

Hon Tim Whetstone MP

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

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Wild dog days numbered under new bounty

A \$100,000 bounty scheme to support drought-affected farmers reduce the pressure from wild dogs begins today.

Announced as part of the Marshall Liberal Government's \$21 million drought package, the wild dog bounty offers landowners and pastoralists \$120 per wild dog killed on their land.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Tim Whetstone said the wild dog bounty will provide financial support to pastoralists in the outback and farmers suffering through extended drought conditions.

"The impact of wild dogs on the pastoral regions is significant, costing livestock producers almost \$90 million every year," said Minister Whetstone.

"That's why the Marshall Liberal Government has allocated \$100,000 to the bounty scheme to not only assist in reducing wild dog numbers but to provide extra income for drought-affected farmers.

"While only landholders will be able to collect the bounty, shooters are able to hunt the dogs where they are invited to do so by farmers.

"Given the current need to reduce non-essential travel to slow down the spread of coronavirus, it is important shooters do not go to farming areas to hunt dogs without specific permission of the landholder.

"We know tackling wild dog populations in South Australia requires a multi-pronged approach.

"The bounty adds to our Government's integrated wild dog control program, which includes the \$25 million Dog Fence rebuild project, coordinated wild dog ground and aerial baiting programs and an expanded trapper program.

"The wild dog bounty is an important element of the Government's \$21 million Drought Support Program to help those in need.

"The Marshall Liberal Government has again demonstrated its commitment to South Australia's primary producers and regions by delivering for pastoralists and helping to protect our valuable \$4.2 billion livestock industry.

"Our \$21 million Drought Support Package provides immediate financial assistance with council rate and pastoral lease rent rebates, improved mental health outreach services as well as extra resources to help control wild dogs which can have devastating impacts for our pastoralists by driving sheep off farming lands.

"We are proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with South Australian farmers and will continue to work closely with the Federal Government to ensure support is being provided in a practical and efficient way."



The bounty will only be paid to landholders, who must submit photographic evidence of each dog killed humanely on their land for verification. Further criteria and full details on how to submit claims are available at www.pir.sa.gov.au/wilddogbounty

The bounty scheme will run until 30 June 2021, or until the allocated funding is exhausted.