require all wild dog programs to comply with the audit and risk framework for Local Land Services.
- Monitor progress toward key goals within NSW and Commonwealth planning documents where Local Land Services has made commitments.
- Be forthright in communications about the obligations of public and private land managers to effectively participate in wild dog management.
- Oversight of the system that provides delegations and authorisations to Local Land Services staff.
- Actively contribute to regulatory improvements.

### **Local Board responsibilities**

#### **External**

- Comply with Pesticides Act and regulations and NPWS Act and Regulations (when on NPWS estate) working cooperatively with the Environment Protection Authority to continuously improve compliance performance.
- Ensure land manager obligations for legislated wild dog management plans are met.

## Internal

- Implement programs and activities to ensure public and private land managers are meeting legal obligations to address wild dog populations eg: inspections, awareness and education.
- Maintain staff authorisations and access to technical knowledge.
- Local Land Services wild dog programs demonstrate best practice methodology including meeting welfare codes of practice.

## Reporting and accountability

Local Land Services is committed to being accountable and transparent to the community and stakeholders about the progress being made in meeting agreed targets within the Invasive Species Business Plan and Wild Dog Management Strategy. Progress is being made toward the development of a new framework that supports Local Land Services in meeting this principle.

## State/Board of Chairs responsibilities

- Develop and trial state wide reporting of wild dog program activity including progress in meeting goals of the state strategic plan.
- Encourage a whole of government response to wild dog reporting utilising mechanisms such as the Pest Animal Council.
- Implement a monitoring, evaluation and reporting system in line with the broader performance management framework for Local Land Services.

## Local Board responsibilities

- Develop reporting strategies to provide feedback to regional stakeholders on rates and funding expenditure for wild dog programs.
- Contribute required data from regional programs to build state wide progress reports that reflect the policy principles of capacity building, cross tenure planning, cost sharing and compliance.
- Communication of progress toward wild dog management strategy goals.

## Delegations

Local Land Services recognise that the organisation is comprised of 11 local boards, however the management of broad scale critical programs such as wild dogs requires an organisation-wide commitment. Both local boards and the Board of Chairs have responsibility for different aspects of this policy.

Local Boards and General Managers will be responsible for implementing the policy in their regions.

The Invasive Species CRT will provide oversight for the policy and conduct an annual review. Any changes are required to be adopted by the Board of Chairs

Local Boards will be asked to report on their respective activities that contribute toward the policy on an annual basis. The Board of Chairs will also provide an annual update of progress toward state level responsibilities.

## Legislation

- Local Land Services Act 2013
- Game and feral Animal Control Act 2002
- Non Indigenous Animals Act 1987

## Policy

### Other related documents

- LLS (Wild Dogs) Pest Control Order 2015
- NSW Wild Dog Management Strategy 2012-2015
- National Wild Dog Action Plan
- NSW Biosecurity strategy 2013-2021
- NSW Invasive Species Plan 2008-2015

### Superseded documents

This policy replaces: LLS Wild Dog Policy 2015

### Revision history

Version	Date issued	Notes	By
2	01/01/2016	Restructure of policy to better define roles with respect to wild dog management in context of LLS being party to state and national agreements on wild dog management	Melissa McLeod/Peter-John Layton

### Review date

November 2016

### Contact

Peter-John Layton  
Manager Executive Projects  
Phone: 0407 418 042