

CWBA

Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association Inc



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

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1.0 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The past 12 months have been a very productive year for the CWBA. Many changes and challenges have occurred, none more so for landowners/occupiers, than the introduction of the "Declared Pest Rate" (DPR). Generally, the pest rate has been accepted well, with most understanding the importance of an effective control of Declared Pests. While it is not a perfect solution, given that external funding sources have all but expired, and after much deliberation by the board, it is considered to be the fairest method we could use to ensure the ongoing operation of the group. The Board and EO will continue to monitor the response to the DPR and at the same time explore all other funding sources that may become available.

It is my opinion that we need to investigate the possibility of encouraging our neighboring Shires to become members of the CWBA. If successful, this will increase the DPR catchment area to assist the group to become more sustainable and provide the resources to maintain an effective control program.

The CWBA has expanded its operations to include, in conjunction with the Mingenew-Irwin Group, Northern Biosecurity Group and the Midlands Biosecurity Group, the development of the draft "Mid-West Feral Pig Development Strategy". We are keen to support the landowners in the Morawa Shires that are experiencing issues from Feral Pigs with both baiting and aerial shooting programs. I would like to acknowledge the assistance given to the group by the landholders and Dr Peter Adams, for helping to build an understanding of the pig's behavior, to help with future control measures.

Ongoing relationships with the DBCA and Mt Gibson are important to ensure access to conservation and other parks and wildlife manage lands continue to allow control measures within these areas. It is equally important that the CWBA respects and complies to any and all access conditions. Relationships with DPIRD and more recently with LIEBE Group have assisted with administration and communication for landholder engagement.

While I acknowledge and appreciate the contributions by Meja Aldrich, it is disappointing that AWI is not continuing with their previous funding arrangements.

The CWBA continues to support the landholders within the Shires of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Perenjori and Morawa with an annual Aerial baiting program for Wild Dogs, Community Rabbit Baiting mixing days, Wild Dog Bait Rack days, Feral Pig control and assistance and funding of Restricted Chemical Product permits. Along with the engagement of the 3 LPMT's and administration of the CWBA, the Board are determined to offer these services to ensure that the best possible outcome for management of declared pests is achieved.

While the statistics are showing a decrease in both Wild Dog sightings and stock losses, it is important not to become complacent. The LPMT's days have doubled, no doubt contributing to these stats. I would like to thank the 3 LPMT's for their efforts and encouraged that we have been able to secure their services for the next 2 years at least. I must remind all landholders and residents to report any Wild Dog sightings or evidence of Wild Dog activities, including of course, stock attacks to our LPMT Coordinator, Russel MacPherson.

I would like to welcome Peter North to the board this year. Peter represents the Morawa Shire and brings valuable local knowledge of both issues confronting the Shire as well as providing a conduit between the Board and the local residents. It is with regret that 3 board members will be retiring this year. Phil Logue, Russell MacPherson and Greg Westlund have all been involved back when we were a “Declared Species Group” and have all been instrumental in the transition into the CWBA. On behalf of the CWBA Board and all landowners within the 4 Shires, I would like to express our appreciation for the commitment and expertise you have provided. Russell has agreed to stay engaged as our Dogger Coordinator.

I would like to encourage any interested landholders or other eligible persons, to consider nominating as a director on the CWBA Board. It is a privilege to represent our communities and with the introduction of a DPR, it is even more important that there is fair representation.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Linda Vernon in her role as EO. You will see from the EO’s report, the efforts by Linda to continue the comprehensive community engagement activities that have been achieved. She has also represented the CWBA, presenting to a Western Australia Local Government Association sponsored workshop on the merits and operation of an RBG. Linda provides a level of governance and communication experience that is recognized within the RBG fraternity and has played somewhat of a mentoring role to newly formed RBG’s. She has been instrumental in growing the groups profile while maintaining a respected and compliant organization. There have been occasions that she has had to diffuse a potentially difficult situation to the satisfaction of all parties. The CWBA’s continued success is largely due to Linda’s management.

To date, the EO’s engagement has been with the Koorda CRC who in turn has employed Linda to act in this role. It is my understanding that Linda wishes to be engaged in a new contract in her own right. I have discussed this with the Koorda CRC, who are happy with this arrangement. I would like to thank the CRC for their involvement over the past 3 years.

I would also like to thank the Board members for their ongoing involvement and commitment to the CWBA.

Ricky Storer

Chairman CWBA

0429 844088

2.0 OVERVIEW

The CWBA aspires to most effectively use the group's resources to manage priority declared pests and to assist the group to meet its responsibilities under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 (BAM Act).

It has a Strategic Plan and Annual Operational plans that outline a collaborative, multi-stakeholder approach to invasive species management that will enhance the coordination of:

- On-ground activities to manage priority biosecurity threats;
- Training, education and awareness raising opportunities; and
- Collaborative arrangements with government and non-government stakeholders to identify, manage and mitigate high priority feral pest threats.

Board of Management

The CWBA Constitution provides for a Board of Management who are responsible for overseeing the affairs of the Association. The Board of Management consists of a Chairperson; Deputy Chairperson; Secretary and Treasurer and no less than 3 and no more than 7 other members. Directors terms of appointment are for a three-year period.

As at 30 June 2019 The CWBA Board of Management consists of:

Position	Member	Term Expires
Chair Person	Ricky Storer	2021
Deputy Chair Person	Doug Cail	2020
Secretary and Treasurer	Executive Officer	
Director 1	Russell Macpherson	2020
Director 2	Phillip Logue	2021
Director 3	Chris Patmore	2020
Director 4	Mark Sutton	2020
Director 5	Greg Westlund	2019
Director 6	Ashley Sanderson	2019
Director 7	Peter North	2021

The Board of Management held face to face meetings as well as phone hook ups as required throughout the year to conduct the affairs of the Association.

Dogger Coordinator

Board of Management Director Russell Macpherson has continued another year as Dogger Coordinator for the CWBA. He continues to be the first point of contact for all stock attacks to be reported to by landholders in the region. Russell then provides this information to the relevant Licensed Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) and directs their activities as necessary. His role and knowledge continue to be valued by the Association. Russell has also worked with the Executive Officer to ensure that all stock attacks, dog sightings and any other information provided by landholders or LPMTs are recorded so that the group have a clear understanding of what activity is going on with Wild Dog presence/sightings and good data is recorded within the region.

Executive Officer

The CWBA continue to employ a part-time Executive Officer in Linda Vernon who is responsible for the day to day management of the Association including providing executive support to the Board of Management, administration and financial duties, overseeing the implementation of the Operational Plan, design and delivery of community engagement activities and the development of governance and strategic planning activities for the Association.

3.0 CWBA AIMS & OBJECTIVES

3.1 Our Aim

Effective management of feral pests in the Central Wheatbelt.

3.2 Our Objectives

The objectives of the CWBA cover three core themes:

- Management
- Engagement and Collaboration
- Measurement.

Management

- a. Develop and implement proactive, best practice strategies to reduce the effects of declared pests (wild dogs, foxes, feral pigs and rabbits) on private and public lands

Engagement and collaboration

- b. Increase stakeholder participation and encourage landholders and the broader community to adopt sound biosecurity practices
- c. Provide members with a mechanism to exchange information, advice and assistance where appropriate
- d. Encourage and support collaboration for declared pest management in adjacent shires and regions

Measurement

- e. Observe, assess, and report on the progress concerning the reduction of negative impacts of declared pests.

4.0 2018-2019 OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

4.1 DECLARED PEST RATE

For 2018-2019 the CWBA requested the Minister for Agriculture and Food to approve a Declared Pest Rate (DPR) in the Shires of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Morawa and Perenjori for 2018/19 of:

- 0.0234 cents in the dollar on the unimproved value on land in the local government districts of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Morawa and Perenjori, that is:
- identified as freehold on the rural valuation roll maintained under the Valuation of Land Act 1978; and
- no less than 100 hectares in area; and
- a minimum amount of \$80.00.

The Minister undertook consultation and approved the CWBA 2018/19 Operational Plan to control declared pests. On the 28th June 2018 the Minister prescribed the 2018-2019 Declared Pest Rate as recommended by the CWBA. These funds raised in 2018-2019 were matched dollar for dollar by the Western Australian State Government.

The Office of State Revenue issued the Declared Pest Rate invoices to landholders in October 2018 with reminder notices then sent out to landholders in March 2019 and deposited the funds into the Declared Pest Account. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development released funds from the Declared Pest Account to the CWBA.

The money must only be used to implement the CWBA's Operational Plan with total expenditure of \$213,890.00 in the prescribed local government district/s of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Morawa and Perenjori.

It was estimated that \$107,097.00 (excluding GST) would be raised through the determination of rates in the CWBA area in 2018/19 and this amount will be matched by State Government making a total of \$214,194.00 available to the CWBA. As at 30 June 2019 the value of unpaid Declared Pest Rates in the CWBA is \$4,504.00.

The Minister also undertook her own consultation as a part of the DPR consultation process and sent out 675 letters to landholders across the CWBA region. Six submissions were received, one in support, four opposed and one neutral.

The process of raising funds through the implementation of the Declared Pest Rate has not at times been easy but overall the CWBA Board of Management have been very pleased by the support of landholders with in the region for the implementation of the Declared Pest Rate, as without access to this form of long-term sustainable funding the CWBA would not be able to implement effective control programs for Declared Pests.

4.2 FUNDING & GRANTS

ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS PROGRAM – WILD DOG MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The CWBA were successful in receiving financial assistance from the Royalties for Regions Program – Wild Dog Management Program to employ one half-time (0.5FTE) Licensed Pest Management Technician to reduce the number of Wild Dogs on government managed lands and adjoining agricultural land. Funding of \$140,625.00 was received for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2020. The CWBA have written to the Minister to urge her to continue providing this funding beyond 2020 and have also provided a submission to the Business Case being prepared by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE

In January 2018 the CWBA were successful in receiving funding of \$109,050.00 from the Western Australian State Government Royalties for Regions Funding to contribute to the capacity building and skills development activities identified in the WA Wild Dog Action Plan 2016-21. This can include (but may not be limited to) Biosecurity Group support, communications, capacity building, adoption of practices for wild dog control and industry revitalisation, research (including information management), and monitoring and evaluation.

Table 1: Breakdown of the CWBA Capacity Building Funds

Activity	Amount
Employment of an Executive Officer	\$70,000.00
Monitoring & Evaluation Activities	\$29,050.00
Stakeholder Engagement and Partnership Empowerment	\$10,000.00
	\$109,050.00

This project concluded on the 30 June 2019.

COMMUNITIES COMBATNG PEST AND WEEDS IMPACTS DURING DROUGHT – COMBATING PESTS IN THE CWBA REGION, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The Shire of Dalwallinu on behalf of the CWBA were successful in receiving \$88,000.00 for a twelve-month project from 1 July 2019 from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources Communities Combating Pests and Weed Impacts During Drought Program for Wild Dog control in the Shires of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Morawa and Perenjori.

SHEEP/GOAT INDUSTRY FUNDING SCHEME WILD DOG GRANTS – CWBA WILD DOG MANAGEMENT – CONTROLLING THE GAPS

The CWBA were successfully applied for \$180,000.00 of funding over three years from 1 July 2019 from the Sheep/Goat Industry Funding Scheme Wild Dog Grants to better target Wild Dog control activities in identified “gap” areas in our region by providing additional funding support to the CWBA LPMT Program allocating additional LPMT days to targeting identified gap properties in partnership with the Northern Biosecurity Group and funding the CWBA Aerial Baiting Program targeting Wild Dogs on Unallocated Crown Land (UCL), Saltlakes, Conservation Estates and pastoral properties inside the State Barrier Fence once a year for three years in partnership with the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group.

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT – FERAL PIG MONITORING

CWBA together with the Northern Biosecurity Group approached the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to provide additional financial assistance to be able to extend the area of both groups planned Feral Pig Monitoring and Control activities. \$20,000 was committed by the Department to provide baseline data, surveillance and aerial control utilizing DPIRD staff to both groups.

4.3 PARTNERSHIPS AND AGREEMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ATTRACTIONS

The CWBA again signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Geraldton (Midwest Region) of the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) in September 2018. This MoU relates specifically to the control of Wild Dogs on Parks and Wildlife managed lands and outlines a series of common understandings and statements of agreements. The document also outlines ability and requirements for CWBA LPMTs to undertake control activities on Parks and Wildlife managed lands in the region, including specifically within the Karara Conservation Park including Kadji Kadji, Lochada and Karara complexes. This MoU is to be review annually. Appreciation and acknowledgement are again extended to Jamie Conway-Physick, Senior Operations Officer -Rangelands, for his support in achieving this MoU and working relationship with the CWBA.

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The CWBA have continued to worked closely with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Biosecurity team to implement our first Declared Pest Rate and meet all our reporting obligations as a Recognised Biosecurity Group under the BAM Act 2007. This process continues to be a learning curve for our group and acknowledge also the Department's continued investment and support in this space. At 30 June 2019 the State of Western Australia has now in a very short period of time got 14 RBGs (plus another waiting to be gazetted by the Minister). Particular mention needs to go to Glenice Batchelor, Biosecurity Officer, Community Engagement, Sustainability and Biosecurity Project Team who has continued to provide an important consistent communication and information link, liaison and support between the Department and CWBA.

AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY – MT GIBSON

In October 2018 the CWBA and the Australian Wildlife Conservancy renewed the agreement between both parties for continued access to Mt Gibson Sanctuary by CWBA LPMTs to implement agreed control activities for Wild Dogs. This agreement was for a twelve-month period and it is hoped by the CWBA to continue working together with the Mt Gibson Sanctuary team into the future.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL INNOVATION (AWI)

Meja Aldrich Wild Dog Control Coordinator WA, funded AWI by has also continued to attend CWBA Board of Management meetings offering support, advice and networking knowledge to the Association over the last 12 months. The CWBA recognises the value of networking between RBGs across WA as well as nationally.

LIEBE GROUP

The CWBA have worked on developing an initial partnership with the Liebe Group to utilise their communication networks and resources and facilities to improve and increase landholder engagement in the CWBA region.

4.3 LPMT (DOGGER) PROGRAM

The CWBA employed the following Licensed Pest Management Technicians;

	LPMT Name	Area Covered
LPMT 1	Graeme Newton	Dalwallinu & Koorda
LPMT 2	Jeff Taylor	Perenjori
LPMT 3	Pat Darling	Morawa

They worked a total of 344 days across the region undertaking control activities of baiting, trapping and shooting on both public and private land primarily targeting wild dogs, foxes and rabbits. This is an increase of 157 days from 2018-2019. All three LPMT contracts expired at 30 June 2019 and the CWBA are pleased to announce that they have successfully negotiated contracts with these LPMTs for the next two years.

The CWBA LPMTs utilized the national database and reporting program Feral Scan to record all of their control activity and observations in 2018-2019 in line with an agreement held by the CWBA with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

4.4 COMMUNITY BAIT RACK PROGRAM - FOX & WILD DOG BAITING

The CWBA has five bait racks located in the region which has local landholders as their Coordinators. These are for the purpose of making 1080 dried meat baits for fox and wild dog control. Coordinated baiting programs were organized for September 2018 and April 2019 where by landholders were provided with access to a total of 40,500 dried meat baits. 2,000 1080 warning signs were also purchase and supplied at the bait racks for landholders to use. Coordinated baiting is promoted at these two identified times to landholders, but landholders are also encouraged to implement a targeted baiting program on their property all year round.

During this year the CWBA also invested in a range of upgrades at all five bait racks to ensure that they met the Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Management of Registered Pesticides containing 1080, PAPP and Strychnine for vertebrate pest management in Western Australia, April 2018.

Table 3: CWBA Bait Rack Data 2018-2019

Bait Rack	Coordinator	September 2018	April 2019
Morawa Bait Rack	Glen Tapscott	5500	5500
Perenjori Bait Rack	Glen Solomon	7500	7000
Mongers Lake Bait Rack	Russell Macpherson	3000	3000
Goodlands Bait Rack	Ashley Sanderson	3000	2000
Koorda Bait Rack	Carl Fuchsichler	2000	2000
	Totals	21,000	19,500

4.5 CWBA ANNUAL AERIAL BAITING PROGRAM FOR WILD DOGS

Dependent of funding available the CWBA coordinate and implement an Aerial Baiting Program for Wild Dog Control in spring to be implemented to coincide with the September Community Bait Rack activity. For 2018-2019 the CWBA together with the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group we were able to contract the services of JL Taylor and Atkinsons Helico to coordinate a targeted aerial baiting program by helicopter for two days in the CWBA region. 5,000 1080 dried meat baits were laid at a range of identified locations across the region that had been identified as inaccessible by vehicle, with the majority of this occurring on unallocated crown land, saltlakes, conservation estate and the pastoral properties of Wanarra and Perengary.

4.6 COMMUNITY RABBIT CONTROL PROGRAM - RABBIT BAITING

The year the CWBA committed to investing in a custom-built licensed Rabbit Bait Mixing Trailer, by Koorda Ag Parts to aid in the easier mixing of 1080 One-Shot Oats to allow for the LPMTs and landholders to easily and more efficiently (with better Occupational Health and Safety outcomes for all involved) be able to offer the annual Rabbit Bait Mixing program.

The CWBA had allocated and promoted the opportunity for landholders across the region to participated in a coordinated rabbit control program in February-March 2019 with access to free 1080 Rabbit Oat Bait Mixing days to landholders. This year we experienced poor uptake of this program with only 5 landholders expressing an interest in participating in this activity, of which in the end only 1 landholder was provided with access to free 1080 One-Shot Oats purchased by the CWBA. These were mixed by the CWBA LPMT in with oats provided by the landholders, which was then laid on his property.

The other landholders did not participate at this point in time as they did not have a current valid Restricted Chemical Product Permit. The CWBA then assisted these landholders to obtain RCP Permits.

The CWBA felt that this program was not so successful in uptake by landholders this year due to the low rabbit numbers across the region due to the release of the RHDV1 K5 release and the impact of the RHDV1 K2 strain that landholders did not feel the need to implement a 1080 baiting program on their properties as well.

Discussions have been held with the Northern Agricultural Catchment Council and Yarra Yarra Catchment Management Group about how we can all better support each other with increasing adoption of rabbit control activities by landholders.

4.7 FERAL PIG CONTROL

The CWBA are continuing to support landholders in the Shire of Morawa to implement control activities for the emerging problem of Feral Pigs in the western region of this Shire. In November 2018 we contracted Fortescue Helicopters to undertake a Feral Herbivore (Pig) Survey to observe the extent of the Feral Pig

problem and the extent of damage they are causing to both crops and remnant vegetation. This survey activity also involved culling some Feral Pigs from some areas.

The area surveyed was extensively covered an area from the Mullewa Wubin Rd (most eastern boundary) as far north as Canna wheat bins. As far west as Wilacarra Hills and Matteno Hill which is approximately 18 mile west of Pintharuka Wheat Bins, always remaining North of the Mingenew Morowa Rd and well clear of any roads and populated areas at all times.

They observed various areas where damage to crops (particularly wheat) from Feral Pigs was quite severe. They generally used this damage as a reliable means of tracking the larger numbers of pigs although did find Feral Pigs where damage was not as obvious. Crop damage was prevalent across the entire area covered. Photographic evidence of crop damage seen was recorded. They flew a total of 10.5 hours and shot 249 Feral Pigs.

The survey report noted that approximately 60% if not more of the Feral Pigs seen and shot were less than 12 weeks old and that some female sows had up to 12 suckers on them, though they would average 6-8 each.

In March 2019, DPIRD staff (as a part of a wider project with the Northern Biosecurity Group) and Fortescue Helicopters returned to undertake another surveillance and control activity. Liaison between the CWBA, Mingenew-Irwin Group and the newly forming Midlands Biosecurity Group saw 22 landholders give consent to participate in the project. 15.6 hours of flying saw 294 Feral Pigs shot and raw data has been provided to the CWBA for future comparison and analysis.

A full report on the March Surveillance and Control activity was provided to the CWBA – of note was the observation of the extensive use of caves and the level of time and effort to flush them out. On initial surveillance they had flown close by many of these caves with no signs or movement, but upon second repeat visit and with the assistance of Brad Collins we returned to some hot spots and used the helicopter noise and rotor wash to flush pigs from the many caves in the rock and breakaways. All ages of feral pig were found using them and surmise this is Feral Pigs adapting to the dry hot environment. Any future mapping and control strategy need to include this behavior trait.

Feral Pig Researcher Dr Peter Adams also came to the region to collect samples from culled animals. This research is looking at the geographical separate pig population in terms of diet, fertility and animal morphological characteristics. It is hoped that this information will aid in the understanding the issue and the development of better local control strategies.

The Mingenew-Irwin Group also had a 1080 bait mixing day for Feral Pig control in March 2019 which was extended to landholders in Morawa to participate in. The Northern Biosecurity Group, Mingenew-Irwin Group, Midlands Biosecurity Group and the CWBA then worked together to develop the draft Mid-West Feral Pig Management Strategy.

Many thanks need to be extended to all landholders but particularly Brad Collins and Carl Forward for their time and effort and local knowledge which has been invaluable in assisting with these two control activities and to the project partners for their work in this space to date.

4.8 RESTRICTED CHEMICAL PRODUCT PERMITS

The CWBA offer to pay for and provide assistance to landholders to submit applications to obtaining Restricted Chemical Product (RCP) Permits so that they themselves and the CWBA employed LPMTs could access their properties to undertake control activities.

A total of 23 landholders were provided with assistance to complete RCP permits.

4.9 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The CWBA have been proactive and continues to engage with the community about Declared Pests, control activities and the incoming Declared Pest Rate. Below is an outline of key community engagement activities undertaken by the Association over the last twelve months.

Table 4: CWBA Community Engagement Activities 2018-2019

Month	Activity Type	Details
All Year Round	CWBA Website All information about the CWBA can be found here and is current.	www.cwba.org.au
	Social Media CWBA have a Facebook Page which relevant information is posted to all year round.	https://www.facebook.com/CentralWheatbeltBA/
July 2018	Letter to CWBA Local Governments Letters sent to all four CWBA Local Governments informing them of the successful DPR outcome and offering to come and present to Council.	11 th July 2018
	Koorda Council Presentation Presentation to Koorda Council Meeting	18 th July 2018 Koorda Shire Councilors and Staff
August 2018	Mingenew Expo DPIRD RBG stand at the Mingenev Expo and attendance by Linda Vernon and Phil Logue for CWBA on 18 th August.	17 th - 18 th August 2018 Mingenew
	Dowerin Field Days RBG stand at the Dowerin Field Days and attendance by Linda Vernon and Ricky Storer on 29 August.	28 th -29 th August 2018 Dowerin Field Day
September 2018	AGM Notice to Members Notice of AGM and setting of DPR for 19-20.	7 th September 2019
	Wild Dog Planning Workshops Wild Dog Planning Workshops held in 4 locations with Jim Miller DPIRD and Linda Vernon CWBA and other DPIRD staff joined us at times.	3 Sept – Koorda (1 Landholder) 4 Sept – Dalwallinu (12 landholders) 5 Sept – Perenjori (15 landholders) 6 Sept – Morawa (10 landholders)
	Coorow Wild Dog Meeting Chris Patmore represented the CWBA at a community meeting in Coorow by landholders and the community addressing concerns of increasing Wild Dogs and stock attacks in that region.	13 Sept Coorow
October 2018	Annual General Meeting CWBA Annual General Meeting, adoption of annual report and setting of the 19-20 DPR.	8 October 2018

	Notification to Local Governments about DPR Advising CWBA Local Governments that DPR Notices had been issued to landholders and providing them with further information.	24 October 2018
November 2018	2017-2018 Annual Report Distributed to members and to key stakeholders by email and hard copy.	30 th November 2018
	November E-news and Local Papers Update on the activities of the Association.	9 th November 2018
January 2019	Shire of Perenjori Acting CEO Shire of Perenjori made contact about Declared Pest Rate and notified that when Council had settled in future it would then be appropriate to make a presentation.	3 rd January and 8 th February 2019
February 2019	Morawa Council Presentation Presentation to Morawa Council Meeting	21 st February 2019 Morawa Shire Councilors and Staff
	Meet the Dogger Event – Morawa Afternoon landholder session, DPR and control strategies discussed for Feral Pigs and Wild Dogs.	21 st February 2019 Morawa (20 landholders.)
March 2019	March E-news and Local Papers. Update on the activities of the Association.	13 th March 2019
April 2019	Direct Ratepayer Letter Letter to every Ratepayer in CWBA with land over 100ha. Contact details from the all Local Government's Rate role.	9 th April 2019
	Local Government Letter A direct letter to the President, Councilors and CEO was emailed updating them on the CWBA activities and the incoming DPR.	14 th April 2019
May 2019	E-newsletter and Local Papers Update on the activities of the Association	6 th May 2019
	Email to Local Governments - 19-20 Ministers DPR Consultation Advising CWBA Local Government of the Ministerial consultation process.	17 May 2019
	E-newsletters – 19-20 Ministers DPR Consultation Advising that the 19-20 Ministers DPR Consultation process was now occurring.	23 rd May 2019
	Ministerial Consultation Ministerial Public Consultation Letter direct to all CWBA Ratepayers. Contact details from all Local Government's Rate role.	May 2019

4.10 Other Activities

CWBA member and Director Chris Patmore, with his role as Chair of the Western Beef and Sheep Producers Committee of the Pastoralist and Graziers Association of Western Australia is one of two Western Australian representatives on the National Wild Dog Action Plan Coordination Committee.

5.0 WILD DOG ACTIVITY AND STOCK LOSSES

The CWBA LPMTs trapped a total of 67 Wild Dogs for 2018-2019 and further 7 were shot by landholders. Only 20 Wild Dog sightings were reported to the CWBA which is a significant decrease of 60% than the previous twelve months.

A total of 337 stock (sheep and goats) losses were report by landholders to the CWBA. We do believe that this is the minimum number of stock losses as it is likely to be more with some landholders are still not reporting. The CWBA responds immediately when landholders report stock losses and Wild Dog sightings to the Dogger Coordinator and send a LPMT out to the area as soon as possible.

Table 5: Summary of LPMT Reported Data 2018-2019

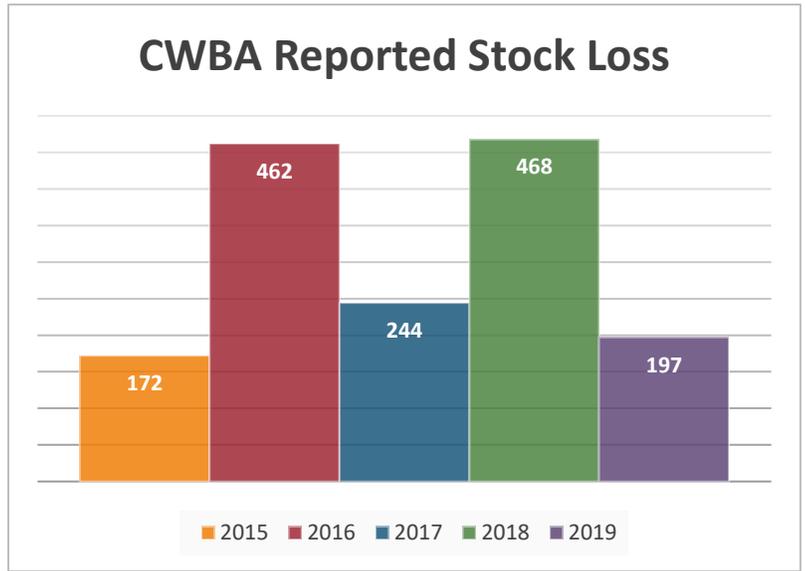
End of Year LPMT Statistics Summary	1 July 2017- 30 June 2018	1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019
LPMT Days Worked	187	344
Baits Laid by LPMTs	12,814	7,700
Wild Dogs Trapped	25	67

Table 6: Summary of Reporting by Landholders 2018-2019

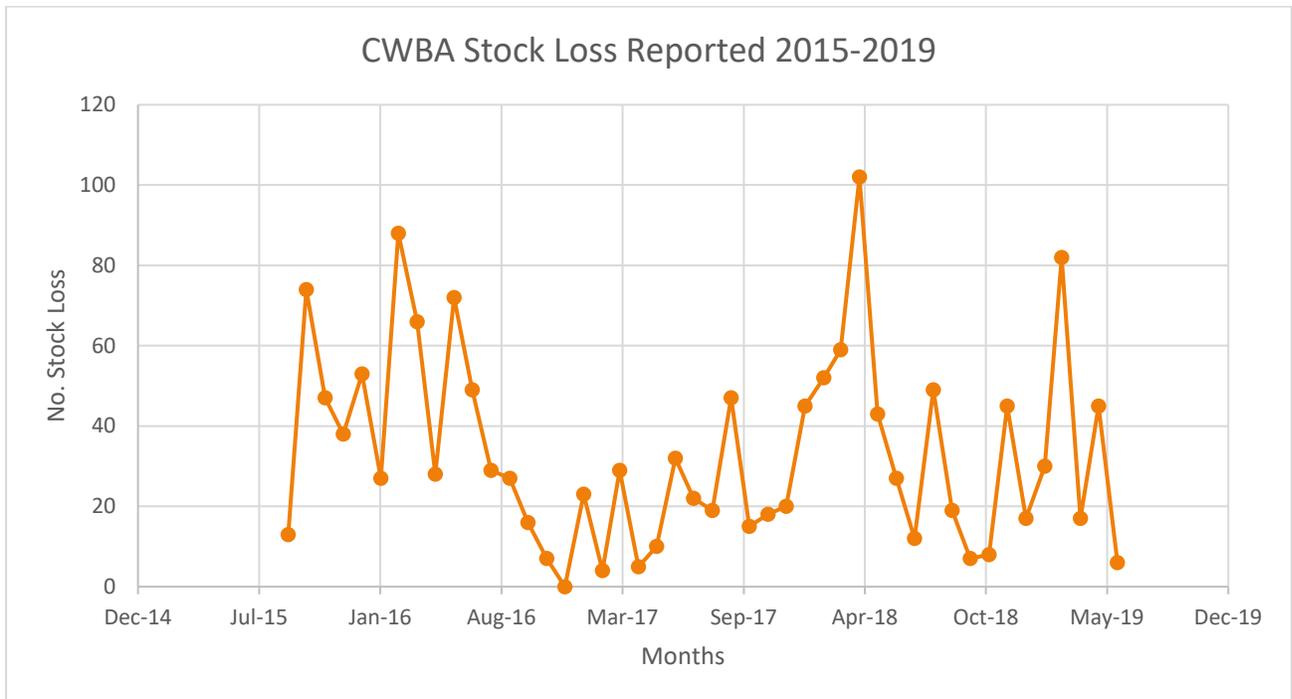
Landholder Reports	1 July 2017- 30 June 2018	1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019
Wild Dogs Shot by landholders	12	7
Reported Wild Dog Sightings	51	20
Stock Loss Reports	469	337

Table 7: Monthly Summary of Stock Loss/Stock Attacks Reported to CWBA

Month	No. Stock killed
July 2018	12
August 2018	49
September 2018	19
October 2018	7
November 2018	8
December 2018	45
January 2019	17
February 2019	30
March 2019	82
April 2019	17
May 2019	45
June 2019	6
TOTAL	337



Graph 1: Summary of CWBA Stock Loss Reported 2015-2019



6.0 SUMMARY

The CWBA has successfully seen the implementation of its first Declared Pest Rate in 2018-2019. This has enabled the Board of Management to focus its attention and energy on ensuring that it has effective strategies and on-ground actions in place for each of its priority Declared Pest Species.

Continuity in staffing and contracts for delivery of on-ground activities has been critical in delivering successful outcomes as outlined in the Operational Plan. We have employed three Local Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) for 344 days who trapped or shot 67 Wild Dogs, had throughout the year each had between 42 and 110 traps in the ground at any one time and laid 12,700 baits across the region by LPMTs through ground and aerial baiting. 40,500 dried meat baits were made by the CWBA of which 32,800 were used by landholders free of charge in coordinated community baiting programs in September 2018 and April 2019. We held 10 bait days for landholders to access baits for the control of wild dogs, feral pigs, foxes and rabbits and assisted 23 landholders to obtain Restricted Chemical Product Permits.

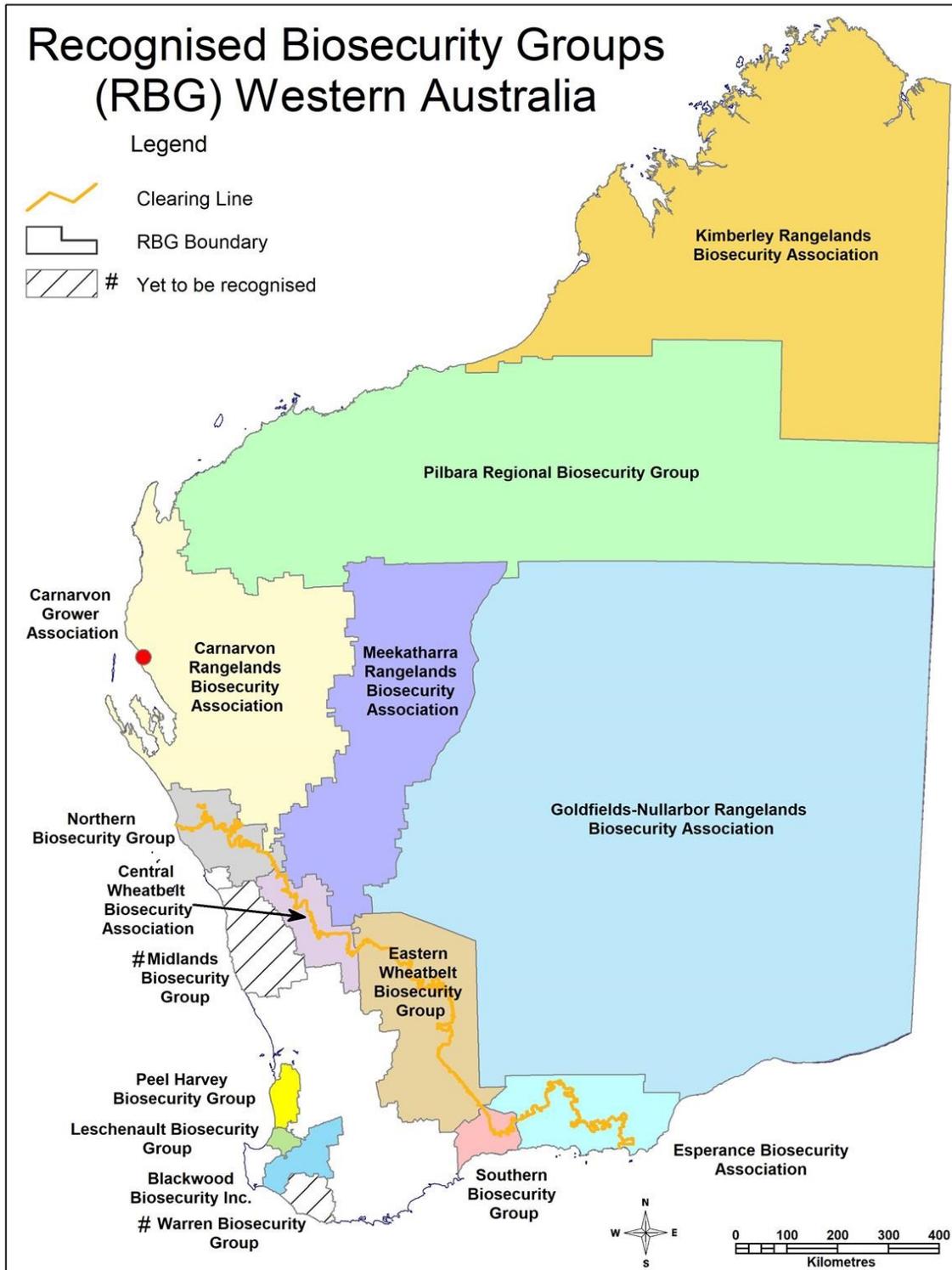
337 stock losses/attacks were reported to the CWBA during this period, which continues to be concerning for landholders and the CWBA Board of Management, particularly when anecdotally there's evidence of landholders continuing to destock or reduce flock numbers across the region for a range of management reasons including Wild Dog predation. Key hot spots are in the east of the area's region on agricultural land adjacent to the State Barrier Fence. The number of wild dog sightings reported has significantly decreased. Rabbit numbers across the region this year again appeared low with the release of the RHDV1 K5 and RHDV1 K2 strains of the calicivirus being effective biocontrol.

Significant effort has been put into the issue of Feral Pigs in the Shire of Morawa by the CWBA over the last twelve months with a total of 543 Feral Pigs culled in the western region of the Morawa Shire. This is only just the beginning of a longer term and sustained control program to ensure that if effective intervention is undertaken now that Feral Pigs do not become a problem to landholders like Wild Dogs have. Landholders are strongly urged to participate in control activities now whilst Feral Pig numbers are low and relatively localised to ensure that we do not face the same problem as other areas in Western Australia. The challenge going forward is how to address the social and recreation issues of Feral Pig hunting and seeding of pigs in the CWBA region.

The CWBA has been successful in attracting a number of external funds to assist with on-ground activities and is something that it will continue to do where funding is available so ensure that the Declared Pest Rate remains as low as possible for landholders.

The strength and effectiveness of the CWBA lies in local people, making local decisions about local pests. These declared pests are a significant and real threat to productive agricultural systems, the environment and public health and safety in our region and across Western Australia. Not everyone will be directly impacted by declared pests, but success relies on well-timed cooperative control activities over the whole landscape.

APPENDICES 1: AREA OF OPERATION



APPENDICES 2 FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

CWBA Financials 2018/19		
1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019		
Opening Balance 1 July 2018		\$ 360,371.49
Bank Accounts		
DPRID Bridging Funds Account	262,267.96	
CWBA Own Funds	98,103.53	
AWI Funds		
DPR Funds		
Debit Card Account		
Plus Income		
R4R Wild Dog Funding Grant	20,156.00	
R4R Capacity Building Project	39,050.00	
DPIRD Grant Funding	20,157.00	
DPIRD Rate Match Fund	196,945.00	
Other Income	43.25	
Interest Received on all Accounts	1,856.02	
Other Grant Income	162,244.92	
GST Collected	16,196.28	
		457,448.47
Less Expenses		
LPMT	248,923.42	
Project Management	69,073.37	
Community Engagement	9,946.46	
Projects / Baiting	62,694.53	
Plant & Equipment	10,964.00	
GST Paid	9,933.75	
		411,535.53
Closing Cashbook		\$406,284.43
Outstanding Transactions		
Less Income		
Plus Expenses	1,058.80	
		\$407,343.23
Balance of Bank Accounts @ 30 June 2019		
DPIRD Bridging Funds		
CWBA Own Funds	96,775.28	
DPIRD Rate Funds	141,601.13	
DPR Funds	168,845.69	
Debit Card Account	121.13	
		\$407,343.23

APPENDICES 3: AUDITORS REPORT
