

# Omeo, Swifts Creek, Ensay and Benambra

## 2024-2025 Wild Dog Management Zone Work Plan

Wild Dog Management Zone (WDMZ) work plans are developed annually by the community, industry and government. They create a shared understanding that helps stakeholders to work effectively together to reduce the impacts of wild dogs using all available tools.

### Wild Dog Management

A successful wild dog management program requires an integrated, strategic, and proactive approach where all land managers, community and government work together to protect livestock from the impacts of wild dogs through a cross-tenure approach. This plan is a result of community and government working together.

Wild dogs are declared established pest animals under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994* (CaLP Act) on all land tenures. All public and private landowners have a responsibility under the CaLP Act, to take all reasonable steps to prevent the spread of, and as far as possible eradicate, established pest animals, including wild dogs, on their land.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) supports coordinated strategic 1080 poison programs on public and private land to protect impacted landholders and neighbouring properties. When wild dogs attack livestock, DEECA's Wild Dog Controllers provide direct support and assistance to producers.

### What We Do

#### Ground Baiting

Targeted ground baiting is a proactive tool that supports individuals and communities experiencing livestock losses due to wild dogs.

DEECA will carry out targeted ground baiting on public land after community consultation. The attached map shows where targeted ground baiting will occur between 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. Targeted ground baiting transects will be baited at least once throughout this period. Adjoining landowners will be notified prior to baiting starting and warning signs put in place on all baited land.

#### Trapping

DEECA will provide reactive trapping services to support individuals and communities experiencing livestock losses and other negative impacts due to wild dogs, such as attacks or threatening behaviour towards domestic animals and pets. Warning signs are put in place when trapping is being undertaken.

DEECA will implement proactive trapping across the WDMZ where the workload of the Wild Dog Controller permits.

#### Shooting

DEECA will use shooting to manage the impacts of wild dogs to support baiting and trapping activities, or where appropriate, in areas where baiting and trapping cannot be implemented.

#### Risk Assessment

Be aware that due to local circumstances such as risk to non-target species, proximity to high traffic areas, habitation, and public access, it may not be possible to perform any on-ground control works on public and/or private land in the area.

### What You Can Do

#### Wild Dog Management Techniques

There are a variety of lethal and non-lethal wild dog management techniques available to landholders, including:

- Baiting with 1080 and PAPP
- Trapping
- Shooting
- Exclusion fencing
- Guardian animals
- Property hygiene

Landholders must consider the risks of each management technique as it applies to their situation.



Information and advice on the use and application of each of these methods can be provided by a Wild Dog Controller or the Community Vertebrate Pest Control Coordinator. Alternatively information is available at <https://go.vic.gov.au/3wVqn3C> ([www.agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au)).

#### Community Control Group

Community wild dog control programs, supported by the Wild Dog Program's Community Vertebrate Pest Control Coordinator, involve groups of private landowners in a local area taking part in coordinated wild dog control on private land.

Coordinated control programs provide the opportunity to maximise the benefits of integrated baiting and trapping efforts conducted by private landowners to complement the works of DEECA for effective long term wild dog management.

Participants in community wild dog control programs can learn from one another which techniques work best in their local area, and benefit from organised demonstrations and field days which include non-lethal control methods such as exclusion fencing and use of guardian animals.

For more information on how to become involved in a community wild dog control program, contact your Community Vertebrate Pest Control Coordinator.

**Mick Freeman, DEECA**

Ph: 0429 079 131 Email: [michael.freeman@deeca.vic.gov.au](mailto:michael.freeman@deeca.vic.gov.au)

### Report Wild Dog Incidents

Incident reports involving stock killed or maimed will be given priority over wild dogs reported seen or heard. Dependant on the demand for services of the Wild Dog Controller, seen and heard reports may not receive an on-ground response. However, the details of all incident reports are recorded and used for intelligence gathering to inform control activities.

Landholders who observe wild dog activity or experience a wild dog attack **must** phone their Senior Wild Dog Controller **as soon as possible after an incident** to formally lodge an incident report. The Senior Wild Dog Controller will triage the incident report and assign a Wild Dog Controller to respond to the incident and provide follow-up communication.

If contact is not made directly with the Senior Wild Dog Controller, we ask that landholders leave a message and the Senior Wild Dog Controller will make a return phone call within 24hrs, excluding weekends and Public Holidays.

Senior Wild Dog Controller	Contact Number
Anthony Websdale	0408 896 720

**Note: to report any issues in relation to domestic dogs, contact your local council office**

### Our Service Agreement to Community

The Wild Dog Program's response process for killed, maimed or harassed livestock, or where pets are attacked or people feel threatened, includes:

- A Wild Dog Controller contacting the landholder within 24 hours (excluding weekends and public holidays).
- Verification of stock death due to wild dog attack within 72 hours (i.e. not fox or domestic dogs) and wild dog activity where current work demands allow.
- Contact with local shire Ranger if impacts are believed to be domestic dog related.
- Provision of advice to landholders on immediate actions to be taken on-farm to mitigate further losses and risk.
- Provision of advice to bushwalkers and other public land users who are concerned about wild dog activity.
- Assessment of current wild dog control in the area on both public and private land and modify if required.
- Consider potential human and non-target species risks that may impact on the Wild Dog Controller's ability to safely and effectively manage wild dogs before implementing control actions using reactive tools and techniques.

**Be aware that due to local circumstances, it may not be possible to perform any on-ground control works on public and/or private land in the area.**

Reactive wild dog control services, if applicable, may be withdrawn 30 days or less after a livestock attack. However, the provision of advice and works in the surrounding region may continue.

### How You Can Contribute to Future Plans

WDMZ community meetings are held annually in March and April across wild dog affected communities. The discussions from these meetings help to inform how wild dog management takes place within each WDMZ on both private and public land and contributes to the development of this work plan.

If you are interested in being involved in the next round of community meetings go to <https://go.vic.gov.au/4aM4Zf4> ([www.agriculture.vic.gov.au](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au)).

### Contact Us

Contact the Wild Dog Program by emailing [wild.dogs@deeca.vic.gov.au](mailto:wild.dogs@deeca.vic.gov.au) or contact your Senior Wild Dog Controller.

### Taking Control Registration

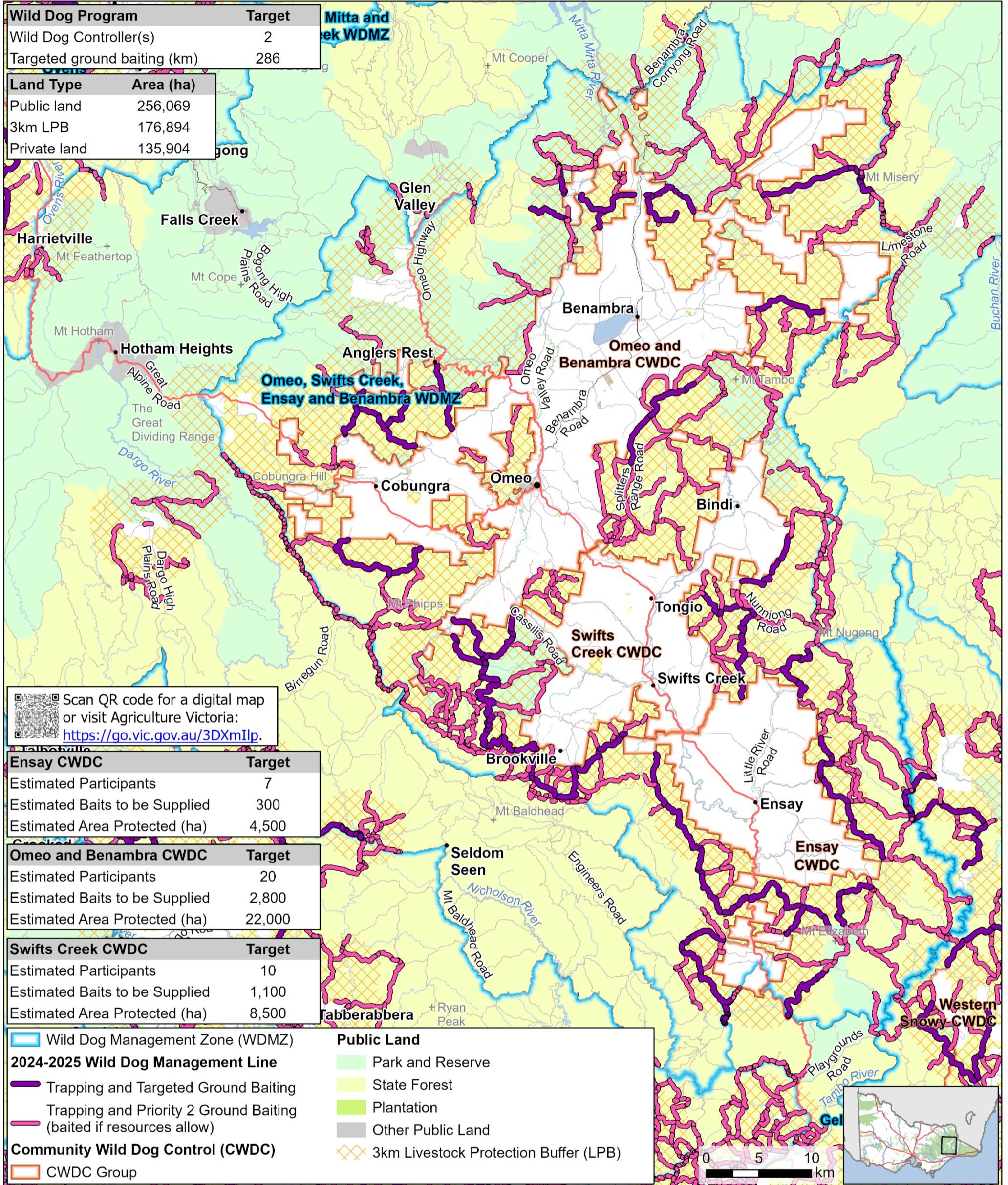
Taking Control is the Invasive Species Newsletter which contains stories, strategies, and links to successful management approaches for vertebrate pests on both private and public land.

To subscribe go to <https://tinyurl.com/22unvy26>.



Wild Dog Program	Target
Wild Dog Controller(s)	2
Targeted ground baiting (km)	286

Land Type	Area (ha)
Public land	256,069
3km LPB	176,894
Private land	135,904



Scan QR code for a digital map or visit Agriculture Victoria: <https://go.vic.gov.au/3DXmIlp>

Ensay CWDC	Target
Estimated Participants	7
Estimated Baits to be Supplied	300
Estimated Area Protected (ha)	4,500

Omeo and Benambra CWDC	Target
Estimated Participants	20
Estimated Baits to be Supplied	2,800
Estimated Area Protected (ha)	22,000

Swifts Creek CWDC	Target
Estimated Participants	10
Estimated Baits to be Supplied	1,100
Estimated Area Protected (ha)	8,500

Wild Dog Management Zone (WDMZ)	Public Land
2024-2025 Wild Dog Management Line	Park and Reserve
Trapping and Targeted Ground Baiting	State Forest
Trapping and Priority 2 Ground Baiting (baited if resources allow)	Plantation
Community Wild Dog Control (CWDC)	Other Public Land
CWDC Group	3km Livestock Protection Buffer (LPB)

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We acknowledge Victorian Traditional Owners and their Elders past and present as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters and commit to genuinely partnering with them and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.

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