



**PESTSMART**



## Working plan to manage wild dogs

Green Book, 2nd Edition  
an Invasive Animals CRC project

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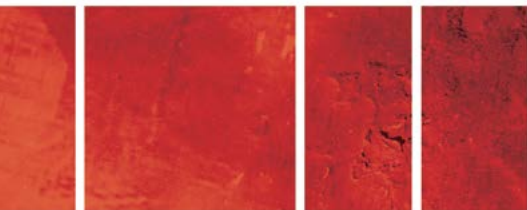
## Working plan to manage wild dogs

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A working plan for the area: \_\_\_\_\_  
—

for the period: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

This document should be completed using the reference publication:  
*Guidelines for Preparing a Working Plan to Manage Wild Dogs (Brown Book)*.



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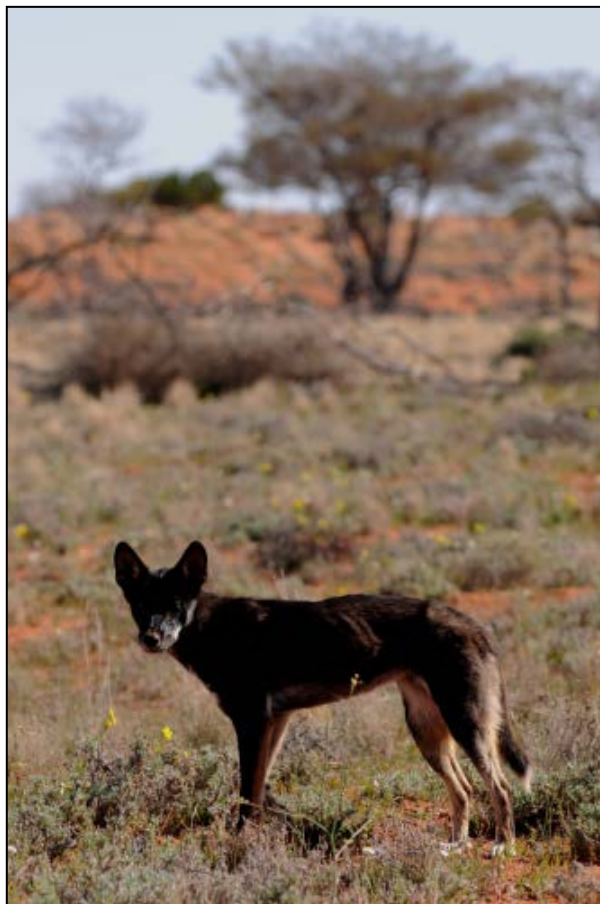
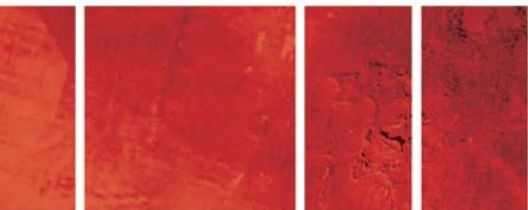
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**Cover image:** Wild dog, provided by Lee Allen.



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## Introduction

This document outlines a six-step strategic approach to the management of dingoes and other wild dogs, and poses a number of questions to help set up a working plan. This planning tool can be used for a variety of localised purposes, including conservation and/or control.

Dingo conservation is an important objective of many local management plans. The lethal control of dingoes and other wild dogs is also an important component of many plans. This document makes no distinction between pure dingoes, hybrids, or other free roaming dogs, collectively referring to them as 'wild dogs'.

This document can be used to prepare a working plan to manage wild dogs for any purpose.

This plan is best prepared with the accompanying *Guidelines for Preparing a Working Plan to Manage Wild Dogs (Brown Book)* and the book *Managing the Impacts of Dingoes and Other Wild Dogs*. The availability of topographic maps and knowledge of the locally relevant policies and legislation will also help with the preparation of this plan.



This planning tool can be used to prepare a working plan to manage dingoes and/or wild dogs for any purpose.







# Step 1. Define the problem

This first step is most important because it identifies what the problem is, where it is, where it comes from, who has the problem, when it occurs, how critical it is and what needs to be achieved to solve it.

With the aid of maps and records, answer all the questions, tick the boxes and write down the answers and relevant contact names and phone numbers.

This will define the problem from different perspectives and help your community to set agreed objectives and develop an action plan.

## What is the problem?

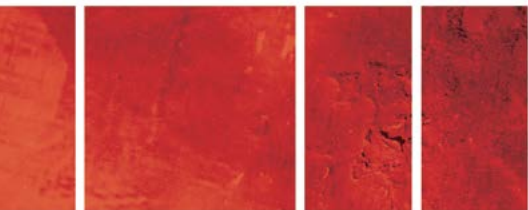
- Current predation of livestock (sheep, cattle, goats etc) by wild dogs
- Future predation of livestock (sheep, cattle, goats etc) by wild dogs
- Hybridisation of dingoes and dogs
- Attacks on native animals (current and in the future)
- Attacks on humans, loss of public amenity
- Stress on individuals and their families due to attacks/stock losses
- Other

## What are the impacts?

Include positive and negative impacts. Positive impacts might include predation on/ competition with other pests such as foxes, feral cats, rabbits and feral pigs. Negative impacts may include predation on threatened native animals or livestock.

(List below and draw areas on topographic maps)

Positive impacts	Negative impacts



### Where are the problems?

Include areas affected over the last five years (list below or attach copies of relevant records and draw locations on topographic maps).

Include:

- residential areas, private small blocks
- neighbouring agricultural lands including leased and licensed land
- livestock production areas
- crown lands, public estates, parks and reserves
- other


### What is the source of the problem?

List the areas where the problems are coming from in the space below, and draw on topographic maps.

Include:

- residential areas or private small blocks
- neighbouring agricultural lands including leased and licensed lands
- livestock production areas
- crown lands, public estates, parks and reserves
- other

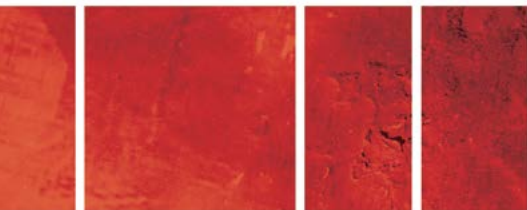



List all the affected land managers and other key stakeholders that should be involved (including contact numbers):

- landholders or leaseholders including farmers, absentees, Aboriginal groups etc
- staff involved with government parks, wildlife, forestry or agriculture
- wildlife conservation agencies
- relevant officers from management boards and town councils dealing with rural lands, wild dogs or livestock
- others

*“ Identifying all the people and agencies that should be involved is an important step towards a community-owned plan ”*

Name of property/organisation	Contact person	Phone



### When does the problem occur?

- in the past
- now: all the time
- now: ongoing, irregular
- now: from time to time
- in future: predictably
- in future: unpredictably

### How critical is the problem?

- not critical: ignore
- now: immediate (act now)
- now: less critical
- future: high priority
- in future: watching brief only (monitor situation)

### What are the constraints?

Tick appropriate boxes and write details below.

- conservation of dingoes
- conservation of other animals, for example threatened wildlife
- available control tools and options
- topography and access
- reviews of environmental factors, policy restrictions, species impact statements, environmental impact statements
- available funds
- attitudes of particular key groups or people
- other

**NOTES:**



## Step 2. Setting measurable objectives

Once the problem has been defined, goals and objectives need to be set.

### What are the general goals of the plan?

- reduce predation (ie predation that is happening right now)
- prevention of predation (ie predation that is likely to occur in the future)
- conservation of pure dingoes
- meet statutory / legislative obligations
- foster good neighbourly relations
- other achievable objectives (eg link with fox management plans)




Whether you're conserving dingoes, or protecting threatened species or livestock from wild dog attack, the objectives must be achievable and measurable for the plan to work.





## Step 3. Develop a plan of action

The plan development process, involving discussion between all the identified stakeholders, is useful for reaching agreement on the action plan. The aim is for stakeholders to agree on which strategies should be put in place, including any reactive action that might be needed.

Plans should contain **what** is to be done (in terms of available techniques, approvals required and legal constraints) and **who** does **what, where, when** and **how often**. This phase should be undertaken with the aid of maps.

The questions on the following pages provide a guide for formulating a plan.

### What can be done?

- strategic and proactive management
- reactive management
- combination of strategic and reactive

This step is about the who, what, when, where, why and how often.











Who organising	Timeframe	How measured/monitored	Estimated cost
<i>park ranger</i>	<i>2 weeks initially</i>	<i>killing stops + no new signs</i>	<i>\$1500 (2 weeks)</i>

**What enhancements would improve management?** (This is indicative only.)

Who	Estimated cost
<i>to be decided (negotiations between adjoining land managers)</i>	<i>\$1500 / km</i>





NOTES:



## Step 4. Put the plan into action

The plan will need to be put into action using an appropriate timeframe and monitored throughout. Measurements will need to be taken to detect and quantify changes in impacts (like a reduction in livestock damage). In this way, you can evaluate how effective the plan is.

Consult the records of damage to livestock or native fauna and dogs killed, captured or seen.

For example:

### Were predation goals met?

Record stock losses monthly on a separate sheet.

- predation stopped
- predation reduced
- predation didn't change
- predation increased

### What happened to wild dog abundance?

Record monthly signs, sightings and killed dogs on a separate sheet.

- increased
- decreased
- didn't change



What happened after you put the plan into action?  
Were the objectives met?  
What did it cost? Were the monitoring methods suitable? Was everyone kept informed along the way?



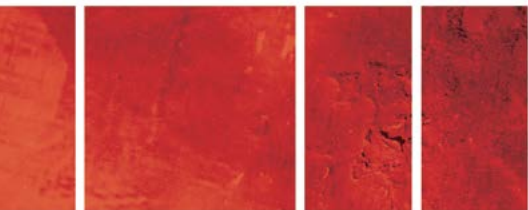


What monitoring/measurement methods were used?

Methods (eg wild dog report forms)	Reported by

How was collected data given back to stakeholders?

Feedback methods (eg newsletters)	Compiled by



**WARNING TO  
DOG OWNERS**  
**POISON BAITS**  
REGULARLY LAID ON PROPERTY  
**RESTRAIN OR MUZZLE DOGS  
AT ALL TIMES**



## Step 5. Evaluate the plan

The plan needs to be evaluated so that it can be improved upon if needed. Evaluation should use the information on the previous pages and involve all the stakeholders. Some questions that need to be answered are:

### How well did the plan work?

- well, don't change
- well, but improve
- inadequate
- all the objectives were met

Would you consider the plan a success? What worked well, what didn't?

### What features worked and why?


### What features didn't work and why






**How?**

**Were there cost overruns or savings?**

- overruns
- savings


**Could money be better spent next time?**

**Could the fieldwork be allocated more equitably or more appropriately?**

- yes


**Details**


**Any changes necessary?**

**What changes could be made to make the plan work better?**


NOTES:



## Step 6. Modify the plan and monitor it

The plan should be modified according to the suggestions in Step 5, with discussion and agreement from all stakeholders.

Once this has been done, the new plan should be put into action and monitored again. The process can be repeated until you are satisfied the plan is the best it can be.



Now that you have carried out the plan and evaluated it, its time to improve the plan and start again.

NOTES:



# Acknowledgements

This document is a revised version of an earlier booklet by Peter Fleming and Bob Harden, which was edited by Helen Gosper and published by New South Wales Agriculture in 2003, but has been updated to facilitate the document's usefulness nationally. A variety of people and agencies contributed to the development of the earlier version and this revision as follows.

## Document history

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The document was further developed by attendees at a workshop in Armidale in 2001 who road tested the concept. Noelene Franklin and Rob Hunt devised the cross-tenure approach to mapping. The Brindabella/Wee Jasper Wild Dog/Fox Working Group successfully brought the first plan to fruition. Helpful comments on earlier drafts were provided by Chris Lane, David

Jenkins, Mike Braysheer and Suzy Balogh. The working plan was drafted by Belinda Gersbach, and thanks also go to Jenny Tarleton and Kevin Pont.

## The current document

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Ben Allen, Guy Ballard, Lee Allen and Peter Fleming contributed photographs, Wendy Henderson provided editorial assistance, Graphic Ark and Keryn Lapidge provided artistic design and layout.

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