

# Central Western Queensland

## WILD DOG CONTROL FENCE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

### SUMMARY

The Central Western Queensland grazing industries are at a crossroads. Despite the efforts and investment by producers, industry bodies, local and state and federal governments, wild dog predation is continuing to significantly decrease profitability. Wild dog numbers and impacts are increasing and current methods of control are not working.

### RESULTS

A community consultation process was conducted in August to determine the level of community support for the concept of fencing to control wild dogs and for the construction of a regional scale wild dog control fence. Public meetings were held in 10 towns across the region. A summary of the results of this consultation follows –

- ***Total meeting attendance – 342***
- ***Support for the concept of fencing as a practical way to control dogs – 93%***
- ***Support for the establishment of a multi shire wild dog control fence – 84%***

Support for the establishment of a multi-shire wild dog control fence in the Central West is high across the region, however there are some variations. Support is highest in the Longreach shire (92%) and highest among sheep (94%) and mixed grazing enterprises (86%). Support is lowest among cattle producers (75%), respondents from outside the fence (65%) and in the Blackall shire (75%). “No” and “undecided” numbers are greatest outside the proposed fence and amongst cattle producers, however these numbers are generally small.

Community comment largely focussed on issues associated with –

- Fence maintenance
- Wild dog eradication
- Impact on those outside the proposed fence
- Fence alignment

Throughout the process and across the entire region there was general consensus that fencing is effective, that current control methods including baiting, trapping and shooting are not working and that wild dogs present a very real threat to the sheep and cattle industries and to the long term sustainability of the regional communities.

There is also general consensus that the issues raised are not insurmountable and that the most important step will be to decide to build the fence, seek funding and start building.

### THE FUTURE

Based on the results of the earlier feasibility study and the community consultation the steering committee have formulated an action plan aimed at achieving three important immediate outcomes, as follows –

- Engagement of local government through RAPAD, DCQ and Agforce at the appropriate levels
  - The formation of project management capacity and a governance framework to take the project to the commitment of funding and then to implementation and ongoing management.
  - Commitment of funding.
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