

Western Tracks



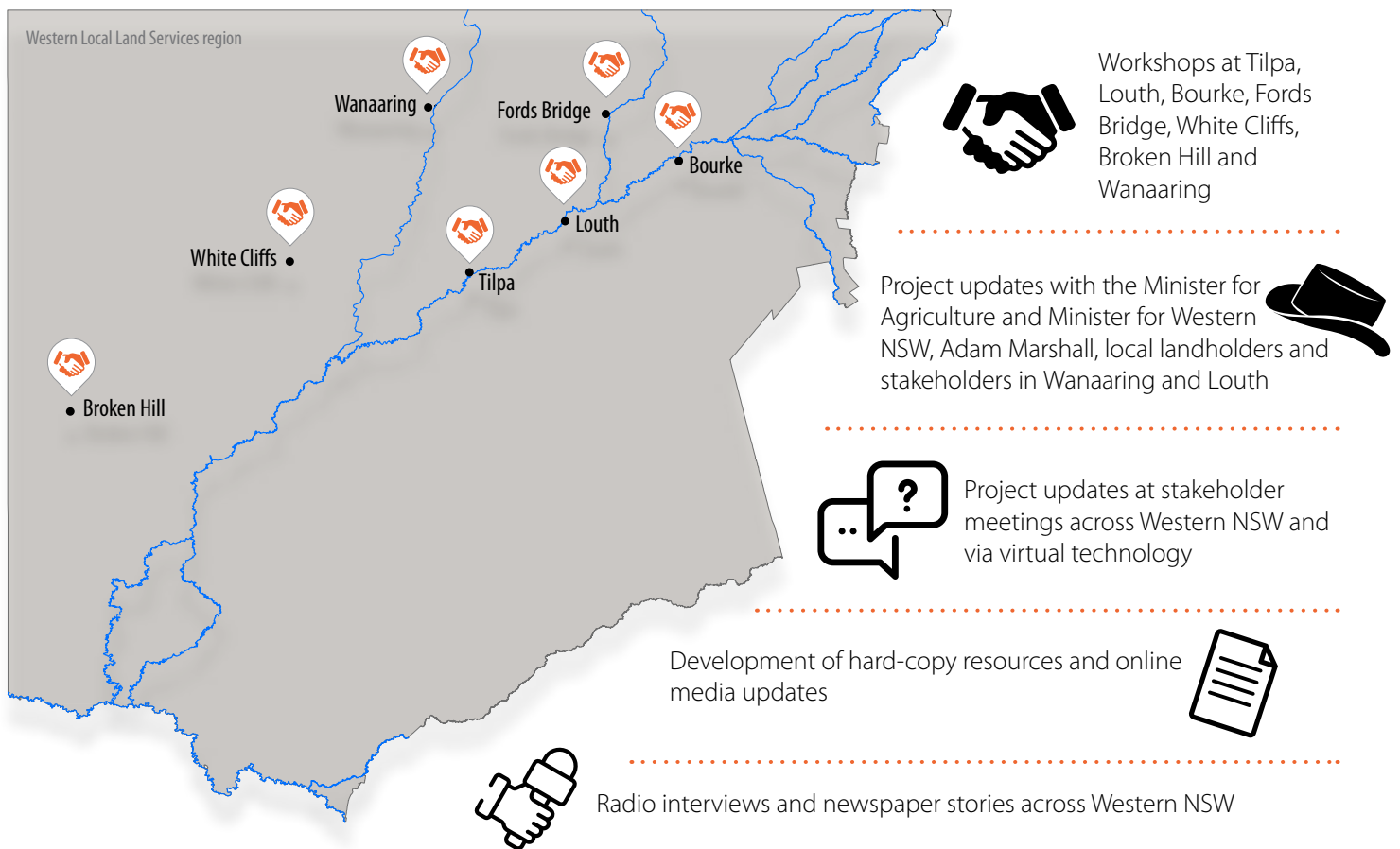
Project progress and outcomes

The Western Tracks collaring project is a collaborative research project that aims to improve the management of wild dogs and feral pigs in flood and associated country of the Paroo, Cuttaburra, Warrego and Darling River systems. The project is measuring the effectiveness of control efforts by using GPS collars to monitor wild dogs and feral pigs.

Private and public landholders, pest animal management and Landcare groups and government agencies are working together to deliver the project.

Landholder and stakeholder communication

Since the Western Tracks collaring project was voted on and endorsed by landholders and stakeholders at pest animal forums in Broken Hill and Tilpa in mid-2019, regular updates have been provided through several communication channels.



Stakeholders, including pest management and Landcare groups in the project area and within the Western region, receive additional and specific project updates.



Communication activities

The project team is committed to providing project updates on a regular basis, including:



Number of wild dogs and feral pigs currently collared



Number of collared wild dogs and feral pigs that have died and likely cause of death



Number of new wild dogs and feral pigs collared since previous update



Summary updates of project progress, e.g. collared wild dog xx crossed xxx landmark xx times during xxx time period

Communication channels: Western Local Land Services monthly e-newsletter, 2WEB Outback Radio Talking Wild Dogs segment, media releases, directly to collar donors, pest management groups and Landcare groups.



Final overview of project outcomes, achievements against deliverables and control management recommendations

Communication channel: Three stakeholder forums in Western NSW, one virtual forum.

The project team is available and happy to provide updates to stakeholders as requested — please contact Western Local Land Services to organise this. The latest project updates are also available on the Local Land Services website.



Data generation, collection and analyses



For the integrity of this research project, it is critically important that landholders continue their existing wild dog, feral pig and other pest animal management programs as per normal.

Some information, such as specific mapping and real time spatial data, will not be publicly available while collared wild dogs and feral pigs are roaming the Western landscape. This is to ensure there is no bias of the assessment of effectiveness of current control programs.



Extension of information will rely on the retrieval of collars, downloading and final analyses of the data. The analysis is a complex process which will take several months after the collar is collected.

Once the collars have been retrieved and returned to the researchers, data will be immediately downloaded from the collar. If this fails, the collar will be sent back to America for downloading, which can take several months.



Want to know more?

Contact your nearest Western Local Land Services biosecurity officer on the details provided.