



EASTERN WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY GROUP INC.

Annual Report

For

2015/16 FINANCIAL YEAR

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1.0 Chairman's Report- Cyril Smith

Firstly, I would like to thank all concerned who have assisted me in my role as Chairman over the past two years. Thanks to our past chairman, Jim Sullivan, for his continued support and advice. Your experience and knowledge has been greatly appreciated. Thanks also to our Executive Officer, Lisa O'Neill, for all your time and effort in your role this year. You are always willing and prepared to assist whenever needed. Thanks also to Dean Sinclair, our Vice-Chairman and our management committee for continuing to support this worthy cause.

This year we saw the Declared Pest Rate (DPR) system put into place. This is important for the group as it will guarantee on-going financial support and security for the future of the group and the control of Wild Dogs.

I would also like to thank the staff at DAFWA for their continued support and assistance. In addition to this I would like to show our appreciation to Adrian Chesson (DPaW) in his role as District Wildlife Officer. Your experience, knowledge and support are greatly appreciated by the committee and myself.

To our two Pest Management Technicians (Doggers), Stuart McEwan and Jamie Taylor, who continue to make a difference with the reduction in dog numbers. The number of dogs controlled is proof that this programme is effective and should continue. Thank you for your commitment and efficiency.

Thank you to AWI for your generous sponsorship this year. I would also like to thank Western Areas LTD for your continued sponsorship agreement with the EWBG. This support is invaluable to our group, as is the support from our eleven member Shires, who contribute not only financially but with expertise and time.

In conclusion, thank you to everyone who has supported this group. I have enjoyed my time as Chairman of this positive group and I would like to wish the incoming Chairman and committee all the best for next year.

Cyril Smith
Chairman- EWBG

2.0 INTRODUCTION

The Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group (EWBG) Inc. has been assisting the sheep industry to manage wild dog predation in the eastern wheatbelt since 2001 and has developed robust relationships with industry members, local governments, the mining industry, and state government departments. The Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) is the responsible state government agency for managing wild dogs on Unallocated Crown Land (UCL) and DPaW estate. To achieve this DPaW employs a dogging contractor to undertake wild dog control in the region and assists in funding baiting programs when funding is available.

To compliment DPaW's work the EWBG was formed in 2001 to employ a second dogger to carry out wild dog control on private properties. After a few years of operation it was deemed unworkable to have one dogger working only on UCL and one only able to work on private properties, this also created excessive amounts of travel for the doggers. The majority of wild dog control work is required on UCL, therefore an agreement between DPaW and EWBG now allows all doggers working within member shires to have the ability to operate on public and private lands.

With financial assistance through the Royalties for Regions program since 2010, the EWBG directly employs two contractors. This has enabled the DPaW contractor to concentrate his efforts within the 350 000ha Karroun Hill Nature reserve adjoining UCL and Pastoral Leases. Wild dog control west of Lake Moore is undertaken by the CWDSG with permission and with some material support from DPaW the central Wheatbelt district west of Lake Moore, this district is known as the Goodland's area and EWBG's two contractors focus on member shires. Monetary funding through Royalties for Regions will be in its final payment stage during the 16/17 financial year.

This year saw the addition on Trayning Shire as a member of the EWBG. Current shire members of the EWBG are Kondinin, Kulin, Lake Grace, Merredin, Mt Marshall, Mukinbudin, Narembeen, Trayning, Westonia, Yilgarn and Nungarin (hereafter known as the Shires).

The EWBG is supported financially by the mining company Western Areas LTD (WSA), the Department of Agriculture and Food, Australian Wool Innovation, Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) and the State Governments Royalties for Regions program.

This year was a busy year for the EWBG after a successful request was made to the Minister for Agriculture to determine a Declared Pest Rate (DPR) in the group's operational area for 2016/17. Access to the Declared Pest Account will provide the group with secure ongoing funding for the control of declared pests. The EWBG will be managing funds raised through the declared pest rate, with the group's main focus on wild dog control.

3.0 EWBG Aims and Objectives

- Control current predation of livestock by wild dogs.
- Develop and implement management strategies to minimise future wild dog impacts on livestock.
- To implement best practice wild dog management on private and public lands in the region.
- To increase landholder participation, both private and public.
- To monitor, evaluate and report on the progress towards minimising wild dog impact on livestock in member shires.
- To provide proactive and positive extension activity driven by the group that will facilitate broader community awareness of wild dog issues.

4.0 Activities and Achievements 2015/16

EWBG began the new financial year by reappointing Stuart McEwan and Jamie Taylor as the Pest Management Technician's for the EWBG with an extension of 12 months to their contracts. Mr. McEwan continued his work in the southern portion of the region and Mr. Taylor continued his work in the north of the region in collaboration with Pat Darling (DPaW).

During 2015/16 Mr. Darling has spent considerable time supporting growers in the Goodland's and northern parts of the Mt Marshall and Koorda shires (Lake Moore). Parts of this region are outside the operational area of the EWBG but inside DPaW's wheatbelt region.

Management committee:

The Management committee consists of the following representatives;

Chairman: Mr. Cyril Smith, Vice Chairman: Dean Sinclair, Committee of Management: Ron Burro, Mark Crees, Steve Palm and Jim Sullivan.

Executive Officer

The EWBG's Executive Officer Lisa O'Neill has continued to perform administrative and financial duties for the group.

Traps

The group's Pest Management Technician contractor's only use laminated or rubber padded jawed traps. Trap models in use are MB750, Bridger No5 and New lanes. The new lanes trap has proven to be effective but has shown to be prone to electrolysis in salt effected ground. The group has good relationships with the manufacture of lanes traps and efforts to reduce the incidence of this issue are being undertaken

Wild Dog Control on Pastoral leases:

The EWBG contractors and DPaW Dogger carry out control operations on the pastoral leases within the Yilgarn and Mt Marshall shires. No Declared Pest and Animal Control Fund rates have been received from adjoining Recognised Biosecurity Groups during 2015/16.

Sate Barrier Fence (SBF)

The State Barrier Fence is a major part of Wild Dog control in the EWBG's operational area. When in working condition the SBF acts as a very worthy barrier to keep wild dogs out of agricultural land. This year it was deemed that the Koolyanobbing grid was in inadequate condition. This resulted in the removal of the grid and at this point has not been replaced. The EWBG is working closely with DAFWA to see this rectified. The gap in the fence has a detrimental effect as wild dogs are entering the agricultural directly through this gap. A number of attacks have been seen as a direct result of this opening in the fence.

The EWBG contractors continue to undertake minor maintenance, report illegal travel and work closely with DAFWA fencing staff and contractors.

Mining Company Support:

Western Areas LTD Project have been strong supporters of the EWBG by providing financial and physical support. The support received by the livestock industry within the eastern wheatbelt by

these companies cannot be measured in monetary terms. This sponsorship agreement came to an end in 2014 and a new sponsorship agreement has just been signed for the next three years. Western Areas LTD and EWBG look forward to their continuing relationship in the next three years. All the members of the EWBG would like to thank Western Areas LTD for their continued support.

5.0 Wild Dog Activity and Reported Stock Losses

The group employs two full time Pest Controllers Technicians who are both TAFE trained and accredited. They work mainly in the unallocated crown land of the Great Western Woodland in a 20km wide buffer zone along the eastern side of the State Barrier Fence. Should there be an incursion of dogs into the agricultural area, they then come inside the fence onto the farms to deal with it. The completion of the last 180km of this fence 12 months ago has made their job much more manageable.

All dogs caught are photographed with a date and a GPS coordinate. One of our controllers has also invested in a motion sensor operated CCTV camera which can be located near his traps so he can study the behaviour of wild dogs.

Over a 12 month period, all dogs caught were DNA tested to see what proportion were actually dingoes and what were wild dogs, it was found that 85% of all dogs tested were cross bred.

Dog numbers in the area have reduced considerably since the first couple of years of the groups operation. Controllers were catching 90-100 dogs a year; that number is now down to 20-30 dogs per year. The spin off from the removal of dogs, foxes and cats has been the return of kangaroos, small native marsupials and birds within the control areas. These were very seldom present in the formative years of the group.

Please see appendix 3 for Dogging statistics and numbers for the 2015/16 year.

6.0 Conclusion

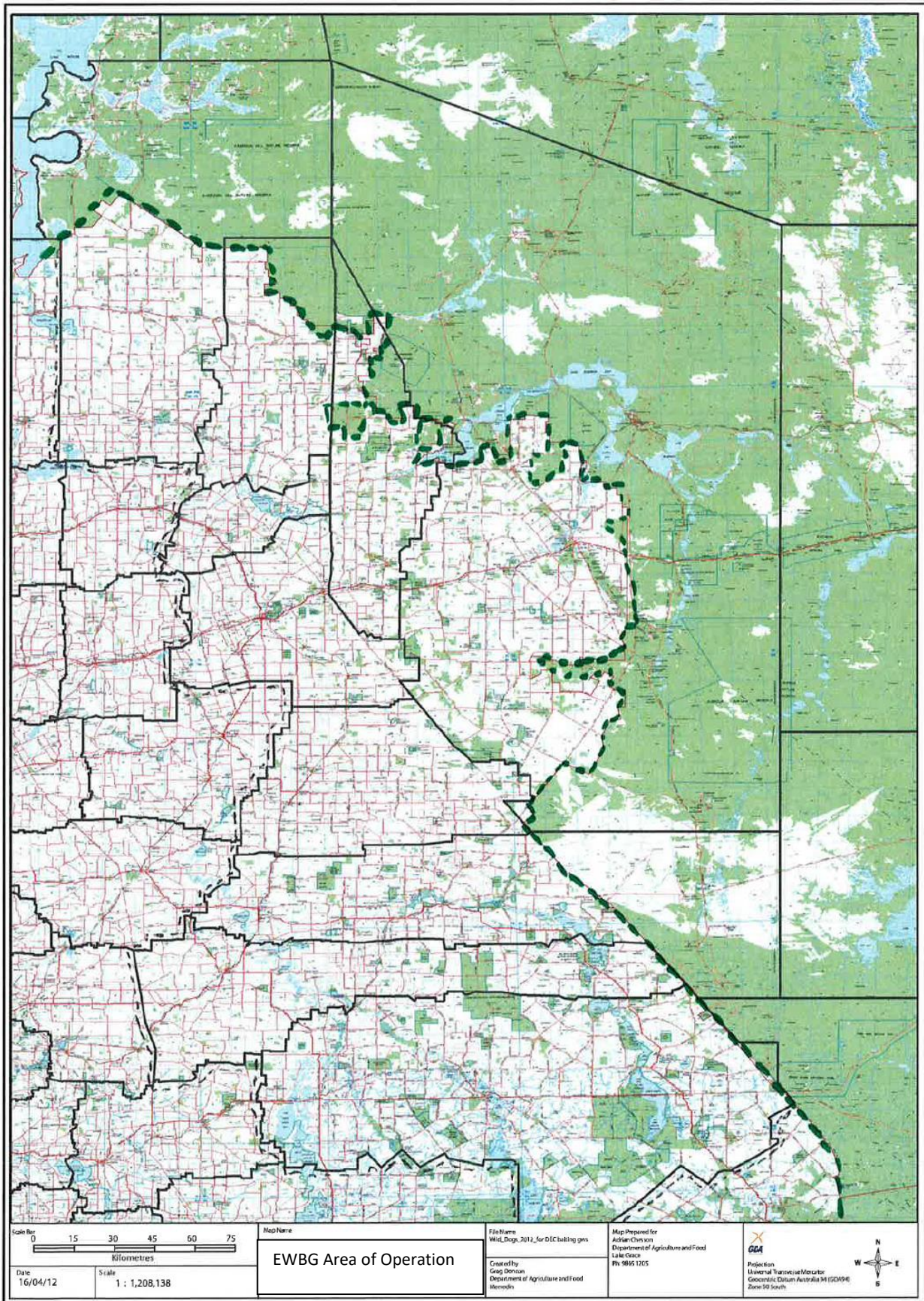
Activity in the far north of the region continues to impact on a small number of sheep growers and the EWBG is putting substantial resources into the area to address the impacts of this activity. Upgrades to the SBF over recent years have proved to be effective in helping prevent wild dog predation across the whole of the group's operational area and the closure of the 'Yilgarn Gap' has assisted Dogger's work in Yilgarn area. The issue of wild dogs crossing Lake Moore will be the future issue to tackle.

The group's committee of management is mindful that it does not become complacent and that the level of involvement from all parties is maintained across the whole landscape. Resource levels need to be maintained; relationships built on and clear management and business plans developed.

EWBG continues to have a positive effect upon wild dog predation and continues to implement its plans and secure resources to effectively manage wild dogs within its area of operations.

The group has now reached Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG) status, by gaining RBG status this will hopefully allow the group's objective of continuing a strong reputation for effective wild dog control whilst securing financial input.

Appendix 1: EWBG Area of Operation.



Appendix 2: Financials 2015/16

EWBG 2015/16 Financial Details					
INCOMING/EXPENSES 2015/16 Financial Year					
	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	
	Jul, Aug, Sept	Oct, Nov, Dec	Jan, Feb, March	April, May, June	TOTAL
EXPENSES					
Contract Work	\$50,699.00	\$70,136.00	\$64,064.00	\$65,257.50	\$250,156.50
Capital	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Advertising	\$16.00	\$44.00	\$181.00	\$0.00	\$241.00
Administration	\$2,356.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,356.65
Other	\$280.00	\$8,541.77	\$8,025.00	\$7,355.00	\$24,201.77
Total Quarterly Expenses	\$53,351.65	\$78,721.77	\$72,270.00	\$72,612.50	\$276,955.92
INCOMING					
Shires	\$64,350.00	\$14,300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$78,650.00
Mining	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
DAFWA	\$0.00	\$103,675.00	\$0.00	\$60,500.00	\$164,175.00
Other	\$6,905.00	\$60,500.00	\$0.00	\$4,950.00	\$72,355.00
Total Quarterly Incomings	\$71,255.00	\$178,475.00	\$0.00	\$65,450.00	\$315,180.00
Bank Balance at 1st July 2015:					\$21,202.82
Total Incomings until June 30th 2016					\$315,180.00
Total Outgoing until June 30th 2016					\$276,955.92
Bank Balance at June 30th 2016:					\$59,426.90

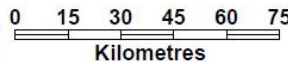
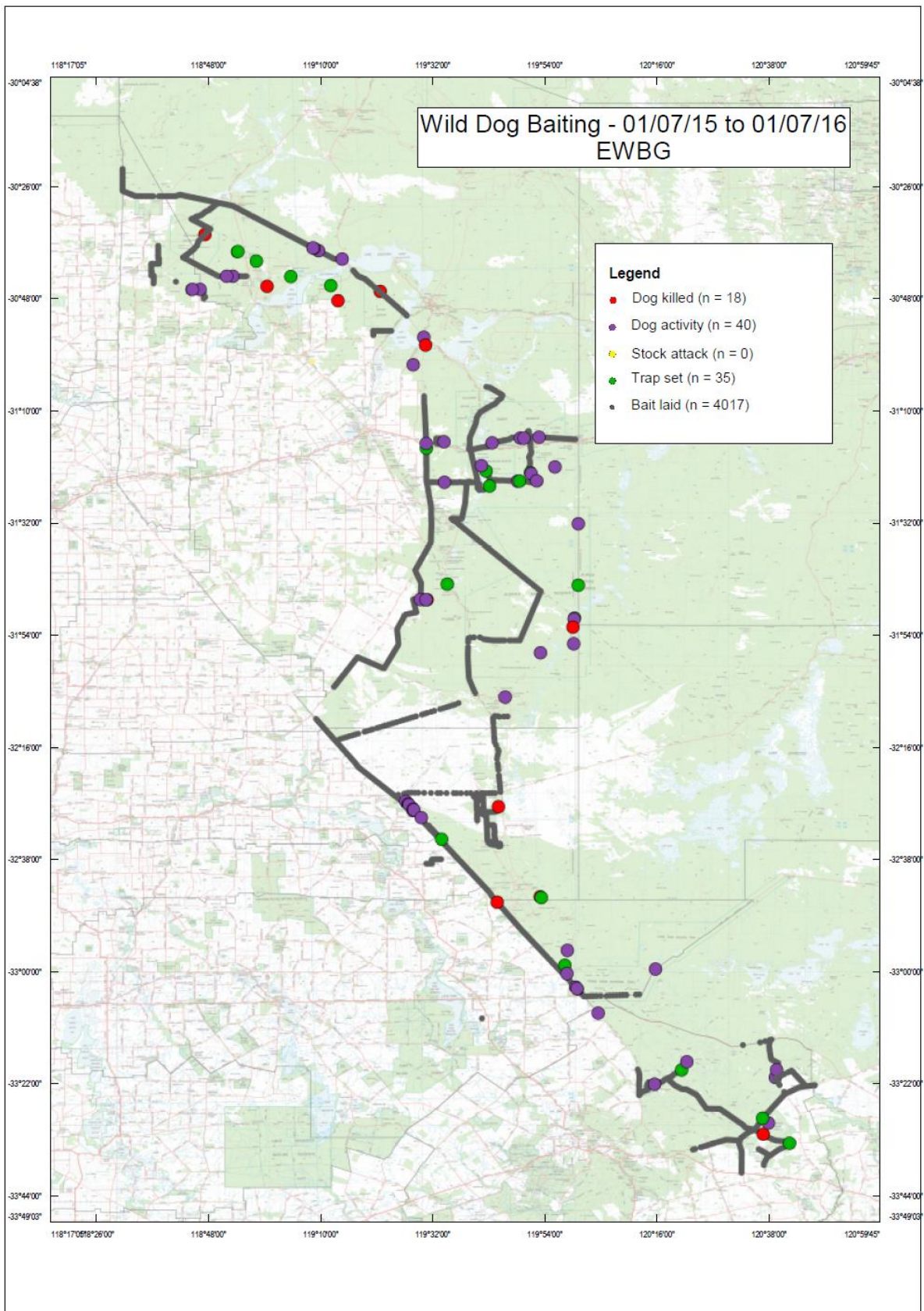
Appendix 3: Reported Wild Dog Activity

Month	Landholder	Stuart McEwan								Jamie Taylor								PMT Total	
	Dog Shot-Trapped-Baited	Days Worked	Traps Set	Trapped Dogs	Baits Laid	Baited Dogs	Shot Dogs	Foxes	Cats	Days Worked	Traps Set	Trapped Dogs	Baits Laid	Baited Dogs	Shot Dogs	Foxes	Cats	Baits Made	Reported Stock Losses
July	0	11	2	3	0	0	0	2	8	18	8	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
August	0	11	1	0	200	0	0	0	1	6	1	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0
September	1	23	1	0	200	0	0	0	0	25	6	0	20	0	6	1	2	0	6
1/4 Total	1	45	4	3	400	0	0	2	9	49	15	1	20	0	6	3	3	0	14
October	2	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	22	1	1000	0	0	0	0	0	0
November	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	3	1	1000	0	0	4	2	6800	2
December	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	27	8	0	600	0	0	10	3	0	7
2/4 Total	3	45	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	50	33	2	2600	0	0	14	5	6800	9
January	1	13	3	0	174	0	0	0	0	13	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
February	1	11	3	2	226	0	0	0	0	17	3	0	1600	0	3	19	5	0	1
March	1	16	1	1	800	0	0	1	0	11	2	2	500	0	0	4	0	0	0
3/4 Total	3	40	7	3	1200	0	0	1	0	41	6	2	2100	0	3	24	5	0	1
April	1	18	5	1	800	0	0	2	0	23	8	0	1200	0	0	7	0	6800	30
May	0	10	7	3	200	0	0	2	9	19	3	1	600	0	0	7	0	0	5
June	0	11	7	2	0	0	0	1	1	20	2	0	200	0	0	5	2	0	0
4/4 Total	1	39	19	6	1000	0	0	5	10	62	13	1	2000	0	0	19	2	6800	35
FINAL TOTAL	8	169	30	12	2600	0	0	12	19	202	67	6	6720	0	9	60	15	13600	59

Appendix 4. Reported Wild Dog Attacks and Stock Deaths.

Year	Month	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	TOTAL
2012/13	<i>Attacks</i>	3	3	1	3	3	2	2	1	4	5	4	4	35
	<i>Stock Losses</i>	16	3	2	5	8	6	5	2	23	31	10	13	124
2013/14	<i>Attacks</i>	2	3	5	8	2	1	4	3	2	3	1	3	37
	<i>Stock Losses</i>	14	9	64	34	10	4	6	8	6	9	1	30	195
2014/15	<i>Attacks</i>	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	5	1	2	1	0	16
	<i>Stock Losses</i>	2	40	4	8	0	0	8	9	2	5	2	0	80
2015/16	<i>Attacks</i>	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	7
	<i>Stock Losses</i>	8	0	6	0	2	7	0	1	0	30	5	0	59

Appendix 5 EWBG Area of Operation and Dogger Activity



Compiled by: DAFWA - Geospatial Information Services Group
Date: 08 August 2016
Horizontal Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1994

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Please note not all dogs destroyed, baits laid and PMT activity is present on this map.