

NSW Wild Dog Fence extension project



A game-changer for Western NSW

The impact of wild dogs in parts of Western NSW is mitigated by the NSW Border Wild Dog Fence (commonly known as the dog fence) which is currently approximately 583 km in length and erected along parts of the NSW/SA and NSW/QLD border. The fence is part of a national wild dog fence.

A feasibility study commissioned by the NSW Border Fence Maintenance Board and funded by Local Land Services has determined that there are considerable benefits to be had by extending the dog fence in two sections – 420 km in the east adjacent to Mungindi and 322 km in the south to just short of the Murray River.

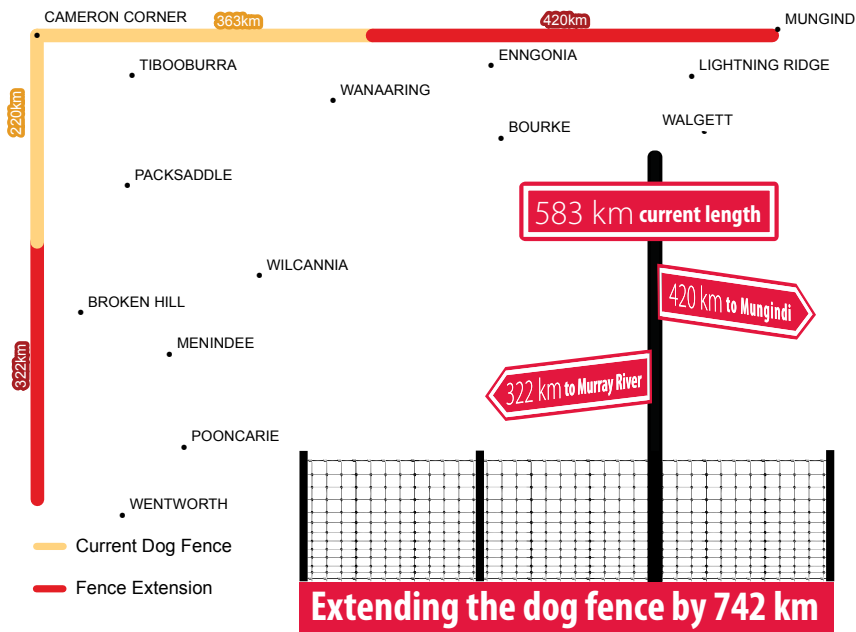
The NSW Government has committed to extending the dog fence by 742 km which it will fund at a cost of \$37.5 million.



For further information regarding the NSW Wild Dog Fence Extension project, visit www.lls.nsw.gov.au or contact the project team on (02) 5852 1215 or wilddogfence@scs.nsw.gov.au.

Fast facts on the extension of the dog fence

Wild dogs significantly impact on livestock and native fauna and restrict production options in many areas. The economic impact of wild dogs is estimated to be up to \$111 million per annum nationwide. Up to \$22 million of this cost is attributed to NSW.



\$63 M
Net present value



\$11.3 M
Estimated annual increase in agricultural output



\$16.2 M
Flow on supply chain and consumer output



Community benefits including social and environmental

40 direct jobs



45 indirect jobs



7 additional jobs



85 jobs will be created through associated benefits as well as seven additional jobs to manage the extended fence

\$37.5 M 
Full cost of construction

\$1.2 M 
Additional annual costs

The extension of the dog fence will be a game-changer for landholders and the wider community across NSW. This investment will increase productivity for landholders, help protect the environment and give an extra level of defence against biosecurity threats coming in over the border.

*Findings taken from the Border Fence Maintenance Board's feasibility study into the extension of the dog fence.

Getting the appropriate approvals prior to construction commencing

An important part of this project is ensuring the appropriate approvals and assessment work is carried out prior to the construction of the fence extension commencing. This includes assessments for biodiversity and Aboriginal cultural heritage.

Biodiversity (flora and fauna) assessment

The biodiversity assessment will involve a field assessment along a narrow corridor of the proposed fence alignment (including access tracks) to identify the potential flora and fauna habitat values of the area.

Targeted assessments of threatened species and ecological communities either known to occur, or with the potential to occur in the study area, will be undertaken, and an assessment of the likely impacts associated with the construction and ongoing operation and maintenance of the dog fence will be made.

These works will be undertaken by qualified ecological consultants in accordance with the *NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016* and the *Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

The biodiversity assessment report will make a recommendation as to the relevant approvals required or if biodiversity offsetting is needed.

Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment

An assessment of the impacts the dog fence may have on Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places will be undertaken in accordance with the *NSW National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* and in accordance with all relevant guidelines.

An assessment along a narrow corridor of the fence alignment (including access tracks) will be undertaken by qualified archaeologists and Aboriginal representatives. The aim will be to locate, identify and assess the significance of any Aboriginal objects, archaeological deposits and potential archaeological deposits found along the alignment.

The Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment will assist in identifying areas of high Aboriginal significance and in determining appropriate management measures such as alternations to the alignments (where feasible), where harm to such objects can be avoided. Where harm cannot be avoided or mitigated, an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit will be required.

Approval information

The project will require planning approval under NSW legislation and will be assessed in accordance with the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

The appropriate planning approval pathway is currently being determined in conjunction with input from the relevant NSW Government agencies.

