

**SUBMISSION TO QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT'S
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

WILD DOG CHECK FENCES

SUBMITTED BY:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Regional wild dog check fencing is a more cost effective way to build, maintain, and share the benefits of check fencing, and will not result in those landholders located on the edge of a region ultimately bearing the cost of wild dog control to the benefit of the greater region.

Government funding for wild dog check fencing should be on going beyond the current drought.

Government funding should not be narrowly restricted to cluster fencing.

A region could be a Council area or part there of, which would require Local Authority support and State Government support for a regional check fence.

SUBMISSION:

I strongly support a regionally based wild dog check fence for the following reasons:

- A regionally based fence would cost less than the cumulated cost of numerous clusters within the region.
- Maintenance of a check fence is of paramount importance for effective wild dog control. Maintenance of a regional fence would be paid for on a regional basis (eg Local Authority levy) and be maintained to a prescribed standard by a third party other than the landholder.
- If a region becomes fenced under a mosaic of cluster fences, once the outer perimeter of the region is fenced, then all the landholders inside the outer perimeter are protected, and will no longer need to maintain their fences. As was the case in the old Longreach Shire a small number of landholders actively using 1080 baiting kept the wild dogs off much of the shire. It is unreasonable to expect those landholders located on the sheep/ cattle interface on the edge of a region to erect and maintain a fence to protect people well inside the region.
- A regional fence is a much more equitable way to share the construction costs, maintenance costs and benefits of a wild dog check fence.

I strongly support on going funding for a regional wild dog check fence.

Subject to a final funding model:

- There are landholders currently totally, or near totally, destocked due to drought. An income stream will have to be rebuilt over the next 3 to 5 years. Right now these landholders are simply not in a position to build a wild dog check fence. It would be a perverse outcome if funding was totally tied to drought relief measures as those most in need may not be able to avail of the assistance **because** of the drought.
- Government assistance for a regional fence should have more landholders benefiting in a shorter time than if a region has to be fenced under a number of cluster fences.

I strongly support funding for linear fences and do not agree that funding only be available for cluster fencing.

- Linear fences could ultimately form part of the regional fence boundary.
- Linear fences require fewer landholders to be involved to achieve an outcome.
- Linear fences can establish the primary frontal barrier to wild dog movement, and may create a concentration of wild dogs to effect baiting control.

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REFERENCES:

LPM Creative Rural Solutions, "Wild Dog Check Fence. Feasibility Study", Oct, 2013.