

Hon Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP

Acting Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Friday 7 February 2020

Changes afoot for managing wild dogs in SA

The Marshall Liberal Government is determined to remove wild dogs inside South Australia's Dog Fence and is consulting on policy changes to achieve this goal.

The revised policy proposes minimum baiting standards inside the Dog Fence and a declaration of wild dogs in a 35km buffer zone outside of the fence to reduce the number of dogs reaching the fence.

Acting Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Dan van Holst Pellekaan said a revised and practical wild dog management policy will ensure we have the right strategies in place to pursue the eradication of wild dogs inside the Fence.

"Unfortunately, under the watch of the former government the wild dog population increased dramatically," said Acting Minister van Holst Pellekaan.

"The Marshall Liberal Government is working with industry and the Federal Government and is determined to combine the once-in-a-generation \$25 million rebuild of the dog fence and effective strategies to remove wild dogs from inside the fence.

"Wild dogs rip nearly \$89 million a year from the Australian economy as estimated by the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions. South Australian farmers reported losing more than 10,000 sheep to wild dogs in 2018 alone.

"Our Government is focused on improving the management of wild dogs to support the growth of our \$4.3 billion livestock sector.

"I encourage anyone with an interest in the management of wild dogs – pastoralists and livestock producers, other rangeland stakeholders – to comment on the draft policy and help us towards our goal of removing wild dogs inside the Dog Fence

"This policy applies to dingoes and all other feral dogs which combined have a devastating impact on the livestock sector in South Australia."

Wild dogs are currently declared species required by law to be for eradicated inside the Dog Fence.

The draft revised policy has been developed by Primary Industries and Regions SA in consultation with the South Australian Wild Dog Advisory Group, the Department of Environment and Water, Natural Resource Management boards and other industry and community stakeholders. For more information on the proposed changes, visit yoursay.sa.gov.au/wild-dog-management. Feedback is now open until 5pm Friday 17 April.