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WORLD FIRST VIRTUAL DOG FENCE PRODUCT DEVELOPED IN THE CENTRAL WEST ON THE BACK OF CLUSTER FENCING

A world first virtual dog fence product *Dog Detect* developed in the central west on the back of cluster fencing will soon be launched in Longreach by Outback Property Solutions (OPS).

What is it? "*Dog Detect* is a software and hardware product which will remotely detect and count the presence of wild dogs" says co founder Keith Gordon, El Kantara Longreach.

"It is world first technology. There is nothing else like it. Trust me I've looked, and it was developed right here in Longreach" Keith said.

"Early on I saw the benefit of cluster fencing, but I recognised there would be challenges especially where fences cross channels. Any physical fence will be impacted by water, particularly when grasses and branches build up. As a result, in times of flood the fences can be potentially breached allowing dogs to enter".

"From this I proposed a solution to augment the wild dog fences with what we now call a "virtual dog fence".

"I contacted Andrew Barton and asked if a computerised system could be built that would keep these dogs out. Andrew, who is always up for a challenge said sure let's do it".

"Andrew had developed similar systems before but knew this would be different. This would mean starting a venture, getting a talented team together and building a proven solution. Further there was a real urgency as wild dogs continue to wreak havoc across the region and so OPS was formed", said Keith.

Andrew's first step was to build a world class technical team. He enlisted James Williamson, Development, Riley Ross Manufacturing and Support, and Shane Roberts, Testing and Validation. Additionally, Ray Wietschorke and Madura Senadeera were deeply involved. All are experienced and proven virtual reality and computer technicians and engineers committed to making this happen.

“From the outset, the team knew they had to deliver rugged working products that can be readily updated” Andrew Barton said. “Both Keith and I come from the Central West and both know how tough and unforgiving the outback is on gear left out in hot conditions. We knew building a smart bit of tech that could handle being left on a post in a paddock all year would be no easy task, but we have got there”.

After two years of work and trials across the central west *Dog Detect* now consists of hardy solar powered devices that can be placed in key locations where dogs are to be expected. The *Dog Detect* product will undergo further trialling before being made commercially available.

“The product remains firmly grounded and connected in the Central West” said Andrew. “The whole team has been out here numerous times working on improvements. *Dog Detect’s* most recent successful trial was in December 2017 in Longreach and since then has been refined and improved further” Andrew outlined.

“We want this to be the first within a large portfolio of products designed to directly benefit the people in the Central West. The second product will be the much anticipated *Dog Deter*” said Keith.

Cr Rob Chandler, RAPAD Chair said “we all know the benefits cluster fencing is having across the region and this is another fantastic outcome. OPS has combined city and country to create a high-performance team focused on delivering quality products for Central West producers.”

“RAPAD is proud of the strong working relationship we have built with OPS not only around cluster fencing but also the work RAPAD is fostering with start ups, innovation and technology. This product is a great combination of how new technology is being applied to help bring back a great traditional industry and it’s being developed not in Silicon Valley but right there on our patch” he continued.

Expressions of interest are welcome for those keen to participate in the trial programme with orders also being taken. Expressions of interest can be registered via the OPS website www.OutbackPropertySolutions.com

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