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POXES are territorial animals and will travel dozens of kilometres to feed. If an area has been baited, new foxes will commandeer the area left vacant within two weeks. For this reason, landholders in twenty-three Shires and NRM Groups stretching 300 km across the south-west have embarked on one of the largest co-ordinated fox baiting drives ever.

The targeted area ranged from Albany's eastern hinterland and the Fitzgerald Biosphere Group in the south, north to Brookton, east to the Shires of Newdegate and Kondinin and west to the Shires of West Arthur and Kojonup.

Baits were laid between the 8th and 19th of March 2004. Shooting activities with local Gun and Service Clubs were also linked into the program, increasing the capacity to remove a large proportion of foxes from the south-west agricultural area.

Land for Wildlife members in the Dwarlaking Catchment Group, which adjoins Tutanning Nature Reserve, took part in this activity. At a recent meeting where they received training from the Pingelly Biosecurity Officer on the handling of baits, they invited representatives from the Shire to see how they could work together to increase the area under baiting. This is an excellent first step for the group who are looking to bait at least twice per year.

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