# Increasing bait numbers determination

## Background

The Wild Dog Management Working Group was established in 2021 as an advisory group to provide guidance and advice to stakeholders on wild dog management in the Northern Territory. In accordance with the Terms of Reference the Working Group scope included:

* the NT’s national and legislative obligations
* appropriate use of 1080 in accordance with label recommendations
* the efficacy of known management practices
* existing scientific literature
* contemporary and best practice management activities
* education and awareness raising
* regional differences and needs
* broader stakeholder expectations, including the impacts of 1080 on non-target species.

## Representatives

The Wild Dog Management Working Group consisted of representatives of the NT Cattlemen’s Association, NT Livestock exporters, National Wild Dog Coordinator, Northern Territory Buffalo Industry, Biosecurity and Animal Welfare (Department of Industry, Tourism and Trade), Flora and Fauna Division (Department of Environment, Parks and Water Security), Medicines and Poisons (Department of Health) and the Chemical Coordinator.

## Increase bait numbers

The working group has finalised in 2023, at the conclusion of the working group all members supported a pathway to support the pastoral industry with an evidenced based approach to increase bait numbers on an individual basis for landholders. This includes:

* Normal Pest Animal Management Authorisation and permit application.
* Receipt of evidence to support increase in bait numbers (for example direct observations recorded on PAMA records book, observations / records noted on other applications like Feral Scan.
* Maximum limit of 20% increase on current formula for bait allocation
* Increased bait allocation to be reviewed throughout the duration of the PAMA. This will allow flexibility between landholder and Chemical Coordinator to monitor effectiveness and allocate baits commensurate with conditions on the ground (Increase or decrease as required). The intent is to evidence base allocations to support landholders baiting programs to return to a normal allocation by the end of the authorisation period where possible.

# Other factors

## Water points

# The previous determination of water points in the past has caused concern with landholders with a lack of consistent advice or policy around what constitutes a water point. For bait allocation purposes the following are considered as water points:

* dams / turkey nest
* water troughs / tanks
* bores
* permanent / semi-permanent natural water courses or sources including rivers, creeks, gullies, natural springs and lakes.
  + For water courses such as rivers / creeks / gullies – the rate of 1 x water point for every five kilometres is applied (For example if the Buchannan River runs for 20 km through river paddock = 4 x water points).
  + Where a water course acts as a boundary between two properties, the same allocation is given to each property (For example if the Victoria River runs 20 km on the boundary between Property A and Property B – both properties are allocated 4 water points each).

## Wastage / rounding

The Chemical Coordinator will apply a 5% wastage allocation to all bait allocation requests to assist with unforeseen circumstances to assist industry.

Due to the limited quantity of available sizes for the supply of bait concentrate, where required the Chemical Coordinator will round concentration figures up to match the supply of commercially available products to assist industry. (For example, if a bait concentration calculation comes to 220mL – figure is rounded up to 240 mL for the purchase of 2 x 120mL bottles).

# More information

Further information or clarification can be obtained by contacting the Chemical Coordinator on 08 8999 2199 or via email [chemicals.ditt@nt.gov.au](file:///C:\Users\nicok\Desktop\chemicals.ditt@nt.gov.au).