



Professional Wild Dog Controller program — autumn 2020

The Professional Wild Dog Controller program is off to a strong start with many landholders involved and pest animals controlled.

Since the program officially launched in February, six professional wild dog controllers have been kept busy as they work with landholders and Western Local Land Services to control wild dogs and other pest animals, as well as educate landholders in wild dog control techniques.

As of the end of April, 11 wild dogs and 17 feral pigs have been destroyed across 16 properties, while the six controllers have covered a total of 22,211 km either on property or travelling between properties. In addition to pest animals destroyed, the controllers have reported information such as wild dog and other pest animal sightings, tracks and the movement of floodwater, back to landholders and Western Local Land Services.

Well done to the landholders involved in the program so far and we look forward to seeing what results are achieved in the coming months.

What is the program and can I be involved?

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

Through the program, known hot spots will be targeted to reduce the impact of problem dogs on the land, livestock and livelihood of landholders in the Western region.

The program builds on current wild dog control activities undertaken by Western Local Land Services and the 17 pest management and Landcare groups that undertake two seasonal baiting programs each year.

What is the cost involved?

The professional wild dog controllers are costed at \$50/hour with Western Local Land Services covering all travel associated costs.

Landholders who are actively controlling wild dogs as financial members of pest management groups receive a 50 per cent subsidy of the hourly rate, making their rate \$25/hour.

All Western Local Land Services pest control strategies are designed to support a robust and healthy group model where possible and as such, a substantial subsidy is offered to pest management group members.

If you are unsure how to join your local group, or are interested in developing a new group in your area, please contact Western Local Land Services or Western Landcare NSW.



Helping landholders beyond the program

In addition to controlling wild dogs and other pest animals, the professional wild dog controllers are also imparting their skills and experience to landholders to increase their knowledge in wild dog and pest animal management.

This has included educating landholders on how to identify signs and movement of wild dogs, explain their behaviour, identify tracks, demonstrate different trapping techniques and so on.

The professional wild dog controllers have also assisted landholders and Western Local Land Services to identify hot spots for strategic wild dog control programs, with the information to be used when formulating future pest animal management programs.

Professional wild dog controller profiles

There are six professional wild dog controllers involved in the program who are working with landholders and Western Local Land Services to control wild dogs and other pest animals. In this update, we'll introduce you to Wayne Preece and Brad Latham.



Wayne Preece

Wayne hails from Mt Kilcoy, Queensland and has been trapping pest animals for most of his life, including in Western NSW for the past 25 years.

"I've done a fair bit of work in Western NSW over the years so I already knew a lot of the landholders, particularly in and around the White Cliffs area," Wayne said.

"It has been really satisfying to know myself and the other professional wild dog controllers have been able to assist these landholders, many of whom have been so badly affected by the drought, by removing wild dogs from their property.

"This program has offered those landholders that are already involved in group baiting an additional method to control wild dogs and other pest animals and its been great we've had success in doing that."

Since beginning with the program in February, Wayne has worked on six properties in the White Cliffs and Wanarring area up to the end of April.

Brad Latham



Brad is from Broken Hill and is well known throughout the local community and nearby areas such as White Cliffs where, prior to this program, he's worked with landholders to control wild dogs.

Through the program, Brad has been working in the Wilcannia area, assisting landholders by educating them on how to identify wild dog signs, behaviours and trapping techniques.

"Pest animal control has been something I've been interested in for a very long time," Brad said.

"I've picked up a lot of self-taught skills over many years, completed a number of courses and also learnt a lot from experienced controllers such as Matt Beach who is also involved in this program.

"Its been great to be involved and give the landholders a hand in controlling their wild dog problem."

Since beginning with the program in February, Brad has worked on six properties in the Wilcannia area up to the end of April.

How can I apply and what happens next?

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

The Administration Officer will assist landholders complete the Property Access and Activity Agreement form and coordinate for a professional wild dog controller to contact the landholder to get the control works underway.

For any general pest animal advice, landholders can contact their local Western Local Land Services Biosecurity Officer on 1300 795 299.

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