

Communique

August 2017 | Contact: Ron Harris, Chairperson (0407948431)

Inaugural meeting

- The new Wild Dog Management Advisory Committee met for the first time in Merrijig near Mansfield on 7 and 8 August 2017.
- The Committee discussed current arrangements for the management of wild dogs in Victoria and prepared a work plan for 2017-18 for endorsement by the Minister for Agriculture.
- Committee members visited a rural property affected by wild dogs and discussed operational arrangements with the land owner and a Senior Wild Dog Controller (SWD).

The focus of the inaugural meeting was on discussing current arrangements for the management of wild dogs on private and public land in Victoria and preparing a plan to deliver on work priorities identified by the Minister for Agriculture and Agriculture Victoria for the coming year. The work plan will be provided to the Minister for Agriculture for her endorsement within three months of the inaugural meeting.

Greg Mifsud, the National Wild Dog Facilitator and an Observer to the Committee, provided a national perspective on the management of wild dogs and congratulated Victoria on its achievements in changing perceptions over the last decade.

Committee members also met with Wayne Houston from Mountain Bay Pastoral company whose farm was currently being affected by wild dogs. Mr Houston described the impacts of wild dogs, what he does to manage them and how the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) works with him to grow his understanding of wild dog behaviour and management. David Klippel (SWDC) provided members with practical understanding of the Wild Dog Program's service delivery commitment, control tools and the Wild Dog Management Zone work

planning process and other aspects of the job.

The Committee will meet quarterly with the next meeting scheduled to be held in November 2017.



Photo 1 Wild Dog Management Advisory Committee (from left to right: Ernest Healy, Wayne Houston (field visit host), Ron Harris (Chair), Simon Lawlor, Paul Carroll, Euan Ritchie, Alan Brown, Greg Mifsud (Observer), Michael McCormack and David Klippel (SWDC) Photo: DEDJTR



Photo 2 Roadside stop discussing the issues around getting dogs well 'inside'. Photo: DELWP