



Wild Dog Bounty & Retainer Policy

INTRODUCTION

Wild dogs are a restricted invasive animal under the *Biosecurity Act 2014* and are a priority invasive animal pest under the Draft BSC Biosecurity Plan. The general biosecurity obligation in the Act requires everyone to minimise the risks associated with invasive animals and plants under their control.

As part of its integrated pest management systems under the Draft BSC Biosecurity Plan, Council may provide incentive schemes to manage animal and plan priority pests.

The Wild Dog Bounty and Retainer incentive scheme is funded from a landholder pest management levy that is intended to be annually reviewed

BSC receives advice on the control of wild dogs, and the use of incentive schemes, from a Wild Dog Advisory Committee (WDAC) that includes representatives from landholder syndicates, DAF, Agforce, and other stakeholders. The syndicates retain trappers to assist landholders.

SCOPE

This policy relates to Council's wild dog bounty and retainer incentive scheme to support landholders to meet their requirements under the legislation to control wild dogs.

It relates to the registration and retention of trappers retained by landholder syndicates, to landholders and other casual persons engaged in the destruction of wild dogs, and to Council's officers involved in the administration of the scheme.

The policy includes procedures for trapper registration, verifying and documenting dog destruction, processing claims via the presentation of wild dog scalps, and documenting wild dog destruction.

OBJECTIVES

The key objectives of the Wild Dog Bounty and Retainer Policy are to:

- Ensure best practice in the management of wild dog control;
- To enhance, protect and sustain the environment through effective Biosecurity priority invasive animal pests.
- Ensure all legislative requirements are adhered to.
- Ensure compliance and the reduction of any potential fraud associated with presenting wild dog scalps to claim bounty and retainer monies and and the disposal of scalps.
- Ensure improved data collection to inform tactics relating to wild dog control

DEFINITIONS

Act – means the Biosecurity Act 2014

Applicant – Balonne Shire Landholder or Registered Trapper



Wild Dog Bounty & Retainer Policy

Bounty – A predetermined amount of money paid to an individual upon satisfactory evidence of the destruction of a specified animal

BSC – Balonne Shire Council (Council)

BSWDAC – Balonne Shire Wild Dog Advisory Committee

CEO – Chief Executive Officer

Retainer – A predetermined amount of money paid to a registered trapper (in this case per destroyed dog) to retain their skilled services and availability on an ad hoc basis.

Registered Trapper – A person skilled in feral animal control, retained by Syndicates and registered with BSC

(Wild Dog) Syndicate – A group of landholders cooperating to control wild dogs

Wild Dog – refers collectively to dingoes, dingo hybrids, feral dogs and domestic dogs that have escaped or been released

WILD DOG BOUNTY AND RETAINER POLICY

BSC will provide an annually-reviewed incentive scheme to support landholders to meet their requirements under the Biosecurity Act 2014 and Draft BSC Biosecurity Plan to control wild dogs.

A *retention payment* of \$300 (or otherwise as per Council's approved annual budget) will be made directly to wild dog landholder Syndicate trappers who are registered with BSC for each wild dog scalp presented that resulted from a wild dog destroyed within Balonne Shire. The Syndicate may match or partially match this payment.

A *bounty payment* of \$100 (or otherwise as per Council's approved fees and charges) will be made directly to landholders, registered trappers or casual persons for each wild dog scalp presented that resulted from a wild dog destroyed within Balonne Shire. The Syndicate may match or partially match this payment.

Syndicate trappers must register with Council through Vendor Panel as a contractor and hold appropriate licences and insurance.

Trappers and bounty applicants must comply with and complete the procedure associated with verification and recording of dog destruction, and applying for payment of bounty and retainer monies.

Council authorises administration and rural services officers to provide information, process trapper registrations and bounty and retainer applications, and ensure the destruction of dog scalps. Council officers must comply with and complete associated procedures and forms.

Wild dog bounty and retainer payments will be funded from Council's landholder pest management levy, which is reviewed annually.



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TRAPPER REGISTRATION PROCESS

Trappers approved by Syndicates:

1. must register as a contractor with BSC online via Vendor Panel, and meet associated requirements, such as public liability insurance and appropriate licences
2. must register with BSC Rural Services as using the Feral Scan (Wild Dog Scan) App on their smart phone for GPS location of destroyed dogs and associated data (www.feralscan.org.au)

SCALP BOUNTY AND RETAINER APPLICATION PROCESS

On Site

1. GPS points and associated data relating to each destroyed dog uploaded to the Feral Scan (Wild Dog Scan) App from www.feralscan.org.au
2. Full scalp retained from the destroyed dog
3. Letter from the landowner or manager of the property confirming the wild dog(s) are from their property (template: www.balonne.qld.gov.au)

At Council Reception

4. Scalps to be delivered to the Council office. Full scalps only, to be dried or frozen without decomposition and presented in a sealed bag/container.
5. Scalps to be transferred to an authorised Council officer.
6. Completion of a *Claim for Wild Dog Bounty Payment* form (at reception), including number of scalps and associated payment, and signed by the applicant and the receiving Council officer. A copy of the applicant's driver's license is to accompany a first claim together with bank account details for the payment to be made.
 - a. Include a Commonwealth *Statutory Declaration* (form www.balonne.qld.gov.au or at reception) signed by the applicant and endorsed by an authorised Council officer Justice of the Peace, that destroyed dogs were taken from identified Balonne Shire properties.
 - b. Include Letter from landholder confirming dog location
 - c. Receiving Council officer to sight uploaded Feral Scan (Wild Dog Scan) App data and GPS points.
 - d. Where the applicant is a retained trapper the Receiving Council officer is to verify that retained trappers are registered and that Claim details are completed.
7. The applicant to be given a copy of the signed Claim form.



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SCALP DESTRUCTION PROCESS

1. The receiving officer at Council reception must sign the *Claim for Wild Dog Bounty Payment* form confirming that the scalps have been sighted and match the information on the Claim form and the *Certificate of Destruction* section of the form prior to the Application being processed for payment.
2. The receiving officer then either:
 - a. requests an authorised officer from Rural Services disposes of the scalps; or
 - b. where an officer is unavailable, takes the scalps and temporarily stores them in their bag, with an identifying label, in a dedicated freezer within the Council offices.
3. An authorised Rural Services officer is to collect the scalps for disposal
4. The scalps are incinerated at the St George Landfill, with the Rural Services officer sighting they have been completely burned.
5. If the scalps are too wet to burn the fur is to be sprayed with an oil-based fluorescent paint (to avoid potential re-use) and buried at the St George Landfill animal section.
6. The authorised Rural Services officer then completes and signs a 'Certificate of Destruction' section on the original 'Claim for Wild Dog Bounty Payment' form and the original form is then sent to accounts payable (a duplicate remains in the Wild Dog Bounty & Retainer Claims Folder).

SCALP BOUNTY AND RETAINER PAYMENT

1. Completed forms will be processed by Council Accounts Payable staff. Council's payment terms are monthly.
2. The bounty or retainer is to be paid into the claimant's bank account. No cash is involved.
3. Syndicates to be notified monthly of any retainer payments to registered trappers

RELATED POLICIES & REGULATIONS

- Biosecurity Act 2014
- Balonne Shire Draft Biosecurity Plan
- Balonne Shire Wild Dog Management Plan 2019-2024

REVIEW OF POLICY

To be reviewed in July each year, or as required.



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Appendix A: Supporting Wild Dog Advisory Committee and Landholder Syndicates

WILD DOG ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Balonne Shire Wild Dog Advisory Committee (BSWDAC) was established in 2008 to encourage best practice management of wild dogs with all stakeholders in the Shire to help reduce their impacts on the landholders. BSWDAC is led and managed by Landholders to work with the Balonne Shire Council.

The BSWDAC meets a minimum of two (2) times a year or as required and helps coordinate syndicates of landholders to support wild dog control at a local level.

WILD DOG LANDHOLDER SYNDICATES

Landholder syndicates are groups of landholders that retain trappers and organise cooperative wild dog control. Currently Syndicates levy members to match or partially match BSC wild dog bounty and retainer payments. This policy requires retained trappers to be registered with Council as contractors.

Balonne Shire comprises five (5) syndicate areas. In 2019 these were:

- **North - Central Zone (Mitchell-St George Road/Boolba)**
- **North – East Zone (Moonie Highway/St George)**
- **South – East Zone (Nindigully/Thallon)**
- **Western Zone (Bollon)**
- **Southern Zone (Dirranbandi/Hebel/Mungindi)**

(Refer to Attached Map)