



# EASTERN WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY GROUP INC.

## Annual Report

For

## 2018/19 FINANCIAL YEAR

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Proudly supported by

- ◆ SHIRE OF KONDININ ◆ SHIRE OF KULIN ◆ SHIRE OF LAKE GRACE ◆ SHIRE OF MERREDIN ◆
- ◆ SHIRE OF MT MARSHALL ◆ SHIRE OF MUKINBUDIN ◆ SHIRE OF NAREMBEEN ◆ SHIRE OF NUNGARIN ◆
- ◆ SHIRE OF TRAYNING ◆ SHIRE OF WESTONIA ◆ SHIRE OF YILGARN ◆



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## 2.0 Chair Report – Stuart Putt (Mount Marshall Representative)

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The past 12 months has seen the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group keep up the momentum of the past few years and contribute considerably to the betterment of the state's landholders in controlling predominately wild dogs. With landholders funding the biosecurity groups under the BAM Act through a declared pest rate it is pleasing to note that this money is hitting the ground and making a real and tangible difference through the work of the Licensed Pest Management Technicians employed by the EWBG.

This year has seen myself as the Shire of Mt Marshall's representative take over the chair position from the outgoing Chair Mark Crees and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his hard work and the contribution to the EWBG he has made over the last 2 years. Along with the new Deputy Chair, the Shire of Mukinbudin's Mr Steve Palm and the elected committee we have presided over a very productive year that has seen 42 wild dogs destroyed, a new grid installed on the Novoria haul road, the continuation of funding landholder RCP permits, and a successful aerial bating program undertaken with the neighbouring Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group. It is also pleasing to note the commitment and support from the state government for the Biosecurity Groups which extends to the State Barrier Fence which has seen new upgrades in our area over the last 12 months.

Thanks to the hard work of our LPMT's Jamie Taylor, Stuart McEwan and new part time LPMT Nathan Richards for all their hard work throughout the year covering vast tracts of the EWBG member shires, their knowledge and experience has contributed largely to the ongoing success of the EWBG. The EWBG would also like to thank DPIRD, DBCA, AWI, Western Areas and the eleven member Shire's for their contribution and support of the EWBG.

Lastly before I sign off, I would like to say a special thank you to Lisa O'Neill the EWBG Executive Officer, her hard work makes mine, the committee and the LPMT's jobs that much easier. This last 12 months has, as I said before, been a very productive one and I look forward to working with all our shire representatives, the committee and Lisa and the LPMT's to make the next 12 months just as productive.

Thanks.

Stuart Putt – EWBG Chairperson.

## 3.0 Overview

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The EWBG is an incorporated organisation that commenced operating in 2001. It has eleven Shire representatives making up the EWBG membership. A management group is elected every two years who direct and manage the day to day operations via an Executive Officer.

EWBG is a Recognised Biosecurity Group which allows the implementation of a Declared Pest Rate (DPR). This was raised for the first time in October 2016, so this year saw its third year with the DPR in place. The Minister of Agriculture and Food, through the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development (DPIRD) matches Rates collected for the management of WA's Declared Pests. The collection rate of the DPR over the past 2 years has been excellent and the group thanks landholders for their support to allow ongoing management of declared pests across the prescribed area.

The management group work on a voluntary basis, with an in-kind contribution of approximately \$15,000 a year across the eleven shires (volunteer's contribution of time and travel to meetings, plus attending workshops and bait making days). This does not include individual landholder and community contributions which are extensive.

The EWBG employ an Executive Officer part time and contract highly skilled and experienced Licenced Pest Management Technicians (LPMTs) - one part time (40 days) and two full time (200 days per year).

The group is supported financially by the mining company Western Areas LTD (WSA), the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD), Australian Wool Innovation (AWI), Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA), the State Governments' Royalties for Regions program and the eleven member Shires (Kondinin, Kulin, Lake Grace, Merredin, Mount Marshall, Mukinbudin, Nungarin, Narembeen, Trayning, Westonia and Yilgarn).

Achieving success in this role ensures Eastern Wheatbelt agricultural businesses are able to become more robust and remain viable through improved productivity and increased income associated with reduced stock losses due to increasingly effective and coordinated declared pest management practices.

### 3.1 Achievements

Through necessity, the focus to date of the EWBG has been on the management of wild dogs and in conjunction with this, European red foxes.

The EWBG has been very successful in reducing wild dog predation across the extensive area enabling farming businesses to enter back into livestock and providing additional opportunities for agistment of sheep in the area over the summer months thus diversifying the agricultural economic base.

In 2000-2001 **reported** sheep losses were more than 2000 head. EWBG coordinated activities halved this to 1000 in 2008, 135 head in 2017/18 and 70 in 2018/19. With approximately 30 new RCP Permits in 2018/19 in place in the area due to assistance from the EWBG, this allows landholders to carry out

# COMMUNITY CONTROL OF COMMUNITY PESTS



KONDININ • KULIN • LAKE GRACE • MERREDIN • MT MARSHALL • MUKINBUDIN • NAREMBEEN • NUNGARIN • TRAYNING • WESTONIA • YILGARN

their own pest control activities as well as provide immediate access and support if required by LPMTs in key target areas. The EWBG encourages all landholders to obtain an RCP Permit.

EWBG requests from community and LPMTs any reports of wild dogs and records all management activities of Wild Dogs undertaken in the EWBG area. This supports the National Wild Dog Strategy and provides data via the nationally funded Feralscan database.

The EWBG has played a significant role in ensuring farmers can continue to stock sheep and other livestock in the South West of WA by leading a collaborative and coordinated approach to provide management of wild dogs inside and outside the WA State Barrier Fence, from Northampton to Esperance in 2018/19.

## 4.0 EWBG Aims and Objectives

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### 4.1 Our Aim (Vision)

Community control of community pests.

### 4.2 Our Role (Mission)

Protect and support the future of the Eastern Wheatbelt by working with landholders to fulfil their responsibility of managing declared pests on their land.

The EWBG believes declared pests can be better managed by working together as a community in conjunction with industry and government. Through a coordinated approach utilising a variety of strategies and technologies, EWBG can better assist and support landholders.

### 4.3 Objectives

The objectives of the EWBG are to:

- Control current predation of livestock by declared pests.
- Develop and implement management strategies to minimise future declared pest impacts on livestock.
- Implement best practice declared pest management on private and public lands in the region.
- Increase landholder participation, both private and public.
- Monitor, evaluate and report on the progress towards minimising declared pest impact on livestock in member shires.
- Provide proactive and positive extension activity driven by the group that will facilitate broader community awareness of declared pest issues.

## 5.0 Direction

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The Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group is playing a key role in assisting land managers to manage declared pests in the region. Data from a range of sources shows that the Eastern Wheatbelt region has significant populations of declared animal pests that pose substantial environmental and economic risks to privately held farmland, unallocated crown land and river systems.

Declared animal pests of most concern for our communities and region, include wild dogs and foxes.

Wild dogs continue to cause livestock losses across the Eastern Wheatbelt. Whilst significant reductions in wild dog populations has occurred through the long-term activities of the EWBG, ongoing work is essential to keep populations at a level that will enable ongoing, profitable livestock operations across the region and state.

Management of wild dogs is in alignment with the *Western Australian Wild Dog Action Plan 2016-2021*. This is an 'industry led and driven plan that considers the economic, environmental and social impacts of wild dogs and identifies the key issues for managing them across Western Australia. The plan is designed to protect the livestock and tourism industries and public safety and recognises the ecological and cultural values of the dingo'. The EWBG is contributing to a key component of the WA Biosecurity Strategy 2016-2025 and DPIRD's Invasive Species Plan for Western Australia 2015-2019.

Fox control has also been identified as a priority management issue throughout our operational area, particularly for landholders with livestock. The group also recognises the negative impact that foxes have on biodiversity, particularly native fauna.

As the EWBG operational area incorporates many larger areas of remnant vegetation close to and beyond the clearing line, the control of foxes is important for the sustainability of livestock enterprises and for the benefit of nature conservation. It is also foundational in ensuring any efforts in Wild dog control are maximised. The management of foxes is imperative to maximise wild dog control however the EWBG have increased monitoring of foxes as response to concern and interest in the Shire of Narembeen.

The EWBG conducted two extensive aerial baiting programs in 2018/19. The first operation was in October 2018 which focused on the northern area of the EWBG and the second operation was conducted in June 2019 in the southern area of EWBG. The aerial baiting program allows maximum control and also provides the LPMT's the ability to conduct surveillance of the area. This control program is essential to the EWBG and reduces the pressure Wild Dogs place on the SBF and allows the EWBG LPMT's to control Wild Dogs that have infiltrated the SBF into agricultural land.

The EWBG has been working with DPIRD in the use of reporting through Feralscan. This will provide landholders the ability to report pests so the group can better understand the various pests, prevalence and current pest management in EWBG areas. The EWBG has also included motion sensed cameras in their control program to help increase surveillance and monitoring of declared pests within the prescribed area.

## 6.0 Summary

This year has seen the EWBG develop even further as a Recognised Biosecurity Group. This is the third year of the Declared Pest Rate (DPR) within the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group's prescribed area. This rate allows the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group (EWBG) to support landholders in their ongoing obligation and responsibility to control declared pests on their land.

The group has received great support from landholders and industry. EWBG continued to engage with the local community to canvas declared pest priorities and develop relevant activities and partnerships to pursue continuous improvement of pest management.

Throughout 2018/19 the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group has provided landholders the opportunity to obtain 1080 accreditation and apply for a Restricted Chemical Permit (RCP), which the EWBG are currently covering the associated costs, to ensure maximum participation and widespread pest management. This allows landholders the opportunity to control declared pests on their property to the best of their ability. EWBG provide this service so landholders have the ability to engage with landholders and to provide opportunities to input into priority declared pests. Representatives from the group have attended multiple field days/community events, including: Wagin Woolorama, Dowerin and Newdegate Field Days, allowing landholders the opportunity to engage with the group and discuss priority pests. The group will continue to attend industry events in the future as it provides a voice for landholders within the area.

EWBG participated in the Biosecurity Round-table and WALGA forum to provide a voice for EWBG landholders. The Executive Officer is active in the AWI/DPIRD workshops to maximise collaboration with South West RBGs managing wild dogs: NBG, CWBA, SBG, EBA. This also allows the EWBG Executive Officer to provide support and networking with other RBG Executive Officers.

The EWBG also worked in cooperation with Minjar Gold Pty Ltd – Southern Cross Operations and DPIRD to place a grid in the Nevorina Haul Road Gate. The EWBG would like to thank Minjar Gold for their prompt response in purchasing and installing the grid and thank DPIRD for connecting the grid to State Barrier Fence. This will work in with EWBG operations to ensure maximum control in the area.

The group is very appreciative of the great co-operation they have had from the landholders, the member Shires, Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development, AWI, Western Area's Ltd and Department of Biosecurity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA). The group is also very grateful for the hard work and dedication the three LPMT's have put towards the group, the success of the group is a large reflection of their solid work.

Committee of Management:

Chair - Stuart Putt, Deputy Chair - Steve Palm.

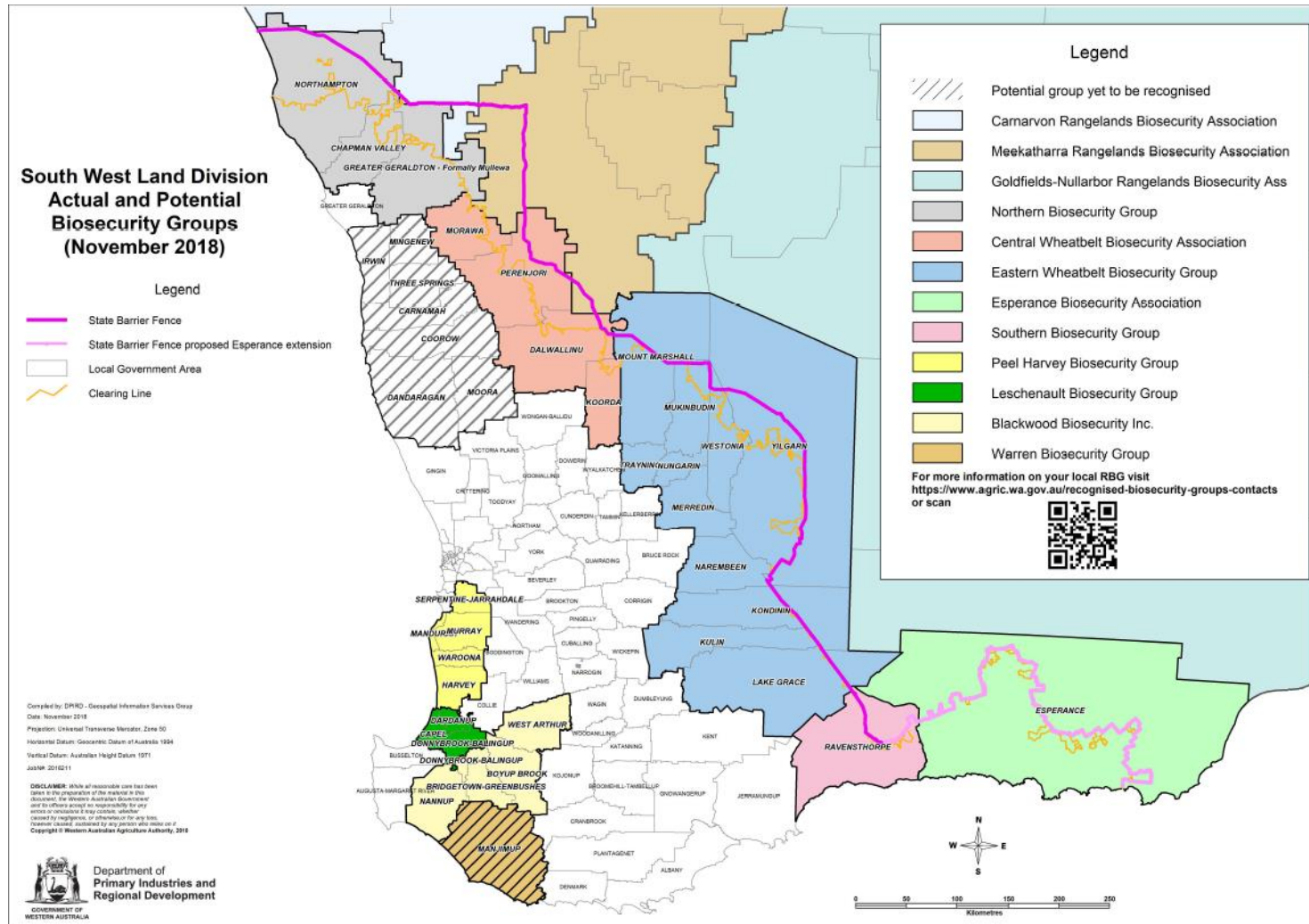
Committee: Jim Sullivan, Helen Shemeld, Bill Cowan, Cyril Smith, Mark Crees, Steve Hunt, Dean Sinclair, Ross Della Bosca, Kent Mouritz.

Shire Representatives for EWBG

Merredin -Mark Crees, Mukinbudin- Steve Palm, Narembreen- Bill Cowan, Westonia- Ross Della Bosca, Trayning- Marlon Hudson, Nungarin- Gary Coumbe, Mt Marshall- Stuart Putt, Lake Grace - Stephen Hunt, Kulin-Brad Taylor, Kondinin- Kent Mouritz, Yilgarn- Wayne Della Bosca.



# Appendix 1: RBG Area of Operation



## Appendix 2: Audited Financial Report

### EASTERN WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY GROUP INC ABN 97 381 980 973

#### INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2019

Income	DPR	Grant	R4R	Other	Total
Grant Funding	-	28,080	-	-	28,080
Declared Pest Account	330,000	-	-	-	330,000
Other Income	-	-	-	1,087	1,087
R4R Funding	-	-	93,750	-	93,750
Shire Contributions	-	-	-	900	900
Interest	-	-	-	2,796	2,796
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>330,000</b>	<b>28,080</b>	<b>93,750</b>	<b>4,783</b>	<b>456,613</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Accounting Fees	404	-	-	-	404
Admin Services	-	-	-	-	-
Advertising & Promotion	3,105	-	-	-	3,105
Aerial Baiting	41,760	-	-	-	41,760
Audit	2,200	-	-	-	2,200
Bank Charges	203	-	-	-	203
Catering	69	-	-	-	69
Community Engagement	7,088	-	-	-	7,088
Contractor Payments	196,217	-	93,750	-	289,967
Wages	34,189	10,000	-	-	44,189
Superannuation	3,154	-	-	-	3,154
COM Event Attendance	-	-	-	-	-
Insurance	19,188	-	-	-	19,188
Meeting Costs	1,661	-	-	-	1,661
Mobile Phone	857	-	-	-	857
Office Supplies	7,155	-	-	-	7,155
RCP Permits	1,229	-	-	-	1,229
Subscriptions & Licenses	435	-	-	-	435
Toxin Traps & Tools	5,262	-	-	-	5,262
Travel	286	-	-	-	286
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>324,462</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>93,750</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>428,212</b>
<b>Carryover</b>	<b>5,538</b>	<b>18,080</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,783</b>	<b>28,400</b>

## Appendix 3: Reported Wild Dog Activity in EWBG Operational Area

### END OF YEAR STATICS

#### 2018-19 Fiscal Year

	LPMT 1	LPMT 2	LPMT3	Total for EWBG
Number of days worked	201	204	40	455
Baits laid (inc Aerial Bait)	5400	13000	815	19215
Wild Dogs destroyed (not inc. all baited)	32 (15 expected baited)	9	1	42

**Total Wild Dogs Destroyed (including destroyed by landholders) and number of Wild Dogs with a very high probability of having taken a 1080 Wild Dog bait.**

		Baited	Shot	Total trapped	Total
Landholders	Private	unknown	3	0	3
LPMT 1	EWBG	>15	1	16	32
LPMT 2	EWBG	unknown	0	9	9
LPMT 3	EWBG	unknown	0	1	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>45</b>

#### Reported Wild Dog attacks and stock death:

Year	Month	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	TOTAL
2012/13	Attacks	3	3	1	3	3	2	2	1	4	5	4	4	35
	Stock Losses	16	3	2	5	8	6	5	2	23	31	10	13	124
2013/14	Attacks	2	3	5	8	2	1	4	3	2	3	1	3	37
	Stock Losses	14	9	64	34	10	4	6	8	6	9	1	30	195
2014/15	Attacks	1	1	1	2	0	0	2	5	1	2	1	0	16
	Stock Losses	2	40	4	8	0	0	8	9	2	5	2	0	80
2015/16	Attacks	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	7
	Stock Losses	8	0	6	0	2	7	0	1	0	30	5	0	59
2016/17	Attacks	1	2	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	8
	Stock Losses	4	5	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	1	16
2017/18	Attacks	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12
	Stock Losses	5	2	8	0	3	60	3	8	2	27	12	5	135
2018/19	Attacks	2	1	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	11
	Stock Losses	10	3	28	2	0	13	0	0	0	4	10	0	70