



# ANNUAL DPR REPORT 2019 - 2020



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### INTRODUCTION

The Esperance Biosecurity Association Inc. (EBA) originally formed as the Northern Mallee Declared Species Group Inc. (NMDSG) in 2004, following a community meeting called by concerned farmers, due to the increased livestock attacks by wild dogs within the Esperance Region.

The EBA has gained significant experience managing wild dog populations, using alternative methods currently employed throughout the region. It is the responsibility of landholders to control wild dogs on their property, however, EBA was specifically set up to assist with controlling wild dogs within the un-allocated crown land within the Esperance region. The group's Licenced Pest Management Technicians target their efforts at the interface of agricultural land and the vast areas of woodlands, which provide the source of new wild dogs entering the agricultural land.

The EBA is the community driver of the proposal to construct an extension to the State Barrier Fence, to extend around the Esperance Agricultural area. This is the long-term answer to controlling the wild dog problem.

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to our AGM and thanks for coming. I would like to thank our committee, our members and our sponsors. A special thank you to Linda McCrea, we know you are busy on the farm as well and to Peter Harkness our Secretary Treasurer, well done with your reports and well written emails.

To the Esperance Shire for your input thank you, your ongoing support is fantastic, a special thanks to Beth O'Callaghan, Ian Mickel and Basil Parker. Darren Dixon, Mel Foxley, Matt Stadler and Kim Haywood thank you for your input. To our doggers Danny Carlisle and Max Seimer job well done.

Well 2020 it has been an interesting year, 63km of fencing up in 18 months is not ideal and now with the dramas with the DBCA permits on crown land, the land holders' responsibility, passing the risk onto our group which after 17 years of working well together I find this very disappointing that all our hard work can be undone. To DPIRD their lack of help on this issue is disappointing as well, we were pushed into being a RBG and a lack of response to our problems is frustration. We are hoping to resolve these issues soon, we believe the response from DBCA is not acceptable and we as a group are seeking a response. Some of our fellow RBGs are giving us their support on this matter. There was a discussion with the group to fold but we are better off to keep going and to do our job and to put pressure on the government and hopefully we can solve these issues.

Scott Pickering

Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT ON ACTION PLAN FOR 2019 / 2020

Specific Objective	Milestone/Action	Milestone Outcomes/Achievements	Analysis	Recommendations
<p>Reduce livestock losses to less than 100 animals per year, with an ultimate aim of zero losses</p>	<p>Continue to engage fully qualified LPMTs to implement an integrated tracking, trapping and baiting wild dog control program for the Esperance Region. In accordance with best pest control practices</p> <p><i>The Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Management of Strychnine in Western Australia</i> must be adhered to at all times.</p> <p><i>The Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Management of 1080 in Western Australia</i> must be adhered to at all times</p>	<p>Two qualified LPMT were engaged during 19/20 implementing the control program</p> <p>The Specific Objective of reducing livestock losses to less than 100 was not achieved during this period. With numbers exceeding our target by 30</p> <p>The code of practice for the safe use and management of 1080 and Strychnine in WA were adhered too</p>	<p>15 Wild Dogs taken</p> <p>130 Livestock losses were reported to EBA</p>	<p>Continue to engage fully qualified LPMT to implement the wild dog control program as we are so close to our objective</p>
	<p>Hand baiting – this is to be incorporated in the LPMTs integrated control program, abiding by the <i>Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Management of 1080 in Western Australia</i></p>	<p>All positions of baits distributed were logged using data loggers, the data being converted into maps showing the locations.</p> <p>The code of practice for the safe use and management of 1080 in WA was adhered too</p>	<p>5,166 - 1080 dry meat baits laid</p>	<p>No changes needed LPMT to continue to determine best placement of baits as needed.</p>

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	Aerial baiting	Not needed during 19/20		Reassess annually
	Provide support to Landholders to control declared pests (wild dogs, foxes) on their properties	Provided Fox baits to landholders to assist with the control of Foxes on their properties. Correct procedures followed with DPIRD handling the distribution of baits	6 Landholders utilized this service	Continue to promote this service to landholders within the Esperance Region
	Risk Assessments on all localities where wild dog control program is implemented (Restricted Chemical Product Permits) Work with DBCA	Action yet to be achieved due to a change in DBCA procedures, still working through the RCP permit renewal process with DBCA and DPIRD	LPMT unable to carry out control program until permits are renewed	Continue to work with DBCA to find a balance in the processes that will work for both parties
Support the construction of the Esperance Extension to the State Barrier Fence	Liaise with Matthew Stadler - DPIRD for regular updates on the project and assist where possible	Have maintained constant support for the project and DPIRD have provided regular updates to the committee	63km of fence constructed	Maintain strong support for the project, continue to remind DPIRD of the importance to see this project completed as soon as possible
Community Engagement	Community Engagement events	A plan was compiled for community engagement, provide updates at local landholder events e.g. SEPWA. Event planned for	Presentation given at a Rotary evening	Continue to engage the community

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		<p>after harvest at Cascades to incorporate a tour of the construction of the fence followed by a BBQ</p> <p>Due to Covid restrictions our engagement plan was very difficult to implement</p>	<p>Notice of Annual General Meeting</p> <p>Planned gathering after harvest</p>	
Efficient Reporting	Report to funding bodies as required in funding agreements	<p>Reporting to funding bodies has not been achieved so successfully. Data into FeralScan to meet Royalties for Regions requirements was found to be insufficient, since receiving this feedback EBA sourced assistance from Darren Dixon DPIRD who converted the Data Logger files to be uploaded into FeralScan. This process was very time consuming for Administrator. EBA have now submitted the information required</p>		<p>EBA Management Committee have sourced an assistance for the Administrator to take some of the workload this should assist with future reporting</p>

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Off Target Deaths – Aim for nil off target deaths	Monitor and record off target deaths	Objective achieved nil off target deaths reported Records kept in minutes of committee meetings	Nil off target deaths reported	
Report to Pesticides Advisory Committee	Report to the Pesticides Advisory Committee on off target deaths, include nil reports	Objective achieved 2019/20 report has been submitted for tabling at the next Pesticides Advisory Committee meeting Copy of submitted report has been kept on file	2019/20 report submitted	Continue with reporting process
Inform stakeholders and landholders about the value of the wild dog control program	Give regular updates of the group's activities via; EBA Newsletters Emails to members EBA Facebook Page Annual General Meeting Farmers meeting e.g. SEPWA updates Radio Interviews EBA Committee Meetings	Due to Covid restrictions updates were provided mostly via email, multimedia platforms and radio interviews	ABC Radio Emails to members EBA Facebook page AGM, EBA Committee Meetings	Continue to express the value of the wild dog control program. With many travelers entering the Esperance Region it is difficult to convey this to the broader community, an example is the theft of 1080 Strychnine warning signs
Notifying of neighbours regarding use of 1080 and Strychnine	1) landholders with properties at the interface of the UCL and baited DBAC reserves in the Shire of Esperance will be written to annually – Notifying Neighbours	Milestone achieved all landholders on the interface received written notification – Notifying of Neighbours	Notifying Neighbours letter sent, Posting on Esperance	Continue with annual notification, it is working really well with a nil result on off-target deaths

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	<p>2) Annual notice placed in the Local newspaper (Esperance Express)</p> <p>4) Existing 1080 Signage at entrances to UCL and baited reserves be maintained. New signs added where needed</p> <p>5) Include notifications in EBA newsletters, emails to members, at AGM, EBA Facebook page, webpage</p>	<p>Notices were placed in the local newspapers, posted on community Facebook page</p> <p>Discussed during radio interviews</p> <p>Copies of all correspondence have been kept on file.</p>	<p>Community Facebook page, posting on EBA Facebook page, notice in Kalgoorlie Miner, notices in Esperance Tide, ABC radio</p>	

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

Balance Brought Forward 1/7/2019 \$140,455

### **Income**

Declared Pest Rate \$216,392

### **Expenses**

Licensed Pest Management Technicians \$82,250

Insurances \$ 720

Co-Ordinator Expenses \$ 2,960

Administration \$ 4,773

Audit \$ 1,600

Bait \$ 4,725

\$ 97,028

Balance as at 30 June 2020 \$259,819

The EBA Management Committee estimated a carryover from the 2019/2020 year and as a result worked this into the budget for 2020/2021, greatly reducing the Declared Pest Rate raised within the Esperance Shire. Dropping the rate to the lowest amount possible.