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**From:** Sweaney, Mark  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 May 2023 9:47 AM  
**To:** Johnson, Bindu; Schofield, Warren  
**Cc:** Chalmers, Linden  
**Subject:** RE: Dingo management presentation to Scientific Committee - 12pm  
**Attachments:** ACT Wild Dog Dingo Management Six Slide version.ppt

OFFICIAL

Hi Bindu, presentation attached, how long do we have to talk?

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**From:** Johnson, Bindu <Bindu.Johnson@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 May 2023 9:38 AM  
**To:** Schofield, Warren <Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au>; Sweaney, Mark <Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Chalmers, Linden <Linden.Chalmers@act.gov.au>; Johnson, Bindu <Bindu.Johnson@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Dingo management presentation to Scientific Committee - 12pm

OFFICIAL

Hi Mark/Warren

A presentation would be very useful but is not a requirement. Would you like to provide one? if so, would you be able to send it through by Thursday? If not, no worries at all.

Kind Regards  
Bindu

**Bindu Johnson (he/him)** | Senior Policy Officer  
**Biodiversity Planning and Policy | Environment, Heritage and Water Division**  
Ph: +61 2 6205 1189 | Email: [Bindu.Johnson@act.gov.au](mailto:Bindu.Johnson@act.gov.au)  
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government  
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# Wild Dog or Dingo?

- The systematic position of the Dingo is currently unresolved, with no consensus at species and subspecies levels
- The current taxonomic treatment for Dingoes is *Canis familiaris* (domestic dog), rather than alternatively suggested *Canis lupus*, or *Canis dingo*
- ACT wild dogs are best described as dingoes with a small proportion of domesticated dog genes
- Namadgi wild dogs contain an estimated 75-85% Dingo ancestry, one of the highest values in SE Australia.

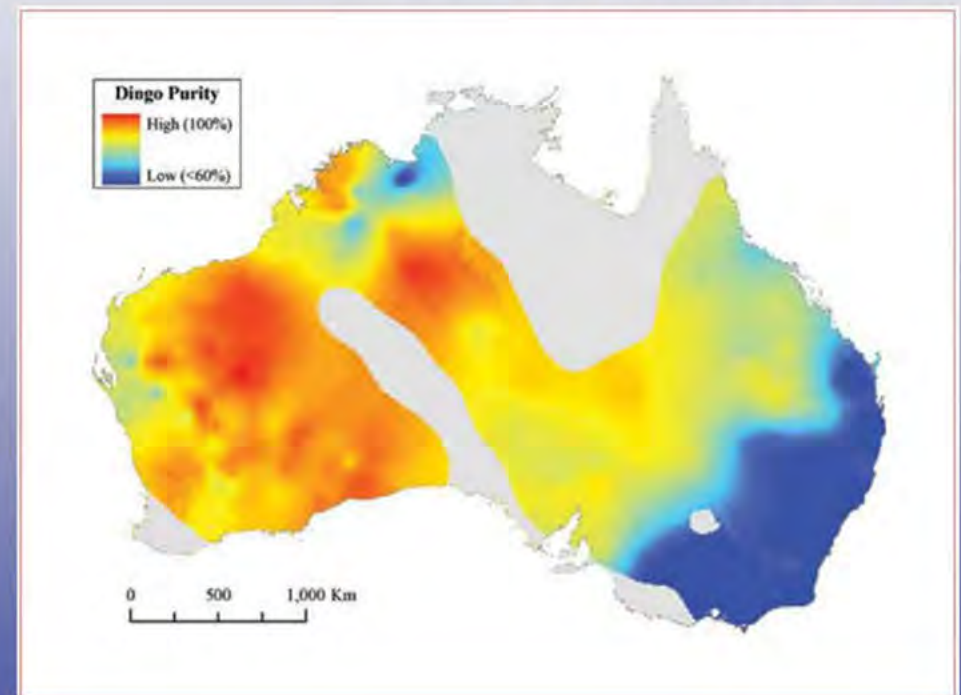


Figure 2: Dingo purity from DNA samples (Stephens 2011)



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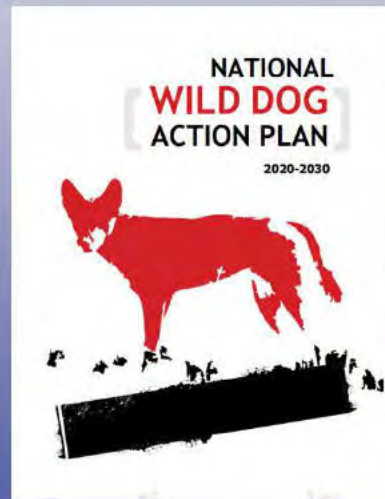
<https://wilddogplan.org.au/>

# ACT Pest Animal Management Strategy 2012 - 2022

*Many dingoes in the ACT contain a proportion of domestic dog genes but are indistinguishable in the field from genetically pure dingoes. Together with pure dingoes these animals are termed collectively 'wild dogs'.*



*"All wild-living dogs, which include: dingoes, feral dogs and their hybrids."*



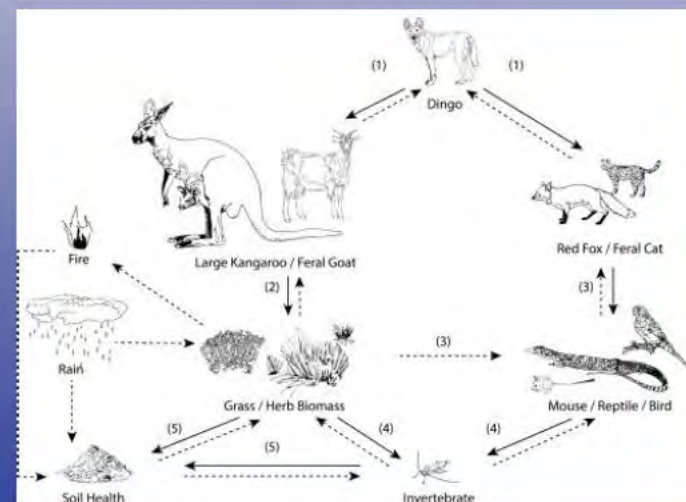
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# Ecological function

- Natural regulator of large macropods, species that require extensive native species control programs in areas of the ACT where dingoes have been extirpated.
- Suppressive effect on foxes and feral cats, which have been the primary driver of critical weight range mammal extinctions in Australia (including in the ACT)
- Predation pressure on introduced herbivores that are targeted in control programs, such as feral deer, feral pigs and rabbits.
- The functional role of hybridised and non-hybridised Dingoes has been shown to be the same (i.e. they all behave like Dingoes)



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# Impact on Livestock

*Livestock are killed and severely injured by wild dogs where their habitat is adjacent to or overlaps with rural properties.*

*Wild dogs from Namadgi National Park and privately owned adjacent bushland killed up to 200 sheep per year between 2002 and 2008, causing production losses of up to \$15,000 per year as well as personal trauma to rural families. Wild dog management is therefore a high priority for the ACT Government*



*Wild dogs, including feral dogs, Dingoes, and their hybrids, can have significant impacts on livestock, especially sheep.*

*Because of this, wild dogs/Dingoes in the ACT have been listed as pest animals in the Pest Animals Declaration 2021, made under the Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005.*



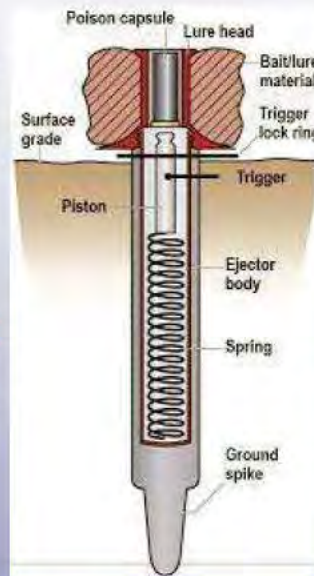
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*(ACT Pest Animal Management Strategy 2012 – 2022)*

*Wild dogs are managed as native animals for conservation purposes in core conservation zones and as pest animals to reduce damage to stock in other areas.*

- Wild dogs are managed in the ACT using a combination of ground baiting, ejector baiting, trapping and opportunistic shooting
- Use of all of these techniques is important because individual animals may avoid one or more of these techniques
- Anecdotal evidence suggests a healthy population inhabit the conservation area of Namadgi National Park.
- For instance, the Dingo vs Kangaroo scene from the BBC Wildlife documentary Seven Worlds One Planet was filmed at Gudgenby Valley



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*The ACT Government participates in regional cooperative wild dog and fox management plans to ensure that its wild dog management is coordinated at the landscape scale with similar programs in adjacent areas of NSW.*

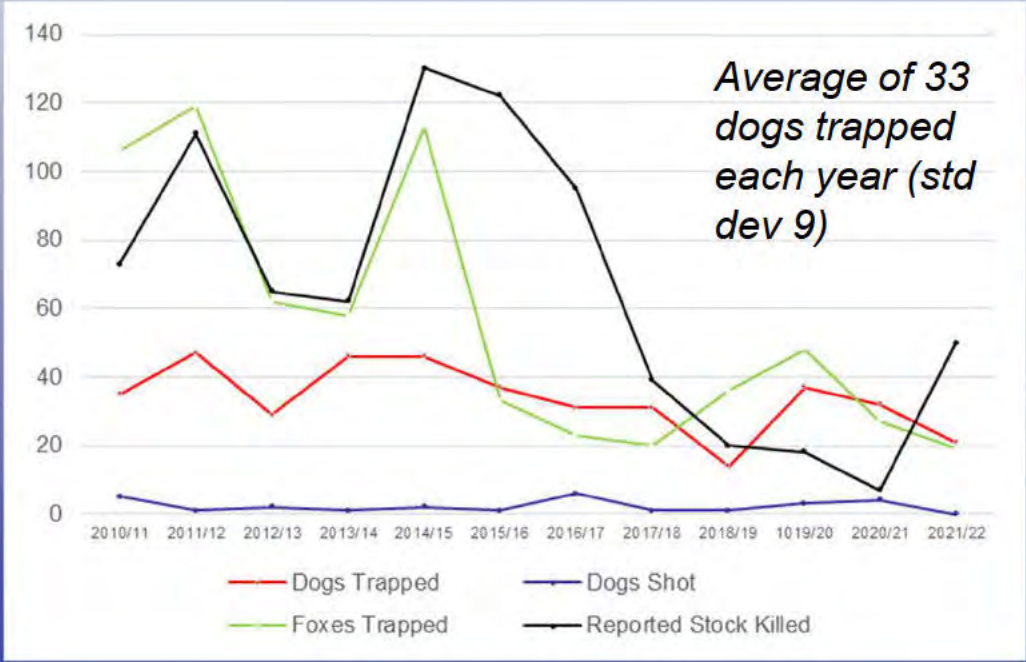
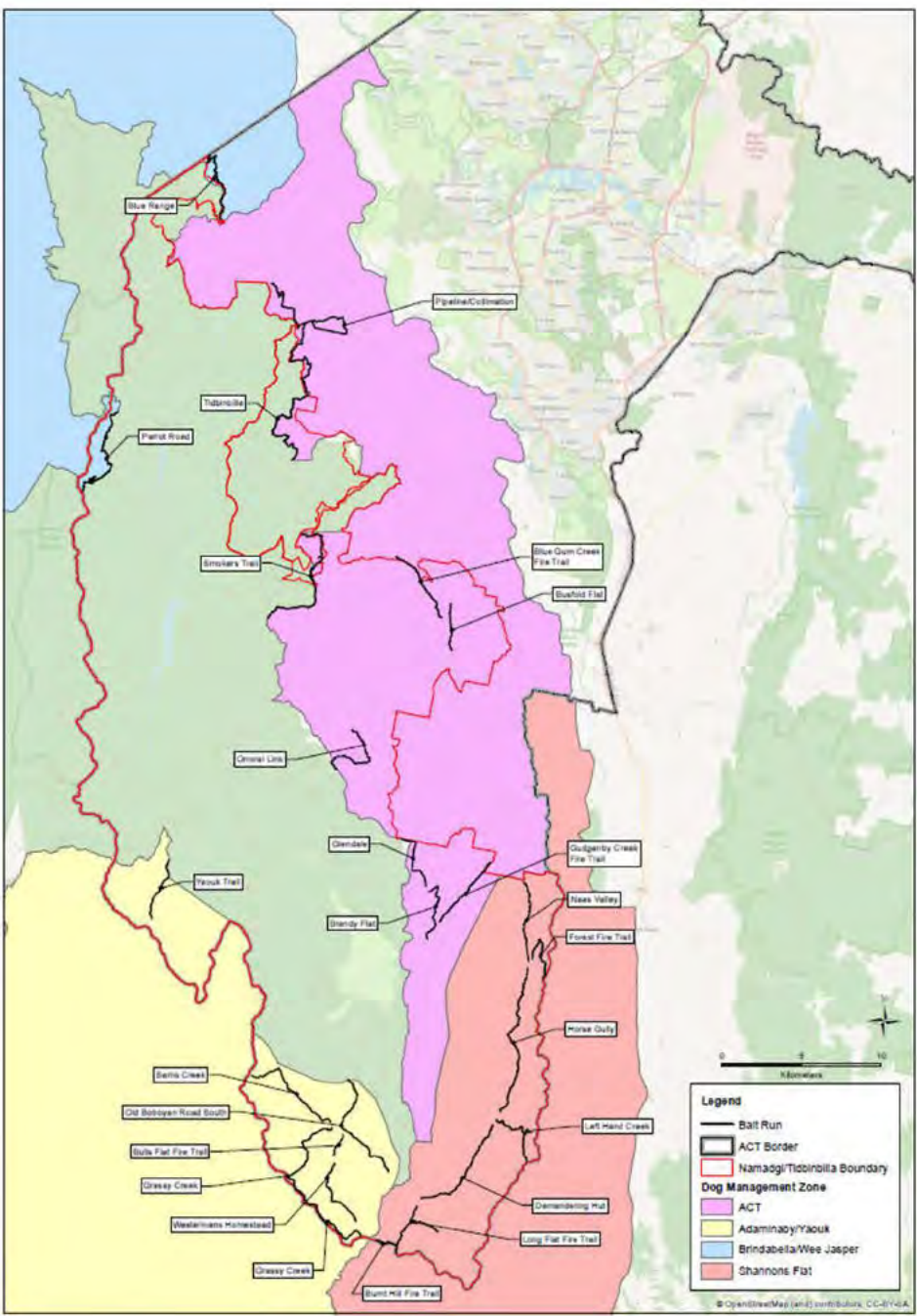
**ACT wild dog plan areas**

Blue – Wee Jasper/ Brindabella

Purple – ACT

Salmon – Shannon's Flat

Yellow – Adaminaby Yaouk



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Sustainable Development

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**From:** EPSDD Media  
**Sent:** Thursday, 2 February 2023 2:56 PM  
**To:** Barnsley, Richard; Sweaney, Mark; Brawata, Renee; Cotsell, Peter  
**Cc:** Evans, Hannah  
**Subject:** RE: FOR ACTION: Killing of dingoes in ACT parks

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks Richard!

[@Sweaney, Mark](#), please see the amended response below:

**RESPONSE**

Dingoes are wild dogs. They are listed as a native animal under the Nature Conservation Act, but can be controlled under the Pest Animal Act.

ACT Parks and Conservation Service staff regularly undertake poison and trapping programs within the boundary of Namadgi National Park to protect livestock from wild dog attacks. Such programs use best practice and adaptive management to respond to issues.

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service also regularly monitors both control and non-control areas with motion cameras, and are currently trialling acoustic monitoring by recording sounds to achieve broader, landscape scale data. 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) is by far the safest toxin to use within Australia as the LD50 shows for Australian wildlife.

ACT Biosecurity regularly test trapped wild dogs, including dingoes, to assess their genetic makeup. There are current research projects into the ecology of dingoes and wild dogs in Namadgi National Park that will help inform the role they play as apex predator and help strengthen the current policy to conserve dingo populations in large areas of the national park.

Both visitor centres at Namadgi National Park and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve have small displays and informed staff to answer questions from visitors. Members of the team which oversee dingo management across the ACT have spoken to conferences, school groups and the public to highlight the importance of apex predators. Staff have also travelled internationally to explore options for carnivore management in areas such as the USA.

The BBC Wildlife production team also visited Namadgi National Park to film wild dingoes for the Seven Worlds wildlife documentary. That they chose Namadgi as a site to record some of this continent's amazing wildlife, and particularly dingoes, is testament to the vibrancy and sustainability of the park's apex predator population.

**ENDS**

**Ryan Towler** | Media Officer

P [REDACTED] | E [Ryan.Towler@act.gov.au](mailto:Ryan.Towler@act.gov.au)

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For **EPSDD media enquiries** please call **0401 766 218**

---

**From:** Barnsley, Richard <[Richard.Barnsley@act.gov.au](mailto:Richard.Barnsley@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 2 February 2023 2:52 PM

**To:** EPSDD Media <[EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au)>; Sweaney, Mark <[Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au](mailto:Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au)>; Brawata, Renee <[Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au](mailto:Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au)>; Cotsell, Peter <[Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Evans, Hannah <Hannah.Evans@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR ACTION: Killing of dingoes in ACT parks

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Ryan,  
Acoustic recording units (ARU's) involve the use of units which record sound. They may be set remotely for extended periods. AI programs are preferably used to identify the recording of particular species – in this instance dingo howling. Remote cameras have a much more limited field of capture (40ft) as opposed to acoustic recorders (several kilometres). ARU's are also less susceptible to detection and theft which has proven an issue with cameras in NNP. We are currently employing ARU's in comparison to cameras across NNP. With enough data it is even possible to identify individuals. This has not been attempted within Australia on dingoes but widely used overseas on species as diverse as whales to primates.  
Any further questions give me a call.  
Cheers,  
Richard Barnsley  
Vertebrate pest Officer.  
Ph: [REDACTED]

---

**From:** EPSDD Media <EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 2 February 2023 2:41 PM  
**To:** Sweaney, Mark <Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au>; Brawata, Renee <Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au>; Cotsell, Peter <Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Evans, Hannah <Hannah.Evans@act.gov.au>; Barnsley, Richard <Richard.Barnsley@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR ACTION: Killing of dingoes in ACT parks

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Mark,  
  
Thanks for sending this through. Just made it into one statement and reordered it a bit. Could we also explain what is included in acoustic monitoring?

**RESPONSE**

Dingoes are wild dogs. They are listed as a native animal under the Nature Conservation Act, but can be controlled under the Pest Animal Act.

ACT Parks and Conservation Service staff regularly undertake poison and trapping programs within the boundary of Namadgi National Park to protect livestock from wild dog attacks. Such programs use best practice and adaptive management to respond to issues.

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service also regularly monitors both control and non-control areas with motion cameras, and are currently trialling acoustic monitoring to achieve broader, landscape scale data. 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) is by far the safest toxin to use within Australia as the LD50 shows for Australian wildlife.

ACT Biosecurity regularly test trapped wild dogs, including dingoes, to assess their genetic makeup. There are current research projects into the ecology of dingoes and wild dogs in Namadgi National Park that will help inform the role they play as apex predator and help strengthen the current policy to conserve dingo populations in large areas of the national park.

Both visitor centres at Namadgi National Park and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve have small displays and informed staff to answer questions from visitors. Members of the team which oversee dingo management across the ACT have spoken to conferences, school groups and the public to highlight the importance of apex predators. Staff have also travelled internationally to explore options for carnivore management in areas such as the USA.

The BBC Wildlife production team also visited Namadgi National Park to film wild dingoes for the Seven Worlds wildlife documentary. That they chose Namadgi as a site to record some of this continent's amazing wildlife, and particularly dingoes, is testament to the vibrancy and sustainability of the park's apex predator population.

**ENDS**

Thanks,  
Ryan

**Ryan Towler** | Media Officer

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For **EPSDD media enquiries** please call **0401 766 218**

---

**From:** Sweaney, Mark <[Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au](mailto:Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 2 February 2023 1:53 PM

**To:** EPSDD Media <[EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au)>; Brawata, Renee <[Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au](mailto:Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au)>; Cotsell, Peter <[Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Evans, Hannah <[Hannah.Evans@act.gov.au](mailto:Hannah.Evans@act.gov.au)>; Barnsley, Richard <[Richard.Barnsley@act.gov.au](mailto:Richard.Barnsley@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR ACTION: Killing of dingoes in ACT parks

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks Adam,

Mr Barnsley provided the answers below. I've added a few points too and can look at this later this afternoon.

- 1: Is the dingo protected as a native animal? If not why not?

Dingo/wild dogs are **listed as a native animal under the Act but can be controlled under the Pest Animal Act.**

- 2: Why isn't there more information on dingoes in NNP and TNR Visitor Centres?

**Both visitor centres at Namadgi National Park and Tidbinbilla have small displays and informed staff to answer visitors questions. Given the breadth of flora and fauna across both reserve it is impossible to have displays/information present on all species. However visitors are encouraged to question staff.**

- 3: Is there a plan to poison wild dogs/dingoes and foxes with 1080 and to trap/bait them in NNP?

**NNP staff regularly undertake poison and trapping programmes within the boundary of NNP to protect stock from wild dog attacks. Such programs use best practice and adaptive management to respond to issues. The NNP program uses a low intensity baiting and trapping program to achieve the required control. The core of the park is an area where wild dog/dingoes are subject to no control at all.**

4: Were any tests done on corpses of dogs/dingoes to determine their genetic makeup?

**ACT Biosecurity regularly test trapped wild dogs/dingoes to assess their genetic makeup.**

What other results of campaign were observed and were they reported to the press, the general Manager of the ACT and to the general public bearing in mind that 1080 poison is so dangerous it's use has been banned in most countries of the world?

**We regularly monitor both control and non-control areas with motion cameras and are currently trialling acoustic monitoring to achieve broader, landscape scale data. As with numerous programs across the ACT we report to management but the breadth of detail and number of research projects prohibits general dissemination. 1080 is by far the safest toxin to use within Australia as the LD50 shows for Australian wildlife. It's use in other countries is because their native fauna is highly susceptible.**

5: Were the regular rangers at these centres in favour of the killing plan?

**Targeted and humane control plan is necessary to protect livestock. That plan should be implemented to achieve those goals but also ensure protection for native wildlife where appropriate.**

- 6: What would David Attenborough think? **Whilst we cannot speak on behalf of Sir David it is noteworthy that the BBC Wildlife production team visited NNP to film wild dingoes for the Seven Worlds wildlife documentary. That they chose NNP as a site to record some of this continents amazing wildlife, and particularly dingoes, is testament to the vibrancy and sustainability of the park's apex predator population.**
- 7: Are there any talks given by the Department of Parks and Wildlife on the importance of biodiversity and the continued existence of an apex predator such as the dingo in Australia. **There are current research projects into the ecology of ingo/wild dogs in Namadgi National Park that will help inform the role they play as apex predator and help strengthen the current policy to conserve dingo/wild dog populations in large areas of the national park. Members of the team which oversee dingo management across the ACT have spoken to conferences, school groups and the public to highlight the importance of apex predators. Staff have also travelled internationally to explore options for carnivore management in areas such as the USA. Some current ACT research such as acoustic monitoring, response of carnivore populations to herbivore culling and facilitating academic research is ground breaking.**

**Mark Sweaney**

Manager Invasive Animals and Overabundant Wildlife

Biosecurity and Rural Services | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Mobile: [REDACTED] | Phone: 02 6205 0526 | Email: [mark.sweaney@act.gov.au](mailto:mark.sweaney@act.gov.au)

---

**From:** EPSDD Media <[EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Thursday, 2 February 2023 1:40 PM

**To:** Sweaney, Mark <[Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au](mailto:Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au)>; Brawata, Renee <[Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au](mailto:Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au)>; Cotsell, Peter <[Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Evans, Hannah <[Hannah.Evans@act.gov.au](mailto:Hannah.Evans@act.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: FOR ACTION: Killing of dingoes in ACT parks

**OFFICIAL**

Thanks Mark and Ren,

The attached (and copied below) response is what we had sent to this same enquirer last year – I think the reference to dingoes not being targets in our pest control programs is specifically about the aerial cull, as they were asking about that at the time.

The full response gives a bit more context but yes we will need to be more careful with the wording on this response.

**::STARTS::**

The recent closures of Namadgi National Park enabled the safe operation of an aerial feral animal control program focused on hard-hoofed vertebrate pests, including pigs and deer. Dingoes are classified as native species under the Nature Conservation Act and are not targeted during pest control culling programs.

The Parks and Conservation Service is now using advanced thermal detection methods that mitigate the risk of removing non-target species, such as wild dogs..

This aerial control program is one of many ACT Government led programs that focus on reducing the impact of invasive species on our environment. As well as community safety, animal welfare is a priority when carrying out these kinds of programs.

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service conducts scheduled 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) baiting over six week periods four times a year in designated areas on the periphery of the Namadgi National Park to target wild dogs. The purpose of baiting is to protect livestock on adjacent rural properties from wild dog attacks. Baiting does not occur within 500 metres of inhabited dwellings and all baited areas are clearly indicated with warning signage.

Similar to most native species in Namadgi, the wild dog population is not actively monitored. Casual observations confirm that over the past 15 years a healthy and viable population of dingoes has been retained in core conservation areas, such as in the Gudgenby Valley and Bimberi Wilderness area while overall stock losses to graziers have been significantly reduced.

**::ENDS::**

Cheers,  
Adam

**Adam Anderson** (He/him) | Assistant Director - Media  
P 02 6207 1609 | E [Adam.Anderson@act.gov.au](mailto:Adam.Anderson@act.gov.au)  
**Media** | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | **ACT Government**  
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---

**From:** Sweaney, Mark <[Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au](mailto:Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 2 February 2023 1:30 PM  
**To:** Brawata, Renee <[Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au](mailto:Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au)>; EPSDD Media <[EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au)>; Cotsell, Peter <[Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Evans, Hannah <[Hannah.Evans@act.gov.au](mailto:Hannah.Evans@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR ACTION: Killing of dingoes in ACT parks

**OFFICIAL**

Yes very true!

Ryan have we ever sent that out? I'll fix up some of the other wording too so it's clear we do bait in NNP .

---

**From:** Brawata, Renee <[Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au](mailto:Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 2 February 2023 1:27 PM  
**To:** Sweaney, Mark <[Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au](mailto:Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au)>; EPSDD Media <[EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au)>; Cotsell, Peter <[Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Evans, Hannah <[Hannah.Evans@act.gov.au](mailto:Hannah.Evans@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR ACTION: Killing of dingoes in ACT parks

**OFFICIAL**

Hi Mark

Thanks for the cc. Yes I think so. I'll let you figure out the wording, but something that says we monitor dingo populations and are conducting research into their ecology in the ACT. Monitoring has been regularly undertaken, just not the last few years because of challenges with fire and floods.

However what is written below is factually incorrect. Dingoes **ARE** wild dogs and **ARE** targeted in pest control programs. To say they are not is a blatant lie, and one we should not be saying to the public - ever. It will come back to bite – literally (like the pun?)

The official definition of a wild dog in Australia includes dingoes, feral dogs and their hybrids.

Ren

---

**From:** Sweaney, Mark <[Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au](mailto:Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 2 February 2023 1:06 PM  
**To:** EPSDD Media <[EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au)>; Cotsell, Peter <[Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au)>; Brawata, Renee <[Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au](mailto:Renee.Brawata@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Evans, Hannah <[Hannah.Evans@act.gov.au](mailto:Hannah.Evans@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR ACTION: Killing of dingoes in ACT parks

OFFICIAL

Hey Ren,

Do we want to add anything about the projects commencing to monitor dogs?

---

**From:** EPSDD Media <[EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 2 February 2023 12:51 PM  
**To:** Cotsell, Peter <[Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Sweaney, Mark <[Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au](mailto:Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au)>; Evans, Hannah <[Hannah.Evans@act.gov.au](mailto:Hannah.Evans@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: FOR ACTION: Killing of dingoes in ACT parks

OFFICIAL

Hi Pete,

Just wanted to follow up on this response?

Thanks,  
Ryan

**Ryan Towler** | Media Officer  
P [REDACTED] | E [Ryan.Towler@act.gov.au](mailto:Ryan.Towler@act.gov.au)  
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---

**From:** EPSDD Media  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 February 2023 4:49 PM  
**To:** Cotsell, Peter <[Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** Sweaney, Mark <[Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au](mailto:Mark.Sweaney@act.gov.au)>; Evans, Hannah <[Hannah.Evans@act.gov.au](mailto:Hannah.Evans@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FOR ACTION: Killing of dingoes in ACT parks

OFFICIAL

Hi Pete,

We've received the below enquiry on dingo culling. We've reworked a response that we sent to her last year on the same subject (attached for reference). Could you please take a look and see if there's anything else that could be added, possibly on info about dingoes in visitor centres?

#### RESPONSE

Dingoes are classified as native species under the Nature Conservation Act and are not targeted during pest control culling programs.

The ACT Parks and Conservation Service conducts scheduled 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) baiting over six week periods four times a year in designated areas on the periphery of the Namadgi National Park to target wild dogs. The purpose of baiting is to protect livestock on adjacent rural properties from wild dog attacks. Baiting does not occur within 500 metres of inhabited dwellings and all baited areas are clearly indicated with warning signage.

Similar to most native species in Namadgi, the wild dog population is not actively monitored. Casual observations confirm that over the past 15 years a healthy and viable population of dingoes has been retained in core conservation areas, such as in the Gudgenby Valley and Bimberi Wilderness area while overall stock losses to graziers have been significantly reduced.

ENDS

Happy to discuss.

Thanks,  
Ryan

Ryan Towler | Media Officer

P [REDACTED] | E [Ryan.Towler@act.gov.au](mailto:Ryan.Towler@act.gov.au)

Media | Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Government

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 February 2023 4:27 PM  
**To:** EPSDD Media <[EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au](mailto:EPSDDMedia@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Killing of dingoes in ACT parks

**Caution:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern:

[REDACTED] and I am concerned about the poisoning of dingoes in Namadgi and Tidbinbilla Parks in the ACT.

Dingoes have been in Australia for thousands of years.. They have adapted very well to Australian conditions to the extent that they have become the apex predator, a very important role in our ecology. For these and other reasons dingoes are regarded by most authorities as Australian native animals.

In recent months there were signs at the entrances to Namadgi and Tidbinbilla Parks warning visitors that 1080 baits had been laid to poison foxes and wild dogs; undoubtedly the term 'wild dog' refers to feral dogs, dingoes and hybrids.

I would therefore appreciate answers to the following questions:

1. Is the dingo given protection as a native animal? If not, why not?
2. Is the plan to poison wild dogs (dingoes) and foxes with 1080 and to trap and bait them still operation at Namadgi?
3. Were any tests done on corpses of dogs/dingoes to determine their genetic make-up? What other results of the campaign were observed and were they reported to the press, the General Manager of the ACT and to the general public bearing in mind that 1080 poison is so dangerous its use has been banned in most countries of the world?
4. Were the regular rangers at these centres in favour of the killing plan?
5. Why isn't there more information on dingoes in Namadgi or Tidbinbilla Information Centres?
6. Are there any talks given to visitors by the Department of Parks and Wildlife on the importance of biodiversity and the continued existence of an apex predator such as the dingo in Namadgi and Tidbinbilla Parks and indeed in Australia.

Thank you



---

**From:** Schofield, Warren  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 July 2022 2:44 PM  
**To:** Thomas Ross  
**Subject:** RE: Southern Namadgi Dog issues

OFFICIAL

Thanks Thomas

I will come into Cooma

See you at 10:00am

*Warren Schofield*

**Director**  
**ACT Biosecurity and Rural Services**  
**Environment Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate**  
[warren.schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:warren.schofield@act.gov.au)  
**Mob** [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Thomas Ross <thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 July 2022 2:43 PM  
**To:** Schofield, Warren <Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: Southern Namadgi Dog issues

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Warren,

Yes will be in the office if you want to come in.

Thomas

**Thomas Ross** Wild Dog Coordinator/Acting Local Manager - Monaro

South East Local Land Services

[NSW Department of Industry | Local Land Services](#)

1-3 Sharp Street Cooma NSW 2630

PO Box 26 Cooma NSW 2630

T: 02 6455 7200 | F: 02 6452 2080 | M: [REDACTED]

E: [thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au) W: [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)



Local Land  
Services



---

From: Schofield, Warren <[Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au)>  
Sent: Wednesday, 13 July 2022 2:37 PM  
To: Thomas Ross <[thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au)>  
Subject: RE: Southern Namadgi Dog issues

OFFICIAL

G'day Thomas

Will you be in the Cooma Office and is it easier if I come in there to discuss current issues and the proposal?

*Warren Schofield*

Director  
ACT Biosecurity and Rural Services  
Environment Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate  
[warren.schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:warren.schofield@act.gov.au)  
Mob [REDACTED]

---

From: Thomas Ross <[thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au)>  
Sent: Wednesday, 13 July 2022 2:14 PM  
To: Luke Pope <[luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au)>; Schofield, Warren <[Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au)>  
Subject: Re: Southern Namadgi Dog issues

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Warren,

I am free tomorrow at 10am

Regards  
Thomas

**Thomas Ross** Wild Dog Coordinator/Acting Local Manager - Monaro

South East Local Land Services

NSW Department of Industry | Local Land Services

1-3 Sharp Street Cooma NSW 2630

PO Box 26 Cooma NSW 2630

T: 02 6455 7200 | F: 02 6452 2080 | M: [REDACTED]

E: [thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au) W: [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)



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**From:** Luke Pope <[luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 13 July 2022 1:14 PM  
**To:** Schofield, Warren <[Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au)>; Thomas Ross <[thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Re: Southern Namadgi Dog issues

Warren,

I won't be in the Cooma office again this week.

Could you please organise a time with Thomas Ross?

Thank you,

Luke

**Luke Pope**  
General Manager &  
Director for Invasive Animals and Weeds  
South East Local Land Services  
1-3 Sharp Street | PO Box 26 | Cooma | NSW 2630  
Mob [REDACTED]  
Email [luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au)

---

**From:** Schofield, Warren <[Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** 13 July 2022 08:06  
**To:** Luke Pope <[luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Southern Namadgi Dog issues

OFFICIAL

G'day Luke

Will you be in the Cooma office on Thursday or Friday this week? I would like to catch up with you regarding this ongoing issue at Shannon's flat.

Thanks

*Warren Schofield*

Director  
ACT Biosecurity and Rural Services  
Environment Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate  
[warren.schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:warren.schofield@act.gov.au)  
Mob [REDACTED]

---

From [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 12 July 2022 3:28 PM  
To: Cotsell, Peter <[Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au)>  
Cc: [peterluton3317@gmail.com](mailto:peterluton3317@gmail.com); [REDACTED] Schofield, Warren <[Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au)>; Barnsley, Richard <[Richard.Barnsley@act.gov.au](mailto:Richard.Barnsley@act.gov.au)>; Thomas Ross <[thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au)>; [luke.pope@lll.nsw.gov.au](mailto:luke.pope@lll.nsw.gov.au)  
Subject: Re: Southern Namadgi Dog issues

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Thanks for replying.

Yesterday was a difficult and upsetting day. We are very worried about our sheep.

I spoke with Richard yesterday and today, but the discussions were not productive. I'm encouraged that you are committed to a solution, and that you admit there is a problem. I hope this can be a unified view from all Namadgi staff. Sending a reactive trapper is great, but should never be applauded as a "good outcome".

Livestock losses are increasing. We've had Peter Erland on sick leave for the better part of 6 weeks, and no Tim Russell for most (or all?) of that time. Brett Aitchison was also on forced sick leave during the last couple of weeks. NSW has scaled back our seasonal trapper over several years. There are dogs on cameras in Clear Hills, near Long Flat, near Booths Gully, near Burnt Hill, and along Callemondah Rd. The situation looks grim for our sheep, and your wildlife alike.

Does anyone in this group have the updated plan data (from the Shannons Flat Wild Dog Plan)? I asked Thomas Ross for this information in February but I haven't yet received it. I also asked for the minutes of the meetings, and haven't got those either.

Aside from sending a reactive trapper, what is the plan to get this problem under control?

[REDACTED]

On Mon, Jul 11, 2022 at 1:31 PM Cotsell, Peter <[Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au)> wrote:

UNOFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED] apologies for the missed calls and for the ongoing loss of your sheep – I do empathise and am committed to helping find a solution.

We are doing all we can to increase our presence and control dogs down your way at the moment and I am talking to both Warren and Richard almost daily to discuss the issue. Richard's email outlines the steps we are taking to manage the current situation as well as ongoing. We will be advertising the second position as soon as we can. Richard is our first point of contact wrt dogs and brings these issues to our attention as needs arise. For the purpose of avoiding any further confusion around updates and response I would ask that you contact him in the first instance.

I am more than happy to chat but cannot offer much more than the below as a way forward at the moment. Please feel free to also cc me in any further correspondence.

With kind regards  
pete

---

**From:** Barnsley, Richard <[Richard.Barnsley@act.gov.au](mailto:Richard.Barnsley@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 July 2022 9:54 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Cotsell, Peter <[Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au)>; Schofield, Warren <[Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Southern Namadgi Dog issues

UNOFFICIAL

Hi [REDACTED]  
Warren Schofield passed me your report of the dog(s) being shot. As I am in daily contact with our trappers and it is important that such reports of dogs, kills and associated concerns come directly to me. I am in a position to update you on current areas of operations and work schedules. In future please email or call me direct on 0422 259 055. Tim Russell will be starting another contract shift from the coming Monday 11<sup>th</sup> July, focussing on the southern border of Namadgi National Park and lands adjacent. As you are possibly aware Brett (LLS) is working near Adaminaby but I believe he will be back up Shannon's Flat area soon. He and Tim are currently communicating to co-ordinate efforts.

We will also be undertaking an extra 1 week baiting program along the southern edge of the park in mid August which will help. Current discussions to hire a second trapper are also progressing well. In addition we have recently purchased a side by side vehicle to facilitate wet weather access for the southern trapper.

Feel free to contact me any time.

Regards,  
Richard Barnsley  
Vertebrate Pest Officer  
ACT Biosecurity and Rural Services.

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**From:** Schofield, Warren  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 14 September 2022 10:57 AM  
**To:** Luke Pope  
**Subject:** RE: Southern Namadgi Dog issues

OFFICIAL

Good morning Luke

I have not had a response from yourself or Thomas regarding this most recent meeting or if the LLS is considering this proposal at all. I met with Steve Cathcart again the other day and NPWS are still supportive.

As the Shannon's Flat and Adaminaby working group meetings are next week it would be good to understand if this is still under consideration or if from the LLS's perspective is dead in the water.

In response to the criticism of the ACT's commitment in wild dog management and subsequent letter to the ACT signed by landholders from the Adaminaby wild dog working group and the Wild dog Coordinator, ACT has requested that the upcoming meetings have an agenda item to respond and provide an update on resourcing and actions implemented since last working group meetings, part of this will be putting forward the proposal that was provided to LLS and NPWS.

Can you please provide an indication if LLS still has interest in this cooperative proposal before the meetings next week.

Any questions please let me know

*Warren Schofield*

**Director**  
**ACT Biosecurity and Rural Services**  
**Environment Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate**  
[warren.schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:warren.schofield@act.gov.au)  
**Mob** [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Schofield, Warren  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 July 2022 10:52 AM  
**To:** Luke Pope <luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: Southern Namadgi Dog issues

OFFICIAL

Good Morning Luke

Following up on our discussion on the phone on Wednesday regarding what I see as an ongoing non-constructive attitude towards myself and or the ACT by Thomas Ross. I am again in the unfortunate position to encounter similar example of this yesterday.

I contacted Thomas Ross and arranged to meet in Cooma yesterday Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July to discuss the current wild dog issues at Shannon's Flat and answer questions on the proposal (developed by me on behalf of the ACT) that has been put to NPWS and LLS in response to recent criticism of the ACT's efforts in wild dog control and an attempt to improve the coordination and collaboration between agencies and deliver a more proactive wild dog program across the 3 identified wild dog areas. This meeting was attended by myself, Scott Townsend, Mark Lettfuss and Thomas Ross.

I am disappointed to say yesterday's meeting further displayed a continuation of this poor attitude and demonstrated that Thomas Ross has no desire or capacity to work towards achieving or improving the working relationship with the ACT or to improve wild dog management in the Shannon's Flat/Bredbo, Adaminaby/Yaouk areas.

In this meeting I began by expressing that I believed that we (LLS and ACT) needed to be communicating a combined message to landholders and not seen to be divided in our approach to managing wild dogs in these plan areas, I said that I felt currently agencies were in ongoing disagreement and this perception had also been communicated to me by landholders. I expressed that some of the communication and the way in which the coordinator (Thomas) approached the ACT was not undertaken in a manner that was received as being constructive or working towards improving this desired collaborative relationship.

I was asked to explain the presentation to this group, noting that Scott had already been present in the meeting in Canberra with yourself and Steve Cathcart. Thomas had a hard copy with him and Mark admitted he had not seen the proposal. I displayed the proposal on the screen to allow points to be relayed to the group as a whole and welcomed questions. As I went through the presentation Thomas interjected at every possible opportunity and constantly provided negative and non-constructive comments in what I saw as a deliberate attempt to disrupt my ability to provide the background of the contents of the proposal to the group.

Thomas stated that the proposal would not work as LLS would not have control over how the PAC's were implementing their work on ground. I explained that it would be under a contract arrangement similar to how LLS undertakes work for NPWS now in the Adaminaby/Yaouk area. Under this proposal, if the agency responsible for the land management received notification/complaints regarding wild dogs it would be the responsibility of the contractor (ACT) to address. As I understand this is the same arrangement that is in place between NPWS and LLS now in the Adaminaby/ Yaouk area. Thomas did not accept that this is the arrangement.

Thomas stated that LLS did not have the required funds to put towards this proposal and that he could "maybe throw \$10,000 towards it" I explained that at present the LLS has committed to an amount similar to what is proposed (\$50,60k) and this is documented in the Shannon's Flat plan. I said that at present the current LLS PAC (Brett Aitchison) is being stretched too far and was at risk of being burned out and that this proposal provided additional full time resources in the area (across 3 plans) that would provide support to him in this area. I asked what funds (LLS puts towards this plan currently? Thomas's response was " I'm not going to give you a figure as you will only use it against me in the future"

With that comment it was clear there was no point in continuing with the presentation or the meeting. I stated that I was wasting my time, thanked them for their time and exited the meeting room.

Mark followed me out of the LLS office and had a conversation with me in which I again expressed my displeasure with Thomas Ross's ongoing attitude towards the ACT at the end of this conversation I once again thanked him for his time and left.

It was quite evident that Thomas was not in support of this proposal for no other reason than it was put forward by either myself or the ACT. It was obvious he had made a conscious decision to object to everything within the proposal and his negative mindset further demonstrated the he was not in a position to have the content of the proposal explained. I found this extremely disappointing and unprofessional. I accept that this proposal may require some fine tuning and further development before implementation. But considering the attitude of LLS Wild dog Coordinator, I don't believe this will allow any conversation of this nature to be possible.

This again is not only disappointing but frustrating, as the benefits of this proposal would have been multifaceted and under the current arrangements the landholders are the ones who will continue to be mostly affected by poorly managed and poorly coordinated wild dog management. This is having evident negative effects on the delivery of coordinated collaborative wild dog management and the objectives within the plans and negatively affecting the confidence the landholders have in our respective agencies.

Given this latest very disappointing interaction with the LLS Wild dog Coordinator, I will be reassessing (and discussing with ACT management) ACT's priorities and effort directed into further (so called) collaborative approaches in wild dog management in the Shannon's Flat/Bredbo and Adaminaby/ Yaouk wild dog plan areas..

Thanks

*Warren Schofield*

Director  
ACT Biosecurity and Rural Services  
Environment Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate  
[warren.schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:warren.schofield@act.gov.au)  
Mob [REDACTED]

---

From: Luke Pope <[luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au)>  
Sent: Wednesday, 13 July 2022 1:46 PM  
To: Schofield, Warren <[Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au)>  
Subject: Re: Southern Namadgi Dog issues

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I can talk after 3:30 today if that suits

Thank you,

Luke

Luke Pope  
General Manager &  
Director for Invasive Animals and Weeds  
South East Local Land Services  
1-3 Sharp Street | PO Box 26 | Cooma | NSW 2630  
Mob [REDACTED]  
Email [luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au)

---

From: Schofield, Warren <[Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au)>  
Sent: 13 July 2022 13:35

To: Luke Pope <[luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au)>  
Subject: RE: Southern Namadgi Dog issues

OFFICIAL

Thanks Luke

When would be the best time to give you a call re Wild dog Coordinator?

I will reach out to Liam re biosecurity but appreciate the current situation.

*Warren Schofield*

Director  
ACT Biosecurity and Rural Services  
Environment Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate  
[warren.schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:warren.schofield@act.gov.au)  
Mob [REDACTED]

---

From: Luke Pope <[luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au)>  
Sent: Wednesday, 13 July 2022 1:33 PM  
To: Schofield, Warren <[Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au)>  
Subject: Re: Southern Namadgi Dog issues

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Thanks Warren,

I'm happy to talk over the phone regarding the position if that helps.

For Emergency Response planning, please contact Liam Orrock.

**Liam Orrock** | [A/Business Partner - Emergency Management](#)

**Local Land Services**

13 Schofields Lane Berry | PO Box 63 | Berry NSW 2535

**T:** 1300 795 299 | **F:** 02 4464 2113 | **M:** [REDACTED] | **E:** [liam.orrock@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:liam.orrock@lls.nsw.gov.au)

please note that Liam may not get back to you immediately as he is co-ordinating the current Varroa Mite response

Thank you,

Luke

Luke Pope  
General Manager &  
Director for Invasive Animals and Weeds  
South East Local Land Services  
1-3 Sharp Street | PO Box 26 | Cooma | NSW 2630  
Mob [REDACTED]  
Email [luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au)

---

From: Schofield, Warren <[Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au)>  
Sent: 13 July 2022 13:19  
To: Luke Pope <[luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au)>  
Subject: RE: Southern Namadgi Dog issues

OFFICIAL

G'day Luke

I will contact Thomas to discuss current ongoing Shannon's Flat issues, but one of the issues I also wanted to discuss with you was the Wild dog Coordinator General position.

Also can you please provide a contact for biosecurity issues in SE LLS, would like to make contact to discuss cross border responses for things like Varroa Mite and FMD.

Thanks

*Warren Schofield*

Director  
ACT Biosecurity and Rural Services  
Environment Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate  
[warren.schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:warren.schofield@act.gov.au)  
Mob [REDACTED]

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Sent: Wednesday, 13 July 2022 1:14 PM  
To: Schofield, Warren <[Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au)>; Thomas Ross <[thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au)>  
Subject: Re: Southern Namadgi Dog issues

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Warren,

I won't be in the Cooma office again this week.

Could you please organise a time with Thomas Ross?

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Luke

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**From:** Schofield, Warren <[Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** 13 July 2022 08:06  
**To:** Luke Pope <[luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** FW: Southern Namadgi Dog issues

OFFICIAL

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 12 July 2022 3:28 PM  
**To:** Cotsell, Peter <[Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au)>  
**Cc:** [peterluton3317@gmail.com](mailto:peterluton3317@gmail.com); [REDACTED] Schofield, Warren <[Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au)>; Barnsley, Richard <[Richard.Barnsley@act.gov.au](mailto:Richard.Barnsley@act.gov.au)>; Thomas Ross <[thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au)>; [luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au)  
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Does anyone in this group have the updated plan data (from the Shannons Flat Wild Dog Plan)? I asked Thomas Ross for this information in February but I haven't yet received it. I also asked for the minutes of the meetings, and haven't got those either.

Aside from sending a reactive trapper, what is the plan to get this problem under control?

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With kind regards  
pete

---

**From:** Barnsley, Richard <[Richard.Barnsley@act.gov.au](mailto:Richard.Barnsley@act.gov.au)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 July 2022 9:54 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Cotsell, Peter <[Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au](mailto:Peter.Cotsell@act.gov.au)>; Schofield, Warren <[Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** Southern Namadgi Dog issues

UNOFFICIAL

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Feel free to contact me any time.

Regards,

Richard Barnsley

Vertebrate Pest Officer

ACT Biosecurity and Rural Services.

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---

**From:** Schofield, Warren  
**Sent:** Friday, 8 July 2022 7:39 AM  
**To:** Thomas Ross; Scott Townsend  
**Subject:** RE: Wild dog proposal

OFFICIAL

G'day Thomas

If you have any questions please let me know.

It would be good to understand the LLS's position with this proposal as it will be presented to the landholders by ACT at the Shannon's flat and Adaminaby wild dog meetings in Sept- Oct this year in response to questions raised around the ACT's "commitment" to wild dog control that were raised at the last Wild dog meetings and in the letter that you were a co signature of on behalf of the Adaminaby/Yaouk wild dog working group.

If you have any questions please let me know.

Thanks

*Warren Schofield*

**Director**  
**ACT Biosecurity and Rural Services**  
**Environment Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate**  
[warren.schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:warren.schofield@act.gov.au)  
**Mob** [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Thomas Ross <thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 July 2022 3:48 PM  
**To:** Schofield, Warren <Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au>; Scott Townsend <scott.townsend@lls.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Fw: Wild dog proposal

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Warren,

Hello, I am back from leave and week off with Covid and back in the Wild Dog Co-ordinator role. I'll have a look over your proposal and discuss with Luke and Scott, however I have no budget to support a PAC contract for \$60k. Let me have some time to discuss with Luke and Scott as to what their thoughts were.

Regards  
Thomas

**Thomas Ross** Wild Dog Coordinator/Acting Local Manager - Monaro

South East Local Land Services

NSW Department of Industry | Local Land Services

1-3 Sharp Street Cooma NSW 2630

PO Box 26 Cooma NSW 2630

T: 02 6455 7200 | F: 02 6452 2080 | M: [REDACTED]

E: [thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au) W: [www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)



---

**From:** Scott Townsend <[scott.townsend@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:scott.townsend@lls.nsw.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 July 2022 2:00 PM

**To:** Thomas Ross <[thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:thomas.ross@lls.nsw.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Fw: Wild dog proposal

FYI

**Scott Townsend** | Senior Biosecurity Officer- Monaro

South East Local Land Services

1-3 Sharp Street, Cooma | NSW 2630

Ph: [REDACTED]

Email [scott.townsend@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:scott.townsend@lls.nsw.gov.au)

---

**From:** Schofield, Warren <[Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:Warren.Schofield@act.gov.au)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, 6 July 2022 1:34 PM

**To:** Luke Pope <[luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au)>

**Cc:** Steve Cathcart <[Steve.Cathcart@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Steve.Cathcart@environment.nsw.gov.au)>; Elouise Peach

<[Elouise.Peach@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Elouise.Peach@environment.nsw.gov.au)>; Scott Townsend <[scott.townsend@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:scott.townsend@lls.nsw.gov.au)>

**Subject:** RE: Wild dog proposal

OFFICIAL

G'day Luke

Just wondering if you have had the opportunity to consider the proposal that we have met about.

Any updates from LLS would be appreciated.

Thanks

*Warren Schofield*

**Director**

**ACT Biosecurity and Rural Services**

**Environment Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate**

[warren.schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:warren.schofield@act.gov.au)

**Mob** [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Schofield, Warren

**Sent:** Friday, 3 June 2022 12:04 PM

**To:** Cathcart, Steve <[Steve.Cathcart@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Steve.Cathcart@environment.nsw.gov.au)>; Elouise Peach

<[Elouise.Peach@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Elouise.Peach@environment.nsw.gov.au)>; Scott Townsend <[scott.townsend@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:scott.townsend@lls.nsw.gov.au)>; Luke Pope

<[luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au](mailto:luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Wild dog proposal

**OFFICIAL**

G'day all

Thanks for making the time to come and discuss the wild dog proposal I have put forward, it was a healthy discussion and appreciate the input from agency perspectives.

Please find attached the most up to date version of the proposal for you to consider. If there is anything that requires clarification or suggested additions please let me know.

As discussed today

- ACT, NPWS and LLS agree in principle that this proposal has merit, and would offer a more consistent sustainable wild dog control across the Shannon's Flat/Bredbo, Adaminaby/ Yaouk and ACT wild dog areas, and reduce the reactive work load of the current resident PAC in the (NSW) area (Brett Aitchison)
- ACT, NPWS and LLS would consider that at 2 year pilot under this model would allow sufficient time for the PAC's to develop a proactive coordinated routine across the 3 plan areas and to gauge the pro's cons of a multi-agency nil tenure approach.
- NPWS consider under this model the NPWS contribution could be funded by utilising funds currently allocated to seasonal work undertaken by out of area LLS staff
- LLS will require time to research internal budgets or (external funding) sources to commit to the proposal.
- ACT will need to confirm the establishment of a secondary PAC position and funding
- ACT, NPWS and LLS agreed that this proposal should be tabled at the upcoming (Sept/Oct 2022) Adaminaby/Yaouk and Shannon's Flat Wild dog group meetings for stakeholder feedback.

If I have missed anything that was discussed please let me know, I was engaged in the conversation and forgot to take too many notes so the above is from memory.

Once again thanks for your interest and input.

*Warren Schofield*

**Director**

**Biosecurity and Rural Services**

**500 Cotter Road Weston Creek ACT 2611**

Ph 02 620 784 80 | Mob: [REDACTED]  
Email: [warren.schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:warren.schofield@act.gov.au)  
Web: <http://www.environment.act.gov.au/>

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# Shannon's Flat, Bredbo, Michelago, Dry Plain Wild Dog and Fox Working Group Meeting

Date: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Start Time: 11am

Location: Shannons Flat Community Hall

Chair: SE LLS      Minutes: SE LLS

## Agenda:

### 1) Attendees

[REDACTED] Tim Davis, (LLS) [REDACTED] Thomas Ross, (LLS)  
Belinda Dwyer, (LLS) [REDACTED] Robert Freebody (LLS) [REDACTED] Warren  
Schofield, (ACT Parks) Mark Sweeny, (ACT Parks) Luke Beaman, (ACT Parks) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### 2) Apologies

[REDACTED]

### 3) Confirmation of previous minutes

The meeting discussed that it was unacceptable that minutes of previous meetings from ACT Parks were not being made available prior to the following meeting. ACT Parks apologised for the delay with the minutes.

[REDACTED] - can we please have the minutes and reports before the meeting? Not on the day. Also, can we have the minutes sent straight after the meeting? Thomas Ross stated that minutes should be sent within two months of the meeting, given that all the meetings occur within a few weeks of each other it would be difficult to commit to earlier timeframe.

Mark Sweeny advised that acoustic monitoring data is still being collected, ACT Parks.

[REDACTED] expressed concern that there had been no acceptable response to requests that aerial baiting be considered in the ACT. The issue has been raised for twelve months. A number of letters had been sent by landholders and there was no action progressing the matter. It was agreed that a number of landholders along with a representative from LLS would meet with the ACT to discuss putting possible aerial

baiting lines on a map. Thomas Ross advised that he would circulate an email with the nominated people to ACT so that they could follow up on arranging the meeting.

██████████ stated that aerial baiting should be done.

██████████ was concerned about the lack of effective dog work. He stated that ACT dogs were coming into NSW. The ACT needs to do more to stop the dogs, there is a lack of co-operation and poor communication from the ACT.

██████████ - NSW Trappers are picking up ACT dogs ██████████ is helping them as best he can. Not acceptable into future. This is just reactive all the time. ACT are not doing what they should. It's gone downhill in recent years.

Thomas Ross advised that due to staffing shortages the pig collaring program will commence next financial year.

#### 4) Acknowledgements

- The Passing of ██████████ who was a part of the Shannon's Flat/Yaouk group for many years.

#### 5) Call for late Agenda Items

Feral Pig workshop to commence on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 at CWA Hall Adaminaby.

#### 6) Operations updates, news and other concerns

##### a) Shannon's Flat, Bredbo, Michelago land holders

- ██████████  
Quiet as far as dogs are concerned, plenty of pigs.
- ██████████  
Nothing to report
- ██████████  
Plenty of pigs and fox's
- ██████████  
Quiet, pig issue is going to have a significant impact and needs to be addressed.
- ██████████  
Nil losses recently  
██████████
  - Dog activity, Luke set traps and completed a bait line before Christmas.  
7 dogs sighted.
  - Very few pigs.

##### b) SE Local Land Services

###### **Tim Davis**

- Tabled at meeting
- KPI tabled and Meeting.



- 1080 map of the whole Southeast tabled at meeting, regional reports in Autumn and individual plan reports in Spring.
- c) ACT Parks and Conservation Service
- Luke Beaman**
- Nass Valley ongoing dogs coming and going 4 dogs destroyed since December Continued strategic baiting.
  - Areas that are still inaccessible.
  - Rodney Rankin assisting with reactive work.
- Mark Sweeny**
- Spring baiting was held in October 2022
  - Mapping out our bait lines that are inaccessible continued baiting via alterative access.
  - Autumn baiting to commence 27<sup>th</sup> March
  - Additional 378 hours used for baiting and monitoring.
  - Assisting ACT private landholders with induction programs on the use of 1080.
  - Recommencing a newsletter capturing progress in the ACT.
  - Stake holder group has been formed for the proposal to aerial bait.
  - Acknowledging the issues around data recording, staffing issues and lack of communication.
- 7) Recommended control actions for next six months  
Community baiting to occur in line with aerial bailing.  
Aerial baiting to occur in conjunction with NPWS around 18<sup>th</sup> April  
Seasonal PAC from LLS to be in the area in April
- 8) Wild Dog Management Plan update  
Mark Sweeny, Thomas Ross, Brian Clifford, Tim Davis, (LLS) to set a meeting date for a refreshed update of the Wild Dog Management Plan.
- 9) General business
- Local Lands Service have recently acquired 12 pig traps that are available to loan for land holders with two different designs.
  - Feral Pigs in Focus workshop.
  - LLS requesting landholders participate in a survey Measuring What Matters.
- 10) Next meeting date: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 10:00am  
Chairperson: Brian Clifford  
Minutes: ACT Parks  
Venue: Shannon's Flat Hall
- 11) Meeting closed



## 12) Actions from meeting

- NSW landholders and agency representatives to attend ACT stakeholder meeting. ACT to send out invitation.
- Meeting to discuss and map strategic aerial bait lines in the ACT.  
Attendees [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Luke Beaman, (ACT) Tim Davis, (LLS) Robert Freebody, (LLS) to be held at Namadgi Visitor's Centre Nass Rd, Tharwa ACT date to be confirmed, suggested end of April. T Ross to send out an email to the group so ACT can coordinate.
- Luke Pope working together with ACT Parks regarding PAC proposal
- ACT to provide electronic data to T Ross so that it can be added to the KPI reports.
- Draft minutes of the meeting to be circulated within two months of the meeting occurring.

**ACT – LLS - NPWS**  
**Wild dog management proposal**  
**2022**



**South East Local Land Services**

1-3 Sharp Street

Cooma NSW 2630

Tel: 02 6455 7200

[www.lls.nsw.gov.au/region](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/region)

24<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Director  
Biosecurity and Rural Services  
Attn: Mr Warren Schofield  
500 Cotter Road Weston Creek ACT 2611  
Sent by email : [warren.schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:warren.schofield@act.gov.au)

Dear Warren

**Pest Animal Controller (PAC) Resources Within the ACT**

The Adaminaby/Yaouk Wild Dog Working Group met today and has requested that we write to you on its behalf. As you are aware there has been increased dog activity including stock losses in areas adjacent to the southern and western borders of the ACT. This has followed a number of years of relatively quiet dog activity with minimal to no stock losses.

The Adaminaby/Yaouk Wild Dog Working Group believes that an additional full-time permanent PAC resource is needed to support the current permanent PAC. Employing an additional full-time position will allow a move from the current reactive work towards the implementation of more proactive control strategies. Additionally, the ability to cover PAC staff absences would be improved and allow continuity in the implementation of the control program.

The ongoing baiting programs that are undertaken by ACT PCS general rangers would benefit through a targeted approach by the additional experienced PAC ensuring improved control outcomes. Additionally, a seasonal trapper would not need to be employed to support the current ACT PCS PAC.

The Working Group requests that consideration be made to permanently employ an additional PAC and would appreciate feedback on this issue before the next working group meeting in September.

Kind regards

Wild Dog Co-ordinator    Landholder Representative    Landholder Representative



**Local Land Services**

We help secure the future of agriculture and the environment for NSW communities.

[www.lls.nsw.gov.au](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)

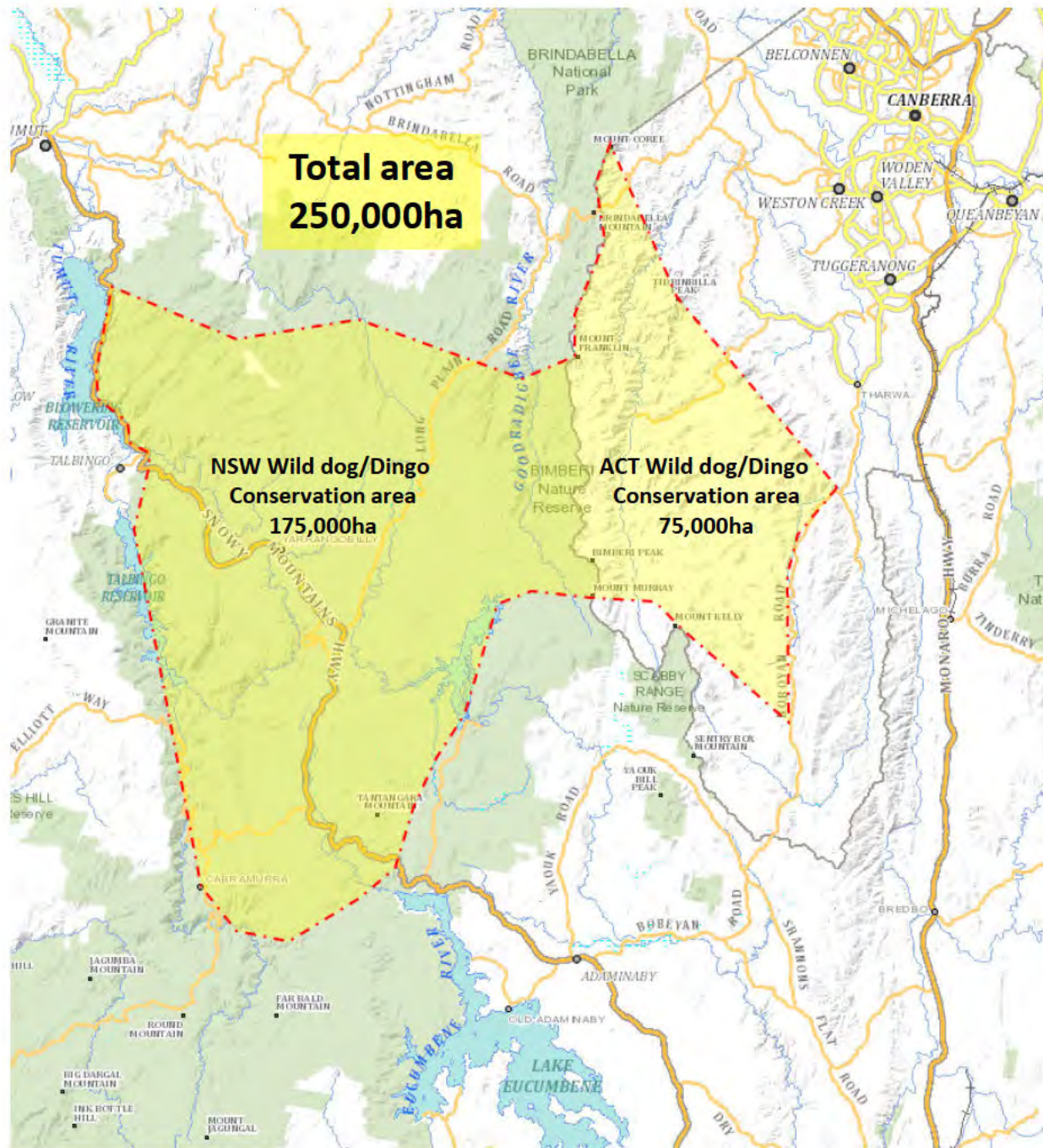
## Background

ACT has been questioned on its commitment to, and its resourcing of wild dog management by members of the Adaminaby Wild dog working group, landholders in the Shannon's flat area and the NSW LLS Wild dog Coordinator.

The following proposal is in response to these questions.

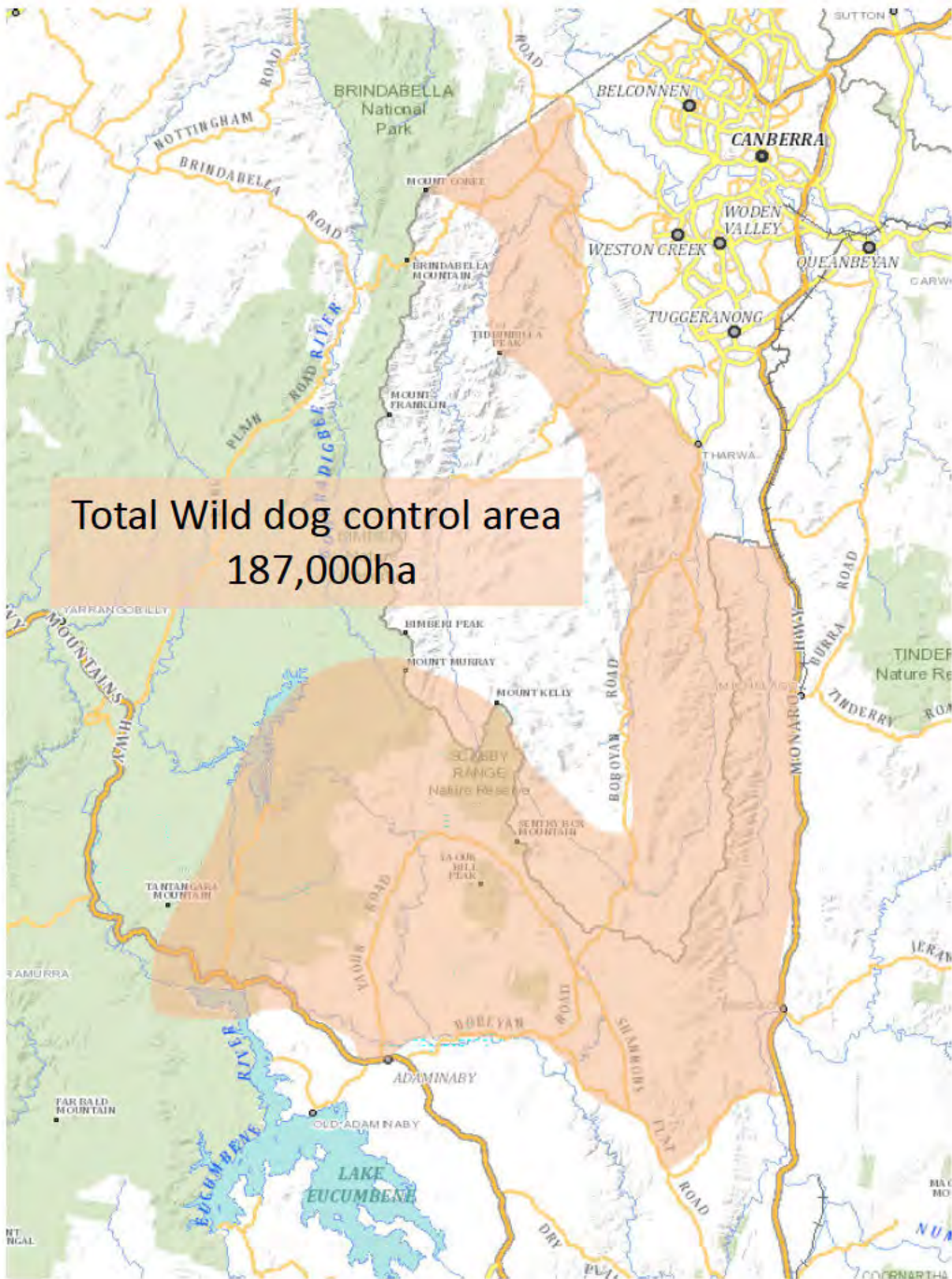
ACT has one full time Pest Animal Controller dedicated to wild dog control. This position is presently vacant and will be recruited to by the end of 2022

ACT has been able to secure funding and a position for a 2 year period for a second Pest Animal Controller. This position was recently recruited to and the new PAC will commence in the first week of October 2022.



## Conservation Area

Both NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and ACT Parks and Wildlife Service (PCS) have conservation objectives. Both organisations wish to retain a population of Wild dogs/Dingoes within their respective conservation estates as a top order predator. There is no wild dog control work undertaken in these areas.



## Agency Area

- ACT 75,700 ha
- NPWS 41,800 ha
- LLS 69,500 ha
- Total 187,000 ha

## Current agency commitments

Full time PAC Commitment to Adaminaby/Yaouk & Shannon's Flat/Bredbo and ACT Wild dog plans					
	LLS	NPWS	ACT BRS	ACT PCS	
Adaminaby/Yaouk	62	114	30	12	218
Shannon's Flat/Bredbo	112	0	60	15	187
ACT	0	0	90	13	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>508</b>
<b>Total FT PAC days</b>					<b>508</b>

**PAC commitments under the current Wild dog plans**

**NSW 288 days**

**ACT 220 days**

## Pest Animal Controllers (PAC)

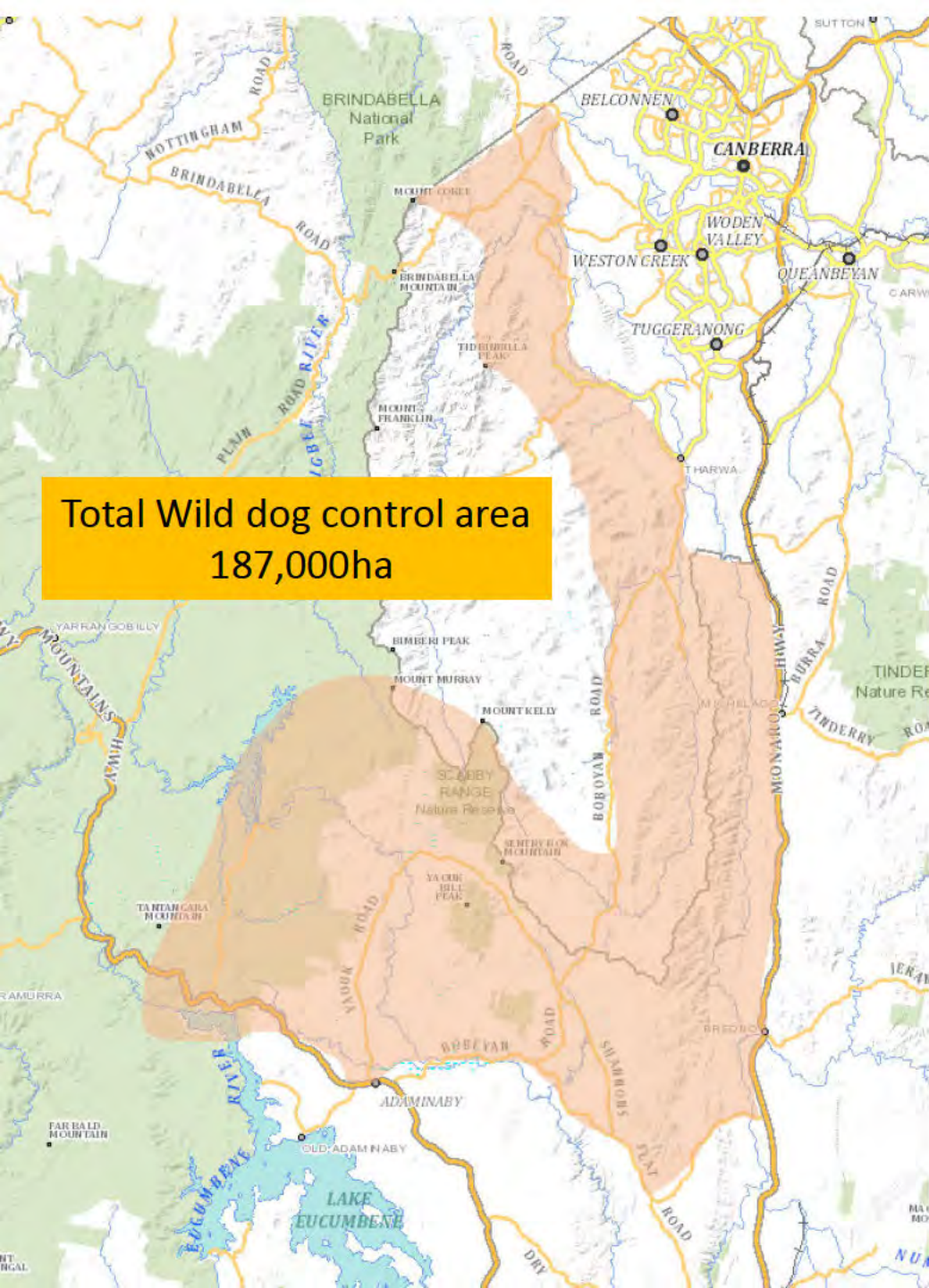
Individual annual PAC working days	
Days in the year	365
Weekends	105
Work days	260
Public holidays	13
ARL	20
Sick	10
Training	7
Office/wet days	10
Total PAC days available	200

An individual Pest Animal Controller can only physically undertake approximately 200 days on the ground per year.

Based on information gained from various experienced Pest animal controllers. A single PAC can only consistently implement a proactive wild dog program across an area of approximately 80,000ha.

If either (or both) of these factors are exceeded programs and Pest Animal Controllers will not be able to continually achieve the desired objectives. The distance that a PAC has to travel to the work area can also impact the ability to undertake proactive work

If a Pest Animal Controller gets caught in a reactive cycle it is very difficult to implement the proactive control work that is required to protect livestock from predation.



Total Wild dog control area  
187,000ha

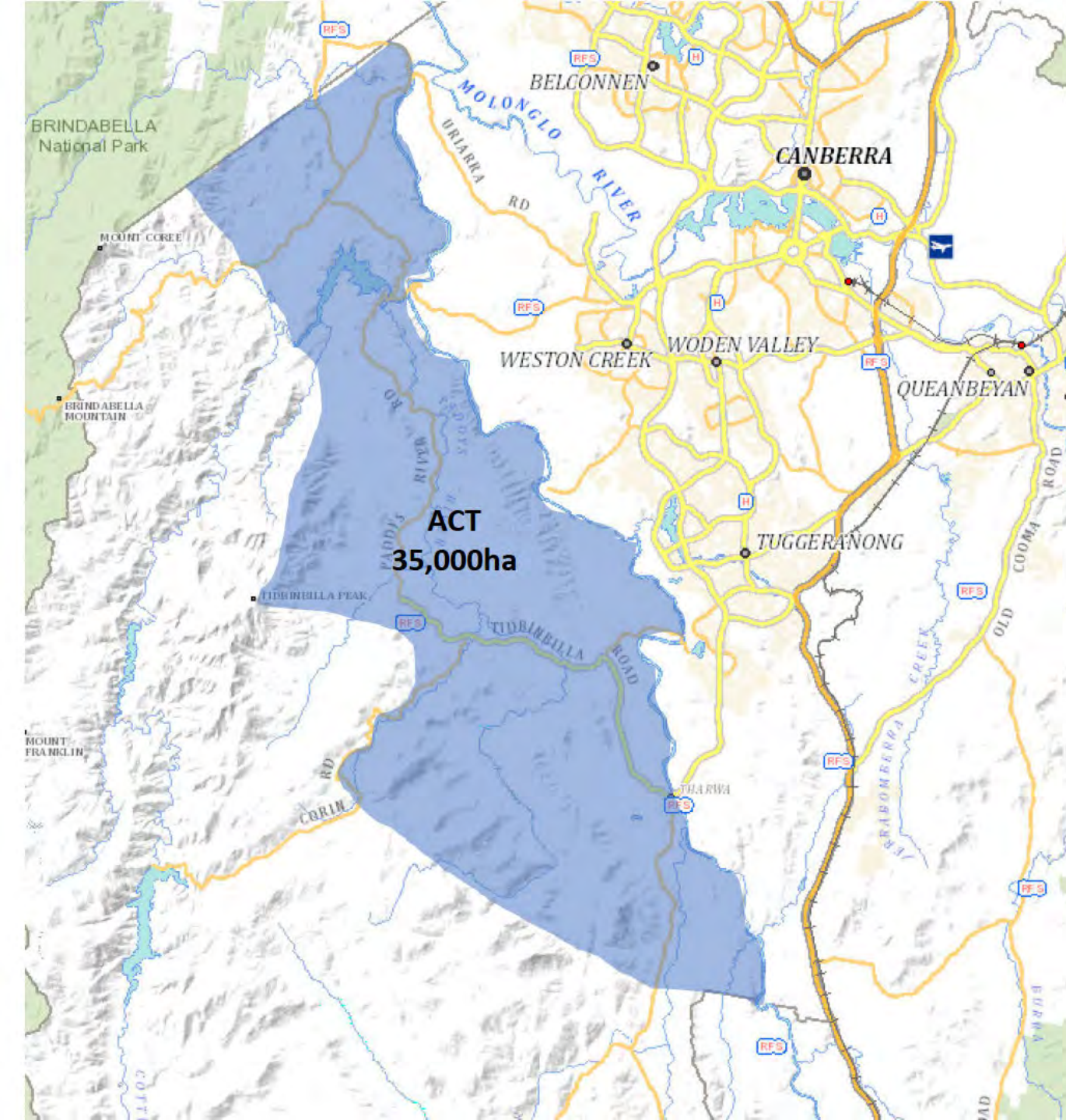
## AREA

- ACT 75,700 ha
- NPWS 41,800 ha
- LLS 69,500 ha
- Total 187,000 ha

- Total 187,000 ha
- Requires 3 PAC (=62,333ha per PAC)
- @200 working days per PAC
- Total 600 days per year.
- $187,000 \div 600 = 312$ ha per PAC per day

## Days required

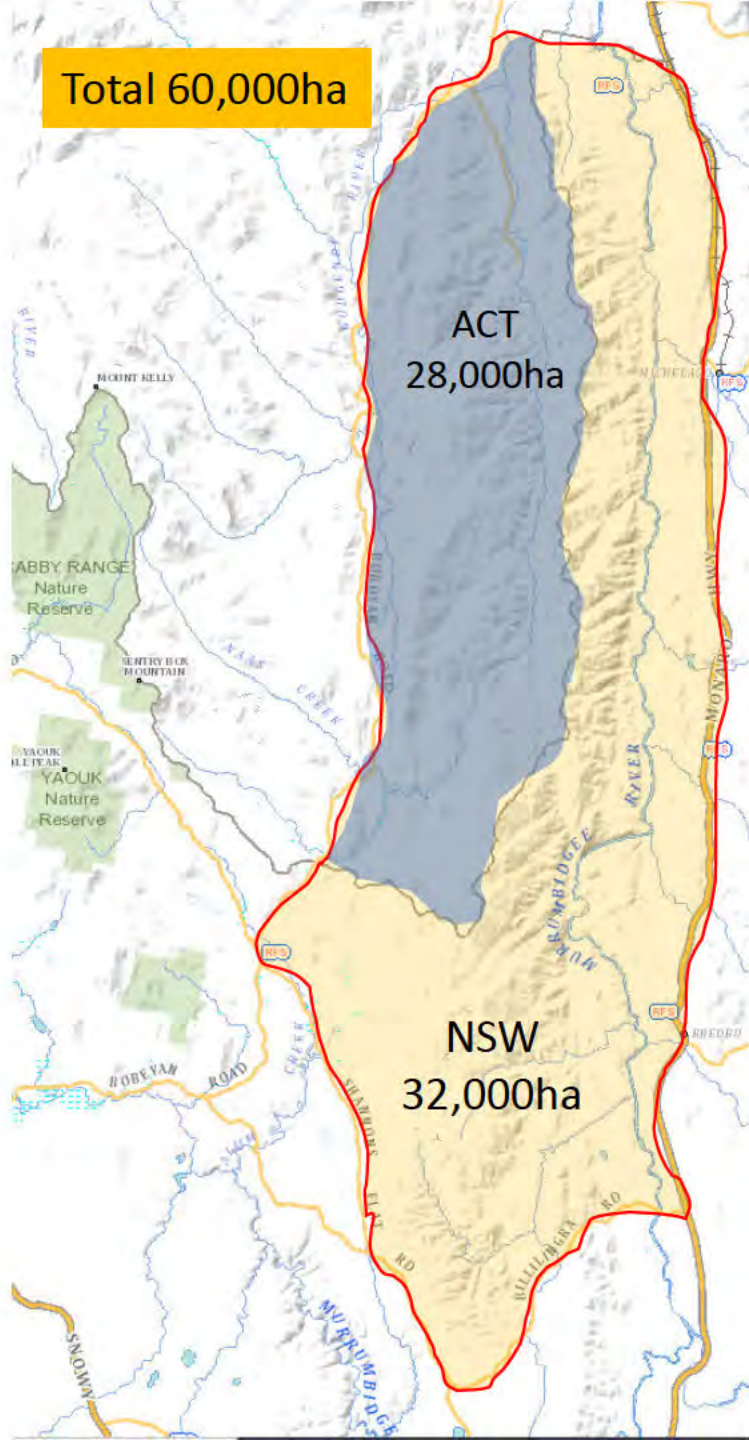
- ACT 244 days
- NPWS 133 days
- LLS 223 days
- Total 600 days



## ACT

This area is the control footprint that is in the draft ACT wild dog plan. It includes both private and conservation estate.

ACT has approximately 40,000 sheep and 6,000 cattle held on private leasehold land.



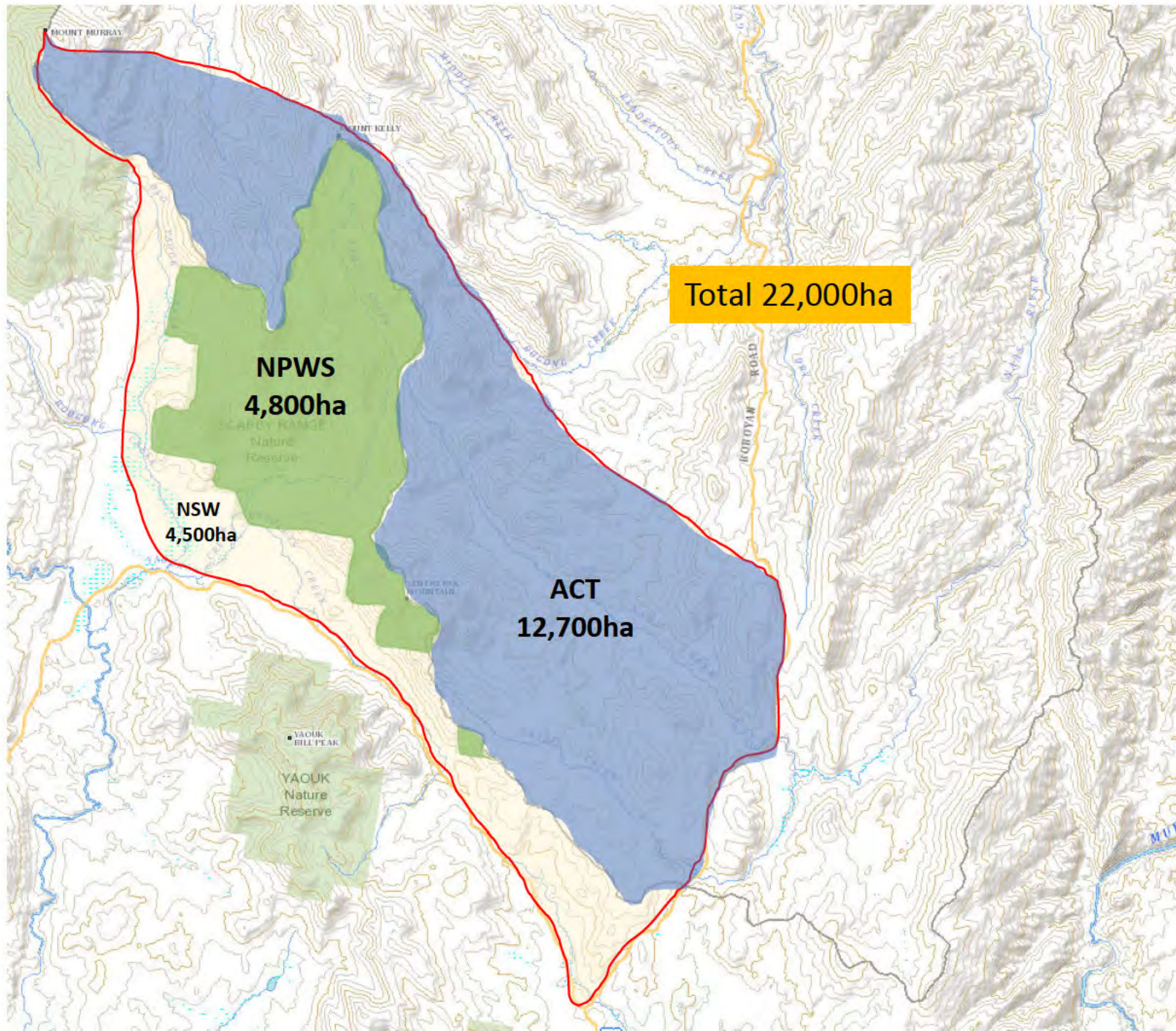
## Clear Range

The Clear Range area has multiple issues which make wild dog control difficult.

The area in NSW is all privately owned predominantly by absentee landholders who do not run livestock and have no interest or experience in wild dog management.

There is limited access through this area as the terrain is very rugged.

There is a population of wild dogs present in NSW and dogs can transit between ACT and NSW.



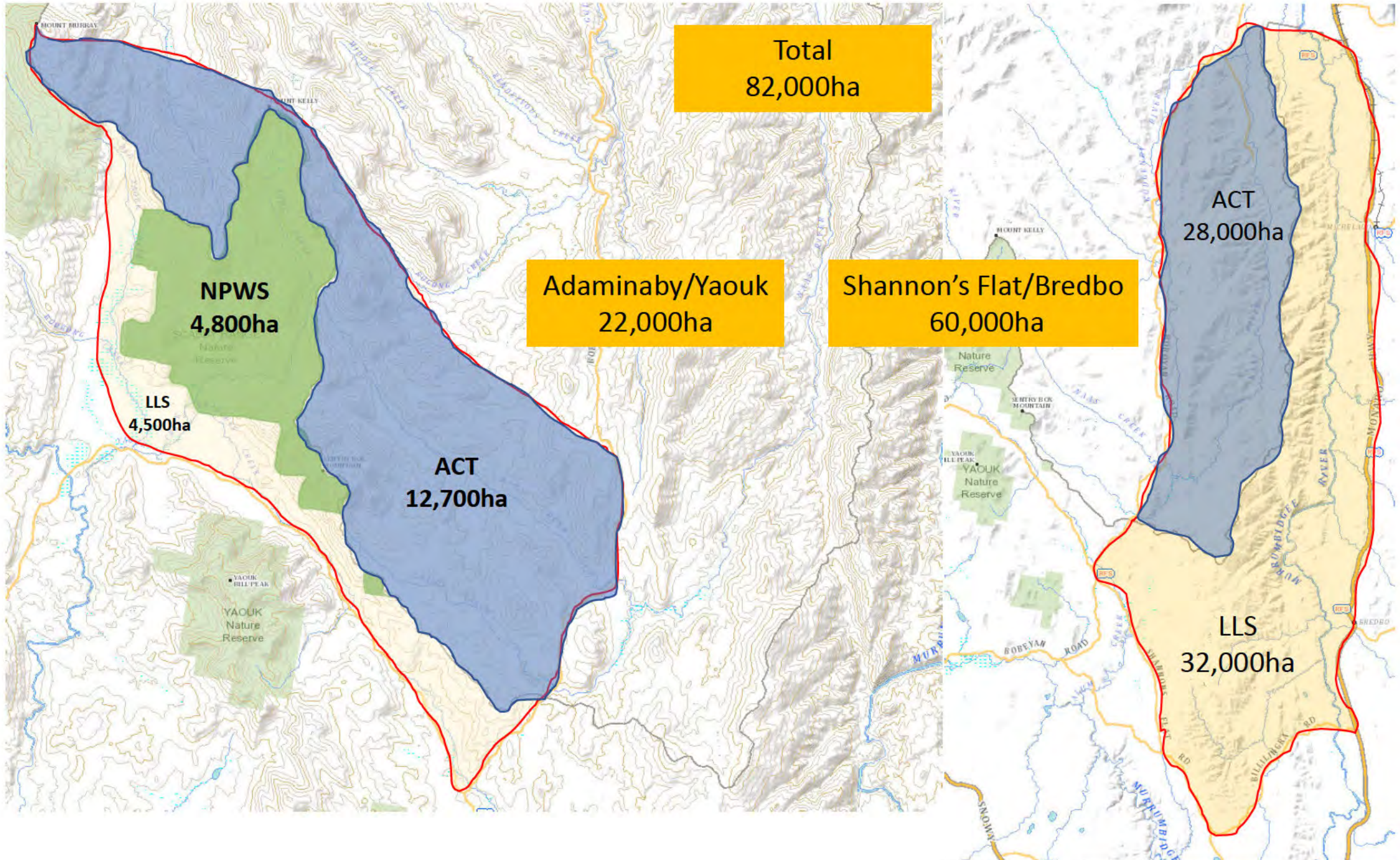
## Scabby Range/ Grassy Creek

Scabby Range/ Grassy Creek area has population of Wild dogs which can impact livestock in the Yaouk and Shannon's Flat areas.

Where livestock about Namadgi, current wild dog control can be difficult as the response agency may not have the ability to address the entire area when attacks happen.

There is limited access through some of this area as the terrain is very rugged.

wild dogs can transit between ACT and NSW.



Total  
82,000ha

Adaminaby/Yaouk  
22,000ha

Shannon's Flat/Bredbo  
60,000ha

LLS  
4,500ha

NPWS  
4,800ha

ACT  
12,700ha

ACT  
28,000ha

LLS  
32,000ha

# Proposal

Agency contributions			
Adaminaby/Yaouk			
Tenure	ha	days	\$ per annum
NPWS	4,800	16	\$9,600
LLS	4,500	15	\$9,000
ACT	12,700	41	\$24,000
Shannon's Flat/ Bredbo			
Tenure	ha	days	\$ per annum
NPWS	0	0	\$0
LLS	32,000	103	\$61,800
ACT	28,000	90	\$54,000
Total	82,000	265	\$158,400

This proposal seeks support (both in principle and financial) from NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services (Tumut) and NSW South East Local Land Service (Cooma) for the employment of an ACT based Pest Animal Controller (PAC) with the capacity to work under a cooperative nil-tenure approach in the Shannon's Flat/ Bredbo, Adaminaby/Yaouk and ACT Wild dog working group plan areas.

This proposed position would be a full-time employee ( for a period of 2 years) of the ACT Government (within the Biosecurity and Rural Services Unit) but work within the plan areas both within ACT and NSW to contribute to the management of wild dogs (and other identified pest animals) across all land tenures as required.

This position will assist in an improvement in resources allocated to these 3 plan areas where there has been an identified gap in skilled on ground wild dog control resources. ACT will fully fund all costs associated with the position including salary, training, and vehicle expenses.

This proposal would require LLS and NPWS to 'employ' ACT as a contractor to implement wild dog management on NPWS estate and private land within NSW (restricted to the plan areas) to ensure that adequate resources are employed to manage wild dogs.

\*Note costs are estimated @ \$600 per day ex GST (this is TBC as current contract rate) Individual agency areas, associated costs are calculated by the following formula.

**(Agency area ha) divided by (days) x (\$ per day)**



## Adaminaby Yaouk

This area would remain under the current arrangement between LLS and NPWS.

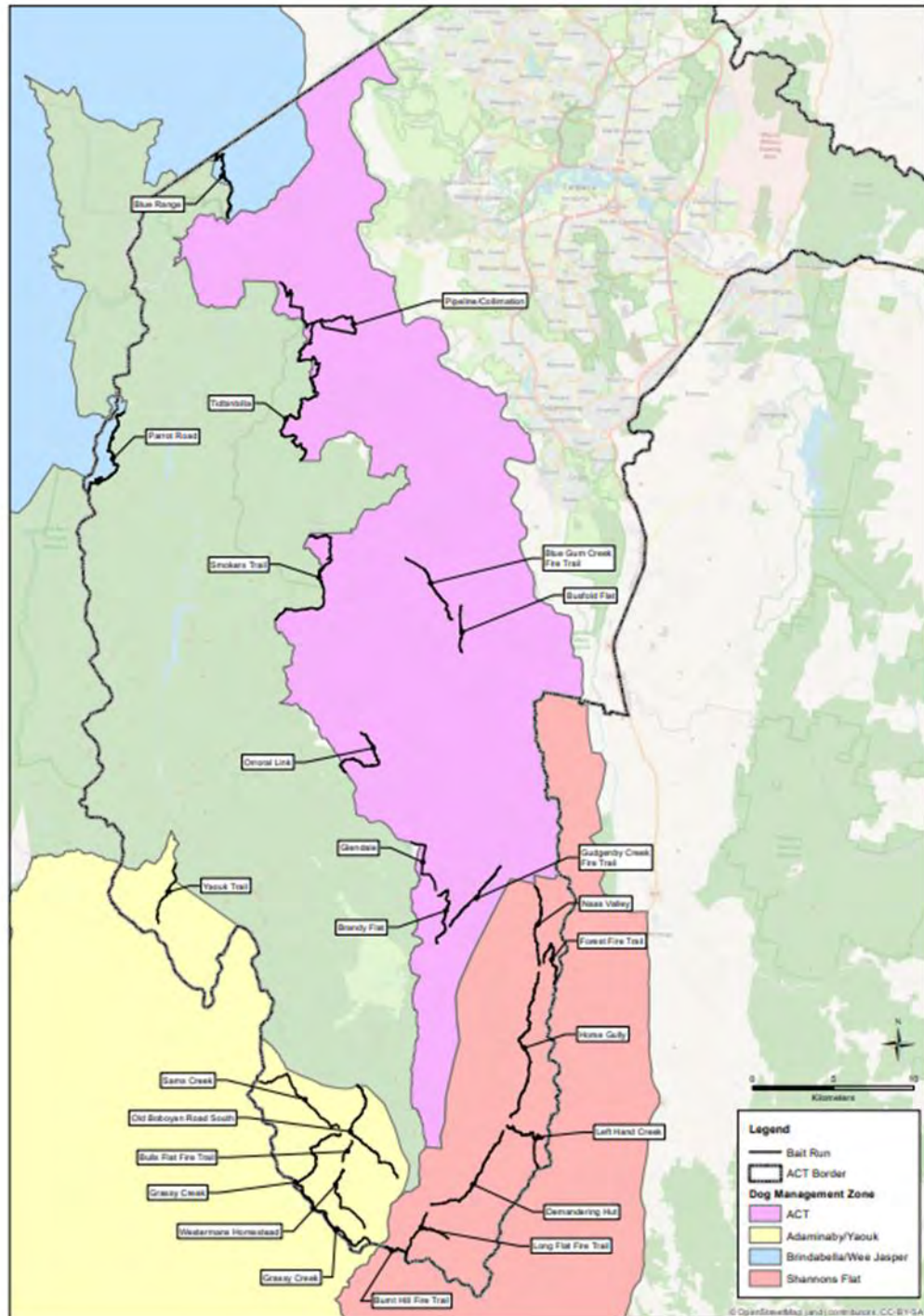
This area would benefit from the additional PAC at Shannon's Flat as it would not continue to have it's PAC have to undertake reactive work at Shannon's Flat. This will enable the Adaminaby area to have a consistent proactive wild dog program remain in place.



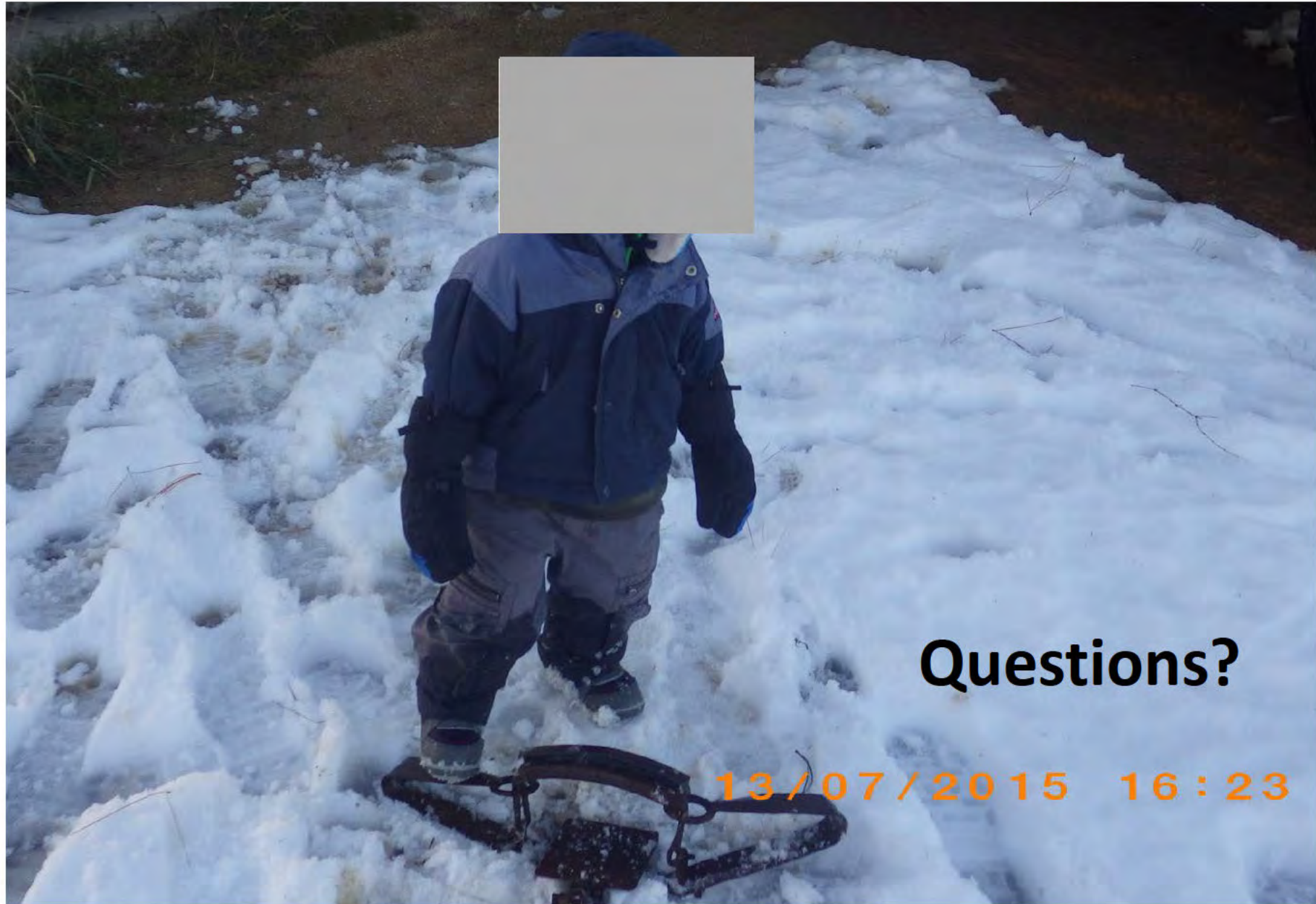
# Benefits

By having a cooperative proactive management strategy in place there are multiple benefits to gain

- Extra PAC resources across the 3 plan areas
- More consistent proactive work
- Less reliance on out of area resources
- Improved relationships
- More confidence in land managers commitment
- More ability to put resources to priority area
- Succession planning



# Succession planning



Questions?

13/07/2015 16:23

**Vertebrate Pest budget 2020- 2021 (predicted and actual monthly spending)**

Project	total budget	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Contribution to projects	\$27 000.00												
Feral Pig	\$36 500.00												
Feral horse	\$36 000.00												
Fox	\$1 500.00												
Wild dog	\$20 000.00												
Rabbit (recurrent)	\$56 000.00												
Feral Goat	\$0.00												
Feral Deer	\$62 000.00												
Feral Deer (initative)	\$50 000.00												
Rabbit (initative)	\$42 804.00												
CBSA contribution	\$5 500.00												
<b>total budget</b>	<b>\$328 804.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Vertebrate Pest Budget 2016 -2017 (actual monthly spending)**

Project	Funds remaining	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	total spent
Contribution to projects	\$27 000.00													\$0.00
Feral Pig	\$36 500.00													\$0.00
Feral horse	\$36 000.00													\$0.00
Fox	\$1 500.00													\$0.00
Wild dog	\$7 670.00					\$12 330.00								\$12 330.00
Rabbit (Recurrent)	\$56 000.00													\$0.00
Feral Goat	\$0.00													\$0.00
Feral Deer	\$62 000.00													\$0.00
WAPNS contribution	\$5 500.00													\$0.00
Rabbit (initative)	\$50 000.00													\$0.00
Feral Deer (init ative)	\$50 000.00													\$0.00
<b>total budget</b>	<b>\$422 170.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$12 330.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$12 330.00</b>

total  
50% of CBSA Invoice  
Estand Invoice - 1st







## Introduction

- The Dingo is estimated to have arrived in Australia 5,000-8,000 years ago and is considered the native apex predator in most mainland terrestrial ecosystems.

## Significance to Ngunnawal people

- The Dingo is known to the Ngunnawal peoples as Mirigang.
- Mirigang holds a special place within the Ngunnawal society and dreaming since the first sunrise, representing resilience and protection.
- Mirigang within the Ngunnawal family groups were raised in the company of Women and Children and provide an effective hunting aid, a living blanket and protection against invaders while men were away for hunting or ceremony.
- Wild Mirigang also hold special place within the Aboriginal communities as their migration and footprints were tracked to find waterholes and pathways (songlines) across country to other food sources and neighbouring nation groups.

## Systemic Classification

- The systematic position of the Dingo is currently unresolved, with no consensus at species and subspecies levels.
- The current taxonomic treatment for Dingoes is *Canis familiaris* (domestic dog), rather than alternatively suggested *Canis lupus*, or *Canis dingo*.

## Genetic makeup of Australian and ACT wild dogs

- Some hybridisation with domestic dogs has occurred, particularly in SE Australia.
- Genetic testing of a large number of animals has shown that there are no feral dogs (domestic dogs gone wild) in the ACT region (A. Wilton unpublished data).
- The DNA evidence suggests that ACT wild dog populations can best be described as being dingoes with a small proportion of domesticated dog genes.
- It is estimated that populations of Dingoes in Namadgi NP, ACT, contain 75-85% Dingo ancestry, one of the highest values in SE Australia.

## Use of the term 'Wild Dog'

- ACT Pest Animal Management Strategy 2012 – 2022 - *Many dingoes in the ACT contain a proportion of domestic dog genes but are indistinguishable in the field from genetically pure dingoes. Together with pure dingoes these animals are termed collectively 'wild dogs'.*
- The National Wild Dog Action Plan defines wild dogs as *"All wild-living dogs, which include: dingoes, feral dogs and their hybrids."*

## Wild Dog Characteristics

- 15 and 25 kilograms.

- Sandy yellow to black, white and brindle.
- Social animals, they live in small packs and are mostly active about dawn and dusk.
- Make dens in hollow logs, caves or wombat burrows.
- An average home range or territory would be 100 square kilometres depending on the available resources.
- Typically, when wild dogs are removed from an area, others will gradually replace them.

#### Breeding:

- Dingoes breed only once each year.
- Breeding occurs between April and September. Litter size varies with an average of five pups per litter.

#### Diet

- Wild dogs are at the top of the food chain.
- Wild dogs can hunt successfully alone or in packs depending on the type of prey.
- They hunt and scavenge larger mammals such as kangaroos and wallabies.
- They also prey on feral goats, pigs and rabbits and, if in their home range, domestic livestock.

#### Ecological function

- Dingoes regulate native herbivores (macropods), may limit introduced predators (foxes and feral cats), and prey on introduced herbivores.
- The functional role of hybridised and non-hybridised Dingoes has been shown to be the same (i.e. they all behave like Dingoes).

#### Impact of Wild Dogs on livestock

- *ACT Pest Animal Management Strategy 2012 – 2022 – Livestock are killed and severely injured by wild dogs where their habitat is adjacent to or overlaps with rural properties. Wild dogs from Namadgi National Park and privately owned adjacent bushland killed up to 200 sheep per year between 2002 and 2008, causing production losses of up to \$15,000 per year as well as personal trauma to rural families. Wild dog management is therefore a high priority for the ACT Government*

#### From the National Wild Dog Action Plan;

- Wild dog attacks on livestock conservatively cost the Australian economy upwards of \$89 million a year in lost production and control costs.
- Producers lose enterprise choice – farming small stock (sheep and goats) is unsustainable in areas where wild dog numbers are excessive.

- Stress – Prolonged wild dog attacks on livestock can cause serious emotional and psychological damage to rural families and their communities (ABARES 2014)

#### **Status of Wild Dogs/Dingoes in the ACT**

- *ACT Pest Animal Management Strategy 2012 – 2022 – Wild dogs, including feral dogs, Dingoes, and their hybrids, can have significant impacts on livestock, especially sheep. Because of this, wild dogs/Dingoes in the ACT have been listed as pest animals in the Pest Animals Declaration 2021, made under the Pest Plants and Animals Act 2005.*
- *Namadgi National Park Plan of management Dingo/Wild dogs perform the role of a top predator. Dingo/wild dogs are problematic for sheep graziers whose properties adjoin the park and the animals must be diligently controlled on these properties and within a defined area of Namadgi bordering sheep grazing areas to prevent losses.*

#### **Wild Dog Management Program**

- Objective of Wild Dog Control in the ACT- Wild dogs are managed as native animals for conservation purposes in core conservation zones and as pest animals to reduce damage to stock in other areas.
- **The Australian Pest Animal Strategy**  
*The National Wild Dog Action Plan is an example of the success that can be achieved when all levels of stakeholders work together and assume responsibility for tackling a serious pest animal problem.*  
*The plan, facilitated by WoolProducers Australia, is supported by a broad range of key government and non-government stakeholders.*  
*The aim of the plan is to deliver best practice wild dog management that is safe, efficient and humane, and supports continuing economic activity while being socially acceptable and environmentally sustainable.*

Control and Conservation area.

**Purple shows** the area where dog control may be applied, it is not routinely always applied across the whole area. The least amount of control applied to achieve acceptable stock loss.

**Yellow area** shows where no dog control can occur. This is to conserve a population of top order predators in the national park. This is communicated to stock owners through the cooperative working group plans.

#### **Wild Dog Conservation**

- *ACT Pest Animal Management Strategy 2012 – 2022 – Wild dogs may perform an important role as higher order predators in natural ecosystems (Glen et al. 2007), irrespective of their genetic makeup or coat colour. The ACT Government therefore aims to maintain viable populations of wild dogs in conservation areas.*
- Anecdotal evidence suggests a healthy population of dingoes inhabits the conservation area of Namadgi National Park.
- For instance, the Dingo vs Kangaroo footage from the BBC Wildlife documentary Seven Worlds One Planet at Namadgi National Park.

- Namadgi Wild Dogs also feature in the Netflix Documentary Kangaroo Valley

## **ACT Wild Dog Control**

### *ORG Chart*

### *Dog controller position within Biosecurity and Rural Services*

- The ACT Government participates in regional cooperative wild dog and fox management plans to ensure that its wild dog management is coordinated at the landscape scale with similar programs in adjacent areas of NSW.

### **ACT wild dog plan areas**

- *Blue – Wee Jasper/ Brindabella*
- *Purple – ACT (ACT plan is in development)*
- *Salmon – Shannon's Flat*
- *Yellow – Adaminaby Yaouk*

### **Black Lines show the location of buried meat bait lines.**

- **These are baited seasonally.**
- **In autumn and spring baits are placed out and checked, then checked and replaced twice over five weeks, during summer baits are placed out once.**

### ACT wild dog control data

- With relatively consistent trapping effort the number of dogs trapped each has been 33 dogs each with standard deviation of 9
- Stock killed records the reported ACT stock only, stock killed or wounded in NSW area recorded by Local Land Services NSW, this data is shared with wild dog working group members.
- Wild dogs are also removed through poison baiting, the number removed cannot be quantified. Poison baiting effort

### Ground Baiting

- Ground baiting involves burying meat baits containing the poison 1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate) at the edge of management trails that dogs commonly use as movement corridors. Baits are buried to minimise damage to non-target species such as quolls and birds.
- Ground baiting is regarded as being most effective when applied intensively at times of year when dogs show the greatest movement within the landscape. This is in autumn when adult dogs are mating and spring when older pups are dispersing. Baits are available free to rural landholders that participate in cooperative baiting programs with the ACT Government.

- 1080 (sodium fluoroacetate) is uniquely effective for predator control in Australia. The lethal dose for introduced predators such as dogs and foxes vs Australian wildlife.
- 1080 – sodium monofluoroacetate – is very important for conservation in Australia, used extensively to protect rare native species from foxes, cats, pigs and rabbits. But many people oppose its use because it is regarded as Inhumane.
- Sodium fluoroacetate acts in multiple and complex ways. It is toxic because of its similarity to acetate, which has a pivotal role in energy production in cells. 1080 disrupts that process, leading to organ dysfunction. Citrate accumulates in blood and tissues, binding calcium, which leads to abnormal heart function and disrupts communication between nerve cells. For species targeted in Australia (foxes, cats, pigs and rabbits), the time to death ranges from about 2.5 to 80 hours. It may result from cardiac failure or ventricular fibrillation (erratic heartbeat), depression of the central nervous system leading to cardiac or respiratory failure, or respiratory arrest following convulsions.<sup>7</sup>

#### 1080 Alternatives

- Four new poison baits have recently been approved for use in Australia: one each for foxes (2016), dogs (2016) and cats (2020) using paraaminopropiophenone (PAPP) and one for pigs using sodium nitrite (2019). These toxins act more quickly than 1080 and have been assessed as considerably more humane. Like carbon monoxide, they act by reducing the capacity of red blood cells to carry oxygen, causing animals to become lethargic, fall asleep, lose consciousness and die from lack of oxygen to the brain and heart, usually within one or two hours. There is still some potential for anxiety and distress, exposure to predation or weather and, in dogs, vomiting.
- However, PAPP and sodium nitrite are currently intended as additional control options rather than total replacements. They are not registered for aerial use and have different non-target impacts from 1080, which are reasons to maintain 1080 options. For example, lizards such as monitors and goannas are highly susceptible to PAPP

#### Soft Jaw Traps

- Trapping using padded jaw traps is an effective technique for removing dogs that do not take poison baits. The technique is generally target-specific and, if non-target species such as sheep or wombats become trapped, they can generally be released unharmed. Trapping is particularly effective for targeting individual dogs that are responsible for attacks on stock in a given area.

#### Ground Shooting

- Shooting while generally inefficient for routine management of wild dogs because of their shyness, can be used to manage individuals that repeatedly visit or attack stock in a given paddock, or have become bait or trap shy.

#### Guard Animals

- The use of guard animals is also seen as a humane alternative or adjunct to other forms of wild dog control. Dogs, llamas and donkeys can be used to repel predators, alert owners to disturbances in the flock and reduce reliance on less humane forms of control.

## **Monitoring and Assessment of program**

- All aspects of the wild dog management program are monitored to ensure that delivery is as efficient and cost effective as possible (Fleming et al. 2001). The primary indicator of program success is the number of stock losses reported in relation to the number of sheep being grazed, which provides an assessment of the economic and social damage to rural landholders. The ACT Government also monitors wild dog abundance in core conservation areas of Namadgi National Park and in the buffer zone adjacent to rural properties to ensure that management programs do not compromise conservation goals.

## **Bait Ejectors**

- M-44 ejectors are baited, spring-activated devices that propel 1080 poison into a dog or fox's mouth as it pulls upwards on the bait. Ejectors are particularly effective in less accessible movement corridors such as ridgelines and gullies because the encapsulated 1080 poison does not degrade and the bait remains attractive and lethal when triggered as long as the bait head remains in place. Damage to non-target species is minimised because the pull force required to activate ejector devices excludes many smaller non-target species, and the bait cannot be moved and cached by foxes to areas where it could poison domestic dogs.

## CASE STUDY 2

### Fighting wild dogs—a national action plan

The National Wild Dog Action Plan is an example of the success that can be achieved when all levels of stakeholders work together and assume responsibility for tackling a serious pest animal problem.

The plan, facilitated by WoolProducers Australia, is supported by a broad range of key government and non-government stakeholders.

The aim of the plan is to deliver best practice wild dog management that is safe, efficient and humane, and supports continuing economic activity while being socially acceptable and environmentally sustainable.

It sets out four goals to achieve this with clear actions under each for a wide spectrum of stakeholders. Importantly, the plan identifies who is responsible for actions, and the resources, priorities and timeframes; as well as identifying the monitoring, evaluation and reporting requirements associated with the plan, including standard measures of impacts, management efficacy, and cost effectiveness relevant to all parties.

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**From:** Schofield, Warren  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 February 2023 10:55 AM  
**To:** Glennon, Chris  
**Subject:** wild dog proposal  
**Attachments:** Waiting to be killed; wild dog proposal

**OFFICIAL**

G'day Chris

I met with LLS (Luke Pope) NPWS (Steve Cathcart) and ACT PCS (Stu Jeffress- acting for Stephen Alegria) on the 19th of December to discuss the cross border wild dog management proposal that I had previously tabled for consideration, both with agencies and stakeholders at wild dog meetings. At the meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> Luke said that there were things in the proposal that he thought needed modification and the group suggested that LLS provide an alternative proposal for consideration. I requested an update on this alternative from LLS both in email (attached) and via text to Luke Pope. I received a text response indicating that Luke would call to discuss but have not received any response.

As I am concerned with the personal relationship I have with certain LLS staff may inhibit the progression or consideration of such proposals would you be able to contact Luke to request an update on their considerations as I feel the outcome of this proposal may affect (either positively or negatively) on the long term efficiency of the current wild dog programs we are engaged in, and given some of the ongoing correspondence received from [REDACTED] it would be good to know where things are at.

The Shannon's Flat and Adaminaby wild dog meetings are in early March and landholders will expect a response on the proposal at these meetings, I feel it would be embarrassing if the agencies do not have a mutually agreed position by then.

Please let me know if you have any questions

Luke Pope  
General Manager South East LLS  
Luke Pope <luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au>  
[REDACTED]

*Warren Schofield*

**Director**  
**ACT Biosecurity and Rural Services**  
**Environment Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate**  
[warren.schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:warren.schofield@act.gov.au)  
**Mob** [REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 5 February 2023 5:31 PM  
**To:** Glennon, Chris; Cotsell, Peter; Schofield, Warren; Sweaney, Mark; Alegria, Stephen; Thomas Ross; luke.pope@lls.nsw.gov.au; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Burkevics, Bren  
**Subject:** Waiting to be killed  
**Attachments:** Response to Chris.docx

Some people who received this message don't often get email from lauraluton21@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**Caution:** This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Chris,

Thank you for introducing yourself, and for your (NNP) letter. Our response is attached.

We continue to hold serious fears for the safety of our sheep, which is very stressful for our family. We are not satisfied that the existing program is working properly, as evidenced by stock losses in recent years.


We request a detailed plan of action to address the immediate risk issues.

We will achieve better results if we can work more co-operatively. This will require some honest reflection about what has gone wrong, and some genuine effort in the bush. It is important that we are able to negotiate a plan that is mutually agreeable, and that the Namadgi representatives who engage with us are suitably authorised to make whatever changes are needed to bring the current risks under control. We recommend consulting Mr Bren Burkevics, as we understand he has had some engagement with similarly affected landholders in the ACT (we have cc'd him for this purpose).

Please contact us to arrange a convenient time for a meeting.

Regards,

[REDACTED]



Chris Glennon  
Senior Director - Resilient Landscapes  
Email: [chris.glennon@act.gov.au](mailto:chris.glennon@act.gov.au)

Dear Chris,

Thank you for writing to us.


It is clear that the risks are well known to your agency. It is also clear that the risks have been officially reported beyond Namadgi, to Minister Vassarotti, Greg Misfud (National Wild Dog Co-Ordinator), Local Land Services NSW and EDPP (Stephen Alegria).

You (Namadgi) claim to be committed to wild dog management, and to take our concerns seriously. We submit that you are failing on both fronts. Our stock losses have increased over the past 5 years. Our losses are significant (more than \$29,500 in the last two years). Livestock have been killed in Shannons Flat, Adaminaby, Tidbinbilla, Naas, Billilivingra and Colinton. Peter Erland's position has been vacant since August 2022. Your bait stations are grassed over. Your trails are blocked by fallen trees. Your boundary fences are appalling. There are dogs in the control areas. There are dogs escaping into private lands in NSW. There are dogs on trail cameras. Packs of dogs can be seen in plain view, within your control areas. Namadgi has failed to supply any evidence of maintained on-ground controls (let alone any increase).

Put simply, NAMADGI IS NOT ADEQUATELY MANAGING WILD DOG POPULATIONS.

Namadgi has been unable (or unwilling) to account for the decline in your program's efficacy. Indeed, your letter paints a rather rosy picture of your efforts. We find this extremely distressing. By now you are well aware that our losses are significant, both emotionally and financially. Likewise, the losses of other farmers along your boundaries. You assert that we have been "responded to" but we remind you that the sheep had suffered horrendous injuries by this point. Further, we had major issues with reactive trapping being shut down during active dog attacks. Your continued refusal to adjust your trapping and baiting programs, places our sheep at imminent risk of further harm.

It would appear that you have held a meeting (or several meetings) to discuss wild dog issues. You have chosen to spend this time discussing which of you should be our contact point, when you ought to have been talking about how to keep dogs in your park. This is frustrating and irresponsible behaviour, in the face of imminent risk to neighbouring sheep. We note the lack of landholder and trapper representation at the meeting(s). Enough politics, more pest control please!

With regards to attendance at dog meetings, please check your facts. Our family has been attending dog meetings for three generations.  has attended several recent wild dog meetings both in Shannons Flat and Adaminaby. Perhaps this demonstrates how futile the meetings have become? The truth is that decisions about trapping and baiting occur far from the community domain, spitting in the face of nil-tenure land management principles, on which the groups were founded. No wonder the program has failed!

You refer to data collected by the Biosecurity and Rural Services Team. We request copies of this data please. We would like you to be aware that we have been asking for data from your team for several years, without success. Peter Cotsell can attest to the opposition we have received here. Data must be freely shared between stakeholders if we are to claim a co-operative relationship.

As the Autumn approaches, we can expect an increase in dog activity. Historically, this time of year is dangerous, requiring careful and co-operative planning. Your agency has been thoroughly briefed on the risks, and must act swiftly to fulfil your obligations in pest management. We intend to hold you accountable for any stock losses incurred.



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**From:** Schofield, Warren  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 February 2023 1:42 PM  
**To:** Luke Pope  
**Cc:** Cathcart, Steve; Sweaney, Mark; Alegria, Stephen  
**Subject:** wild dog proposal

OFFICIAL

Good afternoon Luke

Just following up on our combined ACT, NPWS and LLS meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> December here in the ACT regarding the cross border wild dog management proposal put forward by the ACT

In that meeting you considered that the initial proposal put forward required modification if LLS were to consider it feasible to enter into. You agreed to put forward an alternative proposal on behalf of LLS for consideration.

As the Shannon's Flat and Adaminaby wild dog groups meet in March and are expecting an update on the interagency (ACT, NPWS, LLS) discussions on this proposal are you able to provide this alternative proposal to allow our respective agencies time to consider and discuss before the scheduled public meetings?

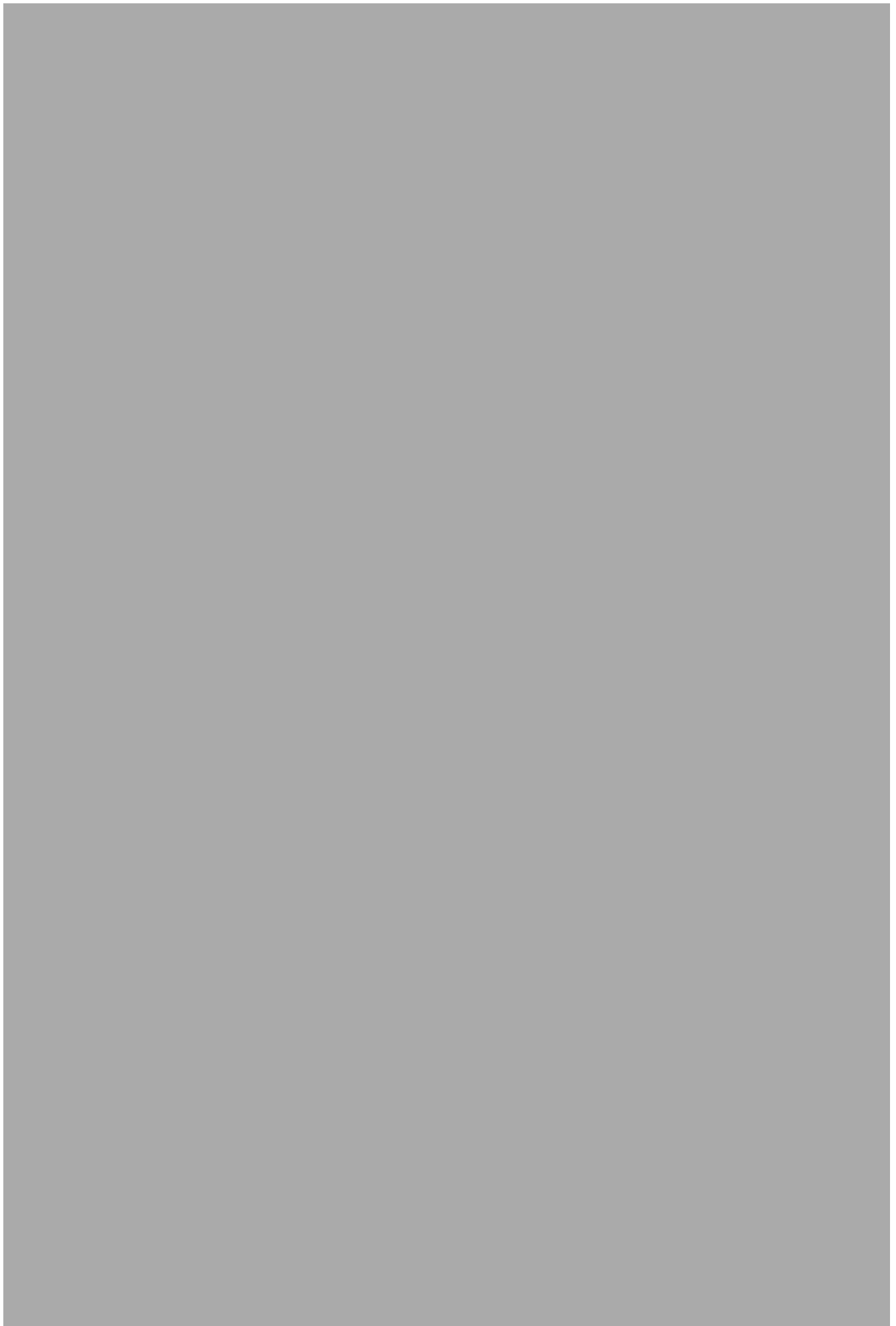
Any update would be appreciated

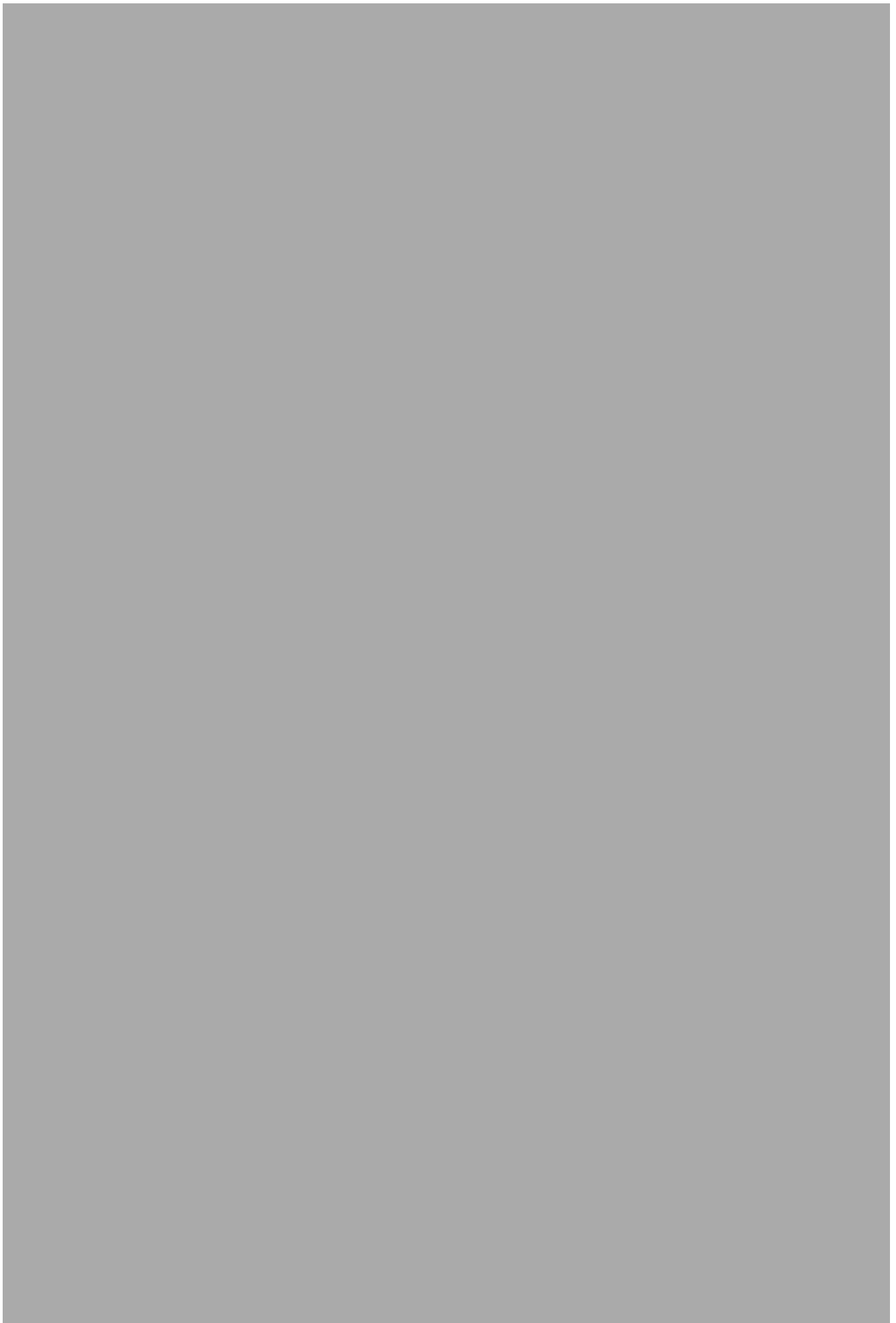
Thanks

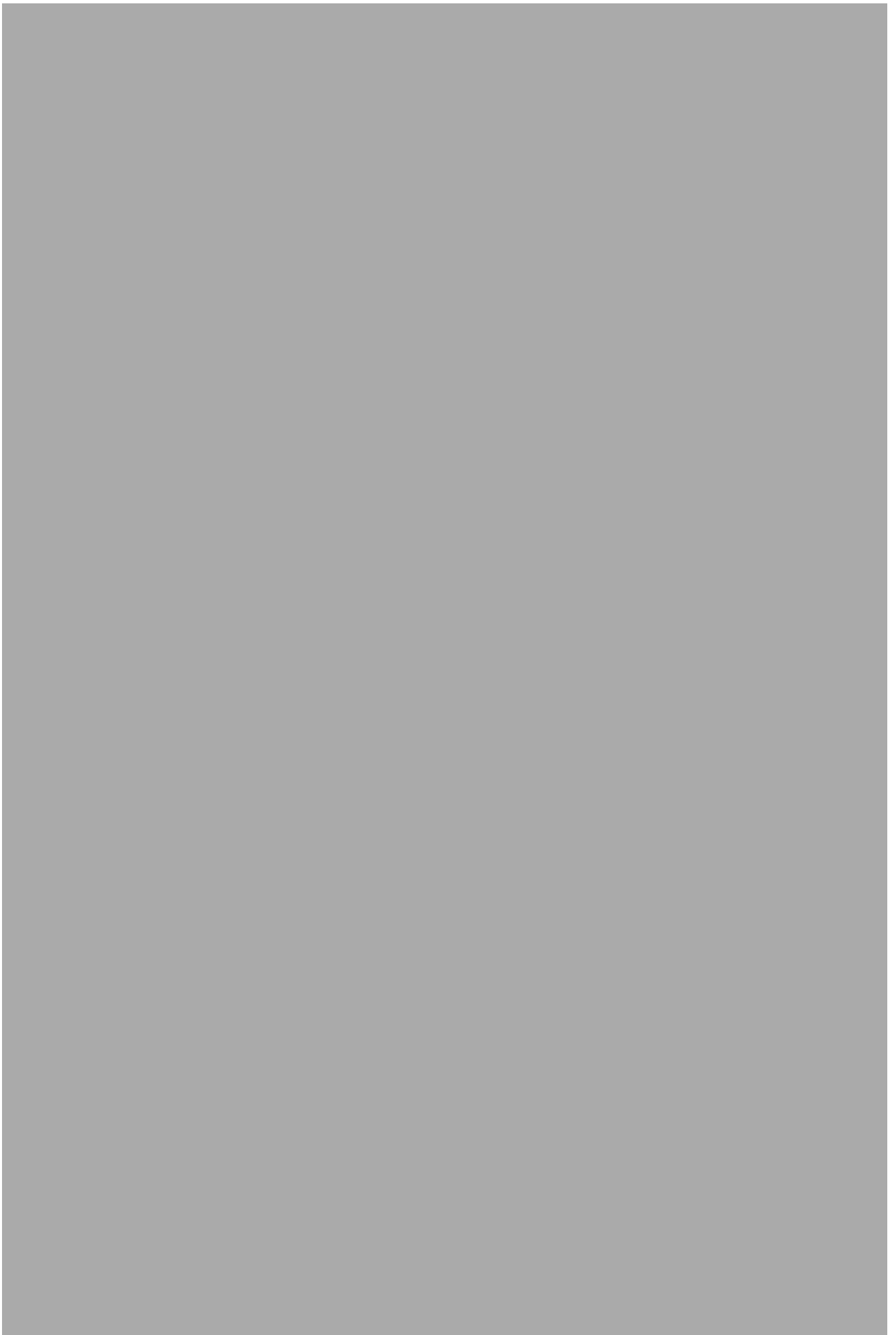
*Warren Schofield*

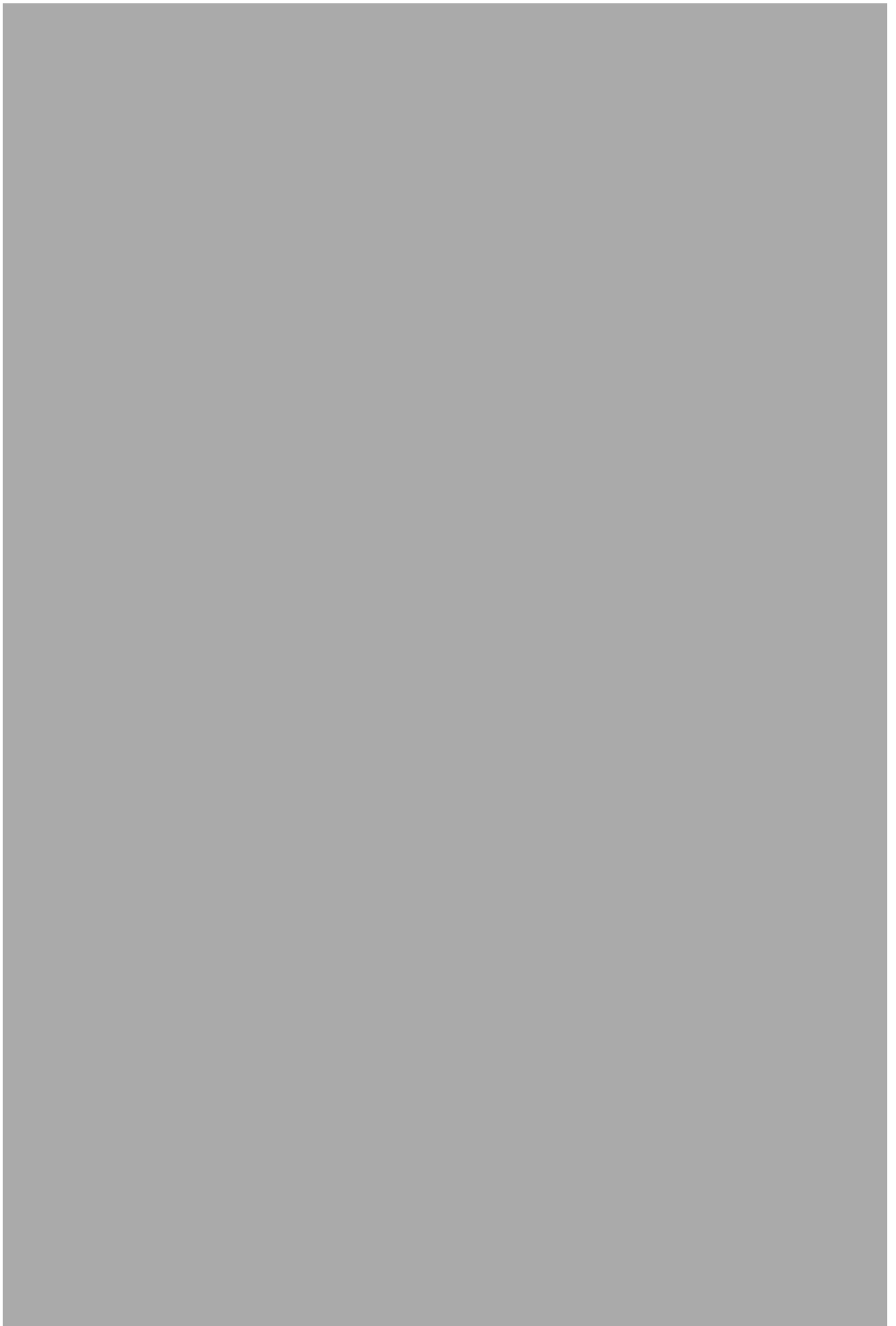
**Director**  
**ACT Biosecurity and Rural Services**  
**Environment Protection and Sustainable Development Directorate**  
[warren.schofield@act.gov.au](mailto:warren.schofield@act.gov.au)  
**Mob** [REDACTED]

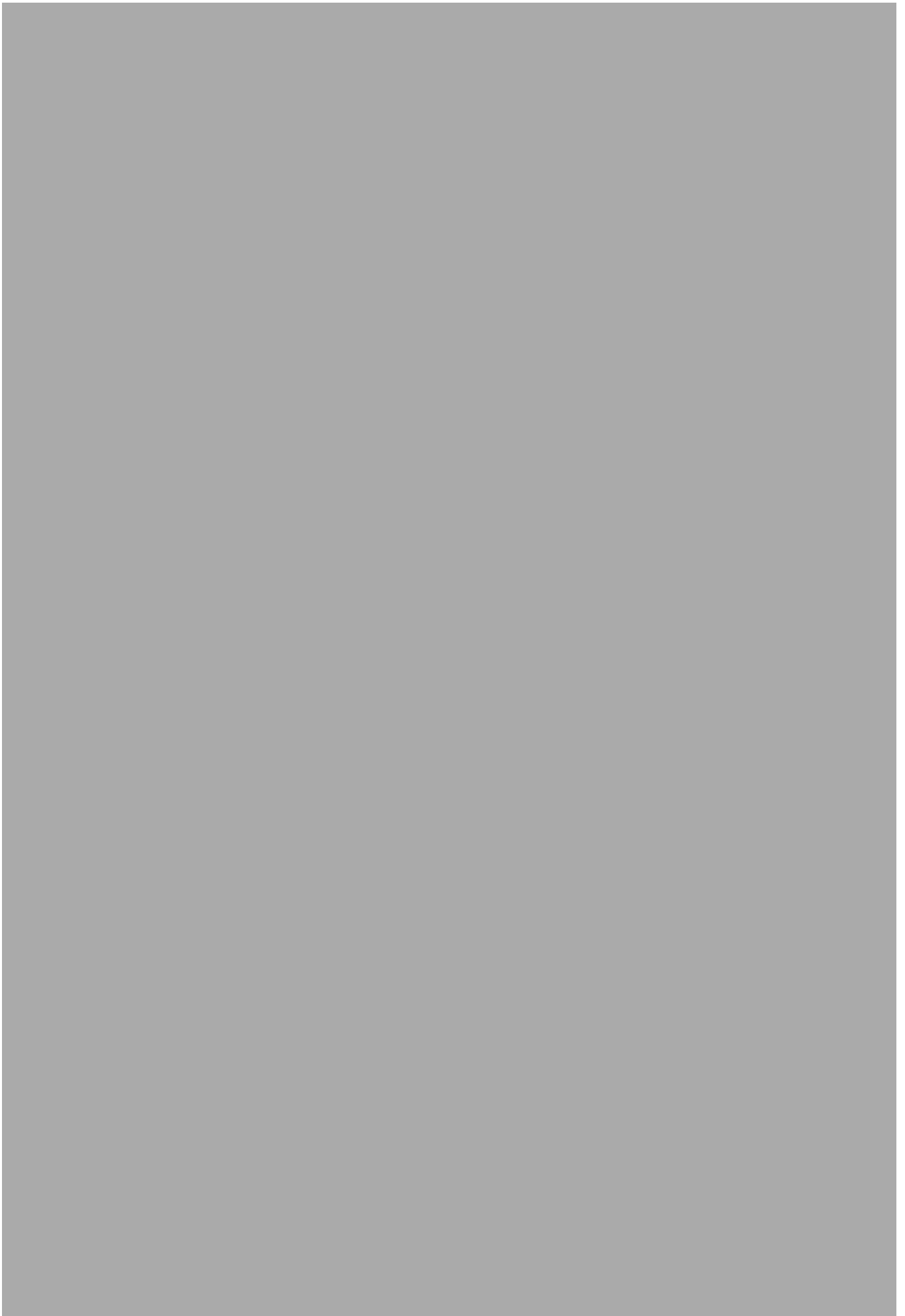
Dog Number	Plan Area	Specified Location	Date	Datum, Zone	Eastings	Northings	Sex	Weight (KG)	Colour













Wild dog control  
map 2006-1/7/2023  
(ACT TRAPPER &  
CONTRACTORS)

703 data points  
(DOGS TRAPPED  
OR SHOT)

