

WILD DOG CONTROL – Landholders Responsibilities

Feral dogs are a scourge on the pastoral industry in Murweh Shire causing hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage to the sheep and cattle industries. These feral pests are not related to the native dingo. They are vicious, hunting in packs, killing for sport and a serious danger to wildlife, domestic animals and even human beings.

The surge in recent years of wild dogs across rural Queensland poses one of the most serious threats to the viability of the pastoral industry in the Murweh Shire.

Murweh Shire Council invests significant resources annually to assist landholders to combat wild dogs. Funding is allocated annually to the Murweh Wild Dog Management Advisory Committee. This committee is made up of local landholders and oversees various programs such as baiting, trapping and scalp bounties. Over the past 5 years Council has allocated \$1Million to fund the committees' activities. Council also pays an annual precept to the state government averaging \$170K per annum for maintenance of the wild dog barrier fence and research activities.

All landholders are legally required to control and eradicate feral dogs on their properties whether by participating in strategic control programs in cooperation with other landholders or individual planning control and eradication via methods suited to their individual operations.

Landholders who fail to meet this legal responsibility to eradicate wild dogs on their properties may be subject to prosecution and significant penalties from relevant state authorities or local government.

The task to control the wild dog population in Western Queensland is one of the greatest challenges facing our rural residents and we urge all landholders to play their part.

Assistance to contact or join the wild dog management committee or to discuss this issue with Council's stock routes/rural lands supervisor can be arranged by telephoning Murweh Shire Council on 07 4656 8355.

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