

CWBA

Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association Inc



ANNUAL

REPORT 2021/22

www.cwba.org.au

CONTENTS

1.0	Chairperson’s Report	3
2.0	Overview	5
3.0	CWBA Aims & Objectives	7
4.0	2021-2022 Operations and Achievements	8
4.1	Declared Pest Rate	8
4.2	Other Funding & Grants	11
4.3	Partnerships and Agreements	12
4.3	LPMT (Dogger) Program	15
4.4	Community Bait Rack Program - Fox & Wild Dog Baiting	15
4.5	CWBA Annual Aerial Baiting Program for Wild Dogs	16
4.6	Community Rabbit Control Program - Rabbit Baiting	17
4.7	Feral Pig Control	18
4.8	Restricted Chemical Product Permits	20
4.9	Community Engagement	21
5.0	Wild Dog Activity and Stock Losses	22
6.0	Summary	24
	Appendices 1: Area of Operation	25
	Appendices 2: Financial Report Summary	26
	Appendices 3: Auditors Report	27

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1.0 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The 2021/22 financial year has seen more good results for the CWBA. Once again, our major focus has been on wild dogs and feral pigs. Stock attacks from wild dogs have had a slight increase, although vastly below the numbers we were seeing prior to our foundation four years ago. Feral pig numbers are trending downwards due to our control work, but still higher than we would like to see.

This has been our fourth year with a Declared Pest Rate and although we endured another rate rise, I feel we still have overwhelming support within the CWBA area. The system of using a DPR to control declared pests may not be perfect, but it's the fairest and most equitable way to control pests which roam free and don't respect property boundaries. It ensures that every landholder contributes to the effort. I'm pleased to report that more than 80% of our expenditure was on-ground activities and less than 20% for administration and communication activities.

With wild dogs, our three regular wild dog LPMTs are working together as a great team and can be responsive and flexible when issues inevitably arise. This has ensured that any problem areas are tackled before the wild dogs become embedded in the area. I would like to thank our team of Graeme Newton, Pat Darling and Jeff Taylor, along with our LPMT Coordinator Russell McPherson.

It was pleasing to see the aerial baiting for wild dogs in inaccessible areas was implemented across all identified areas in the CWBA region this year after the unfortunate situation last year when DBCA prevented us from aerial baiting their tenure in our region. However, we are still working under temporary RCP permits when a more permanent solution would give us more certainty.

With feral pigs, we have mainly been working in the Morawa Shire, alongside the Mingenew and Mullewa regions with Paul Pitaro as our LPMT. Using a formalized partnership with Midlands Biosecurity Group and in conjunction with Northern Biosecurity Group, we have suppressed the feral pig numbers which were threatening to get out of hand. This has been assisted by landholders adding extra funding to secure a second aerial shoot this year.

Our control work on wild dogs, feral pigs, foxes, and rabbits has much wider benefits than just on-farm. The benefits are enormous for the survival of native wildlife, habitats, and the wider landscape such as wetlands. Around 80% of our LPMT time is spent on government managed lands.

Our relationship with DPIRD has generally still been productive, although a considerable amount of our time has been spent trying to resolve administrative issues related to the Declared Pest Account and our ongoing Operational Plans. Constant staff changes and a lack of clarity and guidelines within DPIRD have caused delays and are often a distraction for our Executive Officer when our efforts need to be more on-ground. We remain fully committed to working positively with DPIRD.

I would like to thank our Board members for their work during the year. Other than our Executive Officer, all positions on the Board are voluntary and I know the community appreciates the time put in by the volunteers. Henry Gratte retired from the Board due to becoming ineligible to be a director. Now we have two Director positions open for nominations at this year's AGM.

Once again, I acknowledge the exceptional work of our Executive Officer Linda Vernon. I know the Board appreciates Linda's work for CWBA and for the wider RBG system across WA. With Linda at the helm, CWBA has become a widely respected organization.

Looking to the future, our 2022/23 operational plan is underway, albeit with a budget deficit. Minister MacTiernan has limited RBG rate increases to 4.9%, despite unanimous support at our 2021 AGM for a larger increase. For 2022/23 we can draw on our reserves, but in future years we will need to reduce our control programs unless we can increase our income. It will be a shame to undo all the good work of preceding years due to insufficient funding to control our Declared Pests, particularly the wild dogs and feral pigs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Patmore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Chris" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Patmore".

Chris Patmore

Chairman CWBA

M: 0427 552 018

2.0 OVERVIEW

The CWBA has been operating as a Recognised Biosecurity Group since 2017 and 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). Prior to this the group was operating as a Declared Species Group since 2012.

In 2021 we reviewed and updated our Strategic Plan which identifies the strategic directions of the CWBA over the coming five years to direct the management of declared pests in the Shires of Morawa, Perenjori, Dalwallinu, and Koorda. It's based on identified needs of stakeholders and payers of the Declared Pest Rate (DPR) and aligns with a range of industry and strategic plans. The plan provides guidance for the on-ground operations of the group, as contained in its annual Operational Plan.

The CWBA Annual Operational plans 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 of 30 June 2022, the CWBA Board of Management consists of:

Position	Member	Term Expires
Chairman	Chris Patmore	2023
Deputy Chairman	Peter North	2024
Secretary and Treasurer	Executive Officer	
Director	Carl Forward	2024
Director	Ashley Sanderson	2022
Director	Henry Gratte	2022*
Director	Mark Sutton	2023
Director	Doug Cail	2023
Director	Brad Collins	2023
Director	Don Nankivell	2024

*Henry Gratte resigned in February 2022 and the position is currently vacant.

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, governance, administration and financial duties, overseeing the implementation of the Operational Plan, design and delivery of community engagement and project management activities.

The Association’s financial management is overseen by the Board and the Executive Officer who is supported by the services of a Bookkeeper, Anne Richardson from Scindian Accounting Services.

LPMT Coordinator

Russell MacPherson has remained as the CWBA LPMT Coordinator as a contracted position for the CWBA. We are extremely lucky to have Russell to continue to be involved in our organization and his long-term knowledge of the region and relationship with our LPMTs and landholders is invaluable.

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 2021-2022 OPERATIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

4.1 DECLARED PEST RATE

For 2021-2022 the Minister for Agriculture and Food approved a Declared Pest Rate (DPR) in the Shires of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Morawa and Perenjori of:

- 0.0396 cents in the dollar on the unimproved value of freehold land in the local government districts of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Morawa and Perenjori, that is no less than 100 hectares in area and with a minimum rates payable amount of \$80.00.

BRAMS Modelling data of 2021-2022 CWBA Declared Pest Rate of 0.0396% (cents-in-the-dollar)

Rate payable	# VENS	Rate Amt
\$0 - \$80	363	\$ 29,040.00
\$80 - \$150	313	\$ 35,008.40
\$150 - \$250	201	\$ 38,066.10
\$250 - \$500	108	\$ 35,350.20
\$500 - \$750	24	\$ 14,029.60
\$750 - \$900	8	\$ 6,612.90
\$900 - \$1200	2	\$ 2,111.80
Total	1019	\$160,219.00

Shire	# VENS	Rates Amt	% Cont
Dalwallinu	364	62,974.10	39%
Koorda	206	24,843.60	16%
Morawa	194	29,471.10	18%
Perenjori	255	42,930.20	27%
Total	1019	160,219.00	100%

The rates determination each year may vary due to a number of factors, including but not limited to property subdivisions; changes in unimproved land values; pensioner postponements under the BAM Act or any other applicable exemptions, as determined on a case-by-case basis by the Commissioner of State Revenue. At time of gazettal in July 2021 it was estimated that \$177,310 was to be raised through the determination of rates in the CWBA area in 2021/22. The total amount raised through the determination was matched by State Government funding.

As of 31 May 2022, the CWBA has a cumulative value of unpaid rates at \$58,248. This is a significant increase from the 30 June 2021 amount of \$7,191. CWBA are concerned and currently investigating with DPIRD as to why this may be the case investigating with DPIRD as to why this may be the case and whether

this figure is correct. DPIRD have been unable to provide CWBA with the unpaid rate amount as at 30 June 2022.

The process of setting a rate and raising funds through the implementation of the Declared Pest Rate has continued to be a challenge. The Board aims to ensure that stakeholders are rated fairly and that the pest control programs are adequately funded to make an impact. In forward planning the CWBA Board of Management reviewed Operational Plans, took into the consideration the increase in inflation and cost of expenses and consulted with landholders and members during this year about the activities they wanted to see in the 2022-2023 Operational Plan and identified that a significant increase in the Declared Pest Rate was needed to implement the requested activities. At the 2021 Annual General Meeting the following resolution was passed:

The CWBA requested the Minister for Agriculture and Food to approve an ad valorem rate Declared Pest Rate for 2022-2023 of \$200,000.00 (0.0471 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 of \$120.00 per VEN.*

And 4.591 cents in the dollar on the Unimproved Value of the land held under pastoral leasehold in the local government districts of Dalwallinu and Perenjori

It was with disappointment that this recommended 2022-2023 Declared Pest Rate increase was not supported by DPIRD and the Minister and was capped at a 4.9% increase only on the 2021-2022 Declared Pest Rate.

This is the CWBA’s fourth year in raising a Declared Pest Rate. The administration of this rate has continued to be a task that is onerous and unclear. The CWBA continues to raise with DPIRD a range of concerns that were identified in 2019-2020 to see how both parties can look to improve this process. The new DPIRD project “**Strengthening Community Action to Manage Declared Pests**” looked to resolve some of the identified concerns in the implementation of a Declared Pest Rate from the 2019 Auditor General’s report. The “**Office of RBG**” was formalised with designated DPIRD staff and the “**Talking RBG**” mechanism was established to communicate and provide feedback.

Concern Area	Concern Raised in 2019-20	Progress 2021-22
Documented Declared Pest Rate Process -	There is no clear, documented DPR process for both DPIRD and RBGs with timelines and dates.	A guidance document was developed by DPIRD and provided to RBGs, but there still remains “grey” areas. This is a lengthy document and open to interpretation.

Incorrect Information	There are consistently incorrect information and/or errors in both the consultation, Directions Notice, Declared Pest Account Statements and invoicing process.	This remains an issue.
Communication -	There is often poor, short-notice communication between DPIRD and RBGs on DPR activities including the issuing of rate notices and issuing of reminder notices.	DPIRD created Office of RBG with staff and implemented the "Talking RBG" email address and E-newsletter and communication has improved.
Inadequate Modelling	The CWBA has lack of confidence in the BRAMS declared pest rate modelling provided due to past experience of errors in modelling and not a clear understanding of the modelling process. This has also led to questions about the ability to have differential rating processes and look at the RBG prescribed boundaries in relation to the actual on-ground operational activities.	This remains an issue. The CWBA would like to be able consider differential rating process and rate pastoral properties that it services and are in the CWBA prescribed area.
Ratepayer Data	Lack of confidence that some or the right landholders are receiving a declared pest notice. Inability to access Landgate and ratepayer data.	Inefficient process and data sharing issues remain
Declared Pest Account Statements and Invoicing	There have been instances where the release of funds and financial statements have been delayed. The CWBA needs access to this information to make timely and effective decisions regarding our control programs.	This remains an issue.
Carry Over/Contingency	This is not understood, is unclear and not documented between DPIRD and the CWBA.	DPIRD engaged the services of an independent accountant to provide advice and a guidance note was developed.

4.2 OTHER FUNDING & GRANTS

ROYALTIES FOR REGIONS PROGRAM – WILD DOG MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The CWBA continues to be supported through a twelve-month extension of 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 \$62, 500 was received for the period 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

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

This year was the final year the Sheep/Goat Industry Funding Scheme Wild Dog Grants which was \$180,000 over three years from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2022. The purpose was to better target Wild Dog control activities by providing additional funding support to the CWBA LPMT Program by allocating additional LPMT days to target identified “gap” properties in partnership with the Northern Biosecurity Group. This has allowed us to have LPMTs on the ground on the pastoral properties of Mellenbye and Bunnawarra – key properties inside the State Barrier Fence, but outside the CWBA designated area for Wild Dog control. This funding is also used to support the CWBA Aerial Baiting Program targeting Wild Dogs on Unallocated Crown Land (UCL), Salt lakes, Conservation Estates and pastoral properties inside the State Barrier Fence once a year for three years in partnership with the Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL INNOVATION WILD DOG, FERAL PIG AND FOX CONTROL TRAINING FOR THE BENEFIT OF WOOL AND SHEEP PRODUCERS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA 2020-2022

The CWBA received \$38,571.43 of funding from Australian Wool Innovation (which was a portion of the remaining funds that were allocated to the previous AWI funded WA Wild Dog Coordinator position allocated to 7 RBGs across WA). The key purpose of this funding was to increase the knowledge of and skills in the control of Wild Dogs, Feral Pigs and Foxes in WA, and to increase the number of producers who participated. The CWBA invested funds in creating LPMT and landholder Wild Dog and Feral Pig toolkits to assist in providing equipment needed for effective control activities and associated training in use of the equipment. A portion of the funds were allocated to landholder training workshops, but these have not been delivered yet due to limitations presented with COVID-19 restrictions and landholder availability to attend.

4.3 PARTNERSHIPS AND AGREEMENTS

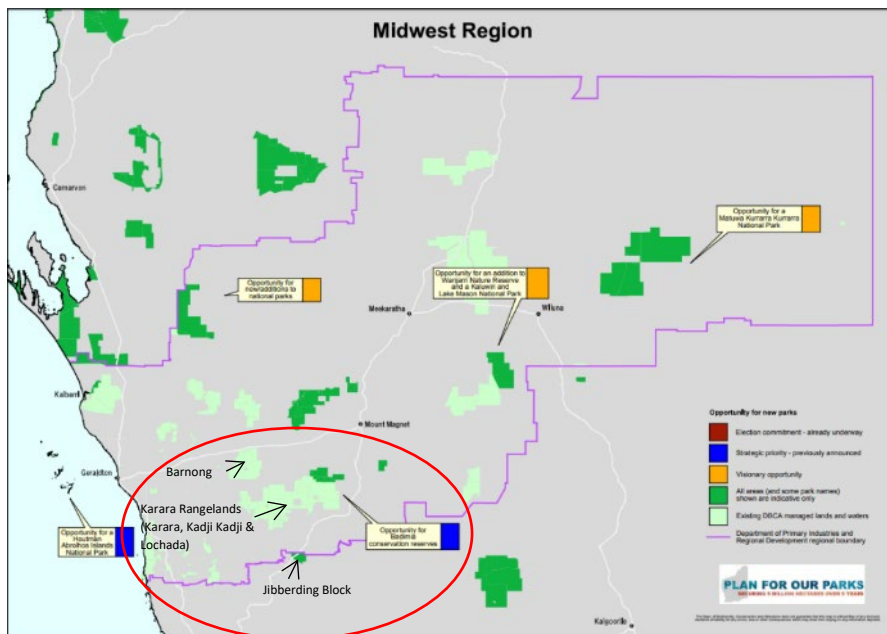
DEPARTMENT OF BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND ATTRACTIONS

Our relationship with DBCA continues to remain unchanged from the previous year. The structure of DBCA provides many challenges for us to easily take steps forward in the direction that the CWBA Board would like. The CWBA has a relationship with two DBCA regions, Mid-West Region and Wheatbelt Region.

The DBCA Wheatbelt Region successfully committed to and signed off on an extension of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the CWBA to the 31 December 2022. This document outlines common understandings and roles and responsibility for Wild Dog control on identified DBCA managed lands in their region by the CWBA. The CWBA extends its thanks to Adrian Chesson, DBCA Wheatbelt District Wildlife Officer for his continued support of the CWBA and its activities. DBCA Wheatbelt also provided \$1000 of funding towards our bait rack activities.

The CWBA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Geraldton (Midwest Region) of the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) expired on 30 June 2019. This agreement continues to be extended whilst waiting for the Restricted Chemical Product Permit (RP Permits) issue to be resolved. Very little consultation has occurred with RBGs over the 12-month period by DBCA about this and it remains a key frustration.

In January 2021 a large area of the DBCA managed lands in the CWBA region were formally created into an area of land to be known as the Badimia Conservation Reserves to increase representativeness of WA's reserves system under the Governments Plan for Our Parks Initiative. This includes the Jibberding Block and Karara Rangelands. The reserves are located on Badimia and Yamaji country and the CWBA looks forward to working collaboratively with traditional owners and DBCA staff to continue to effectively manage declared pests on these lands.



In 2021 the Badimia Conservation Reserves was created in the CWBA region to include Barnong, Karara Rangelands (Karara, Kadji Kadji and Lochada ex pastoral leases) and the Jibberding Block.

DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The CWBA have continued to work closely with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) Office of RBG team to implement our fourth Declared Pest Rate and meet all our reporting obligations as a Recognised Biosecurity Group under the BAM Act 2007. The DPIRD relationship has continued to be challenging as many of the roles and responsibilities continue to remain unclear between both parties.

RBGs were provided with a round-table opportunity with Minister MacTiernan in July 2021 where RBGs presented the Minister with a briefing note titled, Recognised Biosecurity Groups Working together to improve pest control outcomes across WA. DPIRD also held its first RBG Forum in September 2021. An outcome of these meetings was the establishment of the RBG State Advisory Group in late 2021 was a good step forward in developing better relationships, processes, and two-way communication between DPIRD and RBGs. Linda Vernon, CWBA EO was nominated to this Advisory Group and instigated monthly online meetings for the 14 RBGs to improve communication, knowledge sharing and networking opportunities.

The CWBA continue working in partnership on research projects with Tracey Kreplins, Research Scientist, Invasive Species, Sustainability and Biosecurity which now include:

- collecting DNA samples from Wild Dogs as a part of her DNA and kin relationship of Wild Dogs;
- trialling the use of the Eradicat® Bait for Feral Cats as well as Wild Dogs and Foxes; and
- establishing a landscape scale wild dog and feral pig monitoring network to improve delivery of coordinated and effective pest management.

The State Barrier Fence continues to be the number one tool in managing declared pests and stopping them entering the CWBA region from the rangelands. No major upgrades were completed during this last 12 months of the State Barrier Fence in the CWBA area. The grid at Karara Laneway on the Mungada-Koolanooka Rd in the Shire of Perenjori where it intersects the State Barrier Fence was cleaned out and replaced thanks to Karara Mining Ltd. This infrastructure and its maintenance are vital in ensuring effective control activities can be implemented in the CWBA region.



Before and after photos of the Karara Laneway Grid replacement by Karara Mining Ltd in the Shire of Perenjori.

LIEBE GROUP

The CWBA have continued progressing their partnership with the Liebe Group to utilize their communication networks, resources, and facilities to improve and increase landholder engagement in the CWBA region. We thank the Liebe Group for continuing to support our organisation and allowing us the opportunity to leverage their networks and resources.

NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL CATCHMENTS COUNCIL

With Minister MacTiernan communicating publicly that she would like to consider the NRM model as a possible future delivery model for Recognised Biosecurity Groups and Declared Pest Rates the CWBA has made a concerted effort over this period to further develop our relationship with NACC and gain an understanding of each organisations vision and capacity for declared pest management in the region. NACC have been a key supporter of our Feral Pig control activities in the mid-west region and have provided support for our most recent State NRM Community Grants funding application. We have participated in the review and update of the Northern Agricultural Region natural resource management strategy (NARvis) for the period 2021 to 2023.

GROWER GROUP ALLIANCE

The CWBA became an associate member of the Grower Group Alliance (GGA). GGA helps member groups become more visible in the industry and gain access to collaborative opportunities by developing their capacity and connection to a trusted, high-profile network. We look forward to seeing the opportunities this membership may present particularly through the South-West WA Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hub.

LINKWEST

DPIRD procured and paid for the services of Linkwest for a 12-month period to provide all RBGs with Linkwest support and resources. These services were aimed to assist Executive Officers and Management Committee/Boards in their roles by offering training, resources and help desk support in the area of operations, human resources, community engagement and governance.

PROCESSWORX

With the support of DPIRD, the services of ProcessWorx were engaged to support the CWBA in provision of a template Work Health and Safety Management System to then customise. This has supported the CWBA to meeting the requirements under the Work Health and Safety Act 2020 to ensure a process approach to work health and safety is implemented for the safety of all employees, contractors, and volunteers involved in our organisation.

4.3 LPMT (DOGGER) PROGRAM

The CWBA have continued to contract the services of the following Licensed Pest Management Technicians for a fourth successive year.

	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 354.5 days across the region undertaking control activities of baiting, trapping (at any one time there was an average of 142 traps in the ground across the region) and shooting on both public and private land primarily targeting wild dogs, foxes and rabbits. This is the fourth year in a row where the CWBA have been able to deliver over 300 days of consistent LPMT control activities – this is a great outcome of the Declared Pest Rate.

The CWBA LPMTs utilized the national database and reporting program Feral Scan to record all of their control activity and observations in 2021-2022 in line with an agreement held by the CWBA with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. Our LPMTs have worked exceptionally well as a team – they are a great asset to our association.

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 and storing 1080 dried meat baits for targeted fox and wild dog control. This year coordinated baiting programs were organized for September 2021 and March/April 2022. Landholders were provided with access to a total of 26,400 dried meat baits. 1080 property warning signs are also purchased 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.

Table 3: CWBA Bait Rack Data 2021-2022

Bait Rack	Coordinator	September 2021	March/April 2022
Morawa Bait Rack	Glen Tapscott	4000	3000
Perenjori Bait Rack	Glen Solomon	5000	3000
Mongers Lake Bait Rack	Clayton Nankivell	2400	0
Goodlands Bait Rack	Ashley Sanderson	2000	3000
Koorda Bait Rack	Carl Fuchsbichler	4000	0
	Totals	17,400	9,000

4.5 CWBA ANNUAL AERIAL BAITING PROGRAM FOR WILD DOGS

With the funding received from the Sheep/Goat Industry Funding Scheme Wild Dog Grants the Aerial Baiting Program for Wild Dog Control was planned and implemented for a fourth year in the CWBA. This year saw the CWBA and Eastern Wheatbelt Biosecurity Group extend this program and welcome the participation of the Northern Biosecurity Group to extend the aerial baiting in identified areas in their region. We jointly contracted the services of JL Taylor and Desert Eagle Helicopters to coordinate and implement the targeted aerial baiting program by helicopter. The Program was conducted from 11th August to 14th August in the CWBA region with 5,000 1080 dried meat baits being 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 the pastoral properties of Wanarra, Perangery, Mellenbye and Bunnawarra and as well as the DBCA managed land in the Shires of Dalwallinu, Koorda, Morawa and Perenjori as well as some unallocated crown land and saltlakes.



Photos from the CWBA 2021 Aerial Baiting Program for Wild Dog Control undertaken by JL Taylor and Desert Eagle

4.6 COMMUNITY RABBIT CONTROL PROGRAM - RABBIT BAITING

The CWBA allocated and promoted the opportunity for landholders across the region to participate in a coordinated rabbit control program in March and April 2022 with access to free 1080 Rabbit Oat Bait Mixing days to landholders. It continues to be a challenge to gain landholder support for and engagement in this opportunity. We saw a better uptake than in 2021 with 16 landholders participating but we would like to see more landholders expressing an interest in and participating in this activity. We had 140 pre-purchased packets of 1080 One Shot from the 2021 program and purchased an additional 110 packets to ensure that we had adequate supply of poison on hand for this activity. We mixed approximately 1.3 tonnes of Oats and landholders laid approximately 248km of bait trails across the region, with most participants being from the Shire of Koorda.

Overall rabbit numbers again were reported to be increasing across the region and the CWBA purchased 20 vials of Calicivirus RHDV1 K5 strain which were released and monitored at identified sites across the region by LPMTs.



Setting up for a community rabbit bait mixing day at a landholder's property. The CWBA have a custom-made bait mixing trailer that enables oat bait to be mixed effectively and efficiently with 1080 poison for the control of rabbits and also feral pigs.

4.7 FERAL PIG CONTROL

The CWBA continued its partnership agreement with the Midlands Biosecurity Group for 2021-2022 to work jointly on delivering a co-ordinated and collaborative response to the issue of feral pigs, a declared pest, in the Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association (CWBA) and Midlands Biosecurity Group (MBG) region of Western Australia. This year also saw the work and collaboration extend into the Northern Biosecurity Group (NBG) region specifically focusing on the Feral Pigs that move in and out of the region on the Mullewa-Morawa and City of Greater Geraldton-Mingenew boundaries.

The project involves co-ordinated baiting, monitoring and education programs across land tenures. Feral pigs have a destructive impact on landscapes in the region. Feral Pigs are continuing to impact on soil and water quality, destroying native flora and fauna including threatened species, flattening crops and predated on lambs. The project's aims are to:

- a. Build relationships with land managers and provide coordination and mentoring for the control activities of baiting and trapping programs around known feral pig 'hot spots' in the CWBA & MBG on private property.
- b. Collect information about feral pig activity (damage, numbers and locations) and 'ground-truth' the Draft WA Feral Pig Distribution map, utilising local knowledge and through linkage with Northern Biosecurity Group Monitoring project on both public and private lands.
- c. Encourage all landholders to become active participants in their Recognised Biosecurity Group and in the control of declared pests.

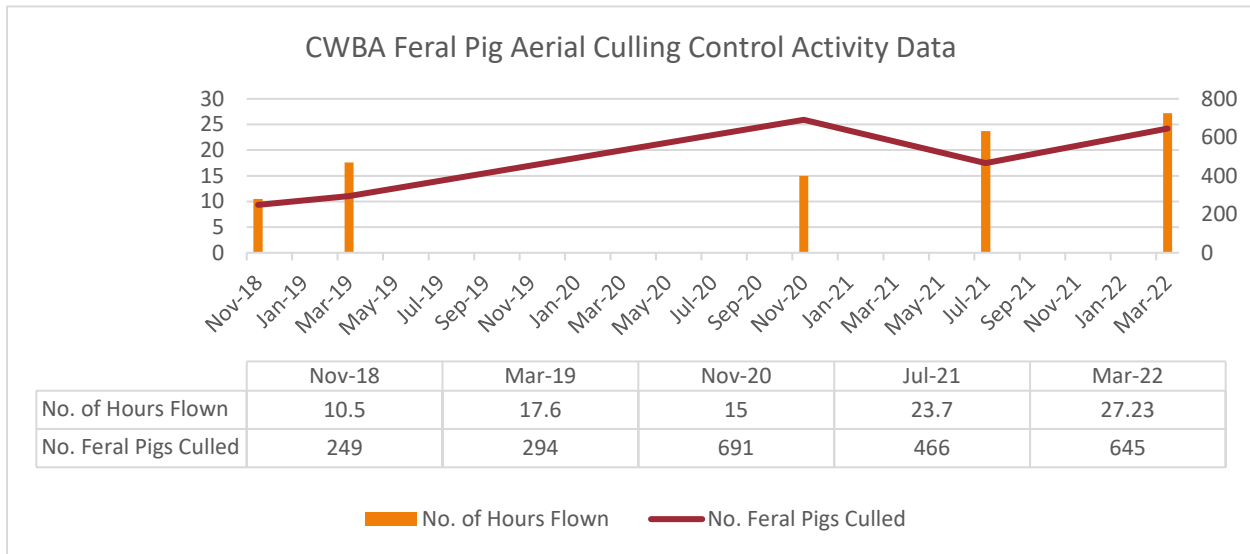
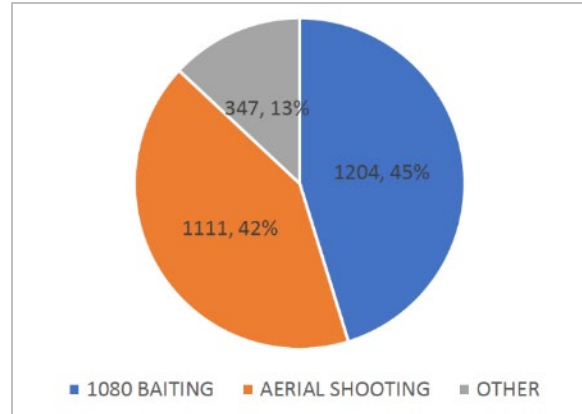
LPMT Paul Pitaro was again contracted for a period of 100 days over 11 months to specifically provide on-ground support for Feral Pig monitoring, surveillance, and control activities. A landholder meeting was held in August 2021 at the Gutha Hall to discuss what the CWBA and MBG had observed over the initial 12 months of this project and seek landholder input and feedback in how to proceed with feral pig control in the region. Landholders expressed a desire to see two aerial culling activities per year for feral pig control as well as support provided for pre-feeding activities when baiting.

As a result of this and further discussions with the CWBA Board of Management who identified that the current Operational Plans did not have the funding available to implement a second aerial culling activity 20 landholders made \$1000 donation each to the CWBA to allow for two aerial culling activities to occur in 2022 on the understanding that the CWBA Board of Management would advocate for an increase in the Declared Pest Rate in future years to pay for this activity.

LPMT Paul Pitaro and Coral Coast Helicopters implemented aerial culling activities for feral pigs in July 2021 and March 2022. Paul then supported landholders in baiting using both 1080 grain and Hoggone baits and trapping methods using Matlock traps over the 12 months as well as conducting a range of monitoring and surveillance activities.

Feral Pig Control Results 2021-2022

2021-2022 control efforts saw pleasing results with a total of 2,662 feral pigs controlled in the Mid-west CWBA, MBG & NBG region. 1,204 feral pigs were controlled by baiting using 1080 poison, 1,111 feral pigs were controlled by aerial shooting and 347 feral pigs were controlled by other methods including ground shooting, trapping and using Hoggone bait stations.



At the end of 2021 the Mid-west region of WA (CWBA, MBG & NBG) was recognized for its efforts in collaborative Feral Pig Management and was invited to be one of six national demonstration sites to share our learnings to a wider audience. This initiative was funded under the National Feral Pig Action Plan to facilitate the delivery of feral pig management on a national, regional and local scale, to drive effective investment and raise awareness of feral pig issues.



Landholders at the Gutha Hall meeting. LPMT Paul Pitaro with a 135kg feral pig and pre-feeding of feral pigs.

4.8 RESTRICTED CHEMICAL PRODUCT PERMITS

The CWBA pay for and aid landholders to submit applications to obtain Restricted Chemical Product (RP) Permits so that they themselves and the CWBA employed LPMTs can access their properties to undertake control activities. A total of 28 landholders were provided with assistance to complete RP permits or permit amendments. This area of assistance will continue to grow as many landholders RP Permits in the CWBA region are likely to expire in the coming 12 months as most were issued in 2017-2018 and will have reached the end of their five-year permit period.

The process of Restricted Chemical Product Permits which is administered by DPIRD remains an issue, while it has been identified that the issue goes back to the Code of Practice for 1080 and Strychnine which is administered by the Department of Health (DoH), the issues of RP Permits were tasked by a three-way government department working group in DPIRD, DBCA and DoH. It is disappointing that RBGs were not included as a key stakeholder nor included in the discussions of possible solutions to date.

Restricted Chemical Product Permits are a key tool in ensuring that we have access to the current best practice management in 1080 and strychnine poison to control vertebrate pests of rabbits, foxes, feral pigs and wild dogs. They must remain as a permit that is in the name of the landholder or land manager as they are the individual that has ultimate control over the land. The nominated persons should be whom ever has the suitable qualifications to handle and apply the poisons.

4.9 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The CWBA have been proactive and continue to engage with the community about Declared Pests, control activities and the incoming Declared Pest Rate. Face to face engagement was scaled back in 2021-2022 due to the constraints caused by COVID-19 restrictions.

Table 4: CWBA Community Engagement Activities 2021-2022

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
July 2021	Email to CWBA Local Governments Email sent to all four CWBA Local Governments informing them of the successful DPR outcome and offering to come and present to Council.	
August 2021	Landholder Meeting Meeting with landholders and stakeholders at the Gutha Hall to discuss the CWBA Feral Pig control program	18 th August 2021
September 2021	AGM Notice to Members Notice of AGM and setting of DPR for 2022-2023.	
October 2021	Annual General Meeting CWBA Annual General Meeting, adoption of annual report and setting of the 22-23 DPR.	11 October 2021
	October E-news and Local Papers Update on the activities of the Association.	
November 2021	2020-2021 Annual Report Distributed to members and to key stakeholders by email and hard copy.	Hard copy by post.
February 2022	February E-news and Local Papers. Update on the activities of the Association	
March 2022	Local Government Letter A direct letter to the President, Councillors and CEO was emailed updating them on the CWBA activities and the upcoming DPR and BAM Act Review process.	
April 2022	April E-news and Local Papers. Update on the activities of the Association	

5.0 WILD DOG ACTIVITY AND STOCK LOSSES

The CWBA LPMTs trapped a total of 24 Wild Dogs for 2021-2022 and further 7 were shot by landholders. Only 7 Wild Dog sightings were reported to the CWBA.

A total of 52 stock (sheep and goats) losses were report by landholders to the CWBA. This is an increase compared to the previous 12 months of only 35 stock losses but overall, significantly lower when looking back over our records. The CWBA responds immediately when landholders report stock losses and Wild Dog sightings to the Dogger Coordinator and sends a LPMT out to the area as soon as possible.

Table 5: Summary of LPMT Reported Data 2017-2022

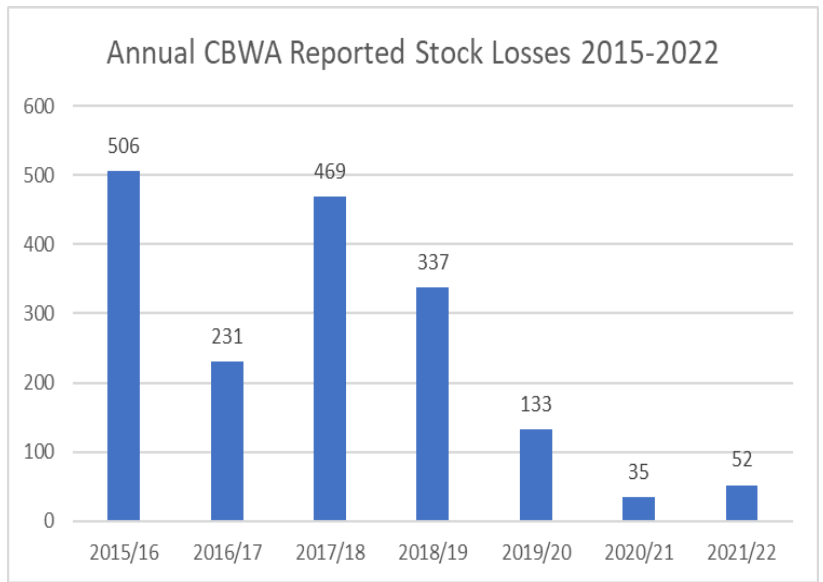
End of Year LPMT Statistics Summary	1 July 2017-30 June 2018	1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019	1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020	1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021	1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022
LPMT Days Worked	187	344	340	331.5	354.5
Baits Laid by LPMTs	12,814	7,700	9,880	8,300	4,960
Wild Dogs Trapped	25	67	38	25	24

Table 6: Summary of Reporting by Landholders 2017-2022

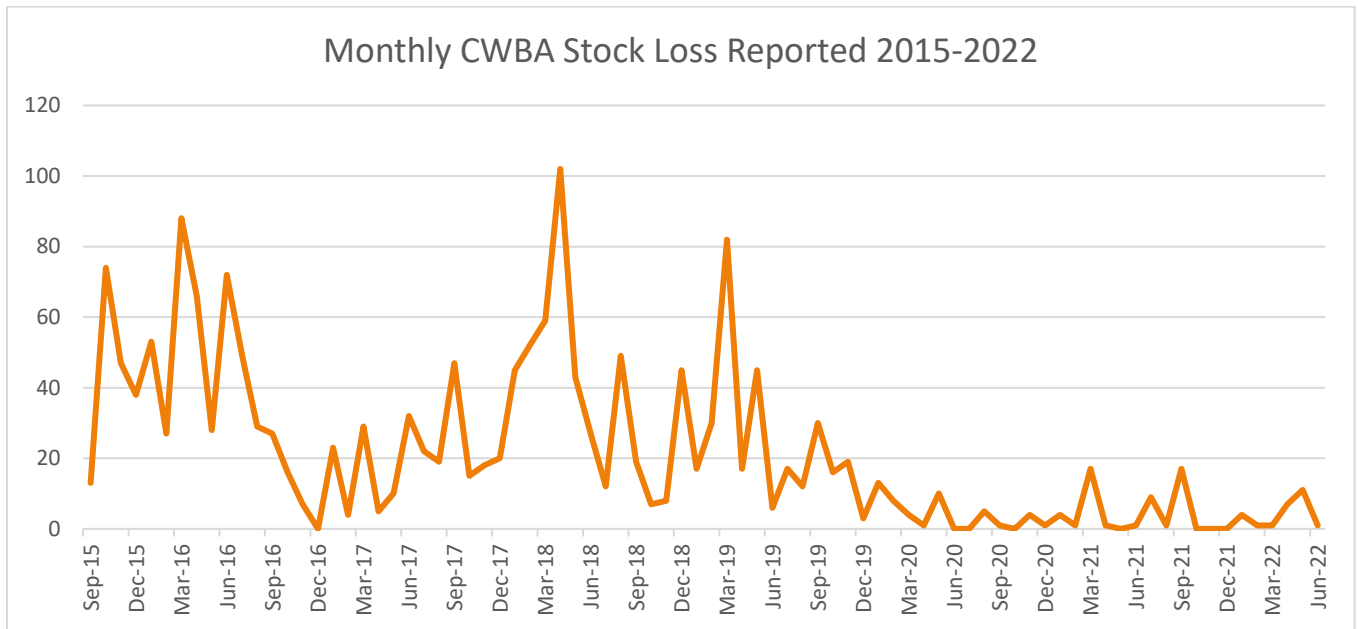
Landholder Reports	1 July 2017-30 June 2018	1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019	1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020	1 July 2020 - 30 June 2021	1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022
Wild Dogs Shot by landholders	12	7	16	3	7
Reported Wild Dog Sightings	51	20	20	5	7
Stock Loss Reports	469	337	133	35	52

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

Month	No. Stock killed
July 2021	9
August 2021	1
September 2021	17
October 2021	0
November 2021	0
December 2021	0
January 2022	4
February 2022	1
March 2022	1
April 2022	7
May 2022	11
June 2022	1
TOTAL	52



Graph: Summary of CWBA Monthly Stock Loss Reported 2015-2022



6.0 SUMMARY

The CWBA has effectively seen the implementation of its fourth Declared Pest Rate in 2021-2022. The community has overall continued to be supportive, and this then enables the Board of Management to focus its direction on improving the decision making, governance and administration around the Declared Pest Rate and annual Operational Plans.

A key focus for the organization has been to implement good governance and the focus this past 12 months has been through the implementation of the new Work Health and Safety Act 2020 to ensure that our contractors and volunteers have a safe workplace. This body of work has been strongly supported by DPIRD, which we thank them for.

The continuity of the CWBA Operational Plan implementation being able to be implemented and delivered consistently for four years through the funding provided through the Declared Pest Rate is a great achievement of our organization in making significant achievements in a short time to address identified declared pest impacts in the CWBA region.

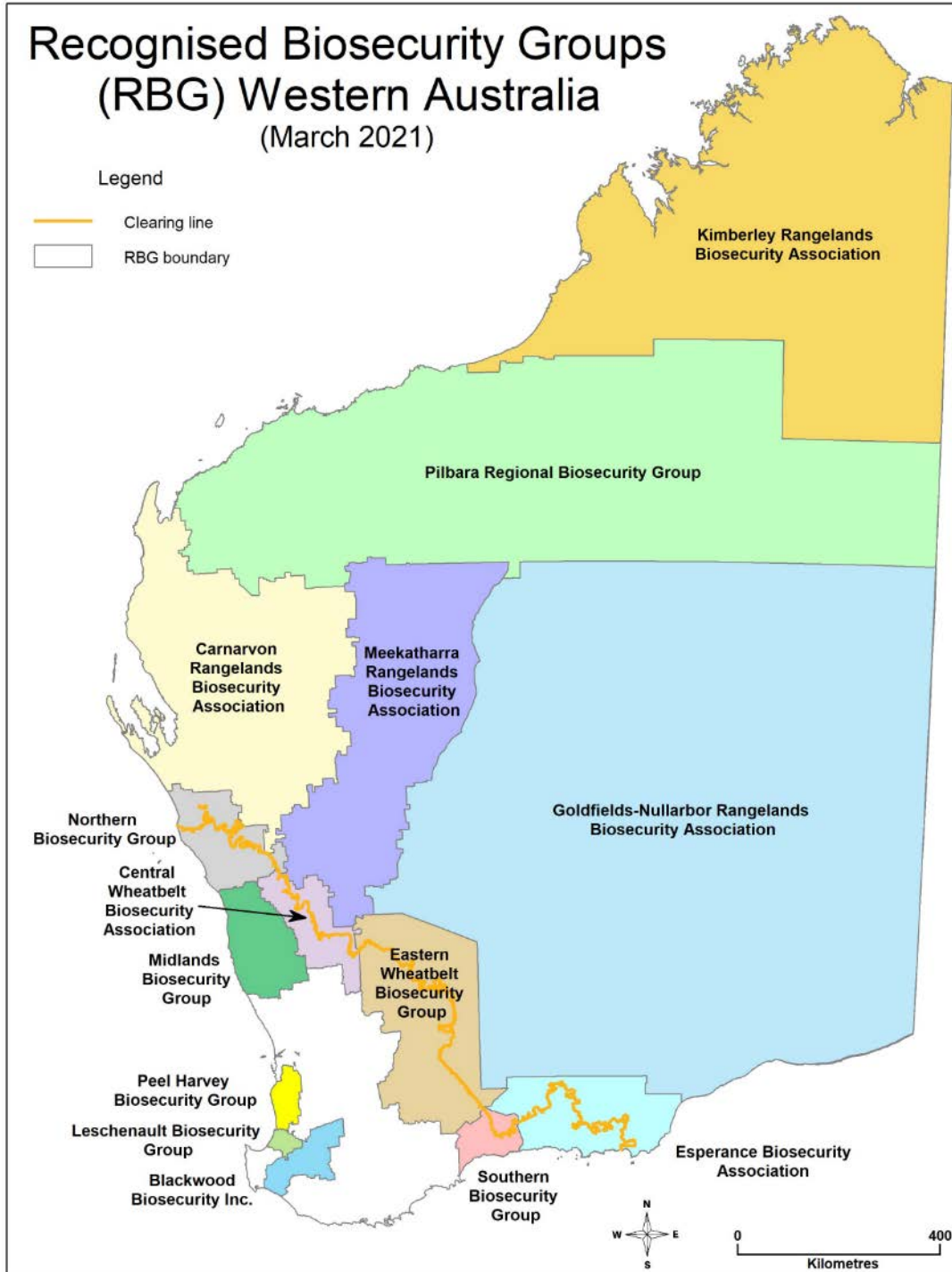
Much uncertainty is present in the space as the BAM Act 2007 is being reviewed. This is the legislation that allows for the CWBA to be a Recognised Biosecurity Group and raise a Declared Pest Rate. The CWBA has participated in the opportunities to provide feedback and input to this process. It is a good time to acknowledge the benefits this shared funding mechanism and recognise constraints. The CWBA is proud to be one of the 14 Recognised Biosecurity Groups in WA and represent our region, its landholders and stakeholders. We remain committed to the RBG model as we have experienced its success on the ground in our region and believe that whilst it may not be perfect it is the fairest and most equitable system that we have to control pests a community at a landscape scale. Otherwise, what is the alternative?

As always, the pressure on available finances to implement effective control programs and the ability of the CWBA to successfully secure funds to assist with on-ground activities is at the core of the decision making process of the Board of Management. The pain points apart from finances for the CWBA is that expectations of community often go well beyond our scope as an RBG and government expectations go well beyond the capacity of an RBG. Some key opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for the Association include:

1. Government relationships with RBGs.
2. Restricted Chemical Product Permits and access to DBCA managed lands.
3. Royalties for Regions Funding for Wild Dog Control and the WA Wild Dog Action Plan beyond 2024.
4. Sheep and Goat Industry Funding Scheme – Wild Dog Grants.
5. Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007 review outcomes.
6. State Barrier Fence access and maintenance.
7. Declared Species for RBGs to manage.
8. Indigenous engagement and Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs) for the Badimia Conservation Reserves.

As always, the mantra of our association is local people, making local decisions about local pests and that Biosecurity is as much about prevention as it is about control.

APPENDICES 1: AREA OF OPERATION



APPENDICES 2: FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY

CWBA Financials	
<i>For the period July 2021 to June 2022</i>	
Opening Balance 1 July 2021	\$355,589.13
Bank Accounts	
Grant Funding	36,213.75
CWBA Own Funds	96,203.14
DPR Funds	222,654.33
Debit Card Account	517.91
Plus Income	
R4R Wild Dog Funding Grant	62,500.00
Other Grant Funding	90,800.00
DPR Rate/Match Funding	209,596.00
Interest Received on all Accounts	180.67
Donations	20,000.00
Other Income	11,500.00
	<u>394,576.67</u>
Less Expenses	
LPMT	276,500.00
Project Management	82,010.16
Community Engagement	2,668.09
Projects / Baiting	137,395.50
Other Expense	-
	<u>498,573.75</u>
Less Asset	
Plant & Equipment	-
	<u>-</u>
Plus GST Movement	
GST Collected	39,439.60
GST Paid	49,404.66
	<u>-</u>
Closing Cashbook	\$251,592.05
Outstanding Transactions	
Less Income	-
Plus Expenses	-
	<u>\$251,592.05</u>
Balance of Bank Accounts @ 30 June 2022	
Grant Funding	93,303.04
CWBA Own Funds	112,700.61
DPR Funds	30,393.10
Debit Card Account	1,000.00
	<u>\$237,396.75</u>

APPENDICES 3: AUDITORS REPORT

6 September 2022

Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association
58 Johnston Street
Dalwallinu WA 6609

Dear Committee

Financial Report Audit for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

We have completed the audit of your Association's accounts for the year ended 30 June 2022.

We direct your attention to the fact that the responsibility for the preparation of the financial statements and adequate disclosure is that of the Committee. This includes the maintenance of adequate accounting records and internal controls, the selection and application of accounting policies, and the safeguarding of monies of the Association.

The purpose of our audit of the financial report is to express an opinion on that report, and this report on management issues includes only matters that come to our attention during the conduct of our work and, therefore, should not be regarded as a comprehensive statement of management issues that may exist.

We noted no significant matters that should be raised or brought to the attention of the Management Committee.

We thank you for the kind assistance provided during the audit. If you wish to discuss any of the above items or require any further information, please contact us immediately.

Yours sincerely



LEANNE K OLIVER CPA RCA
Director

**CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258**

**Audited Financial Report
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

**CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258**

**AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

CONTENT
Statement by Members of the Committee
Balance Sheet
Income Statement
Statement of Change in Equity
Statement of Cash Flow
Notes to the Financial Statements
Independent Audit Report

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association as at 30 June 2022 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Central Wheatbelt Biosecurity Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



CHAIRPERSON

Name: Christopher Patmore



TREASURER

Name: Linda Vernon

Dated:

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

Assets	2022	2021
Current Assets		
CWBA Debit Card Account	1,000	518
CWBA Own Funds	112,701	96,203
Grant Funding	93,303	36,214
DPR Rate Funding	30,393	222,654
	<u>237,397</u>	<u>355,589</u>
Non Current Assets		
Plant & Equipment	20,175	15,474
Acc Depreciation - Plant & Equipment	(5,445)	(2,850)
	<u>14,730</u>	<u>12,624</u>
Total Assets	<u>252,127</u>	<u>368,213</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable	(12)	2,243
GST collected	21,203	31,422
GST paid	(30,346)	(31,276)
	<u>(9,155)</u>	<u>2,389</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>(9,155)</u>	<u>2,389</u>
Net Assets	<u>261,282</u>	<u>365,824</u>
Equity		
Retained Earnings	365,824	278,948
Net Surplus (Deficit)	(104,542)	86,876
Total Equity	<u>261,282</u>	<u>365,824</u>

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2022

Income	2022	2021
DPR Rate/Matching	209,596	342,453
Grant Funding	90,800	98,571
R4R Wild Dog Funding	62,500	66,875
Total Income	362,896	507,899

Expenses

Accountant / Bookkeeping Fees	5,759	4,866
Administration Exp	3,211	3,063
Advertising / Signage	520	668
Aerial Baiting	51,814	23,445
Baiting Racks Gen Exp	483	3,990
Bank Fees	52	32
Board of Management Fees	-	51
Chemical	6,956	-
CWBA Meeting Exp	2,030	2,328
Dogger Co-Ordinator	6,000	5,400
Executive Officer	41,030	39,662
Executive Officer - Travel & Accommoda	2,884	3,103
Feral Pig Control	49,524	37,704
Freight	564	610
Goodlands Bait Rack	1,320	1,500
Koorda Bait Rack	2,640	-
Insurance	20,969	17,837
LPMT - General Exp	-	236
LPMT - Jeff Taylor	122,250	107,100
LPMT - Pat Darling	112,500	109,500
LPMT 2 - Gareme Newton	35,750	23,645
Monger Land Bait Rack	1,584	1,500
Monitoring Expenses	3,206	17,528
Morowa Bait Rack	2,640	1,500
Other Expenses	-	13,938
Partners Community Engagement	1,122	1,098
Perenjori Bait Rack	7,000	6,000
Rabbit Control	6,221	1,800
RCR Permit	835	-
RCR Permit Assistance	759	-
Superannuation Expense	5,886	2,696
Website	1,015	195
Workshops	-	50

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2022 (cont)

Expenses	2022	2021
Depreciation	2,595	1,382
Total Expenses	<u>499,119</u>	<u>432,426</u>
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	<u>(136,223)</u>	<u>75,473</u>
Other Income		
Interest Income	181	332
Other Income	31,500	11,071
Total Other Income	<u>31,681</u>	<u>11,403</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u><u>(104,542)</u></u>	<u><u>86,876</u></u>

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	Retained Profits	Total
Opening balance 1/07/2020	278,948	278,948
Net result for the year	86,876	86,876
Closing balance 30/06/2021	<u>365,824</u>	<u>365,824</u>
Opening Balance 1/07/2021	365,824	365,824
Net result for the year	(104,542)	(104,542)
Closing balance 30/06/2022	<u>261,282</u>	<u>261,282</u>

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		\$	\$
Cash Flow From Operating Activities			
Receipts from customers		394,396	519,490
Payments to suppliers and employees		(508,067)	(427,485)
Interest received		181	332
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		<u>(113,490)</u>	<u>92,337</u>
Cash Flow From Investing Activities			
Equipment purchased during the year		(4,701)	(4,400)
		<u>(4,701)</u>	<u>(4,400)</u>
Cash Flow From Financing Activities			
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held		(118,191)	87,937
Cash at the beginning of the year		355,588	267,651
Cash at the end of the year		<u>237,397</u>	<u>355,588</u>

CENTRAL WHEATBELT BIOSECURITY ASSOCIATION
ABN 46 359 975 258
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

NOTE 1: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act (WA) and the following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 112 Income Taxes

AASB 110 Events after the Balance Sheet Date

No other applicable Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis.

The following material accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

a) Income Tax

The Association is a non-profit organisation and thus exempted from income tax liability by virtue of section 23(3) of the Income Tax Assessment Act.

b) Goods & Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

c) Plant & Equipment

Plant and equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, and accumulated depreciation. The depreciable amount of all plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.