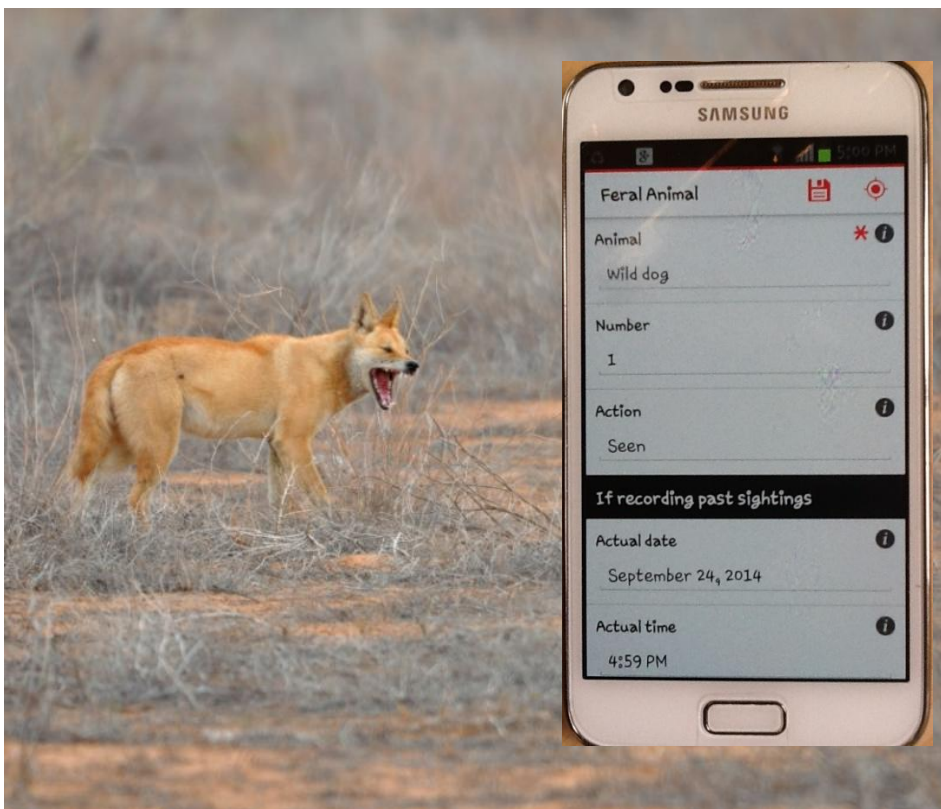# Using Fulcrum to record wild dog information

It is widely acknowledged that there has been a big increase in wild dog numbers in the past 10 years. However there is little data available to back this assertion.

One of the objectives of the new National Wild Dog Action Plan is to *Identify priority areas and support the development of strategic wild dog management plans, integrating all appropriate technology*. Desert Channels has developed an app which can be used to document wild dog activity.
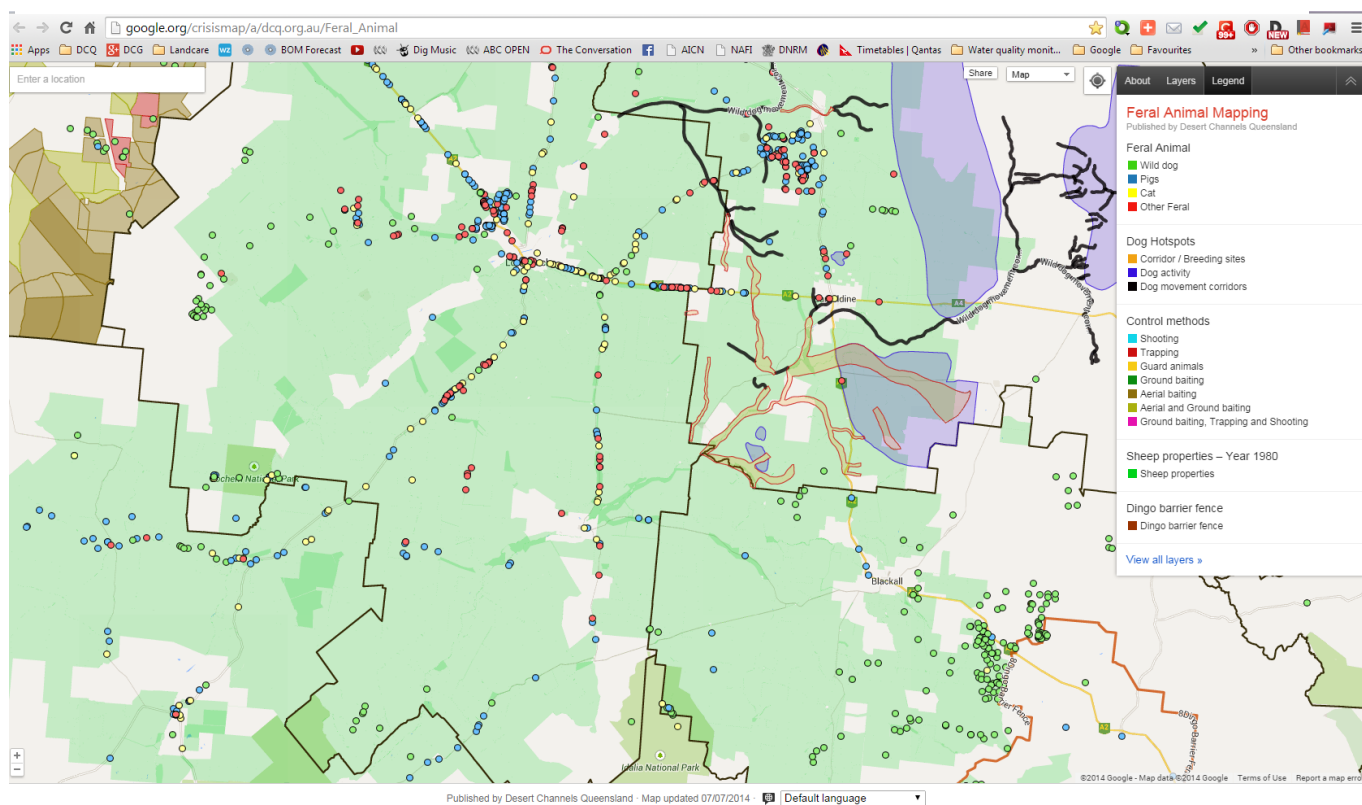

Our smartphone apps, built with the Fulcrum software, enable users to record the sightings of any feral animals or weeds they come across in their travels or around their properties. The information which can be collected on wild dogs includes the number; actual date of the record; whether you've seen a live or dead dog; whether it's been shot, trapped or baited; tracks, scats, breeding/den sites, age, colour, direction it was headed, weather conditions and photos. This data is then uploaded into a central database where it can be viewed in a number of ways.

The Fulcrum Apps have the 'anytime, anywhere' functionality that overcomes the lack of mobile coverage across the Outback. Even when your smartphone or tablet doesn't have service the in-built GPS will capture your position and the data will be stored. When you're back in service you can push the synchronise button which will upload the data to the Fulcrum database.

The apps run equally well on either Apple or Android systems using tablets or smartphones, and if you don't have either, you can open Fulcrum on your PC when you get home and enter the data.

Within 24 hours, data is pushed to Google Maps where it can be composited with other information layers such as baiting tracks, property control methods and more. This creates a powerful tool for decision making and management, as users can access sighting information from around the region along with other Google Maps data.

The Flinders Shire displays a map on their website using our Fulcrum data - http://www.flinders.qld.gov.au/council_services/wilddog.shtml. These live, web-based maps update every hour, pulling data straight from Fulcrum.

As part of our continuous improvement program, we are constantly upgrading our Fulcrum Apps, using feedback from users. We have also made the Queensland local government areas and a topographic map available in the off-line mode, so users can take advantage of them even when they have no mobile coverage. And as an added bonus, we have integrated Fulcrum data into Tableau products, which provide interactive data visualisation so users can make timely business decisions.

Our aim is to assist landholders to manage feral animals and weeds in the most strategic and cost-effective way possible; our Fulcrum Apps are playing a key role in this. If you would like to join the effort, and start collecting information on feral animals and weeds in your area, give our Geographic Information Consultant, Jade Fraser, a call. He will organise access to the relevant Fulcrum App, and show you how to use it.

Jade's contact details: jade.fraser@dcq.org.au   Ph. 07 4652 7830

Is the DCQ Fulcrum App a good business tool? Well, 9 shires, 7 NRM groups, 315 users and 3,242 entries (in the feral animal section alone) says it is.

21 November 2014