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Policy Title: **Wild Dog and Dingo Management**  
 Policy No: 270

Directorate: Engineering and Environmental Services  
 Responsible Officer: Chief Executive Officer

Adopted Date: Technical Services Meeting 06/07/2016  
 Review Date: 06/07/2018

VERSION	MEETING APPROVED	MEETING DATE	HISTORY
1	Technical Services Meeting	06/07/2016	New Policy

Authorities: *Biosecurity Act 2014*  
*NBRC's Pest Management/Biosecurity Plan and associated programs*

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### POLICY:

The North Burnett Regional Council (NBRC) recognises the need for society to co-exist with dingoes (*Canis lupus dingo*) due to their role within natural ecosystems as Australia's naturalised apex terrestrial predator. Additionally it is widely recognised that the eradication of dingoes is unachievable and NBRC has a responsibility to efficiently utilise available public resources.

NBRC also recognises its role to:

- Support the community and
- Enforce responsibilities in relation to compliance with legislation and NBRC's Pest Management/Biosecurity Plan and associated programs

To facilitate and support land owners/occupiers in achieving compliance with their responsibilities under the Biosecurity Act 2014 and NBRC's Pest Management/Biosecurity Plan (and associated programs), NBRC will promote the targeting of problematic animals.

This policy will allow the concentration of available public resources to target problematic animals where it can be verified that there are "significant" negative impacts. It will also ensure public resources are utilised in an efficient and effective manner.

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Dingoes (*Canis lupus dingo*) are the endemic and naturalised apex terrestrial predator in Australia. These predatory animals have long been perceived as a threat to the livelihoods of domestic livestock producers.

As a result, dingoes have been declared an invasive animal pest that must be destroyed under the Biosecurity Act 2014. Society and landowners have actively utilised a range of measures in an attempt to eradicate the animal.

Scientific evidence and the results to date indicate that:

- It is highly unlikely that complete eradication is achievable and
- The presence of an apex predator can, under managed circumstances, be beneficial ecologically, environmentally and commercially in the production of domestic livestock. This is because dingoes can control the numbers of competing herbivores such as rabbits and wallabies and other carnivores such as feral cats and foxes.

Additionally, pressures placed on mature/established dingo packs by human efforts to destroy them have resulted in the increasing hybridisation of the dingo with domestic dogs. Domestic dogs (*Canis lupus familiaris*) that have gone feral (wild dogs) and hybridised individual dingoes are proving to be more likely to be a greater threat to domestic livestock.

The latest scientific evidence and expert opinion suggests a need for humans and domestic livestock to co-exist with dingoes, but ensure the problems associated with dingoes are appropriately managed.

The appropriate management of dingoes will vary from region to region and circumstance to circumstance, but fundamentally requires emphasis on a more targeted management approach. These management efforts should aim to target wild dogs and problematic dingoes, whilst not actively targeting mature/established dingo packs that are not causing significant negative impacts to landowners or their domestic livestock.

Wild dogs and dingoes that are causing significant problems or negative impacts on domestic livestock need to be managed as part of this policy.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

Wild dogs and problematic dingoes will be managed in order to ensure problems and negative impacts on landholders and domestic livestock are minimised. Where verifiable significant negative impacts are identified, control measures will be undertaken to support affected landholders and communities.

NBRC's Wild Dog and Dingo Management Policy includes and utilises:

- Scalp Bounties;  
(Wild Dog and Dingo Scalp Bounty Procedure)
- Baiting;  
(Wild Dog and Dingo Baiting Procedure)

- Trapping;  
(Wild Dog and Dingo Trapping Procedure)
- Domestic Dog and Cat Cage Trapping;  
(Guidelines for the use of a Dog and Cat Trap)
- Domestic Dog and Cat Registration & De-sexing Requirements;  
(Animal Management Local Law 2)
- Other techniques as approved by NBRC.

Where wild dogs and problematic dingoes cannot be managed under the conventional management techniques of shooting, baiting or trapping (such as within close proximity to residential houses and townships), domestic dog cage trapping and destruction techniques will be applied.

The adoption of this policy and associated procedures will ensure the NBRC maintains consistency throughout the region with regard to the management of wild dogs and dingoes.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

**Dingo:** A canine/dog (*Canis lupus dingo*) endemic and naturalised to Australia, which excluding humans, occupies the position of apex terrestrial predator within Australia. This definition applies to all pure and cross breed versions of the breed, where dingo behaviours and appearances remain.

**“Significant” negative impacts:** Non-trivial impacts, where losses/damage exceed minor losses (1 or 2 animals or occasional losses) and genuinely threaten the viability/productivity of healthy normal domestic livestock. (Sick, injured, old or already dying/dead animals are excluded from this definition.)

**Wild Dog:** All breeds and cross breeds of domestic dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*) that have gone feral and no longer have any notable direct relationship with humans. This definition also includes *Canis lupus familiaris* hybrids with dingoes where a dingo’s natural behaviours and appearances are not adhered to (including “rogue” animals).