



Wayne Preece

Professional Wild Dog Controller program — winter 2021

The Professional Wild Dog Controller (PWDC) program has been running since the start of 2020 and has proven to be a highly effective tool for landholders in the fight against wild dogs.

What is the program and can I be involved?

The program offers all landholders in the Western Local Land Services region the services of PWDCs to support the control of wild dogs on their property.

Since the program officially launched in February 2020, six professional wild dog controllers have (to June 2021) worked with landholders to:

- control 103 wild dogs
- control 48 feral pigs, 8 feral cats and 4 foxes

The PWDCs have worked on 37 properties with an additional 37 properties also signed up to participate in the program.

In addition to controlling pest animals, the PWDCs have educated landholders in wild dog control techniques. This has included:

- informing landholders how to identify signs and movement of wild dogs
- explain wild dog behaviour
- identify wild dog tracks and movement of floodwaters
- demonstrate different trapping techniques.

The program builds on current wild dog control activities undertaken by Western Local Land Services and the 20 pest management and Western Landcare groups that undertake two seasonal baiting programs each year.

Western Local Land Services encourages anyone that has wild dogs or sign of wild dogs on their property, or know of wild dogs in their local area, to take advantage of the PWDC program by getting a controller onto their property as soon as can be organised.

What is the cost involved?

Landholders who are actively controlling wild dogs as financial members of a pest management group receive a subsidised rate of \$25/hour.

For non-members, the PWDCs are costed at \$50/hour.

Western Local Land Services covers all travel related expenses.

How can I apply and what happens next?

Landholders wanting to get involved or find out more can contact the program's administration officer on 0409 677 891 or PWDC@lls.nsw.gov.au.

The administration officer will assist landholders complete a Property Access and Activity Agreement form and coordinate a controller to contact the landholder to get control works underway.

For any general pest animal advice, landholders can contact a Western Local Land Services Biosecurity Officer on 1300 795 299 or via www.lls.nsw.gov.au.

Funding for the program is through the Federal Government's 'Communities Combatting Pest Animals and Weed Impacts During Drought.'



Images: (top) Wild dog in the landscape, taken by Wayne Preece who is a PWDC, (right) setting a wild dog trap, Western LLS.