



Image: QLD Gov

## AS A LANDHOLDER, CONTROLLING WILD DOGS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

### Biosecurity risk

Wild dogs are a priority pest animal in the Hunter Region because of the negative impact they have on agricultural and natural environments. Wild dogs occur in all areas of NSW and have a large home range that include a number of holdings. They occupy every type of landscape.

The impacts wild dogs have include:

- preying on livestock such as sheep, goats, cattle
- preying on native wildlife
- carrying a number of diseases that affect livestock and humans

### Legal responsibility - General Biosecurity Duty

Biosecurity is a shared responsibility where Government, industry and the people of NSW work together to protect the economy, environment and community from the impacts of pest animals.

Under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* every landholder has a General Biosecurity Duty (GBD):

*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.*

All land managers can reduce the risks posed by wild dog populations on land under their care and control, by undertaking activities that:

- reduce the risk of wild dogs breeding on or being introduced to their land
- reduce the risk of wild dogs being released into the environment
- reduce the risk of wild dogs accessing easy food sources on their land
- reduce the negative impacts of wild dogs on priority assets on their land and neighbouring lands

Examples of activities a landholder could undertake to achieve these outcomes are:

- participating in coordinated pest animal control programs
- undertaking activities that incorporate both primary and secondary pest animal control
- reporting any wild dog activity to neighbours and their local biosecurity officer via FeralScan
- ensuring potential food sources such as carcasses, offal and food scraps are properly disposed of
- ensuring pet and working dogs remain on their property and euthanising unwanted animals

### Manage your situation

#### You need to consider

Both wild dog populations as a whole and individual problem dogs need to be controlled. Broad scale control reduces overall population numbers allowing for effective management, while targeted control programs can remove particular problem animals. No single control technique will solve a persistent wild dog predation problem. A combination of methods, such as ground and aerial baiting, trapping, shooting and fencing should be applied if the impacts of wild dogs are to be successfully managed.

## Assessing your property

Start by identifying and mapping the location of wild dogs and the extent of their impact on your property. Discuss with your neighbours your concerns and gauge the wild dog impacts they are experiencing. Things to look for include:

- injury to animals caused by predation
- missing or dead animals such as sheep, goats and calves
- wild dog scats and tracks
- visible sightings day and night
- skittish animals
- howling

## Set goals

Work with your neighbours to determine what resources (e.g. time, money and expertise) you have and what you want to achieve.

Prepare an action plan. Start with short term goals (for a 12-month program) and how you will continue an ongoing program to ensure that the impacts are mitigated.

## Working together

In discussion with your neighbours/community, consider joining or starting formalised groups such as Landcare or pest control associations.

There are many resources available online to assist landholders increase their knowledge of wild dogs and their control.

Local Land Services can provide technical advice to any landholders, however will not undertake coordination of a control program in urban areas. In a peri-urban situation, Local Land Services will assist with coordination of a control program if there are already five or more willing landholders.



## Control options

### Ground and aerial baiting – primary control

Baiting using Sodium fluoroacetate (1080) is an option for some peri-urban and rural properties where the Pesticide Control Order (PCO) allows. It is the only primary control for wild dogs. Landholders must hold relevant chemical qualifications to use poisons in NSW.

Aerial baiting programs are coordinated by Local Land Services through wild dog associations and other pest animal control groups.

A particular PCO consideration is distance restrictions for ground baiting, which require bait to be laid at least:

- 50m from your own habitation
- 150m from another habitation
- 10m from a domestic water supply
- 5m off a boundary fence

### Trapping – secondary control

Trapping is an effective control technique for wild dogs. While it won't control populations, it can be effective in controlling problem individuals.

Soft-jawed traps with rubber-padded jaws or cage traps can be used.

Trapping is useful in peri-urban environments and if there are concerns about off-target animals taking baits, however it leaves a live wild dog to destroy. Always have a lethal method of destruction planned before undertaking trapping.

Private professional pest controllers operate in all areas from urban through to rural.

### Shooting – secondary control

Shooting by a non-professional is an opportunistic control method. While professional wild dog controllers can use shooting effectively in combination with other controls, it is not a viable option for many landholders.

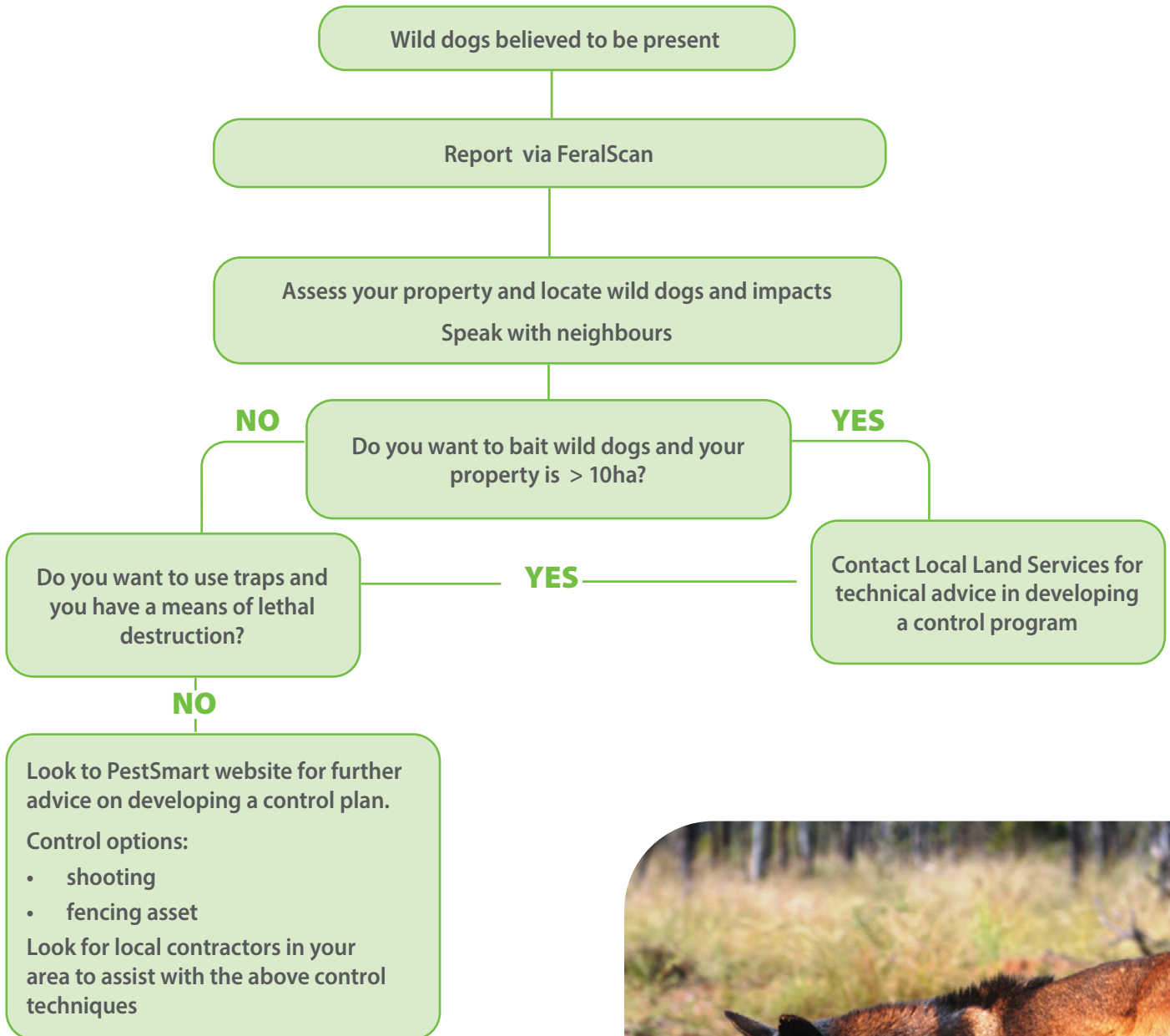
### Fencing – preventative measure

Wild dog proof fencing can be installed around assets such as goat, sheep and cattle paddocks. Maintenance is essential for effective fencing. Offset electric wire can be used to prevent wild dogs going under or over the fence.

## Where to get more information

For further information on the history, impacts and guiding documents for wild dogs  
<https://pestsmart.org.au/toolkits/wild-dogs/>

*Follow the steps below if you believe wild dogs to be on your property*



**For more information about Hunter Local Land Services:**

1300 795 299 • [admin.hunter@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin.hunter@lls.nsw.gov.au)

[www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/hunter) • [www.facebook.com/HunterLLS/](https://www.facebook.com/HunterLLS/)