

Pest Camera Project

Update 1: March 2018

Welcome to the first project update! I trust your properties are looking lovely and green after some great rain recently.

Thank you for all the reports and photos.

- Participating landholders manage nearly 10,000ha throughout the area
- We have cameras across the localities of Kogan, Brigalow, Hopelands, Montrose, Jandowae, Auburn, Baking Board, Goombi, Burncluith, and Chances Plains
- Participants are monitoring wild dogs, dingoes, foxes, cats, rabbits, brumbies, and feral pigs

Locality report, in alphabetical order:

Auburn

Cameras noted two cats (one later eradicated), three foxes and two wild dogs.

Baking Board

Cameras caught a picture of the biggest dingoes the landholder has ever seen! Photo evidence still to come...



Brigalow

Participants noted numerous foxes, the occasional feral pig, and steadily increasing rabbit populations. One participant has successfully trapped 4 dingoes over the reporting period.



Burncluith

7 inches of rain brought down fences, which allowed an influx of brumbies. Yet to capture them on camera though.

Chances Plains

A regularly visiting fox was noted on the camera.



Goombi

2 male dingoes eradicated, with the landholder reporting hearing more. A carcass was attracting up to 3 dingoes and 7 pigs at a time.

Hopelands

Participants reported some fox activity, plus dingoes and dogs, often numerous at a time caught on camera.

Jandowae

Multiple dogs, plus a cat, fox and rabbit were reported.

Kogan

A participant reported one dog (the same dog), visiting every few days between 3am and 4am. Neighbourly relationships built during this project have worked to eradicate this dog, but no luck so far.



I would like to share an excerpt of one report with you, which I found particularly interesting:

“The foxes and wild dogs were of particular interest to us as we run sheep and both can be particularly detrimental. We do run Maremmas with our sheep and haven’t had any taken since lambing last year when we had two lambs taken by a dog moving through the property. These lambs and their ewes had escaped from the paddock that was protected by the Maremmas.

Prior to the introduction of the Maremmas (and building a good pack of dogs) we lost in excess of 15 ewes and about 30-50 lambs (hard to know exact numbers as some were being taken before we knew they had been born). Since having good dogs we have only had the couple lost at last years lambing and potentially a couple more from this recent sighting as we had a couple of premmy lambs that have been struggling to keep up with the mob which we haven't sighted for a few weeks.

We also set up another camera on one of our auto dog feeders just to see what was coming to that as well and make sure we weren’t feeding the problem, literally. From this camera we mainly got birds (crows, minors and the odd eagle), a couple of cats and one fox but they weren’t coming with any regularity (only spotted on a couple of occasions) for this to be of concern.”

A few tips for avoid photos of... nothing!

- Try whipper snipping long grass that is in front of the camera (I am told this won’t disrupt your feral visitors, but feedback is welcome!)
- Break off branches that will blow in front of the camera when it is windy
- Tie up the tail of the strap you attached the camera to the tree/post with, so it can’t blow in front of the camera



- Turn down the sensitivity (see right): Turn on the camera. Hold down the OK button for 3 seconds until you get a screen. Press M button. Press arrow right, then down arrow to the first line 'Sensitivity', and then press OK. Use the arrow down to reduce the sensitivity, then press OK. Pressing M twice then returns you to the camera screen.



- Change your settings to have the camera take just photos (not video), as 5000 photos are quicker and easier to look through than 5000 videos! That is in the menu, under Cam (first tab), then Cam Mode.
- When you get sick of it, give up and move your camera to a new location!

Christmas came for this dingo, near Jandowae:



Until next quarter, best of luck with your feral animal control!

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