

# **Woodlands Golf Club Pest Animal Control Program**

**2013-14**

**A Collaborative Approach For  
Fox Extension As A Community**

**Broad-scale, integrated, cooperative  
Pest animal removal to protect biodiversity  
at Woodlands Golf Club**

**Project Plan**

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## 1. Background

The European red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) is an adaptable and elusive predator, which despite extensive control efforts is now common throughout most of Australia. Abundant evidence shows that predation by foxes is a major threat to the survival of native fauna, particularly small to medium-sized mammals, ground-nesting birds and reptiles. The extinction or endangerment of native wildlife is a national disaster. Foxes significantly contribute, alongside other vertebrate pest species and the impact of man, to the extinction pressures. Effective fox control has been shown to reduce the extinction pressure and to allow population recovery.

Predation by foxes is recognised as a threatening process under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1991* and foxes also threaten biodiversity by competing with and transmitting diseases to native species. Under the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994 (CaLP)*, all landowners have a legal duty to prevent the spread of, and as far as possible eradicate pest animals.

JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY
WINTER			SPRING			SUMMER			AUTUMN		
MATING			CUBS BORN			REARING			DISPERSAL		

Figure 1. Fox reproduction cycle.

## 2. Project Area

This project incorporates the private land on Woodlands Golf Club in Mordialloc located in the South Eastern suburbs of Melbourne (See figure 1).



**Figure 2.** Woodlands Golf Club.

### **3. Method**

Woodlands pest animal control program covers approximately 60 hectares of mostly altered land with patches of remnant vegetation still remaining. The site is surrounded by industrial estates and housing, there is a Melbourne Water open drain that runs along north east boundary. This project will target the patches of the remnant vegetation and selected bunkers.

FOXOFF<sup>®</sup> is the bait which will be used it is a manufactured bait, pre-poisoned with precisely 3 milligrams (3/1000th of a gram) of sodium fluoroacetate ('1080' poison).

Red dye indicates the poison in the centre of the bait.

FOXOFF<sup>®</sup> baits are highly specific for canids and are not readily taken by native animals.

Sodium fluoroacetate ('1080') is a simple and natural substance differing only slightly from common acetic acid. Fluoroacetate occurs in several species of Australian plants. Native animals which have been exposed to such plant for millions of years are thus relatively tolerant to this poison. Introduced animals such as foxes and rabbits are very susceptible.

### **4. Key Stakeholders**

#### **4.1 Woodlands Golf Club**

Woodlands Golf Club will be the over view of the project and all outcomes associated with the projects terms and conditions. Trained Woodlands staff will be responsible

#### **4.2 Project contacts**

*Project Leader/Manager* Rod Tatt

The Project Manager will liase with the investors and provide advice to the board when required.

*Project Officer* Kate George

The Project Officer will provide technical information, community education and awareness by distributing extension material, attending board meetings and conducting Field Days when necessary. The Project Officer will also collect and manage data from baits laid and bait uptake, spotlight surveys, and information collected by landowners.

#### **4.3 Public Land Managers**

Public Land Managers will be consulted to ensure cooperative on ground activities occur in line with wider project deliverables. Some PLMs will be invited to contribute information regarding native animal population responses to the baiting undertaken under this project. Key Public Land Managers include:

- *Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs)*

Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority

- *Parks Victoria (PV)*  
PV manages the operational public land fox programs that this project supports. The parks and reserves in and near the project areas are listed in Appendix 1.  
Braeside Park
- *Shires*  
Kingston Shire Council

#### **4.4 Landholders**

Landholders will be responsible for their pet's activities and safety. Landowners will be expected to adhere to the guidelines outlined by the Woodlands Golf Club. It will not be the responsibility of the Woodlands Golf Club if breaches to pet access to the golf club are broken. Signage will be erected appropriately indicating the terms and conditions of entry whilst the project is underway.

#### **4.5 Traditional Landowners**

This project is to take place on land traditionally owned and managed by the following groups.

*Braeside*  
Kurnai/Gunai/Boonerwung

### **5. Communication Plan**

Key messages:

- A coordinated, integrated approach is the most effective method for managing foxes on a broad scale
- This project is part of a coordinated, whole of government approach to the problem of foxes
- There is a need to manage foxes to protect assets such as native wildlife, tourism industry and production (by reducing weed spread, disease, impact on cattle, sheep, chickens)
- The benefits of managing foxes will outweigh the costs in the short and long term
- Safe baiting guidelines must be adhered to, ensuring pets remain safe
- Communication is important – keep us informed of challenges so we can try to help and results so we know what is working

Stakeholder	Level of engagement	Message	Communication action/tactic	Response	Who	When
Land-holders	Involve	Baiting on private land is crucial for biodiversity protection and enhances productivity. ACUP is required	Attend community meetings. Field days. Distribute extension material by post.	Baiting activity undertaken. ACUPs acquired.	Project officer	Before each baiting event
Land-holders	Inform Involve Engage	Project information Methods of fox control 1080 bait application form Log sheet Landcare notes	Information can be provided upon request	Applications for 1080 baits Participation in project	Project officer	Before each baiting event
Community	Inform	Baiting activity will be undertaken. Vigilance is recommended with regard to minimising risk for pets	Newsletter Signage in high-use areas. Signage around baited properties.	Appropriate precautions taken with regard to pets	Project officer	Before and during baiting events
Public Land Managers	Consult	Ensure this project compliments existing fox control programs	Meeting	Adapt this project if required	Project officer	Prior to on-ground works
The Board	Inform	Project progress and outputs	Annual Report		Project Manager	Before and after baiting

## 6. Risk Management

Risk	Likelihood	Consequence	Ranking	Response
Direct poisoning of non-target native species	Unlikely	Major	Moderate	Fox baits buried to required depth Sandpad monitoring
Direct poisoning of domestic dogs	Moderate	Major	Moderate	May occur and landholder informed of need for vigilance and correct use of baits Signage, bait placement, understanding by landowners
The project being incorrectly blamed for the death of domestic dogs	Moderate	Minor	Low	Inform local vets of the symptoms of 1080 poisoning

## 7. Key Project Outcomes

- Evidence of a decrease in fox numbers in the project area
- Increased pest animal control in the project area
- Documented cooperative baiting programs
- A population response measured from native fauna in the target areas as a result of the contribution made by pest animal control

## 8. Monitoring

Information will be collected to monitor the operation, baiting and foxes in order to give a clear overview of the project progress and outcomes.

### 8.1 Baiting monitoring

Baiting monitoring will include the following analyses for each project area.

- Number of baits taken
- Density of baits laid

### 8.2 Fox monitoring

Fox monitoring will include one or more of the following analyses as appropriate to the project area.

- Spotlight transect counts
- Sandpad monitoring
- Bait uptake

## 9 Evaluation

Key Performance Indicators	When Measured	How Measured
Reduction in fox abundance	Predetermined periods pre and post baiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Spotlight counts</li><li>• Sandpad monitoring</li><li>• Fox sightings</li><li>• Bait take</li></ul>
Increased landholder awareness	Immediately prior to each baiting even	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of landholders contacted</li><li>• Number of presentations given</li></ul>
Increased landholder involvement	Predetermined periods during baiting events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Count of landholders participating in baiting</li></ul>
Increased baiting activity	End of each baiting event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of baits sold and density of baits laid</li></ul>
Decreased impact of foxes on industry	Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Survey of landholders</li></ul>
Improved coordination of fox control on private and public land	Annually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Survey of private and public land managers</li></ul>
Increased community awareness	Quarterly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of people on newsletter mailing list</li><li>• Number of articles and interviews published/aired</li></ul>





11. SPOTLIGHT TRANSECT

Site: WOODLANDS GOLF CLUB

Replicate Count 1

Observer: Carsten George  
 Recorder: Carsten George  
 Driver: Kate George

Date: 2-11-13

Time Start: 8:56pm  
 Time Finish: 10:00pm

Number of Animals Counted per 1 km Transect Segment

Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Segment #	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Segment (km)															
Adult					1	1									
Cubs					2										
Total Foxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cats															

Location	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Segment #	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Segment (km)															
Adult					/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Cubs					/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Total Foxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cats		1													

Location	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Segment #	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Segment (km)															
Adult	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Cubs	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Total Foxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cats															

Location	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
Segment #	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
Segment (km)															
Adult	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Cubs	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Total Foxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cats															

START. ↓

DAY TEMP  
36°

NIGHT TEMP  
19°

Partly cloudy.

Sea mist present

Vis: med/high

other notes

spotted 2 x  
Tawny frogmouth

11. SPOTLIGHT TRANSECT

Site: Woodlands Cape Crib

Replicate Count: 2

Observer: Carroll George  
 Recorder: Carroll George  
 Driver: Wade George

Date: 3-11-13

Time Start: 8:55

Time Finish: 9:50

Number of Animals Counted per 1 km Transect Segment

Location	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Segment #															
Segment (km)															
Adult								1					1		
Cubs													2		
Total Foxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cats															

Location	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Segment #															
Segment (km)															
Adult															
Cubs															
Total Foxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cats		2		2											

Location	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
Segment #															
Segment (km)															
Adult															
Cubs															
Total Foxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cats															

Location	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
Segment #															
Segment (km)															
Adult															
Cubs															
Total Foxes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cats															

DAM = 22°  
 Night = 18.3  
 Visibility = med/low  
 Cloudy.  
 light rain.  
 Sea mist present

- Spotted possum