



RAPAD QUEENSLAND FERAL PEST INITIATIVE

Queensland Feral Pest Initiative RAPAD Cluster Fencing Project Round 1: March 2016 – April 2018

FINAL REPORT: **Section 1**



The Queensland Feral Pest Initiative has received funding through the Queensland Government to support the growth of a productive and prosperous food and fibre sector in Queensland, and the Australian Government Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper, the Australian Government's plan for stronger farmers and a stronger economy.

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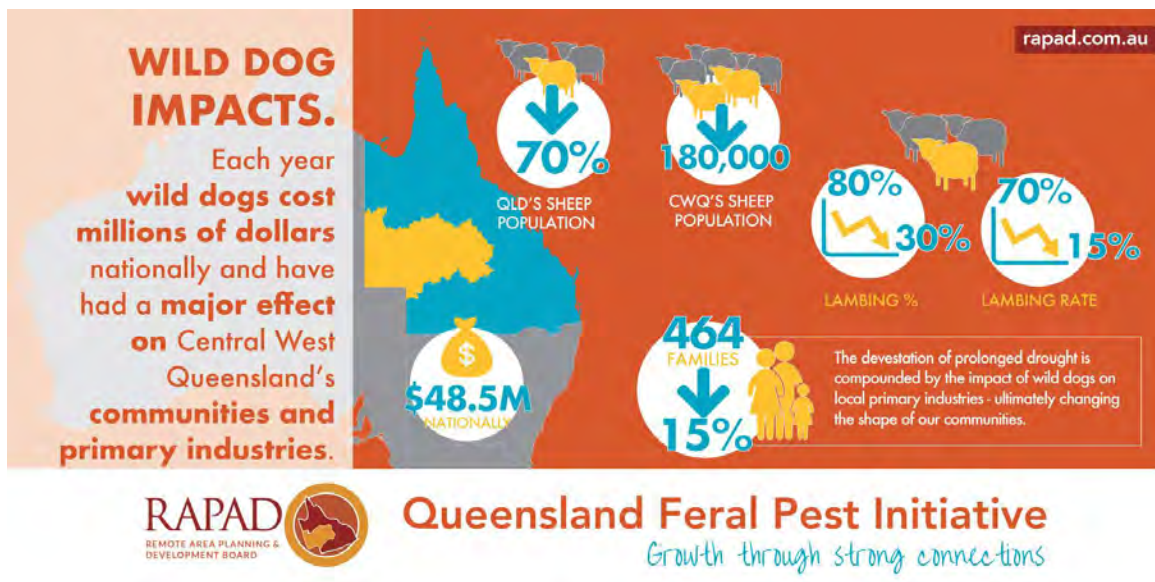
Project Summary

In 2016 the Central West Remote Area Planning and Development Board (RAPAD), operating through the Queensland Feral Pest Initiative (QFPI), was successful in its bid to deliver a project under the Australian Government Pest Animals and Weeds (AGPAW) program for cluster fencing arrangements in areas with high wild dog density.

RAPAD was allocated \$5.25 million for the project including 7.5% in administrative overheads as outlined by DAF allowing \$4.85m for fencing. The funding was significantly oversubscribed with 36 applications amounting to over \$10m. As a result only 50% of applicants were able to be funded.

An independent technical committee of industry leaders was engaged to assess the applications and provide recommendations to the Board. The technical committee consisted of Greg Mifsud, National Wild Dog Facilitator, Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre and Brett Carlsson, Queensland Wild Dog Coordinator, AgForce. The technical committee was supported by Jenny Milson, Senior Rangelands Scientist, DAF Longreach and chaired by independent RAPAD Board member Cr Rick Britton, Boulia Shire Mayor.

18 applications were recommended for funding by the technical committee and all endorsed unanimously by the RAPAD Board, Four Mile, Clifton¹, Moonbria, Mekaree, Fysh-Rae, Yaraka (both east and west), Lagoon Creek, West Alice, Barcoo South, North Aramac, Bellabad, Clover Hills, McGavin, Beaconsfield, Katherine Creek, Northern Barcoo and Summer Hill. Barcoo South voluntarily withdrew and were replaced by South Ilfracombe 12 Mile Cluster. Way out West Cluster was funded 71%. (Under this arrangement Way out West committed to building its entire fence with only 71% funding however the remaining 29% was allocated from Round 2 funding). See map attached.



¹ Although Clifton cluster was majority funded by RAPAD this report reflects the agreement between DAF, RAPAD and SWNRM which sees SWNRM report on Clifton.

The project delivered*:

Cluster Name	RAPAD Funding	Area Fenced/ Feral Animal Control [Ha]	Fence length [km]	Properties Involved	Landholder In-Kind \$	Total Project costs	In-kind %
4 Mile	\$143,100.00	31,969	53	3	\$380,270.44	\$523,370.44	73%
Moonbria	\$237,600.00	34,318	88	6	\$ 303,149.37	\$540,749.37	56%
Mekaree	\$139,050.00	53,427	52	6	\$161,920.95	\$300,970.95	54%
Fysh-Rea	\$264,330.00	33,973	98	3	\$364,676.74	\$629,006.74	58%
Yaraka	\$925,535.70	188,200	343	14	\$1,728,736.41	\$2,654,272.11	65%
Lagoon Creek	\$192,240.00	39,035	71	9	\$548,967.83	\$741,207.83	74%
West Alice	\$296,460.00	90,377	110	7	\$876,007.77	\$1,172,467.77	75%
North Aramac	\$534,600.00	78,117	198	3	\$1,660,506.95	\$2,195,106.95	76%
Bellabad	\$166,050.00	39,016	62	4	\$352,429.93	\$518,479.93	68%
Clover Hills	\$282,420.00	27,226	105	6	\$772,841.74	\$1,055,261.74	73%
McGavin	\$137,970.00	28,785	51	4	\$373,558.72	\$511,528.72	73%
Beaconsfield	\$372,600.00	41,210	138	4	\$917,791.07	\$1,290,391.07	71%
Katherine Creek	\$140,400.00	16,454	52	3	\$337,559.09	\$477,959.09	71%
Northern Barcoo	\$178,559.10	41,104	66	4	\$558,319.47	\$736,878.57	76%
Summer Hill	\$124,200.00	16,637	46	3	\$619,529.10	\$743,729.10	83%
South Ilfracombe	\$396,666.10	48,682	147	3	\$612,219.90	\$1,008,886.00	61%
Way Out West	\$173,769.10	47,232	91	5	\$792,453.04	\$966,222.14	82%
Clifton	\$144,450.00	-	-	-	\$ -	\$ -	-%
Totals	\$4,850,000.00	855,761	1,769.06	87	\$11,360,938.52	\$16,210,938.52	70%

*Pls note other summary items were deemed not applicable to this project

How the project met objectives, milestones and outputs

The project met all objectives, milestones and outputs as outlined in the deed between RAPAD and DAF. Due to a number of circumstances outside the projects control, unseasonal wet weather and increased demand causing delays for materials, a number of the final milestone dates were rescheduled.

Milestone Number	Milestone description	Was it completed & How it was met
1	Development of project Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan details the projects schedule of activities, mechanisms for monitoring progress and evaluation of outcomes and endorsement sought from DAF.	Completed. Williams Hall Chadwick & GRC engaged to work with RAPAD to develop and deliver MERI program. Full report attached.
2	Monthly update provided to DAF.	Completed. Provided by RAPAD each month via DAF survey monkey.
3	Media activities delivered to promote project.	Completed. Provided by RAPAD each quarter. Media examples attached.
4	Landholders engaged within the five central western Queensland Shire Council areas and Flinders Shire Council region to establish approximately 10 cluster arrangements including setting up appropriate legal structures and agreements with landholders.	Completed. Landholders engaged within the five central western Queensland Shire Council areas and Flinders Shire Council region, delivered 17 clusters representing 87 properties. Appropriate legal structures and agreements were made with all landholders, information provided to DAF. Application form and map attached.
5	Delivery of training in construction of cluster or linear fencing	Completed. Provided by RAPAD.
6	Property Pest Management Plans (PMP's) for enclosed properties compiled in accordance with current best management practice guidelines prior to completion of their respective cluster or linear fences. Development of an overarching Cluster Management Plan for each cluster	Completed. PMP's were developed in partnership with NWDAP, Invasive Animals CRC and AgForce in accordance with current best management practice guidelines prior to completion of their respective cluster or linear fences. Template attached.

7	Installation of approximately 1700kms of strategic fencing aiding land managers to improve land management through controlling total grazing pressure across approximately 10 clusters thereby assisting in the ability to conduct rotational grazing, paddock spelling and reducing predation of livestock	Completed. 17 clusters completed 1769.06 km of fencing across the region. Map attached.
8	Interim evaluation of project to be completed and submitted to DAF	Completed and submitted.
9	Assessment of social and economic impact of fencing and wild dog management conducted and report submitted to DAF. Monitoring to commence 1 October 2016	Completed. Full MERI report attached.
10	Project review and evaluation conducted.	Completed. Full MERI report attached.

The positive outputs and outcomes of the project

The project delivered numerous positive outputs and outcomes for:

- Participants;
- RAPAD communities; and
- Other regions applying the success of the project to their locality.

Participants

Examples below outline some of the positive outputs and outcomes the project delivered to participants:

- All milestones participants were required to undertake were completed in full;
- MERI program results;
- RAPAD Cluster Fencing Youtube channel;
- National Wild Dog Action Plan Committee visit to the region;
- Feralscan app applied in PMP's; and
- Quarterly meetings held with all clusters.

All milestones participants were required to undertake were completed in full

A positive output and outcome of the project was all milestones participants needed to undertake, as outlined in the deed between DAF and RAPAD, were completed in full. This saw the project deliver:

- The formation of 17 clusters representing 87 landholders all completing appropriate legal structures and agreements with RAPAD;
- Fencing 1769.06km and protecting 855 761 ha from wild dog predation;
- A private contribution of \$11.36m representing a 70% private investment overall; and
- PMP's developed in partnership with NWDAP, Invasive Animals CRC and AgForce and completed by all clusters.

MERI program results

As outlined in the project deed a project MERI plan was developed and completed detailing the projects schedule of activities, mechanisms for monitoring progress and evaluation of outcomes. This plan included assessment of the social and economic impact of fencing and wild dog management conducted with the appropriate report submitted to DAF.

For participants the MERI process undertaken throughout the project clearly demonstrates the positive outcome the project is having on them regardless of where they were across the region. A recurring theme captured was how the project has delivered control, confidence and motivation for investment to participants.

That is as fences were begin constructed cluster members felt they were once again gaining financial and environmental control of their properties and operations. This control gave them confidence to look past the recent difficulties associated with the impacts of wild dogs on their income, properties and wellbeing, focus on the future and begin to invest in employment (staff) and additional infrastructure. This is a considerable change to what most producers in the region would traditionally be thinking after six years of drought.

An example of participants comments outlining the positive outcomes and outputs of the project are below in their own words. The complete MERI report is attached:

- “[Thanks to the fence] we are now back in business, [the fence has given me] total confidence in investing in my sheep business”;
- “We were not in control before, we are back in control now”;
- “[The fence is delivering] over 80% lambing, good wool cuts, a real drop in flock mortality rates and massive positive biosecurity outcomes as I now have paddocks sheep can’t get out of”; and
- “Once you have the control you don’t have to stress because you can make decisions, do the work and know the outcomes. We were not getting a result before the fences and that has a compounding affect getting us more frustrated. There is peace of mind once the fence is up. It is a great project, something to get your teeth into and it keeps you really motivated.”



RAPAD Cluster Fencing Youtube channel

A positive outcome from the project was the development of the RAPAD cluster fencing Youtube channel, something RAPAD had never undertaken before. Participants immediately saw the value of being able to tell their stories and as the project progressed their pride in the project increased and they volunteered to be interviewed multiple times. Responses to the channel have been overwhelmingly positive with many outside the project appreciating this outcome as it gives them the opportunity to hear directly from participants in their own words.

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=rapad+cluster+fencing (or go to youtube and search “Rapad cluster fencing”).

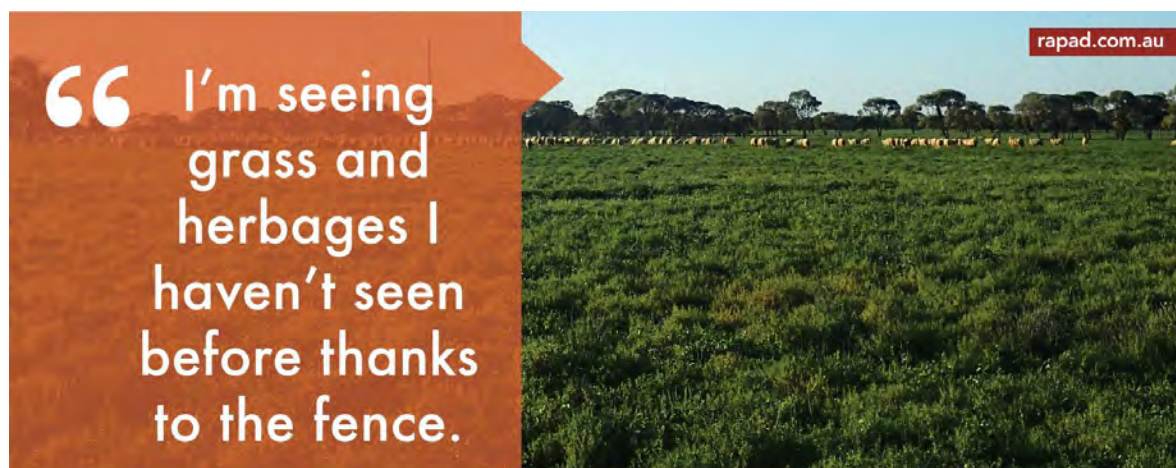
National Wild Dog Action Plan Committee visit to the region

Fifteen members of the National Wild Dog Action Plan committee from WA, NSW, SA and Victoria spent two days in the RAPAD region inspecting fences and discussing the project’s progress with participants. This is another example of a positive output for the project as the visit was a first for NWDAP and the region. It not only provided a fantastic opportunity for participants to hear the latest from the group it was also a valuable learning experience for NWDAP members and enabled them to take the projects positive processes and outcomes back to their regions.

Feralscan app applied in PMP’s

PMP’s were developed in partnership with NWDAP, Invasive Animals CRC and AgForce and were completed by all clusters. The opportunity to utilise the Feralscan app was identified through this development process and RAPAD initiated its use in this project to help improve the value and volume of data collected as well as increase ease at which data could be recorded. RAPAD convened a number of workshops to help improve participant’s skills and incorporate them into their PMP’s resulting in over 50% of participants using the app.

The value of incorporating this into project participant PMP’s is further demonstrated by participants now actively capturing, sharing and collating wild dog data not just within their clusters but also on a national platform providing anyone working on wild dog projects more evidence based data which is beneficial to regional, state and national decision makers.



Quarterly meetings held with all clusters

As part of the project RAPAD held a meeting each quarter across the region asking all members of all clusters to attend. Meetings gave RAPAD the opportunity to update all participants on specific requirements and as importantly gave participants the opportunity to come together and discuss with their peers their progress in a safe social environment. The value placed on these quarterly meetings is demonstrated by the consistent high attendance and the positive response from participants.

RAPAD Communities

Examples below outline some of the positive outputs and outcomes the project delivered to RAPAD communities:

- 15 jobs for the long term unemployed through RESQ; and
- Local government funded programs developed and delivered as a result of the projects success.

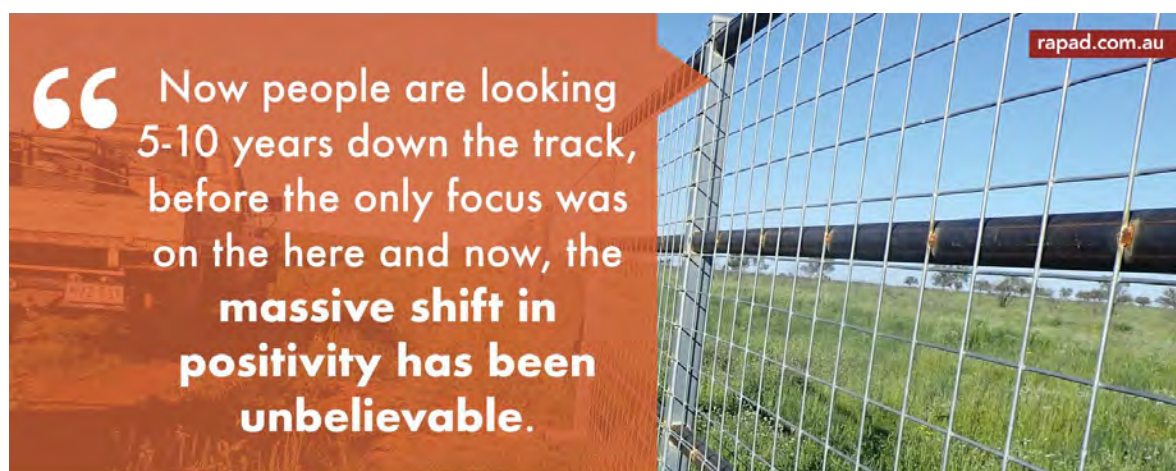
15 jobs for the long term unemployed through RESQ

RAPAD Employment Services Qld (RESQ) used the project as both a training program for job seekers and then as a career opportunity. The project provided the opportunity to train job seekers on both normal fencing techniques and those skills required to build quality exclusion fencing. As a result 15 long term unemployed job seekers have secured employment throughout Western Queensland and interstate.

Local government funded programs developed and delivered as a result of the projects success

A positive output of the project was a number of local government funded programs were developed and delivered as a result of the projects success. In December 2016 Longreach Regional Council (LRC) was successful with a proposal to the Queensland State Government for an innovative Wild Dog Exclusion Fence Scheme.

The \$18 million scheme covered the cost of 2500 kilometres of exclusion fencing infrastructure on the land of more than 63 ratepayers in the region and resulted in an additional 900,000 hectares of productive grazing land being protected, thus allowing many more producers in the RAPAD region to reap the benefits of cluster fencing.



A number of other local government regions in Queensland are looking at duplicating the LRC model in their area which will again allow more producers in Queensland to reap the benefits of the project. The LRC scheme and other local government area proposals would not have been championed nor have occurred had it not been for this projects success.

Other regions applying the successes of the project to their locality

The example below outlines one of the positive outputs and outcomes the project delivered to other regions:

WA applies the success of the project to deliver cluster fencing to their state

A significant project outcome was Western Australia applying the success of the project to deliver on cluster fencing to their state. The Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) contacted RAPAD asking for assistance to apply the success of this project to their state. They had heard of the projects success via social media, traditional media and visits by NWDAP members.

RAPAD provided detailed information and processes to ensure they did not have to “reinvent the wheel” and in 2017 the Western Australian Government delivered their own program. DPIRD was extremely appreciative of the assistance RAPAD provided at no cost and look forward to continued collaboration into the future. This outcome demonstrates not only another positive output of the project but also the ability of the project to be rolled out nationally, enabling other regions and states to apply its success.



Queensland Feral Pest Initiative

Growth through strong connections

The positive unintended outcomes as well as challenges the project encountered

A number of positive unintended outcomes occurred as a result of the project. Challenges were also encountered however none had significant impact on the projects delivery.

Positive unintended outcomes included:

- Barcaldine cluster wins state landcare award;
- External attendance at quarterly cluster meetings; and
- WA applies projects success to their region.

Barcaldine cluster wins state landcare award

The project enabled participants' actions to be celebrated in areas outside what were considered the traditional outcomes of the project. An example of such an unintended positive outcome was the Clover Hills cluster, a project participant, winning a state Landcare award in 2017. The award highlighted the work being done via this project and the many pest and weed management and pasture monitoring programs put in place which compliment fencing activity.

External attendance at quarterly cluster meetings

RAPAD believed it was important to bring participants together each quarter to outline how the project was progressing and to get their thoughts and feedback. An unintended positive outcome was it gave RAPAD and the project a platform to outline the project and process to others in the community and industry.

A number of external groups became involved in these meetings which greatly assisted not only the delivery of their goals, but also expanded the positive influence of the project outside its original scope. One example of this was one project cluster developing a dog control initiative as part of the Federal Governments Co-operatives program. This was made possible because RAPAD saw an opportunity for project participants to be a part of this national program and invited members of the advisory committee to a quarterly meeting to outline how they could participate.

WA applies projects success to their region

An unintended positive outcome has been the application of this projects success in Western Australia thus allowing more producers to reap the benefits of the project. The Western Australian program would not have been championed nor have occurred had it not been for this projects success.



Queensland Feral Pest Initiative
Growth through strong connections

Challenges included:

- A lack of understanding of how others were collecting data and what else was occurring in Queensland and nationally in this space; and
- How participant data would be collected and incorporated into the project MERI plan.

A lack of understanding of how others were collecting data and what else was occurring in Queensland and nationally in this space

At the beginning of the project a challenge was a lack of understanding by RAPAD as to how others were collecting data and what else was occurring in Queensland and nationally in this space. As a result RAPAD brought together a broad and diverse group of people including Government, academia, commercial operators and producers to a workshop in the region to better understand current thinking and programs. This minimised duplication and allowed a more informed MERI process to be developed and delivered.

How participant data would be collected and incorporated into the project MERI plan

At the beginning of the project the challenge of how participant data would be collected and incorporated into project MERI plan was identified. The RAPAD Board recognised the importance of this within the MERI process and as a result engaged professional partners Williams Hall Chadwick & GRC to work with RAPAD in its development and delivery. Establishing and implementing this MERI plan design and engaging professional partners at the beginning of the project has been of significant benefit.

Key learnings, information gaps and risks that have been identified through the implementation of the project

A number of key learnings, information gaps and risks were identified through the implementation of the project.

Key learnings included:

- Application form design;
- Initial MERI program workshop;
- Technical committee role;
- MERI Program; and
- Quarterly meeting of clusters.

Application form design

An essential part of the project was to design an application form which captured evidence based data. The design undertaken allowed each applicant to highlight the change the fence would have on their profitability (economic indicator), land management (environmental indicator) and wellbeing (social indicator). The key learning is this design provided a significant component of the assessment process as well as providing critical baseline data for the projects MERI plan. Application form attached.

Technical committee role

An independent technical committee of industry leaders was engaged to assess the applications and provide recommendations to the Board. The key learning is because of the competitive nature of the project it is essential to have external industry leaders and experts assess the application process to ensure transparency of the process for all parties involved.

MERI Program

RAPAD's comprehensive MERI program continues to reinforce how important evidence based data capture is for the project. The key learning is to ensure MERI is developed and delivered by professional partners at the beginning of the project to maximise benefit and ensure the correct data is collected throughout.

Quarterly meeting of clusters

RAPAD believed it was important to bring participants together each quarter to outline how the project was progressing and to get their thoughts and feedback. The key learning is this is an excellent strategy as it not only gave RAPAD the opportunity to update all clusters on specific requirements it also just as importantly gave participants the opportunity to come together and discuss with their peers their progress and any issues or problems they were having in a safe social environment.

Information gaps included:

- Gap in awareness of what others were doing; and
- Gap in awareness of how to most effectively use social media in the project.

Gap in awareness of what others were doing

Due to a gap in awareness of what others were doing, and in an effort to reduce duplication, at the commencement of the project RAPAD convened a workshop of stakeholders including Government, academia, commercial operators and producers. It was important from inception to gain valued opinions from industry and community groups on what had been done and what was occurring elsewhere.

Gap in awareness of how to most effectively use social media in the project

The development of a RAPAD Youtube channel was one strategy RAPAD initiated to most effectively use social media in the project, and one it had never undertaken before. As such there was an information gap not just in how to undertake the filming but also how participants would react to being interviewed and how the videos would be received.

Thankfully with a little training RAPAD staff were able to gain the skills to undertake the filming. Participants saw the value of being able to tell their story and as the project progressed became increasingly proud of what they were doing wanting to be interviewed multiple times. Responses were overwhelmingly positive with many industry and Government representatives continually appreciative of being able to hear the projects positive outcomes and outputs in “plain words straight from the cockies mouth” as one explained it.

Risks identified included:

- Legal risk; and
- Market environment risk.

Legal Risk

During the application process there was some correspondence received from one cluster who missed out indicating the possibility of legal action against RAPAD. This was expected due to the competitive process of the funding. No legal action resulted. No corrective actions were required to be undertaken as a result.

Market Environment Risk

Unseasonal weather and unexpected material demand and delays were encountered during the project. DAF was alerted to these risks and approved the rescheduling of some milestones as a result.

What are the future directions that have been identified as a result of the project

RAPAD's long term goal is for this project to be the catalyst for growing jobs and achieving significant improvement in the profitability of regional businesses (both rural and non-rural) through the demonstration of the economic, social and environmental benefits of cluster fencing.

For RAPAD and the central west this funding is about more than just a fence, it is about:

- creating jobs in the region both directly, and indirectly along the supply chain and via the multiplier effect throughout regional communities;
- empowering people and giving them back control of their time, finances and wellbeing;
- delivering regional prosperity through reduced debt and credit problems;
- growing employment opportunities and full sporting teams; and
- enabling people to become better equipped to manage total grazing pressure and withstand future drought events.

Based on the success of the project two key future directions have been identified:

1. Continued funding to bring back the sheep

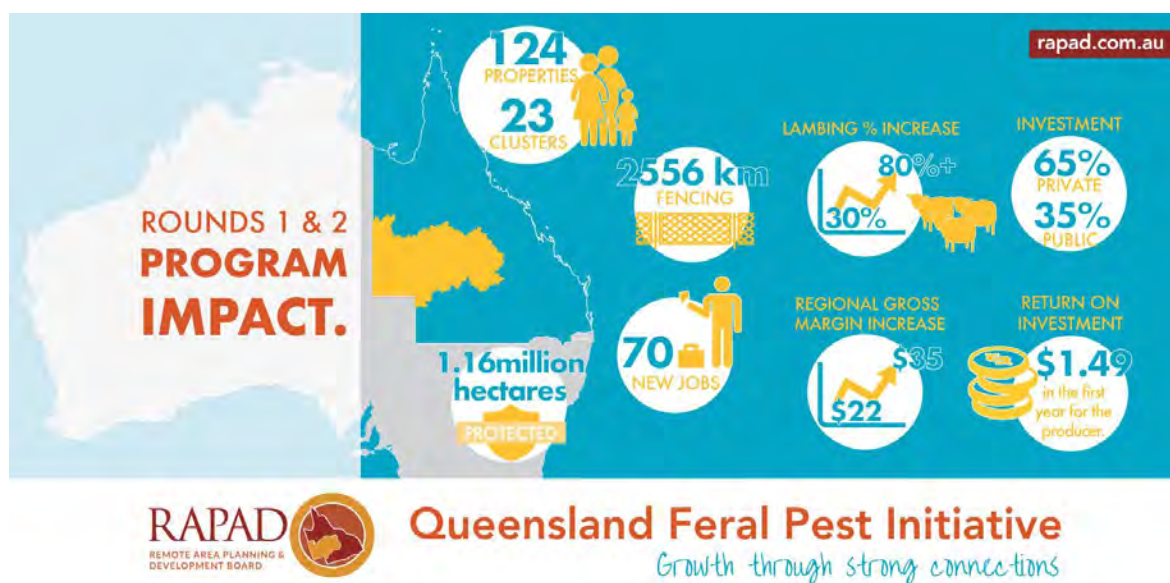
RAPAD is advocating to the Queensland and Australian Governments for the continuation of strategic cluster fencing funding in the local government areas of Barcaldine, Longreach, Blackall-Tambo, Winton, Barcoo, Boulia, Richmond, McKinlay and Flinders shires to bring back the sheep.

RAPAD's analysis identified if its 2016 EOI was funded, when combined with this project, and Round 2 funding would result in:

- 1,000,000 sheep in central western Queensland;
- 1.9m ha fenced;
- 168 properties involved;
- \$3.76 regional benefit per year ad infinitum for every \$1 of Government expenditure; and
- \$1.18 increase in gross margin every year for every \$1 a producer spends on CAPEX.

As such ongoing funding would provide a continued catalyst for fencing thus bringing back more sheep and continuing to grow the economic, environmental and social benefit to the region and the state.

This is supported by the 2017 Regional Australia Institute (RAI) report, commissioned by RAPAD, which highlighted bringing back the sheep as one of six priority areas for RAPAD and the region. The RAI report indicated cluster fencing could provide, "potential regional economic growth to \$38.8m annually through increased gross margin from sheep production, stimulating jobs for an additional 158 people in the industry".



2. Opportunity to link existing exclusion/cluster fences in future funding rounds

RAPAD is advocating for future funding rounds to expand the current model to include linking existing exclusion/cluster fences either privately or publicly funded. When the funding was first made available in the region there were very few cluster/exclusion fences and the model for enclosing an area was determined as the best outcome to gain long term benefit for producers and communities.

RAPAD continues to support this model however believes, due to the success of this project, it would be worthwhile to consider allowing the linking of existing exclusion fences in potential future funding rounds. RAPAD feels this position would enhance the success of this project and result in more benefits being delivered to producers and communities.

Appendices

Appendix 1	Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Plan
Appendix 2	Map & Infographics
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Appendix 6	Pictures
Appendix 7	Audited Financial Statement for the Activity

Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Plan



Project RAPAD QFPI Cluster Fencing Program Round 1 Final Report April 2018

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Attachments

Attachment 1. Program Logic – RAPAD QFPI Cluster Fencing

Attachment 2. Map of cluster groups

Attachment 3. Round 1 Benefit Cost calculations

Attachment 4. Map of the ASGS regions Barcardine/Blackall, Far Central West and Longreach

Attachment 5. Baseline attitudinal survey + completion survey

Attachment 6. Logic Level 3, preliminary data survey

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1.0 MERI Plan Purpose

The continuous and integrated cycle of **monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement** is referred to as **MERI**.

A project MERI plan articulates all the different aspects of MERI that will be needed and how they will be implemented over the life of the project.

This project MERI plan:

- Guides MERI for the QFPI Cluster Fencing Project
- Provides a base from which to review the progress the project is making towards the agreed targets and outcomes, and from which to learn about successful implementation strategies and to adapt in response to lessons learnt.

1.1 MERI stages

MERI planning covers the three-phase cycle of preparation, implementation and review:

- i. **Preparation** — involved first developing the project Program Logic and using it to develop the MERI Plan. This occurred before project implementation.
- ii. **Implementation** — of the plan provides for ongoing monitoring of progress, periodic evaluation of impact and achievements, and reporting to all Stakeholders. The evaluation process has been developed to suit length of the project and provides for progress reporting.
- iii. **Review** — of the MERI plan will occur at the end of the project. This will enable: project assumptions to be tested; an assessment of progress in delivering the targets identified in the funding Deed; a review of management and delivery processes/ techniques; identification of recommendations for improvement; and assessment of the effectiveness of the project in delivering against its objectives.

2.0 Scope

The box below contains a brief project description that includes an outline of the QFPI Project and the rationale for investing in the project, and the boundaries of the project.

The long term goal is for this funding to be the catalyst for growing jobs and achieving significant improvement in the profitability of regional businesses (both rural and non-rural) through the demonstration of the economic, social and environmental benefit of cluster fencing.

Table 1 shows the primary users or the key people who will use this MERI plan to organise data collection, analysis and reporting. The secondary users are people who may benefit from understanding and being aware of this MERI plan.

Table 1 **Key users of this MERI plan**

Primary users: who will reflect and adapt	RAPAD Board and management, cluster group participants
Secondary users: who need to be aware of this plan	Longreach Regional Council,

2.1 Project Timeframe and budget

Year 1 and 2 of the proposed work program is attached here.

Table 2 Project work plan summary

Milestones for 2016 and 2017	Due date	Status
Development of project Monitoring and Evaluation (ME) Plan detailing the projects schedule of activities, mechanisms for monitoring progress and evaluation of outcomes and endorsement sought from Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF).	Within 60 days of agreement	Complete
Landholders engaged within the five Central-western Queensland Shire Councils areas and Flinders Shire Council region to establish approximately 10 clusters or linear fence arrangements including set up of appropriate legal structures and agreements with landholders.	30 October 2016	Complete
Property Pest Management Plans for enclosed properties compiled in accordance with current best management practice guidelines prior to completion of their respective cluster or linear fences. Development of an overarching Cluster Management Plan for each cluster.	Within 2 months of execution of a contract between the cluster and RAPAD	Complete
Installation of approximately 1700kms of strategic fencing aiding land managers to improve land management through controlling total grazing pressure across approximately 10 clusters thereby assisting in the ability to conduct rotational grazing, paddock spelling and reducing predation of livestock.	30 October 2017	Complete
Interim evaluation of project to be completed and submitted to DAF at the end of the third (3rd) quarter after commencement of the project.	September 2016	Complete
Assessments of social and economic impact of fencing and wild dog management conducted and report submitted to DAF.	30 November 2017	Complete

3.0 Program Logic

Program logic is a key element of an evaluation process as it shows a series of expected consequences, not just a series of events, at different outcomes levels within the logic. The program logic describes the relationships between activities and desired outcomes.

See Attachment 1 to this document for the program logic for the RAPAD QFPI Program Logic.

4.0 MERI Reporting

Table 3 MERI Summary

That the RAPAD QFPI program funding to be the catalyst for growing jobs and achieving significant improvement in the profitability of regional businesses (both rural and non-rural) through the demonstration of the economic, social and environmental benefit of cluster fencing.				1 year	3 years	5 years (based on 2021 Census data where possible)	10 years (based on 2026 Census data where possible)				
Targets	Notes	Measurement	Level 1	Level 2		Level 3		Level 4		Level 5	
Direct RAPAD MERI			Baseline	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Project Metrics											
Number of Clusters	1	#		10	17						
Hectares fenced in clusters	2	ha			855,761	1,250,000		1,900,000		1,900,000	
Kilometres of fencing	3	km		1,700	1,769						
Number of properties	4	#			87		118		168		
MAP showing planned area to be fenced with RAPAD QFPI	5				Attached						
Planned accumulated capital cost of fencing											
RAPAD (Govt) Funding	6	\$		4,850,000	4,850,000	6,950,000		9,950,000		9,950,000	
Cluster Contribution	7	\$			11,360,939	13,900,000		19,900,000		19,900,000	
Total	8	\$			16,210,939	20,850,000		29,850,000		29,850,000	
Livestock in RAPAD clusters											
Before											
Sheep	9	#			269,807	375,000		450,000		450,000	
Cattle	9	#			37,462	50,000		65,000		65,000	
After											
Sheep	10	#			496,837	735,000		1,000,000		1,000,000	
Cattle	10	#			30,152	37,500		45,000		45,000	
Reproduction rates within the fenced area											
Before											
Sheep	11	%			0-70%						
Cattle	11	%			65-90%						
After											
Sheep	12	%			70-90%						
Cattle	12	%			75-90%						
Change in management											
All participating landholders have a current Pest Management Plan	13	#			87	110		160		160	
Benefit Cost											
Benefit:cost ratio on Government funding per year every year for \$1.00 upfront Government Expenditure	14	\$			\$2.83			\$1.93		\$8.31	

Table 3 cont'd

That the RAPAD QFPI program funding to be the catalyst for growing jobs and achieving significant improvement in the profitability of regional businesses (both rural and non-rural) through the demonstration of the economic, social and environmental benefit of cluster fencing.				1 year	3 years	5 years (based on 2021 Census data where possible)	10 years (based on 2026 Census data where possible)	
Targets	Notes	Measurement	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	
Regional Impacts								
Sheep Income (Gross Value of Production)	15	ABS Commodities	33,829,912			50,000,000	100,000,000	
Total km of exclusion fencing (all properties, not just QFPI)	16	Km of fencing to be constructed		1,700	3,000	6,000	15,000	
Proportion of RAPAD region protected with exclusion fencing	17	% of RAPAD region with exclusion fencing		3.50%	5.09%	10%	20%	50%
RAPAD QFPI is a catalyst for other fencing in the region	17	Total area protected by exclusion fencing (ha)	-	855,761	2,200,000	4,000,000	10,000,000	
Sheep Numbers	18	ABS Ag Census data Sheep Numbers	465,858			700,000	1,500,000	
Employment in the region	19	https://economic-indicators.id.com.au/	5,881			5,981	6,321	
Agricultural employment	20		1,560			1,600	1,780	
Increase in population in the region	21		9,988			10,388	11,748	
Health and Well Being								
Landholder baseline attitudinal survey - see attached	22	Survey on benefits of feeling "in control",	Baseline	Survey	Survey	Survey	Survey	

Notes to table for Round 1 results

1. The QFPI cluster fencing application envisaged 10 clusters, the actual result was 17 clusters.
2. The total area fenced is 855,761 ha. Round 2 will take the total fenced area to 1,250,000 ha and the Expression of Interest round will take the total fenced area to approximately 1,900,000 ha
3. The QFPI cluster fencing application envisaged 1,700 km of fencing. The actual result was 1,769km of fencing.
4. The total number of properties involved in Round 1 was 87. Round 2 will take the total properties up to 118 and the EOI will take the total number up to 168.
5. A map of the cluster areas is attached. (Attachment 2)
6. Round 1 Government funding was \$4,850,000 for direct fencing expenses out of a total grant of \$5,250,000.
7. Contributions by participants totalled \$11,360,938.
8. Total expenditure on fencing is \$16,210,939.
9. Sheep and cattle numbers (before fencing) based on applicants data at the time of submitting applications.
10. Producers expectations of changes in livestock numbers after fencing. Note this will take several years to realise with variable seasons and re-stocking. Over time this can be correlated with total sheep numbers in the relevant shires from ABS Commodity data.

5.0 Preliminary indications of Level 3 data indicators

The MERI program logic spans a time period of 10 years in terms of the aspirational goals of the project, however the initial reporting period is within 1.5 years of the commencement of the project. Therefore many of the longer term impacts of the project will not be visible within this reporting period. As part of this MERI process, applicants were asked a number of questions about their expectations of change relating more to the Level 3 or 5 year outcomes. The full transcripts of these responses are included at Attachment 6. A summary is included below.

Increase in business profitability, reproduction rates (e.g. lambing rates), sheep numbers (as a percentage of stock in the cluster) and stock numbers all by 25%

- There was general agreement that reproductive rates would increase and there is already evidence of that with some people who already had fences up.
- Indications of improved biosecurity control with possible eradication of lice and brucellosis as well as better control over weeds such as Noogoora Burr and Prickly Acacia.
- More options within enterprises where before producers did not have the option of running sheep because of dogs.
- Improvement in land management capability with better control being achieved with the fence.
- Improved sustainability and risk management.

Increase in employment (due to more stock numbers as a result of fencing) by 15%

- 15 long term unemployed job seekers have secured employment through training
- Evidence of more people employed on farm both for construction and for general work

Decrease in wild dog impact and pressure (reduced number of wild dogs, reduced predation of small livestock) by 25%

- Evidence of reduced dog predation already
- Spending less time on managing dogs now and able to do other tasks around the property
- Stock grazing in areas that they previously did not go into
- Able to utilize paddocks better
- Sheep and lambs are happy and safe
- And all the family are in a better state of mind
- Reduced stress and improved quality of family life

Decrease in landholders' time and expenditure spent on wild dog management by 25%

- Evidence already of a decrease in time spent on dog control
- Improved peace of mind
- Reduced stress of looking for dogs and signs of dogs
- More in control
- Now able to do more development work and improve the property

Other comments

- Taking pride in the achievement of getting the fence in place
- Stock are safe and can now plan for the future
- The project itself was a great motivator
- More confident about the future
- Health and wellbeing of the family has improved and sense of security in our future livelihood
- Once you have control, you don't have to stress
- Sense of achievement in constructing the fence
- RAPADS role in the cluster fencing has been enormous. The project was a motivator and catalyst for neighbors to form clusters and work together.

6.0 Improvement

Results from the initial survey and the completion survey are contained at Attachment 6. The areas identified for improvement are as follows.

Initial Survey

- Approximately 15% of respondents were ambivalent about working together in their cluster groups. This was not unexpected however may need to be monitored.
- Approximately 20% of respondents were ambivalent about the benefit of being able to spend more time on management tasks rather than predator control. This does not correlate with the comments above in relation to the preliminary Level 3 responses. I don't think this is a real issue to be concerned about, however the framing of this question could be reviewed.
- Approximately 15% of respondents were ambivalent about the benefits to health and wellbeing. However this survey was at the commencement of the fencing program. The responses at the end of the program in the previous section appear to clearly be positive in this regard.
- The issue of predator losses for those outside the clusters appears to be something of concern and may need some further thought and communication.

Completion Survey

- Approximately 50% of respondents were ambivalent to the statement that "what we were required to do was clear and understandable". This may indicate that there is room for improvement in the initial setting of expectations of what is required.
- Approximately 30% of respondents were ambivalent to the statement that "communications with other cluster members has now increased". This relates to the question from the initial survey about the benefit of working in cluster groups. It may be worthwhile exploring the benefits of working together and targeting some communication around this.