



AgForce mobilises wild dog army across Scenic Rim, Lockyer Valley

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MORE than 200 landholders from across the Scenic Rim and Lockyer Valley armed themselves with the tools and knowledge to help tackle the region's wild dog problem at AgForce predator control workshops in Boonah and Mulgowie last week.

The workshops, hosted by AgForce and Biosecurity Queensland, with the support of local government, aimed to ramp up the fight against feral pests, in particular wild dogs, which continue to have a devastating impact on the region's agricultural industries, economy and native flora and fauna.

Senior Wild Dog Officer, Biosecurity Queensland, Clynton Spencer, said the wild dog problem was a serious issue for the region and urgent action was needed.

"Wild dogs can be hugely destructive to native animals and to stock," Mr Spencer said.

"The most important part of this fight is to get neighbours talking with each other about the problems they are facing from wild dogs and the actions they are taking.

"Effective pest management won't work unless we are all working together across the landscape - pest management is one in, all in."

Mr Spencer said land managers were best placed to directly control wild dogs but they need to be smart and strategic about their control approach.

"There are a number of control techniques including baiting, trapping, fencing and shooting, but the only silver bullet is you, the landholder, working with your neighbours in a combined control and management effort everywhere and all the time," he said.

"We need all the tools on the ground at the same time, so you need to be talking and coordinating actions with your neighbours."

Further key speakers included Phillip Sutherland, Wild Dog Officer Biosecurity Queensland; Damien Ferguson, AgForce Projects Feral Animal Project Coordinator; Greg Mifsud, National Wild Dog Facilitator, Invasive Animals CRC and Ted Parish, AgForce Projects Industry Recovery Officer; Jamie Dennison, Animal Control Technologies Australia; and Damian Byrne, Western Trapping Supplies

All attendees received a free wild dog trap, provided with the support of AWI. For more information about AgForce trapping workshops call 3238 6048 or visit www.agforceprojects.org.au.

Photo caption: Senior Wild Dog Officer, Biosecurity Queensland, Clynton Spencer conducting a wild dog trapping demonstration.

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