

# NSW Wild Dog Management Strategy

2022–2027



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# Foreword

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Wild dog attacks on livestock can have major financial impacts on graziers and affects their choice of land use and enterprise mix in some areas. Attacks on other animals, including pets, can have severe emotional impacts on people in areas where wild dogs occur.

NSW has good processes in place for forming Wild Dog Management Groups and supporting their development of Wild Dog Management Plans – and this type of coordinated action is key to reducing wild dog impacts. Importantly, the formal planning and coordination of wild dog management in NSW is increasingly being used as a model to manage other pest animals more effectively.

Wild dog management in NSW is supported by a strong pest animal management research and training capability to develop improved control techniques and promote their adoption.

This updated NSW Wild Dog Management Strategy (2022-27) is based on the 2017-2021 version and identifies specific actions to ensure that existing wild dog management, policy, research and training approaches in NSW are maintained and built upon.

The strategy supports the goals of NSW Biosecurity Strategy, *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW) and the NSW Invasive Species Plan and has been endorsed by the NSW State Pest Animal Committee.

# 1. About this Strategy

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The overarching aim of the *NSW Wild Dog Management Strategy 2022–2027* is to reduce the negative impacts of wild dogs within our state. This strategy updates the *NSW Wild Dog Management Strategy 2017–2021* and is consistent with the revised *National Wild Dog Action Plan (2020–2030)*.

The strategy guides specific actions to more effectively reduce the negative impacts of wild dogs. It also clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of government agencies, public and private land managers, and other community members in managing wild dogs in NSW.

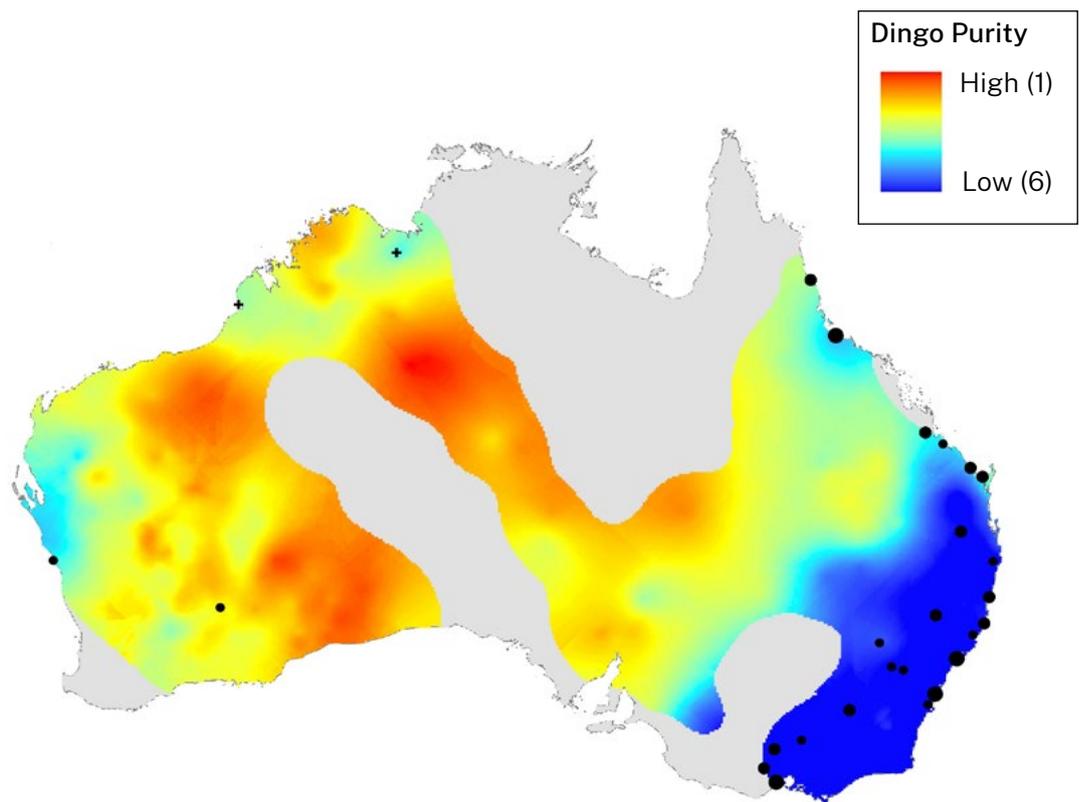
Wild Dog Management Plans (WDMPs) assist land managers, regional groups, industry and government to effectively manage wild dogs, improve their profitability and sustainability, and fulfil their biosecurity duties. WDMPs are an essential part of best practice wild dog management and should be developed for all areas of NSW affected by wild dogs. Each WDMP should cover all land tenures within a defined management area. WDMPs should consider the economic, environmental and social impacts of wild dogs and incorporate measurable strategies to address these impacts. WDMPs will be guided by the broad species management objectives of Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plans (RSPAMPs).

## 2. Situational overview

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### Wild dog definition and distribution

In NSW, the term ‘wild dog’ refers to all wild-living dogs (*Canis familiaris*) and includes dingoes, feral domestic dogs and the hybrid descendants of these. Dingoes have been present in Australia for over 4000 years and occurred across all habitats of mainland Australia prior to the arrival of Europeans, after which time they began hybridising with modern domestic dogs (Figure 1). With the advent of pastoralism and cropping, the overall distribution of wild dogs was reduced in south-eastern Australia by a long history of lethal control and use of exclusion fencing. However, the distribution and impacts of wild dogs have recently increased in some parts of NSW, particularly in the Western Division (Figure 2).



**Figure 1:** Most NSW wild dog DNA samples collected between 2007 and 2010 were hybrids, but pure dingoes were present in all areas where wild dogs occurred [Stephens et al. (2015). *Death by sex in an Australian icon: a continent-wide survey reveals extensive hybridization between dingoes and domestic dogs. Molecular Ecology* 24, 5643-5656.]

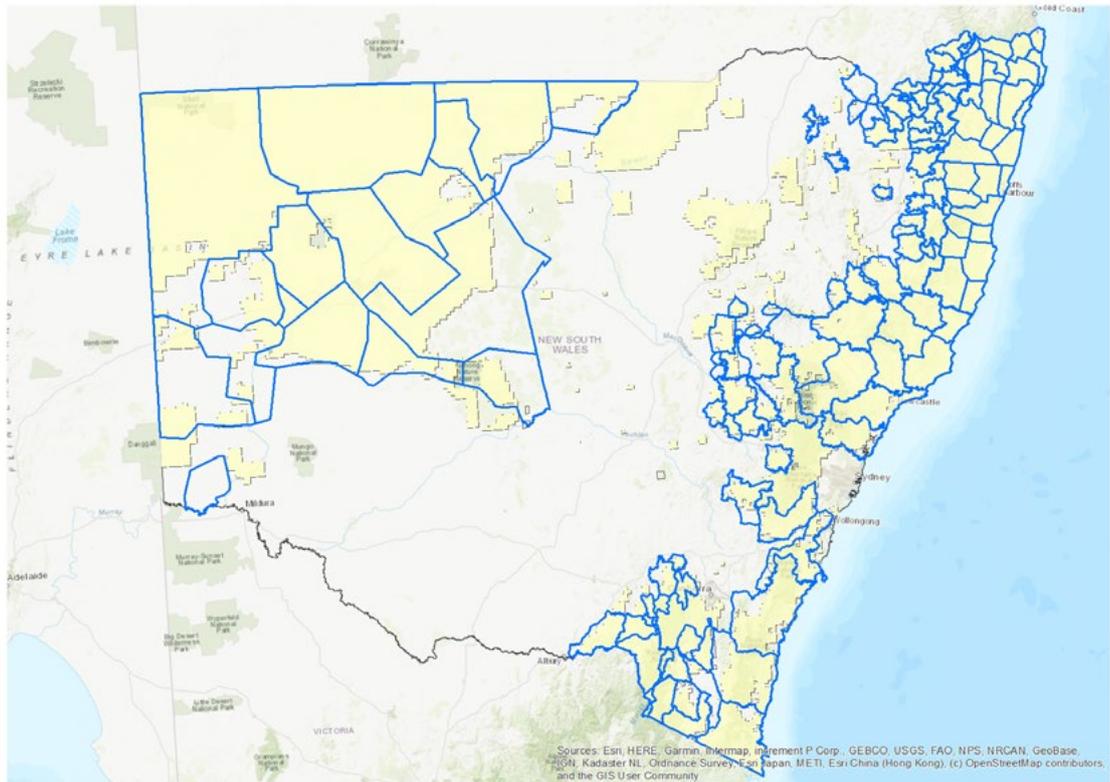


Figure 2: Wild dog distribution in NSW (yellow shading) overlaid with WDMP areas (blue polygons).

## The economic, environmental and social impacts of wild dogs

The negative impact of wild dogs includes predation and harassment of livestock and other animals, and the spread of diseases. Wild dog presence is generally incompatible with small livestock production (i.e. poultry, sheep, goats, calves) and once predation begins it will usually continue until either the wild dogs or the susceptible stock are removed. Opinions vary on the impact of wild dogs on cattle production. Although there is strong evidence that calf predation by wild dogs can be substantial and costly, some cattle producers believe that this cost is offset by wild dogs reducing the density of competing native herbivores. These divergent views can cause local conflict and pose a challenge for the development and implementation of WDMPs.

Shifts in land use away from small livestock production can reduce total productive capacity and income, and negatively affect sustainable land use through sub-optimum livestock enterprise mixes. Where this occurs as a broader trend, local economies can be severely affected by wild dog-induced enterprise change.

Wild dogs spread diseases that affect livestock, pets, native animals and humans. Common examples include hydatids (*Echinococcus granulosus*) and *Neospora caninum*. A more recently introduced threat is the potential spread of Ehrlichiosis (which was detected in Australia in 2020) from wild dogs to domestic dogs. Wild dogs may also pose a direct threat to the safety of pets and humans, particularly in peri-urban areas.

Wild dogs have adapted to many niches across Australia and occupy a range of ecological roles. The extent to which wild dogs could limit kangaroo and feral goat populations in NSW is uncertain. Wild dogs can have negative impacts on some threatened native fauna, particularly when such species are already under stress from other threatening processes such as habitat fragmentation and predation by foxes and feral cats, through direct predation, canid-borne disease and competition for food. There is considerable research being undertaken to better understand the interactions between wild dogs, foxes, feral cats and threatened native fauna in different bioregions and management scenarios.

Social impacts of wild dogs occur at four levels: individual landholders directly affected by wild dog predation; agency staff who deal with affected landholders day-to-day; flow-on effects to the local community of the affected producers; and effects felt by the wider community. Social impacts include acute and chronic distress, depression, anxiety, insomnia and conflict, and social disruption. Conflict can occur between: family members; public and private land owners and managers; operators of different enterprises among private land owners (e.g. sheep producers, cattle producers, absentee land owners and agroforestry); and affected rural/peri-urban communities and unaffected urban communities.

## Wild dog policy and planning in NSW

Land managers and owners have a *general biosecurity duty* to prevent, eliminate or minimise biosecurity risks caused by wild dogs and other pest animals under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW). The RSPAMP for each LLS region identifies priority pest animals in that region, and wild dogs are listed as a priority pest in all NSW regions. Local WDMPs then provide more detailed guidance on the specific areas that wild dogs are posing an unacceptable biosecurity threat, and the management options to reduce this threat. WDMPs help inform local landholders about what their general biosecurity duty may be in terms of expected wild dog management effort.

Effective wild dog management requires a strategic and proactive approach where private and public land managers use an integrated across-tenure planning process. This typically involves:

- » mapping land use overlaid with wild dog populations, travel routes (accounting for key tracks and dog fences) and impacts
- » determining which other pest animals are present; particularly those that may interact with wild dog populations and impacts and control measures, such as foxes and feral pigs
- » assessing the locations and effectiveness of past management actions.

WDMPs are then developed, specifying what control and monitoring work will be done and where, who is responsible for conducting and/or paying for that work, and timelines for achieving the work. WDMPs assist with management of wild dogs through:

- » improving community awareness and cooperation to support across-tenure wild dog management
- » prioritising wild dog management in the context of other natural resource management work
- » considering interactions with other pest animals and their management
- » focusing effort at the appropriate time and scale
- » increasing adoption of best practice wild dog management approaches that account for the latest control techniques and research
- » formalising monitoring and reporting on WDMP performance to improve their effectiveness and efficiency.

An important principle of any WDMP is that resources need to be targeted to those areas and those times where the likelihood of reducing impacts is the greatest. Management must be maintained at an adequate intensity and scale to reduce pest animal populations and impacts indefinitely.

## Research, development and adoption of improved wild dog monitoring and management practices

The *Australian Pest Animal Strategy 2017–2027* identifies key principles of effective pest animal management. Three of these principles in particular highlight the need to continually improve monitoring, reporting and control tools for more effective wild dog management:

- » *Pest animal management should be based on actual rather than perceived impacts and should be supported by monitoring to measure whether impact reduction targets are being achieved.*
- » *Best practice pest animal management balances efficacy, target specificity, safety, humaneness, community perceptions, efficiency, logistics and emergency needs.*
- » *Best practice pest animal management integrates a range of control techniques (including commercial use where appropriate), considers interactions between species (e.g. rabbits and foxes) and accounts for seasonal conditions (e.g. to take advantage of pest animal congregations during drought) and animal welfare.*

This need for continual improvement requires a comprehensive research capacity and NSW has a strong record of research collaboration within the State, nationally and internationally. Productive links have been developed with industry, the Commonwealth Government, other jurisdictions and universities. Being an active participant of the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS) helps NSW achieve maximum leverage from limited research and extension resources. There is a focus on applied research that involves land managers and other stakeholders identifying research needs and implementing research projects. This capacity needs to be maintained as identified in the 'Goals and Strategies' tables in this document.

The focus of pest animal management should be reducing impacts, rather than removing pest animals *per se* – this is particularly the case for wild dog management where certain 'problem' dogs may have a disproportionate impact. A major component of pest animal management research is to identify a range of practical management tools that, when used at the appropriate intensity, frequency and scale, and in the appropriate combination, can achieve and sustain required levels of impact reduction.

Research to identify improved pest animal management approaches needs to be supported by training, extension and engagement to expedite adoption. NSW is fortunate to have formal pest animal management training available through Tocal Agriculture College, as well as through training within individual government agencies. Local Land Services provides a regional network of extension and training opportunities for landholders. In the case of wild dog management, national and regional facilitators supported by CISS and industry groups provide a valuable supplement to NSW Government extension and coordination activities.

## National Wild Dog Action Plan

The first National Wild Dog Action Plan (NWDAP) was published in 2014 to *"guide the implementation of a nationally-agreed framework for a strategic and risk-based approach to wild dog management, emphasising humane, safe and effective management techniques and appropriate scales for mitigating the impacts of wild dogs"*. The NWDAP was revised in 2020 but the 'Vision' of this plan is consistent with the original version: *"Stakeholders working together to deliver effective, coordinated and humane management of wild dogs"*.

The NWDAP provides opportunities to raise awareness about the wild dog problem and for national collaboration to develop improved and consistent policy, monitoring and management approaches. NSW is represented on the NWDAP Coordination Committee.

## 3. Roles and responsibilities for wild dog management in NSW

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### State Pest Animal Committee

The State Pest Animal Committee (SPAC) provides a forum for key government and non-government stakeholders to help guide pest animal policy, programs and research in NSW. SPAC provides oversight of the development, implementation and review of RSPAMPs.

### Regional Pest Animal Committees

Regional Pest Animal Committees (RPACs) were formed in each of the 11 Local Land Services regions in late 2017 to develop the inaugural RSPAMPs for each LLS region – published in 2018. RPACs include public and private land manager representatives and other interest groups. They have an ongoing role in overseeing the implementation and modification of RSPAMPs. Local WDMPs are guided by and consistent with the RSPAMPs (see Figure 3).

### Private landholders

Private landholders are responsible for the management of wild dogs on land they own or occupy. Wild dogs are highly mobile animals requiring a coordinated approach across private and public tenure boundaries for effective management. RSPAMPs identify priority pest animals in each LLS region and all 11 plans identify wild dogs as a priority pest that requires effective coordinated management in areas where they are likely to have negative impacts. LLS and public land managers work with private landholders to ensure that general biosecurity duty obligations in relation to wild dogs and other species are discharged on both public and private lands.

# NSW Government agencies

## Department of Primary Industries

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) represents the NSW Government at national forums where invasive species management is discussed and coordinated, including the Environment and Invasives Committee (EIC). DPI is also represented on the NWDAP Coordination Committee.

DPI coordinates accredited pest animal management training at Tocal Agricultural College to promote a strategic approach to pest animal management in NSW and effective community engagement processes.

DPI's Vertebrate Pest Research Unit (VPRU) liaises closely with affected stakeholders, industry, other NSW agencies, other States and Territories, the Commonwealth Government and national and international universities. The wild dog management objectives of the VPRU are to develop and refine management techniques and strategies based upon improved knowledge of wild dog biology, ecology, movements and impacts. The VPRU continues to liaise with stakeholders and collaborators directly, and through CISS.

## Local Land Services

Local Land Services (LLS) is the lead agency for coordinating the on-ground management of established terrestrial pests such as wild dogs. LLS plays the lead role in coordinating RPACs and regional planning processes under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW). Under this Act, LLS biosecurity officers are responsible for education and compliance to ensure that all landholders are addressing biosecurity risks, including wild dog predation on livestock.

LLS is the primary authorised distributor for the vertebrate pest poison sodium fluoroacetate (1080) and provides 1080 and other pesticide training for landholders. LLS is also involved in inter-agency pesticide research and training to develop and promote additional management techniques and strategies for wild dog management.

LLS assists Landcare, community groups and other stakeholders to seek financial assistance and funding for large-scale coordinated programs.

## National Parks and Wildlife Service

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) represents the NSW Government at national forums where invasive species management is discussed and coordinated, including the EIC. NPWS is also represented on the NWDAP Coordination Committee.

NPWS manages an estate that covers over seven million hectares (approximately 9% of NSW). NPWS undertakes strategic pest management to mitigate the impacts of pest species on the natural and heritage values of the National Parks estate, as well as mitigating their impacts on neighbouring properties. In line with this strategic approach to pest management, NPWS undertakes extensive wild dog control as part of coordinated across-tenure programs to minimise the impacts of wild dogs on neighbouring livestock producers.

NPWS is an authorised distributor for the vertebrate pest poison 1080, primarily for control programs on NPWS estate. NPWS is also involved in inter-agency research and training to develop and promote additional management techniques and strategies for wild dog management.

## **Crown Lands**

Crown Lands is responsible for facilitating the sustainable use of land and natural resources to deliver environmental, social and economic benefits for NSW. Crown Lands is responsible for managing the NSW Crown Estate comprising approximately 42% of the State of NSW, including some of the most iconic and diverse public land in NSW. Crown Lands develops, funds and implements invasive species management strategies on land under its direct control. It also supports activities undertaken by community groups and other stakeholders that manage land on its behalf, including appointed Crown Land Managers. Crown Lands incorporates a risk-based approach to managing invasive species on Crown land, in collaboration with neighbouring landholders and other land management agencies where appropriate. This includes education, extension, project implementation, audit and compliance activities.

## **Forestry Corporation**

Forestry Corporation manages over two million hectares of native and plantation forests for sustainable timber production, recreation and biodiversity. Where wild dogs are a threat to neighbouring properties, Forestry Corporation is involved in integrated management programs using baiting, trapping and guard animals.

## **Border Fence Maintenance Board**

The Border Fence Maintenance Board (previously the Wild Dog Destruction Board) oversees the management, maintenance and upgrade of the wild dog barrier fence in NSW. This fence has been constructed to exclude wild dogs from entering the grazing lands of the NSW Western Division from Queensland and South Australia. The fence is being extended east and south. Landholder rates and the NSW Government jointly fund the maintenance of the fence.

## Other public land managers

All Commonwealth, State and Local Government agencies that manage land have an important role in the management of invasive species in NSW. These areas include: land reserved for its biodiversity, historic or scenic value; land that has a commercial resource value; land used for the State's infrastructure or transport corridors; and land that has not been claimed for any specific purpose. The role of public land managers includes the development and implementation of pest management strategies and the education of the community and other stakeholders.

## Research organisations and funders

NSW DPI's Vertebrate Pest Research Unit, the NPWS Pests and Weeds Unit and other NSW government agencies, universities and other research and innovation organisations play a significant role in driving advances in invasive species technology and management. State, national and international collaboration is a key focus for these teams to maximise the value of NSW investment in research.

State agencies, the Australian Government, and wool and meat industry groups are funders of wild dog research, management and capacity building. They have actively supported the NWDAP, Wild Dog Management Groups (WDMGs) and their facilitation, and the development and rollout of additional wild dog control tools and strategies.

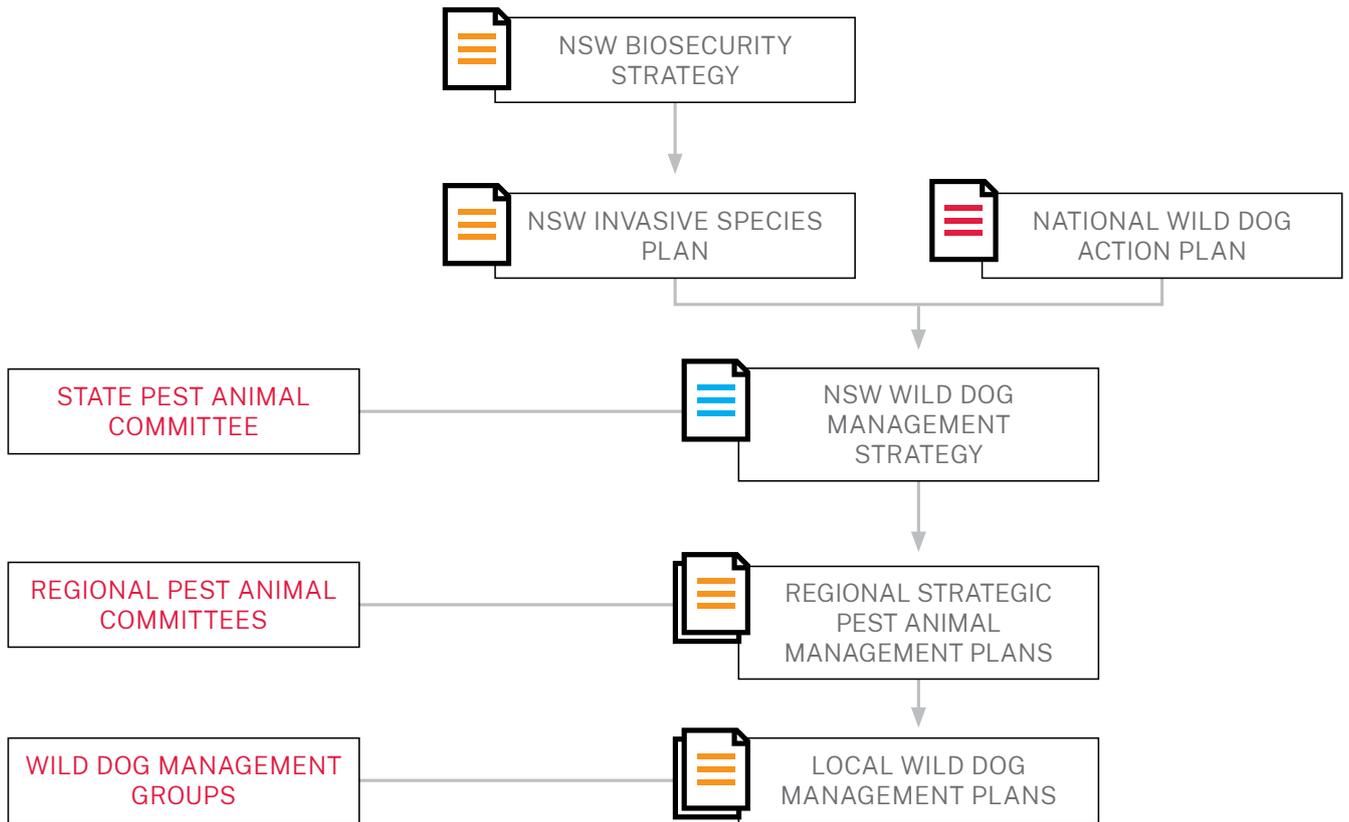
## Dingo conservation interests

There is considerable interest in dingo conservation in Australia, including concerns about their genetic integrity and preserving their ecological roles. This strategy promotes a balance between managing wild dogs in areas where they have negative impacts and preserving their ecological roles elsewhere.

## General public

The public of NSW is interested in wild dogs from several perspectives. There are documented cases of wild dogs harassing or attacking pets and people. There is some risk to people of zoonoses that are carried by wild dogs and to their pet dogs from parasites and pathogens that wild dogs carry. People that enjoy the amenity of areas where wild dogs occur want to know what is being done to reduce these threats.

The public also has an interest in the roles of dingoes and other wild dogs in ecosystems and the value of dingoes as an iconic species. There is also a legitimate and growing interest in the humaneness, target specificity and safety of all forms of pest animal management.



**Figure 3:** Governance and guiding documents affecting wild dog management in NSW

## 4. Goals of the NSW Wild Dog Management Strategy

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### Goal 1: Provide leadership and coordination

Key deliverables	Responsibility (lead agency identified in bold text where appropriate)	Timeframe
<b>OUTCOME 1.1 Wild dog management is underpinned by a responsive and consistent policy framework</b>		
<b>STRATEGY 1.1.1 Ensure regulations, policies and procedures under the <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> support wild dog management</b>		
Review and revise <i>Biosecurity Act 2015</i> regulations, policies and procedures as required	DPI, SPAC	Ongoing
Review and update RSPAMPs as required	LLS, RPACs, SPAC	Mid-term review in 2021; end-of-term review in 2023
<b>OUTCOME 1.2 Proactive development and promotion of environmentally, economically and socially acceptable wild dog management approaches</b>		
<b>STRATEGY 1.2.1 Active discussion of social and political wild dog management issues</b>		
Provision of a regular forum to enable the discussion and resolution of issues and identification of policy, training and research needs	SPAC	Ongoing
<b>STRATEGY 1.2.2 Conservation of dingoes</b>		
RSPAMPs and WDMPs focus control on areas where the risk of negative impacts are greatest rather than across entire area of wild dog distribution	RPACs, WDMGs	Ongoing
<b>STRATEGY 1.2.3 Active promotion of research results to end users</b>		
Regular updates through public and private land manager networks	All NSW land management agencies and industry groups	Ongoing

Key deliverables	Responsibility (lead agency identified in bold text where appropriate)	Timeframe
<b>STRATEGY 1.2.4 Formalise wild dog management procedures to promote the most humane, target-specific and effective control approaches</b>		
Develop and promote Code of Practice and Standard Operating Procedures for wild dog management	DPI, LLS, NPWS, SPAC	December 2021

<b>OUTCOME 1.3 WDMPs are in place for all wild dog impacted areas</b>		
<b>STRATEGY 1.3.1 Regional oversight, coordination and promotion of wild dog management planning, implementation and evaluation</b>		
Provide advice to industry and the general community about meeting wild dog management biosecurity obligations	DPI, LLS	Ongoing
Coordination of wild dog management planning in impacted areas according to agreed state-wide guidelines and processes	LLS, regional wild dog management facilitators	Ongoing

<b>OUTCOME 1.4 Effective cross-jurisdictional liaison on wild dog policy, training and research</b>		
<b>STRATEGY 1.4.1 Active participation in NWDAP and EIC</b>		
NSW representatives involved in NWDAP and EIC wild dog discussions	NSW NWDAP and EIC representatives	Ongoing
<b>STRATEGY 1.4.2 Maintain communication and engagement with wild dog fence maintenance agencies nationally</b>		
Update SPAC on national wild dog fence activities	<b>Border Fence Maintenance Board</b> , National Wild Dog Facilitator as required	As required
Facilitate cross-jurisdiction wild dog fence meetings to discuss common issues	<b>Border Fence Maintenance Board</b> , National Wild Dog Facilitator as required	As required

## Goal 2: Increase awareness, understanding and capacity

Key deliverables	Responsibility (lead agency identified in bold text where appropriate)	Timeframe
<b>OUTCOME 2.1 Improved adoption of best practice wild dog management</b>		
<b>STRATEGY 2.1.1 Communicate best practice management to stakeholders</b>		
Use government and industry communication avenues to promote best practice wild dog management	DPI, LLS, NPWS, RPACs	Ongoing
<b>STRATEGY 2.1.2 Maintain extension materials</b>		
Identify and address gaps in extension materials	DPI, LLS, NPWS, RPACs	Ongoing
Maintain currency of existing materials	DPI, LLS, NPWS, RPACs	Ongoing
<b>STRATEGY 2.1.3 Support development and delivery of nationally recognised qualifications</b>		
Maintain NSW training capacity (e.g. Tocal Vertebrate Pest Management course)	DPI, LLS, NPWS	Ongoing
<b>STRATEGY 2.1.4 Support applied training in monitoring and control techniques</b>		
Continually review and revise Tocal Vertebrate Pest Management course materials	DPI, LLS, NPWS	Ongoing
<b>STRATEGY 2.1.5 Support sharing of knowledge on new approaches in policy, best practice management and community engagement</b>		
Maintain a regular NSW Vertebrate Pest Management Symposium	DPI, LLS, NPWS	Biennially
<b>OUTCOME 2.2 Enhanced national effort to maximise the suite of monitoring and control tools and to improve management strategies</b>		
<b>STRATEGY 2.2.1 Maintain and increase NSW research capacity and national and international collaboration</b>		
Improve knowledge of wild dog ecology to refine management strategies	DPI, LLS, NPWS	Ongoing
Refine existing monitoring and control techniques	DPI, LLS, NPWS	Ongoing
Develop additional monitoring and control techniques	DPI, LLS, NPWS	Ongoing

Key deliverables	Responsibility (lead agency identified in bold text where appropriate)	Timeframe
<b>OUTCOME 2.3 Increased stakeholder engagement with, and public acceptance of, wild dog management</b>		
<b>STRATEGY 2.3.1 Support the implementation of the NWDAP communication strategy, particularly the need for wild dog management and the regulation of management activities</b>		
Specific deliverables to be identified over the life of the NWDAP	NSW NWDAP representatives	Ongoing

## Goal 3: Enhance Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement (MERI)

Key deliverables	Responsibility (lead agency identified in bold text where appropriate)	Timeframe
<b>OUTCOME 3.1 More consistent WDMPs</b>		
<b>STRATEGY 3.1.1 Promote adoption of more formal and consistent WDMPs across NSW</b>		
Consistent WDMP template used throughout NSW	LLS, WDMGs	Ongoing
<b>STRATEGY 3.1.2 Ensure standard metrics are used in WDMPs</b>		
Include standard core metrics in all new/revised WDMPs	LLS, WDMGs	Ongoing
<b>OUTCOME 3.2 Improved capacity to audit and benchmark wild dog management activities at regional and state levels</b>		
<b>STRATEGY 3.2.1 Compile NSW WDMPs</b>		
LLS ensures WDMPs are available to DPI, for analysis as required	LLS	February each year
<b>STRATEGY 3.2.2 Maintain spatial database of NSW wild dog planning areas</b>		
WDMP boundaries are made available via BioMap	LLS, DPI	Ongoing
<b>STRATEGY 3.2.3 Ensure high quality data is stored centrally and available for analysis</b>		
Wild dog predation, observation and poison data is recorded in an agreed statewide central database	LLS	Ongoing
Oversee quality of wild dog data stored and make accessible to DPI for analysis as required	LLS	Ongoing

Key deliverables	Responsibility (lead agency identified in bold text where appropriate)	Timeframe
<b>OUTCOME 3.3 Greater transparency and consistency in how wild dog management in NSW is planned, implemented and monitored</b>		
<b>STRATEGY 3.3.1 Develop a wild dog management activities reporting system</b>		
Improved data capture systems across agencies that can provide data on planning and management as required	DPI, LLS, NPWS	By December 2022
<b>STRATEGY 3.3.2 Provide ongoing feedback to encourage regular and consistent monitoring and reporting against WDMPs</b>		
Provide wild dog planning and management data to state, regional and local levels	DPI, LLS	Ongoing

# APPENDIX 1:

## Key legislation influencing wild dog management in NSW

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### **BIOSECURITY ACT 2015 (NSW)**

Under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW), the negative impacts of wild dogs will be primarily managed through the general biosecurity duty. The general biosecurity duty requires any person dealing with biosecurity matter (such as wild dogs), and who knows or ought to know of the biosecurity risks posed by that biosecurity matter, to take measures to prevent, minimise or eliminate the risk as far as is reasonably practicable. The occupier of lands (both private and public) is required to take all practical measures to minimise the risk of any negative impacts of wild dogs on their land or neighbouring lands. The occupier could discharge their general biosecurity duty by complying with control actions outlined in a WDMP and the overarching guidance provided by RSPAMPs.

### **BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACT 2016 (NSW)**

Schedule 5 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* identifies that native amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles are classified as protected animals, but dingoes are specifically excluded from this classification.

### **NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE ACT 1974 (NSW)**

Under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*, NPWS is responsible for conserving nature and cultural heritage in all areas of the National Parks estate and the broader landscape within the state. The National Parks and Wildlife Act also states that management of land reserved under the Act should consider the social and economic context of the reserve to ensure pest management programs are coordinated across different tenures.

One of the conditions of the Act is that no animals may be harmed on National Parks estate without authorisation and this includes wild dogs. Authorisation to harm wild dogs may be granted under Section 171 of the Act where it is necessary to mitigate their impacts.

### **WILD DOG DESTRUCTION ACT 1921 (NSW)**

The *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW) has repealed parts of the *Wild Dog Destruction Act 1921* relating to destruction of wild dogs and has renamed that Act to the *Border Fence Maintenance Act 1921* to more accurately describe its major purpose.

## **PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT 1979 (NSW)**

The Act requires people to treat animals in a humane manner and establishes offences of cruelty upon an animal and requires notification of injuries.

## **COMPANION ANIMALS ACT 1998 (NSW)**

The *Companion Animals Act 1998* is designed to identify and register companion animals, including domestic dogs, and to describe the duties and responsibilities of their owners. In NSW, no permit is required to keep dingoes or dingo-hybrids. If dogs are not owned, they are assumed to be wild dogs and managed under the provisions of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* (NSW).

## **AGRICULTURAL AND VETERINARY CHEMICALS CODE ACT 1994 (CTH)**

The Act provides for the evaluation, registration and control of agricultural and veterinary chemicals.

## **PESTICIDES ACT 1999 (NSW)**

The focus of the *Pesticides Act 1999* is to protect health, the environment, property and trade while ensuring responsible pesticide use.

# Acronyms and Abbreviations

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**1080:** Sodium monofluoroacetate

**CISS:** Centre for Invasive Species Solutions

**DPI:** Department of Primary Industries (NSW)

**EIC:** Environment and Invasives Committee

**LLS:** Local Land Services

**NPWS:** National Parks and Wildlife Service (NSW)

**NWDAP:** National Wild Dog Action Plan

**RPAC:** Regional Pest Animal Committee

**RSPAMP:** Regional Strategic Pest Animal Management Plan

**RSPCA:** Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NSW)

**SPAC:** State Pest Animal Committee

**VPRU:** Vertebrate Pest Research Unit

**WDMG:** Wild Dog Management Group

**WDMP:** Wild Dog Management Plan

# Definitions

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**Across-tenure planning process** – A process where wild dog (or other invasive species) control is planned and applied across all land tenures by all stakeholders at a ‘landscape’ rather than ‘property’ scale in a cooperative and coordinated manner. This process is also known as nil-tenure planning or cross-tenure planning.

**Dingoes** – *Canis familiaris*. An ancient breed of dog originating from south-east Asia. Dingoes were imported to Australia about 4000 years ago and are considered native under the *Australian Government Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

**Domestic dogs** – *Canis familiaris*. A dog kept in compliance with the *Companion Animals Act 1998*.

**Feral dogs** – Formerly domestic dogs (and their descendants) that have escaped from domestication and returned, partly or wholly, to a wild state.

**General biosecurity duty** – The general biosecurity duty is described in Part 3 of the *Biosecurity Act 2015*. Specifically, section 22 of the Act provides: *Any person who deals with biosecurity matter or a carrier and who knows, or ought reasonably to know, the biosecurity risk posed or likely to be posed by the biosecurity matter, carrier or dealing has a biosecurity duty to ensure that, so far as is reasonably practicable, the biosecurity risk is prevented, eliminated or minimised.* [Wild dogs are considered to be ‘biosecurity matter’ that pose a ‘biosecurity risk’ in some situations]

**Peri-urban** – Landscapes that combine urban and rural activities. These areas often contain a mixture of land uses including suburban, rural residential and small to medium agricultural holdings.

**Wild dogs** – All wild-living dogs (*Canis familiaris*), including dingoes and their hybrids, and free-living modern dogs but excluding any dog kept in accordance with the *Companion Animals Act 1998*, the *Exhibited Animals Protection Act 1986* and the *Animal Research Act 1985* or any other legislation made in replacement of any of those Acts.

**Wild Dog Management Group** – A group that may include public and private landholders or land managers within a well-defined area for whom wild dogs pose problems and for which a coordinated management effort is being made by the group.

**Wild Dog Management Plan** – A documented strategic approach for the management of wild dogs. Wild Dog Management Plans generally aim to reduce the impact of wild dogs in the vicinity of the asset of concern, e.g. a livestock enterprise.

**Zoonoses** – diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans.

