

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
WESTERN AUSTRALIA**



Department of
Agriculture and Food



**WA Wild Dog Action Group
Stakeholder Consultation Report**

SEPTEMBER 2015

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Western Australian Wild Dog Action Plan

Purpose

The purpose of the proposed Western Australian Wild Dog Action Plan is to develop an agreed approach to control of wild dogs to minimise their impact on agricultural industries, with consideration of social and environmental factors. It is intended to be a blueprint for future partnership arrangements between industry, biosecurity groups, government and others to deliver a sustained, coordinated approach to wild dog control.

Agknowledge® is an independent consultancy contracted by the WA Wild Dog Action Group and DAFWA to consult across the spectrum of those who have an interest in the issue to provide views, information and contribute to the Action Plan.

The Action Plan will include benefit cost analysis to provide guidelines for both private and public investment in wild dog control and the plan will be based on good science and informed by national best practice. It will align with the *National Wild Dog Action Plan* where it is relevant and appropriate to do so.

Draft - Western Australian Wild Dog Action Plan – (from WAWDAG meeting 2 July 2015)

Vision:

The impact of wild dogs has been minimised in identified high risk areas enabling revitalisation and long term growth of pastoral, agricultural, and tourism industries with broad social consent.

Goals:

1. Provide leadership and coordination for effective management of wild dogs.

The Plan promotes adoption of a whole of industry approach to integrated and strategic wild dog management supported by a scientific and risk-based approach.

2. To achieve a high level of responsibility, adoption and proactive management of wild dogs.

The Plan improves adoption of wild dog management practices by maximising public, government and community support, based on effective communication, education and training processes.

3. Reduce impacts of wild dogs on production to increase economic returns.

The Plan promotes the use of best practice wild dog control at all scales and in all planning and operations, with each step evaluated on the impact on revitalisation of the specific landholding.

4. Monitor, evaluate and report to inform and continuously improve wild dog management.

The Plan supports establishment of nationally-consistent metrics for assessing wild dog impacts on production, and social and environmental benefits as a basis for monitoring effectiveness of actions and efficiency of resource use under the Plan for reporting to stakeholders.

Scope of the Action Plan

The Action Plan will consider all key issues relating to the management of wild dogs in Western Australia, including impacts on the agriculture sector, the environment and social aspects. Wild dogs collectively refer to dingoes, feral dogs and dingo-dog hybrids.

Key issues that will be considered in developing the Action Plan include:

- Control strategies, including baiting using restricted chemicals, financial incentives, licensed pest management operators (doggers), State Barrier Fence and other exclusion fencing.
- Funding models for management of wild dogs in Western Australia.
- Animal welfare issues.
- Impacts on environment issues.
- Compliance and enforcements.
- Social issues and impacts.
- Delivery mechanisms for implementing the strategy.
- Informing a range of stakeholders.
- Business case – plausibility.
- Good practice nationally.
- Industry-led leadership.
- Broader regional benefits.
- Government roles and policy.

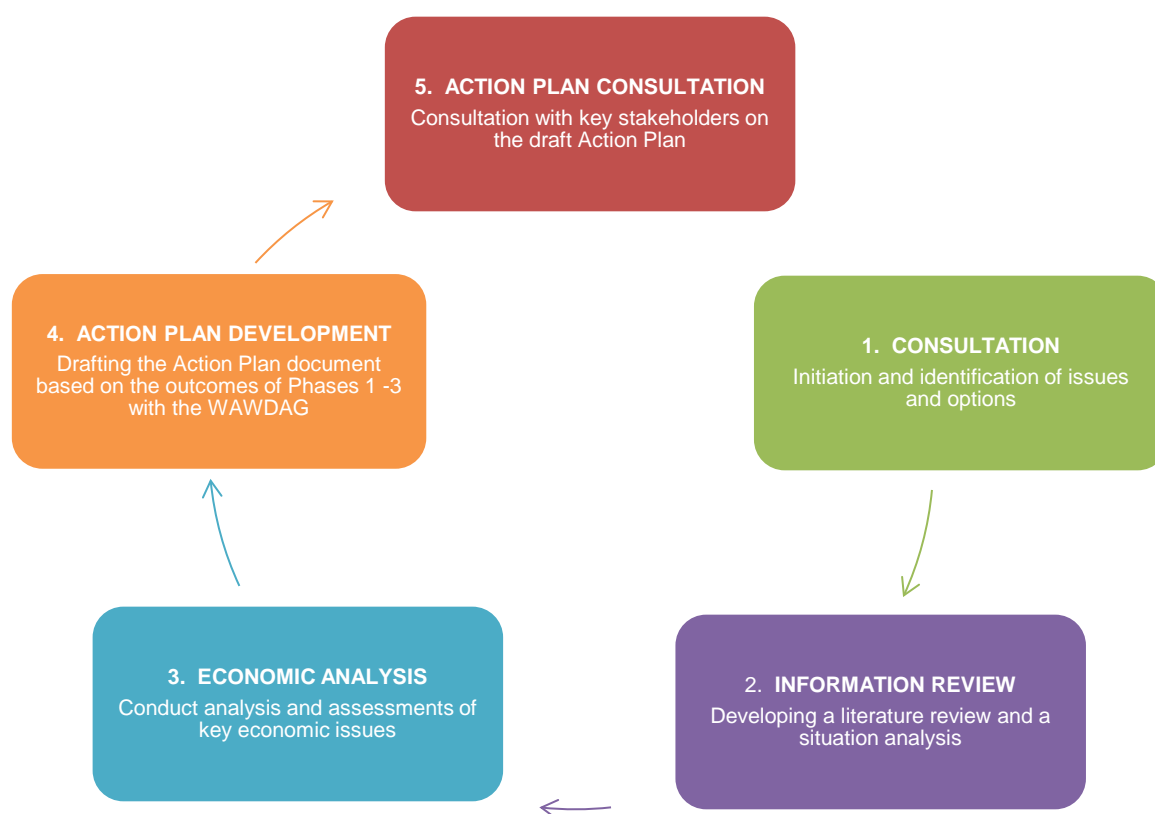
Stakeholder Consultation Report

The WA Wild Dog Action Group met for the first time in July 2015 and determined the priorities to develop a new Western Australian action plan to coordinate and prioritise efforts to better address the devastating impacts wild dogs have on livestock across the State.

The Action Group determined a range of the current issues in wild dog management and had mapped the stakeholders impacted by the problem to establish the consultation process across landholders, industry, government and the community to ensure a high level of input to prioritise future investment of time and effort in wild dog control.

Wild dogs have economic, environmental and social impacts across the pastoral and agricultural regions, and with landholders and government already making a significant investment in time and effort to control wild dogs the Action Group is determined to make sure this Action Plan provides leadership and coordination for all the stakeholders to ensure the effort is targeted and effective.

The Consultation Process



Agknowledge[®] worked with the Action Group to outline the network of stakeholders in wild dog management and identified a target group of stakeholders for the initial consultation stage. A consultation format was established and interviews were conducted: 20% were face to face with the remainder being via a telephone conversation to manage the distances across the State.

In August and September 2015, 66 people were interviewed to provide their views, information and to contribute to the development of an agreed approach to the control of wild dogs in Western Australia in the WA Wild Dog Action Plan.

This report outlines these conversations and provides a basis for further discussion and input by the Action Group as a platform to inform future direction and investment in the Action Plan.

WA Wild Dog Action Group - consultation template

Introduction, provide name and explanation, as follows:

- ➔ *Agknowledge* is an independent consultancy that has been contracted by the WA Wild Dog Action Group and DAFWA to consult across the spectrum of those who have an interest in the issue to provide views, information and potential contribution to the Action Plan.
- ➔ The purpose of the proposed Western Australian Wild Dog Action Plan is to develop an agreed approach to control of wild dogs to minimise their impact on agricultural industries, with consideration of social and environmental factors. It is intended to be a blueprint for future partnership arrangements between industry, biosecurity groups, government and others to deliver a sustained, coordinated approach to wild dog control.
- ➔ The Action Plan is to include benefit cost analysis to provide guidelines for both private and public investment in wild dog control and be based on good science and informed by national best practice, and will align with the *National Wild Dog Action Plan* where it is relevant and appropriate to do so.
- ➔ Your name has been supplied to us by the Members of the Action Group.

Request a short conversation.

1. Can you please tell me where your interest/contribution/management lies in the WA Wild Dog problem?

	Landholder	DAFWA	State Government	Industry support	Biosecurity Group	Local government	Other (State)
Indicate							
Location							

2. **Landholders** - Please rate the degree of the wild dog problem on your property in the past 12 months (from 1 to 5, with 1 being no problem and 5 being extremely severe)

Problem	No problem	Minor	Moderate	Severe	Extremely severe	Unsure
Rating						

3. **Landholders** - Can you outline the issues (above) the property has with Wild Dogs?
-

4. **Landholders** - Can you outline the management and production changes that have been implemented on your property/ies because of Wild Dogs? *This can be over the past decade.*
-

5. What has been effective in past wild dog management efforts? Specific examples.
-

6. What has not worked well in past efforts?
-

7. In a list of control options available for managing wild dogs. Please indicate your view on which option/s would provide the most cost-effective eradication of wild dogs. (1 not effective and 5 - extremely effective)

Landholders - Please indicate the number of days per year your business spends undertaking these actions, and your property's annual expenses on these Wild Dog management options?

Management option	Description of options	Effectiveness	Days/year	Annual cost
Ground baiting				
Aerial baiting				
Shooting & trapping by doggers				
Use of surveillance technology				
Exclusion or barrier fencing				
Other				
Not necessary - not a problem				

8. Can you identify a local Biosecurity Group (RBG or otherwise) and rate the effectiveness of wild dog management of the group? (1 not effective and 5 - extremely effective).
Can you outline the key features that guided your score.

Group (name)			Member or affiliate?			
Effectiveness	1	2	3	4	5	unsure

(note - this could be multiple responses for affiliated people)

Why?

9. What off-farm industries are directly affected by wild dogs?
-
10. What other impacts do wild dogs have - positive and negative?
-
11. What is the role of compliance in WA wild dog management?
-
12. Can you provide any suggestions as to how the WA Wild Dog Action Plan can best incorporate conservation and ecological requirements? I.e. consultation, group membership, balanced objectives?
-
13. Please consider the science and research investment in Wild Dog management - in your view what is being done well and importantly, where would you like to see additional work? (i.e. new technology)
-
14. What would the new WA Wild Dog Action Plan need to address in your view?
-
15. How would the new WA Wild Dog Action Plan gain traction -i.e. ensure it was implemented?
-
16. How can the outcomes be measured? What would be the key measures you are looking for?
-
17. Any other comments:

Complete by thanking the respondent for their time and ask for any other comments

Where does your interest/contribution/management lies in the WA Wild Dog problem?

Total	Landholder	DAFWA	State Government	Industry support	Biosecurity Group	Local government	Other (State)
66	32	7	8	9	5	2	3

The 32 landholders interviewed were located across Western Australia and included both pastoralists and farmers within the agricultural region. Many of the interviewees have multiple roles as a primary landholder as well as a member of a bio-security group, local government or grower group.

Each interviewee has been identified with a number and where appropriate the number is aligned to their respective comments. In this way, readers can either follow the overall theme or an individual conversation.

A full list of participants is at the end of the report. Each interview averaged 45 minutes, hence this report represents approximately 50 hours of conversations.

Summary of key issues from the consultation - for consideration

Based on the stakeholder feedback the WA Wild Dog Action plan needs to address the following issues:

1. **Effective and strategic coordination** – is required across all industries and stakeholders to allow landholders to run livestock without the impact of wild dogs. People need to stop blaming and finger pointing: it is a shared problem which needs a shared solution to move forward. It requires good partnerships, co-operation and engagement across all sectors.
 - There is an opportunity to bring all the groups together to discuss issues and also to introduce an overarching group like a 'biosecurity council' which would provide the necessary support to the groups.
2. **Ensure there is a co-ordinated RBG approach** – there could be more Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs) across the State to ensure a good spread and uniformity in the approach to wild dog control. It is important to allow for local best practice relevant for each area.
3. **Maintain the RBGs and ensure they are adequately resourced** – through employment of an Executive Officer for each group, which would take the pressure off the volunteer landholders and allow them to get back on the ground to control wild dogs. Guaranteed funding is also important going forward including support from the State government through DAFWA, and landholders would also like to see the funds raised in a region, stay in the region. Investigate opportunities for RBGs to administer funding to avoid it getting caught up in costly administration.
4. **Funding options** - landholders see the Action Plan as a partnership between industry and government. It was suggested the Federal and State governments have a large part to play in funding the State Barrier Fence (SBF) as the infrastructure of the fence is a State-owned asset. Funding for barrier fencing could be raised through a producer levy and matched by government.
5. **Develop strong partnerships** – each region has a range of participants (network) with an interest in wild dog management: there is a strong drive to ensure all parties are engaged to achieve a shared contribution and a balanced approach to control and conservation. State and Local government are seen as significant participants in the partnership.
6. **Rate all landholders** – revisit the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (BAM) Act to ensure that all landholders, regardless of their involvement (including mining companies), are rated and contribute to funding for control of wild dogs.
7. **Encourage compliance** – it should be about encouragement and education about landholders' responsibilities under the BAM Act. This should be undertaken by DAFWA in conjunction with the RBGs. In severe cases DAFWA may have to step in to enforce regulation compliance.
8. **Roll out the Feral scan App** – encourage landholders and RBGs to adopt the App for ease of reporting and tracking wild dog activity throughout the State, which can also be aligned nationally.
9. **Invest in skills and training** - at all levels to build capacity for better management of wild dogs including management techniques, animal behaviours and conservation requirements.
10. **Increase accountability and resources from State government** – ensure DAFWA has adequate staffing levels to support RBGs and Declared Species Groups (DSGs) in wild dog management, including employment of doggers. Develop Memorandums Of Understanding for Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) properties, Unallocated Crown land (UCL) and reserves with all groups moving forward to ensure an agreed and planned approach to wild dog control.
11. **Exclusion fencing** – provides a physical barrier allowing wild dogs to be controlled and landholders/doggers can work back from it. A fence on its own will not stop wild dogs; it will require vigilance, investment of funds, time and effort to support it with buffer baiting along the fence and a co-ordinated approach to internal dog control. Preservation of the dingo species is a consideration in the argument for barrier fencing.
 - Complete and maintain the State Barrier Fence (SBF) as a public asset and determine a long-term maintenance plan and replacement arrangements (cost-shared).

- Extend the barrier fence in the Esperance region (670km) – continue to negotiate with the Northern Mallee Declared Species Group to extend the fence in their area to protect the agricultural area from wild dogs and emus which will benefit livestock and cropping farmers.
- Optimise existing alignment (e.g. Yalgoo Triangle - 180km).
- Upgrade and maintenance of existing fence structures, with imminent replacement of around 300km.
- Trial the Vermin Cell fence in the Murchison area – establish a public/private partnership agreement with pastoralists within the cell to fund the fence and look at opportunities to undertake research which could access research funds. Further investigate cell fencing options established in Queensland.
- Investigate fencing options and costs to allow landholders to invest with good information. Options will need to include both rangelands and agricultural options.

12. Investigate current wild dog management practices in other States –

- Structure and management of the South Australian and New South Wales dog fences - the fences are very effective in controlling wild dogs, and involve not only a barrier but integration of all dog control tools and resources.
- In Victoria non-compliant farmers are not an issue as the State government deals with wild dog issues. The doggers are funded by the State government and producers inside barrier fencing pay a levy on all sheep sales to fund maintenance of the fence.

13. Increase the number of doggers – as they are identified as the most effective method in controlling wild dogs and more are required on the ground. Train indigenous rangers and others who have knowledge of the bush to ensure dogging doesn't become a lost art.

14. Integrate all the tools for wild dog management – strategically plan how all the tools for wild dog control will be employed in a region including baiting, opportunistic shooting, trapping and doggers.

15. Use full strength baits in controlling feral cats and foxes – to ensure that wild dogs do not get bait shy after taking sub-lethal doses of bait such as Eradicat. The bait should be full strength to target feral cats, foxes and wild dogs in one hit.

16. Research investment priorities – investigate options for biological control and sterilisation options for wild dogs, alternative options to 1080 poison and surveillance technology.

17. Dingo versus wild dog debate – acknowledge the differences, and that the dingo is unique and that hybrid wild dogs are impacting on preservation of the dingo. Wild dogs can be more severe in their impact on livestock and native animals.

18. Establish pure bred dingo zone/s – to ensure the dingo is preserved and continues to be part of the natural ecology. This could include sanctuary areas, the desert and outside barrier fencing in areas where they don't impact on livestock production and where they can exist safely.

19. Sterilisation programs – actively encourage local Shires to oversee sterilisation programs of domestic dogs in rural towns and indigenous communities.

20. Align monitoring and evaluation with the National Wild Dog Action Plan - with specific reporting and data analysis for to meet WA's needs.

21. Align wild dog management planning and investment with the Regional Blueprints – which are looking at alternative land use options for the pastoral region that would enable landholders to diversify i.e. horticulture, tourism, carbon credits.

Consultation Summary

In August and September 2015 a total of 66 people were interviewed to provide their views and information to contribute to developing an agreed approach to wild dog control through the WA Wild Dog Action Plan. The participants included a range of industry stakeholders including landholders, both pastoralists and farmers, local government, Regional Biosecurity Group representatives, Sporting Shooters Association, industry groups and State government agency staff.

The clear message was that wild dogs are having a severe impact on the ability of landholders to run livestock in the pastoral regions of Western Australia, and that they are now moving into the agricultural areas of the State. This has significantly impacted landholders financially, emotionally and socially. Landholders believe there is a place for pure bred dingoes within the environment, but they would like to see them exist on the other side of a fence and/or in places they won't impact on stock.

Of the 32 landholders (farmers and pastoralists) involved in the consultation the majority reported a moderate to extremely severe problem with wild dogs on their properties. Landholders realise the extent of the issue and they are actively involved in wild dog management through regular baiting programs, opportunistic shooting and using the services of a dogger through their local Regional Biosecurity Groups. Despite all these efforts, wild dogs continue to be a significant problem.

There is significant evidence of wild dogs throughout the rangelands and agricultural areas including dog tracks, physical sightings, evidence of stock being maimed by dogs and general stock losses. Reports of stock losses range from 100 – 1,200 sheep/property/year that have died as a result of attacks or disturbances by wild dogs.

Wild dogs are having a huge financial impact on landholders through stock losses, reduction in lambing and marking percentages, reduced wool clips, reduction in calving rates as well as reduced prices for damaged carcasses and a loss in export markets for cattle - which all in turn affect financial viability. Wild dogs have also reduced the number of feral goats, which has prevented landholders from accessing alternative income through goat sales. In some circumstances the wild dogs have totally decimated the goat population.

“We haven't sent out any goats for a long time; ten years ago we were sending off about 5,000 goats each year and now we have none. They contributed about \$120,000 a year to the property but now that is lost income.” (3)

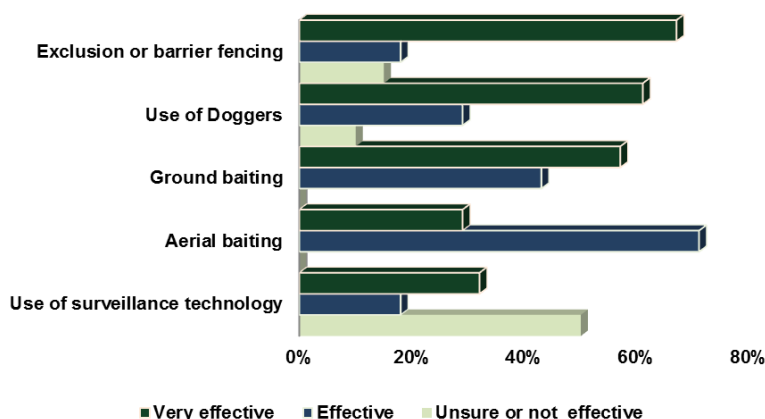
Wild dogs make it very difficult for landholders to run small stock. Ten years ago many properties were running sheep but they have now been forced to consider alternatives because of the wild dogs and economic considerations.

Many landholders have put up with the wild dog problem and some have changed to running cattle, even though the country is not suited to it, to ensure they maintain an income.

In their bid to protect their livestock, landholders have made a number of management changes including running sheep on the inside of the property to protect them, reducing overall sheep numbers for tighter management, and increasing baiting efforts as the wild dog problem continues to worsen.

A couple of landholders have installed their own exclusion fence or are installing one around multiple properties to enable them to safely run small stock. Others have turned to alternative stock protection methods such as alpacas, maramba dogs and gas guns.

Rating of the most cost-effective control methods of wild dogs



“We were catching 60 dogs in traps about 5 years ago and now we are down to about 30 over winter time. Five years ago we had 5,000 merino sheep and now we only have about 30 on a 510,000 acre property so it has severely impacted on our bottom line.” (17)

“We sold all our sheep (4,800) off shears five years ago, we were expecting to shear about 6,000. We now have 200 cows and we are hoping to buy in some more cattle and we will stick with that until can

go back into small stock. That is our ultimate aim as this is not really cattle country. We will run about 1,000 cattle between the two properties but really we should be running 20,000 sheep.” (8)

The consensus is that the most effective tool in managing wild dogs is engaging professional doggers who have the experience and knowledge to control wild dogs; it’s a job that can easily be bungled due to lack of experience. Unfortunately dogging is becoming a lost art as it is becoming harder to find people with relevant expertise. Fencing has also proven to be effective as it controls the flow of wild dogs into the agricultural area and allows doggers to control the dogs on the outside and inside of the fence and work with a buffer zone.

Besides professional doggers and barrier fences, there is no other one tool that has been as effective, rather it is about using a number of tools including trapping, baiting and opportunistic shooting and to be truly effective it requires a co-ordinated approach.

Respondents believe the Agricultural Protection Board was very effective in managing and controlling wild dogs previously, but since its removal the wild dog population has exploded. Today the Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA) assumes the role of the Board and the agency has undergone financial cuts which have resulted in a reduction in services and staffing.

More recently wild dog management has been outsourced to Regional Biosecurity Groups (RBG) and Declared Species Groups (DSG) run by landholders and they deal with the wild dog issue locally and co-ordinate community baiting programs and local doggers. In some regions these groups have taken a very proactive approach (rather than waiting for government to act) and are proving to be quite effective.

Concern was raised by stakeholders that DSGs are being forced to become RBGs under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act (BAM Act). While some groups who deal with a number of pest and weed issues support the structure, other groups that are focused on wild dogs are reluctant to assume the position of an RBG, which requires them to make the decision on behalf of all landholders who will be rated by the government. This in turn would be matched by government however groups would like to see a guarantee that funds raised through the levy remain within that region.

Feedback from respondents indicated there was considerable support for the State Barrier Fence and its extension given the proven effectiveness of the fence in some parts. The fence has proven to slow down dog numbers and make it easier to control wild dogs as it provides a point to work back from and allows doggers to work along it. Some believe that without the fence, it would be impossible to run sheep.

Given the extent and severity of the wild dog problem, respondents believe that management strategies implemented to date have not been very effective apart from the old Agricultural Protection Board (APB). It comes down to a lack of resources on the ground and funding to deal with the issue. This has been further impacted by a lack of compliance on behalf of some landholders, in particular cattle stations in the north, and fragmentation amongst the different organisations involved in the issue.

“We are struggling to get landholders involved in our baiting program. We offer free aerial baiting to pastoralists. Out of 92 stations in the Kimberley region, we are lucky to get 25 on board.” (A10)

“Farmers have all the tools now but there are not enough people in the pastoral areas and the landscape is huge so it is difficult to manage. You need more resources to manage it properly and DAFWA has reduced staff and hence there is extra pressure and the problem expands.” (A5)

From landholders’ experience they believe that exclusion or barrier fencing is the most cost effective way to manage wild dogs, followed by ground baiting and then shooting and trapping by doggers.

Management option	% of landholders using option	Range of days spent/yr	Average # of days spent/yr	Est Annual Cost per landholder
Aerial baiting	35%	0-5	2.5	\$2,280
Use of surveillance technology	15%	0-20	10.5	\$3,500
Ground baiting	75%	0-80	23	\$9,190
Use of Doggers	65%	0-78	18	\$5,400
Exclusion or barrier fencing	10%	0-16	12	\$4,567
Total of input			43	\$18,071

Results from the interviews indicate landholders spend an average of 43 days a year on managing wild dogs which costs each property about \$18,071 a year.

One landholder employs a full time designated dogger

who works five days a week, 52 weeks a year – shooting, trapping and checking/maintaining their own dog fence which they estimate the cost to be at \$150,000. This demonstrates that despite having a dog fence, the landholder has to still actively manage wild dogs.

There are significant flow-on effects of this issue with numerous off-farm industries directly affected by wild dogs including meat processors, stock firms, the shearing industry, transporters, rural suppliers and any business with a stake in the pastoral industry and agricultural areas that have been impacted by wild dog activity.

“Pastoralism is one of the region’s historical primary industries and it continues to be in decline in the Goldfields area. This affects the diversity of business, population, wealth to the region, stability in the economy and opportunity for cultural diversity.” (A7)

Aside from their severe impact on the livestock industry, respondents believe wild dogs do have a positive impact on the native flora and regeneration of vegetation as they reduce the overall grazing pressure created by kangaroos, goats, sheep and cattle.

“Since dogs have moved in they have reduced the numbers of animals which had been impacting on the overall grazing pressure on the country. Now there is a better equilibrium with the balance of nature. This is the best the country has looked in 60-70 years and the productive capacity has returned.” (13)

While landholders are reluctant to point out too many positive attributes of wild dogs they say the negatives far outweigh the positives. Many pastoralists now operate on skeleton staff as they don’t have the livestock to warrant the labour and in the majority of cases it is the core family unit left to run the property while the male seeks off farm income to ensure their survival.

Domestic dogs or sheep dogs are also impacted, as landholders now either don’t have dogs on their properties or live in fear of them picking up a wild dog bait – one landholder now muzzles their dogs out on the property. They have also had a substantial emotional impact on landholders who have to deal with the end result of wild dogs.

“They have a huge emotional impact when you see cattle ripped apart and they are still trying to walk around. It is soul destroying to then have to destroy them.” (16)

“From my experience they bite them on the flank and their stomach falls out – you even see some sheep still walking around which is heartbreaking. The wild dogs don’t go for the week old lambs because they like the sport.” (20)

“If you have to pick up 300 dead lambs, it is a trauma in itself due to the stress.” (28)

There is also some evidence that wild dogs are impacting on land prices as landholders lose their ability to run stock in an area and the perceived sale value of the land is decreased.

Compliance on wild dog management in WA appears to be non-existent. Under legislation it is the responsibility of landholders to control any declared species, which includes wild dogs, on their properties. Many landholders are not proactively controlling wild dogs, which impacts neighbouring properties.

Compliance is the big issue: how enforceable is the BAM Act, and how affordable is it? It appears there is no regulatory body that is prepared to act on non-compliance. Under the Act, DAFWA is responsible but they don’t have the resources.

“No-one wants to police it, it is always left to government to police it and the reality is if people can’t afford to comply with regulation, then regulation is useless. Pastoral leases should be occupied by those who want to be active pastoralists.”(A13)

“It is a very difficult one, it depends how you are affected by it – anecdotally there is less effect on a cattle property therefore less inclination to control dogs and they won’t have the same opinion on compliance as a sheep producer would. One size doesn’t fit all – from an industry perspective it is good to have compliance but there may be valid reasons why some don’t take action. I think it is important that the wild dog issue is controlled.” (19)

Respondents had mixed opinions about enforcement in terms of where do you stop and start: their view is it could be effective in extreme circumstances but it could also be destructive. Suggestions include offering incentives for those who are compliant or to incorporate it into management or lease conditions. Regardless of the issue, there is certainly a role for the RBGs to continue to educate and encourage the involvement of landholders in managing wild dogs in a co-ordinated effort.

Landholders were adamant that it would never be possible to eradicate wild dogs but rather it is a case of managing the numbers and removing the plague proportions to stop them migrating into livestock areas.

Landholders are happy for the dingo to exist where it won't impact upon their livelihoods and ability to run stock and operate a financially viable business.

The issue is further complicated with the difference between wild dogs and dingoes. The dingo is viewed as part of the natural ecology of Australia whereas the wild dog is a hybrid that respondents classify as vermin and therefore they believe that they don't have a place within the environment. Wild dogs are considered more destructive and impact on the pure bred dingo population with cross breeding.

Fencing is viewed as one option that will allow the incorporation of both conservation and ecological requirements allowing wild dogs to live on one side of the fence whilst on the other, landholders will have the ability to run livestock without the impact of wild dogs. As an added benefit, the fence would also protect cropping properties from emu incursions.

“There are three sections of the State - one part can be a wild dog preservation area in the desert where there is no productivity, no stock and no control and a designated area of preservation to keep conservationists happy. Then you have the cattle country which can tolerate some dogs – minimal impact and known as control zones where you have control but there are still dogs there. Finally you would have a small stock area, which would be the eradication zone. For that to happen you need a fence between the control and eradication zones and vermin cells in the southern rangelands.” (8)

Various research programs have been undertaken on wild dogs and their management over the years, but respondents expressed concern about continued access to 1080 and the need to investigate alternatives. There are calls for research into some form of biological control similar to calicivirus in rabbits or options for sterilisation as a control.

In discussions about the new WA Wild Dog Action Plan there were calls for the extension of the State Barrier Fence and the vermin cell fence, a call for increased doggers on the ground, a review of the BAM Act to be able to rate mining companies to ensure that they also contribute to vermin rates to help control wild dogs and continued support for the RBGs.

“You need a biosecurity council so they organise and oversee collaborative meetings and be overarching the RBGs and Declared Species Groups. They can help with education, opening up the communication lines, mapping out dogs and provide administration and governance support for the groups dealing with dogs.” (A12)

Overall, the plan needs to focus on pulling the State together as a whole including the agriculture, pastoral, mining, conservation and indigenous landholders as everyone who is a landholder needs to take responsibility for their land.

Going forward, the plan requires a consistent, co-ordinated and integrated approach on wild dog control as it is a shared problem which requires a shared solution.

“The blaming has to go, so everyone can work together to address the problem. It makes it unproductive to be involved. We need good partnerships and co-operation, not finger-pointing. You need engagement across all sectors.” (A14)

There is support for funding to be a partnership between government and industry through some sort of industry levy. However, should the barrier fence proceed, it was suggested the government should play a large part in its future management as it would be a State owned asset.

To ensure that the WA Wild Dog Action Plan gains traction, respondents are adamant that it needs to be driven by industry with support from all stakeholders including conservation groups, mining companies, local councils and government. It will require consultation and community engagement. The objectives and desired outcomes need to be clearly communicated and industry will need to lobby government and Ministers for their support. The implementation of the plan should be driven by the Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA) and it should be funded appropriately by industry and government.

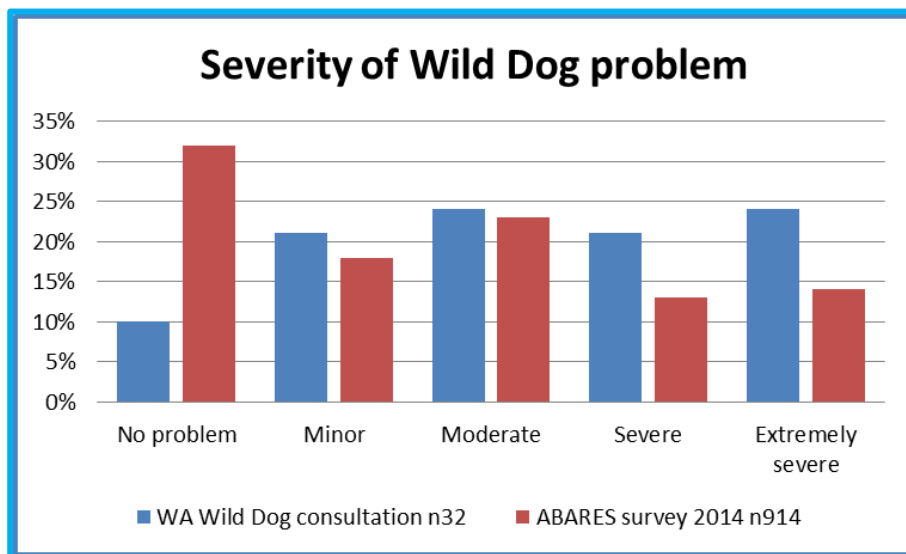
“The plan has to be regulated and part of the management / lease conditions that say you have to undertake vermin eradication.” (10)

The key measures, according to the interviewees, which will ultimately determine the success of the plan include a reduction in the numbers of wild dogs in the agricultural area, fewer reports of attacks and stock losses and an increase in sheep numbers. It will also be reflected in the regeneration of goats and other rare and endangered species, and importantly an improvement in the economic returns for landholders.

Consultation Feedback

Landholder responses only

2. Rate the degree of severity of the wild dog problem on your property in the past 12 months (from 1 to 5, with 1 being no problem and 5 being extremely severe).



Note: An ABARES study for Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) was released in 2015 that examined the nature of groups undertaking wild dog management and the support they may need in future to achieve effective management (Ecker et al. 2015). This study adds further knowledge on collective action in invasive species and natural resource management by examining temporal and spatial change in the impacts and management of wild dogs. The WA Wild Dog Action Plan consultation used some background quantitative information from this study to corroborate key information.

In some areas the ABARES data has been aligned to the findings from the qualitative responses.

The majority of landholders surveyed have a moderate to extremely severe problem with wild dogs on their properties. There were 32 landholders involved in the questionnaire of which only 3 stated that they didn't have any problems. All of these farmers are located near a dog fence which helps protect their property and stock from wild dogs and they also have access to a dogger through their local RBGs.

Of the landholders that reported minor wild dog problems, they have seen evidence of wild dog tracks and the odd attacks. The majority ran cattle and also utilised the services of a dogger to help control the situation. As the livestock enterprises change to sheep the wild dogs appear to have more of an impact. Of the 24% of landholders who identified moderate problems, all but one of them ran sheep. Lambing and marking percentages were reduced along with the property's ability to make money from their chosen enterprise.

As the wild dog problem increases it moves out into the station country with six stations reporting severe problems. Those stations were focused on cattle, with reports of reductions in calving rates and evidence of dog attacks on cattle and calves with tails missing and scarring. There was one sheep station, however that station has its own dog fence and employs its own dogger. All of the properties conduct baiting and use a dogger.

For those with extremely severe problems there appears to be more sightings of wild dogs and deaths via shooting, poisoning or trapping. Across the 7 properties they report that they have killed in excess of 100 dogs over the past 12 months. There is also an exponential increase in the number of stock deaths with reports ranging from the loss of 100 to 1200 sheep that have died as a result of attacks or disturbances by wild dogs in that same period and a number of cattle that have had to be destroyed following dog attacks. There was also evidence that wild goat numbers had also been severely reduced due to the presence of wild dogs. The properties in question are also in close proximity to Crown land where they believe the wild dogs are given the opportunity to breed up as they are not controlled.

As the severity of the problem increased landholders were more actively baiting and using doggers to manage the wild dogs on their properties. They realise the extent of the issue and they take it upon themselves to control wild dogs to enable them to continue to run their enterprise despite having to deal with the emotional stress of dealing with dog attacks and euthanizing their livestock. Wild dogs are having a huge economic impact on landholders and have also prevented them from accessing alternative income through the sale of feral goats.

3. Can you outline the issues your property has with Wild Dogs?

No problem

- Wild dogs are not a problem at the moment as we have the barrier fence bordering our land and we have had a contract dogger controlling dogs in the unallocated Crown land, before they get into agricultural land. They keep an area about 15 km outside the fence free of dogs and if they see any evidence of tracks, they set traps and put baits in the area and shoot if necessary. (4)
- I saw one dog a couple months ago, it was a dingo but otherwise it is random and there is no real evidence of dogs. I am not concerned. We are all cropping now but we did have sheep five years ago and never had any dog attacks. We are about 1 km away from the fence. The Yilgarn Gap near us was filled in about 12 months ago and prior to that we had never lost sheep to dogs. The dogs only came in one paddock, for water in the dry years, otherwise the dogger controls and patrols the outside of the fence. We don't do any baiting for dogs, only foxes and I wouldn't shoot a dingo but I would shoot a brindle or a cross bred if I saw it. (11)
- We have had no problem ourselves, but our neighbours right on the fence have had a few dogs. It is nothing like it was 10 years ago, people with sheep along the fence were getting rid of sheep and taking them off the fence because of wild dogs. We keep them under control and we need to keep on top of them; we can't back off as it will get worse. The Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Biosecurity Group employs two doggers who operate along the fence and on landholder's property and they do baiting, trapping and shooting and record the number of dogs they have caught. In the past 5-6 years they have got a lot and it has definitely helped. If we can't keep on top of the problem it will be back to where it started. The numbers of wild dogs the doggers are getting are getting less and less and they are doing their job and need to keep at it. At the end of the day it has got nothing to do with the numbers they are catching, but we're concerned that we might lose our doggers as on paper it doesn't look good. (26)

Minor

- It is minor at the moment on our farm, but we have seen evidence of a couple of attacks and on properties around us there have been lots of dog attacks, dogs shot and killed. With that evidence, we are gearing up with accreditation for 1080 baits. (1)
- Minor – we have the same throughout the Goldfields, the dogs are out there and it requires a combined effort to manage them. Most of the work is ineffective because of the physical area and the economics – we don't have the capacity to get rid of dogs. There are some overarching land issues out here, it is fine just chucking resources at the problem but we need to work out what the end game is? Will it be successful in getting rid of wild dogs, is that what we are trying to achieve? If we do that, I don't see that the pastoral country will be resurrected to its former pastoral history because of other overarching economic factors.

We have had smaller calves attacked, we used to have our own designated dogger before and he got about 30 dogs in a 12 month period. We do some control ourselves and are also involved in the community baiting.

We run about 300-400 head of cattle and are not a fully commercial property because of the vast mining impact on this property: mining makes it impossible to run a full blown property. (13)

- We have had dog problems but they are under control at the moment. We run about 4000 ewes and haven't seen any evidence lately. We leave the control to the Northern Mallee Declared Species Group who employs a dogger who looks after the reserve that borders us for about 20-30 km. They run aerial and ground baiting programs. I believe the wild dogs arrived in our area in about 2004 after the Agricultural Protection Board (APB) stopped its control activities. (15)
- We have three cattle properties and there is certainly evidence of dogs / tracks but we are not significantly concerned about them as they are not having a financial impact. We do shoot dogs and doggers trap dogs but we haven't noticed a significant amount of damage from dogs. We do lose the odd calf and you will see the odd scar or tail missing on an animal and they are impacting. At Coral Bay we have shot about two wild dogs in the past 12 months, and we do our own ground baiting. (19)

- We have had huge problems with wild dogs in the past. Last year the community dogger (south of the Great Eastern Highway) took out 19 dogs for the year and the other (on the north side near Lake Moore) got 25. As landholders we report stock losses to the doggers, help make baits, bait our own farms and the doggers bait in the UCL and farm land. Lately I haven't seen a lot of evidence inside the fence in my area and we haven't had any stock losses since January this year where we lost 5 sheep over 3-4 weeks. Otherwise before that our last losses were two years ago. The repairs to the Vermin Proof fence in our area has made a huge difference and if it wasn't for our group, the Eastern Wheatbelt DSG, doing what it does and with the dogger active there would be no sheep in the south west of Western Australia. (21)
- We run all cattle at the moment; I have seen the occasional tracks and have shot one dog in the past 12 months. Our regional dogger has caught or shot about 3-4 on our station in the past 12 months. We don't know how many we have poisoned but we do bait regularly. We run about 200-250 cattle and we run them all in one mob in one paddock at a time. We don't have artificial waters turned on where we don't have cattle. I believe this has had an impact because we aren't getting the same numbers of wild dogs as other properties who have left their waters on but we don't have any real evidence. We have two DPaW properties on our boundaries and the dogger works the area and they keep their waters turned off which also helps keeps the numbers down. (22)

Moderate

- On our station near Carnarvon, it is moderate. On the station we have seen evidence of dog attacks. We have lost a lot of sheep – 400 ewes in the past 18 months, however we put most of it down to native plant poisoning and poor season/drought, so not directly related to dogs. (1)
- We haven't seen many dogs or many tracks but we are losing a lot of sheep. We have currently got about 2000 Damaras but over the past 12 months we would have lost about 1000 through attacks and some had to be euthanized. We are trying to put a fence and electric fencing around the property which is being funded by the Indigenous Land Council (ILC). We have done 180 km which consists of some 8 line ring lock and an outrigger, four wire fence with electric wire and electric fencing. We expect to finish by Christmas time and then clean up inside the fence before we restock with more Damara / Dorpers. At the moment we are running at 2 DSE but we hope to get to 8 DSE. Last year we didn't mark any lambs and all of this has been soul destroying and has had a big impact on our income, we have had to live off government benefits. It has been a real emotional burden plus the kangaroos have disappeared and that was our food source and the emus have gone too. This year is looking more promising as the ewes have been lambing at a good rate and that is because the fences have slowed the dogs down. Every 3-4 months we do baiting, mainly ground baiting and aerial baiting in the hard country combined with some trapping. (6)
- I would say the problem is moderate – we have seen and shot dogs. We are the last farm out and more exposed to bush (reserve and UCL), hence we run cattle on the outer part of the property and sheep closer in. In the last 12 months we haven't lost a sheep but we are continually keeping an eye on the dogs and I shot one the other day. Prior to that we were losing 2-4 sheep at a time until we shifted them closer in. We use the services of our RBG dogger and we throw out ground baits and shoot on an ad hoc basis. Doggers prefer landholders not to trap as they may stuff it up for them when it comes to catching the dogs. (7)
- In the past 4-5 years we have undertaken a regular baiting program whereas we hadn't done that before. We are more aware now and quite concerned about the issue. In that time I have had about 10 sheep mauled and killed. I have seen a couple of live wild dogs in traps and we do see tracks on a regular basis through summer around water points. Our lambing percentage is down about 50%, why are we not getting our lamb numbers I can't say definitely as nothing else has changed in terms of management. In talking to other landholders I do associate it with wild dogs as the lambs are the first to go because the ewes mismother them when they are disturbed by wild dogs. We utilise the services of a community dogger who comes about 3-4 times a year. We have trapped 8 dogs in the last 18 months and they have all been yellow dogs. (10)
- We have sheep and they been attacked by dogs and there was a dingo shot on a neighbouring property. We have 7500 sheep in total and we have had half a dozen lambs attacked in the last 12 months of which we lost half of those. We haven't done any control of wild dogs, apart from

shooting. Around the region, there is baiting and shooting on an ad hoc basis which Gary McDonald (DAFWA) is very involved in. The wild dogs haven't had much impact yet, but they will have a huge effect if we don't control them. We are gearing up to control them more and are planning to do a baiting and trapping course and our community group, Northern Agri Group, is becoming more involved in the issue. (23)

- We run all sheep about 5000 ewes with lambs and we have lost about half a dozen sheep in the past 12 months. I have seen a few bites on lambs and have probably lost about 4 lambs. The Esperance area is unique to rest of the State as we are surrounded by vacant Crown land and so we have no buffer zone. The fence stops about 30 km east of Ravensthorpe which is about 60 km from my place. I have only seen one dog in 12 years but you never see them - they come and go. At the moment we are hand baiting around the edge of the property and we have a dogger too who is employed through the Northern Mallee Declared Species Group – if we didn't have the dogger we would have a bigger problem, it is only a stop gap measure. We are trying to keep the dogs under control until they hopefully extend the barrier fence. From a cost benefit analysis, it has been worked out that for every dollar spent, we will get \$2 back in benefits as there will be more wool and sheep. There will also be huge benefits for croppers as the fence will keep out emus as well which do a lot of damage to crops. (24)
- We run all cattle and haven't had a lot of attacks because we keep the dogs under control. We bait twice a year and if we don't they get out of control. We put 6000 baits out across 300,000 acres through aerial (4/5th) and ground (1/5th) baiting. We see dogs and tracks all the time and on average there are about 5 cattle that we can't sell for live export and can only sell to the meatworks each year. We are being proactive and not reactive because if we didn't bait we would have a bigger problem. We have got about 15-20 dogs in the last 12 months and they all look pure bred. We don't have any dingo fence near us. (27)

Severe

- I would say it is severe. We have just had 14 inches of rain and I have seen a lot of dog tracks, they are not attacking at the moment and the cattle are strong. But if there was a drought, I would say it would become extremely severe as the cattle would be weak and more vulnerable to attacks. The dog numbers haven't changed at all, it is seasonally related and they are spread out more because there is lots of water. We bait and trap for dogs continuously two days a week. We have a dogger and have hammered it hard with baits. You have to be proactive but it won't work if everyone is not doing it. (2)
- The dog numbers are steady they are not increasing. We are losing cattle and the calving rates are down about 10%. There are quite a few calves with tails missing and we had three condemned at abattoirs recently (they were visibly fine but once skinned, identified dog attacks). We do have a dogger (has 20 traps) and we are constantly baiting and we put out about 2 tonnes of bait a year, both ground and aerial (0.5 tonne). (3)
- All our cattle are in good order currently but we still get the odd calf that the dogs pull down and bite their ears and backside. We could be losing calves to dogs but haven't witnessed any. We have shot eight in the last week or two. There are lots of tracks and the cattle are stronger at the moment and are able to protect their calves. It's when they are weak the dogs get into the calves. There are as many dogs as I have ever seen now, they have increased a lot in the last 3-4 years due to lack of baiting and I blame myself for a bit of it as we weren't getting enough baits. Around each windmill you need to put at least 200 odd baits up to 400 and with 70 odd mills we would need about 17-18,000 baits and last year we only got 12,000. We have Crown land and national parks around us plus neighbours who aren't controlling the wild dogs. (9)
- We are all cattle and I am not sure what they are doing to the calves – there is no evidence of attacks and the wild dogs only ever take the weak which is made worse in drought. At the end of 2010 we had 50 cows and 50 sheep. In 2011 all our sheep were tidied up and prior to that the goats were also gone which made a huge difference to our cash flow and made it impossible to run what this country should run which is small stock. Drought has also had an effect. There is evidence of wild dogs and we have reduced them down to two areas where there is a dog we can't catch. On our station we have caught four in last 2 weeks, they look like dingoes. We do ground baiting and

strategically place baits and deliver food parcels from the air, trapping and opportunistic shooting. Over the last twelve months our community dogger has got 43 wild dogs across eight stations and there has certainly been a reduction in dog sightings and tracks, only two of those were shot and I would say he would have poisoned at least another dozen but you can't prove that. (12)

- Severe, we bait every two months plus a little in between with community baiting which is 4/5 times a year and the wild dogs keep coming plus we have up to 60 traps on the ground at once. We now only have about 30 pet sheep and 60 unmarked cattle on a 510,000 acre property. We see lots of tracks and we have shot a few over time. We were catching 60 dogs in traps about 5 years ago and now we are down to about 30 over winter time. Five years ago we had 5000 merino sheep and now we only have about 30 so it has severely impacted on our bottom line. My off property income (mining FIFO 2/2) now pays the way for the station. A lot of cattle people don't realise the true problem of wild dogs. They will learn and we will pay the costs. (17)
- We run all sheep (in excess of 50,000). Basically the dogs maim and kill the sheep, it is not the direct killing it is the indirect killing i.e. the mismothering of lambs where it has an impact and over the last 6 months wild dogs have impacted on 2-3,000 lambs. We have shot 4 dogs this year (2 on property and 2 outside the boundary). We have a full time boundary rider / dogger to maintain our dog fence and electric fence and who also puts baits out and controls dogs. We do all ground baiting as you get a more accurate placement of bait; we put out about 40-50,000 baits a year inside the property. We also do a drag of the carcass of a roo which brings the dog onto the bait which are thrown out regularly. This year I have had more staff involved in baiting as well because we know we have a bigger issue than previous years. We have our own netted dog fence around the majority of the property and we have separate leaf on the southern end which has an electric dog fence (400 miles long – 10,000 sq. kilometres). The electric dog fence is not as effective as the netting dog fence (5-6 foot, oversize chook wire – a rabbit would fit through but a fox wouldn't get through). There is also a lap wire which stops dogs digging under it. All except 1100 sq. km is netted and the rest is electric dog fence. The fence was put up in the 60's and it's under constant attack from kangaroos and cattle and we run that fence every week. If we have an incursion (last week we had 16 spots where camels had hit the fence) then dogs get in following them. Our dogger runs around the outside. The southern end is Crown land otherwise pastoral leases surround us. (18)

Extremely severe

- We have 1.3 million acres and of that we have 110 km of our boundary open to Crown land where we have lots of camels and wild dogs coming in. We are all cattle (650), we used to have small stock and also lots of feral goats but virtually none are left now. We find calves ripped open above their necks, under their groin, backsides, and tails and ears chewed off. Two months ago a cow dropped a calf and two dogs came along and broke its neck: it is devastating to come across this. It is mainly pure breeds coming through but closer to aboriginal communities / towns you get the crossbreeds. This year we have trapped about 15 dogs and poisoned about 25-30. We don't have a dogger but we continually bait all year around which keeps them to a manageable level but there is no end to it because as soon as you get the numbers down, they are back again. (5)
- Our lambing percentage is down and while we don't see dogs there are more obvious signs of them. We sold all our sheep (4800) off shears five years ago, we were expecting to shear about 6000 and wild dogs were the trigger to us getting out of sheep. We haven't run much stock at all for the last 5 years, only 200 cows and in the last 12 months we have started to buy in cattle and we will stick with that until can go back into small stock. That is our ultimate aim as this is not really cattle country. We will run about 1000 cattle between the two properties but really we should be running 20,000 sheep. At the moment there is no evidence of attacks on the 200 cattle but I have seen two cows with their tails missing and torn ears. We have been baiting and trapping and shooting very hard to keep the wild dog numbers down, they aren't in packs but solitary dogs and hence they don't impact on cattle but when they start running at 2-5 dogs they do impact on cattle. We only have 60 goats left close to the house and before we were turning off 3,500-4,500 goats each year. The Murchison Vermin Cell fence (old rabbit proof number 1 fence) splits the station in half. Outside the fence there is no management and there is literally hundreds of dogs on the outside. Otherwise on the inside we do baiting and trapping – we bait four times a year and we plan to sell the rest of the property on the outside because it is too hard with dogs. Unfortunately the dogs still come from the north through

the gap (350 km) in the fence and they will continue until we get funding for the proposed vermin cell. We bait every 6 weeks and sometimes more regularly, it is predominately ground baiting with minimal aerial baiting. Our RBG dogger does two days a month on the property and has continually got 20-30 traps in the ground. In the last 12 months he has got 17 dogs and 7 of those are since Christmas. (8)

- It is extremely severe as we are constantly having problems with dogs attacking calves. We are shooting, poisoning and trapping the dogs, we would have got about 30 dogs in the last 12 months or so. Every time you go on a windmill run, you see evidence or a dog. Just last week we shot a dingo in the house yard. They are a serious issue – you see evidence of calves with their ears bitten off, damage to their flanks (ripped open) where they have been dragged down and we do lose a few. It's constantly ongoing and we are not getting anywhere. (14)
- Since January 1st we have opportunistically shot 42 dogs and have had to destroy 27 calves that were attacked and 13 weaners. We do baiting anywhere we see tracks, we don't trap. We have just finished our mustering and we have in excess of 150 cattle in the 300-350 kg weight range that show signs of dog attacks – no ears, no tails, scarring on hindquarters/ shoulders. They are currently in good condition and usually bring in about \$600-700 a head but because of the visual damage we can't sell them for live export, only to the meatworks at \$150/hd. Therefore we lose out in excess of \$100,000 of income.

Our bore man (who does a run every day) carries a rifle with him all the time and our action plan is that we will only shoot if we can get the dog otherwise they become wary of us. The ones we are seeing are all pure bred dingos which are all honey coloured with white tips. We did do some testing with a University in Perth for DNA and the results showed that we had 100% purity even though some looked like kelpie, Alaskan malamute, German shepherd breeds etc. We are also involved in an aerial baiting program through the Pilbara RBG. (16)

- This last 12 months we lost 100 sheep which is significant at \$100 head. Last year we lost about 150-200 sheep. All up our farming land totals 40,000 acres of which we crop half and our property at North Warralackin (held for 15 years) is a problem as it borders Crown land on the edge of the farming country. We have 15 km that borders Crown land. My family tell me that we shouldn't run stock there at all as it has cost us \$140,000 in lambs or diminished profit. At the moment we have 4000 sheep on the property because it has rained but we normally run about 2000 there on average. One time we actually lost 200 sheep in one go - the dogs pushed them through a fence and they got out and into the Crown land. We lost 10 lambs (about 10 kg) in one night this year. I have lost 40 lambs in one go which was full on attacks and an alpha male on his own who was killing every second night and eating. From my experience they bite them on the flank and their stomach falls out – you even see some sheep still walking around which is heartbreaking. The dogs don't go for the week old lambs because they like the sport. We don't use traps, we bait but we don't know if they work, one of our sheep dogs got a bait once and I have shot about 8/9 on the property in the last 15 years. The community dogger traps and baits in the bush, he works about 200 days a year. We also have our own emu proof fence (20 km at \$4500 /km) to protect our crops however the roos still get under it as do the dogs. I am planning on putting a lap wire on it but it will cost a lot of money and we have had a terrible last 4-5 years which makes it hard. I have been wracking my brain what to do because the wild dogs do my head in and I decided to get a couple of gas guns / bird scarers of which I now have five and they do actually work. (20)
- Our lambing percentage is going down year by year which we attribute to predators, both eagles and wild dogs. Historically from 2000 ewes we get at least 1500 lambs drops and now we are only getting 800 lambs. We know the ewes are all pregnant as they are joined in the agricultural area and then brought back to the station to lamb. There are visible signs of wild dogs – tracks, maimed animals and we are observing less and less kangaroos and we have also seen them outside the homestead. There are also less goats; we used to take off about 5-600 a year but we are battling to get 200 – it is not good for the cash flow. My son spends about 3 days a week on the property baiting, trapping and opportunistic shooting; he got 9 dogs out of one paddock over a 6 month period. They look like dingoes and he sends the scalps in too. (25)
- We crop and run sheep and the wild dogs come and go. We don't know where they are and what they are doing, we know they are out there in the Crown land and that they can travel long distances. We have Crown land on our north side that no-one is taking responsibility for the wild dogs in. Our

last hit was at the end of May – we had ewes lambing and a dog came in and disturbed the ewes on two nights and we lost 300 lambs; what they do is stir them up and the new born lambs mismother. When we were shearing those ewes about two weeks ago, we did find dog bite marks. After we lost all those lambs, we got the dogger out who found tracks and laid about 500 baits and camped out in the paddock for a couple of nights but the dog didn't turn up so we are not sure if it got a bait or moved on. We had a dog come in two years ago and we lost ewe hoggets that got tangled in the fences and badly mauled and we had to shoot them. The dogs pushed them into the fence into an area which was fenced off for poison. We found them about 48 hours after the dog/s had been and we lost about 50-60 to poison. (28)

4. **Can you outline the management and production changes that have been implemented on your property/ies because of wild dogs? *This can be over the past decade.***

The majority of landholders have made no changes and are just putting up with the wild dog problem. For some of them, wild dogs are only just becoming an issue and some have ventured out of sheep in the past decade but the decision was not purely based on wild dogs but also the economics. Of those who have made slight changes these include running cattle on the outer edge of the property and sheep on the inside to protect them from wild dogs. They have also tried other control options including Maremma dogs and alpacas which haven't been effective, otherwise they all utilise the services of the community dogger.

Six landholders reported that they have maintained their stock numbers, despite the problems, however they have increased their efforts in controlling wild dog numbers and have seen a significant increase in the number of baits they put out each year. A further six landholders, all from the station country, have made massive changes to their businesses which were focused on running sheep ten years ago. They also acknowledged that the wild dogs have had a severe impact on wild goat numbers. They say wild dogs have made it impossible to run small stock and hence they have had to change over to cattle to ensure they continue to maintain an income. A couple did confirm they would be interested in returning to running sheep once the wild dog numbers are under control as they are better suited to their country.

Due to ongoing wild dog problems two landholders have stayed in sheep but reduced their numbers and in the meantime the vermin proof fence has been upgraded and the other is currently in the throes of finalising a fence around their property to keep the dogs out. This will in turn allow the producers to once again increase their sheep numbers with some confidence that the dogs will not severely impact on their flocks.

A lot of pastoralists used to be able to generate additional income from feral goats on their properties through sending away up to 6,000 goats a year, however the wild dogs have had a huge economic impact with a big reduction in goat numbers as well.

No changes

- We have been here for seven years and we bait and trap dogs continuously – 2 days a week and we have a dogger. We are all cattle and haven't made any changes as a result of wild dogs but we do hammer the issue hard. (2)
- No we have had cattle the whole time and wild dogs have not impacted on the number we run. (9)
- No we haven't made any changes as a result of wild dogs. We are all cropping but we did go out of sheep five years ago and that was based purely on the economics. (11)
- No, we haven't made any changes in the last 10 years. Fifteen years ago this was a commercial sheep enterprise across three properties and the mining company who owns the place made the decision to phase out sheep, it wasn't based purely on wild dogs. (13)
- No, we just have to battle with them all the time. In the last 10-15 years we have had to do ongoing control. Years ago the government used to do a lot of baiting on Crown land which has dropped off and a lot of people on stations don't know about dogs or how to deal with them or poison them. It's the older hands that do. Over the years the dog numbers have certainly increased and there is a real issue in terms of distinguishing between wild dogs and dingos – you can't discriminate between them. (14)
- No changes at this stage as they are only just becoming an issue. (23)

- No, not at this stage(26)
- No we haven't made any changes, we just put up with it. (28)

Slight changes

- Our problem was bad and we were contemplating going out of sheep about 10 years ago. We were getting 30-40 sheep attacked at a time and we were having to sew them up or euthanize them. We electrified a part of the barrier fence to try and stop the dogs from getting in and that worked. We also purchased two alpacas to run in the back paddock but it was hard to tell if worked as the paddocks were very big. The dog activity did slow down with alpacas and electrifying the fence but we were still getting some coming through Coxall corner. The area had a dogger for quite a few years and he kept the dogs under control but then the dogger stopped – I am not sure why. The dog numbers exploded then ten years ago through the Ravensthorpe DSG a dogger was brought on board. He works 4 days and does maintenance on the barrier fence. That has slowly improved the situation and reduced the number of attacks and now we have the confidence to run sheep in the back paddocks but we do check them regularly. (4)
- We have made changes in that we run our cattle further out and our sheep closer to the middle of the property. However I would rather run sheep than cattle as there is more money in it and it is good business to spread your eggs. (7)
- About 10 years ago we did have some grief with multiple dog attacks amongst lambing ewes who in turn mismothered and it resulted in lamb deaths. We had about 15,000 ewes back then and had cattle too but now we have reduced our sheep numbers (not directly linked to dogs) however we do run the sheep on the inside of the property to protect them especially at lambing time as that is when they are most exposed. We run the cattle on the outside of the property where we have the reserve bordering us. When we did have the dog attacks, we did get involved in the Declared Species Group (Northern Mallee) to manage the wild dogs. The dogs are under control and we have left that to the Northern Mallee Declared Species Group's designated dogger who does baiting in the reserve. (15)
- We are running more wethers as we had to change from running a ewe lambing flock to a dry flock on our northern property (Crown land around it) because of the wild dog issue. We were losing 150 sheep when the problem started in 2004 and over the last 5-6 years we have been getting on top of it but we still get the odd dog attacks. There were about 3-4 farmers who moved out of sheep altogether in the area due to dogs. We have tried alpacas and Maremma dogs but they didn't work; they were guarding everyone's sheep and we still had dog attacks. We rely heavily on the community dogger to bait and aerial baiting on the Crown land. We are holding the dogs at the moment and slowly increasing ewes back into the system but we bait pre-lambing. (24)

No changes to livestock but do more baiting and more to control wild dogs

- With neighbouring properties dealing with dog attacks, we have geared up to deal with the issue ourselves and have had to do training which will allow us to set our own traps and we are also gearing up with accreditation for 1080 baits on the properties. The dogs have only really just started to become an issue and only about 18 months ago we also purchased a station. (1)
- We haven't made any changes, I am still trying to be a merino producer however I am still not convinced we have got a major dog problem yet. To overcome that you need to be proactive and we do community baiting 3-4 times a year and have a dogger visit the property. We are doing more baiting than we used to but we don't have the same problem as they have in the Murchison or Goldfields. (10)
- We do a lot more baiting than we ever did as part of our management program and we have a lot more wild dogs than we have in the past. We haven't made any changes to our cattle herd as it is too difficult to do with 38,000 head of cattle over 1.6 million acres. (16)
- The number of baits we put out has increased significantly – 100 fold at least. For most of the time, the dog problem is not as significant as it is now, most of the time you don't know you have a problem until it is too late. Eight years ago we had a significant problem and we did a lot of trapping but we have now gone away from it because it is so labour intensive as you have to keep renewing the lure and re-set it. To maintain 5 traps it would take one person one whole day. (18)
- No we haven't reduced our sheep numbers on that property as a result of wild dogs, even though it costs us on average about \$15,000 a year in lamb losses. We are baiting more now, especially with

the community dogger. Five to six years ago, DAFWA and the Shire put in a bit more money to tackle the problem which enabled us to double our doggers to two. The wild dog numbers have increased in the last 10 years as the stations did a lot more in controlling wild dogs when they had sheep but that isn't happening now with cattle. In our area there are few farmers left with sheep, we are the coal front, others have moved to cropping or they don't run stock at all or just have pasture because they were having too many dog problems. I have started using bird scarers or gas guns to scare the dogs away from the sheep and they do actually work. (20)

- No, we just bait more. (27)

Changed from sheep / reduced sheep numbers to venture into cattle

- Over the past 10 years the place has been destocked, we had small stock before but now we are all cattle (650). We also used to have goats here before but there are now virtually none left. There is potential to go back into small stock as the infrastructure is still there and that is what I hope to do one day. (5)
- Eight years ago we used to see the odd dog and we were a bit slow getting on top of it. Four to five years ago after mustering we would put our sheep in holding paddocks and you would come back next morning to find 40-50 dead sheep. We sold all our sheep (4800) off shears five years ago, we were expecting to shear about 6000 and wild dogs were the trigger to us getting out of sheep. We haven't run much stock at all for the last 5 years, only 200 cows and in the last 12 months we have started to buy in cattle and we will stick with that until we can go back into small stock. (8)
- We used to have sheep but the wild dogs have steadily been attacking them and the season also got the better of us. At the end of 2010 we had 50 sheep and 50 cows and by 2011, all of our sheep were gone along with all of the goats that made a huge difference to our cash flow. Wild dogs have made it impossible to run what this country should run which is small stock. Drought has also had an effect. Now we are all cattle as we need some way to guarantee an income and I have had to seek off-farm income and go dogging. (12)
- Sheep numbers have been severely reduced. We tried fencing the wild dogs out with a 7 barb and 5 plain wire fence and fenced off a paddock but it made no difference. We are constantly buying in sheep and baiting. Last year we finally admitted defeat and decided to go into cattle and have purchased machinery, tanks, trough and fencing and we are now setting up for cattle. We currently have about 150 cattle and we will buy some more in the next month and then build it up. I would love to go back into sheep as they are more profitable and the country is better suited to it. (17)
- We have made changes on the Coral Bay property, partly as a result of the dogs we went from sheep to cattle, we were losing sheep and made that decision to go out of sheep 6-7 years ago. There was also a lot of exotic sheep coming in from neighbouring properties which was impacting on our wool flock and at the same time there was also a downturn in the market. (19)
- We have now destocked a lot of our paddocks because we are worried about the dogs attacking our sheep. We are replacing the sheep with cattle but this is not really cattle country, we have about 50 breeders but would like more. If we are lucky we will be able to get it up to several hundred. Ten years ago we used to run about 3,500 breeding ewes and we had wethers for wool production but with the volatility in the wool market we reduced the numbers so it was not purely related to dogs. We also started to get into Dorpers for meat production as they are stronger than Merinos. We now run about 2,000 Merinos and 1,500 Dorpers. The dog numbers have become more significant and obvious in the last three years with a wave coming through. We are on the No 1 fence which actually separates the property so we have Merinos on the west (inside) and the others on the outside. The fence has been upgraded, after pressure, and it has made a difference however our finances do feel the pressure on the outside. The dogs are still on the inside as well and in particular we have a lot more activity in the area where we are surrounded by DPaW land. Doggers are active and help control the dogs. The native fauna has also been affected by wild dogs – roos, little marsupials and reptiles. (25)

Stayed in sheep but numbers reduced

- Five years ago we had 10,000 sheep and we now have only 2,000. It is soul destroying as we estimate we have lost 1,000 through attacks and from being euthanized over the last 12 months. We would like to increase our sheep numbers again and the fence is the only way. We asked the Indigenous Land Council to help out and pay for the fence, to protect our property, which we should

finish by the end of the year and it will fence around the outside of the station. We will then clean up the dogs on the inside and following that, increase our sheep numbers. (6)

- My eastern boundary is the vermin proof fence and back in 2000-02 that fence was the rabbit fence and it fell into bad repair and the wild dogs moved in. I have stayed in sheep while others in my area have moved out of them after wild dogs moved in with the collapse of the vermin proof fence. However my decision has cost me \$60-80,000 a year in lost income to dog attacks. One year out of 1,600 lambs we marked only 400 so we lost the rest to dog attacks. The dogs would come through the fence in packs of 1 to 3 and herd the sheep into a mob and kill the lambs 30-50 at a time. We managed to convince Minister Chance to replace that old fence which was done but it still wasn't stopping the dogs as it had no lap wire so the dogs could still get under it, so more money was spent to do that. From that day on, in about 2005/06, our dog numbers started to reduce. At the same time we started the Eastern Wheatbelt DSG which had four Shires to start with, now we have ten because the problem has spread. The group employs two doggers who are funded by the Shires and which is matched by the State government. In the first two years, they took out 95 dogs with baiting (ground and aerial) and shooting. The doggers work inside the fence and in the UCL as well as they are employed by both landholders and the State government. Last year they got about 44 dogs in total. Back in 2008 I actually sold half of my sheep (used to run 4-4,500) and cut back to 2,000 so I could keep my eye on them more. Since the fence has been fixed we have increased our sheep numbers back to about 4,000 and our lambing percentage has gone back up to about 80-85%. As we started to control the dogs with the repairs to our fence, the problem has spread somewhere else as we have pushed the problem further north where the dogs have found a hole in the fence. (21)

Impact on goats

- We have always run cattle, our last sheep went out 2002. We haven't sent out any goats for a long time; ten years ago we were sending off about 5,000 goats and now we have none. They would contribute about \$120,000 a year to the property but now that is lost income. We run aerial baiting programs prior to our main calving, throw out baits, utilise a dogger and shoot. (3)
- We only have 60 goats left close to the house and before we were turning off 3,500-4,500 goats each year. (8)
- We used to generate some income from selling goats and now we don't have any as they have disappeared which has had some economic impact. (19)
- We have completely changed everything, we were running 12,000 sheep on the place and 6,000 goats – now we have only got one small mob of goats and the sheep are all gone and we have about 200 cattle. We had to destock because there wasn't the feed to maintain them, this whole region has been suffering a man-made drought because of the low rainfall use efficiency. We didn't get rid of the sheep because of the dogs, we got rid of them before that. Our plan was to domesticate the goats and the dogs saw to the end of that, so we decided to shift into cattle. Over the last 10 years we have been concentrating on getting the country back into productive condition and have achieved that. We have amalgamated our cattle mob and use rotational grazing practices. The principals of having only a few waters turned on where stock are allows us to easily control vermin (roos and dogs). (22)

5. What has been effective in past wild dog management efforts?

Doggers have been the most effective in managing wild dogs in the past according to landholders. They believe without doggers they wouldn't have any sheep. Doggers have a lot of experience and the knowledge to follow prints and set traps. One pastoralist said that as a landholder they have to be careful because they can easily stuff it up for doggers if they attempt to shoot or trap a wild dog as they are even more wary the next time round. However doggers are becoming a lost art in the bush.

Using a number of tools including trapping, baiting and opportunistic shooting is important in the war against wild dogs. Landholders are more supportive of ground baiting as opposed to aerial baiting as it allows for strategic placement of baits, however there is a place for aerial baiting in rough country that isn't easily accessible by ground. Fresh baits are also more effective than dried baits. There is also a lot of support for the dog fence and the extension of it given the effectiveness of some existing parts as landholders say it slows down the wild dog numbers and makes it easier to control wild dogs with a point to work back from

and for doggers to work along the fence. They believe that without the fence, it would be impossible to run sheep.

Landholders believe the Agricultural Protection Board was very effective in their role in managing and controlling wild dogs and following its demise, they believe the wild dog population has exploded. The current Regional Biosecurity Groups are also proving to be effective, in some regions more so than others.

One landholder believes his bird scarers / gas guns are proving to be effective in keeping wild dogs away from his sheep on the boundary of the fence. He admits that while the dogs do get used to them after a while, you take them away for a few months and then introduce them again and they work.

It appears there is no one tool that has been effective in managing wild dogs in the past: it is about the utilisation of a number of tools including baiting, trapping, shooting and access to fully trained doggers. However this is only effective if it is done regularly in a co-ordinated manner.

Some respondents support fences as they do work on most things including dogs and if fences are managed in conjunction with other control methods they are effective in protecting livestock. Dog control was effective in the past when the APB was on the ground doing dogging and the Agricultural Pest Rate supported the rangelands area. Now it has been absorbed into DAFWA and they have transitioned to a declared pest rate in the RBG system. Following the demise of the APB there was a lack of control of dogs and a reduction in DAFWA services and an increase in wild dog numbers.

RBGs are proving to be effective as they have enabled the community and landholders to take responsibility for the issue, however they do need to be supported by government into the future. According to one respondent the most successful groups in WA are the Esperance Northern Mallee Declared Species Group and the Meekatharra Group. They have taken ownership of the problem and are not sitting back and waiting for government to do it for them.

- Combination of all management tools
 - On our station we bait and shoot and the dogger traps. We have had an impact; last summer we shot 25 dogs and in years gone past we have shot 150 dogs. In the first 5 years we shot 400 dogs. We thought we were getting on top of dogs but after recent rain we are now seeing lots of track. We have a lot of DPaW country bordering us and also an indigenous station and the dogs breed in that country and as much as we clean them out it doesn't take long for them to be replaced. (2)
 - I don't think any particular one method is effective; they all need to be used as they are complementary of each other. (3)
 - You need a combined approach; doggers, aerial baiting program twice a year, ground control - baiting, trapping, shooting when you sight a dog. (4)
 - When we coordinate wild dog control and do it together, which is twice a year through our RBG, it is vital to work together otherwise the dogs shift. I am not convinced that the wild dogs only have a 20 km range.(8)
 - Opportunistic shooting and aerial and ground baiting. I believe people have done trapping in the past but it is fairly time consuming and then you have to go back and check the traps to dispose of the animal humanely. It is another option but we don't have the time or manpower to do that. We usually put the baits near the fenced off solar panels (to stop cattle knocking them) and the dogs get the baits from there. (16)
 - Baiting and shooting is the most effective way to control wild dogs. (19)
 - Every tool needs to be utilised – baiting, trapping and opportunistic shooting. (25)
 - You need all the tools as you would get hit a lot worse if you didn't have them. (28)
 - Baiting and trapping is effective if done regularly and does vary in its levels of success depending on how concentrated and co-ordinated the effort has been. (A8)
 - From my observations I would say it is very much a multi-pronged approach you need to take. You need to think what has really worked – I don't think anything in particular has worked in the Meekatharra region. (A9)

- Coordination
 - Only way to be effective is for everyone to work together. (9)
 - If everyone is committed and has a responsibility for the land, it gives us a chance of putting some control back in. (25)
 - When people work together it is effective but at the moment it is disjointed. If one or two stations are not involved they become a breeding ground for dogs to come back in.(A1)
 - The dual role of having experienced doggers on the ground and twice a year aerial baiting programs and participation from station people is effective. (A4)
- Doggers
 - Doggers and more of them are best. (1)
 - When dogs are on farming land, the farmer can work with the dogger who instructs the landholder on their role. Doggers have the knowledge to follow prints and set traps and they are more efficient and can deal with the problem quicker. (4)
 - The most effective is having a designated dogger as it enables us to run more sheep with the same openness to Crown land. (5)
 - Doggers are most effective and that is complemented with baiting. (7)
 - Having actual doggers on the ground doing the job is really effective. Aerial baiting is effective to a point – provides a protective zone but you do need doggers on the beat. (15)
 - Doggers are very effective as well as utilising all the tools available to control wild dogs – baiting, trapping and shooting. We won't stop them, it would be different if the government threw more money at it but there is not enough money to go around. (20)
 - Dogger working on the inside of the fence; if a dog is on the inside he will come in and do baiting and trapping. He is very protective of the fence and as a landholder we are not allowed anywhere near it, the police have been called a couple of times. (11)
 - Our community dogger is effective in that he works on the UCL land up and down the fence and works within a 20 km buffer zone. (21)
 - Access to doggers. (24)
 - I think it was better managed with doggers on the ground, we need human resources on the ground - they are our biggest asset combined with landholders. (25)
 - Doggers are the best in controlling wild dogs as they travel around and know where dogs are and know where to trap them. (26)
 - Without doggers we wouldn't have any sheep, no doggers = no sheep. It is impossible for landholders to do the job of doggers as there is lots of experience involved. They know what they are doing and as a landholder we have to be careful because we can easily stuff it up for doggers. If you shoot at a dog, you need to make sure you get him otherwise if you miss him he will become wary and you will never get him. (28)
 - The biggest tool is pest management technicians (i.e. doggers); they are the only ones who have the skills to catch dogs in our area. The knowledge of dogs is limited as they have only been around in the last 10 years at an economic level. We use 1.2 doggers in the 3 Shires (Koorda, Dalwallinu and Perenjori). They are hand baiting and trapping. (A11)
 - Professional trappers / doggers. (A6)
 - Fully trained doggers. (A12)
- RBGs
 - Our local group is effective. There are ten Shires who contribute \$7,000 each which is matched by the State government and a mining company also contributes about \$10,000 and in return the dogger keeps the dogs away from around their campsites. We have had excellent cooperation from DAFWA, State government and DPaW and we have also had funding from AWI to assist us in aerial baiting and in the replacement of traps. We have had a great response and cooperation in what we have endeavoured to do. There is no way that the landholders could do it on their own as we wouldn't have the money. (21)

- What is happening in our area is very effective. We have had the Yilgarn Gap closed recently and have a dogger through our group who covers the fence and controls wild dogs and does any repairs to the fence. (26)
- Biosecurity management groups are effective and there needs to be more effort into the funding of these groups going forward. (A4)
- Community ownership taking responsibility for the issue through funding and also on ground work in controlling wild dogs. Industries need to recognise that and do what they need to do to manage the issue. The best groups in WA are the Esperance Northern Mallee Declared Species Group and the Meekatharra Group. They have taken ownership of the problem and are not sitting back and waiting for government to do it for them because government will never do enough, regardless of how they much they do do. Giving the landholder the tools to control them and pastoralists have access to 1080 concentrate which allows them to do their own injecting, they are not reliant on the government to do it for them. (A5)
- Shooting
 - Our eyes have only been opened up to the wild dog issue within the past 12-18 months but to date shooting in our area has worked well. (23)
- Baiting
 - Baiting is effective but it can take 12 hours for a dog to die and you have no idea if it got enough poison. (1)
 - Continuous baiting throughout the year is effective. (5)
 - I believe baiting is vital, if we were to stop baiting it would get a lot worse – we are continually baiting. The places that are baiting every month there are a lot less dogs but you need to have fresh baits as the uptake is a lot less with dried baits. (8)
 - In the 1980s the baits were treated in a cement mixer and then injected so they had poison on the outside too – a dog can pick up and play with the bait and it can get him. (12)
 - Fresh meat baits work well – I usually shoot a roo and cut it up and put poison inside and spread its guts around and cut up some fresh meat, put poison on it and put it on sticks inside the cavity of the carcass. (12)
 - Aerial baiting is effective to a point as it gives you a protective zone but you do need a dogger on the beat. (15)
 - Baiting and plenty of it. It's an expectation; buffer baiting has had a big effect – we know that we are under more pressure in some areas than others and that's because other properties don't buffer bait. The law is you have to buffer bait on your own property within your boundary fence and your neighbour has to do the same. When someone doesn't do it, that's when we get more activity. Buffer baiting is effective and the most important tool, it is a change in the last decade and it has had the biggest single positive effect. (18)
 - Strategically baiting is better than blanket baiting. (24)
 - Aerial baiting is fairly effective as well. Dogs bred up when aerial baiting stopped. You get a lot of younger ones when baiting. (26)
 - Baiting twice a year along the river system and near water holes. (27)
 - Full strength baits for wild dogs and foxes. You can't use fox bait because if the dogs picks one up he will only get a tummy ache and he will never take bait. (28)
 - Baiting ad nauseum. (A1)
 - Baiting – both ground and aerial is very effective. (A10)
- Fencing
 - Exclusion fences. (1)
 - Fencing, and cell fencing is also effective. (5)
 - The fence we have put in appears to be working well as it slows down the numbers but it works with a co-ordinated approach with neighbouring properties. We are one of two stations (other than Meeka) which have an electric fence. (6)

- There are not many other options other than fencing. (7)
- The fence makes our work easier as we have a point that we can work back from and use as our boundary, not just bush. (8)
- The initial fence kept the dogs back in the desert country but when it fell into disrepair, the dogs came in. Today we have the rabbit / emu barrier fence with lap wires on it which is holding dogs out but we have also got problems inside the fence and dogs are being allowed to breed up in the National Parks. (10)
- The fence is very effective as it allows the dogger to control the dogs on the outside and inside the fence and work within a buffer. (11)
- Fences need to be smarter, if you have the money. (13)
- Exclusion fences work well but are expensive. (17)
- The most effective is the fence which controls the flow of wild dogs into the agricultural area. Without the fence it would be an impossibility to run sheep and control the dogs. (21)
- The most effective strategy we can see is for the extension of the barrier fence to fence off farming land from north of Kalbarri to east of Esperance, as it has been proven to work. (24)
- The only solution is to have a dog proof fence. (28)
- The most effective is fencing, need to weigh it up – a cost benefit analysis doesn't look attractive as the return on investment doesn't come into it, it is the long term impact that does and we need to take that broader view. Baiting and trapping are all effective and management is a priority. South Australia has a very effective system in that they have a board to manage the fence and baiting programs. (A3)
- I believe vermin fencing will work as long as it is done in conjunction with other methods and it will protect the small stock in the Murchison (55 stations). There is a continuous stream of dogs and it is now extending into the agricultural regions. (A9)
- Fences do work on most things including dogs. Hard fences and electric fences are expensive but in some cases that is justified because few people are around to supervise the less robust technology of electric fence (twig falls on it and it shorts out). (A13)
- Scalp / bounty program
 - The scalp program in the Murchison Shire, which was reintroduced two years ago, has been fairly effective. In the last 12 months they have got about 60-70 dogs which brings it to about 100 since it started. (3)
 - The bounty scheme in the Murchison is effective. Locals brought in 50 scalps over the last 12 months. It helps, one of positives is that you know how many wild dogs you are getting. It doesn't matter how much it is as long as there is one. It costs RBGs about \$1000 per dog for doggers and people say a bounty is no good – if they put \$500 on it, that's only half the cost that the RBG pays to catch a dog. It's not the total answer, but it may be one way to go about it. (12)
 - Nearly every Shire had a bounty but with the demise of the sheep industry that disappeared – it was brought into the Murchison last year (2014) and should have been State wide as an incentive. (A4)
 - Shooting works – the scalp program got about 500 scalps over 12 months in the Murchison. (A13)
 - In Victoria we had a four year bounty program where we got 16-1700 dogs in that period and people handed in the scalps for \$100 for wild dogs and \$10 for foxes. The bounty has since stopped but we won't see the impact of that for a couple of years yet. (A5)
- Trapping
 - Basically it comes down to bait, trap, bait, trap and you always need to have traps in the ground. One time I had 11 traps set up as a minefield down the road trying to get one dog – you leave one trap obvious and set up blind traps. There are more and more hybrids which are different to dingoes in that they attack more and are harder to control. (8)
 - The trapping program is effective. (12)

- When I had a neighbour who trapped, we had a better lambing but since he has sold and we have moved to baiting that is not as effective. However trapping is labour intensive. (17)
- Other control methods
 - I have used bird scarers (from Donnybrook). I had been wracking my brain as to what to do because it does my head in and so I decided to get a couple of these gas guns. They actually work. I have five now. One bottle lasts about 10 days – you set it for every 10 minutes and they are strategically placed where I have sheep and are pointed towards the bush. I have been using them for about 3-4 years. The sheep do get used to them and are happy to feed within 50 metres and the wild dogs are also getting used to them so I took them away for 12 months for a break. I have now had one in the paddock with 450 lambs and ewes for 6 weeks and haven't lost one sheep. (20)
 - Dog sterilisation programs for indigenous communities. (A13)
- APB
 - In the old days when the APB operated, they were very effective and made good baits. (14)
 - When the APB was around in Kalgoorlie, that was effective, we didn't have a dog problem until they stopped as they had it under control. When they stopped dog numbers increased and pushed down into the Esperance region. (15)
 - The APB was very effective in the past as they had a whole network around the State which included doggers. The demise of the APB combined with DAFWA cut backs is making the problem worse. (24)
 - There was a greater degree of control in the earlier days with the APB and we were buffered by the Goldfields and other regions. I believe industry and government took their eye off the ball and a lapse in control occurred and numbers have compounded very quickly and exploded. (25)
 - Very little has been effective, in the distant past wild dog control was effective as there were a large amount of resources available through full time doggers. The APB had lots of doggers in the 1970s and 80s and the combined efforts resulted in dogs being pushed back to small numbers in remote areas. That has all been withdrawn in the last 30 years, back to a watershed – what came first, the decline of the pastoral industry or the dogs? The pastoral industry declined in terms of capacity (no. of people), then dog control dropped off and hence numbers built up again. Recent measures have not been as effective, an exception is the barrier fencing on the Nullarbor which excludes dogs from impacting. The Goldfields region has spent lots of money to manage dogs and the numbers are still increasing. (A2)
 - In the past it was effective when the APB were on the ground doing dogging and the Agricultural Pest Rate supported the rangelands area. Now it has been absorbed into DAFWA and they have transitioned to a declared pest rate in the RBG system. (A12)
 - There was a period of time when wild dogs were in low numbers when there was the APB significantly funding doggers on the ground which was government funded with strong legislation in place for agricultural protection in the pastoral community. There were more people across the country and they were more active as an agency. (A14)
- Other
 - In the 1990s most properties were carrying stock and were run as commercial operations and the dogs were controlled as there was a commercial reason. The biggest turning point was the collapse of the wool industry. (13)
 - In the 60s this property had 16 male adults working on it who were on top of wild dog control, now there is only me. That is the main reason that the dogs have got out of control because there is not enough man power these days. (22)
 - Nothing has been effective and it has not been monitored long enough to know. (A1)
 - The decline of the sheep and wool industry was the catalyst for wild dog problems, there was a lack of control of dogs further out and a reduction in DAFWA services in terms of resources on ground. This also flowed onto other declared weed species. During the last

20 years mining companies have taken over stations and destocked and they have never been managed properly. (A4)

- When there was pastoralism in the region, the landholders undertook pest control but since the reduction in 2004 those leases have been taken over by mining companies and I am not saying they are not doing any control but it is a lot less, as they are not running sheep or cattle. (A7)
- DPaW have a good neighbour policy, they do dog management on their properties which is comparable to neighbouring stations. (A10)
- A lot of things work but I am curious about why the sudden rise in dog numbers – is it because they are breeding more due to the fact of less control of dogs in communities or the fact that they walk out of the desert? There is less stock now than there has ever been, why is it a problem like it is now? (A13)

6. What has not worked well in past efforts?

Landholders were critical of a number of factors that hadn't worked well in managing wild dogs in the past which included trapping which is too labour intensive, the bounty system which can be easily rorted and the lack of effectiveness of 1080 in recent times which they believe is strength related. Dried baits don't appear to be effective and it was also mentioned that it is hard to determine the success of baiting as you don't know how many dogs it has killed. The utilisation of fox baits was also raised as an issue due to the fact that if a wild dog picks it up, he will only get a tummy ache and he will never take bait – therefore they believe it is essential to use full strength baits for foxes as well.

Lack of participation or neglect in regards to the issue from landholders, mining companies, indigenous communities / properties and DPaW was also highlighted and contributed to the lack of resources on the ground to help control wild dogs. Landholders believe that DPaW in particular is not responsibly managing wild dogs on their properties and that they were providing a corridor and breeding ground for them. Survey tracks and bushfire breaks in unallocated Crown land were also criticised as they bring the dogs onto the fence and into the agricultural areas. The demise of the old Agricultural Protection Board was highlighted as one of the issues that contributed to an explosion in wild dog numbers throughout the State.

One landholder believes that nothing has been effective in recent years and that landholders need to work out a longer term blueprint for the use of the pastoral region given its lack of viability and that they need to diversify to deal with the problem rather than scream at the government.

It appears that not a lot has worked well in past efforts and there is still a lot of wild dog problems throughout the State. It mainly comes down to a lack of resources and funding. This is further impacted by an un-coordinated approach in the management of wild dogs, fragmentation amongst the different organisations involved in the issue and the lack of commitment or performance of some landholders.

As one respondent Stated 'farmers have all the tools now but there are not enough people in the pastoral areas and the landscape is huge so it is difficult to manage.' This is further impacted by the reduction of DAFWA staff which adds more pressure.

Some areas, more so in the cattle country, are struggling to get landholders involved in their community baiting programs. In the Kimberley one Shire only gets a 27% participation rate in their free aerial baiting program.

Landholders are also now dealing with a different dog as the dingo has crossed with dogs to a cross bred which is totally different and has a more severe impact on livestock and other native animals.

- People
 - The biggest problem is getting everyone to do it; it is un-coordinated and there is non-participation. (8)
 - I am not sure but the lack of man power has seen the wild dogs get out of control. We know it is not going to improve so we just have to put up with it. (19)
 - Neglect, people not paying attention. (22)

- Lack of people of the ground – unless there is some new technology that doesn't need people on the ground, more resources / people is the only way we will keep the numbers down along with a co-ordinated approach.(22)
- When there isn't a co-ordinated approach from pastoral stations, then the control of wild dogs doesn't work well. If one or two stations are not involved, they become a breeding ground for dogs to come back in. (A1)
- It is all about the scale and the capacity of people to undertake work across the landscape. Dogs are very mobile and travel and they will slowly disperse over an area. From my observations we are battling to do everything on a station i.e. maintain infrastructure, mill runs, control dogs. Stations are not being managed properly and there needs to be a radical change of land use across the rangelands. What caused it? It was a combination of wild dogs, the wool price, the mining industry boom and buy in but individuals will point their finger at one particular problem. What is needed is a holistic approach to managing the problem. (A2)
- We need active management by landholders themselves which is complemented by aerial and ground baiting and doggers. (A4)
- Farmers have all the tools now but there are not enough people in the pastoral areas and the landscape is huge so it is difficult to manage. You need more resources to manage properly and DAFWA has reduced staff and hence there is extra pressure and the problem expands. (A5)
- There is a lack of broad scale community involvement controlling wild dogs – you get some landholders who are keen to do something, some who are conscientious whereas others don't get involved in baiting for a reason i.e. cattle or they can't get a landscape wide approach. There are challenges through legislation and enforcement to do a minimum requirement. RBGs should identify non-participants. In Victoria we have 18 doggers who are funded by the State government (\$4 million) and if we get a report from a farmer we need to respond within 24 hours and physically visit in 72 hours and then remain on the property for 30 days after the last attack. We don't have non-performing farmers because we deal with the issue, we encourage farmers to get involved through the AWI program to develop a property plan as part of a district plan. The AWI have two full time doggers who are on the ground co-ordinating groups and farmers, not the control. (A5)
- All of it hasn't worked well in the past because our problems have got worse. We have the knowledge and tools and but we haven't had the coordination and funding for it to be effective enough. It is fragmented with a lot of organisations trying to do things but it hasn't all been tied together into a concerted force. (A8)
- The situation that is not working well is that the small stock producers are very conscious and committed to controlling wild dogs but as you get into the cattle producing country there is less commitment to wild dogs. We need to get everybody to take the issue seriously and put the work in as there is a lot required to make it work. The dogs are breeding up and moving south. (A9)
- We are struggling to get landholders involved in our baiting program. We spend about 20% of the budget (\$130,000) and we are battling to spend that as we can't get the stations on board to be involved. We offer aerial baiting free to pastoralists, we have 92 stations in the Kimberley but we are battling to get 25 on board. Wild dogs are an issue but it is not our priority issue as we also have feral donkeys and horses. (A10)
- There is not enough coordination between the pull back in the rangelands which saw landholders walk away from stocking which has left a vacuum in areas that were fully controlled: the control walked out the door. You can't blame anyone, it is an economic reality. (A12)
- From a pastoralist's point of view all the measures haven't been done well enough to satisfy them so that they can run sheep. It comes down to the viability of the sheep industry and its ability to pay for the control – simple economics. (A13)
- There are still plenty of dogs so maybe it has all failed, I don't know. We are in wild dog control for the benefit of our neighbours mainly and that is why we participate. (A14)

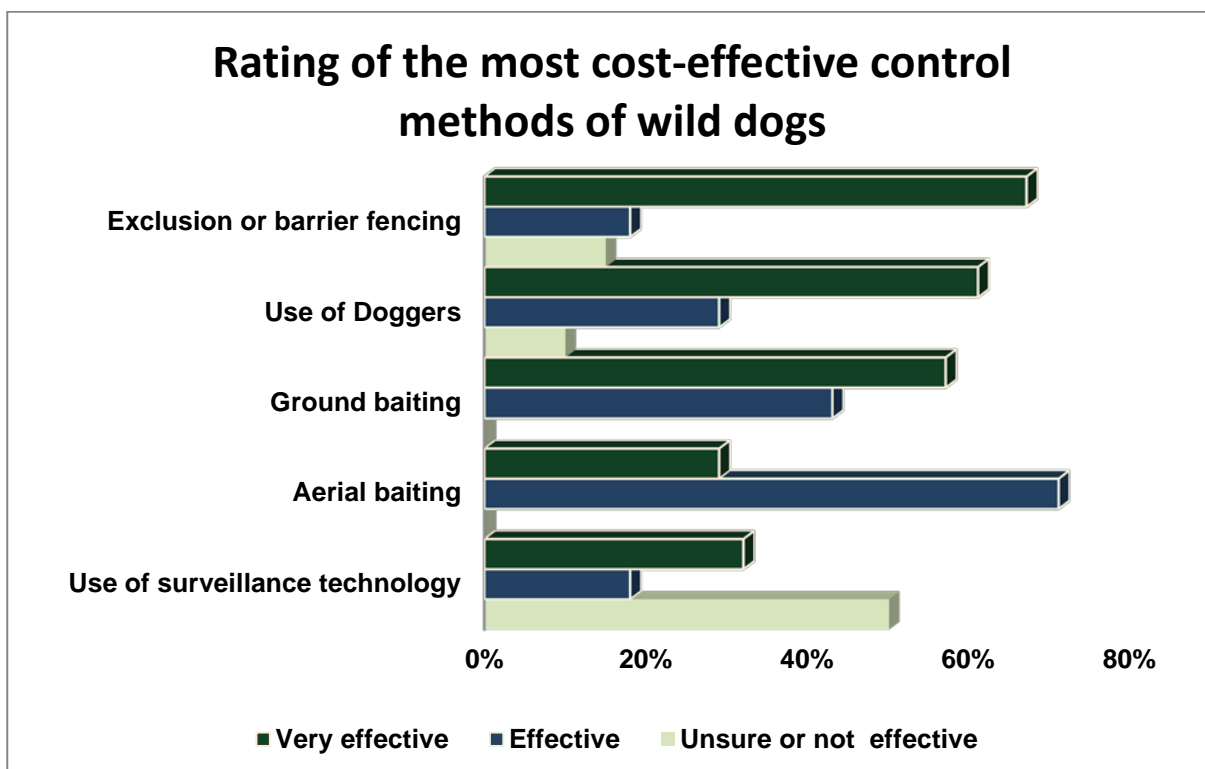
- Poisons
 - 1080 not as effective as lots of baits are put out and the dogs are still there – they are getting around the bait. (1)
 - Baiting is not as effective as these days the poison is injected inside the bait and not on the outside like it was in the 80s so a dog can pick it up and play with it and still walk away from it without dying. (12)
 - Access to 1080 for landholders, you need an APB operator. (14)
- Trapping
 - Trapping is so labour intensive and you have to go back and check the traps to dispose of the animal humanely. It is another option but we don't have the time or manpower to do that. (16)
 - Setting your own traps if you are inexperienced and causing the dog to be more wary and making it harder for dogger to get him. (10)
 - Trapping is too labour intensive and too expensive on this scale. Trapping does work well and it is a tool in the toolbox and it is important where you have a cunning dog. (18)
 - Trapping is not effective in this country, it is not fast enough and is too labour intensive. (27)
- Doggers
 - Lack of experienced doggers on the ground has contributed to the increase in dog numbers. Dogs are cunning and baiting on its own is not working. (A4)
 - Our biggest impediment to controlling dogs is funding for doggers by industry and government. DPAW purchased some of the rangelands and they didn't have the resources to control the invasive species on our border and lack resources for our recognised RBGs. (A11)
- Dingoes versus wild dog debate
 - There is a big difference in animal behaviour and control between dingoes and wild dogs. (A6)
 - The crossover of dingoes becoming wild dogs – they weren't as big an impact as before and only had one litter a year with less pups whereas wild dogs have a couple of litters a year and 6-8 pups. The dynamics are totally different and hybrid dogs are a lot bigger in size. The impact of the changeover of dingo to wild dog has put the southern rangelands under pressure and this is now flowing on to agricultural areas. (A12)
- Baiting
 - Faulty batches and type of meat impacts on effectiveness. (8)
 - Bait is not as good as an electric fence: old dogs go around a bait while young pups will pick it up and play with it. Foxes and goannas also pick up the bait. (6)
 - Not getting enough baits. (9)
 - Baiting is not as effective as these days the poison is injected inside the bait and not on the outside like it was in the 80s so a dog can pick it up and play with it and still walk away from it without dying. (12)
 - Dried baits are not as effective – dogs like fresh meat and hence they are only good for the first 24 hours. (12)
 - Baiting programs appear to have stopped in some areas, others are making their own baits locally. (14)
 - Two baitings a year is insufficient, you need to be baiting all the time. I carry oat baits and if I see any evidence, I shoot a roo and make up baits and put them out. (22)
 - Fox baits – you need to use full strength baits for wild dogs and foxes. You can't use fox bait because if the dog picks one up he will only get a tummy ache and he will never take bait. (28)
- Ground baiting

- How do we measure success? Less tracks, pups/foxes? (10)
- I am not sure how good the baiting program is as there are no numbers on it. (11)
- Baiting isn't effective - we have dropped tons and tons out and it doesn't appear to be working. We know bait kills the domestic dogs but whether the wild dogs are picking them up, that is another story. (17)
- Aerial baiting
 - I question the expense of aerial baiting with planes – is it effective? Not if you weigh it up against full time doggers. (5)
 - We are throwing a lot of money at aerial baiting, but we don't know where they are going and what is getting them. (10)
 - Aerial baiting in the wrong areas. (24)
 - The biggest hurdle we have had with aerial baiting is in acquiring enough meat to use. Sausage baits are not effective as the skins used protect the meat. (A4)
- Fence
 - A fence is a waste of time, if you put in a fence from Port Hedland to Esperance – are we fencing them in or fencing them out? Down in the Murchison it may be effective. (9)
 - I can't point a finger at any one control mechanism as we have a toolbox of mechanisms. Fencing is one control that depends on the integrity of the fencing if you fence dogs into an area. If you are using it intensively enough; it is very effective in controlling dogs. If it is not used in an integrated way then you will have a re-invasion from the surrounding areas. (A2)
- The scrapping of the APB
 - The collapse of dogging schemes. (14)
 - There was a greater degree of control in the earlier days and we were buffered by the goldfields and other regions. I believe industry and government took their eye off the ball and since the lapse occurred the problem seems to have compounded very quickly and numbers have exploded. I don't believe everyone including DPaW, local government, State government and landholders fully understood how quickly the problem was going to unfold. (25)
 - In the station country, north of us, they used to have a lot of doggers (APB days) and they used to keep it all under control and hardly ever were there dogs in farming areas. Now that structure no longer exists and because there have been no doggers and domestic dogs have interbred with dingos they have gradually moved to the south and west. (28)
- DPAW
 - Getting through to DPaW that they are not responsibly managing their properties and they have limited resources to control wild dogs. Hence they provide a corridor for wild dogs. (3)
 - Gridlines and tracks through the bush are a disaster as they allow dogs to follow them and brings them onto the fence where they find a gap/ hole and enter farming land. The land was virtually uncleared before, there is no water out there and it should be in a natural State. (11)
 - I am not happy with DPaW as they have put highways on their land to allow them to fight fires. They have graded a track two vehicle widths to stop a fire and there is about 100 km track that goes up to the Emu Proof fence which they grade every two years. The wild dogs use the tracks as a highway. They should let the track go and let the doggers go along the fence and tracks. I would like to see the tracks regrow as we have had more trouble since they were put in and plus they can't really put out a fire in those areas anyway as it would be too dangerous. (20)
 - No access to national parks and river systems has been a hindrance as the dogs traffic down the river and survey tracks. We need more access to national parks. (24)
 - Lack of cooperation with DPaW and red tape with cross border tenure. The land is owned by the government but we are doing the work for them. (24)

- The amount of land that DPaW has is growing and they lack funding to control wild dogs. (A12)
- Absentee landholders
 - Some landholders work off their properties and while they are away the dogs breed up. (3)
- Bounty
 - The bounty I don't like as it can be easily rorted which I am concerned about it. Why didn't they get the dogs before the bounty came in? I don't want the Shooters Association out here shooting, threatening and ruining it for the doggers who then miss the opportunity to catch the wild dogs. It also worries me about shooters being allowed in national parks. (10)
 - The bounty is the biggest travesty, it's a horrendous system as you get more domestic dogs than dingoes. (A2)
- Other
 - Nothing that hasn't worked well. (8)
 - What we have been doing for the last 10-15 years hasn't been effective as we haven't worked out what we are doing. We are cleaning up some of the dogs but we are not getting rid of them. We need to sit back and say why are we doing this? It is out of control and to spend more money to use the same tools to deal with the problem, you are just wasting your time. We need to work out a longer term blueprint for the use of the region out here. There will be pastoral use in the more productive country but landholders need the ability to diversify to deal with the problem. There are a lot of unviable people screaming at the government to do something. (13)
 - I don't think there is anything that hasn't actually worked. We don't want them to put limits on the use of 1080. (21)
 - It is hard to say as the wild dogs only come in sporadically so it is not applicable. (23)
 - Alpacas and Maremma dogs. (24)
 - Not so diligent landholders has helped compound the problem along with a lack in labour as it is not viable to employ people and also properties are being sold off to other agencies who don't control wild dogs. (25)
 - Not enough money being put into research and development. (25)
 - Ignoring the problem. (26)
 - Where management of wild dogs breaks down and there is no maintenance then wild dogs get out of control and numbers explode. It all worked well but if you stop doing it like with the collapse of the wool industry in 90s, it got out of control, it is economically driven. (A3)
 - Wild dog control works well in Victoria with the involvement of the AWI but it has not yet been rolled out in Western Australia. They provide funding for community groups and coordinator positions to do the grunt work on the ground, lobbying and the co-ordination of getting groups together. (A5)
 - Not a lot has been effective as there is a lack of resources. (A6)
 - If you are looking across the State, it is the scale of the problem that defeats us. We have a huge area to control dogs in with baiting and shooting. Every day you shoot one, another one takes its place. A combination of tactics makes it more effective. (A6)
 - There are no mechanisms to control feral fauna, as a Shire we put \$20,000 into weed control but nothing into wild dogs. We only have three pastoralists in the Shire which include two mining companies and one proper pastoralist. We would like to see pastoralism reintroduced into the Shire. If the mining companies aren't undertaking pastoral activities then they should try and get a third party to operate the station. In the earlier days the APB required them to run stock. Pastoralism will never compete with mining but we do have families in the area and people do need to eat. (A7)
 - We have failed in doing the research work necessary to demonstrate that the control measures that are being used are effective, there are big gaps in the research. (A14)

7. **Please indicate your view on which option/s would provide the most cost-effective eradication of wild dogs. (1 not effective and 5 - extremely effective)**

The most cost effective way to control / manage wild dogs according to landholders is with exclusion or barrier fencing first and foremost. More than 67% of landholders indicated that it was effective or extremely effective. Ground baiting was rated second, closely followed by shooting and trapping by doggers and aerial baiting. The use of surveillance technology is still quite new to a lot of landholders and therefore they were not sure about its effectiveness but do see some potential in its use. Other options mentioned included bounties, the use of a gas gun to scare the wild dogs and the use of alpacas and Maremma dogs to protect sheep flocks.



Some alternate ideas included bounties, use of a gas gun, Maremma dogs and alpacas.

Landholders were also asked to indicate the number of days per year their business spent undertaking these actions, and the property’s annual expenses on wild dog management options.

Landholders spend an average of 43 days a year on managing wild dogs, which costs each property about \$18,071 a year.

Ground baiting consumes most of the landholder’s time, followed by shooting and trapping by landholders and doggers, and this doesn’t take into account the labour and costs associated with doggers employed through RBGs. One landholder employs a full time designated dogger who works five days a week, 52 weeks a year shooting, trapping and checking / maintaining their own dog fence: they estimate the cost to be \$150,000. This doesn’t allow for the extra time that station employees spend on controlling wild dogs on the inside of their fence and making baits.

Management option	% of landholders using option	Range of days spent/yr	Average # of days spent/yr	Est Annual Cost per landholder
Aerial baiting	35%	0-5	2.5	\$2,280
Use of surveillance technology	15%	0-20	10.5	\$3,500
Ground baiting	75%	0-80	23	\$9,190
Use of Doggers	65%	0-78	18	\$5,400
Exclusion or barrier fencing	10%	0-16	12	\$4,567
Average			43 days/yr	\$18,071

*NB the overall total does not include the extra time landholders put in to attend meetings for RBGs etc.

The rate is based on \$30/hour for labour but a lot of landholders earn more than that off property.

One property has a full time designated dogger who works 5 days a week, 52 days a year shooting, trapping and checking / maintaining their fence at \$150,000 a year. (18)

Financial impacts and management inputs for landholders with a wild dog problem in 2014							
	NSW	VIC	QLD	SA	WA	NT	Australia
Management inputs:							
Days a year spent on management actions excludes contractors	24	28	20	21	32	44	26
Average annual property expenses for management actions, excludes family labour (\$)	3 975	3 526	7 625	4 902	9 096	14 903	7 197
<i>Source: ABARES survey 2014</i>							

A lot of landholders are also actively involved in running their local RBGs and associated activities which also takes up a lot of extra time that is not accounted for at all in these days or expenses.

Other comments

Ground Baiting

- More specific in putting baits out.
- Fresh baits. (14)
- If it is done in response to the presence of dogs, it is effective otherwise a lot is wasted. (22)

Aerial Baiting

- It is less strategic and not as cost effective.
- Aerial baiting is effective provided it is targeted. (21)
- The drier the baits, the less effective.

Shooting and trapping by doggers

- Shooting is a waste of time as it takes time. (8)
- It is not very cost-effective but it is effective.
- You have to do it – most effective but the range is limited? (15)
- It is effective if you are a skilled trapper. (14)
- One of the most effective ways of ridding dogs. (26)

Use of surveillance technology

- We are trialling motion sensor cameras through the RBG. (1)
- You can set the timer camera and bait. (2)
- A useful aid but you can't cover enough country and you need a lot.
- The dogger uses it. (21)
- It is another tool. (28)

Exclusion or barrier fencing

- It depends on the terrain.
- You can't operate without it. (21)
- If it is done properly and the cells are small enough to be cohesive. (22)
- You will never keep it up in this country. (27)

8. Can you identify a local Biosecurity Group (RBG or otherwise) and rate the effectiveness of wild dog management of the group? (1 not effective and 5 - extremely effective).

Landholders play an important role in the operations of their local Biosecurity Group or Declared Species Group. The RBGs are proving to be effective in wild dog management as the groups co-ordinate community baiting programs and engage the services of doggers.

The most effective group appeared to be the Northern Mallee Declared Species Group as the group is quite vocal and very active in lobbying for the extension of the fence to include the Esperance agricultural region. They also employ three doggers, coordinate aerial and ground baiting in conjunction with DAFWA and the Esperance Shire. They believe they are cost effective in that the money gets to deal with the issue on the ground and is not caught up in administration. They are under pressure to become an RBG which they are not impressed with as they would like to continue to focus on the wild dog issue and not have to deal with other pests and weeds.

The work of the Ravensthorpe Declared Species Group has given farmers the confidence to run livestock in the region without the risk of injury or death associated with wild dog attacks. The group is about to become an RBG.

The Meekatharra RBG has proven to be effective in controlling wild dogs as they employ seven doggers and run a couple of co-ordinated baiting programs each year where they put out about 26 tonnes of meat across 53 stations. Even though landholders say the wild dog numbers are still increasing, they believe the group is doing the best they can with the resources and funding they have. They say the number of doggers would have to double for them to see a turnaround in numbers.

The Carnarvon RBG has sprung back to life after a change in the management committee who are proactive and have some good ideas. The group has had a rough ride in the past but they are now engaged with landholders and other organisations. They employ six doggers and run community baiting programs across five Shires.

The Goldfields Nullarbor RBG is very active and engaged with the community and DPaW. The group did have a huge impact back in 2013 out on the Nullarbor when wild dogs got out of control which resulted in an intensive short term program which couldn't be sustained into the long term. One landholder was critical in saying that they couldn't see any clear evidence that they were getting rid of the dogs although he did say it would require a bottomless pit of money which of course the groups are limited by. The group does employ two doggers and runs a co-ordinated baiting program, and besides dogs they also focus on weeds, horses and other pests.

The Eastern Wheatbelt RBG has had great success in controlling wild dogs in the region through the employment of two doggers with co-operation from farmers and local Shires. Landholders admit that they would be out of sheep if it wasn't for the work of the group.

In the Pilbara the RBG reports that a lot of people get involved in the aerial baiting program to ensure that they get their money's worth out of their rates and to appease the government departments. There are some landholders that do undertake extra control measures. The group requires some fresh blood to ensure the group can proactively manage wild dogs.

Landholders in the Kimberley are not as active in their RBG which runs two community baitings a year and also oversees donkey shooting and weed control. Concern was raised that a lot of places are not involved in managing wild dogs. The Kimberley RBG believe they are effective at a local level but not at a landscape level. Unfortunately they only get about a 27% participation rate (25/92 stations) in their free aerial baiting programs. They are aware they need to do more baiting but they can't force people to do it.

A new group on the scene is the Northern Agri Group which is currently in discussions about becoming an RBG.

The Central Wheat belt Declared Species Group has been very effective in terms of the education and the knowledge the group has built but they are still working on the control aspect. They have maintained stock losses at a manageable level and are very active in reporting dog deaths and stock losses. With DAFWA pulling back in on ground services and the legislation stating it is the landholder's responsibility, this has led to a need for more structure and for the group to adopt an RBG model and impose the declared pest rate.

One respondent believed that RBGs were very effective in the community taking ownership of the issue and he said he believed that the best groups in WA were the Esperance Northern Mallee Declared Species Group and Meekatharra Group as they are not sitting back and waiting for government to do it for them.

Carnarvon RBG

- 4/5 – They are active in getting the community baiting programs done and aerial baiting further out. They hold regular meetings and are good at raising funds. (1)
- 3/5 – They are engaged with landholders and involved with DPaW and other government agencies. It is a central unit to ensure that everyone is kept in the loop and they organise community baiting and employ four doggers (funded through vermin rates) and two doggers (R4R funded). The group covers five Shires – Exmouth, Upper Gascoyne, Carnarvon, Murchison and Shark Bay. (3)
- 3/5 – The group keep you up to date with things and coordinate community baiting and have doggers in the Carnarvon area. (6)
- 5/5 – The group has had a rough ride for the last couple of years, but with a change in personnel I would hope it will improve. We had a good meeting recently. They are proactive and have some good ideas and they are doing the best with what they have got. (10)
- 3/5 – The group hasn't been extremely effective because we still have dogs. It's been in a bit of turmoil lately so the group is not as effective but I would expect it to improve now as it has a new management committee. (12)
- 3/5 – The group has just got going and they are doing something positive and have employed a couple of doggers and they coordinate the baiting program and are proactive. (2)

Meekatharra RBG

- 4/5 – I give them that score for effort as they do a good job with the funding they have, but it is still not enough money to do everything. They employ seven doggers, it would be nice to have 14 on the ground and they run two baitings a year where they put out about 26 tonnes of meat across 53 stations. The majority of the southern half is accessible so we do minimal aerial baiting there but about 10% is done in the northern section. (8)
- 2/5 – They have not been effective up here, they do employ doggers in the southern part. They always have one baiting a year with limited bait and we never see people on the ground. I am not sure of funding and I don't see much money up here. Last year we had a plane for the baiting but we had to put our own avgas in it. Maybe we should be in the Pilbara group as we have more in common with those landholders as we are all cattle. (9)
- 4/5 – They are very effective at getting extra doggers in and getting funding. The wild dog numbers are still increasing, but they are doing the best they can with resources. If the dogger numbers doubled we would see a turnaround in wild dog numbers. (22)
- 5/5 - There are a lot of very driven passionate people involved trying to progress and motivate everyone. I think they have been very effective, supporting people, they are organised and they have regular baiting days which is good for community involvement and morale (flat at times). They are getting the numbers and collecting data with animals and the group has proven what co-operation can do. (25)

- 4/5 – They are very effective in terms of the way the group operates with the resources it has and the techniques it employs with 8 doggers (not all full time). They also have a great community baiting program (twice a year) which is well attended and a large quantity of baits are made and distributed in a co-ordinated way. It is completely and utterly under resourced for the task it has to do but it does an excellent job with the limited resources it has. The community component is the key to that. Our budget is about \$70,000 a year for wild dog control and we put out about 26 tonnes across 90 stations. (A9)

Kimberley RBG

- I am a manager and am unable to rate the group in terms of their effectiveness. (19)
- 4/5 – Some people don't do the dog baiting but everyone on the committee does. DPaW won't bait, they are too lazy and useless – we have tried to get them on side. A lot of properties are tourist or aboriginal places and they don't care much either as they are not driven by an income from cattle. We run two community baitings a year and also undertake donkey shooting and weed control. (27)
- 3/5 – We are effective at a local level but not effective at a landscape level. We have only a third of pastoral stations involved in our baiting programs (25/92 stations). You can't force people to bait their properties. We are busy controlling wild donkeys and horses and run our aerial baiting program twice a year. It is up to the individual station owners to do the ground baiting. We are not doing enough baiting. We spend about 20% of the budget (\$130,000) and we are battling to spend that as we can't get the stations on board to be involved. We offer aerial baiting free to pastoralists but we are battling to get 25 stations on board. Wild dogs are an issue but it is not our priority issue as we also have feral donkeys and horses. (A10)

Pilbara RBG

- I don't know anything about the group. (14)
- 3/5 – A lot of people get involved in aerial baiting because they feel that's all they need to do and they get their money's worth out of their rates. There are some that do extra baiting, trapping and opportunistic shooting. But for the majority aerial baiting is all they do, the bare minimum to appease government departments to say they have done their part. The biggest issue as Chairman is it seems to be the same people on the committee for years and they are set in their ways; we need fresher younger blood and to change our ways to be more proactive rather than reactive. (16)

Goldfields Nullarbor RBG

- 4/5 - They are doing the best they can, they should be looking at alternatives to aerial baiting and they don't employ a dogger which they do need to look at. They put a lot of effort into fighting coral cactus. Money is the issue; if they had more they could do more. (5)
- 1/5 – There is clear evidence they are not getting rid of the dogs. A bottomless pit of money is not realistic in dealing with the problem but they are flat out justifying the expense to get rid of the dogs. (13)
- 4/5 – They had a big impact on the Nullarbor when Kybo Station had a lot of dogs in 2013. Our Executive Officer got onto that and coordinated with CALM and DPaW and they flooded the area with baits – aerial and ground. It was a very intensive program which couldn't be continued in the long term due to costs but it had an excellent short term result. We employ 2 doggers and run co-ordinated baiting programs and besides dog control, we also focus on weeds, horses and other pests. (17)
- 4/5 – I am not qualified to say as we do our own wild dog control and employ our own dogger. The only interaction is the acquisition of bait and poison supply. We are not dependent on a government dogger. (18)
- 4/5 - It is doing what it can do, it is better than the old Zone Authority. With the resources it's got, it is coming from a long way behind. They spend most of their money on dog control works and work in unallocated Crown land too. Compared to what was there before they are doing well putting out a million baits via aerial and ground baiting, they also engage a couple of doggers and integrate management with the Department of Parks and Wildlife. (A2)

- 3/5 - I am not actively involved but the group is trying hard and they are engaged in the management and aerial baiting runs and they co-ordinate that with doggers and pastoralists. They are also very active in seeking funding for the fence. (A4)

Eastern Wheatbelt RBG

- 3/5 – We would be devastated without them, it is not totally effective but we would be stuffed without them and would lose sheep, and we wouldn't have access to a dogger. (20)
- 5/5 - They have done the job and controlled the dogs and got an effective management and governance system and they have got it right. The group is pushing for the fence and they employ two doggers. I would be out of sheep if it wasn't for the group and they have also got all the Shires to co-operate. (21)
- 5/5 – We have pulled down the number of dogs and we have been effective in how we have approached members from each Shire. We are an incorporated group with a constitution and we work in closely with DAFWA. We have been effective, everyone is a volunteer and they are involved because they want to keep sheep in the eastern wheat belt. We employ two doggers and get cooperation from farmers and Shires who put in about \$5-7,000 each per year, we can't raise money without help. (26)

Ravensthorpe Declared Species Group

- 5/5 - People have more confidence in running livestock as we can see an increase in the native flora and fauna and the wild dogs are being managed well and kept about 15 km off the fence. Farmers are not as stressed when they are not finding animals in a distressed State. (4)

Northern Mallee Declared Species Group

- 5/5 – They do an excellent job in coordinating resources to control wild dogs, employ three doggers, coordinate aerial and ground baiting in conjunction with DAFWA and the Shire. The group is active in lobbying for the fence and continued funding for doggers and baiting. I have left control of wild dogs to the North Mallee Group and doggers. (15)
- 5/5 – We are cost effective at what we do, the minimal money we get is spent on the ground and is not locked up in administration or red tape like other organisations. We do employ two doggers and we have raised the money to do that as they are more effective than farmers, as they are trained and farmers are too busy. We are pushing to extend the barrier fence as it is the most cost effective way to control dogs and emus in the area. We get about \$230,000 a year through R4R, DAFWA, DPaW, AWI, Esperance Shire and South Coast NRM in the past. The group is run by farmers for farmers and now we are being forced to become an RBG which we are not happy about because all we want to do is target wild dogs and take on the barrier fence. We don't want to focus on other species i.e. starlings and weeds. (24)
- 5/5 – If the group wasn't active in employing doggers there wouldn't be any sheep left in the region. They employ two doggers who bait and trap. (28)

Northern Agri Group

- 2/5 – The group is talking about becoming an RBG, it has just started and is gearing up to deal with wild dogs which will be a major problem if we don't do something. I believe it should be a DAFWA job. I really hope the station guys get the fence up in the Murchison. (23)

Central Wheatbelt Declared Species Group

- 4/5 – I believe the group has been effective in terms of the education and knowledge the group has built. On the control aspect they are not there yet but they have achieved a lot in a short time. They have 1-2 doggers who are paid for by R4R and State NRM funding and Shire contribution and industry. We have maintained the stock losses at a manageable level. We measure the dogs caught but don't measure the effectiveness of that other than by stock losses. Our situation is we know how many stock we have lost in this open country and farm land. Stock loses increased by 20% over 4 years and the dog deaths have increased by 200% so we believe we are holding a line. (A11)
- 3/5 - Unfortunately our reporting doesn't reflect our effectiveness. We are not reducing stock losses at the moment as we haven't got the balance right. We are the only area that hasn't improved as we are limited by funding. The number of dogs killed is irrelevant, I need to know that farmers can run

stock without the associated stress caused by wild dogs. We have had over 300 stock losses in the last 4 years, but a lot of that has been farmers recognising what is happening to their stock. We came off a nil base as we weren't aware of dog attacks. With DAFWA pulling back on ground services and the legislation States that it always a landholder's responsibility, it has led to a need for more structure and for groups to adopt the RBG model and impose the declared pest rates. We are in the throes of becoming an RBG and introducing the rate and for that we need landholder consent. (A12)

9. What off-farm industries are directly affected by wild dogs?

Off-farm industries directly affected by wild dogs include any business with a stake in the pastoral industry and agricultural areas along the edge of the fence that rely on sheep and wool. These include the shearing industry, wool brokers, mustering / mulesing contractors, rural suppliers, meat processors, livestock transporters and more. In turn there is less employment opportunities on stations as the landholders can't afford the labour with reduced or no stock; they don't have the work for them. This has had a flow-on effect on small regional towns within the pastoral areas and impacts on local shops, mechanics, the Shire and its rates, the roadhouse and pub. There are a lot of sectors that are impacted when the pastoral industry is suffering as it is the backbone of the industry. Whereas in the farming sector, the wild dogs haven't had as severe an impact on the off-farm industries.

Wild dogs certainly have a downstream economic impact on all those who rely on the pastoral industry when pastoralists have to get out of sheep.

As one respondent Stated "pastoralism is one of the region's historical primary industries and has been and continues to be in decline in the Goldfields area. This affects the diversity of business, population, wealth to the region, stability in the economy and opportunity for cultural diversity."

- Tourism – 6 responses
 - It is a risk if dog numbers continue to increase, they start to come into camps and threaten tourists. (1)
 - Tourists can't let dogs out for a run safely without the risk of them picking up a dog bait. (14)
 - People are wondering if it is safe to go out there in the bush. (25)
 - There is potential for dogs to be a threat to tourism in places. (A14)
- Abattoirs and meat processors – 12 responses
 - GME used to kill 250,000 goats a year and now they are back to about 40,000. (12)
 - They are not making money off skins as they are damaged. (16)
 - GME and Beaufort River are dependent on wild goats, they are struggling and moving over to sheep which affects their viability. (A1)
 - Rejection of carcasses. (A8)
- Stock firms / livestock agents – 12 responses
- Shearing industry – 20 responses
 - There used to be 3 shearing teams in Kalgoorlie. (A4)
 - Shearers are hard to get and have been reduced by half. (A11)
- Wool brokers – 3 responses
- Rural suppliers – 5 responses
 - We lost our Elders branch in Kalgoorlie. (A4)
 - We have lost stock agents, I would say it has reduced by about 80% in the last 20 years. (A11)
- Mustering contractors - 2 responses
- Mulesing contractors – 3 responses
- Fencing contractors - 1 response
- Aerial musterers - 1 response
- Labour – 2 responses

- Veterinary suppliers - 1 response
- Livestock carriers/ transporters – 13 responses
 - Gary Penn a transporter sold all his sheep crates and has diversified into other areas. (A4)
 - We have lost half of our stock carriers in the area in the last 10 years. (A11)
- Local towns and small businesses i.e. Murchison – 9 responses
 - Mechanic workshops in town (ours has shut down), local shop, roadhouse, pub. (8)
 - It flows on to regional towns. (16)
 - Local businesses. (17)
 - A lot of sectors are impacted and it flows onto towns and other small businesses. (A4)
 - Smaller communities where there were sheep and now cattle. (A5)
 - Pastoralism flows on to towns. (A7)
 - It has had a major mental and economic impact on the town. (A11)
- Local Shire and the rates – 2 responses
- Fuel companies – 2 responses
- Other small businesses related to agriculture and livestock production – 2 responses
- Mining camps / Prospectors – 4 responses
 - Wild dogs are stalking them as they are feeding them. (5)
 - There are a lot of rural myths about miners being worried, they are very easy to control around camps. (A2)
- Employment – 3 responses
 - There is lack of employees as landholders can't afford it and there is not the work. There is only the core family unit is left on the property. (12)
 - Farm labour. (17)
 - There is less demand for secondary labour across the rangelands. (A5)
- Human Safety – 3 responses
 - Issues of wild dogs around perimeter of towns – safety and risk fear. (9)
 - Security issues if camping. (12)
 - Human safety. (A25)
- Other – 10 responses
 - Everything is impacted when the pastoral industry is suffering as it is backbone of industry. (8)
 - Anyone with a stake in the country / pastoral areas, if we go they go. (10)
 - There has not been much impact in our area. (20)
 - Anything to do with agriculture, if there was no sheep it has a flow on effect to all those who rely on sheep and wool. (21)
 - They have devastated the sheep industry in the station country. (23)
 - It indirectly affects everybody and the local economy. (24)
 - Impacts on schools with less families in the area. (A4)
 - They certainly have a downstream economic impact on all those who rely on the pastoral industry when pastoralists are getting out of sheep. (A6)
 - Pastoralism is one of the region's historical primary industries and has been and continues to be in decline in the Goldfields area. This affects the diversity of business, population, wealth to the region, stability in the economy and opportunity for cultural diversity. (A7)
 - Farm lobby groups – demands and membership. (A8)
 - Roo shooting and the goat industry. (A13)

10. What other impacts do wild dogs have - positive and negative?

Wild dogs are perceived to have a positive impact in that they help to control other animal populations including foxes, cats, feral pigs, feral goats and kangaroos which can be attributed to a dingo led recovery of the rangelands and has resulted in an increase in flora and regeneration of vegetation. On another note the wild dog problem has also contributed to a community building effect as everyone has come together to deal with the issue.

The main positive impact appears to be the increase in flora and regeneration of vegetation which is a result of their impact on controlling other animals including emus, kangaroos, foxes, rabbits, goats and sheep. The pastoral country has responded well to a reduced impact in grazing pressure and an enforced rest with destocking of some properties. Some landholders Stated it was the best the country had looked in years and that they had seen some plants that they have never seen before. Dingoes are viewed as unique and landholders are happy for them to exist in their own natural environment however there is no place for hybrid dogs and therefore it is important that they are differentiated.

A lot of landholders believe that wild dogs do not have any positive impacts. The negatives far outweigh the positives in the view of landholders. Wild dogs have had a negative impact in terms of the depletion of natural fauna and they were also viewed as a threat to endangered species. Landholders report that they kill kangaroos, a feed source for aboriginals; attack emus which impacts on the availability of emu eggs for aboriginals to carve; eat turtles and their eggs, bush turkeys, mallee fowl and goats.

Wild dogs have had a severe economic impact on the pastoral and farming industries as well. Due to the number of wild dogs and attacks on stock, landholders have more expenses in relation to fencing, dog control, labour and time spent and their income has been reduced through loss of livestock, decreased lambing and marking percentages. They have also had a loss of income from the depleted harvesting of feral goats which had provided another source of income for many sheep producers.

The main negative impact attributed to wild dogs was their ability to attack and kill livestock which creates animal welfare issues and prevents landholders from running small stock or results in a reduction of stock numbers. Landholders also report that the wild dogs have the ability to bit off both ears on cattle, which removes the National Livestock Identification Scheme tag – a requirement for cattle leaving properties for traceability purposes, which means they are unable to send them off the property for live export or to the meat processors. Cattle that have scars from dog bites are rendered unsuitable for the live export market and as a result producers can only send them to the meat works at a reduced price.

Wild dogs have had a huge emotional impact on landholders who have to deal with livestock that have been killed or ripped apart and are still trying to walk around. It is stressful and soul destroying for them to have to destroy their stock which are their livelihood. Aside from landholders, the impact of wild dogs has flowed on to affect families as a lot of husbands have had to seek contracting work for an alternative income and hence they have left the wife and children home to run the property.

Domestic dogs including sheep dogs are also affected as landholders' are unable to work them for fear of them picking up a dog bait; one landholder muzzles their dogs every time they take them out on the property.

Overall wild dogs have a huge emotional impact on landholders as they deal with destruction of livestock, the economic and social impacts and the family impacts. They have resulted in the demise of the pastoral industry along with the demise of infrastructure associated with sheep on stations. There is also talk that they are impacting on land prices as landholders lose the ability to run stock, they lose value in their land.

Positive

- None – 14 responses
 - No positives, they are vermin as far as I am concerned. (26)
- Control other animals – 13 responses
 - They control other grazing animals – emus and kangaroos. (1)
 - They kill foxes and rabbits and goats. (2)
 - They control rabbits and feral cats. (4)
 - They keep roo numbers down which gives the country an opportunity to regenerate. (5) (12)
 - Lots of studies show that where there are dingoes/wild dogs, there are not many cats or foxes. (11)

- I have heard that they impact on other feral animals and control foxes and cats, there are benefits there as it helps protect biodiversity. (19)
- I understand that wild dogs are part of the natural ecosystem and nature in that they eat certain bugs, beetles and lizards and can have an effect on kangaroo populations and keep them in check but the issue that I have is that their effect on the native population is far outweighed by the effect on domestic livestock because they aren't naturally afraid of dogs like wild animals are – so it is difficult to quantify in that respect. (16)
- They might keep a few wallabies and roo numbers down but there are still lots around. (27)
- Where there is a reasonable population you will find a vastly reduced fox population, they don't co-exist, and cats – if you look at biodiversity of the small mammals that foxes prey on they are a lot better off when the upper predator strata is occupied by dingoes. Feral dogs are a different argument in terms of impact. (A6)
- They keep feral pig numbers under control. (A10)
- They suppress numbers of foxes and also cats in a small way. (A12)
- They have a significant impact on pest species including feral goats and manage the kangaroo population. (A14)
- On Cunyu Station near Wiluna they have managed kangaroos by not doing any wild dog control. They have the best calving in the region and can carry stock through a dry season as they have lots of water and the cows don't have to travel too far. The resident population of wild dogs on the property is about 300, you see more wild dogs than kangaroos. They are not disturbing the pack structure and they don't have rogue dog issues. The issue is with young dogs when they get kicked out, where do they go to next – the next station? As a result their carrying capacity has increased as well. (A5)
- Increase flora and regeneration of vegetation – 11 responses
 - Wild dogs reduce stock numbers so rangeland condition come back. I have noticed since we have destocked, the country looks great. (8)
 - The country is responding well with lower grazing impact as it has been an enforced rest which is the best thing as the dogs have reduced stocking pressure considerably. (12)
 - Since dogs have moved in they have reduced the numbers of animals which had been impacting on the overall grazing pressure of the country. Now there is a better equilibrium with the balance of nature. This is the best the country has looked in 60-70 years and the productive capacity has returned. (13)
 - The regrowth is back in the paddocks, 50 years ago the country was flogged with lots of sheep. My place is covered in regrowth and I have seen plants that I have never seen before. It has given the pastoralist an opportunity to see what the country should look like. (17)
 - The dogs in this area have caused involuntary destocking which was desperately needed for the functioning of the rangelands, they have cost producers a bomb because of lost income but in the longer term the country is returning to productivity. (22)
 - Allows country to regenerate. (23)
 - The rangelands are experiencing a dingo led recovery; when the pastoral industry was fully established in the 80s feral goats and sheep had a severe impact on grazing. Now there are virtually none due to the impact of wild dogs. We purchased Credo Station in 2007 and haven't seen a goat since. There are lots on the other side of the rabbit proof fence but as the dogs spread, the goats will disappear. The lack of small stock and kangaroos has left the southern rangelands in the best condition ever and it has benefited greatly. (A2)
 - They could argue that the dogs are protecting the flora if they eat goats who are more of a danger to rare and endangered species. (A13)
- Recovery of fauna across the rangelands – 1 response

- Work at Lorna Glen shows there are still plenty of cats but not many foxes so we believe wild dogs are impacting on foxes. Mallee fowl are increasing; dogs are not a good predator of small mammals. (A2)
- Wild dogs versus dingo debate – 5 responses
 - We need to distinguish between wild dogs and dingoes as wild dogs have no positive effect. (1)
 - The problem is that most wild dogs we get are a cross bred which has replaced the pure breeds. I don't believe they need to be wiped out completely. (4)
 - The dingo is unique and iconic in itself, I do believe there are different behaviours between the two, from our observations in trap yards the dingo is interested in roos and they leave the sheep alone whereas wild dogs are out to create havoc and play a game. (25)
 - I would welcome a proper dingo. (A12)
 - Dingos are classified as a native species and under legislation they have rights for protection. Results from the DNA project show that WA has one of the highest levels of purity (60% of samples were 75% or more pure) across Australia, the Northern Territory was the highest. (A5)
- Other – 7 responses
 - Tourists like them. (3)
 - The negatives far outweigh the positives from my experience. (25)
 - In their own environment in the middle of Australia, a long way from my farm, in the desert, in a pack situation I have no problem. As long as they are away from sheep, it is when they cause damage that I have a problem. (24)
 - The dingo does have its place, I would like to see it in a sanctuary or in an exclusion zone, but numbers controlled and with natural water and a natural food supply. (25)
 - An opportunity for recreational shooters or approved people to go on the land in a default form of policing. (A7)
 - Commercial business opportunity to get shooters on the property who will pay to shoot wild dogs. (A9)
 - The issue has had a community building effect. (A11)

Negative

- Depletion of natural fauna – 13 responses
 - Incursion on a recognised biosphere and threat to endangered species. (4)
 - Kill and attack roos, emus and other native species. (6)
 - With the kangaroos gone, so has our food source. (6)
 - We have 8-10,000 coastal wallabies which are protected and while I have never seen any evidence of any being part eaten by dingoes, they do eat turtle eggs and hatchlings when they are hatching at 80 Mile Beach.(16)
 - Loss of wildlife; we don't see bush turkeys or mallee fowl any more, goats and echidnas are a bit light on. (17)
 - Environmentally they are a disaster, there is nothing left in the environment as when the sheep go the dogs need to eat something. I don't think people realise the amount of environmental damage they do in UCL to rodents that contribute to the whole cycle i.e. numbats. (21)
 - They have adverse effects on other native animals. (A1)
 - They have had an impact on native fauna and some rare species are under threat. (A4)
 - Impact on goats – Mt Monger used to get 3,000 goats a year and now most of the goats are gone too. (A4)
 - In Victoria following big baiting programs we are noticing small herbivores like lyrebirds are coming back after a reduction in wild dog and fox numbers. (A5)

- Impact on wildlife. (A6)
- They are eating all the native species that are becoming regionally extinct. (A7)
- Impact on emus and kangaroos – less emu eggs for carving and kangaroos for meat for the indigenous people. (A8)
- Impact on native fauna. (A9)
- Wild dogs impact on the native population of dingos and pure bred dingos are at risk of being endangered. (A10)
- Anecdotally they have had a major impact on the mallee fowl in our region as we have two areas of which one is dog free and one has dogs in it. (A11)
- The only fauna out there that is endangered has been eaten. (A13)
- Economic impact on pastoral / farming industry -16 responses
 - Reduced income as we no longer have goats to sell. (3)
 - We have had no income, not sold sheep, marked any lambs and spent lots on fencing. (6)
 - It means \$100,000 a year less in income and less that we can spend on fencing materials, troughs etc. so it has a flow on effect to other small businesses. (16)
 - Impact on the financial stability of the business and loss of income i.e. goats. (8) (12)
 - We have seen the demise of the pastoral industry in our region along with the demise of infrastructure associated with sheep on stations and therefore it will be expensive to get back into small stock. (A4)
 - Loss of income and viable enterprises. (A9)
 - Financial burden of losing stock. (A12)
 - They impact on pastoral enterprises across the rangelands particularly small stock producers. (A14)
 - Impact on land prices – if we lose the ability to run stock (we are already dealing with lessening rainfall and cropping income) then we lose land value which makes it hard to exit the market. (A12)
 - Financially with people moving out of sheep and areas becoming 100% cropping it has had an effect on the equity of the property as it can't be sold as a mixed farming enterprise. Therefore land values are reduced because of the lack of mixed farming opportunities. (A11)
- Loss of income – 6 responses
 - We lose an average of 8 calves a year and if you work on half of them being male and at current values at \$800/head – the loss adds up and it starts to sink it. (16)
 - We are not getting the lambing percentages – if you lose 800 like we have at \$150 each it all adds up. (25)
 - If you have to pick up 300 dead lambs it is a trauma in itself apart from the cost of the sheep, a good lamb is worth \$100. (28)
 - Wild dogs are affecting the productive capacity of the land – sheep and / or cattle. (13)
 - Increase in costs / added expense to control wild dogs. (16)(18)
 - They are sending graziers broke with the amount of money we have to spend to control them and the time it takes. (26)
- Attack and kill livestock - goats, sheep and cattle – 13 responses
 - Create animal welfare issues with livestock. (1) (24)
 - Killing and attacking cattle, which can be more severe in drought conditions when stock are weaker. If ideal seasonal conditions, they don't have the same impact. (2)
 - When cattle are in trap yards, wild dogs attack and kill calves. (2)
 - Cattle with their ears chewed that carry the NLIS tag can't leave the station as they are not traceable so we have to put them in a holding paddock and eat them, we get about 8-10 of those a year so it adds up if you can't sell them to the meatworks. (16)

- They attack calves / cattle which leaves scarring so you can't sell them for live export, you can only sell to meat works. (14)
- Eating / attacking calves. (27)
- Stock predation. (A6)
- Stock losses. (A8)
- They create issues with meat processors as it takes time to manage and deal with the issue of wild dog damage. (A8)
- Create animal welfare issues. (A8)
- Attack, maim and kill cattle. (A10)
- Mauling and killing stock. (A11)
- Inability to run small stock – 9 responses
 - Reduction in lambing percentages. (10) (25)
 - Lost production. (10) (16) (18)
 - There is a lack of lambs which impacts on stud breeders who rely on ram sales. (24)
 - They impact on livestock and in particular sheep. (A1)
 - Landholders can't run sheep and goats and they also impact on the quality of cattle. (A2)
 - Producers can't run small stock. (A4)
 - The wild dogs are past plague proportions and it hinders landholder's ability to run sheep in the region and has robbed the region of that industry. (A7)
 - They have decimated the sheep and goat industries. (A9)
 - Impact on small stock. (A13)
- Dingo versus wild dogs – 3 responses
 - Dingoes are a native animal but wild dogs are hybrids and they appear to be out of balance to what they were in a stable ecosystem. (A1)
 - As distinct from dingoes, the vast majority are wild dogs. Hybrids have up to 10 pups at a time whereas dingoes only have 1-3 pups. When they are in their native State they are easier to control and they don't breed as much. (A3)
- People impacts - 13 responses
 - Emotional / mental stress with the impact they have on livestock
 - They have a huge emotional impact when you see cattle ripped apart and they are still trying to walk around. It is soul destroying to then have to destroy them. (16)
 - It's no fun for 5 years every morning to put a rifle in the ute and drive around your sheep to find them ripped apart and you have to shoot them. If you are a sheep person and you love your sheep it's no fun. (21)
 - If you have to pick up 300 dead lambs it is a trauma in itself from the stress. (28)
 - Emotional impact on pastoralists – stress on the individual and family is a real issue. (5) (A11)
 - Personal safety is an issue as sometimes wild dogs travel in packs and harass people. (A6)
 - Threat to people, and people riding horses. (A6)
 - Security issues for people in remote areas (personal safety). (A8)
 - Stress associated with dealing with livestock and also having their complete enterprise affected. (A8)
 - Threat / risk to people. (A9)
 - They have an emotional impact on stock owners who bred them up only to find their guts are ripped open. It plays into the reason to get out of stock before the financial burden. (A12)
 - Threatening behaviour of wild dogs – risk to tourists, campers, children. (A12)

- Mental / economic and social impact. (A13)
- Risk / threat to safety of people / tourists / families – 5 responses
- Time consuming to manage – 5 responses
- Impact on families - husband has had to seek contracting work for an alternative income and has had to leave wife and kids home – 3 responses
- Loss of labour on properties – 2 responses
 - Risk to human health through disease / bites. (25)
- Social issues – 2 responses
 - The impact of wild dogs flows on to regional towns. (16)
 - They devastate rural communities and there are less people. (23)
- Domestic dogs – 10 responses
 - We have lost a lot of our own dogs to baits, it is the first time we have never had our own dogs. (12)
 - Stations can't use dogs to work any more because of baits, it is too risky as crows can pick up baits and drop them around the place. (14)
 - Pass on worms and bugs to domestic dogs. (15)
 - We do not use working dogs as then the cattle get too used to having dogs around. (16)
 - Risk of sheep dogs picking up baits; when we bait we don't put them in the paddocks we throw them through the fence. (20)
 - We now have to muzzle all our dogs when we take them out because they might pick up a bait. It eats into productivity time as it is another task we have to do. In some cases we have lost good sheep dogs. (25)
 - Wild dogs are a disease risk to domestic dogs and you also risk them breeding with each other. (A9)
 - Impact on farm dogs as you have to ensure their management is up to date i.e. worms, vaccines etc. (A8)
- Other – 13 responses
 - The breed of a wild dog is now a hybrid – town dogs and dingo. (14)
 - Environmentally wild dogs are a disaster. (21)
 - The negatives far outweigh the positives from my experience. (25)
 - They are a destruction to the agricultural industries. (26)
 - They devastate industries. (23)
 - If these animals are not controlled, they will move into the agricultural areas and numbers will increase as they move through the fence. (A1)
 - The impact of wild dogs has a flow on effect to small businesses and families. (A4)
 - They have a negative impact on agriculture. (A5)
 - Wild dogs are moving into the agricultural area which is a concern as they are less equipped and know less about wild dogs. (A5)
 - If rabies was ever to reach Australia, canines would be a major concern as they are very mobile and aggressive. (A6)
 - Threat to tourism. (A14)
 - Will Roberts in Queensland is part of a group of properties that have gone down the path of cell fencing. Once the fence is up, they clean the dogs out. In that cell they have got 190 dogs since they closed the fence. The environment has been reborn and the natural wildlife has returned with bush turkeys around for the first time in 20 years. People are back and properties are viable again with the dogs gone. We have a bigger problem in terms of the scale as we have open rangelands.(A3)

11. What is the role of compliance in WA wild dog management?

According to landholders compliance on wild dog management in Western Australia is non-existent as there is a lack of participation and co-ordination when it comes to controlling wild dogs and the population continues to breed up and impact on the livelihood of livestock producers. Landholders believe it is the owner's responsibility to control dogs on their own property which includes government, mining companies and indigenous communities / properties. The Pastoral Act States that it is necessary for lessees to control vermin but landholders say there is no compliance as no-one enforces the requirement. This appears to be at the expense of landholders who are trying to run commercial livestock enterprises as they are being impacted by wild dogs due to the neglect of neighbouring properties to manage wild dogs on their properties. In the farming land cropping properties are not affected by wild dogs and they are less inclined to control them. In some circumstances landholders don't have the economic or physical capability to deal with wild dogs.

Landholders had mixed opinions on the enforcement aspect of compliance. Where do you stop and start in using the big stick given there has never been any enforcement? Some believe the State government has to lift their game in extreme cases, or perhaps raise compliance in the WA Wild Dog Action Plan and incorporate it into part of the land management or lease conditions. Concern was raised that it would take years for a landholder to be made an example of through non-compliance and there is also the risk that if the legislation was too strong it could work against landholders as well. Another approach that was suggested was to offer incentives for those who are compliant through reduced rates / fees or a reduction in their pastoral lease or perhaps revoke the lease of the non-compliant landholders.

For those who believe that compliance should not be enforced, they would like to see the RBGs continue to play a role in education, encouraging involvement, keeping all landholders informed and using peer pressure to ensure a co-ordinated approach in wild dog control. More training of people in the industry on the management options and their responsibilities as a landholder was also suggested.

Given there are fewer people on the ground to deal with the wild dog issue there needs to be more liaison work between landholders, RBGs, government, mining companies, conservation groups and indigenous properties as no one party can tackle the issue alone; it needs co-operation from all.

All landholders need to recognise that they have a responsibility to manage a declared species such as wild dogs on their property, it is a statutory compliance requirement. In the earlier days pastoralists were required to do an annual return for their properties in which they would report stock numbers and wild dog management to the Pastoral Lands Board which ensured they were managing their land responsibly.

How enforceable and economically how affordable compliance is, is now the debate. If landholders can't afford to comply with regulation, then regulation is useless. There is no regulatory body that is prepared to act on non-compliance. It is the legislation but it is not acted on. Under the Act DAFWA is responsible but they don't have the resources to do the compliance work. Government will prosecute land clearing but not wild dog control.

Some respondents believe there is no other way wild dog control will be effective without the big stick approach which would require an increase in resources for DAFWA to enforce stricter control. Other respondents don't really want to see compliance enforced as they believe it never works and it could be more destructive. They believe it is about education and encouragement; the approach that RBGs are using.

RBGs are already active within their regions and therefore they have the ability to encourage landholders to control and manage plants and animals on their properties. RBG representatives believe their role is to encourage people and that DAFWA needs to step up and make people compliant as it is hard for landholders to enforce the issue.

It was also mentioned that perhaps there was an opportunity for town rangers to enforce compliance and encourage those that aren't compliant.

- Landholders
 - It is personally the landowner's responsibility to control dogs on their own property which goes for everyone, government as well which doesn't happen along with mining companies and aboriginal communities. Some 100% croppers have no interest in controlling dogs. (1)
 - Everyone has their own opinion. We have worked with our neighbour to erect a fence. Everyone should be made to control wild dogs, it is not viable for them to fence their properties as they don't have the money. (6)

- A lot of total croppers don't care about wild dogs and they don't believe they should have to pay a vermin rate. Everyone has some responsibility but certainly those on the edge are most likely to get hit. I can understand their argument. (7)
- The biggest problem is getting everyone to do it as it is currently un-coordinated and there is a lot of non-participation. (8)
- Peer pressure is the only answer, people will only do something if it is affecting their bottom line but sometimes they can't see it. As a diplomatic dogger who works through these issues with landholders, communication and negotiation works in getting agreed outcomes. (12)
- The fact that everybody currently aerial baits, that is as much as we can enforce on them compliance-wise in terms of their value for money in what they pay with their rates. There needs to be more liaison work done between the government, pastoralists and mining companies to ensure that everyone is on the same page. (16)
- It is a very difficult one, it depends how you are affected by it. Anecdotally there is less effect on a cattle property therefore less inclination to control dogs and they won't have the same level of opinion to compliance as would a sheep producer. One size doesn't fit all; from an industry perspective it is good to have compliance but there may be valid reasons why some don't take action. I think it is important that the wild dog issue is controlled. (19)
- You will never get everyone being compliant; a lot of people don't do anything at all as they don't run stock. I suppose if I didn't have sheep I would only throw bait out every now and again. (20)
- Some people got out of sheep because they are too hard to run with wild dogs. You can't force people to be compliant but it would be nice to have them follow guidelines, it is every landholder's duty to help with control on their property but when it comes from government land, that's their responsibility. (24)
- We need to recognise that every pastoral property has a responsibility to address the problem of declared pests and that pastoralists are the first line of defence and they have to do something in terms of compliance under the Act. (A9)
- If they are a declared species then they come under the Act and there is a statutory compliance requirement. If there is no co-operation it is less effective and the outcome of all landholders in controlling wild dogs is diminished. (A14)
- In regards to enforcement, I think that is a question the pastoral sector needs to answer as they have the most to lose. (A14)
- State Government
 - It is personally the owner's responsibility to control dogs on their own property which goes for everyone, government as well which doesn't happen. (1)
 - The issue I have is more to do with the vacant Crown land and government land. There needs to be more liaison work done between the government, pastoralists and mining companies to ensure that everyone is on the same page. (16)
 - Everyone should be doing their bit and that is not happening, the government can't afford to control dogs on their DPaW land as they haven't got the funding. (17)
 - I think compliance is where the problem comes from: all our problems come from government land so the government should take a more responsible role in controlling what comes off their land, and hence it is their responsibility to control the problem. Landholders should also play an important part in controlling dogs. But the problem started on government land: there should be more interaction between government departments (DPaW), the problem will not go away it will only get bigger. (24)
 - There needs to be leadership from the State government, instead of them leaving it to the individual groups to tackle and palming off the workload from DAFWA to save money. The horse has bolted and wild dogs are a major issue. (23)
 - I am not sure how you can make someone control wild dogs, it practically doesn't work and DAFWA needs to step up to play more of a role. (23)

- Its conflicting with department policy, there's got to be a co-ordinated approach and it has to come from producers. The Department has a role to work with producers. (A1)
- Under the Act it is the Government agency which is DAFWA that needs to enforce compliance and that is the reality. It's hard to get away from and I can't see any other body with the power or ability to do it. There is no other way it will be effective without the big stick approach, there is a limit as to how often you can talk about it. There are other examples of biosecurity where people don't comply but it is too difficult to prosecute so nothing happens. It is about getting the knowledge out there and demonstrating that DAFWA are part of the process. You can lead a horse to water but can't make it drink. (A1)
- It is quite clear under the BAM Act if people are not compliant then action can be taken. In 32 years we have never seen action taken and it is one tool that is not being used effectively at the moment. If someone doesn't control a declared pest then you can use compliance to compel them to do that. It is done with weeds and other pests but not with wild dogs. (A2)
- Pastoralists used to have to do an annual return to report on what wild dog management they had done and the money spent (weeds and dogs) to help the Pastoral Lands Board understand the control in the region and also ensure that landholders were addressing their responsibilities in keeping stock on the land. When CALM took over the country there was little or no management on their land and as a result wild dogs bred up and they weren't managed. It took a lot of effort to get them to manage dogs and after months of negotiation and string pulling they employed a dogger. (A4)
- It depends how the government wants to play it: to play it tough and slap people on the wrist will require more money. If the government is not doing enough on public land, it is impossible to force compliance on private land. There are also too few people. (A5)
- You need to ask DAFWA as they are the compliance people, they have gone on record to say they don't have the resources to do compliance work. I think in some cases compliance work should be carried out, there are stations that do have a lot of wild dogs on them that push out and we know they do damage. I think compliance could be a handy tool. (A10)
- I don't believe that DAFWA have prioritised compliance enough in that there should be a lot stricter controls on people addressing the issues on their property for any declared pest; the landholder is responsible. The number of people on the ground to get the message across is lacking, it shouldn't be the responsibility of a group to enforce control. (A12)
- Mining companies
 - It is personally the owner's responsibility to control dogs on their own property which goes for everyone including mining companies. (1)
 - You hear lots of stories of people taking chops out to feed dingo pups and then they get upset when someone gets bitten, then the mine environmentalist gets involved and traps and removes the dog and relocates it 10km away. It is hard to accept the fact that we can't rate the mining companies that have taken over pastoral leases. I am not sure if mining companies are required to report back to a government department in terms of their wild dog control whereas every other landholder has to do some form of baiting. There needs to be more liaison work done between the government, pastoralists and mining companies to ensure that everyone is on the same page. (16)
 - It is a requirement for landholders to control pests on their land. Miners are primarily interested in digging holes in the ground so they are not focused on the overall land asset. Based on evidence of the large amount of feral animals, control is limited. There should be compliance measures with inspections to address what they are supposed to be doing. State inspections are not happening. (A7)
- Aboriginal communities / properties
 - It is personally the owner's responsibility to control dogs on their own property which goes for everyone including in aboriginal communities. (1)
 - Indigenous managers are less inclined to bait due to cultural reasons. The cultural issues are important to consider as well. (19)
- Compliance should not be enforced

- Compliance is a condition of pastoral leases for vermin control and because of the lack of skilled people, compliance is difficult. It shouldn't be enforced but should be addressed with more training of people in the industry on how to deal with baiting, poisoning carcasses and handling of chemicals. Landholders need to be made more aware of the issue. (14)
- Compliance never works; you have to get everybody thinking on the same page. We had one landholder who kicked a dogger off his place for no good reason, I pointed out that he needed to use the dogger otherwise he would have to have a plan to demonstrate what he was doing to control wild dogs. Landholders can only be inspected by a DAFWA inspector who would do bugger all aside from handing out an improvement notice. This needs to happen twice before action is taken and it just goes on and on. It can take 2-3 years before you get any action. You can't just walk in and prosecute someone, it is not an option. You can't get around it, you need to educate people and get them on side. (22)
- It doesn't need to be done, the big stick approach never works in the rangelands, it would be more destructive. It is about education and encouragement and that is the approach the RBG is using. The Executive Officer approaches those that are not co-operating and this is supported with peer pressure. (A2)
- How do you get compliance; you can't regulate, you just need a well-managed local system in place. They have tried with lice and footrot and it hasn't worked in the past. A regulatory approach doesn't foster good ownership and what we do with wild dogs needs to be owned by the whole community. (A8)
- At the moment it is very splintered into individual small groups with no substantial leadership or guidance from a regulatory body. There is no regulatory body that is prepared to act on non-compliance. It is the legislation but it is not acted on. They are quite happy to regulate against land clearing but not those who are not managing wild dogs. I don't know if I would like to see it. (A11)
- I think education along with pushing the environmental benefits in controlling wild dogs are the key to avoid using the big stick approach. (A12)
- Landholders can't afford to be compliant when they are not viable.
 - Compliance is a tough one. Where dogs are a major problem, compliance is not the issue it is more about the economics. It would give the wrong message if people were penalised. (11)
 - The compliance side is a farce. Dog control responsibility is handed over to the lessee or landowner but yet compliance can't be met due to lack of viability. You need to deal ultimately with the viability issue then we may be able to get compliance. It is dumb to say you have to deal with dogs when you haven't got the economic or physical capabilities to deal with it. It is a cop out by government and industry to leave that in place. (13)
 - Where do you stop and where do you start in using the big stick? Some landholders need to prioritise what they spend money on. (27)
 - As best you can, it is incumbent on landholders to control noxious weeds and pests on their properties. How enforceable and economically how affordable it is, is the debate. If you don't have time and if you can't do it, you can't do it. (A6)
 - Compliance is built around and supports the pastoral industry; the compliance is not there for an environmental, tourism or carbon farming reason. The whole compliance issue revolves around farming and pastoral industries. The question is the viability of the system they are forced to work under which is government controlled, the scale of operation and the ability to bring in new technologies to make their businesses more viable. The government would like to get rid of half of the pastoralists while the pastoralists want to get rid of the dogs. There are a lot of pastoralists that are not performing and are not really pastoralists, they are residents and they don't control dogs. If you did get rid of half the pastoralists you would have the keen ones who will become more viable and then they can afford to control the dogs. (A13)

- No-one wants to police it; it is always left to government to police and the reality is if people can't afford to comply with regulation, then regulation is useless. Pastoral leases should be occupied by those who want to be active pastoralists. (A13)
- Compliance is non-existent
 - There is no role for compliance, as no-one enforces it. If people don't want to do their bit they won't and the same goes with a dogger, they won't let them on their place. The Pastoral Act States that it is necessary to control vermin and education is the key. (2)
 - DAFWA is a toothless tiger. Compliance seriously needs to be addressed, there are some people that believe they are not affected by dog control and neighbours are getting hounded by them i.e. tourism stations as control is minimal. (3)
 - At a bureaucratic level they need compliance. Where landholders are not managing wild dogs, who will make them compliant? There is a big hole. I understand the issues with legal expenses involved and I hope the new AWI position will work with landholders and help those who are lacking in their work and encourage them to come on board and work with the community. (4)
 - The government are partly to blame as they say you have to do baiting but does anyone enforce it? Are there any penalties? No. (9)
 - Compliance is necessary as we can't have one landholder doing all the work and neighbours not doing anything. Like foxes, if it is not a co-ordinated approach it won't work. (11)
 - There has never been any enforcement, which has impacted on wild dog numbers. (27)
 - There isn't any compliance, the only compliance I can think of is that everyone is conscious of wild dogs and even total croppers if they see a dog, they let us know. A lot of farmers are just cropping and you can't impose on them to control wild dogs. No one is interested in taking responsibility for dogs on Crown land and they will have to if we don't get the fence and dogs go ballistic. If nothing is done now, it will cost a lot more in the future. (28)
- More compliance needed
 - DAFWA need to lift their game and use the big stick if necessary. (3)
 - Everyone has a duty to keep wild dogs to a manageable level because if you don't, the next landholder will cop it. I believe there should be heavy fines or their lease revoked if they are proven to have a breeding ground for dogs. (5)
 - It is important that everyone tows the line. I would hate to see the big brother stick approach but we need it. I have 1-2 neighbours that do comply and another absentee owner and another property has a 74 year old guy who is watering the lawns at the homestead and doing no dog control at all as they have completely destocked their properties. It is still their responsibility to manage declared plants and animals on their property as it is an obligation of a pastoral lease. I am hoping that DAFWA can prosecute those that are non-compliant in managing declared pests and make a couple of test cases. (8)
 - I don't know how to make people comply, we might have to wave the big stick. Compliance has to be regulated and part of the management or lease conditions; they do say that you have to be involved in vermin eradication and this needs to be enforced. It is for the sake of the industry and community. (10)
 - The more people are compliant the more successful it will be, how you go about enforcing compliance I don't know. (15)
 - I personally believe it should be enforced more but it is hard to do. The whole Act needs to be reworked. But then again how do you prove they are not doing it as they can still pick up the baits and then dispose of them. (17)
 - It is paramount, compliance should be a legal requirement and it should be enforced. There should be a big stick approach. Some neighbours are compliant and some are not. They don't see they have a dog problem because they don't have small stock. (18)
 - We need the big stick as someone is always tardy, it is fact. There has to be a minimum standard for compliance. We have neighbours who are absent and they don't see a problem, if everyone did what they should be doing we would have great control and a

sense of management and morale would be lifted. I have tried phone calls to say we will help them but they don't respond. It is about education and encouragement in the nicest way possible but in the worst case scenario something needs to be done. In extreme circumstances it needs to be enforced as there is too much to lose with the growing phenomenon of wild dogs. (25)

- Perhaps there is an opportunity for town rangers to enforce compliance and encourage those that aren't compliant. It is impossible for RBG members who are landholders to enforce other landholders; it has to be an outside independent body. (A12)
- RBGs
 - Biosecurity groups are encouraging everyone to be involved. (2)
 - I don't believe it is the role of the RBG which is made up of station owners, as it could cause big problems. (3)
 - RBGs have a role in ensuring everyone is informed and encouraged to be involved in managing wild dogs as it is to their benefit as well. (10)
 - With our RBG the people on the western end of the area realised the problem, and that if we didn't control the dogs they would have the problem. You need to get the message to all in the region. We have never had a problem with obtaining co-operation from anyone. We are a unique group. We did have one landholder who wasn't co-operative and we managed to talk him around and got his co-operation. (21)
 - We are trying to get landholders on board with advertising and publicity through our RBG. If wild dogs don't get stopped on the fence they will keep coming in and move into inland farming areas and once they breed up they will start another colony. (26)
 - Government should be more involved in funding biosecurity groups so they can become more active in the region and increase the control and management of plants and animals. The groups should police the issue as they have their feet on the ground, the big stick doesn't always work. (A4)
 - Our job is to encourage people through our programs and other processes (newsletters) to fulfil that obligation. There is scope in limited numbers where a compliance approach is required and DAFWA has to do something but they haven't done it yet, they need to step up and make people who aren't compliant do it. (A9)
- Joint effort
 - It's got to be a joint effort by all involved, government can't do it alone and farmers can't do it; it needs co-operation between all. There are fewer farmers on the ground that don't have the time, so it has to be a joint effort. Everyone has to play their part and you have to be prepared when you do have a problem to talk to your neighbours and doggers. (21)
- Risk with compliance
 - Compliance means that there is capacity in the legislative system to ping someone. The legislation is not strong enough if you really want to use it but if you make it too strong and get bureaucrats to run it then it will work against you. (12)
- Incentives needed for those who are compliant
 - They need to look at people's rates and reduce the fees of people doing it correctly. Unless there is a decent sized penalty that goes with non-compliance, no-one will take notice. (9)
 - We won't ever get compliance because some people don't believe you should be poisoning dogs as they are native to Australia, but are they? If your neighbour doesn't bait, you have to throw out more bait. I do believe they should be made to do something or perhaps the price of their pastoral lease needs to be put up or an incentive provided for the ones who do actively manage wild dogs on their place or a subsidy for those who spend money on wild dog control. Where do you stop and where do you start in using the big stick? There has never been any enforcement and it has impacted on wild dog numbers. (27)
- Other compliance issues

- We have other issues with tourists losing their pet dogs. We have to comply with signage. We don't touch the highway but we do have signs up about baiting on our access gates. We are trying to comply, I have sent an email to local council to put signage up. (10)
- You have to know how to handle poisons, fire arms and traps; we don't need any more restrictions on those. (26)
- It has been a big problem. The cattle industry needs to clean up wild dogs otherwise it could become a dog's breakfast like what happening in Queensland where organic cattle producers didn't worry about the dogs as they weren't allowed to poison them. It caused a huge problem and the Rockhampton sale yards had to have a separate yard for the dog damaged compliance. Compliance was overcome as they realised the damage it was doing. (A3)
- I believe that you need a locally accepted and regional based co-ordination system so that the baiting programs happen on a planned regional basis. (A8)

12. Can you provide any suggestions as to how the WA Wild Dog Action Plan can best incorporate conservation and ecological requirements? (consultation, group membership, balanced objectives)

Dingoes are seen to be part of the natural ecology of Australia in terms of conservation and biodiversity management. The clash is where those values overlap with the livestock areas. However respondents believe that there is still a place for pure bred dingoes in the environment but on the other side of a fence and away from the small stock areas. There are lots of places in the State where they can be present with no impact on pastoralism.

Wild dogs don't have a place as they are viewed as inbred and vermin and they impact on the pure bred dingoes with cross breeding.

One respondent has observed a lot of conservation and ecological benefits with the control of wild dogs and reports an increase in lizards, hopping mice, spiny tailed skink and lots of different bird species. He believes wild dogs clean up everything in their path whereas it would be different if it was dingoes.

There was a suggestion that the mortality of non-target native species caught in traps be monitored and managed in the future.

Landholders were adamant that it would never be possible to eradicate wild dogs and that it is just a matter of controlling / managing them and stopping their migration into livestock areas. The issue was related to rabbits in terms of a plague, if you remove the plague proportion the rest of the animals will survive and do what they have always done within the environment. Overall it appears that landholders are happy for the dingo to exist where it doesn't impact on their livelihoods. Dingoes are lumped in with wild dogs and landholders believe it is important to distinguish between them. They are happy for dingoes to exist in their natural environment in a sanctuary, the desert or on the other side of a fence, but away from livestock production. Whereas they believe wild dogs should be eradicated as they do not have their place and their behaviour / habits are very different when compared to dingoes.

Fencing is viewed as one option that will allow incorporation of conservation and ecological requirements and will allow wild dogs to live on one side of the fence and on the other, landholders will have the ability to run livestock without the impact of wild dogs. The fence would also protect cropping properties from emu incursions. One landholder suggested that DPaW negotiate with neighbours and improve the fencing around their properties to include ring lock and hot wires on their boundaries.

In order to ensure the issues are addressed there must be consultation with conservation groups, but they should also be made fully aware of the economic and emotional stress that landholders are facing because of wild dogs.

It is naïve to think that wild dogs will be eradicated; it will never happen as was the case with rabbits and the RCD, we need to reduce the numbers to allow producers to run small stock sustainably and reduce the impact on cattle.

Given the extent of the wild dog problem, a couple of landholders believed pastoralists need to look at other options and steer away from small stock to find a viable way to survive. These could include horticulture, tourism, carbon credits etc. and would entail the government developing a blueprint for the pastoral industry.

- Dingo area
 - There needs to be a fourth zone, a dingo zone – beyond cattle country where dogs are controlled. There is research on co-existence but they are more suitable to cattle zones than anywhere near sheep zones or inside that exclusion fence in the sheep area. (1)
 - We should encourage pure dingoes and have exclusion fences that allow dingoes to live on the outside but not co-exist with livestock. (7)
 - There are three sections of the State; one part can be a wild dog preservation area in the desert where there is no productivity, no stock and no control and a designated area of preservation to keep conservationists happy. Then you have the cattle country which can tolerate some dogs with minimal impact and known as control zones where you have control but there are still dogs there. Finally a small stock area which would be the eradication zone. You have to strive for eradication otherwise it would go back to the control scenario. For that to happen you need a fence between the control and eradication zones and vermin cells in the southern rangelands. (8)
 - There are plenty of areas where dogs can roam freely i.e. Pilbara national parks but we are trying to keep a lid on the wild dogs down here and on DPaW land. They will still have their ecological effect even though they are being controlled, we will never eradicate them. They have only been here for about 5,000 years so they are not an original native species. They have a deleterious effect on the ecology as they kill a lot of other animals including little endangered native species. (12)
 - I am happy for dogs to live in UCL in manageable proportions and control themselves within the environment like they did before they started cross breeding. (21)
 - With a wild dog you need a balance and there is enough land that can still sustain a population of ecological dogs and emus. Where the farming land finishes at Esperance, there is still another 700km until the border so there is a lot of country where you will never control emus and dogs and a lot of country for them to live. (24)
 - The dingo does have its place, I would like to see it in a sanctuary or in an exclusion zone, but the numbers controlled and with natural water and a natural food supply. (25)
 - I don't think getting rid of the dogs will have a big ecological impact inside the fence, not with the amount that we are getting rid of. If they stay on the outside they are not doing anyone any harm. (26)
 - In the agricultural areas where sheep are run, they can't co-exist with dingoes or some levels of cattle. Dingoes can exist outside those areas. (A5)
 - Dingoes are a part of the natural ecology of Australia, it is a matter of where; there are places in the State where they can be present with no impact on pastoralism and maybe there is a way to manage that with buffers so dingoes don't come out of conservation reserves into pastoral properties. (A14)
- Dingoes versus wild dog debate
 - The problem is that most of the wild dogs we get are a cross bred which has replaced the pure breeds. I don't believe they need to be wiped out completely and we do need to retain a buffer zone where dingoes can exist safely. (4)
 - I don't really know, you need to distinguish between wild dogs and dingoes. Dingoes are only half the size of wild dogs (some up to 30kg). I can't see how they benefit the ecology on the ground at all. Dingoes in the desert country are fine, they can't co-exist with small stock. Wild dogs should be eradicated. (17)
 - There needs to be priority given to preserving the dingo, unfortunately it is lumped in with wild dogs. How to differentiate I am not sure but it needs to be. I would like to see all doggers record bycatch other than dingos. (11)
 - They make life difficult so there is no place for wild dogs. I would like to get rid of them all if we had the funding and resources. Even outside the farm boundaries wild dogs are impacting on native fauna so the less the better. Dingoes can exist but we should be able to

- raise sheep without them being attacked by dingoes. They can exist in areas outside of the fence where there are no sheep. (15)
- I don't think it is possible to eradicate wild dogs, there is no doubt that they have a significant economic impact on the industry. Dingoes have been around for years, the real problem is with wild dogs. I don't think we can get rid of them altogether it is a matter of controlling. I am happy for them to exist with cattle in a managed situation. (19)
 - Dingoes can live on the other side of the emu proof fence but not wild dogs. (20)
 - Wild dogs are not native and neither is the dingo you could argue. I believe there is a place for dingos in unallocated Crown land, but you can't have one without the other. If it is impacting on farming or station country, then action needs to be taken. If Crown land borders the property then the holders of the Crown land should be conducting buffer baiting and be responsible to each other and their neighbours and they shouldn't be exempt from that. (18)
 - There is a big difference between wild dogs and dingos. A lot of the problem is from the town dogs that have been allowed to roam. There is no place for wild dogs here where we are trying to make a living. I am happy for them to live where there are no other industries, they came from the desert originally so they can go back there. (23)
 - I don't believe there is any place for the hybrid dog, I am happy for the dingo (purebred) to have their place on the land in the excluded area. (25)
 - There is a role for pure bred dingoes in the environment still but on the outside of the small stock areas on the other side of the fence. (A11)
 - I think there has to be places in Australia where pure bred dingos can live but they can't live alongside pastoralists. Wild dogs certainly don't have a place. (A9)
 - On our property (no stock, 2000 ha) we have seen the benefits of wild dog control in declared species and as a result we have seen more lizards, hopping mice and we have the spiny tailed skink and 126 bird species. I know conservationists believe dingos suppress other pests, but with the numbers that there are you will never get the recovery of ecology and biodiversity if they are not controlled to some extent. If it was dingoes, it wouldn't be the same but with wild dogs they are clearing up everything in their path. There has to be a balance and given the hybrid vigour there needs to be good control and we can allow the wild dingo to have its own place. (A12)
 - The differentiation between dingoes and wild dogs is hard to define. The dingo in a conservation context serves an ecological function and is lethal on goats and they maintain an equilibrium in the kangaroo population. It is very useful in terms of conservation and biodiversity management. The clash is where those values overlap with the pastoral industry particularly with small stock units, they need to be tightly managed. (A14)
 - Wild dogs are inbred and are classified as vermin. (A13)
 - The only thing I see that wild dogs have an impact on is the pure bred dingoes – there is a method of population control in dingoes that is not in wild dogs. Once that is bred out of them, you lose that natural control ability and you get uncontrolled dog breeding. (A10)
- You will never eradicate wild dogs, keep them to a manageable level
 - There needs to be a coordinated effort across all bodies involved to keep dogs to a manageable level. We can put up with a certain level of loss. I believe if you start seeing them, you have too many. It would involve a lot of record keeping, perhaps like kangaroos have a quota system a level is maintained. (3)
 - You will never kill out dogs ever. There needs to be better management programs in place to prevent pastoral stations copping it all the time. It will never be achievable to eradicate, we just need to stop the migration into pastoral regions. (5)
 - Everyone wants to get rid of them but you will never get rid of them all. (6)
 - We will never get rid of them, we can only control them. (12)
 - We will never get rid of them all, we are not even getting a reasonable number now. In the old days we always had dogs but there wasn't a big economic loss like there is these days. I

- don't think you need to take the conservation and ecological requirements into account at all as there will always be dogs around. (14)
- We are not aiming for the eradication of dingos, all we want to do is control them. There are millions of kilometres in the middle of Australia where they can live, we just don't want them impacting on our livelihoods. (16)
 - People get upset about us killing dingoes and wild dogs. I don't have a problem with that. But what we have at the moment is a plague and if we remove the plague proportion the rest of the dogs will survive and they will do what they have also done with their place in the environment. It doesn't matter how many we remove, there will always be 10-12% that will survive and never get caught. That group will continue to play its part in the environment and the food chain. It is just like we will never eradicate rabbits, we have removed the plague proportions. (21)
 - I would rather dingos weren't here but I would rather there were less kangaroos here too. Is there a place here for them? Possibly not. There is no place for wild dogs (interbred) and there is no way you will eradicate dingoes from Australia, obviously they will continue to have a place somewhere. (22)
 - I don't know how you can have environmentally friendly dogs in the farming country, if you have an industry you need to look after it. You will never get rid of them all, so they will still be there it is just a matter of managing and controlling them. (23)
 - Ecologically we will never get rid of the dingos they are too cunning, it is like trying to get rid of kangaroos. You can put a dent in the numbers. I am happy to see dingoes as long as they don't impact on the cattle and I will keep baiting. (27)
 - Shooting will not take all of the wild dogs, they are quickly replaced. It is different in terms of hybrid dogs as there are opportunities to shoot them on stations and especially down the track if shooting becomes more viable i.e. resources and time. (A6)
 - I am yet to see what negative there is in taking dogs out of the equation. It was hard to eradicate rabbits with RCD. We need to reduce numbers in the pastoral and agricultural areas to allow them to run small stock again and reduce the impact on cattle. (A8)
 - Dingoes have long been part of the Australian wildlife. Somewhere there will be a balance and they will go where the food is. It is naive to think they we will control all of them, dogs can live in the arid country and we can continue to reduce the numbers in the agricultural and pastoral zones. (A8)
 - The dingo is not native to Australia but it is a long term resident. I have got no attachment to the dingo, I don't know if it is part of the native fauna of Australia. It is not achievable to eradicate wild dogs but we need to keep numbers down to an acceptable level in pastoral areas. Pastoralism shouldn't be where it isn't profitable and that's where the dingoes can be. (A13)
- Consultation with conservation groups / public
 - You also need some consultation with the dingo conservation group. If dogs are completely excluded, it could become an issue. (1)
 - You need to work in with conservation groups and communicate how you are addressing the problem. (4)
 - It would be good to have the public on side to address the perception that they don't kill anything and to convince them that it is worthwhile controlling dogs. (7)
 - It is just an anti-pastoral issue to close the industry down. You need to inform the public of the problems and show them some graphic pictures. (10)
 - You need to acknowledge the research that has been done and the differing opinions on the impact of wild dogs and talk to the conservationists. (19)
 - A lot of conversation groups are uninformed about the economic and emotional stress issues that landholders are facing because of wild dogs. Landholders have a duty of care in dealing with animal welfare issues, it is a horrible way for livestock to die and they don't see

that. With the positive outlook for livestock and the increased values it is definitely worth controlling them. (24)

- Fences
 - Down the track, once we get fences up I can answer that. (6)
 - Fence off the Karijini National Park but I don't think it would work as it would cost too much to put in and there are too many creeks where it would run and the fence would get washed away. It wouldn't be viable or feasible, you just have to control through more baiting. (9)
 - There is no room for wild dogs / dingoes in small stock country. I am a great believer in the fence, it is a great idea but I am concerned about the cost of it all. (10)
 - We would like to see the fence joined up. The croppers benefit most from the fence because of emu incursions but stopping the dogs coming in is a secondary benefit. We haven't experienced issues with the native wildlife, more than anything we are seeing an increase in echidnas, wild turkey, mallee fowl because of the fence and due to the fact that wild dogs are being controlled. (8)
 - The only solution is to have a dog proof fence. Once we get that we can clean out the dogs on the inside and we can keep sheep and the dogs can live on the other side and everyone will be happy. I don't want to wipe dingoes out, but we have to look after ourselves too. If the dogs didn't encroach on farming land it wouldn't be an issue. (28)
 - If you take the vermin cell approach you get rid of the dogs on the inside and there will be a big benefit to the fauna and small stock inside which will allow pastoralists to return to running a viable enterprise. (A9)
 - They can ask government to support the exclusion fence in the southern rangelands so that the area bounded by the Murchison Vermin Cell can proceed and become effective in controlling dogs. We are not in favour of releasing Parvo as there is a role for pure bred dingoes in the environment which is outside of the small stock areas. Hence I support the fence (Murchison upgrade and maintenance to the State Barrier Fence on the edge of the SW land division) to keep dogs on the outside. (A11)
- Pastoralists need to look at other options
 - How you preserve the dingo goes hand in glove: you need to find a way for pastoralists who are struggling in the southern rangelands to survive. Spending lots of money on exclusion fencing and baiting is not viable, the economic return on investment won't be there on those properties because of the lost vegetation base they're relying on to produce sheep. Pastoralists need to look at other options, steer away from sheep and goats, and find a viable way to survive i.e. horticulture, tourism. Wild dogs will disappear once the sheep are gone as they will die out from lack of feed source and watering points. Kangaroos too will be brought back to a reasonable equilibrium and a sustainable population with roos, wild dogs and emus. There is heaps of underground water. In the meantime you still manage wild dogs, but it should be up to the individuals rather than relying on government. (11)
 - You can use this Goldfields region as a template as the proof that you can achieve ecological outcomes by the de facto use of the wild dog. There have been clear environmental benefits from having wild dogs. You either have pastoralism or a balance between a good ecological base. You have to get landholders to understand that the country has never been better and they have got the ability to get a dollar out of it because it is in such good condition. One pastoralist near Wiluna uses dogs as a tool to keep grazing pressure down and he has the fattest cows. I am not saying to get rid of the pastoral industry completely. (13)
 - In the Goldfields there needs to be some overarching mechanism that allows the re-introduction of pastoralism. The Department of Minerals and Petroleum blocks everything. Perhaps aboriginal communities could be relocated onto stations and you would create an employment purpose and biosecurity management and a boom for tourism. There is huge interest in people wanting to hunt donkeys and camels which could also create an opportunity for tourism and could employ aboriginal trackers. (A7)
- Other

- There are so many arguments, dogs have only been here for 5,000 years. You can hardly call them native. Do dingoes have much of an impact? Are there more or less native fauna around in dog areas? We need some data otherwise we lose credibility. (22)
- The National Parks create a problem for the farming industry as that is where the dogs breed up. The farming industry should come before National Parks. (23)
- DPaW owns lots of land which is fenced with 4 plain wire fences which aren't good enough to contain the dogs. The wild dogs are moving from their land and trespassing onto my land and eating my livestock. We have ringlock on some of our boundaries and have negotiated with neighbours to have hot wires on some of it. DPaW never have enough resources and they need to dig deeper into their pockets and take the same responsibility that I take with my land. (25)
- The current wild dog strategy developed last decade is still current, it just needs some tweaking; the principals and recommendations are good. The zoning and use of all the tools are proper techniques. You need good science to get rid of the rural myth that dogs move thousands of kilometres. (A2)
- In WA you need to demonstrate that if you take the dingoes out of the environment it will have a positive effect on the remainder of the environment. Threatened species are under pressure from the wild dog / dingo and you have to come up with a believable response as an alternative argument for those pushing to get rid of dingoes / wild dogs. (A5)
- In 2002 a lot of emus died within 2-3km of the fence near Yalgoo from exhaustion; we managed to keep the media away from that but with social media today you will have no chance. Another migration won't be until the wild dogs are under control and if there is another migration – what is the plan? You have to build rapport with the conservationists now, liaise and be proactive. (A5)
- Wild cats are a problem, but I'm not sure how to control them. If you start shooting dogs then the feral cats get out of control. You need to keep them both in control. (A7)
- We need a good interface with DPaW and managers of Crown land to make them accountable for what they do and stop them using half dose rates of 1080. They should be aimed at dogs and they will also take out cats as well (DPaW Western Shield), otherwise you run the risk of making the dog wary of picking up bait in the future and it will continue to breed and become resistant. (A8)
- The more education there is and the more we control declared pests, the better we can manage diversity and make space for the species that have been impacted. The fact that cats are not a declared species is a stumbling block. (A11)
- DAFWA's view of pastoralism is total grazing management, I disagree with that because there are virtually no sheep, goats or kangaroos out there and the place is turning into a desert. The argument that you should control total grazing management is false, I believe the real issue is selective grazing habits of small stock which tend to deplete specific species because they are more palatable. In my view it should be crash grazing or cell grazing for short term (intensive grazing). I can't get my mind around why there are so many wild dogs now compared to when there were lots of small stock around. (A13)

13. Considering the science and research investment in wild dog management, in your view what is being done well and where would you like to see additional work? (i.e. new technology)

Landholders have heard of a number of science and research investments that are focused on wild dog management including M44 injectors and the PAPPs mechanism although they say they are still waiting for the release of the technology. While there has been a lot of research, landholders believe it is not getting out on the ground and given that they are dealing with a hybrid dog, a lot of it is now irrelevant as they vary greatly when compared to the dingo.

Additional work requested by landholders includes research into alternative poisons, the effectiveness of 1080, more research into fencing, the sterilisation of wild dogs and biological control. It was pitched that it would be similar to RCD in rabbits where wild dogs would be controlled naturally and not wiped out.

However it would require the development of an antidote for domestic dogs prior to the release of a biological control.

There is a lot of interest in the area of utilising new technology in satellite tracking of wild dogs to determine the habits (hybrid dogs versus dingo) and accessing new ultrasound whistles to drive wild dogs out of certain areas. One landholder is being proactive in controlling wild dogs and has purchased a surveillance camera with a next G card which will enable it to send a photo straight back to his phone which will enable him to act immediately. He has also invested in a night scope and night vision goggles to see if the wild dogs are active at night.

The idea to roll out the Feral Scan app across the RBGs was also raised as it will help with tracking wild dog activity and deaths and help add to the National Database.

A couple of landholders were critical about the research and believe that less money should be spent on it and more on controlling wild dogs and using doggers who are a great wealth of information about the behaviour of wild dogs.

Additional research work requested included options for sterilisation of wild dogs. One respondent noted research into medfly control which produces sterile males and said perhaps it could be applied at a species level in breeding an imperfect Y gene to stop wild dogs breeding.

There appears a lot of confusion in regards to the relationships between foxes, dingoes and cats and what impacts they have on each other, therefore there is an opportunity to determine what the impacts are and get away from myths and deal with the facts.

A lot of concern has been raised about 1080 and the risk if landholders should lose access to it in the future; what other options are available? There were also calls for the Eradicat bait to be strengthened to target wild dogs as well as cats and foxes as the current dose is only sub-lethal to dogs.

Other research requests include the impact of wild dogs on cattle, and more work into the dynamics and habits of wild dogs as they differ to dingoes.

Current science and research

- Control methods have been researched and are well known and understood. We need to utilise what we know and get on with it. (1)
- I have read lots of books but I don't think it is factual in regards to dog habits, we need to speak to people on the ground to get the real information as they have the experience. (2)
- M44 injectors where they shoot the pill up into the dog's mouth. (3) (17)
- PAPPs mechanism - we are still waiting for it. (3) (4) (17)
- Toxins available for wild dog control including 1080 plus work on PAPPs which is close. (8)
- Tracking of wild dogs research was great. (9) (10)
- CSIRO work on the preferred diet of dingoes and research into cats and foxes interrelating with dingoes. (11)
- They have developed new poisons and trapping systems but it all bogged down in APVMA to tick them off. It is slow getting out in the paddock because we are not getting approval to use it. PAPP not approved yet. (12)
- There is a lot of data about what dingoes do – lifecycle, how far they travel – but we are dealing with a hybrid dog so it is not so relevant. (13)
- Nothing has been achieved, there is a bit of information about the areas dogs operate over and places to be successful in trapping them. (22)
- There is lots of work that has been done by the CRC and DAFWA but I am not across it all and it has decreased in recent years. (A2)
- Not seeing anything, I would rather see the money deal directly with the problem and pay for implementation. (A7)
- There is not a lot of rocket science to some research, we just need more people on the ground and money to fence off an area. Cell fencing is the only one that will work. (A4)

- PAPP. (A5)
- I am not seeing anything, I would rather pay for lead implementation – sporting shooters will do it for free. (A6)
- M44 injector. (A11)
- Maintain the usage of 1080. (A8)
- The DNA work in the south was well done. (A10)
- I have seen research by Malcolm Kennedy with aerial baiting efficiency in different rangelands types, which was a very valuable paper. I have also seen preliminary investigations of invasive species apps – which is great but it needs to be better resourced. Research also needs to be revised from the past 100 years and not necessarily redone. (A11)
- The State based research – investigation into aerial baiting and tailoring to WA conditions. (A12)

Future research

- Biological control
 - Biological control needs more research i.e. RCD in rabbit – we can't claim it worked in rabbits. (1)
 - We need to have something that will spread and sterilise dogs or can kill wild dogs and develop a vaccine to protect domestic dogs against the disease. It would be a bit like RCD which was transferred through animals in the environment. However it would put pure bred dingoes at risk in conservation areas. (8)
 - A virus for biological control. (17)
 - Biological control – dog lovers and dog owners are not very happy but we need an antidote before they start for domestic dogs and working dogs and we need to inoculate all those dogs before the release of a biological control into the wild dogs. Just like RCD in rabbits, you will still not wipe out all the dogs, it will naturally control itself. (21)
- Sterilisation
 - I would like to see some work on a remote way of sterilising animals without handling them. (1)
 - How do you stop wild dogs breeding – sterilisation? Or make a percentage sterile? (14)
 - Sterilisation techniques in wild dogs being aerial darted with a product. (16)
 - Look at options of something like Parvo or RCD in rabbits which worked well. (A3)
 - Chemical neutering / biological sterilisation. (A7)
 - I am not aware of any current research but I am aware of things done in biosecurity control and one that is appealing is the medfly control mechanism which produces sterile males, it seems very difficult to shoot every dog or fence them out. Working on a species level will be more long term but longer lasting like breeding an imperfect Y gene to stop them breeding and introducing that into the populations.(A13)
- PAPPS mechanism
 - Needs more research done in Western Australia. (3)
 - There has been a lot of research into PAPPS but I have heard nothing about it since a field day years ago. (7)
- Wild dog control and poisons
 - The effectiveness of 1080. (1)
 - Investigate other alternatives. (3)
 - I hate 1080 as it doesn't have an antidote but it would be good to have an alternative. (9)
 - The effectiveness of aerial versus ground baiting; why do one if it is only 10% effective? (11)

- We need to maintain the use of 1080 because if we lose it we are buggered, it is our biggest front line attack on wild dogs. (24)
- There is a lot of conflict over keeping 1080 and that it is not effective and there is differing opinions about the new synthetic baits. We need to consolidate in terms of what works but we also need to maintain highly active poisons like 1080. (A3)
- Alternative control mechanisms to 1080. (A2)
- Look at the effectiveness of control measures. (A6)
- Look at other control alternatives and new technology that is available along with what works well elsewhere in the world. (A6)
- We need to know more about wild dogs; are they coming out of aboriginal settlements and moving on, is it a self-sustaining population now? (A6)
- Replacement of 1080, while it is effective there is a huge risk that we may lose it in the future as only one factory makes it in the United States and there is a big demand for it and a strong push from groups to get it banned. We need work done to look for a replacement alternative. (A5)
- Continue research into the most humane bait for dogs, cats and invasive species. (A8)
- More research is needed on the M44 injector to appease animal welfare issues rather than having traps. (A11)
- 1080 – how long will it be around for and if we lose it what are our alternatives? We need better poisons. (A10)
- One of the issues that needs more research is a bait attractant, currently we use horse meat which is injected with 1080. Is there another attractant that will make the dogs take the bait more regularly? (A9)
- We would like to see the new Eradicat bait increased to 6mg of 1080 instead of 4.5mg as it will control cats, foxes and dogs in one go instead of being a sub-lethal bait for wild dogs. It is released on DPaW land. (A11)
- There needs to be better education on the use of traps and more people made aware through trapping and baiting workshops. (A11)
- We need the Eradicat bait strengthened. (A12)
- We need to learn more from those on the front line about the impact of dogs and how they have moved in; case studies with landholders who have been impacted and what has worked, what didn't. (A12)
- The effectiveness of the work we are doing i.e. baiting, the sorts of baits and the toxins used along with the effectiveness of trapping, doggers, aerial baiting and fencing. We need to get a handle on what works. There is no systematic framework for research to determine that. (A14)
- Impacts of wild dogs on large stock i.e. cattle; there are a lot of myths and the financial impacts on a herd of cattle, as the future is all about cattle and wild dogs, not sheep.(A3)
- Relationships between foxes, dingoes and cats and environmental and social / economic research – what the impacts are and get away from myths and deal with the facts. (A3)
- Do more research on the dynamics of wild dogs. As a hunter we need to know what makes it tick; where it lives, its breeding patterns, what it eats as it is different to hunting a fox. (A6)
- There are certainly some gaps; we need to know what the impacts of wild dogs are on the cattle industry in the Kimberley. (A10)
- Feral Scan App (3)
 - It identifies where dogs are and if everyone uses it including doggers, it will add to the national database. (3)
 - The app has great potential and needs to be rolled out State wide as it will help doggers map dog activity and where they have been caught / shot etc., it is fantastic technology that needs to be used to our advantage. (10)

- Technology
 - Satellite tracking devices on dogs. (5) (11)
 - It will show the habits of dogs and enlighten a lot of pastoralists and help control them i.e. travel, territorial? (5)
 - Dogs need to be tracked to find out more about the distance they travel, the area they roam, the kinship groups they work in and what country they prefer. Hybrid dogs have blown a lot of theories out of the water. (11)
 - Satellite tracking to work out how far they travel and where their natural boundaries are and if they move outside of that as they grow. (16)
 - Tracking technology; we track cattle in real time, if we could capture dogs and put them on them, we would learn a lot. (22)
 - New technologies and devices for wild dog control. (A1)
 - Satellite tracking of sheep; track 3-4 sheep in a mob and link to a mobile phone so when they move quickly, it alerts the landowner that something is disturbing the sheep. Sheep walk everywhere and only run to water or when being fed. (7)
 - Surveillance cameras with a next G card to send a photo straight back to a phone. It will then allow the landholder to race out and shoot the dog there and then on the spot. We are looking at that now, it costs about \$500 each and if you only save one animal, it has paid for itself. (16)
 - Night scope and night vision goggles to see if dogs are active at night. We are also looking at that now. (16)
 - Drones but unless they can shoot wild dogs down, it is not worth it. (24)
 - Motion sensors to find out where and when dogs are watering which would allow doggers to sit and wait for them; it could be expensive. (12)
 - Motion sensor cameras. (19)
 - New technology – what can we have or what is available? (20)
 - We need innovative work on control methods using new technology. (22)
 - Technology of ultrasound whistles to drive wild dogs out of areas, look at it as a tool. (13)
- Fencing
 - Other ways to control dogs with cheaper fencing or electronic fencing options. (14)
 - More work on exclusion fencing. (24)
- Other
 - Impact on native fauna. (22)
 - I do believe they are trying to track genomes, how many are pure, how many hybrids, male or female and I would like to know that for my region, as a member and as a proactive landholder. (25)
 - Utilise other dogs to train dogs to track dingoes or wild dogs i.e. like pig dogs. (22)
 - What is required to ensure that wild dog control is effective aside from the fence as it is not really the silver bullet, other work is needed to complement the role the fence plays and its success. (A1)
- Research
 - Any research will be good. (6)
 - We need research to continue to help deal with the problem. (15)
 - Where will the money come from for them to continue research, in our instance what we have is working for us. (4)
 - It appears the government is pouring buckets of money into the problem and private enterprise into methods of control but they need greater investment into research and development on wild dog behaviour. (25)

- With a problem like this, there is not a hell of a lot you can do apart from what we are doing. (20)
- I would like less money spent on research and more on controlling them. (23)
- There is plenty of knowledge out there, we just need to get the money on the ground controlling what we have got. I am not sure how much more research we can do, the doggers have got a pretty good handle on the behaviour of wild dogs. (26)

14. What would the new WA Wild Dog Action Plan need to address in your view?

In discussions about the new WA Wild Dog Action Plan landholders had a number of ideas which included:

- The extension of the barrier fence and the installation of new exclusion fencing including the Murchison Vermin Cell and a continuation of the fence in the Esperance region. The fence is just the beginning as the wild dogs will still need to be cleaned up inside and managed / controlled along the fence for many years. As one landholder Stated “unless you have a fence, you will continue to throw money at the same problem. If you don’t have a physical barrier then you can’t expect the dogs to stop. It needs to be backed up with buffer baiting along the dog fence and a co-ordinated approach.”
- An increase in doggers on the ground. Given professional doggers are hard to find, there is an opportunity to train up aboriginals and other people who have knowledge of the bush. DAFWA should employ the doggers, not the local groups.
- A continued co-ordinated approach with baiting and utilisation of fresh baits as landholders believe they are far more effective than dried baits.
- Continuation of RBGs and the need for continual support from the State government and DAFWA along with a guarantee of funding for the group’s activities including the employment of Executive Officers. This will take the pressure off the volunteer landholders and allow them to get out of the office and back on the ground to control wild dogs.
- More accountability on the government’s behalf in regards to the management of wild dogs on DPaW land.
- Review the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act and the ability to rate mining companies who have taken up pastoral leases to ensure that they contribute to vermin rates to help control wild dogs.
- Educate and encourage compliance in wild dog management with all stakeholders and perhaps the plan should give greater support to people who do implement measures to control wild dogs.
- Sterilisation programs for dogs in rural towns and indigenous communities to ensure that the dogs can’t breed up with wild dogs.
- Fence or fences that will enable the control of dogs on the inside and allow producers to run livestock. The fence would definitely be a start and history shows that it is effective in the Eastern States, they would not have a sheep industry without it. It is questionable about the feasibility of the fence in some cases. The upgrade and maintenance of existing structures should also be included in the plan.
- Utilise all tools available to control the wild dog populations rather than eradicate, to enable landholders to run small stock and cattle.
- A co-ordinated approach across all industries and stakeholders and support through funding and policy. People need to stop the blaming and finger pointing; it is a shared problem which needs a shared solution to move forward. It requires good partnerships, co-operation and engagement across all sectors.
- Rating and involvement of mining companies, and raise all landholder’s awareness of their roles and responsibilities under the BAM Act.
- RBGs need increased resources to deal with the issue and there needs to be a good spread across the State to ensure that wild dog control is well managed. All groups focused on wild dogs need to be brought together to ensure that they have a co-ordinated approach. An overarching group like a Biosecurity Council should oversee all the groups and provide them with the necessary support.

- Adoption of the Feral Scan app across all groups throughout the State for ease of reporting and a coordinated place to report wild dog activity.
- Short term actions to give pastoralists confidence to stay in the industry and get some new investment to be viable. Long term actions are still important but they will take longer than the current pastoralists can survive.

Overall the plan needs to focus on pulling the State together as a whole including agriculture, pastoral, mining, conservation and indigenous groups as everyone who is a landholder needs to take responsibility for their land.

In terms of funding, landholders see the Action Plan as a partnership between industry and government. Should the fence proceed, it was mentioned that the Federal and State governments have a large part to play in the funding as the infrastructure of the fence will be State owned asset and it won't be owned by landholders.

Suggestions to raise the funds included a levy similar to the Emergency Service levy where everyone pays a declared pest levy which is also matched by government or the introduction of a levy through a grain or sheep levy.

While some landholders are happy to pay levies to ensure that they don't have to deal with the wild dog issue, others don't believe they should have to pay to protect the south west land division. There are a lot of people who will benefit from the control of wild dogs (i.e. transporters, processors, small rural towns) but not everyone pays. Other ideas include an option to pay the government back for a land user component over the next 100 years through their leases or the offer of security of tenure in return for the payment of rates.

Landholders are mindful of losing money through administration costs and therefore there is an opportunity for the RBGs to administer the funds with the services of an Executive Officer.

Respondents believe the fence, should it proceed, should be jointly funded by industry and government. It was proposed the money could be raised through an industry levy through the MLA and AWI, or as in South Australia all producers on the inside of the fence pay a levy that goes towards the maintenance.

There was some concern about how this WA Wild Dog Action Plan will differ to the previous plan apart from some minor tweaking and updated research. All of the tasks were addressed but it hasn't stopped the wild dog problem. It was also Stated that it will be a big challenge to sell the new plan.

- Fencing
 - Exclusion fence and zones – hard for it to look attractive in a cost benefit analysis but in the longer term it will be hugely beneficial. (1)
 - I would like to see the fence joined up from Coxall Corner to the Esperance coast as I see benefit for all agricultural enterprises. (4)
 - Exclusion fencing. (7)
 - It needs to work out the effectiveness of certain things i.e. a fence – determine what are the best strategies and if fencing rates highly surely the government would assist. What is best and most economically efficient? The Murchison Vermin Cell will cost \$3.5m but in one year it costs pastoralists \$7m in lost income in that area. You need to look at the cost benefit analysis and the fence for the Esperance region. (8)
 - I would like to see fencing, not sure it looks viable but perhaps widen the boundaries. It is all constrained by costs. (10)
 - Exclusion fencing should be up to individuals along with the control of wild dogs. All farmers along the edge of the bush should be responsible for their own fencing to keep the dogs out. Why invest public money on more fencing and baiting, it won't make a difference to leases, they are still unviable. There is still a role for doggers at \$150,000 a year to work in conjunction with landholders bordering UCL land. (11)
 - If the fence was put up, who would run sheep? I would. The vermin cell in the Murchison is there but it is not in good shape and needs repairing and extending to enable people to go back into sheep. It will cost \$30m for a 3,000 km fence. The fence is the only positive thing that can be done, it is hard to generate an economic income without it. (12)

- A continuation of the fence. (14)
- The closure of the fence around the Esperance agricultural area. It would become my boundary fence and encourage me to maintain my sheep numbers. (15)
- The fence would help solve a lot of dog issues on my property. I support the fence in principal from Esperance to 80 Mile Beach. (16)
- The erection of the fence to prove that it does work and then do a cost/ benefit analysis after that and work out if it is worthwhile fencing off small stock places. (17)
- First things first, you need to talk to the South Australian and NSW dog fence boards and find out how to go about putting up an effective barrier and maintaining it. It is not a matter of putting up a fence and forgetting it. If you try to eradicate dogs from an area, it involves not only a barrier but the use of all tools on a heavy scale and for that you need big resources and public opinion on side. If you go down the line of eradicating dogs from an area, then you need to put a levy on landholders within that fence to pay for it because it is too much for people right on the fence to afford. You need to look at the SA dog legislation. (18)
- Unless you do fence, you will continue to throw money at the same problem. If you don't have a physical barrier then you can't expect the dogs to stop. It needs to be backed up with buffer baiting along the dog fence and a co-ordinated approach. A fence on its own will not stop wild dogs; you need vigilance and lots of money, baiting, trapping and full time doggers. (18)
- I do support a fence as exclusion areas have a place for those wanting to run small stock. (19)
- The fence will give us something to work from and implement our control measures. Any major repairs should be done by DAFWA. (21)
- The fence will be better than not having anything; it ought to restrict dogs migrating from the north into this region, it won't lead to the elimination of dogs in this region. Even if a fence goes in, more money is needed to get rid of the dogs inside, the fence is just the beginning and we will need to get everyone on board to control them. I do have some reservations about the cell as well as when properties change hands, the new owners might not be as committed. (22)
- The fence needs to be upgraded and continued – the barrier fence is the main thing. (23)
- The fence is the most cost effective way to control wild dogs as labour is hard to get in the station country which means there is a lack of resources on the ground to control them. After that sheep numbers will increase again. We need to look at the most cost effective way of fencing. The extension of the barrier fence in the Esperance region will stop not only wild dogs but also emus from getting into the farming land so it will also benefit the cropping areas as well. Fencing could also help with future biosecurity issues i.e. foot and mouth quarantine issues. Cropping farmers like dogs, but if you mention emus they are keen to come on board. (24)
- I can see benefit in exclusion barriers, it is quite complex so I am not sure it is the entire answer, it has its place. I do believe there is a place for exclusion fencing, if we want to keep wild dogs out we need to fence them out and that is important. The benefits of the fence would outweigh the costs. (25)
- Maintenance of the barrier fence like in the past APB days. Someone needs to be responsible for looking after the fence and there needs to be more policing of travelling along the fence as well. (26)
- I believe there is a place for extra fencing to be installed to protect the sheep industry and maintenance of that is very important. (26)
- The fence is the most important part in the station country or cell fencing as that is the only way unless we find something that will wipe the dogs out i.e. a virus. We will still need doggers to clean up the dogs on the inside. Once we get the fence we can clean out dogs on the inside and we can keep sheep, and the dogs can live on the other side and everyone will be happy. I don't want to wipe dingoes out but we have to look after ourselves too. In

the Lake King / Varley area people couldn't farm sheep before the fence, it has changed everything. Our proposed fence extension will stop the emus as well which will also benefit croppers. It is estimated to provide a \$3m cost saving of which 70% is attributed to emus and 30% to wild dogs. The fence is just as important to croppers. No one is interested in taking responsibility for dogs on Crown land and they will have to, if we don't get the fence and dogs go ballistic; if we don't do something now it will cost more in the future. The rest of the State has a barrier fence, all that area is protected and what we need is the fence extended and finished right around the farming land in the Esperance region. (28)

- If we have the fence we can eradicate dogs on the inside and the others can live on the outside. We need more people on the ground and more money to fence the area off. Dingoes don't jump so you don't need a high fence. (A4)
- The fence would be a start, it has to be State owned, run and managed. (A5)
- Get the fence finished at Esperance. I am a strong advocate of the fence as history across Australia shows it works. The east side of Australia would not have a sheep industry if they didn't have a fence. (A3)
- Fence – in some areas it is too expensive, I support fencing where it is feasible. (A8)
- We have to get on and look at the issue of the Vermin Cell fence for the Murchison area that is fundamental. One of the reasons we have got to this point is that DAFWA hasn't really taken it seriously and the horse has bolted. Unfortunately they don't have a presence on the ground which also impacts on the issue and even more so in the rangelands area. (A9)
- Upgrade and maintenance of the State Barrier Fence. (A11)
- Funding – the State Barrier Fence is an asset of the State government so it should be the responsibility of the State government along with Federal government. Industry shouldn't be totally responsible for the funding. I don't believe landholders' burden is massive at the moment with RBG / BAMA levies. The State Government is fully responsible for operational plans so they have to carry the can. (A11)
- I am not convinced fencing will work; it hasn't been an effective measure in fauna management especially with the broad scale fencing that will be necessary across the rangelands. (A14)
- One of the things I like about the fence (Murchison Vermin cell), is it is industry's own response and wish list for the problem and it is their acceptance of responsibility to solve the problem. I don't believe we should be building fences everywhere. The fence should be half funded by the pastoralists and they be allowed to pay it off over time, this would give the pastoralists confidence and if they pay the debt back to government it would allow them to do trials on grazing issues and fund some of the sterile dog releases. It could be a self-perpetuating research fund which could collaborate with industry and government departments. (A13)
- Doggers
 - Increase doggers on the ground – it is a lost art and we need to get people back into it i.e. army, aboriginals in order to control dogs in the long term. (1)
 - Doggers on the ground. (2) (7) (12) (15) (26)
 - I would like to see the State Government return to more doggers on the ground, like the APB days, to work in with local RBGs. The State government need to take responsibility and bring back the APB. There is still a role for RBGs to work in with them. (5)
 - We need more doggers on the ground, back to the old APB days. There is a great opportunity for more aboriginal people to be employed as doggers, given their knowledge of the land. (6)
 - More money spent on doggers on the ground and good baiting schemes and a co-ordinated approach to making fresh meat baits. (14)
 - It would be good to see more doggers employed under the plan and more of a focus on traps on the ground. (17)
 - We need more people on the ground including doggers and more aerial baiting. (20)

- We need doggers and if they go 12 months without catching a dog then we know the dogs are under control. The fear is if they are not catching the dogs, then the government will say that there isn't a problem and ask why are they funding it when there are no dogs. This could be a disaster as we still need to doggers on the ground to control the wild dogs regardless of the numbers they are catching. (21)
- We need more resources on the ground to deal with wild dogs which includes more doggers. (22)
- We need more professional doggers on the ground. (23)
- More funding and training to train up competent doggers. (25)
- Dog control
 - More baiting and the utilisation of a blanket approach. (9)
 - It has to give an outline of products we can legally be using and provide to control/manage wild dogs. (4)
 - Reintroduction of the bounty. (14)
 - We need more funding for dogging and baiting. (15)
 - If we can carpet bomb across the regions it would work but very expensive. (17)
 - We need to maintain the use of 1080. (24)
 - We need money and resources to control the dogs and do more baiting and I would like to see aerial baiting continued. (26)
 - This country is too rough for doggers, you can't beat what we are doing with two baitings a year. (27)
 - Stop the spread of dogs rather than eradicating them. (A1)
 - If you are looking to get small stock back in the country, you have to manage and control the number of wild dogs. The beef industry has a big future and the dogs still need to be controlled as they are attacking calves and causing the downgrading of carcasses. It will also prevent the dogs from flowing into other areas. (A4)
 - You need an incentive; a bounty system and offer more than \$200 per dog. It is not a lot of money. (A4)
 - Perhaps you could run something similar to the Red Card fox program for wild dogs. (A4)
 - It is crippling the pastoral industry and it needs the resources along with all the traditional management options, trapping by knowledgeable people and addressing the breeding at the point of origin. (A6)
 - More baiting and trapping workshops. (A11)
- Coordinated approach
 - Everyone needs to be doing their job properly for us to get on top of the problem quickly. We need all hands on deck with making baits and attending community baiting days. (2)
 - Co-ordination with various landowners and government bodies in control of wild dogs. It shouldn't be restricted to wild dogs, it should also encompass other vermin i.e. donkeys, feral pigs. (3)
 - Everyone needs to be responsible for managing wild dogs on their properties including DPaW, CSIRO, mining companies etc. (3)
 - It needs to focus on pulling the State together as whole – agriculture, pastoral and other (mining). Everyone who is a landholder needs to take responsibility. (8)
 - We need a cooperative approach between government and landholders. (21)
 - More coordinated approach. (25).
 - The Government need to be more responsible for their country along with aboriginals and tourism stations in managing wild dogs more actively. (27)

- You need to take a co-ordinated approach. It is no good clearing up dogs in one area because the population moves and regenerates so quickly. If you shoot the alpha female, the next one moves up and breeds. (A6)
- It needs to be broad based across all industries affected by dogs and it needs to be respected and supported by all landholders involved plus local, State and Federal government support (funding and policy). (A8)
- It needs to have a co-ordinated approach so you don't leave pockets of dogs breeding and re-populating areas. There is not a one size fits all solution; some areas can bait, trap, or fence them out and use all the options that work. (A8)
- I would like to see a coordinated integrated approach to wild dog control. The blaming has to go so everyone can work together to address the problem. It makes it unproductive to be involved. We need good partnerships and co-operation, not finger-pointing. We need engagement across all sectors. (A14)
- BAM Act
 - Under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act you can't rate mining companies; this needs to be changed so that they are also paying their way and contributing to vermin rates to help control wild dogs. All RBGs are funded by the vermin rates. (3)
 - Pastoralists look after land, prospectors, tourists and mining companies are not contributing as the pastoral industry does with rates but they are still utilising the land. They should also contribute. (8)
 - Rating of mining tenements – currently we can't rate them in terms of Shire rates and vermin rates. In the Pilbara there are a lot of mining companies that own stations, the Pilbara RBG gets under \$500,000 a year but if we could rate them that would then be matched by government. It would give us more funding to do things like vermin proof fencing, employ a full time dogger and undertake more co-ordinated baiting. (16)
 - We need input from mining companies and funding from them as they can write it off as an environmental offset. (3)
 - Get mining companies involved and paying a declared pest rate. (A9)
 - Everyone needs to be made aware of their roles and responsibilities under the BAM Act. (A12)
- Government
 - I would like to see the government ensure there are watering points on the edge of Crown land and buffer zones for baiting. (5)
 - DPaW need to manage their land and the bushfire tracks within as they are contributing to the wild dog issue as well. (20)
 - The responsibility needs to be put back on DAFWA and they need more resources to help control wild dogs and liaise with the RBGs. (23)
 - Allow cross tenure access to national parks and river systems to control wild dogs. Work closely with landholders to make plans more effective with guidelines when accessing national parks and Crown land. (24)
 - Re-evaluate the use of survey tracks in Crown land as it provides a track for wild dogs to follow which takes them onto farming land and the fence. (24)
 - Government need to be more responsible for dogs on their own land, we can comply on our own land. DAFWA have to step up and take more responsibility for the issue. Our group stepped in because of the demise of the APB. DAFWA should employ the doggers not the local groups as the onus is put back on landholders who spend a lot of time dealing with the dog issue when they should be making money on their properties.(24)

- DPaW need to be more accountable to managing their land better and the wild dogs on their land. We need their commitment to help deal with the issue because it affects neighbours who are running commercial livestock enterprises. (25)
- The Government needs to be more responsible for their country along with aboriginals and tourism stations in managing wild dogs more actively. (27)
- RBGs
 - The plan should provide support for RBGs to continue to exist and employ an Executive Officer to take the pressure off station owners and get them out of the office and back on the ground. The population is not there in the bush and that is part of the reason for the dog explosion. (3)
 - The Government has handballed the responsibility of vermin control to individual groups and they are operating with limited funding and there is no way to attract additional funds unless you increase the rates which the pastoral industry can't afford. (5)
 - RBGs and Declared Species Groups should be continued through a funding arrangement between industry. Royalties for Regions is going to leave a big gap in funding as we only have one year left. (8)
 - RBGs need to be maintained, currently there are only three that work – Kalgoorlie, Carnarvon and Meekatharra. (12)
 - More funding for RBGs to coordinate community baiting and employ a dogger or two. (16)
 - Keep RBGs in the loop and liaise with them to work out the best way to spend funds. (17)
 - DAFWA and the State government have handballed the issue to the RBGs and stepped away from it and then when funding is needed the responsibility is on the group to approach landholders. RBGs are great but they need to get continual support from the State government and DAFWA. Landowners don't have a choice in what we do – to be effective we need a RBG, now we have it we can't afford to be left out on a limb on our own. We need a guarantee that we will get continued co-operation and funding from State government. (21)
 - The RBGs need to be maintained but the expectations lessened as it has put a lot back on landholders who are trying to make a living and run their properties. (23)
 - RBGs are not the be all and end all, they are just a government saving to put more reliance on landholders when the problem is from government land to start with. Why should we fix the problem? (24)
 - RBGs are working well but they need greater resourcing and some paid Executive Officers to coordinate the groups. I would like to see all groups set up like that, they need greater funding and resources as they only operate with a lot of voluntary hours from landholders. (25)
 - RBGs need to keep focused on the control of wild dogs. From the administration side, the RBGs do need help to employ an Executive Officer as it is pretty hard to operate without one as there is a lot of pressure on the committee who also have their own businesses to run. The RBGs also need financial assistance to pay doggers and that funding needs to be matched. (26)
 - I am happy with the RBG setup, the government used to do all this but now they won't let go of it and DAFWA is becoming a competitor for our work which I am a little concerned about. It would be good if DAFWA could do it but the government is not going to as everything is getting privatised and it is becoming a user pays system. They have put the onus back on landholders. DAFWA either need to take full control or no control. They used to inject all the baits but now we have to get a private contractor in, they are not doing anything. As an RBG we have to organise it and pay for it. (27)
 - RBGs are a big issue; there are a lot of grey areas and they then put a rate on farmers which is 50% of the cost of biosecurity. The only problem is that the State government won't say that the money raised through that will stay in the area. We need to know and need the commitment that it will stay in the area. They want us to become an RBG but we are

reluctant to head down the RGB path and then all farmers in the Esperance region will be rated and we don't want to be responsible for making that decision on their behalf. We are purely dogs, and want to stay that way and don't want to have to cover other issues i.e. starlings. (28)

- We also need to look at ways to increase resources for RBGs, the government has to start to prioritise things differently and ensure they are adequately resourced. (A9)
- Oversee RBGs to become financially viable and address the scale of the issue that is required. RBGs provide education and promotion to assist landholders but there are a limited number of groups at the moment so we need more to have good coverage to manage invasive species including wild dogs. (A11)
- You need a Biosecurity Council so they organise and oversee collaborative meetings and are overarching the RBGs and Declared Species Groups. They can help with education, opening up the communication lines, mapping out dogs (Feral Scan app) and provide administration and governance support for the groups dealing with dogs. (A12)
- More resources to allow the rangelands and South West Land Division groups to work together and take a more co-ordinated approach. There is no body to bring those groups together. (A11)
- The RBGs have been left to their own devices and struggle to meet administrative and co-ordinated demands, they need to be appropriately resourced. (A14)
- Landholders
 - More reliance on individuals, a lot of pastoralists need to focus on other industries. In the meantime we need to deal with the problem; carry on as is with doggers and the government co-ordinate the baiting. (11)
 - It's a waste of money until you work out a long term plan of what we can do with this country. The reality is that it will never return back to what it was, so why are we wasting money to deal with the physical problems of wild dogs. We need a blueprint for options for the pastoral industry; tenure reform and the ability to do other things on them and change the mindset from what they used to do i.e. aquaculture, tourism, and carbon credits. (13)
 - Croppers need to also be involved because their land asset value is being eroded with wild dogs and will impact when they try to sell. There is possible scope for a State wide vermin levy. (A8)
- Compliance
 - Someone to wield the big stick if people aren't controlling wild dogs on their properties. (3)
 - Enforcement of landholder's involvement. (9)
 - We need to deal with the people who don't believe in getting rid of the dogs and get them on side and giving them some incentives. Compliance never works and is not an incentive. (22)
 - Compliance with stakeholders. (24)
 - The plan should give greater support to people who do implement measures to control wild dogs. (25)
 - The plan needs to highlight that lack of compliance is a disadvantage. You need to take the carrot and stick approach. We provide this free service for you, but if there is no stick there they don't accept the carrot. DAFWA would be best served by taking up the compliance role. (A10)
- Economics
 - We need to know the economic impact of controlling dogs, if we do nothing versus if we control them again and we need to know what level we can get back to in the pastoral zone if dogs are taken out of the equation. (1)
 - It needs to look at the impact on industry – economically and socially and what action is appropriate to govern that? Is it that significant that more government resources are needed? What is the level of resources required in proportion to the impact on the economy? (19)

- I think it needs to give consideration of short term actions that give current pastoralists the confidence to stay there. A lot of people would say do long term actions but that would take longer than the current pastoralists can survive. There needs to be activities and actions started to give them confidence to stay and get new investment to be viable. At the moment there are very few who are viable and they will remain that way unless they get outside investment. (A13)
- Other ideas
 - With Crown land handed over to the indigenous people the wild dog problem is getting worse as they don't partake in wild dog control. (5)
 - The dingo needs to be preserved. There are strong parallels with Tasmanian tigers. Once they are gone that will be it. (11)
 - Sterilisation of dogs in aboriginal communities and small towns needs to be enforced more vigorously. (11)
 - The local Shire did subsidise sterilisation programs which is a good idea. (25)
 - I can't see why we can't have a bounty. (23)
 - Scalp program is good because it collects data and encourages people and boosts morale and it makes government recognise that there is a problem. (25)
 - More research and development. (25)
 - Feral Scan App should be used for ease of reporting and a coordinated place to report, it is essential for a WA Action Plan. (A11)
- Other comments
 - I am sure the problem can be fixed with lots of money. (7)
 - The wheel has already been invented, I don't believe it can do anything other than make people aware. You can't save people if they don't want to save themselves. Every time government steps in, landholders step back into the shade. I am not a fan of the plan as I am not sure what will be different. (12)
 - I would be disappointed to see plan come out and sit on the shelf, the document needs to have an implementation section and be delivered and hit the ground. (8)
 - The action plan will serve some purpose, there is reason to deal with the dogs in certain areas and that's why fences were built. We need to work out where the agricultural areas will be and run with that. The plan has to be relevant to the region and fencing will work in some places. (13)
 - There needs to be more consultation with industry and work in closely with government departments to look at all the options. (24)
 - You need a good strategy in place with objectives and sound planning and funding through cohesion and co-operation. There are lots of spot fires in the State at the moment. There will be a stronger force if you have good cooperation and you need the resourcing for that too and acknowledgement by government as individuals can't do it. (25)
 - In the 2005 WA Wild Dog strategy all tasks were addressed but that still didn't stop the problem. (A5)
 - Work out how livestock industries can survive with minimal losses. The animal will always be there we just can't allow it to breed up to the extent of the last 10 years. (A2)
 - The last wild dog strategy was a good strategy. I suspect it will be a lengthy process and it will come up with something 95% the same. There might be more enthusiasm in the Gascoyne Murchison area as it is now more of a problem. I don't think there will be a lot of radical changes to the last strategy. There will be a lot of arguments around fencing and a bit of tweaking with the latest research. (A2)
 - You have to make long term decisions as to what you are going to do and go ahead and get it funded. You have to get through the red tape and do the work. Typical of government it continues to get put off. (A3)

- I have struggled with the direction that they might go in, what will be new or different to the previous one I question? It will be a big challenge in selling it as something different. (A5)
- Deal directly with the number of wild fauna on the ground and allow diversity back into the regions along with pastoralism. It needs to provide an opportunity for those people who want to live on the land. (A7)
- From our perspective I would like to see pathways as to how to involve other landholders that are non-rate payers (i.e. DPaW/ military). What happens with dogs on UCL? If they are controlled and how? (A10)

Funding

- You need funds from landholders to fund the groups; it is hard to ask a Kojonup farmer who is not impacted by wild dogs at the moment but they could get there. It is also hard to ask pastoralists and others on the edge to protect others. You also need to allow for the involvement of the wider industry – processors and stock agents etc. to fund the fence and control of wild dogs. The Federal and State government have a large part to play as the infrastructure of the fence won't be owned by landholders but by them. (1)
- We currently pay a levy when we sell sheep and wool. A declared pest levy for Ravensthorpe is asking the same people to pay up again and mining and UCL can't be rated, so I don't believe it's fair to have this levy and we pay to protect the south west land division. (4)
- The Action Plan should be funded through something similar to the Emergency Service levy where everyone pays a declared pest levy which can be matched by government. I don't want to lose money to administration through treasury, it can be dealt with more efficiently at a local level. Local groups can then apply for money through the main body. (4)
- It needs to be partly funded by landholders and government should also pay for some of it. We are sharing the problem across the State as it could become an issue in the future just like a blue tongue outbreak in Capel. (7)
- It is up to DAFWA and the government to make sure it is funded appropriately and for the engagement and consultation with industry and the RBGs to make it work. It should be funded half by industry and matched by government. I see that as working well but industry can't raise rates with loss of income at the moment so maybe government does need to contribute more than just matching dollar for dollar. (8)
- We are protecting other landholders further away from the issue. I would rather pay something every year and not have any dogs. (8)
- Five years ago the numbers of wild dogs exploded and that was after the demise of the APB where everyone paid a rate and there were lots of doggers and that was really effective. (8)
- The fence should be government funded but with a land user component for the cost, get the government to build the fence and we will pay it back over the next 100 years through our lease or a vermin tax for all those inside the cell. (12)
- The fence should ultimately be funded by land holders through levies along with State and Federal government funding. They have a responsibility given the dogs are breeding up in UCL land and national parks. (15)
- I don't want to see new levies. Our proposal for the Esperance fence went to a Shire referendum and got approval to introduce a special rate for landholders to pay an extra 0.5% on their rates for a wild dog levy so the agricultural industry in the region has voted already to contribute funds to the fence. (15)
- Funding – I haven't got an issue with how it is currently funded, what we raise is matched dollar for dollar by Government. (16)
- It should be funded by government and landholders should contribute a little bit. (20)
- The Shires are putting money in, it is a bit unfair to expect people who aren't on the front line to be rated as well. I am happy to be the one who is rated and don't mind working together to employ a dogger with similar properties. It costs us so much money it doesn't matter if we

- throw another \$10,000 a year at the problem. It's in our interest to do it; if we were only losing 10-20 sheep a year you wouldn't worry. (20)
- At the end of the day, to get the money for the fence we have to prove there is a community interest in what we do. For the State government to walk away, it would be disaster. We definitely need the continued repairs and maintenance of the fence, without that the doggers on the ground would be useless. (21)
 - How it is currently funded is fine and I don't have a problem with landholders raising 50% of the money to do the job as long as it continues to be matched by the government. (21)
 - It should be funded by State and Federal government through taxes. The trouble with putting it back on landholders is that the whole agricultural industry benefits from it (i.e. small towns etc., truckies) but not everyone pays for it. (23)
 - Industry should pay a levy to maintain the fence through a grain or sheep levy. I believe industry should pay for maintenance of the fence (including croppers) and the government should build the fence as it would be a State owned asset. (24)
 - As a landholder I am happy to pay rates if I have security of tenure to pay for it. As any normal business is entitled to you need a saleable asset at the end of it, if you are going to take out a loan. (25)
 - I am not sure that it should all be funded out of farmer's pockets, we need Federal and State money because the industry supports the State. (26)
 - We have to get the government and Ministers on side and then they won't object to funding. There needs to be a vermin rate for every farmer and then it wouldn't take much to make groups viable and the money will go to dealing with the issue on the ground and not be caught up in administration costs. (26)
 - Farmers have been putting money into government (i.e. levies) for a long time but yet the State Government is trying to push more onto landholders. The State Government and DAFWA have little resources and funding. I believe they should fund the fence and the maintenance in the future. If they drop a levy on us to help towards that I am happy. The employment of doggers should be jointly funded. (28)
 - The fence needs to be co-funded. (A3)
 - Funding of the fence should see the users pay a percentage of the funds as they benefit from the protection. Over time if you did nothing places like Toodyay would get wild dogs. South Australia has a levy on all sheep sold inside the dog fence and that goes towards maintenance of their fence. (A5)
 - Croppers need to also be involved because their land asset value is being eroded with wild dogs and will impact when they try to sell. There is possible scope for a State wide vermin levy. (8)
 - Funding should be through MLA and AWI levies. (A8)
 - The Murchison Vermin Cell fence should be half funded by the pastoralists and they be allowed to pay it off over time, this would give the pastoralists confidence and if they pay the debt back to government it would allow them to do trials on grazing issues and fund some of the sterile dog releases. It could be a self-perpetuating research fund which could collaborate with industry and government departments. (A13)

15. How would the new WA Wild Dog Action Plan gain traction (ensure it was implemented)?

Landholders believe the new WA Wild Dog Action Plan will gain traction if it is driven by the grass roots landholders and RBGs as they need to have ownership of the plan. The various stakeholders including conservationists, indigenous people, mining companies and government need to be consulted and engaged in the feedback process. The objectives and desired outcomes need to be clearly communicated and most importantly industry needs to lobby the government and Ministers to get their support. The implementation of the plan should be up to DAFWA, and the government need to make sure it is funded appropriately, by industry and government, to ensure its implementation.

Respondents believe the plan has to be driven by industry with support from all stakeholders including conservation groups, local councils and government departments. They will need to take the plan seriously and make a commitment. The plan will require consultation, education and community engagement.

Local biosecurity groups have to be united over the plan's approach and they will need to work with the State Ministers to demonstrate that unity.

The Action Plan will need an appropriate allocation of resources and a timetable for implementation. It will also require some level of compliance management to make sure the work is being done consistently.

At the end of the day the government will have to make a decision and come to terms with the cost of the plan. In terms of the implementation of the plan, it should be up to DAFWA to oversee it and enforce it and work in closely with the RBGs.

- Consultation
 - Support from high profile people and the wider industry. (1)
 - Aboriginal involvement. (1)
 - Make sure everyone knows about it and they are given the chance to read it and have input on the draft plan. (2)
 - Get the public involved through consultation. (22)
 - It has to be driven by industry with support from all political persuasions as well as government agencies. It has become a political football as not everyone supports the fence approach. It has created a level of apathy and everyone needs to work together to make the plan work. (A1)
 - The lessons learnt from the last plan were that you need consultation and working group members. Some areas weren't as engaged before as wild dogs weren't such a big issue. Once you have the plan, you need to let people comment on it – it won't be easy across the rangelands. It can be implemented through biosecurity groups and use the processes that are there. (A2)
 - You need lots of publicity and need to gain some degree of credibility with major stakeholders i.e. pastoralists to provide an avenue to promote it through the rural press. There also needs to be consultation and involvement with government departments and conservation groups. (A6)
 - Education and community engagement – we do need almost need to saturate the eastern and north eastern wheat belt with awareness of what is happening and how it could impact on them if we do not hold back wild dogs. The more engagement with local councils and landholders, the better.(A12)
- Compliance
 - The biggest problem is the regulatory roadblocks, you need to get rid of the wild dogs and allow pastoralism back on the land. The land protection measures are there, they have worked in the past and you just need to get it back on board. There is not enough people on the ground in the pastoral industry to control wild dogs and no-one else is allowed to control them so it provides a wonderful haven for the critters to breed up in. (7)
- Landholder involvement
 - More female involvement; use women as the upfront people as they will appeal to the wider population rather than old pastoralists. (1)
 - Input from landholders and RBGs – it has to be driven by the grass roots and they have to have ownership. It then needs to be put back to industry for feedback – more so from landholders, not so much from the top end. (3)
 - It all comes back to communication and ensuring there is good communication amongst all stakeholders. (4)
 - Commitment from pastoral owners and develop a business plan / model and collectively put it to State and Federal governments. (5)

- The pastoral industry needs to support a workable plan. (14)
- Get consensus amongst stakeholders; how to get it is another story as everyone has their own story and ideas which differs across regions. (17)
- It needs to be sold to landholders. (24)
- This is my fear of what is going to happen next: the pastoralists will get annoyed because they won't get the fence and they will turn their back on government. The government are going to invest the same effort on why they shouldn't build a fence and they will then try and impose those wishes on pastoralists who will feel they have been alienated. How logical is that? We have to make sure we keep the pastoralists involved in the process otherwise it is a waste of time. We need a two tiered plan with both long term and short term actions. The fence can't be a give-away; pastoralists are the first to argue about what they give aboriginals but they are expecting a gift per station. There must be some ownership of the fence. (A13)
- Government
 - The government has to intervene and enforce it. We pay vermin rates each year and the government puts in some but they are putting in less each year. All landholders are responsible for it too but the government is our neighbour with Crown land / national parks. (9)
 - The plan has to be regulated and part of the management / lease conditions that say you have to undertake vermin eradication. (10)
 - It comes back on the government to publicise / promote it. (11)
 - There has been a lot of procrastination and game playing. The government has to make a decision and come to terms with the cost of this. The real problem with politics is the differing views from Ministers. (A3)
 - The only avenue is through DAFWA to implement it and enforce it, until we have a recognised RBG group association. DAFWA have common ground and the network and their role is to educate, support and enable. (A11)
- Lobbying
 - Industry needs to make more noise, it is always the squeaky wheel that gets the oil and government will fund it as a result. (16)
 - Lobbying through our RBG / dogger groups. (20)
 - It will get buried in government bureaucracy, it needs money on the ground and motivated people to lobby government to make decisions. There are not enough of us landholders and not enough time as we are trying to make a living. (23)
 - Lobbying the government, you have to get the government and Ministers on side and then they won't object to funding it. (26)
- RBGs
 - Local biosecurity groups have to be united over weeds and animals and they need to pressure the State Ministers for a meeting with all sectors of the industry to get the action plan in place. (A4)
 - It has to be underpinned by the appropriate support structures and the elements of that include RBGs who have to be adequately resourced. It needs some level of compliance management to make sure that the work is being done consistently. I have no idea how to go about it. (A14)
- Funding
 - Availability of funds to implement the plan along with funds from landholders and the wider industry i.e. processors, stock agents and Federal government. (1)
 - Get money from the government to implement it. (7)
 - It is up to government to make sure the plan is funded appropriately with funds 50/50 industry / government. (8)

- It gets back to the wallet, people have to help themselves the government can't do it for you. (12)
- You need funding to implement it. (15)
- Government will put money into it if it is cost effective, you need to show the sums and impact on long term productivity. (24)
- Other
 - Work with AWI and their new co-ordinator. (4)
 - You need credibility to start with and good industry representation, and then implementing the plan should be up to DAFWA and the government needs to make sure it is funded appropriately. Engagement and consultation with industry is needed with the involvement of the RBGs to make it work. Funding should be half industry and half government. (8)
 - The death of a tourist will drive the plan. (12)
 - You need to set up a clever committee that is knowledgeable and made up of industry, local government and the broader community which includes some switched on stakeholders to oversee it. In South Australia their legislation dictates the percentage of women, conservationists and landholders who can represent the dog issue. Michael Balharry in South Australia has a massive knowledge of dog fencing and chairs it; he could advise the WA board. (18)
 - You need commitment from industry and government, it's not a case of government doing something and then it is their responsibility. It needs to be a partnership. While there are resources required, I don't believe it should be up to just the government, it is a partnership between both. (19)
 - You have to put it out there and tell people this is it and it is happening, don't ask them if they want it because they will say no. The majority of people within the agricultural area realise there is a problem and if it is not controlled, it will only get worse. Selling it I don't see will be a problem. (21)
 - It is about promoting it well once the plan is done and education as well. People will see the benefits of a coordinated approach. The plan should give greater support to people who do implement measures to control wild dogs. (25)
 - What's the catch – we need a hook in there somewhere? I am not sure what that is. (A5)
 - You have to be conscious of it not becoming top heavy and you have to take guidance from the ground up so ownership has to be at the landowner level, which is the most critical thing. The government also has to be responsible for wild dogs on their land. (A8)
 - It needs the allocation of appropriate resources and a timetable for its implementation and all stakeholders need to be serious and make a commitment. (A9)
 - There needs to be 'do-ables' in the implementation stage of the plan and they have to be achievable with methodology as to how to do it. (A10)
- Negative comments
 - You can't, even at a State level. I struggle to accept the concept of how to get people to adopt it – any plan will only work if it has an end game, which we don't have. We need to work out what are we trying to achieve, until we have that answer it is hard to expect people to adopt it. (13)
 - I am not sure why they are wasting their money on developing a plan, you just need resources on the ground to deal with the problem. You can have an action plan but you need to do the hard yards. (27)

16. How can the outcomes be measured? What would be the key measures you are looking for?

The success of the WA Wild Dog Action Plan can be measured through an increase in sheep numbers, the regeneration of goats and other rare and endangered species, an increase in the wild dog numbers caught/less sightings and a reduction in stock losses / attacks and damage to carcasses at the abattoirs.

Basically it will come down to a resurgence in the economic activity in smaller regional towns and a return to viable enterprises that will enable landholders to make a living.

One respondent Stated that the most difficult part of any strategy is how to measure its success and very rarely do we have the resources to put in place the adequate monitoring. Monitoring is the hardest part to do. It could also be measured by the ability of government and industry to work together effectively and harmoniously.

The return of goats would also be an outcome along with an improvement in the economic returns for landholders, a decrease in expenses associated with wild dogs and an improvement in the mental health and wellbeing of landholders.

- Livestock
 - A greater turn off in the number of sheep and goats. (A1)
 - The number of stock, turn off numbers and feedback forms from processors. (A2)
 - Increase in sheep numbers. (A3) (A5)
 - Regeneration of the goat herd and rare and endangered species. (A4)
 - People bringing livestock back into their system – an increase in lambing percentages/ kidding / calving percentage and livestock markings. (A8)
 - Increase in small stock numbers. (A9)
- Sheep
 - Re-establishment of the sheep industry in the pastoral industry. (1)(4) (12) (14)
 - Increase in the number of sheep. (7) (24)
 - Increase in numbers of small stock, which won't happen until people know that wild dog numbers have reduced as it is too heartbreaking to deal with it. (17)
 - Sell cattle and replace with sheep. (7)
- Other livestock associated measures
 - People able to run the class of stock they want to run and land back in production. (8)
 - Production / turnoff figures. (1)
 - Increase in marking rates. (3) (6)
 - Increase in lambing percentages. (6)
 - Increase in stocking rates. (6)
 - The return of goats. (19)
- Economics
 - Financially viable enterprises. (8) (24)
 - Sheep back in the pastoral area will be the tangible proof and the only measure along with a return to financial viability for pastoralists. (12)
 - The ultimate outcome is whether you would have viable businesses, a diverse viable business unit out in the rangelands which gives you the profit to be able to deal with a minor issue of wild dogs. (13)
 - Less economic impact. (14)
 - Increase in income and decrease in expenses for landholders. (16)
 - It needs to be that people can run their business in a sustainable and economic manner and if you have predation it won't happen. (18)
 - If there are effective control measures in place then you will see economic returns improving within the industry. (19)
 - An increase in the economies of the regions. (A1)
 - Commercial viability of landholders which will flow on to towns. (A3)

- Resurgence in economic activity in smaller regional towns and a return to viable enterprises and landholders can make a living. (A9)
- The viability of the industry. (A13)
- Economic measures – demonstrated cost benefit of control measures and return within the pastoral sector. (A14)
- Dog numbers
 - Physical dog counts – killed / sighted. (1) (3)
 - No dogs. (10)
 - Less dogs on the ground - through trapping, shooting or baiting. (2) (6) (9) (14) (17) (19) (20) (21) (22) (24) (25) (26) (27)
 - No sightings of wild dogs. (3) (5) (23) (19) (21)
 - Less tracks or signs of wild dogs around the place. (9) (17) (23)
 - Number of scalps handed in. (11) (25)
 - Ultimately reducing or eradicating wild dogs. (15)
 - Ultimately the control of dogs in the agricultural areas. (18)
 - Number of dogs caught. (A4)
 - Dogs are hard to count but you would need a reduction in numbers. (A6)
 - Decline in wild dog numbers - head counts during hunting and killing wild dogs. (A7)
 - Wild dog scalps through bounties then you can get accurate data. (A8)
 - Less dogs. (A9) (A10)
 - Reduction in dog numbers but you need to measure how many wild dogs there were to start with and then the effect of the control effort and has it been effective in reducing those numbers. There are proven methodologies used to determine cat and fox pressure. (A14)
- Dog attacks
 - Less reports of dog attacks / damage and death of stock. (3) (5) (6) (7) (8) (11) (14) (16) (22) (24) (26) (28)
 - Less reports of animals condemned at processors from bite marks. (3)
 - Damage to stock and management records from sale of stock, downgrading of carcasses. (A4)
 - A decrease in stock losses. (A6) (A11)
 - Reduction in stock deaths and injuries. (A7) (A10) (A11)
 - Carcase damage improvements at the abattoirs. (A8)
- People
 - The people, we need to have people out there to manage the landscape. (3)
- Mental health
 - Improvement in people's wellbeing. (4) (8)
 - Protection of pastoral industry and livelihoods. (16)
- Fence
 - Establishment of the fence. (10) (15) (24)
 - The fence is the only answer and it will fix the problem for us, unless something else that is scientifically based is used. (28)
 - Vermin Cell. (A9)
- Other
 - Population changes in small towns. (1)
 - Monitor the dingo zone and numbers and pureness – are they staying that way. (1)

- Use of app which will give an indication of the worst areas that need to be prioritised. (3)
- Evidence of an increase in native flora and fauna. (4)
- An increase in other native wildlife i.e. kangaroos. (5) (19)
- Securing funding for doggers and baiting. (15)
- It depends on the objectives, if it is a dog fence then you measure it if you get that fulfilled. (18)
- Less dogs is the only measure, you are wasting money with the action plan. (27)
- The most difficult part of any strategy is how to measure its success. Very rarely we have the resources to put in place the adequate monitoring. Monitoring is the hardest part to do. (A2)
- If the plan doesn't have the ability to improve the current situation then there is no point having it. If it can't provide the ability for farmers / pastoralists to safely go back into or continue with small stock then you haven't made any gains. (A5)
- It is hard to measure, DPaW has been doing research projects and they have the ability to measure. (A6)
- The revitalisation of the pastoral industry and the reintroduction of local flora and fauna. (A7)
- An increase in small species count back in the rangelands. (A8)
- The number of dogs killed is irrelevant, I need to know that farmers can run stock without the associated stress caused by wild dogs. (A12)
- The ability of government and industry to work together well and effectively (harmoniously) would be more of a measure than anything else. (A13)

17. Any other comments:

- In 1968 there were 63,000 sheep in the Laverton Shire, today there is not one. (5)
- The industry needs help, it is ridiculous all these great sheep areas now produce bugger all. (14)
- One day a tourist will be bitten and that might sharpen up the mob. The other day in the breakaways I had 4 dogs following me on the bike, I didn't have a rifle but had some baits on the back and as I went along the creek line I threw out some baits but they didn't pick them up. The dogs adopted a hunting pattern and I did feel threatened as I didn't like the way they were working. (12)
- You can eradicate dogs from within a fence and on the outside you can control but can't eradicate them. Dogs need to be eradicated on the inside to allow people to run small stock. (12)
- RBG budget is about \$700,000 a year to control wild dogs, donkeys, camels and weeds. (27)
- This State has been fluffing around the edges for a while, it will never be fixed unless they get serious. You don't want to be reinventing the wheel, look at the model in South Australia and NSW as it does work. (18)
- Everything is impacted when the pastoral industry is suffering as it is the backbone of the industry. (8)
- If the government can't afford to do cell fencing or management control of vermin on Crown land, they should set up water points in close proximity on the eastern boundary (Crown land) and attract dogs and camels to them and then cull them - yard them and control them outside the boundary. That's how we did it on Banna Station, we kept the outside boundary waters going and did regular trapping and baiting. (5)
- It is tragic that the sheep industry has gone. A lot of the Goldfields and Murchison country is not suited to cattle. The dogs have destroyed the wool industry. It is an economic loss if we lose calves. We lose some and some get marked by dogs, once they get bitten we can't export them and they are scarred for life. (14)
- There is not a lot more we can do apart from build fences and do the job. The sheep levels are at a critical point and what can we do to increase that and get them back in the pastoral area? We don't want to lose the tools we have got, that is most important thing. (24)

- How did we arrive at a point that we had a dog problem? Back in about 1990 when the department decided there wasn't a dog problem and gradually pulled the funding for the APB they decided because there were no dogs that they could control the few dogs with aerial baiting and save themselves money. They did it for two years and said no more money and hence the rabbit proof fence rotted out and got holes in it. In 2001 a lot of the UCL (east of Kulin) got burnt and all the dogs building up in the Goldfields got pushed onto burnt ground and they had nowhere to go (nothing to eat) and so they walked west and hit the fence and walked through it and we had a problem. No one controlled them once the APB went and the fence fell into disrepair, it was the catalyst to allow dogs free access to get into the agricultural area. (21)
- Dogs in the past have gone in 30 year cycles, we had a big burst in 1976/80 and that tailed off and now this episode in 2006 and we haven't got back on top of them again but we are wearing them down. We had another back in 1945-52. In 1952 there were about 10,000 dogs caught. (12)
- I believe there is more man made water and food available than ever before and no predator which has allowed wild dogs to breed up to unsustainable numbers. (25)
- Wild dogs maim and kill and farmers have to put down their sheep. Not enough people have seen attacks to really know the damage that they do. (26)
- Up until the 1990s most properties were carrying stock and were run as commercial operations and dogs were controlled. The biggest turning point was the collapse of the wool industry which had a big impact on the viability and at the same time the mining boom kicked off which impacted on the price of labour. This meant a loss in capability of running a total operation, including wild dog management – the dog is not the cause of demise of the pastoral industry but it is a symptom of the problem. What are we trying to solve here? Before we go down the Action Plan path, we need to decide what is going to be the ultimate long term land use in this area? If we got rid of all dogs, it would not go back into broad scale commercial businesses, there are environmental problems and the country needs to be spelled. In the Goldfields some landholders are contracting off farm because it is more profitable so why would they change? (13)
- There is an opportunity to set up new land use for the pastoral industry in the Goldfields. They need to look at it in a different light and get mining companies to run the land instead of token operations. They only own it for political purposes. There is a lot of money spent on mining rehabilitation but most of it is wasted as it is only a tick the box exercise and only 25% is effective, they would get a better recovery if they left it alone. The money should be used to set up another economic base and precinct of land to look at economic opportunities i.e. sandalwood plantations, specific recreational areas for people to visit, carbon credits etc. (13)
- The AWI is putting in \$400-500,000 a year which goes into RBG groups and they are about to introduce a co-ordinator in WA who will be responsible for the top half from the Great Eastern Highway north. (A3)
- Farm Assist program allows landholders to get shooters in. It is a computer based matching system that matches landholders who want pest control and suitable shooters. It is easy enough to pin the dog down. The Government has indicated an increase in the use of the group where formal programs will be implemented. We can't commit to full time work but we do get a result. We are anticipating a big increase in the number involved in our programs, currently we have 9,000 members State wide. (A6)
- Our involvement in wild dog control is relatively recent and largely as a result of the government purchasing land in the rangelands. There is potential for us to have an impact on neighbouring properties. If neighbours don't partner in invasive species management it is weakened. We are committed to being involved in the RBGs so we attend those meetings and we are very keen to get involved in co-ordinated and integrated wild dog control across the regions so the work is across tenures. We are committed to operational wild dog control on the land we manage and we are involved in rack days and bait preparation and have an agreed plan for wild dog control with caretakers and rangelands staff. Previously we have brokered a MOU with the RBGs we are involved with so it is an agreed and planned approach to wild dog control (Meekatharra and Carnarvon). We cop a hammering, no matter what effort we put in we still get criticised for wild dog problems. As a department we have stayed active. On UCL, of which the Department of Lands is the manager, we have an agreement to manage those properties in regards to fire prevention, weeds

and pest animals. We are responsible for wild dogs and we maintain firebreaks. We rarely establish new tracks but maintain old tracks and we have a responsibility to do that to protect life and property. (A14)

- From a Parks and Wildlife point of view we have a good neighbour policy and don't want to be not controlling wild dogs and we do control in buffer areas. We have a full time dogger on staff (contract) and also engage with the RBGs to integrate with their doggers. We supply bait and money and spend about \$250,000 on dog control in the region (southern) which covers a third of the State. (A2)
- It is a difficult situation, it is in the too hard basket and I just hope something can be done. (A1)
- The problem will still be there in 10 years' time. (A5)
- It is lacking people on the ground, energy and will power to manage wild dogs. Resilience runs out in rural areas at times. The big problem is that the agricultural area does not have a fence and dogs are now on the inside. The funding needs to increase so the fence can be maintained and money is made available to deal with dogs inside the fence. (A5)
- The barrier fence around the edge needs to be completed along with a secondary fence. If you don't get serious they will get into the Darling Range. (A3)
- I think one of the problems is that some of the politicians have considered for many years that the southern rangelands is a basket case and the feeling in their mind is to turn it into national parks, so why do they need to bother – it is a lost cause. When you have that approach, it has allowed the wild dog control situation to get worse and when you then get people in the area who are committed and community minded it has to change the mentality at a political level that they have to do something to change this. I hope the WA WDAP will do something to generate a commitment from the senior management of DAFWA and a number of politicians to recognise that they have to do something. They can't walk away from it, they have been negligent in the past and we have to address it. (A9)
- There are people who are working hard to bring people to the table to acknowledge the severity of the problem. Property owners and industry are aware of the impact on people and industries and the biggest positive is the fence which is going to be effective in controlling dogs. (A1)
- It is truly a much bigger issue than agriculture, it's nationwide and I seriously hope that it doesn't take a death or mauling of someone to get government to take action. (A8)
- Mentally wild dogs have had a major emotional impact with stock losses in regards to time and money invested. Financially it is hard to judge but if you lose 500 sheep a year in the Shire it is hard to evaluate the losses in terms of productivity with the rest of the flock. (A11)
- There is not one viable sheep property left in the Mt Magnet area. (A9)
- It is a shared problem, we need to find shared solutions and move forward. (A14)
- If we have the fence it will eradicate dogs on the inside and the others can live happily ever after on the outside. We need more people on the ground and more money to fence the area off. Dingoes don't jump so you don't need a high fence. (A4)

Industry members contacted and/or participated in interviews

Name	Surname	Organisation	Location
Luke	Bayley	Bush Heritage Australia	Perenjori
Robert	Bayly	Yandegin	Mukinbudin
Keith	Bradbury	Gondwana Link	Albany
Jane	Bradley	Rangelands NRM	Geraldton
Michael	Britton	Office of Minister for Agriculture	Perth
Geoff	Brooks	Meekatharra RBG	Meekatharra
Kevin	Chennell	DAFWA Invasive Species project team	Perth
Brett	Cook	Goldfields Rangeland Services	Kalgoorlie
Harold	Crawford	Nerren-Nerren Station	Shark Bay
Malcolm	Cullen	Shire of Coolgardie	Kambalda
Peter	Cunningham	ILC	Perth
Bill	Currans	Pilbara RBG	Geraldton
Shaun	D'Arcy	Lyndon Station	via Carnarvon
Barry	Davies	DEPI - Victoria	Bairnsdale, Vic
Dexter	Davies	Office of the Minister for Regional Development	Perth
Joe	de Pledge	Mandora Station	Badgingarra
Ashley	Dowden	WAWDAG/Landholder	Mt Magnet
Mark	Foster	Sporting Shooters Association of WA	Perth
Tony	Gray	ILS - DAFWA	Geraldton
Bob	Grunham	Meeka Station	Yalgoo
Matt	Hill	A Sheep Grower Group	Condingup
Patrick	Hill	Mt Weld Station	Laverton
Trevor	Hodshon	Atley Station	Sandstone
John	Inferera	Landholder	Mukinbudin
Tom	Jackson	Austin Downs Station	via Cue
	Jones	Hampton Hill station	Kalgoorlie
Ian	Kealley	DPaW, Goldfields	Kalgoorlie
Mike	Kendall	Midwest Development Commission	Geraldton
Malcolm	Kennedy	DAFWA Invasive Species project	Perth
Rick	Keogh	Landholder	Barcaldine, QLD
Mark	Lewis	MLC - Mining and Pastoral	Perth
Bev	Logue	Central Wheatbelt RBG	Perenjori
I-Lyn	Loo	DAFWA Invasive Species project team	Perth
Bruce & Susan	Maguire	Turee Creek Station	Newman
David	McKenzie	Pew Trusts	
Leonie	McLeod	Warroora Station	Coral Bay
Sandy	McTaggart	Dogger	
Rolf	Meeking	Kondinin Farmer	Kondinin
Greg	Mifsud	National Wild Dog Facilitator	Toowoomba
Jim	Miller	DAFWA Invasive Species project team	Carnarvon
Geoff	Mills	Wallal Station	Port Hedland
Luke	Morgan	WAWDAG	Bunbury
Lisa	O'Neill	Eastern Wheatbelt RBG	
Basil	Parker	A Sheep Grower Group	Esperance

Dick	Pasfield	Kimberley RBG	Kununurra
Scott	Pickering	WAWDAG/Landholder	Esperance
Dennis	Rafferty	Department of Parks and Wildlife	Perth
Viv	Read	DAFWA Invasive Species project team	Perth
Ellen	Rowe	WAWDAG/Landholder	Yalgoo
Kim	Saggers	Kendenup Fencing	Stirlings
Reg	Seaman	Mugoo Station	Yalgoo
Nigel	Sercombe	DPaW Geraldton	Geraldton
Mike	Shaw	Spring Creek Station	Kununurra
Tim	Simpson	Mount Wittenoom ILC	Mullewa
Justin	Steadman	WAWDAG/Landholder	Carnarvon
Digby	Stretch	PGA Livestock Committee	Kojonup
Tony	Sudlow	Farmer	Binnu
Michael	Symonds	Rawlina Station	Kalgoorlie
Arthur	Taylor	Gifford Creek Station	Gascoyne
Jamie (Frog)	Taylor	Dogger	Bullfinch
Cameron	Tubby	WAWDAG/Landholder	Mullewa
Karyn	Tuckett	Ravensthorpe RBG	Ravensthorpe
Richard	Watkins	DAFWA Invasive Species project team	Albany
Paul	Webb	Shire of Coolgardie	Kambalda
David	Webster	AWI	
Andrew	Whitmarsh	Carnarvon RBG	Byro Station