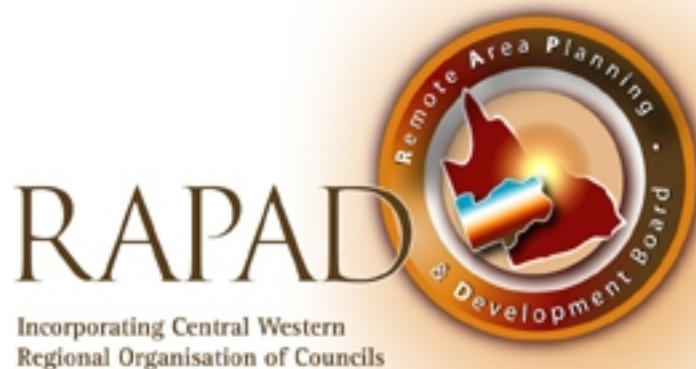

**Central Western Queensland
Wild Dog Control Fence
Community Consultation
REPORT**

August 2014

Funding provided by the Central Western Queensland Remote Area Planning and Development Board.



With grateful acknowledgement of the support and input received by steering committee members, DCQ, DAFF, RAPAD, Commercial sponsors, Leading Sheep, and local government representatives and staff.

REPORT PREPARED BY



Dr Gerry Roberts

PO Box 390

LONGREACH QLD 4730

0437 910 695

gerry.roberts@tpg.com.au



Ian Perkins

PO Box 449

STANTHORPE QLD 4380

0408 059 377

ian@lpmqld.com.au

Central Western Queensland Wild Dog Control Fence Community Consultation REPORT

August 2014

CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
Results.....	1
The Future.....	1
INTRODUCTION	2
THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS.....	3
Outcomes	3
Description of the session process	3
Assessing the usefulness of the overall process	3
THE RESULTS.....	4
Registration Record by Location	4
Registration Record by Shire	4
Stakeholder Responses	5
ITEM 1. I think fencing is a practical way to control dogs.....	5
ITEM 2. I support the establishment of a multi-shire wild dog control fence in the Central West.	6
Questionnaire Responses	8
COMMUNITY COMMENT	8
Summaries of notes – three sources.....	8
Dog control with a regional fence.....	8
Regional fence design/construction/alignment	9
Maintenance of a regional fence	9
Governance/ownership of a regional fence.....	9
Concerns about the proposal	9
Funding of the proposal	10
Comments about costs	10
Information needed that may be useful.....	10
Observations made by attendees	10

Responses to questions on the ‘indication of support’ form	11
Recommendations arising from community comment.....	11
BRC WILD DOG COMMITTEE - AMENDMENT PROPOSAL FOR THE WILD DOG	
CHECK FENCE	12
Additional items for consideration:.....	12
ACTION PLAN	13
Report presentation	13
Governance arrangements	13
Implementation/Business Plan.....	14
Source funding	14
CONCLUSION	14
 APPENDICES	
APPENDIX 1: SUBMISSIONS MADE ON THE SUBMISSIONS EMAIL	17
APPENDIX 2: COMMENTS ON THE RESPONSE FORMS	25
APPENDIX 3: COMMUNITY COMMENT NOTES FROM ALL VENUES	27
APPENDIX 4: POSSIBLE ALIGNMENT VARIATIONS	42

EXECUTIVE 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.

INTRODUCTION

The sheep industry in central western Queensland is at a crossroads. The industry is shrinking throughout the region while Australia-wide industry economic conditions and increases in sheep numbers indicate the possibility and reality of industry growth. Wild dog predation is seen by landholders as one of the key issues causing the current decline of the regional sheep industry.

Sheep numbers have been declining in the region since the early 1990s for a number of reasons, affecting industry diversity and community viability and resilience. Wild dog numbers have at the same time increased throughout the region as a result of such factors, as:

- lack of cooperation in control,
- reduced numbers of people in the landscape,
- increased availability of water
- good seasons resulting in an abundance of prey
- higher fertility of hybrid dogs

Predation levels are forcing people out of the sheep industry and landholders and researchers suggest the option to graze sheep will disappear from the region unless significant action is taken. As a region that has been, and still is, reliant on the agricultural sector as its major economic driver, the continued decline of the sheep industry will have serious economic and social flow on effects to all communities.

An analysis of the feasibility of erecting a multi-shire wild dog check fence to facilitate control of wild dogs in the region was conducted in 2013. A proposed fence line was established with the local knowledge of landholders and construction cost estimated through the experience of existing fence building authorities and individuals. Financial and cost benefit analysis at individual and regional levels demonstrated the viability of a multi-shire check fence with significant benefits provided to the sheep and cattle industries, and to the regional economy and local communities.

The scale of a regional fence is significant and the cost of construction and maintenance will be considerable. An investment of this scale can be considered an important piece of regional infrastructure and local, state and federal governments were approached with regard to funding. Each level of government indicated interest and their potential to support such a project, however each level of government stated that a commitment of resources would be conditional on community support within the region. In order to determine the level of community support an extensive community consultation process was designed and conducted in July/August 2014. This report presents the results of the community consultation process.

With the Central Western Queensland grazing industries at a crossroads many believe it is the time for alternative, effective and immediate action. This is because despite the efforts and investment of producers, industry bodies and local, state and federal governments, wild dog predation is continuing to significantly decrease profitability. It is clear that wild dog numbers and impacts are increasing and current methods of control are not working.

THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS

The steering committee initiated community consultation to gather information from the regional community and fulfill a request from Local, State and Federal governments.

Sponsored by the RAPAD Board, the consultation was charged to deliver on the following outcomes.

Outcomes

- To understand and record stakeholders' positions in relation to the concept of fencing to control wild dogs in the central west.
- To understand and record stakeholders positions in relation to the practicality of a multi-shire fence to control wild dogs in the central west.
- To collect from stakeholders their ideas of what is the most practical and beneficial solution to the wild dog problem.

Description of the session process

Overall the process pursued these outcomes in an environment where people felt able to say what they wanted to say without attacking, or being attacked by, others.

This was made possible by a number of process design features and goodwill on behalf of the attendees as they took part in the process. The design features were:

- Making clear the purpose and outcomes of the day
- Presenting a set of ground rules for how to work together in the session
- Spending an adequate amount of time presenting the content of the proposal
- Inviting questions and comments and publically recording comments made by attendees
- Providing time for discussion among attendees on the proposal
- Individual time to respond on a written form
- Informing people of the results for level of support at their session
- Informing them of results from earlier consultation sessions and of possible future directions
- Evaluating the session

Assessing the usefulness of the overall process

Steering committee members sought to reach the whole community so the community knew there was an opportunity for them to attend, hear the proposal and have their response/s recorded.

The brief evaluations of the session process suggest it worked productively for attendees.

THE RESULTS

Registration Record by Location

Location	Number
Yaraka	19
Isisford	12
Longreach	59
Barcaldine	52
Winton	30
Muttaburra	27
Jericho	14
Blackall	64
Stonehenge	43
Aramac	22
TOTAL	342

Registration Record by Shire

Shire	Number Registered	Number of rural properties registered per shire	Proportion of shire area within proposed fence
Longreach	111	292	87%
Barcaldine	104	211	41%
Blackall/Tambo	58	200	45%
Barcoo	24	71	11%
Winton	32	265	0%

Note : The number of rural properties represented per shire may be considerably more than the number of rural landholders as a number of landholders own more than one property.

In the shires with the greatest proportion of area within the proposed fence – Longreach, Barcaldine Regional and Blackall Tambo the number of registered attendees was 39% of the total number of registered rural properties. While sample size varies by subject, it is generally accepted in community survey work that a 15% sample provides a representative assessment for that population. As the sample size rises, the confidence that can be held in the result increases. Considering the variation between number of rural properties and number of landholders and areas within and outside the fence this consultation process reached a proportion of the population that can be considered to be highly representative.

Stakeholder Responses

ITEM 1. I think fencing is a practical way to control dogs.

By location of meeting attended:

Location	Yes	No	Undecided
Yaraka	19		1
Isisford	11		
Longreach	47		1
Barcaldine	49		3
Muttaburra	29	1	
Jericho	5	1	1
Blackall	62		6
Stonehenge	39		2
Aramac	11	3	1
Total	272	5	15

Total responses – 292
Level of support - 93%
No votes - 2%
Undecided - 5 %

The Winton results have been presented as a separate entity as the whole Shire is outside the current proposed fence and the Winton workshop was conducted as an information session to inform Winton Shire residents of a potential activity.

Location	Yes	No	Undecided
Winton	12	11	4

By Enterprise:

Enterprise/Interest	Yes	No	Undecided
Sheep	17 – (100%)		
Cattle	77 – (93%)	4 (5%)	2 (2%)
Mixed	135 – (96%)	1 (0.7%)	5 (3.3%)
Rural business	22 – (92%)		2 (8%)
Community	20 – (95%)		1 (5%)
Local government	2 – (100%)		

By inside or outside the fence:

Location	Yes	No	Undecided
Inside	196 – (95%)	1 (0.5%)	9 (4.5%)
Outside	40 – (82%)	3 (6%)	6 (12%)

By shire:

Shire	Yes	No	Undecided
Longreach	95 (95%)		5 (5%)
Barcaldine	76 (88%)	4 (5%)	6 (7%)
Blackall/Tambo	61 (91%)		6 (9%)
Barcoo	26 (100%)		
Winton	14 (58%)	9 (36%)	1 (6%)

Support for the concept for fencing as a practical way to control wild dogs is uniformly high across location (93%), inside (92%) or outside (82%) the fence and by shire. Undecided numbers are low (under 10%) and apart from Winton which is a separate case “no” numbers are very low (5% or under).

ITEM 2. I support the establishment of a multi-shire wild dog control fence in the Central West.

By location:

Location	Yes	No	Undecided
Yaraka	17		3
Isisford	11		
Longreach	47		3
Barcaldine	39	1	11
Muttaburra	29	1	
Jericho	3	1	3
Blackall	51	8	9
Stonehenge	37		4
Aramac	13	3	2
Total	247	14	35

Total responses – 296

Level of support - 84%

No - 4%

Undecided - 12%

By enterprise:

Enterprise/Interest	Yes	No	Undecided
Sheep	15 – (94%)		1 (6%)
Cattle	67 – (75%)	7 (8%)	15 (17%)
Mixed	121 – (86%)	7 (5%)	12 (9%)
Rural business	18 - (86%)		3 (14%)
Community	12 – (86%)		2 (14%)
Local government			2 (100%)

By inside or outside the fence:

Location	Yes	No	Undecided
Inside	178 – (87%)	7 (3%)	21 (10%)
Outside	32 - (65%)	6 (12%)	11 (23 %)

By Shire:

Shire	Yes	No	Undecided
Longreach	92 (92%)		8 (8%)
Barcaldine	68 (79%)	6 (7%)	12 (14%)
Blackall/Tambo	50 (75%)	7 (10%)	10 (15%)
Barcoo	23 (88%)		3 (12%)

Support for the establishment of a multi-shire wild dog control fence in the Central West is high (84%) across the region, however there are some variations. Support is lowest amongst cattle producers (75%), among respondents from outside the fence (65%) and in the Blackall shire (75%) where it would appear that some people who are inside the fence and have already fenced voted in support of the concept of fencing but not to support the establishment of a multi-shire fence. Support is highest in the Longreach shire and highest among sheep and mixed grazing enterprises. “No” and “undecided” numbers are greatest outside the proposed fence and among cattle producers, however these numbers are significantly less.

Questionnaire Responses

Q1. If wild dogs, foxes and feral pigs were brought under control would you expect to:

Response	Yes	No	Numbers
Increase sheep numbers	86	12	452,000
Increase productivity	80	7	Increase by ave 35%
Diversification	25	15	176,200
TOTAL			628,200

Number in favour of 1/3:1/3:1/3 funding model – 135

Number NOT in favour of 1/3:1/3:1/3 funding model – 23

Number in favour of 50:50 funding model – 40 (60 forms distributed)

Number NOT in favour of 50:50 funding model – 1

COMMUNITY COMMENT

Summaries of notes – three sources

The following notes are compiled from three sources –

- Notes made at each public session
- Submissions received at the consultation email address
- Comments on the response sheets.

Summaries of the comments follow.

Dog control with a regional fence

The most frequent comments about wild dog control were suggestions for control methods. There is reference to biological methods, increased bounties and aerial methods including use of drones. A regular comment was that high levels of landholder participation are required for successful control. It was mentioned that the fence can be used to direct dog movement so that control is achieved.

Concerns were expressed about the need to have a plan for control/removal of dogs from inside the fence and that a plan is also needed for removal in the area outside and adjacent to the fence. Concerns were raised that baiting is not working and questions were raised about the strength of 1080.

At all sessions it was acknowledged that local governments have powers to make landholders comply with wild dog control requirements. The point was also regularly made that it is a challenge to enforce that and local government does not currently enforce compliance

Regional fence design/construction/alignment

Alignment drew comment at each session. On the one hand there were suggestions to include more country rather than less. On the other there were suggestions for minimizing the size including in the BRCPMC submission and to fence out source areas of dogs or to fence to shire boundaries. Road and rail corridors were suggested as suitable for alignment because they provide access and possibly more readily negotiated alignment e.g. the Tambo – Alpha road.

Suggestions have been made for design features including for making grids dog-proof, position of apron and features to extend the life of steel posts. In relation to bushfire action suggestions were made about the width of the cleared zone and the frequency of access points. The inclusion of design features on the inside and outside to manage animal populations such as macropods and dogs are also suggested.

Maintenance of a regional fence

Across all sessions one of the most frequently mentioned items was the importance of maintaining the fence for the benefits to be realized. The most frequently mentioned maintenance problem was that of damage by water and in particular flood damage. A suggested way of dealing with this was to discuss options for design and construction with people who live on likely flood damage waterways and use their advice.

A second frequently mentioned item on maintenance was the frequency of checking needed to be increased from the once per month given in the proposal. A suggestion accompanying this was to have a system by which landholders on the fence line can report when maintenance is required. The DCQ App Fulcrum was suggested as a means of making that happen.

At some sessions the issue was raised that the proposed costs for maintenance was being underestimated in the proposal, and that the cost of maintenance would increase over time.

Governance/ownership of a regional fence

Questions were raised about who would own the fence and who would take on the legal responsibility required for managing it into the future. It was suggested that decisions be made on these items prior to commencement of works.

Concerns about the proposal

At all sessions there have been repeated references to the potential/expected disadvantages to be imposed upon those outside the fence. Disadvantages include more pest animals, more workload to control them, decreased land value and no compensation or support. Two people in Winton said there was no situation in which a fence would be appropriate as someone would always be outside.

The problem of dogs within any fence is recognized and a concern is that they will not be able to be removed. Comment was made to expect difficulties in getting all landholders inside a fence to comply with control of dogs as it is people who can be the problem. The suggestion was made that it may be more so with people running cattle because of differing vulnerability. Size of the proposed area to be enclosed is a frequently mentioned reason for this concern with dog eradication.

Comments were made at some sessions that macropods are a greater cause of concern than dogs. As well comments recognized the fence will influence the movement and collection of

macropods. Some responses made in the sessions were that the effects will be both outside and inside and that the fence offers a starting point for managing macropods numbers on both sides.

Funding of the proposal

Quantitative data on the level of support for the two funding models is detailed earlier.

In relation to funding models, initially in public sessions the three-thirds model to build the fence was presented with maintenance from local sources. After the Muttaborra session the two-halves (State-Federal) plus local maintenance model was also presented.

Points were made by attendees on two aspects of the proposed funding models generally. First was the specific issue that UCV would be an underestimate for areas with good quality pulled country such as around Blackall. Second, the need to make payment of the levy a legal obligation was raised as a point that needed clarification before a decision was made about funding.

Another item raised concerned the question of whether or not those with their own suitable dog-proof fences would have to pay any landholder levy. Others suggested that they would still need to contribute because of the regional benefits of reduced dog movement and the community social gains.

Suggestions were made about demonstrating to landholders with larger holdings any expected increase in land values in the region if dog control is achieved, as the reason for their support.

Comments about costs

Within the comments on costs there were a number of specific ones where people thought aspects of costs were an underestimate e.g. grader hire allowance. As well suggestions were made to consider having small business and residential rate-payers contribute because of the community benefits outlined in the feasibility study.

It was suggested that the cost of removal of dogs from inside the fence should be included in the initial costings.

One single comment of interest made at Winton was that there is a cost to remove any existing fences on the aligned route and that too should be included in costings. A second single comment of interest was to stage the building of the fence to demonstrate effectiveness.

Information needed that may be useful

Attendees raised a number of items that may provide practical information relevant to the building of a regional fence and actions required to control wild dogs and to generate a benefit for the region. Suggested items on which information is needed are recent changes in valuations, tax deductibility implications, clearing permits for the fence line and organic market requirements. Other items were refusal to pay any levy, willful damage to the fence and whether or not landholders could refuse to have the fence on their boundary.

Towards the end of the Winton session the remaining attendees expressed interest in being inside a fence. It was agreed to provide them with costings on inclusion in the regional fence proposal and a whole of shire boundary fence.

Observations made by attendees

Observations were made about what benefits would occur and when. Some referred to the time it will take for benefits to be realized and that small business may not be able to contribute until

financial benefits flow to them.

Observations were made about problems relating to organic certification and the inability to bait under current certification requirements.

An observation was made that in Item 1 of the Questionnaire form, there was potential for skewing responses towards sheep as it was only expected changes in sheep production that were canvassed.

Responses to questions on the 'indication of support' form

Comments in this section were optional. They repeat many of the comments made in the themes in the notes section above.

Four comments not reported in other themes are:

- Concerns with the ecological impact of removal of the top predator (in, *Reasons for support or otherwise*).
- People can look after themselves (in, *My other suggestion/s of a way to deal with dogs*).
- Loss of community (in, *How do you see the future of CW Qld if the regional wild dog control fence concept fails?*)
- Reduction in the number of young people in the region (in, *How do you see the future if wild dog control is not achieved*).

Recommendations arising from community comment

- Examine the use of road and rail corridors for alignment of a regional control fence.
- Establish ownership and governance issues early.
- Develop a plan for managing pest animal numbers outside the fence.
- Develop a detailed plan for how dogs will be removed from inside a regional fence.
- Include the cost of removing any existing fences into project costings.
- In the process of building any regional control fence discuss options for design and construction with people who live on likely flood damage water ways and use their advice.
- Develop a plan for maintenance that will optimize the integrity of any regional fence as a dog-proof fence.
- Put in place mechanisms to measure the level of effectiveness of control of dogs by the fence.
- Calculate the financial implications of a variety of alignments:
 - Include sheep country in Winton shire and take the fence up to and along the Townsville to Mt Isa railway line.
 - Fence each shire separately, sharing costs, etc, where boundaries meet.
 - Examine the possibilities associated with fencing along existing road and rail corridors.
- Keep the submissions email portal open for any further feedback
cqwdcfsubmissions@gmail.com

BRC WILD DOG COMMITTEE - AMENDMENT PROPOSAL FOR THE WILD DOG CHECK FENCE

The following submission has been received from the BRC Wild Dog Committee and is included in the report. The submission is based on an early map used by the steering committee and some of the comment has already been addressed as the fence alignment has been modified. The submission is included in its original form; however it is recommended that the Barcaldine Wild Dog Committee be consulted with an updated map.

Realign fence as follows:

Fence out Idalia National Park and associated areas

Reason -

- ✓ Huge wild dog population
- ✓ Unmanageable fence maintenance
- ✓ Increased cost of erection
- ✓ Limited access

Fence out Thompson River catchment

Reason -

- ✓ Fence crosses 80km of channels resulting in unmanageable maintenance
- ✓ Increased cost of erection
- ✓ Large wild dog population
- ✓ Limited access during wet seasons

Fence out area east of the Tambo – Aramac Road

Reason -

- ✓ Area contains largest wild dog population in the CW region
- ✓ Inclusion of this area would jeopardise the entire fenced area
- ✓ Lowest participation rate in wild dog control currently
- ✓ Water runoff from nearby ranges detrimental to maintenance
- ✓ A fence along the eastern side of the road facilitates access
- ✓ Construction along roadway enables landholders to build off it
- ✓ Construction along roadway reduces cost of erection
- ✓ Cultural and native title considerations of existing site

Adoption of these three amendments would reduce dog population inside the fence by more than 50%.

Additional items for consideration:

1. Erection costs to be split 50/50 between State and Federal Governments.
2. Cost of maintenance to be carried by landholders inside the fenced area through Local Government rate levies.
3. Landholders immediately outside the fence be offered fencing supplies by the management committee at the committee's cost price.
4. Cost of extra dog control measures inside the fenced area to be carried by landholders.

5. Set up of a government controlled board to oversee the project. It is suggested that this board consist of the following representatives:
 - a. Local Council representative from each of the areas involved
 - b. Landholder representative from within each Council area
 - c. State Government representative from the CW area
 - d. Federal Government representative from the CW area
 - e. Representatives from both State and Federal departments with an interest in the project.
6. Consideration be given to topography of land including roadways, rivers, ranges etc in order to allow for a feasible fenceline.

ACTION PLAN

The outline of an action plan is presented below. This plan has been developed with the aim to achieve three important immediate outcomes, as follows –

- Engagement of local government at an appropriate level
- The formation of project management capacity to take the project to the next stage
- Commitment of funding.

Report presentation

The results of the consultation process are important and will be a major lobbying tool. They will need to be presented to any relevant organisations that may be able to supply resources, assistance and or positive publicity.

Present the findings of the consultation process to relevant organisations including:

- RAPAD and the Central West Regional Pest Management Group
- Relevant councils
- Relevant State and Federal Ministers
- Industry organisations
- Media.

Governance arrangements

Local government may be prepared to assume a facilitating and or leadership role in the implementation of this project. This is appropriate as the benefits are regional and local. The Central West Pest Management Group established under RAPAD has a vision of:

‘The Central West Regional Pest Management Group (-) will take a leadership and advocacy role in the effective regional planning controls and management of animal and plant pests in the RAPAD group of councils.

If local government, via RAPAD, is prepared to investigate longer-term governance arrangements there may be an opportunity to do so via the CWRPMG or via an appropriate single purpose entity established under the Local Government Act. While that may be a longer-term outcome should the project proceed it is suggested in any initial stages that governance arrangements include local government representatives (elected and employed) and steering committee members. It would be logical to situate this project in RAPAD with perhaps a specialised board with a project management team responsible to this board.

- Decide on project management governance arrangements
- Decide on an appropriate arrangement/association with RAPAD
- Develop staffing plan for project management
- Identify administration needs
- Develop costing for project management
- Lobby AWI, MLA and others for project management funding
- Establish governance and staff and get working

Implementation/Business Plan

Develop an implementation/business plan, a document on which funding applications are based. This plan will cover the following areas -

- Establish project management capacity and budget.
- Determine reasonably accurate alignment and dimensions and costings.
- Identify sources and costs of fencing materials.
- Identify potential contractors and contractor rates.
- Determine timeframes.
- Determine priority fencing zones.
- Develop maintenance plan.
- Develop a plan for eradication.
- Develop a comprehensive monitoring programme.
- Develop a well constructed publicity campaign.

Source funding

Take the documentation developed so far – Feasibility Study, Results of community consultation and Implementation/business plan to state and federal ministers and their officials. Approach potential sponsors and suppliers of other resources.

Apply for funding from relevant funding rounds.

CONCLUSION

The feasibility study highlighted the costs of wild dogs to the region and demonstrated the feasibility of erecting a regional scale wild dog control fence. The information gathered by and presented in the feasibility study was presented to the community during the consultation process outlined in this report. The community responses and input have been recorded and presented.

The overall level of support for the concept of fencing is very high (93% of all respondents supported the concept). The level of support for the establishment of a regional scale wild dog control fence is high (84% of all respondents).

The primary concerns raised in the community workshops were associated with maintenance of the fence, eradication and control of dogs within the fence, the impact on those outside the fence and the final alignment of the fence. There was general consensus that fencing is effective and that current control methods including baiting, trapping and shooting are not working effectively 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. A wide range of suggestions of how to deal with these issues were made and have been included in the report.

A comment heard regularly across the region is,

“Nothing is working at the present and what we want to know is, when is the industry, the stakeholders, the government, going to try something different, because we need it now!”

It would appear that the general consensus is 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.

**Central Western Queensland
Wild Dog Control Fence Community Consultation Report**

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: SUBMISSIONS MADE ON THE SUBMISSIONS EMAIL

Seven items were received on the address cqwdcfsubmissions@gmail.com

One was a completed Indication of Support form and is included in that section of the main Report document. The other six items are included here.

Item 1

From: davegrant71 <davegrant71@hotmail.com>

Date: 2 July 2014 22:26:37 AEST

To: cqwdcfsubmissions@gmail.com

Subject: Proposed Dingo Fence

To whom it may concern

First of all I would like to apologize for not being able to get along today.

I have been living and working in Queensland for over 20 years, the last 16 of which have been with the largest contractor in Queensland and have been based in Longreach the last 11 years.

It has been probably the last 10 years that the dogs have started to have a big impact on our industry.

One statistic that sticks in my mind is the fact that in the late 80's early 90's NGS shore 780, 000 sheep within 100km of Blackall.

This would take at least 4 full time teams. One team equals full time work for up to 11 people.

At the moment in the same area there is only about 115, 000.

That's not enough work for one team for 6 months.

To the best of my knowledge I think that there is only one local shearer based in Blackall a far cry from the 20 to 25 that once lived there.

At the moment we think we are losing around 3 to 4 properties a year in Queensland to dogs, this could be up to 25, 000 sheep per year.

These are only figures from our company, contractors all over the state will tell you the same story.

The fact is that if something isn't done soon we are going to lose an industry that puts a lot of people into our local communities.

SHEEP AND WOOL=JOBS. Very simple.

If this means that we need to put up a fence to save an industry I think that is what we should be doing.

Hope this can help.

Regards

Dave Grant

Item 2

From: Lisa Magoffin [<mailto:magoffinfamily@bigpond.com>]
Sent: Friday, 18 July 2014 12:00 PM
To: cqwdfsubmissions@gmail.com **Cc:** jandjhardie@bigpond.com
Subject: Proposed fence

Dear Ian and team,

Thank you for your presentation yesterday. I found it to be very informative and I can see how much work has gone into it thus far.

Further to my thoughts from yesterday's meeting I would like to express my concerns that how effectively or successfully we could undertake an eradication program of the dogs once the fence is completed. I did bring this up as a point at the meeting however upon more thought overnight I didn't feel this part of the project was discussed enough. I personally feel we need to discuss further the concept of cluster fences which may make eradication a more achievable prospect. I only bring this up now as I know you are working towards a submission as an outcome following these consultations and I just wonder whether we have given enough time to the magnitude of the task ahead to eradicate the dogs from within.

My thoughts.

Thank you,

Lisa Magoffin

"Ashra Downs"
Muttaburra QLD 4732
Landline: 0746 587137
Mobile: 0458 580728
Email: magoffinfamily@bigpond.com

Item 3

From: "P and T Rose" <pt.rose@westnet.com.au>
Date: 29 July 2014 16:52:58 AEST
To: "fence submission" <cqwdfsubmissions@gmail.com>
Subject: wild dog fence

Hello

I can't make it to the meeting so would just like to send in my comments and thoughts on the fence.

The whole big area fence, makes no sense at all to me. The cost is huge, with no guarantee of success. We can't kill the dogs in that area now, what difference will a huge fence with grids on roads make? Sooner or later we need to turn our attention to killing dogs instead of maps and fences. The cost of the fence and the maintenance (supposedly), would go a long way in increased scalp bounty and trappers. So for me, NO, let's use the money to kill dingoes, not just annoy them temporarily.

Regards

Tracy Rose

ARAMAC

Item 4

From: "Anne Sprague" <spragueja@bigpond.com>

Date: 5 August 2014 9:19:05 AEST

To: <cqwdcfsubmissions@gmail.com>

Subject: North Eastern Part of Blackall Shire

Hi

I have attended the Barcaldine Consultation meeting and viewed the maps of where the proposed check fence is going to go. Jason was unable to attend the meetings and we have since discussed the proposal from notes I took at the meeting.

Our main concern is what assistance properties outside the check fence will get from Councils for Wild Dog control. At the last baiting in May this year the only assistance this NE part of the shire received was the services of a paid Council worker to inject meat which was provided by landholders NOT COUNCIL. If we didn't provide our own meat we had to purchase roo meat at \$3.50-\$4.00/kg. The funding through Wild Dog model for Syndicates does not allow for the purchase of meat. So with this in mind this part of the Shire is currently getting very little assistance with wild dog control so there is a high chance this will disappear when the Check fence is built and everyone is trying to cull the wild dogs inside the fence. This part of the Shire have been baiting and controlling dogs for numerous decades and we don't want to be left out or forgotten.

We all feel that the fence would be better going further East along where the original dog fence went which included all the Blackall Shire and Jericho. We all feel we will be paying for the fence through taxes so we might as well get some benefit of being inside the fence.

We are also concerned that only a small minority of the Shire population attended these meetings. I have spoken to quite a few people in our area who were unable to attend due to business commitments and they are not keen to paying levies for a fence that is no benefit to them. We strongly feel there needs to be more consultation with landholders as to where the proposed fence is going to go and HOW the wild dogs INSIDE the fence will be controlled.

Overall this is a lot of money to spend and a lot of money will need to be spent trying to control the wild dogs inside the proposed fence . We just wonder if it is cost effective.

Thanks for noting our concerns.

Anne and Jason Sprague

"Neverfail"

Blackall QLD 4472

Item 5

From: robyn and terry [mailto:stratford01@bigpond.com]

Sent: Friday, 8 August 2014 11:53 AM

To: 'cqwdcfsubmissions@gmail.com'

Subject: Dog Gone!!

Good Morning Gerry and Ian,

I trust your consults through the west have gone well in total, and now you have mountains of feedback to synergise into your next stage.

To that end, and as alluded to in Jericho, I offer the letter I wrote for the ABC journalist, Ian Townsend last year, when he was out interviewing for his story – ‘*The dogs that ate the sheep industry*’. Do you want the accompanying photo that then went around the world? The thirty hanging dead dogs on the Narbethong Road in Rosemont; that was published by Stern in their monthly glossy which has a readership of over a million, and a German TV program (Red Seven).

Then as now, I continue to encourage a wider understanding of the situation in which we currently find ourselves trying to tackle the wild dog issues. What was happening to that camel before the final straw!!

Further I cannot emphasise enough that the consult is skewed by the lack of those who believe it has nothing to do with them or will have little affect, and simply weren’t at the meetings. These are mostly beefies, many of whom I have spoken to and are generally unaware of the community contribution that will be required, both directly and indirectly, for both the building and long term maintenance of the fence. There will be an outcry that will question the consult methodology, just a warning!!

Lastly, I reiterate the need for a workable maintenance model for the fence especially on hearing of all the current problems they are having with wild dogs inside the control fence around Tambo right now; and that the funding must include the post-fence, wide scale eradication of dogs on the ‘new inside’ otherwise ‘twill be all for nought.

For beyond the wire, we will speak again

With thanks

Yours

Robyn Adams

Landholder, Beef Producer and Chair of the Desert Uplands Committee

0746510939

stratford01@bigpond.com

Item 6

DH : AN

7 August 2014

Central Queensland Wild Dog Check Fence Submissions

Via email cqwdfsubmissions@gmail.com

Dear Sir,

Wild Dog Check Fence Submission

Council has received the attached submission from its Wild Dog Committee and has agreed to forward it for consideration.

If you have any further questions regarding this or any other matter, please contact myself on 46515625.

Yours faithfully,



D A Howard

Chief Executive Officer

**All correspondence to be
addressed to the
Chief Executive Officer
PO Box 191
BARCALDINE QLD 4725**

www.barcaldinerc.qld.gov.au

AMENDMENT PROPOSAL FOR THE WILD DOG CHECK FENCE

A. Realign fence as per map (copy attached)

Area 1 – Fence out Idalia National Park and associated areas

Reason –

- ✓ Huge wild dog population
- ✓ Unmanageable fence maintenance
- ✓ Increased cost of erection
- ✓ Limited access

Area 2 – Fence out Thompson River catchment

Reason –

- ✓ Fence crosses 80km of channels resulting in unmanageable maintenance
- ✓ Increased cost of erection
- ✓ Large wild dog population
- ✓ Limited access during wet seasons

Area 3 – Fence out area east of the Tambo – Aramac Road

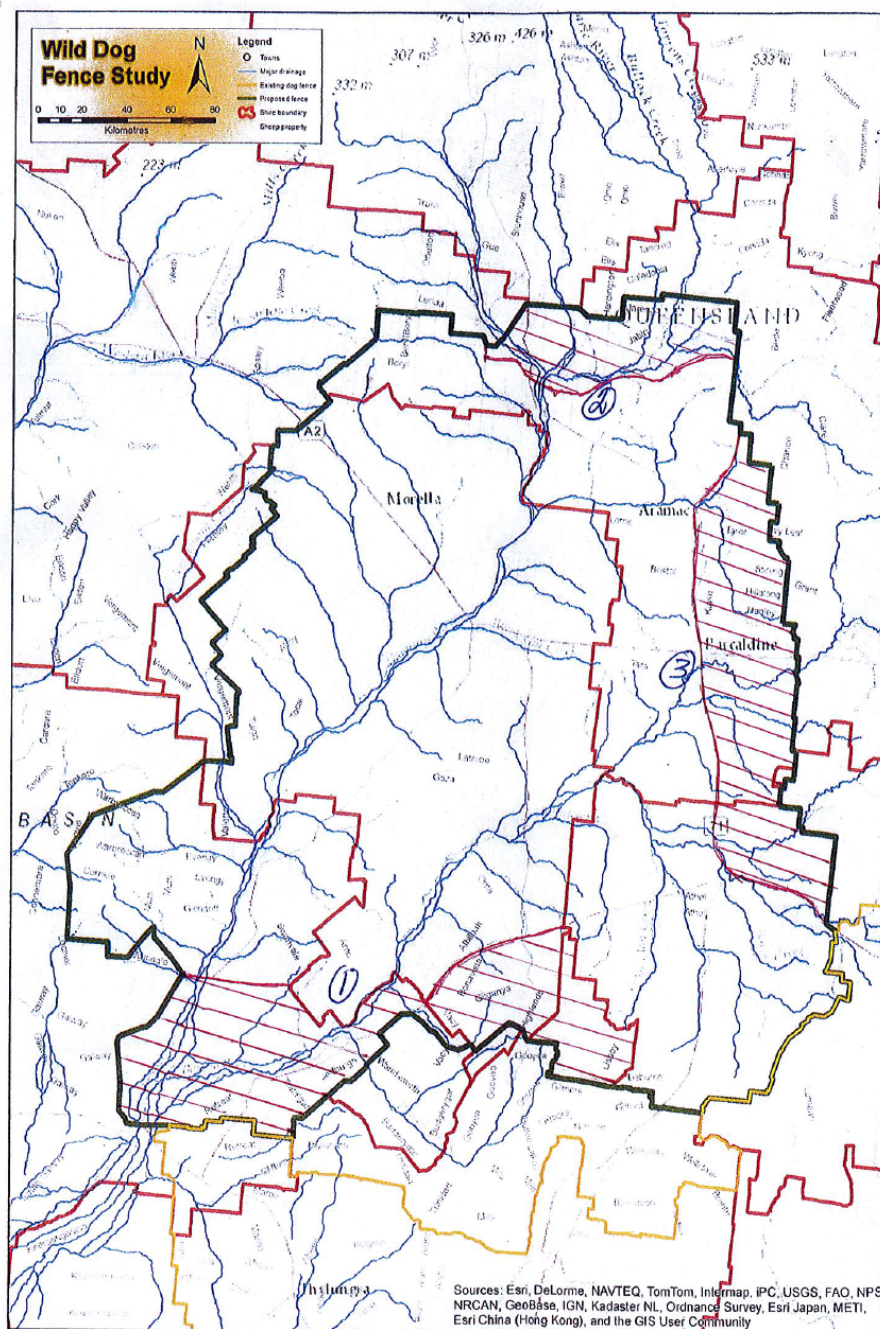
Reason –

- ✓ Area contains largest wild dog population in the CW region
- ✓ Inclusion of this area would jeopardise the entire fenced area
- ✓ Lowest participation rate in wild dog control currently
- ✓ Water runoff from nearby ranges detrimental to maintenance
- ✓ A fence running along the eastern side of the road eliminates the need for all-weather access
- ✓ Construction along roadway enables landholders to build off it
- ✓ Construction along road way reduces cost of erection as divisional fences are in place on one side
- ✓ Cultural and native title considerations of existing site

Adoption of these three amendments would reduce dog population inside the fence by more than 50%.

Additional items for consideration:

7. Erection costs to be split 50/50 between State and Federal Governments
8. Cost of maintenance to be carried by landholders inside the fenced area through Local Government rate levies
9. Landholders immediately outside the fence be offered fencing supplies by the management committee at the committee's cost price
10. Cost of extra dog control measures inside the fenced area to be carried by landholders
11. Set up of a government controlled board to oversee the project. It is suggested that this board consist of the following representatives:
 - a. Local Council representative from each of the areas involved
 - b. Landholder representative from within each Council area
 - c. State Government representative from the CW area
 - d. Federal Government representative from the CW area
 - e. Representatives from both State and Federal departments with an interest in the project
12. Consideration be given to topography of land including roadways, rivers, ranges etc in order to allow for a feasible fenceline



Item 7 - Separate letter 1

Response to Questionnaire regarding Wild Fence

The length of the fence and the area covered would be impossible to manage.

This fence would cross rough country and flooded country and have major roads entering into it, maintaining it in a dog proof condition would not be possible. Because of the depredations of wild dogs, time is of importance, construction of a fence of this magnitude would take a considerable amount of valuable time.

What of the dogs which would be fenced in, they will be no easier to eradicate then, than they are now. No, we have to look at a different approach

Our efforts should be directed at pressuring the Government to legislate for a uniform dog bounty over the State. A uniform bounty would prevent rorting the system, a dog scalp would be worth the same irrespective of where it came from. A uniform bounty, provided that it is realistic; forget about fifty dollars or seventy dollars; would encourage many capable dog trappers and shooters to participate in dog control and earn a few dollars.

I would urge individuals and councillors to lobby politicians and bureaucrats in an endeavour for the introduction of a uniform bounty. Make it clear to these people that wild dogs are not just a problem to wool growers and cattle producers, or just to people in rural areas, but that they present a grave economic problem at Federal and State level.

Fred Rich 02/08/2014

Item 8 - Separate letter 2

Mrs Jenny Keogh

Chair of The Central West Wild Dog Control Fence Steering Committee

YARAKA Consultation Meeting

01/07/2014

I would like to thank the Steering Committee for "stepping up", on behalf of the Central West Community to address a problem that threatens the economic viability of rural production in the Central West.

The viability of rural production in the Central West depends on Producers investing in productivity enhancing projects to keep ahead of the rising costs of production.

Wild dogs are causing a loss of livestock productivity.

No livestock producer can afford any loss in the light of rising costs.

The loss of one lamb or calf to dogs, cannot be made up for somewhere else in a livestock enterprise.

The Feasibility Study has estimated the Regional cost of wild dog predation with an expectation for increase AND offered a possible economically viable solution.

In my view, building a Regional dog proof fence around the Central West is the foundation building block to combat Regional economic decline.

It is true that not all Landholders are in favour of eliminating the wild dog pest.

This view should be respected.

Conversely, the Landholders who do not wish to eliminate, or do not wish to be part of a Regional wild dog elimination scheme must be responsible for their views by fencing their pests in.

A dog proof boundary to ensure neighbours aren't impacted by the pests they admire or do not wish to eliminate or have eliminated on their behalf.

With a Regional dog proof fence in place, the foundation building block, co-operating landholders have the option of further fencing for wild dogs individually or in multiple cells at their own cost.

I am prepared to invest in fencing as part of a Regional scheme/opportunity.

This situation will allow Landholders to elect the type of livestock enterprise they operate based on Market opportunities rather than be dictated to by wild dogs.

A diversified business is a stronger business.

A diversified Region is a stronger Region.

I support the concept of a Regional dog fence and a Regional campaign to eliminate the wild dog pest.

John Beattie

ARNO

ISISFORD

APPENDIX 2: COMMENTS ON THE RESPONSE FORMS

Q1. Reasons why fencing is or is not a practical way to control wild dogs (ordered by frequency)

- It is the best chance to control wild dogs
- A fence will provide a barrier to movement
- Maintenance is a concern
- Eradication of wild dogs from inside the fence is a concern
- Prefer cluster fencing
- Fencing will work if it is part of a larger strategic effort
- Macropod numbers are a concern
- Organic regulations are a concern
- Provides landcare and sustainability benefits
- People are the main problem

Q2. Reasons for support or otherwise of a regional wild dog control fence in the central west (ordered by frequency)

- It is the best solution to the current dog problem
- Will facilitate other fencing
- Will work if it is part of a larger plan to control dogs
- Consideration must be given to those outside the fence
- Will stop the incursion of dogs
- Is a great place to start
- Will improve the regional community
- Land values inside the fence will possibly increase
- Can't afford individual or cluster fencing
- Concerns with the ecological impact of removal of the top predator
- Suggestion of more involvement of DCQ
- The effect of the fence can be measured economic, social, environmental
- Suggest moving the fence further east
- Suggest moving the fence further west
- Suggest moving the fence further south west
- Producer apathy is a concern
- River crossings are a concern

Q3. My other suggestion/s of a way to deal with the wild dog problem in the central west region is (ordered by frequency)

- More 1080 baiting
- Enforcement of compliance with control methods
- Raise the bounty
- More trapping

- Employment of doggers and trappers
- Biological control
- Research into the effectiveness of 1080
- Fencing – at cluster or individual levels
- Consider incentive driven industry focussed solutions supporting individual fencing through QRAA or something like GABSI
- Improve participation in control activities
- Fence the national parks
- Fence into smaller areas eg the shire boundaries
- Fence waters and control access
- Control town, domestic and guard dogs
- Distribute state and or federal funding evenly throughout the entire area with wild dog problems
- Establish a trial of increasing the bounty for 2 years before making a decision on the fence
- Provision of tax incentives, eg deduction on new fence construction
- People can look after themselves

Other suggestions

- Invest the \$13m and use the interest to supplement existing control programmes – higher bounty, more baiting etc.
- Must ensure the budget is sufficient to achieve positive results in the short term, first 1 or 2 years or it will lose momentum and people will give up on control etc
- Consideration must be given to a contribution to maintenance by townspeople
- It will be most important to do something about macropod numbers
- Resistance among the population may mean it will take longer to achieve positive results therefore it will be important to win widespread support before construction begins

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

Q2. How do you see the future of CW Qld if the regional wild dog control fence concept fails? (Responses ordered by frequency)

- Reduction in sheep numbers
- Loss of community
- Negative impact on well being
- Negative impact on regional economy and rural businesses
- Decline in services
- Reduction in cattle numbers
- Increase in the construction of cluster and individual fences
- Loss of diversification options
- Increase in macropod numbers
- Aggregation of properties
- Reduction in the number of young people in the region

APPENDIX 3: COMMUNITY COMMENT NOTES FROM ALL VENUES

The notes of comments have been grouped into what appear to be logical clusters. Each of the recorded comment has the initial/s of the session where it was noted – Y=Yaraka; I=Isisford; L=Longreach; Bci=Barcaldine; W=Winton; M=Muttaburra; J=Jericho; Bkl=Blackall; S=Stonehenge; A=Aramac.

PROJECT SUPPORT

General items

- We need a multi-shire fence because we are losing our critical mass of sheep numbers. We will lose our sheep infrastructure and so the region will decline economically, numerically etc J
- Wild dogs are having a significant impact on cattle industry too. J
- Town businesses are suffering as well. S
- Shires and RAPAD should be out in front giving positive leadership! J
- Note to AWI/MLA... Y
 - Profile of sheep and wool has dwindled in Australia
 - Need to restore national awareness and pride in industry
- Get ideas and feedback on the benefits of the fence from local businesses. M
- Send a copy of the community consultation report to each library where consultations held for those who want to look at a hard copy. M
- Contact absentee landlords – Bill & Julie Scott; Richard. Y (Response forms taken by Harry to do this.)
- Property values should be higher inside the enclosed fence because of increased diversification possibilities – sheep/cattle. J
- There is the potential for goat enterprises inside the fence. M

Publicity

- Business-focused flyer highlighting potential for loss of population. I
- Create publicity for project – it is a positive story to tell. Bci
- Create portal for collection of submissions of support; options are website, [dedicated email address...done by Dom that day]. Y
- Greater use of media to garner government support [discussed by SC members present after session who agreed government is currently on side and a confrontational style would not be suitable] Y
- Look for a high profile patron to promote fence. E.g. Quentin Bryce as a former Governor and Governor-General with her CW connection. Bci
- Include a project budget allowance for PR on project benefits etc to the community. M

NRM benefits

- Project offers Landcare and sustainability value and additionally offers research possibilities and opportunities. L
- There are potential benefits for Pastoral College. L
- What NRM programs could be attached to fence? e.g. to control pest plants and animals. Bci

Summary

While no time was devoted to specifically seeking project support because this was covered in responses to be collected on response sheets, some comments of support were made. Generally they refer to the value to the sheep and cattle industries of controlling wild dogs because of the damage they do. As well there are suggestions for publicizing the value of the project and of acquiring a patron such as the former GG because of her central west connection. The NRM opportunities are mentioned.

COMMENTS ABOUT COST

Suggestions of underestimates

- Grader hire rate used is not right – is 30% below real rate. Bkl
- It is a myth that control fence will make Council costs go away. J
- Feed new estimates of fence maintenance into cost model Y
 - Increased corrosion of steel posts and foot netting in red/reactive soils
- Costs of fence establishment around Idalia national park Y
- Include cost of each road crossing in costings L
- Include cost estimate for access to fence and woody weed control L
- Check budget estimates and examine use of volunteer labour W
- Current wild dog control funding from councils will not support 100% baiting participation L

Outlier comments

- There is a cost involved in removing an existing/old fence where the new one is to go. J
- Look for fundraising options to initiate project L
- Consider a staged approach to building the fence (to demonstrate how it will be done and how it will achieve its targets). W

For control inside fence

- Compare cost to clean out smaller area (cluster) vs large area of multi-shire fence. Bkl
- Cost of clean-up after fencing a large area and small area. Bkl
- Costs of controlling dogs fenced in could be considered in maintenance cost; needs to be budgeted; what can councils do? L
- May be a need for increased control/expenditure by LGs post erection for eradication L
- Cost of eradication [inside fence] needs to be factored into overall budget Y

Cattle

- The cattle impact is greater than is currently recognized. Bkl

Levy and who may pay it

- Steering Committee to check thinking on residential ratepayers contributing to fence [costs] Y
- Livestock transaction levy as funding option [this was not supported by the others present for reasons of seasons when to dry and no selling; people who trade get hit multiple times; depots don't sell, just move cattle on so aren't covered] Y
- Consider use of carrying capacity as possible basis for maintenance levy I
- Borrow \$1.2M at 4.5% and invest at a higher rate to generate maintenance funds I
- Approach business retailers to contribute – are there representative groups? L
- Should residential/business ratepayers contribute? L

- Could a proportion of maintenance be paid for by residential rate payers? Bci

Funding

- Are there alternative funding options L
- Local Government could put revenue into fencing and infrastructure. Bkl

Summary

Within the comments on costs there were a number of specific ones made where people thought aspects of costs were an underestimate e.g. grader hire allowance. As well suggestions were made to consider having small business and residential rate-payers contribute because of the community benefits outlined in the feasibility study. Next it was suggested that the cost of removal of dogs from inside the fence should be included in the initial costings. One single comment of interest made at Winton was that there is a cost to remove any existing fences on the aligned route and that too should be included in costings. A second single comment of interest was to stage the building of the fence to demonstrate effectiveness.

REGIONAL FENCE DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION/ALIGNMENT

Design and questions on design

- With the hinged footer over humps – will it give enough? A
- What standard of fence denotes “dog-proof” if thinking about payment of levy? Bkl
- What is the longevity of the fence? Bkl
- Need a big apron on fence. Bkl
- Check the cost of materials for crossings. J
- What strain lengths are possible? J
- Grid crossing ideas... I
 - Hot tape on grid rails
 - Hot tape between grid rails
 - Inverted/split conveyor belting electrified
- What access will there be through the fence? Bci
- Access track on outside or apron side. Bci
- Suggestion is that location of apron should be on outside. Bci
- Consider stainless steel plain wire near bottom for long life. M
- Dip pickets in tar prior to driving – pre or post delivery Y
- Steel post integrity (how long they last) needs to be very high. M
- Mandatory 10m cleared zone each side of fence for bushfire break. Bci
- Check costs of this netting/barb option (i.e. net to 160 + 1 barb). Bci
- Roo traps on fence lines have been used in the past for reducing the problem. S
- What mechanisms can be included in fence design on the outside to make dog control easier/cost effective? E.g. spur fences to channel dogs to where they can be eliminated. J
- Has steering committee looked at electric fencing as an option? A
- Consider using electric fencing in certain parts e.g. less productive, ranges, poison country north of Jericho. J
- Does machinery make it easier to fence in tougher country? J
- Fence to use newest design and wire. Bkl
- 5’ to 5”6’ for dog fencing is the general rule. Bkl
- Need dog barriers at grids L

- Check if fence height of 5'6" is effective in stopping jumping by x-bred dogs. M

Alignment

- Close gap between new and existing fence Y
- Alignment key to reducing flood damage exposures Y
- In past the Barrier fence was on the Tambo Alpha Road. Bkl
- Fairness of fence alignment - any fence can create inequities and can never be fair to other people. W
- Could fence possibly become a de-facto biosecurity border in the event of a disease outbreak. W
- Am more in favour of local clusters. Bkl
- Consider a shire by shire approach to fence each shire as the proposed area is too large. Bkl
- Have councils been approached to fence by shires? Bkl
- Use old position of Barrier fence e.g. Alpha –Tambo. Bkl
- Include Blackall Tambo Shire in whole regional fence. Bkl
- Need to consult again onw 'Board' is formed, to decide on fence line. Bkl
- Use railway corridor for fence establishment. J
- Is fence going to be where the old Barrier Fence was? It should go back into that position J
- Decisions on alignment...one possibility (proposed by Rob Chandler in response to a question form Terry Brennan) by a project management group consisting of 1 LGA rep from each of the 4 Councils inside the fence + 1 grazier from each of those shires + 2 from the Steering Committee. J
- The mechanism that will make the decision about the fence alignment is still not in place! J
- How will fence alignment be finalized? Bci
- Consider moving line of fence west from its current suggested alignment so it is closer to Barcaldine. Bci
- Consider fence alignment L
 - Along watersheds
 - Parallel to water courses
- Review fence alignment and consider open-ended fence that uses the existing/former alignment of Barrier fence. History suggests trapping, baiting and original alignment was effective as it fenced off dividing range. W
- Align as far north as possible on the downs as is easier to fence. M
- Fence all highways as a guide to alignment. W
- Is it possible to cut corners on the shape of the current proposed fence to reduce costs? (i.e. reduce the size of the area enclosed.) W
- We feel that the fence would be better going further East along where the original dog fence went which included all the Blackall Shire and Jericho. We feel we will be paying for the fence through taxes so we might as well get some benefit of being inside the fence. (Written submission)

General

- Terrick Trust Agreements – over time has demonstrated a fence will control dogs as long as it is maintained. Bkl
- In 1886 there were sheep in the Jericho area. J
- Someone who has fenced asked...If fence is to protect the sheep industry, where do we go if this doesn't work? (Initially they had success with a netting fence, later it didn't protect their deer.) J

- How long after the fence is up before landholders will get relief from the dogs? J
- What happens for landowner where new stock fence needs to be replaced with the dog control fence? I
- Is support possible for ‘blister’ fences? [i.e. for those on outside who want to build a fence on the rest of their boundary while the fence is being built.] Bci

Summary

Alignment drew regular comment at each session. On the one hand there were suggestions to include more country rather than less. On the other there were suggestions for minimizing the size to only include the mixed grazing areas, fence out source areas of dogs or to fence to shire boundaries. Road and rail corridors were suggested as suitable for alignment because they provide access and more readily negotiated alignment e.g. the Tambo – Alpha road. The previous position of the Barrier Fence was also suggested as a suitable alignment.

Suggestions have been made for design features including for making grids dog-proof, position of apron and features to extend the life of steel posts. In relation to bushfire action suggestions were made about the width of the cleared zone and the frequency of access points. As well the inclusion of design features on the inside and outside to manage animal populations such as macropods and dogs are suggested. The use of electric fencing in certain parts (e.g. poison country north of Jericho) was suggested.

A question asked was, ‘how long after the fence is up could landholders expect to get relief from dogs?’

MAINTENANCE OF A REGIONAL FENCE

Problems to be aware of

- Problems with flood rubbish on channels. A
- Flood waters are an issue in Jericho area. J
- River crossings will be a big maintenance problem due to assess following rain and flooding. Thompson was 12 km wide in a flood. S
- Need to have a plan beforehand to deal with washed out fences. S
- Comment – SC to check assumptions on: Y
 - Frequency of maintenance in times of rain
- Inspection frequency may need to be greater than monthly
- Increase the amount of scrutiny/timing of checking fence. J
- Vermin are a problem with maintaining the fence in good order. J
- Question fence maintenance costs proposal, and also footer lifespan and road maintenance. W
- Comment – SC to check assumptions on: Y
 - Frequency of maintenance in times of rain
 - Costs of maintenance
- Test thinking on maintenance L
 - Increases in maintenance costs over time
- I reiterate the need for a workable maintenance model for the fence especially on hearing of all the current problems they are having with wild dogs inside the control fence around Tambo right now; and that the funding must include the post-fence, wide scale eradication of dogs on the ‘new inside’ otherwise ‘twill be all for nought. (Written submission)

How problem situations may be handled

- Value in a special meeting to discuss positioning of river crossings with Stonehenge district people because they have local experience. S
- Check fence straight after rain and keep checking every 2 days till soil dries out. Bkl
- Have a mechanism for adjacent property owners to initiate/request maintenance L
- Management of woody weeds and grass management along fence. [Suggestion made by others at the session is that both could be controlled fully either side of fence with chemical treatment. W
- Offer landholders adjacent to the fence an option to maintain fence as contractors. Y

Sources of useful maintenance information

- Talk to staff maintaining current Barrier fence for ideas on maintenance of new fence. S
- If current Barrier Fence maintenance program is too top heavy, how do we make sure our fence maintenance is not? Bkl

General

- Integrate plan for maintenance cost into initial cost. Bci, W
- Maintenance costs – allowance in budget for seasonal flood damage, e.g. loader, dozer hire where required. Check fence design budget to include crossing water courses and heavy vehicle equipment hire. M
- Consider government (local, state, federal) input into maintenance because of the open-ended nature of maintenance cost. M

Summary

Across all sessions one of the most frequently mentioned items was the importance of maintaining the fence as dog-proof for the benefits to be realized. The most frequently mentioned maintenance problem mentioned was that of damage by water and in particular flood damage. A suggested way of dealing with this was to discuss options for design and construction with people who live on likely flood damage waterways and use their advice.

A second frequently mentioned item on maintenance was the frequency of checking needed to be increased from the once per month given in the proposal. A suggestion accompanying this was to have a system by which landholders on the fence line can report when maintenance is required. The DCQ app Fulcrum was suggested as a means of making that happen.

At some sessions the issue was raised that the proposed costs for maintenance was being underestimated in the proposal, and that the cost of maintenance would increase over time.

GOVERNANCE/OWNERSHIP OF A REGIONAL FENCE

- Who would own fence? Board? Incorporated body? Bci
- Legalities need to be sorted out prior to commencement of works. Bci
- Ownership models – Council/Shire involvement in maintenance; equality of levy. Bci
- Legal requirements for governance – possibly a board. Could be of local government, state government and landholders. M
- What is the legal basis for a levy? M
- Because of the open-endedness of maintenance it means landholders will be paying the greatest part of the cost and this should be a good basis for ownership. M

Summary

Questions were raised about who would own the fence and who would take on the legal responsibility required for managing it into the future. It was suggested that decisions be made on these items prior to commencement of works.

DOG CONTROL WITH A REGIONAL FENCE

Control methods/techniques

- More pressure to be put on mine sites to east to control wild dogs as they are a source for the west. Reports of people working there having seen plenty of dogs. A
- Places where dogs are e.g. national parks to be fenced out. A
- What is the feasibility of increasing the dog bounty? A
- Higher bounties have been shown to be effective in the past. A
- Bounty has not really worked to a level where dog control achieved; dog nos. still rising. Bkl
- Raise bounty to increase dog take. [At same time it was said with different bounty levels scalps move to higher bounty. Suggestion made to have standard bounty across State.] W
- Bounty – 1931-1936 bounty on Tas tiger extinct; 1971-1976 NT bounty on crocodiles. Had to stop 1976 because of low numbers. At time 3 croc skins = 2 weeks pay. If dog scalp was worth enough e.g. \$200, cost would be \$10M to pay for 50,000 dogs. Range in number given for Google search on numbers of wild dogs in Qld is 30-50,000. A
- Fence can be used to congregate dogs for easier trapping and control. S
- Fences can be used to direct dogs off the fence. Bkl
- Are there options for biological control? Bkl
- Is there funds for biological/ecological research for wild dog control? J
- Biological control – fertility/diseases. [Point made at Winton by others present that parvo virus is already present and dog numbers are still rising.] W, M
- Asking government for biological control could be a bargaining point i.e. investing in bio control vs investing in fence. [Point made by others at Muttaborra that bio control would take too long and domestic dog owners would not support and government then wouldn't.] M
- There are places that are fenced and are free of dogs. Bkl
- Are lacking the tools to get rid of dogs so need assistance, e.g. drones. J
- Important to have participation in control measures L; Bci; M
- Shooting dogs from choppers. Bci
- Fence dog hot spots in – e.g. dog habitats; hills. W x2
- Recognise dog corridors – e.g. pipelines when graded; NP access tracks. W
- Be strategic in control – in areas of source of dogs. W
- The control activities in the zone outside the fence needs to include doggers. M
- What is feasibility of increasing dog bounty? A
- Feasibility of group of landholders to employ a dogger. A

Concerns

- What funding will there be for wild dog control outside the fence? Bci
- Control of dogs inside completed fence requires a strategic plan and may need separate funding L M

- Dog eradication plan required for area within and adjacent to fence (more policing, trapping etc). That needs to be costed into project. I, Bcl
- Need a parallel funded plan to control/eradicate dogs inside the fence Y
- Clean-up of dogs inside – how many \$M will it cost; how long will it take? Bkl
- Who is going to be responsible for removal of dogs in the immediate area outside the fence? J
- Is 1080 up to strength? A
- What is bait strength? Is there an odour of gas which is used to inject the bait [and smell puts dogs off]? W
- Dog baiting not working to the standard it was. Bkl
- The way that baiting is carried out is important. Bkl
- Fence may allow baiting to stop for a few (e.g. 10) years then reintroduce. Bkl
- Strategy is needed because dogs are now breeding in the regrowth areas. J
- What has changed? In the last 2 years dog numbers have jumped out of the ground? J
- Difficult to control dogs in range country. J
- Participation rates in baiting vary in Winton. W
- Dog control by shooting is difficult with current firearms laws, e.g. bolt out and locked in glovebox so it takes some time to get the gun ready and dog disappears. W
- What is the role of absentee landlords in reducing level of dog control? W
- Where will expert trappers come from to do the control work? Bkl
- Lot of rough country in the proposed area – as many dogs inside as outside. Unless there is 100% commitment all the fence will do is contain them. Bkl

Local government

- Compliance is a challenge for Local Government. Bkl
- Local Government need to have the will to make it happen. Bkl
- Dangerous to force people to bait. Bkl
- Look for things that enable wild dog control. Bkl
- Stock routes are critical for on-going control. Bkl (There is some baiting done on stockroutes, however it is not as much to protect drovers' dogs. *From Deputy Mayor*)
- Alternative means to make landholders comply with legal control requirements and get state government support with enforcement. Fence NPs (so dogs can't get out) and increase other controls to 100%. W

General

- Invest \$13M and use interest for dog control. W
- For the fence to be effective it will require a dog control plan inside fenced area. Also for feral animals and macropods. W
- Fence is not a 'silver bullet' fix – must keep doing what do now to control dogs. M
- Anticipate greater and more immediate benefit for those immediately inside fence. M
- Understanding why we have a dog problem will assist control inside and outside i.e. get some science behind control strategy. M
- Some NPs bait and shoot and some don't – question is of effectiveness? W
- Set up mechanisms to measure the effectiveness of controls inside the fence. M

Summary

The most frequent comments about wild dog control were suggestions for control methods. There is reference to biological methods, increased bounties and aerial methods including use of drones.

It was also said that dog numbers are still increasing. At times reference was made to the success of current fencing for control. The element of acting strategically to increase the effectiveness of control activities e.g. identifying dog corridors and fencing (in or out) source areas where dogs breed, was referred to in some sessions. A more regularly made comment was that high levels of landholder participation are required for successful control. It was mentioned that the fence can be used to direct dog movement so that control is achieved.

Concerns were expressed about the need to have a plan for control/removal of dogs from inside the fence and that a plan is also needed for removal in the area outside and adjacent to the fence. Concerns were raised that baiting is not working and questions were raised about the strength of 1080 and the use of gas to inject baits leaving a smell that dogs avoid. In Jericho there was a well supported comment that dogs are now breeding in regrowth country which was not a traditional breeding ground.

At all session it was acknowledged that local governments have powers to make landholders comply with wild dog control requirements, however the point was also regularly made that it is a challenge to enforce it.

At single comment about assessing dog control was made in Muttaborra where it was suggested that mechanisms be put in place to measure the effectiveness of controls as an assessment of the effectiveness of any fencing project.

FUNDING OF THE PROPOSAL

Levy payment

- Will there be exemption for those who already have their own exclusion fence for cost of building regional fence? A
- Could these with an existing dog fence pay a reduced or nil levy? Bci
- Those who have their own fence should still contribute to the cost of building and maintenance because of what it offers regionally. A
- Every rate-payer including town businesses will have to contribute. S
- Town and country – how can we share the maintenance as there is a regional benefit? Bkl
- Comment from Stafford Olsen at Clipex, Brisbane...some of his customers have expressed the concern that they will be levied for the cost of the fence even though they have already protected themselves. He was of the view that these landholders would like to not have to pay. In the conversation we talked of the idea of at least some discount being given for their fencing. He said that any fence would need to be assessed as suitably dog-proof fence. (Pers Comm)
- It is hard even to pay rates in hard times. J

Funding model

- UCV not necessarily right for some of the pulled/improved country (as the basis for the any levy); for Blackall UCV not accurate at all. Bkl
- High UCV properties will be paying a lot per property. J
- Check the higher UCV model so rough country pay less. W
- Check Councils' abilities to administrate levy and borrow funds. L
- Check how to manage adjustments in UCV and maintain cash flow from levies. L
- For local government to levy landholders they require it to be attached to land. Could it be linked to title? Does need a legal basis. Bci
- Is it a 4-council fence? Bci

- What is the link between fence and land titles, and lease agreements with DNRM? W
- Funding model (suggested by Rob Chandler):
 - Capital cost met by State/Fed governments
 - Funding for maintenance levied and managed by local government and backed by State legislation. M
- How was the Barrier Fence funded? J

Suggestions

- Large landholders may need to be approached differently to demonstrate increased land values due to fence, because of the amount they will be paying. I
- Look for possible contributions for Local Government to control dogs inside and outside of new fence once built. S
- 100% tax deduction for fencing would be valuable. Bkl
- If fence gets bigger/area will have to ask the government for more money. J
- Involve different stakeholders in fence scheme e.g. railways (by using their corridor and possibly funds support.) J
- Consider option for landholders to pay upfront for contribution to capital cost L
- If project does not go ahead is there capability for GABSI style funding? Bci
- In view of community owning most of fence, design of fence/funding models needs to be community driven. M

Sources of funding

- Approach sheep meat processors for support. S
- EOI for Royalties for Regions (Round 4) are required very soon. S

General

- Is there insurance available for a fence? Bkl
- Put eradication cost into maintenance cost. Bkl
- In the feasibility study it would be more relevant to only use sheep losses in last 10 years in dog impact figures as earlier exits from industry may be from other causes. Bci

Summary

Quantitative data on the level of support for the two funding models is in report document.

Also in relation to funding models, initially in sessions the three-thirds model to build the fence was presented with maintenance from local sources. After the Muttaborra session the two-halves (State-Federal) plus local maintenance model was presented.

Points were made by attendees on two aspects of the proposed funding models generally. First was the specific issue that UCV would be an underestimate for areas with good quality pulled country such as around Blackall and as such they would pay less than they should. Second, the need to make payment of the levy a legal obligation was raised as a point that needed clarification as to how it could be done before a decision was made about funding.

Another item raised concerned the question of whether or not those with their own suitable dog-proof fences would have to pay any landholder levy. It was said by others that they would still need to contribute because of the regional benefits of reduced dog movement and the community social gains.

Suggestions were made about demonstrating to landholders with larger holdings the possibility of any expected increase in land values in the region if dog control is achieved, as the reason for

their support. More generally the suggestion that if landholders contribute to the build cost then there is a benefit to be gained by them if there was a 100% tax deduction for their contribution to building the fence.

A single question was asked on whether or not insurance was available for the fence and a single suggestion made of asking sheep meat processors for a contribution to the building of the fence.

[is there scope to vary the proportion from local for build costs e.g. 40:40:20 or 45:45:10?]

CONCERNS ABOUT THE PROPOSAL

Difficulty to remove dogs and keep dogs out

- Don't believe will get all landholders to comply with controlling dogs on inside of fence. A
- In other fenced regions haven't been able to get rid of dogs inside fence. A
- Even when fence built there will be the problem of dogs/roos still inside and the cost of removing them. A
- Inside the fence still need all producers to co-operate to control the dogs. S
- People can be a problem – fence won't make any difference. Bkl
- The problem is inside the existing barrier fence there lots of dogs – why has this failed? What do we have to do to so the area inside this fence does not end up like that. Bkl
- People not conscientious about cleaning out dogs. Bkl
- Main problem in getting the fence to work will be getting everyone to participate. J
- Difficult for cattle producers to be motivated to maintain fence. J
- Thank you for your presentation yesterday. I found it to be very informative and I can see how much work has gone into it thus far. Further to my thoughts from yesterday's meeting I would like to express my concerns on how effectively or successfully we could undertake an eradication program of the dogs once the fence is completed. I did bring this up as a point at the meeting however upon more thought overnight I didn't feel this part of the project was discussed enough. I personally feel we need to discuss further the concept of cluster fences which may make eradication a more achievable prospect. I only bring this up now as I know you are working towards a submission as an outcome following these consultations and I just wonder whether we have given enough time to the magnitude of the task ahead to eradicate the dogs from within. (Written submission.)

For those outside

- Places outside fence are not going to get any funding and will have more wild dogs. A
- Why should places outside the fence but are within the shire, back the building of the fence? A
- Need management of wild-dog build-up outside fence i.e. control options for outside. M
- Additional expenses for producers on the outside of the fence – what will be done to support these producers? A plan is required. S
- Mac Allan – outside proposed fence; is an advocate of fencing; as a tax-payer wants to be inside (part is fence-able easily). Some days later son phoned Ian Macdonald to say they support the regional fence and want to be inside it. (J. Keogh pers comm) Bkl
- Can there be compensation paid to those on the outside who have increased predation and extra work to control it? J
- What is going to happen on the outside of the fence? J
- Will being outside fence devalue land? And, what is effect of fencing on land values generally? Bci

- Needs to be recognition of the additional workload on landholders outside the fence. They will require support for trapping and baiting; hardware; to maintain the “control zone” concept. Bci
- Need to gather data on impacts to landholders outside and adjacent to fence. W’
- Outside will experience an increase in dogs if baiting not used/taken up effectively. W
- Will there be financial compensation for people affected financially outside the fence? W
- Our main concern is what assistance properties outside the check fence will get from Councils for Wild Dog control. At the last baiting in May this year the only assistance this NE part of the shire received was the services of a paid Council worker to inject meat which was provided by landholders NOT COUNCIL. If we didn’t provide our own meat we had to purchase roo meat at \$3.50-\$4.00/kg. The funding through Wild Dog model for Syndicates does not allow for the purchase of meat. So with this in mind this part of the Shire is currently getting very little assistance with wild dog control so there is a high chance this will disappear when the Check fence is built and everyone is trying to cull the wild dogs inside the fence. This part of the Shire have been baiting and controlling dogs for numerous decades and we don’t want to be left out or forgotten. (Written submission)
- We are also concerned that only a small minority of the Shire population attended these meetings. I have spoken to quite a few people in our area who were unable to attend due to business commitments and they are not keen to paying levies for a fence that is no benefit to them. We strongly feel there needs to be more consultation with landholders as to where the proposed fence is going to go and HOW the wild dogs INSIDE the fence will be controlled. (Written submission)

Macropods

- Macropod pressure can be high at certain time e.g. at break of season storm rains. J
- Seasonal effects of macropod movement – e.g. early storms grow feed on one side of fence which triggers mass animal movement against the fence. W
- Roos are an issue if fence is erected – increase in density adjacent to fence. W
- What will be the fence effect on roo shooting as an industry? A
- Need to realize a decrease in dog numbers will potentially contribute to higher macropod/fox numbers. J
- Macropod pressure on grazing lands – can fence help/contribute to control? Bci
- Prepare a response to the roo lobby in advance of building the fence. M
- Roos are having an impact on businesses. In some cases more than dogs. The fence can help. S
- Roos could build-up immediately outside the fence. S
- Roos are a problem and will be a problem inside the fence too. S
- Roos are doing silent economic damage. S
- Regional fence will not impact on roo pressure. Bkl
- No roo industry is contributing to higher roo numbers. Bkl
- Dogs do take roos and leave the sheep alone. S

General

- What can LG do about town dogs that go out of town? L
- Young people are concerned for their future in WQ. S
- Difficult to get staff to continue running sheep. S
- Effect of drought on sheep numbers not reflected in feasibility study. Bkl
- Is business going to change/improve because of fence? Bkl

- What might be the response from green groups to the fence? S
- Will it be an impediment to a future buyer if they have to pay a levy? J
- Committee need to recognize ideas/opinions of younger generation! Bci
- I continue to encourage a wider understanding of the situation in which we currently find ourselves trying to tackle the wild dog issues. What was happening to that camel before the final straw!! (Written submission)
- I cannot emphasise enough that the consult is skewed by the lack of those who believe it has nothing to do with them or will have little affect, and simply weren't at the meetings. These are mostly beefies, many of whom I have spoken to and are generally unaware of the community contribution that will be required, both directly and indirectly, for both the building and long term maintenance of the fence. There will be an outcry that will question the consult methodology, just a warning!! (Written submission.)
- Overall this is a lot of money to spend and a lot of money will need to be spent trying to control the wild dogs inside the proposed fence. We just wonder if it is cost effective. Thanks for noting our concerns. (Written submission)
- I cant make it to the meeting so would just like to send in my comments and thoughts on the fence.
- The whole big area fence, makes no sense at all to me. The cost is huge, with no guarantee of success. We cant kill the dogs in that area now, what difference will a huge fence with grids on roads make? Sooner or later we need to turn our attention to killing dogs instead of maps and fences. The cost of the fence and the maintenance (supposedly), would go a long way in increased scalp bounty and trappers. So for me, NO, lets use the money to kill dingoes, not just annoy them temporarily. (Written submission.)
- Another written submission expressed the concern that it is not a holistic approach that is being taken to understanding why dogs are the problem that they are today. The suggestion is to do sots beginning with interaction between the merino as prey and the dog as predator. As well the writer cites the experienced difficulty in removing 100% of dogs from inside a two-property dog fence.

Summary

At all sessions there have been repeated references to the potential/expected disadvantages to be imposed upon those outside the fence. Disadvantages include more pest animals, more workload to control them, decreased land value and no compensation or support. Sometimes the items were asked as questions, sometimes made as statements. Two people in Winton said there no situation in which a fence would be appropriate as there would always be someone outside who was penalized.

The problem of dogs within any fence is recognized and a concern is that they will not be able to be removed. Comment was made to expect difficulties in getting all landholders inside a fence to comply with control of dogs as it is people who can be the problem. This may be more so with people running cattle. Size of the proposed area to be enclosed was a frequently mentioned reason for this concern. A suggestion was made that possibly there are lessons to be learned about this from the failure of the former Barrier Fence.

Comments made at some sessions that macropods are a greater cause of concern than dogs. As well comments recognized the fence will influence the movement and collection of macropods and that decreasing dog numbers will increase their numbers. Some responses made in the sessions were that the effects will be both outside and inside and that the fence offers a starting point for managing macropod numbers on both sides. The suggestion was made that if macropod

numbers are to be affected by the fence then a response to the macropod lobby should be prepared beforehand so they understand that current macropod populations are greatly above what naturally existed in the region.

One comment made in Barcaldine was that the steering committee needs to recognize the ideas and opinions of the younger generation as it is they who will be faced with the future costs and maintenance. As well attendees asked what can local government do about town dogs that are a problem for stock. Another asked if it will be an impediment to a future buyer if they have to pay a levy.

In two written submissions the landholders expressed concern that they thought attendance was low and that more consulting was needed particularly about where any fence will be aligned. Both were in the area east of Barcaldine. In two other written submissions the size of the area to be enclosed is suggested as to big to be at all successful in controlling dogs.

Another written submission expressed the concern that it is not a holistic approach that is being taken to understanding why dogs are the problem they are today. The suggestion is to do studies beginning with interaction between the merino as prey and the dog as predator. As well the writer cites the experienced difficulty in removing 100% of dogs from inside a two-property dog fence.

INFORMATION NEEDED THAT MAY BE USEFUL

- Do some assessment of the possible increase in productive capacity or income, to offset cost L
- What do the new changes to land valuations mean for the fence project? Research this. Bkl
- What are the effects of dog control methods on EU/USDA/Organic accreditation Bci
 - Tackle issue as part of overall plan
 - How do we monitor/check participation for organic [enterprises]
- Legal inquiry is required on how to collect levy. J
- Are there labour (shearing) shortages that would prevent re-establishment of sheep industry? Bci
- Costings for current proposal plus all of Winton Shire to be sent to Emma, Butch and Tom for distribution to attendees and others. W
- Fence by shires – examine cost and effectiveness; could give local employment. W
- The science behind the decreased effectiveness of 1080 – can that info be understood and used? W
- What's to stop someone outside and directly affected by fence from cutting or bulldozing it? W
- Can people refuse to have fence on their boundary and what legal power has committee to enforce it? W
- What if people inside fence refuse to pay levy? W
- What is required when crossing a main road? W
- Tax implications of fence contributions by landholders – deductibility; GST; CAPEX? M
- What's needed for clearing permits for fence alignment. M

Summary

Attendees raised a number of items that may provide practical information relevant to the building of a regional fence, the actions required to control wild dogs and to generate a benefit for the region. Suggested items on which information is needed are the impact of recent changes

in valuations, tax deductibility implication, clearing permits for the fence line, organic market requirements. Other items were refusal to pay any levy, willful damage to the fence and whether or not landholders could refuse to have the fence on their boundary. Towards the end of the Winton session the remaining attendees expressed interest in being inside a fence. It was agreed to provide them with costings on inclusion in the regional fence proposal and a whole of shire boundary fence.

OBSERVATIONS MADE BY ATTENDEES

Future benefits – what/when/where

- Doubtful if there will be shearing teams living in a lot of the small towns e.g. Muttaborra; Aramac; Barcaldine; Isisford. A
- Don't see med or short term benefits to local business houses, as will take a while for people to go back into sheep. A
- When the previous points are taken into account, a levy on small business is a possibly a burden they can't afford and don't think a levy should be on all rate-payers in a community. A
- Regional fence – could give a regional property value increase. Bkl
- Sheep nos. – will they increase? Bkl
- Regional approach is first step in getting control. Clusters will complement. Bkl
- Was the value of property if fenced included in the study? Response was 'No.' Bkl

Organic production

- Economic pressure is leading to organics which is having a huge effect on nos. of wild dogs. Bkl
- Can't currently bait if you are organic. Bkl
- 90% organic beef to USA – no baiting allowed – unlikely to change – attempts have been made. Bkl
- Just because producers are organic does not mean they are not taking action on dogs! Bkl

General

- Have seen a pig chewing on a new exclusion fence, on one wire – caught on camera; not known if broke wire. A
- There is emotional damage to landholders from seeing bitten and torn sheep. S
- Barrier fence was effective in 1991. J
- Construction model of original fence may offer some clues to construction now. J
- Landholders with original fence were paid \$20 per mile to maintain it. J
- More bang for buck if you cluster with neighbours. Bkl
- Could end up having to fence own property as well. Bkl
- Existing barrier fence is being maintained to a high standard. Bkl
- Sheep used to come into the Uplands in the dry times. Downs properties had a Desert block they used only in dry times. J
- Not easy to find sheep crates to cart sheep. A

Summary

Observations were made by attendees about what benefits would occur and when. Some referred to the time it will take for benefits to be realized and that small business may not be able to contribute until financial benefits flow to them.

Organic production has economic benefits however baiting of wild dog is not able to be used

however it was said that doesn't mean organic producers aren't active in dog control.

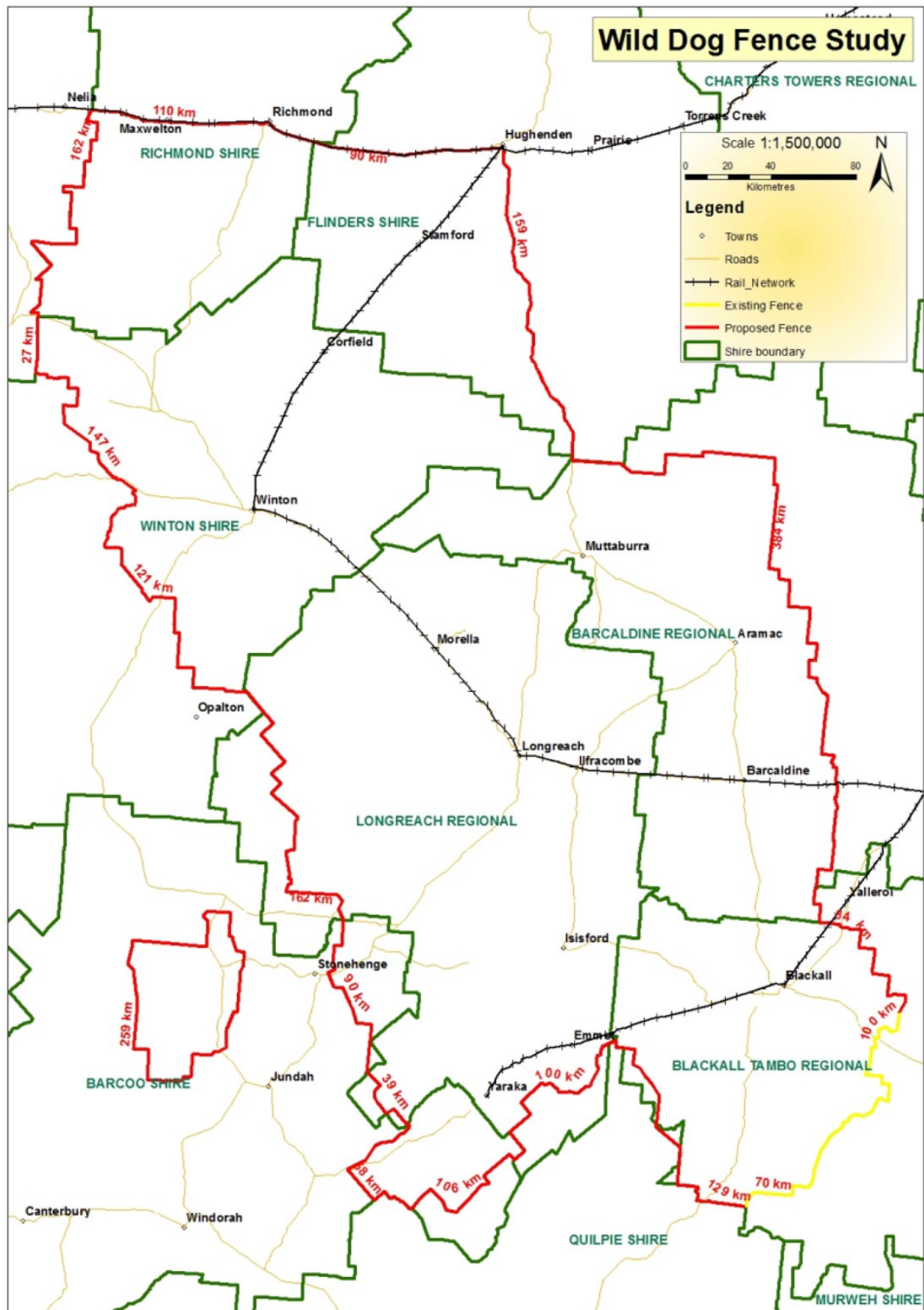
Of the more general observations there is mention of the Barrier Fence being effective and that landholders on that fence were paid \$20/mile to maintain it. Pigs were mentioned as being recorded on tape as chewing on fences to gain access.

APPENDIX 4: POSSIBLE ALIGNMENT VARIATIONS

- 1. Include parts of Winton, Richmond and Flinders Shires** (including the sheep country in those shires). This variation involves an extension of the fence around the current and possible future sheep country in the Winton Shire and an extension from north east of Muttaborra to Hughendon, including parts of Richmond and Flinders Shires. The Townsville to Mt Isa railway line would form the northern boundary of this extension. This would enclose almost all the sheep currently outside the existing barrier fence. The following map highlights this extension and the table presents relevant data based on broad map derived distances.

	Proposed fence	Winton/Richmond/Flinders extension	Total new fence
Length of fence (klm)	1440	816	1828
Area within fence	20M acres	11M acres	31M acres
Estimated cost @ \$9,000 & \$6,000/klm	\$13M	\$6.7M 616 klm @ \$9000 200 klm @ \$6000 (along railway line)	\$19.7M

Proportion of Shire within proposed fence						
Longreach	Barcaldine Regional	Blackall Tambo	Barcoo	Winton	Richmond	Flinders
87%	41%	45%	11%	44%	26%	37%



2. Fence sheep country in Winton, Richmond and Flinders Shires as another project

Length of Winton fence –	1073kkm
Area enclosed within boundary -	11M acres
Estimated cost @ \$9000 and \$6000/kkm -	\$9M

