

PIRSA

Dog Fence Board

Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

1 February – 31 May 2020



Dog Fence Board - Activity, Inspection & Condition Report

Information current as of 17 August 2020

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Objective

This report, prepared by the Dog Fence Board, provides Dog Fence stakeholders with a quarterly report summarising Board and staff activities, and Dog Fence maintenance and repair activities undertaken by Local Dog Fence Boards and the private owner.

Key activities

Dog Fence Board

During the reporting period:

- Board staff undertook training in first aid and forklift use.
- Newly appointed Board staff had numerous introductory meetings with Patrolmen and Dog Fence stakeholders.
- The Board carried out improvements to the Dog Fence Board's inventory system for the accounting of fencing material stocks at the Lyndhurst depot and at locations along the fence. This system meets the Dog Fence Board's auditing requirements.
- The Board commenced the development of a secure fencing material stock usage and access system for Dog Fence Board staff, patrolmen, and contractors. Assessed option of assigning shipping containers to patrolmen to improve stock accessibility.
- The Board started reviewing the strategic distribution of fence material stock along the fence.
- The Inspector, Dog Fences reviewed the stacking and storage of materials at the Lyndhurst depot. Successfully applied for funding to increase depot capacity through the purchase of a pallet racking system.
- Board staff consulted with Local Dog Fence Boards, Patrolmen, and PIRSA Rural Chemicals Branch, to review and develop improved systems and records for the supply, manufacture, and administration of 1080 and strychnine. Review storage and use of chemicals by patrolmen.
- The Board distributed a total of 1280 manufactured 1080 baits to patrolmen for deployment along fence.
- The Inspector, Dog Fences investigated available options for granulated herbicides to manage weeds along the fence. Trial site set up on West Coast with other trial sites identified.
- The Board trialled 2 different wild dog alarms for use on Dog Fence grids/ramps. The first unit is a \$200 Spypoint alarm that uses AA batteries, has the ability to vary the alarm tone by MP3, and sounds at 85Db. The second unit worth around \$850 comes from Advance Communications, is fully self-contained within a security box, runs from a 12 volt solar system and sounds at 120Db. Following the trial, funds to purchase 18 Advance Communications units was sought and awarded and the units have now been delivered. 18 units allows for 2 to be installed on each grid/ramp along the Dog Fence and 2 units to be kept as spares.

Contractors

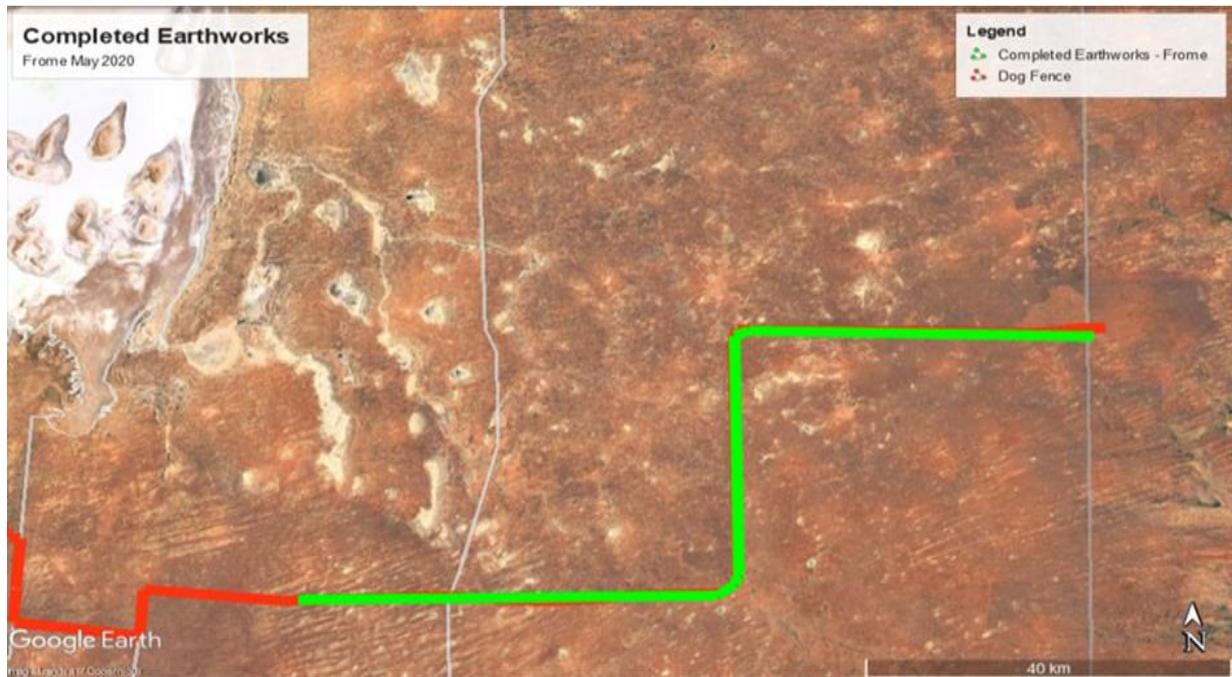
Significant earthworks were required along the Dog Fence from the Billeroo West section to the NSW border. These works were carried out by an earthmoving contractor working under instruction of the Frome Local Dog Fence Board to manage the substantial amount of sand drift built up along the fence as a result of the current drought. This work minimises the need for the Patrolmen to top the fence to maintain it at an acceptable height and also maintains an access track for fence inspections. A D6H Dozer and 120H Grader have been used to shift the sand, with a combined 432 plant work hours undertaken.



Dozer and grader working with sand drift in foreground



Dozer with angle blade showing volume of sand requiring movement



Inspections & patrols

Dog Fence Board

During the reporting period the Dog Fence Board undertook the following inspections:

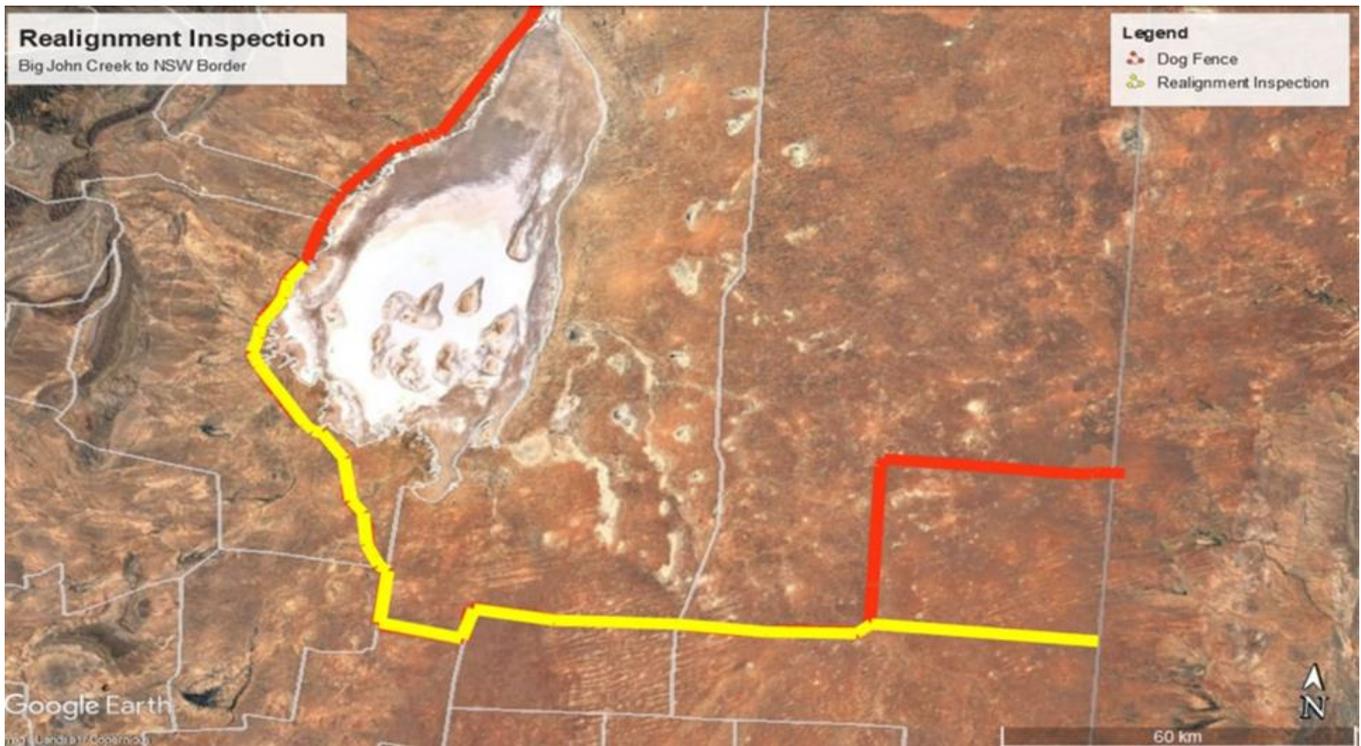
Realignment inspection	
Date	5 May – 8 May 2020
Section/s	Frome
Location description	Big John Creek to the NSW Border
Inspected by	Dog Fence Rebuild Inspector, Dog Fence Board Member, Frome LDFB Secretary, Frome Patrolman, earthmoving contractor.
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspected potential realignment across Mulyungarie, along Chocolate Strip. • Inspected sand removal works. • Inspected fence topping works. • Repaired grid alarms on Tea Tree Road grids. • Inspected sand and track issues north of Erudina. • Weed control needed along Frome/Wertalooona boundary. • No wild dog activity observed. • Fence in a dog-proof condition.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Board consider approving a realignment of the Dog Fence across Mulyungarie via the Chocolate Strip.



Landholder infrastructure will need to be considered during Chocolate Strip realignment



Vegetation requiring management growing in fence



Earthworks Program Development Inspection

Date	22 May 2020
Section/s	Frome
Location description	Billeroo West to Wertalooona, ending at Big John Creek
Inspected by	Dog Fence Rebuild Inspector, Earthmoving contractor
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspected completed sand removal works. • Inspected sand and track issues north of Erudina. • Developed a work plan with the Frome Local Dog Fence Board for future earthworks north of Erudina to Big John Creek • No wild dog activity observed. • Fence in a dog-proof condition.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Dog Fence Board continue to support the Frome Local Dog Fence Board to carry out sand removal and track maintenance works north of Erudina to Big John Creek.



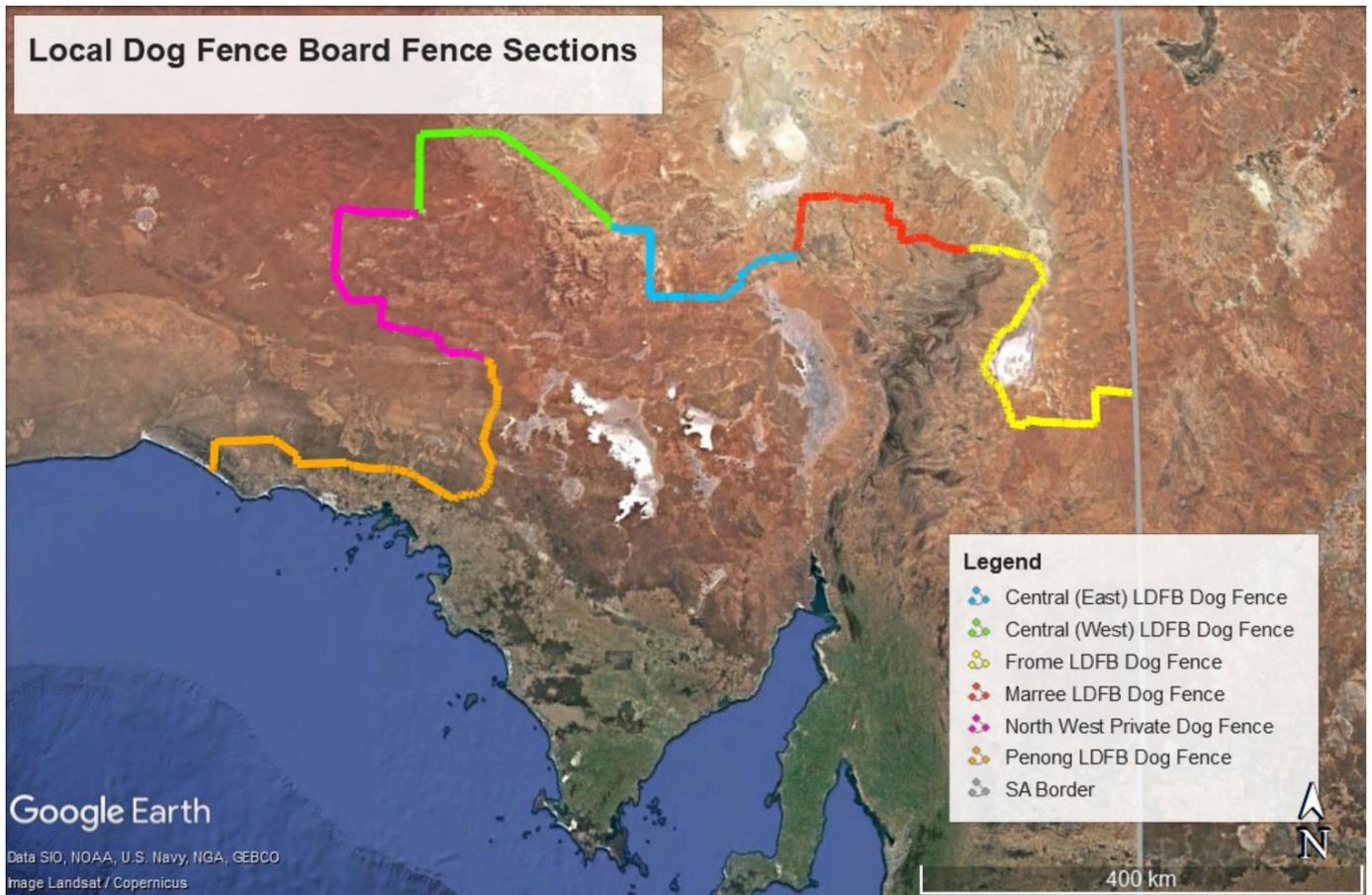
Local Dog Fence Boards & private owner

During the reporting period:

- The entire length of the fence was inspected at a minimum of every 14 days by the Patrolmen.
- All Patrolmen baited at a minimum rate of 1 bait per kilometre.
- Patrolmen in the Central, Marree and Frome sections carried out urgent repairs to damaged fence and floodgates following heavy rain in these areas in February.
- Patrolmen in the Penong, North West Private and Central West sections experienced some camel damage and undertook camel control.
- Patrolmen in the Frome and Marree sections reported wild dog activity on both sides of the fence at levels well below the levels seen in these areas over the last couple of years
- Dogs were reported trying to dig under the fence in the Marree section on several occasions.
- Sand drift due to dry conditions in the Frome section resulted in the Frome Patrolman carrying out significant fence topping works to insure the fence was maintained at a dog-proof height.



Damage in the Central West section typical of the February flooding



Conclusion

The Dog Fence Board will focus efforts in coming months on:

- All Board Members undertaking an inspection of the eastern half of the Dog Fence, which they have scheduled for September.
- Continuing work to manage sand along the Frome section.
- Developing a long term investment strategy to fund the ongoing maintenance of the Dog Fence.
- Reviewing the Dog Fence rates, rateable area with a view to better sharing the rates burden across a greater number of properties who benefit from the fence.
- Developing a plan to manage weeds along the fence.
- Installing new alarms on grids/ramps.
- Working with the Local Dog Fence Boards to improve management of camels along the fence.

