



The Hon Katrina Hodgkinson MP

Minister for Primary Industries

Minister for Small Business

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW \$1.33 MILLION PROJECT TO COLLAR WILD DOGS

Wild dogs are having each step they take tracked by satellite as part of a \$1.33 million project, NSW Primary Industries Minister, Katrina Hodgkinson, said today.

Wild dogs have been fitted with GPS collars to investigate the most effective control strategies for wild dogs and foxes.

“Wild dogs and foxes are estimated to cost agriculture \$70 million annually with wild dog damage in NSW reported to cost \$16 million,” Katrina Hodgkinson said.

“NSW Department of Primary Industries (NSW DPI) researchers from Orange and Armidale are working with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) staff, Livestock Health and Pest Authority (LHPA) rangers and local landholders on the three-year project in north-eastern NSW to trial aerial bait rates.”

Katrina Hodgkinson said 39 dogs trapped in the Walcha, Macleay and Hastings areas on private land, State forests and National Parks, are now fitted with collars housing global positioning system (GPS) tracking devices.

“Our researchers will use GPS loggers to work out exactly where the dogs travel and where they take the baits when aerial baiting takes place this May and June,” Katrina Hodgkinson said.

“The collars are also equipped with a mortality sensor so researchers know if the dogs are alive or not.

“We’re committed to reducing the cost of wild dogs to agriculture, the environment, economy and the whole community by ensuring we have the best management strategies in place.

“Supported by Australian Wool Innovation and the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre, this important project will measure the effectiveness of 1080 at rates of 10 and 40 baits per kilometre.

“Our researchers will use this information on the wild dogs’ habitat use and movements to determine which baiting rate is the most effective for use in the future,” Katrina Hodgkinson said.