Final report

National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordinator (NWDAPC) 2023-2027

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Abstract

Attacks by wild dogs have severe and far-reaching impacts on Australia's red meat industry, affecting not only producers but the entire supply chain. The National Wild Dog Management Coordinator, operating under the National Wild Dog Action Plan, plays a pivotal role in synthesizing and disseminating current best practices for wild dog management. While there are shared principles in managing wild dogs, effective control requires tailored approaches suited to different production systems and environments.

This project was designed to raise awareness of wild dog impacts and support producers in adopting best practice control techniques. Key activities included presentations at national and state conferences, development of case studies, and administration of surveys. A targeted extension program was delivered through capacity-building workshops and on-farm training, aiming to improve the adoption of best practice management tools and techniques.

Over the course of the project, 583 red meat businesses—managing 269,393 cattle, 70,494 sheep, and 19,154 goats across approximately 7.4 million hectares—were engaged. Surveys at industry events revealed that wild dog impacts are considered a major issue, with predation and maiming of young animals as the primary concern, and harassment also significantly affecting herd health.

Five workshops delivered to producers resulted in substantial increases in knowledge and capacity regarding best practice wild dog management. Seventy-six participants rated the events and information highly (4.78 and 4.92 out of 5, respectively). Pre- and post-workshop surveys showed an average 118% increase in knowledge of management techniques and an 85% increase in understanding of wild dog behaviour and ecology—critical for effective control program development.

Despite these successes, the project was terminated due to insufficient human resources and the coordinator's inability to meet both ongoing obligations and additional project deliverables. Major adverse weather events, such as widespread flooding, further limited the ability to deliver in-person activities with producers and their staff.

Executive summary

Background

Wild dogs continue to cause significant impacts on the red meat industry and associated supply chains. The economic cost loss to the red meat industry due to predation on livestock, disease transmission, and the costs associated with control are conservatively estimated to range from $64 million to $111 million annually (Cost of Pest Animals in NSW and Australia 2013-14, National Wild Dog Action Plan 2020-2030). These figures do not consider the range of secondary impacts that may also impact herd health and productivity, such as harassment of livestock at weaning or birth.

The National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordinator Project (P.PSH.1490) was developed to support the existing National Wild Dog Management Coordinator role, through the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions (CISS), in delivering the current objectives and deliverables of the National Wild Dog Action Plan 2020-2030. This role includes raising awareness of best management practices for wild dog control and the tools available for effective management. The coordinator works across all levels of government and industry to support the development and delivery of wild dog management programs at the state, regional, local, and property levels.

This project aimed to deliver targeted extension programs to red meat producers to generate practice change and adoption of best practice wild dog management techniques across the red meat industry.

Aims/objectives

This project aimed to increase awareness and adoption of best practice wild dog management techniques, their application and strategies to reduce the impacts of wild dogs on red meat production. This would be achieved through awareness raising activities at industry events, capacity building workshops and on-farm training that includes the development of wild dog management plans with the intent of monitoring changes in productivity and herd health.

The project also aimed to gauge producers' current knowledge of best practices for wild dog management and changes in knowledge achieved through the program. Thirdly, the project aimed to identify needs for future engagement about best practice management.

Methodology

The project deliverables were focussed on five key objectives being delivered through a range of activities, including:

- Awareness raising activities at major national and state industry events such as conferences and committee meetings.
- The delivery of wild dog management workshops to increase knowledge and awareness of current best practice wild dog management techniques, their application and strategies to improve wild dog management, based on asset protection and wild dog biology.

- On farm training and property wild dog and pest management planning with red meat businesses across northern and southern Australia.
- On farm training with organic red meat businesses implementing strategist and control methods agreed under the “Guidelines for use of vertebrate pesticides” developed by the National Wild Dog Coordinator.
- Assessment of changes in producer knowledge resulting from the project through before and after questionnaires of attendees.
- Provide ongoing communication on wild dog management issues and develop a range of case studies to promote and highlight successful wild dog management activities or programs being delivered by red meat producers across the country.

Results/key findings

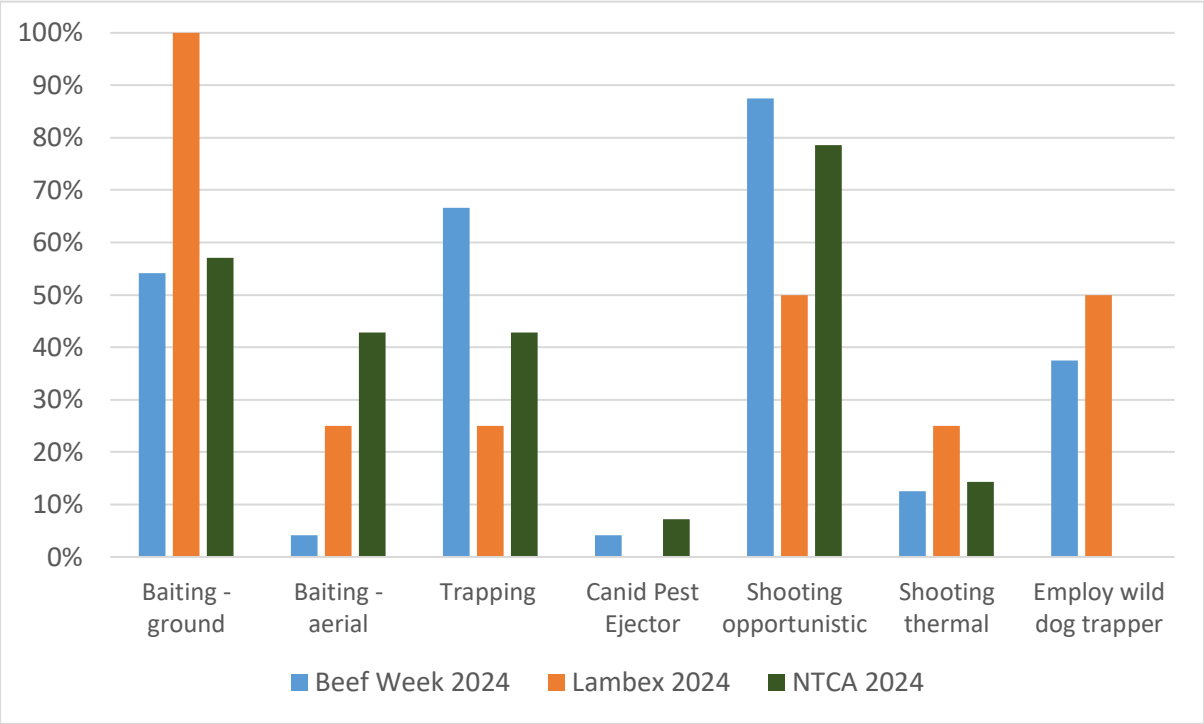
Overall, the project achieved significant success in knowledge transfer, skill development, and enhancing the adoption of best practice wild dog management techniques and strategies with red meat businesses that participated.

Surveys conducted with red meat businesses (n=46) at national and state conferences found wild dogs are an issue for the industry, with over half the respondent in northern cattle regions considering them a major problem. Impacts reported were predominantly related to predation event killing and maiming of young animals, however harassment was also considered a major impact on herd health.

Red meat producers surveyed at national and state conferences reported annual calf loss due to wild dog impacts in northern Australia varied, but the majority (50%) recorded loses in the 1-5% range annually. However, nearly 30% of respondents recorded losses between 6-10% per annum. In term of bitten animals, the majority (43%) had between 1-5% of young animals impacted from wild dog attacks.

Red meat businesses surveyed were using a range of control tools including shooting, ground baiting and trapping. However, they were relatively unaware of new control tools such as the Canid Pest Ejector device (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Wild dog management tools currently being used by red meat producers surveyed at national and state conferences.



Five wild dog management awareness workshops were delivered during the project, three in central Queensland, 1 in southern Queensland and one in far-western NSW. A total of 76 producers participated managing in total cattle, 18,000 sheep and 10,000 goats across 421,029 Ha. The workshops delivered were extremely successful with red meat producers significantly increasing their knowledge and capacity of best practice wild dog management techniques and strategies after attending the workshops. The overall satisfaction rating from participants attending the workshops was high at 4.78/5. The information provided on best practice wild dog management techniques and strategies was considered highly valuable by participants, with a rating of 4.8/5.0. Pre and post workshop surveys indicated a change in knowledge of best-practice wild dog management techniques ranging from 38% to 270% for some control tools. Red meat producers attending these workshops indicated they would implement a change in management practice on-farm (Avg 85%) because of attending the workshop.

If the attendees were representative of the red meat producer cohort, then there is a broad, unmet need for knowledge on practical, best-practice management of wild dogs. Meeting that need will reduce production and processing losses caused by wild dog predation and disease transmission. This is particularly necessary in northern Australia where the levels of calf loss reported was significant. The Northern Breeding Business Program (NB2) has identified calf loss as a key threat to the viability and sustainability of beef herds in northern Australia, so any increase in calf survival through improved best practice management of wild dogs would benefit the red meat industry.

A total of 500 red meat producers were engaged in the project's activities, managing a total of 240,579 cattle, 26,694 sheep, 10,000 goats over and combined area of 7.4 million ha. The project achieved many deliverables and identified an ongoing need for further investment in awareness raising and extension, despite having to terminate early due to overcommitment of the National Wild Dog Coordinator to other National Wild Dog Action Plan projects.

Lessons learned

The commencement of the project coincided with flooding events in northern Australia that prevented producers from travelling to workshops and participating in on-farm training activities. Investigating options to deliver extension material utilising modern approaches such as eLearning, virtual workshops and webinars could assist with improving the knowledge of best practice wild dog management to various demographics of red meat producers.

The consequence of the *ad hoc* nature of securing participation in the on-farm training was also problematic and, in hindsight, securing a commitment from producers prior to commencement of this project might have alleviated some of these issues. However, in this case the availability of red meat producers would still have been problematic because of the immediate and carry-over impacts of adverse seasonal events.

Reasons for early termination

Ultimately the project was terminated early because of insufficient human resources and challenges in securing producer participation due to climatic events. The coordinator could not undertake obligations under the National Wild Dog Plan and the deliverables associated with this project, which were extensive, and in hindsight, unrealistic given commitments under other, pre-existing projects. Delivery of static milestones and deliverables were difficult to achieve given a flooding event that occurred at commencement of the project. These events caused significant infrastructure damage and prolonged livestock management (mustering), which prevented red meat producers from participating in workshops and on-farm training activities. If additional resources were available, then it may have been possible to source additional human resources or consultants to deliver some aspects of the project to meet the producer needs and deliverables. meeting producer needs of this topic, with supervision or managed under the National Wild Dog Management Coordinator.

Recommendations

Although cut short, the project work undertaken has clearly identified that red meat producers consider wild dogs to be a major concern for the industry across all livestock types. Furthermore, the workshops and awareness raising activities identified that red meat businesses are willing to adopt new approaches to manage wild dogs if they receive information and training.

Investigating options to deliver extension material utilising modern approaches such as eLearning, virtual workshops and webinars could assist with improving the knowledge of best practice wild dog management to various demographics of red meat producers.

Red meat producers identified that they also believed that provision of assistance to work collectively across multiple properties would deliver more effectively coordinated wild dog management programs, leading to reduction in impacts particularly in northern Australia. This could be achieved by establishing a team of regional coordinators that support the delivery of extension programs but also support red meat businesses directly in delivery of coordinated regional management programs.

Industry backing to make reporting of wild dog activity and impacts through livestock reporting systems on-farm as well as through FeralScan would provide greater knowledge on the impacts of wild dogs on the red meat industry and promote an uptake in management practices.

Gaining greater insights into the cost of production from wild dog impacts may also encourage adoption of best practice. This could be achieved through incorporating research into wild dog impacts and control into on-farm calf survival and herd health projects. Additionally, increased surveillance and reporting of wild dog borne disease and damage to carcasses at processors will also generate estimates of further impacts on and costs to the red meat industry.

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1. Background

Attacks by wild dogs and dingoes, collectively referred to here as wild dogs, can have devastating impacts on the red meat industry, at both the grower level and across the entire supply chain. Estimates of the impacts of wild dogs on the Australian economy due to predation on livestock, disease transmission, and the costs associated with control are conservatively estimated to range from $64 million to $111 million annually (Cost of Pest Animals in NSW and Australia 2013-14, National Wild Dog Action Plan 2020-2030). In a more recent study undertaking by ABARES (2023) the combined cost of management and impacts on agriculture due to wild dogs was estimated at $302 million. Further studies on losses in production due to hydatid disease at a meat processing plant in central Queensland identified losses more than $655,000 during the study period 2011-2017 (Wilson *et al.* 2020). Anecdotal evidence from industry sources estimates the current economic impact to be much greater, in the hundreds of millions of dollars per annum based on current market values.

Wild dog attacks on livestock cause serious emotional and psychological trauma to landholders and their families. Landholders and community members experiencing prolonged attacks on their livestock by wild dogs describe feeling a sense of helplessness in being unable to prevent these attacks, which then leads to feelings of distress, anger, and anxiety. Clinical studies using the Impact of Event Scale Revised survey methodology have shown that landholders who experience prolonged attacks on livestock by wild dogs suffer levels of emotional and psychological trauma like that of a returned like Vietnam Veteran (Ecker et al. 2016).

While the impacts on small stock, sheep and goats are relatively well known, established management programs in cattle are less developed, with gaps in knowledge of the extent of wild dog impacts on cattle businesses across Australia. Studies funded through Meat & Livestock Australia (MLA) such as the Cash Cow Project (McGowan 2017) identified a high level of calf wastage in the northern beef herds with costs conservatively estimated to be $54m annually (Lane et al. 2015). Calf wastage has been defined as the total loss that occurs between confirmed pregnancy and weaning (McGowan et al. 2017). Producers involved in the Cash Cow Project that believed they had a wild dog problem on average had 5-15% greater calf wastage than properties that didn't think dogs were having an impact on their production. This could occur through direct predation and harassment of calves. Fleming et al (2012; NBP.0671) explains that secondary impacts are rarely identified but may significantly impact calf wastage by stressing pregnant and lactating females, raising heat stress through harassment, or excluding stock from water points — all factors that affect calf wastage.

Direct predation is typically the major concern, as calf losses more than 30% have been reported under certain circumstances. Estimates of predation losses of calves and weaners in normal conditions in rangeland grazing areas are in the range of 0–29.4% per annum (Fleming et al. 2012). Work undertaken by Northern Territory (NT) Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) indicated that calf loss and bites varied between regions. Whilst average direct calf loss to wild dog predation was estimated at 4.1%, annual variation between properties ranged from 2-11%. However, this survey was undertaken 2 years after the National Coordinator worked with the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association (NTCA) and the NT government to increase bait allocations on pastoral properties, and most had already reduced wild dog numbers under the new control regime (https://wilddogplan.org.au/media_release/consistent-baiting-puts-money-in-nt-cattle-producers-pockets/). Landholders taking part in the survey also reported 5-5.5% of calves were bitten by wild dogs. This highlights the significant impacts of wild dogs at the property level

and across the entire supply chain, with bitten animals made unviable for live export and having to be sold domestically. These figures do not consider attacks and killing of weaners by wild dogs.

Through engagement with producer stakeholders and MLA Southern Australia Livestock Research Council (SALRC) and North Australia Beef Research Council (NABRC) meetings, the coordinator identified that awareness and implementation of best-practice management of wild dogs was often lacking. The coordinator was also aware through his previous training in Community Engagement with the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre that face-to-face delivery was the most effective conduit for transferring knowledge about best practice to end-user producers and practitioners. In addition, new knowledge continually improves best practice, which requires ongoing updating of those stakeholders who have awareness of and implement current best practice. The forums where effective face-to-face engagement could occur included industry events, training workshops and on-farm, i.e. wherever producers are most comfortable and open to learning.

Some stakeholder skepticism about government was identified by the Coordinator and the NWDAP Committee as a potential impediment to adoption of current best practices, necessitating independent delivery of best-practice capacity building programs. At a local scale, the coordinator is seen as an independent expert in facilitating, informing, engaging with, and empowering stakeholders to adopt best-practice wild dog management techniques and strategies. With extensive knowledge, experience and ongoing liaison with producers, regional champions, practitioners and researchers, the coordinator is in a unique position to deliver the most up-to-date synthesis of current best practice. Although there are commonalities of approach to managing wild dogs, different red meat production systems and environments require tailored best-practice management

This project was designed to provide further awareness of the impacts of wild dogs on the red meat industry and support the adoption of best practice wild dog management techniques and strategies, as advocated by the National Wild Dog Action Plan 2020-2030 (NWDAP). This would be achieved through the delivery of a series of targeted awareness workshops across the country to improve the understanding of current wild dog management control tools and their application, based on key periods in the ecology of wild dogs or to protect livestock when they are most at risk of predation and harassment. Further training in control techniques and the development of property pest management plans will be developed with individual red meat businesses. Those participating would then implement the agreed plan and commence reporting wild dog impacts and livestock losses to compare over time, determining if control is being effective and if there has been a marked decrease in impact.

The project aimed to encourage further adoption of best practice wild dog management in the red meat industry. The implementation of best practice wild dog management significantly reduces impacts on red meat businesses, improves on-farm biosecurity and animal health while generating environmental benefits for native fauna through reduced predation, in accordance with the MLA Strategic Plan 2025 and Red Meat 2030.

2. Objectives

The project was comprised of several awareness and adoption activities aimed at encouraging the adoption of best practice wild dog management techniques and strategies to reduce impacts on the red meat industry.

Objective 1: Awareness raising & stakeholder consultation.

a. Secure or share trade exhibits with key stakeholders at 6 national or state agricultural field days or industry events to raise awareness of best practice wild dog management techniques to 1500 red meat producers.
b. The NWDAPC will deliver 18 presentations to raise awareness of wild dog impacts, best practice management and the implementation of new tools through directly engaging with industry groups and peak councils at branch and committee meetings.
c. Identify areas (both geographical, and technical) that need further assistance to manage wild dog impacts.

Awareness raising activities were conducted at major field days and agricultural shows including BEEF 2024, Lambex 2024 and the Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association Annual Conference 2025. These events were designed to lift awareness of current wild dog management techniques and expose red meat businesses to new products now available. Additionally, these events provided the opportunity to understand the attitude towards wild dogs and the level of impact being experienced by red meat businesses from across the country. At the industry group level, presentations were delivered to the members of the Western Queensland Regional Beef Research Committee (WQRBRC) forum in Blackall on the 28th of May 2024 and the Central Victorian committee of SALRC on the 12th of November 2024. A further presentation was provided to the newly formed Boulia Rivers Landcare Group in Western Queensland on the 28th of November 2024. These presentations were intended to make members aware of the recent changes and developments in wild dog management tools and approaches but also to encourage adoption of these tools and approaches amongst the red meat businesses they represent. It was also hoped that these meeting would identify areas or regions of wild dog activity or stakeholder interest in participating in the project through workshops or on farm training.

Objective 2: Wild Dog Awareness Workshops

a. The delivery of 10 wild dog management workshops (2-3 per annum) with a minimum of 200 red meat businesses representing 50,000 goats, 75,000 sheep and 75,000 cattle to increase their KASA by 75% of best practice wild dog management on-farm, with 80% of participants intending to implement these practices in the next 12months.
b. Increasing the KASA of service providers and consultants that support and provide landholders with direction in best practice wild dog and pest animal management - so ensuring a legacy benefit from the project.

Five wild dog management workshops were delivered across central Queensland (n=4) and western NSW (n=1) to inform red meat businesses of the impacts wild dogs can have on the red meat industry and up-to-date information on the range of best practice wild dog management techniques available to mitigate these impacts. The workshops provide basic information on the strategies used to deliver control based on the ecology and behaviour of wild dogs or to reduce impacts during periods where livestock are at their most vulnerable. Information and demonstrations on the use and delivery of these tools was provided by the coordinator, a relevant experienced regional

facilitator or a professional wild dog controller. These wild dog awareness workshops were designed to improve information and knowledge of all available control tools and, where possible, new techniques that red meat businesses may not be familiar with or had exposure to previously. KASA surveys for these workshops were designed to identify changes in the overall knowledge of the red meat businesses attending and if they would implement new techniques, improved their knowledge of existing techniques or would change the delivery of control programs based on information obtained at the workshop.

Objective 3: Northern Australia implementation

a. 18 red meat businesses from Northern Australia representing a minimum of 300,000 head of cattle implementing a wild dog management program that utilises a combination of current best practice control tools and includes the use of feral scan for monitoring impacts and program delivery.
b. For managers, staff and property owners in 20 red meat businesses from Northern Australia, improving their KASA of best practice wild dog management by 75%.

Two red meat businesses from northern Australia participated in the on-farm training activities. The capacity to manage wild dogs and the knowledge of best practice techniques varied between participants depending on previous extension, training and control program delivery. Consultation took place with participants to determine what their learning objectives were so that the training could be tailored to suit their needs in terms of knowledge and capacity. Several northern cattle production operations were interested in participating with one even developing a Feral Scan property group. However, due to a range of factors associated with climatic events including large scale flooding and cyclones in northern Australia those red meat businesses that were consulted could not participate in this project due to on farm management commitments and delays in mustering due to the late flooding events.

Objective 4: Southern Australia implementation

a. 12 mixed livestock red meat business from southern Australia representing 50,000 goats, 75,000 sheep and 75,000 cattle implementing a wild dog and fox management program that utilizes a combination of current best practice control tools and includes the use of FeralScan for monitoring impacts and control program delivery.
b. For managers, staff, and property owners in 10 mixed livestock red meat business from southern Australia improve their KASA of best practice wild dog management by 75%.

Six red meat producers from the New England tablelands of NSW took part in the on-farm training to use foot hold traps to capture wild dogs. These red meat producers were with the Jeogla Wild Dog Association and were comprised of mixed sheep and cattle enterprises. Two of the participants agreed to take part in the on-farm implementation under objective 4. This area of NSW has received considerable support in capacity building and wild dog management planning activities through the National Wild dog Management Coordinator and the Northern NSW Wild Dog Management Facilitator project delivered through the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions. These stakeholders identified the need for additional training in the use of foot hold traps to support their ground and aerial baiting programs. A KASA survey was conducted with participants before and after on-farm training components to determine the level of knowledge gained during the exercise and if they continued with management activities. In addition to the management activities, participants were asked to monitor livestock impacts and wild dog sightings, to ascertain the reduction in impact on their production because of improved wild dog management practices.

Objective 5: Organic producers' implementation

a. 10 organically certified mixed livestock red meat businesses representing a minimum of 50,000 goats, 75,000 sheep and 75,000 cattle implementing a wild dog and vertebrate pest management program that utilises a combination of current best practice tools and includes the use of feral scan for monitoring impacts and control program delivery. Management programs will be developed in accordance with the Guidelines for use of vertebrate pesticides on organic properties developed by the National Wild Dog Action plan.
b. Range of best practice wild dog and vertebrate pest management activities in accordance with the National Wild Dog Action Plan developed guidelines for the use of vertebrate pesticides on organic properties, and the use of FeralScan directly related to this project.
c. For managers, staff, and property owners in 10 organically certified mixed livestock red meat businesses, improve their KASA of best practice wild dog and vertebrate pest management on organic properties by 75%.

Onfarm training was delivered with two red meat businesses in southern Queensland. These producers were aware of the "Guidelines for the use of vertebrate poisons on organic properties" (guidelines) developed by the National Wid Dog Action Plan but had not formerly taken steps to implement a control program based on those guidelines. Engagement and consultation with the participants identified that either they had seen or considered the use of the canid pest ejector for wild dog and fox management under the guidelines and as such training was provided in the use of these tools. Participants agreed to develop a wild dog management plan based on the guidelines for their property that adopts the use of best practice management techniques and strategies that target the ecology of wild dogs while limiting the impacts of wild dogs on livestock. A KASA survey tailored to the training was conducted with participants before and after the on-farm training component to determine the level of knowledge gained during the exercise and if they will continue with management activities.

Objective 6. Communications

a. Develop 2 detailed cases studies (as per the MLA case study template), 2 MLA media releases and 4 National Wild Dog Action Plan media releases to promote successful wild dog management programs being delivered by red meat producers and to highlight activities of this project. Wild dog and vertebrate pest management related information including activity underway, successes, lessons, products developed by this project and associated networks, shared across 6 States and available to at least 4,000 recipients.

A communication strategy for the project was developed to further enhance awareness of the impacts and management of wild dogs on the red meat industry but to also highlight successful approaches to control programs by individuals and groups of red meat producers across the country. The Ironpot Creek Wild Dog Syndicate in the South Burnett Region of Queensland was selected as the first case study site for the project. A video was created with members of the group explaining how their program was established, how it is administered currently, and its success in managing wild dog impacts. The strategy under objective 6 also includes communications from the National Wild Dog Action Plan to reach are substantial number of red meat businesses across the country to promote the activities of this project as well as information from other parts of the country not directly involved. This communication was distributed through the NWDAP monthly newsletter and associated media releases, with further distribution provided by NWDAP partners and stakeholder groups.

3. Methodology

3.1 Objective 1: Awareness raising & stakeholder consultation.

3.1.1 Attendance at national and state industry events.

The coordinator secured trade exhibits and attended three major industry events during the project period, including two national and one state conference. These included Beef Week, Rockhampton May 2024, Lambex Adelaide October 2024 and the Northern Territory Cattleman Association (NTCA) State Conference in March 2025. A Meri Plan E-Survey was developed for each event and while there were significant interest and discussion held with many red meat businesses at each event the participation rates in the e-survey were varied between events. Although the quality of information collected was extremely useful (see section 4) participation rates were disappointing at the larger events despite large attendances. Stakeholders attending were keen to get information directly from the coordinator and those attending the trade booth. However, their appetite for filling in surveys was extremely low, partly because of the length of the survey but there also seemed to be a general apathy towards filling in surveys in general.

The e-survey QR code was shared amongst a range of key stakeholder's groups to prompt additional responses outside the event. The key stakeholders involved in disseminating the survey were Fitzroy Basin Authority (FBA) and NTCA distributing the QR code for the survey as well as advertising the location of the trade booth.

Despite the poor response rate for the e-survey the presence of the trade booth prompted significant engagement with red meat businesses. To manage the costs associated with Beef Week 2025 the coordinator partnered with AgForce Queensland and the Feral Pig Action Plan to share a trade booth at BEEF Week, engaging with a range of red meat businesses from across the country. A contact list identifying key issues, information required and/or interest in participating or holding a wild dog awareness workshop was kept for follow-up after the event.

Similarly, at Lambex interest in the stand and engagement with red meat producers at the event was good, with just under 100 red meat producers visiting the site to gain information on effective best practice wild dog and fox management. Despite significant interest in managing vertebrate pests, attendees were more focused on fox control than wild dog management. This is probably a reflection of the distribution of red meat producers that attended with a greater proportion of red meat producers attending from southern Australia where wild dog issues are negligible.

Despite being a smaller event, the NTCA conference in March 2025 was probably the most engaging of all three events attended. The smaller venue assisted with greater visibility of the trade booth and subsequently more visits than at the larger events. Participation in the e-survey was also higher at this event compared to the large events. This was possibly due to there being less engagements, meetings and activities associated with these larger conferences therefore allowing participants to spend more time at the site and filling in the survey. The survey length had also been modified before this event to encourage participation.

3.1.2 Raising awareness with industry and stakeholder groups.

Presentations were provided to industry and stakeholder groups to make them aware of the recent changes and developments in wild dog management tools and approaches. They also were to encourage adoption of these tools and approaches amongst the red meat business they represent. The presentations were also aimed at increasing awareness of the project and assist in identifying areas or locations where stakeholders might require assistance through the project in the form of wild dog awareness workshops (Objective 2) or on-farm training (Objectives 3,4,5).

The information on best practice wild dog management tools and approaches, including recent information on recent changes in legislation, was extremely effective and greatly appreciated by those participating. Red meat businesses and committee members identified that wild dogs were an issue in their regions although many were not directly affected by wild dogs themselves. There was a definite lack of knowledge amongst many of the members regarding changes in current wild dog management policy and the access to vertebrate poisons between state jurisdictions. These meetings didn't provide any greater insights or location for areas where further training activities could be delivered through this project.

3.2 Objective 2: Wild Dog Awareness Workshops

Four workshops were delivered in Queensland with northern beef producers and one in western NSW with sheep and goat producers. The first two workshops were delivered in collaboration with the Fitzroy Basin Authority (FBA) at Dingo and Bungundarra in July 2024 (Fig. 1). The third was held at Wonbah in central Queensland at the request of red meat businesses that were involved in a previous workshop and wanted to host one in their region for the benefit of other red meat producers in the district. The fourth workshop in Queensland was delivered at Inverlaw near Kingaroy at the invitation of the South Burnett Grazing Network. This workshop was a combined wild dog and feral pig workshop due to an increase in numbers and impacts being felt by red meat producers by both pest species.

The workshop in NSW was delivered in conjunction with Western Local land Services at Cawnalmurtee Station via White Cliffs. This workshop was aimed at improving the skill of pastoralists and their staff in wild dog trapping and the development and delivery of effective baiting programs. These workshops were delivered by the coordinator with assistance from professional pest animal controllers and instructors, where possible. The hands-on nature of these workshops and the opportunity for participants to actively put traps and canid pest devices in the ground as part of the training significantly enhanced their learning experience.

The field days were attended by red meat producers as well as a range of service providers including local government staff, state government agencies involved in wild dog and pest management and private agricultural extension consultants. Content of the workshops was modified based on the local issues, production types and concerns of the red meat producers regarding wild dog management practices and impacts for each location. An example of the subject and content covered in each workshop is provided in **Table 1**.

Figure 1. Wild dog Awareness Workshop Flyer developed for the first workshop in Dingo, Queensland.

Table 1. Basic key information covered at the wild dog awareness workshops. Content of the workshops was tailored to the meets the needs of red meat businesses at each location.

Subject	Discussion points
Wild dog impacts and the principles of wild dog control	- Wild dog impacts on livestock production primary (predation) and secondary (disease herd health etc) - Environmental impacts of wild dogs – predation on native fauna - Determine your management objectives - Wild dog population management approaches - Asset protection – protecting livestock at their most vulnerable - Reactive vs. proactive management approaches - Monitoring impacts on livestock and dog activity - Nil tenure management approach for coordinated programs
Wild dogs – biology and Ecology	- Using biology to target control programs breeding cycle, dispersal, movement corridors, habitat use, territory size, seasonal influences
Best Practice Control tools and use	- Current tools available – including Canid Pest Ejectors (CPEs) - Breaking down 1080 myths - Best practice tools and techniques to deliver coordinated and strategic proactive control programs
Wild dog behaviour and trap setting	- Wild dog ecology - Wild dog signs and indicators - Lures – decoys - Equipment – trap types and use
Trapping demonstration and hand on setting of traps	- Tips and tricks to improve trapping success - Trapping demonstration
CPE demonstration and hand on setting	- Tips and tricks to improve bait uptake with CPEs - Making lure heads, what to use, when and how

Pre and post KASA surveys were delivered at each event to understand the level of improvement in knowledge and capacity to manage wild dogs achieved by those red meat producers that attended the workshops. The results are reflected as relative change in percentage between the pre and post surveys in relation to change in knowledge of best practice control techniques and wild dog ecology and behaviour. This approach to awareness workshops has been fine-tuned by the coordinator over many years, particularly in terms of the amount of information provided and the delivery. This was reflected in the comments from red meat producers that attended the day particularly the hands-on approach to delivery and the ability for participants to set traps and ejector devices as part of their learning experience.

3.3 Objective 3: Northern Australian Implementation

On farm training in best practice wild dog management was provided for two red meat producers in northern Australia. The initial training delivered to these red meat producers was tailored to their level of knowledge and wild dog impacts. Training included discussions on, but not limited to, the following aspects of wild dog management:

- Effective use of traps, baits, and ejector devices
- Identifying sign and tracks
- Determining bait or trap placements
- Information, as applicable, in the use of poisons, application, mode of action and regulations
- Monitoring control program delivery and impacts to assess effectiveness i.e. FeralScan and impact data.
- Developing an annual management plan to control wild dogs and vertebrate pests on their property and as a group, where possible.

Participants undertook a KASA survey before and after the training to determine any increase in capacity or knowledge following the on-farm training. Participants were supported in the use and development of a FeralScan group to record impacts and wild dog control delivery. The coordinator, where necessary, also provide advice and assisted participants to fill in their Queensland Health application for access to 1080 products including canid pest ejector capsules from an S7 retailer under the Queensland *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019*.

3.4 Objective 4: Southern Australian Implementation

On farm training in best practice wild dog management was provided for six red meat businesses from the New England tablelands of NSW. The initial training delivered to these red meat producers was tailored to their level of knowledge and wild dog impacts. Training included discussions on, but not limited to, the following aspects of wild dog management:

- Effective use of traps, baits, and ejector devices
- Identifying sign and tracks
- Determining bait or trap placements
- Information, as applicable, in the use of poisons, application, mode of action and regulations
- Monitoring control program delivery and impacts to assess effectiveness i.e. FeralScan and impact data.
- Developing an annual management plan to control wild dogs and vertebrate pests on their property and as a group, where possible.

Participants in this group already had a good grasp of current best practice management of wild dogs through participating in their local wild dog advisory committee and capacity building field days delivered over the past 10 years. They identified that they need more skills and capacity using foot hold traps to complement their existing baiting programs. The coordinator arranged for the delivery of traps on a property for one of the participants. The training was delivered by a professional wild dog management controller based on the training requirements identified in the Certificate IV competency Apply Predator Trapping Techniques. This competency and associated material was developed by the National Wild Dog Action Plan and the coordinator.

Participants undertook a KASA survey before and after the training to determine any increase in capacity or knowledge following the on-farm training. In addition to the management activities participants were asked to monitor livestock impacts and wild dog sightings, to ascertain the reduction in impact on their production because of improved wild dog management practices. Participants were supported in the use and development of a FeralScan group to record impacts and wild dog control delivery. Two of the six red meat businesses attending the training agreed to take part in the long term on-farm training and livestock impacts monitoring.

3.5 Objective 5: Organic producer Implementation

On farm training in best practice wild dog management was provided for two organically certified red meat businesses in southern Queensland. The initial training delivered to these red meat producers was tailored to their level of knowledge and wild dog impacts, in line with the requirements of their organic certification. Neither of the red meat businesses were aware of the "Guidelines for the use of vertebrate poison" developed by the coordinator in consultation with organic certification companies. Training included discussions on, but not limited to, the following aspects of wild dog management in relation to control techniques and approaches permitted under organic certification that included, but wasn't limited to, the following:

- Effective use of traps, baits, and ejector devices
- Identifying sign and tracks
- Determining bait or trap placements
- Information, as applicable, in the use of poisons, application, mode of action and regulations
- Monitoring control program delivery and impacts to assess effectiveness i.e. FeralScan and impact data.
- Developing an annual management plan to control wild dogs and vertebrate pests on their property and as a group where possible.

The use of canid pest ejectors inside fence enclosures is one of the preferred approaches to use vertebrate pesticides on organic properties. A demonstration and hands-on training in the use of canid pest ejectors was provided to both participants. The coordinator also provided advice and assisted participants to fill in their Queensland Health application for access to 1080 products to access the canid pest ejector capsules from an S7 retailer under the Queensland *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019*. Participants undertook a KASA survey before and after the training to determine any increase in capacity or knowledge following the on-farm training, and if they will continue with management activities. Participants were supported in the use and development of a FeralScan group to record impacts and wild dog control delivery.

3.6 Objective 6: Communications

The Ironpot Creek Wild Dog Trapping syndicate was identified as the candidate for the case study development identified in the communications strategy. Following consultation with members of the Ironpot group and the local council permission was granted to develop the case study. Following the appointment of a suitably qualified videographer the development of a run sheet for the project proceeded, and onsite interviews were conducted. The video was developed and released on the MLA and the National Wild Dog Action Plan websites and the CISS YouTube channel.

A significant amount of communication material was developed in line with the agreed communications strategy. The media and communications materials were distributed across the extensive MLA and NWDAP communications networks to a range of stakeholders and red meat businesses across the country.

4. Project outcomes

4.1 Objective 1: Awareness raising & stakeholder consultation.

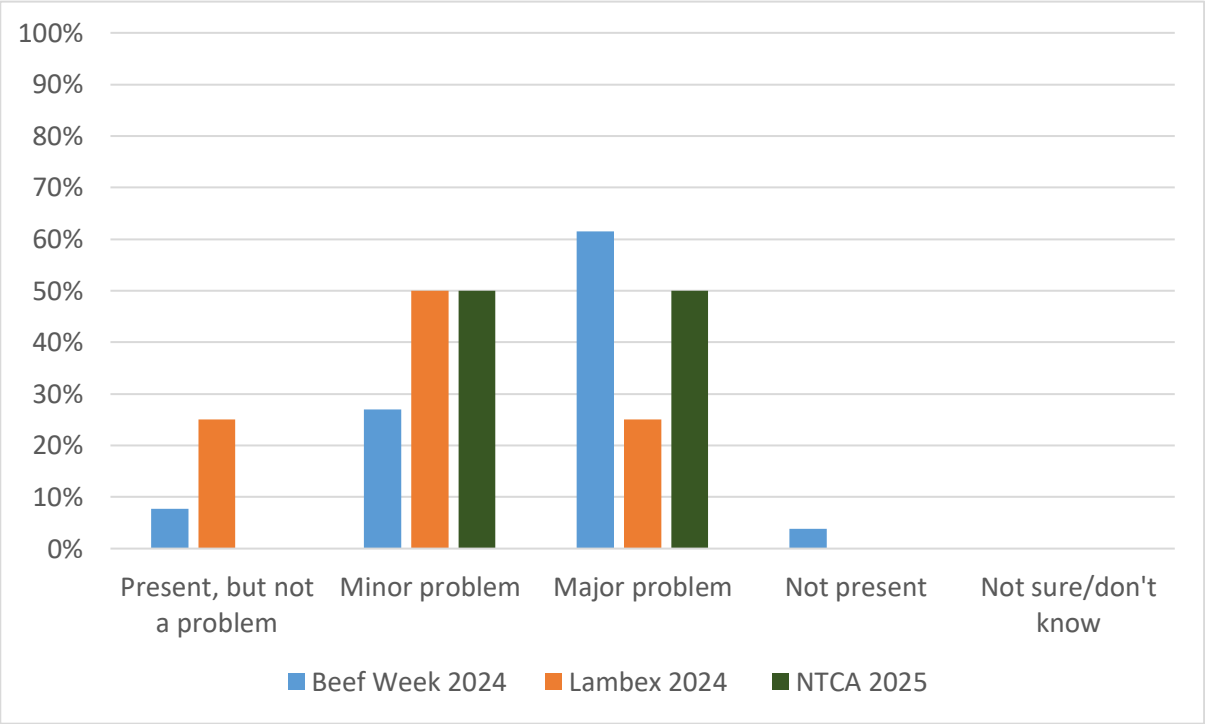
4.1.1 Attendance at national and state industry events.

Target for year 1 and 2 of the project: 3 events

Events Attended	Red Meat Businesses Engaged	Red meat Businesses Surveyed	Area of Properties Surveyed	Livestock Represented in Surveys		
				Cattle	Sheep	Goats
3	500	46	6,909,649 ha	240,579	28,694	9,154

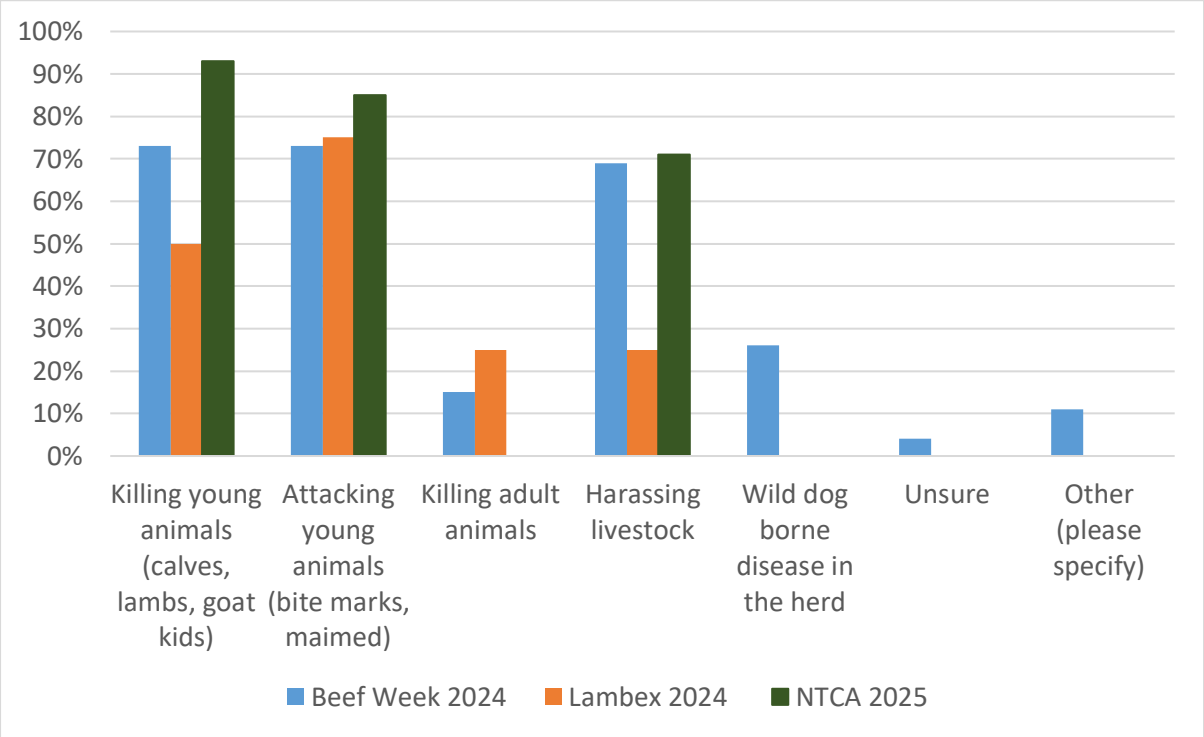
Red meat producers from across the country responded to surveys delivered at the three events with the majority of those surveyed coming from northern beef regions at Beef Week 2024 (n=28) and the NTCA conference 2025 (n=14). Those at Beef Week were predominantly from Queensland and those at NTCA from the Northern Territory. There was only a small number (n=4) of survey responses from the Lambex conference and of those two were from southwest Queensland.

Figure 2. Level of wild dog activity on property or red meat producers surveyed at national and state events



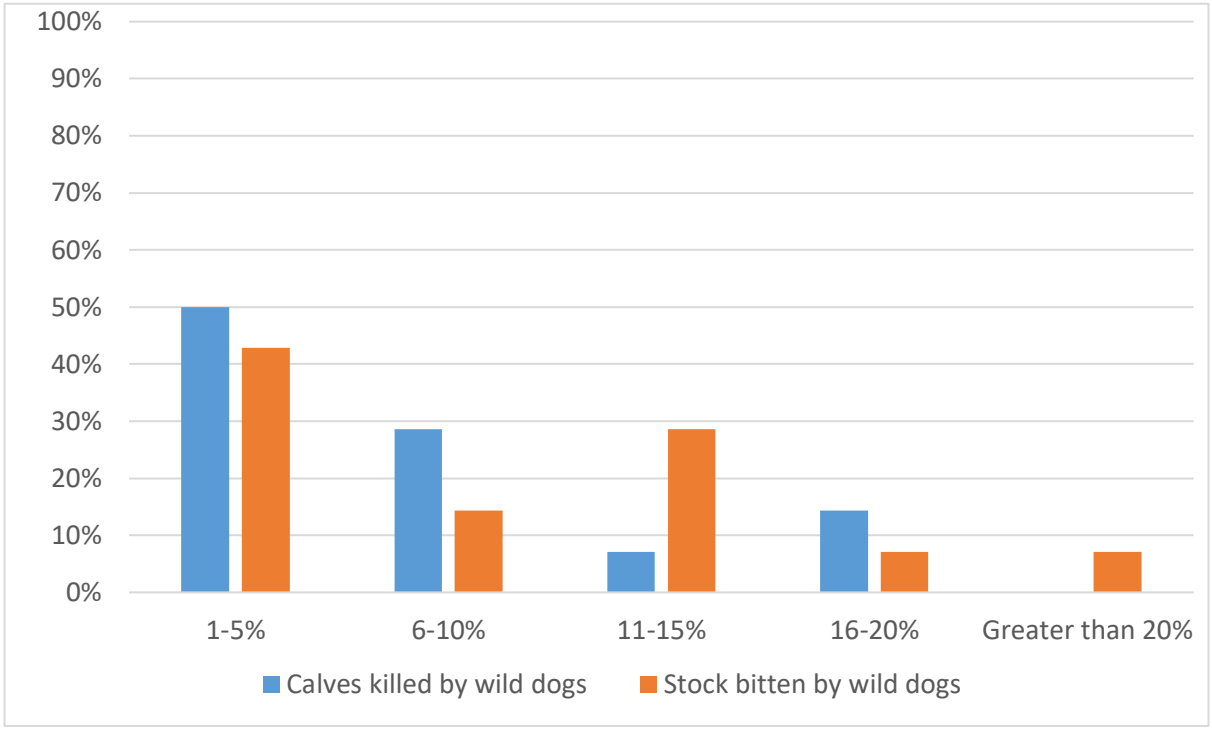
Overwhelmingly red meat producers at each of these events considered wild dogs to be a problem for their enterprise (Fig. 2). This was a consistent theme amongst red meat producers that visited the trade booth and was reflected in the e-survey responses at the events and online. The major impact reported were the killing of young animals, particularly calves, while respondents also indicated that attacks on older animals such as weaners and the scars and damage left behind were also major costs to production (Fig.3). Interestingly, survey respondents and those interviewed at the trade stand indicated that harassment of livestock by wild dogs was also a serious concern. Harassment of livestock by wild dogs led to increased stress that may be a negative influence on grazing rates and feed conversion due to hyper vigilance, but by far the greatest concern was the longer handling times both during mustering and in the yards when stock were stressed and agitated.

Figure 3. Wild dog impacts experienced by red meat producers surveyed at national and state conferences



A review of the survey questions was undertaken prior to the NTCA conference. A question on estimated level of impact of wild dogs on calf survival and injuries to stock because of being attacked was added. The range of calf loss and damage varied amongst the NTCA survey responses with most indicating an annual loss of between 1-5% to wild dog impacts (Fig. 4). However, some participants reported calf losses to wild dogs as high as 20%, with one participant indicating that damage in the form of bites and wounding was greater than 20%.

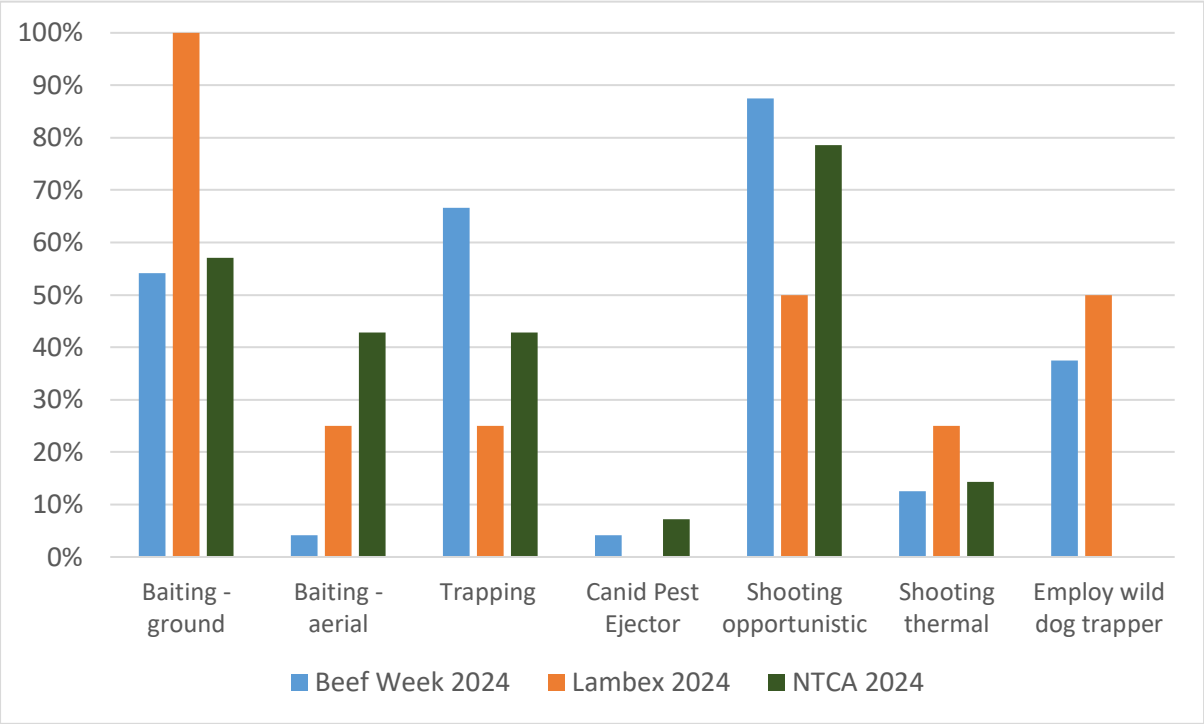
Figure 4. Annual wild dog impacts estimated by survey participants at NTCA conference 2025



Red meat producers employed a range of management tools to control wild dogs across the country. Opportunistic shooting was the most common control tool reported in the surveys (Fig. 5). Some of the variation in the use of control tools can be explained by jurisdictional restrictions and regulations for their use across states. For example, the use of aerial baiting was higher in the NT than amongst the Beef Week survey responses because aerial baiting isn't permitted in central and southeast Queensland. Red meat producers were unfamiliar with new tools such as the Canid Pest Ejector (Fig. 5), with many seeking more information on their use.

Further support and extension in current and new best practice tools was seen as important to manage wild dogs (73%). When asked what additional help red meat businesses needed to improve wild dog management, the top of the list was improved coordination with neighbours (43%), better understanding of wild dog ecology and behaviour in relation to deploying control tools (22%) and guidance in planning and developing property wild dog management programs (7.1%). Based on this, 100% participants responded they would attend a wild dog awareness or management workshop if one was available in their region.

Figure 5. Wild dog management tools currently being used by red meat producers surveyed and national and state conferences.



4.1.2 Raising awareness with industry and stakeholder groups.

Target for year 1 and 2: 7 presentations to red meat industry groups
Delivered: 5 presentations

Presentations were provided to a range of industry and key stakeholder groups at a range of levels, from regional bodies to national peak industry councils, to promote the NWDAP and NWDAP Coordinator project. The additional consultation with industry was to identify areas or regions where red meat businesses may be having wild dog issues and would benefit from an awareness workshop or additional on-farm training under Objectives 3,4 and 5.

These included presentations to the Western Queensland committee of the North Australian Beef Research Council and the Central Victorian committee of the South Australian Livestock Research Council, Animal Health Advisory Committee of Wool Producers Australia, Legune and Koreelah Wild Dog Management Committee and community members.

An additional presentation was delivered to the members of the newly formed Boulia Rivers Landcare Group. Many of the red meat and businesses in this region are organically certified and were not aware of the guidelines for use of vertebrate poisons on organic properties developed by the coordinator. Unfortunately, due to early rain many of the red meat businesses could not attend the meeting but the those that attended appreciated the information that was provided.

4.2 Objective 2: Wild Dog Awareness Workshops

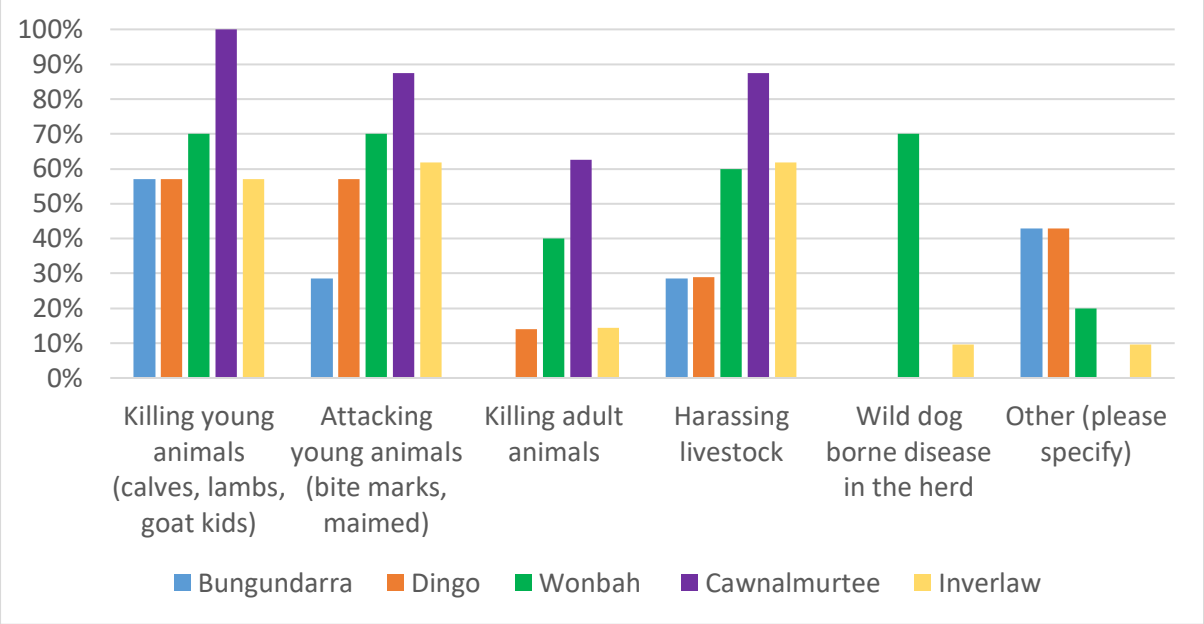
Target year 1 and 2: 7 workshops
Delivered: 5 workshops
Avg value rating of attending workshop: 4.78 out 5
Avg value information to the business: 4.92 out 5
Avg Likelihood practice change: 80%

Events Attended	Red Meat Businesses Engaged	Red meat Businesses Surveyed	Service providers Surveyed	Area of Properties Surveyed	Livestock Represented in Surveys		
					Cattle	Sheep	Goats
5	76	44	31	421,029 ha	21,802	18,000	10,000

Participants in the wild dog management workshops varied considerably between locations and production areas. Given the locations, most red meat producers were cattle producers with only the Cawnalmurtee workshop delivered in a region dominated by sheep and goat production. A range of service providers also participated in the workshops, including professional feral animal contractors, livestock consultants, local government officers and state government staff from Queensland Parks and Wildlife and NSW Local Land Services. The experience and knowledge gained by these service providers will greatly enhance the lasting impacts of these workshops in providing ongoing assistance to red meat producers in the regions where they were delivered.

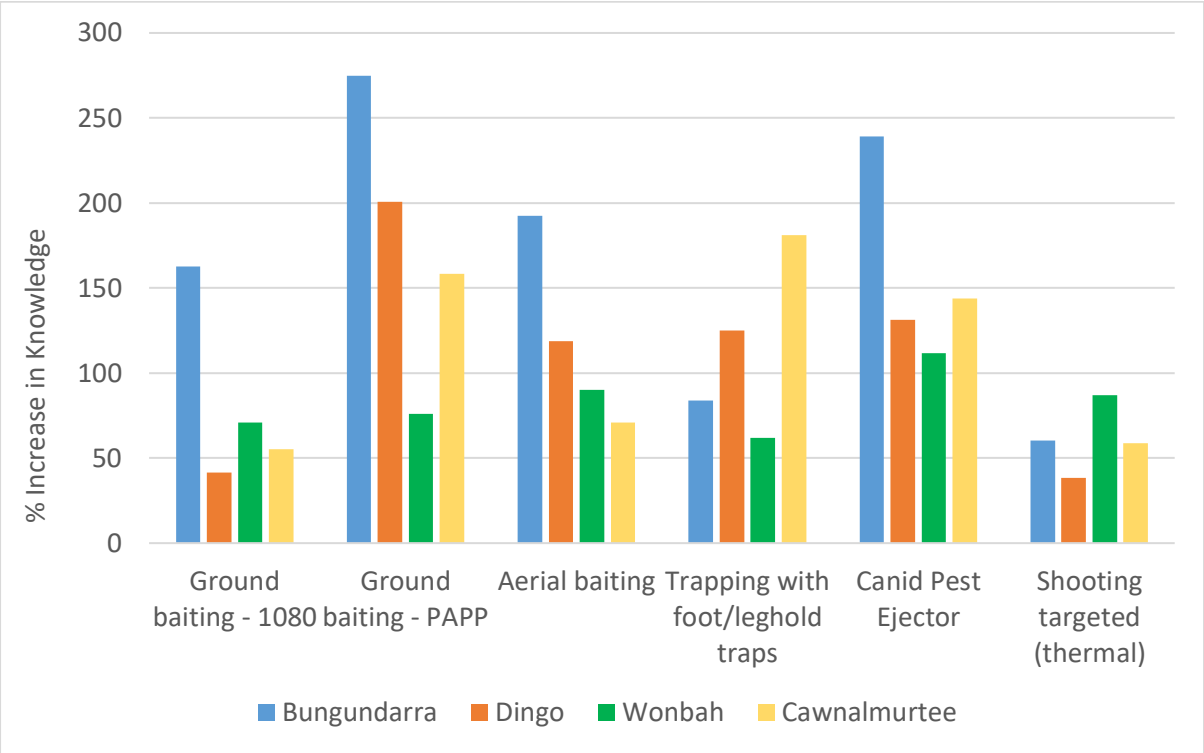
All the red meat producers attending the workshops (i.e. 100%) indicated that wild dogs were having an impact on their enterprise. Figure 6 illustrates the type and severity of wild dog impacts identified by participants in the workshop survey. Note the impact figures for the Cawnalmurtee Worksop reflect extensive impacts on sheep in western NSW, however most northern beef producers attending indicated major impacts on calf survival and damage in young cattle. Harassment of livestock by wild dogs was also seen as a major cost to red meat businesses, particularly at Wonbah and in the South Burnett. Participants commented that harassment of cattle by wild dogs often led to animals being pushed through fences, causing significant damage to both livestock and infrastructure. One participant commented that harassment of cows, and particularly first calf heifers, often led to trampling of calves, many of which never recovered.

Figure 7. Wild dog impacts experienced by red meat producers attending the workshops.



All the red meat business (100%) attending the workshop were already undertaking some form of wild dog management and therefore already had some prior knowledge of the wild dog control tools available, yet there was a significant positive change in knowledge for all the wild dog control techniques and tools discussed at the workshop (Fig. 8). At some workshops participants were starting from a very low knowledge base and, as such, their change in knowledge after the workshop was considerable. Feedback from the workshops reflected the quality of the information provided, and the pace and level at which it was presented. The hands-on approach with time for participants to have a go at setting traps and ejector devices enhanced the learning experience, giving participants the confidence to implement the tools after the event.

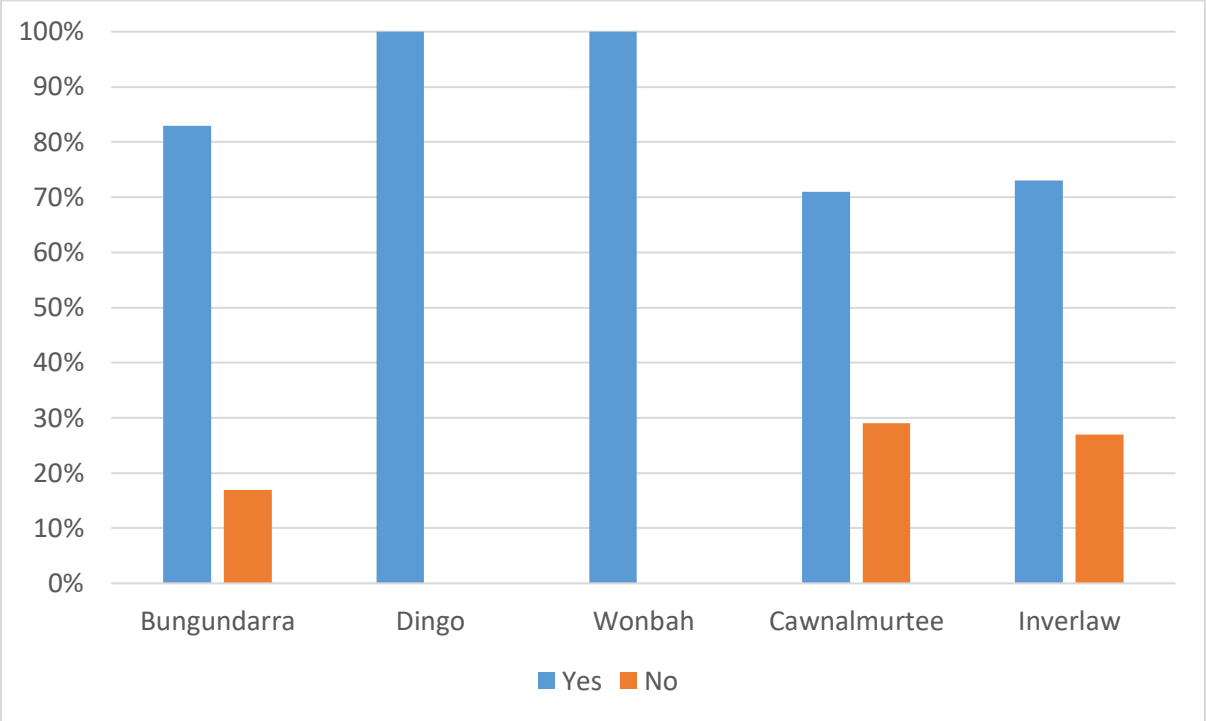
Figure 8. Change in knowledge of current best practice management tools and techniques of participants after attending the wild dog awareness workshop.



Workshop participant comments reflected a positive change in knowledge in the post workshop survey, even for some of the most common and widespread control tools currently being used by workshop participants, particularly ground baiting with 1080 (Fig. 8). Some of that change in knowledge particularly in the case of ground baiting was the result of evidence-based information and research demonstrating that sodium fluoroacetate, 1080, can be used safely without harming wildlife and can be managed appropriately around working dogs to lower the risk of accidental poisoning. These results highlight the need for ongoing extension and engagement with red meat producers and community groups, to encourage adoption of evidenced-based approaches to the delivery of new and existing wild dog management techniques and tools.

Similarly, despite having an existing knowledge and experience in delivering wild dog control, the overwhelming majority indicated that they would change their approach to the way in which they use current tools or would look to implement new control tools because of attending the workshops (Fig. 9). Participants also identified that an improved knowledge of the ecology and biology of wild dogs was a key learning that was often overlooked when implementing control programs. This was evidenced by a combined increase in knowledge of wild dog ecology and behaviour on this subject of 80% across all workshops.

Figure 9. Likelihood that red meat producers will implement new or change approach to current control techniques after attending workshop.



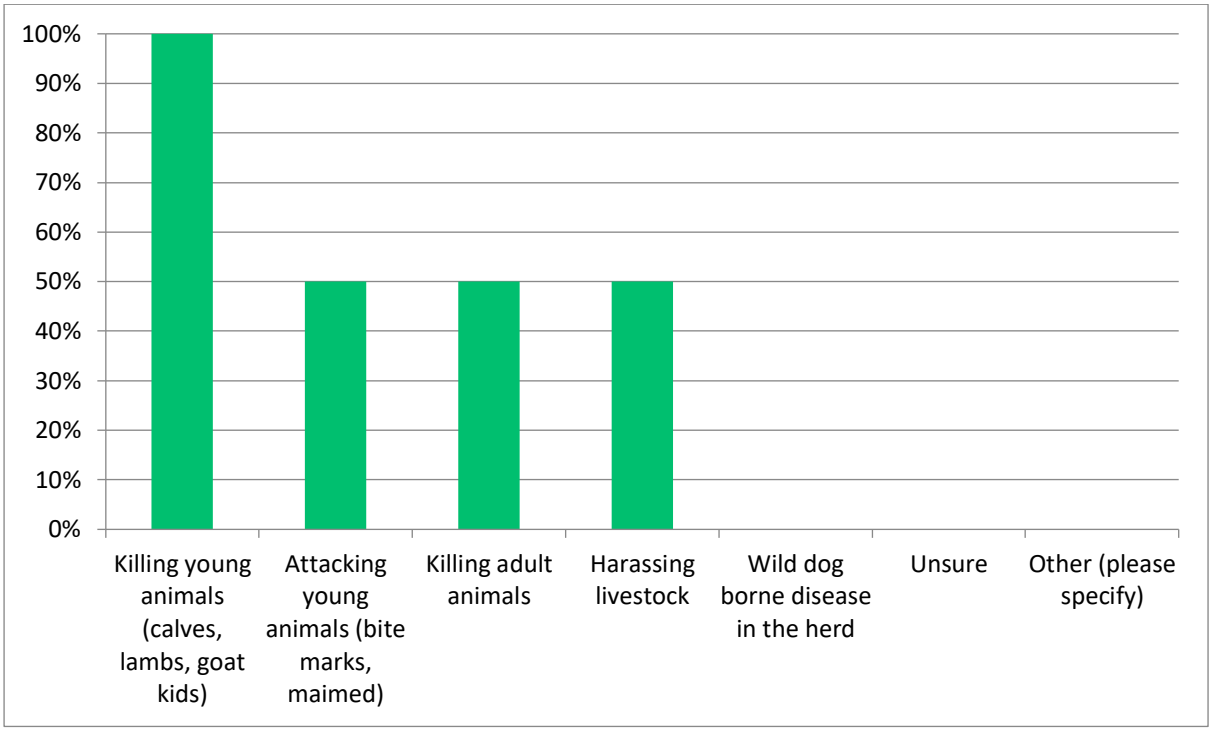
4.3 Objective 3: Northern Australian Implementation

Target Year 1 and 2: 4 Red Meat Businesses
Delivered: 2 Red Meat Businesses
Avg Value rating: 4.5 out 5
Avg value information: 4.0 out 5
Avg Likelihood practice change: 80%

Red Meat Businesses Engaged	Area of Properties Surveyed	Livestock Represented in Surveys		
		Cattle	Sheep	Goats
2	33,000ha	750	5,300	

The activities under this project deliverable were only in the initial stages before the project was terminated. Further training, property management planning and livestock impact data management was planned in coming years. As such information on behaviour and practice change is limited. Regardless, the red meat businesses who took part in the on-farm wild dog management training both had minor issues with wild dogs in relation to their cattle operation, although the second property from Mitchell also had sheep which were under significant pressure from wild dogs. Participants identified that wild dogs have impacts on all age classes of livestock with the killing of calves and lambs being the main concern (Fig. 10**)**.

Figure 10. Wild dog impacts experienced by northern red meat producers participating in Objective 3.



Both red meat producers intend to implement new practices as result of the training (100%). Some new activities have already been delivered with the Mitchell property delivering their first ever ground baiting program. Following advice from the coordinator, ground baiting with tethered (tied) baits was undertaken as an acceptable approach to ground baiting that limited the risk of accidental poisoning of guardian dogs due to baits being moved. The FeralScan mapping application was used to mark the bait locations so they could be picked up at the end of the program.

Neither of the participants were aware of the canid pest ejector device and how to implement this new tool into their management program. Participants were given instruction on this application and use and assistance with completing the application for the Queensland Health Permit that is required to purchase the capsule.

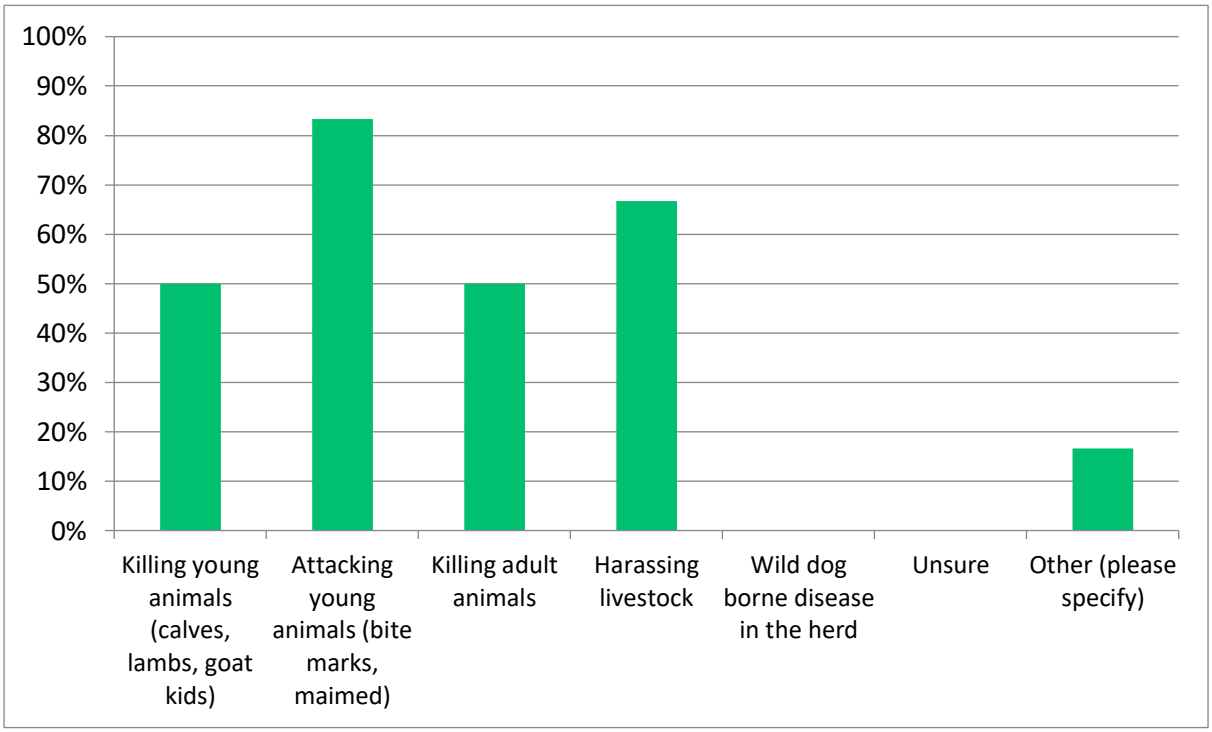
4.4 Objective 4: Southern Australian Implementation

Target Year 1 and 2: 2 Red Meat Businesses
Delivered: 2 Red Meat Businesses participating
Avg Value rating: 4.5 out 5
Avg value information: 4.0 out 5
Avg Likelihood practice change: 80%

Red Meat Businesses Engaged	Area of Properties Surveyed	Livestock Represented in Surveys		
		Cattle	Sheep	Goats
2	8,721ha	5,100	16,500	

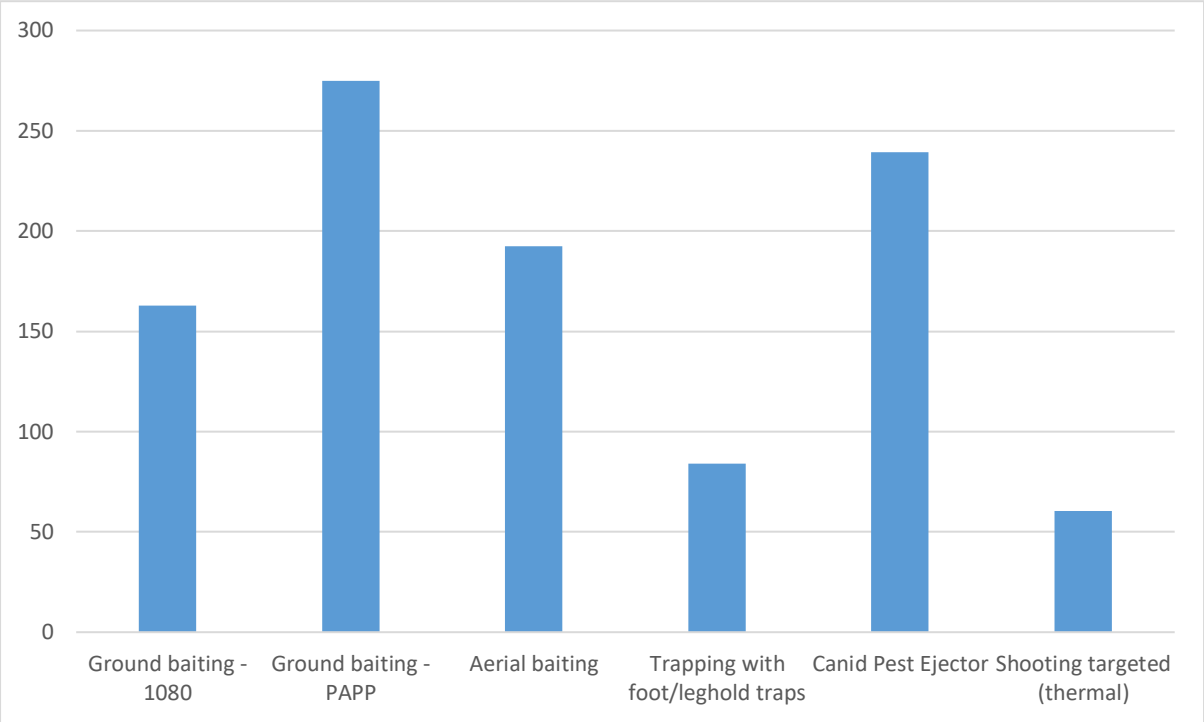
Wild dogs have been a historical and ongoing issue for red meat producers in the New England Tablelands of NSW and producers from that region sought additional training in the use of foot hold traps to complement their existing control programs. A group of six producers from the Jeogla Wild Dog Association took part in the training. All the participants considered wild dog to be an issue for their enterprise (100%), with attacks on young animals and killing calves being the largest concern (Figure 11). Attacks on adult sheep were a major concern in the region however participants also indicated increasing numbers of weaners being bitten as well as dogs harassing livestock. This harassment often forced young cattle through fences or into creek beds with resulting injuries.

Figure 12. Wild dog impacts experienced by Southern Australian red meat producers participating in Objective 4.



Although primarily a trapping school, instruction was provided on a range of control techniques and tools currently available for wild dog management. Participants reported a significant increase in knowledge of a range of controls despite a long history of wild dog management in the region (Fig. 13). This was particularly the case with the lesser-known tools such as PAPP baits and the canid pest ejector device. The percentage change in knowledge will always be greater for those tools which are less familiar to the participants. However, an increase of 50% for trapping and 163% and 180% for ground and aerial baiting respectively is considerable considering these producers take part in coordinated wild dog management program using these tools annually.

Figure 13. Change in knowledge of current best practice wild dog management control techniques of southern red meat businesses after attending on-farm training



The activities under this deliverable were only in the initial stages with further training, property management planning and livestock impact data measured in coming years. As such information on behaviour and practice change is somewhat limited at the time of terminating the project. Feedback from participants however has been positive with a number already implementing the skills learned and have trapped several wild dogs that had already evaded other forms of control. Participants indicated a high (greater 80%) likelihood that they would implement new tools, such as the canid pest ejector, in future. This highlights the importance of integrating a range of control tools and providing the knowledge and capacity for red meat producer to implement those tools with confidence.

4.5 Objective 5: Organic Implementation

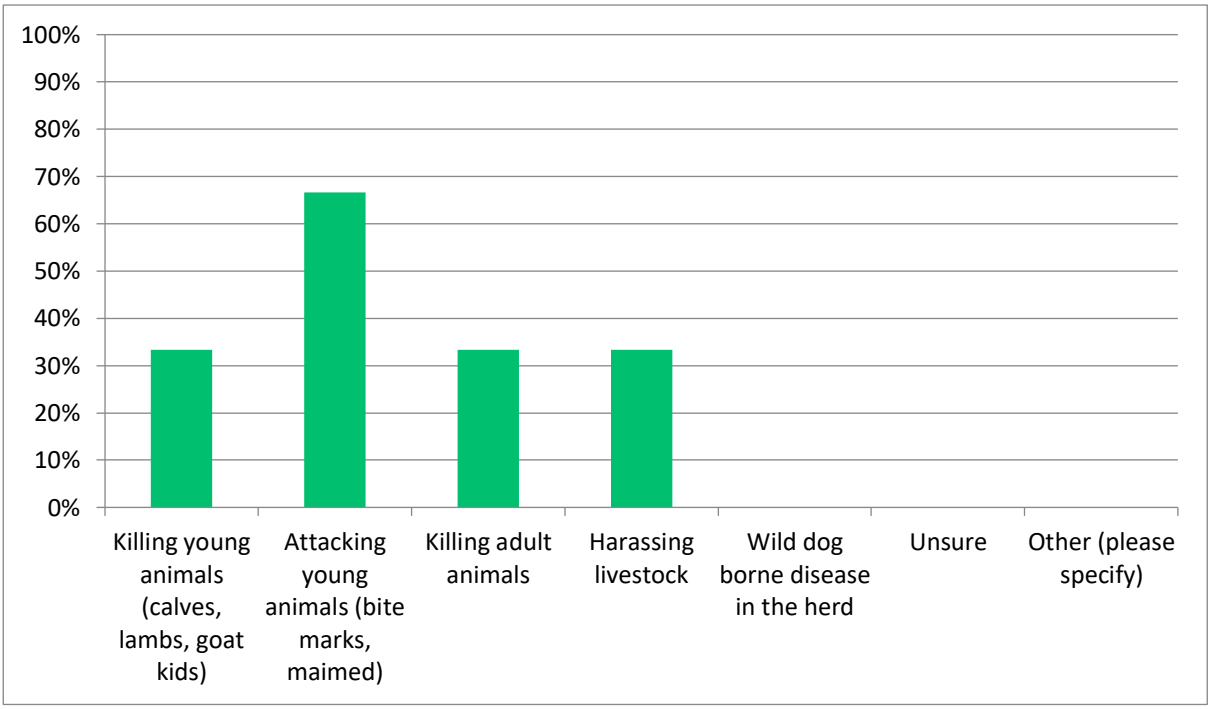
Target Year 1 and 2: 2 Red Meat Businesses
Delivered: 3 Red Meat Businesses participating
Avg Value rating:4.3 out 5
Avg value information: 4.3 out 5
Avg Likelihood practice change: 80%

Red Meat Businesses Engaged	Area of Properties Surveyed	Livestock Represented in Surveys		
		Cattle	Sheep	Goats
2	9,600ha	1,612	2,000	

The organic red meat businesses that participated in this activity considered wild dogs to be a minor but persistent problem. Although not immediately impacted on regular basis the ongoing risk of attacks and persistent wild dog populations nearby promoted participation in this project.

Neither participant was aware of the guidelines for use over vertebrate poisons on organic properties and as such either didn't use 1080 baits or limited it to certain sections of the property outside of their organic certification. Both intend to implement (100%) a property management plan and utilise these guidelines to undertake wild dog management in future. As with the other on-farm training objective, the data presented here is from the initial activities with further training, including registering a plan with the organic certifier, having been planned to occur in future training sessions. Therefore, impact data and more detailed behaviour and practice change is limited. The lack of knowledge of new control tools such as the canid pest ejector was again evident with both red meat businesses looking to implement the use of this device in the future.

Figure 14. Impacts observed from wild dogs on businesses



4.6 Objective 6: Communications

An extensive array of communication material has been developed during the course of the project, both in traditional and social media platforms. Since commencement of the project 22 monthly National Wild Dog Action Plan Newsletters have been developed and distributed through the subscriber list (1800) and through the range of stakeholder networks across the country. Newsletters have been developed by the NWDAP communications team. These newsletters cover the range of activities undertaken by the coordinator, as well covering stories on successful wild dog management outcomes and key issues from across the country.

One of the key communication objectives was the development of a video case study showcasing a community-led wild dog management program. The Ironpot Creek Wild Dog Trapping syndicate was chosen as the first of the two proposed case studies identified in the communication strategy. The coordinator assisted in the development and planning that took place when the syndicate started nine years ago. After floating the idea and getting everyone's endorsement to proceed, a script was developed and the video filming took place in October 2024. The Ironpot Wild Dog Trapping Syndicate Case Study video was released via the MLA Feedback Magazine and the NWDAP newsletter in December 2024. The video was also posted on the CISS YouTube Channel (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5h6ZMHmSNfk) where it has been viewed over 17, 000 times since it was placed there in January 2025.

Figure 17. Ironpot Wild Dog Trapping Syndicate

Media advertising and promoting the activities undertaken by the project were included in the NWDAP newsletter and relevant stakeholder distribution networks, enhancing the exposure of these articles and the project significantly across the country, particularly with state farming and peak industry council communications. A range of media articles reported on the workshops and awareness-raising events delivered since the project's commencement. In addition to the NWDAP communications, the coordinator worked with the MLA communications team and collaborating organisations to provide material for the MLA online newsletter and Feedback magazine. Examples of the communication material produced since commencement of the project can be found below.

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7312322609860198402/

NWDAP attends Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association Conference

Greg Mifsud, the National Wild Dog Management Coordinator, alongside Adam Bowen, the NTCA's NWDAP Coordination Committee member headed to Darwin for the NTCA Conference on 19-21 March.

The Conference provided a great opportunity to connect with cattle producers about dog attacks and to dispel any misinformation about wild dog control.

Read more.

Landholders learn about wild dog control at workshop

Greg Mifsud, the National Wild Dog Management Coordinator alongside Paul Bilsborough from Wildpest Management, headed to Four Mile, Qld recently to deliver a workshop to landholders on wild dog control tools. Attendees received info and a demonstration about how to use and set traps.

Cat Wilson, one of the workshop attendees said, "A simple hands-on workshop like this gives a farmer confidence in using the tools available to them - the tools are not complicated, but you can gain so much from the little pointers offered on the day."

https://sh1.sendinblue.com/ag30msm35xpfe.html?t=1740404205565

https://wilddogplan.org.au/south-burnett-forum-sparks-momentum-in-wild-dog-and-feral-pig-control/

Managing the impact of wild dogs and feral pigs in the South Burnett

Greg Mifsud headed to Kingaroy, Qld on 17 July for the Wild Dog and Feral Pig Management Forum, hosted by the South Burnett Grazing Network.

The day covered pest ecology, biology and behaviour, best practice control techniques, syndicate and group structures, monitoring and evaluating control programs, and practical displays and demonstrations.

Presenters at the event included:

- John Scriven, Darling Downs and South-West Qld Feral Pig Coordinator
- Scott Henschen, Chair of Iron Pot Creek Wild Dog Syndicate
- Deb Dennien, South Burnett Regional Council.

A huge thanks to everyone who came along and made the Forum a success.

https://www.mla.com.au/news-and-events/industry-news/the-real-cost-of-wild-dogs-from-paddock-to-processing/

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The real cost of wild dogs from paddock to processing

Meat & Livestock Australia

In late June 2025, Fitzroy Basin Association hosted a Wild Dog Workshop at Biloela, Queensland, funded by Meat & Livestock Australia through its Producer Demonstration Site program.

Enthusiastic workshop attendees learnt about best practice methods to manage wild dogs from Greg Mifsud, the National Wild Dog Management Coordinator. They also got a behind-the-scenes look at the Teys Australia Biloela to see first-hand the impact wild dogs have on the central Queensland meat industry.

Read more.

The real cost of wild dogs from paddock to processing

18 AUG 2025
https://www.mla.com.au/news-and-events/industry-news/the-real-cost-of-wild-dogs-from-paddock-to-processing/

Four steps to improve wild dog and fox baiting

06 JUN 2025
https://www.mla.com.au/news-and-events/industry-news/four-steps-to-improve-wild-dog-and-fox-baiting/

Lifting beef production in Fitzroy Basin through best practice predator management

15 MAY 2024
https://www.mla.com.au/extension-training-and-tools/pds-producer-demonstration-sites/producer-demonstration-news/lifting-beef-production-in-fitzroy-basin-through-best-practice-predator-management/

Working together key to tackling wild dogs

10 JAN 2024
https://www.mla.com.au/news-and-events/industry-news/working-together-key-to-tackling-wild-dogs/

5. Conclusion

This project has demonstrated that red meat producers across the country see wild dogs as a serious issue impacting on their livestock production, general herd health and economic viability, especially for sheep production. Cattle producers were also concerned with the impacts of wild dogs on their businesses particularly in northern Australia. This was highlighted at the NTCA conference with over half the red meat businesses and producers surveyed identifying losses between 1-5%, with another 29% reporting losses of between 6-10% due to wild dog predation. Meat and Livestock Australia's Northern Breeding Business Program (NB2) identified calf loss as a key threat to the viability and sustainability of the northern Australian beef herd with survey participants confirming that wild dog predation is a major contributor to calf loss in northern Australia.

The project also clearly identified that the impacts of wild dogs are varied and not just an issue for young stock. While predation on young stock is a major impact and key driver for red meat producers to implement control programs, ongoing impacts of wild dogs on herd health from ongoing harassment could also be a significant production and subsequent economic loss.

Survey responses indicated that extension in best practice wild dog management is lacking within the red meat industry, particularly in the northern Australia. New and up-to-date, evidenced-based best practice information on the application of existing and new tools is simply not reaching the broader northern cattle businesses. Additionally, new tools that have been registered now for several years and used in other parts of the country were relatively unknown by those red meat businesses that attended workshops and conferences in northern Australia, particularly the canid pest ejector device. The versatility and advantages of this device in managing wild dogs was appreciated by participants at the workshops and those that visited the trade booth at the national and state conferences.

The project has also demonstrated red meat producers, when provided with appropriate knowledge, are willing to adopt best practice wild dog management approaches, including working closely with neighbours. However, access to extension and capacity building activities to support this level of coordination and learning appears to be lacking at present.

There was a noticeable contrast in the level of knowledge and application of wild dog management tools between red meat producers in southern Australia compared to those in northern Australia. The average level of knowledge of current control tools in the pre workshop surveys was much greater amongst sheep producers in southern Australia than cattle businesses in north Australia. This isn't surprising given northern NSW sheep producers' long history of managing the threat of wild dogs. These regions have also been supported by the wool industry through funding for the National Wild Dog Management Coordinator and regional wild dog coordinators.

These coordinator positions supported red meat and wool producers to develop community-led wild dog management programs, improve coordination between neighbouring properties and deliver capacity building training to improve the ability of red meat businesses to control wild dogs. Given the level of impacts reported by red meat businesses surveyed at conferences and workshops in northern Australia, assistance in the form of industry funded, regional wild dog and vertebrate pest coordinators may provide the extension and capacity building pathways required to generate adoption and long-term practice changes needed to reduce wild dog and vertebrate pest impacts.

The results and feedback from the workshop participants validate that the extension approach utilised was successful. The change in knowledge reported highlights that the level of information and the visual and interactive ways it was delivered created a positive learning environment for those participating. The level of adoption and practice change is yet to be determined, however. Although early adopters have already commenced a practice change, others will require ongoing support to gain the confident to adopt a practice change long term.

5.1 Benefits to industry

- Adoption of best practice wild dog management tools and strategies will provide significant improvements in calf survival, herd health and economic sustainability for red meat businesses across the country and the northern beef businesses and sheep production nationwide.
- Improved wild dog management will have flow-on benefits across the supply chain because of healthier livestock and reduced damage on carcasses through bites and disease.
- Effective management of predators such as wild dogs and foxes will improve biodiversity and natural capital.
- Improved coordinated management approaches and delivery of best practice has been shown to improve the mental health and economic viability of red meat business, particularly those producing sheep. (Ecker et al 2015)

6. Future research and recommendations

- Develop improved wild dog extension and adoption networks and opportunities throughout northern Australia. This could be achieved by establishing a team of regional coordinators that support the delivery of extension programs but also support red meat businesses in the delivery of coordinated regional management programs.
- Increase adoption of FeralScan (WildDogScan) to empower producers to measure in real time wild dog impacts and activity at a property scale. This will indicate when and where impacts are taking place across a region, informing property and cross-property planning for control program development.
- Investigate options to deliver extension material utilising modern approaches such as eLearning, virtual workshops and webinars. This would assist with improving the knowledge of best practice wild dog management to various demographics of red meat producers.
- Undertake research to determine the cost of wild dogs to the red meat industry. This should be conducted across a range of landscapes and production settings to investigate the cost of those impacts identified by red meat businesses in this project including, direct predation and attacks on livestock, impacts of harassment by wild dogs on productivity, and rate/prevalence of wild dog borne disease in beef herds across the country. This research could be conducted in conjunction with other research designed to improve animal production as one of the variables affecting long term economic viability and sustainability of the red meat industry.

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8. Appendix

8.1 NTCA Survey Data

National Wild Dog Awareness Survey - NTCA Conference 2025

Q1. What is your name?

Answer Choices	Responses	
First name:	100.00%	14
Last name:	100.00%	14
:	0.00%	0
:	0.00%	0
:	0.00%	0
Answered		**14**
Skipped		**0**

Q2. What is your position on the property?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Owner	14.29%	2
Manager/Overseer	71.43%	10
Station staff	14.29%	2
Answered		**14**
Skipped		**0**

Q3. What is your property/business name?

Answered	**14**
Skipped	**0**

Q4. What is your physical address?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Address:	100.00%	14
Street address line 2:	0.00%	0
Town:	100.00%	14
State:	100.00%	14
Postcode:	100.00%	14
Country:	0.00%	0
Answered		**14**
Skipped		**0**

Q5. Is address provided above your postal address?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	7.14%	1
No	7.14%	1
If no, please provide your postal address.	85.71%	12
Answered		**14**
Skipped		**0**

Q6. Please provide your phone number.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Phone number:	100.00%	14
+61:	0.00%	0
Answered		**14**
Skipped		**0**

Q7. Please provide your email address?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Email address:	100.00%	14
Answered		**14**
Skipped		**0**

Q8. How would you rate wild dog activity on the property?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Major problem	50.00%	7
Minor problem	50.00%	7
Present, but not a problem	0.00%	0
Answered		**14**
Skipped		**0**

Q9. What impacts have you observed from wild dogs on your enterprise? Tick the below options that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Killing calves	92.86%	13
Attacking stock - bite marks/maimed	85.71%	12
Killing adult stock	0.00%	0
Harassing livestock	71.43%	10
Wild dog borne disease in the herd	0.00%	0
Answered		**14**
Skipped		**0**

Q10. What percentage of stock are killed or bitten each year?

	1-5%		6-10%		11-15%		16-20%		Greater than 20%		Total
Calves killed by wild dogs	50.00%	7	28.57%	4	7.14%	1	14.29%	2	0.00%	0	14
Stock bitten by wild dogs	42.86%	6	14.29%	2	28.57%	4	7.14%	1	7.14%	1	14
									Answered		**14**
									Skipped		**0**

Q11. Do you currently undertake wild dog control?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	92.86%	13
No	7.14%	1
	Answered	**14**
	Skipped	**0**

Q12. What control tools do you use? Tick the options below that apply.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Baiting - ground	57.14%	8
Baiting - aerial	42.86%	6
Trapping with foot/leg hold trap	42.86%	6
Canid Pest Ejector	7.14%	1
Shooting opportunistic	78.57%	11
Shooting targeted - aerial or thermal	14.29%	2
Other (please specify)		1
	Answered	**14**
	Skipped	**0**

Q13. What would help you implement a more effective wild dog control program?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Improved knowledge and information on available cor	0.00%	0
Demonstration and training on the use of control tools	7.14%	1
Better understanding of wild dog ecology and behavio	21.43%	3
Guidance and planning of a control program and impl	14.29%	2
Improved coordination with adjoining properties	42.86%	6
Other (please specify)	14.29%	2
	Answered	**14**
	Skipped	**0**

Q14. Would you be interested in attending a wild dog management workshop hosted in your region to improve your ability to manage wild dogs effectively?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	100.00%	14
No	0.00%	0
	Answered	**14**
	Skipped	**0**

Q15. What area of land do you manage (ha or square kms)?

Answered	**13**
Skipped	**1**

Q16. Please specify your stock numbers below:

Answer Choices	Responses	
No. of breeding cows	85.71%	12
Total number of cattle	100.00%	14
	Answered	**14**
	Skipped	**0**

Q17. How many cattle do you turn off per year?

Answered	**13**
Skipped	**1**

Q18. Do you preg scan?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	64.29%	9
No	35.71%	5
	Answered	**14**
	Skipped	**0**

Q19. What are your rates in relation to the following? Please mark as a percentage %

Answer Choices	Responses	
Current preg scan rates	66.67%	6
Current marking rates	55.56%	5
Current branding rates	100.00%	9
	Answered	**9**
	Skipped	**5**

8.2 Inverlaw, QLD, Wild dog Awareness Survey Data

Wild Dog Management Survey - Inverlaw Qld

Q1. Participant name

Answered	**31**
Skipped	**0**

Q2. Business name

Answered	**21**
Skipped	**10**

Q3. Property address

Answered	**25**
Skipped	**6**

Q4. Postal address - If different to property address

Answered	**13**
Skipped	**18**

Q5. Mobile number

Answered	**29**
Skipped	**2**

Q6. Email address

Answered	**26**
Skipped	**5**

Q7. Are you a:

Answer Choices	Responses	
Sheep producer	0.00%	0
Beef producer	60.71%	17
Goat producer	0.00%	0
Mixed farmer	7.14%	2
Feral animal control contractor	17.86%	5
Consultant	3.57%	1
Livestock agent	3.57%	1
Other agribusiness	7.14%	2
Other (please specify)		6
	Answered	**28**
	Skipped	**3**

Q8. Why did you attend this workshop?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Reduce wild dog impacts	79.31%	23
Relevant topics	58.62%	17
Good speakers	58.62%	17
Other (please specify)		12
	Answered	**29**
	Skipped	**2**

Q9. Overall, how do you rate the value of attending this event for your business purposes?Please rate out of 5 where 1 is not valuable and 5 extremely valuable.

	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Rating	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.23%	1	25.81%	8	70.97%	22	31
											31
											0

Q10. How would you rate the information presented at the event? Please rate out of 5 where 1 is not valuable and 5 extremely valuable.

	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Rating	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	19.35%	6	80.65%	25	31
											31
											0

Q11. Please tell us about your enterprise. If answer is 'None' leave blank.

Answer Choices	Responses	
Area managed (ha/km2)	100.00%	21
No. of breeding cows	85.71%	18
Total no. of cattle	61.90%	13
No. of breeding ewes	0.00%	0
Total no. of sheep	0.00%	0
No. of breeding goats	0.00%	0
Total no. of goats	0.00%	0
	Answered	**21**
	Skipped	**10**

Q12. Do you Preg Scan?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	64.29%	9
No	35.71%	5
If yes, what is you current PTIC rate (%)		9
	Answered	**14**
	Skipped	**17**

Q13. How would you rate wild dog activity on the property?

	'resent, but not a probler		Minor problem		Major problem		Not present		Not sure/don't know		Total
Rating	18.18%	4	54.55%	12	22.73%	5	4.55%	1	0.00%	0	22
											22
											9

Q14. What impacts have you observed from wild dogs on your enterprise?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Killing young animals (calves, lambs or kid go	57.14%	12
Attacking young animals (bite marks, maimec	61.90%	13
Killing adult animals	14.29%	3
Harassing livestock	61.90%	13
Wild dog born disease in the herd	9.52%	2
Unsure other (please describe)	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	9.52%	2
	Answered	**21**
	Skipped	**10**

Q15. What is the estimate loss to wild dogs on your enterprise?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Calves killed (%)	65.00%	13
Calves bitten (%)	45.00%	9
Sheep killed (%)	0.00%	0
Sheep attacked (%)	0.00%	0
Other	35.00%	7
	Answered	**20**
	Skipped	**11**

Q16. Do you currently undertake wild dog control?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	76.92%	20
No	23.08%	6
	Answered	**26**
	Skipped	**5**

Q17. If Yes, what control tools do you use?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Baiting - ground	47.62%	10
Trapping with foot/leghold traps	66.67%	14
Canid Pest Ejector	0.00%	0
Shooting opportunistic	57.14%	12
Shooting targeted - aerial or thermal	14.29%	3
Use contractor pest animal controller/ trapper	19.05%	4
Guardian animals (dogs, donkeys, other)	0.00%	0
	Answered	**21**
	Skipped	**10**

Q18. PRIOR TO THIS FIELD DAY - How would you have rated your knowledge of best practice wild dog management?Please rate out of 5 where 1 is very little knowledge, and 5 a very good knowledge.

	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Rating	10.00%	3	16.67%	5	30.00%	9	30.00%	9	13.33%	4	30
											30
											1

Q19. NOW YOU HAVE ATTENDED TH FIELD DAY - How do you rate your knowledge of best practice wild dog management?Please rate out of 5 where 1 is very little knowledge and 5 a very good knowledge.

	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Rating	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	6.45%	2	51.61%	16	41.94%	13	31
											31
											0

Q20. How do you rate your current knowledge of each wild dog control tool and their use following attendance at the field day?Please rate out of 5 where 1 is very little knowledge and 5 a very good knowledge.

	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Ground baiting - 1080	3.85%	1	3.85%	1	11.54%	3	50.00%	13	30.77%	8	26
Ground baiting - PAPP	15.00%	3	0.00%	0	30.00%	6	40.00%	8	15.00%	3	20
Aerial baiting	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	50.00%	2	50.00%	2	4
Trapping with foot/leghold traps	8.00%	2	4.00%	1	12.00%	3	56.00%	14	20.00%	5	25
Canid Pest Ejector	15.00%	3	0.00%	0	30.00%	6	35.00%	7	20.00%	4	20
Shooting targeted (thermal)	4.00%	1	4.00%	1	16.00%	4	56.00%	14	20.00%	5	25
Guardian animals (dogs)	15.00%	3	10.00%	2	35.00%	7	35.00%	7	5.00%	1	20
Guardian animals (donkeys)	19.05%	4	9.52%	2	38.10%	8	28.57%	6	4.76%	1	21
Exclusion fencing	4.76%	1	4.76%	1	33.33%	7	38.10%	8	19.05%	4	21
											29
											2

-

Q21. How has the FIELD DAY improved your current knowledge in relation to wild dog control tools and their use?Please rate out of 5 where 1 is very little and 5 a lot.

	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Rating	0.00%	0	3.57%	1	0.00%	0	46.43%	13	50.00%	14	28
											28
											3

Q22. PRIOR TO THIS FIELD DAY - How would you have rated your knowledge of wild dog ecology and behaviour in your region?Please rate out of 5 where 1 is very little knowledge, and 5 a very good knowledge.

	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Rating	9.68%	3	16.13%	5	38.71%	12	29.03%	9	6.45%	2	31
											31
											0

Q23. NOW YOU HAVE ATTENDED TH FIELD DAY - How do you rate your current knowledge of wild dog ecology and behaviour in your region?Please rate out of 5 where 1 is very little knowledge and 5 a very good knowledge.

	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Rating	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	3.23%	1	67.74%	21	29.03%	9	31
											31
											0

Q24. Do you currently use Feral Scan for monitoring pest animals' impacts and their control?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	16.67%	4
No	83.33%	20
	Answered	**24**
	Skipped	**7**

Q25. How likely are you to use FeralScan (WildogScan), after the information provided at this field day?Please rate out of 5 where 1 is likely and 5 very likely.

	1		2		3		4		5		Total
Rating	20.69%	6	3.45%	1	13.79%	4	37.93%	11	24.14%	7	29
											29
											2

Q26. As a result of attending this field day, will you change your approach to wild dog management?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	72.41%	21
No	27.59%	8
	Answered	**29**
	Skipped	**2**

Q27. How likely are you to make changes to your current control program as a result of attending the field day?

	Unsure		Very unlikely		Unlikely		Possibly		Likely		Total
Rating	0.00%	0	7.69%	2	7.69%	2	19.23%	5	50.00%	13	26
										Answered	**26**
										Skipped	**5**

Q28. Would you consider implementing any additional best practice control tools following today's field day?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	52.17%	12
No	13.04%	3
Not sure	34.78%	8
	Answered	**23**
	Skipped	**8**

Q29. If YES, Please indicate which tools you would like to implement if you had more information?

	Unlikely		Possibly		Very likely		6		7	
Ground baiting - 1080	9.09%	1	18.18%	2	72.73%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Ground baiting - PAPP	12.50%	1	25.00%	2	62.50%	5	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Trapping with foot/leghold traps	0.00%	0	11.11%	1	88.89%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Canid Pest Ejector	0.00%	0	11.11%	1	88.89%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Shooting targeted (thermal)	0.00%	0	20.00%	2	80.00%	8	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Guardian animals (dogs/donkeys)	50.00%	1	50.00%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0
Exclusion fencing	50.00%	1	50.00%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0

Q30. Would you consider participating in further training on the management of wild dogs on your property, including management plan development, best practice control and monitoring livestock production?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	72.00%	18
No	28.00%	7
	Answered	**25**
	Skipped	**6**

Q31. If YES, do you give the project team permission to contact you in the future about training opportunities?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	90.91%	20
No	9.09%	2
	Answered	**22**
	Skipped	**9**

Q32. MLA plans to contact attendees of today's event in the future to find out if your attendance has had a long-term impact on your business. Would you be happy to be contacted?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	75.00%	18
No	25.00%	6
	Answered	**24**
	Skipped	**7**

Q33. MLA may contact me informing me of future events and activities

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	94.74%	18
No	5.26%	1
	Answered	**19**
	Skipped	**12**