



# Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre

MEDIA RELEASE

## FACILITATING CHANGE: WILD DOG MANAGEMENT IN AUSTRALIA

Wild dogs are a major problem for farmers and landholders across Australia, with conservative estimates on the cost to our agricultural industry totalling over \$48.5 million each year. Wild dogs not only cause financial loss, but increase physical and emotional stress on producers, have a significant impact on native fauna and can transmit disease to both animals and humans.

At the 15<sup>th</sup> Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference in Sydney today, delegates will hear how the establishment of an independent national wild dog facilitator and a National Wild Dog Management Advisory Group has increased awareness and uptake of best practice wild dog management and control methods.

Greg Mifsud, National Wild Dog Facilitator at the Invasive Animals CRC, will report on the benefits of a facilitation program and how access to best practice information has influenced changes in wild dog management.

“A great achievement of this facilitation program is the establishment of integrated community based wild management programs, resulting in a significant cultural shift amongst participants.

An integrated approach, using different control methods, is key to a successful wild dog management plan. The Gippsland Wild Dog Management Group is an example of what can be achieved through community engagement and providing access to a variety of information,” said Mr Mifsud.

A landholder representative from the Gippsland Wild Dog Management Group, Fraser Barry, will provide his perspective on how community based management plans can deliver positive outcomes for individuals and the whole community.

As part of the national wild dog facilitation program, the Invasive Animals CRC has produced a *Best Practice Manual for the Use of Guardian Dogs*, bringing together information from producers, breeders and owners of guardian dogs on buying and training pups, dog and livestock management and how to prevent common problems. Copies will be available from the Invasive Animals CRC exhibition stand at the conference and online at [www.feral.org.au](http://www.feral.org.au)

The 15<sup>th</sup> Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference will be held at the Dockside Convention Centre, Sydney from Monday 20 June to Thursday 23 June 2011. Presentations may be made available to the media upon request. Please contact Greg Mifsud (details below) for an interview.

Statement ends Wednesday 22 June 2011.

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### CONTACTS:

#### FOR INTERVIEWS

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#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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