# POLICY: WILD DOG BOUNTY

## Purpose
The purpose of this policy is to reduce the negative impacts of wild dogs on livestock and biodiversity within Barcoo Shire by providing a financial incentive for their control through a bounty program.

## Policy Statement
Barcoo Shire Council will pay a bounty for each wild dog destroyed by landholders, property managers or authorised trappers within the Shire, as an incentive for the control and reduction of wild dogs, in accordance with the *Biosecurity Act 2014* (Qld).

## Scope
This policy applies to all Council employees managing or administering the recording, coordinating, verifying or processing claims for wild dog bounties.

## Definitions
**Authorised Trapper:** a pest animal trapper or shooter engaged by Council or by a landholder or property manager to destroy wild dogs in a given area within the Barcoo Shire .

**Bounty:** a predetermined amount of money, set by a decision of Barcoo Shire Council, paid to an individual upon satisfactory evidence of the destruction of a specified animal.

**Wild dog:** refers collectively to purebred dingoes (Canis familiaris dingo, Canis lupus dingo) dingo hybrids, and feral or domestic dogs (Canis lupus familiaris) that have escaped or been deliberately released.

**Wild dog scalp:** refers to a single piece of wild dog skin from tip of tail to nose that includes the ears.

## Responsibilities
**Chief Executive Officer:** approves bounty claims for payment.

**Group Manager, Town and Services:** leads and manages Council's pest management program and services.

**Rural Lands Officer:** the delegated officer responsible for verifying wild dog management activities and coordinating activity in cooperation with landowners, property managers and authorised trappers.

**Claimants:** must ensure that wild dogs are destroyed humanely. Trapping of wild dogs must comply with the National Code of Practice for the humane control of wild dogs and Humane Pest Animal Control National Standard Operating Procedures (NATSOPs DOG001 to DOG003).

## Control methods
Barcoo Shire Council employs a range of pest management methods to minimise negative impacts of wild dogs on the livelihoods of domestic livestock producers, and more broadly the negative impact on the biodiversity of the region.

In cooperation with landowners and property managers, Barcoo Shire Council manages and coordinates an annual pest animal baiting program.

To supplement that program, Barcoo Shire Council incentivises the destruction of wild dogs by authorised individuals, by trapping or shooting.

## Claims

- Wild dogs must be located and destroyed within Barcoo Shire.
- Claims must be made no longer than one month from the date of destruction.
- Barcoo Shire Council's Bounty Claim Form must be completed, verified and signed by the landholder or manager of the property confirming that the destroyed wild dogs are from their property.
- Animals must be dealt with humanely in compliance with the National Code of Practice for the humane control of wild dogs and Humane Pest Animal Control National Standard Operating Procedures (NATSOPs DOG001 to DOG003).
- Fraudulent claims will result in disqualification and possible prosecution.

## Evidence

*Electronic recording*

- All scalp claims must be accompanied by photographs with embedded date and location metadata.
- Barcoo Shire Council encourages the use of the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions "FeralScan" App for the recording of feral animal information, including photographs. FeralScan enables the collection of data about feral animals that can assist in planning and decision making.

*Scalps*

- In addition to electronic records, wild dog scalps must be produced as evidence of wild dog destruction.
- A scalp must be taken from each wild dog and handed over to the Rural Lands Officer, by appointment, as part of the verification process.
- Scalps must be presented within one month of destruction.
- Scalps must include a full skin strip from the nose to the ears. Note that scalps from unborn pups will not be accepted.

## Governing Legislation, Regulations and Standards

*Biosecurity Act 2014 (Qld)*

Biosecurity Regulation 2016 (Qld)

*Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 (Qld)*

*Environmental Protection Act 1994 (Qld)*

*Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld)*

*Land Act 1994 (Qld)*

*Local Government Act 2009 (Qld)*

*Local Government Regulation 2012 (Qld)*

National Code of Practice for the humane control of wild dogs

Humane Pest Animal Control National Standard Operating Procedures:

- Trapping of wild dogs using padded-jaw traps (NATSOP-DOG001)
- Trapping of wild dogs using cage traps (NATSOP-DOG002)
- Ground shooting of wild dogs (NATSOP-DOG003)

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| **Policy Owner:** | Chief Executive Officer |
| **Policy Reference No.:** | BSC – 067 |
| **Related Policies and References:** | National Wild Dog Action Plan |
| **Related Forms:** | Wild Dog Bounty Form |
| **Version:** | 2 |
| **Council Resolution No:** | 2026.05.008 |
| **Date Approved:** | 20 May 2026 |
| **Review:** | This policy is to be reviewed annually or when there is a significant change in accepted systems or practices. |