

Key actions to be delivered in the first 12 months that will lead to fewer attacks on livestock include:

- Continue developing a flexible and responsive team of wild dog controllers to respond to incident reports quickly and efficiently with maximum effectiveness
- Increase access to fresh meat baits
- Removing red tape on 1080 products for wild dog management
- Aerial baiting in remote areas
- Looking for innovative research and development proposals to reduce the negative impacts of wild dogs
- Working with the community to promote local approaches to wild dog management
- Supporting local leadership to allow for delivery of better wild dog management
- Improving cost effective local responses through the engagement of a flexible workforce
- Reviewing restrictions on vegetation clearance along fence lines to better protect wild dog fences
- Considering new ways to enhance wild dog management.

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Wild Dogs in Victoria

Wild dogs are a significant challenge for Victoria's livestock industry at an annual estimated cost of \$13-18 million.

These pests seriously challenge livestock producers, impacting on productivity, animal welfare and social well-being. They also harm our native flora and fauna.

This plan is to improve wild dog management in Victoria over the next five years.

This plan will deliver best-practice and cost-effective wild dog management in Victoria.

Effective wild dog management is most successful when community, government and industry work together across both private and public land.

Since 2011 the Victorian Government has taken a number of steps to help improve wild dog control, including:

- Building a flexible and responsive team of wild dog controllers to respond to incident reports quickly and efficiently with maximum effect
- Reintroducing Lanes traps
- Introducing a wild dog pelt bounty, and doubling the bounty to \$100 in January 2013
- Establishing community baiting programs, including allowing farmers to bait outside their property boundaries
- Establishing the Wild Dog Control Advisory Committee to provide strategic advice
- Cut red tape so wild dog controllers can work outside the 3km buffer zone
- Applied to the Commonwealth for aerial baiting. This was unsuccessful but another application will be lodged in December 2013
- Redirected the aerial baiting funding for 2012-13 to a large scale ground baiting program
- Provided wild dog controllers with iPads so they can log data in the field, and spend less time in the office
- In 12 months, wild dog controllers trapped or shot 499 wild dogs and laid more than 18,000 baits
- More than 1,000 wild dog pelts have been handed in as part of the wild dog bounty which started in October 2011.

The plan is about delivering action on wild dogs

This plan sets out three priority areas for government, community and industry action over the next five years:

- Reduce the attacks on livestock
- Promote community leadership
- Continuously improve how wild dogs are managed through innovation, flexibility in the workforce and regulatory reform.

The plan encourages everyone to work together using all the available management practices including poison baiting, trapping, shooting, exclusion and animal husbandry. Reporting wild dog attacks and stock losses, and participating in coordinated community wild dog programs will help DEPI to allocate resources in the appropriate locations.

The Wild Dog Control Advisory Committee

The Wild Dog Control Advisory Committee is an important part of delivering the action plan.

Landholder representatives, with knowledge of wild dog problems and control, from the North East, Gippsland and North West regions are members.

The committee advises the Department of Environment and Primary Industries on strategy and provides feedback on how to continually improve the plan.

The committee works with stakeholders to gather industry and community feedback for the government.

The community is encouraged to provide the government and the committee with ideas for possible improvements.

The Wild Dog Control Advisory Committee has set the target to reduce the number of reported dog attacks by 15% each year from the number of reports in the previous year.

Report Wild Dog Attacks

The reporting of attacks helps DEPI to allocate resources in the appropriate locations. If you have stock killed, injured or harassed by a wild dog, contact your local DEPI senior wild dog controller as soon as you can. Attacks will be given priority over sightings, but all information is important to fine tune control activities.

Reports can be made to your DEPI senior wild dog controller. Also contact your local DEPI senior wild dog controller to find out what wild dog control activities are being carried out in your area.

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/biosecurity/pest-animals/invasive-animal-management/integrated-wild-dog-control>